

## Grumman F8F-1B

**The Grumman F8F was one of the most potent of the last generation of piston engined fighters. It was too late to see US service during World War II but flew with the French, Thai and South Vietnamese air forces in South East Asia.**

The F8F was the smallest airframe that could be designed around the most powerful engine to create a high performance fighter. Design started in November 1943 and the first prototype flew in August 1944 but they were about to enter US Navy service when World War II ended. After the war the F8F was rearmed with four 20mm cannon to give it greater hitting power. Two hundred and seven F8Fs were delivered to the Royal Thai Air Force beginning in 1951

This model represents a F8F-1B in service with the Royal Thai Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing in the mid 1950s.

**Data:** single seat fighter. *Engine* one 1566kW (2100hp) Pratt & Whitney R-2800-34W Double Wasp 18-cylinder radial piston engine. *Wing span* 10.92m. *Length* 8.61m. *Maximum take-off weight* 5873kg. *Maximum speed* 678km/h. *Range* 1778km. *Armament* four 20mm cannon, two 500lb bombs and eight 5inch rockets.

*Hobby Boss* 1:72 kit with *Print Scale* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in October 2021.



**THE LITTLE AVIATION MUSEUM**