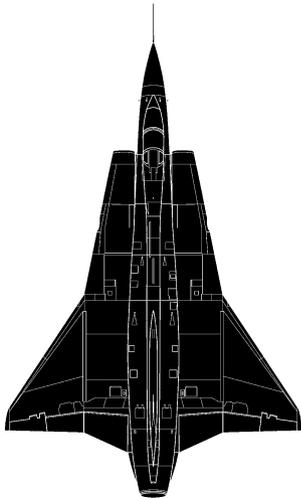


## J35 Draken



The redoubtable J35 Draken, sporting a revolutionary double-delta wing design, served for nearly four decades as Sweden's principal fighter and reconnaissance aircraft. It was tailored to meet Sweden's special needs as an armed neutral, which it did through use of unique design features and rugged construction.

The Draken (or "Dragon" in English) had stiff requirements. Sweden called on Saab, the aircraft manufacturer, to build an interceptor with an extremely high rate of climb, supersonic speed of at least Mach 1.4, and the capability to operate from Sweden's defense system of reinforced roads used as runways. To do all of this, the Saab engineering team created a unique double-delta

design to obtain favorable flight characteristics at both high and low speeds. The double delta also provided adequate space for fuel and a variety of weapons. The radical concept was tested first on a 70 percent scale Saab 210 which made its first flight on Jan. 21, 1952. Three prototypes were built and production aircraft entered service in early 1958.

The single-seat interceptor was highly maneuverable, with a top speed exceeding Mach 2. Eight versions of Draken were built, each offering improvements in performance or equipment. All Swedish Drakens were interceptors with limited air-to-ground capability, though they measured up as effective supersonic Cold War fighters.

—Walter J. Boyne

**This aircraft:** Swedish Air Force J35F-2 Draken—#44—as it looked in 1978 when assigned to F13, Bravalla Air Force Wing based at Norrköping.



### In Brief

Designed, built by Saab ★ first flight Oct. 25, 1955 ★ crew one or two (trainer) ★ number built 644 ★ one Svenska Flygmotor RM6C (licensed RR Avon) turbojet engine ★ **Specific to J35F:** typical armament, one 30 mm cannon; two RB-27 and two RB-28 missiles; up to 2,250 lb of ordnance ★ max speed 1,317 mph ★ cruise speed 590 mph ★ max range 2,020 mi ★ weight (loaded) 28,000 lb ★ span 30 ft 10 in ★ length 50 ft 4 in ★ height 12 ft 9 in.

### Famous Fliers

**Notables:** Bruno Grossmeir, Teja Reichhuber, Bjorn Svedfeldt.

**Test Pilots:** Stig Holmstrom, Bengt Olow, Per Pellebergs.

### Interesting Facts

Flown by air arms of Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Finland ★ built for operations from reinforced public roads ★ could be refueled and rearmed by conscripts in less than 10 minutes ★ exceeded Mach 1, accidentally, on first flight in afterburner ★ obtained emergency power from under-nose ram turbine ★ flown by "Acro Delta" exhibition team ★ used drag chutes to reduce landing distances ★ able to sustain 10G turning force ★ suffered from "Superstall," for which specific recovery techniques were taught ★ zoomed from takeoff to 33,000 feet in four minutes.



*The Austrian Air Force also flew the Draken.*