

# Mastering the Art of Approaches

A Guide to Instrument Approach Procedures



Instrument Approach Procedures (IAPs)



# What is an Instrument Approach?

Instrument approaches are navigationally aided approaches designed to allow pilots to fly in and land in non-visual conditions.

## What can they be used for?

- Descending through Instrument Flight Conditions (IMC)
- Safely avoiding terrain and obstacles you may not be able to see
- Keeping you safe when you're eyes can't



# Instrument Approaches



# Types of Instrument Approaches

#### There are 8 types of Instrument Approach

We will be discussing

- ILS
- Localizer
- RNAV (GPS)
- RNAV (RNP)
- GLS/GBAS

## We will NOT be discussing:

- NDB
- VOR
- TACAN
- SRA



# What is ILS

### ILS = Instrument Landing System

- ILS provides aircraft with a lateral and vertical path to the runway
- Allows for safe operation in non-visual (IMC) conditions
- Provides very high accuracy through the use of a Localizer and Glideslope
- Most "basic" approach form, installed at thousands of airports worldwide



# What is RNAV

## **RNAV = aRea NAVigation**

- Designed to give aircraft the ability to use GPS "fixes" to navigate the globe
- Provides moderate accuracy for approaches
- Lower minimums than VOR and NDB approaches, but higher than ILS/GLS
- Used in 2 different types of approaches: RNP and GPS



# What is RNP

#### **RNP = Required Navigation Performance**

- RNP uses onboard systems and satellites to verify position accuracy
- Can be programmed in the FMC/MCDU to ensure adherence
- Allows for lower minimums, but still higher mins than LPV, ILS and GLS
- Usually incorporates RF (Radius-to-Fix) which are curved path segments



## What is GLS/GBAS

## GBAS = Ground Based Augmentation System | GLS = GBAS Landing System

- GLS Uses the GBAS system to provide higher accuracy in terminal areas
- Intended to eventually replace the conventional ILS system -
- Provides ILS-like accuracy without the possibility of ground interference
- Eliminates the need for a localizer and glideslope antenna -
- Only used at select airports in the world
  - US Airports which use GLS are: IAH, EWR and SFO. All of which are UAL Hubs...





# Briefing Approaches



# **General Approach Briefings**

#### **Briefing Must-Haves:**

- Approach navaid (as needed)
- Final Approach Course
- Approach specific minimums
- Crosscheck arrival plate with FMC and aircraft
- Re-verify all points if a runway or procedure change occurs



# How to brief an ILS or Localizer Approach

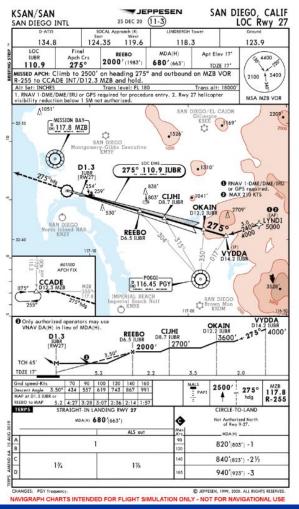
## **Primary Differences:**

- ILS = Lateral AND Vertical guidance using ground-based navaids
- LOC = Lateral ONLY guidance using ground-based navaids

## **Briefing Must-Haves**

- Localizer frequency and final approach course
- Approach entry requirements (RNAV-1, DME/DME/IRU etc.)









# How to brief a GLS (GBAS) Approach

#### **Primary Differences:**

- GLS = GBAS Landing System
  - GBAS = Ground Based Augmentation System
- GPS-Dependent alternative to ILS, uses satellites to draw LOC/GS instead of ground based LOC and GS antenna

#### **Briefing Must-Haves**

- GBAS RPI (Reference Path Indicator) code, frequency, and FAC
- Approach entry requirements (RNAV-1, DME/DME/IRU etc.)



