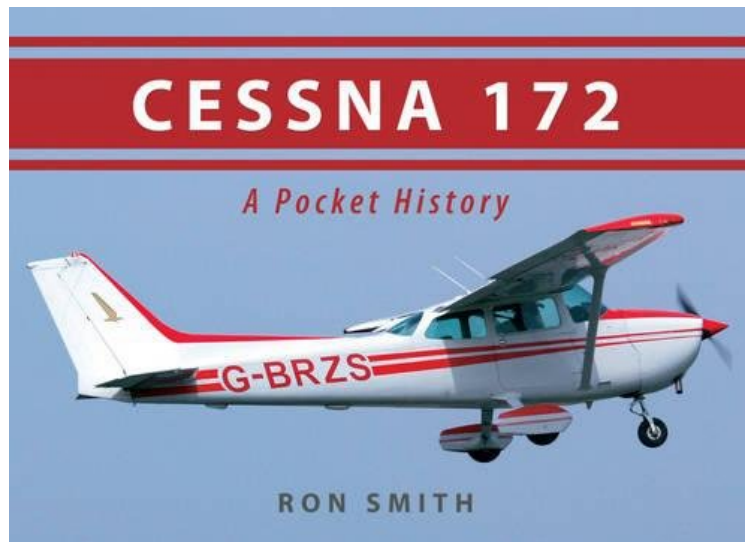


## Cessna 172: A Pocket History

Ron Smith

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**Ron Smith : Cessna 172: A Pocket History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cessna 172: A Pocket History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good overview, needs more original paint schemesBy Johnny L.A.A nice little pocket reference on the Cessna 172. Having read it through, I now enjoy thumbing through it and reminding myself of interesting developments in the series. My one complaint is that many of older models shown in the book have been repainted in more modern paint schemes. My impression is that many of the photos are holiday snaps that the author grabbed in his travels. That is, it seems he photographed examples of various models as he came upon them, rather than seeking the best examples for illustration. This is understandable, as many owners are not interested in originality; and finding original or restored examples, travelling to them, and photographing them would be very expensive. Local to me, N78797 is a nicely restored 1968 K-model, N84823 is a nicely-restored 1970 K-model (both with original paint schemes), and a gleaming Cessna 170 in its original scheme of polished aluminium and blue is a frequent visitor to local fly-ins. Restored or original aircraft are out there, and would have been better choices for an overview of the type.The lack of exemplars of how these aircraft appeared as the left the factory notwithstanding, this pocket history does provide ample photographs of the models from the beginning to the present. The four-star rating, instead of five-star, is due solely to my personal preference to see the aircraft as they were. The text is informative, and pointed out details that I had not noticed before.If you're a fan of the Cessna 172, you must have this book in your library.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bart MarculesAs Described.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A true pocket history of the Cessna 172By Mike LittleThis is a surprisingly comprehensive view of the Cessna 172. It begins with the design's roots in the two-seat postwar Cessna 120/140 series and continues to models being produced today, covering the 170, 175 and the T-41 along the way. STOL, seaplane, alternative powerplant and tailwheel conversions are discussed, including a little-known, experimental "twin-pac" installation that would have made it a twin-engined airplane! The author also goes into such subjects as the handling qualities, safety record and production facilities of the aircraft, and includes a chapter on the evolution of the cockpit. It is illustrated with many high-quality photos, most of them in color, of each version discussed. This is

contained in a truly pocket-sized package; I read it over several days by carrying it in my overcoat and pulling it out whenever boredom threatened, e.g. waiting for meetings to start. The limitation imposed by this convenience is my only minor criticism of the book - it would have been nice to have a few more details here and there, including line drawings of certain model differences. All told, though, it is an excellent reference on a popular airplane, and I strongly recommend it for anyone interested in aviation.

The Cessna 172 is unquestionably the world's most successful light aircraft. More than 43,000 have been built since 1956, and the type is in service all over the world. For many, it defines the experience of cross-country flying with family and friends. This small volume traces the origins of the Cessna 172 and highlights the features that have made it so successful. Comprehensively illustrated, with many previously unpublished photographs, the book includes a close-up look at an individual aircraft and highlights the differences between the many Cessna 172 and 175 variants. It discusses flying and owning the type and illustrates how the instrument panel layout, flight controls and instruments have evolved during the lengthy production run. The book finishes with a fascinating look at a number of special variants and uses, including tailwheel and STOL conversions, re-engined examples, ski and seaplane operation, banner towing and skywriting.

About the Author Ron Smith is an aeronautical engineer, pilot, aircraft owner, photographer and historian. He has previously written the five-volume British Built Aircraft series recording Britain's aircraft industry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and member of that society's Historical Group Committee.