



As with the other models in the Power in Air range, the Black Hawk comes supplied in a gift box

The Black Hawk is easily charged direct from the transmitter

Black Hawk Deluxe



OFFICIALLY LICENSED BY THE SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, SILVERLIT'S NEW SCALE BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER FEATURES A DETAILED INJECTION MOULDED BODY, A COMPLEX COUNTER BALANCED ROTOR ASSEMBLY, AND LOOKS REMARKABLY REALISTIC IN THE AIR. IT'S DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK BY FLYING TOYS AND NEIL MEAD TRIES IT OUT...

I love my toys, especially flying toys, so I never miss the chance to have a go of the latest Silverlit machinery when offered it by the UK distributor and aptly named Flying Toys.

A little larger than Flying Toys' current infrared Black Hawk helicopter, this new deluxe version incorporates full three channel radio control and a sophisticated gyro system to aid directional stability. Offered in both traditional Sikorsky black and a more colourful coastguard livery, dedicated Silverlit ultra-micro heli fans will undoubtedly be spoilt for choice, as this is considered to be the company's most sensational and authentic helicopter yet.

Suitable for operation outside in calm conditions, whilst still great fun to fly indoors, the Silverlit Black Hawk provides an easy step up to more expensive radio control helicopters, for the indoor ultra-micro pilot looking to progress further.

Features at a glance

- Supplied completely assembled and charged ready to fly.
- Pre-installed three-channel digital proportional radio control.
- Take off, hover and descend, turn left and right, progress forwards or backwards.
- Gyro system incorporated for directional stability during operation.
- Range up to 25m.
- Frequency: 27MHz Black version band A & Coastguard version band B, allows two different styles of Silverlit helicopters to be flown together.
- Helicopter features a flashing red power indicator and switchable LED searchlight.
- Instruction manual provides helpful hints & tips for the new helicopter pilot.
- Age recommendation: 15+ Adult supervision advised for safe operation.

PROPORTIONAL CONTROL

Take off smoothly, hover and descend, turn left and right, fly forwards or backwards, and perform intricate manoeuvres with precise proportional control, before

landing safely back at base.

The performance of this latest licensed Silverlit helicopter is particularly impressive. It's made of the same impact resistant rigid plastic as other models in the range and looks the part in the air thanks to the red flashing power indicator and switchable LED searchlight for night reconnaissance.

The lightweight lithium polymer battery will allow up to ten minutes operation, whilst the helicopter can be ready for another important mission in less than half an hour, conveniently recharged direct from the transmitter, or any computer USB port using the supplied cable.

MODEL DESIGN

The Black Hawk is a refined scale version of its close relative, the Picoo Z. Where it differs is in the material used for the model's fuselage. Instead of the usual dense foam, it's moulded from what seems like polycarbonate which gives it a more 'grown up' and sophisticated look and feel. Silverlit are very good

Supplied complete and ready to fly



at producing detailed models in foam, but the use of polycarbonate means they have not only been able to add a lot of extra detail to the model, but also keep the weight down and leave a hollow fuselage in which to house all the mechanics.

The attention to detail is very good and for something so small and light, it feels pretty substantial. Of course the Picoo Z range is renowned for its crash resistance and robustness and I would expect the Black Hawk to be exactly the same. These little helis have to be able to stand up to quite a bit of abuse, both because of the beginner's market they are aimed

at and the fact that they tend to be flown in quite confined spaces.

The main thing that differentiates the Black Hawk from the other models in the range are its scale like aspirations.

Running from the main fuselage of the aircraft is a tapering tail boom that has a large 'over-scale' powered tail rotor mounted at the end. This gives the heli its turning control and helps to keep the model very stable in flight.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

We've already mentioned the tail rotor that allows the Black Hawk to turn. This is driven by a small, but powerful electric motor and really does make the model quite maneuverable in flight. In fact I would say out of all the Silverlit models I've flown this has to be one of most stable and easiest to control. It really is incredible that with every model Silverlit is able to refine its products and the control systems and make them even better and more fun to fly. The Black Hawk may only be a three-channel model, but the inclusion of the tail rotor and gyro stabilisation system make it one of the easiest and fun to fly.

Power and lift is produced by the main rotor which in common with other Picoo Z models features a single fixed pitch rotorblade design with a small flybar mounted above. This provides the lightweight model with plenty of upward and forward thrust while at the same time being quite economical on power. This is a good thing at the model only has a tiny 3.7V 300mAh LiPo battery installed which is enough to give between five and ten minutes of flight time between charges.

