



The Twister CP Gold comes ready to fly straight out of the box



GOING FOR GOLD

JAMIE COLE TESTS OUT THE LATEST SUB 450-SIZE RTF MODEL FROM TWISTER TO SEE IF IT'S WORTHY OF ITS GOLD TITLE



I love toys, love 'em! My favourite toys are definitely RC Helicopters, I have been

playing with my chopper since before I remember and who doesn't. But when it comes to RC helicopters it's surprisingly difficult to get in to.

Why I hear you cry? Well like anything you have done for years you kind of forget how hard the basics are to come to terms with, something that you learn on the job as such and need to learn a lot before you can even fly.

First off you have to build the model, sometimes quite a challenge. Then you need to install the radio gear, set up the radio gear, which can require a thorough understanding of the instructions of both the heli and the radio, then you have to test the model to make sure all is well and vibration free with blades tracking and the model trimmed with the right rpm. There are so many variables with the

above you can be on a non-starter before it's in the air.

So without spending ages learning the basics where do you start? A ready to fly (RTF) model has to be the answer.

As an answer to the above, or for those with experience that fancy trying their hand at a sub 450-size electric model we have the Twister CP Gold. It's smaller than the more popular 450-size machines, but it's not the size that's important so much as what you can do with it, and also if it does the job it set out to do.

The Twister CP Gold is an RTF model with collective pitch, CCPM a belt driven tail and is aimed at the beginner with 3D aspirations.

BUILDING THE MODEL

This is by far my favourite part of this review. It was a real challenge to put the eight AA batteries into the transmitter! This was about all you had to do, and the most challenging part of this was getting them out of the wrapper. Awesome! No finishing whatsoever. Just charge the battery and turn the transmitter on and

it's ready to fly. Obviously after a thorough read of the instructions!

I turned the transmitter on, installed the battery which requires the canopy to be removed, plugged it in (after charging), secured the Velcro strap around the battery, put the canopy back on and I was ready.

MODEL OVERVIEW

The model is based around a lightweight frame with three servos mounted under the swashplate in a 120-degree CCPM set-up. The CCPM is controlled by the electronic

What's in the box?

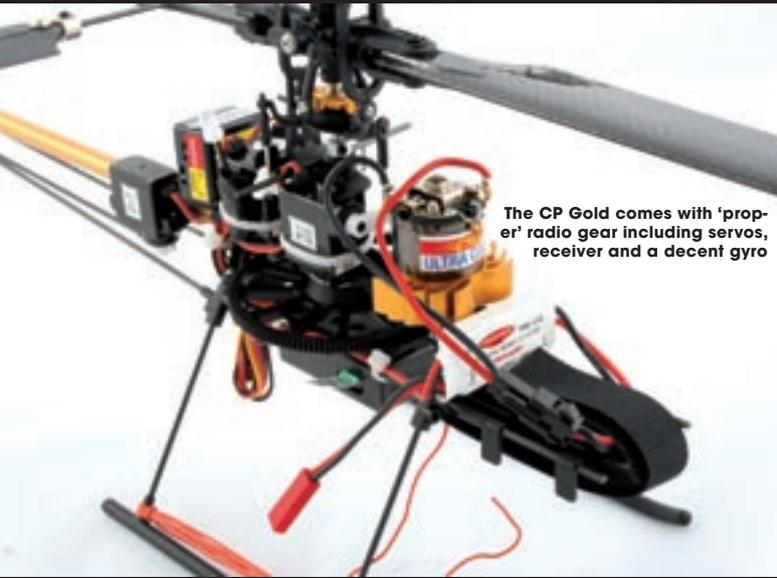
- Helicopter
- Transmitter and batteries (8 x alkaline AA's)
- Brushed Motor and ESC
- Heading Gyro
- All servos and the receiver
- 11.1V 3S 1000mAh LiPo
- LiPo charger with mains adapter and 12V adaptor
- Accessories pack with ties raps, double sided tape etc.
- You also get instructions for the transmitter, model and notes for the gyro



The CP Gold certainly looks good and includes lots of gold anodised parts



Under the skin you will find a very compact and well made machine



The CP Gold comes with 'proper' radio gear including servos, receiver and a decent gyro



A good quality 35MHz transmitter is supplied with the Twister CP Gold



The model also comes with everything else you need including a LiPo battery pack and mains powered balancer charger



mixer in the transmitter to control the interaction of the servos to give the forward, backward, left, right and collective pitch commands.

