

CESSNA A185F AMPHIBIAN Model Guide

The CESSNA A185F AMPHIBIAN is a single-engine piston Skywagon on amphibious floats. The library data lists a 310 hp Continental IO-550 with a Hartzell 3-blade propeller, 74 gal of fuel, a 115 kt cruise at 12 gph and about 600 nm of range. Many examples are modified, so verify the installed STCs and the weight paperwork.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Library figures: 115 kt cruise, 12 gph, 74 gal fuel, 600 nm range, 1650 lb empty weight, 1550 lb useful load.
- Library max takeoff weight is 3525 lb. The Flint Aero wing tip tank STC allows 3600 lb takeoff on land and water.
- The floats add weight and drag. A flight report calls the airplane heavy in pitch, with a floor-mounted trim wheel.
- Inspect the float nose track and nose bulkhead for looseness or cracks (Wipline Service Letter 136).

WEIGHTS AND LOADING

Library data: 1650 lb empty, 1550 lb useful load, 3525 lb max takeoff, 3200 lb max ramp and landing, 270 lb baggage. The Flint Aero STC supplement allows 3600 lb takeoff (land and water) and 3600 lb water landing. Land landing stays at 3525 lb. Use the aircraft's own weight and balance form.

PERFORMANCE

Library figures: 1500 ft takeoff ground run, 2500 ft over 50 ft, 1200 ft landing, 2000 ft landing over 50 ft, 115 kt cruise, 130 kt max. With the Flint Aero STC, add 12 percent to takeoff runs and 3 percent to landing runs for each 100 lb over the base supplement weight.

FLOATS AND MODIFICATIONS

The 180/185 is among the most-modified aircraft flying. A reviewed example had Aerocet composite amphibious floats, a Robertson STOL kit, an IO-550 and wingtip extensions. Wipline 3000 floats have two hatches, each rated for 50 pounds. Check which STCs are installed and that the paperwork matches.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Hp	310
Fuel Capacity Gal	74
Range Nm	600
Wingspan Ft	38.83
Length Ft	27.5
Height Ft	12.5
Empty Weight Lbs	1650
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	3525

PERFORMANCE

Cruise Speed Kts	115
Max Speed Kts	130
Fuel Burn Gph	12
Range Nm	600
Takeoff Distance Ft	1500
Takeoff Over 50ft	2500
Landing Distance Ft	1200
Landing Over 50ft	2000

V-SPEEDS

Vso Kts	51
Vs1 Kts	60
Vx Kts	63
Vy Kts	74
Vfe Kts	93
Vno Kts	146
Va Kts	118
Vne Kts	182

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	3525
Max Ramp Weight Lbs	3200
Max Landing Weight Lbs	3200
Empty Weight Lbs	1650
Useful Load Lbs	1550
Baggage Allowance Lbs	270
Cg Forward Limit Inches	36
Cg Aft Limit Inches	46

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not exceed the gross weight authorised by each installed STC. The Flint Aero supplement sets 3600 lb takeoff and 3525 lb landing on land.
- Wipline Service Letter 136 describes oblong nose track holes that loosen the joint and can crack the nose bulkhead. Compliance is optional, and the work takes about 8-10 hours.
- With the Flint Aero wing tip tank STC the supplement lists service ceiling as Not Applicable. Do not rely on the library 15000 ft figure for that setup.