

# McDONNELL DOUGLAS AV-8 HARRIER

## AV-8 SERVICE

**Origins:** Developed from the British built Hawker Siddeley Harrier built by the following manufacturers:  
Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd., (became BAe in 1977), Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England  
403 as the Harrier, 18 variants, 1960 – 1995, ff: 21/10/1960  
102 as the Sea Harrier, 4 variants, 1978 – 1998, ff: 30/12/1978.  
McDonnell Douglas Corp., McDonnell Aircraft Co. Division, St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
320 as the AV-8, 1981 – 1997, ff: 05/11/1981.

**Manufacturer:** McDonnell Douglas Corp., McDonnell Aircraft Co. Division, St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
(In 1997, became The Boeing Co., Seattle, Washington, USA)

**Model:** P.1127

**Designations:** A-8 (AV-8); V-6, V-16 (AV-16), VZ-12

**Names:** Harrier; Harrier II (AV-8B); Kestrel (XV-6A), Matador (Spain)

**First official flight:** AV-8A 20/11/1970  
AV-8B 05/11/1981

**Factory production period:** 1970 – 1980 (AV-8A)  
1981 – 1997 (AV-8B)

**Primary service period:** 1971 – present

**Last official flight:** - -

## AV-8 VARIANTS

*Foreign built – England:*

1964	<b>Model P.1127</b>	<b>XV-6A</b>	9	<b>Total: 009</b>
1970	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>AV-8A</b>	102	
1975	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>TAV-8A</b>	8	<b>Total: 110</b>
1976	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>AV-8S</b>	11	
1976	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>TAV-8S</b>	2	<b>Total: 013</b>
				<b><u>Total: 132</u></b>
1981	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>AV-8B</b>	275	
1986	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>TAV-8B</b>	25	<b>Total: 300</b>
1987	<b>Model: -</b>	<b>EAV-8B</b>	20	<b>Total: 020</b>
				<b><u>Total: 320</u></b>
				<b><u>Grand Total: 452</u></b>

## **AV-8 PRODUCTION**

*Foreign built – England:*

### **XV-6A Kestrel**

*British prototype, single-engined, VTOL fighter delivered for USAF evaluation in 1966.*

*2 earlier prototypes, (s/n: 62-4507, 62-4508), designated as **VZ-12A** were not delivered.*

*British designation: **Kestrel FGA.Mk. 1.***

*produced 1963 – 1965*

Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.,

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England (HS)

(RAF) XS688 / XS696 -

9 **Total: 009**

*Delivered to the USAF as:*

64-18262 / 64-18270

*- Last 2 deliveries were cancelled.*

### **AV-8A**

*Single-engined, VTOL ground attack fighter for USMC, based on the RAF Harrier GR.Mk. 1.*

*British designation: **Harrier Mk. 50.***

*produced 1970 – 1976*

Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.,

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England (HS)

BuNo. 158384 / 158395 1 / 12

*- Built as (RAF) XW644 / XW655.*

BuNo. 158694 / 158711 13 / 30

BuNo. 158948 / 158977 31 / 60

*- BuNo. 158969 built as (RAF) XY125.*

BuNo. 159230 / 159259 61 / 90

BuNo. 159366 / 159377 mixed 91 to 108

102 **Total: 102**

### **TAV-8A**

*2-seater trainer version for USMC, based on the RAF Harrier T.Mk. 2.*

*British designation: **Harrier Mk. 54.***

*produced 1975 – 1976*

Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.,

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England (HS)

BuNo. 159378 / 159385 mixed 1 to 10

8 **Total: 008**

### **AV-8S**

*As AV-8A, export version for Spanish Navy via the US Navy.*

*British designation: **Harrier Mk. 53 / 55.***

*Spanish designation: **VA.1 Matador.***

*produced 1975 – 1980*

Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.,

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England (HS)

BuNo. 159557 / 159562 mixed 98 to 105

BuNo. 161174 / 161178 109 / 113

11 **Total: 011**

*All delivered as:*

(Spain) VA.1-1 / VA.1-10

*- VA.1-5 crashed before delivery, s/n re-issued to next airframe.*

## TAV-8S

As TAV-8A, export version for Spanish Navy via the US Navy.

