

AIRCRAFT INSPECTION REPORT

For

CESSNA 172 RG

This report documents the results of simulated FAA airworthiness flight testing conducted in accordance with Note and Test Information Sheets of the Spring 2001 MAE 4223 class at Oklahoma State University. These results complete the flight test requirements for evaluation for the Cessna 172 RG test aircraft.

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ABSTRACT

A Cessna 172 RG was flight tested. Airspeed calibration, stall speed and climb performance tests were performed. Experimental flight test data is compared with the published Cessna data. The airspeed calibration given by Cessna did not correspond to the flight test data. The experimental stall speeds were slightly lower than published Cessna data. Experimental climb performance matched the Cessna data within 100 fpm at 2000, 4000 and 6000 feet. The Cessna flight manual and engine performance data is given.

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INTRODUCTION

The MAE 4223 Aerodynamics Laboratory class flight tested a Cessna 172 RG. The class performed three tests: airspeed calibration, stall speed and climb performance. The experimental data was compared to the published Cessna flight manual.

All flight testing was performed in a unmodified Cessna 172 RG with U.S registration, N9984B. The Cessna 172 RG is a high wing, retractable gear aircraft with 180 horsepower O-360 and a constant speed propeller. Appendix F shows a partial 172 RG flight manual. Appendix E gives the O-360 engine performance data. Weight and balance information is given in Appendix A.

The airspeed calibration evaluated the Cessna's pitot-static airspeed indicator using the speed course method. The test involved flying the aircraft over a known distance and recording the elapsed time. Two runs of reciprocal heading were made and the groundspeeds averaged.

The stall speed test evaluated the Cessna's stall speed. This test is performed power off and gear down. Two flap positions were tested: 0 and 30 degrees. The test starts at normal cruise. The angle of attack is then slowly increased until stall.

The climb performance test evaluates the rate of climb at four airspeeds. This test consists of timing climbs at 2000, 4000 and 6000 feet. These climbs are normalized to a standard day and plotted. Rates of climb for a standard day and gross weight are calculated. Best rate and angle of climb are found from the rate of climb plots.

TEST AND EVALUATION

The airspeed test was performed as described above at 80 and 100 KIAS. The atmosphere was bumpy and a 20 knot north wind was present. The gear was up and the flaps retracted during the airspeed runs. Appendix B gives the airspeed calibration data. At 80 knots, the airspeed indicator position error was +2.1 knots. At 100 knots, the position error was +2.4 knots.

The stall speed test was performed as described above. The aircraft weight was 2606 lbs and the cg location was at 44.0 inches. Appendix C gives the stall speed data. With retracted flaps, the aircraft stalled at 45 KIAS (50 KCAS). With 30 degrees of flaps, the aircraft stalled at 35 KIAS (42 KCAS). From theory, the gross weight stall speeds are 50.5 KCAS with retracted flaps and 42.4 KCAS at 30 degrees of flaps.

The climb performance tests were performed as described above. Appendix D gives the sawtooth climb flight data and the data reduction sheets. All climb data was reduced to standard atmosphere conditions at the aircraft's gross weight. Figure 1 gives the C_{iw} versus P_{iw} curve for 70, 80, 90 and 100 KIAS.

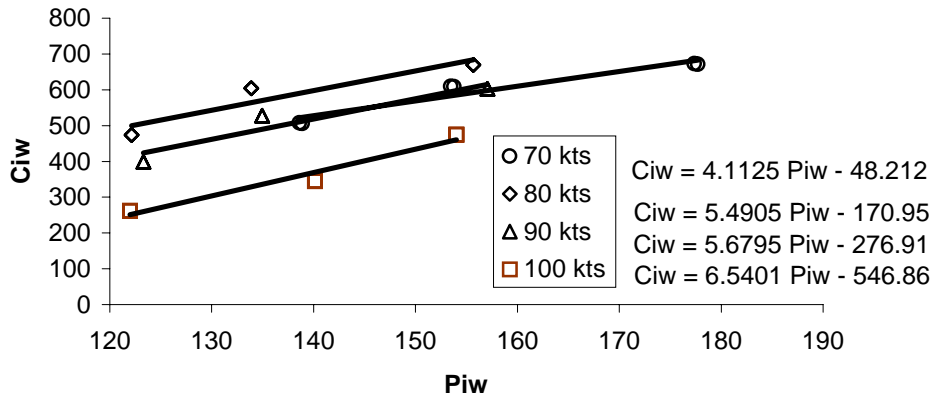


Figure 1. Cessna Climb Performance: Ciw versus Piw

From the above Ciw versus Piw plot, climb data at a standard atmosphere was derived. Figure 2 gives the 2650 lb gross weight climb performance at 0, 2000, 4000 and 6000 feet.

