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R/C Report

ParkZone Ultra Micro DH98 Mosquito Mk VI

A small fun model of a famous twin engine aircraft from WW II.

There were several iconic twin engine aircraft that received much attention during WW II. The DeHavilland DH98 Mosquito is unquestionably one of the more notable of these. Originally turned down by the Royal Air Force (RAF), the airframe was constructed primarily of plywood, spruce and balsa. At the time, wood was not considered a critical war material and was bountiful in its availability. England also had an entire workforce of idle woodworkers, cabinet and piano makers, so Jeffery DeHavilland was given a chance to prove his design theory. There was very little metal used in the aircraft. The total weight of all metal fittings and castings combined weighed a total of 280 pounds—for an aircraft that weighed 13,356 pounds when it rolled off the assembly line.

To say DeHavilland proved his aeronautical theories correct would be an understatement. The Mosquito was powered by two Rolls Royce Merlin engines of 1700 hp each. This combination of raw horsepower and a clean, lightweight airframe made an airplane that was unbeatable in all-out speed. Initially the Mosquito was unarmed, using speed alone for defense. Any German pilot who had a confirmed



Mosquito “kill” was awarded two aircraft destroyed. The first confirmed Mosquito kill from a chase did not take place until late in the war when a photo-reconnaissance “Mossie” was shot down by a Messerschmitt 262 jet aircraft.

Although originally designed as an unarmed fast bomber, the Mosquito was adapted to a number of roles such as low-to medium-altitude daytime tactical bomber, high-altitude night bomber, pathfinder, fighter bomber, both day and night fighter, photo reconnaissance and even maritime strike operations. The airplane served in a variety of environments in all theaters of operation. Over 7,700 Mosquito variants were built during WW II.

In examining the box art, customers will be drawn to the authentic in-flight shot of the full-scale Mosquito on the cover. The back panel completely explains the box contents and features a couple of photos of the model to include one of the battery compartment and included charger. For some

reason the common plastic carrying handle was missing from this offering. This is a simple omission but should



Top: The tips of the propeller blades have been painted yellow, exactly as seen on a full-scale Mosquito.

Bottom: Hidden behind the removable gun blister is the compartment for the IS 250 mAh lithium battery.

not have been forgotten. Many end-users of products like the Mosquito use the box to transport the model to and from flying sites. ParkZone should consider bringing the handle back with its next releases.

The model itself is exquisite. Wonderfully painted in an authentic RAF camouflage scheme, the authentic markings have already been applied. As an added detail, the tips of the propeller blades have been painted yellow, exactly as would be seen on a full-scale Mosquito. There are large foam tires mounted on the main landing gear legs and a steerable tail wheel. The canopy glazing features pre-painted panel lines. There are four really neat simulated cannon barrels extending out of the nosecone. For a RTF scale warbird model, the open-the-box-and-go-fly experience provided by the Mosquito is an absolute delight.

Preparing the model for flight is pretty simple. Basically it consists of charging the included 1S 250 mAh Lithium battery, binding the transmitter and receiver, then checking control movement and direction. All of these steps are clearly explained in the 14-page instruction manual. There's also a helpful troubleshooting guide. The



The ParkZone Mosquito performs well indoors (although a little fast for a small area) as well as outdoors in a gentle breeze.

manual is written in four languages—English, German, French and Italian.

The Parkzone Mosquito performed well in both indoor and outdoor flight environments. The large tires and steerable tailwheel make indoor takeoffs realistic, and landings are lots of fun. There is an option to remove the main landing gear when flying outdoors, which is recommended when flying off grass fields. The counter-rotating props eliminate any concern about asymmetrical thrust, and they sound wonderful. High-speed flight is solid, slow flight is acceptable and maneuverability is more than adequate for such a model.

This latest release from ParkZone features twin electric engines, amazing scale detail and finish of a famous and well known subject. There are other add-on sales possible, from items like books and plastic scale models and even paints and airbrush supplies for customers enthusiastic enough to want to modify the basic airframe.

The ParkZone DH98 Mosquito #PKZU1380 is available exclusively through Horizon Hobby and is recommended for any hobby store that inventories radio control aircraft. **HM**

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