

# USN McDonnell Douglas Phantom II: The Ultimate Air Vanguard



## USN McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II (Air Vanguard Book 22) by Peter E. Davies

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 27139 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 120 pages



## **Overview**

The McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II is a supersonic, twin-engine, all-weather fighter jet. It was developed by McDonnell Aircraft and produced by both McDonnell and Boeing after the two companies merged in 1997. The Phantom II was introduced in 1960 and served with the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, as well as with the armed forces of several other countries.

The Phantom II was designed as a replacement for the F-3 Demon and F-8 Crusader. It was a large and powerful aircraft, with a top speed of Mach 2.34 and a range of over 2,000 miles. It was also heavily armed, with a variety of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons.

The Phantom II was a highly successful aircraft, serving in a variety of roles, including fighter, bomber, and reconnaissance. It was used extensively in the Vietnam War, where it proved to be a formidable opponent for North Vietnamese MiG fighters.

## **Design**

The Phantom II was a large and powerful aircraft, with a wingspan of over 38 feet and a length of over 63 feet. It was powered by two General Electric J79 turbojet engines, which gave it a top speed of Mach 2.34 and a range of over 2,000 miles.

The Phantom II was a heavily armed aircraft, with a variety of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons. It could carry up to four AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, four AIM-7 Sparrow missiles, and two AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles. It could also carry a variety of bombs and rockets.

The Phantom II was a highly maneuverable aircraft, and it was known for its excellent handling characteristics. It was also a very durable aircraft, and it could withstand a great deal of punishment.

## **Operational History**

The Phantom II entered service with the United States Navy in 1960. It quickly became a favorite of pilots, and it was soon adopted by the Marine Corps and Air Force. The Phantom II served in a variety of roles, including fighter, bomber, and reconnaissance.

The Phantom II was used extensively in the Vietnam War. It proved to be a formidable opponent for North Vietnamese MiG fighters, and it helped to turn the tide of the war in favor of the United States.

The Phantom II continued to serve with the United States military after the Vietnam War. It was used in the Gulf War, the Bosnian War, and the Kosovo War. The Phantom II was also used by a number of other countries, including Israel, Japan, and Germany.

The Phantom II was finally retired from service with the United States military in 1996. It was replaced by the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon. However, the Phantom II remains in service with a number of other countries.

## **Legacy**

The Phantom II is one of the most successful fighter jets of all time. It served with distinction in a variety of roles for over 50 years. The Phantom II was a formidable opponent in combat, and it helped to shape the course of several wars.

The Phantom II is a testament to the skill and ingenuity of the engineers and designers who created it. It is a true classic of aviation history.

## Specifications

- Length: 63 feet 9 inches
- Wingspan: 38 feet 4 inches
- Height: 16 feet 5 inches
- Weight: 33,000 pounds
- Engines: Two General Electric J79 turbojet engines
- Top speed: Mach 2.34
- Range: 2,000 miles
- Armament: Four AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, four AIM-7 Sparrow missiles, two AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles, bombs, and rockets



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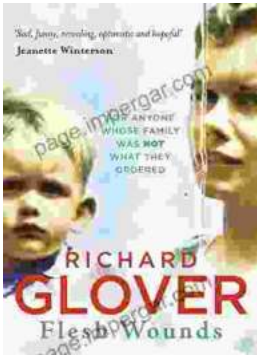
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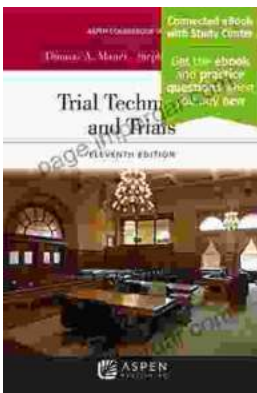
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