

Piper PA-22 Tri-Pacer Model Guide

The Piper PA-22 Tri-Pacer is a four-seat, single-engine piston airplane built from 1951 to 1964. The PA-22-160 handbook figures show a 160 HP Lycoming O-320-B, 2000 lb gross weight, 1110 lb empty weight and 100 lb of baggage capacity. Several Piper service bulletins apply, so check the logbooks closely.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Piper PA-22 Tri-Pacer seats 4. The PA-22-160 landplane has a 2000 lb gross weight and 890 lb useful load.
- PA-22-160 landplane handbook figures: 141 MPH top speed, 125 MPH cruise at 75% power, 9 gal/hr fuel burn, 49 MPH stall with flaps.
- Check logbooks for compliance with Piper service bulletins on the rudder, nose-wheel shimmy dampener and fuel selector valve.
- A 2005 UK accident shows the type can ground loop after a bounced landing in gusty wind.

ENGINES AND FUEL

The PA-22-160 uses a Lycoming O-320-B rated at 160 HP at 2700 RPM. It has an 8.5 to 1 compression ratio and needs 91 octane fuel minimum. The PA-22-150 uses an O-320 at 150 HP, with 7 to 1 compression and 80/87 octane. Standard fuel capacity is 36 gal, with a 44 gal optional tank. The propeller is a 74 inch Sensenich metal fixed-pitch unit.

PERFORMANCE (PA-22-160 LANDPLANE)

The handbook gives a 141 MPH top speed and 125 MPH cruise at 75% power at sea level. Rate of climb is 800 ft/min and service ceiling is 16,500 ft. Takeoff run is 1120 ft and landing roll is 500 ft, both with flaps extended. Figures are for standard airplanes at gross weight under standard sea-level conditions.

MAINTENANCE HISTORY TO VERIFY

Look for logbook entries showing compliance with Service Bulletin 1379A (rudder inspection), SB 924 (shimmy dampener replacement and 100-hour lubrication) and SB 3548 (fuel selector valve lubrication). Also check the exhaust, muffler and heat exchanger. The cabin and carburetor heat come from the cross-over exhaust system.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	160
Gross Weight Lbs	2000
Empty Weight Lbs	1110
Useful Load Lbs	890
Baggage Capacity Lbs	100
Fuel Capacity Standard Gal	36
Fuel Capacity Optional Gal	44
Wing Span Ft	29.3

PERFORMANCE

Rate Of Climb Fpm	800
Service Ceiling Ft	16500
Absolute Ceiling Ft	19000
Fuel Burn Gph	9
Takeoff Run Ft	1120
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	1480
Landing Roll Ft	500

SAFETY NOTES

- SB 1379A (Piper considers compliance mandatory) covers PA-22 serials 22-1 thru 22-532. A 1025 steel rudder post can fail from fatigue and cause loss of control.
- SB 924: a jammed or bent shimmy dampener can cause loss of nose wheel steering and possibly partial or total loss of rudder control.
- SB 3548: the fuel selector plug can bind or freeze. Check ease of rotation every 100 hours and repeat the full service every 400 hours or annually.