

Pitts Special

We test this 820 mm span lightweight biplane from Jamara

All-In-One

Flying Toys have joined forces with leading German Distributor Jamara to offer a comprehensive collection of ARTF Hobby Grade models suitable for entry-level pilots, and with a great deal of success I might add. This little Pitts is not small at 820 mm (32 1/4") span and will suit many who want something that is easy to fly straight from the box.

It comes with everything you need to get into the air; the receiver and servos are pre-installed (3-functions only in this review model) plus a simple to use and effective 35 MHz proportional transmitter that fits comfortably in your hands, this is powered by 8 x AA size batteries that you will need to purchase separately. The transmitter features a fully telescopic aerial and control reverse switches and two orbital control sticks. Two LEDs indicate the battery condition and 'On'. A 7-cell (8.4 V) NiMH flight battery with a domestic UK mains charger, fully detailed Instruction Manual on how to complete the assembly, written in dual languages (English and German) are also included. The power is supplied by a geared 280-size brushed motor and 7" diameter prop, and there's even a spare prop!

An important safety feature that I wish all manufacturers would adopt is the motor activation switch mounted on the fuselage side. The Rx is activated when the battery is plugged in, but the motor will not run until the push switch is activated by a 2 second press. This prevents unintentional use of the throttle spinning the prop up and possibly causing damage.

Assembly

Although advertised as a 'toy' I would have my doubts; this is not for anyone who wants a toy plane but a real radio-controlled model. It doesn't take long to complete the assembly once removed from its very distinctive packaging, and this only requires you to fit the tailplane, wings and undercarriage, and finally the pilot.

With all components moulded in tough Styrofoam with some lightweight ABS parts such as spats and cowl, the little Pitts is decorated in a similar fashion to the traditional Pitts scheme, being blue and red starburst.

Assembly requires you to first attach the tailplane and by following the instructions this is a very easy job to do. The stabiliser is finally secured with small screws from both sides. I did experience problems with the plastic fairing catching the inset strip causing them to lift, but gentle assembly and attention to this will prevent damage. Unfortunately misaligned screw holes required some attention, but this did not affect the overall strength. The fin and rudder are then installed similarly, but I noted that the slot was slightly undersize and this made it difficult to fit. Some gentle persuasion again to relieve the slot resulted in a good tight fit. With the radio and Rx turned on and when connecting up the elevator and rudder it was noticeable that with the servos centred it was necessary to adjust the clevises: Six full turns out for the elevator to set neutral, and three turns in for the rudder. This may differ on other models and is worth noting before you attempt to fly.

Fitting the wings is simply a matter of attaching the struts. I say simply, but again there was some misalignment of the holes here, which extended the assembly time while this was attended to. Finally fitment of the wings to the fuselage is with three small screws to the cabanes, and the strength here is in the plastic load spreader. The lower wings are held on with rubber bands supplied.

Finally the undercarriage is sprung into place in the neat slot close to the battery access hatch. The last little job is to peel off the backing tape from the pilot's backside and stick him in the cockpit.

No mention is made of adding a fourth servo for the ailerons, which surprised me as this can easily be achieved with some knowledge of radio installation. I chose to leave this review model as supplied with the option of ailerons at a later date.

Flying

With the battery having been given a full charge it was off to the field to get airborne.

At full throttle the model was given a gentle push forwards from a hand launch. It climbed respectfully upwards into a circuit and required very little trim.

Being a 3-function model I wasn't expecting too much in the way of aerobatic response but was pleasantly surprised to find that it was easily capable of loops and barrels rolls, and the large rudder was quite effective when it came to stall turns. Being restricted by not having ailerons did not seem to deter the little Pitts as I enjoyed some smooth circuits with basic aerobatics thrown in for fun. Having a noticeable dihedral on both wings the model was very stable in the very light wind conditions so I concluded that it was suitable for anyone who has handled a trainer model. **RCMW**



SPECIFICATION

Name:	Pitts Special ARTF		
Manufacturer:	JamaraToys		
Distributor:	Flying Toys Ltd		
Price UK:	£139.99		
Model Type:	Electric Sports-scale		
Motor:	280-size brushed motor		
Flight Duration:	Approximately 10 minutes		
Charging Time:	30-60 minutes for full charge		
Construction:	Moulded Expanded Polystyrene		

SPEC

Wingpan:	820 mm	Length:	540 mm
Wing Area:	19.7 dm ²	Weight:	525 g

Contact

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