

Dewoitine 780

The Dewoitine 780 was a floatplane fighter designed in France in the late 1930s. It was based on the fuselage of the Dewoitine 520 fighter but had not flown by the time of the German invasion of France in 1940.

The Dewoitine 780 was designed in response to a French Aviation Ministry request for a floatplane fighter. It was based on the fuselage of the Dewoitine 520 landplane fighter with modifications including a cranked wing, radiator moved to a position under the nose and enlarged tail area. It was estimated to have a performance similar to the Morane Saulnier 406. Construction began in early 1939 and the first prototype was ready for testing by March 1940 but it had not flown by the time of France's defeat in June 1940 and it was scrapped for its metal before flying.

This model represents the only one made in May 1940.

Data: single-seat floatplane fighter. *Engine* Hispano Suiza 12Y-51 12 cylinder water cooled piston engine of 820kW. *Wing span* 12m. *Length* 9.74m. *Maximum take-off weight* 2,785kg. *Maximum speed* 442km/h. *Range* 650km. *Armament* (proposed) one 20mm Hispano Suiza cannon and two 7.5mm MAC machine guns.

Hobby Boss and A+V 1/72 kits. Completed in April 2020.



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