

HM Review

Devin & Jeff Troy

E-flite Apprentice RTF

This EP flyer is an ideal primary trainer and a first-class intermediate sport model.



Specifications

- Wingspan: 58 inches
- Length: 37 inches
- Weight: 40-45 ounces
- Motor: BL15 outrunner
- RC: Spektrum DX5e with four servos and 30A ESC
- Battery: 3S 3200mAh LiPo

ARF Features

- Factory-assembled model
- Rugged foam construction
- 15-minutes to flight ready
- Spektrum DX5e RC system
- Battery and balance charger
- Tricycle landing gear for ROG
- 44-page instruction manual

Everything in the RC bay comes factory installed and ready for flight. This includes a Spektrum AR500 receiver, E-flite 30-A ESC, two E-flite servos and a "Y" harness.

The new ready-to-fly Apprentice from E-flite is a fantastic electric trainer that provides its pilot with greater strength and power than the typical electric trainer. A gorgeous model in an easy-to-manage size, the all-foam Apprentice RTF performs magnificently, making for an idea startup.

The Apprentice 15e comes with everything needed to assemble and fly it. That includes a two-piece wing set and tail set, and a fuselage with an installed cowl, pushrods, spinner, 5mm propeller adapter, 30-amp Pro switch-mode BEC brushless ESC, 11x8 electric propeller, Spektrum DX5e radio system with an AR500 DSM2 full-range receiver, 3200mAh 3S 11.1v 15C LiPo pack, 3-amp 12V balancing LiPo charger, 840kV BL15 outrunner motor and mount.



Plastic studs under the fin pass through the stabilizer and fuselage. Two Phillips-head screws secure the entire tail section.

Assembly of the Apprentice is super easy. The first step is the tail, and it's held in place by simply passing the fin studs through the stabilizer and into the holes in the fuselage, then screwing in the two sheet metal screws. The nose gear slips into the bearing on the firewall, and tightens with a single screw. Even though the angle appears difficult to reach, the ABS cowl easily gives to the pressure of the screwdriver, snapping back into shape after the gear is tightened. For the main gear, simply flex and insert it into its slot in the fuselage.



Assemble the wing by sliding the carbon wing tube in one panel into the opposite wing panel's hole, holding them in place with the front and rear wing covers. Connect the wires from the aileron servos to the "Y" harness from the receiver, then finish by attaching the wing to the fuselage with the included eight rubber bands.



Devin Troy slides the wing panels together over the carbon joiner. Two ABS covers secure the panels.

My dad and I charged the LiPo battery while I was assembling the model, and I actually finished the assembly before the battery was done. That's really quick.

This model is nothing short of amazing in the air. The foam wheels are large enough to permit takeoff from mowed grass runways, and that opens the Apprentice up to flying from just about anywhere. The model tracks straight, breaks ground and climbs to altitude smoothly.

The DX5e transmitter has a dual rate switch with factory pre-sets so that no adjustment or guesswork is needed. In low rate, the Apprentice flies as gently as any top-shelf primary trainer, yet can still perform wide loops and rolls. At the high-rate setting, the Apprentice will add tighter rolls and even outside loops to its menu.



Battery access is through a sturdy door beneath the fuselage. Two hook & loop band hold LiPo securely.

We put the Apprentice into inverted, just to see how quickly it would fall out. Much to our surprise, the model maintains inverted flight easily, and far more smoothly than most contemporary primary trainers we've flown.

The E-flite Apprentice 15e RTF has everything dealers want and more. The price is uncompromisingly right, the performance goes beyond exceptional, the LiPo battery and charger are included, and the 2.4GHz radio system is the way that new and experienced RC pilots are going. You can sell the Apprentice 15e with confidence, and customers will thank you for it. **HM**



The Apprentice offers built-in stability to surpass all expectations — smooth and capable in every flight attitude.