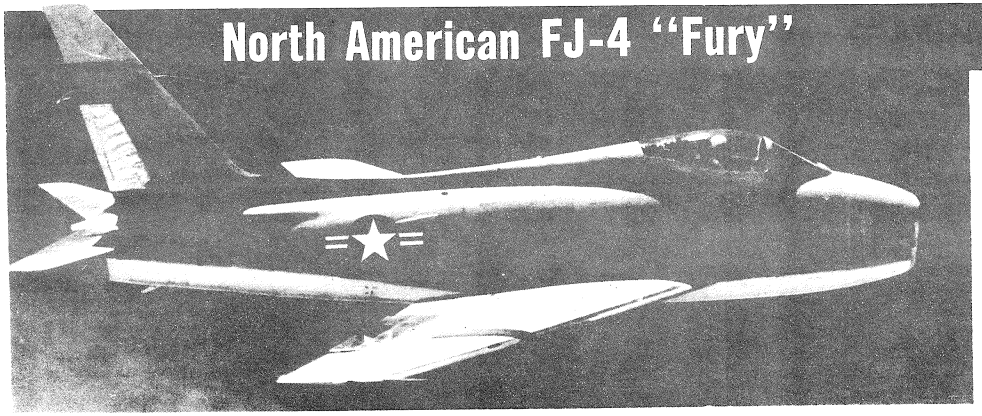
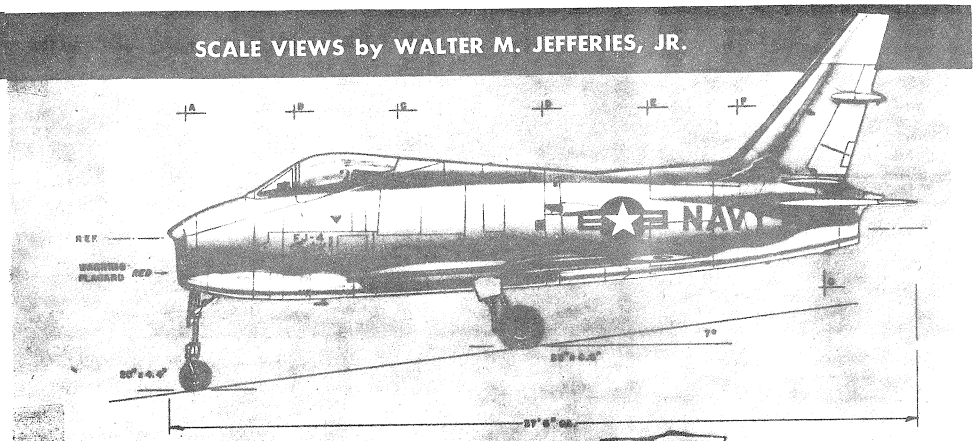
North American FJ-4 "Fury"

SCALE VIEWS by WALTER M. JEFFERIES, JR.



