

Safeguarding Your Avionics

Some helpful tips on maintaining your avionics investment.

Prolonging the life of your avionics

- ✓ Use sun shields consistently, or cockpit covers to reduce heat damage.
- ✓ Install a cooling fan. Outside forced air cooling is not recommended.
- ✓ Request your mechanic to keep control cables tight and dry for autopilot response.
- ✓ Conserve the use of the radar but test each flight (magnetron is life-limited).
- ✓ Turn radar off for landing.
- ✓ Ensure aircraft voltage is within limits.
- ✓ Keep antennas clean and free of corrosion.
- ✓ Keep vacuum system filters clean.
- ✓ Keep microphone/headset plugs clean.
- ✓ Keep airframe static wicks and bonding straps in good condition.
- ✓ Use avionics master to power avionics instead of individual unit on/off controls.
- ✓ Exercise autopilot motors and clutches at least once a month while on the ground.

Preventing Avionics Theft

- ✓ Lock your aircraft when you park.
- ✓ Installing deadbolt locks with pickproof tumblers on all cabin doors reduces the likelihood of locks being picked or broken.
- ✓ Do not leave the log books in the aircraft.
- ✓ Take photos of the aircraft inside and out, especially the instrument panel. Update photos as panel changes.
- ✓ Keep a list of your serial numbers along with the photos.
- ✓ Mark the face of your avionics with a distinctive scratch or dab of paint, and check before each flight to prevent "swapping" of avionics between aircraft.
- ✓ Cockpit covers and sun shields reduce "prying" eyes from seeing your avionics.
- ✓ Report suspicious activity to the authorities.
- ✓ Check used equipment serial numbers with the national avionics theft clearing house.

Created by the Aircraft Electronics Association's Avionics Advisory Board. • www.aea.net

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