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SECTION 8

AIRPLANE HANDLING, SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE

8.1 GENERAL

This section provides guidelines relating to the handling, servicing and maintenance of the Seminole. For complete maintenance instructions, refer to the PA-44-180 Maintenance Manual.

WARNING

Inspection, maintenance and parts requirements for all non-PIPER approved STC installations are not included in this handbook. When a non-PIPER approved STC installation is incorporated on the airplane, those portions of the airplane affected by the installation must be inspected in accordance with the inspection program published by the owner of the STC. Since non-PIPER approved STC installations may change systems interface, operating characteristics and component loads or stresses on adjacent structures, PIPER provided inspection criteria may not be valid for airplanes with non-PIPER approved STC installations.

WARNING

Modifications must be approved in writing by PIPER prior to installation. Any and all other installations, whatsoever, of any kind will void this warranty in it's entirety.

8.1 GENERAL (continued)

WARNING

Use only genuine PIPER parts or PIPER approved parts obtained from PIPER approved sources, in connection with the maintenance and repair of PIPER airplanes.

Genuine PIPER parts are produced and inspected under rigorous procedures to insure airworthiness and suitability for use in PIPER airplane applications. Parts purchased from sources other than PIPER, even though identical in appearance, may not have had the required tests and inspections performed, may be different in fabrication techniques and materials, and may be dangerous when installed in an airplane.

Additionally, reworked or salvaged parts or those parts obtained from non-PIPER approved sources, may have service histories which are unknown or cannot be authenticated, may have been subjected to unacceptable stresses or temperatures or may have other hidden damage not discernible through routine visual or nondestructive testing. This may render the part, component or structural assembly, even though originally manufactured by PIPER, unsuitable and unsafe for airplane use.

PIPER expressly disclaims any responsibility for malfunctions, failures, damage or injury caused by use of non-PIPER approved parts.

8.1 GENERAL (continued)

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

Piper 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, 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 available on the Piper.com website. Depending on the nature of the release, material and labor allowances may apply. This information is provided to all authorized Piper Service Centers.

Piper Service Letters deal with product improvements and servicing techniques pertaining to the airplane. These are available on the Piper.com website. Owners should give careful attention to Service Letter information.

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

Maintenance manuals, parts catalogs, and revisions to both, are available from Piper Service Centers.

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

8.3 AIRPLANE INSPECTION PERIODS

WARNING

All inspection intervals, replacement time limits, overhaul time limits, the method of inspection, life limits, cycle limits, etc., recommended by PIPER are solely based on the use of new, remanufactured or overhauled PIPER approved parts. If parts are designed, manufactured, remanufactured, overhauled and/or approved by entities other than PIPER, then the data in PIPER'S maintenance/service manuals and parts catalogs are no longer applicable and the purchaser is warned not to rely on such data for non-PIPER parts. All inspection intervals, replacement time limits, overhaul time limits, the method of inspection, life limits, cycle limits, etc., for such non-PIPER parts must be obtained from the manufacturer and/or seller of such non-PIPER parts.

Piper has developed inspection items and required inspection intervals (i.e.: 50, 100, 500, and 1000 hours) for the specific model aircraft. Appropriate forms are contained in the applicable Piper Service/Maintenance Manual, and should be complied with by a properly trained, knowledgeable, and qualified mechanic at a Piper Authorized Service Center or a reputable repair shop. Piper 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, instructions issued by the engine, propeller, or accessory manufacturers, or Airworthiness Directives issued by the FAA.

A programmed 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 continuous airworthiness is maintained. Complete details are available from all local distributors representing Piper Aircraft, Inc.

8.3 AIRPLANE INSPECTION PERIODS (continued)

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 FAR Part 61 may perform certain preventive maintenance described in FAR Part 43. This maintenance may be performed only on an aircraft which the pilot owns or operates and which is not used to carry persons or property for hire. Although such maintenance is allowed by law, each individual should make a self-analysis as to whether he has the ability to perform the work.

All other maintenance required on the airplane should be accomplished by appropriately certified personnel.

If maintenance is accomplished, an entry must be made in the appropriate logbook. The entry should contain:

- (a) The date the work was accomplished.
- (b) Description of the work.
- (c) Number of hours on the aircraft.
- (d) The certificate number of pilot performing the work.
- (e) 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 in the baggage compartment or by power equipment that will not damage or excessively strain the nose gear steering assembly.

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.

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) Taxi with the propeller set in low pitch, high RPM setting.
- (3) While taxiing, make slight turns to ascertain the effectiveness of the steering.

