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June 2022

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By Scott Sherer, COO Aviation Director

Jet Shades in 182: What's Not to Like?

Where I live in Wisconsin, we have two aviation seasons: Perfect winter flying days and bumpy summer days. I love flying in winter, with the bright blue perfect skies and the snow-covered countryside. The downside is that it has a very high albedo, or brightness reflectivity coefficient. I have slap-on window shades that I move around; they seem to work, although their transparency isn't very good. I also have too much sunlight and glare coming in from the top of the windshield. Flying west in the late afternoon or east in the mornings is very challenging. What to do about it?

Several months back an ad in our magazine caught my eye: Jet Shades. They have a variety of glare-reducing products for windshields and side windows that seem to be very worthwhile. Having been around the block with eight planes and 55 years of flying, however, I would consider myself a skeptic. I've seen lots of products over the years that didn't quite measure up to their marketing campaigns. I was hoping that this would be a great product. While I'm not from Missouri, Jet Shades still had to show me!

So I crossed my fingers and ordered their windshield solution. They have this product for models including 172, 182, 206, 210, 310R, 335/340, and 414/421. They also have them for the other Cessna singles like the Columbia 350, 400, and my favorite plane, the TTX.

At \$429, I had very high expectations, and in about three days the box showed up. I tried to control my excitement, took out my pocket knife, and carefully opened the box. You'll be pleased to know that I didn't cut myself with my pocketknife in my haste. Inside was an instruction sheet and two upper windshield shades carefully wrapped in bubble wrap. I removed one and walked over to the window in my house and held it up. The optical quality was very high, if not perfect, and I would guess



Above: Photo of 182 windshield, looking down from a ladder.

Left: Shades as they come out of the box.

that the thickness was about 1/8 inch. Around the edge of the shade is a very soft and pliable rubber bead to keep it from rubbing and harming your windshield. This seems to be a very high-quality product with excellent manufacturing, packaging and shipping quality, too.

The next day I took it to the airport and over to the trusty 182. Installation is obvious and you don't really need the supplied instructions to install it. There is one shade for the left and another for the right; they interlock and fit nicely along the top of the windshield.

Once installed, they should never have to be removed. They eliminate most of the bright light from the upper windshield and are very effective. Founded by an engineer and private pilot who was always hot in the cockpit and wrestled with sun glare in Florida, Jet Shades says its product is the only anti-glare, anti-heat, removable window panels that fill the cockpit side windows completely.

If you have the bright light problem in your plane, give this a try. I'm pretty sure you'll be sold on them as they come from a very good company. ✈️

RESOURCES

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Scott Sherer is the Cessna Owner Organization's Aviation Director and a Wright Brothers Master Pilot who brings more than 50 years of aviation experience flying everything from the smallest Cessna 150 to mid-size Cessna Citations. As a contributing author his specialty is restoration, avionics and product review. Additionally, Mr. Sherer is our online forum moderator. To contact Mr. Sherer, send an email to tech@cessnaowner.org.