

## Piper Announces 400 H.P. Single-Engine Comanche With Top Speed of 223 M.P.H.

**T**he new *Comanche 400* is rated by Piper Aircraft Corporation, manufacturers of the plane, as the world's fastest single-engine production aircraft. The plane has a top speed of 223 m.p.h., optimum cruise speed of 213 m.p.h., and climbs at 1,600 f.p.m.

The new four-place all-metal aircraft has a 130-gallon fuel capacity and a range of over 1,500 miles. It is powered

by an eight-cylinder, 400 h.p., eight-cylinder Lycoming IO-720-A1A engine with Bendix fuel injection and a three-blade Hartzell propeller. Gross weight of the *Comanche 400* is 3,600 pounds, with a useful load of 1,490 pounds.

Developed from the Piper *Comanche 250*, the *Comanche 400* is offered in a choice of three operational packages—Custom, Sportsman and Professional.



The three packages provide a wide range of instrumentation suited to individual pilot needs.

The Custom package includes advanced gyro instrument panel, rotating beacon and heated pitot tube. The navigation-communications equipment includes the Narco Mark 12 90-channel transceiver and 100-channel navigational receiver, Narco VOA-4 VOR-ILS converter-indicator and the Bendix ADF-T12. Choice of the Piper Altimatic II or AutoControl II is available.

The Sportsman package adds Glare Ban lights, Piper Tru-Speed indicator, and window curtains. To the navigation-communications equipment is added the Piper PM-1 marker beacon receiver, a second Mark 12 with 360-channel transmitter and a second VOA 4.

The Professional package for the *Comanche 400* includes gyro instrument panel, Glare Ban lights, Tru-Speed indicator and rotating beacon. A Bendix ADF, Piper marker beacon receiver, two 360-channel Narco Mark 12's a VOA-4 and a VOA-5, VOR-ILS and glide slope converter-indicator, and a Narco UDI-2 distance measuring equipment are included along with the new Piper external unit.

First deliveries of the new *Comanche 400* are scheduled for April with a basic suggested list price of \$28,750.

Piper Aircraft Corporation expects the *Comanche 400* to be popular in mountainous areas. Optimum cruising speed is placed at 213 m.p.h.

## PIPER COMANCHE 400

(Model PA-24-400)

### Specifications

Engine	Lycoming 10-720-A1A 400 at 2650
H.P. & r.p.m.	
Gross weight (lbs.)	3,600
Empty weight (lbs.)	2,110
Useful load (lbs.)	1,490
Wing span (ft.)	35.98
Wing area (sq. ft.)	178
Length (ft.)	25.70
Height (ft.)	7.83
Propeller diameter (max. in.)	77.0
Power loading (lbs. per h.p.)	9.00
Wing loading (lbs. per sq. ft.)	20.22
Baggage capacity (lbs.)	200
Fuel capacity, std. (gals.)	100
Fuel capacity, res. (gals.)	130
Wheel base (ft.)	6.55
Wheel tread (ft.)	9.79

### Performance

Top speed (m.p.h.)	223
Optimum cruise speed (75% at optimum altitude, m.p.h.)	213
Cruising speed (75% at sea level, m.p.h.)	202
Stall speed (power off, flaps ext., m.p.h.)	68
Take-off distance over 50 ft. obstacle at sea level (ft.)	1,500
Landing distance from over 50 ft. obstacle at sea level (ft.)	1,820
Best rate of climb speed at sea level (m.p.h.)	120
Rate of climb at sea level (ft./min.)	1,600
Service ceiling (ft.)	19,500
Absolute ceiling (ft.)	21,000
Fuel consumption (75% power, gal./hr.)	20.1
Cruising range (75% at 8,000 ft. std. fuel, mi.)	1,000
	1,320 (res.)
Cruising range (65% at 12,000 ft. std. fuel, mi.)	1,080
	1,425 (res.)
Cruising range (55% at 16,000 ft. std. fuel, mi.)	1,170
	1,540 (res.)