

Lockheed 1649A Starliner

The Lockheed 1649 Starliner was the final version of the Lockheed Constellation that had been designed in the 1930s and the last of the American intercontinental piston engined airliners that were replaced by jet airliners.

The Lockheed Starliner was an improved version of the Super Constellation, developed to compete with the new Douglas Douglas DC-7C. It kept the Super Constellation fuselage but had a new 150 foot span wing with slightly more powerful engines. It was capable of flying from Europe to North America over the north pole.

The Lockheed 1649 prototype made its first flight on 11 October 1956 and they entered service with TWA on 1 June 1958. A total of 44 were manufactured and also flew with Air France and Lufthansa, but by 1961 they had all been replaced on major routes by jet airliners.

This model represents F-BAZF flying for Air France in the late 1950s.

Data: trans-continental piston engined airliner. *Engines* four Wright R-3350-988 turbo-compound radial engines of 2,535kW each *Wing span* 45.72m. *Length* 35.42m. *Maximum take-off weight* 70,800kg. *Cruising speed* 467km/h. *Range* 9,945km. *Typical payload* 99 passengers. *Flight crew* 5.

Minicraft and Welsh Models 1/144 kits and *Welsh Models* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 2012.



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