

# Captain Sim Boeing 707

## Review by Steve Mullen. (1034)



Most flight sim users will be familiar with the name of Captain Sim who have in recent years produced some superb add-ons for Microsoft Flight Simulator 2002 and 2004. These have ranged from the World War 2 Yak 3 fighter, Lockheed Starfighter and the legendary Mig 21 to the venerable Boeing 727 classic jet airliner.

There is something about the classic airliners and I remember as a teenager seeing one of the Dan Air 707s which made regular visits to Newcastle to carry out crew training doing frequent circuits over our house at about 1500 ft. Back in the mid 70s it was one of the biggest aircraft to use the airport and made a lasting impression on me. I was always amazed by the amount of smoke the thing could produce as it turned from the downwind onto the base leg over the coast at Blyth.

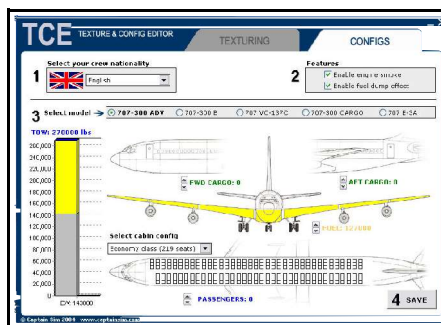
September has seen the release of the eagerly awaited Boeing 707 add-on from the Captain. This package has been in development for well over a year now and Captain Sim fans have been champing at the bit to get their hands on that classic Boeing control yoke. The time spent in development and the quality of previous releases from Captain Sim should speak volumes and quite rightly a first class package has been expected.

The legendary 707 is available as an 80.8 mb download form from the Captain Sim Website and once downloaded it is worth



backing up onto a CD to save having to go through the download process again. The product is activated online which takes a matter of seconds to verify the order number you will be sent in the confirmation of purchase e mail so keep a copy of this safe as well otherwise you'll be e mailing Captain Sim support for future installs if it gets lost. The installer is fully automatic and it places the aircraft, manuals paint kit and config editor on your hard drive. The following marks are included. 707 137, 707 adv, 707 320b, 320c, and the AWACS E3a complete with rotating radar. There are no less than 20 liveries included in the package with many more free liveries already appearing. The liveries themselves are a work of art. The aircraft is ready to fly as soon as it is installed but if desired you can adjust fuel and payloads using the TCE.

If you are familiar with Captain Sim products you will have seen the TCE Texture & Config Editor. This enables the payload and fuel for each variation of the aircraft to be set by the user and also makes adding TCE compliant repaints to the collection easy. There is also the facility to enable the engine smoke effect and fuel dump effect to each model. These effects are already enabled



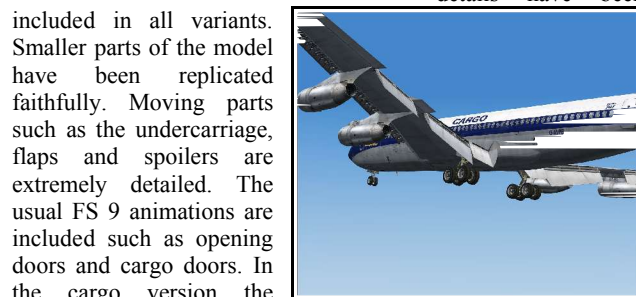
by default on installation.

On selecting the 707 you are presented with a host of classic liveries from the 1960s to more recent schemes such as British Airways. The liveries have been painstakingly



done to the most minor of details down to engine decals. The reflections on the metallic parts of the aircraft have been beautifully done.

The model has been superbly produced and the smallest details have been



included in all variants. Smaller parts of the model have been replicated faithfully. Moving parts such as the undercarriage, flaps and spoilers are extremely detailed. The usual FS 9 animations are included such as opening doors and cargo doors. In the cargo version the containers slide into place for unloading as the door opens. A nice touch is the sliding cockpit windows which open and close on pressing shift & E. The smoke effect is dynamic and appears and disappears at about half throttle. The effect is well done and faithfully replicates the smoky old Boeings of the pre emissions laws era.

