

PIPER Twin Comanche PA-30 Model Guide

The PIPER Twin Comanche PA-30 is a twin-engine piston aircraft. The registry family (PA-30 and PA-39) shows up to 5 passengers, up to 168 kt cruise, up to 1130 nm range and a 19000 ft ceiling. Those are family maxima, not PA-30 figures. The documents supplied are maintenance documents, so this guide focuses on what to inspect before buying.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Family-level maxima (PA-30/PA-39): up to 168 kt cruise, 1130 nm range, 1600 kg MTOW. PA-30 specific figures are not in the inputs.
- Piper's inspection report lists 50, 100, 500 and 1000 hour inspections plus annual. Annual and 100 hour are identical in scope.
- Replace flexible oil, fuel and hydraulic lines in the engine compartment after 8 years or 1000 hours, whichever comes first.
- Service Bulletin 464 covers stabilator torque tube bearing block rivets on PA-30 serials 30-1 to 30-2000. Check logbook compliance.

SAFETY NOTES

- Use extreme caution rotating propellers by hand; the propeller may kick back. Make sure both magneto switches are off first.
- Verify the landing gear is down and locked before removing the airplane from jacks.
- Burned paint on cylinders indicates internal damage. Find and correct the cause before the aircraft returns to service.

ENGINE AND INSPECTION HISTORY

Ask for proof of the Piper inspection report items. Lycoming requires a valve inspection every 400 hours. Engine support bushings are replaced every 500 hours. Rubber gear assist cords are replaced every 500 hours or three years. Engine overhaul is listed at each 2000 hrs. Oil and filter change is every 50 hours or four months with a full-flow filter, or 25 hours with screens only.

AIRFRAME AND GEAR RECORDS

Check logbooks for Service Bulletin 464 (March 22, 1976, stabilator bearing block rivets; kit 760 835 if more than two rivets per fitting are penetrated). Also check fin front spar attachment (Service Letter 777 and AD 76-18-5), stabilator attachment bolts (Service Letter 667), stabilator free play, and gear emergency operation (Service Letter 782). Tires are 42 psi, minimum brake lining 1/64.