COMING SOON

Pitts S-1S Special

Cottbus, Germany



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LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#85	#68	Pitts	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The Pitts S-1S Special represents one of the purest and most iconic single-seat aerobatic biplanes ever created. Designed by Curtis Pitts, the Pitts Special family first flew in 1944 and became a benchmark for aerobatic aircraft design, especially during the 1960s and 1970s, when Pitts aircraft dominated competition aerobatics.

Compact, powerful, and intensely responsive, the Pitts S-1S Special was built for pilots who want a direct connection between hand, stick, airframe, and sky. This is not an aircraft designed for relaxed touring or passive flying. It is a purpose-built aerobatic machine with a legendary reputation for precision, agility, and unmistakable character.

For collectors, aerobatic pilots, and aviation enthusiasts, the Pitts S-1S Special stands out because it combines:

- Classic American aerobatic heritage
- Single-seat competition-focused design
- Compact biplane proportions
- Strong Lycoming power
- Exceptional control response
- Timeless collector appeal

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

At the heart of the Pitts S-1S Special is the Lycoming AEIO-360-B4A / IO-360-B4A engine, a four-cylinder, horizontally opposed piston engine producing approximately 180 hp. This engine gives the aircraft the punch, throttle response, and reliability expected from a serious aerobatic platform.

Key technical highlights:

- Configuration: Single-engine, single-seat biplane
- Engine: Lycoming AEIO-360-B4A / IO-360-B4A
- Engine type: Four-cylinder, horizontally opposed piston engine
- Construction: Steel-tube fuselage with fabric covering

The technical strength of the Pitts S-1S Special lies in its compact size, low weight, and high power-to-weight ratio. The aircraft's short wingspan, biplane layout, and four-aileron configuration give it the quick roll response and sharp handling that made the Pitts name famous in aerobatic circles.

Exterior & Cockpit

The Pitts S-1S Special has one of the most recognizable silhouettes in aerobatic aviation: short wings, compact fuselage, open-wheel taildragger stance, and classic biplane proportions. Every part of the aircraft communicates purpose. It looks small, aggressive, and alive even when standing still.

The exterior design is not about luxury or unnecessary size. It is about strength, lightness, and control authority. The fabric-covered structure, compact wing area, and tight proportions give the Pitts S-1S Special its unmistakable competition character.

Inside, the cockpit is focused entirely on the pilot. The single-seat layout creates an immersive aerobatic environment where visibility, control feel, and aircraft feedback matter more than comfort features. The pilot does not sit in the Pitts S-1S Special as a passenger; the pilot wears the aircraft like a precision instrument.

Review-style highlights:

- Best for: Experienced aerobatic pilots and collectors

- Main strength: Pure aerobatic handling and iconic Pitts heritage
- Flying character: Direct, fast-reacting, highly physical
- Ownership appeal: Historic, collectible, emotionally engaging
- Not ideal for: Long-distance touring, beginner pilots, or comfort-focused buyers

Pros and considerations:

Key Point

Why It Matters

Strong aerobatic identity

The Pitts S-1S Special is built around competition-style maneuvering, not general touring.

Compact single-seat design

Gives the aircraft a focused, pilot-centered flying experience.

Lycoming 180 hp power

Provides strong performance in a very light airframe.

Classic biplane structure

Adds heritage, visual appeal, and collector value.

Demanding handling

Best suited to skilled pilots with aerobatic or tailwheel experience.

The Perfect Airplane For

The Pitts S-1S Special is ideal for pilots, collectors, and aviation enthusiasts seeking a true single-seat aerobatic icon. It is especially well suited for experienced tailwheel pilots, aerobatic competitors, display pilots, and buyers who want an aircraft with deep historical significance and a highly emotional flying experience.

