COMING SOON

Great Lakes 2T-1A-2

Kressbronn am Bodensee, Germany



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

LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#139	#118	Great Lakes Aircraft Company	Aircraft

BIDDING CLOSES	SELLER
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DESCRIPTION

The Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is one of aviation's most iconic open-cockpit sport biplanes, designed for pilots who value pure stick-and-rudder flying, classic craftsmanship, and timeless aerobatic performance.

Originally inspired by the famous Great Lakes Sport Trainer of the late 1920s, the modern 2T-1A-2 combines vintage styling with stronger structures, a more powerful Lycoming engine, and improved reliability, creating an aircraft that feels equally at home on a grass strip, an airshow ramp, or a private collection.

For aviation buyers searching for a Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 for sale , classic aerobatic aircraft , vintage biplane , tailwheel sport aircraft , open cockpit aircraft , Lycoming-powered biplane , or collector aerobatic aircraft , the Great Lakes remains one of the most recognizable and rewarding flying machines ever certified.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft type

Two-seat aerobatic biplane

Model focus

Great Lakes 2T-1A-2

Manufacturer

Great Lakes Aircraft Company

First flight (modern production)

1973

Year featured

1978

Engine

Lycoming AEIO-360

Power

180 hp

Crew

1 pilot

Passenger capacity

1 passenger

Landing gear

Conventional tailwheel

Core appeal

Classic open-cockpit flying, certified aerobatics, vintage design, collector appeal

Key Takeaway: The Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is not simply an aerobatic airplane—it is one of aviation's great analog flying experiences, combining timeless 1930s aesthetics with dependable modern engineering for pilots who appreciate precision, personality, and pure enjoyment.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

The Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is powered by a Lycoming AEIO-360 four-cylinder, fuel-injected aerobatic engine producing approximately 180 horsepower . Specifically engineered for inverted and sustained aerobatic flight, the engine delivers crisp throttle response, excellent reliability, and enough performance to make every flight engaging.

Unlike many modern composite sport aircraft, the Great Lakes focuses on simplicity. Its welded steel-tube fuselage, fabric-covered flying surfaces, conventional landing gear, and mechanical flight controls create a direct connection between pilot and airplane that few aircraft can replicate.

Technical highlights include:

- Powerplant: Lycoming AEIO-360
- Power output: 180 hp
- Engine layout: Four-cylinder, fuel-injected, air-cooled
- Aircraft category: Certified aerobatic biplane
- Seating: Two occupants in tandem
- Maximum cruise: Approximately 105 kt / 121 mph / 194 km/h
- Maximum speed: Approximately 132 kt / 152 mph / 245 km/h
- Range: Approximately 260 nm / 300 mi / 480 km
- Service ceiling: Approximately 17,000 ft
- Rate of climb: Approximately 1,400 ft/min

What makes the Great Lakes technically attractive? It delivers certified aerobatic capability, excellent control harmony, forgiving handling, and classic open-cockpit flying while remaining mechanically straightforward and highly rewarding to own.

Buyer Perspective

Strengths

Considerations

Certified aerobatic capability

Tailwheel proficiency is strongly recommended before ownership.

Pilots seeking a true certified aerobatic aircraft.

Classic open-cockpit flying experience

Limited weather protection compared to enclosed aircraft.

Recreational flying and scenic weekend adventures.

Timeless collector appeal

Fabric-covered airframe requires regular inspection and proper maintenance.

Vintage aircraft collectors and aviation enthusiasts.

Reliable Lycoming AEIO-360 engine

Aerobatic operations demand disciplined maintenance and inspections.

Owners wanting dependable, proven Lycoming performance.

Outstanding handling characteristics

Lower cruise speed than modern cross-country aircraft.

Aerobatic training and pure stick-and-rudder flying.

Simple mechanical systems

Limited baggage capacity and payload flexibility.

Pilots who appreciate straightforward ownership and maintenance.

Exceptional ramp presence

Open cockpit may not suit all climates or long cross-country flights.

Airshows, fly-ins, aviation photography, and promotional events.

Strong resale and enthusiast demand

Aircraft condition, fabric age, and logbook history significantly affect value.

Buyers seeking a collectible aircraft with lasting desirability.

Exterior & Cockpit

Few aircraft are as instantly recognizable as the Great Lakes. Its sweeping upper wing, compact fuselage, graceful interplane struts, exposed tandem cockpits, and polished wheel fairings create one of aviation's most elegant silhouettes.

Every angle reflects its 1930s heritage while maintaining the structural improvements that define later-production aircraft such as the 1978 model.

