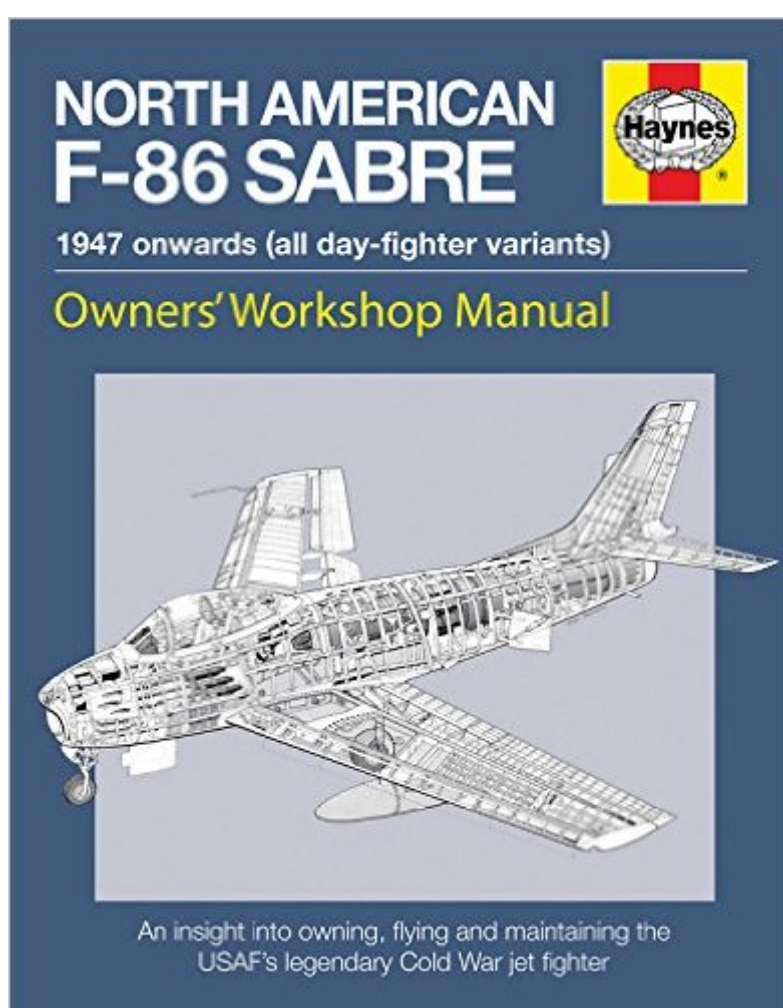


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North American F-86 Sabre Owners' Workshop Manual: An Insight Into Owning, Flying, And Maintaining The USAF's Legendary Cold War Jet Fighter



Synopsis

The North American F-86 Sabre was the first operational Allied swept-wing transonic jet fighter of the postwar era. It was flown with distinction by the USAF in the Korean War where it was pitted against the Soviet MiG-15. The centerpiece of this Haynes Manual is Golden Apple Operations' F-86A, 48-178, the sole-surviving airworthy example of the first production Sabre A model, as well as the world's oldest flying jet-powered aircraft.

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Customer Reviews

Hayne's "workshop manuals" on American vehicles tend to be among their weaker ones, so I'm happy to say this one is actually very nicely done. The author is the Chief Pilot of Golden Apple Operations, and has extensive experience flying their F-86A, currently the world's oldest still-flying jet aircraft. He clearly loves the Sabre, but is very open about the aircraft's rather "interesting" handling qualities in certain flight regimes. As with the other Haynes books, there's also some info on the type's development, descriptions of the different variants, and a brief look at the Sabre's wartime history. As usual, the highlight is the book's technical material, and this manual certainly doesn't skimp on it. "Anatomy of the Sabre" spans 46 pages, and is filled with detailed technical charts and diagrams from the original manuals, humorous advisory cartoons, and close-up views of actual Sabres. Some of the technical descriptions are a little skimpy, but the illustrations make up for that. The chapter on flying the F-86 is fairly lengthy, and covers a typical flight from pre-flight checks to landing, and also includes a very even-handed assessment of the MiG-15. There's also

two brief chapters on F-86A 48-178, the first focusing on it's recovery and restoration, the second on modern-day maintenance. Two minor caveats. Although this book is advertised as covering "all day-fighter variants," the vast majority of it focuses on the A model, particularly 48-178. The book is more focused as a result, but somewhat misleadingly titled as a result. Some of the photographs suffer from mild JPG compression, mostly those in the first couple chapters. That aside, this is a very nicely done, accessible technical study of this groundbreaking warplane, written by someone who truly loves and understands the subject, quirks and all.

Fans of the F-86 Sabre Jet will like this book. The history of the F-86 has been well documented and this book is no exception. I have many, many volumes on the Sabre Jet subject and this book does not break any new ground. At the very least it is accurate and well written. However the author does a good job of explaining the iconic fascination of the Sabre throughout the 1950's. In movies, car designs of the time, model kits, etc. It's all here.

(Haynes makes some silly novelty books, but this is a serious well-researched one.) Unlike many other aviation books, this author knows exactly what he's writing about. This covers the development of the F-86, how one was restored, and the mechanisms involved in flying a Sabre. Explains how the propeller P-51 Mustang evolved into the F-86 Sabre jet, showing a photo of the Sabre prototype, which was started in 1944, during WWII.

Very good reminder of what it was like to fly the F-86A. Of course I liked the F-86F better. Great book. Quite thorough. Good comment about the sink rate on final. After flying the F model for three months, I broke a landing gear on my initial check-out landing in the A model. It was a 6,000 ft runways with obstacles at both ends of the runway. I also managed to take off with no flaps on the same runway. No problems after that. Wonderful airplane.

The Book had some very interesting history on the F-86-SABRE. It could have been improved by tell about different models. More about the mechanics of the airplane. Detailed pictures of the cockpits., would have also add greatly to the over all thoroughness of the book.

Excellent Sabre reference for the historian and modeler. The content is written well, informative, and relevant. And the book production (binding, etc) is excellent.

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