

# Taylorcraft L-2 “Grasshopper”

The Taylorcraft L-2 was an observation and liaison aircraft built for the U.S. Army Air Forces in WWII. Around 1,984 aircraft were manufactured in many variations. 900 of these were the L-2M model with wing spoilers, higher gross weight, and close-fitting engine cowls.

Originally designated O-57, these L-birds were evaluated in 1941 during the Louisiana Maneuvers for support purposes such as light transport, courier and short-range reconnaissance.

Powered by various 65-horsepower engines including the Continental O-170-3 and A65-7 & -8, Lycoming O-145-B1, and Franklin 4AC-176-B2, the L-2 could land and take off in short distances from unprepared landing strips. The L-2 offered tandem seating, although some 28 aircraft were built with side-by-side seating.