

Bell X-9

The Bell X-9 was a reduced scale testbed for an atomic bomb, air launched missile ordered by the US Air Force in 1947. The X-9 test program was successful but the full scale missile was not, and never entered service.

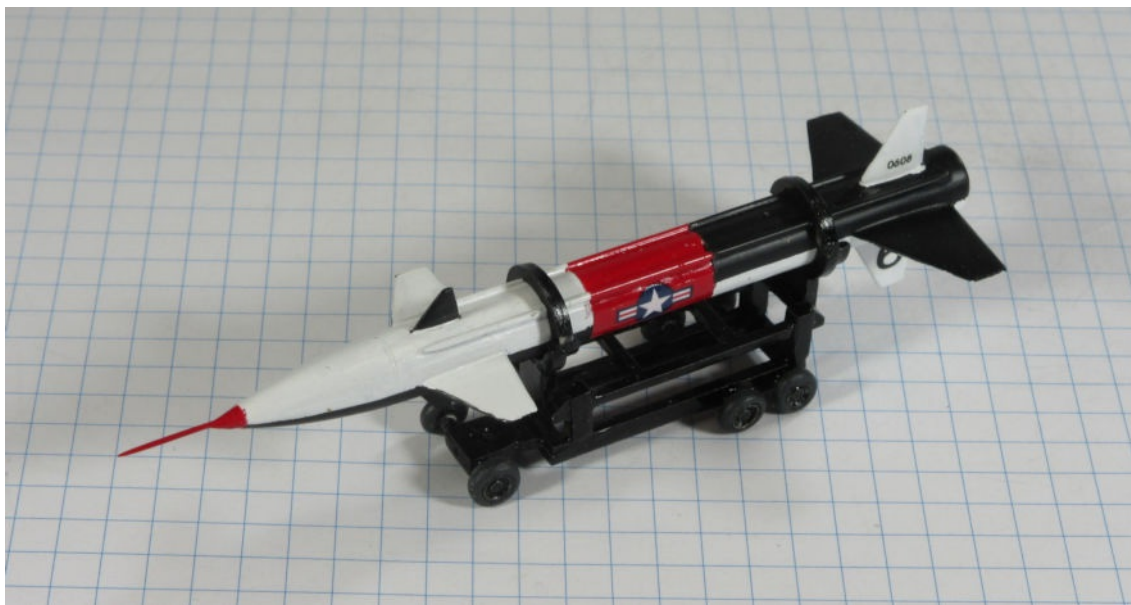
At the end of World War 2 the United States examined German air-to-surface missile technology and ordered, in May 1947, the B-63 missile to be armed with atomic weapons. To test the feasibility of this missile a reduced-scale testbed was also ordered, the RTV-A-4 which was later renamed the X-9. It was launched from a modified B-50 and guided by radio commands from that aircraft. At the conclusion of each flight the X-9 parachuted to a relatively soft landing.

The first glide test took place in April 1949 and the first successful flight - at the fifth attempt - took place in November 1950. Thirty-one X-9s were manufactured and tested with the program ending in January 1953

This model represents a standard X-9 in the early 1950s.

Data: *Engine* one Bell XLR65-BA-1 liquid fuel rocket engine of 13.3kN thrust. *Wing span* 2.4m. *Length* 6.9m. *Gross weight:* 1,588kg. *Maximum speed* mach 2. *Range* 80km.

Anigrand 1:72 kit, completed by Leigh Edmonds in November 2017.



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