

Douglas A-4M

The Douglas A-4 was one of the most successful post-war aircraft to fly with the US Navy. This high performance attack aircraft also served with many overseas air forces including the RAN and the RNZAF.

Douglas began development of the A-4 as a private venture that was taken up by the US Navy in the early 1950s. The prototype first flew on 22 June 1954 and the first production aircraft on 14 August that year. It began entering service in October 1956 and a total of 2960 A-4s had been produced when production closed in February 1979. The last version was the A-4M produced to meet US Marine Corps specifications for close air support from short runways. The first one flew in April 1970 and 160 were produced. They remained in service until 1994.

This model represents an A-4M flying with VMA-214 in the late 1980s.

Data: Single-seat attack fighter. *Engine* one Pratt & Whitney J52-P-408A turbojet engine of 5080kg (11,200lb) thrust. *Wing span* 8.38m (27ft 6in). *Length* 12.29m (40ft 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ in). *Maximum take-off weight* 11,113kg (24,500lb). *Maximum speed* 1078km/h (670mph). *Range* 547km (340miles). *Armament* two 20mm cannon and up to 4153kg (9155lb) of external stores.

Fujimi 1/72 kit. Completed in August 1989.



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