COMING SOON

Stearman C2B

Huy-Neinstedt, Germany



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#132	#111	Stearman	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The Stearman C2B is a rare 1920s American open-cockpit utility biplane — a three-seat aircraft from the early years of Stearman Aircraft, long before the company became famous for its later military trainers.

First flown in 1927 , the Stearman C2B belongs to a fascinating era of aviation when aircraft were used for private adventure, early commercial operations, mail routes, hunting trips, and long-distance personal travel. It is a machine from the barnstorming age, built for pilots who wanted capability, visibility, and the freedom of open-air flight .

For aviation buyers searching for a 1920s biplane , classic open-cockpit aircraft , vintage utility aircraft , rare Stearman aircraft , golden-age aviation collectible , or Wright J-5 Whirlwind radial aircraft , the Stearman C2B offers extraordinary historical charm and collector appeal.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft type

Three-seat open-cockpit utility biplane

Model focus

C2B specification

First flight

1927

Engine

Wright J-5 Whirlwind radial engine

Power

Approx. 200 hp

Collector appeal

Rare early Stearman, 1920s aviation history, open-cockpit biplane character

Key Takeaway: The Stearman C2B is not just a vintage aircraft — it is a rare surviving expression of late-1920s American aviation , ideal for collectors who value originality, open-cockpit character, radial-engine history, and aircraft with a genuine golden-age story.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

The Stearman C2B is powered by a Wright J-5 Whirlwind air-cooled radial engine producing approximately 200 hp . This engine is central to the aircraft's appeal, giving the Stearman C2B the sound, mechanical presence, and period-correct character that collectors associate with serious 1920s aviation.

Technically, the Stearman C2B is simple by modern standards, but that simplicity is part of its value. Its biplane structure, fixed landing gear, open cockpits, wire bracing, and radial engine create a direct, mechanical flying experience that connects the pilot to every part of the aircraft .

Technical highlights include:

- Powerplant: Wright J-5 Whirlwind air-cooled radial engine
- Power output: Approx. 200 hp
- Engine layout: Nine-cylinder radial

- Propeller: Two-blade fixed-pitch propeller
- Crew: 1 pilot
- Capacity: 2 passengers plus baggage
- Gross weight: Approx. 2,450 lb / 1,111 kg
- Fuel capacity: Approx. 68 US gal
- Maximum speed: Approx. 130 mph / 110 kt
- Stall speed: Approx. 35 mph / 30 kt
- Range: Approx. 620 miles / 540 nm

What makes the Stearman C2B technically attractive? It combines early Stearman engineering , radial-engine power , three-seat open-cockpit utility , and rare golden-age biplane design in a form that feels historically significant from every angle.

Buyer Perspective

Strengths

Considerations

Historical value

Rare early Stearman design from the 1920s

Provenance and airframe identity should be verified carefully

Flying experience

Authentic open-cockpit radial biplane feel

Requires vintage biplane and tailwheel proficiency

Collectability

Low production numbers and strong heritage appeal

Restoration quality greatly affects value

Engine character

Wright J-5 Whirlwind radial adds period-correct appeal

Engine support and specialist maintenance are essential

Practical use

Three-seat layout gives more utility than many vintage biplanes

Not comparable to modern touring aircraft for speed or comfort

For pilots asking, “Is the Stearman C2B a practical vintage aircraft?” the answer depends on the mission. It is practical for heritage flying, vintage touring, display, and collection use — but its real value is historical authenticity, not modern convenience .

Exterior & Cockpit

The Stearman C2B has the unmistakable presence of a 1920s utility biplane. Its staggered wings, exposed radial engine, wire bracing, fixed landing gear, and open cockpit arrangement create the kind of silhouette that belongs on grass fields, early air routes, and sepia-toned aviation photographs .

Unlike later standardized military trainers, the Stearman C2B carries the more individual character of early commercial aviation. It feels less like a mass-produced training machine and more like a personal aircraft built for adventure, utility, and exploration.

