

EDGE 540T

ELECTRIC ARF

Instruction Manual



EXTREME FLIGHT ✓

RADIO CONTROL™

STATE-OF-THE-ART R/C AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT AND ACCESSORIES

Thank you for your purchase of the Extreme Flight RC Edge 540T Electric ARF. This aircraft was designed to provide maximum performance and fun in a realistic looking, lightweight, fully aerobatic park flyer. Using an inexpensive and efficient brushless outrunner motor and speed controller and a single high discharge 3S1P Lithium Polymer battery, the Edge 540T provides unlimited performance capability.

Great care was taken to design a light weight yet robust airframe. Expert engineering and modern laser cutting methods in conjunction with a carbon fiber wing tube and composite control horns keep weight to a minimum. Unique features such as the ram air equipped motor box, 2 piece plug in wings, and magnetically retained canopy/hatch make for quick easy assembly and instantaneous access to the interior of the plane and battery tray. The Edge 540T can truly be assembled in an evening-buy it one day, fly it the next!

As with all Extreme Flight RC airplanes, the proof is in the flying! The Edge 540T flies precision aerobatics remarkably well and allows you to practice your IMAC sequence almost anywhere. The slightly stretched fuselage makes for a plane that tracks like a pattern ship and the lightweight wings minimize over rotation in snaps. On a calm day you'll be amazed at how well this thing flies the sequences.

If 3D is your thing then strap in! The Edge 540T really excels here! Beautiful, slow high alpha knife edge passes. FLAT spins both upright and inverted, rock solid elevators and harriers, and a wicked wing tip spin! Tremendous aileron authority and insane roll rate from the massive ailerons.

Sport flyers fear not! Just because you're not a 3D hot dogger or IMAC flyer doesn't mean you can't enjoy the Edge 540T. With reduced rates the Edge is a very easy plane to fly. Its super light wing loading allows it to land at a walk. It will instill confidence and allow you to improve your flying skills. When you're ready for more advanced aerobatics, flip the dual rate switch and hang on!

As with any high performance aerobatic aircraft, great care must be taken to avoid excess speed. Excess speed will lead to control surface flutter and quite possibly the complete destruction of your aircraft. Don't let this happen to you! Always have the motor at idle when the airplane is pointed down and reserve full throttle for vertical climbs. Make sure you have adequate mechanical advantage in your control linkage set-up. If you are unsure about this, have a more experienced flyer look over your set-up before flying. Extreme Flight RC, Ltd. in no way warrants its aircraft against flutter. As with all of our planes, we put the Edge through a rigorous flight testing regime and have not experienced any control surface flutter. It is your responsibility to ensure the airworthiness of your aircraft.

The Edge was designed around the Torque 2818T/900 Brushless Outrunner motor and Airboss 35 Amp ESC. This is the best choice for powering the Edge, providing plenty of power for any maneuver imaginable. Other outrunner motors in this class will work as well but may require slight modification to the motor mount.

The Edge is very easy to assemble. Take a few minutes to read this manual before beginning assembly to get familiar with the process.

Tips for Success-Please read before beginning assembly!!!

1. Read the instruction manual thoroughly before starting assembly.
2. We are very pleased with the level of craftsmanship exhibited by the workers in our factory. However, these are mass produced models. As with any ARF, take a few minutes to go over the model and add CA to high stress areas or any joints that appear to need more glue. Specific areas to pay attention to are servo mounts, landing gear mounting plate, firewall to fuselage side joint, wing root rib and motor box joints. A few minutes and a few drops of CA will help to insure the longevity of your model.
3. Make sure your prop and spinner are balanced! These aircraft perform as well as they do because they are built light. Excess vibration caused by unbalanced components can cause damage to the airframe.
4. Buy a Watt meter! For less than the cost of a single battery pack you can purchase one of these. This will save you a lot of time, money and frustration and provide you with a lot of valuable information about your set up. One battery pack saved is worth this investment!
5. Observe the C rating of your batteries. If your battery is rated at 2100 mah and 20C continuous discharge rate then you can safely pull 42000 mah or 42 Amps from it ($2100 \times 20 = 42000 \text{ mah} = 42 \text{ Amps}$). Use a watt meter between your battery and ESC to determine the number of Amps you are drawing as well as the number of Watts you are generating. I have found it is best for battery longevity if your maximum amp draw at wide open throttle is in between the continuous rating and the burst rating of the battery. Prop your airplane accordingly.
6. We have done a lot of experimenting with various props. Using the Torque 2818T/900 on 3S we like the APC 12x6E and 13x6.5E. Depending on your elevation you may or may not like these choices, but they should be a good starting point. Remember to test each new prop with a Watt meter attached to the system to be sure you are not overworking any of the components.
7. **Decals-** clean your airplane with glass cleaner and a paper towel before starting to apply the decals. Mist the area where the decal will be applied with glass cleaner or water mixed with a little bit of soap. Use scissors to remove the decal from the sheet. For best results cut as close to the edges of the decal as possible. Position the decal in place and use a credit card or rubber squeegee to push the excess liquid from under the decal and allow to dry. You may need to secure the edges of the decal with masking tape to prevent them from rolling up until the solution has dried and evaporated.

