WING TIPS MODELS
EYECATCHER MK2
ELECTRIC GLIDER PART 2

WORDS: COSMO MOURTZIOS

Before you ask, my daughter chose the covering asking if I could "make it this color". I just couldn't say no and I really do like it, so lets continue with finishing the build.

The wings and fuselage are ready so next was adding the wing joiner tubes into the fuselage. The tubes are supplied slightly longer than needed which is perfect.

I placed some masking tape around the bare balsa and filed them down flush before turning my attention to the newly arrived fin.

Three small pieces of CNC cut balsa and a square carbon tube made up the new fin design and I think it looks way better than the original sheet version.

Now that the model itself was built, it was time to tackle the linkages. Now this was not that easy, a little bit "fiddly" in fact. The control linkages do require your scratch building prowess to come into play.

Understandably, the instructions are translated from German to English, but they are still not very thorough. You really need to sit down and plan your attack first.

The servos mount from underneath and the push rods exit the top and need to be built to the correct length first.

Lets start with mounting the servos. The website named a particular Savox servo which I matched exactly in size and performance in a Dualsky version. However the instructions that come with the kit named a larger Hitec HS-81 servo.

Therefore, the mounting lugs were spaced wider than the servos I had purchased. No big deal at all, I did have some Hitec servos that would fit, but I wanted to use these new Dualsky servos.

With a fine toothed saw, I opened the slots for the mounting tabs and squared off the hole with a thin, flat file.

The tabs were now glued at the correct spacing. Easy! This is what I love about kit building. You should feel confident to modify the build along they way. I highly encourage it. Change the shape of the fin, round off the tips more if you think it looks better.

And don't forget to route the servos leads through the ribs before covering. There is barely enough of an opening for two cables towards the root, so don't think you can pull them through with string because you wont be able to.

Careful planning needs to be taken when positioning the servos and constructing the control linkages.

They face outward and the servo arm needs to be towards the trailing edge. So there are two left and two right setups. Also, one bay is narrower than the other too.

And coupled with having to flip the wing over and over while setting up, it can get confusing. I had to add small pieces of tape just to remind me.

I would say to myself "it goes here, and I need to trim the wire here". I would then flip the wing over and have to double check that the clevis was opening the right way because space is tight. Either that or my fingers are just getting bigger with old age.

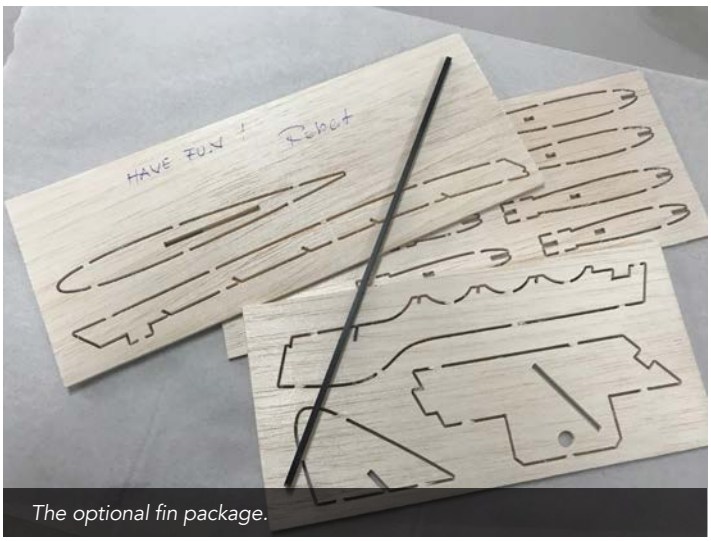
There is plenty of room inside. 25amp ESC sits just behind the 2830 920kv motor then sits the 3S 2200 battery, followed by the receiver.

For the first time I'm trying the new "antenna-less" spektrum AR620 receiver. A tiny and lightweight 6-ch receiver that binds quickly with a push of a button.