# How to brief a GLS (GBAS) Approach

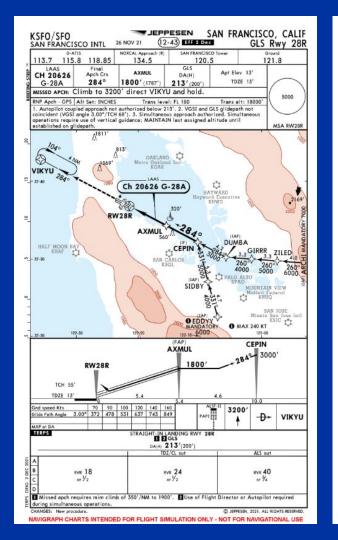
#### **Important Requirements:**

- MUST have Multi-Mode Receiver (MMR) equipped on board (Boeing only)
- MUST request the "GLS xx" runway with Approach Control

Things to note:

- GLS often uses the same fixes and transitions as the ILS
- GLS usually matches standard ILS minimums
- Typically only flown by Boeing acft though some newer Airbus are capable











# How to brief an RNAV (GPS) Approach

### **Primary Differences:**

- Most are straight-in though some are offset
- GPS approaches offer LPV on some, which can get near-ILS minimums

## **Briefing Must-Haves:**

- Carefully select minimums (LNAV, LNAV/VNAV, or LPV)
- Take note of any offset FAC or necessary turns to final



## LNAV vs LNAV/VNAV vs LPV vs LP

#### Primary Differences:

- LPV = Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance, GPS version of an ILS approach
- LP = Localizer Performance, essentially the GPS version of a LOC approach
- LNAV/VNAV = Vertical guidance down to minima, but less accuracy = higher mins
- LNAV = Lateral Guidance ONLY -> step-down or calculated DA required (mins+50)

#### **Briefing Must-Haves**

- Minima revision if flying LNAV only
- Review if minimums are DA or MDA
- Review step-downs for non-vertical guidance procedures (LNAV and LP)



# How to brief an RNAV (RNP) Approach

### **Primary Differences:**

- RNP means more requirements
- GPS monitoring MUST be installed onboard

## **Briefing Must-Haves**

- RF Leg point outs and leg MEA checks
- Use LNAV/VNAV minimums 99% of time, unless VNAV is unreliable

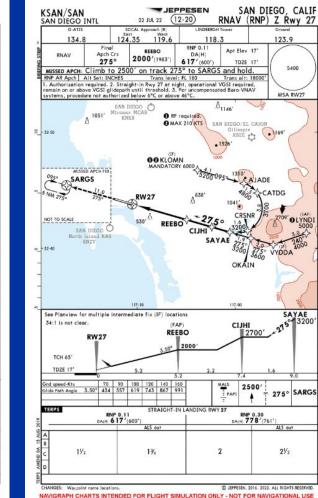


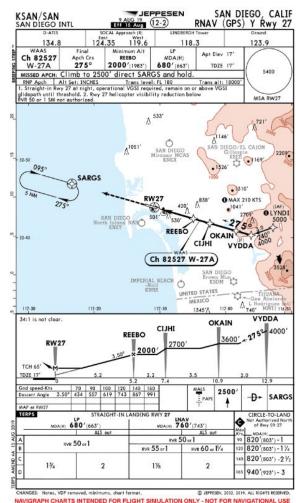
## What's the difference? RNAV (GPS) and RNAV (RNP)

## **Primary Differences:**

- RNP approaches have stricter requirements
- RNP requires GPS accuracy monitoring, GPS does not
- RNP Approaches usually get you lower approach minimums, unless using LPV
- Only GPS approaches give the option for LPV, which has lower mins than RNP









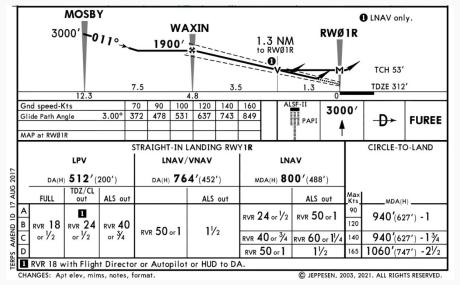
# Minima Selection



## **Minima Selection**

### Take a look at the minimums section:

- Several are listed, but you must choose wisely.
- Select the minimums based off YOUR AIRCRAFT and its capability



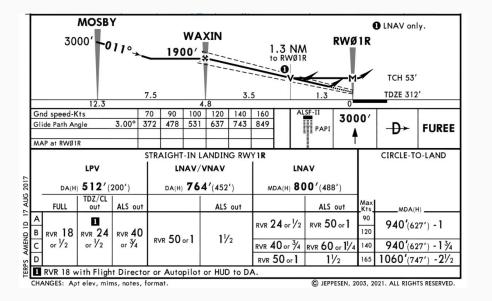


# Minima Selection, cont'd

Let's say you're flying a 737-900ER.

