

SERVICE BULLETIN 98-3-1

Dear RV-6 builder:

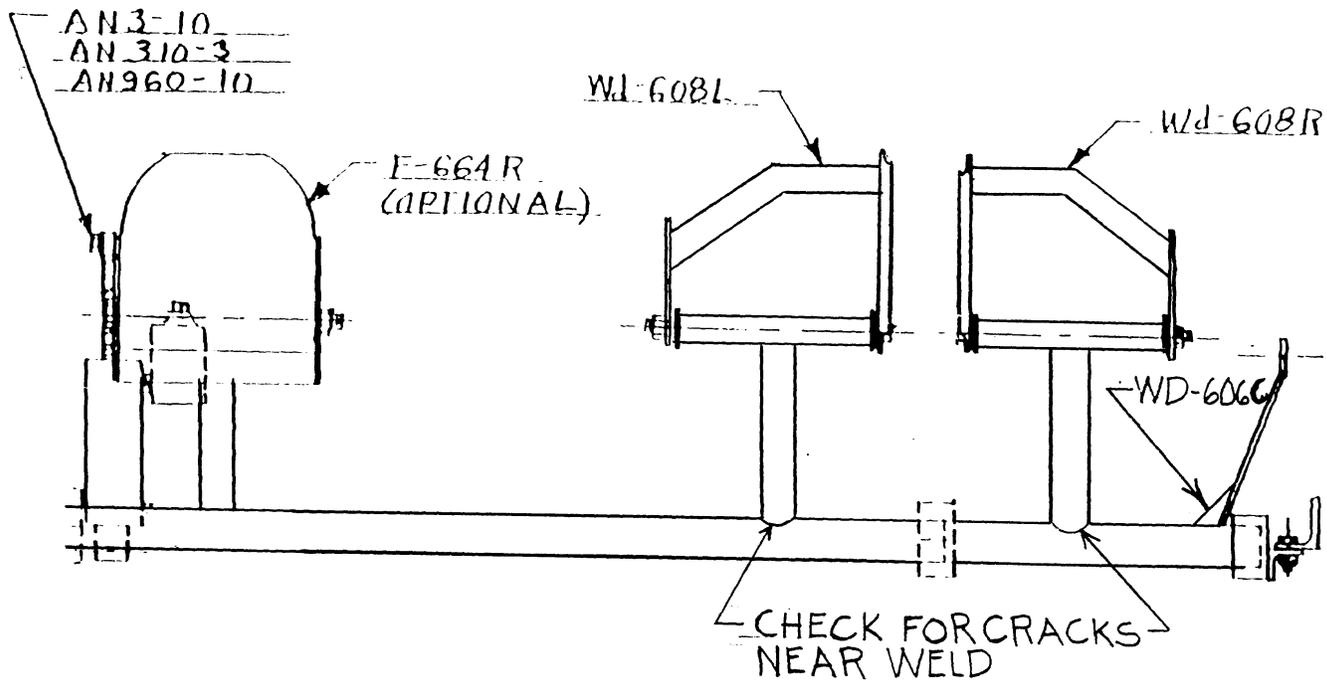
Last November, an RV-6 had an accident due to a failure in the rudder pedals. The old style floor mounted pedals (WD-606 and WD-607) fractured in the location shown on the enclosed drawing. There were no injuries, however, the airplane sustained substantial damage.

Van's aircraft has static tested a set of production pedals and found they exceeded the strength limits specified in FAR Part 23. However, working with the NTSB, Van's Aircraft has decided to recommend a recurring inspection of the failure area. If cracks occur they will most likely occur 1/16 inch from the weld on the big tube (the one that is horizontal and rotates in the UHMW blocks. However, the entire weldment should be inspected. Please inspect your old style pedals before your next flight, then every 50 hours or at annual inspection, whichever comes first (hopefully it's the 50 hours).

Owners who find a crack, or are not happy with performing the recurring inspections, have a couple of options. Van's Aircraft will make available, free of charge, a finger patch that may be welded on the pedals. The part number for eight patches and instructions is WD-606 FPKIT. For those owners not in a big hurry, the pedals may be returned to Van's for modification. PLEASE fill out and include the attached sheet with your name, builders number, and shipping address, and mark the outside of the box with RMA_WD_606. We will try to have the pedals welded and back into the mail in four to five weeks but we can't guarantee it. Our welders are swamped right now. The paint around the weld area must be removed, so plan on repainting when they are returned to you.

This is also a good time for owners to double check that the WD-606C gussets are installed. This was a gusset for the rudder cable attach arm we asked builders to install back in 1990. The gussets are shown on the enclosed sheet. If the gussets are not installed, please contact us.

We are sorry for any inconvenience, but we believe it is important to aggressively address any safety concerns.



RUDDER & BRAKE PEDAL ASSY
REAR VIEW (LOOKING FORWARD) 1/4 SCALE

