

BAC Lightning F.2A

The Lightning was a high performance supersonic interceptor designed to defend Britain against nuclear armed bombers. They began entering service in 1960 and were phased out between 1974 and June 1988.

The Lightning F.2A was an improved version of the F.2 with many features of the later Lightning F.6. Thirty-one were remanufactured from the late 1960s and served mainly in Germany where RAF pilots found it one of the most agreeable Lightning versions to fly. From 1970 Lightnings based in Germany were painted in a green camouflage scheme to make them less visible at low altitudes.

19 Squadron converted to Lightning F.2s in 1962 and moved to Germany in 1965. It converted to Lightning F.2As in 1967 and flew them until it converted to Phantoms in 1976.

This model represents Lightning F.2A XN781 of 19 Squadron, RAF, based at Gutersloh in Germany in 1974.

Data: supersonic all-weather interceptor. *Engines* two Rolls Royce Avon 211R turbojet engines of 6559kg reheat thrust each. *Wing span* 10.62m. *Length* 16.84m. *Maximum take-off weight* 12,289kg. *Maximum speed* 2414km/h. *Armament* two 30mm Aden cannon and two Firestreak missiles.

Trumpeter 1/72 kit with *Modeldecal* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in March 2008.



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