COMING SOON

Super Decathlon 8KCAB

Huy-Neinstedt, Germany



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LOT	AUCTION	BRAND	CATEGORY
#104	#87	American Champion Aircraft	Aircraft

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DESCRIPTION

The American Champion Super Decathlon 8KCAB is one of the most respected aerobatic tailwheel aircraft in general aviation — a two-seat, high-performance piston aircraft known for its responsive handling, rugged construction, inverted-flight capability, and exceptional stick-and-rudder flying experience.

For pilots and aviation buyers, the Super Decathlon occupies a unique position in the market. It is far more capable than a typical trainer, yet remains approachable enough for recreational flying, tailwheel proficiency, upset recovery training, and advanced aerobatics. Whether used for weekend fun flying, competition aerobatics, spin training, or skill development, the Super Decathlon delivers one of the purest flying experiences available in a certified aircraft.

The 1995 Super Decathlon 8KCAB is especially relevant for buyers searching for an aerobatic aircraft for sale, tailwheel aircraft, upset recovery trainer, spin-certified aircraft, bush-capable recreational airplane, or a two-seat sport aircraft with exceptional handling characteristics.

Quick Facts

Details

Aircraft Type

Two-seat aerobatic tailwheel aircraft

Model Focus

1995 Super Decathlon 8KCAB

Engine

Lycoming AEIO-360

Power

180 hp

Seating

1 pilot + 1 passenger

Landing Gear

Fixed conventional (tailwheel)

Cruise Speed

Approximately 120–130 KTAS

Aerobatic Capability

Fully aerobatic and spin approved

Propeller

Constant-speed aerobatic propeller

Buyer Appeal

Aerobatics, tailwheel proficiency, upset recovery, recreational flying

Key Takeaway: The Super Decathlon is not designed to carry a family across the country. It is designed to make pilots better. Responsive, honest, and highly capable, it remains one of the most respected aerobatic aircraft ever certified for civilian operation.

Powerplant, Systems & Technical Highlights

The 1995 Super Decathlon is powered by a Lycoming AEIO-360 producing 180 horsepower. Unlike standard training aircraft, the AEIO-series engine is specifically configured for aerobatic operations, featuring systems that support inverted and sustained maneuvering flight.

The aircraft combines traditional flying characteristics with rugged construction and predictable handling, making it a favorite among aerobatic instructors, tailwheel pilots, and aviation enthusiasts.

Technical highlights include:

- Powerplant: Lycoming AEIO-360
- Power output: 180 hp
- Fully aerobatic certification
- Inverted fuel and oil systems
- Constant-speed propeller
- Conventional tailwheel configuration
- Exceptional roll and pitch authority
- Spin-approved airframe
- Tandem seating arrangement

What makes the Super Decathlon technically attractive? It offers certified aerobatic capability, excellent energy management, forgiving handling, and one of the most rewarding stick-and-rudder experiences available in general aviation.

Buyer Perspective

Strengths

Considerations

Aerobatic flying

One of the best certified aerobatic trainers available

Not designed for high-speed cross-country travel

Tailwheel proficiency

Excellent platform for developing advanced flying skills

Requires tailwheel training and experience

Upset recovery training

Widely used by professional instructors

Limited baggage and passenger capacity

Recreational flying

Engaging and highly rewarding to fly

Tandem seating may not suit all buyers

Ownership

Proven design with strong community support

Not intended as a utility or family aircraft

For pilots asking, “Is the Super Decathlon a good aerobatic aircraft?” the answer is unquestionably yes. It has earned a reputation as one of the most respected aerobatic trainers ever built, trusted by instructors, competitors, and experienced pilots worldwide.

Exterior & Cockpit

The Super Decathlon has a classic high-wing tailwheel profile that immediately communicates its purpose. Unlike modern touring aircraft focused on comfort and speed, the Super Decathlon is unapologetically focused on flying qualities.

Its compact dimensions, tandem seating, large control surfaces, and conventional landing gear create an aircraft that feels alive in the air while remaining predictable and forgiving.

