SONEX Sonex A Model Guide

The SONEX Sonex A is a single-engine piston aircraft. The registry has no seat, year, weight or performance data for it, so this guide rests on one document, the Sonex Condition Inspection Checklist. That checklist points to an Experimental aircraft with a Jabiru engine, Dynon avionics, a tailwheel, a canopy and a baggage compartment. Use it as a pre-buy inspection guide.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The checklist is for an Experimental aircraft: it calls for experimental and passenger warning placards and Jabiru engine maintenance.
- Several parts are replaced every 500 hrs: prop flange cap screws, flywheel bolts, and the gear leg and axle bolts.
- Check the wing attach bolts, mounting angles, rear spar carry-thru and gear leg stiffeners closely for cracks, deformation or delamination.
- Ask for engine compression numbers, the fuel sample and ethanol test result, and the logbook sign-off.

ENGINE LIMITS AND FLUIDS

Maintenance data lists max RPM as 3300 rpm (3200 rpm static) and idle as 800-1000 rpm. CHT runs 250-350º F (396º F max). EGT runs 1200-1375º F (1450º F max). Oil pressure is 33-76 psi and oil temp is 160-220º F. Oil is 20W-50 or 15W-50 multigrade, capacity 3.0 – 3.5 qts.

SCHEDULED REPLACEMENTS AND TORQUE

Replace the prop flange cap screws every 500 hrs and torque them to 30 ft-lbs. Replace the flywheel bolts every 500 hrs. Replace the gear leg upper bolts (AN4-33A) and axle socket lower bolts (AN4-16A) every 500 hrs. Re-torque the prop bolts to 17 +/-3 ft-lbs. Prop tracking may be at most 1/8” off at the tips. Fill tires to 40 psi.

AIRFRAME AND SYSTEMS TO INSPECT

Look at the wing attach bolts, mounting angles and adjacent skin, the rear spar carry-thru, and the firewall for cracks or missing sealant. Check the gear leg stiffeners for delamination and broken wood inserts. Check the brakes, tailwheel pushrod and bearings, fuel tank vent, fuel filter, and ELT. Confirm the Dynon has the latest software and maps.

SAFETY NOTES

- Draw a fuel sample to check for water and contaminants, and test the ethanol content.
- Inspect the wing attach bolts, mounting angles and rear spar carry-thru for deformation, cracks or missing hardware.
- Run CHT and EGT within the listed limits; the maximums are 396º F CHT and 1450º F EGT.

AI-aggregated guide for the SONEX Sonex A · sources: SONEX CONDITION INSPECTION CHECKLIST (#102880) · generated 2026-11-24 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.