

LANCAIR 235 Model Guide

The LANCAIR 235 is a two-seat, side-by-side, composite amateur-built kit aircraft with retractable gear and a bubble canopy. It is powered by a Lycoming O-235 or O-290. At least 59 kits were produced. Completed used examples are listed at roughly \$50,000 to \$70,000, and each one is unique to its builder.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- It is Experimental-Amateur Built, so quality depends on the builder. Get an expert inspection before you buy.
- Lancairs are just over 3% of the amateur-built fleet but have over 10% of its fatal accidents (AOPA, as cited in the source).
- Completed LANCAIR 235s are listed at \$50,000 to \$70,000. They are rare and sell quickly.
- Get the original Airworthiness Certificate, Operating Limitations and builder manuals from the seller.

PERFORMANCE AND HANDLING

Quoted figures: max speed 160 knots, cruise 140 knots, stall 55 knots, climb 1,300 feet/minute, ceiling 20,000 feet, range 1,000 miles. One NTSB-described airframe (118 hp O-235-L2C) quoted 182 knots cruise and stalls of 61 knots clean and 48 knots with flaps. Stalls and spins risk loss of control. Light weight and lack of sturdiness make landings difficult.

WHAT TO INSPECT: ELECTRICS AND FUEL

The NTSB-reviewed 235 relied on electric power for its fuel transfer pumps, propeller pitch, hydraulic gear pump and flaps. Wing tanks (33 gallons each) feed an 11 gallon header tank by electric pumps. The POH said not to take off with less than 8 gallons in the header tank. Check battery cables, connectors and the battery box for corrosion.

OWNERSHIP NOTES

Standard kits came with pilot-side rudder controls only. Right-side controls were an option, so check which the aircraft has. Rudder input is not normally required because of the differential ailerons. Keep a maintenance log. Insurance sources named include Gallagher, which is considered the most trustworthy, followed by the Lancair Owners and Builders Organization (LOBO).

SPECIFICATIONS

Length Ft	20
Engine Power Hp	118
Fuel Capacity Gal	43
Header Tank Gal	11
Wing Tank Gal	33

PERFORMANCE

Max Speed Kts	160
Cruise Speed Kts	140
Stall Speed Kts	55
Service Ceiling Ft	20000
Rate Of Climb Fpm	1300

V-SPEEDS

Never Exceed Speed Kts	235
Stall Speed Kts	55
Stall Speed Flaps Kts	48

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Empty Weight Lbs	650
Max Gross Weight Lbs	1275
Fuel Capacity Gal	43

SAFETY NOTES

- The 2012 NTSB fatal accident followed flying with known electrical faults. Power loss stopped the fuel transfer pumps and the engine lost power.
- Stall or spin can cause loss of control. Get training before flying and keep current.
- Experimental kit aircraft lack factory certification, so have an expert inspect the workmanship.