

NORTHROP T-38 TALON

T-38 SERVICE

Manufacturer: Northrop Aircraft Inc., Hawthorne, California, USA
(In 1959, became Northrop Corp., Aircraft Group)

Model: N-156

Designation: T-38

Names: Talon; Talon II (T-38C)

First official flight: N-156T 10 Apr 1959

Factory production period: 1958 – 1972

Primary service period: 1961 – 2027

Last official flight: T-38C due 2027

T-38 VARIANTS

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1959 | N-156T | N-156T Prototype | 3 | |
| 1959 | N-156T | YT-38 | 4 | Total: 0007 |

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|--------------|------|--------------------|
| 1960 | N-156T | T-38A | 1183 | Total: 1183 |
|------|---------------|--------------|------|--------------------|

Total: 1190

T-38 PRODUCTION

Development began as the company funded Northrop Model N-156, proposed in two versions as the N-156F (F-5 Freedom Fighter) and N-156T (T-38 Talon).

N-156T

*Prototype twin-engined, tandem
2-seater jet trainer. Later redesignated
as YT-38, then YT-38A.*

produced 1958 – 1959

Northrop Hawthorne, California (NO)

58-1191, 58-1192 N.5101, N.5102

58-1193 N.5100

3 Total: 0003

- Static test airframe.

YT-38

*As N-156T, engine upgrade. Later
upgraded to T-38A standard.*

produced 1959

Northrop Hawthorne, California (NO)

58-1194 / 58-1197 N.5103 / N.5106

4 Total: 0004

T-38A

*As YT-38, engine upgrade,
minor changes.*

produced 1959 – 1972

Northrop Hawthorne, California (NO)

59-1594 / 59-1606 N.5107 / N.5119

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 60-0547 / 60-0596 | N.5120 / N.5169 | |
| 61-0804 / 61-0947 | N.5170 / N.5313 | |
| 62-3609 / 62-3752 | N.5314 / N.5457 | |
| 63-8111 / 63-8247 | N.5458 / N.5594 | |
| 64-13166 / 64-13305 | N.5595 / N.5734 | |
| 65-10316 / 65-10475 | N.5735 / N.5894 | |
| 66-4320 / 66-4389 | <i>mixed</i> N.5895 to N.6020 | |
| 66-8349 / 66-8404 | <i>mixed</i> N.5905 to N.5989 | |
| 67-14825 / 67-14859 | <i>mixed</i> T.6021 to T.6055 | |
| 67-14915 / 67-14958 | T.6056 / T.6099 | |
| 68-8095 / 68-8217 | T.6100 / T.6222 | |
| <i>- 5 to US Navy as</i> | | |
| <i>BuNo. 158197 / 158201.</i> | | |
| 69-7073 / 69-7088 | T.6223 / T.6238 | |
| 70-1549 / 70-1591 | <i>mixed</i> T.6239 to T.6283 | |
| 70-1949 / 70-1956 | <i>mixed</i> T.6280 to T.6289 | 1183 Total: 1183 |
| <i>9 additional airframes cancelled.</i> | | |

Total: 1190

T-38 CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

USAF

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--|
| T-38A(N) | 34 | T-38A, NASA astronaut trainers. Redesignated as T-38N under the glass cockpit and avionics modernization program. |
| AT-38A | 1 | T-38A (60-0576), prototype attack trainer, gun-pod fitted. |
| GT-38A | 13 | T-38A, ground instructional conversions. |
| NT-38A | 2 | T-38A, permanent conversions for tests. |
| T-38B | 132 | T-38A, armed attack trainer with weapons stores. Unofficial designation: AT-38B . |
| (GAT-38B) | 6 | T-38B, ground instructional conversions. |
| T-38C Talon II | 509 | T-38A, 2003-present, life-extension program, glass cockpit and avionics upgrade. Conversions by The Boeing Co., Arizona. |

US Navy

| | | |
|--------|----|--|
| DT-38A | 18 | T-38A, drone director conversions. |
| QT-38A | 1+ | T-38A, radio-controlled drone conversions. |

Foreign Conversions

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| T-38M | 33 | T-38A, glass cockpit and avionics modernization program. |
|-------|----|--|

FOREIGN MILITARY / CIVILIAN SERVICE

- *T-38 Talons in military service with Portugal, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey and West Germany.*
- *Several on the civil market as warbirds.*