



# JAMARA ALUTEC



AS WE MENTIONED A COUPLE OF ISSUES AGO, FOR 2009 FLYING TOYS IS TO DISTRIBUTE AN EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION OF READY TO FLY REMOTE CONTROLLED MODELS FROM JAMARA. HERE WE TAKE A LOOK AT ONE OF THE NEW HELICOPTERS ON OFFER



Flying Toys is already well known as the distributor of the extremely popular

and successful Silverlit Picoo Z range of sub-micro model helis. The company has now added some new models from German manufacturer, Jamara.

The Jamara Collection includes a number of interesting models that will complement the Picoo Z range and further enhance Flying Toys' reputation for supplying some great fun helicopters. The nine models in the Jamara collection range from the tiny palm-size Alvis, to the miniature Airwolf, right through to the model we're looking at here, the Alutec.

This good looking little heli is a distinctive three-channel coaxial model which features many components made from high quality aluminium, setting it apart from other models with similar specification and providing it with the Alutec name.

## FIRST GLANCE

The first thing you notice about the Alutec is that it's a good looking little model. The abundant use of aluminium in its construction and the addition of other silver coloured parts gives it a feel of quality and solidity. It has a pod and boom style design with a rather sleek looking canopy. This is moulded from hard plastic, but seems quite solid and strong so will hopefully be able to withstand a few knocks. The tail boom is once again made from alloy and has a GRP (glass reinforced plastic) stabiliser and tail fin fitted. There are also a couple of alloy stays keeping everything rigidly in place.

This model is obviously aimed at the beginner's market and uses the now accepted contra-rotating rotor setup to give it stability and easier to control flight characteristics. Unfortunately the rotorhead and blade grips are made from plastic, but the main rotor shaft looks like it could well be made from carbon fibre which once again gives it strength and rigidity.

The rotorblades themselves also

seem very strong and the rotorhead assembly is topped off with a plastic flybar. At the rear of the model there is a tiny tail rotor that sits horizontally on the tail and provides the third channel control to push the model forwards and backwards in flight.

## UNDER THE SKIN

Attached to the metal main frames are two small, but powerful electric

motors which drive the two main gears for the rotors. Tucked up inside the canopy and pretty well protected are the electronics. These are all housed in a single unit which acts as the receiver, electronic speed controller and gyro.

Mounted under the frame is a tiny 3.7V 1,000mAh LiPo battery pack which is charged in situ so never needs to be



The Alutec is supplied with a neat little three-channel transmitter



The Alutec is powered by a tiny electric motor and a 3.7V 1,000mAh LiPo battery pack that gives the model up to 10 minutes of flight time



Having a 'proper' on/off switch helps when getting ready for a flight and acts as a handy reset for the electronics after a heavy landing or crash



The electronics are placed at the front of the model and are quite well protected by the good looking, solid front canopy



The use of lots of aluminium in the Alutec's construction gives it a good quality look and feel and adds to the model's rigidity and strength



The small horizontally mounted tail rotor is used to give the Alutec its forwards and backwards movement and only operates when required

removed from the model. Charging is achieved using a simple 240V mains unit that plugs into the LiPo using a small polarised connector. Charging takes around half an hour and a full charge will provide the model with enough power for around five to seven minutes of flight.

#### FLIGHT TEST

With the model fully charged and six AA cells inserted in the small three-channel transmitter it was time to see what this little hell could do. Due to its small size and light weight the Alutec is really only suitable for flying indoors, although it could be used carefully outside on a very calm day.

I decided to give the model its first test flight in my front room, so after clearing the furniture away I switched the radio and helicopter on, made a lot easier by having a decent switch rather than relying on plugging in the battery pack, and placed it on the floor in the middle of the room.

On spooling up the rotors I was quite impressed with the amount of power provided by the tiny motors and it really doesn't take much to lift the heli into the air. My model sat in the hover quite easily, but did tend to spin around which needed correcting by using the trim buttons on the top of the transmitter. Once trimmed it actually sat in quite a stable hover and it was time to check out the controls.

I was very pleasantly surprised by the responsiveness of the control inputs. For a three-channel model it is actually quite flyable and always feels in control. This is helped by the tiny tail rotor which cuts in whenever you push the right-hand stick up or down to facilitate movement forwards or backwards. The throttle stick is sprung so in order to maintain altitude you have to constantly keep some pressure on the throttle and the rest of the control is made using the right-hand stick. The control method takes some getting

used to, but once mastered it's not long before you can fly some circuits around the room and pick out landing and take off spots.

The model flew on and off for around 10 minutes or so, but it seemed a lot longer which I think is a good thing.

#### THE VERDICT...

The Jamara Alutec marks a bit of a departure for Flying Toys. It's certainly larger than some of the company's other offerings and is arguably more controllable. It bridges the gap between what might be considered a 'flying toy' and a 'real' model helicopter quite well. It's a good looking, powerful little model that is sure to provide owners with a lot of fun once they've mastered the basic controls. At just under £100 it's not the cheapest model around, but it is well made and quite robust (believe me I gave it some proper strength testing during my early flights), and I think it should provide a good starting point for anyone wanting to get into the hobby. [🔗](#)

Neil Mead

TECH SPEC	
<b>Jamara Alutec</b>	
<b>PRODUCT TYPE:</b>	RTF sub-micro three-channel heli
<b>ROTOR DIA:</b>	330mm
<b>LENGTH:</b>	355MM
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	171g
<b>POWER:</b>	3.7V LiPo 1,000mAh flight battery & UK mains charger
<b>CHARGING TIME:</b>	30-60 minutes for full charge
<b>FLIGHT DURATION:</b>	Approximately 5-7 minutes
<b>SRP:</b>	£99.99
<b>AVAILABLE FROM:</b>	Many model and toy shops
<b>UK DISTRIBUTOR:</b>	Flying Toys
<b>TEL:</b>	01702 295110
<b>WEB:</b>	www.flyingtoys.com