Wing assembly

1. Locate a wing panel. Check to see that all hinges are centered between the wing and aileron. Hold the aileron fully deflected and apply a drop of thin CA to each hinge. Flip the wing over and repeat.



2. Use a #11 hobby blade to remove the covering over the servo bay. Install the aileron servo using the manufacturer supplied mounting screws. Route the servo lead out of the root of the wing.



3. Locate the composite aileron control horn, aileron pushrod with z-bend and ez-connector. Remove the covering over the mounting hole for the control horn with your #11 blade. Scuff the part of the control horn that will glue into the aileron slot with fine sandpaper. Glue the control horn in place with medium CA. Electronically center your servo and mount the ez-connector to the servo arm. Place the z-bend in the aileron control horn and the other end of the wire into the hole in the ez-connector. Center the aileron and tighten the screw in the top of the ez-connector to retain the aileron pushrod wire. Use a small file to grind a flat spot on the pushrod wire so that the set screw will seat properly and maintain a firm grip on the pushrod wire. See picture.





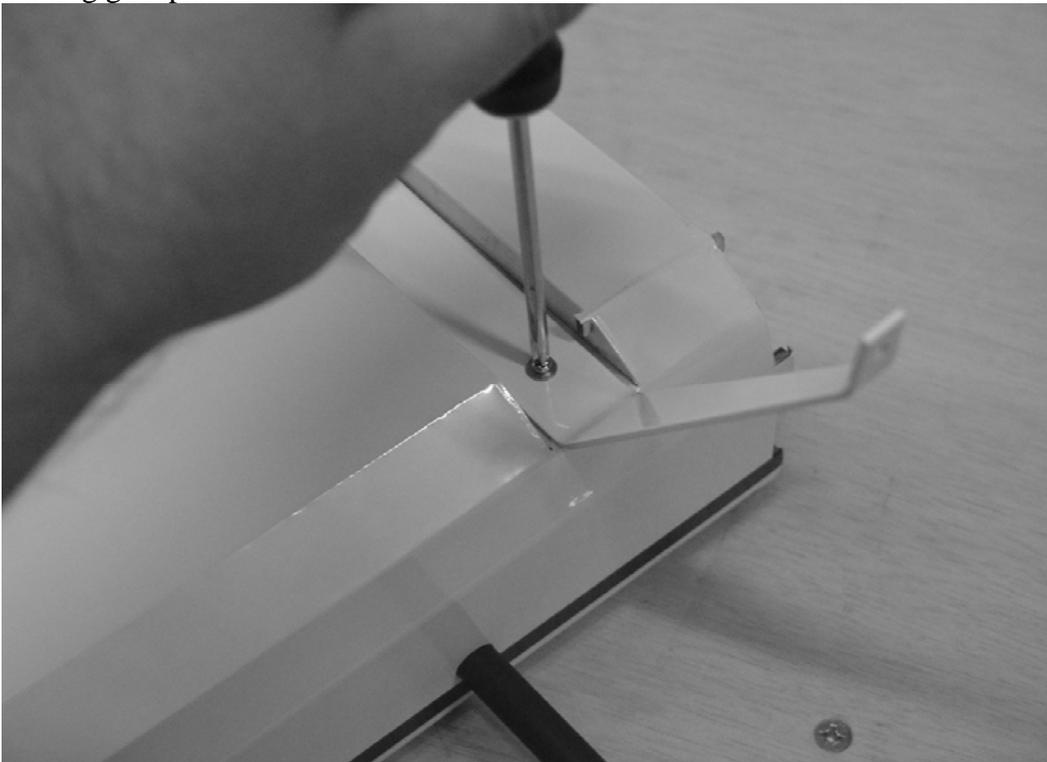
4. Repeat this procedure for the other wing.
That's it! You are done with the wings!

