



**VAN'S AIRCRAFT**  
TOTAL PERFORMANCE



**RV-7A**

## OVERVIEW

Van's Aircraft was founded in 1970 by Richard "Van" VanGrunsven. The first kits shipped in 1973—and since then, thousands of RVs have been built and flown, with more joining the skies every week. Today, RVs make up the most successful line of kit aircraft in the world.

## A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

The RV-3 launched the line with its single-seat performance and simplicity. Builders soon wanted a two-seat version, leading to the RV-4. By the late 1980s, side-by-side seating became more popular, and Van's responded with the RV-6 and tricycle gear RV-6A. Later came the tandem RV-8/8A, the efficient RV-9/9A, and the builder-friendly RV-7/7A.

Each design built on what came before—combining responsive handling, practical range, and pure fun to fly. Newer models like the RV-10, RV-12iS, and RV-14 expanded the RV family even further, each with its own mission in mind.

## THE AIRPLANES

Van's aircraft are designed around the principle of “*Total Performance*”—a balance of speed, efficiency, handling, and capability.

RVs aren't just quick. They're aerobatic (except for the RV-9/9A), responsive at low speeds, and capable of operating from short airstrips. The controls are light and balanced, making every flight a joy.

# ***The Early RVs: RV-3 through RV-9***

## BUILT FOR THE REAL WORLD

RVs are designed for real pilots flying real missions. The cockpits comfortably fit pilots up to 6'4" (6'8" in the RV-8/8A), and visibility is excellent in every phase of flight.

Generous baggage compartments hold plenty of gear for weekend trips or cross-country flying—whether you're headed to a paved runway or a grass strip.

## POWER & PERFORMANCE

Two-seat RVs are designed to use Lycoming-style engines from 118 to 200 horsepower:

- RV-3 and RV-9/9A: 118–160 hp
- RV-4: 150–180 hp
- RV-7/7A and RV-8/8A: 150–200 hp

## BUILDING AN RV

You don't need special skills to build an RV—just the right tools, a garage-sized workspace, and the dedication to see it through. Most builders have never worked on an airplane before.

The result? A capable, high-performance aircraft you know inside and out.



**RV-4**

## SUPPORT FROM START TO FINISH

You're never building alone. Every kit comes with detailed, comprehensive plans.

- **Preview Plans** provide an overview of the project
- **Construction Plans** are included with each kit for step-by-step guidance

Van's support team—made up of RV builders—can answer your questions via phone or email. And there's more:

- **Builder Groups:** Local RV builders often team up to help each other
- **Assistance Centers:** These offer guided build sessions, from empennage workshops to full-project support
- **Online Community:** Thousands of builders share updates, tips, and advice every day

## WHAT YOU DO

Building an RV is about assembly—not fabrication. You'll prep parts, deburr edges, rivet components, and bring the structure together. Once the airframe is complete, you'll install your chosen engine, propeller, panel, and interior—customized to your style and flying needs.

## STANDARD KITS

RV kits come in four sub-kits that can be ordered one at a time or all together:

- **Empennage Kit:** Includes vertical and horizontal stabilizers, elevators, and rudder
- **Wing Kit:** Includes spars, ribs, skins, and control surfaces
- **Fuselage Kit:** Includes bulkheads, skins, and controls
- **Finishing Kit:** Includes canopy, landing gear, cowl, fairings, and more

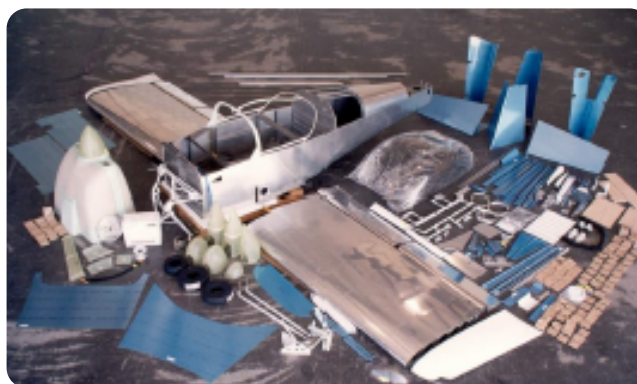
Most models are match-hole punched and pre-formed, which means less measuring, no jigs, and faster assembly.

