

## General History

### Little Dynamo

The first Pitts *Special* biplane was created in 1944 by Florida crop duster Curtis Pitts. He wanted to fly something more exciting and dynamic than the old Stearman he flew over cotton fields every day. Pitts' second *Special* became *Little Stinker*, flown by Betty Skelton. She and her Pitts won the U.S. Women's Aerobatics Championships four years in a row, from 1948 to 1951.

By the 1960s, aerobatics flyers and their Pitts *Specials* were winning titles worldwide. The planes became known as one of the best stunt aircraft ever built. "The Pitts is ridiculously overpowered," explains one owner. It can spin like a dervish, roll like a log and turn on a dime. Sitting in the cockpit, the engine makes it sound and feel like you are in a drag racer. It's a small plane that acts like an F-16. It is eager, responsive and able to do violent maneuvers that only the most skilled pilots can handle.

### Biplane Design

Many solo aerobatic champions and demonstration teams, such as Canada's *Carling Red Tops*, England's *Rothmans Aerobatic Team* and the *Jordanian Royal Falcons*, fly Pitts *Specials*.

Why are biplanes so popular in stunt flying? While the "extra" wings, wires and struts cause drag, slowing the biplane especially when climbing vertically, the Pitts *Special's* small size and powerful engine nullify the effect of drag. As the plane reaches the top of its climb, points downward and begins to dive, all of that drag adds up to a great advantage. It slows the biplane dramatically, allowing time for the additional drama of more spins and rolls before pullout.

*The Pitts can spin like a dervish, roll like a log and turn on a dime.*



## About This Aircraft

This Pitts *Special* was built in Afton, Wyoming in July of 1986. Purchased by Evergreen, it became a favorite of Captain Michael King Smith. An expert pilot, Smith often flew the speedy little aircraft in air show performances.

Even for simple pleasure flying, it was the plane of choice for Captain Smith. With its hotrod performance, small stature and large engine, the Pitts was a thrill to the young man who raced cars and flew fighters.

## Specifications

Type:	Aerobatics Aircraft
First Flight:	September of 1944
Wingspan:	20 feet
Length:	18 feet 9 inches
Height:	6 feet 8 inches
Wing Area:	125 square feet
Weight, Empty:	1,150 pounds
Weight, Loaded:	1,625 pounds
Power:	One Textron Lycoming AEIO-540-D4A5 260 horsepower engine
Capacity:	Two
Typical Armament:	None

## Performance

Cruise Speed:	140 miles per hour at 55% power
Top Speed:	210 miles per hour
Range:	319 miles at 55% power
Service Ceiling:	21,000 feet