



SKYWAGON

Cessna 185 model changes

Year-by-year differences, as kept on AllBoutAircraft.com.

The Cessna 180/185 Skywagon is an all metal four passenger high wing monoplane with a fixed tailwheel landing gear. A semi-monocoque fuselage is used and there are two yard-wide doors on each side of the cabin.

All models of the 180 are powered by a 471 cubic inch six cylinder Continental air-cooled engine with a constant speed aluminum alloy metal propeller.

All versions of the 185 were powered with either a Continental 10-470-F engine or a Continental 10-520-D.

The Cessna 180 received its approved type certificate (5A6) on the 23rd of December 1952 and the first deliveries were early in 1953.

The 180 gives excellent speed for a fixed gear aircraft and it has awesome ability to get a heavy loads off the ground and to altitude quickly. The 180 will climb from sea level to 20,000 feet in about 45 minutes. And there has never been an AD involving the airframe structure since the first models were built in 1953.

The 180 was produced from 1953 until 1981 when production was stopped due to lowering sales in the light aircraft market.

The 185 was introduced in 1961 and had more power and higher useful load. It was produced until 1985.

Large single-slotted Fowler type "Para-Lift" flaps are used on both the Cessna 180 & 185. They increase the size and camber of the wing. Excellent lift is obtained at half-flaps, and at full 40 degrees of flaps a very high sinkrate is possible.

Modifications seen on the type

- 18 gallon Javelin baggage compartment fuel tank
- camera installations
- Alcor "Cargomore" utility door

Cessna 185

1961 Model 185

Serial numbers 0001 through 0237

- The Cessna 185 was introduced, similar to the 180



- Featured a 260hp Continental fuel injected IO-470-F. Compared to the 1961 180, the 185 had stronger firewall, landing gear and axles.
- The interior was extended and a third side window was added.
- Seating was for six.
- A long dorsal fin from the vertical stabilizer was the main visible difference from the 180. Fuel capacity was 65 gallons with 84 gallons optional

1962 Model 185

Serial numbers 0238 through 0512

- New wing tips with integral position lights which increase span two inches.
- Vernier mixture and throttle controls.
- Two electric auxiliary fuel pumps.

1963 Model 185

Serial numbers 0513 through 0653

- Overhead light console.
- Die cast magnesium rudder pedals.
- One electric auxiliary pump.
- Semi-reclining front seats.

1964 Model 185C

Serial numbers 0654 through 0776

- 52 amp, 14V alternator replaces generator.
- Manual tail wheel lock.
- Dual piston brakes

1965 Model 185D

Serial numbers 0777 through 0967

- Center mounted avionics.
- Open view control wheels.
- Integrated engine instrument cluster.
- Improved fuel strainer.

1966 Model 185E

Serial numbers 0968 through 1149

- Continental IO-520-D engine, 300 hp optional. Aircraft with this engine are designated A185E
- Standard aircraft with IO-520-D engine has 100 lb. gross weight increase.
- Improved door latches.
- Front seat leg room increased.

1967 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1150 through 1300

- IO-520-D engine standard.
- Pointed spinner increases length 3 inches.
- Extended rear cabin compartment.
- Split bus electrical system.





- Individual center passenger seats.
- 60 amp alternator.
- Aeroflash rotating beacon.
- Optional crosswind gear.
- Cleveland brakes standard.

1968 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1301 through 1447

- Redesigned induction system.
- New baggage door.

1969 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1448 through 1599

- 300/400 Series ARC avionics available.

1970 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1600 through 1832

- Optional left side loading door.
- Conical camber wing tips decrease wing span 4 inches.

1971 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1833 through 1934

- No major changes made.

1972 Model A185E

Serial numbers 1935 through 2090

- "Ag carryall" option introduced featuring external 151 gallon chemical tank, removable spray booms with 30 nozzles, wind driven spray system, windshield wire cutters, and vertical stabilizer cable deflector.

1973 Model A185F

Serial numbers 2091 through 2310

- "Camber light" wing with bonded leading edge.
- Dual cowl mounted landing/taxi lights.
- Split rocker master switch.
- Redesigned instrument panel.

1974 Model A185F

Serial numbers 2311 through 2565

- Optional bubble door windows and lower door panel windows.
- Optional skylights.
- Optional rudder pedal extensions.
- Vertical fin attachment redesigned.

1975 Model A185F

Serial numbers 2566 through 2838

- No major changes made.





1976 Model A185F

Serial numbers 2839 through 3153

- Primary airspeed indicator in knots.
- Fifth and sixth seat fold flush.
- Flap extension speed increased to 120 knots.
- Optional tail cone lift handles.
- Fuel selector changed to "left/both/right".
- McCauley wheels and brakes standard.

1977 Model A185F

Serial numbers 3154 through 3458

- McCauley tail wheel and stronger tail wheel gear/spring.
- Redesigned control wheels, small.
- New basic flight instruments in "T" configuration.

1978 Model A185F

Serial numbers 3459 through 3683

- 28V electrical system, avionics master switch.
- Skywagon II options package available.
- Optional three bladed prop with heavier engine mount.

1979 Model A185F

Serial numbers 3684 through 3938

- New design optional wheel and brake fairing.
- New "wet" wing holding 88 gallons.

1980 Model A185F

Serial numbers 3939 through 4138

- Three bladed prop standard.
- Polyurethane paint standard.
- Ag carryall option dropped.
- Strengthened engine mount.
- Improved audio panel.
- Push button baggage door latch.

1981 Model A185F

Serial numbers 4139 through 4328

- Improved avionics cooling system eliminates exterior ram scoop
- Bladder fuel tanks optional.

1982 Model A185F

Serial numbers 4329 through 4394

- Single piece fuel selector shaft.
- Plastic rudder pedals.

1983 Model A185F





Serial numbers 4395 through 4415

- Low vacuum warning light added.
- Direct mounting engine oil filter, eliminating adapter.

1984 Model A185F

Serial numbers 4416 through 4424

- No major changes made.

1985 Model A185F

Serial numbers 4425 through 4448

- No major changes made.