## QUICKBUILD KITS

For RV-7/7A, RV-8/8A, or RV-9/9A builders who want to fly sooner, the QuickBuild Kit saves **35–50%** of total build time. QuickBuild Kits arrive with major components pre-assembled and inspected at our facility in Aurora, Oregon. They're available in several formats:

- **Full QuickBuild:** Partially assembled wings and fuselage
- **Wing-Only:** Partially assembled wings
- **Fuselage-Only:** Partially assembled fuselage

You'll still build the empennage yourself, but you'll save significant time on the rest.



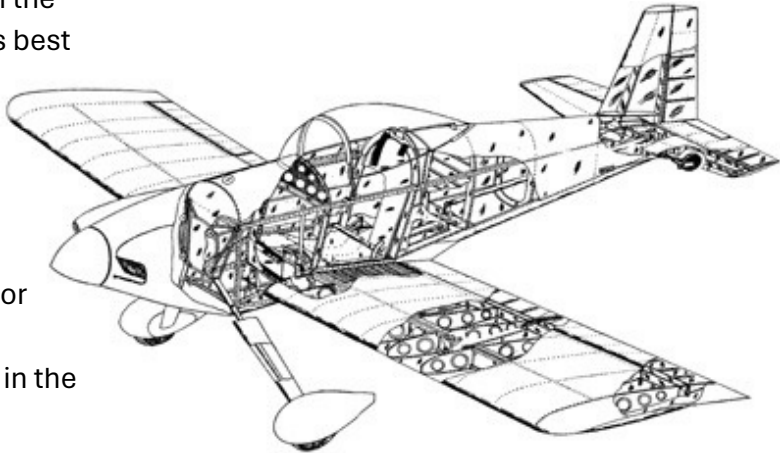
**SAME QUALITY, SAME RESULT**

Every RV—Standard Kit or QuickBuild—is built from the same components. You choose the path that works best for your timeline and goals.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

- Visit our website [vansaircraft.com](http://vansaircraft.com)
- Join a local RV builders’ group or EAA Chapter
- Stop by our factory in Aurora, Oregon for a tour or demo flight

We’re proud of what we build—but the real proof is in the RV grin that shows up after your first flight.



**SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE**

SPECIFICATION	RV-3	RV-4	RV-7	RV-7A	RV-8	RV-8A	RV-9	RV-9A
Span	19'11"	23'	25'	25'	23'	23'	28'	28'
Length	19'	20'2"	20'10"	20'4"	21'	20'10"	20'5"	20'5"
Height	5'	5'5"	5'7"	7'5"	5'7"	7'4"	5'10"	7'10"
Wing Area (sq. ft)	90	110	121	121	121	121	124	124
Empty Weight (lbs)	750	906	1114	1130	1120	1120	1043	1071
Gross Weight (lbs)	1100	1500	1800	1800	1800	1800	1750	1750
Wing Loading (lb/sq. ft)	12.22	13.64	15	15	16.36	16.36	14.1	14.1
Power Loading (lb/hp)	7.3	9.4	9	9	9	9	10.9	10.9
Engine (hp)	150	160	200	200	200	200	160	160
Prop Type	fixed	fixed	c/s	c/s	c/s	c/s	fixed	fixed
Fuel Capacity (US gallons)	30	32	42	42	42	42	36	36
Baggage (lbs approx)	30	30	100	100	125	125	100	100

PERFORMANCE	RV-3	RV-4	RV-7	RV-7A	RV-8	RV-8A	RV-9	RV-9A
Top Speed (mph)	207	204	216	213	222	220	196	194
Cruise (75% @ 8000')	196	192	206	204	212	210	188	186
Cruise (65% @ 8000')	176	173	186	183	189	187	168	166
Stall Speed (solo weight)	51	52	51	51	51	52	44	44
Takeoff Distance (ft, solo weight)	—	260	250	250	250	250	300	300
Takeoff Distance (ft, gross weight)	300	450	500	500	500	500	475	475
Landing Distance (ft, solo weight)	—	300	350	350	350	350	300	300
Landing Distance (ft, gross weight)	350	425	500	500	500	550	450	450
Rate of Climb (ft/min, solo weight)	—	2050	2550	2450	2700	2500	2000	1900
Rate of Climb (ft/min, gross weight)	2050	1650	1900	1850	1900	1800	1450	1400
Ceiling (ft)	23,500	19,500	22,500	21,500	22,500	21,500	19,000	18,500
Range (statute mi, 75% @ 8000')	595	640	765	755	780	770	710	700
Range (statute mi, 65% @ 8000')	715	790	935	925	940	930	860	850

## KIT PRICES & LEAD TIMES

