



Wackett

The A3 CAC Wackett (Wackett) trainer was the first Australian design to enter mass production and the first designed in-house by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation of Australia (CAC), a Boeing heritage company.

TECHNICAL DATA: Wackett Trainer

Power	One 175hp Warner Scarab radial
Span	11.28m (37ft)
Length	7.92m (26ft)
Height	2.06m (6ft 9in)
Empty weight	866kg (1,910lb)
Loaded weight	1,176kg (2,592lb)
Maximum speed	177km/h (95kt)
Range	684km (369nm)
Service ceiling	16,000ft (4,877m)

Designed to meet the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) requirement for an ab initio training aircraft, the Wackett was a tandem seat fixed tailwheel-undercarriage monoplane aircraft with steel tube fuselage, fabric construction and wooden wings and tail.

Despite the simplicity of the design, construction of the first of two CA-2 prototypes took nearly a year, in part because CAC was simultaneously building its factory. The first prototype flew in September 1939 and it underwent a number of modifications, particularly to the power plant, before entering production in 1940.

Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, production was increased to make way for the Boomerang and the last Wackett was delivered to the RAAF in April 1942. In all, 200 Wacketts were produced and many served as wireless trainers in the RAAF.

The Wackett was also the first Australian designed and manufactured aircraft to serve in a foreign air force with the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army Air Force operating a fleet of 30, prior to Indonesian independence.

