

Mooney M20K 231/252 Model Guide

The Mooney M20K 231/252 is a four-seat, single-engine piston aircraft with a turbocharged engine and retractable gear, built from 1979 to 1998. An Italian accident report describes the M20K as an all-metal low-wing with a 210 HP engine and a 2900 lb MTOW. The resale and inspection notes below come from a 2008 price guide and Mooney's inspection guide.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Four seats, 2900 lb MTOW and a 210 HP turbocharged engine (TSIO360-GB/LB per a 2008 price guide). The M20K developed from the M20J.
- Maximum structural cruising speed is listed as 174 kt. Usable fuel is 286 litres, per the Italian accident report.
- Engine condition drives value: in 2008 Bluebook credited \$50,021 with a Black Edition II engine and \$33,000 with a factory rebuilt engine.
- Pre-buy: check the lower longerons for corrosion, the turbocharger clamps, exhaust and fuel pressure, using Mooney's 100-hour/annual guide.

WHAT IT IS

The M20K is described as an all-metal, low-wing single with retractable tricycle gear, certified for four (pilot plus three passengers). Compared with the M20J it has a more powerful turbocharged engine, a greater wingspan and larger fuel tanks (286 l usable). The library lists production from 1979 to 1998.

VALUE AND ENGINE

A Bluebook Price Digest comparison (Volume 08-3, 2008, prices current 9/4/08) lists the M20K 231/252 TSIO360-GB/LB at \$50,021 with a Black Edition II engine installed and \$33,000 with a factory rebuilt engine installed. The 2008 factory engine MSRP is \$42,000. These are averaged 2008 per-engine figures subject to change, not current values.

PRE-BUY INSPECTION POINTS

Mooney's 100 Hour-Annual guide covers the M20K. Check the lower longerons for corrosion (SB M20-208), turbocharger clamp tightness, unmetered fuel pressure, a hot differential compression test, landing gear shock discs, and the gear-up horn in flight at 14-16 in MP. Bendix magnetos are overhauled each 500 hours/4 years.

SPECIFICATIONS

Seats	4
Engine Model	TSIO360-GB/LB
Engine Power Hp	210
Production Start Year	1979
Production End Year	1998

V-SPEEDS

Max Structural Cruising Speed Kts	174
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WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2900
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SAFETY NOTES

- The guide calls for checking the cabin ventilation and heating system for carbon monoxide, and the exhaust system for leaks and cracks.
- An Italian ANSV report covers a 2019 M20K accident (loss of control after a go-around). The supplied excerpt does not state the cause.
- If oxygen is fitted: hydrostatic test the bottle every 3 yrs and overhaul the regulator every 6 yrs. Composite bottles expire at 15 yrs.