



# Palm-Z Micro Jet

THE LATEST VERSION OF THE INDOOR FLYER CERTAINLY LOOKS RACIER - BUT, ASKS DAVID ASHBY, DOES IT FLY BETTER?



Silverlit's 2008 product line-up featured this new version of their popular indoor flyer, the Palm-Z. Launched in 2007, the Palm-Z was the company's answer to those seeking a fixed-wing machine to fly alongside the Picoo-Z helicopter, itself now surely the world's best-selling R/C model of all time.

It would be fair to say that at one level these models cross into toy territory, yet a good flying performance can be coaxed with a little care and patience. I've always flown Palm-Zs in my garden on calm days where the extra space allows the model to perform for extended periods without meeting immovable objects such as walls and pets.

From its biplane beginnings, the new version has morphed into the jet-age design you see here, losing a wing but retaining the Mk.1's power system and 2 1/2" pusher prop. The controller is unchanged, although the new add-on power booster module is worth considering as it effectively

doubles the operating range of the IR (Infra Red) guidance system, making the model a better prospect outdoors where IR systems are known to suffer.

The Micro Jet is made from a thin EPO / Elapor type foam, so it's bendy and very ding resistant (the model's light weight helps no end when it meets a solid object, of course). Like the original Palm Z the rudder is a non-proportional affair and since this has a tendency to detach when the model crashes, a spare is thoughtfully included. A wall mount is also supplied; not such a silly idea when you consider the damage that could be inflicted if the model were left lying on the kid's bedroom floor! Charging the on-board single-cell Li-Po battery takes around 20 minutes and follows the familiar piggy-back method, where model sits atop controller.

It's difficult to detect differences in the flying performance between this and the Mk.1, although the Mk.2's racier looks certainly improve the visual treat. Like the Mk.1 it benefits

*Your needn't spend hours in the workshop to try your hand at indoor flying. Get a Palm-Z first and see if you like it.*



from a little nose weight (Blu Tack), which improves the models forward penetration and overall flight characteristics. Flying endurance is around 5 - 7 minutes, remembering that a Li-Po's performance suffers outdoors on cold days.

That's it; short but very sweet. The Micro Jet is a great way for dads and grandads to introduce R/C flying to the young ones, and whilst this new version differs little from the old, it's certainly more rugged. There's no reason for hardened enthusiasts to be dismissive of the Micro Jet, since it can provide diverting amusement - a lunchtime hack for the office, a club-night indoor pylon competition machine? Why, even something to play with in the hangar at a rainy Nationals. Priced at just £20, you've very little to lose.



## DATAFILE

<b>Name:</b>	Palm-Z Micro Jet
<b>Model type:</b>	Lightweight indoor
<b>Manufactured by:</b>	Silverlit Electronics
<b>UK distributor:</b>	Flying Toys Ltd. Tel. 01702 295110 www.flyingtoys.com
<b>RRP:</b>	£19.99 (IR booster £4.99)
<b>Wingspan:</b>	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (210mm)
<b>Fuselage length:</b>	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (190mm)
<b>Wing area:</b>	19 $\frac{1}{4}$ sq. in.
<b>All-up weight:</b>	0.25oz (7g)
<b>Wing loading:</b>	1.9oz / sq. ft.
<b>Control Functions:</b>	Throttle, rudder (non proportional)

*TOP RIGHT: The IR Booster provides improved range, making the model a much better prospect outdoors.*

*The tiny 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " geared propeller seems ideally suited to the model. Clearly, Silverlit have done their homework.*

