

Bloch MB 152

The Bloch MB 152 was an excellent French fighter that did not begin development until 1937 and was not available in sufficient numbers to overcome superior German forces during the Battle of France.

In 1934 the Bloch MB 150 was entered in the fighter competition that was won by the Morane Saulnier MS.406. Development resumed in 1937 and the more advanced and much more powerful MB 152 made its first flight in December 1938. An order for 400 was placed in February 1939 but production delays meant only about 25 were ready for service when war was declared although about 400 were ready by the end of 1939. Although it proved to be an excellent fighter and was in service with a number of squadrons by May 1940, there were not enough to overcome superior German numbers.

This model represent a production aircraft.

Data: *Engine* one 805kW (1080hp) Gnome-Rhône 14-N25 radial piston engine. *Wing span* 10.55m (34ft 7¼in). *Length* 9.10m (29ft 11½in). *Maximum take-off weight* 2680kg (5908lb). *Maximum speed* 515km/h (320mph). *Range* 600km (373 miles). *Armament* two 20mm cannon and two 7.5mm machine guns. *Crew* one.

Smer 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 1999.



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