

Guidance for contributors

Gibbs Guides is always happy to welcome contributions on a wide range of topics relevant to electric model aircraft. So, if you are thinking about writing something you'd like to share with other modelers, feel free to drop me a line with a picture of your project and a few details and we can go from there.

Other modelers will enjoy reading about your project, whatever it is. If you'd like to share the story of your model, or indeed any subject to do with model aircraft, especially electric power models, then I'd like to hear from you.

Your words don't have to be perfect - as long as you can tell your story, I'll be happy to supply friendly and positive assistance and perhaps even help to polish your contribution up a little. Your article won't go live until you are happy with the finished result. There are plenty of examples of articles on the Gibbs Guides website, which you are welcome to use for inspiration if required.

Length

You'll find articles of varying length at Gibbs Guides. The length can be anywhere from a few hundred words, up to several thousand if you wish. Long articles are not a problem as they can be split over several parts. Gibbs Guides articles appear in Ariel, but you can submit your article in whatever font you wish to use.

Images

The number of images should be roughly in proportion to the number of words. At least one good quality image per 200 words is a good number to aim for, although more images is better.

To produce a nice quality image, try and arrange for the subject to fill the frame. Also, you should arrange for the background to be as uncluttered as possible. Take your pictures when there's plenty of light about. It's often best to arrange for the light source to be behind one of your shoulders – you want to make sure your model is nicely illuminated, and that there are no dark shadows across it. It's always nice to see images of a model in flight, Clearly you'll need some assistance to arrange this. This is one of the most challenging types of photo to take especially if the model is close enough to the camera to fill the frame. I always like to see an image of a model with its builder. However, if you'd rather not offer this type of picture, that's fine.

Most image formats are fine, the most popular one is probably jpeg. I will crop and resize your images as required to fit the standard Gibbs Guides format.

Making a start

If you'd like to write something but don't know where to start, you might find this section useful.

It can be very helpful to have a loose structure in place before you start writing. This helps you to establish what you want to write about and also helps you to make your story flow smoothly, from start to end.

It doesn't really matter how you organise your words, as long as your article is a readable story. Generally, telling the story in chronological order is a good plan. If you're in need of a little guidance, you might consider organising your article somewhat along the following lines. I've also included a few examples of information you may wish to include in each section.

Introduce yourself

It's always nice to learn a few details about a modeller, even if it's only a few words about your modelling interests and experience.

Origins and inspiration for the project

I always like to hear how a project came about. Is the subject a particular favourite of yours, and if so why?

Design of the model

If you designed the model, this is a great chance to talk about how you went about this. Which wing section (airfoil) did you choose, and why?

Construction process and details

You may like to share a few details about how the model was built. What about the construction methods? Were you trying something new, or do you prefer to stick with tried and true techniques? Were there any problems?

Equipment used such as power system, RC equipment etc

You might like to say what equipment you chose, and why. How did you choose your power system? How did you mount your motor? How is the battery secured? How is cooling of the power system components arranged?

Covering and finishing

What system did you use? Was it a plastic covering film, or a more traditional covering system? How did it work out?

Control systems and set up

How are your controls set up? Do you have differential throw on your ailerons? How is your RC system powered? Where is the CG?

Handling characteristics and performance

Does the model taxi easily? How does the model take off and fly? Is it hand launched and if so, is this easy? Is the model easy to handle for approach and landing? Does it have any unusual or interesting characteristics? Did you have to adjust anything to get

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the model to fly well? Has the model had any mishaps, and if so what happened and why?

Model data

This can include information such as the span, weight, wing loading, power loading, flight times vs charge quantity (e.g. 10min for 2,300mAh) and so on.

Depending on the project, not all parts will apply. For example, if your model is an ARF, you may want to omit some or all of the section on design. Or you may simply not wish to talk about certain aspects of the model.

I hope this information proves helpful, and I look forward to hearing from you.
You can reach me here: andrew@gibbsguides.com

Kind regards

Andrew Gibbs