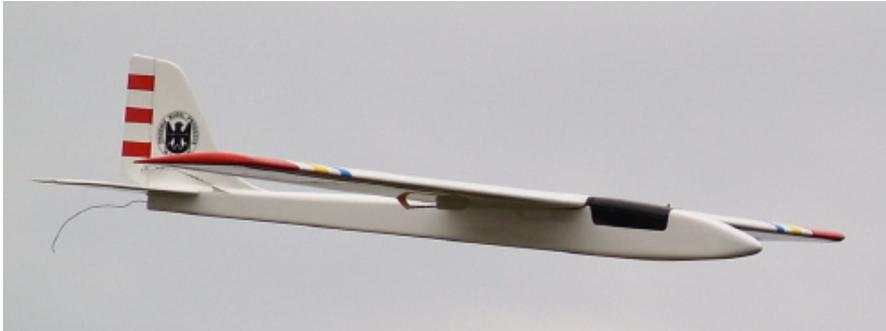


The PMP April Newsletter

Some good news, some bad news, a cautionary tale and something to look forward to.

The Good News



The good news is the first batch of Pzazz Mk2 kits are now on the shelf with over half the batch sold. The first batch is priced at £64.95 plus P&P but unfortunately due material price increases and the time

it takes to manufacture each kit the second batch will be £69.95 plus P&P. There is a bit more in the box than a pair of foam wings and a few sticks of wood! I personally get a lot of pleasure from flying models I have built. Call it self gratification if you like but it does give you a warm feeling inside, particularly if you know you have produced a half decent model.



Producing this kit has been both a pleasure and a huge learning curve. It is a more comprehensive kit than we have previously produced due mainly to the facilities we now have i.e. a CNC Router and Laser cutter plus

Digital AO printer / copier. The full size Corel draw plan is similar in style to our previous plans but with a more professional look. The main differences between the Pzazz Mk2 and the original are, cross-tail instead of Vee tail, built up wing instead of foam veneer wing and twin aileron servos allowing the ailerons to be used as Flaperons thus significantly enhancing the models aerobatic performance. The Pzazz Mk2 will perform almost any manoeuvre that a glider is capable of subject to conditions.

The Bad News

On April 2nd there was a sharp rise in Royal Mail postal charges. Unfortunately this has resulted in a small price increase on our P&P. We are very conscious of the sensitivity on postal charges and have done our very best to keep the price rise to a minimum. Please remember that whilst you do not pay VAT on most postal items at the Post Office we have to pay VAT on postage if the goods supplied are subject to VAT. So our charge for P&P includes VAT.

A Cautionary Tale

There was a serious accident at one of our local flying sites recently. An electric power model being flown on 2.4Ghz radio equipment decided to have a raw meat sandwich for lunch! Please accept my apologies for the 'sick' humour. It was not funny for the poor modeller who spent a number of hours at casualty and needed 28 stitches. I was not witness to the accident but from the tales recanted to me it seems to me it was the result of bad practice on two counts.

