

# Kawanishi H8K2

**The Kawanishi H8K2 flying boat (known to the Allies as *Emily*) was a Japanese maritime patrol bomber. It is widely considered the best flying boat to see service during World War II and was respected by Allied pilots.**

Development of the H8K flying boat began in 1938 and the prototype was completed by the end of 1940. The first flight occurred in January 1941 and they began entering service in February 1942. Fourteen of the H8K1 version were built before 120 of the more powerful H8K2 version. A further 36 transport versions, capable of carrying 62 troops, were manufactured. They served widely across the Pacific theatre of operations where their heavy armament earned them the nickname of 'flying porcupine'. Only four survived the war.

This model represents a H8K2 of Takuma Kohutai in Imperial Japanese Navy service, c.1944

**Data** maritime reconnaissance flying-boat. *Engines* four Mitsubishi Kasei 22 radial engines of 1380kW each. *Wing span* 38.00m. *Length* 28.13m. *Maximum take-off weight* 32,500kg). *Maximum speed* 467km/h. *Range* 7150km. *Armament* five 20mm cannon, five 7.7mm Type 97 machine guns and two 800kg torpedos or 1000kg of bombs or depth charges. *Crew* 10.

*Hasegawa* 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 2008.



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