

Gloster Gladiator Mk.II

The Gloster Gladiator was the final biplane fighter to enter service with the Royal Air Force. It entered service in 1937 and was still flying late during the war, in secondary roles. It also flew with a number of other air forces.

The Gloster Gladiator was based on the earlier Gloster Gauntlet fighter. The prototype first flew in November 1934, the RAF ordered it in June 1935 with the first production fighters began entering service in February and March 1937. The RAF took delivery of 231 Gladiators Is and, although it was rearming with Hurricanes and Spitfires, ordered another 252 slightly improved Gladiator IIs as a safeguard against problems with the more modern aircraft. Gladiators were used in front line service in several theatres early in the war and continued to serve in a number of secondary roles until 1944.

This model represent a Gladiator Mk.II flown by Flight Lieutenant Pat Pattle of 80 Squadron, RAF, in around January 1941.

Data: Engine one Bristol Mercury VIIIA radial piston engine of 615kW. Wing span 9.83m. Length 8.36m. Maximum take-off weight 2206kg. Maximum speed 414km/h. Armament four 7.7mm machine guns Crew one.

Heller1/72 kit with Microscale decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in 2025.



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