

# Mercury-Redstone

**The Mercury and Redstone combination comprised the United States' first manned space craft. There were two manned Mercury-Redstone sub-orbital flights in May and July 1961**

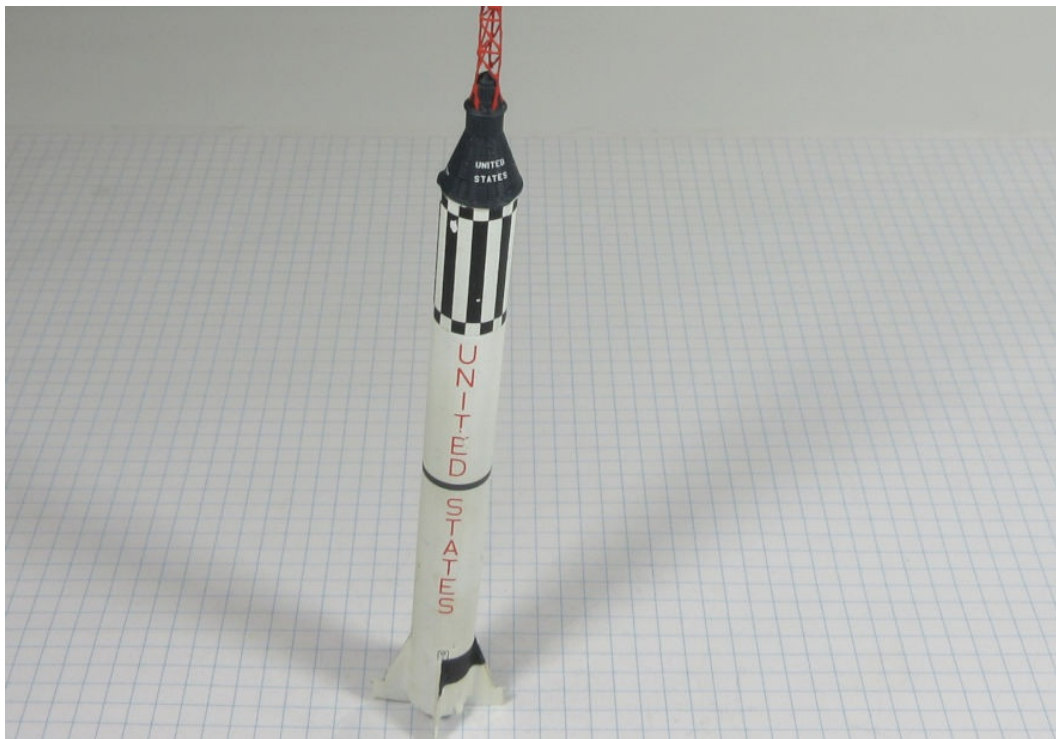
By the late 1950s the US and USSR were racing to be the first country to put a man into space. Nobody knew what effects space travel would have on the human body so the United States decided to conduct sub-orbital tests as a first step. For manned flights the small Mercury capsule was mated with the Redstone rocket, which was a development of the German V-2 rocket of World War II.

The first Mercury-Redstone flight occurred on 5 May 1961, carrying astronaut Alan Shepard 487 km down range from Cape Canaveral in 15 minutes. A second similar flight was made on 21 July 1961 before Project Mercury moved on to using Atlas launchers for orbital flights.

This model represents the first Mercury-Redstone, *Freedom 7*, that flew with Alan Shepard on board on 5 May 1961

**Data:** *Engine* one Rocketdyne A-7 of 35,375kN (78,000lb) thrust. *Height* 25.41m (83ft). *Diameter* 1,78m (5.83ft). *Weight* 30,000kg (66,000lb).

*New Ware* 1/144 kit. Completed in July 2006.



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