COMING SOON

1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner

Nastätten, Germany



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LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#97	#80	Beechcraft	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is a practical and approachable four-seat light aircraft that combines Beechcraft build quality with forgiving handling characteristics and dependable Lycoming power. Developed as part of Beechcraft's Musketeer family, the Sundowner earned a reputation as a comfortable cross-country traveler and capable training platform.

Powered by a 180-horsepower Lycoming O-360 engine, the Beechcraft C23 Sundowner offers a balance of useful performance, simple systems, and predictable flight characteristics. For private owners, flight schools, and recreational pilots, it represents an attractive entry into certified aircraft ownership with the durability and support expected from the Beechcraft name.

The 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is especially attractive for buyers searching for a four-seat piston aircraft, personal cross-country airplane, flight training platform, affordable Beechcraft ownership opportunity, or Lycoming-powered general aviation aircraft.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft type

Four-seat single-engine piston aircraft

Manufacturer

Beechcraft

Model

Sundowner (C23)

Engine

Lycoming O-360

Power

180 hp

Seating

Four seats

Landing gear

Fixed tricycle gear

Configuration

Low-wing monoplane

Ownership appeal

Stable handling, roomy cabin, proven Lycoming reliability

Key Takeaway: The 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner delivers practical four-seat utility, comfortable cabin space, and straightforward ownership, making it an appealing aircraft for pilots who value reliability, simplicity, and enjoyable flying characteristics.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

At the heart of the 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is the Lycoming O-360, a four-cylinder, air-cooled piston engine producing 180 horsepower. The O-360 is one of general aviation's most respected engines, known for durability, widespread parts availability, and predictable operating characteristics.

The Sundowner was designed to provide confidence-building handling without sacrificing utility. Its wide cabin, low-wing design, and stable flight characteristics make it popular among both student pilots and experienced owners looking for an honest, comfortable airplane.

Technical highlights include:

- Powerplant: Lycoming O-360 four-cylinder piston engine
- Power output: 180 hp
- Configuration: Single-engine low-wing monoplane
- Seating: Four occupants
- Landing gear: Fixed tricycle configuration
- Typical cruise speed: Approximately 115–125 knots
- Useful cross-country capability with generous cabin comfort

The 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is not designed to be the fastest aircraft in its class. Its appeal comes from reliability, comfort, predictable handling, and practical ownership economics.

Buyer Perspective

Pros

Considerations

Flight characteristics

Forgiving and stable handling

Not designed for high-performance flying

Engine

Proven Lycoming O-360 reliability

Routine piston-engine maintenance required

Cabin comfort

Spacious interior for its class

Cruise speed lower than some competitors

Training suitability

Excellent trainer and time-builder

Fixed-pitch systems limit performance tuning

Ownership

Strong support network and parts availability

Age and maintenance history should be reviewed

Who should consider the 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner from a technical standpoint? It is well suited for private pilots, flight schools, first-time aircraft owners, and anyone seeking a dependable certified aircraft with straightforward systems and predictable handling.

Exterior & Cockpit

The Beechcraft C23 Sundowner features a clean low-wing profile that reflects the practical design philosophy of 1970s general aviation. Its broad cabin, large windows, and simple lines create an aircraft that looks purposeful while maximizing comfort and visibility.

Visually, the Sundowner offers classic Beechcraft styling without unnecessary complexity. Its wide cabin and low-wing configuration provide a modern appearance while maintaining excellent access and usability.

Exterior highlights include:

- Low-wing design with clean aerodynamic lines
- Fixed tricycle landing gear for easy ground handling
- Large cabin doors for convenient entry and exit
- Wide fuselage offering exceptional cabin space
- Strong visibility from both front and rear seating positions
- Practical ramp presence suitable for personal and training operations

The cockpit of the 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner emphasizes visibility, accessibility, and simplicity. Pilots benefit from a spacious seating position and straightforward instrument layout that supports both training and recreational flying.

Cockpit highlights include:

- Four-seat cabin with generous shoulder room
- Excellent side visibility through large windows
- Traditional analog flight instrumentation
- Comfortable seating for extended flights
- Pilot-friendly layout with straightforward controls
- Ideal environment for training, time-building, and personal travel

Unlike many compact trainers, the Sundowner's cabin feels noticeably spacious, contributing to its popularity among pilots who prioritize comfort alongside practicality.

The Perfect Airplane For

The 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is perfect for buyers seeking a dependable, versatile, and comfortable four-seat aircraft. It offers enough performance for personal travel while remaining approachable for newer pilots and economical for regular flying.

This aircraft is particularly attractive to owners who want a certified aircraft with proven systems, broad support availability, and a reputation for forgiving flight characteristics.

The Beechcraft Sundowner is ideal for:

- First-time aircraft owners
- Private pilots seeking a practical cross-country airplane
- Flight schools and training organizations
- Pilots transitioning from trainers into aircraft ownership
- Families looking for four-seat travel capability
- Recreational flyers who value comfort and simplicity

- Aviation enthusiasts seeking dependable Lycoming-powered aircraft

Who is the 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner best suited for? It is best suited for pilots who value reliability, comfort, straightforward systems, and enjoyable flying characteristics more than maximum speed or complex equipment.

Buyer Type

Fit Level

Why It Works

First-time aircraft owner

Excellent

Forgiving handling and simple systems

Flight school

Excellent

Proven training platform

Recreational pilot

Excellent

Comfortable and easy to operate

Family traveler

Strong

Four-seat cabin and practical utility

Speed-focused pilot

Moderate

Prioritizes comfort and stability over speed

Cross-country owner

Strong

Reliable engine and comfortable cabin

Potential buyer profile:

- You want a dependable four-seat aircraft
- You appreciate proven Lycoming engine reliability
- You value comfortable cabin space
- You prefer straightforward systems and maintenance
- You want an aircraft suitable for both training and travel
- You care about maintenance records, engine history, and overall airframe condition
- You are looking for practical Beechcraft ownership without excessive complexity

In short, the 1972 Beechcraft C23 Sundowner is the perfect airplane for buyers who want a capable, comfortable, and trustworthy general aviation aircraft. It delivers honest performance, dependable systems, and the versatility needed for training, personal travel, and years of enjoyable flying.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	1972
Model	Beechcraft C23 Sundowner
Gross Weight	2,450 lb

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	Lycoming O-360-A4J
Engine Type	Four-Cylinder, Horizontally Opposed, Air-Cooled Piston Engine
Horsepower	180 hp
Propeller Type	2-Blade Fixed-Pitch Propeller

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	Approximately 120 knots
Range	Approximately 600 miles
Fuel Capacity	57 US gal (216 L)

PHOTOGRAPHS

9 of 10 photographs reproduced here. The complete gallery is on the listing page.

INTERIOR



EXTERIOR


Beechcraft
SUNDOWNER
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


Beechcraft
SUNDOWNER
Sundowner
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


Beechcraft
SUNDOWNER
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


AI-ENHANCED IMAGE

MECHANICAL



EXTERIOR



MECHANICAL



EXTERIOR


Beechcraft
SUNDOWNER
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