

NAME THAT PLANE

Quad City Challenger I

The Challenger, first introduced in 1982, is a single place, pusher aircraft (engine facing the rear) in a tri-gear configuration. The craft uses bolt and rivet together construction. The wings are covered in either dacron sail cloth or conventional aircraft covering materials. Building times vary depending on the type of covering materials used.

The controls are standard stick and rudder with ailerons. A flaperon kit is available. The Challenger single seat ultralight aircraft has a steerable nosewheel. The Challenger can be equipped with doors and a heater for flying in colder climates. For the standard kit using dacron sail cloth 100 hours is a realistic building time, kit construction almost doubles when standard fabric covering is used.

The design has been flying since 1982 and was one of the first true three axis control single place ultralights on the market. The Challenger can be powered by a 447 or 503 Rotax. The engine sits upside down at the rear of the craft and uses a belt reduction drive system. With this engine cruise comes in at 65 m.p.h. at 5200 RPM climb rate at gross as a land plane is around 850 feet per minute. Stall with the aid of flaperons is 25 m.p.h.

In May, 2009, Bryan Quickmire of *Kitplanes* magazine reviewed it. He wrote that the factory rates an "A". He also wrote that control feel is a little mushy, and requires pilot input to compensate for adverse yaw. Landing gear is another weak point. "Great little plane for pilot with limited budget, not recommended for rough field operations." All performance data is based on an average 170 lb. pilot and average sea level conditions. Assembly time estimates are for assembly of the basic airframe only, and do not include options or accessories. In 2012 an article on the EAA Website had "With 4,000 Challengers flying since it was introduced in 1983, it certainly has earned the right to be called one of the most popular, and as their owners attest, it's one of the most fun flying machines available. There are several models existing in Quad City's lineup."

Data and information from the Quad City Website quadcitychallenger.com, Kitplanes May, 2009, EAA, flyultralites.com.

Quad City Challenger I Specifications

General characteristics

Crew: 1: Pilot
Wingspan 31 Ft. 6 In.
Length 18 Ft. 6 In.
Height 6 Ft. 0 In.
Wing Area 142 Sq. Ft.
Engine Optional Rotax 447, 42 H.P.
Useful Load 265 Lbs.
Airframe Type Aluminum Tube
Standard Covering Sailcloth And Dacron, Pre Sewn



Sid Brown's dad, O.B., with his Challenger I in 1998.

Performance

VNE 100 Mph
Top Level Speed 63 To 90 Mph
Cruise Speed 55 To 75 Mph
Stall Speed 25 Mph
Climb Rate 700 To 1200 FPM
Take Off Roll 100 To 200 Ft
Glide Ratio 10 To 1
Service Ceiling 12,500 To 14,500 Feet
Fuel Used Cruise 1.5 To 2.2 Gph



Sid Brown's dad, O.B., taxiing his Challenger I in 1999.

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