

Morane Saulnier MS.406

The Morane Saulnier MS.406 was France's most numerous fighter at the beginning of World War II. Finland ordered 50 of these fighters which entered service there in February 1940 and continued flying until the end of the war.

During the 1940 'Winter War' with Russia Finn MS406s recorded 14 victories for no losses. During the 'Continuation War' the gradual introduction of better Russian fighters the MS 406 became outclassed but desperate shortages kept it in service while the skill of its pilots continued to see it hold its own in the air. After France was Defeated Germany continued to supply Finland with many more MS406s which were given some improvements from 1943 and the final Finn MS406 victory occurred in August 1944.

This model represents MS327 flown by U Lehloaara of 2/LeLv 28 of the Finnish Air Force, September 1941.

Data: *Engine* one 641kW (860hp) Hispano-Suiza 12Y-31 piston engine. *Wing span* 10.61m (34ft 9¼in). *Length* 8.17m (26ft 9in). *Gross weight* 2540kg (5445lb). *Maximum speed* 490km/h (302mph). *Range* 1,100km (680 miles). *Armament* one 20mm cannon and two 7.5mm machine guns. *Crew* one.

Hobby Boss 1/72 kit with *AML* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in October 2007.



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