Piper PA-36 Pawnee Brave Model Guide

The Piper PA-36 Pawnee Brave is a single-seat, strut-braced low-wing agricultural aircraft built from 1973 to 1982. It has a welded chrome-moly steel tube fuselage, a fixed undercarriage and the hopper in front of the pilot. It came in three models, the Brave 285, 300 and 375, which differ mainly in engine.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Three models: PA-36-285 (Continental), PA-36-300 (Lycoming IO-540, 300 hp) and PA-36-375 (Lycoming IO-720, 375 hp).
- Normal-category MTOW is 3900 lb. Restricted-category (agricultural) weight is 4400 lb on the 285 and 300, and 4800 lb on the 375.
- Check the fuel system closely: an ATSB report ties a PA-36-300 power loss to water-contaminated fuel.
- Piper parts catalog 761-470 covers the model. Other Piper manuals and service publications are mostly via Veryon subscription.

MODELS AND ENGINES

The PA-36 was announced as a new version of the PA-25 Pawnee. It has a new wing with removable leading edges and a standard hopper of 30 cubic feet, with a 38 cubic foot hopper optional. The 285 hp Continental model was later called the Brave 285. The Brave 300 (Lycoming IO-540) followed and became standard. The 375 hp Lycoming IO-720 Brave 375 came in 1977.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Check fuel system condition and any non-standard fuel tank installations, especially a hopper used as a ferry tank. Confirm the propeller model and hub serial suffix. Hartzell bulletin HC-SB-61-227 affects some two-blade aluminum-hub propellers on agricultural aircraft made before April 1997. A 'B' suffix hub is not affected. Check the electric fuel pump is the right one for your model.

CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

The PA-36 is FAA type certificate A9SO (Normal category), with Restricted category under A10SO. New Zealand type-accepted it in 2020. Piper stopped microfiche in 2008, so manuals and service publications are now mostly via Veryon subscription, with some free PDF downloads from Piper.

SPECIFICATIONS

Pa 36 285 Engine Power Hp	285
Pa 36 300 Engine Power Hp	300
Pa 36 375 Engine Power Hp	375

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	3900
Pa 36 285 And 300 Restricted Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	4400
Pa 36 375 Restricted Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	4800

SAFETY NOTES

- ATSB AO-2019-043: a PA-36-300 lost engine power after take-off, probably from water-contaminated fuel, and made a forced landing that struck power lines.
- Do not rely on colour or smell to detect water in fuel. Use water-detecting paper or paste, or look for cloudiness.
- The ATSB found the hopper was used as a ferry fuel tank against the manufacturer's recommendation, with no approved technical data on the installed fuel system.

AI-aggregated guide for the Piper PA-36 Pawnee Brave · sources: Type Acceptance Report TAR 19/21B/27 – Piper PA-36 Pawnee Brave (#11848) · ATSB Transport Safety Report: Aviation Occurrence Investigation (Short) AO-2019-043 (#11920) · HARTZELL PROPELLER INC. SERVICE BULLETIN HC-SB-61-227 Propeller - Hub Inspection (#439) · CUSTOMER SERVICE OWNER PUBLICATIONS CATALOG (#11914) · RAPCO INC. FUEL PUMP APPLICATION GUIDE (#11926) · generated 2026-10-16 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.