

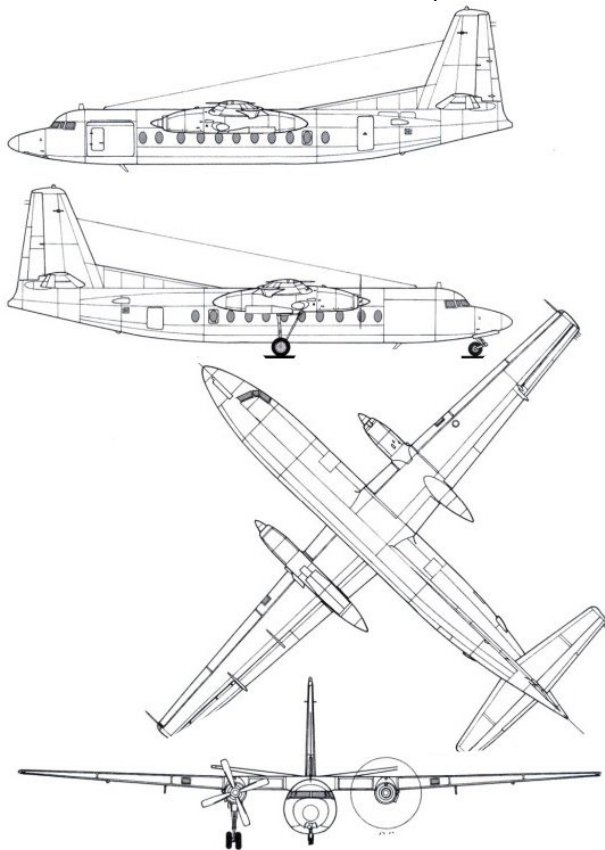
Fokker F-27 Friendship SABENA BELGIUM OO-SBP



The Fokker F-27 Friendship was the most successful commuter regional airliner built soon after the Second World War. The famous Dutch Fokker aircraft company re-started. A market was foreseen to replace the Douglas DC-3 transport so designed was a commuter aircraft with 28 passenger capacity using modern manufacturing techniques such as glued sandwich panels and equipped with a new type of engines: two Rolls Royce Dart turboprops driving a pair of propellers. The prototype flew November 1955 and it showed that some modifications were needed, particularly a longer fuselage. So capacity increased to 32 passengers.

Several F-27 variants were developed the following decades. Old Friendships had the short nose without radar but later on more common was the longer nose with radar (that was developed by Fairchild USA that license manufactured the type). Most F-27 series had a total length of 23,56 meter and wing span 29 meter. The F-27-500 was a 1,5 meter longer variant with extra load capacity.

The aircraft was efficient, easy to maintain and reliable and flew in all continents and was flying even from sand strips out in Africa. Many flew for decades with commercial airlines and air forces. Some are still flown today.



MODEL KITS

In **1/72** scale the old Airfix F-27 kit is still the best in this scale. For a more accurate Airfix model, some modifications are needed, see my website at:

<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/f27/f27mod.htm>

In **1/94** scale Revell had an old F-27 kit.

In **1/144** scale kits are from Doyusha, Welsh and good kits from Eastern Express and A&A Models.

DECAL SYSTEM and APPLICATION

The decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so EACH decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior decal preparation is needed. Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water.

Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface. Do not use tweezers! They will fold double!

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss, matt or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect all the decals.

PAINTING AND DECALS

The decals are for a SABENA BELGIUM WORLD AIRLINES SYSTEM Fokker F-27 series 400 serial c/n 10340 with Belgium registration OO-SBP. It probably entered service in March 1968 and operated until 1981 by SABENA ?

It has a scheme with a smaller "S" on the tail and Belgium colours badge and the scheme is symmetrical starboard and port (except for the doors).

The upper fuselage is white and it seems that the rest of the airframe is light "gull" grey (about FS16440). The leading edge boots on wing, stabilizers and tail are black. The nose is also black. Propeller colours probably dull aluminium with yellow tips and black de-icing strips. Spinners dull aluminium as well as nacelle intake ring. Exhausts burned black with a burned panel aft on the nacelles. Gear struts and wheel hubs are probably also aluminium.

