

KITFOX SERIES 7 Model Guide

KITFOX SERIES 7 is a single-engine piston aircraft from Kitfox. The supplied data has no specifications, performance or weight figures for it, so none are given here. This guide covers what the documents support: SkyStar Service Bulletin #58 on the tricycle-gear nose gear piston rod bearing.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Service Bulletin #58 (May 2, 2003) applies to Series 7 tricycle gear, as well as Series 5 (Vixen, Voyager) and Series 6.
- The problem is an incorrectly modified nose gear piston rod bearing, which can make the nose gear piston bind.
- Binding can lead to failure of the nose gear and engine mount components.
- The bulletin's compliance time is prior to next flight. Ask for proof it was done.

WHAT THE BULLETIN SAYS

SkyStar Aircraft Engineering found that some builders, during construction or replacement, may not have modified the nose gear piston rod bearing correctly. That can bind the nose gear piston in operation and lead to failure of the nose gear and engine mount components.

INSPECTION TO VERIFY

The nose gear shock mount assembly is removed. Check the engine mount weldment for fatigue cracking near the shock mount attachment. Check the piston rod end for wear or bending, the piston for bending or flange cracks, and the rod end bolt. Then check for binding with the elastomers and friction washers left out.

REASSEMBLY POINTS

If the piston binds, the bulletin requires further modification of the piston rod bearing (its figure 2-1) until no binding remains. On reassembly, use liquid thread lock, apply the specified torque values and grease the rod bearing. Repairs follow 43-13-1A, 2B.

SAFETY NOTES

- Bulletin #58 compliance is prior to next flight. Do not fly a tricycle-gear example without evidence the inspection was done.
- Homebuilt or replaced nose gear parts are the concern: the bulletin says some builders may not have modified the bearing correctly.