



The foam Skybots are very lightweight and only suitable for flying indoors



SKYBOT SHOOTOUT



ROTORWORLD'S TOP DESIGNER, ADAM HARRY TRIES OUT THE LATEST FLYING ROBOT FIGHTERS FROM SILVERLIT AND AVAILABLE IN THE UK VIA FLYING TOYS TO SEE IF HE THINKS THEY'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT BIG THING THIS CHRISTMAS



And a warm welcome to the Skybots. These are the sort of toys that we could only

have dreamt of 20 or 30 years ago when we were motioning Optimus Prime through the air with the appropriate keeeoorr noise of the imaginary rocket boosters.

But finally the time has come to

save the strain on your voicebox and nurse your aching arm, for the Skybots are here! Yes that's right, actual flying robots.

Based on a similar idea to the Sky Challengers (reviewed a few issues back in RW35), but in the shape of robots. If you didn't read the review, basically you get two Skybots and two transmitters in the box, one for you and one for a friend (or enemy). Each of you attempts to fly your 'bot around the room whilst trying to knock your opponent's to the ground. This is done either by a head on crash directly into the other or as designed, by a unique feature which enables you to press a button on the top of the transmitter sending an infrared

The three-channel transmitter controls the Skybot's flight and firing of the infrared beam

beam which blocks the signal to your opponent's Skybot sending it whirling to the ground in unmeasurable shame (there is a shooting noise which should satisfy your nostalgic memories).

TRICKIER TO MASTER

The Skybots are again fantastically light and surprisingly robust given my rigorous testing, sometimes wrongly confused with a lack of skill. That said, the Skybots are quite a bit trickier to master than the Sky Challengers (SCs), probably I guess as helis are more of a proven formula. They have more of a forward momentum than the SCs which is good if you want to chase the cat, but means that you've got to think quickly if you're in a small area and approaching a wall at speed. They are however a lot more manoeuvrable and you can turn them around mid-air in a flash.

Each transmitter takes six AA batteries and the Skybots

The Skybots come in a big box that opens up to display the contents

themselves are charged via a small wire that is hidden behind a panel on the transmitter. This plugs into a socket on the chest plate. Charging takes between 20 and 30 minutes and gives you about six to seven minutes of flight time for that.

As they stand taller than they are long or wide, I have yet to land them with any degree of dignity, but for this reason and probably the addition of a second rotor, they don't seem to need trimming even with multiple crashes.

One small gripe is to do with the rotors. Due to the proximity of the rotors to each other, one must operate a 90° turn ahead of the other, which is fine until you do crash as this tends to knock the timing out. This can be easily

The foam mouldings are excellent and the menacing Skybots really look the part

rectified by holding one of the rotors, then manually turning the other gently until a 90° difference is achieved.

ROBOTS IN DISGUISE

Most importantly, they look the part. Menacing, gadget laden with lots of bits in the moulding that look like guns might eject out of cavities in the legs and a flashing light in the chest (the on/off switch) which could act as some sort of life cell. If these were life size, I'd need counselling for my nightmares.

Also included in the box are four replacement stabilising

rotors and a small sheet of decals, presumably as the rotors occasionally tend to break, but I've spent most lunchtimes terrorising colleagues in the office with them and have not had any breakages yet. The decals are a nice touch, enabling you to customise your 'bot with all sorts of technical signage, warning labels and stencil-style digits. So even if you do repeatedly hit the deck, health and safety will be happy that everyone was warned of the dangers.

THE VERDICT...

All in all, a good innovative product, if you fancy a bit of a change. I'd say a favourite for Christmas but then Silverlit will probably have released another hundred exciting products to choose from by then!

Adam Harry

This little rear rotor adds manoeuvrability to the Skybots and allows them to turn fast in mid-air

The Skybots are a good innovative product and ideal if you fancy having a go of something a bit different

TECH SPEC

Silverlit Skybot Attack

PRODUCT TYPE: Fun flying robots

SRP: £59.99

AVAILABLE FROM: All good model and toy shops

MANUFACTURER: Silverlit

UK DISTRIBUTOR: Flying Toys

TEL: 01702 295110

WEB: www.flyingtoys.com