COMING SOON

1944 Beechcraft D17S Staggerwing

Düsseldorf, Germany



STARTING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	BIDS PLACED	RESERVE PRICE
—	—	0	No

LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#81	#65	Beechcraft	Aircraft

BIDDING CLOSES	SELLER
—	C****s

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DESCRIPTION

A remarkable 1944 Beechcraft D17S Staggerwing , representing one of the most elegant and collectible aircraft designs of the pre-war and wartime general aviation era. With its distinctive negative-stagger biplane layout, retractable conventional landing gear, powerful radial engine, and luxurious cabin proportions, the Staggerwing remains one of the most visually iconic aircraft ever built by Beechcraft.

Originally introduced in the 1930s, the Model 17 was created as a fast, premium cabin aircraft for business travel, private owners, and high-end aviation customers. Its combination of speed, craftsmanship, and refined Art-Deco styling gave it a level of prestige that few aircraft of its time could match.

This 1944 Beechcraft D17S presents a compelling opportunity to acquire a true collector-grade aircraft with strong historical identity, rare ramp presence, and enduring appeal among vintage aircraft enthusiasts.

Technical Features & Avionics

The Beechcraft D17S Staggerwing is powered by a Pratt & Whitney R-985 Wasp Junior radial engine producing 450 hp . The aircraft is known for its retractable landing gear, streamlined biplane design, and unusually strong performance for its era. AOPA describes the D17S as a high-performance biplane with a 450 hp Pratt & Whitney engine , retractable landing gear, luxurious cabin, and advanced aerodynamic design.

The D17S was also respected for its speed. GlobalAir lists the Beechcraft D17S with a normal cruise speed of around 176 kt, while AOPA lists a cruise speed of 202 mph and a range of 582 NM .

Exterior & Interior

The exterior of the Staggerwing is defined by its unmistakable negative-stagger wing arrangement, where the lower wing is positioned farther forward than the upper wing. This unusual layout, combined with its rounded radial cowling, tailwheel stance, and retractable landing gear, gives the aircraft a dramatic silhouette unlike almost anything else in general aviation.

Inside, the D17S reflects its original role as an executive aircraft. The cabin was designed to carry up to five occupants and was known for a level of finish that set it apart from simpler utility aircraft of the same period. Period descriptions of the Staggerwing frequently highlight its luxurious cabin and premium passenger-aircraft positioning.

Ownership & Legacy

The Beechcraft Model 17 Staggerwing holds a special place in aviation history. It first flew in 1932 and entered production in 1933, serving both civilian and military roles before and during World War II. The aircraft was used for executive transport, air racing, liaison duties, and wartime utility operations.

For collectors, the D17S is especially attractive because it combines rarity, performance, and design significance. Its hand-built construction, radial-engine character, and instantly recognizable biplane form make it one of the most desirable classic aircraft in the vintage aviation market.

The Perfect Airplane For

This 1944 Beechcraft D17S Staggerwing is ideally suited to a collector, vintage aircraft enthusiast, or owner-pilot seeking a rare and prestigious aircraft with exceptional visual identity.

For those who appreciate Art-Deco aviation design, radial-engine sound, classic executive-aircraft heritage, and the unmistakable beauty of one of Beechcraft’s most celebrated creations, the Staggerwing represents a truly special acquisition opportunity.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	1944
Model	Beechcraft D17S Staggerwing

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	Pratt & Whitney R-985 Wasp Junior
Engine Type	Single radial piston engine
Horsepower	1 × 450 hp
Propeller Type	Constant-speed propeller

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	approx. 176 kt / 202 mph
Range	approx. 582 NM
Payload	approx. 1,400–1,450 lb useful load, depending on equipment and fuel load
Passengers	up to 4 passengers + 1 pilot / 5 seats total

PHOTOGRAPHS

5 of 6 photographs reproduced here. The complete gallery is on the listing page.

INTERIOR



EXTERIOR


AI-enhanced image



INTERIOR



EXTERIOR


N17SG
AI-enhanced image

HOW TO BID ON THIS LOT

Bidding is online at CollectAirs. Register and complete verification in good time before the lot closes, verification is reviewed by our team rather than granted instantly.

collectairs.com/auctions/1944-beechcraft-d17s-staggerwing

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