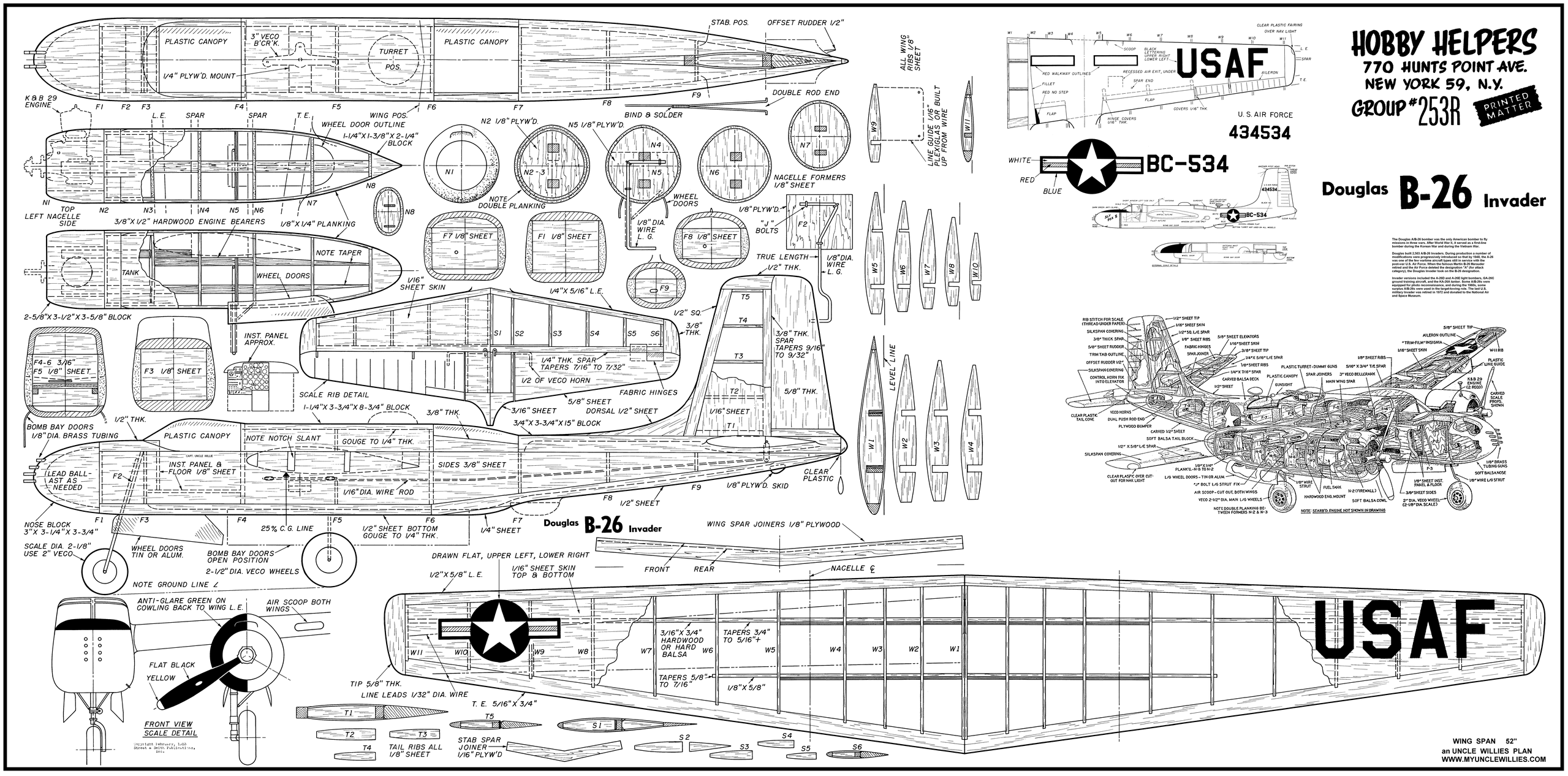

The Douglas A/B-26 bomber was the only American bomber to fly missions in three wars. After World War II, it served as a first-line bomber during the Korean War and during the Vietnam War.

Douglas built 2,503 A/B-26 Invaders. During production a number of modifications were progressively introduced so that by 1948, the A-26 was the last World War II-vintage bomber in the U.S. Air Force and post-war U.S. Air Force. When the famous Martin B-26 Marauder retired and the Air Force deleted the designation "A" (for attack category), the Douglas Invader took on the B-26 designation.

Invader versions included the A-26D and A-26E light bombers, QA-26C ground training aircraft, and the KA-26A tanker. Some A/B-26s were equipped for photo reconnaissance, and during the 1960s, some surplus A/B-26s were used in the target-towing role. The last U.S. military Invader was retired in 1972 and donated to the National Air and Space Museum.