

Curtiss P-40B

The 10th production P36 Hawk was removed from the production line and had its radial engine replaced with an Allison inline V12 engine. After a few tweaks, it was accepted for service as the P-40.

In line with USAAF doctrine the P-40 had a single stage supercharger optimised for low to medium level and performance above 15000 Ft was poor. Early versions also lacked armour and self-sealing tanks. These were added in subsequent models along with extra guns and new radios as the “B” model.

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbour, approx. 100 P-40s were stationed on the Island. A common problem was pilots buzzing the airfield towers so large “Buzz” numbers were painted on the sides of Hawaiian based fighters.

During the Pearl Harbour attack 72 P-40s were destroyed or damaged on the ground. A total of 5 P-40s were able to be launched during the attack. 2 were shot down before gaining altitude whilst the remaining 3 flew 7 sorties claiming 7-8 Japanese dive bombers.

Data: *Engine* one Allison V-12 Liquid cooled piston engine of 860 kW. *Wing span* 11.36. *Length* 9.66m. *Maximum take-off weight* 3,862kG. *Maximum speed* 538km/h. *Range* 1,150 km. *Armament* two .50cal and four .30cal machine guns. *Crew* one.

Airfix 1/72 kit completed by Steve Pulbrook in 2018.



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