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TECHNICAL ORDER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001

SCALE MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSEMBLY
ACADEMY A-10C THUNDERBOLT II
1/48 SCALE — KIT No. 12348

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001
REVISION	REV 3.0 — AUG 2026
CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED / HOBBY USE ONLY
APPLICABLE KIT	Academy 12348 (A-10C, 1/48, new-tool 2023)
SKILL LEVEL	Intermediate to Advanced
EST. BUILD TIME	80–150+ hours (detail dependent)
ATTACHMENTS	1 — Eduard Brassin ACES II Ejection Seat (EDU648921)
CONTROLLING ORG	Dark Bench Works, LLC

HANDLE WITH CARE — MINIATURE COMPONENTS — KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN UNDER 12

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SECTION 1 PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND APPLICABILITY

1.1 Purpose. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the authorized sequence of operations, material requirements, safety precautions, and quality checkpoints for the complete assembly and finishing of the Academy A-10C Thunderbolt II 1/48 scale plastic model aircraft, Kit No. 12348. It is formatted per USAF Technical Order documentation conventions to provide a clear, repeatable, professional build framework consistent with Dark Bench Works (DBW) documentation standards.

1.2 Scope. Covers all phases from initial kit inspection through final weathering and display mounting. Incorporates best practices from the scale-modeling community (Hyperscale, Britmodeller, IPMS, ARC) and firsthand USAF A-10 operational reference.

1.3 Applicability. Applicable to Academy Kit No. 12348 (A-10C, 1/48, new-tool 2023) and any Academy boxing sharing the same sprue configuration (Runner G = A-10C-specific parts). Skill level intermediate to advanced. A modern-tool kit that builds more easily than legacy 1/48 A-10 kits, but the A-10C glass cockpit and dense stencil sheet reward patience.

NOTE

Written for the A-10C (Precision Engagement configuration): two color multi-function displays (CMFDs), digital avionics, targeting-pod integration, two-tone gray scheme. Not interchangeable with A-10A analog-cockpit or Europe One ("lizard") builds. For a 1/48 A-10A, reference the Tamiya #61028 SOP line item instead.

1.4 Precedence. Where this SOP conflicts with the manufacturer instruction sheet, the modeler exercises informed judgment. The kit sheet governs part numbering and basic sequence; this SOP supersedes it in matters of technique, sequence optimization, and safety.

SECTION 2 REFERENCES AND APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 Kit Documentation. Academy 12348 instruction manual and color/marketing guide (included). Download any corrected/updated instructions from Academy if issued.

2.2 Aircraft References. USAF A-10C Flight Manual (T.O. 1A-10C-1); Detail & Scale Vol. 19: A-10 Thunderbolt II; Colors & Markings of the A-10 Warthog; Reid Air Publications A-10C Uncovered; walk-around photo sets of operational A-10C airframes.

2.3 Modeling References. Hyperscale / Britmodeller / ARC build threads for Academy 12348; IPMS/USA contest standards; Mig Jimenez weathering guides; AK Interactive A-10 color profiles.

2.4 Paint References. FS595C Federal Standard cross-reference; Mr. Color / Gunze, Tamiya, and AK Real Colors conversion charts (see Section 5).

SECTION 3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

WARNING

Cyanoacrylate (CA / super glue) fumes irritate eyes and the respiratory system. Ensure adequate ventilation. Keep CA activator away from skin and eyes.

WARNING

Lacquer paints, thinners, and primers contain flammable, toxic VOCs. Do not use near open flame. Use an organic-vapor respirator. Work in a ventilated space or outdoors.

WARNING

Airbrush propellant/compressors operate under pressure. Follow manufacturer safety guidance. Do not puncture canisters or expose to heat.

CAUTION

Styrene cement (liquid and tube) is flammable — store away from heat, cap immediately after use. Sanding dust from styrene, resin, and photo-etch is a respiratory hazard — use an N95 minimum during sanding.

3.1 Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

OPERATION	MINIMUM PPE	RECOMMENDED
Cutting / Scribing	Safety glasses, nitrile gloves	Cut-resistant glove on holding hand
Sanding / Scribing	N95 mask, safety glasses	P100 half-face respirator
Priming / Painting	OV/P100 respirator, nitrile gloves	Spray booth w/ carbon-filter exhaust
CA Application	Nitrile gloves, ventilation	Safety glasses (CA splatter)

SECTION 4 TOOLS, MATERIALS, AND SUPPLIES

4.1 Mandatory Tools. Flush-cut sprue nippers (standard + micro); No. 11 knife w/ fresh blades; self-healing mat; sanding sticks 220–2000 grit; sanding sponges / Flex-I-File; panel-line scribe (Tamiya / Madworks) + template; pin vise w/ 0.3/0.5/0.8/1.0/1.5 mm bits; straight + angled tweezers; reverse-action tweezers; brushes 000–4; dual-action gravity-feed airbrush (Iwata HP-CS or equiv.); compressor w/ moisture trap + regulator; spray booth; mixing cups, palette, pipettes; Tamiya 6/10/18 mm low-tack tape; liquid mask (Mr. Masking Sol); Blu-Tack.

4.2 Recommended Specialty Tools. PE bending tool (Hold & Fold / Etch Mate); stretched-sprue / fine wire for antennas; Mr. Mark Setter / Softer and Micro Sol / Micro Set; dental picks; 5000K+ daylight task lamp; digital calipers.