Fuselage Assembly

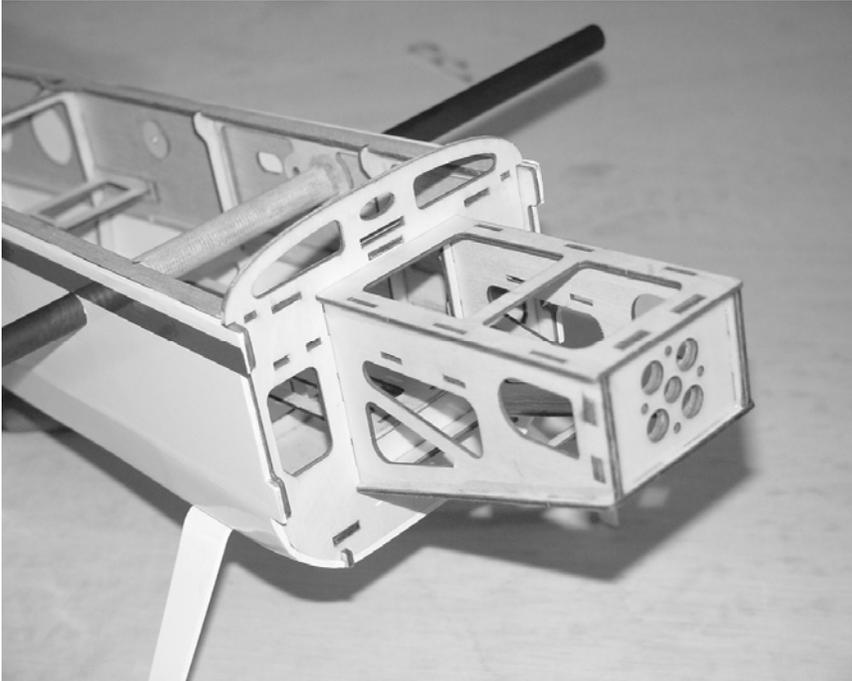
5. Lets mount the landing gear first. Locate the aluminum landing gear, (2) 3mm machine screws, (2) park flyer axles, (2) nylon insert lock nuts, (2) wheel collars, (2) wheel pants, (2) wheels and (2) plywood squares from the hardware package. Use medium CA to glue the plywood square to the inside of each wheel pant, centered in the wheel pant. Make a slot in the wheel pant and ply plate big enough to slide over the threaded portion of the axle. Place the wheel on the axle followed by the wheel collar. Slide the wheel pant over the axle with the retention ring inside the wheel pant. This ring will keep the wheel pant in place with friction. Insert the threaded portion of the axle into the hole in the end of the landing gear leg and secure with the nylon insert lock. Please see the picture on the next page for detail.



6. Place a drop of blue Loctite on the threads of the 3mm landing gear mounting bolts and insert them through the landing gear and into the pre-installed blind nuts in the landing gear plate.



7. Locate the motor box. Insert the tabs on the motor box into the slots in the F1 former. Use medium CA to secure the motor box to the F1 former. Make sure to apply CA to all joints on both sides of the F1 former as well as all joints in the motor box. You may need to bevel the top front edge and corners of the motor box with a sanding block for proper cowl fit. Do a trial fit of the cowl before installing the motor.



