YAKOVLEV Yak-18T Model Guide

The YAKOVLEV Yak-18T is a four-seat, single-engine piston aircraft with retractable gear and a variable-pitch propeller. It was designed to train Aeroflot cadets and is now sold as an aerobatic-capable tourer. The source manual is an unofficial translation and is not approved by Yakovlev.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Power is a 360 hp nine-cylinder M-14P radial. The manual calls the aircraft complex because of its retractable gear and variable-pitch propeller.
- Service ceiling is 16,730 ft, but with no oxygen system the manual limits flight to 13,120 ft.
- Standard fuel is two 25 gal main tanks. Extended tanks are a common touring modification.
- Service bulletin history is long. The manual's list says no mandatory bulletins have been issued after 1998.

WHAT YOU ARE BUYING

Wing and tail surfaces are fabric-covered over an all-metal frame, and the cabin has two car-type doors. Many airframes have been overhauled, often with custom paint, leather interiors and up-rated engines. Options include a 400 hp engine and a 3-blade MTV-9 propeller. The manual does not cover most of these modifications.

SYSTEMS AND FUEL

The fuel is B-91/115 gasoline. Fuel flows by gravity from two 25 gal main tanks to a 0.9 gal service tank, then to an engine-mounted pump. The propeller is a V530TA-D35 with an R-2 governor. The manual says it matches the propeller group of the Yak-52. The main air system also supplies the brakes and gear. If it fails, the emergency system does everything except start the M-14P.

RECORDS AND AIRWORTHINESS

Ask for evidence of the Yakovlev service bulletins, including SB 032-DK (wing centre-section reinforcement) and SB 097-DK (centre-section skin cracks). Also ask whether SB 254-BD (ELT) and SB 116-DM (critical angle-of-attack warning) were done. Many bulletins are tied to Major Overhaul at a Yakovlev-certified facility, so check overhaul status.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	360
Main Tank Capacity Gal	25
Service Tank Capacity Gal	0.9

PERFORMANCE

Service Ceiling Ft	16730
Max Permitted Altitude Ft	13120

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not fly above 13,120 ft: the aircraft has no on-board oxygen system.
- The manual covers hydraulic lock on the radial engine before start. Ask how it is avoided on any aircraft you inspect.
- The manual is an unapproved translation and covers single-pilot checks only. Do not treat it as the definitive guide.

AI-aggregated guide for the YAKOVLEV Yak-18T · sources: Yak 18T Flight Operations Manual (#100356) · Service Bulletins (Airworthiness Directives) for Yak-18T (#100357) · generated 2026-10-21 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.