

Cessna L-19 Bird Dog Model Guide

The Cessna L-19 Bird Dog is a two-seat, tandem, all-metal high-wing single-engine piston aircraft built from 1950 to 1962. The Army manual covers L-19A, L-19E, TL-19A, TL-19E and TL-19D models. It was used for reconnaissance-observation and for primary, advanced and instrument training.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Two-place tandem, all-metal high-wing monoplane with a Continental six-cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled engine.
- Normal gross weight is listed as 2100, 2165 or 2400 pounds, depending on model. Confirm which model you are looking at.
- Trainer versions (TL-19A, TL-19D, TL-19E) have extra controls and instruments in the rear compartment.
- Parts are available, mostly NOS or used. Examples: flap assembly \$250, brake master cylinder assembly \$350.

WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT IS BUILT

The Army manual describes a Cessna-built, all-metal, high-wing, two-place tandem monoplane. It was designed as a landplane but can be converted to a seaplane with floats and seaplane fins. The manual covers serial numbers 50-1327 through 57-6277.

VARIANTS AND TRAINER MODIFICATIONS

The TL-19A and TL-19D are instrument trainers, with controls and instruments for the student in the rear compartment. All TL-19A and TL-19E aircraft are modified L-19A and L-19E aircraft, with equipment relocated and added in both compartments.

OWNERSHIP SUPPORT AND CHECKS

A parts catalog lists NOS and used items such as the exhaust collector (used, \$400) and the muffler core (\$500). An STC parts list covers L-19 kits with and without a vacuum pump. A mandatory service bulletin covers the oil filter adapter on O-470-11 and O-470-15 engines.

SPECIFICATIONS

Seats	2
First Year	1950
Last Year	1962
Wing Span Ft	36
Overall Length	25 ft 9 1/2 in
Height To Top Of Cabin	7 ft 6 in
Engine	Continental six-cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled (O-470-11 / O-470-15 per service bulletin)

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Normal Gross Weight Min Lbs	2100
Normal Gross Weight Max Lbs	2400

SAFETY NOTES

- If an STC oil filter adapter (C6LC-11/15) is fitted, the bulletin requires inspection before further flight. It is mandatory.
- Use new copper and fiber gaskets whenever the adapter is removed, adjusted, loosened or repaired. Never fix a leak by tightening on used gaskets.
- The bulletin warns that an oil leak can cause loss of engine oil and partial or complete loss of engine power.