

# Supermarine Spitfire Mk XIV

The Spitfire was one of the most important aeroplanes of World War II and was produced in around 40 different versions. The MkXIV was powered by the Rolls Royce Griffon engine and began entering service in 1944.

In 1942 British fighters began encountering the new Focke Wulf 190s on sneak raids over Britain, leading to the need for a more powerful fighter to counter them. The result was the Spitfire XII, powered by the new, more powerful Griffon engine. They were so successful that a further developed version, the Spitfire XIV was designed, initially as an interim version but becoming the Royal Air Force's main air superiority fighter over Europe towards the end of the war. In all 957 Spitfire XIVs were produced.

This model represents RN133 that flew with 132 Squadron, RAF, at Hong Kong in 1945.

**Data:** single seat fighter. *Engine* one Rolls Royce Griffon 65 1073kW (2050hp) V-12 liquid cooled piston engine. *Wing span* 11.23m (36ft 10in). *Length* 9.95m (32ft 8in). *Maximum speed* 722km/h (448mph). *Gross weight* 3889kg (8500lb). *Range* 740km (460m). *Crew* one. *Armament*, two 20mm cannon and two .303 machine guns and external bomb load of 454kg (1000lb)..

*Frog 1.72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in December 1998.*



**THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM**