

*Chris Clifford, Editor at Large, Airfix Model World*

## **NEW SHOOTING STAR REFERENCE FROM EUROPEAN AIRLINES**

**Fans of the iconic F-80/T-33 will welcome European Airlines' book on the type, which focuses on Latin American airframes.**

If you enjoy building fast jets but tend to replicate them in more obvious schemes, the new hardback book from Norwegian publisher European Airlines could certainly steer you in a different direction. It explores the subject of Lockheed's F-80 and two-seat T-33 flown throughout Latin America.

Dazzling subjects

This region immediately offers decidedly different potential finishes for your Shooting Star builds, not just via the often vivid national insignia, but also the multitude of camouflage schemes (although bare-metal and single-colour airframes are shown, too). As Latin people often exhibit a high degree of character and flair, so do the aircraft, and that's fully evident as you turn the pages. If you like colour in your modelling, there's inspiration in abundance here.

After a general introduction and overview, detailing initial Lend-Lease agreements with the USA, plus post-war purchase activity, each chapter describes F-80/T-33 acquisition and operations by country. While the first section explores USAF Caribbean Air Command machines, the narrative then follows all the Latin American countries proper, these being: Cuba, Columbia, Peru, Dominican Republic, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Venezuela, El Salvador, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Author Dan Hagedorn's style is always highly readable. With input from co-author Rob van Lijf, the result is an enjoyable and informative book, underpinned by diligent research. Visually, the content is stunning and will have fans of the Shooting Star – or those with a wider interest in Latin American air arms – giddy with the scale possibilities. Some of the most exciting airframes include the Mexican 45th anniversary-schemed T-33A, a Sandinista-flown T-33B in intricate four-colour camouflage, and Shark-mouthed Guatemalan T-33As. This is just a snapshot, though... the choice of lovely liveries to replicate is legion and much fun will be had shopping for relevant kits and decals.

## Artwork included

A whole host of colour profiles, some accompanied by plan views, only ups the ante in terms of great reference, while various data tables log individual airframes and their pertinent details. Ultimately, the T-33 dominates the proceedings and thankfully, there are worthy kits available in all three major scales. Just as important, useful decal sheets have been issued by the likes of FCM, Armycast, Aztec, Blackbird, Microscale/Superscale and Andean Decals, among others.

Photographically, the quality of the images is generally excellent and much can be gleaned for accurate representation of schemes. If you like aircraft in natural metal, some of the Colombian airframes are particularly eye-popping due to their highly polished nature, which works beautifully with that country's colourful insignia.

There's heaps of choice here and much to get the creative juices flowing, whichever scale you favour. If you want close-up detail then you'll need supplementary material... this book simply revels in mostly whole-aircraft shots, in which you can see almost all of the livery. This is a splendid purchase, though, if you wish to replicate Latin American Shooting Stars. It costs Kr 400 (£31.70 at the time of writing) and is available direct from European Airlines.

<https://www.europeanairlines.no/>

*Shooting Stars in Southern Skies*  
*The Lockheed F-80 and T-33 in Latin American Service*

By: Dan Hegedorn – Rob van Lijf

Format: 306 x 215mm

ISBN: 978-82-93450-34-4