

Cessna 170 Buying Guide

Use this Cessna 170 buying guide to review older-airframe adverts more carefully and move into AeroAds listings with stronger buying discipline.

Who This Guide Is For

Use this guide when the Cessna 170 is already on your shortlist and you want a practical framework for assessing live adverts before making contact.

Guide Summary

- Use the guide to understand why the Cessna 170 attracts a specific kind of classic-aircraft buyer.
- Move from the guide into the Cessna 170 landing page, the UK aircraft hub, and live AeroAds listings without losing context.
- Focus on advert quality, documentation, and ownership fit rather than appearance or headline price alone.

Cessna 170 Buying Guide

Overview

The Cessna 170 is a four-seat, high-wing aircraft produced between 1948 and 1956, with over 5,000 units built.

It is the direct predecessor to the Cessna 172, one of the most widely used aircraft in the world.

The aircraft uses conventional (tailwheel) landing gear, which makes it more demanding to operate than later nosewheel designs, but also gives it strong short-field capability and versatility.

Who This Aircraft Is For

The Cessna 170 is well suited to:

- Private owners seeking a capable four-seat aircraft
- Pilots comfortable with tailwheel operations
- Recreational flyers and touring pilots
- Buyers interested in classic aircraft ownership

It is less suited to:

- Low-experience pilots without tailwheel training
- Buyers wanting a modern, low-maintenance platform

What to Look For When Buying

Airframe and structure

- Inspect carefully for corrosion, especially in older airframes
- Check wing condition (early models had fabric-covered wings)
- Look for evidence of repairs or structural modifications
- Compare the advert against the [Cessna 170 for sale UK page](#) before contacting the seller

Engine and performance

Typical configuration:

- Continental O-300 engine (~145 hp)

Typical performance:

- Cruise: ~120 knots
- Max speed: ~140 knots
- Range: ~500 nm

Check:

- engine hours and overhaul status
- consistency of operation
- fuel system condition (gravity-fed system)

Handling characteristics

- Tailwheel configuration requires more skill to land
- Later models (170B) introduced improved wing and flap design
- Large flaps provide strong short-field performance

Maintenance records

- Complete logs are essential
- Older aircraft often have complex ownership histories
- Verify documentation thoroughly

Modifications

Many aircraft have been modified:

- engine upgrades (e.g. higher horsepower conversions)
- avionics upgrades

- structural or STOL modifications

Ensure:

- all modifications are documented and approved

Ownership Considerations (UK)

Availability

- More common than niche aircraft
- Wide variation in condition and specification

Maintenance

- Older aircraft require ongoing attention
- Parts availability is generally good but depends on configuration

Storage

- Hangarage recommended to preserve airframe

Use case

The Cessna 170 is well suited to:

- touring
- recreational flying
- short-field operations

How to Evaluate Listings on AeroAds

Focus on:

- airframe condition (more important than age alone)
- engine status
- modification history
- documentation completeness

Compare multiple listings — variation is significant.

Common Buyer Mistakes

- Underestimating tailwheel handling requirements
- Ignoring maintenance history in favour of appearance
- Failing to understand impact of modifications

Next Steps

- Browse current listings on the [Cessna 170 for sale UK page](#)
- Explore more aircraft on the [UK aircraft hub](#)
- Compare against the broader [aircraft hub](#)
- Keep the [main aircraft buying guide](#) nearby for a wider shortlist framework