

Aircraft Registration Prefixes

A complete world guide to reading where an aircraft is from

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Every aircraft wears a unique **registration** — a bit like a car number plate — painted on the fuselage and tail. The first part (the **prefix**) tells you the country it is registered in. UK aircraft start with **G-** (for example, G-EUPT); the full list below covers the world.

Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country
A2 -	Botswana	A3 -	Tonga	A40 -	Oman
A5 -	Bhutan	A6 -	United Arab Emirates	A7 -	Qatar
A9C -	Bahrain	AP -	Pakistan	B -	China (People's Republic)
B -	Taiwan (Republic of China)	B-H, B-K, B-L	China, Hong Kong	B-M	China, Macau
C -	Canada	C2 -	Nauru	C3 -	Andorra
C5 -	The Gambia	C6 -	Bahamas	C9 -	Mozambique
CC -	Chile	CN -	Morocco	CP -	Bolivia
CS -	Portugal	CU -	Cuba	CX	Christmas Islands
CX -	Uruguay	D -	Germany	D2 -	Angola
D4 -	Cape Verde Islands	D6 -	Comores	DQ -	Fiji
E3 -	Eritrea	E5 -	Cook Islands	E7 -	Bosnia Hercegovina
EC -	Spain	EI -	Ireland	EK -	Armenia
EL -	Liberia	EP -	Iran	ER -	Moldova, Rep. of
ES -	Estonia	ET -	Ethiopia	EW -	Belarus
EX -	Kyrgyzstan	EY -	Tajikistan	EZ -	Turkmenistan
F -	France	F-O	Reunion Island	F-OD	New Caledonia
F-OG	Guadeloupe	F-OG	Martinique	F-OH	Tahiti
G -	United Kingdom	GL -	Greenland	H4 -	Solomon Islands
HA -	Hungary	HB -	Switzerland	HC -	Ecuador
HH -	Haiti	HI -	Dominican Republic	HK -	Colombia
HL	Korea, Rep. of	HP -	Panama	HR -	Honduras
HS -	Thailand	HV -	Vatican City	HZ -	Saudi Arabia
I -	Italy	J2 -	Djibouti	J3 -	Grenada
J5 -	Guinea Bissau	J6 -	St. Lucia	J7 -	Dominica
J8 -	St. Vincent and Grenadines	JA	Japan	JY -	Jordan
LN -	Norway	LQ -	Argentina (Government)	LV -	Argentina
LX -	Luxembourg	LY -	Lithuania	LZ -	Bulgaria
M -	Isle of Man	MT -	Mongolia	N	United States of America
OB -	Peru	OD -	Lebanon	OE -	Austria
OH -	Finland	OK -	Czech Republic	OM -	Slovakia
OO -	Belgium	OY -	Denmark	P -	Korea, Dem. People's Rep
P2 -	Papua New Guinea	P4 -	Aruba	PH -	Netherlands
PJ -	Netherlands Antilles	PK -	Indonesia	PP -	Brazil

Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country
PR -	Brazil	PT -	Brazil	PZ -	Suriname
RA -	Russian Federation	RDPL -	Lao	RF -	Russian Federation
RP -	Philippines	S2 -	Bangladesh	S3 -	Bangladesh
S5 -	Slovenia	S7 -	Seychelles	S9 -	Sao Tome and Principe
SE -	Sweden	SP -	Poland	ST -	Sudan
SU -	Egypt	SX -	Greece	T3 -	Kiribati
T7 -	San Marino	TC -	Turkey	TF -	Iceland
TG -	Guatemala	TI -	Costa Rica	TJ -	Cameroon
TL -	Central African Republic	TN -	Congo	TR -	Gabon
TS -	Tunisia	TT -	Chad	TU -	Cote D'Ivoire
TY -	Benin	TZ -	Mali	UK -	Uzbekistan
UN -	Kazakhstan	UP -	Kazakhstan	UR -	Ukraine
V2 -	Antigua	V3 -	Belize	V4 -	St. Kitts and Nevis
V5 -	Namibia	V7 -	Marshall Islands	V8 -	Brunei
VH -	Australia	VN -	Vietnam	VP - B, VQ - B	Bermuda
VP - C	Cayman Islands	VP - F	Falkland Islands	VP - LMA - LUZ	Montserrat
VP - LV	British Virgin Islands	VQ - H	St. Helena	VQ - T	Turks and Caicos Islands
VT -	India	XA -	Mexico	XB -	Mexico
XC -	Mexico	XT -	Burkina Faso	XU -	Cambodia
XY -	Myanmar	XZ -	Myanmar	YA -	Afghanistan
YI -	Iraq	YJ -	Vanuatu	YK -	Syria
YL -	Latvia	YN -	Nicaragua	YR -	Romania
YS -	El Salvador	YU -	Serbia	YV -	Venezuela
Z -	Zimbabwe	Z3 -	Macedonia	ZA -	Albania
ZJ -	Jersey	ZK -	New Zealand	ZL -	New Zealand
ZP -	Paraguay	ZS -	South Africa	ZT -	South Africa
ZU -	South Africa	2 -	Guernsey	3A -	Monaco
3B -	Mauritius	3C -	Equatorial Guinea	3D -	Swaziland
3X -	Guinea	4K -	Azerbaijan	4L -	Georgia
40 -	Montenegro	4R -	Sri Lanka	4X -	Israel
5A -	Libya	5B -	Cyprus	5H -	Tanzania
5N -	Nigeria	5R -	Madagascar	5T -	Mauritania
5U -	Niger	5V -	Togo	5W -	Samoa
5X -	Uganda	5Y -	Kenya	60 -	Somalia
6V -	Senegal	6W -	Senegal	6Y -	Jamaica
70 -	Yemen	7P -	Lesotho	7Q -	Malawi
7T -	Algeria	8P -	Barbados	8Q -	Maldives
8R -	Guyana	9A -	Croatia	9G -	Ghana
9H -	Malta	9J -	Zambia	9K -	Kuwait
9L -	Sierra Leone	9M -	Malaysia	9N -	Nepal
9Q -	Zaire	9U -	Burundi	9V -	Singapore

Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country	Prefix	Country
9XR-	Rwanda	9Y-	Trinidad and Tobago		

HOW TO READ A REGISTRATION

A quick beginner's cheat sheet

It's like a number plate for planes

Each aircraft has one unique registration for its whole life. No two are the same at once.

The prefix = the country

G- is the United Kingdom, D- is Germany, N is the United States, F- is France, and so on (see the tables).

Where to look

On the rear fuselage and often under the wings. On airliners it's usually near the tail.

Write it in your logbook

Note the full registration and you'll never count the same aircraft twice.

Spot it live, log it on paper

Use a tracking app such as Flightradar24 to confirm the aircraft, then record it on your Plane Spotters Club sheets.

This world guide covers the main civil registration prefixes, country by country. Registers do change over time, so for a definitive check use the official CAA (UK) or FAA (USA) aircraft register. Happy spotting!