4.3 Adhesives

ADHESIVE TYPE	RECOMMENDED BRAND	APPLICATION
Liquid poly cement	Tamiya Extra Thin, Mr. Cement S	Primary styrene-to-styrene joins
Tube styrene cement	Testors, Revell Contacta	Gap filling on large joins
Thin CA	Bob Smith Insta-Cure, ZAP CA	PE, clear, resin, metal
Gel CA	Insta-Cure+, ZAP-A-GAP	Gap fill, positioning
Two-part epoxy	Devcon 5-min, JB ClearWeld	Display mount, heavy metal
White glue (PVA)	Micro Kristal Klear	Canopy glazing, small clear parts

SECTION 5 PAINT SCHEME, COLOR CODES, FINISHING

5.1 A-10C Reference Scheme — Two-Tone Compass Ghost Gray (“Hill Gray II”). Operational A-10C airframes wear a low-contrast two-tone gray: FS 36118 (Medium Gunship Gray, darker) over the wings and upper fuselage aft of the canopy, and FS 36270 (Medium Gray, lighter) on the forward fuselage, fin, stabilizers, and pylons. The demarcation is soft and subtle — no light belly and no hard camouflage edge. Verify the exact pattern against the specific unit/airframe on the kit decal option before painting.

NOTE

Alternate lighter tone: some references substitute FS 36320 (Dark Ghost Gray) for the lighter panels. Confirm against photographs of the specific tail number — A-10C tones vary with weathering, repaint cycle, and “Have Glass” treatments.

5.2 Master Paint Color Table — A-10C Two-Tone Gray

AREA	FS595C	TAMIYA	GUNZE / MR. COLOR	AK REAL COLOR
Cockpit interior	FS 36231	XF-53 + XF-19	C-317	RC249
Upper — dark gray	FS 36118	XF-24 (approx)	C-305 / C-92	RC913
Fwd fus / fin — med gray	FS 36270	XF-54 (approx)	C-306 (approx)	RC918
Alt lighter panels	FS 36320	XF-25 (approx)	C-307	RC919
Wheel wells / gear	FS 37875	X-2	C-62	RC001
Exhaust / nozzles	Steel / gunmetal	XF-56	SM-08 / C-28	AK Metal Steel

Tires	Non-specular black	XF-1 + XF-85	C-92 semi-gloss	RC003
NOTE	Cross-checking is essential: several FS-to-hobby conversions above are approximate. Dedicated A-10 sets (AK RC913/RC918/RC919 or Mr. Color equivalents) give the closest match and are recommended over generic gray substitutions.			

5.3 Primers and Topcoats. Primer: Mr. Surfacer 1000/1200 (gray); Alclad Gray Microfiller for resin/metal. Pre-decal gloss: Mr. Super Clear Gloss or Alclad Klear Kote Gloss. Final: Mr. Super Clear Semi-Gloss (operational A-10C carries a slight sheen, not dead-flat). Wash medium: Tamiya Panel Line Accent, AK Panel Liner, or thinned oils.

SECTION 6 PRE-BUILD PREPARATION

CAUTION Inspect the kit before opening sealed bags. Document any damage to sprues for warranty purposes.

6.1 Kit Inspection & Inventory

STEP	ACTION
1	Open outer box; remove all sprue bags intact. Lay sprues flat.
2	Inventory against the parts map. Academy 12348 comprises ~eleven (11) styrene runners plus one (1) clear runner, a one-piece hollow rear fuselage, combined engine nacelle part(s), a separate perforated GAU-8 gun cooling jacket, and a separate nose cone.
3	Inspect for short shots, sink marks, flash, heavy parting lines, or broken parts. 12348 is crisply molded, but verify the clear runner and one-piece rear fuselage for warp.
4	Verify the decal sheet for completeness, registration, and yellowing. If yellowed, expose to indirect daylight several days or soak briefly in 50/50 distilled water + IPA and dry flat.
5	Photograph all sprues and the decal sheet for reference.

6.2 Workspace Preparation

STEP	ACTION
6	Clean the bench; lay down the cutting mat. Organize tools: cutting left, adhesives center, sanding right.
7	Position lighting: primary overhead, secondary 45° from left, 5000K+ daylight.
8	Decant and label each paint color to be used.
9	Open reference pages and place A-10C photos in view.
10	Set up airbrush/compressor. Test on scrap: 20–25 PSI primer, 15–18 PSI color; paint at milk consistency; verify pattern.

6.3 Dry-Fitting Protocol

NOTE	Dry-fitting is the single most important pre-assembly step — do not skip it, even on a well-engineered kit.
STEP	ACTION
11	Dry-fit all major sub-assemblies: forward fuselage halves, one-piece rear fuselage, wing halves, engine nacelle assembly, tail sections. Flag gaps/steps with pencil on tape tabs.
12	Forward fuselage: tape halves and check nose, wing roots, forward/rear fuselage joint. Academy's breakdown is clean; fit is generally very good.
13	Rear fuselage / engine nacelles: Academy molds the rear fuselage as a single hollow piece with engine pods combined, eliminating the nacelle door-alignment and longitudinal seam problems of older 1/48 A-10 kits. Confirm the nacelle-to-fuselage and tail joins.
14	Landing gear bay alignment affects final gear-down attitude — verify positioning.
15	Document every area needing filler with tape tabs.

SECTION 7 COCKPIT AND INTERIOR ASSEMBLY

The cockpit is assembled and painted first, before the forward fuselage halves are joined. The A-10C features a modern glass cockpit; treat the two color displays and the UFC as focal detail points.

NOTE

Academy quirk: the canopy generally cannot be closed with the ejection seat fully installed. Plan to display the canopy open, or test-fit early and thin the seat/tub as required if a closed canopy is desired.

7.1 Ejection Seat — ACES II

NOTE

When the Eduard Brassin ACES II resin seat (EDU648921) is fitted, follow **ATTACHMENT 1** in full — it SUPERSEDES this paragraph 7.1. The steps below apply only to the kit styrene seat.

STEP	ACTION
19	Remove seat parts; clean gates with a fresh No. 11 blade. Dry-fit bucket, headrest, cushion, survival kit, harness points.
20	Paint seat frame/bucket dark gray-black; survival kit / cushion OD green (FS 34031); headrest gray.
21	Seat belts (kit PE or aftermarket): flat tan/khaki (FS 30219) with metallic buckles.
22	Assemble with Tamiya Extra Thin. Detail with oils / enamel washes: dark brown in recesses, light gray dry-brush on raised faces.

