

Reggiane Re2000 Falco 1

The Re2000 first flew in 1939. It's design was externally similar the American P-35 fighter and included a number of advanced features such as a "wet wing" where fuel was stored within a sealed section of the wing structure.

During testing the Falco was able to outperform contemporary Italian fighters such as the Mc200, CR42 and G.50. It also tested favourably against the Bf109E. The aircraft was not approved for use by the Italian air force as the wing was considered to be vulnerable and subject to leaks..

A small number of Re2000 were eventually used by a single squadron of the Regia Aeronautica. These were based in Sicily and due to the aircraft's long range were mostly used for escorting ships to Tunisia. Many were lost in accidents. It was disliked and even feared by its ground crew and pilots due to difficult maintenance, unpredictable handling and engine failures..

Most Re2000 were exported to Sweden (60) and Hungary (70). Neither country was able to purchase modern aircraft in the lead up to World War II and turned to Italy where the Re2000 was available. Hungary later re-engined the aircraft and purchased large numbers of airframes.

Data: *Engine:* Piaggio P.XI R.C.40, 14 cylinder air-cooled radial piston engine of 735kW. *Wingspan* 11m. *Length* 7.99m. *Maximum take off weight* 28397kg. *Maximum speed* 530 km/h. *Range* 545 km. *Crew* 1. *Armament* two 12.7mm machine guns.

Italeri 1/72 kit completed by Steve Pulbrook in 2018.



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