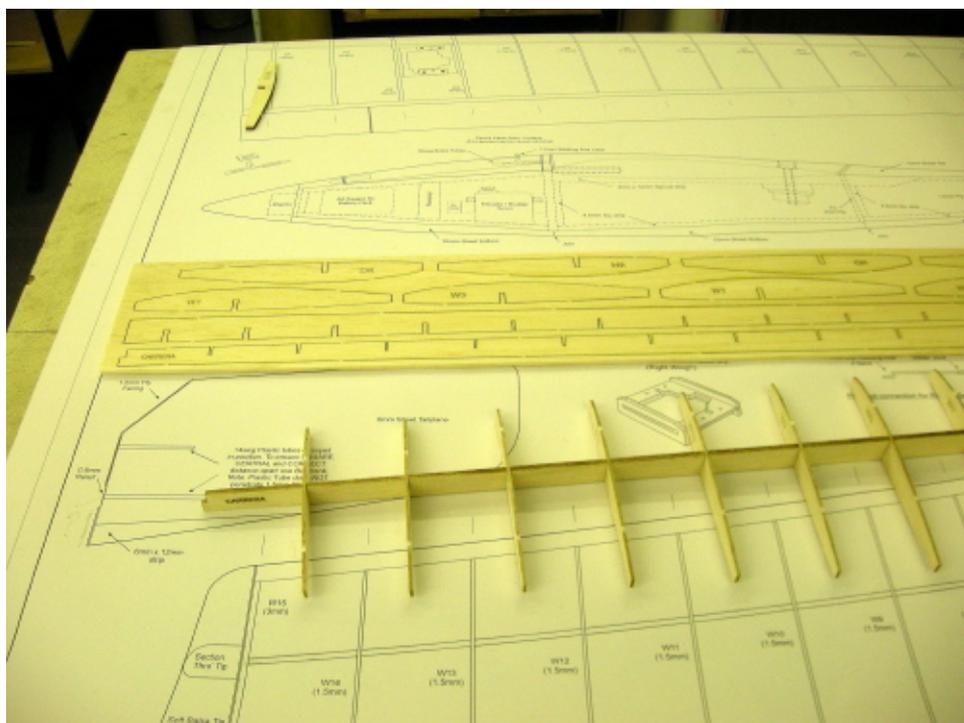
The story as told was the flyer took off, had his flight, landed, collected the model, parked it, switched off the transmitter and sat down. The model's motor then went full power and buried itself in the flyer's leg. The first mistake which could be conjecture on my part is that after

setting up the controls on the model the modeller did not re-bind / pair the transmitter and receiver with the throttle set in the low throttle position and hence set throttle fail-safe to low throttle. The second mistake / malpractice was not to disconnect the electric flight pack BEFORE switching the transmitter off. As a result the Rx went into failsafe mode with, unfortunately, the throttle being set in failsafe at full throttle with the inevitable unfortunate result. The procedure should always be the transmitter is the first to be switched on and the last to be switched off.

ESC On/ Off Switches

In the early days of electric flight, before lithium polymer batteries electronic speed controllers (ESCs) were fitted with on/off switches. This was deemed hazardous as the on/off switch only switched the power off to the Rx and not to the ESC. With the ESC still live any glitch in the ESC could result in the motor leaping into action, as a result manufacturers stopped fitting Rx on/off switches to ESCs. With the advent of LiPo batteries there was another reason to encourage modellers to disconnect their flight batteries at the end of a flight. This was to prevent irreversible damage to the flight pack by allowing it to inadvertently discharge via the ESC to below 3 volts per cell.

Something to Look Forward To



Now that we have put the Pzazz Mk2 to bed we have started on the next makeover. This will be the Carrera. It has often been described as the sexiest model we ever produced (there was a teenager's input!). I have started drawing the plan with the help of my friend Pete Disney who traces part of the original plan for me as I have not

yet mastered tracing in Autocad. I am looking forward to start building the new prototype when I have finished designing the wing using the same fully sheeted 'egg-box' construction as the Pzazz. Hopefully, we will have the Carrera kits on the shelf in a couple of months. Big problem is summer and light evenings!

The Sales Pitch

Well, it would not be a newsletter without a small sales pitch! You would be disappointed if we did not try to encourage you to splash the cash. Please check out the Multiplex R/C equipment. It is not as expensive as you may think and spec. for spec. you would spend a lot more on alternative brands to match it. The Cockpit offers exceptional value and with the aid of the well laid out flow diagram is easy to program. Apart from value for money we like it because customer returns are almost unheard of. The Hitec system is also excellent value for money and is gaining in popularity. Incidentally ALL Hitec systems have Rx battery telemetry. Sales of Aeronaut folding props are also on the up. Customers are switching from

fixed blade propellers to 'folders' to cut costs (not broken so often). Keep an eye on our Lipo batteries we hope to have a promotion in May. Our ESC and Motors prices are pretty good as well. Incidentally we now stock metal case MKS Digital wing servos which seem to have displaced the redoubtable Futaba S3150 in the models of some top flyers. They work on 6 volts!

In the light of experience!

When programming a new model always carry out a data reset to clear the model memory you are going to use before you start programming.

I hope you have enjoyed this chit chat. The next one will probably be when the Carrera is ready!

Happy Landings

Stan & Sheila

PS Please visit our website <http://www.phoenixmp.com>. It is more than a shop. There are over twenty articles on various topics. It is not just an on-line shop!