

Airbus A.320

The Airbus A.320 is the major version of the A.320 series of narrow body airliners. It has proved very popular and almost 10,000 have been manufactured in factories in France, Germany, China and the United States.

Initial planning for the A.320 began in 1977 with the support of the French, British and West German governments to develop an airliner in competition with American manufacturers, Boeing and Douglas. It was launched in March 1984 and the first A.320 made its first flight on 22 February 1987. They began entering service in 1988 and 9,027 of all versions had been manufactured by September 2019. It is offered in two engine types which offer similar performances.

A.320s have flown in Australia since 1988 when they were introduced by Ansett and over 90 have been registered here.

This model represents VH-VNB flying with Virgin Australia in 2019.

Data: narrow-body medium range airliner. *Engines* two IAE V2500 turbofan engines of 98kN thrust each. *Wing span* 35.8m. *Length* 37.57m. *Maximum take-off weight* 78,000kg. *Cruising speed* 829km/h. *Range* 6,112km. *Typical payload* 195 passengers in typical single class layout. *Flight crew* 2.

Zvezda 1/144 kit with *Ric Warcup* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in May 2021.



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