# Cessna 172P Operating Checklist (Aug 2023)

Vs	44 KIAS	V <sub>A @ max weight</sub>	99 KIAS
$V_{S0}$	33 KIAS	V <sub>A @ 2000 lbs</sub>	92 KIAS
VR	55 KIAS	V <sub>FE Flaps 10°</sub>	110 KIAS
Vx	60 KIAS	V <sub>FE Flaps 20-30°</sub>	85 KIAS
VY	76 KIAS	V <sub>NO</sub>	127 KIAS
$V_{BG}$	65 KIAS	V <sub>NE</sub>	158 KIAS

#### **Before Starting Engine**

- 1) Preflight inspection COMPLETE
- 2) Towbar STOWED
- 3) Fuel caps ON & SECURE
- 4) Pitot cover REMOVED
- 5) Control lock REMOVED
- 6) Documents ON BOARD
- 7) Hobbs & tach RECORDED
- 8) Airplane keys ON DASH
- 9) Pax & PIC briefing COMPLETE
- 10) Seats & seatbelts ADJUSTED
- 11) Brakes TEST & SET
- 12) Avionics & electrical equipment OFF
- 13) Circuit breakers CHECK IN
- 14) Fuel selector BOTH
- 15) Doors CLOSED & LOCKED

### Starting Engine

- 1) Primer
  - Engine Cold 2-3 strokes, locked
  - Engine Hot 0-1 strokes, locked
- 2) Carb heat COLD
- 3) Throttle OPEN 1/4 inch
- 4) Mixture RICH
- 5) Master switch ON
- 6) Beacon/strobes ON
- 7) Propeller area "CLEAR" and visually clear area
- 8) Ignition START, slowly advance throttle, release after start
- 9) Throttle SET 800 to 1000 RPM
- 10) Oil pressure CHECK GREEN within 30 seconds

#### After Start

Look around and move if people are waiting.

#### Don't block the ramp!

- 1) Ammeter CHECK slightly positive
- 2) Avionics ON
- 3) Mixture LEAN for taxi, slightly rich of engine roughness
- 4) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 5) Transponder ALT & 1200
- 6) ATIS/AWOS/ASOS CHECK
- 7) Flight instruments SET (altimeter near FE)
- 8) Radios SET, CONTACT GROUND

# <u>Taxi</u>

- 1) Brief taxi diagram & hot spots
- 2) Brakes CHECK gently
- 3) Flight instruments CHECK OPERATION

#### <u>Run-up</u>

- 1) Nosewheel straight, brakes held tight
- 2) Flight Controls FREE & CORRECT
- 3) Trim SET FOR TAKEOFF (yoke aft, trim flush with elevator)
- 4) Flight instruments CHECK & SET
- 5) Doors & windows CLOSED & LATCHED
- 6) Primer IN & LOCKED
- 7) Mixture RICH
- 8) Throttle 1700 RPM
- 9) Magnetos TEST R, BOTH, L, then BOTH (max. 125 RPM drop & 50 RPM differential)
- 10) Carb heat CHECK HOT, note RPM drop, then COLD
- 11) Engine instruments CHECK
- 12) Ammeter CHECK (do not cycle the alternator!)
- 13) Suction gauge CHECK (if installed)
- 14) Throttle IDLE (500-800 RPM), then 800-1000
- 15) Throttle friction ADJUSTED
- 16) GPS/NAV SET
- 17) Takeoff briefing COMPLETE

"This will be a normal (soft-field/short-field) takeoff, flaps up (10°), departing runway \_\_\_\_\_ with a climb to feet. V<sub>R</sub> is 55, V<sub>X</sub> is 60, and V<sub>Y</sub> is 76 KIAS.

For any abnormality with runway remaining, I will call "abort, abort," reduce the throttle to idle, and bring the aircraft to a stop on the runway. For an engine failure below 400' AGL, I will land straight ahead. I will not attempt to return to the runway until reaching a safe altitude. For any abnormality or emergency I will aviate, navigate, communicate, and run the appropriate checklist. Best glide is 65. Any questions?"

