

Buchan Aeromodellers - Help Sheet for Budding Model Aircraft Flyers

This sheet is intended to let you know what you are likely to need to start off in radio controlled model flying.

Before buying anything, visit your local model flying field and speak to the flyers there. They have already been through this and this can prevent expensive mistakes. By visiting Buchan Aeromodeller's flying field you will also be able to try out a trainer type of aircraft under the supervision of an experienced flyer. This will let you see whether you want to take up this hobby before parting with your hard earned money.

Having decided to invest in a model aircraft, you will need:

1. Trainer aircraft, wingspan about 1.5 metres. Modern models require assembly rather than building and come ready built and covered. They usually require to have the wings joined, tail glued on, undercarriage screwed on and radio and engine fitted. Cost ~ £60 - £100
2. The wings on trainer aircraft are usually held on by 6 - 8 large rubber bands.
3. Radio. Latest radios are on 2.4 GHz but aircraft can also be flown on 35 MHz sets. All consist of transmitter, receiver, 4 servos, batteries and a charger. Cost ~ £135 upwards
4. Engine. The most suitable engine is a 2 stroke glow engine of about 6.5 cc (0.40 cu ins and known as a 40). The engine will include a silencer. Cost £40 - £100.
5. Glow plugs for the engine. Cost ~ £3 each.
6. Glow clip for carrying power to the glow plug. Cost ~ £4
7. Starter. This is an electric motor with a rubber cup on the front for starting the engine - it saves fingers. Cost ~ £20 upwards.
8. Ground battery. This is a 12 V battery, minimum 6.5 Ah gel battery to an old car battery. It will power the power panel.
9. Power panel. This splits the power from the ground battery to provide about 2 V for the glow plug, 12 V for the starter and a separate 12 V for the fuel pump. It usually has a control to adjust the current for the glow plug and a 2 way switch to make the pump fill or empty the tank. Cost ~ £15 - £40.
10. Fuel pump. This is a small electric pump for pumping the fuel from the fuel container to the fuel tank in the model. Some power panels have pre-fitted pumps. Cost ~ £5 - £10.
11. Propeller(s) to suit the engine. Cost ~ £3 each.
12. Fuel. Glow fuel is methanol with oil and power additives (nitro) dissolved in it = 5% nitro is usually adequate for trainer aircraft. Cost ~ £12 - £15 per gallon.
13. Flight box. This is any type of suitable box to carry all the above! Have a look at what other flyers use.

Having got this lot, remember, do not try to fly the aircraft on your own - it will reform itself into a kit very quickly! Remember that you can often buy second hand from someone who has given up or is moving on to more advanced models.