

R-7 - Vostok 1

Vostok 1 (East) was the first manned spacecraft to orbit the earth. Launched by the R-7 rocket system on 12 April 1961, it carried Yuri Gagarin on a one orbit flight that lasted 108 minutes.

Russian studies into a manned spacecraft began in June 1956 and the Vostok project was officially authorised in May 1959. The Russian objective was to beat the United States in launching a man into space so the design was kept as simple as possible. The first test flight of an unmanned Vostok (called Sputnik 4 in the West) occurred on 15 May 1960 and a number of test flights followed, not all successfully. After Gagarin's successful flight a further five Vostok flights occurred, the final one on 16 June 1963 carried the first woman into space.

This model represents the R-7 launcher and Vostok 1 on 12 April 1961.

Data: R-7: *Engines* Four strap on boosters each with four RD-107 engines of 3.89MN and a central core of four RD-108 engines of 912kN. Stage 2 one RD-109 engine of 54.5kN thrust. *Height* 38m (124ft 8in). *Width* 10.30m (33ft 9in). *Vostok 1: Length:* 4,4m (14ft 4in), *Width* 2.4m (7ft 10in) *Weight* 4730kg (10.427lb)

Aer Moldova 1/144 kit with *New Ware* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 2007..



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