

Supermarine

Supermarine was a [British](#) aircraft manufacturer that became famous for producing a range of sea planes and the legendary [Supermarine Spitfire](#) fighter.

History

[Noel Pemberton-Billing](#) set up a company, **Pemberton-Billing, Ltd**, in [1913](#) to produce sea-going [aircraft](#). It also produced a couple of prototypes using quadruplane designs to shoot down [zeppelins](#); the Supermarine P.B.29 and the [Supermarine Nighthawk](#). The aircraft were fitted with the [recoilless Davis gun](#) and the Nighthawk had a separate powerplant to power a [searchlight](#).^[1] Upon election as an [MP](#) in [1916](#) Pemberton-Billing sold the company to his factory manager and long time associate [Hubert Scott-Paine](#) who renamed the company **Supermarine Aviation Works, Ltd**. The company became famous for its successes in the [Schneider Trophy](#) for seaplanes, especially the three wins in a row of [1927](#), [1929](#) and [1931](#).

In [1928](#) [Vickers-Armstrongs](#) took over Supermarine as **Supermarine Aviation Works (Vickers), Ltd** and in [1938](#) all Vickers-Armstrongs aviation interests were reorganised to become **Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) Ltd**, although Supermarine continued to design, build and trade under its own name.

The first Supermarine landplane design to go into production was the famous and successful [Spitfire](#). The earlier [Hawker Hurricane](#) and the Spitfire were the mainstay of [RAF Fighter Command](#) fighter aircraft which fought off the [Luftwaffe](#) bombing raids with fighter escorts during the [Battle of Britain](#) in the summer of 1940. While the Hurricane was available in larger numbers and consequently played a larger role, the new Spitfire caught the popular imagination and became the aircraft associated with the battle.

Other well-known planes from [World War II](#) were the [Seafire](#) (a naval version of the Spitfire). Supermarine also developed the [Spiteful](#) and [Seafang](#), the successors of the Spitfire and Seafire, resp., and the [Walrus](#) flying boat.

The Supermarine main works was in Woolston, [Southampton](#) which led to the city being heavily bombed in 1940.

The last of the Supermarine aircraft was the [Supermarine Scimitar](#). After that, in the shakeup of British aircraft manufacturing, Vickers-Armstrongs (Aircraft) became a part of the [British Aircraft Corporation](#) and the individual manufacturing heritage names were lost. Northshore Marine builds a range of [motorboats](#) under the Supermarine name in [Chichester](#).

Supermarine Aircraft

- [Supermarine Nighthawk](#) (1917) - Anti-[Zeppelin](#) fighter aircraft
- [Supermarine Baby](#) (1917) - single seat fighter flying boat
- [Supermarine Sea Lion](#) (1919) - Schneider race flying boat
- [Supermarine Sea King](#) - single seat fighter flying boat
- [Supermarine Channel](#) (1919) - civil version of the [AD Boat](#)
- [Supermarine Seagull](#) (1921) - amphibian Fleet Spotter
- [Supermarine Sea Eagle](#) (1923) - civil amphibian flying boat
- [Supermarine Scarab](#) (1924) - military version of Sea Eagle
- [Supermarine Swan](#) (1924) - experimental amphibian
- [Supermarine Sparrow](#) (1924) - two-seat ultralight
- [Supermarine Southampton](#) (1925) - Flying boat
- [Supermarine S.4](#) (1925) - Schneider Trophy race seaplane
- [Supermarine S.5](#) (1927) - Schneider Trophy race seaplane
- [Supermarine Air Yacht](#) (1931) - six-passenger flying boat
- [Supermarine Scapa](#) (1932) - Flying boat
- [Supermarine Stranraer](#) (1932) - General-purpose flying boat
- [Supermarine Seamew](#) (1928) - Twin-engined flying boat
- [Supermarine Walrus](#) (1933) - Reconnaissance amphibian
- [Supermarine S.6B](#) - Racing seaplane (first aircraft over 400 mph)
- [Supermarine Spitfire](#) (1936) - single seat fighter
 - [Supermarine Spitfire variants](#)
- [Supermarine Sea Otter](#) (1938) - flying boat
- [Supermarine 322](#) also S.24/37 or "Dumbo" (1939)

- [Supermarine Spiteful](#) (1944) - replacement for the Spitfire
- [Supermarine Seafang](#) (1946) - development of Spiteful
- [Supermarine Attacker](#) (1946) - jet fighter
- [Supermarine Seagull ASR-1](#) (1948) - air-sea rescue and reconnaissance
- [Supermarine Swift](#) (1948) - post World War Two jet fighter
- [Supermarine 508](#) - V-tailed prototype of the Scimitar
- [Supermarine Scimitar](#) (1956) - Naval ground attack aircraft

Designs and submissions only

- [Supermarine Type 224](#) - failed design for a fighter aircraft in 1934
- [Supermarine Type 545](#) - supersonic version of Swift
- [Supermarine Type 553](#) (1953) - supersonic fighter project
- [Supermarine Type 559](#) (1955) - submission for [Operational Requirement F.155](#) for a high altitude supersonic fighter

[edit] External links

- [British Aircraft Directory](#)
- [Spitfire Society article](#)