

CIAMFlyer



Introduction to
the Model Aircraft World

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More Courage to Experiment

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Progress through trial and error

Only very few athletes make their own sporting equipment. However, top athletes are often personally involved in the design, choice of materials and appearance of their technical equipment. In most cases, these lead to only tiny improvements which nevertheless add up over the years to help produce top performances. This also applies to the development of competition model aircraft. Revolutions such as the development of plastic skis or,

in aeromodelling, the replacement of nickel metal hybrid batteries (NiMH) with lithium polymer (LiPo) cells, are relatively rare.

The first interim step

When our airfields are populated by mostly commercially available,



beautiful and perfectly manufactured model aircraft – and, sadly, sometimes junk that is only good for rapid disposal – dedicated aeromodellers are repeatedly heard to express a wish for producing such a model themselves from the ground up. This is a big step, too big for many. In recent years, modern technology such as the computer-aided machining of wooden parts or 3D printing has brought a number of beautiful construction kits to the market. These excellently prepared kits have triggered a proper self-build boom.



To experiment is to learn

The experience with more or less extensively prepared kits of wood, foam and other plastics can create an appetite for constructing an aircraft oneself. Whether we do this using traditional design methods, or the more and more readily available modern hardware and software, thus promoting the "digitalisation" of aeromodelling, is irrelevant. What's important is the



courage to experiment, for creative designs and for finding solutions that are not immediately obvious. Not every experiment can end in success but guarantees time spent on an exciting and instructive venture and the learning effect is largest when we are treading ground that is new to us.

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