

McDonnell Douglas RF-4C

The McDonnell Douglas RF-4C was a reconnaissance adaption of the F-4 Phantom II fighter. It gave the United States Air Force a versatile aeroplane that served from war in South East Asia to Desert Storm in the middle east.

Design of the F-4 commenced in September 1953, prototype aircraft were ordered in July 1955 and the F-4 made its first flight on 27 May 1958. Development of a reconnaissance version began in May 1962 and the prototype RF-4C first flew on 9 August 1963. Instead of carrying weapons, its nose was modified to accommodate a variety of cameras. They entered service in September 1964 and the final one was delivered in December 1973, 499 were built. They flew in every United States conflict from Vietnam to Desert Storm and were finally taken out of United States service in September 1995.

This model represents a RF-4C in standard South East Asian colours.

Data: *Engine* two General Electric J79-GE-15 afterburning turbojets of 7711kg (17 000lb) thrust. *Wing span* 11.71m (38ft 5in). *Length* 19.20m (63ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 26,300kg (58,000lb). *Maximum speed* 2227km/h (1384mph). *Range* 2626km (1632 miles). *Armament* none. *Crew* two.

Italeri 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in 1989.



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