7.2 Instrument Panel & Displays (A-10C glass cockpit)

STEP	ACTION
23	Base-coat the main panel and consoles matte black (XF-1 / XF-69 NATO Black).
24	The panel is dominated by two color Multi-Function Color Displays (CMFDs) and the Up-Front Controller (UFC). Represent the screens with kit decals, or preferably a 3D-printed instrument decal set for depth and legibility.
25	Dry-brush panel bezels and switch banks with medium gray to pop raised detail. Pick out switches white/red/yellow per reference.
26	Apply a gloss/satin drop (Micro Kristal Klear or clear gloss) over each display face for a realistic screen-lens effect.
NOTE	The C's glass cockpit is where a 3D-decal cockpit set (e.g. Quinta Studio) or a color PE set yields the biggest visible payoff. Budget an extra 2–5 hours for full display detailing.

7.3 Cockpit Tub & Interior Walls

STEP	ACTION
27	Paint the tub and sidewalls FS 36231 Dark Gull Gray. Apply an overall dark brown/black wash; wipe back with mineral spirits after partial dry.
28	Dry-brush raised detail with light gray. Add scuff/wear on the floor footpath with a silver dry-brush.
29	Install all tub components per kit steps, then install the completed seat last.
30	Final check: no bare plastic visible; all components secure.
CAUTION	Keep the outer mating edges of the cockpit tub (facing the fuselage halves) clean of adhesive — that gluing surface must stay clear for the fuselage join.

SECTION 8 FUSELAGE ASSEMBLY

8.1 Gear Bay & Internal Structure

STEP	ACTION
31	Before closing the forward fuselage, install all internal structures: gear bay bulkheads, forward equipment bays, and the GAU-8 gun bay (if the open option is chosen).
32	Paint main and nose gear bays gloss/flat white (FS 37875) as on the real aircraft; add a light tan-brown wash in recesses.
33	Optional: add hydraulic-line detail with fine colored wire.

8.2 Fuselage & Rear-Fuselage Join

CAUTION

The forward-to-rear fuselage alignment sets the alignment of the entire airframe. Verify before cement sets — no twist when sighted from above and below.

STEP	ACTION
34	Cement forward fuselage halves with Tamiya Extra Thin along interior mating surfaces; bring together and hold 60–90 sec.
35	Band with tape/rubber bands; verify the nose is straight and untwisted. Allow 30 min minimum before handling; overnight before sanding.
36	Mate the one-piece hollow rear fuselage to the forward section. Because Academy tooled this as a single piece, the traditional nacelle top/bottom seam is largely absent — focus effort on the fwd/rear fuselage joint and the tail/nacelle interfaces.
37	Examine all seams: top, bottom, nose, fuselage joint. Mark gaps with pencil.

8.3 Seam Treatment

STEP	ACTION
38	Tight seams: brush Mr. Surfacer 500 into the seam, dry 15 min, sand 400 then 600 grit.
39	Larger gaps: Tamiya Basic Putty or Vallejo Plastic Putty; smooth before drying, sand when cured.
40	Hairline seams: re-flow Tamiya Extra Thin, let fuse, sand — no filler needed.
41	Prime affected areas with Mr. Surfacer 1000 to reveal residual defects; repeat fill/sand/prime until smooth. Final sand to 1000 (1500 if using lacquer topcoats).

8.4 Panel Line Refinement

STEP	ACTION
42	Re-scribe any panel lines lost to sanding using a Tamiya/Madworks scribe against a metal template (flexible plastic strip for curves).
43	Scribe in one direction, light multi-pass. Clear swarf with a stiff brush; verify consistency under raking light.

SECTION 9 WING AND EMPENNAGE ASSEMBLY

9.1 Wing Assembly

STEP	ACTION
44	Join upper/lower wing halves with Tamiya Extra Thin. Thin and sharpen the trailing edges if required.
45	Treat wing seams per Section 8.3. Academy provides movable ailerons — do not over-cement the hinge if posing deflected.
46	Dry-fit wings to fuselage. Verify A-10 wing dihedral (approx 3.5°) by measuring wingtip height on a flat surface.
47	Attach wings; reinforce the root join with additional tube cement for strength. Fill/sand any root gap.

9.2 Horizontal & Vertical Stabilizers

NOTE	The A-10 (A and C) has twin vertical stabilizers at the ends of the horizontal tailplane. Ensure both fins are vertical and parallel, and the horizontal stabilizer is perpendicular to the fuselage centerline (no twist).
STEP	ACTION
48	Assemble the horizontal stabilizer and both vertical fins from kit parts. The A-10 has all-moving stabilators — leave the mounting pin movable if preferred.
49	Attach per kit sequence; verify symmetry from front and rear. Treat all seams per Section 8.3.

9.3 Engine Nacelles — TF34-GE-100

NOTE	Academy molds the nacelles combined and hollow for insertion of the engine cores — this removes the fan/exhaust alignment and seam headaches of legacy kits. Still verify both nacelles sit parallel and level on their pylons.
STEP	ACTION
50	Install fan-face (compressor) detail if selected; paint fan blades titanium/steel with a dark spinner.
51	Paint exhaust nozzle interiors with Alclad Jet Exhaust or equivalent metallic.

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| 52 | Mount nacelles to the rear-fuselage pylons; confirm parallel/level. Fill any nacelle-to-pylon gap. |
|----|--|

9.4 Stores Pylons & Hardpoints

STEP	ACTION
53	Academy provides eight (8) weapon pylons plus wingtip stations. Select pylons per the chosen marking/loadout.
54	Clean and dry-fit pylons; paint to match the adjacent surface. Set aside and attach after the main scheme to avoid masking complications.

