

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 8

AIRPLANE HANDLING, SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE

Paragraph No.		Page No.
8.1	General . . . . .	8-1
8.3	Airplane Inspection Periods . . . . .	8-3
8.5	Preventive Maintenance . . . . .	8-4
8.7	Airplane Alterations . . . . .	8-5
8.9	Ground Handling . . . . .	8-6
8.11	Engine Air Filter . . . . .	8-8
8.13	Brake Service . . . . .	8-8
8.15	Landing Gear Service . . . . .	8-10
8.17	Propeller Service . . . . .	8-11
8.19	Oil Requirements . . . . .	8-11
8.21	Fuel System . . . . .	8-11
8.23	Tire Inflation . . . . .	8-13
8.25	Battery Service . . . . .	8-13
8.27	Cleaning . . . . .	8-13
8.29	Cold Weather Operation . . . . .	8-15



SECTION 8  
AIRPLANE HANDLING, SERVICING, AND MAINTENANCE

8.1 GENERAL

This section provides general guidelines relating to the handling, servicing, and maintenance of the Archer II. For complete maintenance instructions, refer to the PA-28 Service Manual.

Every owner should stay in close contact with an authorized Piper Service Center or Piper's Customer Services Department to obtain the latest information pertaining to their airplane, and to avail themselves of Piper Aircraft's support systems.

Piper Aircraft Corporation takes a continuing interest in having owners get the most efficient use from their airplane and keeping it in the best mechanical condition. Consequently, Piper Aircraft, from time to time, issues service releases including Service Bulletins, Service Letters, Service Spares Letters, and others relating to the airplane.

Piper Service Bulletins are of special importance and Piper considers compliance mandatory. These are sent directly to the latest FAA-registered owners in the United States (U.S.) and Piper Service Centers worldwide. Depending on the nature of the release, material and labor allowances may apply. This information is provided to all authorized Piper Service Centers.

Service Letters deal with product improvements and servicing techniques pertaining to the airplane. They are sent to Piper Service Centers and, if necessary, to the latest FAA-registered owners in the U.S. Owners should give careful attention to Service Letter information.

Service Spares Letters offer improved parts, kits, and optional equipment which were not available originally, and which may be of interest to the owner.

Piper Aircraft Corporation offers a subscription service for Service Bulletins, Service Letters, and Service Spares Letters. This service is available to interested persons such as owners, pilots, and mechanics at a nominal fee, and may be obtained through an authorized Piper Service Center or Piper's Customer Services Department.

Service manuals, parts catalogs, and revisions to both, are available from Piper Service Centers or Piper's Customer Services Department.

Any correspondence regarding the airplane should include the airplane model and serial number to ensure proper response.

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### 8.3 AIRPLANE INSPECTION PERIODS

Piper Aircraft Corporation has developed inspection items and required inspection intervals for the PA-28 (see PA-28 Service and Inspection Manuals). The PA-28 Service Manual contains appropriate forms, and all inspection procedures should be complied with by a properly trained, knowledgeable, and qualified mechanic at an authorized Piper Service Center or a reputable repair shop. Piper Aircraft Corporation cannot accept responsibility for the continued airworthiness of any aircraft not maintained to these standards, and/or not brought into compliance with applicable Service Bulletins issued by Piper Aircraft Corporation, instructions issued by the engine, propeller, or accessory manufacturers, or Airworthiness Directives issued by the FAA.

A Progressive Inspection, approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is also available to the owner. This involves routine and detailed inspections to allow maximum utilization of the airplane. Maintenance inspection costs are reduced, and the maximum standard of continued airworthiness is maintained. Complete details are available from Piper Aircraft Corporation.

In addition, but in conjunction with the above, the FAA requires periodic inspections on all aircraft to keep the Airworthiness Certificate in effect. The owner is responsible for assuring compliance with these inspection requirements and for maintaining proper documentation in logbooks and/or maintenance records.

