

X-Twin DIY

RCM&E EXAMINES A SERIES OF INDOOR R/C MODELS THAT MAY HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION

The flying characteristics of these little models really do belie their toy-like appearance.

We're all very busy these days, so busy in fact that good things can sometimes slip by without us noticing. Anyway, the truth is, this new X-Twin DIY series from Silverlit is something that er... may just have slipped by without you noticing.

It's perfectly understandable of course and, well, who can blame you? There are a lot of little helicopters and aeroplanes on the market these days, indeed many can be easily and accurately dismissed as mere toys, while others that get similarly



although enthusiasts quickly discovered that they could improve the performance with a few modifications.

All well and good then, but we must be honest, as hardened radio flyers the arrival of this new DIY range did little to excite passion or quicken pulses here at RCM&E... That is, until we flew one!

CLIP TOGETHER

The hard work, thought and attention to detail that Silverlit always invest in their products is very impressive, indeed the engineering that's gone into this six-model DIY range is, once again, exemplary. The concept is simple yet

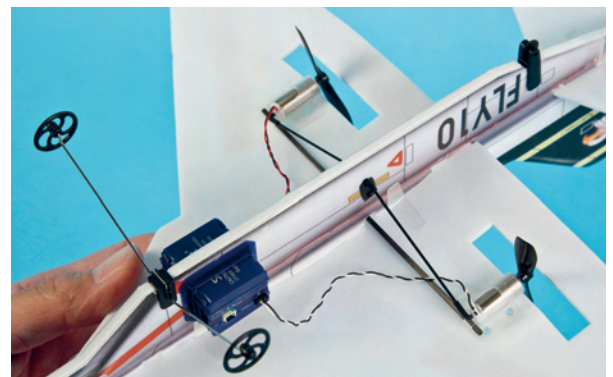
we suspect the execution wasn't so easy. The models in the range vary in size and complexity from a single engine tractor driven high-winger, through twins, biplanes and prop jets, finishing with a four engine bomber / transport design. In each box you'll find one of Silverlit's now famous 27MHz two-channel transmitters, along with the airframe in component form, i.e. a printed profile fuselage in 4mm Depron, plus wings and tailplane in 2mm. Also included are the tiny motors, props, spare props, undercarriage, a small single-cell 200mAh Li-Po battery and a receiver unit. Slot the model together, clip on the motors, add the battery and receiver, and you're ready to fly.

As always, Silverlit products are beautifully packaged and make attractive presents for aeromodellers of all ages.

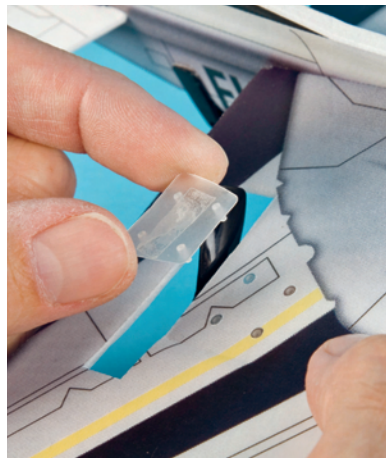
pigeonholed deserve more attention than their appearance would initially suggest. Well, if you ask us, these neat little DIY models are perfect examples of the latter.

This DIY range, then, is a development of the hugely popular X-Twin series that Silverlit introduced last year. Predominantly twin engine foamies, the models operated on 27MHz and flew extremely well,

Everything you need for a bit of low cost indoor R/C fun.



From kit box to 'flight ready' in just 30 minutes, the slot-together construction is simplicity itself.



No glue is required. The motors simply plug into position on the underside of the wing (far left), and are secured with a captive plate on the upper surface.

The receiver unit and 200mAh Li-Po are clipped together, prior being inserted in the fuselage.

FLYING

Prior to flight the aeroplane is given a 40 minute top-up charge from the transmitter, using a lead that's mounted on the fascia of the Tx and that plugs into the model's combined receiver and battery pack.

If we're honest we'd expected these DIY models to fly in pretty much the same way as their X-twin counterparts, i.e. well enough with some nose weight and a bit of trimming. How wrong we were. For the test flight we took our example to a local indoor meeting where a little R/C is tolerated at the end of a busy free-flight session. On this particular occasion the air was full of Kyosho Miniums so few curious eyes were pointing in our direction as we rolled out the DIY jet and fired her up. Control is achieved by varying the speed of the two motors to initiate a turn or, increasing / decreasing power to either climb or glide.

In flight, then, our DIY model didn't require any adjustments or trimming tweaks, was far more stable than a standard X-Twin, turned smoothly whilst loosing very little height and, was generally great fun. Flying times equate to around 7 or 8 minutes whilst take-off and landing from a flat surface is perfectly possible. All in all it was a bit of a winner, in fact.

By the time we'd landed, having seen to a Minium or two, we were surrounded by curious on-lookers who were keen to comment on how well the model flew and enquire where we'd got it. Fly it did then and very well, too.



Our X-Twin profile jet created quite a stir at a recent indoor meet, but then, so does anything that flies well!

THERE'S MORE...

It's surprising that little has been written regarding the potential to use the radio in these DIY models as the basis for a conversion or two. The bare bones are certainly there: A good 27MHz miniature radio system, two (or four) little differentially controlled motors, plus a tiny Li-Po, receiver and aerial. Why the possibilities must be endless, if only to cut a profile Depron aeroplane that everyone will recognise

- a Lancaster or Mosquito, perhaps? Surely someone out there will be able to come up with a clever design? Now there's a challenge!

Meanwhile, if you've already done something interesting in converting the Silverlit X-Twin DIY system, then do please let us know, we'd love to hear from you. Failing that, if, like us, you're just happy to fly these fine, underrated little models, then you'll already know just how good they are.

DATAFILE	Name:	X-Twin DIY series
	Model type:	Indoor R/C
	Manufactured by:	Silverlit Electronics
	UK distributor:	Flying Toys Ltd. Tel. 01702 295110 www.flyingtoys.com
	RRP:	£24.99 - £ 39.99

