

Convair F-102A

The Convair F-102 was designed as a weapon system to protect the Continental United States from attack by Russian atomic bomb armed strategic bombers. They saw service for two decades from 1956 to 1976.

Development of the F-102 began with the experimental delta winged XF-92 that first flew in September 1948. This became the basis of an interceptor to be armed with guided missiles and guided to its targets by a ground based control system. The prototype YF-102 first flew on 24 October 1953 and an improved version that included 'wasp-waisting' to reduce supersonic drag first flew on 19 December 1954. They began entering service in April 1956 and 889 single seat and 111 twin seat aircraft were manufactured.

This model represents a F-102 of the 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, USAF, c. 1972.

Data: Single-seat all-weather fighter interceptor. *Engines* one Pratt & Whitney J75-P-23 turbojet engine of 76kN (17,200lb) thrust on afterburner. *Wing span* 11.61m (38ft 1½in). *Length* 20.83m (68ft 4½in). *Maximum take-off weight* 14,288kg (31,276lb). *Maximum speed* 1328km/h (825mph). *Range* 2170km (1350 miles). *Armament* a mixture of AIM 4 and AIM 26 Falcon missiles. *Crew* 1.

Hasegawa 1/72 kit with *Microscale* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in February 2008.



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