

# FOCUS ON Micro Flight

## Parkzone P-51D Mustang

**Micro airplanes like this Mustang are taking the radio control aircraft world by storm.**



Anyone who has any interest in aviation, either full size or in model form, is well aware of the P-51 Mustang and the service it provided the allies during WWII. Next to the venerable “stick” line of model aircraft and all their variations over the years, the P-51 has been the most modeled aircraft in radio control. At one time there were over 40 available P-51 kits being offered by a host of manufactures. Today that number has substantially diminished, but the P-51 Mustang is still one of the most popular and easily recognized aircraft seen on the flight line.

Parkzone has released the latest version of the P-51 Mustang as a micro flier. The Mustang has a wingspan of 15.8 inches and is 14.3 inches long. Weighing in at 34.6 grams, the weight of this little airplane is right at 1.2 ounces. The Parkzone P-51D Mustang is available either as a Bind-N-Fly version or as reviewed with a Parkzone 4 channel transmitter. The instruction manual is very specific in the recommendation that the customer set the transmitter to low rates for the first flights. This is easily accomplished by pushing in on the right stick of the transmitter until it “clicks.” Confirmation that the transmitter is operating in low rates is by the LED of the front of the transmitter blinking.

Initial flights of this micro Mustang took place at the Northern Illinois Radio Control Helicopter Association fall fun-fly. Helicopters don’t take much room, and the flying site for this event was the corner of a cornfield. I don’t know how many flights I had that first day, but the multiple batteries and two Parkzone chargers were “busy” for the entire afternoon. I also let any of the pilots present who had “fixed wing” experience fly the Mustang and did not hear one negative comment the entire day.

This little Mustang is also durable. The landing gear is removable, but I wanted to keep it installed for these

first flights. The grass was a little tall, and as during all fall days in the Midwest gusts of wind have a tendency to blow up from nowhere. There were a couple of cart-wheel landings but the airframe came through without a scratch. All I have to say is this is one fun little airplane.

Finished in the unique scheme of the 118th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron assigned to the China, Burma, India Theater of Operations from 1944-1945, this Mustang comes molded in a silver foam that resembles the natural aluminum finish of the full size war bird. The decal running down the side of the fuselage holds the two halves of the Mustang together and will need to be sliced down the middle should service of the onboard electronics be required. This procedure is covered in detail in the instruction manual.

Micro flight airframes like this Mustang are taking the hobby of radio control aviation by storm.



*Good looks and excellent flying characteristics make this micro-flier a winner.*

Dimensionally the Parkzone transmitter is very close in size to the game controllers that youngsters are familiar with, and they find the Parkzone transmitter to be an easy transition. From the newcomer to the most experienced R/C pilot, it seems everyone is attracted to micro flight. These little airframes are inexpensive and offer a tremendous value for the investment. Spare parts are the bread and butter of any hobby business and customers are purchasing items such as propellers four at a time. I’ve checked with a

couple local dealers, and they are stocking propellers for all the Parkzone micro airframes by the dozen. Four propellers in one purchase means three customers have wiped out your inventory!

Is micro flight a trend or a fad? That’s a question I cannot answer, but I can say in my area demand currently exceeds availability and that it’s difficult to keep the products in stock. **HM**