

Mörkö-Morane

The Mörkö-Morane (*mörkö* translates roughly as *bogeyman*) was a highly modified version of the Morane Saulnier 406 fighter produced in Finland in the mid 1940s. It was a marked improvement over the original fighter.

By 1943 Finland had received 87 Morane Saulnier fighters but they were outclassed by other fighters. Unable to obtain better fighters, the Finns decided to modify existing Morane Saulniers with more powerful engines, captured Russian Klimov M-105Ps, fully adjustable propellers, cooling systems taken from Bf109s and other refinements. The first of these modified aeroplanes made its maiden flight on 4 February 1943 and was very successful. Eventually 41 Morane Saulniers were converted to this new standard, they remained in front-line service until September 1948 and were finally scrapped in 1952.

This model represents a Mörkö-Morane flying with HLeLv 21 at KesäKuu in 1946.

Data: *Engine* one Klimov M-105P 12 cylinder liquid cooled piston engine of 820.3kW. *Wing span* 10.62m. *Length* 8.17m. *Loaded weight* 2848kg. *Maximum speed* 525km/h. *Armament* two 7.5mm machine guns and one 20mm MG151 cannon (or one 12.7mm Berezin UBS machine gun). *Crew* one.

RS Models 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in September 2013.



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