

Rockwell XB-1A

The Rockwell B-1A was intended to replace the B-52. However, it was designed during a lull in the Cold War and never entered production. A later version, the B-1B, entered service when the Cold War heated up again.

The B-1A was designed to supercede the B-52, having twice the payload, much greater speed and lower radar profile. Construction of the prototypes commenced in late 1972 and the first flight occurred on 23 December 1974. By June 1977, when production was cancelled, three B-1As had made 118 flights totalling 646 hours flying time. The much modified B-1B was ordered into production in 1982.

This model represents one of the four XB-1As manufactured.

Data: Long range strategic bomber. *Engines* four General Electric F101-GE-100 afterburning turbofan engines of 13,608kg (30,000lbs) thrust. *Wing span* fully spread 41.66m (136ft 8½in) fully swept 23.82m (78ft 2½in). *Length* 45.76m (150ft 2½in). *Maximum take-off weight* 176,450kg (389,000lb). *Maximum speed* 2237km/h (1,390mph). *Range* 9817km (6,100 miles). *Crew* 4. *Armament* up to 32 AGM-69B short range attack missiles or up to 52,164kg (115,000 lbs) of conventional weapons.

Entex 1/144 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 1980.



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