The SABENA blue areas are "delta blue". DACO has a paint PA-12 for SABENA aircraft of the 1970s. Federal standard FS15044 seems a good match.



The centre portions of the long "classic delta blue" cheat lines can be airbrushed after masking and for the blue border lines decals are provided. Another option is to use the full cheat lines decals with cabin windows (the modeller than should close up any windows if present). Trim these to fit.

The white registration OO-SBP is set aft of the rear doors on the cheat lines. On the starboard/ right top wing a black registration OO-SBP was seen; it is unknown if the lower port wing also had a black registration but a decal is provided.

For the doors, decals are provided and small SABENA texts are situated above the doors.

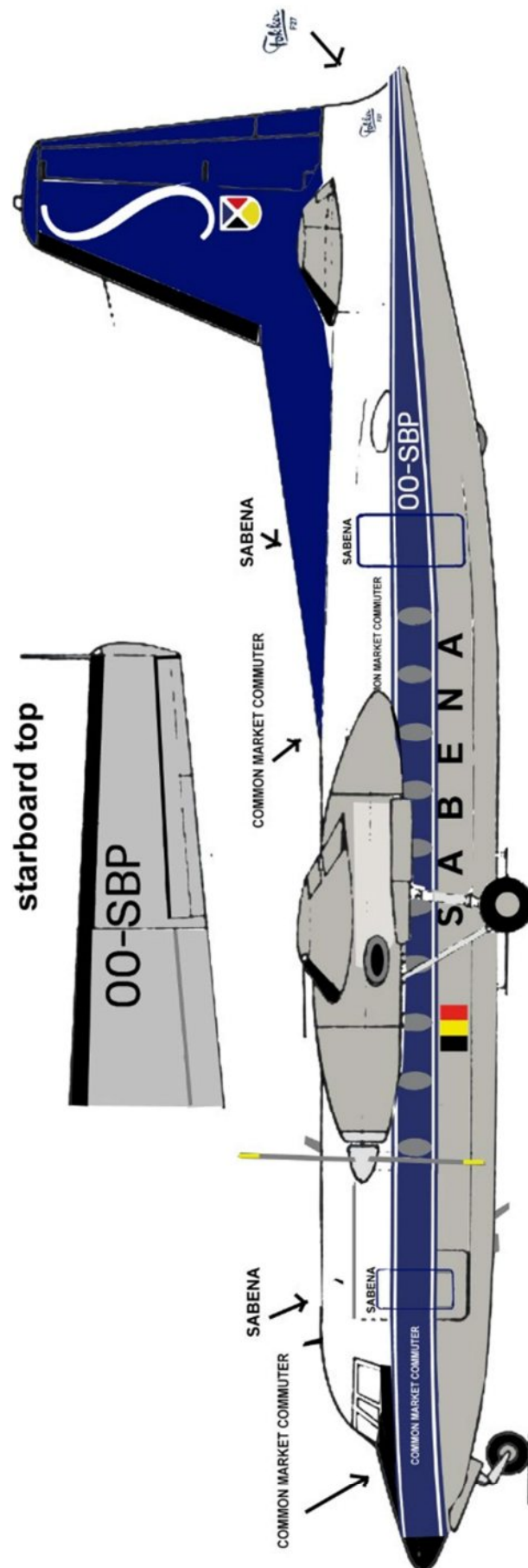
It had 2 closed windows aft of the forward doors. Fitted with the longer radar nose, smaller tri-angular blade antennas and antenna masts on the mid lower fuselage. A pair of long wire antennas run from forward fuselage top to vertical tail.

See decals sheet AIPD-186 for F-27 SABENA OO-SCA

REFERENCES

On internet, it is very easy to find photos:

Search: " F-27 + Sabena + OO-SBP "



Please visit website: www.aircraftinplastic.com

