

Curtiss P-40C

The Curtiss P-40C was the second version of the P-40 manufactured for the United States Army Air Corps. They looked the same as the earlier P-40B but had self sealing tanks which made them heavier and slightly reduced their performance.

The prototype P-40 was a modification of a the earlier Curtiss P-36 and first flew in October 1938. It was tough and dependable with competitive performance at lower altitudes. The improved P-40C had several minor improvements over the previous P-40B which included an improved radio and provision for a drop tank. 194 were made for the United States Army Air Corps, 930 for the RAF and a further 100 for the American Volunteer Group in China.

Before the United States entered World War 2 the American Volunteer Group was established in China to help support the Nationalist Chinese Government in the war there against Japan. It was initially equipped with P-40Bs and made the shark mouth marking on the nose famous.

This model represents a P-40C flown by Charles Older, 3 Squadron, American Volunteer Group at Kunming in China in the Spring of 1942.

Data: *Engine* one Allison V-1710-33 V-12 liquid cooled piston engine of 780 kW. *Wing span* 11.36m. *Length* 9.66m. *Maximum take-off weight* 3,862kg. *Maximum speed* 538km/h. *Range* 1,150 km. *Armament* two .50cal and four .30cal machine guns. *Crew* one.

Academy 1/72 kit completed by Steve Pulbrook in 2016.



The Little Aviation Museum