

CESSNA 310L Model Guide

CESSNA 310L is a piston light twin from the Cessna 310 family, where family-level figures reach up to 6 passengers. Listed figures are 5200 lb max takeoff weight, 2000 lb useful load, 170 kt cruise and 80 gal fuel. Accident reports in the files show two Continental IO-470 engines on 1966 examples, so confirm the engine fit of any aircraft you inspect.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Listed max takeoff weight is 5200 lb, empty weight 3200 lb, useful load 2000 lb, fuel 80 gal. Check the actual aircraft's weight and balance records.
- Listed cruise is 170 kt, range 1000 nm, ceiling 20000 ft. Family-level range is lower at up to 640 nm, so verify against the aircraft's own manual.
- Library data lists a Continental IO-520, but accident reports on 1966 examples show IO-470 engines. Confirm engine model on the data plate and in the logs.
- Landing gear is electric, with one motor driving all three legs. Two reported gear failures involved linkage and a relay, so inspect and function-test it closely.

SIZE, LOADING AND PERFORMANCE

Listed dimensions are 36 ft wingspan, 27.75 ft length and 8.83 ft height. Max ramp weight is 5250 lb and baggage allowance is 200 lb. Listed takeoff distance is 2500 ft and landing distance is 2200 ft, with a climb rate of 1000 fpm. Treat these as reference figures and check them against the aircraft's own manual.

LANDING GEAR HISTORY

A single electric motor moves all three gear legs through linkages, with a hand-crank handle between the front seats. In one 1966 aircraft, a fractured nose-gear adjusting bellcrank and fork bolt led to a wheels-up landing. In another event, the gear-down relay probably stuck on and damaged the gearbox. Ask for gear rigging, relay and linkage inspection records.

SERVICE ITEMS AND UPGRADES

Cessna bulletins MEB94-3 and MEB94-4 cover 310L serials 310L0001 through 310L0207. They concern Dukes auxiliary fuel boost pumps, which need overhaul or replacement at 10 years from manufacture or last overhaul. Documents also list 310L approvals for Hartzell propellers (STC SA234CH), the Garmin GMX200 and JPI EDM-960. Check the logs for these.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wingspan Ft	36
Length Ft	27.75
Height Ft	8.83
Empty Weight Lbs	3200
Fuel Capacity Gal	80
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	5200

PERFORMANCE

Cruise Speed Kts	170
Max Speed Kts	200
Range Nm	1000
Service Ceiling Ft	20000
Rate Of Climb Fpm	1000
Takeoff Distance Ft	2500
Landing Distance Ft	2200

V-SPEEDS

Vx Kts	70
Vy Kts	80
Vne Kts	200
Vs1 Kts	70
Vso Kts	60

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	5200
Max Ramp Weight Lbs	5250
Basic Empty Weight Lbs	3200
Useful Load Lbs	2000
Baggage Allowance Lbs	200
Cg Range Min Inches	35
Cg Range Max Inches	45

SAFETY NOTES

- Failure of an auxiliary fuel boost pump could cause engine stoppage, and shattered carbon vanes have reduced engine power. Check pump age and vane type.
- The gear warning horn sounds if throttles are below about 12 inHg with the gear up, or if the red light is on. Never ignore a missing green light.
- Before buying, test the manual gear extension handle and the gear indication lights.