SOVIET MiG 23S Flogger 1/72 scale



With the successful development of the American F-111 swing-wing fighter, Russian designers utilised the technology to produce their first aircraft of this type. The MiG 23 bears a superficial resemblence to the American design, but is powered by a single jet engine, instead of two, and carries but one crewman.

The Flogger first appeared in 1966, and soon was being delivered to Soviet fighter squadrons. As a replacement for the widely-used, but obsolescent, MiG 21, the MiG 23 is rapidly taking over, with more than 2,700 of the new planes already in service with the Russians and several foreign air arms.

The airplane has proven to be well designed and easy to fly. It is popular with its pilots and the systems and powerplant have proven to quite reliable. One unusual

characteristic for a modern fighter is the poor rear vision afforded by the faired canopy. Three rear-view mirrors are mounted in the cockpit to help the pilot see rearward, but a raised bubble would be far more efficient.

The variable-sweep wings can move from 16° for take-off and landing, then move back to 72° for high-speed flight. With the wings swept, roll control is obtained by differential use of the horizontal stabilizers, or tailerons, since wing-mounted ailerons would have less effectiveness.

The design of the MiG 23 has proven to be quite successful and a ground attack version of the plane has been developed. It differs in several respects from the MiG 23, and therefore has been designated MiG 27, but it still bears the NATO code name, Flogger.







