

Test of

## Piper PA-46T Malibu JetProp

Produced by Carenado

PA-46T Malibu is a 6-seated, one engine, light turboprop aircraft produced by Piper Aircrafts. The T-model is the version where Piper has exchanged the old piston engine with a more modern turboprop instead. This was not something you could just do, so Piper also had to change the fuselage and tail which now is slightly bigger then on the old PA-46

This Piper is also the third aircraft in the history of civilian aviation to be equipped with a pressurized cabin. Previously it was only the Mooney and the Cessna C-210 Centurion who had this feature. The PA-46T Malibu has gained much popularity because it can accommodate up to 5 persons + one pilot in pure luxury. Costs of maintenance and operation are low and this aircraft is ideal for small companies trying to come into the corporate market.

### Specs:

- **Produced by** *Piper Aircrafts*
- **First Flight** *Original Malibu 1979*
- **Service** *1979*
- **Type** *Civilian / Corporate aircraft*
- **Status** *Active*
- **Primary users**
  - *Private*
  - *Small Companies*



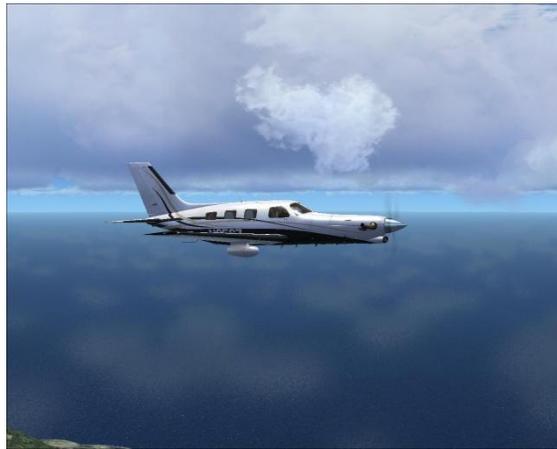
I got this add-on directly from Carenado – download etc went without any problems. The internet connection at Carenado is very good and after the download had finish it only took me about 5 minutes, now the aircraft was installed and ready for use. This was very quick and easy and all that was expected to work – worked perfectly.

When I opened FSX and found the PA-46T I could see that there are included 5 texture sets. This is not much but okay as a start. I am very sure there will come more repaints in different flightsim forums later.

The PA-46T is a very easy aircraft to recognize, both on the appearance but also on the special engine sound (turboprop) – It doesn't roar as the old piston engines did – no – this is a more modern and luxurious sound which I think that Carenado has done very nicely. Furthermore the model also has the delay when spooling the engine up/down which again contributes to additional realism.

I started out by looking at the model from the outside. Carenado has indeed put a lot of effort into this model and externally you have a huge number of details. This is very well made. Regarding the textures – these are high quality textures which I did expect since this PA-46T is a part of Carenado's HD series. I also tested my frame rates and I have absolutely no issues by tuning the frame rates to maximum, which is also a very good.

Going from the outside to the inside of the PA-46T you suddenly find yourself in a complete modeled virtual cockpit (VC) with a very cool leather cabin of 4 seats in the back. Now you can really tell that this aircraft is ment to be used by people who do like luxury, but doesn't need the biggest aircrafts to show it off. In this model Carenado has created the virtual cockpit to be a glass cockpit which I simply just love - it beats the old analogue cockpit multiple times. You see glass cockpits more and more now and this is the way of the future. It provides the pilot with a great overview, is very user friendly and gives the Piper a fantastic face-lift which I am positive will do very well both virtual but also in real life aviation.



On my first test flight I flew from Honolulu (PHNL), Hawaii. I made take-off and toured the island several times. On this flight I tested both manual flight and flight on the autopilot, and this I can say both work very well. I also tested low level flying and high altitude, and no matter what, the aircraft was a delight to fly.

The plane is very easy to fly. It reacts fast and the stall speed is quite low, which just makes this aircraft even easier to fly, because you don't have to fly that fast when landing - also short landing and take-off distance. Only one thing you do need to be careful about which is the delay on the engine when spooling it. You need to plan ahead - this especially when landing, otherwise you could end up stalling on final. If you are used to fly turboprops or jets, then this will not be an issue because you would be used to this.

On the second test flight I decided to make a small island to island flight in French Polynesia. I started at the island of Raiatea (NTTR) with destination for Bora Bora (NTTB). I really do like this part of the virtual world within flightsim, and found it natural to also include the PA-46T here. A lot of business men are coming to these islands on vacation. The flight went well and I got a chance of testing IFR flight because I set the altitude to be cloud level. Furthermore I tested both aggressive climb and decent to see how the PA-46T was in regards to stress situations. Also what you could call unfamiliar flying with e.g. bank over 60 degrees = beginning aerobatics. No matter what I did, the PA-46T could easily end elegantly be controlled back on course. Really a sensational feeling you got with this aircrafts. The virtual experience you get when you sit in this very beautiful made virtual cockpit is really superb. All feels right and you get the feeling that you are one with the aircraft.



Third test flight was from Denpasar (WADD), Bali. Here I wanted to test take-off and landings in different weather conditions and night versus day flights. I tested all from thunderstorm to gray and rainy both at night but also in daylight. Again no matter which settings I chose, it was absolutely no problem to fly this bird. You have a terrific view from the cockpit and if you put that together with this good-natured aircraft, then nothing can go wrong. It is truly a pleasure to go into the virtual cockpit, start up the engine, taxi down to the runway and then just give full throttle. The acceleration is not that overwhelming, but the PA-46T is very steady and easy to control going down the runway.

You have a very good depth in the virtual cockpit and a superb finish. Carenado has an eye for the details but if I compare this bird with Carenado's Cessna C-337 Skymaster I do miss a little WOW-effect. The aircraft is very well made and also the sound set is nice, but I cannot give this bird the same rating as the C-337. Therefore I rate this add-on with 4/5-Stars.

I do recommend fellow simmers to purchase this add-on because this has the quality that Carenado is famous for. I thank Carenado for this beautiful add-on – I think we have for a long time missed a small turboprop with a glass cockpit.



## Rays Aviation

