

Boeing 377 Stratocruiser

The Boeing 377 Stratocruiser was one of the last generation of large intercontinental piston engined airliners. With Super Constellations and DC-7s they dominated the world's airways in the 1950s.

The Stratocruiser was a commercial version of the C-97 military transport which was, in turn, a development of the Boeing B-50 and B-29 heavy bombers. It was an efficient airliner for its time, its double-bubble fuselage made it a two storey airliner with a luxury lounge or cocktail lounge on the lower level. Only 55 Stratocruisers were made but, together with Lockheed Super Constellations and Douglas DC-7s, these stately airliners reigned on the world's airways until the late 1950s when the first jet airliners began entering service.

This model represents a Stratocruiser of Pan American Airways.

Data: *Engine* four 3 500 horsepower (2600kW) Pratt & Whitney R-4360 Wasp Major radial piston engine. *Wing span* 43.05m (141ft 3in). *Length* 33.63m (110ft 4in). *Maximum take-off weight* 67,132kg (145 7800lb). *Cruising speed* 484km/h (301mph). *Range* 6866km (4 200 miles). *Accommodation* 55 to 112 passengers depending on seating layout. *Crew* 4.

Minicraft 1/144 kit made by Leigh Edmonds in September 2000.



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