

PIPER PA-28-235 Model Guide

PIPER PA-28-235 is a single-engine piston Cherokee, which Piper's service bulletin calls the Cherokee Pathfinder. The inputs give no variant-specific performance, weight or seating figures. This guide covers what Piper's service documents say to check before buying, mainly the main landing gear torque links and the maintenance records.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The PIPER PA-28-235 has no variant performance or weight data in the inputs. Get those figures from the aircraft's own flight manual.
- Old-style oval torque links (P/N 65691-000) need a crack inspection every 100 hours and replacement at 5,000 hours or more.
- New-style torque links (P/N 78033-000) are exempt from the recurring inspection under SB 1199.
- Ask for a logbook entry showing compliance with SB 1199, or with Service Letter 621.

SAFETY NOTES

- Remove torque link paint by chemical means only. Abrasives or mechanical methods hide cracks and make the inspection impossible.
- SB 1199 compliance was due at the next scheduled maintenance event, and in any case within 100 hours. Check whether this has been done.
- Service bulletins list the airworthiness directives that applied when they were published. Check the current FAA listing for all directives.

LANDING GEAR TORQUE LINKS (SB 1199)

Each aircraft has 4 main gear torque links. Identify them by the midsection shape, not by part number. Old style P/N 65691-000 is oval. New style P/N 78033-000 is rectangular with 4 longitudinal grooves. Old links get a fluorescent penetrant crack check every 100 hours. They must be replaced at 5,000 hours or more, regardless of condition. Any cracked link means replacing the links in pairs.

DOCUMENTS AND FAMILY CONTEXT

The Piper Cherokee Service Manual covers the PA-28-235 along with other Cherokee models. It was first issued August 16, 1972, with an interim change in February 1995. It has PA-28-235 figures for the access panels, servicing points, fuel selector and filter, and main gear oleo strut. The registry lists PA-28-235 among 18 PA-28 family variants. Across the family, figures reach up to 910 nm range, 172 kt cruise and 4 passengers. These are family maxima, not this variant's figures.

WHAT TO CHECK ON THE AIRCRAFT

The service manual's inspection chapter has figures for muffler fatigue areas, exhaust inspection points, control wheel inspection points, flap control cable attachment bolts and the main gear torque link. Use these as a pre-buy checklist. Piper's service bulletin and letter index (December 21, 2021) lists the PA-28 bulletins. For airworthiness directives, check the current FAA listing.