

AirBorne Models UniJet EDF

Killer looks and great performance mark this hot electric fanjet.

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The UniJet is a unique model. Kind of a visual cross between the innovative BD-5 and an old Navy Grumman Panther, the model's low-slung T-tail and huge canopy appearance is striking. As it turns out, the UniJet's easy assembly and rewarding flight performance are even more impressive.

The UniJet airframe is factory constructed from laser-cut, wooden parts, then factory covered in LighTex, a rugged film manufactured by The World Models (TWM), the offshore parent company to AirBorne Models in the U.S. Installing the model's horizontal stabilizer is the only real assembly procedure, as the wing uses plug-in panels that require no adhesive, and the fan unit is a bolt-in installation.

The electric ducted-fan unit is easy to assemble. The included brushless outrunner motor installs inside the fan housing with four provided screws, and the impeller secures to the opposite side of the outrunner, also with four screws. It isn't possible to misalign anything, so top performance is assured without any effort.



AirBorne sent along the new TWM 45-amp electronic speed controller and 2100mAh 3S LiPo battery with a 15C discharge rate. I added a Spektrum AR6200 2.4GHz receiver, four E-flite S75 servos, two extensions and a Y-harness to fill the UniJet's optional equipment list.

This is the first EDF model I had built, so I wasn't prepared for anything to go as smoothly as it did. Every parts fit into its proper place perfectly, and there were absolutely no problems anywhere. This is a very carefully engineered model, and anticipated "gray" areas simply don't exist.

The main landing gear is rugged, but the jet sits very low to the ground. The nose gear is not so rugged, although it is steerable. This is an ideal setup for takeoff from a paved runway, but useless in grass. If your flying site is unpaved, lose the gear.

The UniJet feels heavy, and it makes you wonder if it will fly. Well, don't give it a thought, because all-up, the UniJet weighs only 28 ounces, and the model has so much excess power that straight-up, out-of-sight, vertical climb can be done at less than 3/4 throttle. The wing has plenty of lift, and despite the available power, top-end speed is below 60 M.P.H.

The UniJet loops, rolls, flies inverted and performs like a big jet in every way, and this EDF model is sure to thrill every prop-jockey to no end in the air. 