

Cessna 340 Model Guide

The Cessna 340 is a pressurized, turbocharged twin-engine piston airplane built from 1972 to 1984, seating 4 to 6. The registry lists two variants, the 340 and 340A. Most performance figures here come from a 1976 pilot report on the 340A, plus service, airworthiness and accident documents.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1976 340A flight test: 220 kt cruise, 29,800 ft service ceiling, and 861 nm range at normal cruise with 45-minute reserve.
- Useful load is 2,122 lb against a 5,990 lb maximum weight. The test aircraft sat near max weight with 163 gal, three people and baggage.
- An Australian AD sets retirement lives for the wing main spar lower cap and attachment fittings. Check logged hours and flights.
- A 2011 right main gear collapse on a 340A was never traced to a cause. Inspect the side brace, downlock link and microswitch.

PERFORMANCE AND FUEL (1976 340A TEST)

Cruise-climb to 19,000 ft took 21 minutes. At 19,000 ft the aircraft burned roughly 30 gph at 202 kt true airspeed. Single-engine rate of climb was 315 fpm and single-engine service ceiling 15,800 ft. Each main tank holds 50 gal usable and each side's aux tank 31.5 gal usable. Use the mains for takeoff and landing.

AIRFRAME LIFE AND SERVICE RECORDS

Australian CASA AD/CESSNA 340/32 applies to all 340 and 340A aircraft. It requires retiring the wing main spar lower cap and wing attachment fittings before 22 300 hours or 20 300 flights, whichever comes first. The airframe must be retired before 44 600 hours or 40 600 flights. Service bulletin MEB-34-06 is optional. It covers replacing the stall warning horn, because the original is no longer available. It applies to 340 serials 340-0001 thru 340-0555 and 340A serials 340A0001 thru 340A1817.

MODIFICATIONS TO VERIFY

Check the paperwork for each STC. The MT-Propeller four-blade composite props (STC SA01284WI) weigh 72.8 lbs each installed. That is about 20 lbs less than the originals, and MT claims 3 to 5 kts more cruise. A Keith air-conditioning kit exists for the 340/340A. A RAM VII data sheet lists max takeoff 6390 lbs, Vmca 72 and Vyse 105. Confirm limits for any modified aircraft against its own supplements.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	310
Fuel Capacity Standard Gal	102
Fuel Capacity Optional Gal	207
Baggage Capacity Lbs	930

PERFORMANCE

Takeoff Ground Roll Ft	1615
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	2175
Rate Of Climb Fpm	1650
Single Engine Rate Of Climb Fpm	315
Max Level Speed Kt	242
Cruise Speed Kt	220
Service Ceiling Ft	29800
Range Normal Cruise Nm	861

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Empty Weight Lbs	3868
Useful Load Lbs	2122
Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	5990
Baggage Capacity Lbs	930

SAFETY NOTES

- With long-range aux tanks, use the mains for the first 90 minutes. Fuel returned from the engines goes only to the mains, and fuel can be pumped overboard.
- Test the autopilot pitch system before takeoff. Activating it in flight pitches the 340A up sharply and disengages the autopilot.
- Engine failure below Vmca (72 on the RAM VII sheet): rudder toward the operating engine, reduce power to stop the turn, lower the nose, feather the dead engine.