

## Bell P-39N

**The Bell P-39 Airacobra was a United States fighter used during World War II. It was not popular with American and British air forces but was very popular and heavily used on the Russian front**

The P-39s centrally mounted engine allowed a heavy concentration of weapons in its nose but its lack on a turbo-supercharger meant it lacked performance at high altitude. This made it less suitable for most air fighting except in Russia where most of the fighting was at low altitude and P-39s performed well. As a result, nearly half of the 9,588 P-39s manufactured went to the Soviet Union.

This model represents the P-39N that was flown by Colonel Aleksandri Ivanovich Pokryshkin of 9 GIAD in Spring 1945, reportedly the top scoring ace among allied forces in World War II. The aircraft is serial number 042-9004, White 100, with approximately 50 red stars on the front gun cowlings showing aerial victories at that time. The red stars were placed over the white US Stars on the original Blue circles on Lend Lease aircraft supplied from the United States.

**Data:** *Single seat fighter. Engine one Allison V-1710-85 V-12 piston engine of 890kW. Wing span 10.36m. Length 9.19m. Maximum take-off weight 3,810kg. Maximum speed 626km/h. Range 845km. Armament one 37mm cannon, four .50 calibre machine guns and up to 230kg of underwing bombs. Crew one.*

*Hasegawa 1/48 kit completed by Wayne in about 2007.*



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