

ICON A5

ICON Aircraft's A5 is on final approach for production and sophisticated fun

Jan Tegler
21 January 2014



For the last eight years, Icon Aircraft founder and former U.S. Air Force F-16 pilot Kirk Hawkins has been working toward a lofty goal – bringing to market a recreation-oriented airplane aimed at restoring joy and adventure to personal aviation.

Combining advanced engineering, world-class consumer design and pilot-friendly flying qualities, the A5 is Hawkins' bid to achieve that ambition. The philosophy behind the new plane, inspired by the FAA's Light Sport Aircraft category, is a departure from that which guides most general aviation aircraft.

The two-seat, single-engine, amphibious A5 is not a tool for transportation. It's a foil for fun. ICON and Hawkins liken it to a jet ski, motorcycle or a snowmobile – a machine which enables the user to interact with the world around them, delivering exhilaration via flight.



INSIDER KNOWLEDGE



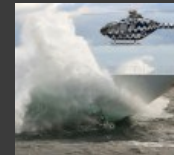
I once had to design a dining room table 'strong enough to dance an Irish jig upon' ... That was quite an unusual brief!

David Linley - bespoke furniture designer

20 AUGUST 2011

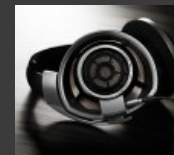


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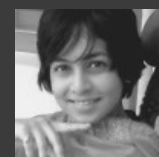
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Living La Dolce Vita,
one design at a time

As such, the design departs significantly from other aircraft. The cabin looks and feels more like that of a high-end sports car. Dual control sticks sit just ahead of waterproof sport seats and just below an automotively-inspired dashboard rather than an instrument panel. A centre console complete with a removable Garmin touchscreen GPS unit continues the theme. Outward visibility is fantastic thanks to a large wrap-around canopy with removable side windows for an open-air experience.

Safety was also major priority. The A5 is the first spin-resistant production aircraft ever. Rather than simply satisfying FAA requirements to be spin recoverable, this sport-flyer's unique airframe is designed to avoid loss-of-control scenarios. That confidence-inspiring trait combined with terrific manoeuvrability allows pilot and passenger to focus on fun. Capable of 194 km/h in level flight with a range of 556 km, the A5 should be a ball to fly for the more than 1,000 customers the company reports have already ordered one.

With ICON's first production prototype under construction this winter, Hawkins' objective is tantalisingly close. The first customer aircraft should be complete late this year.

See more on the [ICON Aircraft webpages](#)

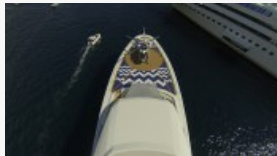


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