

KEEP A TENSE

TENSIOMETER

Next time you reach for the C-8 tensiometer in your A Supplemental, B, or C aircraft tool kit to check control cable tension on your bird, remember—make the accuracy check right-off.

Without the check you could get false readings and end up with either a slack or a tight cable. 'Course a cable with too much slack can give you sluggish controls; while a cable that's too tight can score pulleys and part cable strands, for real. That's why you want to stick with the operating info for your tensiometer.

The instructions vary with different manufacturers. For example, the accuracy check spelled out in TM 1-33A3-3-1-101 (5 Apr 60), page 3, paragraph 4-9, is for the C-8 made by Pacific Scientific and allows you only a plus-or-minus one pound margin of error.

But suppose you have the C-8 made by WacLine. The operating poop and

accuracy check are smack-dab in front of you when you open the case cover. Accuracy on this baby should be within two per cent of the test number stamped on the calibration bar.

When you actually make the check, be sure the bar has the same serial number as the tensiometer it was calibrated with . . . because this can change each time the tensiometer and bar go back for recalibration.

Set the gadget for the smallest cable size listed (1/16-in), and put the bar in.

Take several readings . . . OF NUMBER ON TEST BAR.

Let loose of the actuating handle so that the jaws grip the bar. The 1/16-in dial reading on the WacLine should be within two per cent of the stamped number on the test bar—156 in this case.

SHOULD BE WITHIN 2% . . .

Take several readings and if the average is not within the two per cent range of 153-159, you know the tensiometer's been through the mill and needs to be turned in for repair . . . soonest.

