

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Aero AT-3 R100, G-SPAT	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-S2 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2003	
Date & Time (UTC):	29 November 2007 at 1315 hrs	
Location:	Elstree Aerodrome, Hertfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller and spinner, engine cowling and exhaust, both wing leading edges and upper surfaces and left side of fuselage. Damage to PA28 G-AZDE; right fuselage side, cargo door and right flap	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	44 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	188 hours (of which 23 were on type) Last 90 days - 16 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

On start-up, the aircraft began to move and struck a parked aircraft.

History of the flight

The aircraft had been parked at Elstree, adjacent to a Piper PA-28R-200 G-AZDE, for approximately 30 minutes following a short flight from North Weald. The pilot carried out the pre-flight checks and started the engine. The aircraft immediately started to move forward turning to the left. The pilot attempted to shut down the engine but was unable to do so before the aircraft swung round and struck the adjacent aircraft, causing damage to the right hand side of its fuselage.

The pilot concluded that when he parked the aircraft, and applied the hydraulically operated main-wheel brakes, he may have inadvertently pressed the left pedal more than the right. The park brake is applied by a switch that is connected to a valve which maintains the hydraulic pressure in the brake system, thus keeping the brakes applied. There is no braking effect from operating the pedals while the park brake is applied. The pilot also noted that the engine rpm at start-up was higher than normal which further exacerbated the situation. He tested the brakes after the accident and found them to be serviceable.