

Dassault Mirage III

The Dassault Mirage III was the most successful European fighter of the post-World War II era. It remained in production for over 20 years and was flown by many air forces around the world including the Royal Australian Air Force.

The Dassault Mirage typifies one of the solutions to the problem of designing a mach 2 fighter. The pure delta wing came from German research during World War II and was also successfully developed in the United States by Convair, but there were other ways of achieving mach 2 performance that also proved successful.

The Mirage began development as the Mirage I that first flew in June 1955 and the Mirage II that evolved into the Mirage III

This model represents A3-72 of 77 Squadron in 1981 in the RAAF Anniversary scheme.

Data: Twin-seat fighter trainer. *Engine* one SNECMA Atar 9C afterburning turbojet of 6200kg (3704 lb) thrust. *Wing span* 8.22m (27ft). *Length* 15.03m (48ft 5in). *Maximum take-off weight* 13,699kg (27,998lbs). *Maximum speed* 1390km/h (1320mph). *Range* 1200km (746miles). *Armament* two 30mm DEFA cannon and provision for two AIM-9 or Matra Magic and one Matra 530 missiles. *Crew* 1.

Frog 1/72 kit with *Microscale* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in March 2005.



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