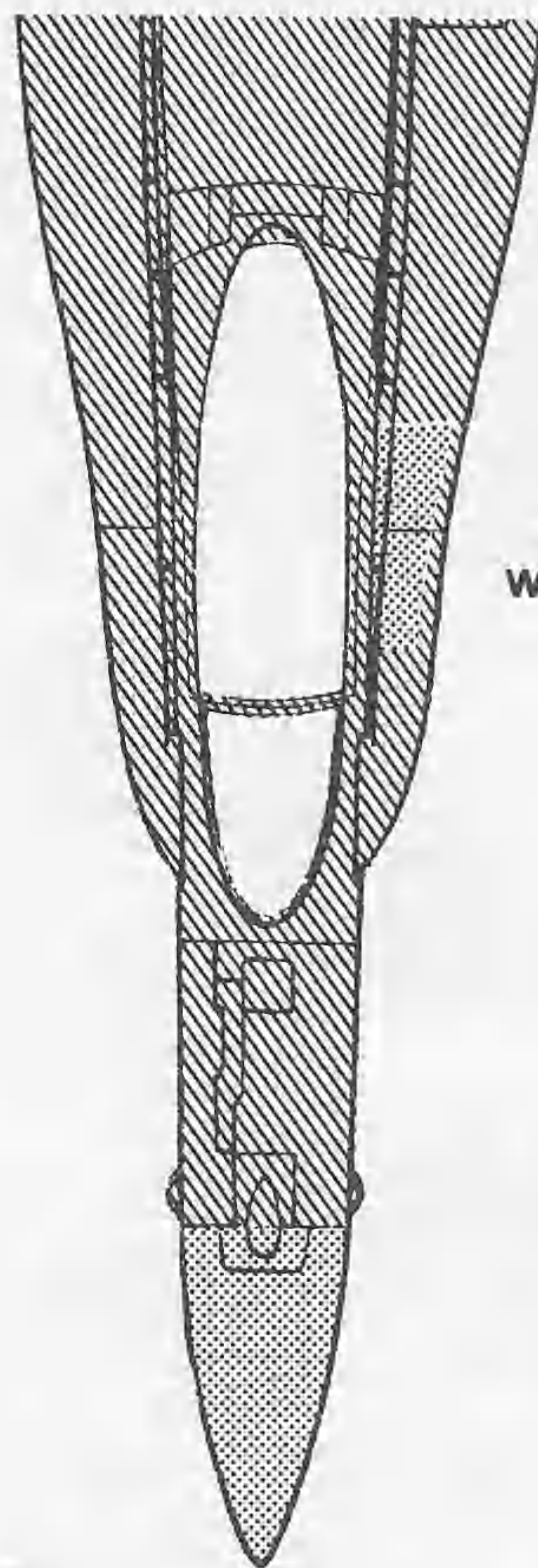


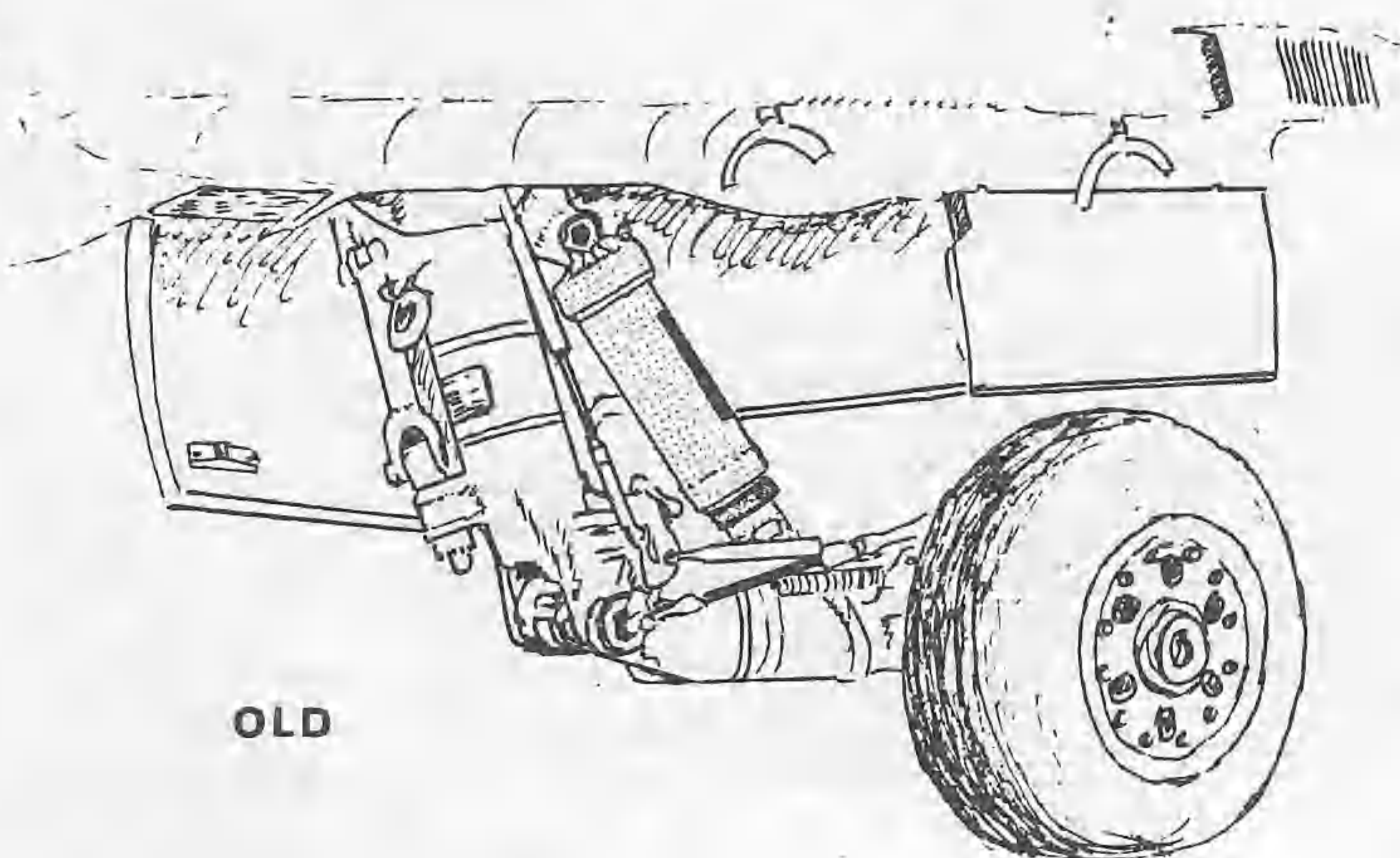
Block 7 Hornet

Idea & Landing Gear Sketches from IPMS Gen. Robert L. Scott "Flying Tiger", by Fred Horky
Additional research by Ron Downey
Color schemes by Bill Drescher
Text by Drescher & Mackowski

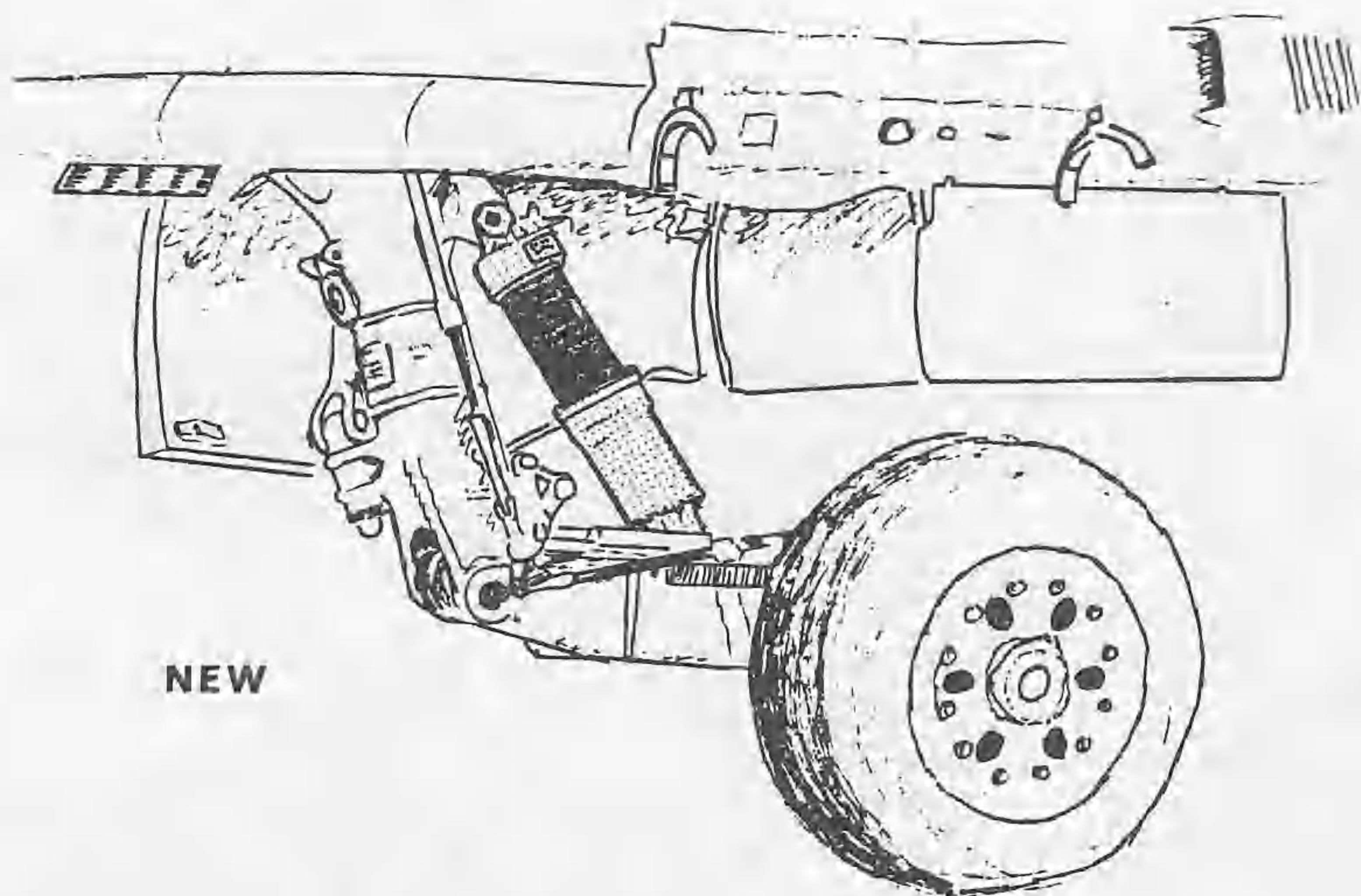
There have been some changes of interest to modelers in recently produced F/A-18 Hornets. An improvement has been made to the landing gear and the camouflage scheme has been modified. The shock absorber on the main landing gear strut has been replaced by a new dual chamber unit, allowing higher landing loads. This gives the appearance of the strut being installed upside down, as the chromed section is now on the top instead of the bottom (see sketches). This change is effective for all aircraft from Block 7 on up (starting with BuNo 161520), but Canadian Hornets are apparently not being fitted with the new shock absorber.



