

Jamara ASW-28

WHILST JAMARA'S SIMPLE SAILPLANE COULD EASILY BE DISMISSED AS AN OVERGROWN R/C TOY, GRAHAM ASHBY SUGGESTS OTHERWISE...

Whenever I get my hands on a model that emerges from its box in the increasingly common 'ready to fly' form, it always reminds me of pre-ARTF days. You remember, surely? When crashing your only model could spell disaster for your regular Sunday morning fix? In these sorry times a rebuild could often take weeks and if you didn't have a replacement airframe ready and waiting you could even find yourself frantically scanning the free ads for a second-hand bargain. Not anymore! Most of us have at least two or three models vying for our attention, and if all else fails we can show our face in the local model shop, hand over a wad of cash, and emerge with the solution to our problems in a single box.

There is, of course, a huge range of kits in the RTF category and I for one love 'em to bits. How so? Well, to begin with they encourage people into the hobby who might otherwise dismiss it due to constraints on their time. However, more significantly, kits of this sort offer existing flyers an opportunity to try another discipline without having to commit too much time and expenditure. For example, if you fancy having a stab at helicopters, you can get yourself a perfectly acceptable ready to fly machine (albeit



a fair weather flyer) for £150. Same goes for EDF, and if your budget doesn't quite stretch that far, then warbirds, floatplanes, aerobats and trainers will all come within ten or twenty quid of the magic ton.

Now, surprisingly, Jamara's ASW-28 is priced very slightly higher than the pack, although that's not to say the aeroplane isn't worth the money, as we'll shortly discover. For a gnat's whisker under £200 (cheaper if you shop around) this delightful 2m span



EPP motor glider, complete with pre-installed radio, transmitter, Li-Po and charger, can be yours. Buy it and in just under an hour of opening the box you'll be faced with a unique opportunity to sample a side of the hobby that's so very often forgotten or dismissed: gentle, quiet, relaxed powered soaring.

PLEASANT SURPRISE

Foam and cartoon scale though it may be, Jamara's '28 really shouldn't be underestimated or dismissed, for in many respects it's a rather nicely designed and well appointed little package. Let's deal with the cartoon aspect of the design by clarifying the fact that the only variant of the

It would be very easy to dismiss this one as a toy, but you really shouldn't. Some careful design has gone into the realisation of this model and the result is quite pleasing.

I had tremendous fun just wheeling her around in the calm of a late spring morning.



Jamara's ASW-28 provides a taste of powered soaring without the commitment of time and energy.

Floating by on a low pass as gentle as you like. I could get to enjoy this!

ASW-28 to carry any sort of propeller is the ASW 28-18E, which packs a neat, retractable, pylon mounted airscrew behind the cockpit. No variant exists with any sort of conventional power arrangement, so if you harbour dreams of owning a scale glider, you'll clearly need to keep looking. Still, let's face it, that's not what this model is about. To all intents and purposes what we have here is a sport electric soarer with a nod towards scale.

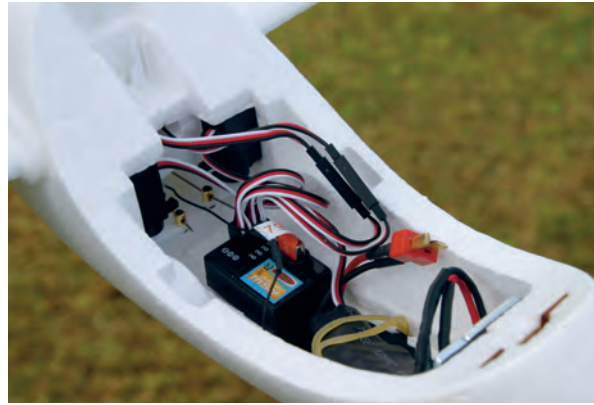
A brief look at the model is enough to clock some of the finer aspects of the design, notably the dense /

smooth EPO foam construction, brushless powertrain, pre-installed servos and pushrods, neatly pressed / sealed control surface hinges, and bolt-on T-tail. As for the wings, these are plug-in (using a tubular carbon spar / joiner), aileron equipped and feature winglets, the latter designed to reduce tip vortices, cut drag, and increase the lift that's generated at the outboard section of the wing. Rounding off the airborne package is a 10¹/₄" folding propeller, plus a neat yet positively retained canopy hatch, this hiding a five-channel 35MHz receiver, speed controller and

1000mAh 2s Li-Po. Add to this a cheap but solid transmitter, Li-Po charger, mains adapter and sticker set, and you've a package that'll leave you wanting for nothing, save, perhaps, a set of English instructions!

ALL TOGETHER NOW

German instructions aside, assembly of the airframe is a pretty painless process, particularly given the pictorial element of the latter and the low component count. In short, all we need to do here is connect the elevator horn to the Z-bend in the pushrod end, bolt the tailplane atop



There's little question that the winglets add to the appearance, although they're highly vulnerable during storage and transit.