A spectrographic analysis of the engine oil is available from several sources. This inspection, if performed properly, provides a good check of the internal condition of the engine. To be accurate, induction air filters must be cleaned or changed regularly, and oil samples must be taken and sent in at regular intervals.

### 8.5 PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

The holder of a pilot certificate issued under Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 61 may perform certain preventive maintenance as defined in the FARs. This maintenance may be performed only on an aircraft which the pilot owns and operates, and which is not used in air carrier or air taxi/commercial operations service.

All other aircraft maintenance must be accomplished by a person or facility appropriately certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform that work.

Anytime maintenance is accomplished, an entry must be made in the appropriate aircraft maintenance records. The entry shall include:

- (1) The date the work was accomplished.
- (2) Description of the work.
- (3) Number of hours on the aircraft.
- (4) The certificate number of pilot performing the work.
- (5) Signature of the individual doing the work.

## 8.7 AIRPLANE ALTERATIONS

If the owner desires to have his aircraft modified, he must obtain FAA approval for the alteration. Major alterations accomplished in accordance with Advisory Circular 43.13-2, when performed by an A & P mechanic, may be approved by the local FAA office. Major alterations to the basic airframe or systems not covered by AC 43.13-2 require a Supplemental Type Certificate.

The owner or pilot is required to ascertain that the following Aircraft Papers are in order and in the aircraft.

- (a) To be displayed in the aircraft at all times:
  - (1) Aircraft Airworthiness Certificate Form FAA-8100-2.
  - (2) Aircraft Registration Certificate Form FAA-8050-3.
  - (3) Aircraft Radio Station License if transmitters are installed.
  
- (b) To be carried in the aircraft at all times:
  - (1) Pilot's Operating Handbook.
  - (2) Weight and Balance data plus a copy of the latest Repair and Alteration Form FAA-337, if applicable.
  - (3) Aircraft equipment list.

Although the aircraft and engine logbooks are not required to be in the aircraft, they should be made available upon request. Logbooks should be complete and up to date. Good records will reduce maintenance cost by giving the mechanic information about what has or has not been accomplished.

## 8.9 GROUND HANDLING

### (a) Towing

The airplane may be moved on the ground by the use of the nose wheel steering bar that is stowed below the forward ledge of the baggage compartment or by power equipment that will not damage or excessively strain the nose gear steering assembly. Towing lugs are incorporated as part of the nose gear fork.

#### CAUTION

When towing with power equipment, do not turn the nose gear beyond its steering radius in either direction, as this will result in damage to the nose gear and steering mechanism.

#### CAUTION

Do not tow the airplane when the controls are secured.

In the event towing lines are necessary, ropes should be attached to both main gear struts as high up on the tubes as possible. Lines should be long enough to clear the nose and/or tail by not less than fifteen feet, and a qualified person should ride in the pilot's seat to maintain control by use of the brakes.

### (b) Taxiing

Before attempting to taxi the airplane, ground personnel should be instructed and approved by a qualified person authorized by the owner. Engine starting and shut-down procedures as well as taxi techniques should be covered. When it is ascertained that the propeller back blast and taxi areas are clear, power should be applied to start the taxi roll, and the following checks should be performed:

- (1) Taxi a few feet forward and apply the brakes to determine their effectiveness.
- (2) While taxiing, make slight turns to ascertain the effectiveness of the steering.
- (3) Observe wing clearance when taxiing near buildings or other stationary objects. If possible, station an observer outside the airplane.
- (4) When taxiing over uneven ground, avoid holes and ruts.
- (5) Do not operate the engine at high RPM when running up or taxiing over ground containing loose stones, gravel, or any loose material that may cause damage to the propeller blades.



(c) Parking

When parking the airplane, be sure that it is sufficiently protected from adverse weather conditions and that it presents no danger to other aircraft. When parking the airplane for any length of time or overnight, it is suggested that it be moored securely.

- (1) To park the airplane, head it into the wind if possible.
- (2) Set the parking brake by pulling back on the brake lever and depressing the knob on the handle. To release the parking brake, pull back on the handle until the catch disengages; then allow the handle to swing forward.

