COMING SOON

1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D

Vienna, Austria



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

LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#169	#141	Taylorcraft Aviation	Aircraft

BIDDING CLOSES	SELLER
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DESCRIPTION

The 1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D is a characterful classic aircraft for sale , combining post-war American aviation heritage, economical operation, lightweight construction, and an authentic tailwheel flying experience.

Designed as a compact two-seat personal aircraft, the Taylorcraft BC-12D offers a distinctive alternative to better-known vintage models such as the Piper J-3 Cub and Aeronca Champion. Its side-by-side seating, high-wing configuration, clean aerodynamic profile, and traditional conventional landing gear give it a strong identity of its own.

For buyers searching for a Taylorcraft BC-12D for sale , vintage tailwheel aircraft , classic two-seat aircraft , or collector aircraft for sale , this 1946 example represents an attractive opportunity to own a straightforward and historically relevant light aircraft.

Key Listing Highlights

Highlight

Buyer Benefit

1946 classic aircraft

Authentic post-war aviation character

Two-seat side-by-side cabin

More sociable cockpit layout than tandem-seat alternatives

High-wing aircraft

Good outward visibility and traditional proportions

Tailwheel landing gear

Genuine vintage flying experience

Continental piston engine

Simple and familiar light-aircraft powerplant

Lightweight construction

Economical recreational flying potential

Collector aircraft

Strong appeal for fly-ins, heritage events, and private collections

Post-War American Aviation Heritage

The Taylorcraft BC-12D was introduced in 1945 as Taylorcraft returned to the civilian market after producing military gliders and the L-2 observation aircraft during World War II. By 1946, more than 4,000 BC-12D aircraft had reportedly been produced, making it one of the company’s most important post-war models.

The aircraft competed directly with other light airplanes in the 65-horsepower class. Its efficient wing and streamlined cabin allowed it to achieve noticeably stronger cruise performance than several comparable aircraft of its era.

Today, the Taylorcraft BC-12D remains an appealing choice for pilots and collectors who value uncomplicated engineering, historic relevance, and traditional flying qualities.

Technical Character and Flying Experience

In its representative original configuration, the Taylorcraft BC-12D is powered by a Continental A-65 , rated at approximately 65 hp. It uses a simple two-blade fixed-pitch propeller and fixed conventional landing gear.

Typical cruise performance is approximately 90–95 mph, although individual aircraft, propeller combinations, engine upgrades, and operating conditions can produce different figures. The aircraft's maximum gross weight is commonly listed at 1,200 lb, with a useful load of approximately 400–450 lb.

Core Technical Appeal

- Single-engine piston aircraft
- Continental A-65 engine
- Approximately 65 hp
- Two-blade fixed-pitch propeller
- Fixed tailwheel landing gear
- Strut-braced high-wing configuration
- Side-by-side seating
- Lightweight two-seat airframe
- Simple analog cockpit architecture

The result is a classic aircraft focused on direct control feel, relaxed recreational flying, and economical ownership rather than speed, payload, or modern avionics.

Exterior Design

The exterior of the 1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D is defined by its long high wing, narrow fuselage, compact engine cowling, external wing struts, fixed main landing gear, and conventional tailwheel stance.

Its proportions are clean and purposeful. Compared with a Piper Cub, the Taylorcraft's enclosed side-by-side cabin and automotive-style doors create a noticeably different profile. AOPA identifies these features as some of the clearest visual and practical distinctions between the two designs.

Notable Exterior Features

- Classic high-wing aircraft silhouette
- Traditional fabric-covered appearance
- Compact nose and engine cowling
- Fixed main landing gear
- Conventional tailwheel
- External wing bracing
- Large cabin doors
- Strong vintage ramp presence

Cockpit and Cabin

The Taylorcraft BC-12D accommodates one pilot and one passenger in a side-by-side configuration. This layout creates a more social cabin environment than the tandem seating found in several competing vintage aircraft.

The cockpit is generally simple and functional, with analog flight instruments, panel-mounted controls, and excellent visibility through the windshield and side windows. Original aircraft were delivered with minimal

equipment, while surviving examples may now feature updated radios, electrical systems, engine instruments, or navigation equipment.

The exact panel layout and installed systems should therefore be described using the documentation and photographs of the individual aircraft.

Ownership and Collector Appeal

The 1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D offers an attractive balance between usability and historic value. It is old enough to carry genuine post-war heritage, but its basic configuration remains understandable and approachable for pilots familiar with conventional-gear light aircraft.