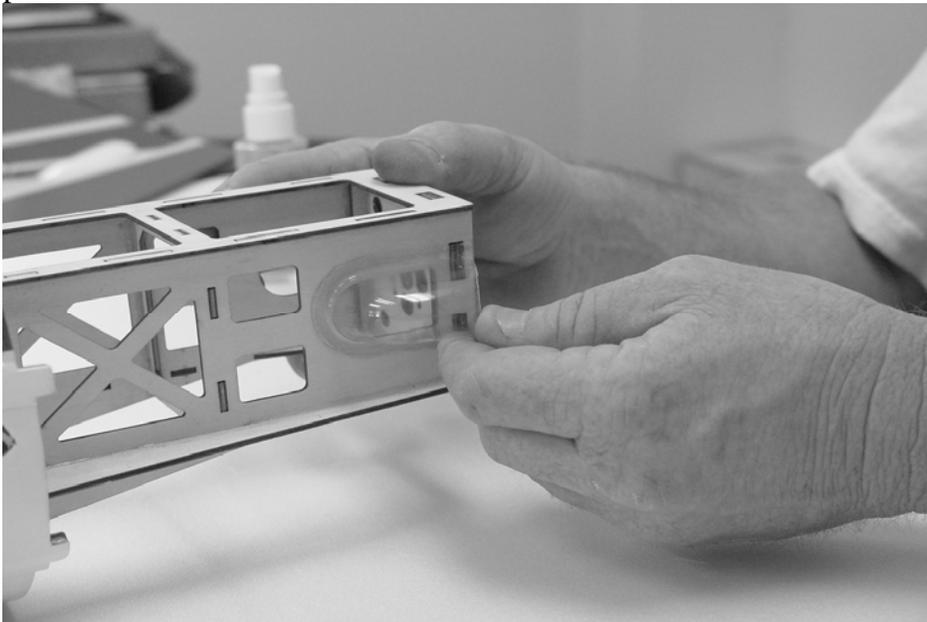
8. Add the 2 triangle support pieces to the motor box and secure with medium CA.



9. Use scissors to remove the air scoops from the plastic sheet.

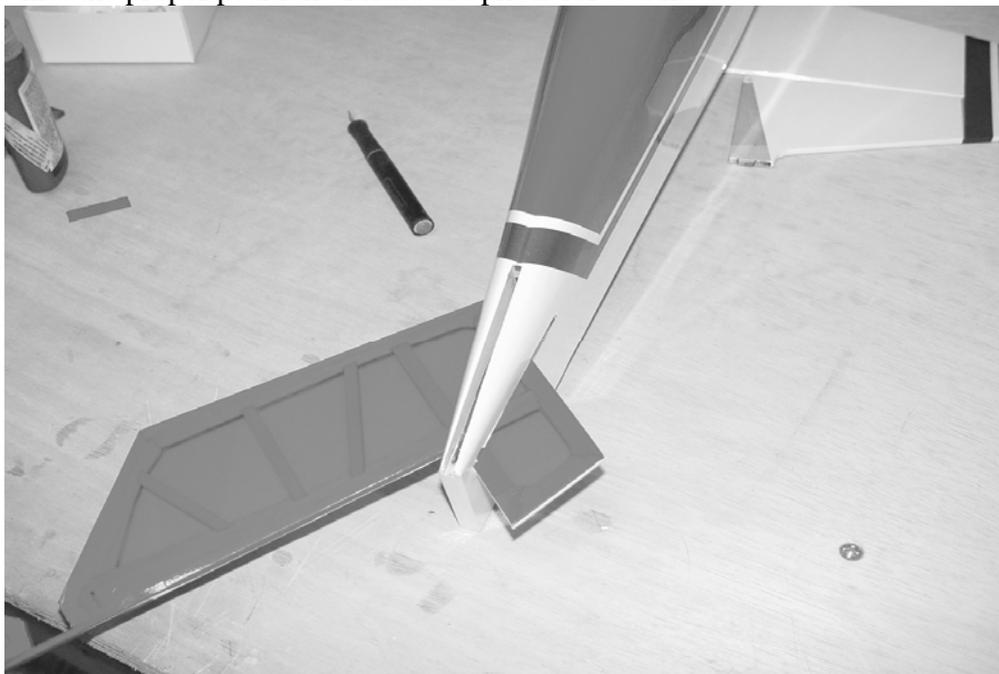


10. Use medium CA to secure the scoops to the side of the motor box as shown in the photo.



11. Locate the horizontal stab. Trial fit the stab into its slot in the rear of the fuselage and use a felt tipped marker to mark where the covering will need to be removed from the horizontal stab. Remove the stab and use a sharp #11 blade to remove the covering where the stab will mate to the fuselage to insure a good wood to wood bond. **Do not glue the stab in place at this time!**

12. Insert the elevator into the slot in the rear fuselage side. It must be inserted upside down with the counter balances facing the rear of the plane, then it can be rotated into the proper position. Please see photo for detail.

