



Airlight RC

The principal to building these is simple:

1. Choose your design, print the A5 plans on A4 paper, A4 plans on A3, or the paper size stated, 1:1 (without any scaling to fit or similar).

2. Cut down the print to just outside the design, and fit this onto a piece of either 2mm Depron foam, or similar, or your own choice of material using non-permanent (easily removable) sticky stuff (I use the Stix2 Green roller pen). Note of caution - put the sticky on the BACK of the design, or you won't be able to see the lines to cut them.

3. Using a scalpel or similar sharpness blade and a METAL ruler or straight edge, cut the design out. Make sure you cut *through* the lines, not either side of them, as the designs are fitted together such that one edge of a part generally makes the edge of another part. Neat cutting is the key to getting this correct. Hint: I always cut the outer edges first, then any that can be cut 'straight through', then any cuts which run into each other. Keep the knife vertical, and ensure the tip is sharp, and this will reduce any 'draggies' that might affect the look of your aircraft, though they are unlikely to affect its performance. NOTE: Some plans show various ways the models can be built, so be sure to check carefully which one you want to make before starting to cut.

4. Take a look at the picture, this should tell you 90% of the way that a model fits together. I've provided fairly hi-res images so that you can see the joint areas - click on the image, and this will open in another tab or this window. Some of the models need fuselage parts to be stuck together back to back, and you will probably want to do this first. Make sure any wing slots are properly aligned (I use some tape in between parts to stop the wings going further in than they need to). I've found that the Stix2 Blue roller (permanent) is very good at holding these parts together, either on its own or before you bond the edges with hot glue or similar. I would seal the edges with hot glue, as this can be smoothed while still pliable. Something that may help is to do a 'tape build' first to check the fits.

5. The next bit is up to you - use your choice of bonding to join the parts together as shown. I'm a fan of hot glue, and with practice this can be very neat and strong. UHU POR or CA will work, but you will need to hold the parts together longer while they set. You will see that some parts may need stiffening, so use Carbon rod, bamboo skewers, tooth picks or similar. I leave this open as individual preferences/budgets should not prevent the models from working well.

6. Once you are happy that the model is bonded and stiffened to requirement, give it a throw and see where the weight is required. Most of the designs require weight 'up front', where you might put the motors and Rx for radio control. I just use White Tack on mine to balance them. Next, it's up to you as to whether you want to add micro controls/Rx etc, and to this end I'm working on a new page to show how this is done. Bear in mind that you will need to balance the models differently for powered flight than free flight.