

LOCKHEED P-38 LIGHTNING

P-38 SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Burbank, California, USA
Models: Model 020, 022, 122, 222, 322, 422, 522, 622
Designations: P-38; F-4, F-5, F-38, FO, P-49, P-58, P-322
Names: Lightning; Chain Lightning (P-58),
Night Lightning (P-38M)

First official flight: XP-38 27/01/1939
Factory production period: 1938 – 1945
Primary service period: 1941 – 1946
Last official flight: ZF-38J / L 1949

P-38 VARIANTS

1939	Model 022-64-01	XP-38	1	
1940	Model 122-62-02	YP-38	13	Total: 00014
1941	Model 222-62-02	P-38	30	
1941	Model 222-62-08	P-38D	36	Total: 00066
1941	Model 222-62-09	P-38E	210	
1941	Model 222-62-13	F-4	99	
1941	Model 322-61-04	Lightning Mk. I	143	
1942	Model 222-60-09/-12/-15/ 322-60-19	P-38F	527	
1942	Model 222-60-13	F-4A	20	
1942	Model 222-68-12/ 322-68-19	P-38G	1082	
1942	Model 222-62-16/ 222-68-16	F-5A	181	
1942	Model 422-81-20	P-38H	601	Total: 02863
1943	Model 422-81-14/-22/-23	P-38J	2970	
1943	Model 422-81-21	F-5B	200	
1943	Model 422-85-14	P-38K	1	
1944	Model 422-87-23	P-38L	3923	Total: 07094
1942	Model 522-66-07	XP-49	1	
1944	Model 020-86-04	XP-58	1	Total: 00002
				<u>Total: 10039</u>

P-38F

As P-38E, engine upgrade, external changes.
produced 1942 – 1943

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
41-2293 / 41-2392 222-5511 / 5610
- 80 as **P-38F-LO**.
- 20 as **F-4A-LO**.
41-7484 / 41-7680 222-5611 / 5807
42-12567 / 42-12666 222-7001 / 7100
43-2035 / 43-2184 322-3144 / 3293
- 150 ex. **Lightning Mk. II** orders.

527 **Total: 00527**

F-4A-1

Photo reconn. version of the P-38F, unarmed.
produced 1942

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
20 mixed with **P-38F-LO** s/n.

20 **Total: 00020**

P-38G

As P-38F, engine / radio upgrade.
produced 1942 – 1943

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
42-12667 / 42-12866 222-7101 / 7300
- 160 as **P-38G-LO**.
- 40 as **F-5A-LO**.
42-12870 / 42-13557 222-7304 / 7991
- 548 as **P-38G-LO**.
- 140 as **F-5A-LO**.
43-2185 / 43-2558 322-3294 / 3667
- 374 ex. **Lightning Mk. II** orders.

1082 **Total: 01082**

F-5A-1 / -2 / -3 / -10

Photo reconn. version of the P-38G, unarmed.
produced 1942 – 1943

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
1 mixed with **P-38E-LO** s/n, was Model 222-62-16.
180 mixed with **P-38G-LO** s/n.

181 **Total: 00181**

P-38H

As P-38G, engine / mechanical upgrade.
produced 1942 – 1943

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
42-13559 422-1005
42-66502 / 42-67101 422-1013 / 1612

601 **Total: 00601**

P-38I – Not used.

P-38J

As P-38G, chin radiators on nacelles, many block no. changes.
Some converted with glass nose for bombing duties.
produced 1943 – 1944

Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)
42-12867 / 42-12869 422-1001 / 1003
42-13560 / 42-13566 422-1006 / 1012
42-67102 / 42-68301 422-1613 / 2812
- 1000 as **P-38J-LO**.
- 200 as **F-5B-LO**.

