COMING SOON

Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder

Paderborn, Germany



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#120	#106	Fairchild	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is a classic four-seat, single-engine liaison and light transport aircraft with deep roots in 1930s American general aviation and Second World War utility service.

Developed from the Fairchild Model 24, the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder was adopted by the United States Army Air Corps and also served with the Royal Air Force. It combines a high-wing cabin layout, conventional tailwheel landing gear, mixed wood-and-fabric construction, and the warm, tactile character of pre-war aviation design .

For buyers searching for a classic aircraft , vintage taildragger , WWII liaison aircraft , four-seat cabin monoplane , tube-and-fabric aircraft , or collectible military utility aircraft , the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder offers a rare blend of historical significance and usable charm.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft type

Four-seat single-engine liaison / light transport aircraft

Model focus

UC-61 specification

Manufacturer heritage

Fairchild Aviation Corporation

Maximum speed

Approx. 108 kt / 124 mph

Collector appeal

WWII utility history, Art Deco cabin charm, rare vintage-aircraft personality

Key Takeaway: The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is not just a vintage airplane — it is a practical, character-rich link between golden-age cabin aircraft and wartime liaison flying . For the right buyer, it offers history, charm, and a highly distinctive ownership story.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder specification is commonly listed with a Ranger L-440-5 six-cylinder inverted air-cooled inline piston engine producing approximately 200 hp . This gives the aircraft the measured, honest performance expected from a vintage light transport rather than the speed-focused feel of later post-war touring aircraft.

Technically, the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is valued for its simplicity and period engineering. Its high-wing layout, fixed tailwheel gear, fabric-covered fuselage structure, and classic systems architecture create a flying experience that is mechanical, deliberate, and deeply connected to its era .

Technical highlights include:

- Powerplant: Ranger L-440-5 six-cylinder inverted inline piston engine
- Power output: Approx. 200 hp
- Crew: 1 pilot
- Capacity: 3 passengers
- Landing gear: Fixed conventional tailwheel landing gear

- Maximum takeoff weight: Approx. 2,882 lb / 1,307 kg
- Maximum speed: Approx. 108 kt / 124 mph / 200 km/h
- Range: Approx. 404 nm / 465 miles / 748 km

What makes the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder technically attractive? It combines classic taildragger handling , roomy cabin utility , wartime liaison history , and traditional aircraft construction in one elegant high-wing platform.

Buyer Perspective

Strengths

Considerations

Historic value

Strong WWII liaison and utility-aircraft identity

Exact service history and provenance should be verified

Flying experience

Authentic tailwheel and vintage cabin-monoplane feel

Requires tailwheel proficiency and vintage-aircraft awareness

Ownership appeal

Simple, characterful, highly distinctive aircraft

Wood, fabric, and steel-tube condition must be inspected carefully

Practical use

Four-seat cabin and high-wing visibility

Modest cruise speed compared with later post-war aircraft

Collectability

Rare blend of civilian charm and military service story

Originality, logs, restoration quality, and engine documentation matter greatly

For pilots asking, “Is the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder a practical classic aircraft?” the answer is yes — for an owner who values history, charm, and moderate-speed touring over modern speed and automation.

Exterior & Cockpit

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder has the kind of shape that immediately suggests 1930s design confidence. Its high wing, rounded cabin, broad stance, tailwheel posture, and softly faired fuselage give it the elegant personality of a golden-age utility aircraft with wartime purpose behind it .

Unlike bare military machines built only for function, the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder carries genuine cabin-aircraft charm. The design reflects an era when business aircraft, private touring aircraft, and light military transports often shared the same graceful proportions.

Exterior highlights include:

- High-wing cabin monoplane layout
- Fixed conventional tailwheel landing gear
- Rounded 1930s fuselage profile

- Mixed steel-tube, wood, and fabric construction
- Strut-braced wing design
- Excellent downward visibility from the high-wing configuration
- Compact size with strong vintage ramp presence
- Distinctive appeal for fly-ins, museums, private collections, and heritage events

Inside, the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder offers a cabin experience that feels more refined than many military liaison aircraft of the period. The enclosed cabin, side-by-side front seating layout, passenger capacity, roll-down window character, and traditional instrument panel create a warm, human-scale environment from aviation's pre-war touring era .

