

Boeing B-29

The B-29 was the largest, most complex operational bomber flown during World War II. Entering service from mid 1944, they were used in the long range bombing offensive against the Japanese homeland.

Boeing began development of a Very Long Range Bomber in 1940 and was awarded a contract for three prototype B-28 in September 1940. Because of the new bomber's promise 1500 were ordered before the first prototype flew on 21 December 1942. The prototypes were followed by 14 pre-production aircraft that began entering air force service in mid 1943. In all, nearly 4000 B-29s were produced and they remained in service in to the 1950s.

This model represents one of the early B-29s that appeared in camouflage, flown by the 468th Bomb Group from China in mid 1944.

Data: Long range strategic bomber. *Engines* four Wright R-3350-23 Cyclone 18 turbocharged radial engines of 1641 kW (2200 hp) each. *Wing span* 43.05m (141ft 3in). *Length* 30.18m (99ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 60,555kg (124,000lb). *Maximum speed* 575km/h (358mph). *Range* 5230km (3250 miles). *Crew* 11. *Armament* ten 12.7mm (0.5in) machine guns and up to 9100kg (20,000 lbs) of bombs..

Airfix 1/72 kit with *Aeromaster* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in October 2007.



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