



RC **MODEL WORLD**

Parkzone Focke-Wulf 190

PKZ1600

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ParkZone FW 190

Ready-to-fly electric at its best, just charge and go...!



The arrival of the ParkZone range of models from Horizon Hobby onto the RTF scene is an innovative breakthrough in ready-to-fly technology. My initial thoughts were that it should be placed in the toy category, as it appeared to be far too delicate and probably wouldn't withstand its first landing, but this severe misconception was soon put aside when I flew it!

FW 190 Walkround

This is an instant RTF model straight from the box with no construction necessary apart from screwing on the wings with three small self-tapping screws into the plastic cradle fitted inside the fuselage, and fitting the tailplane. The 50-plus page instruction manual is daunting until you open it and realise that it is printed in five languages and the relative instruction is actually very basic and simple to read with the main body of text concentrating on how to fly it.

This FW 190 comes with everything ready to get you into the air in as short a time as possible and is easy to make ready for flight. It has been designed for those who cannot or do not wish to build. It is an 'encouraging' model that leaves you wanting more!

The wings and fuselage are moulded foam with a pre-decorated plastic film skin and it is finished well. Additional stick on decals have been added, and on this sample model were badly misaligned – but it's only for fun. My only concern was the tape concealing the wing edge joins, but this has proved to hold out well after several flights.

The tailplane fitment simply slides into the moulded recess and is held in place with short strips of tape. Make sure the alignment is straight with careful measurement before attaching the tape as this will not adhere if removed, and it does take off the print if you try!



Above: 480-motor and gear-train face rearwards

The elevator pushrod is simply 2 mm wire and my initial thoughts were doubtful as they were unsupported through the fuselage. I was proved wrong, as in flight there are no signs of delay of control or blowback of the control surfaces.

The C of G is determined by the prop nut, and an addi-

Specifications

MODEL INFORMATION

Name: ParkZone FW 190 (PKZ1600)

Manufacturer: Horizon Hobby, Inc.

Distributor: Helger Distribution Ltd.

Price: £129.99

Model Type: Sports Scale

Motor: Geared 480

Construction: RTF

R/C FUNCTIONS

- 1 Aileron
- 2 Elevator
- 3 ESC/Throttle

MODEL DETAILS

Wingspan: 39.5" (1000 mm)

Length: 33" (850 mm)

Weight: 760 g (27 oz) with battery

DISLIKES

Aileron pushrod connector
Wing fixing method

LIKES

Packaging
Overall scale appearance and attention to detail
Suitability for purpose
Flying envelope and realism
Price



Above: Everything you need including tools and batteries

tional balancing nut is included in the package. If you are fitting LiPo batteries then the C of G must be readjusted with a little additional weight in the nose.

Taking Control

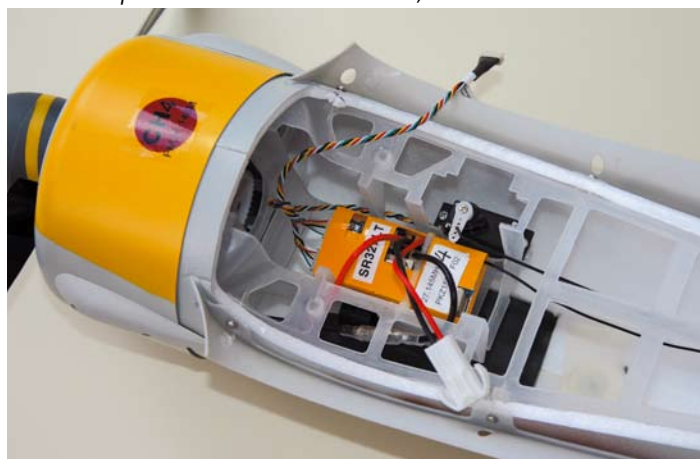
The transmitter is operated by eight individual AA-size batteries. With no rudder, the single stick control is via aileron and elevator only.