Much attention has also been paid to the panel, which is of the usual high standard expected of a Captain Sim add-on. The panel



is made up of photographs and in the 2d panel all round views are provided. It has to be said that the first officer in the 707 isn't a patch on the nice female first officer in the 727 add-on but she

probably hasn't converted to type yet! The main panel is clear and easy to read and a variety of pop up panels including the radio stack, pedestal, overhead, 2 x second officer panels and working anti collision radar are included. Only some of the models are fitted with an APU others requiring ground power for

starting. The instruments are easy to read and well laid out. The only element of the panel I had any problem with was the autopilot, which appears on the top of the windscreen. In its pop up form it is almost too small to see properly. I had to grab one of the corners to expand it on the first couple of uses in order to be able to see all of the settings and switches. It comprises of an altitude hold switch. A combined bank and pitch control knob, the functions of which can be seen by hovering the cursor over the different areas of it. There is also a heading hold switch and a knob, which selects either heading, Nav, Approach or Manual approach. Speed control is entirely handomatic. Down the left side of the 2d panel are icons, which access all views and sub panels available. The second officer's panel contains the main electric and fuel controls and a realistic start sequence can be followed if desired. A nice addition is the fuel dump panel; this is accompanied by a visual effect in spot view of the fuel streaming from dump valves. A full description of the cockpit and panels is available in the Systems Manual, which is in the download.

Someone in the early days of the release complained on the forum that the panel was very like the 727 panel from Captain Sim but lets be honest, there is very little difference in the cockpits of the two planes apart from the extra engine gauges. I remember reading many years ago that the early Boeing jet design concept for the 707, 727, and 737 utilised an identical nose section with the cockpits fitted out according to type.

The virtual or 3d cockpit is also very well done with sharp



graphics and it is fully functioning with clickable switches and knobs.

There is a small frame rate hit when flying using the 3d cockpit and it may be there is a memory leak which is being investigated for the first service pack due soon.

Flying the 707 is certainly not a case of number crunching with the now familiar FMC. It is a case of good old radio navigation in this beast. Some 707s were fitted with the Delco Carousel Inertia Navigation System and a very accurate model of this is available from CIVA but unfortunately in the 707 in its present form the INS add-on will not drive the autopilot. Again there may in the future be a patch or modification to include this facility so in the meantime keep your book of radio navigation aids handy and get ready for some good old-fashioned navigation on those transatlantic hauls. The operations manual included in the download details in full the various procedures and settings for all conditions of flight including take off and landing. It also contains a comprehensive set of performance graphs and tables for the necessary calculations.

The aircraft seems easy to trim and manoeuvre and handles just as one would imagine such a plane to do so. The aircraft is stable and easy to hand fly in the circuit and there seems to be plenty of power on climb and cruise. There are replacement flight dynamics available in the private tuning section of the Captain Sim forum but the ones provided with the download seem fine to me but then unlike several members of the forum who are past and present 707 pilots who am I to argue. It isn't possible in such a review to cover all of the flight settings and procedures but as I said earlier the manual is comprehensive and covers everything from start-up to shut down as well as climb and descent profile charts.

The sound file in the 707 package really does the model justice. Captain Sim have captured the sounds of this venerable old lady very well. The interior sounds have been very well done indeed with the muffled whine of the JT-3D-7 engines nicely audible above the other cockpit environment sounds. The external sounds

also capture the high-pitched whine at idle through to the deep roar of the power plants at full power. Again in this day and age there are many airports, which would not be able to handle the 707 on the grounds of noise limits. There is a separate pop up panel for Captain and Cabin Crew callouts and on using pushback facility there is a full dialogue from cockpit to ground and vice versa.



All in all I would have to say that Captain Sim have done a superb job of reproducing this classic airliner and with the up and coming free liveries there should be something there

to please just about everyone. One can only imagine the amount of research and painstaking attention to detail, which goes into such a product.

We as flight sim users have come to expect nothing but the best for our money in this day and age and in my view this package delivers just that. The Captain Sim website provides a very comprehensive support forum where problems can be discussed and resolved. There are also user modifications and free liveries available on the site.

On reading the forum there seem at first sight to be many problems reported with the package. However on reading deeper into the posts there seems to be a simple solution to most of them such as switches and various functions of the autopilot not working properly. When I was at sea in the early 80s we used to say RTFM (Read ... Manual!) I'll leave the rest to your imagination but it does seem to solve many of the early reported problems. We ask for complex realistic products and this is what we have been given in the 707 package. Unlike the average family saloon this is an old complex machine and the manual is a valuable addition to the package if you want realism and the ability to follow various procedures.

The Legendary 707 comes in at a seemingly hefty \$37.07US but bearing in mind the time and work which has gone into it I would say it is worth every cent of that. There are some issues, which are being looked at by the team, and as mentioned earlier a service pack is due soon to correct these. In the past Captain Sim have updated and fixed any reported problems promptly and I have no concerns at all that any issues raised will be looked at and dealt with quickly.

The legendary 707 is available from <http://www.captainsim.com/> As a download. A broadband connection is essential to drag in the massive 80.8 MB file.

I would like to thank Captain Sim for providing a copy of the Legendary 707 for this review.