

AVSIM Commercial Aircraft Package Review



Review By Eric Bishop



AVSIM Online!

Rating Guide

Publisher: Carenado		
Description: Payware General Aviation Aircraft for Fs2004		
Download Size: 25mb	Format: Executable Auto Install	Simulator: MSFS 2004
Reviewed by: Eric Bishop		
Possible Commercial Rating Score: 1 to 5 stars with 5 stars being exceptional. <i>Please see details of our review rating policy here</i>		



Clear and precise details everywhere!

Introduction:

If you're looking for a small GA aircraft that is a blast to fly, has a little more "pep" than a Cessna 172, loaded with eye candy and a great flight model, then have I got the aircraft for you! Carenado's latest addition to their fleet is the Piper Cherokee 180F and it is a real nice purchase for anyone who loves small GA aircraft. The Cherokee is powered by a Lycoming O-360-A4A four cylinder direct drive 180 HP engine. The first Cherokee off the line was in 1960 and since then Piper Aircraft has made hundreds of aircraft based on the Cherokees dihedral "Hershey bar" wing. What made the 180 so popular is it was less expensive than a Cessna 150, faster and seated four people. The Cherokee 180 was the closest thing to a Cessna 172 but had a little more power and a faster cruising speed. It soon became a very popular sedan type of aircraft.

Installation and documentation:

Installation is a snap. All that is required after purchase is to download the executable zip file from the Carenado web site. Once downloaded all you have to do, is run the executable file and tell it where your FS2004 directory is, then sit back and let the Cherokee install on your hard drive. The only negative thing to this procedure that I saw, was there was no option to where the reference files would be placed, and they end up on the desktop by default. Not a show stopper, but it would have been nice to have the option for where I wanted them placed.

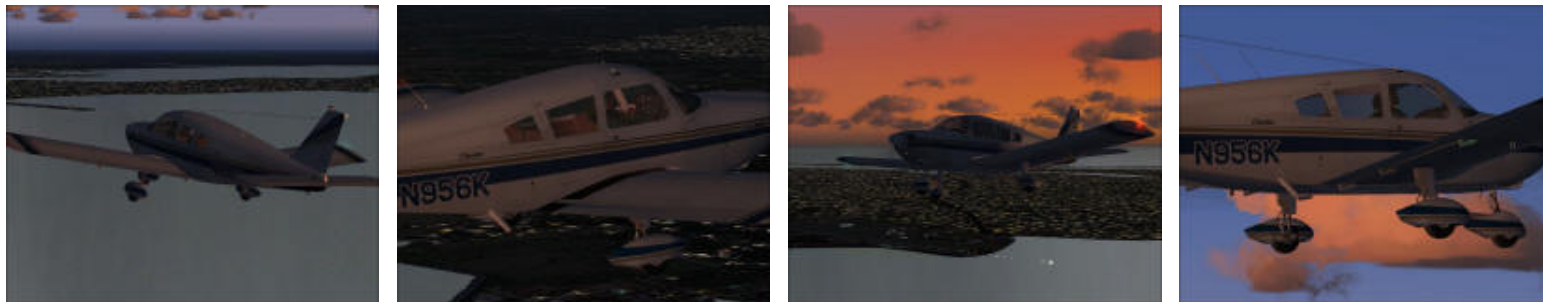
The documentation for the Piper Cherokee is pretty good. Although there is not a full POH, there are PDF files for Checklist, Performance data, Emergency Procedures and two small PDF files for Information and Design as well as a Panel document explaining the layout of the cockpit. It is almost everything you need to get familiar with the Piper Cherokee. All the files are written in English and are very easy to understand. The checklist are very good and should be printed for easy access while flying.

The Aircraft:

The aircraft is a breeze to fly, (excuse the pun) and is a great addition to your collection. The flight model seems to be very good and responds to your inputs very well. I did run some test and compared my results to the reference data and the aircraft performed right on the numbers. Slow flight felt right and stalls were not over done and nose heavy as I have found some FS2004 aircraft to be. There are several different liveries to choose from and you have the option of flying with only the pilot or with a passenger as well. This is all selected from the aircraft menus in MSFS 2004 prior to loading the aircraft into the sim.

One of the nicer features to this aircraft, is the animation of the pilot and passenger. They both look around and look down at the panel and you almost think they are alive! On my first flight with the Cherokee I thought I was seeing things and it really made me laugh when I looked a little closer and sure enough, those guys were actually moving in there! Not only do they move around when flying, take special note of the pilot, and how he interacts with the flight controls... quite impressive!

There is a lot of detail in the Cherokee as well. Doors open and close and the gear wheels turn and have a lot of detail to them. You can actually see the break lines and lug nuts on the wheels and gear. Lighting effects are done very well and flying outside the aircraft at night is a real treat. The sounds for the aircraft were recorded from a real Piper Cherokee and sound great!



Attention to detail and lighting effects bring out the best in the Cherokee 180

Test System

Area51 P4 3.4
1G RAM
ATI 9600 128M
60G HD

Flying Time:

12 Hours

The Panel:

The panel in the Cherokee is done very well and a lot of detail and time was put into it's creation. Over all it is a pretty basic panel as far as switches and gauges go (Its' no 737) but it isn't supposed to be complicated. The first panel you will see when you start the Cherokee is the IFR panel. It is represented by more of a heads down look to it. In other words you seem to be sitting lower so all you can really see in front of you is the panel itself. By clicking on the upper part of the panel it switches to a VFR panel, where you can see the gauges needed and also see out the front of the aircraft. Throttle and trim, fuel and communications are all pop up windows for easy access. But the best part of all the panels is the virtual cockpit. Carenado went full out on this beauty. The sensation of speed and flight is best felt from this view and if you're like me, you will fly in this mode 98% of the whole flight. All the switches and gauges are accessible from this viewpoint and it really looks nice.



Highly detailed cockpit adds to the reality of this package

Summary:

Overall I was very impressed with the Piper Cherokee. It definitely flies nice and gives a good feeling of speed and flight. The virtual cockpit is very nice and I spent almost all of my time in it while flying cross country flights. The Cherokee really looks nice and I liked the way Carenado included several different liveries to choose from. Lighting effects and the animated pilot/ copilot are top notch and really make this airplane stand out from the rest in my collection. The only things I saw that bothered me about the Cherokee was the installation of the PDF files on the desktop (Not a big deal) and I also thought the price of this airplane is a bit steep coming in at \$23.95, but I think that's where everyone else seems to be pricing their aircraft as well. I must say though that the Carenado Piper Cherokee 180F is a real special aircraft and I think anyone who purchases it will be pleased and keep it in their fleet of GA aircraft for a long time

What I Like About

- Animated Pilot/ Copilot
- Very nice detail and lighting
- Flies very nice with good sensation of speed and flight

What I Like About Don't Like About

- Documents install to the desktop
- Price seems a little high

Printing

If you wish to print this review or read it offline at your leisure, right click on the link below, and select "save as"

[Carenado Cherokee 180F](#)

[\(adobe acrobat required\)](#)

***Click below to add your
comments!***

FeedBack!

Tell A Friend About this Review!

Standard Disclaimer

The review above is a subjective assessment of the product by the author. There is no connection between the producer and the reviewer, and we feel this review is unbiased and truly reflects the performance of the product in the simming environment. This disclaimer is posted here in order provide you with background information on the reviewer and connections that may exist between him/her and the contributing party.

**© 2004 - AVSIM Online
All Rights Reserved**