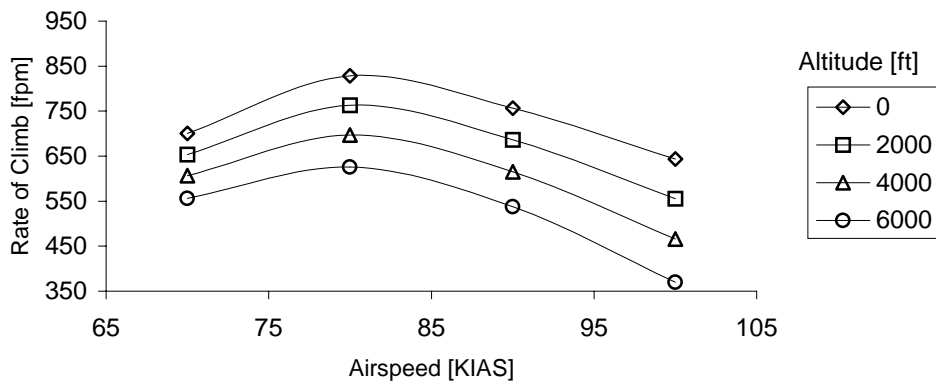


Figure 2. Cessna 172 RG: Standard Climb Performance

The best rate, V_y , and angle of climb, V_x , were determined from the rate of climb plot in Appendix D. Table 1 shows the best rate of climb and the speeds for best rate and angle of climb.

Altitude [ft]	V_x [KIAS]	V_y [KIAS]	ROC [fpm]
0	78	82	830
2000	78	81	760
4000	78	80	700
6000	78	80	630

Table 1. Cessna 172 RG Climb Speeds

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cessna approved flight manual is given in Appendix F. Cessna reports data for the three flight tests performed in this report.

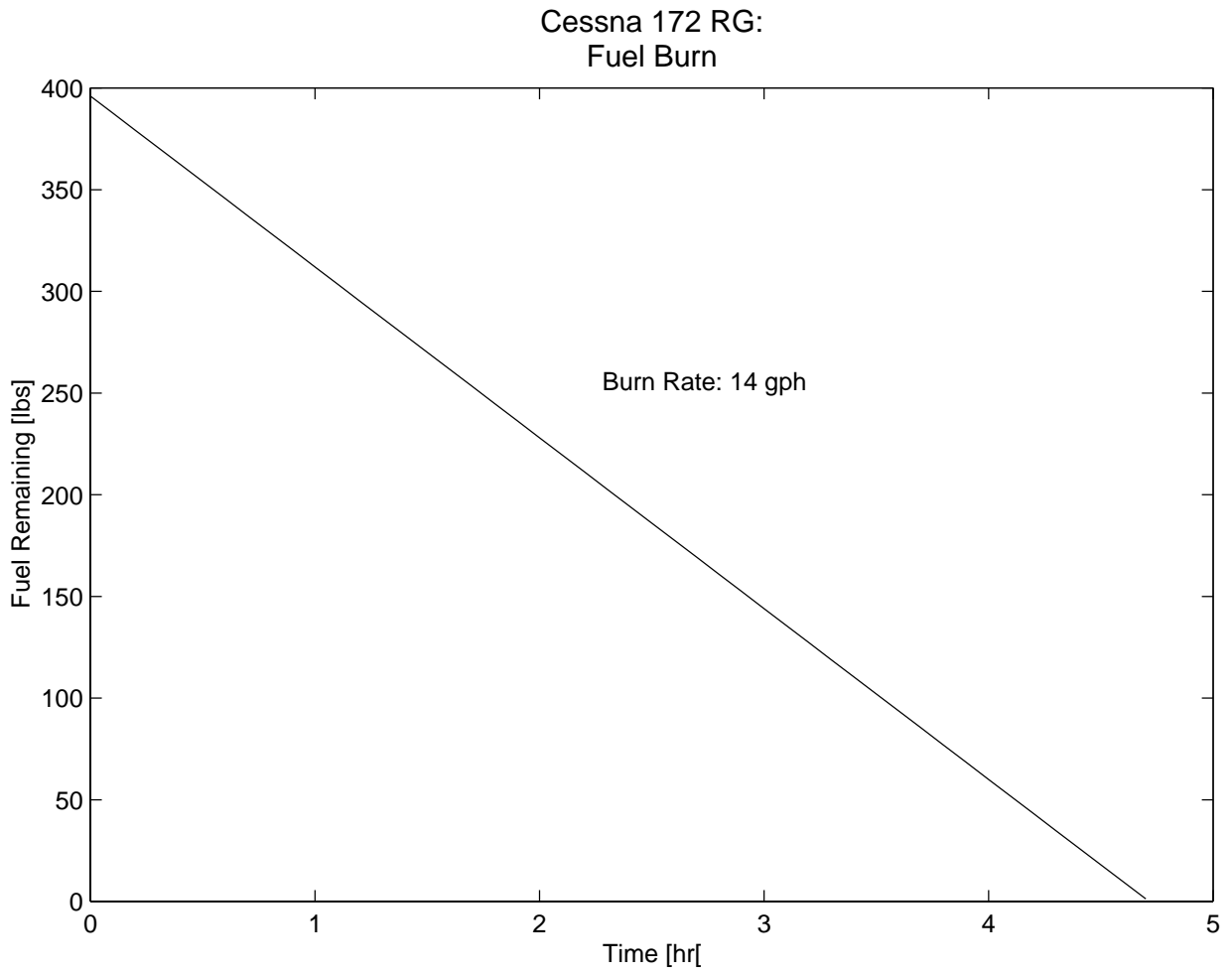
The Cessna flight manual's airspeed calibration data is given on page 5-9 of Appendix F. This report found an error of +2.1 knots at 100 knots and +2.4 knots at 80 knots. The Cessna manual states zero error at 80 knots and -1 knots at 100 knots. This difference of 3 knots is not excessive. Because this report's tests were performed under less than ideal conditions, 20 knot crosswind and non-smooth air, our test data may have steady state flight conditions with a constant indicated airspeed.