8.9 GROUND HANDLING (continued)

- (4) Observe wing clearance when taxiing near buildings or other stationary objects. If possible, station an observer outside the airplane.
- (5) When taxiing over uneven ground, avoid holes and ruts.
- (6) 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 depressing the toe brakes and pulling out the parking brake control. To release the parking brake, depress the toe brakes and push in the parking brake control, then release the toe brakes.

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 INDUCTION AIR FILTERS**(a) Removing Induction Air Filter**

- (1) Remove the upper cowling to gain access to the air filter box.
- (2) Turn the three studs and remove the air filter box cover.
- (3) Lift the air filter from the filter box.

(b) Cleaning Induction Air Filters

The induction air filters 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 filter gently to remove dirt particles. Do not use compressed air or cleaning solvents.
- (2) Inspect filter. If paper element is torn or ruptured or gasket is damaged, the filter should be replaced. The usable life of the filter should be restricted to one year or 500 hours, whichever comes first.

8.11 ENGINE INDUCTION AIR FILTERS (continued)

(c) Installation of Induction Air Filters

After cleaning, place filter in air box and install cover. Secure cover by turning studs. Replace cowl.

8.13 BRAKE SERVICE

The brake system is filled with MIL-PRF-5606 (petroleum base) hydraulic brake fluid. This should be checked periodically or at every 50-hour inspection and replenished when necessary. The brake reservoir is located in the forward maintenance area. Remove the four screws and rotate the fiberglass nose cone forward and down. The reservoir is located at the top rear of the compartment. Keep the fluid level at the level marked on the reservoir.

No adjustment of brake clearance is necessary. Refer to the Maintenance Manual for brake lining replacement instructions.

8.15 LANDING GEAR SERVICE

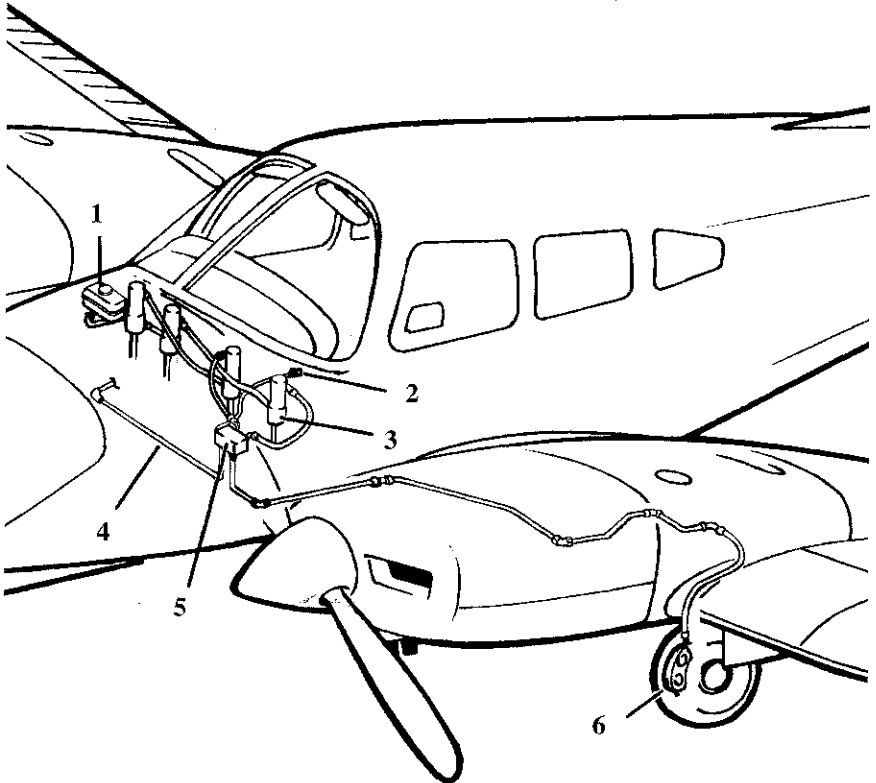
Two jack points are provided for jacking the aircraft for servicing. One is located outboard of each main landing gear. Before jacking, attach a tail support to the tail skid. Approximately 500 pounds of ballast should be placed on the tail support.

CAUTION

Be sure to apply sufficient support ballast; otherwise the airplane may tip forward, and the nose section could be damaged.

Landing gear oleos should be serviced according to instruction on the units. Under normal static load (empty weight of airplane plus full fuel and oil), main oleo struts should be exposed 2.60 inches and the nose oleo strut should be exposed 2.70 inches. Refer to the Maintenance Manual for complete information on servicing oleo struts.