# Before Take-off

- 1) Lights AS NEEDED
- 2) Transponder ALT & squawk code
- Flaps UP for normal/short-field takeoff (10° for soft-field)
- 4) Mixture RICH (or set for DA)
- 5) Carb heat COLD
- 6) Trim SET FOR TAKEOFF
- 7) Fuel CHECK quantity, fuel on BOTH, primer LOCKED
- 8) Seats & seatbelts ADJUSTED
- 9) Doors & windows CLOSED & LATCHED
- 10) Radios SET & CONTACT TOWER

# Normal Takeoff

- 1) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 2) Throttle Smoothly to FULL FWD
- 3) Engine instruments CHECK
- 4) Elevator Lift nosewheel at 55 KIAS
- 5) Climb V<sub>Y</sub> 76 KIAS until 1000' AGL & clear of obstacles, then climb at 85 KIAS

### Enroute Climb (at 1000' AGL & clear of obstacles)

- 1) Airspeed 76 to 85 KIAS (climb at 85+ on hot days)
- 2) Engine instruments MONITOR
- 3) Mixture RICH\*\*\*

# <u>Cruise</u>

- 1) Throttle 2100 to 2400 RPM (< 70% power)
- 2) Engine instruments CHECK
- 3) Mixture If engine temp normal, LEAN for altitude
- 4) Trim SET for cruise airspeed
- 5) Fuel selector BOTH
- 6) Flight instruments CHECK

# <u>Descent</u>

- 1) ATIS/AWOS/ASOS CHECK
- 2) Flight instruments CHECK & SET
- 3) Radios SET, report 10 miles out
- 4) Approach/pattern entry briefing COMPLETE
- 5) Carb heat ON if required
- 6) Throttle REDUCE for descent
- 7) Mixture ADJUSTED for altitude
- 8) Seats & seatbelts ADJUSTED

# **Before Landing**

- 1) Lights AS NEEDED
- 2) Fuel CHECK quantity, fuel on BOTH, primer LOCKED
- 3) Carb Heat ON before closing throttle
- 4) Mixture RICH
- 5) Airspeed 70 to 75 KIAS flaps UP
- 6) Airspeed 65 to 70 KIAS flaps DOWN
- After Landing (stop once clear of runway)
- 1) Radio Switch to GROUND when advised
- 2) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 3) Mixture LEAN for taxi
- 4) Carb Heat COLD
- 5) Lights AS NEEDED
- 6) Trim SET FOR TAKEOFF
- 7) Transponder ALT & 1200
- 8) Radios CONTACT GROUND

# <u>Shutdown</u>

- 1) Avionics and electrical switches OFF
- 2) Throttle 1000 RPM
- 3) Mixture IDLE CUTOFF
- 4) Ignition OFF, key on dash
- 5) Master switch OFF
- 6) Fuel selector LEFT or RIGHT TANK
- 7) Control lock & sunshade INSTALL
- 8) Pitot cover INSTALL
- 9) Hobbs & tach RECORD
- 10) Trash REMOVE & TIDY UP
- 11) Tiedowns & chocks INSTALL
- 12) Doors LOCK

\*\*\***Operating on hot days**: If oil temp and/or EGTs are warmer than normal, do not lean during climb. Use a higher enroute climb speed as soon as possible for better cooling. Mixture may be leaned slightly during climb above 5000' if engine temps are cool.

# Soft-field Takeoff

- 1) Flaps 10°
- 2) Elevator FULL AFT
- 3) Brakes Minimize use
- 4) Throttle Smoothly to FULL FWD
- 5) Engine instruments CHECK
- 6) Elevator Maintain nose high/tail low until liftoff
- Climb Remain in ground effect until 56 KIAS, then begin climb\* and accelerate to V<sub>Y</sub> 76 KIAS
- 8) Flaps RETRACT\*\*

 $^{\ast}$  If obstacles are present: climb at 56 KIAS until clear, then accelerate to V  $_{Y}$  and retract flaps.

\*\* Minimum flap retraction speed is 60 KIAS.

# Normal and Soft-field Landing

- 1) Flaps  $-30^{\circ}$  (or less, as needed with a crosswind)
- 2) Airspeed PITCH for 65 KIAS
- 3) Throttle ADJUST for descent rate
- 4) Touchdown MAIN WHEELS FIRST
- 5) Elevator Increase gradually to FULL AFT during deceleration
- 6) Brakes Minimize use

# Short-field Takeoff

- 1) Flaps 10°
- 2) Brakes HOLD
- 3) Throttle Smoothly to FULL FWD
- 4) Engine instruments CHECK
- 5) Brakes RELEASE
- 6) Elevator Lift nosewheel at 55 KIAS
- 7) Climb 56 KIAS until clear of obstacles
- 8) Accelerate 70 to 80 KIAS
- 9) Flaps RETRACT\*\*

# Short-field Landing

- 1) Flaps  $-30^{\circ}$
- 2) Airspeed PITCH for 61 KIAS
- 3) Throttle ADJUST for descent rate
- 4) Touchdown MAIN WHEELS FIRST
- 5) Brakes APPLY, but do not skid tires!
- 6) Flaps RETRACT

Refer to AFM Section 4, Normal Procedures, and Section 5, Performance, to make adjustments for variations in conditions and to calculate takeoff & landing data.