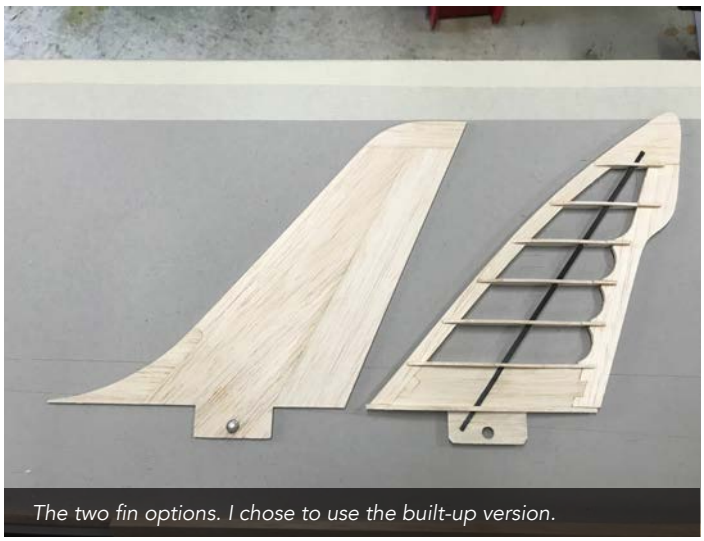
"Can you make it pink and yellow please daddy?"

Tape around the brass insert tubes to file down...

...flush to the fuselage without damage to the balsa.



The optional fin package.



The two fin options. I chose to use the built-up version.

Even though the skies were overcast, it still looked fantastic in the air. There will be a lot more flights on this model over summer. Can't wait!

Programming was easy too with my ix12 transmitter.

The spoilers are small but amazingly effective. They pop up at 45° and really do help the model sink when needed.

The built-up fin pushes into the fuselage and is held very securely with a rare-earth magnet. This is great as it allows it to be covered separately and looks neater.

So lets get onto the maiden flight.

Typically, we had blue skies all week but the weekend greeted me with overcast skies and the chance of showers.

With the recommended 3S 2200mah battery, the Eyecatcher mk2 balanced perfectly with no additional weight required.

Although it did feel a little on the heavy side, a test glide didn't indicate that it was at all heavy. So into the air with power was next.

Although it was overcast, they was a perfect amount of breeze to launch into. With close to full throttle, a few steps forward and a gentle push, off it went straight and level.

Quickly adding full throttle and a little up, it climbed beautifully. In no time was at a great height to try looking for thermals.

Power off, and turning to explore the lift it did manage to give me the tell-tale wing tip twitch that there were indeed thermals present.

I was feeling quite good with how it was flying so I decided to bring it down with no power and shift the balance back ever so slightly.

This help alot. I only nudged the battery back less than half an inch, but immediately on launch the elevator response was better.

I honestly don't recall ever having three shades of pink covering in my garage. But it does look good!

In hindsight, I think I had it a fraction nose heavy to begin with. The balance was better and is outlined in detail in the instructions as well.

Yes I found thermals, and yes it circled nicely gaining height. It definitely didn't feel "heavy" in the air as it did in my hand.

And the weight? well my old, but still flying Gentle Lady with standard size servos and a 500mah nicad pack weighs 38oz and flies amazing. This beauty ready to fly comes in at 42oz - not bad!

As I mentioned in part one, Robert from Wing Tips Models has a range of models on his website, and one flight in I already want another one of his models.

It looks beautiful in the air, I love the unique shape and it flies amazing. I'm looking forward to taking off a slope soon too.

The elevon controls on top are ideal for landings that may otherwise catch on long grass.

The wing halves need care and patience to assemble and the rare-earth magnets do hold tight.

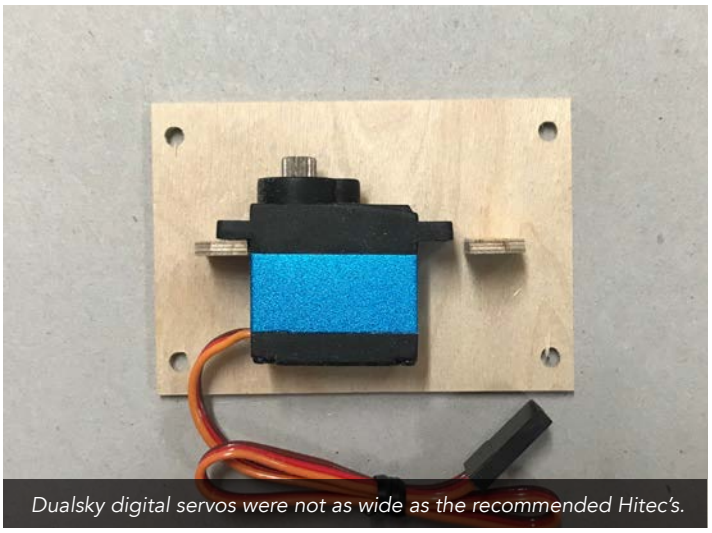
It catches thermals, glides really well (you will use the spoilers more than you think) and most of the time you'll just be cruising around at half-throttle.

