COMING SOON

de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth

Adelberg, Germany



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#98	#81	de Havilland	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is one of the most iconic classic training aircraft ever built, a two-seat, open-cockpit biplane that helped define basic flight training for generations of pilots.

First flown in 1931 , the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth became closely associated with Royal Air Force primary training and later found a second life in civilian flying, vintage aviation clubs, private collections, and open-cockpit experience flights. It is the kind of aircraft that turns a simple flight into a direct conversation between pilot, machine, wind, and sky .

For aviation buyers searching for a classic biplane , vintage trainer aircraft , taildragger , open-cockpit aircraft , tube-and-fabric aircraft , or collectible pre-war / wartime trainer , the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth remains one of the most emotionally powerful names in general aviation history.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft type

Two-seat open-cockpit biplane trainer

Manufacturer

de Havilland Aircraft Company

First flight

26 October 1931

Engine type

de Havilland Gipsy Major inverted inline piston engine

Typical power

Approx. 130 hp

Seating

Two seats in tandem

Landing gear

Fixed tailwheel / taildragger configuration

Collector appeal

Classic British trainer, open-cockpit flying, strong historical identity

Key Takeaway: The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is not simply an old airplane, it is one of the purest surviving expressions of traditional flight training , combining historic significance, mechanical simplicity, and unforgettable open-air flying character.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is powered by the de Havilland Gipsy Major , an air-cooled inverted inline piston engine that gives the aircraft its distinctive vintage sound and honest performance. Typical references list the engine at approximately 130 hp , depending on configuration and restoration details.

This is not an aircraft about speed or automation. The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is about rudder discipline , energy management , tailwheel technique , and the fundamentals of coordinated flight, the exact skills that made it such an effective primary trainer.

Technical highlights include:

- Engine: 1 × de Havilland Gipsy Major piston engine
- Engine layout: Four-cylinder, air-cooled, inverted inline
- Configuration: Single-engine biplane
- Construction character: Classic tube-and-fabric biplane architecture
- Wingspan: Approximately 29 ft 4 in / 8.94 m
- Maximum takeoff weight: Approximately 1,825 lb / 828 kg
- Range: Approximately 300 miles / 480 km

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth rewards pilots who enjoy aircraft with personality. It asks for skill, patience, and respect, and gives back a flying experience that feels beautifully alive .

Buyer Perspective

Strengths

Considerations

Flying experience

Pure stick-and-rudder handling

Best suited to pilots with tailwheel awareness

Engine character

Classic Gipsy Major sound and feel

Engine history and maintenance records matter

Ownership appeal

Simple, traditional aircraft systems

Fabric condition should be inspected carefully

Collectability

Globally recognized vintage trainer

Originality and provenance influence value

Event presence

Excellent visual and emotional appeal

Open cockpit limits all-weather comfort

Who should consider the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth from a technical perspective? It is best suited for buyers who understand classic aircraft ownership and want a vintage trainer that teaches and rewards real piloting skill.

Exterior & Cockpit

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth has the kind of silhouette that makes aviation enthusiasts stop and look. Its biplane wings, exposed cockpit, bracing wires, fabric surfaces, and tailwheel stance create a timeless image of early aviation elegance .

The exterior design is functional, but it also carries enormous emotional value. The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth looks exactly like what many people imagine when they think of a classic aircraft: open cockpit, slow-turning propeller, fabric wings, and the feeling of flight reduced to its purest form.

Exterior highlights include:

- Classic biplane wing layout with strong vintage character
- Open cockpit profile that defines the aircraft's visual appeal
- Fixed tailwheel landing gear for authentic taildragger identity
- Fabric-covered wings and fuselage sections
- Traditional bracing wires and struts
- Compact, elegant proportions ideal for private collections, fly-ins, and aviation events
- Strong photographic appeal for content, display, and heritage storytelling

Inside, the cockpit of the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is intentionally simple. It was designed for training, not luxury — and that is exactly what makes it so attractive to pilots and collectors today.

Cockpit highlights include:

- Two seats in tandem for pilot and passenger/instructor
- Open-cockpit visibility with a fully immersive flying experience
- Traditional analog instruments
- Direct control feel with minimal separation between pilot and aircraft
- Authentic vintage trainer atmosphere
- Excellent passenger experience for those who want to feel aviation rather than just observe it

The Perfect Airplane For

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is perfect for buyers who want a classic aircraft with genuine historical importance and a deeply emotional flying experience. It is not a fast cross-country machine or a modern convenience aircraft, it is a living piece of aviation heritage .

This aircraft fits especially well into collections focused on classic general aviation, British aviation history, wartime training aircraft, vintage biplanes, and tailwheel flying.

The de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is ideal for:

- Classic aircraft collectors seeking a globally recognized biplane
- Tailwheel pilots who enjoy traditional stick-and-rudder flying
- Vintage aviation enthusiasts who value open-cockpit aircraft
- Museums and aviation foundations looking for a historically meaningful trainer
- Flight experience operators offering nostalgic open-air aviation
- Private owners who want an aircraft with charm, history, and ramp presence
- Content creators and photographers looking for a visually iconic aircraft

Who is the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth best suited for? It is best suited for someone who wants to own and fly an aircraft that connects directly to aviation's training heritage, a buyer who values authenticity, simplicity, and atmosphere as much as performance.

Buyer Type

Fit Level

Why It Works

Classic aircraft collector

Excellent

Iconic historic trainer with strong recognition

Tailwheel pilot

Excellent

Direct, traditional handling experience

First-time aircraft buyer

Moderate

Better with vintage-aircraft support and maintenance guidance

Museum or foundation

Excellent

Strong educational and heritage value

Speed-focused pilot

Low

Built for training, not speed

Flight experience operator

Strong

Open-cockpit appeal creates memorable passenger flights

Potential buyer profile:

- You want a classic open-cockpit biplane
- You appreciate British aviation history
- You value tube-and-fabric construction
- You enjoy tailwheel flying and hands-on aircraft control
- You care about maintenance logs, fabric condition, engine history, and restoration quality
- You want an aircraft that creates emotion before the engine even starts

In short, the de Havilland DH.82 Tiger Moth is the perfect airplane for a buyer who sees aviation as more than transportation. It is for someone who wants wind in the cockpit, history in the airframe, and the unmistakable feeling of flying as pilots knew it nearly a century ago .

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Gross Weight	1,825 lb (828 kg)

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	1 × de Havilland Gipsy Major
Engine Type	4-cylinder air-cooled inverted in-line piston engine
Propeller Type	2-bladed fixed-pitch propeller

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	67 mph (108 km/h, 58 kn)
Range	302 mi (486 km, 262 nmi)
Passengers	2 including pilot
Fuel Capacity	19 imp gal (23 US gal; 86 L)

PHOTOGRAPHS

7 of 8 photographs reproduced here. The complete gallery is on the listing page.

INTERIOR



EXTERIOR




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Bad Arolsen, Germany

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