

CESSNA 172P SKYHAWK Model Guide

The CESSNA 172P SKYHAWK is a single-engine piston, fixed-pitch-prop airplane with a 160 hp Lycoming O-320 (the 172 family seats up to 4). The 1982 and 1985 handbooks give 120 kt cruise at 75% power at 8000 ft, 700 fpm climb and 40 gallons usable fuel. Check engine type, weights and AD history before buying.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Handbook speeds: 123 kt max at sea level, 120 kt cruise at 75% power at 8000 ft. Climb is 700 fpm and service ceiling is 13,000 ft.
- Handbook weights: 2400 lb takeoff/landing, 2407 lb ramp, 1427 lb standard empty, 980 lb useful load. Baggage allowance is 120 lb.
- Short-field figures: takeoff 890 ft roll and 1625 ft over 50 ft; landing 540 ft roll and 1280 ft over 50 ft.
- Confirm the engine: stock is a 160 hp O-320 at 2400 lb, but some airplanes have a 180 hp O-360 and a 2550 lb gross-weight STC.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

The FAA current-AD list for the 172P has 12 entries. Subjects: seat rails and roller housings, engine, alternate static source valve, forward door post, fuel strainer, fuel/oil/hydraulic hoses, air filters, aileron hinge pin, control wheel yoke guide, oil coolers and elevator control system. Ask for logbook proof of compliance for each one.

MODIFICATIONS AND PAPERWORK

STC SA2196CE raises gross weight to 2550 lbs on airplanes already fitted with STC SA4428SW (180 hp O-360). Its flight manual supplement must be attached to the handbook. The handbook must be carried in the airplane. Handbook empty weight and useful load differ slightly between documents, so use the weighed figures for the specific airplane.

RUNWAY PERFORMANCE NOTES

Chart notes: decrease distances 10% for each 9 knots of headwind. On dry grass, add 15% to the takeoff ground roll and 45% to the landing ground roll. Landing with flaps up needs 7 KIAS more approach speed and 35% longer distances. Chart figures are calculated values and vary with each airplane.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Model	Lycoming O-320-D2J
Engine Hp	160
Wingspan Ft	36.08
Length Ft	27.17
Height Ft	8.92
Fuel Capacity Gal	43
Usable Fuel Gal	40
Propeller Diameter Inches	75

PERFORMANCE

Max Speed Kts	123
Cruise Speed Kts	120
Rate Of Climb Fpm	700
Service Ceiling Ft	13000
Takeoff Ground Roll Ft	890
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	1625
Landing Ground Roll Ft	540
Landing Over 50ft Ft	1280

V-SPEEDS

Vne Kts	158
Va Kts	105
Vfe Kts	85
Vy Kts	74
Vx Kts	62
Vr Kts	55
Vs1 Kts	50

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Ramp Weight Lbs	2407
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2400
Max Landing Weight Lbs	2400
Standard Empty Weight Lbs	1427
Useful Load Lbs	980
Baggage Allowance Lbs	120
Cg Forward Limit Inches	34
Cg Aft Limit Inches	40

SAFETY NOTES

- An AAIB report on a 172P covers a bounced landing after a fast, low approach. The nose gear collapsed and the prop struck the ground. Go around if a bounce is not controlled.
- Speed performance in the handbook assumes optional speed fairings, which add about 2 knots. Do not assume a particular airplane matches the published figures.
- Never exceed speed is 158 KIAS and maneuvering speed is 105 KIAS in the data provided. Do not make full or abrupt control movements above maneuvering speed.