

Beechcraft A36 Bonanza Model Guide

The Beechcraft A36 Bonanza is a single-engine piston airplane, listed from 1970 with no end year, seating 4 to 6. It belongs to the Model 36 family (36, A36, A36TC, B36TC, G36). Family-wide maxima reach up to 1000 nm range, 195 kt cruise and 25000 ft ceiling. Treat those as family figures and get A36 numbers from its own POH.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Seats 4 to 6. The Model 36 family lists up to 6 passengers and up to 2100 kg maximum takeoff weight across its variants.
- Family maxima (up to 195 kt cruise, up to 1000 nm range) are not A36 figures. Use the A36 POH for performance and loading.
- Budget 10-15 hours of labor for a single-engine prebuy. Do Phase 1 first and consider stopping if it finds high-cost issues.
- Some A36s are G1000-equipped. Check that the installed software and databases are current.

ENGINE, PROPELLER AND EXHAUST CHECKS

The prebuy checklist starts with hot cylinder compressions, a borescope of every cylinder, and cylinder head cracks near injector nozzles and spark plug holes. Cut open the oil filter and look for metal. Check the crankcase and front crankshaft seal for leaks. Inspect the exhaust for leaks, cracks and bulges, and the engine mount for corrosion. On turbocharged variants (A36TC, B36TC), also check the turbo, wastegate and ducting.

LANDING GEAR, AIRFRAME AND RECORDS

Phase 2 includes a full gear retract test, covering rigging tolerances, gearbox free play and emergency extension. Gear transit should take 11-13 seconds on 14v or 4-8 seconds on 28V with a proper power cart. Check wing bolt tub fittings for corrosion, the tail for strike damage, and the wings for fuel leaks. Confirm complete logbooks, AD and SB compliance lists, and 337s for any modifications.

DOCUMENTS WORTH REQUESTING

Ask for the A36 Pilot's Operating Handbook. Its contents list placards, emergency procedures, weight and balance, and range and endurance profiles for 74 and 44 gallons. For avionics, the Garmin G1000 Cockpit Reference Guide covers the A36/G36. A Bonanza wiring diagram manual lists A36, A36TC and B36TC serial ranges.

SAFETY NOTES

- Fuel starvation can occur with fuel still aboard. Keep the ball centered, line up fully with the runway before takeoff power, and select the uphill tank when slipping.
- Know the electric trim runaway procedure for your A36 from its POH or supplement. Practice fuel selection and trim failures at checkout and at least annually.
- G1000 terrain and weather displays are aids only, not for primary terrain avoidance or for penetrating thunderstorms.