



Jeff Troy

Flight Report

ParkZone Cessna 210 Centurion

This tiny indoor/outdoor airplane marks the debut of ParkZone's Minium series.

What an amazing airplane; all dressed up — and limitless possibilities for places to take it along. ParkZone's tiny Cessna 210 Centurion spans just 15 inches, yet it carries a fully proportional 3-channel RC system on 2.4GHz, a geared electric motor and an electronic speed control, and it's capable of reliable and accurate indoor flight in areas as tight as half a basketball court, and outdoor flight in suitably calm weather.

Unpacking the ParkZone box is a treat that any RC modeler, seasoned or otherwise, will immediately appreciate. The fully built model is there, and so is the 2.4GHZ three-channel transmitter, a tiny 3.7V 70mAh LiPo cell and combination 20-minute quick charger/display stand, and eight AA batteries — four to power the transmitter and four more to power the quick charger. A 20-page manual is also provided.

There is absolutely nothing to assemble, not even a wing to attach with rubber bands. The Cessna comes 100-



percent ready to go, so setup takes only a few minutes. I inserted four AA batteries in the transmitter, then the other four in the stand-charger, then slipped the tiny LiPo cell into the slot at the front of the charger. The charger's LED glows solid red while the cell charges, then begins to blink as the cell nears capacity. When the charger blinks once every 20 seconds, the cell is ready to go.

I wanted a suitable indoor flying site for the maiden flight of my Cessna, so I phoned my friend Wayne Lehman, the middle school science teacher at my daughter's high school complex. Wayne arranged for the school gymnasium the next evening, and we both

spent the better part of the session putting some serious mileage behind this little high-wing ParkZone monoplane.

The tiny Minium LiPo cell was fully charged when Wayne and I arrived at the gym, so getting the model air-



Two AA batteries power the quick charger that's built into the Cessna's display stand. Just insert the 3.7V 70mAh LiPo flight cell and the LED glows solid red. The LED will blink every 20 seconds when the charge is complete.



Specifications

- Wingspan: 15 inches
- Length: 12-13/16 inches
- Weight: 0.6 ounce
- Power: 5.28:1 geared electric
- RC: 2.4GHz 3-channel, fully proportional elev, rud, mtr
- Battery: 3.7V 70mAh LiPo cell

RTF Model Features

- Factory-assembled airplane
- Factory-installed geared motor
- Factory-installed 2.4GHz RC
- 3.7V 70mAh LiPo flight cell
- Stand with built-in quick charger
- Tricycle landing gear
- 20-page instruction manual



Three proportional channels handle elevator, rudder and motor speed. 2.4GHz technology assures interference-free flight.

borne meant no more than taking a few camera shots and connecting the cell to the model. We felt that an ROG (rise off ground) would be more prudent than hand launching in a tight indoor site, and as it turns out, one would have served as well as the next; the model is gentle and ideally suited to small indoor venues. After a rollout of just 10 feet, the Cessna gets light and breaks ground smoothly. The climb to altitude is gradual and predictable.