As it comes, with the exception of the lead that's stuck at the front of the bay. Incidentally, the canopy hatch is a good positive fit.

the fin, then slide the wings over the carbon spar and seat them in the fuselage recess. Lateral movement of each panel is prevented courtesy of a mid-span self tapping screw that bites the carbon spar, after which one need only feed the aileron leads to the receiver and connect 'em to the Y-lead. That's it, job done! Unless, of course, you fancy adding the sticker set which, I'm sorry to say, leaves a little to be desired given the overall quality of the airframe. You see, before removing the components and assembling them, I'd already formed a preconceived, slightly lowly

impression about what the box might contain, yet in reality I was very pleasantly surprised at what I found, particularly with the model fully assembled and ready to fly. It really is a very neatly moulded, tidy aeroplane that looks so much better in the flesh than on any promotional material I've yet seen, or indeed the box art! In this respect, then, the square-cut sticker set, with black text on a white background really doesn't do the model justice. Individually cut letters is what this one deserves, for not only would these improve the overall appearance quite substantially, they'd

help it shrug off an underlying toy image that it really doesn't deserve. Result? I discarded all but a few.

Prepping the ASW for flight involves little more than charging the Li-Po, placing it under the canopy hatch (as far forward as it'll go), and checking the centre of gravity which, you should note, was very slightly rearward of the recommended position. Still, 15 grams of self-adhesive lead sorted that one, and with the receiver and speed controller secured for flight I found myself driving to the field, oddly excited at the prospect of letting her loose.



Like any transmitter that's supplied with an RTF model, this one is nothing to write home about, though it is nice and sturdy. Servo reversing tops its features.

You have to admit, it's pretty!

Jamara's ASW-28 is arguably a tad pricey, yet somehow it seems to carry it off.

MEMORIES, MEMORIES!

I really can't remember the last time I flew a sailplane. In fact, I'd hazard a guess it was a good ten or more years ago on Ivinghoe Beacon. As such the first flight of the ASW and the opportunity to go thermal hunting once more, represented a refreshing change, one which, given my rusty skills, deserved a half decent day. So it was, then, that brother Dave and I met in the local park at sparrow's fart for a pre-breakfast test fly and photo shoot.

Range checking the model gave no cause for concern, and with that, David gave her a swift lob into the wild blue. Whilst not staggering, the climb rate at full throttle is useful enough, the powertrain hauling the little model to a safe cruising altitude in a single circuit. Here, then, I was able to throttle back and trim her with a tiny amount of up elevator. Settling on the sticks, all seemed well, indeed the ASW was covering ground very swiftly and responding nicely to control. Aileron turns aren't what you'd call crisp, yet there is, at least, ample authority. Rudder, on the other hand, is not so effective and whilst it's



DATAFILE

Name:	ASW-28
Model type:	Cartoon scale RTF motor glider
Manufactured by:	Jamara e.K. (www.jamara.de)
UK distributor:	Flying Toys Ltd. www.flyingtoys.com
RRP:	£199.99 (shop around for deals)
Wingspan:	2000mm
Fuselage length:	880mm
All-up weight:	525g (1 lb 2oz)
Functions (servos):	Aileron (2); elevator (1); rudder (1); throttle (via ESC)
Powertrain:	Bell style brushless outrunner; 10¼" folding prop; ESC; 2s 1000mAh Li-Po

possible to perform a flat turn, this is not a comfortable state of affairs in a breeze. More rudder movement is what's needed here, a condition I plan to adjust by moving the pushrod connection to the inner hole of the rudder horn. Elevator control, meanwhile, is fine, although in truth, a small amount more wouldn't come amiss either.

And so it was that I set about working the ASW progressively upwind before gently tipping a wing, turning tail and heading back for more. Every so often I'd throw a loop or a low pass in for good measure, though try as I might I couldn't find a thermal. Mind you, that's not to say they weren't out there, it's more than likely an indication of my crummy hunting skills. Still, this didn't bother me, the sheer pleasure of wielding a graceful semi-scale sailplane around the sky was enough to keep me happy, the whole experience bringing back some truly memorable stick stirring moments of days gone. Flight times (without thermalling) are in the region of 10 minutes, though this could very easily be extended, doubled even, with practice.

What I can say with confidence, and a genuine liking for scale sailplanes, is that Jamara's ASW-28 is without question the best looking glider I've ever owned and is a genuine pleasure to fly. Truth to tell, it's given me an itch for a moulded version of some kind, though goodness knows where I'll find the time to fit one of those into my building schedule. Alas, for the time being I'll have to be content with this one, though I don't mind telling you, it could be an awful lot worse.

One last thing: Odd as it may seem for something with such a large wing area and low loading, it's perfectly possible to stall this model, so don't assume it'll take any amount of abuse. The ASW will readily drop a wing if you push it too far, and whilst violence plays no part in the ensuing spiral, a good amount of height can be lost if you're not paying attention. When all's said and done though, I like this ASW-28. It's a great looking little model that flies very well indeed. Incidentally, whilst the T-tail and the winglets greatly enhance the appearance, do please note that you'll need to be extra careful with them during storage and transportation.