

# Boeing WB-47B

**The Boeing B-47 was the United States first significant jet powered bomber. The sole WB-47B was constructed in the early 1950s to test the concept of a weather reconnaissance aeroplane and was initially used for hurricane research.**

The first B-47s were ordered in early 1946 and the first prototype flew on 17 December 1947. Eventually over 1800 B-47s were constructed in a number of versions, including 399 B-47Bs. They remained in service until 1969.

In the early 1950s the United State Air Force ordered a number of WB-47Es as weather reconnaissance aeroplanes and one B-47B was converted for that role to test the concept. It was delivered to the Air Weather Service in 1956 and used initially for hurricane research. For several hurricane seasons it flew into hurricanes, eventually logging 126.5 hours on this work

This model represents the only WB-47B.

**Data:** *Engine* six General Electric J47-GE-23 engines of 2631kg (5800lb) thrust. *Wing span* 35.46m (116ft). *Length* 33.48m (109ft 10in). *Maximum take-off weight* 898936kg (198 180lb). *Maximum speed* 975km/h (606mph). *Range* 6437km (4000 miles). *Armament* fitted with a variety of weather information gathering instruments. *Crew* 3.

*Minicraft* 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in March 2003.



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