- 1. BRAKE FLUID RESERVOIR
- 2. PARKING BRAKE HANDLE
- 3. BRAKE CYLINDERS
- 4. BRAKE LINES
- 5. PARKING BRAKE VALVE
- 6. BRAKE ASSEMBLY



BRAKE SYSTEM

Figure 8-1

8.17 HYDRAULIC SYSTEM SERVICE

The hydraulic landing gear system reservoir is an integral part of the electric hydraulic pump assembly. The combination pump and reservoir is accessible through a panel in the baggage compartment. Fill the reservoir with MIL-PRF-5606 hydraulic fluid. The fluid level should be checked periodically or every 50 hour inspection and replenished when necessary.

To check fluid level, remove the filler plug/dipstick and note fluid level on dipstick. The filler plug also incorporates a vent. When reinstalling filler plug, tighten to full tight then loosen 1 1/2 turns to allow proper venting. The instructions are also placarded on the pump reservoir.

8.19 PROPELLER SERVICE

The gas charge in the propeller cylinder should be kept at the pressure specified on the placard located in the spinner cap. The pressure in the cylinder will increase about one-third psi for every degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature. This effect should be considered when checking pressure. The charge maintained must be accurate and free of excessive moisture since moisture may freeze the piston during cold weather. Dry nitrogen gas is recommended.

**CHAMBER PRESSURE REQUIREMENTS WITH
TEMPERATURE FOR COUNTERWEIGHT TYPE PROPELLERS**

Temp. °F	Pressure (PSI)
70 to 100	41 +/- 1
40 to 70	38 +/- 1
0 to 40	36 +/- 1
-30 to 0	33 +/- 1

NOTE

Do not check pressure or charge with propeller in feather position.

The gas charge in the unfeathering accumulators should be maintained at 90 - 100 PSI. It is important to use nitrogen only for this purpose since any moisture in the system may freeze and render it inoperative. Do not check this charge pressure while engine is running.

8.19 PROPELLER SERVICE (continued)

The spinner and backing plate should be cleaned and inspected for cracks frequently. Before each flight the propeller should be inspected for nicks, scratches, or 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, all surfaces should be cleaned and waxed periodically.

8.21 OIL REQUIREMENTS

The oil capacity of the Lycoming engines is 8 quarts per engine with a minimum safe quantity of 2 quarts per engine. It is necessary that oil be maintained at full for maximum endurance flights. It is recommended that engine oil be drained and renewed every 50 hours, or sooner under unfavorable conditions. Full flow cartridge type oil filters should be replaced each 50 hours of operation. The interval between oil and oil filter change is not to exceed four (4) months. Lycoming Service Bulletin No. 446 should be complied with each 50 hours, also. The following grades are required for temperatures:

Average Ambient Temperature	MIL-L-6082B 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	20W50	20W50 or 15W50
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 Lycoming Service Instruction 1014 (Lubricating Oil Recommendations) for further information.

8.23 FUEL SYSTEM

(a) Servicing Fuel System

The fuel screens in the strainers require cleaning at 50 hour or 90 day intervals, whichever occurs first. The fuel gascolator strainers are located in the fuselage under the rear seats. The fuel selector valves and the auxiliary pumps are in the wings adjacent to the nacelles.

(b) Fuel Requirements

The minimum aviation grade fuel for the PA-44-180 is 100. Since the use of lower grades can cause serious engine 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 additional information.

A summary of 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-5572E) Amendment No. 3		
Grade	Max. TEL Colorml/U.S. gal		Grade	Max. TEL Colorml/U.S. gal		Grade	Max. TEL Colorml/U.S. gal	
80/87	red 0.5		80	red 0.5		80/87	red 0.5	
91/98	blue 2.0		*100LL	blue 2.0		none	none none	
100/130	green 3.0		100	green **3.0		100/130	green **3.0	
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 (both of which are colored green) 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 meet the specification MIL-1-27686, must be uniformly blended with the fuel while refueling, must not exceed 0.15% by volume of the refueled quantity, and to ensure its effectiveness should be blended at not less than 0.10% by volume. One and one half liquid ozs. per ten gallon 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.

CAUTION

Assure that the additive is directed into the flowing fuel stream. The additive flow should start after and 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.

CAUTION

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

Fuel additive can not be used as a substitute for preflight draining of the fuel system.

(c) Filling Fuel Tanks

Observe all safety precautions required when handling gasoline. Fill the fuel tanks through the fillers located inside the access cover aft of the engine cowling on the outboard side of the nacelles. Each nacelle tank holds a maximum of 55 U.S. gallons. When using less than the standard 110 gallon capacity, fuel should be distributed equally between each side.