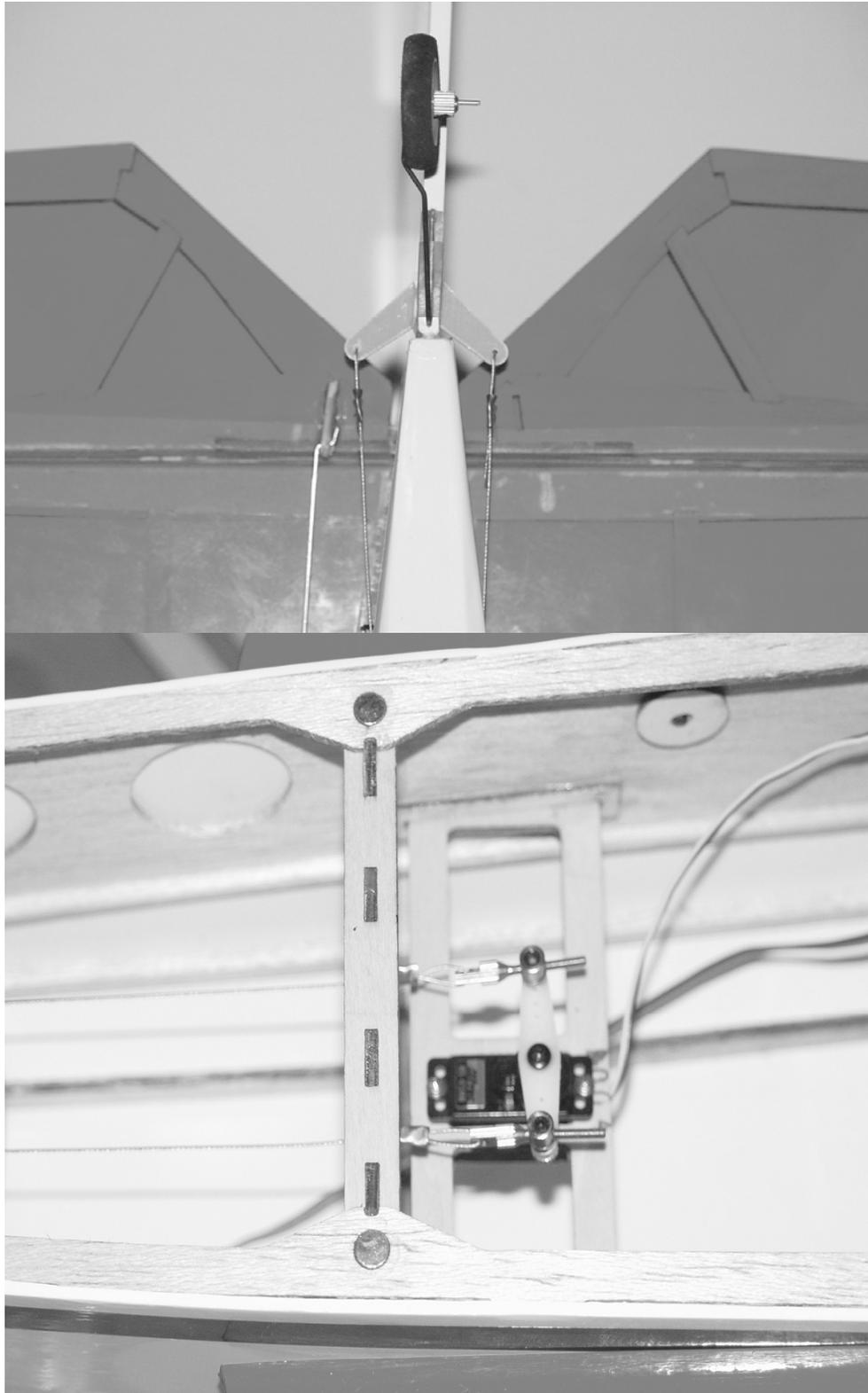


13. Insert the carbon fiber wing tube into the fiberglass sleeve in the fuselage and slide both wings onto the tube. Make sure the root rib of the wing is flush against fuselage.
14. Re-insert the horizontal stabilizer into its slot. Compare the horizontal stab to the wing and insure that they are parallel. Trim or shim the slot as needed to insure proper alignment. When satisfied with the alignment, glue the horizontal stab in place with CA.
15. Slide the elevator onto the hinges in the horizontal stab and glue in place with thin CA. Make sure the elevator is fully deflected when you apply the CA to insure maximum elevator travel is achievable.
16. Slide the vertical fin into its slot and mark where the covering needs to be removed. Remove the fin and use a #11 blade to carefully remove the covering from the lower portion of the fin to insure a wood to wood joint. Re-insert the stab and secure with CA, being careful to make sure the fin is properly aligned with the wing and stab and rear of fuselage. Attach rudder to the vertical fin using the 3 supplied hinges and thin CA.

17. Locate the elevator control horn and glue in place with medium CA or epoxy. Make sure to scuff the surface of the control horn before gluing. Use a #11 blade to remove the covering from the elevator servo slot and install the servo using the manufacturer supplied mounting hardware. Place an ez-connector on the servo arm. Locate the elevator pushrod and insert the z-bend into the phenolic control horn and the other end into the ez connector. Electronically center the servo and then tighten