You're using the VNAV function to descend along the RNAV glidepath.

Which minimums should you select?



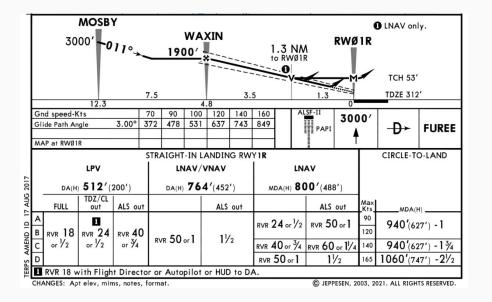


# Minima Selection, cont'd

Now let's say you're in an SR-22

You're using the LPV GP function to descend along the RNAV glidepath

Which minimums should you select?



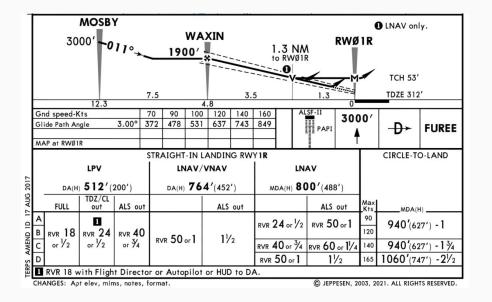


## Minima Selection, cont'd

Let's go back to the 737-900ER

You are using the RNAV approach to line up with Runway 1R then circle-to-land on Runway 30.

Which minimums should you select?





# Approach Stability



# What is a "stable" approach

## ICAO defines a "stable approach" as:

"An approach is considered to be stable when all of the following conditions are met: All briefings and checklists have been actioned. The aircraft is in the planned landing configuration, [and] The aircraft is on the correct flight path."



## How to create a "stable approach" environment

- Complete all briefings well prior to conducting the approach
  - Usually about 10-20 minutes BEFORE you expect to be cleared for the approach
- Confirm all your aircraft's weights and landing speeds
- Make minimal adjustments to pitch and power to the max extent possible
- FOCUS and RELAX. A tense mindset will cause knee jerk reactions
- The plane is first and foremost. Avoid distractions and other things

## IF YOU BECOME UNSTABLE: GO AROUND!! DON'T BE A HERO



## Follow Ken Davis' words: You Can Always Go Around





# Stable Approach Visual Cues

Visual aids can also cue you in as to whether your approach is stable

- Acceleration/Deceleration indication on your PFD?
- Excessive rate of descent?
- No more than 1 deviation from Glidepath/LOC?
- Use the HGS if the airplane has it!







# Flare, Touchdown, and Rollout



# Glidepath to Flare: Understanding timing

Transitioning from the glide to the flare can be very tricky. Here are some tips

- Once the RA callouts hits about 50 ft, look at the opposite end of the runway instead of focusing on the aiming point
- As you flare, pull gently back on the yoke to aim for 3-5° nose up
- Once in your flare, hold the pitch angle and allow the plane to naturally land
- Avoid reintroducing nose down pressure and simply hold the flare pitch



## The Flare: When to Reduce Power

Power management is essential for a smooth landing. Here are some tips:

- Begin the power reduction at the '50' RA (Radio Altimeter) Callout
- SLOWLY reduce the power. Do not cut the speed all at once.
- Aim to smoothly reduce power so you are at idle by 20 feet RA.
- Once below 20 ft RA, hold pitch angle and let speed fall naturally until touchdown



## Helpful Visual Aids

#### **HGS Autonomous Flare Cue**



## **Opposite Runway End**







# Questions? Comments? Concerns?



## Want to learn more?

## Still curious on these topics or procedure details?

## Ask our mentors!

- FlyUVA Mentors are available in our Discord server!
- Ask your question as a post on the **support-forum** and it will be answered!
- Our mentors are real-world pilots or have deep knowledge of the aircraft that they provide mentorship for.
- Don't be scared to ask for help! There are no dumb questions!