

Amiot 143M

Design of the Amiot 143M originated in 1926 to give the French air force with an aeroplane that combined long range escort, bombing and reconnaissance roles. By 1940 it was completely outclassed but many remained in service.

Said to be one of the ugliest aeroplanes ever made, the Amiot 143M was evolved from the Amiot 140 that was designed in 1926 for a French air force requirement for a multiplace combat aeroplane. The first Amiot 143 flew in August 1934 and deliveries to the French air force continued until 1937 when the 138th and final one was delivered. Sixty remained in service at the beginning of World War II but they were easy prey during the day due to their poor performance, light defensive armament and complete lack of armour. However, the last ones were not withdrawn until February 1944.

This model represents Production No. 11 of 3rd Escadrille of GBII/22, c.1939.

Data: *Engine* two Gnome-Rhône 14Kris/Kjrs Misral Major 640kW radial piston engines. *Wing span* 24.5m. *Length* 18.44m . *Maximum take-off weight* 10,360kg. *Maximum level speed* 295 km/h. *Armament* up to 800kg of bombs carried internally, four 7.5mm defensive machine guns. *Crew:* 5.

Smer 1/72 kit with some *Model Art* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds June 2000.



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