the screw in the ez connector to clamp down on the pushrod, while making sure the elevator is in the neutral position. Make sure to file a flat spot on the pushrod to allow the set screw to seat properly and maintain a firm grip on the pushrod wire. You may need to put a small bend in the pushrod. We have had great success with the Hitec HS-65 and the JR 281.



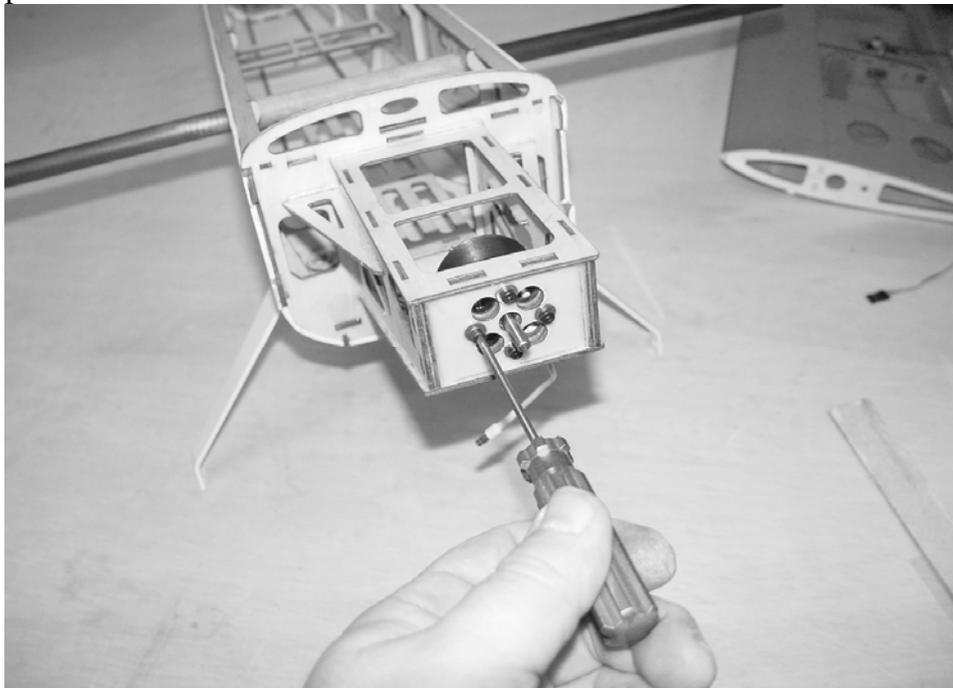
18. Use a #11 blade to remove the covering from the slot near the bottom of the rudder. Locate the composite control horn for the rudder. Scuff the control horn to remove the glossy finish and glue into place in the slot in the rudder. Be sure to center the horn in the slot.
19. Mount the rudder servo as shown inside the fuselage. Use the supplied hardware to assemble the pull-pull cable system. There are 2 plastic guide tubes in the rear of the fuselage to accept the pull-pull cables. Locate these tubes using these pictures as guides. Make a hole in the covering where the tubes exit the fuselage and insert the pull-pull cable. At the rudder control horn end, the cable will be threaded through the control horn and secured with a small aluminum tube which is crimped around the cable as pictured in the photo. At the servo end, the cable is threaded through the hole in the connector as shown, secured with a crimp and then inserted into the ez connector. Center the servo electronically and make sure the rudder is in the neutral position. Tighten the screw in the ez connector. Make sure the cables are taut, but not overly tight, which may cause the servo to bind. Please see series of photos below for more detail.