The Cessna stall speed data is given on page 5-12 of Appendix F. This report determined stall speeds at a central cg location and gross weight to be 50.5 KCAS at zero flap deflection and 42.4 KCAS at 30 degrees of flaps. Interpolating the Cessna manual at a central cg shows a stall speed of 55 KCAS with zero flaps and 50 KCAS at 30 degrees of flaps. The poor air conditions during this report's stall tests probably influenced the calculated stall speeds. Additionally, the stall speeds were roughly estimated due to the airspeed indicator not marked below 50 KIAS.

The Cessna climb performance data is given on page 5-16 of Appendix F. This report determined climb performance as given in Figure 2 and Table 1. At 2000 feet and 10 degrees, Cessna reports a best rate of climb of 820 fpm at 84 KIAS. This report found a best rate of climb of 760 fpm at 81 KIAS. At 4000 feet, Cessna reports 630 fpm at 81 KIAS. At 4000 feet, this report found that the best rate of climb was 700 fpm at 80 KIAS. Likewise at 6000 feet and 3 degrees Celsius, Cessna reports 560 fpm at 80 KIAS. This report found 630 fpm at 80 KIAS. The difference may be due to atmospheric disturbances and an older aircraft.

APPENDIX A: WEIGHT AND BALANCE

APPENDIX A (cont): FUEL BURN



APPENDIX B: AIRSPEED CALIBRATION

APPENDIX C: STALL SPEEDS

APPENDIX D: SAWTOOTH CLIMBS

70 KIAS FLIGHT DATA

N9984B

4/13/01

PO'D	EW	GS	Weight
Takeoff		11:55	2545
Land		12:38	

70 kts

TIME [s]	altitude [ft]	OAT [F]	MAP [in H2O]	RPM	TIME
0	1500			27.5	2700
30	1800				
60	2140	57			
90	2520				
120	2840			26	
					12:01
0	1500			27.5	
30	1820				
60	2160	58			
90	2480				
120	2800			26	
0	3500			25	
30	3840				
60	4120	54			
90	4370				
120	4710			24	
					12:13
0	3500			25	
30	3880				
60	4120	53			
90	4480				
120	4810			24	
0	5500			23.5	
30	5740				
60	5980	51			
90	6240				
120	6520			22.5	
					12:23
0	5500			23.5	
30	5780				
60	6060	50			
90	6300				
120	6590			22.5	