Exterior highlights include:

- Classic open-cockpit biplane configuration
- Single-engine tractor layout
- Exposed radial-engine nose
- Fixed conventional tailwheel landing gear
- Upper and lower wing arrangement with bracing wires
- Three-seat utility layout
- Compact but substantial vintage ramp presence
- Strong appeal for museums, private collections, fly-ins, and heritage displays

The cockpit experience of the Stearman C2B is central to its charm. With open seating, direct controls, basic instrumentation, and uninterrupted airflow around the pilot and passengers, it offers an aviation experience that is physical, sensory, and deeply atmospheric .

Cockpit highlights include:

- Open cockpit layout
- Pilot plus two-passenger capacity
- Traditional analog instrumentation
- Direct mechanical control feel
- Excellent outside visibility
- Authentic 1920s aircraft atmosphere
- Strong educational value for vintage aviation collections
- Passenger experience that feels intimate and historic

For a CollectAirs buyer, the cockpit of the Stearman C2B is not simply a place to sit — it is part of the aircraft's identity. Every flight in a Stearman C2B feels like a return to the early decades of private flying, when maps, weather, sound, and skill defined the journey .

The Perfect Airplane For

The Stearman C2B is perfect for buyers who want a rare early biplane with genuine historical importance and strong emotional appeal. It is especially suited to collectors, museums, aviation foundations, experienced tailwheel pilots, and vintage-aircraft enthusiasts who understand the responsibilities of preserving an aircraft from the formative years of American aviation.

Who is the Stearman C2B best suited for? It is best suited for a buyer who wants a rare 1920s open-cockpit biplane , early Stearman heritage , Wright Whirlwind radial character , and a flying experience that feels closer to aviation's origins than to modern general aviation .

The Stearman C2B is ideal for:

- Golden-age aircraft collectors seeking a rare early Stearman
- Museums and aviation foundations preserving pre-war aviation history
- Experienced tailwheel pilots who value vintage biplane handling
- Private owners looking for a historically meaningful aircraft

- Fly-in and heritage-event participants
- Aviation photographers and storytellers
- Restoration-focused buyers interested in early airframe craftsmanship
- Collectors who value rarity over speed

The Stearman C2B is not ideal for buyers seeking easy ownership, modern avionics, fast cross-country performance, or all-weather comfort. Its strength is rarity, atmosphere, craftsmanship, and the emotional weight of early American aviation history .

Buyer Type

Fit Level

Why It Works

Golden-age aircraft collector

Excellent

Rare early Stearman with strong historical identity

Museum or foundation

Excellent

High educational and display value

Experienced vintage pilot

Strong

Authentic open-cockpit biplane experience

First-time aircraft buyer

Low

Requires specialist maintenance and vintage-aircraft support

Speed-focused pilot

Low

Built for 1920s utility, not modern speed

Restoration-focused buyer

Strong

Airframe, fabric, wood, wires, engine, and provenance all matter

Aviation storyteller

Excellent

Strong visual and historical narrative appeal

Potential buyer profile:

- You want a rare 1920s utility biplane
- You value early Stearman aircraft history
- You appreciate open-cockpit flying
- You want radial-engine character

- You understand the importance of airframe logs, fabric condition, wood and metal structure, bracing wires, engine history, and restoration quality
- You care about provenance, originality, and historical documentation
- You want an aircraft that feels rare, tactile, atmospheric, and deeply connected to aviation's golden age

In short, the Stearman C2B is the perfect airplane for a buyer who sees aviation as history in motion. It is a rare open-cockpit biplane with radial-engine soul, early Stearman pedigree, and the kind of character that cannot be manufactured again .