42-103979 / 42-104428	422-2813 / 3262		
43-28248 / 43-29047	422-3263 / 4062		
44-23059 / 44-23768	422-4063 / 4772	2970	Total: 02970
F-5B-1			
<i>Photo reconn. version of the P-38J, unarmed.</i>			
<i>produced 1943</i>			
Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)			
<i>200 mixed with P-38J-LO s/n.</i>			
		200	Total: 00200
P-38K			
<i>As P-38J, engine / prop upgrade, later cancelled.</i>			
<i>produced 1943</i>			
Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)			
42-13558	422-1004	1	Total: 00001
P-38L			
<i>As P-38J, engine upgrade, landing light on port wing.</i>			
<i>Some converted with glass nose for bombing duties.</i>			
<i>produced 1944 – 1945</i>			
Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)			
44-23769 / 44-27258	422-4773 / 8262		
44-53008 / 44-53327	422-8263 / 8582	3810	
<i>1380 additional airframes cancelled.</i>			
Consolidated-Vultee Nashville, Tennessee (VN)			
43-50226 / 43-50338	-	113	Total: 03923
<i>1887 additional airframes cancelled.</i>			
XP-49			
<i>As YP-38, engine / armament upgrade.</i>			
<i>Second cockpit added for pressurization tests.</i>			
<i>produced 1942</i>			
Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)			
40-3055	N/A	1	Total: 00001
XP-58 Chain Lightning			
<i>As P-38, 2-seater with provision for gun turrets,</i>			
<i>engine upgrade.</i>			
<i>produced 1944</i>			
Lockheed Burbank, California (LO)			
41-2670	020-1526	1	Total: 00001
<i>1 additional prototype cancelled.</i>			
			<u>Total: 10039</u>

P-38 CONVERSIONS

USAAF

RP-38	30	P-38, 1942, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
RP-38D	36	P-38D, 1942, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
RP-38E	210	P-38E, 1943, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
XP-38K	1	P-38E(41-1983), prototype with engine / prop upgrade.
TP-38L	2	P-38L, 1945, 2 seater operational trainers.
P-38M Night Lightning		
	75	P-38L, 1945, 2 seater armed night-fighter with chin mounted radar. P-38L(44-25237) was the prototype, some conversions not completed.
RF-4	99	F-4, 1943, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.

RF-4A	20	F-4A, 1943, redesignation as "restricted" from combat.
F-5C-1	128	P-38H, post-factory conversions to photo reconn. aircraft.
XF-5D	1	F-5A(42-12975), modified with glazed nose for observer, armed.
F-5E-2/3/4	705	P-38J / L, post-factory conversions to photo reconn. aircraft.
F-5F-3	1+	P-38L, post-factory conversions to photo reconn. aircraft.
F-5G-6	1+	P-38L, post-factory conversions to photo reconn. aircraft.
ZF-38J	1+	P-38J, 1948, redesignation as "obsolete".
ZF-38L	1+	P-38L, 1948, redesignation as "obsolete".
Droop Snoot	1+	P-38J, 1943, conversions as bomber with glass nose for bombardier.
Pathfinder	1+	P-38J/L, 1944, even larger nose section for bombing radar.
Swordfish	1	P-38E(41-2048), 1943, modified for flight testing.
(Model 622-62-10) XP-38A	1	P-38(40-762), 1942, conversion with a pressurized cockpit.

US Navy

XFO-1	4	F-5B, temporarily loaned aircraft to the US Navy in North Africa. Assigned BuNo. 01209 / 01212.
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British RAF

(Model 322-60-04) Lightning Mk. II

1	Single airframe completed, retained by USAAF for test duties. Assigned RAF s/n: AF221, later redesignated as P-38F-LO and assigned s/n: 43-2035. 149 orders became P-38F-LO, s/n: 43-2036 / 43-2184. 374 orders became P-38G-LO, s/n: 43-2185 / 43-2558.
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FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *Some P-38's in service during and post WW2 with the foreign Air Forces of Australia, France, China, Honduras, Italy and Portugal.*
- *Some P-38J / L's sold on the civil market as circuit racers and aerial surveyors.*