SKYARTEC WASP V2



PRICE \$169

Ready to flyExtremely durable

SCOREBOARD

* Reasonably priced

Brushless and LiPo setup

Skyartec WASP V2

Day after day, I find myself at the flying field wishing I had brought another model with me to fly during downtime, battery recharges, or just to spice things up.

Skyartec has the perfect solution: a brushless, LiPo-powered, micro heli with a very attractive price tag that is ready to fly right out of the box. The Wasp V2 has many upgrades over the V1; most notable is the brushless motor and ESC combo. The model comes fully adjustable, so that the experienced helicopter pilot will have no problem setting it up to his or her flying style.



The Wasp features a fixed-pitch head with a collective-pitch layout.

The Wasp is a fixed-pitch copter, so no 3D stunts can be performed. With that being said, the Wasp will be appreciated by pilots with helicopter knowledge and experience because of the adjustable components such as the pitch and gyro sensitivity. A beginner can fly it, but I recommend that you sit down and spend time with the included simulator and have help nearby while you learn how to fly. All of the hardware and software needed to use the simulator is provided. It

is very durable for its size and can handle significant drops if it happens to get away from you. All you must provide are 8 AA batteries for the included transmitter and a Philips screwdriver to make adjustments. The Wasp is relatively small and is designed for indoor use such as in a gym, but it can be flown outdoors.

UNIQUE FEATURES

The Wasp comes fully assembled and requires hardly any setup time. Fully adjustable servo and head links are included, and that allows more experienced pilots to tweak the model to their liking. Minimal corrections were needed; the tracking of the main blades needed slight fine-tuning as well as tightening, and the gear mesh from the main motor needed readjustment. All of which are normal maintenance tasks that should be done on any heli, and they were easily accomplished due to the heli's accessible components. There is room on the swashplate for two setups: one for more



responsive controls by using the longer ball links and a less responsive setup.

The drive system and electronics are cleverly placed in the model to allow a very compact design. No more messy receiver antennas getting in the way; the Wasp's antenna is routed through a coiled wire that is attached to the chassis. The gyro is integrated into the electronics, and the sensitivity can be adjusted. Attached to the receiver are industry-standard 3-wire servos, which allow easy and direct replacements of aftermarket units, if desired.

The Wasp is equipped with a brush-less outrunner motor, which is different from most micro helis. This design works very well with the included 7.4V 900mAh LiPo battery and included wall charger (about 2-hour charge time). This combo provides almost unlimited power—more than enough to power this very light helicopter—coupled with very long flight times. You can expect flight times of around 20 minutes consistently, depending on how you manage the



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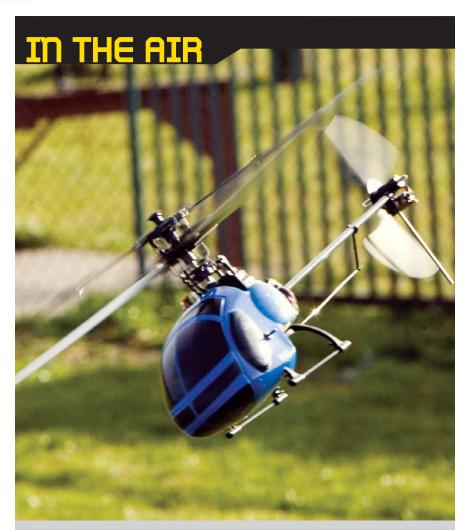
throttle. Don't worry about overdischarging your LiPo; a warning LED will let you know when voltage is getting low, giving you plenty of time to land, provided you aren't too far away. The tail rotor is powered by a separate electric brushed motor. Sometimes the gyro wants to kick in while you are moving the helicopter around, so be sure to keep your hands and any other loose objects away from the tail while the Wasp is armed.

Skyartec had durability in mind while designing the Wasp V2. Even though I am a decent pilot, the Wasp fell from altitudes of up to 8 feet while I allowed others to test-drive it. I didn't notice a scratch or any signs of damage. While the Wasp isn't as easy to fly as trainer models, I feel more comfortable letting people try it out because of its solid construction and tested durability.

CONCLUSION

Skyartec has created one of the most cost-effective brushless-motor-powered micro helis on the market today. This little thing is a blast to fly and has longer run times than any other comparable bird I have flown. This makes for the perfect lunchtime break or even inbetween flying of your bigger models. I recommend trimming the canopy support bars for easier access. That being the only modification I did makes the Wasp V2 a winner and the perfect backyard brushless "beater" for your collection. o

See the Source Guide on page 92 for manufacturers' contact information.



The included 4-channel transmitter operates smoothly; however, the ratcheting throttle is somewhat of an annoyance. Heli transmitters typically do not have a ratcheting mechanism on the throttle so that minute throttle changes can be made. The rotor head is actually a collective-pitch layout sans collective-pitch servo. This gives the Wasp good stability and smooth flight characteristics. The battery slides into a plastic cage on the front of the heli and is very easy to install and remove.

CLIMB PERFORMANCE I was surprised the first time I flew it: it shot upwards at about $\frac{1}{4}$ throttle. Its light weight combined with the powerful outrunner motor makes for great climb performance.

HOVER STABILITY There are two sets of balls for the cyclic controls on the swashplate (long and short balls). I found the heli easier to hover with control rods on the short balls. The cyclic controls were too sensitive for my liking on the long balls. The heli has good stability for a fixed-pitch model and can handle modest winds.

PILOT RECOMMENDATIONS The Wasp V2 has a tendency to pitch up in fastforward flight (FFF). Hovering and gentle maneuvering are really the heli's strong points. The plastic used seems soft, but it didn't affect flight performance. I think it helps absorb the shock of impact without breaking.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT The Wasp is most fun to fly inside or on calm days. For your first couple of flights, make sure you have plenty of room for maneuvering until you get used to its control response. I'm really enjoying this little heli, and the 20-minute flight time is a big plus. The kit box can be used as a carrying case, so you can take it just about anywhere.