8.23 FUEL SYSTEM (continued)

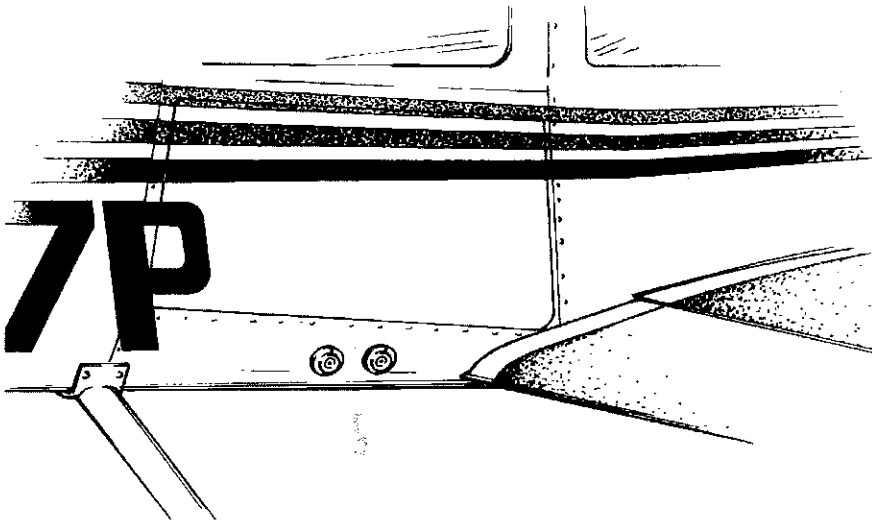
(d) Draining Fuel Strainers, Sumps and Lines

The aircraft is equipped with single point drains (Figure 8-3) which should be drained before the first flight of the day and after refueling, to check for fuel contamination. If contamination is found, fuel should be drained until the contamination stops. If contamination persists after draining fuel for a minute, contact a mechanic to check the fuel system.

Each half of the fuel system can be drained from a single point which is located just forward of the entrance step. Fuel selectors should be in the ON position during draining. The fuel drained should be collected in a transparent container and examined for contamination.

CAUTION

When draining fuel, be sure that no fire hazard exists before starting the engines.



FUEL DRAINS

Figure 8-3

(e) Draining Fuel System

The fuel may be drained by opening the valves at the right side of the fuselage just forward of the entrance step or by siphoning. The remaining fuel in the lines may be drained through the gascolators.

8.25 TIRE INFLATION

For maximum service from the tires, keep them inflated to the proper pressures. The main gear tires should be inflated to 55 psi and the nose gear should be inflated to 50 psi.

Interchange the tires on the main wheels, if necessary, to produce even wear. All wheels and tires are balanced before original installation, and the relationship of the tire, tube, and wheel should be maintained if at all possible. Unbalanced wheels can cause extreme vibration on takeoff. In the installation of new components, it may be necessary to rebalance the wheel with the tire mounted.

When checking the pressure, examine the tires for wear, cuts, bruises and slippage.

8.27 BATTERY SERVICE

Access to the 24-volt battery is gained through the fiberglass nose cone.

The external power receptacle is located on the right side of the fuselage behind the wing.

Refer to the Maintenance Manual for detailed procedures for servicing instructions.

8.29 SERIAL NUMBER PLATES

The serial number plate is located on the bottom of the fuselage near the aft end of the tail cone. The serial number should always be used when referring to the airplane on service or warranty matters.

8.31 LUBRICATION

Lubrication at regular intervals is an essential part of the maintenance of an airplane. For lubrication instructions and a chart showing lubrication points, types of lubricants to be used, lubrication methods and recommended frequencies, refer to the Maintenance Manual.

8.33 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, starter, air intakes, or alternate air inlets.

8.33 CLEANING (continued)

- (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 in the Maintenance Manual.
- (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 in the Maintenance Manual.
- (6) Caution: Do not brush the micro switches.

8.33 CLEANING (continued)

(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.

8.33 CLEANING (continued)

(e) Cleaning Headliner, Side Panels and Seats

- (1) Clean headliner, side panels, and seats with a stiff 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 non-inflammable dry cleaning fluid. Floor carpets may be removed and cleaned like any household carpet.

8.35 WINTERIZATION

For winter operation a winterization kit is installed on the inlet opening of the oil cooler outboard chamber of the plenum chamber. This kit should be installed whenever the ambient temperature is 50°F or less. When the kit is not being used it can be stowed in the nose cone compartment.

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