

GRIFFON TDM
MILITARY HOVERCRAFT
CHARLIE 23.
DEPICTED AS USED IN THE GULF CONFLICT.



Where to start and actually place sufficient script on an A4 sheet of paper about this model is quite difficult, so please, after reading this article feel free to ask questions.

It all started after I organised a visit along with two friends to 639 Assault Squadron Royal Marines Depot in Devon-port. Armed with cameras and tape measures we spent the day photographing the four Griffon's that had been in service with the marines for the last nine years. Having recently returned from operations in the Gulf, 'Basra' to be precise, they were a little worse for wear, with nothing in the pipeline to replace them. However this did not curtail our enthusiasm and we took dozens of photographs and measured the craft from stem to stern. The Marines were tremendous host's, even going to the trouble of fixing the gun to the machine 'C23' so we could take our photo's.

The model on the opposite page at 1/10 scale turned out to be a joint effort. My close friend Tony Middleton, an experienced aircraft modeller, used his many skills gained with wood to construct the actual craft from all the information we had obtained. All the credit for construction including skirt manufacture is directly down to his attributes gained over many years of constructing model aircraft.

The craft was then passed to Stan, for the installation of all electronic components and various working features to be installed. Then to be finished and completed as per the stripped down version, as used in the Iraq conflict.

Many more hours were spent making for instance, window frames, exhaust silencers, cabin internal features, model gun, radar covers and masts, wing mirrors, etc. etc. The paint used is actually two pack paint exactly as sprayed on the real craft and was kindly supplied after chatting up that wonderful man from Griffon Hovercraft, Mr Gifford and persuading him to donate eighty quids worth of paint to my project. At a later date having seen the result he was well pleased.

My experience over the years is with model boats and not model aircraft, they break to easily! This being the case I have become quite adept at making and at installing working features in my models, even down to explosive devices such as depth charges. So using my enthusiasm for this I have included the following in Charlie 23.

There is a Working Radar Scanner in the cockpit. Working searchlight up front, along with Rear Recognition light for night operations. Standard Navigation Lights. Working Machine Gun Sound effects. Amber Flashing light on top. *Note: The only sea going craft permitted to have a flashing amber beacon light is a Hovercraft.* So should you ever see one on the horizon when at sea, you will know it's a H/C. Or perhaps a local council lorry that just got lost!

Information on the motors and electronic components can be obtained if desired, by viewing the card placed by the model, or of course quizzing yours truly, or either of my two friends if I am absent.

I hope and trust you will enjoy the efforts of both Tony and myself, the model is one of a kind in this particular scale and livery.

Stan Robinson