SECTION 10 LANDING GEAR ASSEMBLY

NOTE

Gear geometry sets the model's final sit. The A-10 uses a wide, low-slung tricycle stance; incorrect strut angle changes the whole attitude.

10.1 Main Landing Gear

STEP	ACTION
55	Clean all struts, doors, and wheels. Assemble the main strut; the A-10 main gear folds laterally into pods below the wing — verify orientation.
56	Paint struts/bays white (FS 37875); thin brown/gray wash in crevices.
57	Wheels: tires semi-gloss black (XF-85); hubs natural metal (Alclad Aluminum / XF-56); add red valve-stem dots. Do not flood the axle — leave slight rotation.
58	Install gear into bays after final paint: thin CA at strut base, hold vertical 30 sec. Fit inner door to strut, outer door to airframe.

10.2 Nose Landing Gear

STEP	ACTION
59	Assemble nose fork, strut, and wheel. Install plumb vertical — verify with a square. Paint per main gear.
60	Install the two nose gear doors after the strut is set.

10.3 Landing Gear Final Check

STEP	ACTION
61	Set the model on a flat surface — all three contact points must touch with no rocking.
62	Verify correct ground angle: A-10 gear-down sits fairly level with a very slight nose-up attitude.
CAUTION	If the model rocks, identify the high strut and shim the low side with stretched sprue before adhesive fully cures.

SECTION 11 PAINTING PROCEDURES

WARNING

Fingerprint oils prevent paint adhesion. Handle the model with nitrile gloves from this point forward.

11.1 Pre-Paint Cleaning

STEP	ACTION
63	Wash the assembled model in warm water with a drop of dish soap; gentle soft-toothbrush scrub.
64	Rinse with distilled water; air-dry or blow out recesses with compressed air. Do not handle without gloves after washing.

11.2 Priming

STEP	ACTION
65	Mount on a painting handle (dowel in an exhaust opening, secured with Blu-Tack).
66	Airbrush Mr. Surfacer 1000 thinned 1:1–1:1.5 with Mr. Leveling Thinner at 18–22 PSI, two to three thin coats, 10 min between.
67	Cure minimum 2 hr (24 hr preferred). Inspect under raking light; sand defects with 1500 grit and re-prime. Final surface: uniform

	gray, no bare plastic.
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11.3 Pre-Shading (optional, recommended)

STEP	ACTION
68	Airbrush thin black (XF-1 ~1:3) along all panel lines with a fine needle; shadows ~0.5–1 mm, centered.
69	Dry 20 min. Pre-shading reads through the low-value grays to add panel-by-panel tonal variation.

11.4 Base Color Coats — A-10C Two-Tone Gray

STEP	ACTION
70	Because the scheme is low-contrast gray-on-gray with soft demarcation, spray the lighter FS 36270 (Medium Gray) first across forward fuselage, fin, stabilizers, and pylons.
71	Allow to dry. Freehand or soft-mask the demarcation and airbrush FS 36118 (Gunship Gray) over wings and upper fuselage aft of the canopy. Keep the edge soft (reduced pressure, greater standoff).
72	Inspect under good light for coverage, balance, and edge softness.
NOTE	Scale effect: at 1/48, add ~5–10% white to the grays for atmospheric fidelity. Because both A-10C tones are already light, keep this restrained to preserve the subtle contrast between them.

11.5 Post-Shading / Color Modulation

STEP	ACTION
73	After 24 hr cure, lightly spray panel centers with the base grays lightened ~15% for sun-fade modulation.
74	Keep it subtle — if obvious from 18 inches, it is too heavy.

11.6 Masking & Detail Painting

STEP	ACTION
75	Mask the canopy (liquid mask or pre-cut kabuki masks). Paint canopy framing in the adjacent gray.
76	Paint intake interiors semi-gloss white; GAU-8 muzzle flat black (soot added at weathering).
77	Detail position lights (Tamiya clears), pitot and AoA vane (natural metal).
78	Paint stores per Section 14. A-10C loadouts commonly include AGM-65 Maverick, GBU-12/GBU-38, LITENING targeting pod, and ECM pod.

SECTION 12 DECAL APPLICATION

CAUTION Decal only over a gloss surface. A gloss coat is mandatory to prevent silvering (trapped-air halos).

12.1 Pre-Decal Gloss Coat

STEP	ACTION
79	Airbrush Mr. Super Clear Gloss thinned 1:1 at ~20 PSI — two thin coats, 20 min apart.
80	Cure minimum 4 hr; surface must be mirror-smooth before decaling.

12.2 Decal Sequence

NOTE	Apply largest decals first; insignia and tactical codes before stencils. Academy's 12348 decal sheet is well registered with extensive stenciling and multiple unit options (e.g. 75th FS Flying Tigers).
STEP	ACTION
81	Prep: distilled water, paper towel, tweezers, cotton swabs, Micro Set / Micro Sol.
82	Apply Micro Set at the location. Float the decal off the backing, slide into position with a wet swab (slide from the sides, never tweezer the face).

83	Blot excess water — do not wipe. Once positioned and dry (15–20 min), apply Micro Sol to conform. Small wrinkles self-level — do not touch.
84	Reapply Micro Sol over panel lines/raised detail as needed. Dry fully (24 hr) before topcoat.
CAUTION	Never apply Micro Sol to a fresh decal — allow positioning water to evaporate (10–15 min) first, or the film can wrinkle permanently.

12.3 Stencils. The A-10C carries dense stenciling (3–6 hr). Work nose-to-tail, top then bottom. Fully conform all stencils with Micro Sol before topcoat. Aftermarket (Caracal, Afterburner) offers additional unit options.

SECTION 13 WEATHERING PROCEDURES

NOTE	The A-10C is a hard-working CAS aircraft. Apply these modular techniques to taste. Modern A-10Cs are typically moderately weathered with heavy exhaust, gun-gas, and fluid staining — not extreme chipping.
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13.1 Intermediate Satin Coat. Apply a light satin coat (Mr. Super Clear Satin 1:1, 1–2 coats) to protect decals before washes. Cure 4+ hr.

