

Dassault Mirage III O

The Dassault Mirage III O was manufactured in Australia by the Government Aircraft Factories and Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation between 1963 and 1968. One hundred Mirages were delivered for service with the RAAF.

In 1960 the Australian government decided that the Dassault Mirage III would become Australia's front line interceptor. The first two Mirages were made in France but the rest were assembled in Australia with CAC making the wings and engines and the GAF making the fuselages and assembling them. The first Australian assembled Mirage, A3-3, flew on 16 November 1963 and the final one, A3-100, was delivered in December 1968.

This model represents A3-100 in 1981 when it was flying with 3 Squadron, based at Butterworth in Malaysia.

Data: single-seat fighter. *Engine* one SNECMA Atar 9C afterburning turbojet of 6000kg (3704 lb) thrust. *Wing span* 8.22m (27ft). *Length* 14.75m (48ft 5in). *Maximum take-off weight* 12,700kg (27,998lbs). *Maximum speed* 2112km/h (1320mph). *Range* 1200km (746miles). *Armament* two 30mm DEFA cannon and provision for two AIM-9 and one Matra 530 missile.

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