



## **| Nose Wheel Shimmy |**



This subject hasn't reared its head for quite a while due to a great development, referred to as the Davenport Shimmy Damper. This creation has solved a common and hazardous problem where the nose wheel shimmies at high speed, usually on landing, and drives the nose wheel fork into catastrophic vibration. The fork fails and frequently goes through the prop. The resulting event is noisy, fast, scarey and of course expensive.

Bob Davenport's development has been so successful it has made such failure a thing of the past, I thought! I recently talked to Al Becker, very maintenance conscious Michigan Long-EZ builder/pilot, who showed me his failed fork and relayed the usual story. He did have the Davenport damper installed and set the torque at about 3 pounds. He has no idea why the fork vibrated and subsequently failed. In addition, he also told me of a similar recent failure on an Indiana Long-EZ.

It was suggested one might increase the torque to further dampen the possible vibration. Jim Price cautions that too high torque may cause your nose wheel to not center after a cross wind take off and you won't be able to get the nose wheel in the well. This could be very exciting if you have an electric nose wheel strut actuator. These