

# CESSNA L19 305A BIRD DOG Model Guide

The CESSNA L19 305A BIRD DOG is a single-engine piston Army liaison and observation aircraft, built with Cessna 170 wings and a Cessna 195 tail. Library data lists a Continental O-470, a McCauley 2-blade propeller, 100 kt cruise and 36 gal of fuel. It is now flown as a warbird and as a glider tug.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Library figures: 100 kt cruise, 130 kt maximum, about 10 gph fuel burn, 36 gal fuel and 500 nm range.
- Weights: 2500 lbs max takeoff, 1500 lbs empty, 1100 lbs useful load and 200 lbs baggage allowance.
- Short-field performer: 800 ft takeoff roll and 600 ft landing roll, or 1200 ft and 800 ft over a 50 ft obstacle.
- Sources disagree on engine power (library 260 hp, other sources 213 hp). Confirm the actual engine from the aircraft records.

## BACKGROUND

Cessna's Model 305 first flew on 14 December 1949 and won the US Army contract in 1950. It was designed to use runways as short as 600 feet. Flaps extend to 60 degrees. Over 3,400 were built, and 120+ are still airworthy.

## VARIANTS AND USES

The L-19A was the main model, with 2486 built. In 1962 it was redesignated O-1A. The L-19E was the final production variant and had a higher gross weight. Canadian Air Cadet tugs include L19 A and C models that differ in configuration. Ector converted some to the 213-hp Mountaineer and 240-hp Super Mountaineer.

## WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Confirm the variant and engine against records. The library lists a 38 ft wingspan and 260 hp, while the O-1E data shows 36 ft 0 in and a 213-hp O-470-11. Ask whether the airframe was restored or only rebuilt. One owner's example had no interior panels and two missing instruments. Ask about any glider-towing history.

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Engine Hp              | 260   |
| Wingspan Ft            | 38    |
| Length Ft              | 28    |
| Height Ft              | 8     |
| Fuel Capacity Gal      | 36    |
| Empty Weight Lbs       | 1500  |
| Max Takeoff Weight Lbs | 2500  |
| Service Ceiling Ft     | 15000 |

## PERFORMANCE

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Cruise Speed Kts    | 100   |
| Max Speed Kts       | 130   |
| Range Nm            | 500   |
| Rate Of Climb Fpm   | 1000  |
| Fuel Burn Gph       | 10    |
| Takeoff Distance Ft | 800   |
| Landing Distance Ft | 600   |
| Service Ceiling Ft  | 15000 |

## V-SPEEDS

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Vne Kts  | 150 |
| Vno Kts  | 110 |
| Vfe Kts  | 100 |
| Va Kts   | 90  |
| Vx Kts   | 70  |
| Vy Kts   | 70  |
| Vref Kts | 65  |
| Vs1 Kts  | 60  |

## WEIGHT & BALANCE

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Max Takeoff Weight Lbs | 2500     |
| Max Ramp Weight Lbs    | 2600     |
| Max Landing Weight Lbs | 2500     |
| Basic Empty Weight Lbs | 1500     |
| Useful Load Lbs        | 1100     |
| Baggage Allowance Lbs  | 200      |
| Cg Range Inches        | 36 to 46 |

## SAFETY NOTES

- Library speeds: stall 60 kt clean and 50 kt landing, best glide 65 kt, max crosswind 15 kt. Check these against the aircraft's own placards and manual.
- Limits: max ramp weight 2600 lbs, max landing weight 2500 lbs, CG range 36 to 46 inches. Verify against current weight and balance paperwork.
- One owner's Bird Dog was wrecked towing sailplanes in 1987. Inspect the history and structure of any former glider tug carefully.