

General Dynamics F-111A

The F-111 was the first variable geometry aeroplane to enter service and strongly influenced later designs. Development began in 1960, the first ones entered service in 1967 and 563 in all versions were produced.

The F-111 was originally designed as a multi-role aeroplane to meet the requirements of the US Air Force with the F-111A and US Navy requirements with the F-111B. Despite the failure of the F-111B the US Air Force version was successful and 158 were produced before more advanced models were introduced.

The first production F-111As were delivered in July 1967. They were tested in South East Asia in 1968, entered service with the 474th TFW in July 1971 and flew over 4000 missions over Vietnam before the war ended.

This model represents a F-111A of 474th TFW, USAF in South-East Asia, c.1972.

Data: Two seat strike fighter. *Engines* two Pratt & Whitney TF30-P-3 turbofan engines of 8809 kg thrust on afterburner each. *Wing span* 19.2m spread, 9.75m swept. *Length* 23.36m. *Maximum take-off weight* 41.500kg. *Maximum speed* 2300km/h. *Range* 6482km. *Armament* between 3628 kg and 9071kg of underwing stores depending on range, one M61 20mm cannon optional.

Hasegawa 1/72 kit with *Microscale* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 2009.



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