

Category: 4.4. Landing gear

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With the wheel pants drilled, I could not continue until the airplane is flying and off the ground.

The main gear must be off the ground to install the wheel pants as the legs have a tendency to bend inwards when in flying mode.

I spend some hours on placing wooden supports under the F704 bulkhead that stretch almost up to the firewall.

Another iron support structure is placed underneath the tail.

All the weight is on the front side, the tail support doesn't carry much weight at all. Vans warns you no to tip the plane over when it's off the ground. That's meant for when you use jacks underneath and single support points.

Mine carries over the entire F704 and front and it's as stable as it can be.

I used the engine hoist to raise the front on the engine mount. Make sure that someone is at the rear side to support and guide the tail. Once in the air, I placed the supports underneath and lowered the plane. Then I had to shim the legs of the front supports to level the plane length and width wise.

All measurements read 0.0 and I double checked with a laser level horizontally over the entire length of the airplane.

Here are some shots of the airplane off the gear. You want the space between the tyre and the ground not too high as you will need to measure the height offset of the wheel pants relative to the ground.



As my workshop floor is in cemented and unpolished concrete, it will be difficult to make precise markings.

So I placed a large paper underneath the airplane. This is old paper I still had from the times I was doing model photography and needed white backgrounds.

Sometimes old hobbies come in handy and help finding usable material for building an airplane :)



12/04/2025 - Lifting and leveling the airplane - 2h

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My plan is to hang plumbbobs as a first reference and then use a laser level to cross check those.

Yes, I am anal and I'm always trying to be too precise but that's the way I am.

This is all new to me and I want to rule out any unprecision that I possibly can.