CAUTION

Care should be taken when setting brakes that are overheated or during cold weather when accumulated moisture may freeze a brake.

- (3) Aileron and stabilator controls should be secured with the front seat belt and chocks used to properly block the wheels.

(d) Mooring

The airplane should be moored for immovability, security and protection. The following procedures should be used for the proper mooring of the airplane:

- (1) Head the airplane into the wind if possible.
- (2) Retract the flaps.
- (3) Immobilize the ailerons and stabilator by looping the seat belt through the control wheel and pulling it snug.
- (4) Block the wheels.
- (5) Secure tie-down ropes to the wing tie-down rings and to the tail skid at approximately 45 degree angles to the ground. When using rope of non-synthetic material, leave sufficient slack to avoid damage to the airplane should the ropes contract.

CAUTION

Use bowline knots, square knots or locked slip knots. Do not use plain slip knots.

NOTE

Additional preparations for high winds include using tie-down ropes from the landing gear forks and securing the rudder.

- (6) Install a pitot head cover if available. Be sure to remove the pitot head cover before flight.
- (7) Cabin and baggage doors should be locked when the airplane is unattended.

### 8.11 ENGINE AIR FILTER

(a) Removing Engine Air Filter

- (1) Remove the lower cowl.
- (2) Remove the wing nuts securing the filter. Remove the filter.

(b) Cleaning Engine Air Filter

The induction air filter must be cleaned at least once every 50 hours, and more often, even daily, when operating in dusty conditions. Extra filters are inexpensive, and a spare should be kept on hand for use as a rapid replacement.

To clean the filter:

- (1) Tap the filter gently to remove dirt particles, being careful not to damage the filter. DO NOT wash the filter in any liquid. DO NOT attempt to blow out dirt with compressed air.
- (2) If the filter is excessively dirty or shows any damage, replace it immediately.
- (3) Wipe the filter housing with a clean cloth and install the filter. The usable life of the filter should be restricted to one year or 500 hours, whichever comes first.

