

Piper PA-23 Aztec Model Guide

The Piper PA-23 Aztec is a twin-engine piston aircraft built from 1960 to 1981 and seating 4 to 6. The limitations sheet lists 250 hp. Maximum takeoff weight is 5,200 lb, with 144 gal of fuel on board, of which 140 gal is usable. This guide draws on Aztec E and F handbooks, a weight-and-balance sheet and airworthiness directives.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Max takeoff 5,200 lb, max landing 4,940 lb, max zero fuel 4,400 lb. Baggage limit is 150 lb forward and 150 lb rear.
- Fuel: 144 gal total, 140 usable. The limitations sheet lists 100/130 fuel.
- Key speeds (KIAS, E/F checklist): rotate 70, best rate 102, best single-engine rate 89, gear-extended limit 130.
- Check AD compliance: the flap control torque tube and exhaust system have recurring inspections.

WEIGHT AND BALANCE

The W&B sheet gives CG limits of +99.0 to +100.5 at 5,200 lb (gear extended), +97.0 to +100.5 at 5,000 lb, and +87.6 to +100.5 at 3,540 lb or less. Fuel arm is 113, forward baggage arm 10, rear baggage arm 183. A heater swap changes empty weight: an 18 lb South Wind unit is replaced by a 25 lb C&D unit.

INSPECTIONS AND ADS

CASA AD/PA-23/89 requires flap control torque tube inspection at 2,500 hours, then every 500 hours until replaced. AD/PA-23/46 requires exhaust and alternate air heat shroud inspection at each scheduled inspection (FAA AD 72-14-05 sets intervals of 100 hours or less). The NZ schedule also lists wing spar, engine mount and stabilator fitting items.

OPERATION AND SUPPORT

Checklist power: climb 24 in. MP and 2400 RPM; cruise 22-23 in. MP and 2200-2300 RPM. Aztec F charts use approach speeds of 76 KIAS (normal landing) and 68 KIAS (short field). The Piper parts catalog covers the Apache and Aztec; Piper ceased Aerofiche, and subscriptions are via Avantext.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	250
Total Fuel Capacity Gal	144
Usable Fuel Gal	140

PERFORMANCE

Approach Speed Kts	76
Short Field Approach Speed Kts	68
Descent Speed Kts	132
Descent Rate Fpm	1000
Emergency Descent Speed Kts	143

V-SPEEDS

Vr Kts	70
Vx Kts	93
Vy Kts	102
Vxse Kts	85
Vyse Kts	89
Vle Kts	130
Vfe Full Kts	108

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	5200
Max Landing Weight Lbs	4940
Max Zero Fuel Weight Lbs	4400
Baggage Forward Max Lbs	150
Baggage Rear Max Lbs	150
Cg Aft Limit Inches	100.5
Cg Forward Limit At Max Weight Inches	99

SAFETY NOTES

- Engine failure after takeoff (E/F checklist): pitch for blue line, gear and flaps up, feather the inoperative prop, hold zero sideslip.
- Emergency sheet: hold the speed at engine failure (100 KIAS max) until obstacles are cleared, then secure the inoperative engine.
- Handbooks apply only to the serial number named on the title page. The Aztec F POH is dated October 1, 1975. The Apache manual covers a different model.

AI-aggregated guide for the Piper PA-23 Aztec · sources: Weight & Balance for Piper PA-23 Aztec (#12640) · Emergency Procedures for the Piper PA-23 Aztec (#12678) · PA-23-250 E/F Piper Aztec Checklist (#12637) · Pilot's Operating Handbook (#12688) · SCHEDULE OF AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES (#12661) · AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE AD/PA-23/46 (#12670) · Airworthiness Directive Schedule Aeroplanes Piper PA-23 Series (Apache and Aztec) (#12671) · HEATER INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR MODEL CD25K KIT, P/N CD940-25K12 AND CD940-25K24, MODEL CD35K KIT, P/N CD940-35K12 AND CD940-35K24, MODEL CD45K KIT, P/N CD940-45K12 AND CD940-45K24 (#12664) · AZTEC PARTS CATALOG (#12652) · generated 2026-10-15 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.