The head has variable pitch which is essential for the best experience. It comes supplied with carbon blades in black.

The transmitter is a 35Mhz type with a corresponding receiver.

It has a belt driven tail and tail-mounted rear servo. This is an important point as many models in this class have a motor mounted at the rear of the heli which varies the speed of the tail motor rather than running directly from the main drive. The belt-driven tail gives the most positive feel and enables the use of better conventional gyros and tail set ups.

The motor is a standard brushed motor with a heatsink and should be more than up to the job.

The model also has a low battery warning indicator so you know when your time is up. The model also comes with a painted canopy that looks great.

CHARGING UP

The supplied charger comes with two options for power; either the mains adaptor or you can plug it directly in to a 12V supply. Great for field charging.

Charged is offered through a balance port lead which plugs in to the side of the charger. This is an important point as anyone buying this as their first model may be unaware of the guidelines for the charging of LiPo packs and how important it is to balance charge the cells to treat them properly and to charge them safely. This very simple charger does it all for you. Simply plug and play.

FLIGHT TEST

With the market that this model is aimed at and the claims that it is tested and ready to fly I resisted the temptation to change anything and literally pulled the model out of the box, put it on charge and took it to the field.

I have to say I really didn't know what to expect. So with the transmitter on I plugged the receiver in, waiting for the gyro to set, put the canopy on, stood back and applied the power.

It came up quite slowly into the hover in the normal idle and was also surprisingly well trimmed and setup. Awesome stuff! It was more than I expected as I was (as I always am) slightly dubious about these tested models.

3D/Idle switch mode offer a little more head speed and brings the



The complete kit as supplied: Twister CP Gold RTF helicopter, 35MHz transmitter, LiPo and charger, and even eight AA batteries for the radio



With the flybar weights in the standard position the Twister CP Gold is usable and ideal for the beginner

model alive a bit more. The model actually offers adjustments on the flybar with flybar weights that when moved more inboard offer a little more response suitable for flipping around and aerobatics. This is documented in the instructions.

With the weights inboard the model was perfectly controllable and very suitable for the beginner; the response was just about perfect for learning and taking those first steps hoping around on the floor.

The tail response was actually very sharp, much better than I would have expected it to be and worked from the word go with no adjustments, no drifting, just holding well with a good response rate.

Hover - Perfect for learning with the flybar weights out and great with them moved in.

Forward flight - With the flybar weights in the standard position out of the box I found it usable and probably great for the beginner, but a little slow to respond when you get a lick of speed on. The flying shots were actually taken with the weights in the outermost position and you can see it does cope, but I just felt that it was nearing the limit in some of the faster forward flight.

With the weights moved inboard

the model was more than capable and I actually enjoyed throwing it about a bit.

3D - This is an interesting part of the review as the box for the model states that it is 3D capable. What does 3D capable mean? Well I guess that's down to interpretation, 10 years ago it would have been some inverted flight with a few flips, now I would define that as sport flying and 3D flying a lot more technical and faster moving than simply flipping about. I guess this is an article within itself!

