

AMERICAN CHAMPION 7-ECA Model Guide

The AMERICAN CHAMPION 7-ECA is a single-engine piston, fabric-covered tailwheel airplane (the checklist is titled Citabria 7ECA). The library has no year or seat data for it. The Aeronca 7 family it belongs to carries up to 2 passengers. Use the checklist and ski documents below to guide your pre-buy.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Fabric fuselage and tail wheel: check fabric condition on both sides, plus the stabilizer brace wires and tail wheel.
- Checklist figures: oil normally 6 quarts, lift-off 55 to 60 MPH, climb Vy 70 MPH, approach 70 MPH.
- The Aeronca 7 family reaches up to 111 kt cruise and 550 nm range. These are family maxima, not 7-ECA figures.
- TrickAir Model 2250 skis are documented for the 7ECA with spring gear and 8.50-6 tires. They need an FAA Form 337.

PRE-BUY WALK-AROUND

The checklist covers fabric condition on both fuselage sides, wing root fairings, wings and struts, and the horizontal stabilizer brace wires. It also covers the tail wheel, tires and brakes, and the oil level (normal 6 quarts). Sample fuel from the wing quick drains and the belly drain, and check the air filter and cowling.

OPERATING NUMBERS FROM THE CHECKLIST

Run-up is at 1800 RPM with a magneto drop of 200 and a 50 difference, plus a carb heat check. Lift-off is 55 to 60 MPH and climb Vy is 70. Climb at 70 to 80 MPH with mixture rich below 5000 ft. Lean above 5000 ft in cruise. Approach is 70 MPH.

SKI OPTION

The TrickAir Model 2250 main gear skis fit the 7ECA with spring-type gear and 8.50-6 wheels. Specified ski ground clearance is 0.50 to 0.75 inch. Shock cord tension at the ski tip is 20 to 40 pounds. A rated technician must install them, file Form 337, and re-weigh the airplane.

SAFETY NOTES

- Engine failure after takeoff: hold 65 MPH, mixture idle cutoff, fuel valve off, mags off, door open.
- Engine fire during start: keep cranking, mixture idle cutoff, throttle full open. If fire continues, fuel off, master off, mags off, exit.
- With skis fitted, the pilot must log each installation or removal. Cold weather can stiffen the shock cords, so disconnect them when parked.