COMING SOON

1978 Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA

Alveslohe, Germany



STARTING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	BIDS PLACED	RESERVE PRICE
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LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#94	#77	Bellanca	Aircraft

BIDDING CLOSES	SELLER
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DESCRIPTION

The 1978 Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA is a classic American tailwheel aircraft that combines aerobatic capability, traditional stick-and-rudder flying, and timeless aviation character. Originally developed as an aircraft that could teach pilots advanced handling skills while remaining practical for everyday flying, the Citabria has become one of the most respected names in recreational and aerobatic aviation.

With its high-wing design, tandem cockpit, tailwheel landing gear, and aerobatic certification, the Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA offers a unique ownership experience that stands apart from modern training aircraft. For buyers searching for a tailwheel aircraft for sale, an aerobatic aircraft, or a classic utility airplane with genuine flying character, the Citabria represents an outstanding opportunity.

This aircraft is especially appealing to pilots who appreciate hands-on flying, traditional aircraft design, and the rewarding experience of mastering a conventional gear airplane.

Key Listing Highlights

Highlight

Why It Matters

Aerobatic-certified aircraft

Designed for recreational aerobatics and advanced flight training

Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA

One of the most recognized classic aerobatic aircraft

Tailwheel aircraft

Provides traditional flying experience and pilot engagement

Tandem cockpit layout

Excellent visibility and authentic training environment

Lycoming O-320 engine

Proven reliability and straightforward maintenance

High-wing aircraft design

Great visibility and practical utility

Classic stick-and-rudder flying

Appeals to experienced pilots and aviation enthusiasts

Strong owner-pilot appeal

Popular among tailwheel and recreational flying communities

A Classic Aircraft Built To Fly

Unlike many vintage aircraft that spend most of their lives on display, the Bellanca Citabria was designed to be flown regularly and enjoyed. The name "Citabria" itself is "airbatic" spelled backward, reflecting the aircraft's aerobatic mission from the very beginning.

The 7GCAA variant combines practical cross-country capability with the ability to perform approved aerobatic maneuvers, making it far more versatile than many traditional trainers. Whether used for tailwheel instruction,

weekend recreational flying, grass-strip operations, or basic aerobatics, the Citabria remains one of the most enjoyable aircraft in general aviation.

Its simple construction, responsive controls, and forgiving flight characteristics have earned it a loyal following among pilots who value skill-based flying over automation.

On the ramp, the Citabria presents a distinctive profile. The high wing, tandem canopy, and classic tailwheel stance immediately signal that this is an airplane designed for pilots who enjoy flying as much as arriving.

Exterior & Interior Character

The exterior of the 1978 Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA reflects the classic utility aircraft philosophy that made the design so successful. The aircraft's high-wing configuration provides excellent visibility while its conventional landing gear creates the unmistakable appearance of a traditional taildragger.

Its clean lines, exposed wing struts, fabric-covered control surfaces, and compact proportions give the aircraft a purposeful and timeless look that remains attractive decades after production.

Inside, the tandem cockpit creates a focused flying environment. Pilot and passenger sit one behind the other, enhancing visibility and providing a true training-aircraft atmosphere. The simple analog instrument panel and direct flight controls emphasize pilot skill and engagement rather than automation.

Every aspect of the cockpit reinforces the aircraft's mission: pure flying enjoyment.

Visual Features That Make The Citabria Stand Out

- High-wing aircraft design with excellent visibility
- Classic tandem cockpit configuration
- Traditional tailwheel landing gear
- Aerobatic-certified airframe
- Authentic analog cockpit environment
- Strong ramp presence among classic aircraft
- Recognizable Bellanca Citabria heritage
- Ideal blend of utility and recreational flying capability

Ownership Appeal

The Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA appeals to a broad range of aviation enthusiasts. It is equally at home serving as a tailwheel trainer, recreational weekend aircraft, aerobatic platform, or collectible classic airplane.

For many owners, the greatest attraction is the aircraft's versatility. It can operate from paved runways, grass strips, and smaller airports while providing a level of pilot engagement that many modern aircraft cannot match.

The Citabria is often considered a stepping stone into advanced tailwheel flying, aerobatics, bush flying, and vintage aircraft ownership. As a result, demand remains strong among pilots seeking an airplane that develops skills rather than simply transporting passengers.

Its relatively straightforward maintenance requirements and well-established support network further enhance ownership appeal.

Best Suited For

Buyer Type

Why This Aircraft Fits

Tailwheel pilots

Excellent conventional gear flying experience

Aerobatic enthusiasts

Certified for recreational aerobatics

Flight instructors

Popular tailwheel and upset-recovery trainer

Owner-pilots

Fun, economical, and engaging aircraft ownership

Aviation enthusiasts

Strong heritage and recognizable design

Grass-strip operators

Well-suited for smaller and unpaved airfields

Vintage aircraft fans

Classic appearance with practical usability

The Perfect Airplane For

This 1978 Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA is ideal for buyers seeking a classic tailwheel aircraft for sale with genuine flying character, aerobatic capability, and proven reliability.

It is especially suitable for those who appreciate:

- Tailwheel aircraft operations
- Aerobatic flying
- Classic American aircraft
- Tandem cockpit aircraft
- Stick-and-rudder flying skills
- Grass-strip and recreational aviation
- Traditional analog cockpit environments
- Pilot-focused flying experiences

The Citabria is not designed for luxury transportation or advanced automation. Instead, it delivers something many modern aircraft cannot: a direct connection between pilot and machine.

Review-Style Summary

The 1978 Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA remains one of the most enjoyable and versatile classic aircraft available today. It combines the charm of traditional aviation with the practicality of a proven Lycoming-powered airframe and certified aerobatic capability.

Its greatest strength is balance. The aircraft is simple without being basic, capable without being complicated, and historic without sacrificing usability.

For CollectAirs, this aircraft is an excellent listing candidate because it appeals to several valuable buyer categories simultaneously: tailwheel aircraft buyers, aerobatic aircraft enthusiasts, recreational pilots, flight instructors, and classic aircraft collectors.

The Citabria's combination of heritage, capability, and flying enjoyment makes it a standout alternative to conventional training aircraft and a compelling option for pilots seeking a more rewarding ownership experience.

Key Takeaways

- The Bellanca Citabria 7GCAA is a respected aerobatic and tailwheel aircraft.
- Its tandem cockpit and conventional landing gear provide a classic flying experience.
- The Lycoming O-320 engine offers proven reliability and ease of maintenance.
- The aircraft is suitable for aerobatics, tailwheel training, recreational flying, and grass-strip operations.
- Strong appeal among owner-pilots, instructors, and aviation enthusiasts.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	**1978**
Model	**Citabria 7GCAA**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	**Lycoming O-320-A2B**
Engine Type	**Four-Cylinder, Air-Cooled, Horizontally Opposed Piston Engine**
Horsepower	**150 hp**
Propeller Type	**2-Blade Fixed-Pitch Propeller**

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	**100–110 knots**
Range	**400–450 NM**
Payload	**500–600 lb**

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

EXTERIOR






Citabria
7GCAA
C
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE



MECHANICAL



EXTERIOR



MECHANICAL


Cítabria
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE



INTERIOR



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collectairs.com/auctions/1978-bellanca-citabria-7gcaa

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