

Review of Precision Aerobatics Bandit by Tom Ruut



I have always been a great admirer of this company's products since having flown an Addiction X for a few years. One thing that I always like to have is a plane that I can toss into the back of the car, fully rigged, and head off to the flying field at the drop of a hat. When I was searching for a new plane I ordered a PA Bandit.

The day arrived to pick it up from the hobby shop here in Canberra, Monaro Models, and I received a rather plain box but have no fears the goodies were inside. Once home, I went through the usual checks to see that all the bits were included. Closer inspection of the contents shows what a work of art this plane is. There is carbon fibre reinforcement every where. The mode of construction is called Fibrefusion and it produces a very strong and unbelievably light airplane.

I also opted to get the accessory pack which included motor, speedie, prop and servos, all at a good price. The instruction book is excellent with detailed photos for the tricky bits.

The build is quick. Ailerons are already hinged similar to full size practise with a long CF rod, full length along the hinge line, very strong! The engine box I epoxied to the firewall and secured with CF rods. Engine and speedie are secured to the light but strong engine box. Cowl, prop and black CF spinner are supplied.

Tail feathers and servos next. CF undercarriage, wheels and spats are supplied and attach with blind nuts. A 3s battery pack is recommended and adequate but I preferred the 4s with a bit more punch and, besides, I had a heap of them already from my Addiction X.

A comment on last month's newsletter.

I enjoyed Lou Amadio's article on a battery oven for winter flying. It certainly gets cold here in Canberra and Lou's invention would come in handy to keep our Lipos in good shape.

For those of us who like an instant fix you can buy one ready made to plug into a 12V outlet in your car. It is a ski boot warmer and available from ski shops for about \$180.

I saw one at Larry Adler's ski shop in Jindabyne. For those non skiers, boots are made from plastic and it is very difficult to put on a cold ski boot when you arrive at the resort car park in your car. A warm ski boot is heaven!



Time to fly and head off to the field, and a last minute check of the C of G at the CMAC field and we are off. There is no roll out and the Bandit just leaps into the air from a standing start. Rolls are axial and inverted flight requires a smidgen of down to keep the nose up. I can't report on the 3D performance as I am not that good yet.

Landing is a non event with such a light plane. The beauty of the electric motor is that you can very precisely feed in the power to land in the exact spot that you want.

This is a great plane to fly and lots of fun. On low rates a beginner could fly it. The cost is about \$180 for the airframe and about the same for the accessory pack.