

# Airfix Avro Vulcan B. Mk2 XH558 Vulcan To The Sky



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## Product Summary

Airfix Avro Vulcan B. Mk2 XH558 Vulcan To The Sky Gift Set in 1:72 scale. New

## Product Description

Airfix Avro Vulcan B. Mk2 XH558 Vulcan To The Sky Gift Set in 1:72 scale. New

Glue, paints and paintbrushes are included with this kit.

**Avro Vulcan XH558** (military serial *XH558*, civil aircraft registration *G-VLCN*) *The Spirit Of Great Britain* was the last remaining airworthy example of the 134 Avro Vulcan jet powered delta winged strategic nuclear bomber aircraft operated by the Royal Air Force during the Cold War. It was the last Vulcan in military service, and the last to fly at all after 1986. It last flew on 28 October 2015.

Vulcan XH558 first flew in 1960, and was one of the few examples converted for a maritime reconnaissance role in 1973, and then again as an air-to-air refuelling tanker in 1982. After withdrawal in 1984 it continued with the RAF's Vulcan Display Flight, performing until 1992. In 1993 it was sold to C Walton Ltd who used it for ground based displays at their Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome in Leicestershire, until 1999. Through a combination of public donations and lottery funding, it was restored to airworthy condition by the Vulcan To The Sky Trust, who returned it to flight on 18 October 2007. The donations required to reach that point totalled £6.5m.

It recommenced its display career in 2008, funded by continuing donations to assist the £2m a year running costs. In the summers from 2008 to 2010 it was based at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, moving its winter base to RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire at the end of 2009. From 2011 it moved to a new year-round base at the commercial Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield. The prospect of grounding and sale due to lack of funds was regularly averted, and XH558 flew long enough for fundamental engineering life-expectancy issues to become the main threat to continued operation. After being overcome once to gain an extra two years flight, on 15 May 2015 it was confirmed that 2015 would be XH558's

last flying season, due to the third party companies responsible for maintaining it withdrawing their support Since its last flight, XH558 is now kept in taxiable condition, in common with two of the other surviving Vulcans, XL426 and XM655.