

# Bloch 151

**The Bloch 151 was the first production variant of a French fighter designed and built in the late 1930s. In comparison to later variants its performance was disappointing and it had largely been phased out of active service by May 1940.**

The Bloch 151 was a production version of the earlier Bloch 150 fighter that was first flown on 29 September 1937. When the 150 proved unsuitable for mass production it was redesigned as the Bloch 151 which made its first flight on 18 August 1938. Performance was disappointing, leading to efforts to increase its capability, which led to development of the more powerfully engined Bloch 152.

By May 1940 140 Bloch 151s had been accepted by the French air force, but the majority were relegated to training units. Only 37 Bloch 151s were operational on 10 May 1940 when the German invasion began and they did not fare well. Some later flew for Vichy French and German air forces.

This model represents No 37 of 1e, AC3, at Cures-Pierrefeu, France, in June 1940.

**Data:** single seat fighter. *Engine* one Gnome-Rhone 14N piston engine of 790kW. *Wing span* 10.54m. *Length* 9.11m. *Maximum take-off weight* 2,800kg. *Maximum speed* 483km/h. *Armament* four 7.5mm machine guns.

*RS Model* 1:72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in April 2019.



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