

Dassault Mirage III O

The Dassault Mirage III O was flown by the Royal Australian Air Force between 1964 and 1989. They flew with five operational squadrons, an Operational Conversion Unit and the Armament Research Development Unit.

Of the 100 aircraft acquired the first 50 were fitted as fighters and the second 50 for ground attack, although all were eventually fitted for ground attack. They were flown by Nos 3, 75, 76, 77 and 79 Squadrons. Two of these squadrons were usually based at Butterworth in Malaysia while those in Australia were mainly based at RAAF Williamtown near Newcastle. No 2 OCU also flew a number of single and two-seat Mirage IIIs used in training pilots for squadron duties.

This model represents A3-60, flown by 75 Squadron based at Butterworth in September 1987.

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.

Chematic 1/72 kit with Carpena decals. Completed April 2005.



LEIGH EDMONDS LITTLE BOX OF STUFF