

Cessna 337 Super Skymaster Model Guide

The Cessna 337 Super Skymaster is a centreline-thrust twin-engine piston aircraft built from 1965 to 1980. It has a front and a rear engine, and seats 4 to 6. The 337D owner's manual lists a 4400 lb gross weight, two Continental IO-360-C engines of 210 rated BHP, and a 19,500 ft twin-engine service ceiling.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 337D manual figures: 191 mph cruise at 75% power at 5500 ft, 760 mi range on 92 gallons with no reserve.
- Gear is hydraulic and complex. Two UK incidents involved gear selection error and a hydraulic fluid loss.
- Rear-engine reliability and spotting a rear-engine failure on takeoff are noted concerns in the accident report.
- Check the records for layered STCs: a Cessna 337 with five fatalities is used as a cautionary case.

PERFORMANCE AND CAPACITY (337D MANUAL)

Top speed at sea level is 199 mph. Twin-engine climb is 1200 fpm at sea level, 300 fpm on the front engine only and 385 fpm on the rear only. Takeoff over a 50-ft obstacle takes 1545 ft. Landing over 50 ft takes 1650 ft. Standard fuel is 93 gal, or 131 gal with optional auxiliary tanks.

FAMILY AND VARIANTS

The registry family covers 27 variants, including 337A to 337H, F337, T337 turbo and P337H. Family-level maxima are up to 125 kt cruise, 1350 nm range, 19,500 ft ceiling and 6 passengers. A 1967 turbo-system article cites a 31,000 ft service ceiling and 225 mph cruise at 24,000 ft. Verify the exact variant's figures.

WHAT TO CHECK BEFORE BUYING

Inspect the landing gear hydraulics, including the power pack reservoir and the emergency hand pump. Check rear-engine condition and oil: the manual says not to operate with less than 7 quarts. Review the logbooks and FAA Form 337 entries for alterations. Drain the fuel sumps and strainers and check the tank vents for stoppage.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Rated Power Hp	210
Fuel Capacity Gal	93
Fuel Capacity With Aux Gal	131
Oil Capacity Gal	5
Propeller Diameter Inches	76

PERFORMANCE

Climb Rate Twin Fpm	1200
Climb Rate Front Only Fpm	300
Climb Rate Rear Only Fpm	385
Service Ceiling Ft	19500
Takeoff Ground Run Ft	895
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	1545
Landing Roll Ft	700
Landing Over 50ft Ft	1650

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Gross Weight Lbs	4400
Empty Weight Lbs	2655
Baggage Allowable Lbs	365

SAFETY NOTES

- An AAIB report says rear-engine reliability issues and difficulty detecting its failure on takeoff led to several fatal accidents. Add rear-engine power first.
- In one incident the pilot retracted the gear instead of the flaps on a touch-and-go. The gear and flap levers sit on opposite sides of the throttle quadrant.
- Layered STC modifications must be compatible. FAA material cites a Cessna 337 accident with 5 fatalities in which the outboard left wing separated.