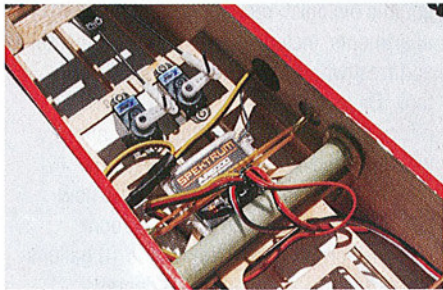


AirBorne Models Katana EP ARF

Entry-level pattern to intermediate 3D, this airplane is a solid flyer.

BRANDON WRIGHT



The Katana EP ARF from AirBorne Models is a scaled-down, electric-powered version of their larger, glow- and gasoline-powered models. It comes in the almost-ready-to-fly format, with a folding propeller and spinner combination, and a powerful brushless outrunner motor. These items are matched to the model for great performance and no guesswork, and they come with the kit at no extra charge.

The Katana EP is constructed from laser-cut, lightweight wooden parts. The colorful film covering comes factory applied, and a painted fiberglass cowl and wheel pants are also included, so assembly moves along very quickly. Parts fit is excellent, and all the holes for the control horns come drilled; there's no question about the linkage lining up correctly.

Each wing panel requires one sub-micro servo, and two more are needed for the elevator and rudder. Two pushrods travel to the dual elevator panels, and a cleverly designed fitting is provided to join them, resulting in just a single rod to connect to the elevator servo output arm.

The Katana's motor mount comes drilled for the included motor, and the cowl mounting holes also come drilled to reduce assembly time and make cowl installation almost foolproof. Mount the landing gear and assembly is over.

I used a fully programmable TWM brushless speed control, and the matching TWM programming card really makes setup a breeze. The TWM 2100mAh 11.1-volt LiPo pack is a perfect match for the Katana EP's size and power setup, and will deliver the kind of performance you are looking for. Once I got all the radio programming done, it was time to see what the little Katana could do in the air.

The model rolled down my grass runway and took off smoothly. It's a great flyer, with plenty of power for just about anything you want. It can fly slowly, too. Loops, rolls and other basic maneuvers are no problem, and the model handles well through all of them.

The Katana EP is fun and easy to assemble. It's a great model for getting into aerobatics, and let you learn without breaking the bank account. ➔