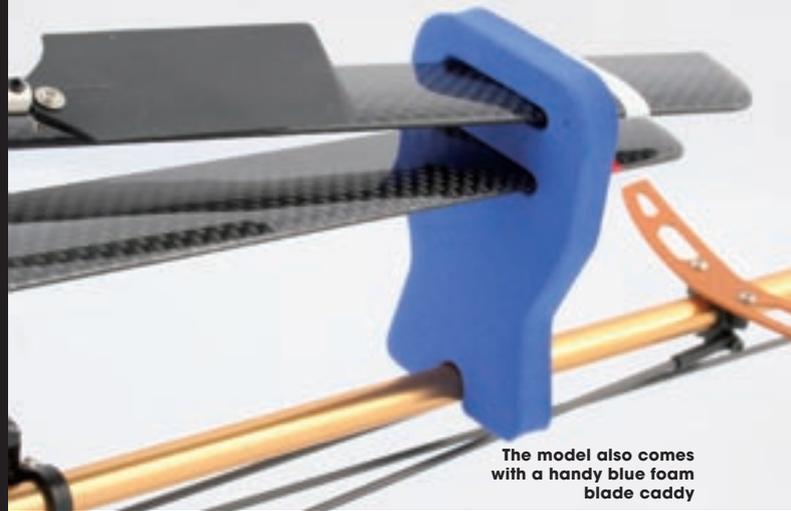
So there are three answers to this. I always set about testing the limits by first starting with a half looping feeding in the negative until the mode holds inverted, get a feel for it and then when comfortable do it lower whilst testing the response with more commands. From here on in you can start testing the model to its limits, once you have the confidence.

1. Testing the model with the weights inboard and out of the box in idle up 1:

To be honest I never tried it, the model didn't inspire the confidence it was going to get around the loop in time to be able to feed in the negative in time. To be honest it was



The heli comes up quite slowly into the hover in the normal idle and is surprisingly well trimmed and setup



The model also comes with a handy blue foam blade caddy



The CP Gold is great value for money and works well out of the box



If you want a stab at playing with RC helicopters then you won't be disappointed with this choice

not intended for this purpose in this set-up, so it's not a bad thing.

2. Testing the model with the weights inboard and out of the box idle up 1 setting:

This was scary, the model went around but clearly didn't have enough pitch range out of the box to hold the inverted flight, it did get around in the end but I did think it was a goner!

3. Testing the model with the weights inboard and with some tweaks to the set up.

It was clear that out of the box the model did not have the pitch range to cope with 3D flight out of the box. But after casting my eye over the transmitter settings and over the model it was clear that with a few tweaks it should be up to the job. The transmitter settings had travel limits on the lower end of the travel and the model had at least a few degrees of more negative available. So I wound in both pitch control links equally and put the model back in the air. Wahoo, it was inverted. A little bit of tail first flight, a few flips and rolls. All good. I don't know if I would do much more with it but as a 3D trainer for the basics, it would be up to the job.

BUILD QUALITY

The build of the model is so simple it can't really go wrong. It has a plastic central frame, no side frames as such. It uses proper servos, it has an effective and quality gyro.

I am sure that with 30+ flights it will wear parts on the plastic head and will wear the plastic balls, but this could be easily upgraded.

The transmitter is well up the job and is actually a very capable 35 MHz transmitter. I had no glitch or range issues, it just worked out of the box.

All in all you can't really knock it. It will be simple, quick and easy to repair if and when you spank it.

BATTERY PACK

The battery seems to last for ever compared to what I am used to

with the larger 450 machines. Ten minutes is easily achieved and 15 minutes is more than possible.

THE VERDICT...

For £149.99 you get a model set up and ready to go. It represents great value for money and works out of the box.

The claims of being a 3D capable are stretching it, especially out of the box, but with a few tweaks it is possible to get it inverted, although it's never going to be a tip top 3D stunner.

As a beginner machine, a sports machine or just some fun at the park it's a winner. It's simple and easy to work on and is a great intro into the hobby.

If you want a stab at playing with RC helicopters then you won't be disappointed with this choice. It will serve you well from learning to hover through to basic sports flight.

WOULD I?

I would not hesitate to recommend it for the beginner or even those looking for a small electric to play with that requires minimum effort and maximum return. I would not get it as a 3D hack because it's not up to the job, but then again it's not designed to be.

I have already used it to train a couple of people to fly, and the results so far have been great. ☑

Jamie Cole

TECH SPEC

Twister CP Gold

MODEL TYPE:	Sub 450-size electric RTF
MAIN ROTOR DIA:	550mm
TAIL ROTOR DIA:	125mm
LENGTH:	530mm
WEIGHT (WITHOUT RECEIVER & BATTERY):	390g
SRP:	£149.99

AVAILABLE FROM: All good model shops
UK DISTRIBUTOR: J Perkins Distribution
TEL: 01622 854300
WEB: www.jperkinsdistribution.co.uk

