



Jeff Troy

# Flight Report

## E-flite Blade CX3

**E-flite's latest contra-rotating helicopter is this handsome, coaxial, scale MD 520N.**

E-flite is a leader in the electric flight community for good reason. This company's airplanes and helicopters are all excellent performers in their respective categories. Their quality and innovation leave nothing to chance, and their excellent reputation is consistently embellished by word-of-mouth comments from pilots.

The E-flite series of Blade helicopters began with one of the world's first successful, trouble-free and easy-to-fly machines, the Blade CX (coaxial). The CX was soon

joined by a CP (collective pitch) version, and both models were later offered in upgraded and improved CX2 and CP2 versions. A new micro version called the mCX was recently added to the line, which now also touts this beautiful scalelike model, the Blade CX3 MD 520N.

One of many novel E-flite innovations is the inclusion of Spektrum technology RC systems in their model helicopters. The CX3 comes in a completely ready-to-fly



version with a 5-channel 2.4GHz transmitter, and is also available in a Bind N Fly (BNF) version with everything included in the box except the transmitter.

The receiver in the BNF is the same factory-installed Spektrum AR6100e receiver that comes in the RTF, so the BNF machine is fully compatible with any Spektrum or JR DSM2 transmitter. Bind-capable transmitters include the Spektrum DX5e, DX6i and DX7, JR X9303 2.4 and 12X 2.4, and E-flite MLP4DSM. My daughter Devin and I

flew the RTF with the factory transmitter, and we set up our CX3 BNF version up with my amazing JR 12X.

The RTF and BNF versions of the CX3 both come with a 2S 7.4-volt 800mAh LiPo battery, a DC balance charger and an AC power supply. The DC charger can connect

directly to the terminals of a 12-volt car, motorcycle or marine battery, and the power supply allows the charger to operate conveniently from 110-volt wall outlets.



*RTF and BNF (bind-and-fly) CX3 come with this 2S 800mAh LiPo battery and DC balance charger with AC power supply. Both versions are identical, but the BNF does not include the transmitter or the AA alkaline transmitter batteries.*

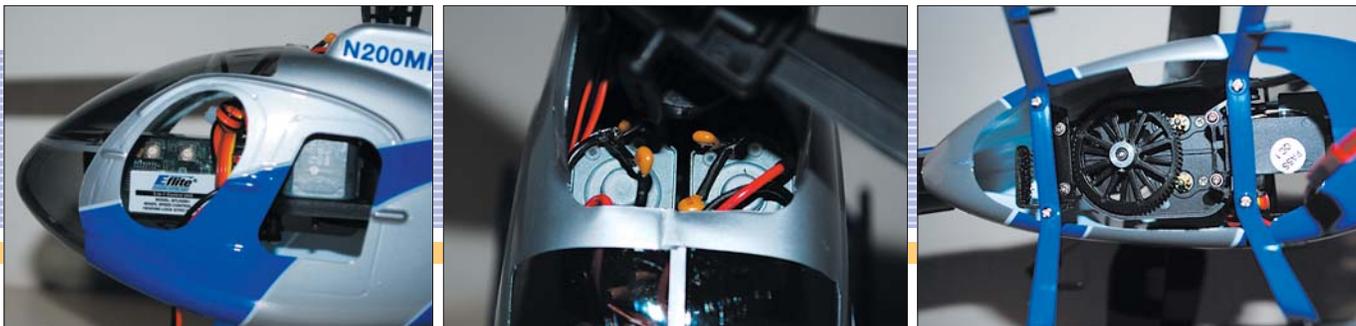


### Specifications

- Main rotor diameter: 13.6 inches
- Length: 16.4 inches
- Height: 7.2 inches
- Weight: 8.0 ounces
- Power: Twin 180 electrics
- RC: 2.4GHz 4-channel (RTF only)
- Battery: 7.4V 2S 800mAh LiPo

### RTF Features

- Factory-assembled helicopter
- Factory-installed RC system with Spektrum AR6100e receiver, 3-in-1 mixer/ESC/heading lock gyro and two E-flite S60 sub-micro servos
- DC balance charger and AC adapter
- 52-page instruction manual



*Simplicity is a key selling feature of the CX3. E-flite's 3-in-1 mixer/ESC/heading lock gyro is visible through the cabin door, so all adjust points are easily accessed. Twin 180 electric motors drive the machine, and the drive gears are visible below the helicopter's frame.*

Charging a fully discharged but not over-discharged battery takes roughly 80 to 90 minutes, and the result is some 15 minutes or more of flight time. It's important to remember that the helicopter's 3-in-1 onboard control unit is not equipped with a voltage cutoff feature, so pilots must be aware of the battery's power level. If the helicopter begins to require more-than-typical throttle to maintain hover or flight, it should be landed and powered down immediately to prevent damage to the LiPo pack.

Contra-rotating, coaxial machines are easy to fly, and have vaulted the RC helicopter learning curve from nearly impossible to an almost instantaneous "piece of cake." The CX series from E-flite represents many of the best of the best available, and each machine comes factory test-flown and adjusted. The LiPo battery must be charged before the maiden flight, and the BNF adds no more to that than binding the receiver and the pilot's transmitter.

In either version, the E-flite CX3 MD 520N is a great little helicopter. Devin and I flew our CX3's around the living room, and guided them up and down the staircase and in and out of the bedrooms. Our three English Setters stared curiously as the two machines took turns hovering and darting about overhead, and we also had a great time demonstrating our CX3's for company over the weekend.

Several "fungrades" are available for the CX3. These include a navigation light kit, a Marines body set with a (non-firing) gun and missiles, two Bell Jet Ranger body sets, two CH-60 SEAHAWK body sets, training gear, an aluminum swashplate set and many others.

The Blade CX3 MD 520N can be sold with complete confidence. It's an easily prepared, superb, flying machine, striking in appearance and impressive in both its inherent stability and intermediate-level maneuverability. Price is low, and customers are sure to appreciate the value. **HM**



*A good-looking, scale design, E-flite's Blade CX3 MD 520N is an easy flyer. Devin Troy tools the new machine around her living room.*