

Reims-Cessna F172 Model Guide

The Reims-Cessna F172 is a four-seat, fixed-gear, single-engine piston high-wing built by Reims Aviation in France and listed here for 1967 to 1986. Registry data shows a Lycoming O-320, a fixed-pitch propeller, 42 gal fuel capacity and a 2300 lb maximum takeoff weight. Engines and weights vary by variant, so check the individual aircraft.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Engine depends on year: through 1971 models used the six-cylinder O-300; from 1972 models used four-cylinder Lycoming engines.
- The F172M manual lists a Lycoming O-320-E2D, 150 HP, 80/87 minimum grade fuel, and 38 gal usable in standard tanks (48 gal with long-range tanks).
- Weights differ by source: the registry lists 2300 lbs, while a Norwegian F172N authorization page lists 2550 lbs. Confirm against the aircraft's own papers.
- Family-level context only: the wider 172 family reaches up to 140 kt cruise and 700 nm range. These are not figures for this variant.

ENGINE HISTORY TO CHECK

An F172H with the O-300-D engine lost power after takeoff when the number 2 cylinder rocker arm broke. Nine hours earlier, cylinders 2 and 4 were repaired for low compression (exhaust valves seized open). The rocker arms and bushings were not replaced, only inspected visually. That engine had 490 h since overhaul, against a limit of 1,800 h or 12 years. Review the engine logs closely.

CONVERSIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS

A Penn Yan STC (SA703GL) fits a 180 HP engine to the 172N and raises gross weight to 2550 lbs. Its supplement says the original fuel consumption and range data no longer apply, and range is reduced. A TAE 125 diesel supplement for the F172 N and P uses Jet A or Jet A-1 and a three-blade constant-speed propeller. Make sure the right supplement is in the aircraft.

DIMENSIONS, FUEL AND LOADING (F172M MANUAL)

The wing area is 174 sq ft and the baggage limit is 120 lbs. Standard tanks hold 21 gal each (42 total, 38 usable). Optional long-range tanks hold 26 gal each (52 total, 48 usable). The propeller is a 75 in McCauley two-blade fixed-pitch unit. Keep the fuel selector on BOTH for takeoff, climb and landing.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Model	Lycoming O-320
Propeller	Fixed Pitch
Fuel Capacity Gal	42
Usable Fuel Gal	38
Wingspan Ft	36
Length Ft	27
Baggage Capacity Lbs	120

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2300
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SAFETY NOTES

- The F172M flight manual cover states that flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) are prohibited.
- With 1/8 tank or less, avoid a prolonged steep descent with partial power, full flaps and 80 MPH or more. Fuel starvation is possible.
- On TAE 125 diesel conversions, a simultaneous battery and alternator failure stops the engine. Watch for alternator failure indications.