

YAK-9 PILOT REPORT

*Written by Jimmy Fordham
Slot pilot, Aeroshell Aerobatic Team*

Mark,

These are my observations about flying the Yak-9. My background is having flown the T6 with Aeroshell Aerobatic Team and the other aircraft listed ie P-51, P-40, Yak-52 L-39 and numerous high performance jet aircraft in the airline world.

On my first flight in the Yak-9, I went up did power on, power off, and accelerated stalls. The aircraft was very predictable, no surprises. Then did steep turns wingovers, rolls, loops, point rolls, Cuban 8's just getting the feel of the Yak-9. All of the above was done at altitude.

*The above went so well, I came down entered the aerobatic box and flew a full surface level aerobatic routine in the Yak-9. This was all on the first flight!!
I LOVE THE WAY THE YAK -9 FLIES.*

I think the thing that impressed me the most was the balance of the flight controls. Unlike the Mustang, the controls did not get heavy as your speed increased. It is physically easier to move the controls in all regimes of flight.

The plane will turn on a dime. You don't want to be in a Mustang and try to out turn a Yak. The Mustang is faster than the Yak.

The systems on the Yak are simple. Difference is where Mustang uses hydraulics' for gear and flap operation, the Yak uses air for gear and flap operation. The Mustang has hydraulic pump, the Yak has air pump. The landing gear is wide and stable on the Yak. The brakes on this Yak are hydraulic brakes.

I did tail low wheel landings, wheel landings, and even a three point in the Yak-9. Upon touch-down the aircraft tracked straight. The takeoffs were straight forward, acceleration is good, no excessive turning tendency on the takeoff roll.

There is no rudder trim in the cockpit!!! Take the rudder trim out of a Mustang and you know what kind of problems you would have.

Go-arounds were no issue- bring the power up smoothly, then flaps and gear up. You want to be sure you have altitude and are climbing prior to flap retraction. It will settle as the flaps come up.

I just like the plane it flies very nice, is simple but just works. All of the above are my personal observations having flown this aircraft.

Let me know if you need anything else.

*Thanks,
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Aeroshell Aerobatic Team*

