

# **BOEING B-52 STRATOFORTRESS**

## **B-52 SERVICE**

*Manufacturer:* The Boeing Airplane Co., Seattle, Washington, USA  
(In 1961, became The Boeing Co.)

*Model:* Boeing Model 464

*Designations:* B-52; R-16

*Name:* Stratofortress

*First official flight:* YB-52 15/04/1952

*Factory production period:* 1951 – 1962

*Primary service period:* 1954 – present

*Last official flight:* - -

## **B-52 VARIANTS**

1952	<b>Model 464-67</b>	<b>XB-52</b>	1	
1952	<b>Model 464-67</b>	<b>YB-52</b>	1	<b>Total: 002</b>

1954	<b>Model 464-201-0</b>	<b>B-52A</b>	3	
1955	<b>Model 464-201-3</b>	<b>B-52B</b>	50	
1956	<b>Model 464-201-6</b>	<b>B-52C</b>	35	
1956	<b>Model 464-201-7</b>	<b>B-52D</b>	170	
1957	<b>Model 464-259-7</b>	<b>B-52E</b>	100	
1958	<b>Model 464-260</b>	<b>B-52F</b>	89	<b>Total: 447</b>

1958	<b>Model 464-253</b>	<b>B-52G</b>	193	
1961	<b>Model 464-261</b>	<b>B-52H</b>	102	<b>Total: 295</b>

**Total: 744**

## **B-52 PRODUCTION**

### **XB-52**

*Prototype strategic heavy bomber, tandem cockpit,  
8 engines, tall tail.*

*produced 1952*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

49-230 16248

1 **Total: 001**

### **YB-52**

*Service test model, tandem cockpit, tail gun.*

*produced 1952*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

49-231 16249

1 **Total: 001**

**B-52A**

*As YB-52, redesigned cockpit, underwing tanks, refuelling receptacle, cross-wind undercarriage, engine upgrade.  
produced 1954*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

52-001 / 52-003                      16491 / 16493

3    **Total: 003**

**B-52B**

*As B-52A, engine upgrade, increased weights.  
produced 1955 – 1956*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

53-373 / 53-376                      16852 / 16855

53-380 / 53-398                      16859 / 16877

23

**RB-52B**

*As B-52B, removable bombay reconn. pod, tail cannon.  
Original designation was XR-16.*

52-004 / 52-013                      16494 / 16503

52-8710 / 52-8716                      16838 / 16844

53-366 / 53-372                      16845 / 16851

53-377 / 53-379                      16856 / 16858

27    **Total: 050**

**B-52C**

*As B-52B, modified water-injection, larger underwing tanks.  
produced 1955 – 1956*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

53-399 / 53-408                      16878 / 16887

54-2664 / 54-2688                      17159 / 17183

35    **Total: 035**

**B-52D**

*As B-52C, provision for reconn. pod removed.  
produced 1955 – 1957*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

55-068 / 55-117                      17184 / 17233

56-580 / 56-630                      17263 / 17313

101

Boeing Wichita, Kansas (BW)

55-049 / 55-067                      464001 / 464019

55-673 / 55-680                      464020 / 464027

56-657 / 56-698                      464028 / 464069

69    **Total: 170**

**B-52E**

*As B-52D, improved electronic systems.  
produced 1957 – 1958*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

56-631 / 56-656                      17314 / 17339

57-014 / 57-029                      17408 / 17423

42

Boeing Wichita, Kansas (BW)

56-699 / 56-712                      464070 / 464083

57-095 / 57-138                      464084 / 464127

58    **Total: 100**

**B-52F**

*As B-52E, engine upgrade, equipment changes.  
produced 1958 – 1959*

Boeing Seattle, Washington (BO)

57-030 / 57-073                      17424 / 17467

44

21 additional airframes cancelled.

Boeing Wichita, Kansas (BW)  
 57-139 / 57-183                      464128 / 464172                      45    **Total: 089**  
*45 additional airframes cancelled.*

**B-52G**

*As B-52F, redesigned nose, shorter tail, unmanned tail gun, smaller underwing tanks, various changes. Many redesignated as B-52G Phase IV in 1964 with ECM avionics in extended aft section. produced 1958 – 1961*

Boeing Wichita, Kansas (BW)  
 57-6468 / 57-6520                      464173 / 464225  
 58-0158 / 58-0258                      464226 / 464326  
 59-2564 / 59-2602                      464327 / 464365                      193    **Total: 193**  
*8 additional airframes cancelled.*

**B-52H**

*As B-52G, turbofan engine upgrade, tail rotary cannon, internal and avionics upgrade. Many redesignated as B-52H Phase IV in 1964 with ECM avionics in extended aft section. produced 1960 – 1962*

Boeing Wichita, Kansas (BW)  
 60-0001 / 60-0062                      464366 / 464427  
 61-0001 / 61-0040                      464428 / 464467                      102    **Total: 102**

**Total: 744**

**B-52 CONVERSIONS**

**USAF**

NB-52A	1	B-52A(52-003), 1958-1968, NASA “Mothership” for X-15 project.
GB-52B	3	B/RB-52B’s used for ground instructional duties.
NB-52B	1	RB-52B(52-008), 1958-2005, NASA “Mothership” for X-15 project. Retained by NASA as a test-bed aircraft logging over 1000 missions.
JB-52C	2	B-52C, test-bed aircraft, used in development of ECM.
RB-52C	1+	B-52C, reconn. configured “C” variants.
GB-52D	7	B-52D, ground instructional duties.
JB-52D	1	B-52D, test-bed aircraft for Special Weapons Center.
(NB-52D)	1+	Redesignation of JB-52D plus other airframes.
GB-52E	2	B-52E, ground instructional duties.
NB-52E	2	B-52E, test-bed aircraft for research duties. One aircraft used as engine test-bed for C-5 Galaxy in 1968.
GB-52F	3	B-52F, ground instructional duties.
GB-52G	3	B-52G, ground instructional duties.
JB-52G	6+	B-52G, temporary designation for research duties.
XB-52G	1	B-52A, test-bed aircraft for “G” variant features.
JB-52H	5+	B-52H, temporary designation for research duties.
NB-52H	1	B-52H(61-0025), 2002-2008, NASA “Mothership” for research duties.
YB-52H	1	B-52G, temporary conversion to test “H” variant engines.

**B-52 Upgrades**

Many B-52D/E/F/G’s were upgraded over their service life with new armament avionics and navigation equipment.

B-52H’s in current service continue to be upgraded under life preserving programmes along with avionics upgrades as they become available.