

Dassault Aviation (AMD) Mirage IIIC J-2201 was purchased by the Swiss Air Force as a testbed for the Falcon missile system. Switzerland required the aircraft to evaluate the installation of the American weapon system into their pre-ordered Mirage III fighters instead of the standard French Cyrano system.

The Mirage IIIE was in development at the time and was subsequently designated as the Mirage IIIS (Suisse) for Switzerland. Therefore, a single Mirage IIIC was purchased from AMD in 1962. The purpose of this aircraft was to prove that the American AIM-26B (non nuclear) Falcon missile was able to aerodynamically separate from the Mirage in-flight. This having been said, J-2201 never in fact 'fired' a live missile, rather it dropped dummy rounds. There was not enough space in the Mirage IIIC to fit all of the avionics required for the US weapon system and its associated radar, however, the Mirage IIIS, with its extended fuselage and the more powerful ATAR 9C engine was large enough for all of the items. The actual separation tests were performed in Cazaux, France.

J-2201 spent its life with the GRD (Armament Test Group) as a test and evaluation aircraft. It was also used as a target-towing aircraft employing a colorful red and yellow 3-winged dart. Later in its career, J-2201 received a re-paint in a rather high visibility dayglo yellow and orange scheme. A huge Sunflower was painted on the bottom. Sadly, the paint faded very fast and the attractive aircraft lost its shine in a short period.

Today, Mirage IIIC J-2201 is preserved in the Air Force museum at Dübendorf air base. It is displayed in a scheme worn during the testing phase of the Falcon missile system. This is actually the standard factory livery – natural metal with a red trim. The underwing high-speed fuel tanks were painted red and carried white markings. Some panels are painted in light grey. Service markings and legends are a mix in German, French and Italian as commonly found on other Swiss AF aircraft of the era. The 'kill' marks below the cockpit reflect the successful separation tests of the Falcons and other weapons, these were applied on both sides of the forward fuselage below the cockpit.

This decal sheet is printed on a continuous clear decal film with an Oki (Alps) thermo-printer. The wax like paint is very soft and extremely delicate. For protection, the sheet is sealed with a thin coat of Johnson acrylic floor wax. However, further protection is required. Normal softening liquids like Micro Sol / Set will work on this decal film. Nevertheless – a test on a piece of scrap is advised.



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Winterthur, March 2006



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Matterhorn Circle



1/48 scale
alps printed

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Mirage IIIC

J-2201



MC48001

