

Northrop Grumman B-2A

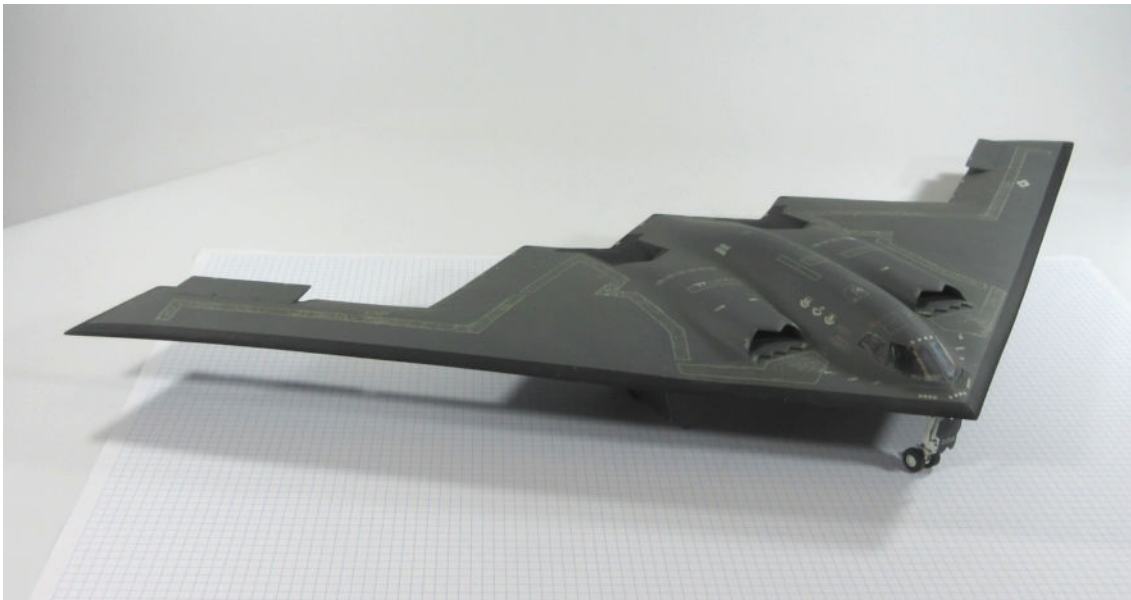
The B-2A is the most recently developed United States strategic bomber. While earlier bombers were designed to survive in hostile airspace through speed, altitude or defensive armament, the B-2 survives by being invisible.

Development of the B-2 began in the early 1980s to provide the United States Air Force with a new bomber to replace its ageing B-52s. It's designers used stealth technology to make a bomber that would be as invisible to detection as possible, resulting in its unique shape. The first B-2 flew on 17 July 1989 and they began entering service in December 1993. However their great expense (about \$1 billion each) means that only 21 were made. They will remain in service for decades to come.

This model represents the first B-2 at the time of its first flight, 17 July 1989

Data: long range strategic bomber. *Engines* four General Electric F-118-GE-100 turbofan engines of 77kN (19,000 lb st). *Wing span* 52.41m (172ft). *Length* 21.0m (69ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 17,600kg (336,500lbs). *Maximum speed* 1010km/h (475mph). *Range* 11000km (7595miles). *Armament* up to 18,000kg (40,000lb) of weapons. *Crew* 2.

Testors 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in October 2004.



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