



Ed Rogala

# R/C Report

## Revell Proto CX Micro Electric Helicopter

**Revell becomes a player in the micro helicopter market**

The market for electric radio control aircraft and related products has been strong for several years. No category in this market has seen as much growth as the electric helicopter category. Electric helicopters of all sizes are being offered by a variety of manufacturers, and with the recently released Revell Proto CX there is a new player to welcome to this marketplace.

The Revell brand name has long been associated with quality in plastic models. This release continues the association of brand name and quality, and is packed with features.

The Proto CX is billed as a micro radio control helicopter, and it is attractively packaged in a sturdy and compact carton. The moment customers see this product, they'll be attracted to the strong colors that dominate the package. The built-in carrying handle seems to have become a standard feature for this class of R/C air product.

Smartly styled with clean lines and an attractive color scheme, the Proto CX will appeal to many customers. Specifications of the Proto include a 7.4-inch main rotor diameter, an overall length of 8.39 inches and a .95 ounce (27 gram) flying weight. Powered by two micro motors, the Proto is energized by a 3.7 volt 110 mah LiPo battery pack that is unique to this product.

Operating on a Revell protocol 2.4 GHz system, the transmitter requires four AA batteries, which are included. Feeling comfortable from the onset, the transmitter is attractively styled and has an ergonomic design. A really



clever antenna mounting system allows for the transmitter to be operated in either mode-1 or mode-2 simply by removing the antenna and mounting it on whichever side of the transmitter is the preferred mode of operation.

Features include a bright LCD display screen that is user friendly. Trim settings are digitally displayed, a feature not previously seen in this level of product. There is an indicator light for high or low rates. These rates are referred to as Advanced or Beginner, which is very beneficial considering the intended market of the Proto. Another

nice feature not previously seen is that the throttle setting always being displayed on the screen as a percentage of 100%—a great touch. Lastly, the flight battery is charged by simply sliding a removable cover off the back of the transmitter. There is a charge indicator light that stays on while the battery is being charged. Once the battery is charged, the light goes out.

Completing the Proto package are four spare rotor blades and a micro screwdriver needed for blade replacement if they become damaged and for other future repairs.

The eight-page instruction manual is clear and concise. Everything was easy to understand and thoughtfully explained. Also included is a separate insert sheet that shows photos of all the replacement parts available. In addition to the replacement parts, there are some really cool glow-in-the-dark parts available that your customers will enjoy.

Upon installing the batteries in the transmitter and



*My overall first impression of the Revell Proto was quite good. The model is very stable in flight yet responds quickly and positively to control input.*

charging the flight battery, it was time for the first flight. One thing I noticed immediately was how quiet this micro helicopter was in flight. You quickly notice a red LED that is visible through the body shell, making for an interesting look. The tail rotor gyro/yaw is precise and provides a locked-in feel. There is a noticeable lag time on the throttle, but nothing out of the ordinary for a product of this nature, and you quickly get used to it. Pitch and roll controls are solid, but not overly sensitive. In a manner of minutes a pilot will quickly appreciate the “feel” this micro helicopter has in flight. Flight times averaged seven to nine minutes, just as advertised. My overall experience with the Revell Proto was most satisfying.

The Proto CX is a fantastic performing machine.



*Great looks, bold graphics and solid flying are features that will appeal to entry-level helicopter pilots. The Revell Proto performed exactly as advertised during all phases of the evaluation.*

Great looking and solid flying, there are plenty of features to appeal to entry-level helicopter pilots. Bold, eye-appealing graphics and packaging should help sell this product. The transmitter is unique yet user friendly. The \$79 selling price is phenomenal. I did find the landing gear to be a bit

weak, although this is a common issue with all micro helicopters.

I would suggest you inventory extra batteries and sell at least one to every buyer as the integral charger requires a 60-minute charging time. Don't forget about extra landing skids or the glow-in-the-dark body parts.

Overall, I found the Revell Proto CX a great start from a well known hobby brand. I wonder what could be coming next. **HM**

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