

Arsenal VG-33

The Arsenal VG-33 was the production version of a light weight all-wooden fighter designed in 1936. It showed great promise and production began in 1939, but none had entered service by the time of the German invasion in 1940.

The Arsenal VG-33 began as the VG-30 light weight fighter designed by the national Arsenal de l'Aéronautique in 1936. It was redesigned in 1937 to take part in the competition for the next generation French fighter that was won by the Dewoitine D.520. Despite this, the VG-33 had good performance and potential, and was of all-wood construction (reducing the need to use scarce metals), so plans were made for its production and the prototype first flew in the late spring of 1939. An order was placed for 400 later in 1939 and about 160 were under construction at the time of the German invasion, but only a handful had flown by the time of the French surrender.

This model represents an early VG-33 in May 1940.

Data: *Engine* one Hispano-Suiza 12Y-31 piston engine of 6421W. *Wing span* 10.80m. *Length* 8.55m. *Gross weight* 2,448kg. *Maximum speed* 554km/h. *Range* 1200km. *Armament* one 20mm cannon and four 7.5mm machine guns. *Crew* one.

Azur 1/72 kit with kit and *Model Art* decals. Completed in July 2014 by Leigh Edmonds.



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