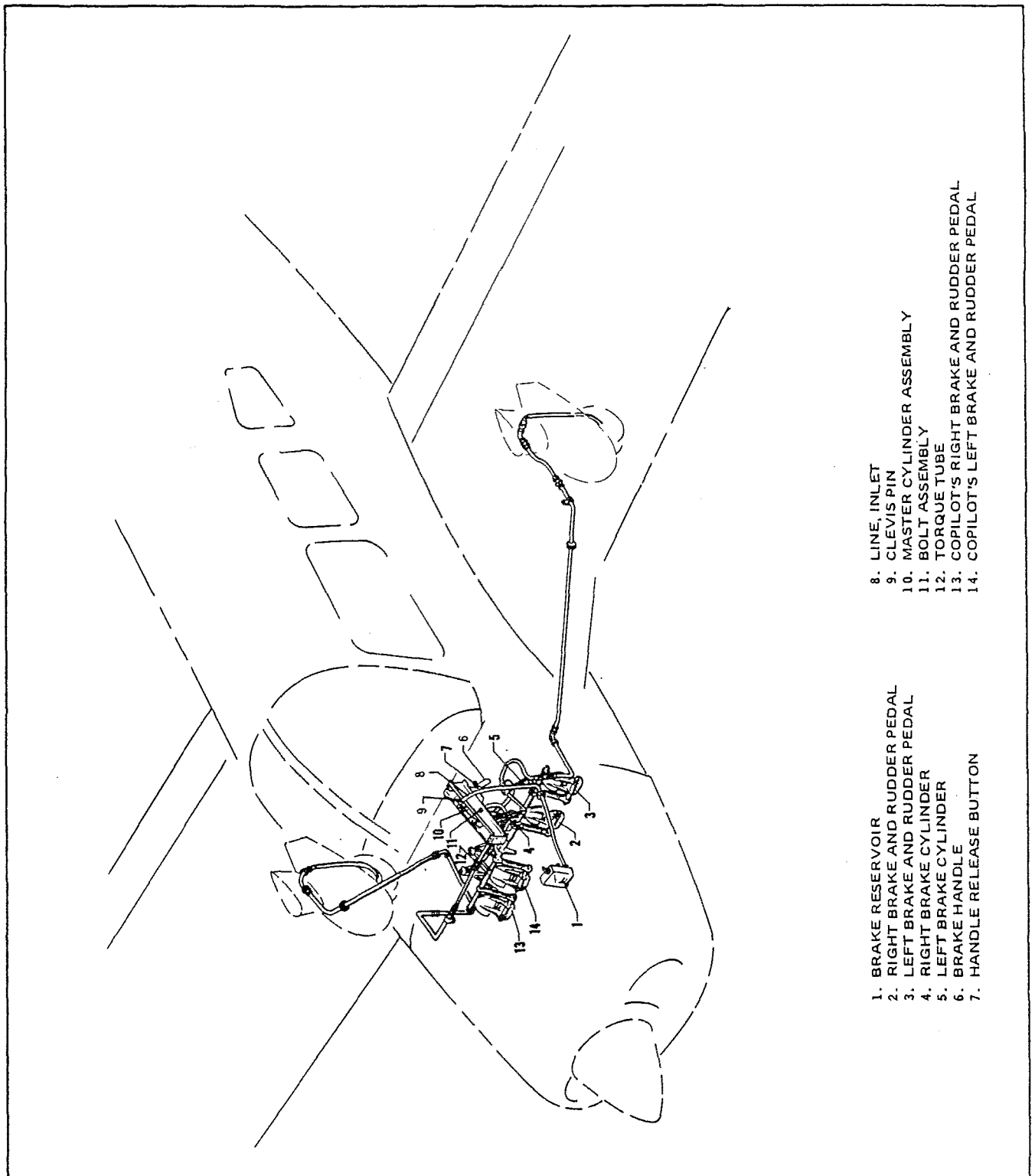
(c) Installation Of Engine Air Filter

After cleaning or when replacing the filter, install the filter in the reverse order of removal.

### 8.13 BRAKE SERVICE

The brake system is filled with MIL-H-5606 (petroleum base) hydraulic brake fluid. The fluid level should be checked periodically or at every 50 hour inspection and replenished when necessary. The brake reservoir is located on the fire wall in the engine compartment. If the entire system must be refilled, fill with fluid under pressure from the brake end of the system. This will eliminate air from the system.

No adjustment of the brake clearances is necessary. If after extended service brake blocks become excessively worn, they should be replaced with new segments.



BRAKE SYSTEM

Figure 8-1

### **8.15 LANDING GEAR SERVICE**

The three landing gears use Cleveland Aircraft Products 6.00 x 6, four-ply rating, type III tires and tubes. (Refer to paragraph 8.23.)

Wheels are removed by taking off the hub cap, cotter pin, axle nut, and the two bolts holding the brake segment in place. Mark tire and wheel for reinstallation; then dismount by deflating the tire, removing the three through-bolts from the wheel and separating the wheel halves.

Landing gear oleos on the Cherokee Archer II should be serviced according to the instructions on the units. The main oleos should be extended under normal static load until  $4.50 \pm .50$  inches of oleo piston tube is exposed, and the nose gear should show  $3.25 \pm .25$  inches. Should the strut exposure be below that required, it should be determined whether air or oil is required by first raising the airplane on jacks. Depress the valve core to allow air to escape from the strut housing chamber. Remove the filler plug and slowly raise the strut to full compression. If the strut has sufficient fluid, it will be visible up to the bottom of the filler plug hole and will then require only proper inflation.

Should fluid be below the bottom of the filler plug hole, oil should be added. Replace the plug with valve core removed; attach a clear plastic hose to the valve stem of the filler plug and submerge the other end in a container of hydraulic fluid. Fully compress and extend the strut several times, thus drawing fluid from the container and expelling air from the strut chamber. To allow fluid to enter the bottom chamber of the main gear strut housing, the torque link assembly must be disconnected to let the strut be extended a minimum of 10 inches (the nose gear torque links need not be disconnected). Do not allow the strut to extend more than 12 inches. When air bubbles cease to flow through the hose, compress the strut fully and again check fluid level. Reinstall the valve core and filler plug, and the main gear torque links, if disconnected.