80 KIAS FLIGHT DATA

N9984B

13-Apr-01

PO'D	BC	EW	Weight
Takeoff		1012	2583
Land		1056	

80 kts

TIME [s]	altitude [ft]	OAT [F]	MAP [in H2O]	RPM	TIME
0	1500			27.5	2700
30	1870				
60	2200	56			
90	2550				
120	2880			26	
					10:24
0	1500			27.5	
30	1880				
60	2200	56			
90	2600				
120	2900			26	
0	3500			25	
30	3850				
60	4140	55			
90	4480				
120	4760			24	
					10:34
0	3500			25	
30	3830				
60	4150	55			
90	4500				
120	4780			24	
0	5500			23.5	
30	5750				
60	5980	50			
90	6220				
120	6480			22.5	
					10:44
0	5500			23.5	
30	5790				
60	6050	50			
90	6310				
120	6590			22.5	

90 KIAS FLIGHT DATA

N9838B

3/30/01

PO'D A.B C.O J.C

Weight

Takeoff 10:35

2764

Land 11:20

90 kts

TIME [s]	altitude [ft]	OAT [F]	MAP [in H2O]	RPM	TIME
0	1500	45		27	2700
30	1800				
60	2100				
90	2450				
120				26	
0	1500			27.5	
30	1800				10:45
60	2250				
90	2500				
120	2750			26	
0	3500	45		25	
30	3800				
60	4050				
90	4300				
120	4550			24	
0	3500	45		25	
30	3800				10:53
60	4125				
90	4450				
120	4725			24	
0	5500	42.5		24	
30	5750				
60	5950				
90	6200				
120	6400			22.5	11:03
0	5500			23.5	
30	5700				
60	5925				
90	6150				
120	6350			23	11:10

100 KIAS FLIGHT DATA

N9838B

3/30/01

PO'D FC EW MA

Weight

Takeoff 800

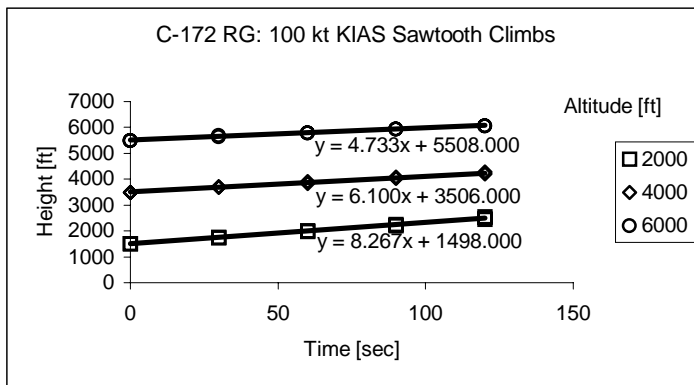
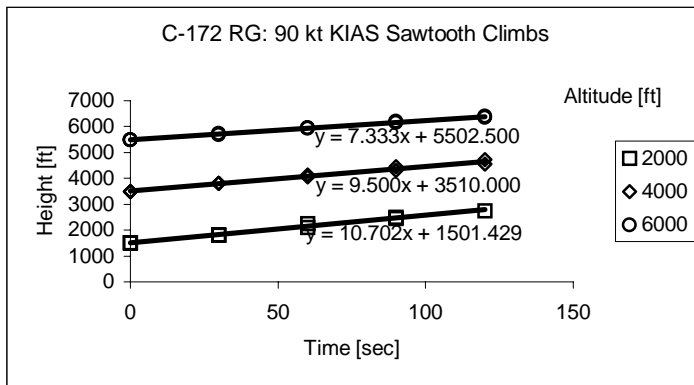
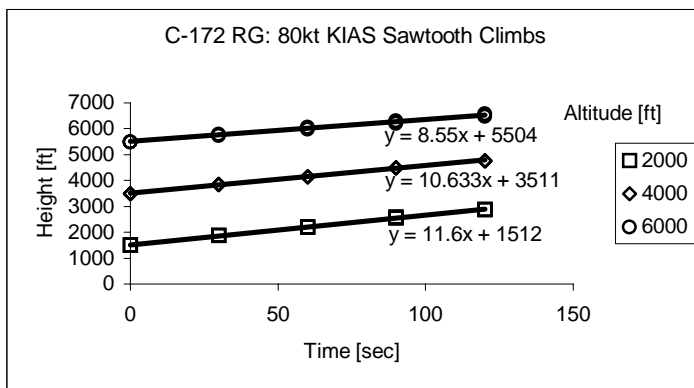
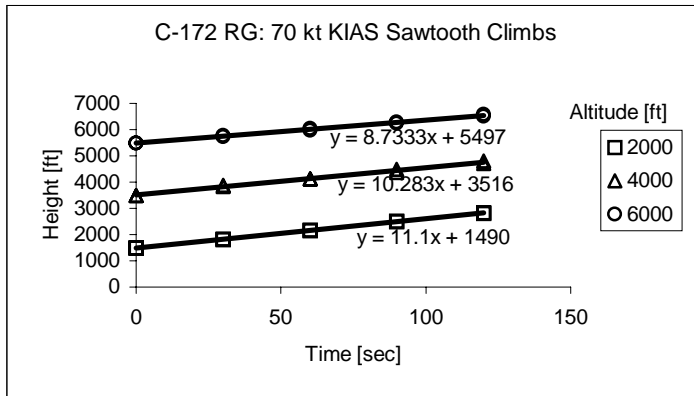
2774

