

GRUMMAN F4F WILDCAT

WILDCAT SERVICE

Manufacturers: *The Grumman Aircraft Engr. Corp, Bethpage, Long Is.,
New York, USA
General Motors Corp., Eastern Aircraft Division, Trenton,
New Jersey, USA*

Models: *G-16, G-18, G-33, G-36, G-43, G-52, G-53*

Designations: *F4F; FM, F2M*

Names: *Wildcat; Wildcatfish (F4F-3S), Martlet (Royal Navy)*

First official flight: *XF4F-2 02/09/1937*

Factory production period: *1937 – 1945*

Primary service period: *1940 – 1945*

Last official flight: *- 1945*

WILDCAT VARIANTS

Grumman

1937	Model G-18	XF4F-2	1	
1940	Model G-36	F4F-3	285	
1940	Model G-36A	Martlet Mk. I	91	
1940	Model G-36B	Martlet Mk. II	100	
1941	Model G-36	F4F-3A	95	
1941	Model G-36	XF4F-4	1	
1941	Model G-36	F4F-4	1169	
1941	Model G-36	Martlet Mk. IV	220	
1940	Model G-36	XF4F-5	2	
1940	Model G-36	XF4F-6	1	
1941	Model G-52	F4F-7	21	
1942	Model G-36	XF4F-8	2	Total: 1988

General Motors

1942	Model G-36	FM-1	1060	
1943	Model G-36	FM-2	4777	Total: 5837

Total: 7825

WILDCAT PRODUCTION

Grumman

XF4F-1 – Model G-16 biplane fighter design, not built.

XF4F-2

Prototype monoplane fighter, 2 nose guns, fixed wings, later upgraded to XF4F-3. produced 1937

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
BuNo. 0383 356

1 Total: 0001

Model G-33 – 1938, proposed engine upgrade, cancelled.

F4F-3

As XF4F-3, 4 wing guns, minor changes, late production aircraft had engine upgrade. First 2 airframes retained for tests.

produced 1940 – 1943

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
BuNo. 1844, 1845 558, 559
BuNo. 1848 / 1896 562 / 610
BuNo. 2512 / 2538 616 / 642
BuNo. 3856 / 3874 738 / 756
BuNo. 3970 / 4057 852 / 939
BuNo. 12230 / 12329 5890 / 5989

285 Total: 0285

Martlet Mk. I

As F4F-3, order for France, diverted to Royal Navy, fixed wings, 4 wing guns, engine upgrade. First 7 with US reg.: NX-G1 / NX-G7. 81 delivered, last 10 lost at sea.

produced 1940

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
(RAF) AL231 / AL262 unknown
(RAF) AX725 / AX747 unknown
(RAF) AX753, AX754 unknown
(RAF) AX761 unknown
(RAF) AX824 / AX829 unknown
(RAF) BJ554 / BJ570 unknown
(RAF) BT447 / BT456 unknown

91 Total: 0091

Martlet Mk. II

As Martlet Mk. I, order for Britain, similar to XF4F-4 with engine upgrade, folding wings, 6 wing guns. AM954 / AM963 with fixed wings, redesignated as Martlet Mk. III.

produced 1940 – 1942

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
(RAF) AJ100 / AJ153 unknown
(RAF) AM954 / AM999 unknown

100 Total: 0100

F4F-3A

As F4F-3, supercharged engine of XF4F-6. First 30 diverted from Greece to Royal Navy as Martlet Mk. III. Original designation was F6F-6. produced 1940 – 1941

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)
BuNo. 3875 / 3969 757 / 851

95 Total: 0095

XF4F-4

*As F4F-3, hydraulic folding wings,
6 wing guns, pilot armour.
produced 1941*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 1897 611

1 **Total: 0001**

F4F-4

*As XF4F-4, manual folding wings.
produced 1941 – 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 4058 / 4098 940 / 980

BuNo. 5030 / 5049 981 / 1000

BuNo. 5050 / 5262 2001 / 2213

BuNo. 01991 / 02152 3026 / 3187

BuNo. 03385 / 03544 3190 / 3349

BuNo. 11655 / 12227 unknown

1169 **Total: 1169**

F4F-4A – Projected version with engine upgrade, cancelled.

Martlet Mk. IV

*As F4F-4, Lend-Lease version for Royal Navy,
engine upgrade, US designation **F4F-4B**.
produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

(RN) FN100 / FN319 unknown

220 **Total: 0220**

XF4F-5

*As F3F-3, factory converted with two
separate engine upgrades.
produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 1846, 1847 560, 561

2 **Total: 0002**

XF4F-6

*As F3F-3, factory converted with engine
upgrade, prototype to the **F4F-3A**.
produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 7031 737

1 **Total: 0001**

F4F-7

*As F4F-4, unarmed photo reconn. version,
fixed wings, autopilot.
produced 1941 – 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 5263 / 5283 2214 / 2234

21 **Total: 0021**

XF4F-8

*As F4F-4, reduced weight, slotted flaps,
engine upgrade, second airframe with tall tail.
produced 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)

BuNo. 12228, 12229 unknown

2 **Total: 0002**

General Motors

FM-1

*GM built version of the F4F-4, 4 wing guns.
produced 1942 – 1943*

General Motors Linden, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 14992 / 15951 unknown

BuNo. 46738 / 46837 unknown

1060 **Total: 1060**

FM-2

*GM built version of the XF4F-8, tall tail, lower
observation windows deleted, 4 wing guns,
engine upgrade.*

produced 1943 – 1945

General Motors Linden, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 15952 / 16791 unknown

BuNo. 46838 / 47437 unknown

BuNo. 55050 / 55649 unknown

BuNo. 56684 / 57083 unknown

BuNo. 73499 / 75158 unknown

BuNo. 86297 / 86973 unknown

4777 **Total: 4777**

746 additional airframes cancelled.

XF2M-1 – 1944, 3 prototypes with engine upgrade, cancelled on VJ Day.

Total: 7825

WILDCAT CONVERSIONS

US Navy

F4F-3P 18 17 F4F-3 / 1 F3F-3A, 1940, photo reconnaissance conversions.

F4F-3S Wildcatfish

1 F4F-3(4038), 1943, float plane conversion, later with ventral stabilising fin.

F4F-4P 1+ F4F-4, photo reconnaissance conversions.

FM-2P 1+ FM-2, photo reconnaissance conversions.

(Model G-36) XF4F-3

1 (Model G-18) XF4F-2, 1939, redesigned fixed wings, fuselage, tail section, engine upgrade. Proposal made to the Army as the **Model G-43**.

Model G-53 1 F4F-4(5262), 1942, factory conversion with fixed wings, full span flaps.

British Royal Navy

*Martlet name changed to **Wildcat** in 1944.*

Martlet Mk. III 40 10 Martlet Mk. II, 1941-1945, fixed wing version for Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: AM954 / AM963.

30 F4F-3A, 1941-1945, fixed wing order for Greece, diverted to Royal Navy in the Middle East.

Assigned RN s/n: AX733, AX824 / AX829, BJ507 / BJ527, HK841, HK842. Some s/n's duplicated with Martlet Mk. I.

Martlet Mk. V 312 FM-1, 1942-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: JV325 / JV636.

Wildcat Mk. VI 370 FM-2, 1944-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy.
Assigned RN s/n: JV637 / JV924, JW785 / JW836, JZ860 / JZ889.