

GAF Pika

The Pika was designed to serve as a testbed for the Jindivik pilotless drone. It was built around the basic Jindivik structure but with a cockpit for the pilot. Two were constructed and flown in tests.

When the Australian government decided to develop a high speed pilotless target aircraft to meet British and Australian specifications a piloted version was also designed to help in flight testing. The Pika was designed around the Jindivik structure but with a cockpit and the first one made its first flight on 31 October 1951. A second Pika subsequently joined the test program. The first Pika crashed on 5 April 1951 and the pilot was badly injured, but the test program was completed by the second Pika. As a result, several modifications were made to the Jindivik. In 1970 the remaining Pika was put on display in the RAAF Museum at Point Cook.

This model represents the second Pika, A93-2.

Data: concept testbed. *Engine* one Armstrong Siddeley Adder ASAI turbojet of 3.9kN (1500lb) thrust. *Wing span* 5.8(19ft). *Length* 7.08m (23ft 3³/₄in). *Gross weight* 1315kg (2900lb). *Maximum speed* 756km/h (470mph).

High Planes 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 1998.



THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM