

CESSNA A185F FLOATPLANE Model Guide

The CESSNA A185F FLOATPLANE is a single-engine piston floatplane. It has a 260 hp Continental IO-520-U and a McCauley 3-blade propeller. Listed figures are 2800 lb max takeoff weight, 1650 lb empty weight, 50 gal of fuel, 100 kts cruise and 600 nm range. Many examples carry STC changes, such as wing tip tanks or STOL flaps, that alter weights and limits. Verify each airplane's paperwork.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Base figures: 260 hp, 100 kts cruise, 12 gph burn, 50 gal fuel, 600 nm range, 1150 lb useful load at 2800 lb max takeoff weight.
- Flint Aero wing tip tanks (STC SA8036NM) raise max takeoff and landing weight to 3600 lb and add up to 30 US gal of fuel.
- The Robertson STOL wing and flap kit (STC SA1441WE) adds 13.0 lb and gives a 32 KIAS liftoff in the STOL procedure.
- Check the air filter: Brackett BA-8110 filters have a mandatory service bulletin and AD 78-25-06 for cracked retainers.

PERFORMANCE AND LOADING

Listed data shows 800 fpm climb, 15000 ft service ceiling, 120 kts max speed, 1600 ft takeoff and 1500 ft landing over 50 ft, and 15 kts max crosswind. Baggage allowance is 200 lb and the CG range is 36 to 46 inches. On wing tip tank airplanes, add 12% to the takeoff water run and 3% to the landing water run per 100 lb over the base weight.

MODIFICATIONS TO VERIFY

Flint Aero tip tanks come with floats per EDO-AIRE 582-3430 (STC SA832EA). At 3600 lb, flaps-up stall is 54 KCAS and wing loading is 19.35 lb/sq ft. The Robertson STOL kit (STC SA1441WE) adds full-span trailing edge flaps and a recontoured leading edge. Each supplement must be carried aboard, so confirm the paperwork and the weight and balance.

MANUALS AND RECORDS

Aircraft Spruce lists POH part 14-02651 (A185F 1973) and 14-02650 (A185F 1973-1974). A sample FAA Form 337 from June 18, 1980 records the Robertson STOL installation on serial 18502213. Ask for the same kind of record for any STC fitted to the airplane you are buying.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Hp	260
Engine Model	Continental IO-520-U
Propeller	McCauley 3-blade
Wingspan Ft	36
Length Ft	22.92
Height Ft	8.83
Fuel Capacity Gal	50

PERFORMANCE

Cruise Speed Kts	100
Max Speed Kts	120
Range Nm	600
Fuel Burn Gph	12
Rate Of Climb Fpm	800
Service Ceiling Ft	15000
Takeoff Distance Ft	1600
Landing Distance Ft	1500

V-SPEEDS

Vne Kts	175
Vno Kts	130
Va Kts	100
Vfe Kts	100
Vx Kts	75
Vy Kts	80
Vs1 Kts	55
Vso Kts	47

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Empty Weight Lbs	1650
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2800
Useful Load Lbs	1150
Baggage Allowance Lbs	200
Cg Forward Limit Inches	36
Cg Aft Limit Inches	46

SAFETY NOTES

- Brackett BA-8110 filter: an aluminum retainer can crack. AD 78-25-06 requires replacement before 526 hours. One Cessna 180 seaplane lost power on takeoff.
- Service Bulletin 7: a loose airlock fastener let solvents loosen the gasket on filters made before August 1981, risking gasket ingestion. Inspect the filter and fasteners.
- Sources disagree on airspeed limits: listed VNE is 175 kts, the Robertson supplement shows 182 KIAS. Confirm against the placards and the installed STCs.