I didn't time myself, but climbing and gliding around on low or no throttle should easily bring in long flights.

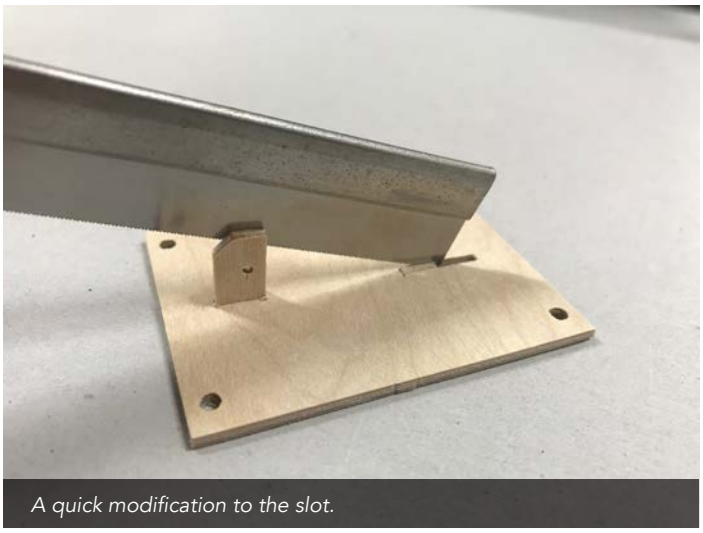
No need to set the timer with this model. Just power up, climb and enjoy some good-old fashioned thermal sniffing.

It's simple glider fun, just a prettier looking model to enjoy this time.

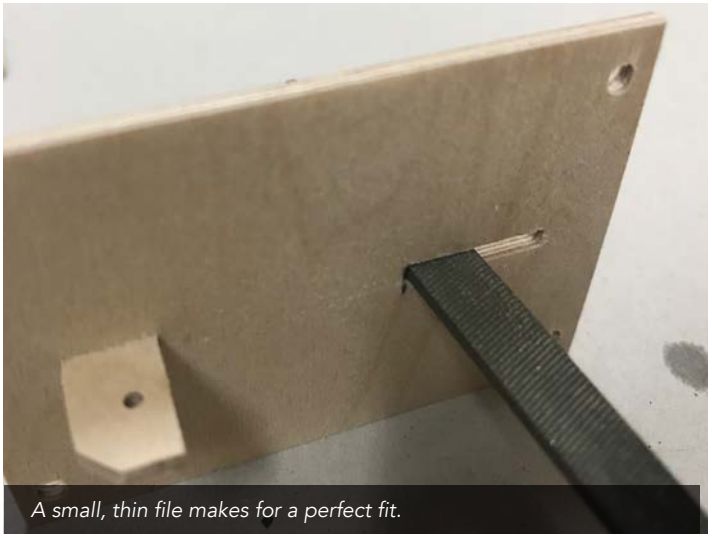
So, another grey, overcast Melbourne day. Two flights and I couldn't be happier. I am so looking forward to a lot more flights on this model.