13.2 Panel Line Wash. Watercolor-thin dark brown/black oils in odorless mineral spirits. Flow into lines by capillary action, set 20–45 min, then wipe faces one direction (aft) with a lightly moistened flat brush. Leave accumulation in recesses. Dry overnight.

13.3 Chipping & Wear. Sponge-chip silver sparingly at leading edges, walkways, and access panels (keep restrained on gray jets). Hairspray technique optional. Heavy gun-gas sooting streaks aft from the GAU-8 muzzle. Hydraulic stains aft of gear-door and flap actuators.

13.4 Exhaust Staining. Airbrush thin dark brown/black aft of the nozzles in progressive passes — moderate, not solid black. Add slight blue-steel heat tint (Alclad Transparent Blue) on nozzle interiors.

13.5 Fluid Stains & Filter. Thin transparent gray-brown streaks aft of fuel filler caps and door hinges. Finish with a near-transparent oil filter (raw umber/ochre) over the airframe to harmonize the grays.

13.6 Final Topcoat. Seal with Mr. Super Clear Semi-Gloss (2 light coats). Operational A-10Cs carry a slight sheen, not dead-flat. Remove canopy/gear masking at ~80% cure to prevent edge lifting.

SECTION 14 EXTERNAL STORES AND WEAPONS LOADING

14.1 Common A-10C Loadouts. Match stores to the chosen unit/period and verify with reference photos.

STORE	TYPICAL FINISH	NOTES
AGM-65 Maverick	Olive drab body, white/gray seeker	On LAU-88 / LAU-117 rails
GBU-12 / GBU-38 JDAM	Gray or OD w/ appropriate bands	PGM era — standard on A-10C
AN/AAQ-28 LITENING pod	Matte gray / black	Targeting pod — standard C fit
ALQ-131 / ALQ-184 ECM pod	Dark gray	Common EW station
AIM-9 Sidewinder	Light gray, white/silver seeker	Wingtip station
Mk.82 / CBU series	Olive drab, banded	Per unit tasking
600-gal external tank	Scheme-matched gray	Ferry / long-range

14.2 Stores Assembly. Assemble stores fully, prime (Mr. Surfacer 1000), paint per above, add decals/stencils (kit sheet), and attach to pylons after their topcoat. Use thin CA for metal-to-plastic joints. Verify hang angle from references (bombs hang vertical; Mavericks angle slightly inboard).

SECTION 15 FINAL ASSEMBLY AND DETAIL INSTALLATION

WARNING	The canopy is the most fragile clear part. Scratches are nearly impossible to repair invisibly — handle with extreme care.
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15.1 Canopy

STEP	ACTION
85	Dip/coat clear parts in Tamiya X-22 or floor polish before masking for clarity and protection.
86	Remove interior masking; clean overspray with a swab lightly dampened with saliva (enzymes lift paint without hazing).
87	Attach with PVA (Micro Kristal Klear) or clear-parts cement — frame only, never the clear. Recall the Academy quirk: canopy is best posed open unless the seat/tub were thinned. Cure fully before handling.

15.2 Pitot & Antennas

STEP	ACTION
88	Replace the fragile pitot with 0.5 mm aluminum tube or stretched sprue; paint natural metal; install last.
89	Install rod/blade antennas; paint to match surrounding surface; attach with thin CA.

15.3 Pylons & Stores. Attach pylons to hardpoints (thin CA if needed), then stores in correct orientation. Add wingtip AIM-9 if applicable.

15.4 Navigation Lights. Wingtips green (right) / red (left), tail white, plus anticollision. Paint with Tamiya clears (X-25/X-27/X-22); second coat for depth; optional Kristal Klear lens drop.

15.5 Final Inspection Checklist

- ☐ No visible seam lines on fuselage, wings, or nacelles
- ☐ All panel lines crisp and consistent in depth
- ☐ Two-tone gray scheme correct; demarcation appropriately soft
- ☐ All decals flat, no silvering, no lifting edges
- ☐ Landing gear plumb; model stable on all three points
- ☐ Canopy clear, no paint on transparency, properly seated
- ☐ All stores in correct orientation and position
- ☐ Pitot, AoA vane, and antennas installed and aligned
- ☐ Nav lights correct (green right, red left, white tail)
- ☐ Weathering consistent — no area notably heavier
- ☐ Final topcoat uniform, correct semi-gloss sheen
- ☐ No bare plastic; all touch-up complete; all joints secure

SECTION 16 DISPLAY MOUNTING AND BASING

16.1 Options. Gear-down static (optional flight-line diorama); gear-up flight on a support rod; or an integrated CAS flight-line diorama.

16.2 Base Prep. Minimum 10×14 in footprint for a 1/48 A-10 gear-down. For tarmac, apply fine ballast/pumice or AK/Vallejo concrete texture over a painted base; build chocks, crew, and munitions carts before mounting.

16.3 Aircraft Mounting. For flight display, drill a 3 mm hole at the CG (~1/3 back from the nose); epoxy in a 3 mm brass rod (24 hr cure); drill the base, set angle, and secure with epoxy.

SECTION 17 QUALITY STANDARDS / IPMS CRITERIA

17.1 Construction. Seams eliminated or consistent with real skin laps; panel lines correct and consistent; no visible sink/ejector marks; no excess glue; parts correctly assembled.

17.2 Painting. Smooth finish (no orange peel/runs/fish-eyes); demarcation matches reference softness; colors represent the prototype at scale; all small details painted.

17.3 Decals. Flat and conformed, no silvering, no lifting, film edges invisible; positioned per references.

17.4 Overall Impression. Conveys the scale and character of the A-10C; weathering enhances without caricature; base complements the model; clean professional finish for the skill level claimed.

