

Homemade Throttle Lock

Pete Morse, former NE Tribe Chief

My Comanche has locks on the passenger and luggage door that latch but do not lock – they can be turned with a screwdriver – so I have been concerned with meeting the FAA and Homeland Security requirement for securing the engine controls. Somewhere I saw mention of a simple bracket to prevent moving the throttle lever forward (adding power) and made my own version of it. The basic component is a 3-1/2 x 5-inch sheet of aluminum bent into a U shape over a 1/4 inch rod, then drilled for the hasp of a small padlock. The bracket fits over the shaft of the fully extended (off) throttle lever, and the padlock prevents its removal. I added the padlock key to the ignition keyring so I don't forget it. Someone may be able to hot-wire and start the engine, but without the ability to increase the throttle they won't be leaving the ground - or even the tie down spot!

