

CESSNA 172N SKYHAWK Model Guide

The CESSNA 172N SKYHAWK is a single-engine piston airplane with a 160 hp Avco Lycoming O-320-H2AD and a fixed-pitch 75 inch propeller. The handbook lists 125 knots maximum and 122 knots cruise at 75% power at 8000 ft. Range is 485 NM on 40 gallons usable fuel. Use the weight and balance records for the individual airplane you are buying.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Handbook cruise is 122 knots at 75% power at 8000 ft. Range is 485 NM on 40 gallons usable, with 45 minute reserve.
- Max takeoff weight is 2300 lbs and baggage allowance is 120 lbs. Standard tanks hold 43 gallons; long range tanks hold 54.
- Takeoff ground roll is 805 ft and 1440 ft over a 50 ft obstacle. Landing ground roll is 520 ft and 1250 ft over 50 ft.
- Some airplanes carry an STC with a 180 hp engine and 2550 lb gross weight. Confirm the paperwork and the performance data for that airplane.

WHAT IT CARRIES AND HOW IT PERFORMS

Max takeoff and landing weight is 2300 lbs, with a max ramp weight of 2307 lbs. Rate of climb at sea level is 770 fpm and service ceiling is 14,200 ft. Stall speed is 50 knots flaps up and 44 knots flaps down, power off. Oil capacity is 6 qts.

WEIGHT VARIES BY AIRPLANE

Standard empty weight varies by handbook year: 1379 lbs (1977 POH), 1397 lbs (1979 POH) and 1403 lbs (1980 POH). Skyhawk II versions are heavier. Only the weight and balance records carried in the airplane give its true empty weight, arm and equipment. The pilot is responsible for loading it properly.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Look for the 180 hp O-360 engine and 2550 lb gross weight STC (SA4428SW and SA2196CE). Its checklist notes that the POH Section 5 performance may be inaccurate for that engine. Check the handbook revision status, and do the magneto check at 1700 RPM: max drop 150 RPM, max difference 50 RPM.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Hp	160
Fuel Capacity Gal	43
Empty Weight Lbs	1397
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2300
Max Ramp Weight Lbs	2307
Wingspan Ft	36
Length Ft	27
Baggage Allowance Lbs	120

PERFORMANCE

Max Speed Kts	125
Cruise Speed Kts	122
Range Nm	485
Rate Of Climb Fpm	770
Service Ceiling Ft	14200
Takeoff Distance Ft	805
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	1440
Landing Distance Ft	520

V-SPEEDS

Vr Kts	55
Vx Kts	62
Vy Kts	73
Vfe Kts	85
Va Kts	104
Vno Kts	128
Vne Kts	160
Best Glide Speed Kts	65

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2300
Max Ramp Weight Lbs	2307
Max Landing Weight Lbs	2300
Basic Empty Weight Lbs	1397
Baggage Allowance Lbs	120

SAFETY NOTES

- Maximum demonstrated crosswind for takeoff or landing is 15 knots.
- Range and endurance can vary by 10% or more with leaning technique, fuel metering, engine and propeller condition, and turbulence. Plan fuel conservatively.
- Treat the propeller as live whenever the master switch is on, external power is used, or the prop is pulled through by hand.