When the model does require recharging this is easily achieved by connected the flylead from the transmitter to the bottom of the model. The battery then takes around 20 to 30 minutes to fully recharge and the charging status is indicated by an LED on the transmitter. The Black Hawk is also supplied with a USB charging lead which can be plugged into any powered USB device, such as a laptop computer, and then used to charge up the on-board LiPo battery pack.

FLIGHT TEST

I was really looking forward to test flying the Black Hawk. It's one of those models that just looks and feels right and you expect to fly well and I wasn't disappointed. After giving it a full charge from the transmitter, itself needing eight AA batteries which I would expect to last quite a while, it was time to tackle my first military heli mission.



The Black Hawk Deluxe is pretty stable in the air thanks to its large tail rotor and gyro stabilisation



The powered tail rotor helps to steer and stabilise the model in flight



The head features a standard Silverlit fixed pitch single rotor and flybar

The Black Hawk sounds quite powerful when it spools up and this proves to be the case as it easily lifts off into the hover. It is quite twitchy though despite the gyro stabilisation system and you have to react pretty quickly to check any movements the model makes away from centre. Get the hang of this and you'll soon be flying the Black Hawk around in nice controlled circuits.

Flight time is claimed to be around five to 10 minutes between charges and I easily achieved this. It also seemed to charge faster than the 20 to 30 minutes stated, but this may have been down to the use of fresh batteries in the transmitter, but the main thing is the Black Hawk was really easy to get flying straight out of the box, perfect for its target beginners' market.

THE VERDICT...

The Silverlit Picoo Z range has always provided plenty of indoor flying fun, particularly for newcomers to the hobby, and the Black Hawk Deluxe is no different. We went from opening the box to being airborne in around 15 minutes. We've also given the Black Hawk some strength tests which have included collisions with various pieces of furniture, curtains, a light fitting and of course the hard floor and it has survived them all unscathed. Just like the real Black Hawk, this cute little model from Silverlit and Flying Toys is actually one tough cookie.

Both variations of the Black Hawk look good, fly well and offer a great value for money way for anyone to try out model helicopter flying. Hopefully it will encourage its owners to move up to larger models and stick with R/C helicopters and for anyone that is already addicted it's a good way to just enjoy some air time.

The Black Hawk is supplied in an attractive gift box which displays the two distinctive colour schemes to great advantage, with each style available on 27MHz bands A or B, allowing both to be flown together. This is an interesting take on the famous Black Hawk helicopter and would make the ideal Christmas present for a scale heli fan or anyone that just fancies a bit of indoor flying fun over the festive season.

Neil Mead



The Black Hawk can be charged using the supplied USB

TECH SPEC

Silverlit Black Hawk Deluxe

Product type:	Ultra-micro three-channel helicopter
Length:	250mm
Main rotor dia:	225mm
Rear rotor dia:	75mm
Weight:	58g (incl flight battery)
Flight battery:	3.7v 9.45w 300mAh 11.5g LiPo
Charger:	Integral transmitter/charger supplied with LED indicator/auto shut off
Charging time:	20-30 minutes for full charge
Flight duration:	5-10 minutes between charges
Batteries required:	8 x 1.5v AA alkaline batteries for transmitter
SRP:	£49.99

Available from:	All good model and toy shops
Manufacturer:	Silverlit Electronics
Web:	www.silverlit.com
UK distributor:	Flying Toys
Tel:	01702 295110
Web:	www.flyingtoys.com



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Silverlit

Power in Air

There are considerable changes to Flying Toys Silverlit collection and many of the earlier items have been discontinued, and the majority of products are now presented in attractive new 'Power in Air' packaging. Flying Toys' latest releases from Silverlit include a new selection of two, three and four-channel choppers, with the more sophisticated semi-scale helicopters featuring piezo gyros for added stability. A fantastic new ready to fly aeroplane with four engines, and an innovative vertical take off jet incorporating a swing wing facility, that's sure to fascinate flying enthusiasts too. Following the phenomenal success of the Heli-Mission Swat Truck, a colourful 'Firefighter' version is now offered by Flying Toys, with the futuristic new Heli-Racer combo tipped as another tremendous 'Top Toy' for Christmas 2010! An entirely new collection of Marvel licensed lines from Silverlit include the Spiderman Insecta, Iron Man 2 Skybot and two special customised styles of ducted fan Thunder Jets.