

NAME THAT PLANE

Blériot XI

In 1908 Frenchman Louis Blériot designed the mono-wing Blériot XI — a wood and fabric design steerable by wing warping. Powered by a 25 hp [Anzani](#) engine spinning a wooden propeller, the airplane carried Blériot across the English Channel in a little more than 36 minutes on July 25, 1909, becoming the first airplane to complete the crossing in a heavier-than-air aircraft. The popularity of the airplane, gleaned from the historic flight, inspired Blériot to mass-produce it. Many famous aviation pioneers flew the Blériot XI including [Clyde Cessna](#), whose first airplane was a near twin of the Blériot XI. [*Pronunciation:* (blā'rē-ō, blā-ryō')] In 1911 Clyde learned to fly in a Blériot XI. Then in 1916 he built an improved model of the machine. This led to the [formation of the Cessna Aircraft Co.](#) and the first Cessna aircraft, the [Phantom](#), the prototype of their popular Cessna Model "A", in 1927.

The Blériot XI was a tractor configuration monoplane, with a partially covered box-girder fuselage built from ash with wire cross bracing. The principal differences were the use of wing-warping for lateral control, and the tailplane, which had a small balanced rudder and a single rectangular horizontal tailplane with tip-mounted elevators mounted under the lower longerons of the fuselage. Like its predecessor, the engine was mounted directly in front of the leading edge of the wing and the bracing and warping wires were attached to a cabane structure made of steel tubing above the fuselage and an inverted pyramid, also of steel tubing, below it. When first built, it had a wingspan of 23 ft. and a small teardrop-shaped fin was mounted on the cabane, but this was later removed. The main undercarriage had the wheels mounted in castering trailing arms which could slide up and down steel tubes, the movement being sprung by bungee cords. This simple and ingenious design allowed crosswind landings with less risk of damage. A sprung tailwheel was fitted to the rear fuselage in front of the tailplane.

Data from Angelucci, Enzo. The Rand McNally Encyclopedia of Military Aircraft, 1914–1980. San Diego, California, [flugzeuginfo.net](#), Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum

Blériot XI Specifications

General characteristics

Crew: 1
Length: 25 ft 0 in
Wingspan: 25 ft 7 in
Height: 8 ft 10 in
Wing area: 150 sq ft
Empty weight: 507 lb
Powerplant: 1 × Anzani 3-cyl. Fan 25-30 hp 3-cyl. air-cooled fan style radial piston engine, 25 hp
Propellers: 2-bladed Chauvière Intégrale, 6 ft 10 in diameter



Blériot XI in flight
photo c. 1908

Performance

Maximum speed: 47 mph
Service ceiling: 3,281 ft.

YouTube video: In the Old Rhinebeck collection, [1909 Blériot XI in flight](#).

If you did not receive a mailed newsletter but only the e-mailed *Pea Patch Post* and you also wanted the mailed version you need to contact the club Secretary at EAA172@jcmservices.net and indicate that you want the newsletter mailed to you. This should be done by deadline date, which for November is October 27, which is also the deadline for any articles for the November issue. Mailing the *Pea Patch Post* costs EAA 172 \$18 annually per recipient. Note that if you have the newsletter mailed, and do not inform the EAA 172 Secretary about an address change, EAA 172 will need to assess you the 50 cent fee the USPS charged EAA 172 for mail forwarding.

Sport Aviation EAA Chapter 172 Membership Form

Name: _____

Your Birthday (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Spouse/Partner's Name: _____

Spouse/Partner's Birthday (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Anniversary date (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Other: _____

Business phone: _____

Email address: _____ Even if you have email would you like to save the club \$18 annually and receive the newsletter only by e-mail, not by USPS mail – check here if you agree:

EAA Number (if you belong to the national EAA): _____

If you're a pilot, your ratings: _____ Hours: _____

Aircraft owned, including tail number: _____

Please complete this form and return it to:

Don Bush, EAA 172 Treasurer
3076 Old Waynesboro Rd.
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815-6791

EAA 172 Membership for 2012

Please include a check or money order made out to EAA 172 for \$30.

Thank you for your support!