SECTION 18 TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

PROBLEM	PROBABLE CAUSE	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Decal silvering	Non-gloss surface under decal	Sand, re-gloss, reapply w/ Micro Sol
Paint fish-eyes	Oil/silicone contamination	Sand, clean w/ IPA, re-prime, repaint
Orange peel	Paint too thick / low PSI / tip too close	Sand smooth, thin more, raise PSI
CA fogging on canopy	CA fumes condensing on clear	Use PVA on clear; Future may remedy fog
Tape pulls paint	Paint uncured / tape too sticky	Cure longer; lower-tack tape; re-prime
Seam visible after primer	Insufficient fill/sand	Re-fill Mr. Surfacer 500, sand, re-prime
Wing alignment off	Glued before dry-fit	Gently re-heat join, re-align, fill
Wash tidemarks	Mineral spirits too wet on removal	Thin satin coat; reapply wash sparingly
Airbrush spitting	Paint too thick / partial clog	Thin more; clean tip; reduce retraction
Small part broken	Fragile part / weak joint	Thin CA; pin w/ 0.3 mm wire if needed

SECTION 19 RECOMMENDED AFTERMARKET UPGRADES

The Academy 12348 is an excellent, modern-tooled foundation. The categories below add the most value for an A-10C build. Confirm each set is cataloged specifically for Academy kit #12348 before purchase — sets cut for Italeri, HobbyBoss, or the older kits will not fit.

CATEGORY	REPRESENTATIVE MAKERS	HIGHEST-VALUE TARGETS ON THE C
3D cockpit decals	Quinta Studio	CMFD screens, UFC, side consoles (glass cockpit)
Photo-etch / color PE	Eduard	Seatbelts, panel bezels, exterior grilles/screens
Canopy / mask sets	Eduard (EX-series)	Pre-cut kabuki canopy + wheel masks
Resin exhausts / wheels	ResKit, Quickboost	Nozzle detail, weighted/bulged tires
Ejection seat	Eduard Brassin, Wolfpack, ResKit	Detailed ACES II replacement (see Attachment 1)
Decals (extra units)	Caracal, Afterburner	Additional A-10C squadron/theater options
Targeting pod / stores	Various resin/PGM sets	LITENING, GBU-12/38, Maverick upgrades

NOTE

Exact SKUs are not listed here because aftermarket catalogs update frequently. Verify the current part number against the Academy 12348 (A-10C, 1/48) application listing on the manufacturer's site before ordering.

SECTION 20 DOCUMENT CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY

REV	DATE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
1.0	JUL 2026	Dark Bench Works, LLC	Initial release. Full A-10C build, kit inspection through display mounting. Content re-worked from the GWH A-10A SOP for the Academy 12348 A-10C (glass cockpit, two-tone gray, one-piece rear fuselage, C-era stores).
2.0	AUG 2026	Dark Bench Works, LLC	Reformatted to the DBW standard T.O. SOP layout (masthead, spec-table front matter, Table of Contents, SECTION bars, STEP/ACTION tables, WARNING/CAUTION/NOTE callouts). Eduard Brassin ACES II seat (EDU648921) folded in as Appendix A — supersedes prior Sec. 7.1 for the resin seat. Added Record of Completion.
3.0	AUG 2026	Dark Bench Works, LLC	Relabeled Appendix A as ATTACHMENT 1 and incorporated it as a self-contained attachment (DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001-ATT-1, Rev 2.0) beginning on its own page with its own running header, so revising the attachment does not repaginate the main SOP body. Updated front matter, Table of Contents, and cross-references (Sec. 7.1, Sec. 19).

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TECHNICAL ORDER

ATTACHMENT 1

DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001-ATT-1

EDUARD BRASSIN ACES II EJECTION SEAT
PAINTING, ASSEMBLY & INSTALLATION

Set No. EDU648921 — Direct 3D Print • 1/48 Scale
Supplement to T.O. DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001 (Academy 12348 A-10C)

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001-ATT-1
REVISION	REV 2.0 — AUG 2026
CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED / HOBBY USE ONLY
PARENT DOCUMENT	DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001 (supersedes its Sec. 7.1 when this set is fitted)
AFTERMARKET SET	Eduard Brassin EDU648921 — A-10C Ejection Seat PRINT (for Academy kit)
SET CONTENTS	3D print: 6 parts • pre-painted PE seatbelts • decal placards • no paint mask
APPLICABLE KIT	Academy 12348 (A-10C Thunderbolt II, 1/48, new-tool 2023)
SKILL LEVEL	Intermediate to Advanced (fine resin + small pre-painted PE)
EST. SUB-ASSEMBLY TIME	3–6 hours (paint + belts + placards)
CONTROLLING ORG	Dark Bench Works, LLC

HANDLE WITH CARE — MINIATURE RESIN & PHOTO-ETCH — KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN UNDER 12

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SECTION 1 PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND APPLICABILITY

1.1 Purpose. This attachment establishes the authorized procedure for support removal, painting, assembly, decal placarding, and cockpit installation of the Eduard Brassin ACES II ejection seat, Set No. EDU648921, as a replacement for the styrene ACES II seat supplied in Academy kit 12348. The objective is a seat finished as close to the operational A-10C ACES II as the scale allows.

1.2 Scope. Covers the seat from removal off the print base through final seating in the completed cockpit tub. When this set is used, this attachment **supersedes Section 7.1 (Ejection Seat — ACES II)** of the parent SOP; all other parent sections remain in force. The seat is still installed **last**, per parent Sec. 7.3.

1.3 Applicability. Eduard 648921 is cut specifically for the Academy A-10C. It is the correct A-10 side-pull ACES II variant — do not substitute an F-16 (center-pull) or generic ACES II seat.

NOTE

The A-10 ACES II is a distinct variant of the seat. Per The Ejection Site, it differs from the F-15 / F-117 seats in the **headrest canopy-breaker configuration** and carries noticeably **larger side-pull ejection handles**. It also sits more **upright** than the reclined F-16 seat. The Eduard print captures these traits — build them, don't file them away.

