

An iPad App with Flare

Experienced pilot David Jacobson has gone digital with his concept of how to land an aeroplane consistently every time. His new iPad app for the Jacobson Flare stands to introduce his teaching to a wider audience of pilots.

Landing has never been an exact science as pilots well know; it means making a best-guess of the height above the runway, the time to flare and the amount to flare. There are good landings, bad landings, arrivals and greasers. It's part and parcel of flying, isn't it?

David Jacobson begs to differ.

A former TAA and Qantas captain, Jacobson developed a landing technique that uses triangulation to ensure a smooth landing every time. Known as the Jacobson Flare, the technique uses science to take the guesswork out of landing, but adds no complexity and is simple to use by any pilot.

Now, Jacobson has taken a further step in spreading the word by releasing an iPad app that uses easy explanations, diagrams and videos to support his theory.

It's all explained in the app,

which is intended to show you how and why the idea works. In doing that, Jacobson and his media partner Essentials Media have developed one of the best aviation apps on the market.

It works two ways. If you're a reader, you can set the iPad in portrait and you'll get an e-book with embedded videos. Alternatively, turn the device to landscape, and you have a great learning app stacked with lots of explanatory diagrams and graphics that make the story Jacobson is telling very clear.

The app starts by taking you through the current landing and flaring practice, or what the app calls the "speed descent": airspeed on final is king and everything else is subordinate to maintaining the correct approach speed.

It then shows you why the

teaching of 100 years has led to a trial-and-error approach to flaring, and how it can lead to the shonky landings most of us are still guilty of perpetrating every now and then.

Largely, the app is very graphical, using images of approach paths overlaid with the triangulation that proves the points Jacobson is making. In places, it can get a bit technical with angles, triangles, trigonometry and some algebra-looking stuff, but all that can be ignored once you realise you don't have to know it to understand the basics.

Fortunately, the app includes some specially-designed calculators that enable you to punch in a couple of figures to determine the distance between the flare cut-off point and the aim point. As that never changes for a given aeroplane, you will have to punch the figures in once only and you're done.

Then it's a case of mastering the technique, which is NOT what this app is intended to do. The app is the learning material; pilots still need to practice with an instructor beside them. After years of speed approaches, transiting to a path approach is quite tricky. You know what they say about old habits.

Jacobson has included a series of videos—some real world, some simulator—to show the technique in action.

Most of the graphics are accompanied by a READ button, which gives you the relevant text behind what the graphic is showing you.

The app design and navigation is such that you can still get the idea even if your eyes glaze over at all the trigonometry and mathematics.

www.jacobsonflare.com

RRP: \$29.99 via App Store

