

Dassault Mirage IIID

The Dassault Mirage IIID was the twin-seat trainer version of the Mirage III. They were introduced to RAAF service to compliment the Mirage III Os that served with the air force from the 1960s to the 1980s.

When Australia ordered 100 Dassault Mirage III Os in 1960 it also ordered 16 Mirage IIIDs as trainers. Like the Mirage III Os, the Mirage IIIDs were manufactured in Australia. Initially the trainers served with 2OTU where Mirage pilots were trained but they went on to serve with all the RAAF's operational Mirage squadrons to help maintain pilot proficiency. Surviving Mirage IIIDs were retired from service at the same time as the single seat Mirages in 1988 and were sold to Pakistan in 1990.

This model represents A3-115 that flew with ARDU in the 1980s.

Data: Twin-seat fighter trainer. *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.

High Planes 1/72 kit with *Hawkeye* decals. Completed in February 2008.



LEIGH EDMONDS LITTLE BOX OF STUFF