

Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six Model Guide

The Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six is a single-engine piston airplane with six or seven seats, built from 1965 to 1979. The documents cover two main versions: the PA-32-260 (260 hp) and the PA-32-300 (300 hp). Both list a 3400 lb gross weight and 84 gal of total fuel. Useful load is the key buyer question.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Gross weight is 3400 lb on both versions. Standard useful load is 1621 lb on the PA-32-260 and 1554 lb on the PA-32-300.
- Total fuel is 84 gal (83.6 usable). The Cherokee Six B handbook lists 100/130 minimum octane fuel.
- Piper Service Bulletin 1242A (rudder pedal assembly inspection) applies to PA-32-260 and PA-32-300 airplanes. Piper considers compliance mandatory.
- A Garmin GFC 500 autopilot supplement exists for the Cherokee Six series, so an autopilot upgrade is documented.

PAYLOAD AND BAGGAGE

Standard empty weight is 1779 lb (PA-32-260) and 1846 lb (PA-32-300). That leaves 1621 lb and 1554 lb of useful load at 3400 lb gross. Baggage limits are 100 lb in the forward compartment and 100 lb in the aft compartment. Always use the individual airplane's own weight and balance report.

ENGINES

The PA-32-260 uses a Lycoming O-540-E4B5 rated 260 hp at 2700 rpm. The PA-32-300 uses a Lycoming IO-540-K1G5D rated 300 hp at 2700 rpm. Both list a recommended TBO of 2000 hrs, so check engine time against it. The run-up checklist allows a maximum magneto drop of 175 rpm and a maximum difference of 50 between magnetos.

RUDDER PEDAL INSPECTION (SB 1242A)

Cracks may develop in the rudder pedal and bar assembly and in the rudder bar support. For airplanes with 1,200 hours or more, the first inspection is due at the next scheduled maintenance, within 100 hours. After that it is repeated every 100 hours. New components relieve the recurring inspection until they reach 1,200 hours. Check the logbooks for compliance.

SPECIFICATIONS

Pa32 260 Power Hp	260
Pa32 300 Power Hp	300
Total Fuel Gal	84
Usable Fuel Gal	83.6
Baggage Forward Max Lbs	100
Baggage Aft Max Lbs	100

V-SPEEDS

Vne Kts	192
Vno Kts	149
Vso Kts	47
Vs1 Kts	54
Vx Kts	80
Vy Kts	90
Va At 3400 Lbs Kts	131
Vfe Kts	109

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	3400
Pa32 260 Empty Weight Lbs	1779
Pa32 300 Empty Weight Lbs	1846
Pa32 260 Useful Load Lbs	1621
Pa32 300 Useful Load Lbs	1554

SAFETY NOTES

- Each handbook applies only to the airplane with the matching serial number. If the handbook and the FAA-approved Flight Manual disagree, the Flight Manual governs.
- SB 1242A was issued because cracks can develop in the rudder pedal and bar assembly. Confirm the inspection history before purchase.
- The preflight checklist calls for draining 5 sumps and checking all 4 fuel tanks visually.