



Jeff Troy

Flight Report

ElectriFly PBY Catalina EP

Here's the classic Consolidated flying boat in a twin electric-powered ARF.

Flight crews were excited, and base received only short radio messages. "Many planes, heading Midway." "Jeez, it's the whole Jap(anese) Navy!" Anyone who has seen the motion picture *Midway* will immediately recall the source of these harried communications. The blips were from Strawberry 5 and Strawberry 9 as they sighted the first hard evidence of the coming attack through the breaking storm. These scout crews were flying the PBY Catalina.

The PBY is one of those airplanes that every WWII aviation fan admires. It's a large, graceful amphibian that flew scout missions, rescue missions, photo missions and more. It's a rugged, twin-engine bird with an unusual pylon-mounted wing configuration that makes the airplane a relatively difficult kit-built modeling subject. Fast to the rescue, the ElectriFly division of Great Planes Mfg. Co. makes it easy with their new PBY Catalina ARF.



ElectriFly uses two Rimfire brushless outrunner electric motors to power their Catalina, which cuts back on the complexity of the power installation by eliminating the fuel tanks and plumbing, and assuring an ideally matched power curve between the right and left motors.

Wiring for the two motors and the two aileron servos in the wing passes through a hole in the pylon, and connects to the two ElectriFly Silver Series 25A speed controls and the receiver. Total prep time from the flying field to the water is less than five minutes.

Futaba S3114 servos and 6-channel PCM receiver were chosen for HM's review model. ElectriFly Rimfire brushless motors, Silver Series 25A speed controls and one 3S 3200mAh LiPo handle the power end. Note the clever, one-piece ElectriFly Parallel Connector for the ESC's.

Assembling the Catalina takes longer

than that, but not much. I started my PBY at 6:00 P.M. on a Friday evening, and met with Brandon Wright and Mike Geiger at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday to fly and photo the model — and I still got my full 8 hours of sleep.

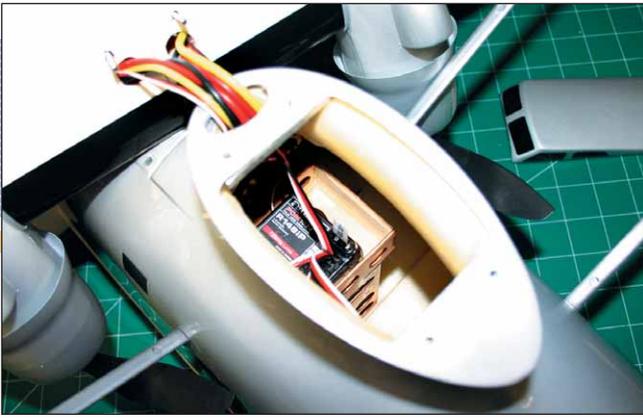


Specifications

- Wingspan: 53.5 inches
- Area: 395 square inches
- Length: 34.25 inches
- Weight: 3 to 3.25 pounds
- RC: 4-or-more channels, 4 servos and 2 electronic speed controls
- Power: Two 28-30-950 brushless

ARF Kit Features

- Factory-painted fiberglass hull (fuse)
- Factory-assembled built-up wings
- Factory painted and covered
- Fiberglass tip sponsons
- Molded nacelles and cowls
- Complete hardware and linkage
- 20-page instruction manual



Wing secures with four recessed 4-40 socket head cap screws. Motor and aileron wires pass through pylon into fuselage/hull. Futaba R146iP-72 6-channel PCM receiver works high or low.

The kit goes together without a hitch. ElectriFly's power components are all supplied with the proper connectors, which completely eliminates the need for soldering skills. Control surfaces hinge with PRO Thin CA, and Great Planes PRO 6-Minute Epoxy is used for the other three adhesive steps — installing the horizontal stabilizer, the two motor mounts and the wing tip sponsons (floats). The kit comes with a complete hardware package, and the necessary control rods, horns and linkage are all supplied.

Although very little effort is required to produce this first-class tribute to the Catalina, the result is a beautiful and most convincing, scale-like, radio-controlled model of the famous Consolidated PBY flying boat.



ElectriFly's PBY Catalina is a magnificent sight on the water. This model taxis nicely, gets on the step quickly and rotates cleanly.

The model looks majestic on the water. It responds to rudder as taxi begins, transitioning to the water rudder as the PBY builds up speed and begins to rotate, and at slightly more than 54 inches in span, it's positively magnificent in the air. The PBY is an important and endeared WWII airplane, and ElectriFly has done the model right.

For more about the PBY Catalina ARF, Futaba radios and accessories, and ElectriFly's electric power accessories, see the ads on pages 7, 21 and 72, visit www.bestrc.com on the Web, or call Great Planes Model Distributors in Champaign, Illinois, at 217-398-3630. **HM**



The PBY is the epitome of classic World War II flying boats. ElectriFly has captured the grace and appeal of this airplane in grand style.