

Four Generations of Commercial Jet Aircraft



Caravelle

Early Commercial Jets

From 1952

Dials and gauges in cockpit, early autoflight systems
Comet, Caravelle, BAC-111, Trident, VC-10, B707, B720, DC-8, Convair 880/990

1st Generation



A300

More Integrated Autoflight

From 1964

More elaborate autopilot and autothrottle systems
Concorde, A300, Mercure, F28, BAe146, VFW 614, B727, B737-100/-200, B747-100/-200/-300/SP, L-1011, DC-9, DC-10

2nd Generation



A300-600

Glass Cockpit, FMS & TAWS

From 1980

Electronic displays, Flight Management System (FMS), and Terrain Awareness and Warning System (TAWS) reduced CFIT accidents
A300-600, A310, Avro RJ, F70, F100, B717, B737 Classic, B737 NG, B737 MAX, B757, B767, B747-400/-8, Bombardier CRJ, Embraer ERJ, MD-11, MD-80, MD-90

3rd Generation



A320

Fly-By-Wire

From 1988

Flight envelope protection enabled by fly-by-wire technology reduced LOC-I accidents
A220, A318/A319/A320/A321, A330, A340, A350, A380, B777, B787, Embraer E-Jets, Sukhoi Superjet

4th Generation