20. Drill a small hole in the bottom of the rudder and insert the pre-bent tailwheel wire into place. Use a piece of strapping tape to secure the tailwheel wire to the rudder as shown. Slide the tailwheel onto the wire and retain with the small wheel collar.

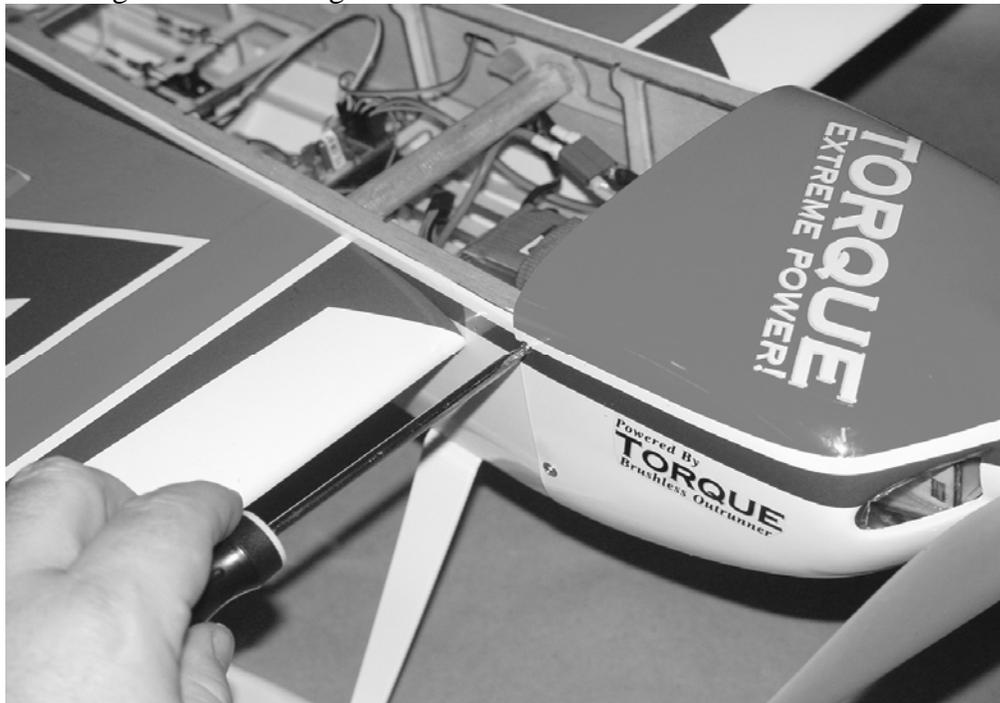


21. Use the supplied 3mm bolts and washers to mount the motor to the mounting plate. Put a drop of blue Loctite on the mounting bolts, place a washer on the bolt and insert through the front of the motor mounting plate and into the threaded holes in the face of the motor. Tighten firmly, being careful not to crush the phenolic doubler.

