

### Student Pilot Suggested Equipment List

Congratulations on making the decision to begin flight training! It's no secret that learning to fly is insanely expensive, lots of hard work, and massive amounts of dedication. Like every student, you may try to cut costs during your training which is totally fine... sometimes. Safety, complying with federal regulations and laws, and operating in a safe manner are never negotiable. One area where costs may be saved however is the equipment used by student pilots as long as it still does the job effectively. Here are some suggestions from DW Aviation's Chief Instructor based on his own experience as a student pilot which may save you time and money, as well as equipment he would suggest buying.

#### **Required Equipment for any level of flight training**

- An Aviation headset (borrow someone's if you have nice friends... more on this in next list)
- A CURRENT sectional for the area where you'll be flying (VFR/IFR as appropriate, either paper or digital)
- Airport Facility Directories and Approach Plates (as mentioned below, ForeFlight does all this for you)
- A pilot logbook
  - DW Aviation sells basic pilot logbooks for \$20. [Contact us to purchase one.](#)
  - If you're going to fly professionally, we'd recommend the Jeppesen Professional Pilot Logbook
  - There are free logbook options on the internet, however it is wise to keep a paper logbook and get endorsements there.
    - If you'd like some suggestions on *free* logbook software, look at [EasyPilotLogbook.com](#) or [MyFlightBook.com](#).
- Plotter
  - Recommended is ASA or Gleim Rotating Plotter
- E6B
  - Recommended is the ASA E6B Paper Flight Computer
- Fuel Tester (GATS jar) and Dipstick
  - Verify GATS jar has both Piper/Cessna fuel nozzle mechanisms, or your jar matches the airplane
- Flashlight
  - Your cell phone *could* work but is not recommended. A high-powered handheld light is ideal.
- FAA Textbooks (free digital downloads at [www.FAA.gov](http://www.FAA.gov) and linked for easy reading at [DWAviation.us/resources](http://DWAviation.us/resources)). Print copies of books are available through bookstores and on Amazon.
- Flight timer or wrist watch with second hand/timer function

#### **Suggested Equipment**

- Bose A20 headset
  - These are expensive but will save your hearing and make flight training more enjoyable. These are a great investment for the aspiring professional aviator.
- iPad, GPS/mobile data enabled
  - With any iPad which is GPS enabled you can opt **not** to pay for cellular data and the GPS function will still work. GPS and cellular data allows you to get weather, traffic, etc. information on the go, file flight plans from a restaurant, watch Netflix in hotels without wifi, etc.
- ForeFlight
  - **ForeFlight is an iPad specific app** which is now FAA approved for use as an Electronic Flight Bag. This replaces paper charts, approach plates, shows traffic if connected to the plane's ADS-B or a Stratus device, etc. This app also has logbook and checklist features.
- Headlamp with red and white mode (red light preserves night vision, and a headlamp frees up both hands)
- Handheld Aviation Radio (recommended: Yaesu FTA-550AA NAV/COM Aviation Radio) in case of emergency

- VFR/IFR metal kneeboard (depending on your phase of flight training. VFR for student pilots studying to become a private pilot).
- IFR training glasses or a “hood” (many people prefer a view limiting hood instead of glasses)
- Sporty’s, Gleim, or King Schools video courses for ground school knowledge
- Sheppard Air test prep software for all written exams from instrument through ATP (King Schools online ground school for private pilot)