



Edward Rogala

# R/C Report

## E-flite Ultra Micro 4-SITE

**This little aerobatic jewel can turn any size gym into a full flying arena**

Flat foam airplanes burst on the scene several years ago, and the changes seen in product offerings have changed dramatically. E-flite can now boast about bringing the first ready-to-fly flat-foam airframe to market.

The E-flite 4-SITE is available in two offerings. The Bind-n-Fly version includes two 3.7V 150 mah lithium-polymer batteries plus E-flite's Celectra charger and a 120vAC wall adapter. Four D-size batteries can also be installed into the Celectra for charging the onboard lithium-polymer batteries when a wall outlet is not handy. The 4-SITE is also offered in a Plug-n-Play version, which is the same airframe minus the batteries and charger. The 4-SITE can only be flown by using JR or Spektrum transmitters with DSM2 technology.

The fuselage, wings and tail surfaces are all manufactured using preprinted "stamped" foam. E-flite says the stamped foam material is stiffer and more durable than standard sheet foam. The stamping process also creates a slight airfoil shape to the wings. The entire airframe is then factory assembled using carbon fiber rods in key areas, making for a lightweight yet rigid structure. A nice touch is the included but not installed preformed speed brakes. Speed brakes slow the entire flight envelope and have become a common feature of indoor 3-D aerobatic designs.

The 4-SITE is also a four-channel aircraft that features separate rudder, elevator and two aileron servos as well as the receiver and ESC. The motor is a coreless brushed can motor coupled to a gearbox that swings the supplied prop smartly and smoothly.

The instruction manual is 40 pages long and has 20 helpful photos that thoroughly present the proper set-up



for the model. The section on transmitter and receiver binding is well explained, and there are specific instructions for all JR and Spektrum transmitters. Another feature of the manual I found useful was a chart providing dual rate and exponential settings, depending on the customer's skill level. I still use my trusty JR 10X transmitter equipped with a DSM2 module and therefore followed the instructions for the X9303. In typical E-flite fashion there is a helpful troubleshooting guide incorporated into the back of the manual.

I simply couldn't wait for my weekly indoor flying session, so on a sunny but brisk early winter afternoon, I elected to do my first flight tests outdoors. With the temperature hovering at freezing and light winds between five to seven miles per hour, power was applied and the 4-SITE was released. There was ample power, and the model was quite responsive. With an all-up weight of 35 grams, or just over one ounce, even the gentle winds were a little too much for such a lightweight aircraft, yet it still performed admirably.

When it came time to fly the model indoors I was not at all disappointed. Several things became evident quickly. This

model is capable of being flown very slowly and is able to perform maneuvers in the same manner as much larger models. Due to its diminutive size the 4-SITE makes an indoor flying area seem larger, giving a pilot more time and space to perform maneuvers.



*The plane's box not only prevents damage to the contents during shipment, but its design also allows for convenient storage and easy transport to and from your flying site.*



The 4-SITE is a good-looking RTF airframe that should appeal to its intended market of experienced fliers. The color scheme is attractive and functional, allowing for quick pilot orientation in any attitude. E-flite's claim that the stamped foam material is more durable than standard sheet foam was proven on the first outing. After being flown by five pilots of varying skill levels, the model was subjected to some terra-firma abuse that it handled well. This being said, the replacement parts section should be given consideration when adding this product to inventory. There are only eight parts to stock not counting a spare battery, which should be a must-have item for add-on sales.

The box artwork does a remarkably good job of selling the product. Each of the six panels is different. Chock full of photos, the back panel provides cross-selling infor-

*In the air, this little bird shines. Shown with the included airbrakes installed, the 4-Site can perform the wildest of 3D maneuvers, so only experienced R/C pilots should be targeted for sales.*

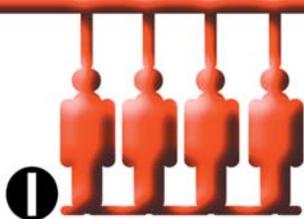
mation regarding transmitters as well as other helicopter and aircraft designs. The box clearly states that this product is intended for intermediate to advanced pilots; that's the type of customer you should target for sales of this product. The

E-flite 4-SITE is an exceptional product, but it is not intended for a novice pilot. **HM**

*HM is happy to welcome Ed "the hobby guy" Rogala to our team of writers. As a teenager Ed went to work for Midwest Products Inc. Beginning by cutting balsa wood into trailing edge stock Ed has spent his entire career in the manufacturing, production and marketing of hobby products. Ed is well versed in many aspects of the hobby industry and brings with him a wealth of information to product reviews.*

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