

STAR WARS IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTER

Manufactured by AMT, Kit #8438

Reviewed by D. Monet IPMS #32258

The Empire has trained one hundred thousand guys just like you to serve the empire, to do their bidding.

You are told all through your training at the Imperial Academy that...“the Tie Fighter which you will pilot does not need energy shields!!! Your craft will rely on speed, firepower, and vastly superior numbers to crush anyone deemed foolish enough to oppose us”.

It is etched into your mind that this is the way of things. So you served with pride for many years, never once questioning the Imperial doctrine.

Until now!

You are sweating. You can feel both of your hearts beating in your ears. You are pulling out all the stops. Twisting and turning you try to lose him! But you can't! “This doesn't make any sense!...This can't be!”, you think. You start noticing that there are fewer of your comrades now than when you picked this fight! Regardless of whether the guy on you six is piloting an outdated X-wing or not, you can't shake him! He's on you like stink on a Bantha poodo! The last thought you ever have is that of your mother saying “you look so good in your uniform”.

AMT'S latest Star Wars model has been a request of mine for quite some time. Apparently a lot of other people felt the same way.

When I opened the box I was surprised to find not one but two Tie Fighters. Cool! Both models are suspended on clear plastic rods, over a section of the Death Star. The kit consists of approximately 53 parts. All parts are molded cleanly especially the black triangular sections of the wings. I recommended painting these semi-gloss black. It looks more like the movie model. The upper and lower halves of the cockpit sphere fit together well, requiring very little cleaning. A good part of the seams are hidden under 4 bow tie shaped parts. The cockpit is hard to see because of the shape of the model but it has a decent amount of detail, including a very accurate pilot! The six-sided wing panels went on easily and were straight and even from the start.

I painted my first craft in sections. It seemed to make things easier that way. I painted the six-sided panels semi-gloss black first. The black sections were then masked with scotch tape and sprayed a dark ghost gray along with the rest of the model's exterior. The cockpit was painted dark gray with the glass framing even darker. When the painting of the major components was completed, I finished up by doing a light wash of medium gray over everything with the excess being wiped off. Easy!

This kit is one of AMT's best Sci-Fi kits ever. Accurate and easy to build. Both beginner and advanced modelers will find this one fun!

I am looking forward to that vinyl “Rancor” being released! Keep up the good work AMT.