Its strongest ownership qualities include:

- Authentic vintage aircraft character
- Simple fixed-gear configuration
- Economical low-horsepower operation
- Side-by-side seating
- Strong visibility from the cabin
- Recognizable American aviation history
- Suitability for fly-ins and heritage events
- Manageable size for private hangar storage

For collectors, the aircraft offers a direct connection to the rapid expansion of personal aviation immediately after World War II. For pilots, it offers traditional stick-and-rudder flying without the added complexity of retractable landing gear or advanced systems.

Best Suited For

Buyer Type	Why the Taylorcraft Fits
Vintage aircraft collectors	Genuine 1940s heritage and recognizable design
Private owner-pilots	Simple recreational flying and economical operation
Tailwheel pilots	Traditional conventional-gear handling
Flying clubs	Interesting classic aircraft for member flying and events
Aviation museums	Relevant post-war personal-aviation story
Restoration enthusiasts	Straightforward vintage construction and strong community interest
First-time classic-aircraft buyers	

Less mechanically complex than many collectible aircraft

The Perfect Airplane For

This 1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D is ideally suited to a pilot or collector searching for a classic two-seat aircraft with authentic post-war heritage, straightforward systems, and distinctive flying character.

It is especially appealing to buyers who appreciate:

- Vintage tailwheel aircraft
- Classic American aircraft
- Two-seat high-wing aircraft
- Continental-powered aircraft
- Post-war general aviation
- Economical recreational flying
- Collector aircraft auctions
- Traditional stick-and-rudder flying

The aircraft is not designed for buyers seeking high cruise speed, a large useful load, extensive baggage capacity, or modern cross-country equipment. Its appeal lies in simplicity, history, efficiency, and the experience of flying a genuine lightweight classic.

Advantages and Considerations

Advantages

Considerations

Strong collector aircraft identity

Cabin space is limited

Economical low-power engine

Tailwheel proficiency is recommended

Side-by-side seating

Original performance is modest

Better cruise speed than several period competitors

Many aircraft have been modified over time

Simple fixed landing gear

Fabric and underlying structure require specialist inspection

Excellent vintage-aircraft appearance

Original examples may lack an electrical system

Easy to photograph and market

Exact engine and gross weight may differ by configuration

Pre-Purchase Inspection Priorities

Before purchasing a Taylorcraft BC-12D , interested bidders should review:

- Airframe and engine logbooks
- Fabric age and condition
- Steel-tube fuselage condition
- Wing spars, ribs, and attachment points
- Landing-gear alignment and condition
- Tailwheel assembly
- Engine model and time since overhaul
- Propeller specification
- Fuel system
- Weight-and-balance documentation
- Installed electrical and avionics systems
- History of repairs, restorations, or modifications

Because surviving aircraft can differ substantially from their original factory configuration, all technical details should be verified from the individual aircraft's current records.

Review-Style Summary

The 1946 Taylorcraft BC-12D is a strong candidate for CollectAirs because it combines an accessible design with genuine aviation history. It is distinctive without being mechanically complicated, collectible without being excessively exotic, and visually consistent enough for a professional auction presentation.

Its greatest strengths are its efficient wing, side-by-side cabin, simple systems, and classic post-war character. It offers a compelling alternative to more commonly advertised vintage trainers and can attract buyers searching specifically for an affordable and usable classic tailwheel aircraft .

Key Takeaways

- The Taylorcraft BC-12D is a two-seat American light aircraft introduced in 1945.
- The model was developed for the post-war civilian aviation market.
- A representative original aircraft uses a 65 hp Continental A-65 engine .
- Typical cruise speed is approximately 90–95 mph .
- Useful load is commonly reported at approximately 400–450 lb .
- The side-by-side cabin distinguishes it from many tandem-seat classics.
- It is well suited to collectors, private pilots, flying clubs, and heritage-aircraft enthusiasts.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	**1946**
Model	**Taylorcraft BC-12D**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	**Continental A-65**
Engine Type	**Single four-cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled piston engine**
Horsepower	**Approximately 1 × 65 hp**
Propeller Type	**Two-blade fixed-pitch propeller**

Airframe & Exterior

Length	**Approximately 21 ft 10 in / 6.65 m**
Wingspan	**Approximately 36 ft / 10.97 m**
Height	**Approximately 8 ft / 2.44 m**

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	**Approximately 90–95 mph / 78–83 kt**
Range	**Approximately 375 miles / 326 NM**
Passengers	**1 passenger plus 1 pilot / 2 seats total**

PHOTOGRAPHS

6 of 7 photographs reproduced here. The complete gallery is on the listing page.

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