SECTION 2 REFERENCES AND APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

2.1 Set Documentation. Eduard instruction sheet 648921.pdf (packaged; also on the Eduard product page). Governs part numbering and the intended parts breakdown; this attachment governs technique, color, and sequence.

2.2 Seat References. The Ejection Site — “ACES II — A-10 Warthog version” (a10seat) and “ACES II Tech Info” (acesiitech); Reid Air Publications A-10C Uncovered; Detail & Scale Vol. 19; operational A-10C cockpit walk-arounds.

2.3 Community Practice. Britmodeller / Hyperscale Academy 12348 build threads; F-16.net and Finescale Modeler ACES II color threads (frame gray-vs-black, cushion tan-vs-OD); general Brassin resin-seat finishing practice.

2.4 Parent Paint Baseline. T.O. DBW-PNT-001 (DBW Paint System SOP) and parent SOP Sec. 5 govern brand systems and mixing; seat-specific call-outs are in Sec. 6 below.

SECTION 3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

WARNING

Cured-resin sanding/filing dust is a respiratory hazard — wear an N95 minimum (P100 preferred) and do not dry-sand without it. Uncured resin residue is a skin/eye irritant; wear nitrile gloves until the part is washed and fully cured.

WARNING

Thin CA (cyanoacrylate) is the primary adhesive here. Fumes irritate eyes and airway and will fog clear parts and frost the canopy — bond the seat well away from the transparency and ventilate.

CAUTION

Photo-etch belts are small and spring off tweezers. Work over a tray or light-colored mat, and cut PE from the fret with a fresh blade against a hard surface — never twist parts free.

SECTION 4 SET CONTENTS AND PART IDENTIFICATION

Inventory the set against the Eduard sheet before starting. Direct 3D-printed parts arrive attached to a printed base/support raft. Typical breakdown (confirm against the sheet — Eduard may combine or split minor parts):

ITEM	TYPE	DESCRIPTION / NOTES
Seat bucket / body	Resin	Main structure, seat pan and back — primary print

Headrest w/ canopy breakers	Resin	A-10-specific breaker configuration — a key accuracy point
Side-pull ejection handles	Resin	The large A-10 handles — finish yellow/black striped
Detail parts	Resin	O2 bottle, drogue/parachute pack, actuators, small fittings (per sheet)
Seatbelt set	PE — pre-painted	Lap belts + shoulder/inertia-reel harness, colour pre-applied
Placard decals	Decal	Seat data / warning placards

NOTE

Because the harness is supplied as **pre-painted PE**, the belts need little more than shaping and a light wash — the largest share of realism payoff on this seat is correct **frame colour, cushion colour, and the yellow/black handles**.

SECTION 5 TOOLS AND MATERIALS

5.1 Tools. Fine flush-cutters and a razor saw for the print raft; fresh No. 11 blades; sanding sticks 400–2000; pin vise; fine straight and reverse-action tweezers; PE bending tool; 5000K task lamp and optivisor.

5.2 Adhesives. Thin CA (Bob Smith Insta-Cure / ZAP) for resin and PE; gel CA for positioning; a drop of PVA (Micro Kristal Klear) for any glazed detail. Accelerator used sparingly, off the model.

5.3 Finishing. Mr. Surfacer 1500 Black or gray primer (or Alclad Gray Microfiller); the seat colours in Sec. 6; enamel/oil wash (dark brown/black); Micro Set/Micro Sol; matte or satin clear to seal.

SECTION 6 PAINT REFERENCE — A-10C ACES II

6.1 Scheme. Operational A-10C ACES II seats read as a dark structure with olive-drab cushions, a natural-metal/gunmetal mechanism, a green emergency-oxygen bottle, and the signature **yellow-and-black striped side handles**. Frame colour on real seats ranges from Dark Gull Gray to near-black — verify against a photo of the specific jet where possible.

6.2 Master Paint Color Table — ACES II Seat. Column layout matches parent SOP Sec. 5.2.

AREA	FS595C	TAMIYA	GUNZE / MR. COLOR	AK REAL COLOR
Seat frame / structure	FS 36231	XF-53 + XF-63	C-317 / C-13	RC249
Frame (dark/late variant)	—	XF-1 + XF-63	C-92 (semi-gloss blk)	RC001-adj
Seat + back cushions (OD)	FS 34088	XF-62 Olive Drab	C-304 (approx)	RC078
Cushions (tan sheepskin alt)	—	XF-57 Buff	C-44 Tan (approx)	RC211
Ejection handle stripes	Yellow / Black	X-8 + XF-1	C-4 / C-2	RC-Y/Blk
Emergency O2 bottle	Green	XF-13 J.A. Green	C-16 (approx)	RC080
O2 manual pull ring	Hi-vis lime	X-15 Light Green	C-6 (approx)	—
Mechanism / rails / metal	Gunmetal / steel	XF-56	SM-08 / C-28	AK Metal Steel

NOTE

Cushion colour is the most photo-dependent call. Most A-10C seats show **olive-drab** canvas cushions; some airframes carry **tan sheepskin** covers, and colour shifts with wear and replacement. Pick to your reference jet — either is correct on the type.

CAUTION

The pre-painted PE belts set the harness colour for you. Do not repaint them a conflicting shade — at most, tone with a wash so they sit visually with the cushions.