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Gross Weight	**2,450 lb (1,111 kg)**
Empty Weight	**1,438 lb (652 kg)**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	**1 × Wright J-5 Whirlwind**
Engine Type	**Air-cooled radial engine**
Horsepower	**200 hp (150 kW)**
Propeller Type	**2-bladed metal Hamilton or Curtiss-Reid fixed-pitch propeller**

Airframe & Exterior

Height	**9 ft 2.5 in (2.807 m)**

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	**110 mph (180 km/h, 96 kn)**
Range	**620 mi (1,000 km, 540 nmi)**
Passengers	**2 Passengers + 1 Crew**
Fuel Capacity	**68 US gal (260 L; 57 imp gal)**

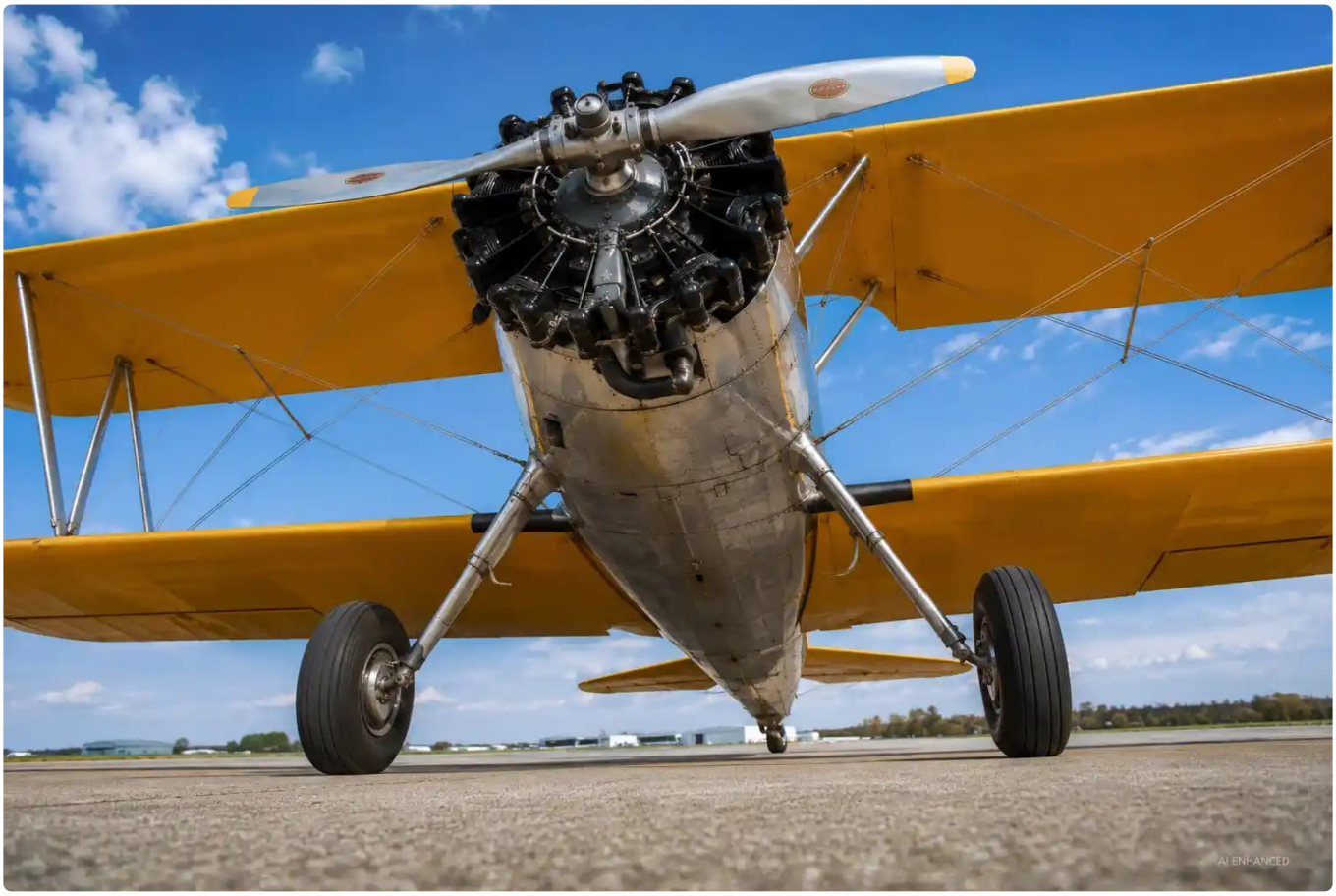
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INTERIOR



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