

Dassault Mirage III O

The Dassault Mirage III O was manufactured in Australia and flown by the RAAF between 1965 and 1988. Fifty remaining aeroplanes were purchased by Pakistan and entered service with the Pakistan Air Force in the early 1990s.

After service with the RAAF the remaining airworthy Mirage III Os were stored at Wommera waiting for a buyer. For several years the Pakistan Air Force had been buying Mirage IIIs from various sources around the world and bought 50 Australian Mirages in 1990. In Pakistan the Mirages were refurbished with new avionics suites and some were given new wings purchased from South Africa. In all 45 Mirage III Os were returned to flying condition and the other 5 were used for spares.

This model represents 50-513 (previously A3-13) flying with 7 Squadron, Pakistan Air Force at Karachi, in the mid 1990s.

Data: single-seat fighter. *Engine* one SNECMA Atar 9C afterburning turbojet of 6000kg thrust. *Wing span* 8.22m. *Length* 14.75m. *Maximum take-off weight* 12,700kg. *Maximum speed* 2112km/h. *Range* 1200km. *Armament* two 30mm DEFA cannon and provision for two AIM-9 and one Matra 530 missile.

Eastern Express 1/72 kit with Microscale and homemade decals. Completed in April 2007.



LEIGH EDMONDS LITTLE BOX OF STUFF