

Arsenal VG-33

The Arsenal VG-33 was the production version of a light weight all-wooden fighter designed in 1936. It showed great promise and production began in 1939, but none had entered service by the time of the German invasion.

The national Arsenal de l'Aéronautique designed the light-weight VG-30 in 1936 to compete with the Caudron C.714. In 1937 it was redesigned for a competition for the next generation French Fighter that was won by the Dewoitine D.520. Despite this the VG-33 had good performance and potential, and was of all-wood construction (reducing the need to use scarce metals), so plans were made for its production and the prototype first flew in the late spring of 1939. An order was placed for 400 later in 1939 and about 160 were under construction at the time of the German invasion although only a handful had flown

This model represents the first prototype.

Data: *Engine* one Hispano-Suiza 12Y-31 piston engine of 641kW. *Wing span* 10.80m (35ft 5¼in). *Length* 8.55m (28ft 0⅔in). *Gross weight* 2448kg (5853lb). *Maximum speed* 554km/h (367mph). *Range* 1200km (746 miles). *Armament* one 20mm cannon and four 7.5mm machine guns. *Crew* one.

Azur 1/72 kit completed by Leigh Edmonds in June 1999.



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