

Dassault Mirage IVA

The Dassault Mirage IV was France's front line nuclear deterrent from 1963 until the 1970s and retained their nuclear capability into the 1980s. Several remained in service as reconnaissance platforms at the end of the century.

Design of a French nuclear strategic bomber began in 1954 and Dassault had settled on an enlarged version of the Mirage III in 1956. The first Mirage IV flew on 17 June 1959 and three pre-production bombers began flying in October 1961. Sixty-two production versions were constructed between December 1963 and November 1966, they began entering service with the Armee de l'Air in 1964 where they were operated by nine squadrons each with one ready to take off on a moment's notice.

This model represents the first production Dassault Mirage IVA, No 4, c.1970s

Data: Two seat supersonic strategic bomber. *Engine* Two SNECMA Atar 9K turbojet engines of 7000kg (14,432lb) thrust. *Wing span* 11.89m (38ft 10½in). *Length* 23.49m (77ft 1in). *Maximum take-off weight* 33,475kg (73,800lb). *Maximum level speed* 2340km/h (1454mph). *Range* 1240km (770 miles). *Armament* one 60 kiloton free-fall bomb or up to 7269kg (16,005lb) of wing and fuselage mounted weapons.

*Heller*1:72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 1999.



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