

# Douglas X-3

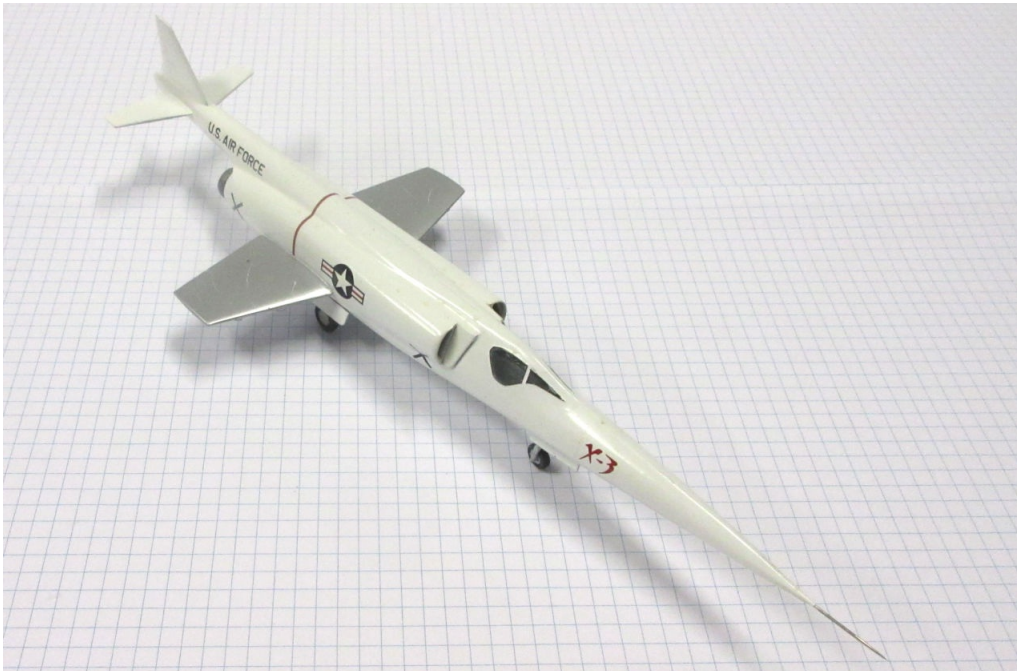
**The Douglas X-3 was an early experimental aeroplane designed to test flight in the mach 2 speed range. It proved not to have the anticipated speed but it was still important in exploring problems of supersonic flight.**

Even before the first supersonic flights were made engineers were planning to explore the problems of Mach 2 flight. Construction of the X-3 began in June 1949 and it made its first flight in October 1952. However, the planned engines experienced serious problems so the X-3 was instead fitted with less powerful engines that restricted its performance so it only reached its top speed of mach 1.2 in a 30 degree dive in June 1953. Despite this, it successfully tested the small wing platform later used in the F-104 and increased knowledge of some of the problems of high speed flight before it made its final flight in May 1956.

This model represents the sole X-3, c.1952.

**Data:** experimental research aircraft. *Engines* two Westinghouse J34 afterburning turbojet engines of 15.0kN (3,370 lbf) and 21.6kN (4,850lbf) with afterburner. *Wing span* 6.90m (28ft 8in). *Length* 20.3m (66ft 9in). *Maximum take-off weight* 10,810kg (23,840lbs). *Maximum speed* 1,125km/h (497mph). *Range* 800km (497miles). *Crew* 1.

*Planet* 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 2007.



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