Cutlass 172RG Operating Checklist (Apr 2025)

| Vs | 50 KIAS | VA@maxweight | 106 KIAS | VLO 140 KIAS |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| V_{S0} | 42 KIAS | VA @ 2250 lbs | 98 KIAS | V _{LE} 164 KIAS |
| V_{R} | 55 KIAS | V _{FE Flaps 10°} | 130 KIAS | V _{NO} 145 KIAS |
| Vx | 67 KIAS | VFE Flaps 20-30° | 100 KIAS | V _{NE} 164 KIAS |
| VY | 84 KIAS | VBG @2250 lbs | 67 KIAS | V _{BG max} 73 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) Landing gear lever DOWN
- 14) Circuit breakers CHECK IN
- 15) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 16) Fuel selector BOTH
- 17) 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) Prop FULL FWD
- 5) Mixture RICH
- 6) Master switch ON
- 7) Beacon/strobes ON
- 8) Propeller area "CLEAR" and visually clear area
- 9) Ignition START, slowly advance throttle, release after start
- 10) Throttle SET 800 to 1000 RPM
- 11) 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
- 4) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 5) Gear indication lights CHECK & TEST
- 6) Transponder ALT & 1200
- 7) ATIS/AWOS/ASOS CHECK
- 8) Flight instruments SET (altimeter near FE)
- 9) 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
- Elevator & rudder trim tabs SET FOR TAKEOFF (trim flush with elevator, rudder pedals neutral)
- 4) Flight instruments CHECK & SET
- 5) Doors & windows CLOSED & LATCHED
- 6) Primer IN & LOCKED
- 7) Aux fuel pump ON, rise in pressure, OFF
- 8) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 9) Mixture RICH
 - *Keep runup under 2 minutes and watch temps*
- 10) Throttle 1800 RPM
- 11) Magnetos TEST R, BOTH, L, then BOTH (max. 150 RPM drop & 50 RPM differential)
- 12) Propeller CYCLE 1-3x (approx. 300 RPM drop)
- 13) Carb heat CHECK (HOT, RPM drop, COLD)
- 14) Engine instruments CHECK
- 15) Ammeter CHECK (do not cycle the alternator!)
- 16) Suction gauge CHECK
- 17) Throttle IDLE (500-800 RPM), then 800-1000 RPM
- 18) Throttle friction ADJUSTED
- 19) GPS/NAV SET
- 20) Transponder ALT & squawk code
- 21) Takeoff briefing COMPLETE

"This will be a normal/short-field (soft-field) takeoff, flaps up (10°), departing runway _____ with a climb to _____ feet. V_R is 55, V_X is 67, and V_Y is 84 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 approximately 70 KIAS. Any questions?"

Before Takeoff

- 1) Lights AS NEEDED
- 2) Carb heat COLD
- 3) Prop FULL FWD
- 4) Mixture RICH (or set for DA)
- 5) Flaps UP for normal/short-field takeoff (10° for soft-field)
- 6) Fuel CHECK quantity, fuel on BOTH
- 7) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 8) Trim tabs SET FOR TAKEOFF
- 9) Seats & seatbelts ADJUSTED
- 10) Doors & windows CLOSED & LATCHED
- 11) Radios SET & CONTACT TOWER

Normal Takeoff

- 1) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 2) Throttle Smoothly to FULL FWD
- 3) Engine instruments CHECK
- Elevator Lift nosewheel at 55 KIAS
- 5) Climb Vy 84 KIAS to safe altitude, then 85-95+
- 6) Brakes APPLY momentarily
- 7) Landing gear RETRACT

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

- 1) Airspeed 85 to 95 KIAS (climb at 95+ KIAS on hot days)
- 2) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 3) Mixture RICH (lean *slightly* above 5000 *if* engine temps cool)
- 4) Prop SET 2500 RPM
- 5) Throttle FULL FWD (YES, this is best engine cooling!)
- 6) Engine instruments MONITOR CONTINUALLY

