

Beechcraft F33A Bonanza Model Guide

The Beechcraft F33A Bonanza is a conventional-tail, single-engine piston Bonanza built from 1970 to 1994. It seats 4 to 6 and has a 285-hp Continental IO-520 with a three-blade propeller. Period flight reports call it a solid "full fuel and three adults" airplane with a very large baggage area.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Full fuel (74 gal usable) plus three adults was workable in a 1989 example, with a 3,412-lb max ramp weight.
- A 1991 flight test measured 173 knots true at 75% power, burning 14.4 gph at 8,500 ft.
- The baggage area takes 270 lb. A fifth seat in the baggage hold is limited by weight and balance.
- The panel layout is dated, there is no rudder trim, and dual yokes can hide the subpanel switches.

PERFORMANCE IN A FLIGHT TEST

A 1989 F33A with 285 hp climbed at 1,200 fpm at 96 knots and 800 fpm at 115 knots. At 65% power it made about 165 knots true on just under 14 gph. The testers said four hours at that setting leaves a full hour of fuel. At 45% power it flew about 135 knots for 6.5 hours.

CABIN, LOAD AND HANDLING

The cabin is tall with good leg and headroom and excellent visibility. The cargo-size baggage door has robust latches. Handling is smooth, especially in roll, with interconnected ailerons and rudder. The tested airplane's 70-lb air conditioning added to its empty weight, so check the useful load of any example you inspect.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Look for factory options such as the large cargo door, three-blade propeller and avionics. Confirm flap flex shaft history against the flap flex shaft AD. Ask whether wingtip auxiliary tanks (20 gal each) are fitted. Do a full preflight, including draining the fuel sumps and the fuel selector valve sump.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	285
Propeller Diameter In	80
Usable Fuel Gal	74
Max Baggage Lbs	270
Optional Tip Tank Capacity Gal	20

PERFORMANCE

Best Rate Climb Fpm	1200
Cruise 75pct Tas Kts	173
Cruise 65pct Tas Kts	165
Cruise 45pct Tas Kts	135
Fuel Burn 75pct Gph	14.4

V-SPEEDS

Best Rate Climb Kts	96
Maneuvering Speed Tip Tanks Kts	126

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Ramp Weight Lbs	3412
Max Baggage Lbs	270

SAFETY NOTES

- Flap flex shafts made January 2000 through April 2001 must be replaced under the AD. Check the logbooks for any flap shaft or actuator replaced since 1 March 2000.
- With tip tanks, move fuel only in level flight. Start transfer with both mains half full and watch the gauges, because fuel burn can exceed the transfer rate.
- Performance charts assume a paved, level, dry runway and the stated technique. Apply a generous margin; the takeoff chart has no data beyond 10 knots of tailwind.