

A plane of pedigree

AVIATION SERVICES (S.A.) LIMITED



Auster Alpha

ALPHA . . . for Performance and Economy

The wide range of optional equipment for the Alpha includes floats, as seen below. These are all metal and specially treated to resist corrosion.



THE Alpha is Auster's answer to the need for a really cheap light aircraft capable of working hard under strenuous climatic and operational conditions. It combines outstanding economy with a degree of performance usually found only in more expensive aircraft.

The Alpha sets new standards of reliability and comfort coupled with an amazingly low initial cost. A light simple structure and a considerable reserve of power is the result of a perfect engine/airframe combination.

Alternative engines are available, in each case being offered "overhauled nil hours". These are the American Lycoming O-290 (130 h.p.) and the Gipsy Major I (130 h.p.). The Gipsy Major I is famed of course for its reliability and its 1,500 hour overhaul period. Spare parts are plentiful and available everywhere.

CABIN COMFORT

In a wide six feet long cabin, Auster designers and stylists have carefully matched comfort and colour providing a remarkable standard of decor for an aircraft of such low initial cost. There is ample room for three adults, or two adults plus two children in the rear bench-type seat. For long life the cabin sides and seats are finished in hard-wearing washable Vynide. This material is nearly impossible to tear, is rot-proof and unaffected by extremes of climate. Extra "in flight" safety is assured by the generous provision of all-round visibility—far in excess of civil aeronautical authorities' requirements.

OPERATIONAL ECONOMY

Auster's unrivalled experience in the production of robust light aircraft is incorporated in the Alpha. From thousands of aircraft built for tough army duties the 'know how' on maintenance problems has been gained, presenting the owners of civil Austers with the lowest maintenance costs attainable.

Many well-tried components belonging to earlier Austers are built into the Alpha. This ensures an even further lowering of running costs—and Auster spares are obtainable from approved agents in over 40 countries!

PERFORMANCE

The Alpha has excellent take-off and climb characteristics. Its short take-off run is followed by a steep climb, easily clearing end-of-strip obstacles.

A dual set of flying controls is fitted as standard equipment and these are balanced to give a degree of control harmony that turns work-a-day flying into a pleasant pastime.

In the air the Alpha quickly inspires confidence. The view forward is excellent, control is light and precise, and for landing the powerful flaps give a nose down approach attitude and allow the aircraft to be landed in almost 'impossible' places.

Engine controls are grouped centrally, and come easily to the hand of either front seat occupant.

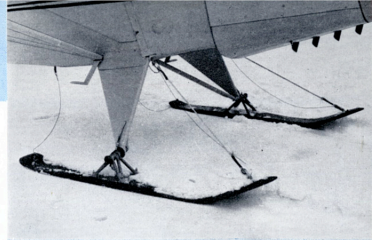
VERSATILITY

A large range of approved optional equipment is available which, when fitted to the Alpha, allows a variety of alternative duties to be performed. Glider and banner towing, ambulance work, aerial photography, are but a few. Even wider operational scope is permitted by fitting skis or floats, both of which are built by Austers and have been service-proven in rigorous Antarctic conditions. As a floatplane the Alpha is still a full three-seater with a total fuel load of 15 gallons. The ski installation has little effect upon performance and the change-over from a wheeled undercarriage involves little work and can be carried out in a very short time.

For agricultural work, conversion kits are available which, quickly fitted, turn the Alpha into an effective liquid sprayer or dusting aircraft. Many years' experience in the design and production of equipment for aerial agricultural work has led Auster engineers to produce equipment that is both simple to maintain and economical to operate.

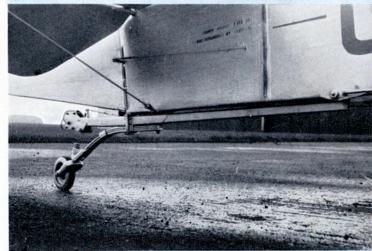
SPARES AND SERVICE

Auster pride themselves on the efficiency of their spares service. Wherever you fly, you can fly confident that urgently needed spares can either be obtained locally or can be air-freighted from our well-stocked factory within days.



SKIS—PROVEN IN ANTARCTICA

Auster-built skis are quickly interchangeable with the normal wheeled undercarriage. They have little effect upon the Alpha's performance.



GLIDER/BANNER TOWING GEAR

Either banners or single-seat sailplanes can be towed using this tow hook which can be supplied with the Alpha.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N



AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT-FOR SPRAYING

To increase the Alpha's usefulness, liquid spray equipment is available. A 48 imp. gallon (218 litres) spray tank and high efficiency spray nozzles and pump are fitted.



AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT-FOR DUSTING

The Alpha can be flown at very low heights with confidence. Forward visibility is excellent and control response smooth and positive. Equipped with dusting gear, the Alpha can carry 450 lb. (204 Kg) of chemicals.

PERFORMANCE

NOTE—BRACKETED FIGURES DENOTE METRIC EQUIVALENTS

Approximate performance figures of a standard aircraft at an average loading equivalent to two persons and 15 gallons (68 litres) of fuel in a 5 m.p.h. (8 Km/p.h.) wind. (Gipsy Major I engine 130 h.p.)

(Performance figures with lighter and heavier loads lie just either side of the figures below)

Take-off run	100 yds. (92 metres)
Total take-off distance to clear 50 ft. (15.25 metres)	250 yds. (230 metres)
Landing run	105 yds. (96 metres)
Total landing distance from 50 ft.	290 yds. (266 metres)
Initial rate of climb	960 ft. per min. (292 m/min.)
Maximum cruising speed	105 m.p.h. (169 Km.p.h.)
Fuel consumption at maximum cruise	7 galls. per hour (31 litres per hour)

Note: Although the above performance figures relate to the Alpha fitted with the Gipsy Major I engine, the performance of the Lycoming powered Alpha is very similar.

LOADING & DIMENSIONS

(GIPSY MAJOR I VERSION)

Empty weight	1,194 lb. (541 Kg.)
Useful Load (Occupants, luggage, fuel and oil)	806 lb. (366 Kg.)
Length	23 ft. 2 in. (7 metres)
Span	36 ft. 0 in. (11 metres)
Height (tail down, propeller horizontal)	6 ft. 6 in. (2 metres)

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Air speed indicator, turn and slip indicator, engine speed indicator, sensitive altimeter, oil pressure gauge, dual magneto switches, compass, fuel gauge, flaps, fire extinguisher, rear bench seat, tie down rings, parking brake, four map pockets, dual controls, seat belts, gravity fuel system.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

Directional gyro, artificial horizon, rate-of-climb indicator, silencer, metal propeller, VHF.6 or 23 channel radio, extra long range fuel tank 13½ Imperial gallons (62.4 litres), screened ignition for radio, landing lamp, steerable tailwheel, sunblinds, camera side windows, ambulance stretcher equipment, glider towing equipment, wind-driven generator, navigation and cabin lights, clock, floats, skis.

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