SHORT
WINGWALK

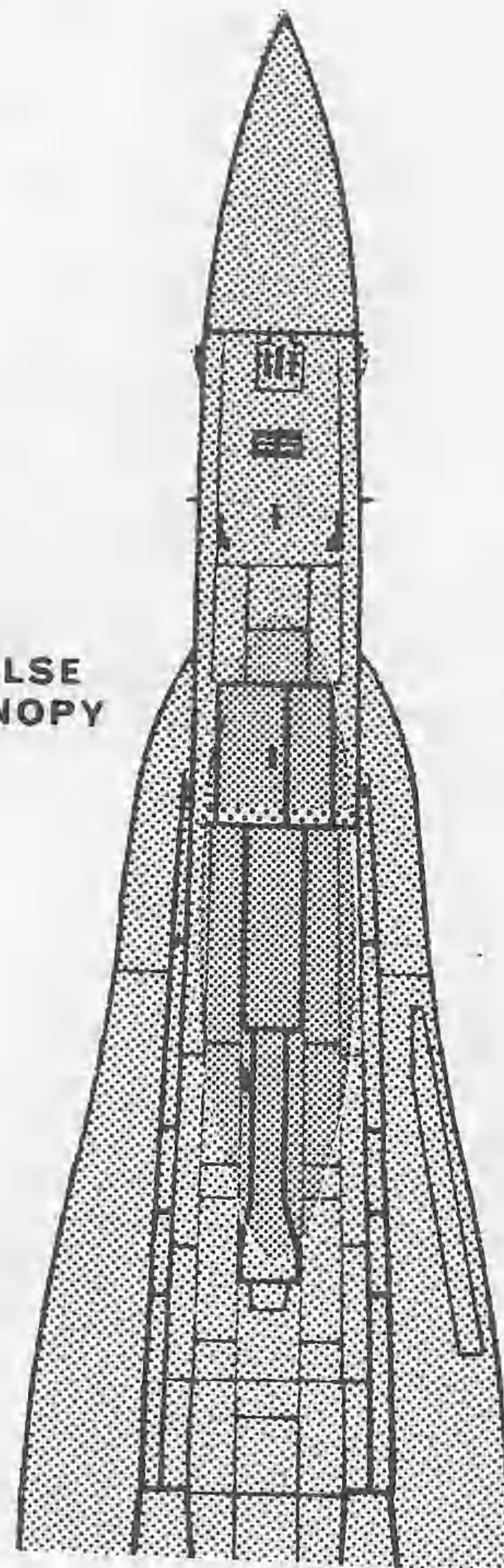


OLD



NEW

FALSE
CANOPY



Note that the servicing placard is different, and is relocated to the metallic surface.

The drawings here are Crazy Plastic's generic color scheme for F/A-18's. The colors shown in the key are accurate for the latest US Navy Hornets (BuNo. 162394 and up). These aircraft have the long wing walkways as shown on the drawings. Hornets between BuNo. 161930 and 162393, inclusive, have the same colors and pattern with the short wing walkway (see scrap view). BuNo.'s 161926-161929 have the same colors, short wing walkway and an antiglare panel (color FS35237). Canadian and Australian F/A-18's use the same pattern with different colors. The bottom color is the same (FS36375), but the top color is changed to FS35237. The Canadians also have a false canopy painted on the bottom of the fuselage in Gunship Gray (FS36118). Both the Aussies and Canucks have the short wing walkway.

Markings for all three countries are of the low visibility type. Markings on the top color are done with the bottom color; and markings on the bottom color are done with the top color. The two colors used by the US Navy are almost identical, so that from any distance, the aircraft appears to be unmarked. The Australian and Canadian birds have slightly more contrast, but not much.

