

North American F-86F

The North American F-86 Sabre was perhaps the most famous of the early jet fighters. They fought MiG-15s over Korea and went on to serve with most air forces in the 'Free World' in the 1950s and 1960s.

Design of the North American F-86 began before the end of World War II but was given swept wings when the allies began analysing captured German aeronautical data. The first F-86 flew on 1 October 1947 and entered service from February 1949. The Korean War accelerated development with the F-86F being ordered into production in April 1951, the first ones flying in September 1951 and those with a more powerful engine in early 1952. They gave the United States Air Force a fighter at least equivalent to the MiG-15.

This model represents a F-86F flown by Major John Glenn, later America's first astronaut to circle the earth.

Data: *Engine* one 2800 kgp (5910 lb) thrust General Electric J47-GE-27 turbojet engine. *Wing span* 11.28 m (37.12 ft). *Length* 11.43 m (37.54 ft). *Maximum take-off weight* 20 650 lbs. *Maximum level speed* 1091 km/h (688 mph). *Range* 1490 km (1317 miles). *Armament* six 12.7mm (.50 calibre) machine guns and up to 2000 lbs underwing stores.

Heller 1:72 kit with Microscale decals. Completed in March 1987.



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