

Planning a Flight using Cirrus

The flight planning software is designed to assist the pilot by computing and printing a flight log. The flight planner can be directed to produce a route from the departure airport to the destination airport, or it can be given an origin, intermediate points, and a destination. The flight planning software utilizes sophisticated algorithms to rapidly compute a true shortest-path route. It utilizes the full FAA database of airways, airports, and navigation aids and automatically takes advantage of the up-to-date winds aloft information available on DUATS.

The flight planner can only *assist* you in planning a safe flight. You must verify that the performance data you supply to the flight planner is correct for the particular aircraft and conditions, obtain a thorough weather briefing and understand how any enroute weather may affect the planned route of flight, verify that the planned route of flight does not encroach on any airspace restrictions, either charted or issued by NOTAM, check that navigational aids or airways which you will be using are not affected by NOTAMs, ensure that the planned altitudes will provide adequate terrain separation, and, in the case of instrument flights, that they are above required minimum altitudes add appropriate reserve amounts to the fuel you carry for the flight - the flight planner does not include any reserve fuel in its computations.

Each requested flight will be planned at the altitude specified by you. The flight planning software does NOT take into account obstacles, terrain, controlled airspace (ARSAs and TCAs), and special use airspace (prohibited areas, restricted areas, alert areas, warning areas, military operation areas, etc.). The pilot MUST verify the suggested route against current aviation charts to ensure that it can be flown safely.

The flight planner computes the fuel burn based on known distances and winds and does NOT include reserve fuel in its calculations. It is the responsibility of the pilot to ensure that reserve fuel adequate for the flight is available - both to meet the minimum FAR requirements, and to meet potentially unanticipated conditions such as stronger headwinds or re-routings by air traffic control.

The flight planner computes the magnetic course for each leg of the flight, which may differ from the official definition of an airway segment by a few degrees. Always consult current VFR or IFR charts for the published radial for an airway.

We've Done it Again!!!

In the newest version of Cirrus 3.02 select Flight Planner from the "DUATS Command List"

To plan a flight, you must provide several basic pieces of information. (To obtain Help in filling out the required information select F1 with the Flight Planner dialog box open. A complete set of instructions are available to assist you.)

1. Departure Time
2. Altitude
3. Aircraft ID

4. Aircraft Performance Profile
5. Departure
6. Destination
7. Route selection

All of the information is provided by the pilot as the dialog box is being filled out except for Aircraft Performance Profile which is on file in DUATS and pulled from the database when the plan is submitted. To create a profile in DUATS, follow these instructions.

Log into DUATS interactively by:

Modem: direct dialing 1-800-767-9989;

Using Cirrus: click on the "Interactive Login" icon;



Or, using Telnet: duats.gtefsd.com

Select Menu *Item #2* "Flight Plan and Planner" and proceed to *Item #7* "Modify Flight Planner Profile." From here select *Item #1* "Aircraft Profiles," then follow the instructions to enter the performance of your aircraft.

In the process of creating the profile, you will be requested to supply a name (limited to 15 characters). Each named profile will be assigned a profile number.

Please retain your DUATS Newsletters for Future Reference.

DUATS...Still the Fastest Way into the Air & Still Free

Download the latest version of the Cirrus software 2.2 from either the Internet or place your order by calling 1-800-345-3828 or 1-703-818-4634

Data line: 800-767-9989

Tech support: 800-345-3828 press number 4 after operator

Internet Telnet: duats.gtefsd.com

Internet Web: <http://www.duats.com>

This profile number must be used in the Flight Planner dialog box in Cirrus before submitting your request.

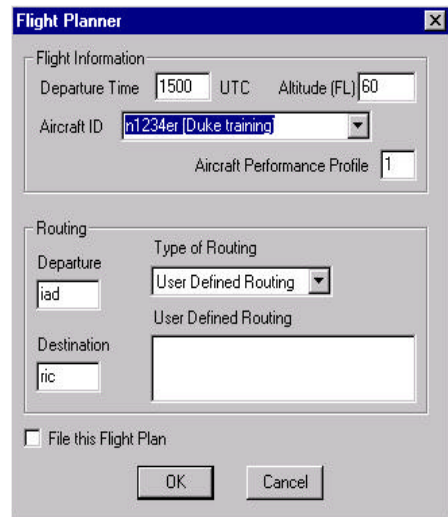
At the request of many pilots, GTE has now made it easier to remember profile information. By clicking on the Pilot and Aircraft database icon, you can create a database of aircraft information including the profile number and nomenclature as you enter them into DUATS. In creating this database you can take advantage of the automatic feature of Cirrus that will use this information whenever you enter Aircraft ID using the "Drop Down List". Insure that all information, especially the true airspeed and profile number, matches the data used when creating the profile you stored in DUATS. **Note:** The nomenclature is optional (this information will only be displayed when using Flight Planner and is for reference purposes only).



