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What equipment should I buy?

Walk into almost any flight school today, and the sales pitch starts before you even see an airplane. They will hand you a massive shopping list of "much-needed" gear and study materials, trying to convince you that you can't learn to fly without a \$1,300 Bose headset or expensive, bundled test prep packages. This is a classic industry marketing ploy. Aviation retailers, corporate academies, and even local schools use these high-priced packages to pad their own profit margins by exploiting a student's excitement and lack of experience.

During initial training, a student pilot only needs a few basic items. Study materials, are published free of charge and can be downloaded from the FAA's website. Overloading the cockpit with redundant gadgets usually serves as a costly distraction rather than a genuine training aid.

Here is a list of the equipment and materials we recommend at Coyote. They are not mandatory and we will loan them to you for use during your training.

- An E6B paper flight computer. Cost: about \$16.00
- A pilot's logbook. Cost: About \$12.00
- An aviation plotter. Cost: \$12.00
- The Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge. Cost: Free download from the FAA or purchase online in hardcopy.
- A headset. A DRE-6001 with Active Noise Canceling from Headsets, Inc costs around \$500.00 and will serve well for many years.