

Whirl Wind Propellers

1800-C Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020
619-562-3725

SERVICE LETTER

SL-GA200L-021213

TO: ALL OWNERS / OPERATORS OF AFFECTED PROPELLERS
SUBJECT: HUB CRACKING
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2013

MODELS AFFECTED: All Whirl Wind GA200L propellers with 78" diameter blades operating on Lycoming IO an O-320, 360, and 340 engines.

REASON: Upon routine inspection of a GA200L-78 propeller, the propeller hub was found to have a crack on the aft side. The propeller was installed on ECI-0340 engine, with 78" diameter blades. The propeller had 84 hours total time. The hub crack found so far has been an isolated case.

The GA200L hub design went into service in 2009, and has been installed on Lycoming 0320 and 0360's engines for the last 4 years with no hub cracking issues. Most of these GA200L propellers have the shorter 72" diameter blades.

It is worth noting that if the crack had continued to propagate completely around the hub-half, neither the blade nor the hub part would have separated from the hub assembly. The crack was located in the outer retention ring (towards the blade), with the inner retention ring unaffected. The inner retention ring is sufficiently strong to retain the propeller blade.

TIMELINE: Mandatory Inspection. Before next flight.

DESCRIPTION OF INSPECTION PROCEDURE:

1. Remove spinner and inspect hub with magnifying glass for any sign of cracking as depicted in picture (see page 2)
2. If no crack is detected return to service and inspect hub in 10hr intervals.
3. If crack is detected contact WhirlWind Propellers. Propeller hub is no longer airworthy.
4. Recommend inspection procedure until further notice

EXAMPLE OF HUB CRACK FOUND ON GA200L 78"

