

Lancair Owner Resources

This data sheet is provided by the Lancair Owners and Builders Organization (LOBO) as a ready reference for parts, maintenance and flight training resources for your newly-purchased Lancair aircraft. It is updated periodically as the resources change; you can obtain the latest version at our web site: www.lancairowners.com

Airworthiness Certificate and Operating Limitations. The FAA classifies your Lancair as an Experimental-Amateur Built (E-AB) aircraft. It has unique operating limitations, issued with the original airworthiness certificate, that specify how the aircraft may be used. Be sure you get both of these documents as part of the title transfer. The aircraft is not considered airworthy without the operating limitations, and they are devilishly hard to replace.

Operating Manual. Since these are individually-built aircraft, and no one is exactly like another, there is not a "factory-approved" operating manual for your aircraft. Many builders made operating manuals; most made operating checklists for their aircraft. You should ask the previous owner for any operating manual and checklist materials that he may have. Another source of information about construction and operation comes from the original Lancair-provided building manuals. Again, many builders annotated these during construction. Ask the previous owner for these as well.

Factory Service and Parts. Lancair International, Inc, 250 SE Timber Ave, Redmond, OR 97756, is the best universal source of parts for your aircraft. The company currently sells only the Legacy and Evolution kits, and while their expertise in composite construction is second to none, their in-house knowledge of the mechanical construction and functioning of the earlier models is not as good as when they were in production. This is exacerbated by the fact that the earlier model Lancairs were generally built with a lot more "individualism" than the newer kits.

Service Bulletins. Available for all models on the Lancair International, Inc. web page at www.lancair.com. As service bulletins are not mandatory performance items for E-AB aircraft, they are not maintained or referenced through any FAA publication. This is the authoritative (and only) source.

Registration with Lancair International. Owners who are not the original purchaser/builder of a Lancair kit are encouraged to register with Lancair for a fee of \$300. This fee is used to establish a parts account for each new owner and is fully creditable against future parts purchases. See Lancair International contact information.

Inspections. As E-AB aircraft, Lancairs require an annual "condition inspection." This equates to the "annual inspection" for certificated GA aircraft not in commercial use, but be sure to check your operating limitations for any specific inspection requirements. You should also ask the previous owner for a condition inspection checklist (the original owner should have made this as part of the building process). To be most effective and useful, inspection checklists need to be tailored to the construction and installed equipment of each aircraft. LOBO can provide a generic inspection checklist for most models with the understanding that it will not be complete, nor will it be completely applicable to any specific airframe/equipment set.

Maintenance and Service. As the owner, you are allowed to repair and maintain all parts of your E-AB aircraft. Authorization does not imply qualification, and you must approach this responsibility with some diligence and care. For example, most Lancairs are equipped with sophisticated aircraft power plants that require specialized tools and maintenance/servicing techniques. You would be well advised to seek "aviation professional" assistance and oversight in this area as you become familiar with maintaining your Lancair. Note that the FAA requires that you have an annual "condition inspection," conducted by a certified A&P or AI, if you are not the original builder of the aircraft.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). The EAA (www.eaa.org) is an international organization of homebuilders, antique aircraft restorers and aviators from every walk of life. With more than 168,000 members (from the 2010 annual report) and more than 1000 local Chapters worldwide, the EAA is a very valuable source of information and expertise about your E-AB aircraft. Their mentor, Tech Advisor and Flight Advisor programs are available to members and are top notch, as is the annual "AirVenture" fly-in and airshow at Oshkosh, WI near the end of July.

Google Search/web information. Lancair International (www.lancair.com) is your best source for unique Lancair parts, but there are other good sources, especially for common aviation hardware. Aircraft Spruce and Specialty Company caters to home-builders and carries a very large selection of components, hardware and basic building/repair materials for all types of aircraft. They can be found on the web at www.aircraftspruce.com. Another common homebuilder trick is to search the web for the company that appears on the product label of your broken part. You'll need to use all of these sources, and more, to keep your Lancair flying over the years.

Unique Flight Characteristics. Lancair aircraft are very easy to fly, but have flight characteristics that are significantly different from other General Aviation aircraft. They tend to be more pitch-sensitive, and have much lighter stick forces than other GA aircraft. This results in an almost universal tendency to over-control them during the initial flight hours, and typically results in pilot-induced pitch oscillations during takeoff and landing. Lancairs have a higher wing loading than other GA aircraft, and typically require 2,000' or more to recover from a stall. For these, and many similar reasons, you are strongly encouraged to seek initial training in the same model and type Lancair before you venture out on your own. There are several ways to do this; two good ones are discussed below.

Lancair Owners and Builders Organization (LOBO). LOBO has developed FITS-approved flight training syllabi for all models of Lancair aircraft and maintains a list of qualified/approved flight instructors. Each instructor operates as an independent instructor but you can contact LOBO at www.lancairowners.org for a current list of flight instructors in your area. LOBO also conducts periodic maintenance clinics around the country in response to member requests, as well as an annual fly-in and other social activities. The LOBO Newsletter and web site provide useful maintenance, safety, training and other information specific to your aircraft. A quarterly newsletter is available on the website in the Members Only section.

High Performance Aircraft Training (HPAT). Peter Zaccagnino owns the High Performance Aircraft Group (www.hp-at.com) and conducts individual flight training in your Lancair by appointment. He and his team also conduct group training sessions around the country as required. You can contact him at 908-391-2001, flypetezacc@aol.com; or Glenda McKinney at 727-524-9300, glenda@hp-at.com.

The Lancair Mail List (LML). Marv Kaye has operated this email forum for Lancair builders/owners for many years. The LML periodically (usually daily) delivers any posts made to the system to all registered users. The subscription is free, but Marv would be pleased to accept a \$50/year donation for access to his system. It's a very good investment. Write to him at marv@lancair.net for subscription requests and donations via PayPal.

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