Land 840

100 kts

TIME [s]	altitude [ft]	OAT [F]	MAP [in H2O]	RPM	TIME
0	1500	55			2700
30	1740				
60	2000			27	
90	2260				
120	2560				
0	1500				
30	1760				
60	1980			27	
90	2200				
120	2440				
					815
0	3500				
30	3680				
60	3840		25.25		
90	4020				
120	4200				
					820
0	3500	54.5			
30	3720				
60	3900		25.25		
90	4080				
120	4280				
0	5500				
30	5640				
60	5780		23.5		825
90	5940				
120	6070				
0	5500	50			
30	5680				
60	5800		23.5		830
90	5940				
120	6070				

SAWTOOTH CLIMB PLOTS FOR 70, 80, 90, 100 KIAS



70 KIAS SAWTOOTH CLIMB DATA REDUCTION

0	DIR	N	S	N	S	N	S
1	CAS		71	71	71	71	71
2	OBS ROC		666	666	616.92	616.92	523.998
3	W		2506	2506	2500	2500	2492
4	Hp		2000	2000	4000	4000	6000
5	OAT		57	58	54	53	51
6	5+460		517	518	514	513	511
7	Tstd at 4		51.9	51.9	44.7	44.7	37.6
8	7+460		511.9	511.9	504.7	504.7	497.6
9	OAT		57	58	54	53	51
10	9+460		517	518	514	513	511
11	_6/8_	1.009963	1.011916	1.018427	1.016445	1.026929	1.02492
12	_8/6_	0.990135	0.988224	0.981907	0.983821	0.973777	0.975686
13	RPM		2700	2700	2700	2700	2700
14	MAP		27	27	24.5	24.5	23
15	BHP	169.1594	168.9961	150.6186	150.7654	140.1258	140.2631
16	_15*sqrt12	168.323	167.9981	149.2498	149.5407	138.2763	138.5475
17	2*11	672.6353	673.9363	628.2879	627.0655	538.1089	537.0558
18	sqrt(s)at hp	0.970927	0.970927	0.942338	0.942338	0.914221	0.914221
19	W/Wstd	0.94566	0.94566	0.943396	0.943396	0.940377	0.940377
20	sqrt(19)	0.972451	0.972451	0.971286	0.971286	0.969731	0.969731
21	19^1.5	0.919608	0.919608	0.916307	0.916307	0.911913	0.911913
22	Piw	177.7164	177.3733	153.4896	153.7888	138.6263	138.8982
23	Ciw	671.5816	672.8806	609.5623	608.3764	507.3063	506.3135

