

# DeHavilland Comet 4

**The DeHavilland Comet was the world's first jet airliner. After several catastrophic crashes it was grounded. The redesigned Comet 4 first flew in 1958 but, by then, it was overshadowed by new American jet airliners.**

The Comet 1 entered service in May 1952 but lack of experience with pressurised airliners meant there was a critical weakness in the design which led to several fatal crashes in 1953 and 1954 and the Comet 1's grounding.

The redesigned Comet entered production as the Comet 4 which first flew on 27 April 1958 and began entering service in September that year. They were the first jets to fly on the trans-Atlantic route in 1958 but were soon surpassed by Boeing 707s and Douglas DC-8s.

Between 1959 and 1963 Qantas wet-leased six deHavilland Comet 4s at various times to supplement existing aircraft on the Kangaroo Route between London and Singapore.

This model represents G-APDP in service for Qantas in the early 1960s

**Data:** Long range airliner. *Engines* four Rolls Royce Avon 524 turbojet engines of 47kN each. *Wing span* 35m. *Length* 29.29m. . *Maximum Take-off weight* 71,000kg. *Cruising speed* 840km/h. *Range* 5,190km. *Passengers capacity* 74-81. *Crew* 4.

*Airfix* 1/144 kit with *Hawkeye* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in December 2022.



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