

North American Mustang Mk.IV

The North American P-51 Mustang was one of the classic fighters of World War II. More than 1,500 were manufactured and they served successfully with most allied air forces, including the Royal Australian Air Force.

Designed and constructed in 120 days in early 1940 the Mustang was a good aeroplane which became great when powered by the famous Rolls Royce Merlin engine. With very good flying characteristics, speed and exceptional range thousands were manufactured and eventually served with over 50 air forces. It was particularly important in the air war against Germany and by the end of the war it dominated the skies over Europe.

This model represents a North American Mustang Mk.IV (P-51K) flown by 3 Squadron RAAF in Italy during 1945 .

Data: (Mustang Mk.IV) *Engine* Packard V-1650 Merlin piston engine of 1,110kW. *Wing span* 11.0m (37ft). *Length* 9.83m (32ft 3in). *Maximum take-off weight* 5,488kg (12,100lb). *Maximum speed* 710km/h (440mph). *Range* 3,660km (1,650miles). *Armament* six 0.5in (12.7mm) machine guns plus bombs and rocket projectiles.

Academy 1:72 kit with *Aussie Decals* decals. Completed in May 2000.



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