80 KIAS SAWTOOTH CLIMB DATA REDUCTION

0	DIR	N	S	N	S	N	S
1	CAS		80	80	80	80	80
2	OBS ROC		696	696	637.98	637.98	513
3	W		2741	2741	2735	2735	2728
4	Hp		2000	2000	4000	4000	6000
5	OAT		56	56	55	55	50
6	5+460		516	516	515	515	510
7	Tstd at 4		51.9	51.9	44.7	44.7	37.6
8	7+460		511.9	511.9	504.7	504.7	497.6
9	OAT		56	56	55	55	50
10	9+460		516	516	515	515	510
11	_6/8_	1.008009	1.008009	1.020408	1.020408	1.02492	1.02492
12	_8/6_	0.992054	0.992054	0.98	0.98	0.975686	0.975686
13	RPM		2700	2700	2700	2700	2700
14	MAP		26.8	26.8	24.5	24.5	23
15	BHP	169.3233	169.3233	150.4723	150.4723	141.2509	141.2509
16	_15*sqrt12	168.6492	168.6492	148.96	148.96	139.5231	139.5231
17	2*11	701.5745	701.5745	651	651	525.7838	525.7838
18	sqrt(s)at hp	0.970927	0.970927	0.942338	0.942338	0.914221	0.914221
19	W/Wstd	1.03434	1.03434	1.032075	1.032075	1.029434	1.029434
20	sqrt(19)	1.017025	1.017025	1.015911	1.015911	1.01461	1.01461
21	19^1.5	1.051949	1.051949	1.048497	1.048497	1.044474	1.044474
22	Piw	155.6598	155.6598	133.8779	133.8779	122.1236	122.1236
23	Ciw	669.7751	669.7751	603.8537	603.8537	473.7608	473.7608

90 KIAS SAWTOOTH CLIMB DATA REDUCTION

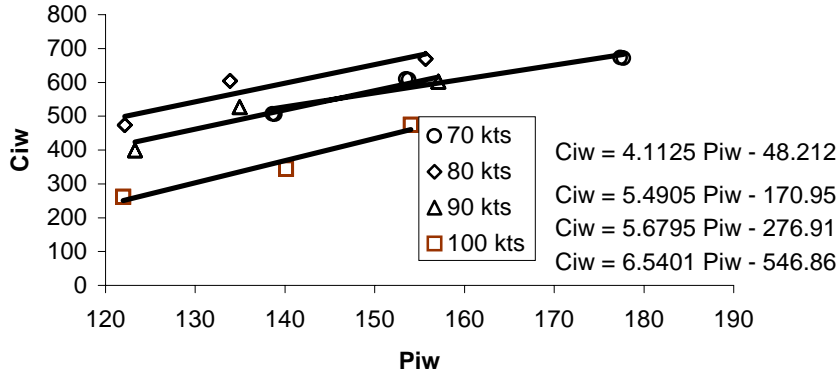
0	DIR	W	E	W	E	W	E
1	CAS	89	89	89	89	89	89
2	OBS ROC	642.12	642.12	570	570	439.98	439.98
3	W	2764	2764	2756.5	2756.5	2750.5	2750.5
4	Hp	2000	2000	4000	4000	6000	6000
5	OAT	45	45	45	45	42.5	42.5
6	(5)+460	505	505	505	505	502.5	502.5
7	Tstd at (4)	51.9	51.9	44.7	44.7	37.6	37.6
8	7+460	511.9	511.9	504.7	504.7	497.6	497.6
9	OAT	45	45	45	45	42.5	42.5
10	(9)+460	505	505	505	505	502.5	502.5
11	_(6)/(8)_	0.986521	0.986521	1.000594	1.000594	1.009847	1.009847
12	_(8)/(6)_	1.013663	1.013663	0.999406	0.999406	0.990249	0.990249
13	RPM	2700	2700	2700	2700	2700	2700
14	MAP	26.5	26.75	24.5	24.5	23.25	23.25
15	BHP	171.1574	171.1574	151.9548	151.9548	143.2962	143.2962
16	_(15)*sqrt(12)	172.3228	172.3228	151.9097	151.9097	142.5958	142.5958
17	(2)*(11)	633.4647	633.4647	570.3388	570.3388	444.3126	444.3126
18	sqrt(s)at hp	0.970927	0.970927	0.942338	0.942338	0.914221	0.914221
19	W/Wstd	1.043019	1.043019	1.040189	1.040189	1.037925	1.037925
20	sqrt(19)	1.021283	1.021283	1.019896	1.019896	1.018786	1.018786
21	(19)^1.5	1.065217	1.065217	1.060885	1.060885	1.057423	1.057423
22	Piw	157.0693	157.0693	134.9348	134.9348	123.2847	123.2847
23	Ciw	602.231	602.231	526.9669	526.9669	398.7098	398.7098