SECTION 7 SUPPORT REMOVAL AND PREPARATION

STEP	ACTION
7.1	Inspect the print under raking light for any short/mis-printed detail before cutting. Photograph as received.
7.2	Cut the seat and detail parts from the print raft with flush-cutters or a razor saw, leaving a small stub. Do NOT twist parts off — printed supports snap cleanly but drag resin if levered.
7.3	Pare each contact nub flush with a fresh No. 11 blade, then refine with 600 → 1500 sanding sticks. Preserve adjacent cast detail.
7.4	Wash the parts in warm water with a drop of dish soap and a soft brush to lift handling oils and any residue; rinse and air-dry fully.
7.5	Dry-fit the 6 parts together before paint. Confirm the headrest, handles, and O2 bottle seat cleanly; flag any gap for thin-CA fill later.
7.6	Prime thin — Mr. Surfacer 1500 (black primer helps shadow the deep seat detail). Two light passes; confirm no bare resin, then cure.

NOTE

Eduard direct prints arrive cleaned and cured; the modeler's job is raft/nub removal, not a full resin post-cure cycle. Still wash before primer — primer will not key to un-washed resin.

SECTION 8 SUB-ASSEMBLY

STEP	ACTION
8.1	Assemble only what paints better as a unit. Bond the O2 bottle and fixed rear detail to the seat back with thin CA; leave the headrest, handles, and belts OFF for painting access.
8.2	If the handles are separate, dry-fit and note orientation — the A-10 side handles are the large, raised type; they will be finished yellow/black and added after the frame is painted.
8.3	Do not attach the seat to its mounting rails / cockpit yet — installation is Sec. 11, after the tub is complete.

SECTION 9 PAINTING PROCEDURE

STEP	ACTION
9.1	After primer cures, airbrush the frame/structure base colour (Sec. 6 — Dark Gull Gray or dark variant per your reference). Let a black primer read through recesses as pre-shade.
9.2	Brush-paint the seat-pan and back cushions in the chosen OD (or tan sheepskin). Keep the cushion edges crisp against the frame.
9.3	Paint the emergency O2 bottle green; pick out the manual pull ring hi-vis lime. Paint mechanism, rails, and exposed actuators gunmetal/steel.
9.4	Finish the side-pull ejection handles yellow with black stripes (mask or hand-paint). These are the seat's focal point — take the time to get clean stripes.
9.5	Apply a thin dark brown/black enamel or oil wash over the whole seat; wipe back to leave shadow in the recesses. Dry-brush a lighter grey on raised frame edges to pop detail.
9.6	Seal with a matte/satin clear before belts and placards. This protects the frame work and gives decals a key.

NOTE

Work order matters: frame → cushions → small colour details → handles → wash → seal. Adding the pre-painted belts and placards comes after the seal coat so a slip doesn't disturb them.

SECTION 10 PHOTO-ETCH BELTS AND DECAL PLACARDS

STEP	ACTION
------	--------

10.1	Anneal (optional) and shape the pre-painted PE harness over a rounded tool so lap and shoulder straps drape naturally into the bucket — flat, board-stiff belts read as toys.
10.2	Cut each belt from the fret with a fresh blade on a hard surface. Fit lap belts to the pan first, then the shoulder/inertia-reel straps from the headrest area down.
10.3	Tack with tiny spots of thin CA or PVA. Let straps overlap and fold realistically; a touch of dark wash in the folds adds depth without hiding the printed colour.
10.4	Apply seat data/warning placard decals over the sealed finish. Set with Micro Set, conform with Micro Sol; let positioning water flash off first so the film doesn't wrinkle.
10.5	When dry, a final pin-point matte coat over the placards blends them in. Do not flood the belts with clear — keep their sheen.

SECTION 11 INSTALLATION INTO COCKPIT

Install the finished seat into the completed cockpit tub as the **last** interior step, per parent Sec. 7.3. The Eduard seat is denser and slightly different in footprint than the kit part — dry-fit into the tub before committing adhesive.

STEP	ACTION
11.1	Dry-fit the seat into the painted tub. Verify it sits at the correct upright A-10 angle and that the headrest clears the canopy rails.
11.2	Bond with a few spots of thin CA (or 5-min epoxy for a stronger hold) at the seat base / rails. Hold vertical until set — check it is square from front and side.
11.3	Recall the parent Academy quirk: the canopy generally will not close with the seat fully installed. Plan to display the canopy open , or test the closed-canopy fit before final bonding.

CAUTION

Keep CA off the tub's outer mating edges and off the canopy. If a closed canopy is required, confirm seat/headrest clearance now — reworking a bonded resin seat later risks the surrounding paint.

SECTION 12 QUALITY / ACCURACY CHECK AND RECORD OF COMPLETION

12.1 Accuracy & Finish Checklist.

- ☐ Print raft/nubs fully removed; no support scars on visible faces
- ☐ A-10 large side-pull handles present and finished yellow/black
- ☐ Headrest canopy-breaker detail intact (A-10 configuration)
- ☐ Frame colour matches reference jet (gray vs dark variant)
- ☐ Cushions correct (OD or tan sheepskin) and crisp against frame
- ☐ O2 bottle green; manual pull ring hi-vis; metal picked out
- ☐ Pre-painted PE belts shaped, draped naturally, lightly washed
- ☐ Placard decals conformed, no silvering, sealed
- ☐ Seat sits at correct upright angle; square in tub; canopy plan confirmed

12.2 Record of Completion.

BUILT BY	DATE	SET / PART NO.	NOTES
		EDU648921	

SECTION 13 DOCUMENT CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY

13.1 Revision History. This attachment is controlled under DBW document management. Changes are recorded below.

REV	DATE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
1.0	AUG 2026	Dark Bench Works, LLC	Initial release of Attachment 1 — Eduard Brassin ACES II (EDU648921) painting, assembly, decal, and cockpit-installation procedure for Academy kit 12348. Supersedes parent Sec. 7.1 when this set is fitted.
2.0	AUG 2026	Dark Bench Works, LLC	Added Table of Contents and this Document Control / Revision History section to bring Attachment 1 into the current DBW standard T.O. format. No changes to technical procedure, paint tables, or step sequence.

— END OF ATTACHMENT 1 TO T.O. DBW-SOP-A10C-48-ACA-001 —

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