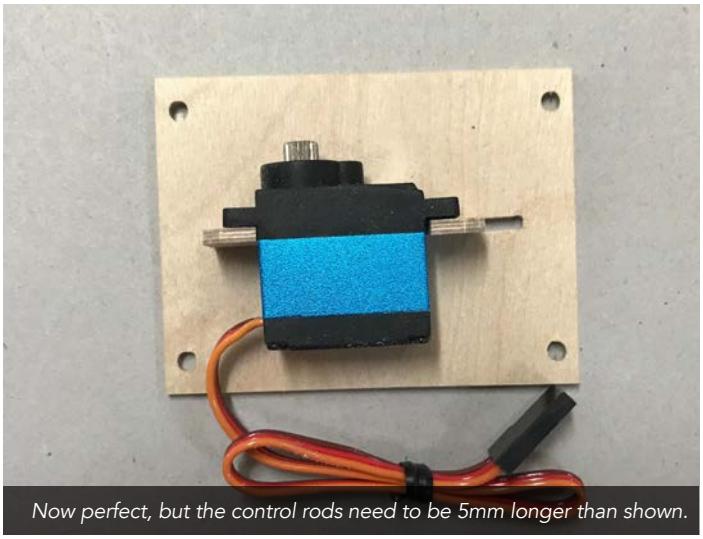
Dualsky digital servos were not as wide as the recommended Hitec's.



A quick modification to the slot.



A small, thin file makes for a perfect fit.



Now perfect, but the control rods need to be 5mm longer than shown.

The obligatory sanded framework photo before covering.

And covering had to be pre-planned. Just enough in 1 roll!

I love it. I wish I had taken my charger along with me, this was just going to be a maiden flight for photos but I really love how it looks and flies.

With summer just around the corner, this will surely be a favourite model of mine.

There has been very little that slowed me down during the build. No real problems, just steps that required a little extra care and planning first.

But that's kind of what kit building is all about, right?

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank people like Robert for keeping the pleasure of building with balsa alive.

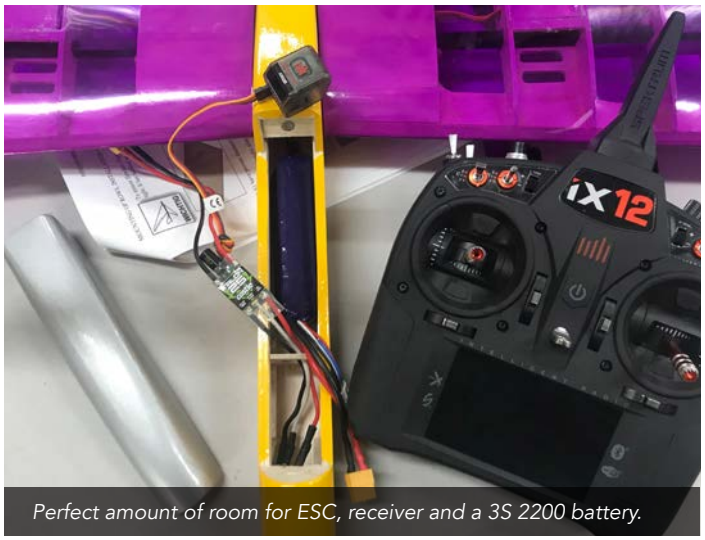
We've covered a few builders ensuring the hobby grows with like-minded kits in previous issues.

There are hundreds of kits out there, just look and you'll find them. Foamies have their place, I own enough of them too, but this is aeromodelling to me. This is how it started, is most enjoyed and how I want to always remember it.

And most importantly, how I want to share it with everyone else.

If you truly love this hobby, then nothing come close to the enjoyment of scratch building and the feeling you get from a successful maiden flight.

Spoilers are small, but very effective. They really do work well.



Perfect amount of room for ESC, receiver and a 3S 2200 battery.

You're hooked. What are you going to build next?

The enjoyment is so much greater too if you can share it with a friend or child.

Personally, I'm not sure what I'll build next time, I just know it won't be pink.

All-up, this has been a great build. The balsa included in the kit was the absolute best I have ever seen (see part 1).

I would like to see a little more detail in the instructions, but that is a comment aimed at a less experienced builder.

It looks beautiful on the ground and especially in the air.

It flies amazing, gently and thermals well. Flight times are long and the two-piece wings make it easy to transport.

Thank you again Robert for and overall excellent kit - 10 out of 10.

Please take the time to check out all his kits available at **www.wing-tips.at**.

The service is excellent, the kit arrived promptly and well pack with no damage, I'll be ordering another one for sure!

So this may be the last issue, but it's not my last balsa build, no way. I've got a lot of models ahead still. Keep watching our social media posts, I'll be there and looking forward to sharing them with you.