

MOONEY AIRCRAFT INC.
KERRVILLE, TEXAS

SERVICE LETTER 20-3

DATE: 5 4-30-56

SUBJECT: Failure in weld joining upper shock disc
bearing plate to main landing gear structure.

MODELS AFFECTED: M-20 Serial Nos. 1002 thru 1008, 1010 thru
1015, 1017, 1019 thru 1025.

TIME OF COMPLIANCE: Immediately.

There have been several occurrences of failure of the weld joining the upper shock disc bearing plate (see fig. 1) to the main landing gear structure. This failure allows the wheel to rotate forward a limited amount causing interference between the wheel and adjacent wing skin. When the gear is retracted, this situation will likely

- (1) Cause the gear to be very difficult to retract and
- (2) Allow the wheel to hang on adjacent wing skin making it impossible to extend the affected gear.

In view of the above the following procedure should be adopted

- (1) Inspect the welded joint (as shown in fig. 1) on both main gears for cracks before each flight.
- (2) After take off if the gear is noticeably harder to retract do not force it up but extend it immediately and return to the field.

If cracks appear in the welded joint notify Mooney Aircraft and do not fly the airplane until the gear has been replaced. The gear structure is being improved and replacements will be available as soon as possible.