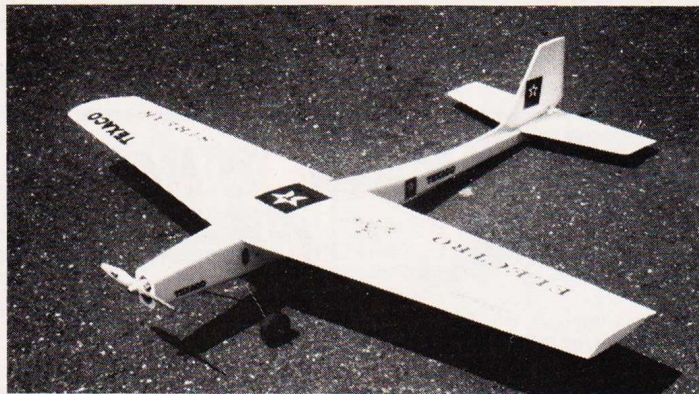
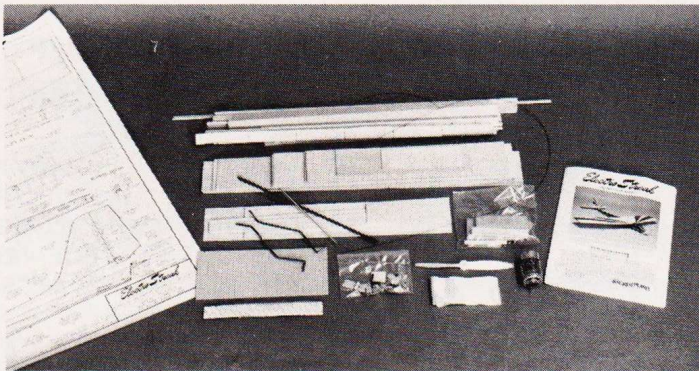


RCM PRODUCT REVIEW

Great Planes Model Mfg. ELECTRO STREAK



The Great Planes "ElectroStreak" is targeted for the intermediate or advanced flier who wants aerobatic flying performance with the quiet convenience of electric power. Having built and flown quite a few electric gliders and trainers, we eagerly accepted the opportunity to evaluate the construction and flying performance of this "motor included" package deal from Great Planes.

First impressions upon examining the ElectroStreak's kit contents were extremely favorable. The wood selection and die-cutting are absolutely first rate, with extremely light wood supplied. The plan sheets and instruction book were complete and clear, with detailed instructions and photos throughout.

Construction:

The key to any aerobatic ship is efficient wing design. The ElectroStreak features a 12% semi-symmetrical airfoil wing, shoulder mounted, which tapers from 9" at the root to 6" at the tips. Wing design is a classical D-tube leading edge structure, and cap strips extending back to the trailing edge.

The wing was extremely easy to construct, thanks in part to the built-in rib stands which support and align the ribs off the building boards. Wing construction is all balsa throughout — no spruce or plywood is used or required.

SPECIFICATIONS

Name	ELECTRO STREAK
Aircraft Type	Electric Sport Aerobatic
Manufactured By	Great Planes Model Mfg. Co. P.O. Box 721 Urbana, Illinois 61801
Mfg. Suggested Retail Price	\$79.95
Available From	Both Mfg. & Retail
Wingspan	44 Inches
Wing Chord	7½ Inches (Avg.)
Total Wing Area	340 Sq. In.
Fuselage Length	39½ Inches
Stabilizer Span	16 Inches
Total Stab Area	100 Sq. Inches
Mfg. Rec. Motor	Electric ferrite or cobalt
Recommended Battery Size	7 cell, 1200 mAh
Recommended No. of Channels	4
Rec. Cont. Functions	Rud., Elev., Throt., Ail.
Basic Materials Used In Construction:	
Fuselage	Balsa & Ply
Wing	Balsa
Tail Surfaces	Balsa
Building Instructions on Plan Sheets	Yes
Instruction Manual	Yes (40 pages)
Construction Photos	Yes

RCM PROTOTYPE

Radio Used	Futaba
Motor Make & Disp.	Goldfire Ferrite (included)
Battery Size Used	7 cell, 1200 mAh
Wt. Ready to Fly	32 Oz. (2 Lbs.)
Wing Loading	13.56 Oz./Sq. Ft.

SUMMARY

WE LIKED THE:

Instructions, wood quality, light weight construction, and flight performance.

WE DIDN'T LIKE THE:

Limited access to motor area, no instructions for wiring motor harness.

