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R/C Report

Flyzone F4U Corsair

One of the nicest of the new era of RTF.

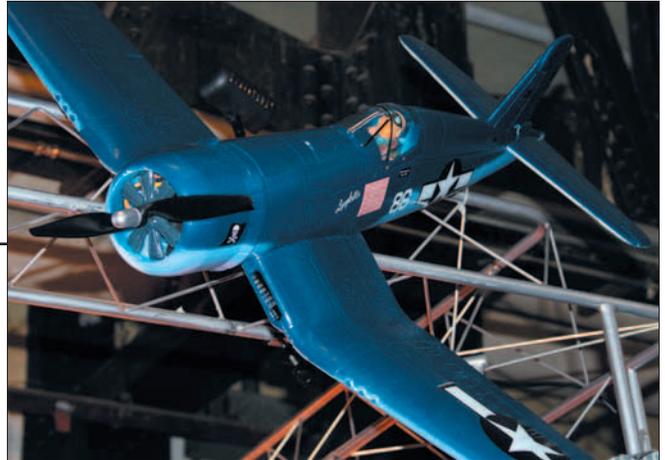
Anyone who has been involved in the radio control ready-to-fly aircraft category the last five or more years certainly has seen the amount of product offerings and quality level of products in this category rise exponentially. The simple facts are today's RTF (Ready to Fly) radio control offerings are at a level most retailers, as well as consumers, could only have dreamed about a few short years ago.

We have entered a new era of RTF models and this new era brings highly detailed, well recognizable subject matter released to the market faster than we have ever seen before. Some retailers may think that the new era of RTF products are not healthy for today's hobby retail business, as many of the once counted on add-on sales opportunities are being missed since products of this type are not conducive to selling bits of hardware and other items. I would suggest that savvy retailers, like yourself, now recognize that there are indeed opportunities for add-on sales but not of the type you may have made in the past.

An example of a non-traditional add-on sale would be that of an accompanying book. History has always been one of the top interests in this country, and books that match the product are sure sellers.

[My personal library contains over 400 volumes of aircraft, automobile, motorcycle and military history, and it is frequently used for reference material such as with this Corsair -ED]

These current RTF offerings are tapping into trends. The first is the advanced capabilities of the overseas manufacturers. Another factor is the time deprivation many consumers face today as a result of economic pressure —



more and more families find both spouses working full-time just to survive — as well as the pressure that comes with raising a young family. These are just two examples of the influence of today's trends, but there are a number of other factors involved as well.

Today's market of consumers finds most people tuned into the plug-n-play mentality of assembling and not actually building models, and certainly this new era of RTF radio control products strikes a high-degree of resonance with the consumer. I'll use this month's review of the

Flyzone F4U Corsair to reinforce this point.

Due to a one-piece wing, the Corsair is packaged in a long box measuring 49 inches in length. The six panels are filled with photographs depicting the features of the model to include landing lights and the factory installed retractable landing gear.

The model is constructed entirely of Aerocell foam. The benefits of a foam model are a lightweight yet durable airframe that handles everyday mishaps at the flying field

with nothing more than a few surface dings. More serious crashes can easily be repaired with either cyanoacrylate adhesives, or in high-stress areas, like wing panels, quick setting epoxy and a couple of strips of reinforcing tape.

The fuselage features authentically molded panel lines with simulated fabric on all of the control surfaces. The large dummy radial engine and pre-painted pilot add considerably to the model and are sure to be noticed at the



The pre-painted and installed pilot, in a WW II period correct PTO flight suit, adds tremendously to the looks of the Corsair.

flying field. Overall the fuse is beautifully finished in a WW II PTO (Pacific Theater Operations) scheme reminiscent of the famous Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington's "LucyBelle" (often mistakenly referred to as LuluBelle).

Unless this is a scheme of an unknown privately owned aircraft, there have been some liberties taken, but nothing that would prevent a sale. The nose art is that of Navy Squadron VF-17, the Jolly Rogers. Boyington was a Marine Corp. pilot who commanded VMF-214, the Black Sheep squadron. Should this offend your customer, have him remove the skull and crossbones decals from the cowl, or better yet, sell him another set of decals, one that he prefers, thereby personalizing the model to his liking.

The double inverted gull wing on a Corsair is perhaps one of the most daunting construction projects a modeler can perform. With the Flyzone Corsair, this is performed



Left: one of the more daunting tasks when building any Corsair is the multiple angles involved with the inverted gull wing, and by using a molded one-piece wing, Flyzone has done all the difficult work for the consumer. Right: When retracted, the landing gear is completely covered by a full set of doors, enhancing the appearance of the model.



ual is a pre-flight section that assists the modeler in preparing the model for flight,

once assembly has been completed. All of the work, except for actually flying the model, has already been done for the consumer.

With the pushrods and control surface links already installed, the Corsair is ready for flight in less time than it takes to read the manual and charge the flight battery. The RTF version will be ready for a combat patrol as soon as four AA batteries are installed in the provided six channel Tactic transmitter.

The Tx-R version does require slightly more time. The consumer will need to link his chosen transmitter to the receiver and program things like surface direction and deflection. Most modelers with more advanced transmitters also like to add personal touches such as a little exponential and dual rates.

What the consumer possesses for his few minutes of effort is one of the best looking and flying of the new-era warbird models available. The Flyzone Corsair is simply stunning on the ground or in the air doing a low level fly-by. This model attracts attention wherever it is flown. The



Not often seen in a model of this size is the articulated tailwheel strut, which looks good and protects the rudder servo with zero effort by the consumer because as previously mentioned, the wing is of a one piece design.

Installed from the factory are a 920kV brushless outrunner motor, 40amp ESC, five servos, one each for the ailerons, rudder and elevator and retracts. Also installed are operating navigation lights, the retractable landing gear with operating doors and a six channel Tactic SLT (Secure Link Technology) receiver.

Assembly couldn't be easier. The photo illustrated instruction manual more than adequately guides the builder through the assembly process. All that is needed is a screwdriver to attach the tail surfaces to the fuselage, and a wrench, an adjustable works fine, to tighten the propeller onto the motor shaft. A nice feature of the man-



The molded foam model is here to stay and savvy dealers are adjusting to the market instead of complaining about sales.

Corsair has always been a popular model, and the Flyzone Corsair takes the level of RTF models up another notch. Keep a couple on the shelf as they are certain to fly out the door.

Like all Flyzone products, the F4U Corsair is available exclusively through Great Planes Distributors. **HM**