PhotoTips

How to take great photos of your plane

YOU HAVE PUT A lot of time, effort, and energy into building or restoring your aircraft. It is your pride and joy, and we want to make it look as good as possible with photos worthy of your effort. Here are some tips for photographing your airplane that will help make it look great in print.

What makes a good photo?
Photos of the **aircraft in flight** are always good—either an air-to-air shot or the aircraft taking off or landing. If you can't get a photo of your plane in flight, try shooting from an interesting angle or with good scenery.

Interesting angle:
· Three-quarter view from the front.
· Use a stepladder and shoot looking down.
· Get really low and shoot up.

Interesting scenery:
· Mountains
· Fields
· Blue sky, with white clouds

Background
Make sure the **background is clutter-free**. Avoid taking a photo in front of your hangar; look for a spot on the ramp that has a natural background.

What works well
· **Clutter-free:** Watch for poles and buildings behind the airplane, taxiways or other lines going through the airplane, or other distractions.

· **Contrasting color:** This will help the plane stand out. If the plane is light, the background should be dark and vice versa.

Avoid
· **Never** shoot in front of a hangar (unless it happens to be an interesting hangar; for example, a vintage hangar as a backdrop to a vintage aircraft can work).

· **Avoid** gray sky (if possible).

General Photo Tips and Requirements
· **Make sure** there's enough resolution. What looks good on your computer may not work in print. Generally, a full-resolution picture from a 3-megapixel camera or better is required. The more megapixels the better.

· **Name your file.** Your camera will put a name on your picture that won't make sense to anyone. Change the file name to your name and the airplane type, such as "*SmithGlasair.jpg.*"