

JA 37 Viggen - 1980

Sweden

Type: Fighter

Min Speed: 350 kt

Max Speed: 920 kt

Commissioned: 1980

Length: 16.4 m

Wingspan: 10.6 m

Height: 5.9 m

Crew: 1

Empty Weight: 9500 kg

Max Weight: 18600 kg

Max Payload: 1700 kg

Propulsion: 1x RM8B

Sensors / EW: - PS-46/A - Radar, Radar, FCR, Air-to-Air, Medium-Range, Max range: 148.2 km
- SATT - (Viggen) ESM, RWR, Radar Warning Receiver, Max range: 222.2 km

Weapons / Loadouts:

- RB 24J Sidewinder [AIM-9P-2/3] - (1979) Guided Weapon. Air Max: 18.5 km.
 - RB 71 Sky Flash - (1980) Guided Weapon. Air Max: 44.4 km.
 - 1200 liter Drop Tank - Drop Tank.
 - M/71 Virgo 120kg GPB - Bomb. Surface Max: 1.9 km. Land Max: 1.9 km.
 - M/70 135mm Rocket - (Sweden) Rocket. Surface Max: 3.7 km. Land Max: 3.7 km.
 - 500 liter Drop Tank - Drop Tank.
-

This remarkable aircraft was developed by Saab in the 1960's to replace the Saab 32 Lansen. The prototype first flew in 1967 and the aircraft started entering service in 1971. The design criteria for the new aircraft included Mach 2 speed at altitude, supersonic flight at low level and outstanding STOL performance. To meet the requirements Saab adopted the then unconventional canard delta configuration. Unlike more recent canard designs the foreplanes on the Viggen are fixed but they do have trailing edge flaps. The Viggen is powered by the P&W JT8D turbofan manufactured under license by Volvo as the RM8.

The aircraft was produced in a number of variants, specifically tailored to Swedish requirements. AJ 37 aircraft are optimized for ground attack with a secondary interceptor role. They feature an Ericsson PS-37/A radar, a digital nav/attack system and a HUD. Conversely the JA 37 models are optimized for interception duties but retain a secondary ground attack role. These carry the Ericsson PS-47/A multimode, Doppler, LD/SD radar, Skyflash and Sidewinder AAMs, new avionics and more powerful RM8B engine. The SF and SH 37 models are reconnaissance models with the SH optimized for maritime recon and with a secondary maritime strike role. The SK 37 is a two seat conversion training

JA 37 Viggen - 1980

variant. Around 100 AJ, SH and SF 37s have been converted to a new multirole AJS standard. This gives the aircraft and expanded weapons range and some new avionics. Sixty JA 37s have undergone a Mid Life Upgrade which sees a modified PS-46/A radar, improved avionics and cockpit displays and AIM-120 compatibility added

Original Author: Daniel Hayes