

Curtiss XF15C-1

The Curtiss XF15C was an experimental fighter developed for the US Navy during World War II. It combined piston and jet engines but rapid developments made the idea obsolete before this aeroplane could be put into production.

The US Navy became interested in using jet engines from 1943 but it seemed that the relatively primitive first jets needed to be combined with piston engines for naval use. The Curtiss company developed the XF15C to meet that need and the prototype made its first flight on 27 February 1945. However, by that time the rapid development of jet engines meant there was no need for composite fighters so only three were made. They had ceased flying by the end of 1946 and were the last of the Curtiss designed naval fighters.

This model represents the second XF15C, circa late 1945.

Data: Naval fighter. *Engines* one Pratt & Whitney R-2800-34W radial piston engine of 1600 kW (2100hp) and deHavilland H1-B Goblin (Allis-Chalmers J-36) jet engine of 12kN (2700lb) thrust. *Wing span* 15m (48ft). *Length* 13.32m (44ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 8481kg (18,698lb). *Maximum speed* 755km/h (469mph). *Range* 2,220km (1385miles). *Armament* four 20mm cannon.

Pro Resin 1/72 kit. Completed in May 2005.



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