

AirBorne Models Zero EP ARF

Great looks, agility and retracting main gear are too cool.

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The Zero EP ARF is manufactured by The World Models (TWM) and distributed in the U.S. by AirBorne Models, LLC, in Livermore, California. This is a great, almost-ready-to-fly kit that comes with factory-assembled and covered airframe components, and even a 400-size brushless outrunner motor with all the necessary mounting hardware.

I added a Futaba R-114 micro FM receiver and five Futaba sub-micro servos. The electronic speed controller I chose is the TWM 25A brushless, and I finished off my power package with TWM's 2100mAh, 11.1V 3S LiPo battery.

The Zero EP ARF features laser-cut, all-wood construction, and everything fits together perfectly. The one-piece wing makes assembly easy, and a set of retractable main landing gear comes factory installed. One extra channel in the transmitter and one extra servo in the airplane are required to operate the gear. The tail wheel is not retractable, although it is steerable, making the Zero a pleasure to handle on the ground during taxi.

The Zero's lightweight, polyester covering is excellent. It comes wrinkle-free, with marking, rivets and panel lines screened right onto the film. The model has plastic control horns and clevises, and steel pushrods that run in plastic guide tubes; they are very smooth and accurate.

Flying the Zero is a dream, and the model is surprisingly nimble for a scale warbird. The model's light weight and long-span, tapered wing produce an excellent glide ratio, and the included brushless motor has plenty of punch. Give the model full power on takeoff, and it's airborne in roughly 10 feet.

My Zero can perform all sorts of aerobatics, including inside and outside loops, rolls, spins and snaps, and even knife-edge and extended inverted flight.

The retractable main landing gear set works reliably, and really adds to the Zero's scale realism in flight. If you're looking for a model of a World War II fighter with good scale appearance and great flying characteristics, the AirBorne Models Zero EP is a good choice. 

