

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/93

Ref: EW/G93/03/19

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 172M Skyhawk, G-BSCR	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2D piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1973	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 March 1993 at 1348 hrs	
Location:	Shoreham Airport, West Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private (training)	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Nose-wheel spat broken off and chipped	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	25 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	5 hours (all on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot departed Rochester airfield for a solo qualifying cross country flight to Shoreham where Runway 03 was in use. Runway 03 is 824 metres long, 18 metres wide and surfaced with asphalt. Rochester's runways are all grass surfaced and the main ones are 32 and 35 metres wide.

The pilot stated that as he started to flare at the end of the final approach, he accidentally overflared, bounced the mainwheels on the runway and ballooned the aircraft back into the air. In trying to correct for the initial error, he overflared again and the aircraft veered off the left side of the runway. The nosewheel hit stones which shattered the nosewheel spat and struck the propeller blades causing chip damage. The pilot was able to stop the aircraft without further damage and taxi it clear of the runway where he shut it down.

The pilot attributed his initial error to the unusual perspective presented by the narrow runway and candidly admitted that he should have gone around after the first bounce. The pilot's instructor stated that he had briefed his student thoroughly and this was an uncommon error for him to make.