With fluid in the strut housing at the correct level, attach a strut pump to the air valve and with the airplane on the ground, inflate the oleo strut to the correct height.

In jacking the aircraft for landing gear or other service, two hydraulic jacks and a tail stand should be used. At least 250 pounds of ballast should be placed on the base of the tail stand before the airplane is jacked up. The hydraulic jacks should be placed under the jack points on the bottom of the wing and the airplane jacked up until the tail skid is at the right height to attach the tail stand. After the tail stand is attached and the ballast added, jacking may be continued until the airplane is at the height desired.

The steering arms from the rudder pedals to the nose wheel are adjusted at the nose wheel by turning the threaded rod end bearings in or out. Adjustment is normally accomplished at the forward end of the rods and should be done in such a way that the nose wheel is in line with the fore and aft axis of the plane when the rudder pedals and rudder are centered. Alignment of the nose wheel can be checked by pushing the airplane back and forth with the rudder centered to determine that the plane follows a perfectly straight line. The turning arc of the nose wheel is  $30.0^\circ \pm 2^\circ$  in either direction and is limited by stops on the bottom of the forging.

The rudder pedal arm stops should be carefully adjusted so that the pedal arms contact the stops just after the rudder hits its stops. This guarantees that the rudder will be allowed to move through its full travel.

### 8.17 PROPELLER SERVICE

The spinner and backing plate should be frequently cleaned and inspected for cracks. Before each flight the propeller should be inspected for nicks, scratches, and corrosion. If found, they should be repaired as soon as possible by a rated mechanic, since a nick or scratch causes an area of increased stress which can lead to serious cracks or the loss of a propeller tip. The back face of the blades should be painted when necessary with flat black paint to retard glare. To prevent corrosion, the surface should be cleaned and waxed periodically.

### 8.19 OIL REQUIREMENTS

The oil capacity of the engine is 8 quarts and the minimum safe quantity is 2 quarts. It is recommended that engine oil be drained and renewed every 50 hours. The oil filter element should be changed every 50 hours of operation. The interval between oil and oil filter changes should not exceed a total of four (4) months. Under unfavorable dusty conditions, the oil and oil filter should be changed more frequently.

It is recommended that single or multi viscosity aviation grade oils in accordance with latest issue of Textron Lycoming Service Instruction 1014 be used. The following seasonal aviation oil grades and seasonal ambient temperature ranges are recommended:

Average Ambient Air Temperature For Starting	MIL-L-6082B Mineral SAE Grade	MIL-L-22851 Ashless Dispersant SAE Grades
All Temperatures	--	15W-50 or 20W-50
Above 80°F	60	60
Above 60°F	50	40 or 50
30°F to 90°F	40	40
0°F to 70°F	30	30, 40 or 20W-40
0°F to 90°F	20W-50	20W-50 or 15W-50
Below 10°F	20	30 or 20W-30

When operating temperatures overlap indicated ranges, use the lighter grade oil.

#### NOTE

Refer to the latest issue of Textron Lycoming Service Instruction 1014 (Lubricating Oil Recommendations) for further information.

### 8.21 FUEL SYSTEM

#### (a) Servicing Fuel System

Refer to the PA-28 Cherokee Service Manual and Periodic Inspection Report for fuel system servicing and inspection.

#### (b) Fuel Requirements (AVGAS ONLY)

Aviation grade fuel with a minimum octane of 100/130 must be used in this airplane. Since the use of lower grades can cause serious damage in a short period of time, the engine warranty is invalidated by the use of lower octanes. Refer to the latest issue of Lycoming Service Instruction No. 1070 for alternate fuels and additional information.

