

Piaggio PD.808

The Piaggio PD.808 was designed in the United States by Douglas for the US Navy. Piaggio joined the project to make a civil version but eventually only 24 aeroplanes were constructed, almost all for the Italian air force.

The PD.808 began as a shipboard capable executive jet designed by Douglas for the US Navy. Douglas needed a partner for construction of a civil version and the Italian company, Piaggio, was selected for this role in April 1961. As it turned out, the US Navy lost interest in the project and there was no civil interest in the aeroplane, but the Italian air force ordered 22, helping to keep Piaggio in business. A further two were sold for civil use.

The first PD.808 made its maiden flight on 29 August 1964 and the final one was withdrawn from service in May 2003. They were made in several versions including transport and electronic surveillance aircraft.

This model represents a PD.808 of Reparto Sperimentale Pratica di Mare in the 1980s.

Data: executive jet transport. *Engines* two Rolls Royce Viper Mk.526 turbojet engines of 12kN each. *Wing span* 13.2m. *Length* 12.85m. *Maximum take-off weight* 18,01kg. *Maximum speed* 852km/h. *Range* 2,128km. *Flight crew* 2.

Sky 1/72 kit. Completed in March 2013.



THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM