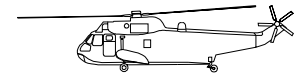


# Belcher Bits No. BB27: BLG-66 Belouga Cluster Bomb 1/48

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## Background

The Matra/Thomson BLG 66 Belouga cluster bomb was developed in 1970s as a replacement for the Giboulee cluster bomb (details unknown). The Belouga (source of the name could come from the acronym, or a whale or caviar ... comments welcomed) is low drag and intended for high speed, low level delivery. The bomb has a small braking parachute to slow its speed and hold it horizontal prior to ejection of the sub-munitions. Unlike many cluster bombs, this weapon does not shed its covering to dispense its sub-munitions. Instead, it has 152 external munition pockets, and the sub munitions are ejected in a dense or distributed pattern according to pilot selection, each one having a small parachute to ensure vertical delivery. Sub-munitions include fragmentation with either instantaneous or delayed fuzing, or anti-armour.

France apparently destroyed its stock of Belouga cluster bombs between 1996 and 2002. However, these weapons were sold to Argentina, Greece, India and Iraq, and some likely remain in service today.

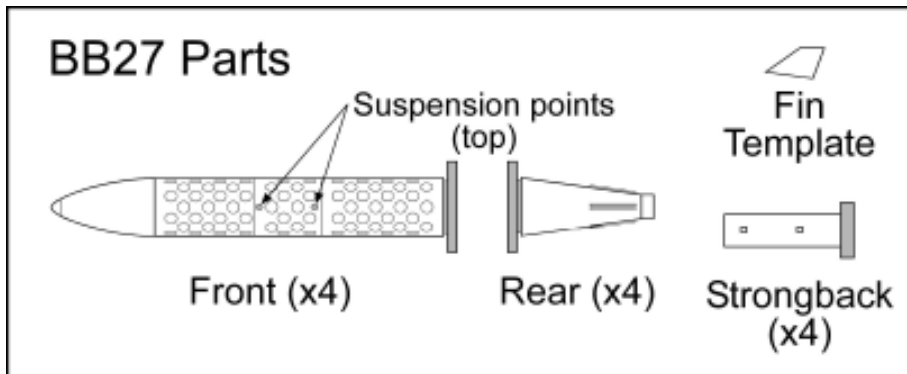
The nose is fitted with a small four vane prop for electrical power generation, see the photo at right. Too small and delicate to mould reliably, I recommend you cut up some small chips of 0.010" x 0.030" strip and make your own if desired. The bombs are carried on standard bomb racks, and to allow the use of sway braces, the bombs are fitted with a rectangular strongback (which I assume is ejected when the bomb is released, as it covers some of the sub-munition pockets). There is a small disc moulded on to the forward underside of the strongback, and this keys into the forward depression in the bomb body noted earlier.



Operational bombs had dark green strongback, nose and tails, with a bare (usually chromated) aluminum mid section. The sub-munitions may have a white cover ... have fun there, remember each bomb has 152 sub-munitions..

## References

1. Various articles on the internet. Search under 'Belouga', 'BLG-66', 'cluster bomb'. Be prepared for a lot of political discussion on the morality of cluster bombs. The picture below was taken at an Indian military equipment show, I believe ... I found it once but lost the original source.



## BLG-66 Belouga

The Belouga is a simple shape, with four fixed fins at the tail. Use a razor saw and cut the front and rear sections off their bases, and sand the remaining standoffs until the bases are flat. The two small depressions on the front piece indicate the location of mounting lugs on the top, and the fins on the rear are at 45 degrees to vertical. The raised strips on the tail section indicate where the tail fins are to be attached. Glue the front and rear sections together. Cut four tail fins from 0.015" sheet using the template given on the instructions sheet, and glue in place.

