Mooney M18 Mite Model Guide

The Mooney M18 Mite is a single-seat, single-engine piston airplane built from 1947 to 1955. The M-18C is certified in the Normal Category with a 65 HP Continental A-65 engine and a small 9.6 gallon usable fuel tank. Its wing and fuselage use wood and glue joints, so structural inspection history matters most when buying.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Single seat. The M-18C has an 850 lbs maximum weight and a 65 HP Continental A-65-8 or A-65-12 limited to 2300 RPM.
- Never-exceed speed is 143 MPH. Gear-extended, gear-operating and hatch-open speeds are 109 MPH. Maneuvering speed is 107 MPH.
- Wood and glue joint deterioration in the wing and fuselage drives repeat AD inspections (AD 79-18-07, AD 79-11-05 R1).
- Standard fuel is 9.6 gallons usable. Supplements approve other tank setups, up to 19.5 gallons usable with an auxiliary tank.

ENGINE, FUEL AND TANK OPTIONS

The M-18C uses a Continental A-65-8 or A-65-12 (65 HP, 2300 RPM) with a Flottorp 65A60 to 65A64 propeller and 80 minimum octane fuel. The standard fuselage tank holds 9.6 gallons usable. Approved alternates are a 15.5 gallon tank (11.4 usable) and a 13.5 gallon tank (13.5 usable). A wing-baggage auxiliary tank adds 6.0 gallons usable, hand-pumped, with no gauge on the later installations.

LOADING, BAGGAGE AND PERFORMANCE

Published performance is for 850 lbs on level paved runways, with a 68 MPH TIAS takeoff climb speed and flaps up for takeoff. Baggage is limited to 75 lbs standard and 40 lbs with a battery. With the auxiliary tank, use the aft compartment only. A wind-driven generator cuts normal climb by 170 ft/min and balked-landing climb by 132 ft/min. It also adds 95 ft to takeoff distance at sea level and 185 ft at 6000 ft.

C85-12 ENGINE CONVERSION (STC SA3-483)

STC SA3-483 installs a Continental C85-12 (85 hp, 2575 rpm) on the M-18C 55. The auxiliary fuel system is removed and usable fuel is 9.0 gallons. Placards read maximum pilot weight 155 pounds and no baggage. Empty weight must not exceed 631 lb. The starter is removed, and an electric boost pump is used if fuel pressure drops.

SPECIFICATIONS

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	850
Engine Power Hp	65
Usable Fuel Gal	9.6
Max Baggage Lbs	75

V-SPEEDS

Never Exceed Mph	143
Max Structural Cruise Mph	114
Max Gear Extended Mph	109
Max Hatch Open Mph	109
Maneuvering Mph	107

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Weight Lbs	850
Cg Forward Limit Inches	31.1
Cg Aft Limit Inches	34.4
Max Baggage Lbs	75
Mac Inches	43.9

SAFETY NOTES

- AD 79-18-07 and AD 79-11-05 R1 cover wood and glue joint deterioration. The AMOC requires repeat inspections every 12 months. Use inspectors experienced in wood aircraft.
- Inspect the wing spars, wing-to-fuselage joint, fuselage bottom between stations 29.0 and 35.5, and drain holes for rot, water stains and glue separation.
- No acrobatic maneuvers or spins are approved and no inverted maneuvers. Maximum positive load factor is 3.8 G with flaps up.

AI-aggregated guide for the Mooney M18 Mite · sources: Pilot's Operating Handbook (#7219) · Pilot's Operating Handbook for Mooney M18 Mite (#7222) · Alternate Method of Compliance to Airworthiness Directives (#101544) · Airplane Flight Manual for Mooney M18 Mite (#7229) · generated 2026-10-18 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.