

NAME THAT PLANE

P-51D Mustang

Among one of the most famous fighters of World War II, the P-51 Mustang has its roots in both Britain and the USA. Originally overlooked by the USAAF, the P-51 did not see action with American forces until March 1943. Once its full potential had been developed, the USA realized that this aircraft had been ignored for far too long a time. With the forging of the American airframe with the British Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, it would be unmatched by any other piston aircraft of World War II.

It wasn't until 1942 that the USAAF decided to order 310 P-51As and 300 ground attack/bomber A-36A Mustangs. The P-51A had an Allison V-1710-81 (F20R) engine which developed 1,200 hp for takeoff and increased maximum speed to 390 mph. The British designation for the P-51A was the Mustang II and fifty were delivered late in 1942. A further improvement to the Mustang was introduced when a graceful teardrop canopy was installed to eliminate the dangerous blind area created by the faired cockpit. First tested on two P-51Bs, they became standard on the P-51D and all later models.

At the start of Korean War the Mustang was the main fighter used by the United Nations. Jet fighters, including the F-86, took over this role, and the Mustang became a specialized ground-attack fighter-bomber.

P-51D Mustang

General characteristics

P-51 - Long range escort fighter, single seat interceptor

Crew: 1

First flight - October 26, 1940

Total production - 15,586

Powerplant - One Rolls-Royce Packard 1490-horsepower, (War Emergency HP: 1720)

12-cylinder, V-1650-7 Merlin liquid cooled piston engine

Fuel capacity: 269 gal. - with drop tanks: 489 gal.

Wingspan - 37 ft.

Length - 32 ft., 3 in.

Height - 13 ft., 8 in.

Wing area - 235 sq. ft.

Weight - 7,635 lb. empty

Maximum takeoff weight - 12,100 lb.

Maximum speed - 437 mph at 25,000 ft.

Cruise speed: 362 mph

Stall speed: 100 mph

Rate of climb: 3,475 ft/min

Ceiling - 41,900 ft.

Range - 2080 miles with drop tanks

Armament

6× 0.50 caliber (12.7mm) M2 Browning machine guns with 1,880 total rounds (400 rounds for each on the inner pair, and 270 rounds for each of the outer two pair)

2× hardpoints for up to 2,000 lb. of bombs

6 or 10× T64 5.0 in H.V.A.R rockets



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Don Bush, EAA 172 Treasurer
3076 Old Waynesboro Rd.
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815-6791

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Please include a check or money order made out to EAA 172 for \$30.

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Thank you for your support!

