

BAC Lightning T.55

The Lightning was a high performance supersonic interceptor designed to defend Britain against nuclear armed bombers. In addition to the interceptors, three versions of a side-by-side trainer were manufactured

The trainer versions of the Lightning had wider forward fuselages to accommodate two pilots but, despite this arrangement, their performance was not significantly lower than the single seat versions. The Lightning T.55 was based on the Lightning T.5 which was a trainer version of the Lightning F.3, but fitted with the wings and belly tank of the F.6. The first one made its maiden flight on 3 November 1966. Eight were manufactured, six for the Royal Saudi Air Force and two for the Kuwaiti Air Force.

This model represents Lightning T.55, 55-317, of the Royal Saudi Air Force in the late 1970s

Data: supersonic all-weather trainer. *Engines* two Rolls Royce Avon 302Cturbojet engines of 7,420kg reheat thrust each. *Wing span* 10.62m. *Length* 16.84m. *Maximum take-off weight* around 18,000kg. *Maximum speed* around 2400km/h. *Range* 250km. *Armament* two Firestreak or Red Top missiles.

Trumpeter and *Sword* 1/72 kits with *Cutting Edge* and kit decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in May 2015.



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