
Check for Loose Landing Gear

Al Hodges (CA) - May I suggest that you look at http://www.ez.org/gear_repair.htm and photo report. Fortunately, this is an accident that did not happen.

This repair and notice of the problem prompted me to double check my gear, which resulted in the EZ, one-person, "rocking" check for loose gear noise I wrote up below.

One person check for loose Long-EZ landing gear. If found loose, a second person helps to tighten the nut(s).

Recently, I noticed a creaking sound

when I lifted or lowered the nose of the Long-EZ. I checked with other EZ pilots after wondering if the gear could be loose, causing the sound.

Chuck Busch suggested holding the brakes from the pilot's seat and have several guys rock the plane while another examines inside the hell hole for movement. Several guys were not available, but Ed Sammons, heard sound when rocking the plane, then tried to examine the gear mount without someone pushing the plane. He had no success.

When I shifted my body in the pilot's seat, I heard the creaking. Naturally, I

moved some more and started rocking the plane while sitting in the pilot's seat holding the brakes. It worked well!

An occasional good rocking by the pilot may cause the sound, indicating a problem. Then, look for help. This EZ has over 1,000 hours in 17 years.

Ed saw movement, and the problem was "easily" fixed within the next few hours!

We learned why the term "hell hole" is used, but the devil is quiet, for the present.