British designation: **Harrier Mk. 58.**

Spanish designation: **VAE.1 Matador.**

produced 1975 – 1976

Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.,  
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, England (HS)

BuNo. 159563, 159564 5, 7

Delivered as:

(Spain) VAE.1-1, VAE.1-2

2 **Total: 002**

*AV-16A Advanced Harrier – Proposed upgrade, cancelled.*

**Total: 132**

## AV-8B Harrier II

As YAV-8B, redesigned cockpit, engine / avionics upgrade, various improvements.

First 4 were service test airframes.

Also built as **AV-8B(NA) Night Attack** version, originally designated as **AV-8D.**

produced 1981 – 1997

McDonnell Douglas St. Louis, Missouri (MC)

BuNo. 161396 / 161399 1 / 4

BuNo. 161573 / 161584 5 / 16

BuNo. 162068 / 162088 17 / 37

BuNo. 162721 / 162746 38 / 63

BuNo. 162942 / 162962 64 / 84

BuNo. 162964 / 162970 85 / 91

BuNo. 162972, 162973 92, 93

BuNo. 163176 / 163179 94 / 97

BuNo. 163181 / 163185 98 / 102

BuNo. 163187 / 163190 103 / 106

BuNo. 163192 / 163195 107 / 110

BuNo. 163197 / 163201 111 / 115

BuNo. 163203 / 163206 116 / 119

BuNo. 163419 / 163426 120 / 127

BuNo. 163514 / 163519 128 / 133

BuNo. 163659 / 163690 134 / 165

BuNo. 163852 / 163855 166 / 169

BuNo. 163862 / 163883 170 / 191

BuNo. 164115 / 164121 192 / 198

BuNo. 164123 / 164135 199 / 211

BuNo. 164139 / 164154 212 / 227

BuNo. 164543 / 164547 228 / 232

55 additional airframes cancelled.

232

## AV-8B+

1992, radar / night attack / engine upgrade.

BuNo. 164548 / 164562 233 / 247

BuNo. 164563 / 164565 248 / 250

- 3 to Italy as MM7199 / MM7201.

BuNo. 164566 / 164571	251 / 256		
BuNo. 165001 / 165006	257 / 262		
BuNo. 165007 / 165009	IT001 / IT003	33	
<i>- 3 to Italy as MM7212 / MM7214.</i>			
<i>Foreign assembled – Italy:</i>			
Alenia Aerospazio, Rome, Italy			
BuNo. 165010 / 165019	IT004 / IT013	10	<b>Total: 275</b>
<i>Delivered as:</i>			
(Italy) MM7215 / MM7224			
<i>8 additional airframes cancelled.</i>			

### **TAV-8B Harrier II**

*As AV-8B, 2-seater trainer.*

*produced 1986 – 1992*

McDonnell Douglas St. Louis, Missouri (MC)

BuNo. 162747, 162963 T1, T2

BuNo. 162971, 163180 T3, T4

BuNo. 163186, 163191 T5, T6

BuNo. 163196, 163202 T7, T8

BuNo. 163207 T9

BuNo. 163856 / 163861 T10 / T15

BuNo. 164113, 164114 T16, T17

BuNo. 164122, 164138 T18, T21

BuNo. 164540 / 164542 T22 / T24

BuNo. 165036 E21 23

*- 1 to Spain as VAE.2-1.*

### **TAV-8B+**

*Radar / night attack / engine upgrade.*

BuNo. 164136, 164137 T19, T20 2 **Total: 025**

*- 2 to Italy as MM55032, MM55033.*

### **EAV-8B**

*As AV-8B, export version for Spanish Navy.*

*Spanish designation: VA.2 Matador II.*

*produced 1987 – 1997*

McDonnell Douglas St. Louis, Missouri (MC)

BuNo. 163010 / 163021 E1 / E12 12

*Delivered as:*

(Spain) VA.2-1 / VA.2-12

### **EAV-8B+**

*Radar / night attack / engine upgrade.*

*Foreign assembled – Spain:*

Construcciones Aeronauticas SA (CASA),  
Madrid, Spain

BuNo. 165028 / 165035 E13 / E20 8 **Total: 020**

*Delivered as:*

(Spain) VA.2-14 / VA.2-21

**Total: 320**

