

McDonnell Douglas F-18A

The McDonnell Douglas F-18 was a multi-role fighter designed in the United States. It has served mainly with the US Navy and Marine Corps but also several other national air forces including the Royal Australian Air Force.

The F-18 was as highly modified version of the earlier YF-17 developed for service by the US Navy. The prototype first flew on 18 November 1978

Seventy-five F-18As was ordered for the RAAF in 1981. The first two were assembled in the United States and the rest assembled in the Government Aircraft Factories. Deliveries began in October 1984 and continued until May 1990. They entered service, first with No 2 Operational Conversion Unit in late 1985, and were officially retired from RAAF service in November 2021.

This model represents F-18A A21-32 belonging to ARDU in 1988.

Data: All-weather multi role fighter. *Engine* two General Electric F404-GE-402 turbofan engines of 79kN thrust each. *Wing span* 12.3m. *Length* 17.1m. *Maximum take off weight* 23,400kg. *Maximum speed* 1814km/h. *Range* 535km. *Armament* one 20mm M61 canon, air-to-air missiles and external weapons. *Crew* one.

Hobby Boss 1/72 kit with Hawkeye decals Completed by Leigh Edmonds in March 2023.



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