A summary of the current grades as well as the previous fuel designations is shown in the following chart:

FUEL GRADE COMPARISON CHART

Previous Commercial Fuel Grades (ASTM-D910)			Current Commercial Fuel Grades (ASTM-D910-75)			Current Military Fuel Grades (MIL-G-5572F)		
Grade	Color	Max. TEL ml/U.S. gal.	Grade	Color	Max. TEL ml/U.S. gal.	Grade	Color	Max. TEL ml/U.S. gal.
80/87	red	0.5	80	red	0.5	80/87	red	0.5
91/96	blue	2.0	*100LL	blue	2.0	none	none	none
100/130	green	3.0	100	green	**3.0	100/130	blue	2.0
115/145	purple	4.6	none	none	none	115/145	purple	4.6

\* - Grade 100LL fuel in some overseas countries is currently colored green and designated as "100L."

\*\* - Commercial fuel grade 100 and grade 100/130 having TEL content of up to 4 ml/U.S. gallon are approved for use in all engines certificated for use with grade 100/130 fuel.

The operation of the aircraft is approved with an anti-icing additive in the fuel. When an anti-icing additive is used, it must reflect the specification MIL-I 27686, must be uniformly blended with the fuel while refueling, must not exceed .15% by volume of the refueled quantity, and to ensure its effectiveness must be blended at not less than .10% by volume. One and one half liquid ozs. per ten gallons of fuel would fall within this range. A blender supplied by the additive manufacturer should be used. Except for the information contained in this section, the manufacturer's mixing or blending instructions should be carefully followed.

#### CAUTIONS

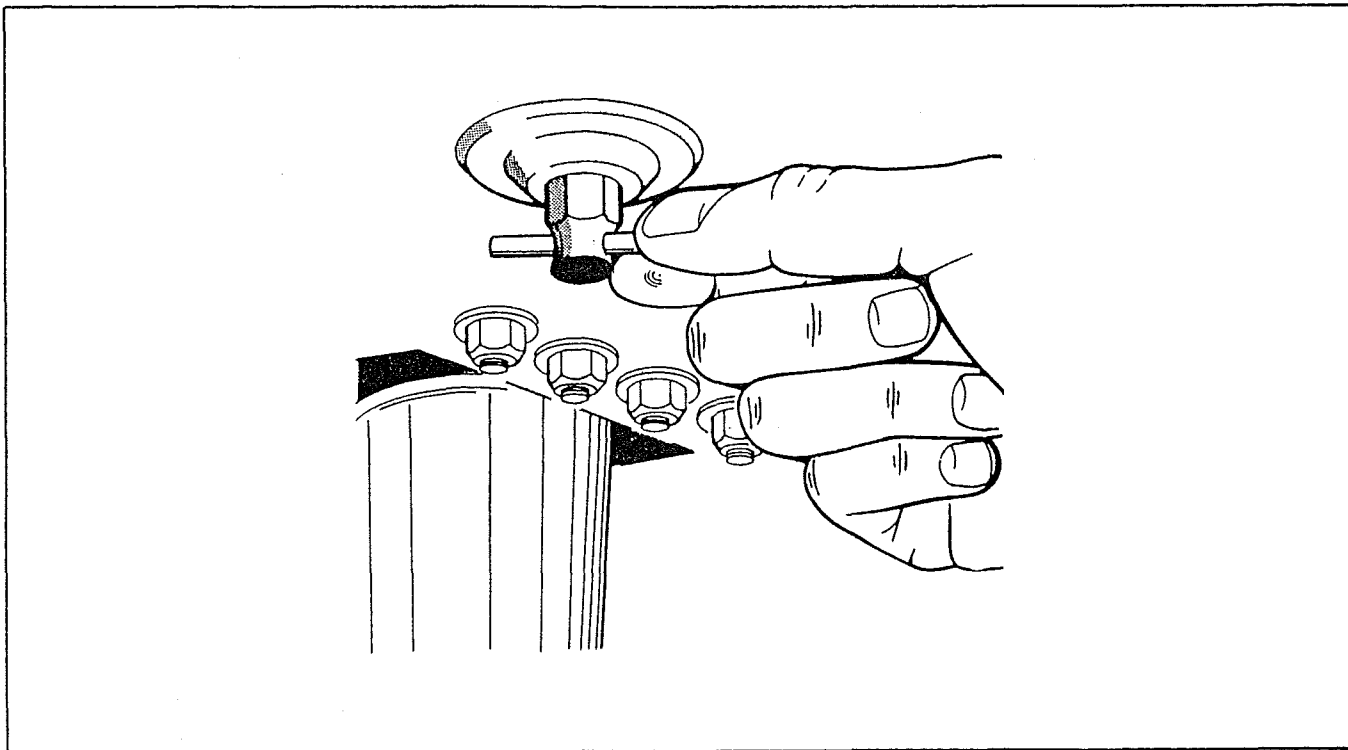
Assure that the additive is directed into the flowing fuel stream. The additive flow should start after the stop before the fuel flow. Do not permit the concentrated additive to come in contact with the aircraft painted surfaces or the interior surfaces of the fuel tanks.

