

HM Review

Jeff Troy

Freedom Flyer

Megatech International scores high with a low-cost model that flies well and actually looks like a popular, light civilian airplane.



Specifications

- Wingspan: 34 inches
- Area: 161-1/2 square inches
- Length: 22-1/2 inches
- Weight: 18 ounces
- Motor: Speed 400 type
- Battery: 8.4V, 900mAh

RTF Package Includes

- Light foam plastic airframe
- 4-channel FM RC system (3 flight functions)
- Spare propeller and spinner
- Clean and quiet electric power
- Tricycle landing gear
- 5-minute final assembly
- Motor battery & AC charger
- Instruction manual

Megatech's Freedom Flyer has a lot going on for its modest, beginner-friendly price. It's an attractive airplane that's even more appealing to newbies because of its all-inclusive package. This is a one-stop model, and the only items not included in the Freedom Flyer box are eight AA batteries and the few minutes it takes to prepare the model for flight.

Instead of tackling the model's assembly at home and taking the completed model to the flying site, I decided to handle the project like many overly anxious beginners might — by heading directly from the hobby shop to the nearest park or vacant lot. All I did before leaving home was top off the motor pack.

I thought it might be entertaining to pull the foam carton from inside the box in front of all the local club members. Now, these guys are not used to seeing five-minute model airplanes pop out of a box and fly, but they almost did that day. It actually took me only four minutes to get ready, not five.

"Assembling" the Freedom Flyer means slipping the gear wires into the slots under the fuselage, then removing the protective paper from the tape on the stabilizer and fitting it into the slot in the tail. Rudder and elevator clevises snap onto the horns, and the propeller presses onto the motor shaft. Rubber bands secure the wing and that's it — four minutes!



Megatech's Freedom Flyer comes safely packaged in this sturdy foam inner container. Jeff Troy assembled HM's review model right on the flightline in less than five minutes.

Once my model was assembled, everyone was a little curious about how well the Freedom Flyer would perform. I chose to not keep anyone waiting, and placed the model down on the runway to attempt an R.O.G. Although the motor produced plenty of pull, the tiny wheels were not quite up to plowing over our runway's unmowed grass. Do understand that the Freedom Flyer will easily takeoff from short grass or paved surfaces anytime, but in this case, a hand launch was clearly in order.



Megatech's new four-channel transmitter is provided, and all the airborne gear is factory installed.

Wind was approximately 8 M.P.H. a bit on the high side for most small electrics, but no problem at all for the Freedom Flyer. The model left my hand with authority and began a very smooth and gradual climbout. A little down trim had the nose in line, and the airplane was on the wing very nicely.



Unlike many light electrics, Freedom Flyer is very stable, and will easily handle winds up to 10 M.P.H.

The Freedom Flyer is no speed demon, by any means, although it can move a tiny bit more briskly than some of the lighter indoor electric flyers. It also flies with far greater authority, which is why it is able to handle higher wind speeds and still make it back home alive. Control response is good, without the annoying lag time of many so-called trainers, and the feel of the sticks in the new Megatech four-channel transmitter is a big improvement over some of the competing low-end radio gear.

The Freedom Flyer is fun to fly, and air time with the standard 8.4-volt 900mAh NiMH motor battery usually exceeds 10 minutes, more than enough for a newcomer to get a good feel for the model before the flight ends.

I really enjoyed the Freedom Flyer, and one of the high points is that this model actually looks a lot like a real airplane. It's got the same high wing and side windows, the same tricycle gear and swept tail as the pretty little Cessna that everyone's seen at the local airport, and the patriotic red, white and blue trim is very smart.

For more information about the Freedom Flyer, or the many other airplanes, cars, trucks, boats, engines and accessories from Megatech, circle #6 on the Reader Service Card, see the ads on pages 12, 13, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82 and 83, or telephone Megatech International in North Bergen, New Jersey, at 201-662-8500. **HM**



Light, rugged and attractive, Freedom Flyer flies well, too. Megatech International, North Bergen NJ.



Megatech's Freedom Flyer in a gentle climb over the Pennsylvania countryside. Circle Reader Service Card #6.