CHTs < 415°F EGTs < 1450°F Oil temp < 220°F

<u>Cruise</u>

- 1) Throttle & Prop SET per POH chart (< 70% power)
- 62% power at 3000': 22" & 2300 = TAS 121/8.4 GPH 65% power at 6000': 22" & 2300 = TAS 128/8.8 GPH
- 63% power at 8000': 21" & 2300 = TAS 127/8.5 GPH
- 2) Engine instruments CHECK & MONITOR
- 3) Cowl flaps CLOSE once CHTs are below 400°
- 4) Mixture LEAN FOR ALTITUDE (rich of peak)

• Maintain CHTs < 400° and EGTs < 1420°

- 5) Trim tabs SET for cruise airspeed
- 6) Flight instruments CHECK & SET

Descent

- 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 max of 2" MP per min.
- 7) Mixture ENRICHEN throughout descent
- 8) Cowl flaps CLOSED
- 9) Seats & seatbelts ADJUSTED

Before Landing (GUMPS)

- 1) Lights AS NEEDED
- 2) Fuel CHECK quantity, fuel on BOTH, primer LOCKED
- 3) Landing gear below VLO, DOWN & GREEN
- 4) Carb Heat ON before closing throttle
- 5) Mixture RICH
- 6) Prop FULL FWD once below 12" MP
- 7) Airspeed 70 to 75 KIAS flaps UP
- 8) Airspeed 65 to 70 KIAS flaps DOWN

After Landing (stop once clear of runway)

- 1) Radio Switch to GROUND when advised
- 2) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 3) Flaps UP, visually confirm
- 4) Mixture LEAN for taxi
- 5) Prop FULL FWD
- 6) Carb Heat COLD
- 7) Lights AS NEEDED
- 8) Trim tabs SET FOR TAKEOFF
- 9) Transponder ALT & 1200
- 10) Radios CONTACT GROUND

<u>Shutdown</u>

- 1) Avionics and electrical switches OFF
- 2) Throttle 1000 RPM
- 3) Mixture IDLE CUTOFF CONTINUED →

- 4) Ignition OFF, key on dash
- 5) Master switch OFF
- 6) Fuel selector LEFT or RIGHT TANK
- 7) Cowl flaps CLOSED
- 8) Control lock, sunshade & pitot cover INSTALL
- 9) Hobbs & tach RECORD
- 10) Trash REMOVE & TIDY UP
- 11) Tiedowns & chocks INSTALL
- 12) Doors LOCK

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
- 7) Climb Remain in ground effect until 63 KIAS, then begin climb* and accelerate to V_Y 84 KIAS
- 8) Landing gear RETRACT
- 9) Flaps RETRACT

 * If obstacles are present: climb at 63 KIAS until clear, then accelerate to V $_{Y}$ and retract gear & flaps.

Normal and Soft-field Landing

- 1) $Flaps 30^{\circ}$ (or less, as needed with a crosswind)
- 2) Airspeed PITCH for 65 to 70 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 and/or Obstacle Takeoff

- 1) Flaps UP
- 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 *63 KIAS until clear of obstacles
- 8) Landing gear RETRACT once clear of obstacles
- 9) Climb 85 to 95 KIAS * See AFM Figure 5-4 to adjust climb speed for weight

Maximum Performance Climb

- 1) Airspeed Vy 84* KIAS at S.L.
- 2) Cowl flaps OPEN
- 3) Mixture RICH
- 4) Throttle & Prop FULL FWD
- 5) Engine instruments MONITOR CAREFULLY! * See AFM Figure 5-6 to adjust V_Y for altitude

Short-field Landing

Flaps – RETRACT

1) Flaps -30°

5)

6)

This checklist is provided as an unofficial reference based upon available data. Use at your discretion.

Airspeed – PITCH for 63 KIAS
Throttle – ADJUST for descent rate

4) Touchdown – MAIN WHEELS FIRST

Brakes - APPLY, but do not skid tires!