Lockheed P-3C

The Lockheed P-3 Orion was an anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft designed and built for the United States Navy. I was also put into service with many allied air forces including the Royal Australian Air Force.

When, in 1957, the US Navy called for a replacement for its Neptune antisubmarine aircraft Lockheed suggested a version of their new L-188 Electra turboprop airliner. For its new role the aircraft was modified with a shorter fuselage, a bomb bay, MAD boom tail extension and operational equipment in the large fuselage.

The first P-3 airframe flew on 19 August 1958 and fully equipped aircraft began entering service with the US Navy in April 1961. The Royal Australian Air Force took delivery of its first P-3s in 1968.

This model represents a Lockheed P-3C in service with 10 Squadron, RAAF, in 1984.

Data: anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft. *Engine* four Allison T-56-A-14 turboprop engines of 3,660kW each. *Wing span* 30.38m. *Length* 35.61m. *Maximum take-off weight* 61,235kg. *Maximum speed* 761 kmh. *Range* 2,491km. *Armament* up to 9,100kg of missiles, bombs, depth charges or torpedoes. *Crew* 11.



The Little Aviation Museum