

CESSNA 172L SKYHAWK Model Guide

The CESSNA 172L SKYHAWK is a single-engine piston Cessna from the 172 family, which the registry lists as seating up to 4 passengers. The 1972 equipment list shows a Lycoming O-320-E2D engine with a fixed-pitch McCauley propeller. These sources give no variant-specific cruise or range figures, so check the airplane's own POH and weight-and-balance data.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sample 1972 loading: 1364 lb licensed empty weight, 2300 lb total with two front, two rear occupants and baggage.
- The equipment list shows a Lycoming O-320-E2D, a fixed-pitch McCauley prop, a 60-amp alternator and a 12-volt battery.
- Family-level maxima (not this variant): up to 140 kt cruise, 700 nm range, 17000 ft ceiling.
- Confirm the engine is original or covered by an STC, and check the paperwork for alterations.

EQUIPMENT AND LOADING

The 1972 equipment list shows a Lycoming O-320-E2D engine, a fixed-pitch McCauley propeller, a 14-volt 60-amp alternator and a 12-volt 25 amp-hour battery. The sample normal-category load is 1364 lb empty, 240 lb in front, 340 lb in the rear and 13 lb of baggage, for 2300 lb total. Unusable fuel is 4 gallons (24 lb).

SPEEDS AND SETTINGS FROM THE CHECKLIST

The checklist gives these figures. Normal approach is 75 MPH. A short or soft-field landing uses 40° flaps at 70 MPH. A go-around climb is 75 MPH. The engine-failure glide is 80 MPH. Runup is at 1700 RPM, and full throttle on takeoff reads 2300 RPM plus or minus 50. The preflight calls for at least 6 quarts of oil.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Review the weight and balance data sheet and any FAA Form 337 for alterations. A RAM Aircraft supplemental flight manual (STC SA2375SH, dated 1987) covers O-320-D2J or O-320-E2D engines modified per an STC. It lists 150 HP continuous at 2650 RPM and 160 HP for takeoff at 2700 RPM. The documents quote wing fuel as 36/48 gallons in one place and 42/52 in another, so confirm the real capacity. Also check the vacuum reading (4.6-5.4 inches), the alternator belt and the fuel sumps.

PERFORMANCE

Family Max Cruise Speed Kt	140
Family Max Range Nm	700
Family Max Service Ceiling Ft	17000

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Sample Licensed Empty Weight Lbs	1364
Sample Total Loaded Weight Lbs	2300
Sample Front Occupants Lbs	240
Sample Rear Passengers Lbs	340
Sample Baggage Lbs	13
Unusable Fuel Gal	4
Unusable Fuel Lbs	24

SAFETY NOTES

- Engine fire in flight: mixture idle cut-off, fuel selector off, master off, 120 MPH or more, execute a forced landing. Do not attempt a restart.
- Electrical fire: master and avionics off, close cabin heat and vents, then use the extinguisher. Do not reset circuit breakers.
- The pilot and owner are responsible for loading the airplane properly. Use the aircraft's own licensed empty weight, arm and moment.