Exterior highlights include:

- High-wing configuration
- Tandem cockpit layout
- Fixed tailwheel landing gear
- Aerobatic-certified airframe
- Large control surfaces for precise handling
- Excellent visibility during maneuvering flight
- Durable fabric-covered structure
- Strong reputation in aerobatic and training communities

Inside, the cockpit is intentionally simple and pilot-focused. Every control serves a purpose, creating a flying environment that emphasizes skill, awareness, and aircraft handling.

Cockpit highlights include:

- Tandem seating configuration
- Conventional flight instrumentation
- Aerobatic-rated systems
- Excellent upward visibility for aerobatic maneuvers
- Direct and responsive flight controls
- Pilot-focused layout
- Strong visibility during training and recreational operations

The cockpit of the Super Decathlon feels purposeful rather than luxurious. It is designed to connect the pilot directly to the aircraft and the sky, making every flight a hands-on experience.

The Perfect Airplane For

The Super Decathlon is ideal for buyers who value flying itself more than transportation. It attracts pilots who want to sharpen their skills, explore aerobatics, master tailwheel operations, or simply enjoy one of the most engaging aircraft available.

Who is the Super Decathlon best suited for? It is best suited for pilots who prioritize aircraft control, maneuverability, and flying enjoyment over passenger capacity or long-range travel.

The Super Decathlon is ideal for:

- Aerobatic pilots
- Tailwheel enthusiasts

- Flight instructors
- Upset recovery and spin training providers
- Recreational sport pilots
- Aviation enthusiasts seeking pure flying enjoyment
- Pilots upgrading from basic trainers

The Super Decathlon is not a business transport aircraft, nor is it intended to compete with fast touring airplanes. Its value comes from delivering a level of pilot engagement that few aircraft can match.

Buyer Fit Assessment

Buyer Type	Fit Level	Why It Works
Aerobatic pilot	Excellent	Purpose-built for aerobatic flight
Tailwheel enthusiast	Excellent	One of the best tailwheel platforms available
Flight instructor	Excellent	Widely respected training aircraft
Recreational pilot	Strong	Extremely rewarding flying experience
First-time aircraft buyer	Moderate	Tailwheel and aerobatic training recommended
Cross-country traveler	Moderate	Capable but not optimized for travel missions
Family aircraft buyer	Low	Limited seating and baggage capacity
Collector of iconic GA aircraft	Strong	Recognized and respected aerobatic classic

Potential Buyer Profile

- You want a certified aerobatic aircraft
- You value stick-and-rudder flying
- You want to develop advanced pilot skills
- You enjoy tailwheel operations
- You are interested in spin and upset recovery training
- You prioritize flying enjoyment over passenger capacity
- You appreciate proven aircraft with strong community support
- You want one of general aviation's most respected aerobatic platforms

In short, the 1995 Super Decathlon 8KCAB is the perfect airplane for pilots who want to fly, not merely travel. It rewards precision, encourages skill development, and delivers a level of pilot engagement that has made it a benchmark aerobatic aircraft for generations.

SPECIFICATIONS

General Information

Year	**1995**
Model	**Super Decathlon 8KCAB**

Engine & Power Systems

Engine	**Lycoming AEIO-360-A1E**
Engine Type	**Four-Cylinder Air-cooled Horizontally Opposed**
Horsepower	**180 hp**
Propeller Type	**2-Blade Constant-Speed Hartzell Propeller**

Airframe & Exterior

Length	**24 ft 9 in (7.54 m)**
Wingspan	**32 ft 0 in (9.75 m)**
Height	**8 ft 5 in (2.57 m)**

Performance & Specifications

Cruise Speed	**128 knots**
Range	**500 nmi**
Fuel Capacity	**40 gal usable (151 L)**
Rate of Climb	**1,280 ft/min**

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

EXTERIOR



INTERIOR



EXTERIOR


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MECHANICAL





EXTERIOR



MECHANICAL



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