DEHAVILLAND DHC-1 CHIPMUNK Model Guide

The DEHAVILLAND DHC-1 CHIPMUNK is a single-engine piston trainer with front and rear cockpits. Registry data for the wider family lists up to 2 passengers. The checklist reviewed here allows daytime VFR only. For a buyer, the main concern is the airframe's recorded fatigue life.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Checklist limits: maximum all-up weight 2,000 lb, Vne 155 kts, stall 45 kts flaps up. Flight is not permitted in IMC or at night.
- Family registry figures are up to 108 kt cruise, 240 nm range and 17,000 ft ceiling. These are family maxima, not this variant's figures.
- Structural life is counted in Fatigue Hours (flying hours x Role Factor), not flying hours. Check how the logbooks record them.
- The modification list is applicable by mark. Confirm which modifications are embodied on the airframe you are considering.

SPEEDS AND HANDLING

Per the checklist: lift off at 45 kts, normal climb 70 kts, best rate of climb 65 kts, recommended cruise 90 kts, best glide 65 kts. Final approach is 60 kts and threshold 55-60 kts. Maximum flap speed is 93 kts at 15 deg and 71 kts at 30 deg.

STRUCTURE AND FATIGUE LIVES

Fuselage centre section lower tie bar safe life: 10,000 Fatigue Hours for aluminium alloy, 30,000 for steel, 16,000 for steel with bushed lug holes. Wing attachment link plates and bolts: replace at 15,000 Fatigue Hours. A magnet identifies a steel tie bar. Fitment may be recorded under a repair scheme number.

ENGINE LIMITS AND QUIRKS

Maximum take-off power is 2,550 RPM (5 minutes maximum), with maximum oil temperature 85 deg C. Normal oil pressure is 40-45 lb/sq.in, emergency minimum 30. The engine is susceptible to carburettor ice. Select carb heat HOT at the first sign of RPM reduction or rough running.

PERFORMANCE

Recommended Cruise Speed Kts	90
Normal Climb Speed Kts	70
Liftoff Speed Kts	45
Final Approach Speed Kts	60
Endurance Speed Kts	65

V-SPEEDS

Vne Kts	155
Vfe Kts	71
Vs0 Kts	45
Vs1 Kts	35
Vy Kts	65
Best Glide Speed Kts	65
Max Speed Flap 15 Kts	93

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max All Up Weight Lbs	2000

SAFETY NOTES

- Checklist: flight NOT permitted in IMC or at night; daytime VFR only.
- The technical news sheet reports widespread disregard of mandatory fatigue life limits on UK civil Chipmunks. Verify the fatigue records independently.
- Do not attempt to restart the engine in flight after a mechanical failure.

AI-aggregated guide for the DEHAVILLAND DHC-1 CHIPMUNK · sources: Chipmunk check list (#100327) · English-Built DHC-1 Chipmunk Technical News Sheet (#101997) · LIST OF MODIFICATIONS - ENGLISH-BUILT DHC-1 CHIPMUNK SERIES (#100328) · generated 2026-10-19 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.