Some fuels have anti-icing additives preblended in the fuel at the refinery, so no further blending should be performed.

(c) Filling Fuel Tanks

Observe all required precautions for handling gasoline. Fuel is stored in two twenty-five gallon (24 gal. usable) tanks.

There is approximately 17 gallons in the fuel tank when fuel level is even with bottom of filler neck indicator.



FUEL DRAIN

Figure 8-3

(d) Draining Fuel Strainer, Sumps and Lines

The fuel system sumps and strainer should be drained daily prior to the first flight and after refueling to avoid the accumulation of contaminants such as water or sediment. Each fuel tank is equipped with an individual quick drain located at the lower inboard rear corner of the tank. The fuel strainer is equipped with a quick drain located on the front lower corner of the firewall. Each of the fuel tank sumps should be drained first. Then the fuel strainer should be drained twice, once with the fuel selector valve on each tank. Each time fuel is drained, sufficient fuel should be allowed to flow to ensure removal of contaminants. This fuel should be collected in a suitable container, examined for contaminants, and then discarded.

CAUTION

When draining any amount of fuel, care should be taken to ensure that no fire hazard exists before starting the engine.

Each quick drain should be checked after closing it to make sure it has closed completely and is not leaking.



(e) Draining Fuel System

The bulk of the fuel may be drained from the system by opening the valve at the inboard end of each fuel tank. Push up on the arms of the drain valve and turn counterclockwise to hold the drain open. The remaining fuel in the system may be drained through the filter bowl. Any individual tank may be drained by closing the selector valve and then draining the desired tank.

### 8.23 TIRE INFLATION

For maximum service from the tires, keep them inflated to the proper pressures - 18 psi for the nose gear and 24 psi for the main gear. All wheels and tires are balanced before original installation, and the relationship of tire, tube and wheel should be maintained upon reinstallation. Unbalanced wheels can cause extreme vibration in the landing gear; therefore, in the installation of new components, it may be necessary to rebalance the wheels with the tires mounted. When checking tire pressure, examine the tires for wear, cuts, bruises, and slippage.

### 8.25 BATTERY SERVICE

Access to the 12-volt battery is through an access panel at the right rear side of the baggage compartment. The battery box has a plastic tube which is normally closed off with a cap and which should be opened occasionally to drain off any accumulation of liquid. The battery should be checked for proper fluid level. DO NOT fill the battery above the baffle plates. DO NOT fill the battery with acid - use water only. A hydrometer check will determine the percent of charge in the battery.

If the battery is not up to charge, recharge starting at a 4 amp rate and finishing with a 2 amp rate. Quick charges are not recommended.

### 8.27 CLEANING

(a) Cleaning Engine Compartment

Before cleaning the engine compartment, place a strip of tape on the magneto vents to prevent any solvent from entering these units.

- (1) Place a large pan under the engine to catch waste.
- (2) With the engine cowling removed, spray or brush the engine with solvent or a mixture of solvent and degreaser. In order to remove especially heavy dirt and grease deposits, it may be necessary to brush areas that were sprayed.