Cockpit and cabin highlights include:

- Enclosed cabin with seating for up to four occupants
- One-pilot operation
- Classic analog instrumentation
- High-wing visibility
- Vintage cabin-aircraft atmosphere
- Practical passenger space for a 1930s / 1940s light transport
- Traditional taildragger sight picture and ground-handling profile
- Strong educational value for museums and historic flight operations

For a CollectAirs buyer, the cockpit is central to the aircraft's appeal. Sitting in a Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder feels like stepping into a period-correct aviation cabin built for maps, leather jackets, grass strips, and purposeful travel .

The Perfect Airplane For

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is perfect for buyers who want a classic aircraft with genuine military utility history and everyday vintage charm. It is especially attractive to collectors, tailwheel pilots, museums, aviation foundations, and private owners who appreciate aircraft that tell a story before the engine even starts.

Who is the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder best suited for? It is best suited for a buyer who wants a four-seat classic taildragger , WWII liaison-aircraft heritage , high-wing utility , and the unmistakable atmosphere of 1930s cabin aviation .

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is ideal for:

- Classic aircraft collectors seeking a historically meaningful cabin monoplane
- Tailwheel pilots who enjoy traditional stick-and-rudder flying
- Museums and aviation foundations preserving WWII liaison aircraft history
- Private owners wanting a usable and characterful vintage aircraft
- Fly-in and heritage-event participants
- Aviation photographers and storytellers
- Pilots who value moderate-speed touring and high-wing visibility
- Buyers focused on originality, provenance, and restoration quality

The Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is not ideal for buyers looking for speed, modern avionics convenience, or low-maintenance composite-aircraft ownership. Its value lies in history, craftsmanship, authenticity, and the emotional experience of flying a true vintage aircraft .

Buyer Type	Fit Level
Why It Works	
Classic aircraft collector	Excellent
Strong wartime and golden-age aviation appeal	
Tailwheel pilot	Excellent
Authentic conventional-gear handling and vintage feel	
Museum or foundation	Excellent
Clear educational value as a WWII liaison aircraft	
First-time aircraft buyer	Moderate to low
Best with vintage-aircraft and tailwheel support	
Speed-focused pilot	Low
Built for utility and touring, not fast travel	
Private vintage-aircraft owner	Strong
Four-seat cabin and distinctive high-wing character	
Restoration-focused buyer	Strong
Wood, fabric, steel-tube, and engine condition create meaningful evaluation depth	

Potential buyer profile:

- You want a classic high-wing taildragger
- You value WWII liaison and utility-aircraft history
- You appreciate wood, steel-tube, and fabric construction
- You want an aircraft with four-seat cabin practicality
- You care about airframe logs, fabric condition, engine history, wood structure, corrosion inspection, and restoration quality
- You enjoy slow, scenic, tactile aviation rather than fast, automated transportation
- You want an aircraft that feels rare, warm, historically grounded, and deeply human

In short, the Fairchild UC-61 Forwarder is the perfect airplane for a buyer who sees classic aviation as more than ownership. It is a flying artifact from an era of grass fields, liaison missions, cabin comfort, and honest mechanical flight — a collectible aircraft with both soul and purpose.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	1 × Ranger L-440-5
Engine Type	6-cyl. inverted air-cooled in-line piston engine
Horsepower	200 hp (150 kW)

Airframe & Exterior

Length	23 ft 10 in (7.27 m)
Wingspan	36 ft 4 in (11.08 m)
Height	7 ft 8 in (2.34 m)
Max takeoff weight	2,882 lb (1,307 kg)

Performance & Specifications

Range	404 nmi (465 mi, 748 km)
Passengers	3 + 1 Crew
Service Ceiling	12,700 ft (3,900 m)

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

EXTERIOR




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INTERIOR



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