

## RKKA Air Force Military Pilot School, graduation badge, 1938-41.

Brass, nickel plating and silver plating, enamels; riveted two-piece construction. Measures 45.7 mm in height, 37.0 mm in overall width; the width of the blue diamond portion is 25.9 mm. Features sky-blue cut-out diamond with crossed swords and superimposed I-16 fighter.

In very fine condition, very respectable for this badge. The blue enamel has a single chip and an area of surface flaking under the right wing of the airplane, not very conspicuous. The blue enamel is relatively well-preserved elsewhere having only a few tiny surface flakes, mostly near the hilts of the swords and the top of the star - none of which are really noticeable without magnification. The red enamel on the star is perfect.

The details of the airplane do not show much wear, and a good amount of its fragile silver finish is still present in less exposed areas. The silver plating on the reverse is essentially perfect and shows very attractive even patina. The rivets are tight. The copper screw post is original and of full length, measuring nearly 9.5 mm long. The screw plate serial numbered and mint marked screw plate is of the period and fits the screw perfectly, although it is not original to this particular badge.

/See "Avers 8" p. 476, fig. 2254, also Borisov, "Badges of the Soviet Armed Forces", p. 114, fig. 306/.

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