#### CAUTION

Do not spray solvent into the alternator, vacuum pump, starter, or air intakes.

- (3) Allow the solvent to remain on the engine from five to ten minutes. Then rinse the engine clean with additional solvent and allow it to dry.

CAUTION

Do not operate the engine until excess solvent has evaporated or otherwise been removed.

- (4) Remove the protective tape from the magnetos.
- (5) Lubricate the controls, bearing surfaces, etc., in accordance with the Lubrication Chart.

(b) Cleaning Landing Gear

Before cleaning the landing gear, place a plastic cover or similar material over the wheel and brake assembly.

- (1) Place a pan under the gear to catch waste.
- (2) Spray or brush the gear area with solvent or a mixture of solvent and degreaser, as desired. Where heavy grease and dirt deposits have collected, it may be necessary to brush areas that were sprayed, in order to clean them.
- (3) Allow the solvent to remain on the gear from five to ten minutes. Then rinse the gear with additional solvent and allow to dry.
- (4) Remove the cover from the wheel and remove the catch pan.
- (5) Lubricate the gear in accordance with the Lubrication Chart.

(c) Cleaning Exterior Surfaces

The airplane should be washed with a mild soap and water. Harsh abrasives or alkaline soaps or detergents could make scratches on painted or plastic surfaces or could cause corrosion of metal. Cover areas where cleaning solution could cause damage. To wash the airplane, use the following procedure:

- (1) Flush away loose dirt with water.
- (2) Apply cleaning solution with a soft cloth, a sponge or a soft bristle brush.
- (3) To remove exhaust stains, allow the solution to remain on the surface longer.
- (4) To remove stubborn oil and grease, use a cloth dampened with naphtha.
- (5) Rinse all surfaces thoroughly.
- (6) Any good automotive wax may be used to preserve painted surfaces. Soft cleaning cloths or a chamois should be used to prevent scratches when cleaning or polishing. A heavier coating of wax on the leading surfaces will reduce the abrasion problems in these areas.

(d) Cleaning Windshield and Windows

- (1) Remove dirt, mud and other loose particles from exterior surfaces with clean water.
- (2) Wash with mild soap and warm water or with aircraft plastic cleaner. Use a soft cloth or sponge in a straight back and forth motion. Do not rub harshly.
- (3) Remove oil and grease with a cloth moistened with kerosene.

CAUTION

Do not use gasoline, alcohol, benzene, carbon tetrachloride, thinner, acetone, or window cleaning sprays.

- (4) After cleaning plastic surfaces, apply a thin coat of hard polishing wax. Rub lightly with a soft cloth. Do not use a circular motion.
- (5) A severe scratch or mar in plastic can be removed by rubbing out the scratch with jeweler's rouge. Smooth both sides and apply wax.

(e) Cleaning Headliner, Side Panels and Seats

- (1) Clean headliner, side panels, and seats with a stiff bristle brush, and vacuum where necessary.
- (2) Soiled upholstery, except leather, may be cleaned with a good upholstery cleaner suitable for the material. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions. Avoid soaking or harsh rubbing.

CAUTION

Solvent cleaners require adequate ventilation.

- (3) Leather should be cleaned with saddle soap or a mild hand soap and water.

(f) Cleaning Carpets

To clean carpets, first remove loose dirt with a whisk broom or vacuum. For soiled spots and stubborn stains use a nonflammable dry cleaning fluid. Floor carpets may be removed and cleaned like any household carpet.

## 8.29 COLD WEATHER OPERATION

For cold weather operation a winterization plate is installed on the inlet opening of the oil cooler duct on the right rear engine baffle. This plate should be installed whenever the ambient temperature reaches 50° F or less. The plate should be removed and stored in the cockpit when the ambient temperature exceeds 50° F

It is recommended that an optional Engine Breather Tube Winterization Kit be installed for cold weather operation. This kit is available through your Piper Dealer/Distributor.

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