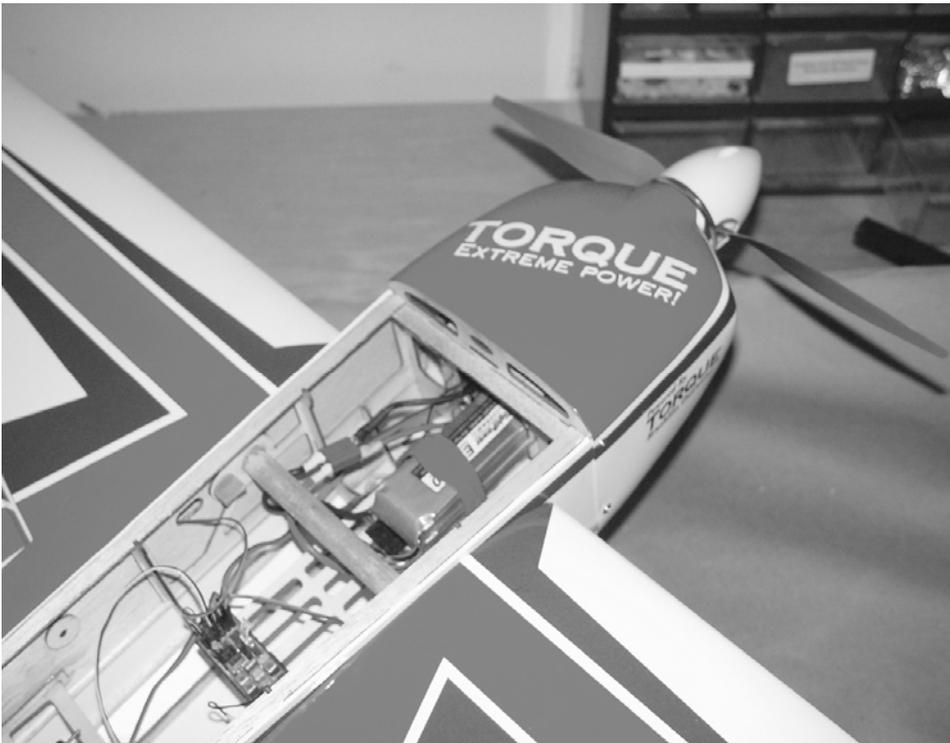


22. Mount the ESC with Velcro or nylon cable ties behind the motor inside the motor box. Insert the gold bullet connectors from the motor into the female connectors on the ESC. Secure the wires with a nylon cable tie to prevent them from touching the rotating case of the motor.

23. Soak the cowl mounting tabs with thin CA
24. Place the canopy/hatch in place on the fuselage and make sure it is positioned properly. Slide the cowling into place. The rear of the cowl should be flush with the rear of the F1 former. Make sure the prop shaft is centered in the cowl opening. You may want to install the spinner at this time to insure that the cowl is properly positioned. We recommend using a 2" spinner for the Edge (we like the Great Planes 2" spinner with lightened aluminum backplate). View the cowl from the front, top and sides and when satisfied with the position, secure the cowl with masking tape. Use a small drill bit mounted in a pin vise to drill through the cowl and into the mounting tabs. You can view through the openings in the front of the cowl to make sure you are drilling into the center of the tab. Use the 4 small mounting screws with large heads to secure the cowl.



25. Slide the included collet style prop adapter onto the motor shaft and attach the spinner and prop.
26. Install the receiver at the rear of the battery tray using Velcro. Use Velcro to the battery to the battery tray and use a Velcro strap around the battery.
27. Use the supplied nylon bolts to secure the wings to the fuselage. They insert from inside the fuselage through the hole behind the wing tube and into the blind nut in the root rib of the wing. Tighten until snug.
28. The following photo shows the location of the battery and receiver in our Edge.



29. Remove the covering from the bottom of the fuselage as shown to allow cooling air to escape from the fuselage.



This concludes the assembly of the Edge 540T.

Radio Set-up and flight tips.

CG range for the Edge 540T is from 3"- 3.5" from the leading edge of the wing measured at the wing root. Correct CG should be easy to achieve by moving the battery along the length of the battery tray. Adjust to fit your flying style.

Control surface recommendations are as follows:

Elevator- 10 degrees low rates, 45+ degrees high rates.

Rudder- 20 degrees low rates, 45+ degrees high rates.

Aileron- 20 degrees low rates, 45+ degrees high rates.

Use exponential function to achieve the best "feel" for your particular flying style. I highly recommend that you take the time to set up rates for precision flying and separate rates for 3D. The Edge 540T is capable of flying very precise maneuvers, and proper rates and CG will allow you to experience this to the fullest extent.

Trying to fly precision aerobatics with 3D rates is an exercise in futility. Spend some time dialing in and trimming your plane and you will be rewarded with a great flying experience.

Thanks again for your business!

See you at the flying field!