100 KIAS SAWTOOTH CLIMB DATA REDUCTION

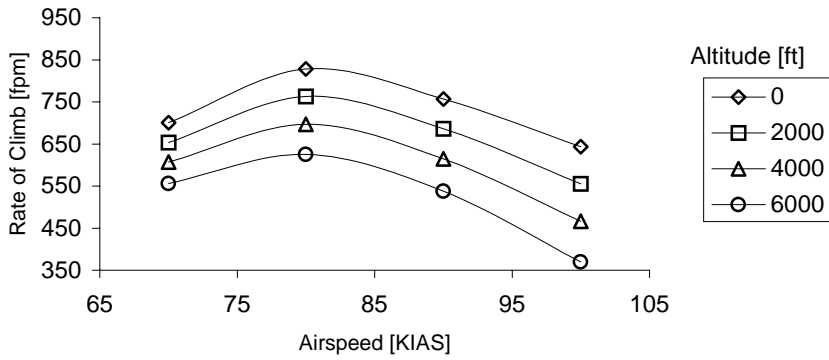
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1	CAS	99	99	99	99	99	99
2	OBS ROC	496.02	496.02	366	366	283.98	283.98
3	W	2764	2764	2749	2749	2743	2743
4	Hp	2000	2000	4000	4000	6000	6000
5	OAT	55	55	54	54	50	50
6	(5)+460	515	515	514	514	510	510
7	Tstd at (4)	51.9	51.9	44.7	44.7	37.6	37.6
8	7+460	511.9	511.9	504.7	504.7	497.6	497.6
9	OAT	55	55	54	54	50	50
10	(9)+460	515	515	514	514	510	510
11	_(6)/(8)_	1.006056	1.006056	1.018427	1.018427	1.02492	1.02492
12	_(8)/(6)_	0.993981	0.993981	0.981907	0.981907	0.975686	0.975686
13	RPM	2700	2700	2700	2700	2700	2700
14	MAP	27	27	25.25	25.25	23.5	23.5
15	BHP	169.4876	169.4876	158.5459	158.5459	142.2386	142.2386
16	_(15)*sqrt(12)	168.9767	168.9767	157.1051	157.1051	140.4988	140.4988
17	(2)*(11)	499.0238	499.0238	372.7442	372.7442	291.0567	291.0567
18	sqrt(s)at hp	0.970927	0.970927	0.942338	0.942338	0.914221	0.914221
19	W/Wstd	1.043019	1.043019	1.037358	1.037358	1.035094	1.035094
20	sqrt(19)	1.021283	1.021283	1.018508	1.018508	1.017396	1.017396
21	(19)^1.5	1.065217	1.065217	1.056558	1.056558	1.053101	1.053101
22	Piw	154.0194	154.0194	140.121	140.121	121.9703	121.9703
23	Ciw	474.4189	474.4189	344.868	344.868	261.5404	261.5404

SAWTOOTH CLIMB DATA REDUCTION PLOTS

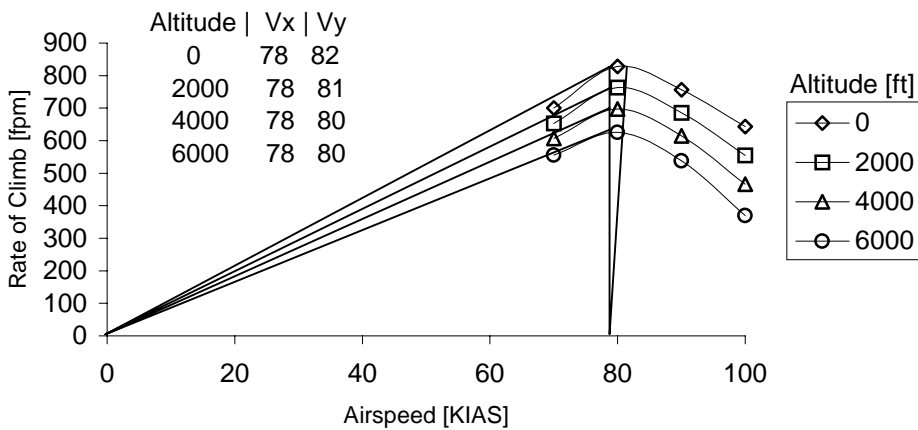
Cessna 172RG: Standardized Climb Performance



Cessna 172 RG: Standard Climb Performance



Cessna 172 RG: Standard Climb Performance



APPENDIX E: ENGINE DATA

APPENDIX F: TEST AIRCRAFT FLIGHT MANUAL