

The Lockheed PV-2 Harpoon was conceived as an improved version of the company's PV-1 Ventura medium bomber and used by the US Navy during WWII.

The improvements included a completely redesigned tail assembly for better ground handling and single engine performance. Fuel capacity was increased from 1,607 US gallons in the PV-1 to 1,863 US gallons by the installation of integrated fuel

tanks in the wing outer panels. Wing span was also increased by 9 feet 6 inches.

The US Navy placed an order for 500 PV-2s on 30 June 1943. The first flight came on December 3, 1943, and deliveries began in March 1944. A serious problem was discovered with the integrated wing fuel tanks: the wings wrinkled and the tanks leaked. A complete redesign of the wing was necessitated and delayed entry of the PV-2 into service. The 30, PV-2s already delivered were used for training purposes under the designation PV-2C. The remaining 470 aircraft were produced with standard self-sealing tanks inside the wings.

