

# WHAT SIMULATOR TO CHOOSE?



|                  |                 |                 |                           |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Aerofly 2</b> | <b>Prepar3D</b> | <b>Xplane11</b> | <b>Flight Simulator X</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|

The scores are made from the aircraft and are default and

| Simulator                       | Aerofly FS2 | Prepar3D    | Xplane11    | FSX         |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Price                           | \$79.99 AUD | \$59.95 USD | \$79.99 AUD | \$35.95 AUD |
| Aircraft from the Box           | 5/10        | 7.5/10      | 9/10        | 5/10        |
| Scenery from the box            | 9.5/10      | 5/10        | 7/10        | 3/10        |
| Weather&Atmosphere from the box | 8.5/10      | 7/10        | 8/10        | 5/10        |
| World Coverage                  | 2/10        | 6.5/10      | 9/10        | 4/10        |
| Friendly User Interface         | 8/10        | 10/10       | 6/10        | 9/10        |
| Disk Space required             | 100GB+      | 70GB+       | -50GB       | -20GB       |

Prices are taken from steam which I recommend that you download the simulator's with, however Prepar3D doesn't sell it anywhere else apart from its own website.

Scores can be seen as biased since they're from my own point of view and the fact that I use a lot off add-ons, I'm trying to be fair even though I main Prepar3D, I have 40+ hours on the other simulator's.

## Aerofly2 Rundown <https://www.aerofly.com/>

I will start by saying, that if all you want is eye-candy, to fly around in, then this simulator is just for you! With completely gorgeous photorealism scenery, beautiful sunsets, high-definition airports, good looking planes, straight out off the box! Then I would 100% recommend this flight simulator. The eye-candy is so realistically good looking that you can land on the golden gate bridge or fly under it!

However, it's all eye-candy, but it's very, very good eye-candy I might add! All the planes feel the same while looking extremely different to each other, in terms of controls, there's no in depth systems, no ground control, no traffic, and no live-weather, the other sad thing is, there's only few states in America to fly around too. There also isn't a lot off extra add-ons make it as big as Prepar3D or Xplane11! Add-ons will be listed last.

# Prepar3D Rundown <https://prepar3d.com/>

Okay, so you're probably thinking what in the world is Prepar3D right? Well, it's pretty much the Father simulator off Flight Simulator X since it had all its rights bought off from Microsoft to Lockheed Martin, and because of that, the classic FSX feel still remains in a much improved, and updated version of FSX.

In Prepar3D we are up to version 4.5 right now and that is a 64bit version which is important because switching to 64 bit would allow you to utilize more memory (32 bit limited to about 3.5 GB ram usage) to improve the simulator's performance and stop you crashing all the time if you're using complicated add-ons.

It's also why I down-voted FSX a lot compared to Prepar3D, because essentially, it's a 15year old flight simulator which is not designed to be operated on newer computers. There's also a few new features such as PBR, dynamic lighting, dynamic reflections, volumetric fog and a whole new list of aircraft to choose from. It's even got that good old FSX user-interface feel to it if any of you have played that classic before, so adapting to it would be easy!

# Xplane 11 Rundown <https://www.x-plane.com/>

I have put about 30 hours onto Xplane11 and I must say, it is a very unique simulator and it has an incredible out of the box feel too, unlike Prepar3D where the scenery is mediocre but has amazing systems, or Aerofly2 is where it's just all scenery and eye-candy with no seriousness attached to it!

Xplane11 is that simulator that sits between the halfway point and I would find that if you're just wanting to fly from airport to airport, and crash sometimes... Xplane11 is amazing for it, the scenery isn't as amazing as Aerofly2 but it does have very well detailed auto-generated scenery, a fair amount of custom built airports without any add-ons required, and very good aircraft considering it's just out of the box.

If I only had one choice, I would choose the default aircraft out of Xplane11 any day over the Prepar3D default aircraft, and not to mention that Xplane11 has crash effects!!! If you smash into the ground by accident your plane breaks into several pieces and explodes in flames, it's a lot better than any simulator out there that I've tried!

I also find it really easy to practice landings in the simulator because there's a very good feature that allows you to select approaches, that you can choose to automatically load as it positions you within 5 to 10 miles away from the airport runway, and you can land at any airport in the world with ease. Xplane11 also has windshield droplet effects that make flying through bad weather, a lot more immersive.

Xplane11 has a tonne of freeware scenery add-ons as well.

As amazing as Xplane11 is in my own opinion, and I would highly recommend it to anyone that is new to flight simulation or is coming back or doesn't have a simulator yet that doesn't want to spend a tonne of money on add-ons.

One thing it can't give is that classic FSX feel and all the other amazing add-ons that it doesn't have! If you have the extra money, Prepar3D can be 5x better than Xplane11 but at times like these it's probably best that you don't spend anything extra than the simulator itself.

# Addons Information!

## Store Site Links

<https://www.aerosoft.com/en/>

<https://secure.simmarket.com/default-en.html>

<https://store.x-plane.org/>

The links below contain info on the basic specs needed to run the game, however much more would be needed to run complex add-ons, however basic fps-friendly add-ons will be able to run.

## Prepare3D specs

<https://www.prepar3d.com/system-requirements/>

## Xplane11 specs

<https://www.x-plane.com/kb/x-plane-11-system-requirements/>

## Aerofly2 specs

<https://www.systemrequirementslab.com/cyri/requirements/aerofly-fs-2-flight-simulator/13525>

Links for freeware Xplane11 add-ons <https://forums.x-plane.org/index.php?app=downloads>

Links for freeware FSX/Prepar3D v4 add-ons <https://library.avsim.net/>

# Addons I love to use that I can't live without!

Active sky for Xplane11 and Prepar3D v4, live weather add-on, sold separately!

Simbrief: Free flight planner <https://www.simbrief.com/system/dispatch.php?newflight=1>

High-quality Prepar3D Aircraft: PMDG, A2A simulations, Fly the Maddog X, Aerosoft, Majestic Software

High-quality Prepar3D Scenery: Flytampa, Orbx, Flightbeam, Fsdreamteam, Twentyninepalms, Photosimlabs

Mediocre-Quality Prepar3D Aircraft: Carenado, Alabeo, Just-flight, Milviz, Aerosoft

Mediocre-Quality Prepar3D Scenery: Imaginesim, Latinvfr, UK2000, Digital Design, Aerosoft, Drzewiecki-designs, FSDG, FSdT

High-Quality Xplane11 Aircraft: Flightfactor, Zibo MOD (free), FlyJsim, Take Command!

High-Quality Xplane11 Scenery: Icarus Simulations, Nimbus, Aw Designs

Mediocre-quality Xplane11 Aircraft/Scenery: A side from the Vmax 767, the Colimata Concorde, and the Jardesigns a330, there isn't a lot else I haven't used for xplane11 aside from freeware, so I can't give my fullest opinion anymore.

Aerofly2 High-Quality Scenery: North-eastern USA, Switzerland, South Florida, Orbx Netherlands are recommended.

In the end the decisions all up to you, so watch YouTube videos for reviews and tutorials, use <https://fselite.net/category/news/> and other flight simulator forums/sites to catch up on the latest flight simulation updates, stay safe and I hope to go flying again in the real world with you guys sometime soon!

I'm using the developers names instead off the actual add-on names, otherwise the list would be endless

Max Ashton