



As we've come to expect, the neat little 27MHz transmitter doubles as a charging unit, the umbilical lead stowed in beneath the lower panel.

It's always nice to see a manufacturer doing something a bit different and, for Silverlit, this little Sopwith Camel represents a cunning departure from the norm.

Fronting the new X-Twin Classic range, this indoor / calm outdoor Camel spans just 11" (279mm) and tops the scales at 0.77oz (22g). It's an EPO, foam and plastic concoction, and with the help of a sticker here and there, Silverlit has managed to produce an attractive little cartoon scale reproduction of the famous fighter.

As you'll clearly see, the company has adopted its usual approach to the presentation of



AS SILVERLIT BREAKS THE MOULD WITH ITS TINY TWO-CHANNEL SOPWITH, DAVID ASHBY IS FIRST TO TAKE ONE UP

X-Twin Camel



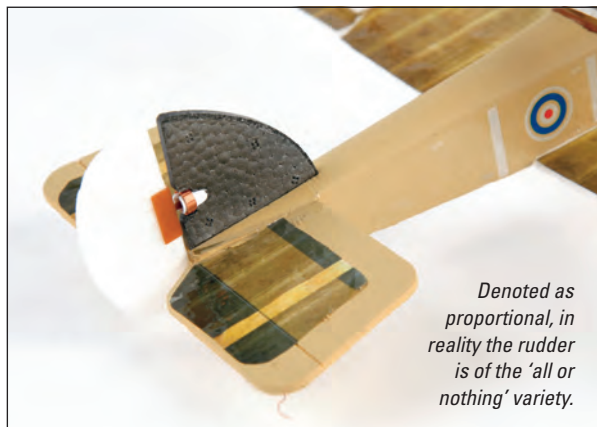
its products, ensuring that the Camel arrives attractively packaged with good instructions. The model uses two-channel 27MHz R/C to drive rudder and throttle (the latter serving to increase or decrease height), whilst a tiny, geared electric motor turns the 3" prop. Power is delivered by a single-cell, 50mAh Li-Po, which takes about 20 minutes to charge via the Tx, using the familiar umbilical hook up. Flying endurance is in the region of five minutes.

CHOCKS AWAY

Although the box and instruction manual allude to proportional control, this can only really be attributed to throttle, for with the slightest stick input the rudder exhibits an on / off (bang-bang style) full travel response. This doesn't make for an unpleasant flying experience though, indeed one soon gets used to the duration of rudder input that's needed for smooth flight.

I've flown two of these Camels and, fresh from the box, each exhibited differing flying

Silverlit have done a fine job with this little Camel, but be prepared to trim it for best results.



Denoted as proportional, in reality the rudder is of the 'all or nothing' variety.



characteristics that, in turn, required an individual approach to trimming.

Model No.1 was clearly tail heavy, characterised by a severely stalled flight pattern. Accordingly, I had to add some weight to the nose, although the amount needed resulted in the model both feeling and flying as if it were heavy. Motor down-thrust would have helped, but this required major surgery. Down elevator trim was easier to engineer by gently scoring and bending the control surface underside, with only a very slight deflection being required. With these adjustments in place the Camel flew remarkably smoothly through circuits and figure eights.

Model No. 2 didn't require nose weight and, whilst it flew beautifully to the right, it determinedly resisted any attempt to turn left. Another trimming exercise was needed, cutting an aileron into the port wing and bending it to achieve some left flight bias.

In both cases power was adequate, sufficient for an ROG take-off or



You can't help falling for Silverlit's little Sopwith, after all, it's a pretty little thing.

gentle hand-launch, yet neither model exhibited any real ability to climb much above head height, since any gain in altitude seemed to be lost in the turn.

Perfect for indoor flying in a sports hall, the Camel can also be operated outdoors in calm weather. Meanwhile, its EPO foam surfaces and plastic detail parts are

satisfactorily ding resistant, so it should take a few bumps and bruises. It has to be my favourite X-Twin variant to date, thanks to its attractive appearance and, once trimmed, nice, smooth flying characteristics.

All we need now is a dastardly Hun to complement the ensemble. I wonder if Silverlit has a little Fokker up its sleeve?



DATAFILE

Name:	Sopwith Camel
Model type:	RTF electric foamie
Manufactured by:	Silverlit
UK distributor:	Flying Toys Ltd. Tel. 01702 295110 www.flyingtoys.com
RRP:	£29.99
Wingspan:	11" (279mm)
All-up weight:	0.77oz (22g)
Wing loading:	24.1oz / sq. ft. (73.5g / sq. m)
Control functions:	Throttle and rudder
Supplied with:	Transmitter / charger, spare propeller, instructions

Quality:
Poor
Average
Excellent

Ease of build:
Beginner
Intermediate
Advanced

Flying:
Novice
Improver
Experienced



FOREMOST FOR

Flying toys



X-TWIN
REAL-TIME R/C PATTERNS

R/C X-TWIN CLASSIC

SOPWITH CAMEL



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