Exterior highlights include:

- Classic staggered biplane wing configuration
- Open tandem cockpits
- Conventional tailwheel landing gear
- Symmetrical aerobatic wing design
- Distinctive wheel fairings
- Welded steel-tube fuselage with fabric covering
- Beautiful proportions that make it a favorite at fly-ins and airshows
- Strong appeal for collectors, photographers, museums, and aviation enthusiasts

Inside, the Great Lakes offers a flying environment that is refreshingly simple. Rather than glass displays and automation, pilots are greeted by traditional analog instruments, mechanical controls, and exceptional outward visibility.

Cockpit highlights include:

- Tandem open-cockpit seating
- Traditional analog instrument panel
- Center-mounted control stick
- Excellent upward and lateral visibility
- Minimalist layout focused on stick-and-rudder flying
- Aerobatic-certified cockpit configuration
- Lightweight, uncluttered design emphasizing pilot engagement

- Outstanding photography and storytelling appeal

The cockpit of the Great Lakes feels intimate, mechanical, and authentic. Every control movement provides immediate feedback, making each flight an immersive experience that celebrates the fundamentals of aviation.

The Perfect Airplane For

The Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is ideal for pilots who value experience over speed. It appeals to those who enjoy recreational flying, vintage aircraft ownership, weekend aerobatics, and classic aviation heritage.

Who is the Great Lakes best suited for? Buyers seeking one of the finest certified open-cockpit biplanes ever built—an aircraft that turns every flight into an event and every arrival into a conversation.

The Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is ideal for:

- Classic aircraft collectors
- Weekend recreational pilots
- Aerobatic enthusiasts
- Tailwheel pilots
- Airshow participants
- Aviation photographers and content creators
- Vintage aircraft restoration enthusiasts
- Pilots seeking a pure stick-and-rudder flying experience

The Great Lakes is not intended for buyers seeking high-speed transportation, large baggage capacity, or IFR cross-country efficiency. Its value lies in its personality, timeless styling, and exceptional flying qualities.

Buyer Type

Fit Level

Why It Works

Classic aircraft collector

Excellent

Highly recognizable certified vintage-style biplane

Recreational sport pilot

Excellent

Pure open-cockpit flying enjoyment

Aerobatic pilot

Excellent

Certified aerobatic performance with excellent handling

Tailwheel enthusiast

Excellent

One of the most rewarding conventional-gear aircraft available

Flight school

Moderate

Valuable for advanced tailwheel and aerobatic instruction

First-time aircraft owner

Moderate

Tailwheel and aerobatic experience recommended

Cross-country traveler

Low

Designed for enjoyment rather than transportation

Potential Buyer Profile

You may be the ideal Great Lakes owner if:

- You appreciate classic American aircraft design
- You enjoy open-cockpit flying
- You want a certified aerobatic aircraft
- You value responsive stick-and-rudder handling
- You enjoy attending fly-ins and aviation events
- You understand tailwheel operations
- You care about fabric condition, engine history, propeller status, logbooks, and maintenance documentation
- You want an aircraft that feels elegant, nostalgic, and unforgettable

In short, the 1978 Great Lakes 2T-1A-2 is the perfect airplane for pilots who believe flying should be experienced rather than automated. It blends vintage beauty, aerobatic capability, and timeless craftsmanship into one of the most charismatic sport aircraft ever certified, making every takeoff feel like stepping into aviation's golden age.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	**1978**
Model	**2T-1A-2**
Gross Weight	**1,800 lb (816 kg)**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	**Lycoming AEIO-360-A1A**
Engine Type	**Four-Cylinder, Fuel-Injected, Air-Cooled, Horizontally Opposed Piston Engine**
Horsepower	**180 HP**
Propeller Type	**2-Blade Constant-Speed Propeller**

Airframe & Exterior

Length	20 ft 5 in (6.22 m)
Wingspan	26 ft 8 in (8.13 m)
Height	7 ft 5 in (2.26 m)

Performance & Specifications

Range	260 nmi (300 mi / 480 km)
Fuel Capacity	27.4 US gal (104 L)
Service Ceiling	17,000 ft (5,182 m)
Rate of Climb	1,400 ft/min (7.1 m/s)

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

EXTERIOR




AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


AI-ENHANCED IMAGE

MECHANICAL




AI-ENHANCED IMAGE


AI-ENHANCED IMAGE

INTERIOR


ALTITUDE
GREAT LAKES
GPS NOT APPROVED FOR IFR NAVIGATION
RPM
AI-ENHANCED IMAGE

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