

# SAAB J35

**The SAAB Draken was designed in Sweden as a replacement for the Tunnan day fighter and Lansen night fighter. It was the first combat aircraft to utilise a double delta design.**

The Draken held many firsts in aviation history. It was the first aircraft designed in Western Europe with a true supersonic capability to enter service, it was the first aircraft capable of the 'cobra' manoeuvre. It was also the first Western European aircraft to exceed mach 2 in level flight.

The J35 was exported to Austria, Denmark and Finland as well as serving in its native Sweden. Drakens were produced from 1955 to 1974. Although designed as an interceptor it was considered to be a very capable dogfighter.

The last service Drakens were retired in Sweden in 1999 and in Austria in 2005. Several Danish machines were exported to the United States and have appeared in movies as substitutes for Migs.

**Data:** *Engine* one Rolls Royce Avon turbojet RM6C 14407 lb with after burner. *Wing span* 9.42m. *Length* 15.34m. *Maximum take-off weight* 12,430kg. *Maximum speed* 1,900km/h. *Range* 958km. *Armament* one 30mm Aden Cannon, up to six air to air missiles (Sidewinder or Falcon), 19 x 75mm air to air unguided rockets.. *Crew* one.

*Airfix* 1/72 kit completed by Steve Pulbrook in 2010.



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