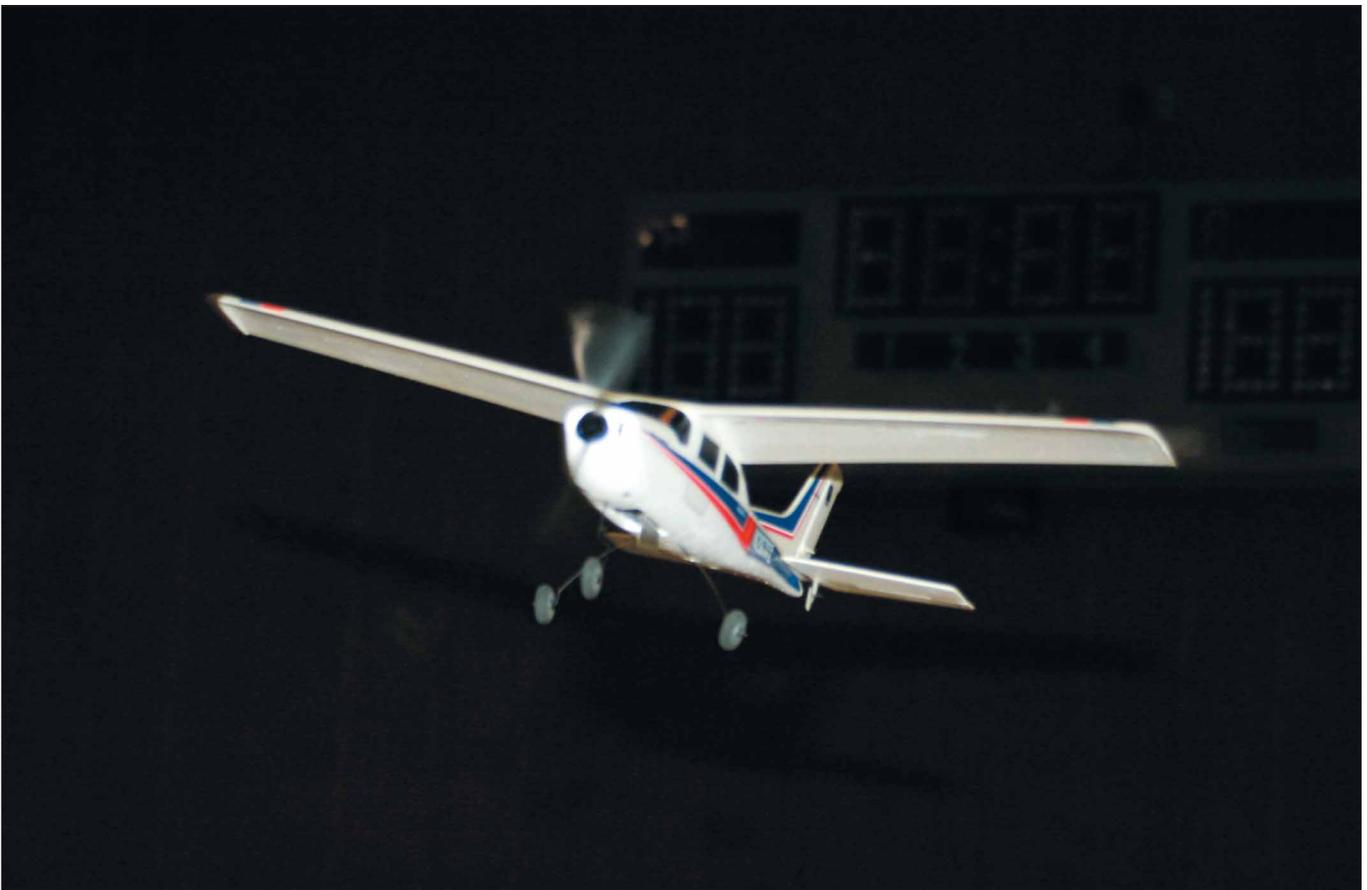
Once airborne, the Cessna 210 is truly in its natural element. The model turns equally well to the right and left, and only requires the slightest touch of up elevator to maintain level flight through turns at slow speed. Landing is better than easy; just power back and grease it in.



Cessna 210 Centurion rolls out smoothly, breaks ground cleanly and lifts gracefully. This is an ideal indoor radio control model.

The Cessna 210 Centurion is the first model I've seen to bear the Minium nametag, so I'm guessing that this may be ParkZone's pilot model for a new series of similar micro airplanes for ultimate indoor and selective outdoor flight. Whether part of a series or as a stand alone RTF package, the Minium logo clearly identifies rock-solid radio control, ideal power to weight, great looks, and big flying fun from a small model at a relatively low cost.

For additional information about the RTF Minium Cessna 210 Centurion, see the ads on pages 5 and 49, visit www.horizonhobby.com on the Web, or call Horizon Hobby in Champaign, Illinois, at 800-535-5551. **HM**



ParkZone's Cessna 210 Centurion handles half a basketball court with ease. Outdoor flight is also stable and predictable in calm air.