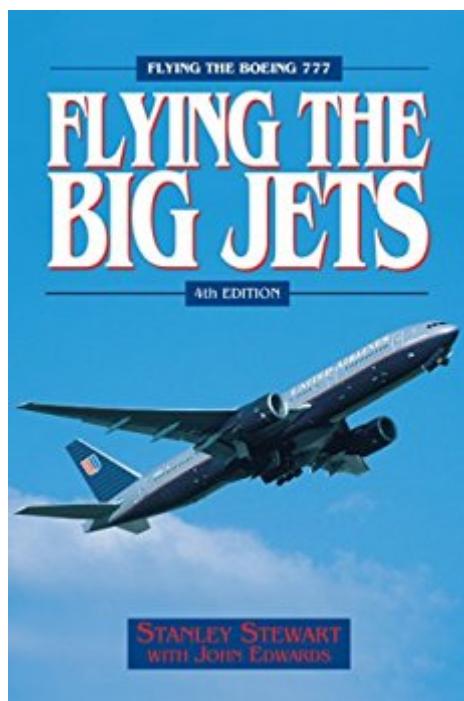


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Flying The Big Jets (4th Edition)



Synopsis

Flying the Big Jets presents the facts that people want to know about the world of the big jets. How does a large aircraft fly? How long is the take-off run at maximum weight? How much fuel is carried on a transatlantic flight? How do the radios work? What aircraft maintenance is required? How often are the tyres changed? What is the life style of a pilot? The answers to these and a thousand other questions are given in sufficient detail to satisfy the most inquisitive of readers. Chapter by chapter the reader is taken gently from the basics of the big jets to the sophistication of the 'glass cockpit' in preparation for the pilot's seat on a Boeing 777 flight from London to Boston. Flying the Big Jets is a comprehensive book that reveals as never before the every-day working environment of the modern long-haul airline pilot. "Written by a pilot with over 15,000 flying hours on heavy jets during a 30-year career in commercial aviation, this title is a comprehensive text book taking the reader into the 'glass cockpit' of a Boeing 777. It is also a guide to the principles of flight, the art of navigation and meteorology, and an appreciation of the role played by Air Traffic Control in modern airline operations. An absorbing read for that next long-haul flight." WINGSPAN

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is designed for two groups of people: pilots who desire to someday fly the 'big ones', and non-pilots who desire to someday fly the 'big ones'. The author provides an introduction to each of the major systems of a large commercial aircraft, and explains how flying large jet airliners is different from flying smaller piston or turbine powered airplanes. The author has taken a potentially very difficult subject and made it fairly easy for the novice pilot (or aspiring pilot) to understand. A very interesting book well worth reading, and a must have for all you 'wannabe' airline pilots. (This is a review of the first edition).

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. So many fascinating details about the planes, flight procedures and complexity of navigation. As a bonus you get a useful introduction to the physics of flying as well as the history of navigation. My copy of the book already has two people signed up to borrow it!

I was excited to read this book given I have always been interested in what it is like to fly these massive hunks of metal. I have also read a few books by this author about airline crashes, which always proved to be interesting. So here is my problem, I was expecting an interesting and maybe at times even exciting book, what I got was a somewhat bland, even dull at times book that spelled out all the facts about flying a jet. OK, I know that is exactly what the author stated the book would be about on the dust jacket, but he did not mention that the text would be bone dry. With that criticism out of the way, I did enjoy learning about flying a commercial jet. I thought the run down of the mechanical operations of the aircraft and the actual job of flying the aircraft were the most interesting. The rest of the book was informative and in enough detail to be considered a good overall review, it was just a bit dry, textbook dry. To be honest I do not know exactly what I would have done to make the book more exciting, but hey, he is the author. It is his job to make the book interesting. And to be a nitpicker, how much actually changes with each new version of the book? Overall the book was ok, it had some interesting parts but really is only for someone that is truly interested in how these aircraft work and what it is like to fly them.

For those who like planes and decided to understand how it really works, there is still nothing better than I have seen. It comprehends basically all aspects of flying: how a big jet works, how to fly it and basics of aerodynamics and meteorology. In the last chapter, the author vividly describes a complete flight from London to New York, depicting from the pre-flight plan up to the gate at JFK. I strongly recommend it.

On the one hand, what did I expect? This doesn't exactly promise to be a whole new book. On the other hand, this is so much like Stewart's "Flying The Big Jets--The 747," that it's clear though most of the text all he did was use a word processor to change "747" to "777." There are of course some areas where this won't do--the aircraft have some differences that must be addressed--but even here he didn't sit down and write new material but rather simply inserted individual sentences and paragraphs as needed, wherever the Triple-7 differed in some way from the 747. Even the flight that's the last chapter is exactly the same except we're going to Boston's Logan Airport now instead of New York's JFK. But the weather and flying conditions, and the descriptions and experiences the pilot has along the way, are identical to those of the 747 book. He could have had it snowing in this trip, for instance, to discuss how a pilot deals with a wintery snow landing vs. the rainy landing of the last book. There are a few plusses: diagrams of the cockpit gauges have been redrawn--much better this time. The section on avionics is updated a bit to reflect new technology. And the text is laid out a little better by the publisher. But if you already have Stewart's 747 version of the book (which I've also reviewed), no need to get this one. If you don't, and you're curious as to what goes into flying a jumbo from chocks away to chocks under, then this is a reasonably good book, if bland at times. (The chapters on meteorology are particularly challenging to stay awake while reading.) There is a near-complete lack of anecdote or personal observation. For a man who has flown around the globe, he has little to say. There are a few attempts at levity, but they fall painfully flat. Stewart may be a fine pilot, but he doesn't sound like he'd be interesting company at a dinner party. He makes something this exciting sound as dull as driving to work. Well, maybe to him that's what it is.

Captain Stewart first prepares the reader with competent knowledge of the aircraft and navigation before letting the person take a peek at the entire flight from beginning till end from London to New York. I find the language used and the way the book is written in to be very serious, as if the Capt. takes your interest in what he does seriously. Of course, this book omits all the boo boos and emergencies that the writer experienced in his career, but it is a great book to learn by heart if you are an airliner enthusiast. There is something for the experts as well as amateurs. A must read!

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