

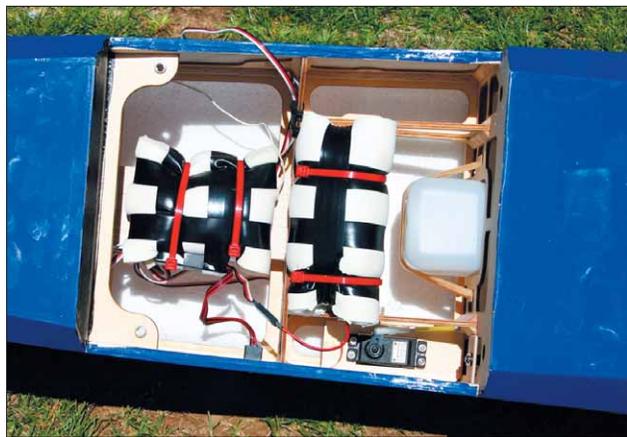
Ultimate! 160 ARF

Complemented by a Fuji 43 and Futaba 9C, Great Planes' beautiful biplane takes to the air in this fourth and final installment.



This model has been an interesting project. It's a great build, with top-quality kit and support components, an excellent powerplant and one of the hobby industry's finest radio systems. Assembly is enjoyable, and despite the extra care and attention paid along the way, takes only a few evenings to complete. My best guess would be 30 to 35 hours in all.

If you happened to have missed any of the previous installments leading up to this conclusion, the basic airframe assembly was reviewed in the January 2006 issue of *Hobby Merchandiser* (p. 80), the Fuji BT-43EIS engine installation was in the February issue (p. 76), and the radio and electronic ignition systems were installed in the May issue (p. 68). Now that we're all on the same page, I can get into flying the Ultimate! ARF.



Tidy radio bay shows foam protection and mounting for Futaba R149DP Receiver and SR Batteries 4.8V 2000mAh Flight Pack. Futaba S3001 used for throttle, although HM suggests a faster servo.

I have a "team" of friends who help me get the most enjoyment and value out of high-end projects like this. Shakedown is thorough, and because so many people are paying attention, it's hard to ignore a problem and move on when you shouldn't. Mike Geiger and Brandon Wright are engine guys. Either one can listen to to an engine run and tell you the middle name of the



Field support items included Du-Bro gas container with Slimline Products manual gasoline pump, Sullivan Model 4 Mega-Torque electric starter, Futaba 9C transmitter and Great Planes knee pad.

guy who made the ring and polished the ports. Brandon is a 3D pilot who brings rudders a little closer to Earth than I dare. Harris Malkin is my peace of mind, an old-school modeler who goes through a new airplane with the proverbial fine-tooth comb.

Mike and Brandon had the Fuji singing reliably after a bit of needle tinkering, and Harris was chosen to

HM's Review Model Features

- Engine: Fuji BT-43eis
- Muffler: Stock Fuji
- Propeller: Mejzlik 19-10 Composite
- Spinner: Great Planes
- Gasoline: Sunoco regular
- Oil: Klotz LubriPlate 32:1
- Gas Line: Sullivan Tygon, Du-Bro Filler Valve
- Transmitter: Futaba 9C
- Receiver: Futaba 149DP PCM
- Servos (elevator and aileron): Futaba S9206
- Servos (rudder): Futaba S9350 Digital (2)
- Servo (throttle): Futaba 3001
- Battery: SR 4.8V 2000mAh
- Output Arms: Du-Bro HD for Futaba



Takeoff is smooth and stable. The model is light, but rock solid and responsive. Expo is at -50 percent.

make the initial flight. Throttle easing forward, the big Ultimate! Biplane cruised down the runway, lifted its tail and gracefully broke ground. The airplane is stable, but will handle any traditional AMA rulebook maneuver with style and grace. The roll rate is terrific, and adequate rudder and elevator deflections assure that inverted and knife-edge flight are also rewarding.

Control surface deflections were set at the high rates, but not the all-out 3D throws. At these settings, the model is easy to fly, but still a far throw from a lazy aerobic trainer. Stall speed is higher than one might expect, and the airplane should be flown down to the runway and not

permitted to get too slow or mushy. The GP Ultimate! Biplane and the Fuji BT-43EIS on a Mejzlik 19-10 propeller delivers ideal performance for AMA or IMAC Pattern pilots. I took my turn at the sticks with complete confidence, and I was rewarded with a very nice flight.



Inverted flight is also smooth, the mirror image of upright. Roll rate is very fast. Huge rudder area delivers better than average knife-edge performance.

For more information about the Ultimate! Biplane 160 ARF, the Fuji BT-43EIS engine, and Futaba radio systems and accessories, see the ads on pages 7, 53 and 72, visit www.bestrc.com or contact Great Planes Model Distributors in Champaign, Illinois, at 217-398-3630. **HM**



On the ground or in the air, Great Planes' 65-inch Ultimate! Biplane 160 ARF is a beautiful aerobic airplane.