

CESSNA 172C Model Guide

CESSNA 172C is a single-engine piston Cessna from the 172 family. Library figures show a 2400 lb max takeoff weight, 110 kt cruise and 600 nm range on 40 gal of fuel. Its 1963 owner's manual lists a different gross weight, engine and fuel capacity, so check any airplane against its own papers.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Library data: 110 kt cruise, 8 gph burn, 600 nm range, 13000 ft service ceiling and 730 fpm climb.
- Useful load is 800 lb on a 1600 lb empty weight; baggage allowance is 120 lb.
- Sources conflict: the 1963 manual shows 2300 lb gross, 145 hp Continental and 39 gal; library shows 2400 lb, 150 hp Lycoming, 40 gal.
- Check the fuel selector valve service bulletin and the seat rail inspection AD in the logbook before buying.

PERFORMANCE AND LIMITS

Library figures: takeoff distance 1600 ft, landing distance 1500 ft, max crosswind 15 kt, best glide 65 kt. Stall is 54 kt clean and 48 kt in landing configuration. Vne is 144, Vno 126 and Vfe 85. The 172 family as a whole reaches up to 140 kt cruise and 17000 ft ceiling; those are not 172C figures.

WHAT TO INSPECT

A McFarlane service bulletin covers MC0513120 series fuel selector valves; all CESSNA 172C serials are listed. The outlet fitting can crack after valve overhaul, so check the logbook for valve service. A seat rail AD requires repetitive inspection of seat rails, rollers and lock pin engagement, including at 100-hour inspections.

WEIGHT AND PAPERWORK

The 1963 manual lists 2300 lb gross, a 145 hp Continental engine and 39 gal fuel; the library lists 2400 lb, a 150 hp Lycoming O-320 and 40 gal. An Aerocet float supplement gives a 2250 lb maximum weight for the 172C. Confirm the weight limit and engine in the airplane's own papers.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wingspan Ft	36.08
Length Ft	27.17
Height Ft	8.92
Cruise Speed Kts	110
Range Nm	600
Service Ceiling Ft	13000
Rate Of Climb Fpm	730
Fuel Capacity Gal	40

PERFORMANCE

Cruise Speed Kts	110
Max Speed Kts	124
Fuel Burn Gph	8
Takeoff Distance Ft	1600
Landing Distance Ft	1500
Max Crosswind Kts	15
Best Glide Speed Kts	65
Rate Of Climb Fpm	730

V-SPEEDS

Vr Kts	55
Vx Kts	70
Vy Kts	74
Vfe Kts	85
Vno Kts	126
Vne Kts	144
Vs1 Kts	50
Vso Kts	44

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2400
Max Landing Weight Lbs	2400
Empty Weight Lbs	1600
Useful Load Lbs	800
Baggage Allowance Lbs	120
Fuel Capacity Gal	40

SAFETY NOTES

- Fuel selector valve outlet fittings can deform or crack after overhaul; replacement is mandatory on affected lots per the service bulletin.
- Seat slippage or a seat roller leaving the rail can leave the pilot unable to reach the controls; follow the seat rail AD inspections.
- Preflight checklist: oil 6 to 8 quarts; magneto check allows a maximum 125 rpm drop.