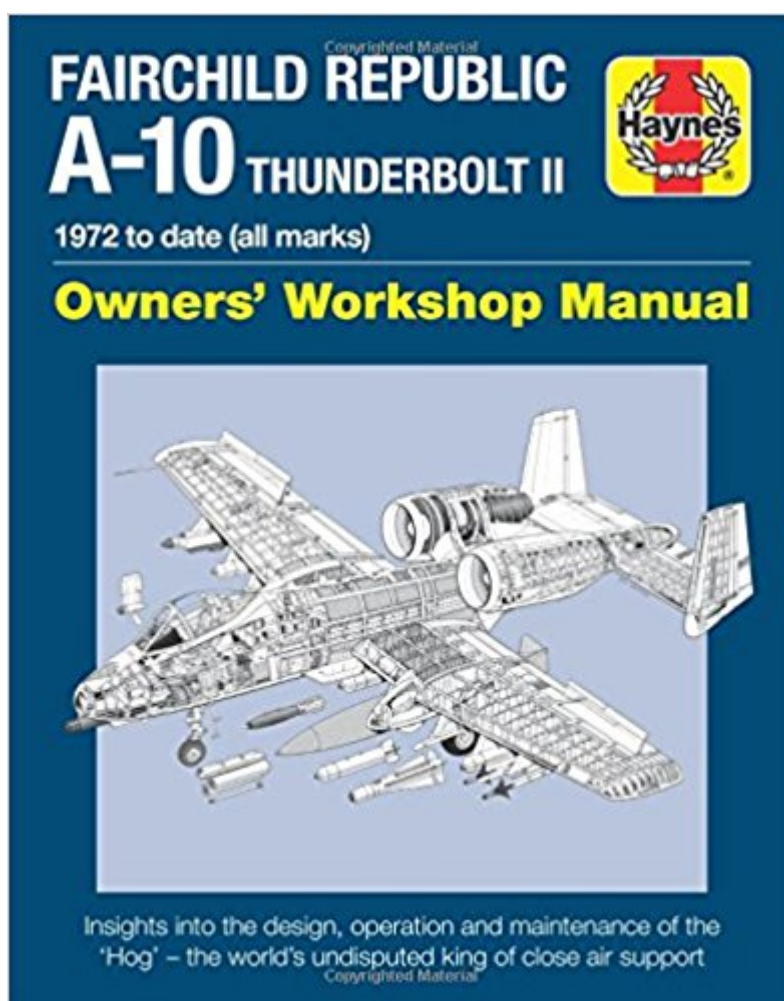


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Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II: 1972 To Date (all Marks) (Owners' Workshop Manual)



Synopsis

Dubbed 'Warthog' - or just 'Hog' - by those who fly and maintain it, the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II is the world's undisputed close air support attack jet. As tough as it is ugly, it has built a fearsome reputation as a tank buster and infantry killer in conflicts around the globe, and its GAU-8 Avenger 30mm cannon strikes fear into the hearts of all unlucky enough to be on the wrong side of it. The A-10 was clutched from the jaws of retirement by the 1991 Gulf War. At the time of the conflict, the United States Air Force was making plans to shed its A-10 fleet, citing obsolescence and redundancy. As the ensuing conflict showed, nothing could have been further from the truth, and no other airframe could have provided the US and Coalition commanders with the sort of forward air control, close air support, combat search and rescue, and tank busting capabilities that the Hog did. Since then the A-10 has delivered capabilities to battlefield commanders in the Balkans (1990s), Afghanistan (2001 onwards) and the second Gulf War (2003 onwards), and Libya (2011). A-10s have flown around 11 per cent of Operation Inherent Resolve sorties (striking IS targets in Iraq) since combat operations began in August 2014.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve Davies is a freelance aviation journalist and photographer living in Cambridge, England. He is the author of F-15E Units in Combat 1991-2005 (Osprey), F-15C Units in Combat (Osprey), F-15C/E Units in OIF (Osprey), F-15E Strike Eagle: All Weather Attack Aircraft (Airlife), and F-15

Eagle & Strike Eagle: Combat Legends (Airlife). He is also a regular contributor to the aviation press including International Air Power Review, Combat Aircraft, Air Forces Monthly, Aircraft Illustrated and Air Pictorial.

The A-10 has had such a huge cult following that I'm rather surprised it took this long for Haynes to publish a book devoted to it. I've enjoyed Steve Davies other Haynes books and have always had a bit of a "soft spot" for this mean, ugly beast of a plane. The result is a fairly solid reference book let down somewhat by the limitations of the Haynes format. If you've owned any of Haynes other modern combat aircraft manuals, you know what to expect. There are introductory chapters describing the plane's design and development, the different variants, operators (mostly a list of squadrons), and a brief overview of the A-10 at war. The second half of the book is more technical in tone, with chapters on the aircraft's anatomy (flight control, hydraulic systems, landing gear, etc.), the TF34 engines, and weapons and sensors. We get a chapter on flying the A-10 over Kosovo in the FAC role in 1999, written largely by Col. Phil Haun, and a brief chapter on maintaining the aircraft. Finally, there are a couple of appendixes, including a complete list of production numbers. The text is accompanied by a large number of excellent color photographs, which should prove useful to anyone super-detailing their model, along with technical diagrams from the original manuals. Although this is yet another enjoyable "workshop manual," I'm starting to feel the novelty of the Haynes format is finally starting to wear off. I've followed the series for years, and I've noticed that many of the recent books have been rather cold and slickly produced. Considering how durable, (relatively) cheap to operate, and rough-and-tumble the A-10 is, you'd think there'd be a more about maintaining the aircraft than a few pages near the end. Even the famous GAU-8 Avenger only receives a couple pages here. I don't want to suggest this book is bad (it's actually fine the way it is), but I wish Haynes would start including a download code with their books so readers can access material that had to be edited out for reasons of space. Although it's obviously dated now, *A-10 Thunderbolt II (Modern fighting aircraft)*, later incorporated into *The Great Book Of Modern Warplanes*, provides a more well-rounded insight into the early model A-10s, its weapons and avionics, and the tactics they would have used against Soviet armor. This book focuses largely on the 'C' model and is a fine update as such, but it's a little too slick and polished for a book on the A-10.

great book

perfect

Fluff and internet pictures very disappointed

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