This aircraft is a strong match for those who value:

- A legendary single-seat aerobatic biplane
- Classic Pitts Special heritage
- Lycoming 180 hp performance
- Compact, highly responsive handling
- Tailwheel authenticity
- Strong visual presence and collector appeal
- A true stick-and-rudder flying experience

For the right pilot, the Pitts S-1S Special is more than an aircraft to own. It is an aircraft to master.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Model	**S-1S**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	Lycoming AEIO-360-B4A
Engine Type	air-cooled four-cylinder engine, 180–200 hp (130–150 kW)

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	120 kn (140 mph, 230 km/h) (max. cruise)
Range	350 nmi (400 mi, 650 km)
Passengers	1 Pilot only

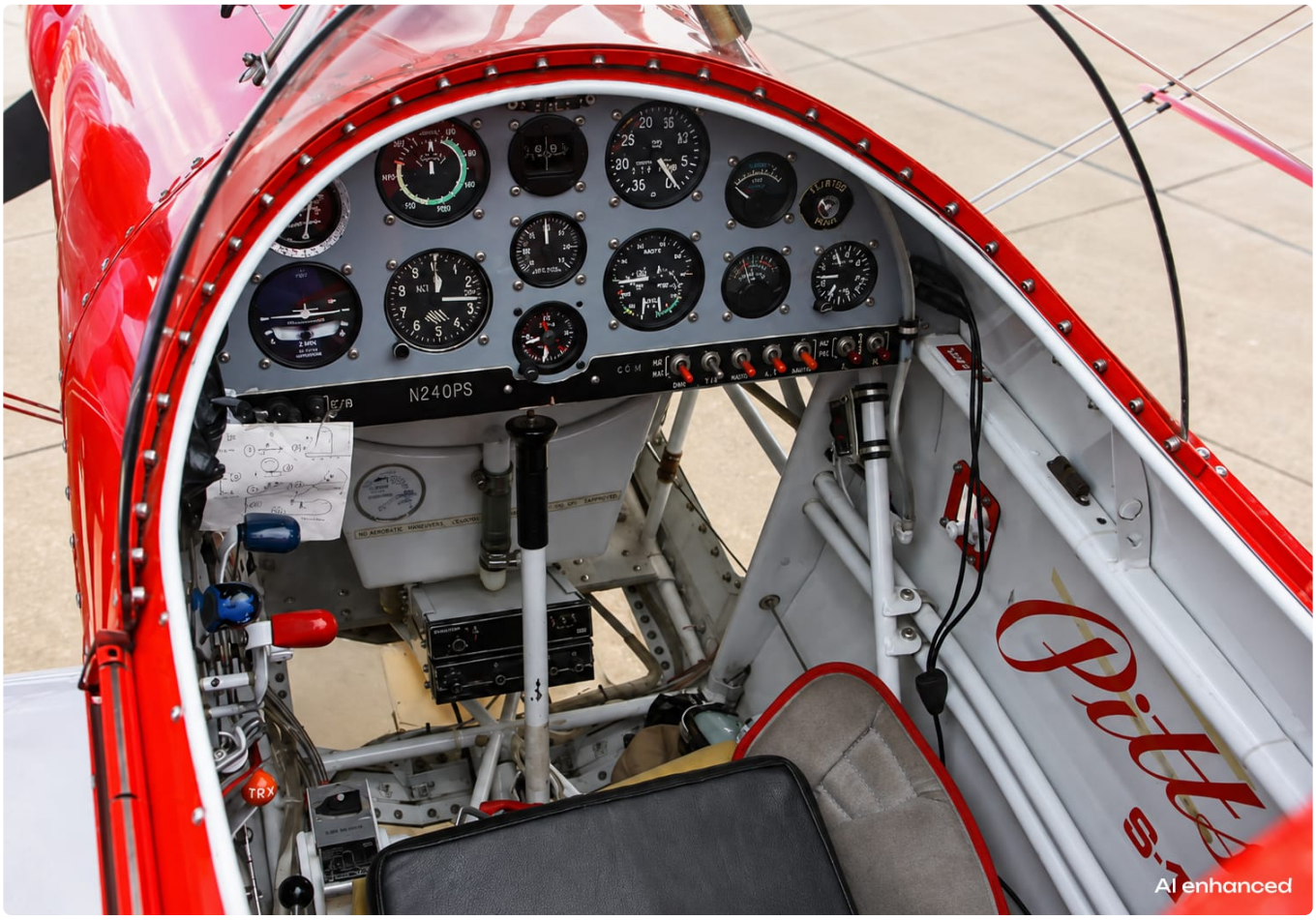
PHOTOGRAPHS

4 of 5 photographs reproduced here. The complete gallery is on the listing page.

EXTERIOR



INTERIOR



EXTERIOR


Pitts
S-2B


Pitts
S-2B

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