Now that you have entered all of the data, how will it help you use Cirrus? In the feature File Flight Plan, by selecting the Aircraft ID from the drop down list, the following boxes will automatically be filled in:

- Aircraft ID
- Aircraft Type/Special Equipment
- True Airspeed
- Color

In the Flight Planner there are several advantages. Most important is the association of the Performance Profile with the Aircraft ID. Notice in Figures 2 and 3 that just to the right of the Aircraft ID is the descriptive nomenclature (you have the option to fill this in when you create the Aircraft Data file in Cirrus). The selection of an ID will auto-

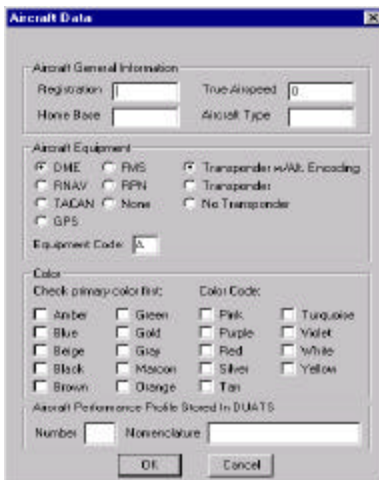


(Figure 2)

dialog box will no longer display the descriptive nomenclature since the link between ID and profile number has been broken. **Example: You select n1234er [Duke training] which has a profile of 1. If you change the profile to 4, upon reopening the file from the Script Command the Aircraft ID will now only display n1234er. The descriptive nomenclature will have been dropped.**

Pilot and Aircraft Database

Even though we concentrated on the changes in the aircraft database in this issue, it is important to know that there are benefits to using the pilot database feature as well.



(Figure 1)



(Figure 3)

matically insert a performance profile and, if available, show the descriptive nomenclature to the right, i.e., [Duke training]. You can have more than one profile for the same aircraft ID. When an ID is selected from the drop down list, the ID and nomenclature will move to the Aircraft ID box. However, only the ID gets transmitted. You can still type in an ID and performance profile number. **Note:** If you select an ID such as n1234er [Duke training] and you change the performance profile number subsequent opening of this Flight Planner

Taking the time to fill out this information one time can save you valuable time in the future. Even if you only make one entry in each database it means that you will not have to type in pilot and aircraft information every time you use Cirrus.

Naviads and Airports Data

By popular demand we are now offering the 56 Day data update for Cirrus in three formats.

1. All Airports.
2. Airports with runways 2,500 feet or longer.
3. Airports with runways 5,000 feet or longer.

The files can be found on GTE's Web site www.duats.com, right at the top of the page. These files will be under the title "NAVIADS and AIRPORTS 56 Day Update. Effective (day/month/year)". **Automatic updates have been terminated because of distribution problems. We will provide notification when the problem is resolved and service can resume.**

Each file is distributed as an executable ZIP file. When you download the file make sure you note which directory you are downloading to. Once the download is complete go to that directory and double click the file. The file will automatically unzip into the default directory C:\cirrus\data. If you have Cirrus in another directory you will need to change the destination directory.

There is a \$4.95 shipping and handling charge for distribution by floppy.

New Aircraft Type Designators

The FAA changed many of the aircraft Type Designators on Dec.3, 98 to match up with those used by ICAO. To get this information go into DUATS in the interactive mode: From the Main Menu select *Item #5* (Modify Personal Data Profile), Then *Item #8* "Acft Type/Special Equip", at the prompt type a question mark followed by the model or aircraft manufacture (**Example: ?AEROSPATIALE**) and a list of designators by manufacture will be displayed. If necessary select the new designator to update your aircraft type. If you are logging on for the first time and need help you can type the question mark and manufacture at the prompt "Acft Type/Special Equip".

If you have the latest version of Cirrus 3.02 you can find a list of designators in Cirrus Help (Aircraft Type Designators by Manufacture).