

Cessna 180 Skywagon Model Guide

The Cessna 180 Skywagon is a four-seat, high-wing, tailwheel piston single built from 1953 to 1981. The first examples had a 225/230 hp Continental engine, a 36-foot wing and large flaps that gave a 54-knot stall. It is valued for short-field and bush work rather than speed, with a realistic cruise of about 135 knots.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Built 1953-1981 as a four-seat tailwheel utility airplane, prized for short takeoffs and rough strips rather than speed (about 135 knots cruise).
- Low-time examples sold for \$60,000 to \$110,000 in 2009. The dealer rule of thumb is to add \$10,000 to the model year (a 1970 would be about \$80,000).
- There are 94 supplemental type certificates for the 180, so many used airplanes are heavily modified. Check the paperwork for every modification.
- Insurance: the best rates need 250 hours total, 50 tailwheel and 25 in make and model. Otherwise quotes can run up to 75 percent higher.

PERFORMANCE AND RANGE

Original 180 figures quoted: 610 ft takeoff distance, 450 ft landing run, 54-knot stall with flaps. Early tanks held 60 gallons. Later airplanes were typically fitted with 79-gallon long-range tanks. At 13 gallons per hour, out-and-back range at max cruise is just over 300 nm.

FLOATS, SKIS AND WEIGHTS

Floats and skis cost payload. Wipline 3000 float data lists gross weight at 2,850 lbs for the 180 to 180F and 2,950 lbs for the 180G to 180K. Kenmore STC SA649NW raises gross weight up to 3,190 lbs. Aerocet 3400 amphibian floats on the 180J-K allow 100 lbs in each float locker.

WHAT TO CHECK WHEN BUYING

Ask which STCs are installed, especially engine, engine mount and tail changes. One owner reported that adding horsepower without a stronger horizontal stabilizer brings cracking, and that early door latches were inadequate. A dealer reports no major ADs, only minor engine and cigarette-lighter fuse ADs.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wingspan Ft	36
Fuel Capacity Early Gal	60
Fuel Capacity Long Range Gal	79

PERFORMANCE

Takeoff Distance Ft	610
Landing Roll Ft	450
Stall Speed Flaps Down Kt	54
Cruise Speed Kt	135
Fuel Burn Gph	13
Range Nm	300

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Float Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2950
Float Max Ramp Weight Lbs	2975
Float Baggage Each Lbs	100
Cg Aft Limit In	43.9
Cg Forward Limit Max Weight In	40
Cg Forward Limit Light In	35
Cg Light Weight Lbs	2125

SAFETY NOTES

- Amphibian floats: do not land on water unless the gear is fully retracted. Takeoff with a known hull leak or structural damage is prohibited.
- On floats or amphibians, retract flaps to 20° immediately after applying power for a balked landing, and avoid slips with flaps extended.
- It is a tailwheel airplane. One owner's seat slipped back on takeoff and caused a ground loop, so check the seat latches.