

Augusta A-129

The Augusta A-129 is an attack helicopter developed and manufactured for the Italian Army. It was the first attack helicopter to be made in Europe and featured many innovations to this type of helicopter when it first flew in 1983.

The Augusta A-129 was developed as a light attack and observation helicopter for the Italian Army, using some components from Augusta's earlier A-109 light helicopter. They were ordered for the Italian Army in 1978, the prototype made its first flight on 11 September 1983 and a total of 60 were delivered. The final batch of 15 A-129s were manufactured with improved capabilities including a nose mounted three-barrel 20mm gatling gun and some of the existing A-129s have been upgraded to that standard. These helicopters have served well with various Italian overseas deployments.

This model represents an Augusta A-129 in service with 7th Squadron of Italian Army Aviation in 1998.

Data: Attack helicopter. *Engines* two Rolls Royce Gem 2 turboshaft engines of 664kW each. *Main rotor diameter* 11.90m. *Length* 12.28m. *Maximum take-off weight* 4,600kg. *Maximum speed* 278km/h. *Range* 510km. *Crew* 2. *Armament* eight TOW or Hellfire missiles and two pods for unguided rockets.

Italeri 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 2015.



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