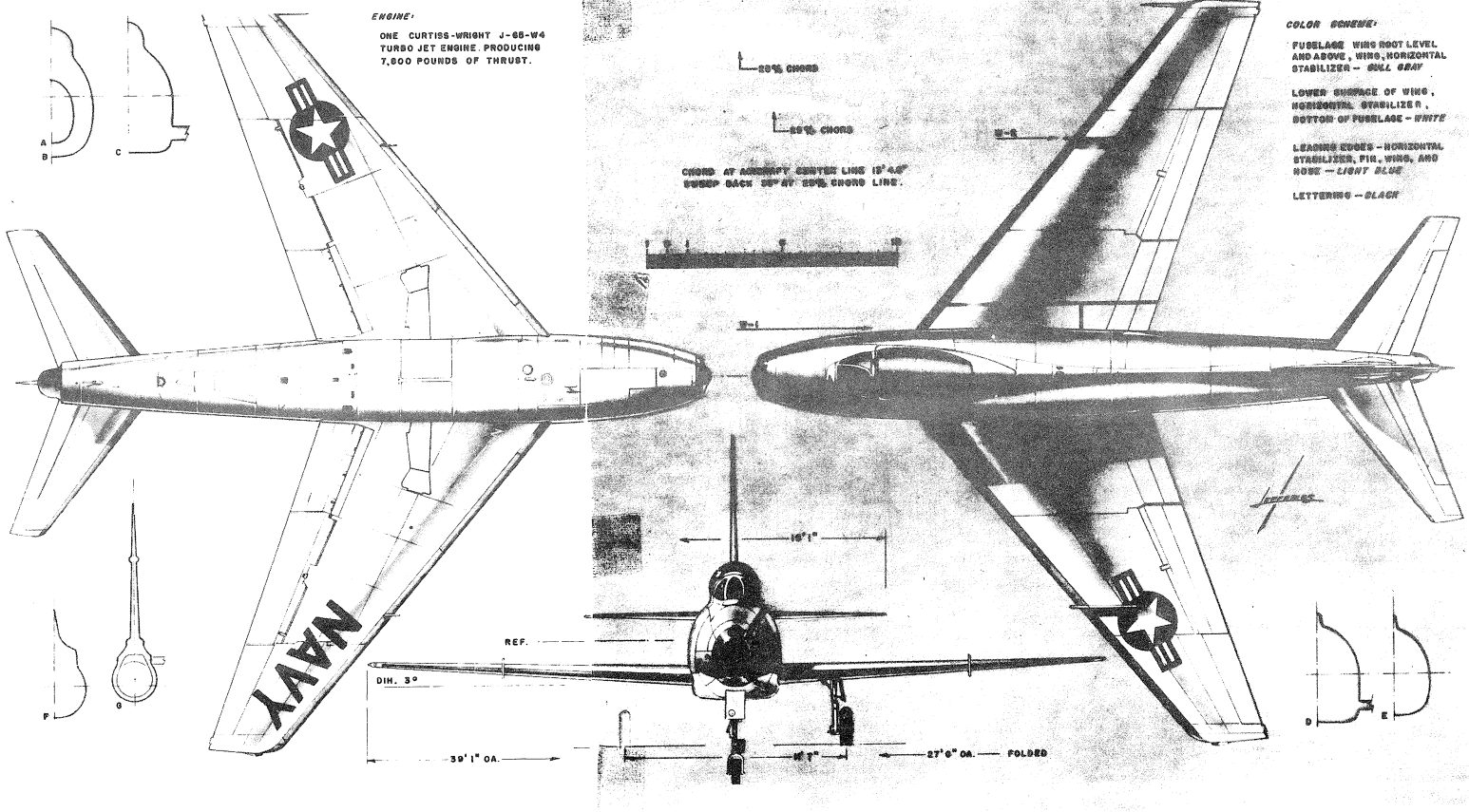


North American Aviation has forged another link in its chain of famous Fury Jet fighter aircraft for the U. S. Navy. Designed, engineered, and produced by the Columbus, Ohio Division of North American, the new Fury carries the designation FJ-4. A direct descendant of the FJ-1, the first all-jet fighter to qualify for carrier duty, the FJ-4 is capable of combat at near-sonic speeds.

The long dorsal fairing, sweeping gracefully from canopy to tail, lends a new note to the famous and familiar lines of the FJ-2 and FJ-3 inherited by the new Fury-Four. Aerodynamic characteristics also are similar to those of the earlier Furies as well as the F-86 Sabre Jet of Korean fame.

Weighing over 19,000 pounds at take-off and powered with a Curtiss-Wright J-65W-4 turbojet engine of 7,800 pounds static thrust, the FJ-4, thanks to increased wing area over its predecessors, boasts a very high rate of climb and a ceiling in excess of 45,000 feet. Faster than any of its predecessors, the new fighter has a top speed in excess of 600 knots (690 mph).

The thin 35 deg. swept-back wings feature a mechanically drooped leading edge and aileron flaps to improve low-speed flight characteristics during carrier approaches. The mid-span location of these controls increases their effectiveness by eliminating reversal due to twisting the wing under high speed loads. Plain flaps are inboard of the ailerons. Hydraulic-powered irreversible controls with artificial feel for the ailerons and the all-flying horizontal stabilizer were first introduced to the Fury series on the FJ-2. These features are also present in the new FJ-4. The outer wing panels fold upward almost vertically just outboard of the ailerons, reducing the span to 27′ 6″.

Mounted in the nose of this new single-seat carrier-based jet is standard Navy armament—four 20-mm cannon. External stores can be carried, thereby giving the Fury-Four special purpose capabilities.

The tricycle landing gear is hydraulically retractable. The main gear units are of the levered suspension type with air-oil shock struts and are equipped with single disc hydraulic brakes.