

# Martin Marietta X-24B

**The X-24B was the rebuilt X-24A, designed as part of tests into the feasibility of creating a stable and controllable lifting body. It flew between 1973 and 1975 and helped in preparing the United States for its Space Shuttle flights.**

After the completion of the X-24A test program in 1972 it was returned to Martin Marietta. There it was reconstructed into the X-24B to test the feasibility of a lifting-body shape that was capable of being flown and landed accurately on conventional runways. The X-24B made its first flight on 1 August 1973 and completed 36 flights before being retired on 26 November 1975. It demonstrated that accurate unpowered re-entry vehicle landings were operationally feasible and represented the final stage in flight testing leading to Space Shuttle operations. The X-24B is now on display at the USAF museum along with a replica of the X-24A.

This model represents the X-24B in about 1974.

**Data:** experimental lifting-body. *Engine* one Reaction Motors XLR-11rs four chamber rocket engine of 37.7kN thrust. *Wing span* 5.79m. *Length* 11.43m. *Maximum take-off weight* 6,260kg. *Maximum speed* 1,873km/h. *Range* 72km. *Crew* 1.

*Mach 2* 1:72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 2011.



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