



SO26 Mini Cargo

Small, inexpensive micro helis have seen a great deal of development over the last couple of years, both in terms of construction and controllability and their popularity continues to soar. Joining the ranks is the SO26 Mini Cargo from J Perkins Distribution. This is a twin, double rotor design based on the Chinook and measures only 16 cm along the fuselage and 265 cm overall across the rotors. The plastic body is well detailed for its size as are the rotor blades. The latter are flexibly mounted which much reduces accidental impact damage. Unusually, the front

and rear rotors also overlap in flight but thankfully don't come into contact during any of the heli's manoeuvres. The fuselage underside carries a tiny on/off switch, a charge socket and a blue/red LED which flashes when the heli is in operation.

The Mini Cargo is a three-channel model with infrared control. The transmitter is supplied in Mode 2 form which means that throttle (for lift) is



ABOVE: The infrared transmitter



Spooling up the rotors shows the overlap between the front and rear pair



LEFT: The SO26 with infrared transmitter, mains charger and instruction booklet



J Perkins little twin-rotor heli offers high value fun



ABOVE: Nice detailing. The flexible rotors are an indoor safety feature intended to minimize damage to the heli and its surroundings!

RIGHT: The underside showing the tiny on/off switch and charge socket



this out with the trim knob. Having done this, I found there was no need for further adjustment in the fore and aft direction.

Flying the Mini Cargo about is quite entertaining. It moves forwards and backwards quite positively and a combination of forward stick and yaw results in nice sweeping circuits in either direction. Directional stability changes from time to time, but this is easily corrected with the yaw trim. The manual recommends a flying space 20 ft x 30 ft x 10 ft high. In reality, with practice, you'll be happy with much less.

Summing Up

At a recommended price of £26.49, the S60 Mini Cargo is a bargain. It is well designed, and looks good. Its flight performance is not quite on a par with that other outstanding Perkins product, the Micro Twister, but once trimmed out, it is great fun to fly and worth every penny. Nice one Perkins. **Q&EFI**



Once trimmed, the SO26 is very controllable.

on a spring-loaded left stick and forward/reverse and yaw (rudder) are on the right. It is a weighty little unit and handles well – all of the controls and switches are easy to manipulate during flight. An adjustment knob trims out the model in the yaw plane and a pair of switches on the top of the transmitter trim out forward/backward movement.

With models of this type, we have come to expect the transmitter and its batteries to provide the power for recharging, but, unusually, a mains charger is supplied with the Cargo. Perhaps, since this is an indoor-only heli, the assumption is that a mains socket is always going to be readily available! Of course, a benefit is that the transmitter batteries are going to last longer. Incidentally, you will require six AA alkaline cells for the transmitter and these will need to be purchased separately.

Four A5 pages of generally clear instructions are provided including the intriguing warning: "Don't stick any other label onto the helicopter; the other label will affect receiving of IR signal".

Flying

Remember that, as an IR controlled model, the mini Cargo has limited range so don't let it get too far away and keep the top of the transmitter pointed at the model.

Make sure that the battery is fully charged before attempting to fly or you will have difficulty in trimming the model. The Cargo lifts off happily but, as I said before, the throttle stick is spring loaded so having found your required hover height, you will have to hold it firmly in place to maintain hover. You will probably find, as I did, a tendency to rotate in one direction or the other and you can adjust

Quiet & Electric Flight International Specification

MODEL INFORMATION

Name:	SO26 Mini Cargo
Manufacturer:	Syma
Distributor:	J Perkins Distribution www.jperkinsdistribution.co.uk
Part No:	6640020 SO26 Mini Cargo
RRP:	£26.49
Model Type:	Infrared Micro Helicopter
Construction:	Plastic
Control:	3-function