CESSNA A185E SKYWAGON Model Guide

The CESSNA A185E SKYWAGON is a single-engine piston Cessna 185-series tailwheel aircraft. The 185 family is listed with up to 5 passengers, up to 700 nm range, up to 145 kt cruise and a service ceiling up to 18000 ft. Those are family-level maximums, not A185E figures. The source document available here covers only the tail gear.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The A185E is a listed applicable model for the ABI 180/185 replacement tail gear assembly.
- Family-level figures only: up to 5 passengers, 700 nm range and 145 kt cruise across all 185 variants.
- The ABI tail spring changes the spring angle from 14.5 to 16.5 to reduce tail wheel shimmy.
- The tail gear is inspected before every flight and at each 100 hour and annual inspection.

TAIL GEAR ON THE A185E

The ABI 180/185 Tail Gear Assembly lists A185E among its applicable models. Its tail spring is functionally identical to the OEM part, but it has a larger end diameter and a 16.5 spring angle instead of 14.5. This is meant to cut tail wheel shimmy and to allow the heavier duty spring on older aircraft.

WHAT TO INSPECT

Before each flight, look for excessive corrosion, cracks or damage on the tail gear. At 100 hour and annual inspections, check the spring for corrosion, cracks and nicks. Move the tail side to side to check for play. If play persists after checking the saddle and tail wheel bolt torque, check the bolt holes for wear.

WEIGHT AND RECORDS

The ABI tail gear assembly weighs 11.13 lbs installed. Any installation requires weighing the removed assembly and revising the weight and balance records. Saddle bolts are torqued to 160 in-lbs. Ask whether this modification is installed and whether the records show it.

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Tail Gear Assembly Weight Lbs	11.13

SAFETY NOTES

- Obvious cracks and severe corrosion on the tail spring are cause for rejecting the part.
- Never drill or ream oversized holes in the heat treated, stress relieved tail spring.
- Lubricate the unpainted spring end with rust preventative oil or grease before fitting the tail wheel assembly.

AI-aggregated guide for the CESSNA A185E SKYWAGON · sources: ABI 180/185 Tail Gear Assembly Installation and ICA Manual (#102860) · generated 2026-11-24 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.