

# Curtiss Kittyhawk IA

The Curtiss Kittyhawk IA was the British name given to the Curtiss P-40E. It was an almost complete redesign of the P-40 based on the lessons learned in the first year of World War 2. The nose was redesigned for a more powerful engine and armament improved to six .50 cal machine guns in the wings. Deliveries began in August 1941. A total of 2,300 P-40Es were manufactured.

The Curtiss P-40E was a major production version of the P-40 with improvements that included a redesigned nose with the radiator enlarged and moved forward and the air intake relocated, a revised cockpit canopy to improve the pilot's vision and armament increased. They served in all theatres of the war where their poor high altitude performance was not a major problem. Their ability to carry bombs and the power of their six machine guns also made them a good ground attack aircraft.

This model represents the Kittyhawk IA flown by Squadron Leader Richard Cresswell, 77 Squadron RAAF in New Guinea in 1942.

**Data:** single-seat fighter. *Engines* one Allison V-1710-39 V-12 liquid-cooled piston of 920kW. *Wing span* 11.37m. *Length* 9.67m. *Gross weight* 83862kg. *Maximum speed* 538km/h. *Range* 1152km. *Armament* six 12.7mm machine guns and up to 910kg of underwing weapons. *Crew* 1.

*Academy* 1/72 kit completed by Steve Pulbrook in 2012.



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