

Brandon Wright

Sullivan's Skywriter Smoke Pump

Compact unit delivers billowing clouds of smoke — and it's fully programmable.



Sullivan Products has been producing superior products for the modeling industry for several decades. From control system linkage and hardware to airplane wheels, fuel tanks, saddle and mounting tape, modelers have long relied on Sullivan for sound design and consistent quality control.

Sullivan Products also produces field support equipment, like electric starters for airplanes and RC cars, and 12-volt self-contained power supplies to make them more convenient. When Sullivan's SkyWriter Electronic Smoke Pump was introduced, it only stands to reason that it would soon be among the industry's top-shelf units.

I wanted to install a good smoke system in one of my 40 percent 3D airplanes. This was to be my first smoke system, so I contacted Sullivan to help me make the correct equipment choices. They were very helpful, and set me with their SkyWriter Electronic Smoke Pump, a 32-ounce fuel tank for the smoke fluid, black heat-resistant hose for the muffler connection, a gas conversion kit for the fuel tank, and plenty of yellow Tygon tubing to complete the installation. Everything they sent looked great, and I couldn't wait to get all the goodies installed and watch the smoke.

The SkyWriter case consists of a molded plastic lower section with a CNC machined top cover. The unit has two sets of wires. One is for the battery hookup and the other is connect the

pump to an RC receiver. Instead of using a servo and mechanical linkage to open or close a valve in the line or on the pump, the SkyWriter connects directly to the receiver because it eliminates all the mechanics. The

SkyWriter is fully programmable, so there are no valves or switches to open or close mechanically.

The flow rate on the SkyWriter Smoke Pump is variable. By selecting an open channel on your radio system and mixing that channel with the throttle channel, the pump flow can be programmed to match the throttle setting, which keeps the

pump from using too much smoke fuel and prevents a heavy fluid flow from snuffing out the engine at lower throttle settings. This is a great feature, and it works like a Swiss watch.

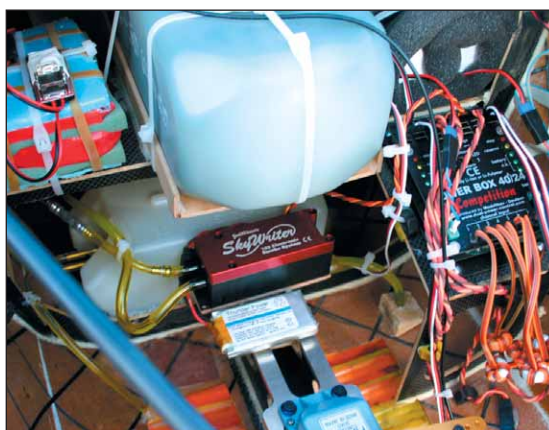
The SkyWriter requires a separate power supply, so

I installed a small LiPo pack to power it. Varying the voltage in the pack will give the pump different levels of operating power. More voltage, more smoke, although more fluid be used and the pump can easily push more fluid through it than you need for those big, billowing clouds.

My Sullivan 32-ounce nylon smoke fluid tank was a perfect fit directly beneath my wing spar. This location was chosen so the smoke fluid level, full to empty, wouldn't affect my big airplane's center of gravity while flying.



In addition to glow fuel stoppers and line, many Sullivan fuel tanks come with conversions for gas. Conversion kits are also available separately. Smoke Oil Tubing and many other RC accessories are offered by Sullivan Products.



Completed SkyWriter Pump installation in Brandon Wright's 40 percent 3D model.



Before there's smoke, there's fire. Brandon Wright uses two Sullivan Power Supplies and big MegaTron Starter to fire up his airplane's powerful DA engine.

The SkyWriter Electronic Smoke Pump comes with all the necessary components for installation — fuel tubing, check valve, aluminum line adapters and even a filter. The pump is very easy to install, and all the components are of the very highest quality. After the pump was mounted with all the plumbing connected, I programmed the mix in my JR 10X radio system to make the pump to come on at approximately one-third throttle, and ramp up in speed from there. Pretty slick, and quick and easy to program.



Brandon Wright and Mike Geiger guide the huge, smoke-equipped 3D airplane toward the runway.

I still can't believe how much smoke the SkyWriter makes, and the variflow feature really lets the fluid last.

For more information about the Sullivan SkyWriter Electronic Smoke Pump, the MegaTron Electric Starter, 12-Volt Power Supplies and the entire line of Sullivan modeling accessories, telephone 410-732-3500, visit www.sullivanproducts.com or write to Sullivan Products, 1 North Haven Street, Baltimore MD 21224. **HM**



Howzat for smoke? Sullivan's Electronic SkyWriter Smoke Pump is fully programmable for flow volume and rate.