When drilling the hole near the wing trailing edge for the 10-24 nylon attach bolt, extra care and attention should be used. There is very small margin (less than 1/8") between the hole and the T.E., and any failures here would be "flight duration limiting." To provide some added confidence, we added a small piece of 1/16" plywood to strengthen this vital area.

The fuselage is basically a balsa box structure with lite-ply formers. An extremely streamlined fuselage results from careful rounding of the fuselage contours with razor plane and sanding blocks.

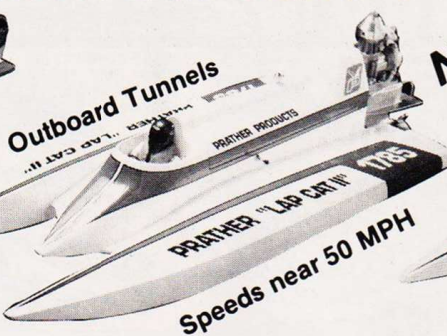
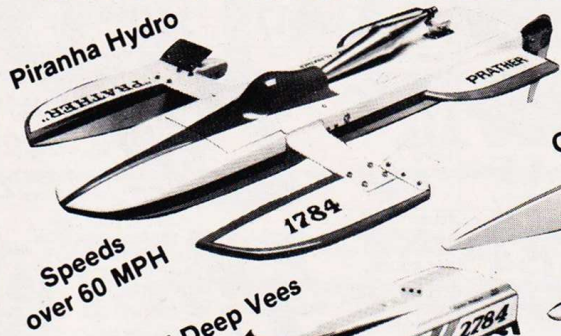
The horizontal and vertical stabilizers are straightforward built-up design.

Equipment Installation:

The ElectroStreak is optimized for light weight and "micro" equipment is definitely a necessity to extract the most performance. We equipped the ElectroStreak with Futaba's 4 channel FP-4NBL "Attack E" which features an integral receiver and speed control, and two S133 servos. The FET amplifier speed control is vastly superior to on-off microswitch control, and its integral packaging with the

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receiver immensely simplifies equipment layout. Although we equipped the plane with a third S133 servo to provide rudder, elevator, and aileron control, flying this plane with two servos for aileron and elevator control is quite feasible and practical — builder's choice.

The kit-supplied direct drive "Goldfire" motor is installed by carefully working it forward from the wing opening in the fuselage. In retrospect, building a hatch to provide access to the motor harness, fusing, switches, etc., would be a practical improvement over the E-Streak's "no-hatch" design.

Incidentally, the "Goldfire" motor is supplied minus harness wiring, and the instruction booklet provides scant details on harnessing and fusing. If this E-Streak is a "first electric" project, the builder would be wise to seek some advice from more experienced modelers.

Covering and Finishing:

Our ElectroStreak was covered with Black Baron film covering for the flying surfaces, and Black Baron spray paint on the fuselage. Ready to fly, our model weighed in right at 32 ounces, slightly under the manufacturer's 35 to 43 ounce weight range. We credit this light weight to the Futaba BEC circuitry (which eliminates the need for a separate receiver battery) and to the use of Satellite City "Hot Stuff UFO" products throughout construction.

While debating on how to decorate this electric powered "pocket rocket," we stumbled across some decal sheets by Autographics marketed for (gasp!) 1/12 scale electric cars.

All kidding aside, the variety and quality of these decal sheets really can add "charisma" to aircraft — the end result was quite pleasing.

Flying:

Flying the ElectroStreak with the kit-supplied 7 x 6 nylon propeller turned out to be quite a pleasant experience. As per Great Planes' recommendation, we used a 7 cell, 1200 mAh battery pack for maximum performance.

The flying performance of our little "Texaco Racer" is everything we could want — fast and stable flight, with capability for all basic pattern maneuvers, such as rolls, inside and outside loops, and inverted flight. The Goldfire motor pulls the E-Streak along quite briskly, and the plane's aerobatic performance has opened quite a few eyes to the performance potential of electric powered aircraft.

We removed the wheels shown in the photos after a few flights — not practical for our rough-cut grass field, and the flying performance improved slightly. We recommend deleting the wheels and struts, permanently, to reduce drag and weight.

Conclusion:

The Great Planes ElectroStreak is a high quality, high performance aircraft which was extremely pleasurable to construct and fly. Coupled with Futaba's micro equipment, the ElectroStreak's aerobatic performance is outstanding, and provides the E-Streak flier with terrific flying fun. All that aerobatic performance with minimal fuss and noise — what a deal! □

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