

Piper PA28-180, Failed Landing Gear Strut, ATA 3213

A general aviation report states, "The right main landing gear lower strut fell off when the aircraft lifted off the runway at *(the airport)*. The student pilot flew to *(his destination)* and landed, resulting in damage to the upper landing gear strut *(P/N: 6531904)*. When the lower strut departed *(from the)* upper housing, it struck and damaged the flap skin.

"The right main landing gear upper torque link mounting ears broke off the cylinder, allowing the lower gear leg to fall out of the upper cylinder and depart the aircraft. This cast aluminum cylinder is original since 1972. The inboard ear appears to have been partially broken for some time. Once it broke all the way, the outboard ear could not support the twisting forces applied during normal turns, taxi, and torque during takeoff. I feel this led to the outboard ear breaking off, and on takeoff, the gear left the aircraft. This upper torque link attach point is covered with a fairing, preventing the pilot from seeing any defects during preflight." *(The SDRS database reflects this part number 22 times.)*

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Part Total Time: Unknown