PIPER WARRIOR III Model Guide

The PIPER WARRIOR III (PA-28-161) is a single-engine piston Piper from the PA-28 family. The documents here are its weight and balance section (report VB-1618, issued 1995) and one owner's checklist. Neither gives cruise speed, range or empty weight. Check those against the aircraft's own POH and equipment list.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- PIPER WARRIOR III maximum takeoff weight is 2202 lbs in the normal category and 2020 lbs in the utility category.
- It cannot carry full fuel, full passengers and full baggage at once, so the pilot must work out the loading every flight.
- Key speeds from the checklist: rotate 55 kts, best-rate climb 79 KIAS, final approach 63 KIAS.
- Ask for the current weight and balance record. Every modification or equipment change must be entered in it.

LOADING AND BALANCE

The loading sample shows 48 gallons maximum fuel and a 200 lb baggage limit. Unusable fuel is 2.0 gallons. The datum is 78.4 inches ahead of the wing leading edge. Work out total weight and moment, then check the point against the C.G. envelope. The Piper-supplied empty weight applies only to that serial number and registration.

SPEEDS AND HANDLING (CHECKLIST)

The checklist gives these figures: rotate at 55 kts, best-rate climb 79 KIAS, en-route climb 87 KIAS, and flaps set below 103 KIAS. Final approach is 63 KIAS. Short-field and soft-field takeoffs use 25 degrees of flaps. Engine-out glide is 73 KIAS. This list was written for one specific aircraft (N1047M), so confirm figures against the POH.

WHAT TO CHECK WHEN BUYING

Look at the weight and balance record and the equipment list. The checklist's preflight items point to areas worth inspecting: fuel sumps and vents, gear struts, tires and brakes, and alternator belt tension. Also check the nose gear strut inflation, the static wicks, and the stabilator and trim tab for interference. For oil, the checklist expects 4-8 qts. Runup should show a magneto drop of no more than 175 RPM, with a difference between magnetos of no more than 50 RPM.

V-SPEEDS

Rotation Speed Kts	55
Best Rate Climb Kts	79
Enroute Climb Kts	87
Flap Extension Below Kts	103
Final Approach Kts	63
Engine Out Glide Kts	73

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2202
Utility Max Takeoff Weight Lbs	2020
Max Baggage Lbs	200
Fuel Capacity Gal	48
Unusable Fuel Gal	2
Datum Ahead Of Wing Leading Edge Inches	78.4

SAFETY NOTES

- An aft C.G. can cause early rotation and pitch-up in the climb. It also reduces stability, which can lead to stalls and spins that are harder to recover from.
- Utility category operation allows no baggage and no aft passengers.
- If oil pressure is not in the green within 30 seconds of starting, shut down and consult a mechanic.

AI-aggregated guide for the PIPER WARRIOR III · sources: Warrior Section 6 (#102870) · Piper Warrior III N1047M Checklist (#101514) · generated 2026-11-25 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.