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OBJECTS ARE AS THEY APPEAR!

E-flite 120 SR Micro or Mini?

ACTUAL SIZE



A NEW CHAMP IS CROWNED: 2010 FUTABA XFC

HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU...

MY NAME IS RODRIGO SILVA MENA, I LIVE IN EL SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA. I started with my RC addiction since I was a little boy, my father taught to me everything related with RC helicopters, airplanes, cars and boats. I remember my dad purchasing RC stuff secretly from my mother because she thinks that hobbies are for kids and not for big people. I think that every guy has a little kid inside.

I started building RC cars at the age of 8. I remember that my passion was so great at that time because instead of me taking the books to school, everything that I took was my RC car on my back pack to go to a friends house after class. I remember doing so many crazy things like building some big jumps, attaching RC airplane wings on it to make the car fly.

By this time I was interested in airplanes and by Christmas I asked Santa Claus to bring me a an RC gasoline airplane. When I opened my presents I realize that Santa brought me the airplane but it was not a gas airplane, it was an electric one. We went to the flying field and I crashed it breaking the wing on the first flight.

When I became older we went to Miami with the whole family and my parents gave money to me and my brothers to purchase clothing. I looked at the yellow pages for RC hobby shops because I wanted to go there, I didn't care about buying clothing. I found a store named Orange Blossom. That store was huge. I stayed with my dad at the store while

my mother went with my other brothers to purchase clothing. I was crazy running in the store, there where so many airplanes that I couldn't decide which airplane to take home. Finally I purchased my first nitro airplane. I was really happy; I spent my money in something that I really liked.

When I came back to El Salvador I started building my airplane and when it was ready I went to the flying field again. It took me six hours for me to be by myself taking off and landing the airplane.

After some time I started gaining interest in RC helicopters. One day me and my friend that used to run the RC cars started building an electric helicopter. We took a plastic toolbox and installed an electric motor on the top. To give the power it had some big wires going to a separate battery. This project didn't look like a helicopter. It didn't have even a tail rotor. The toolbox was so heavy that it didn't lift off the ground, so my friend and me decided to drill some holes all around the toolbox for it to be lighter. After this we tried again and by this time it was moving a little but we couldn't make it take off. We went again and remove the bottom of the toolbox and left just the top of it where the motor was attached. We tried again and this time it took off the ground but it was spinning so crazy because by that time we didn't knew that the tail rotor worked for helicopters not to spin. The project was a total failure.

Some time after we purchased some



Align TREX 450s where we learned to fly RC helicopters. Since then I am flying RC helicopters. I am right now 27 years old. I decide to marry the love of my life so I took her to see me fly my helicopter and I asked her, "Do you see with me in the future doing this same thing?" She told me yes. By this time, the wedding ring was attached to the helicopter skid. I landed went on my knee and asked her "Do you want to marry me?" She answered yes, and we married on January 23rd of 2010.

I sold my TREX 600 Nitro Pro because I came with my wife to study for my masters here in Santiago Chile, but it was too hard for me to stop doing what I have been doing my whole life.

Right now I have a Align TREX 700 nitro and I am doing what I love the most—flying RC helis. Thanks RC Heli Magazine for reading my story, I love your magazine!!

Rodrigo Silva Mena
El Salvador

Great story Rodrigo, take it easy on landing helicopters on your knee. That could get scary. Congratulations and good luck on the marriage!
Mike

Haha nice Rodrigo, I almost have the same story. RKepphart

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