The ParkZone FW 190 is equipped with the 'Mode Change Flight Control'™ system or 'rates' on a single switch, with the onboard computer being preset at two flight modes giving the novice or experienced pilot an option for comfort when flying. This switch is situated on the top of the transmitter, which is fully proportional with standard trim layout. The only difference with this Tx is that the throttle control is a slide control that sits

Below: Battery compartment



Below: The plastic cradle retains the motor, receiver and elevator servo



Above: Loops, rolls and inverted flight is without concern as there is ample power

Flying at its Best

With the flight battery charged and placed into the battery hatch on top of the front decking it is just a simple matter of turning on the transmitter, connecting the battery, closing the lid and checking the controls! The launch is as easy as throwing a stick; without any effort, using the moulded-in finger holes in the wing underside, a gentle push and away it goes.

The controls initially seemed soft compared to the larger ARF wood-built models, but as soon as height was gained and some speed built up it was apparent that this is a fun model that has all the built-in factors required to 'get you going'.

The ParkZone FW 190 is not super fast, but it has the realistic scale speed of its full size counterpart and is able to carry out barrel rolls and loops with ease. Stall turns are out due to the fact it has no rudder, but lazy eights and climbing turns can be achieved easily.

With the power off the model sinks quicker than you would expect initially, but with some useful throttle control a long descent can be achieved with ease.

This little FW 190 handles much like a trainer and for this reason I would be happy to say that a novice could fly this under qualified instruction, as it is very stable and well balanced. It has no vices and the banked turns are positive without delay or default. Anticipated correction of the controls in the turns didn't happen and I enjoyed flying it more than once!

The straight and level low speed stall doesn't happen and the response to this test was a gently nose drop and away. This is probably due to the built-in dihedral of the main wings and a small amount of washout at the wingtips.

Power off landings are made easy by the fact that it glides well and doesn't drop its nose unless you lose too much speed. Slight flaring on touchdown helps protect the prop and cowl chin. Flight times lasting between 10 and 20 minutes can be achieved with careful use of the throttle. Recharging the accompanying NiMH battery takes around 30 minutes from the portable 12 v charger supplied.

Below: Aileron pushrod adjuster





Above: Underside reveals the finger grip for hand-launching and air cooling outlets

diagonally across the front as a replacement for the left stick, but this didn't seem to effect my thoughts when flying.

A special 9-cell 10.8 v 1000 mAh NiMH AR pack with Tamiya connector is supplied, and a 12 v Variable Rate DC Peak Charger is also included and fitted with a suitable car cigarette-lighter plug. Set at the suggested charge rate of 1.4 A the LED will blink while the battery is charging for around 40 minutes.

The 480-size geared can motor is attached neatly at the front of the internal plastic cradle. Isolation of the battery to receiver is via the plug only, which is accessible through the battery hatch.

Combat modules can be fitted for interaction between similar models and a 'fire' button is fitted on the Tx for this purpose.

Receiver/ESC

The ParkZone FW 190 is fitted with a unique 27 MHz receiver/ESC unit that allows some flexibility of mixing and control settings: By means of repositioning or adding 'Jumpers' you can mix elevator and aileron, V-tail or standard tail, and adjust Auto Cut-Off which determines the voltage level cut off for the motor, being set initially at 5.7 v for a 6 to 9-cell NiMH pack, changing to 8.8 v if using a 3-cell LiPo (adaptor supplied). This also allows the unit to be transferred to other models and set up to suit accordingly. A section in the manual is dedicated to these settings which are preset to this particular model when purchased and need not be adjusted.



Above: Transmitter controls. Note sliding throttle and 'A' or 'B' rate switch

Conclusions

This is a real value for money RTF model that should, in the right hands, introduce novice flyers to the hobby long-term, or is suitable for aeromodellers who just want to fly, and will also serve as a model for enthusiasts who like to build the traditional way but want to put something quickly into the air. The ParkZone FW 190 is stable and handles well, and is fairly easy to fly – and there is no messy fuel to clean up so it can go straight into the family car. No glue, no painting or covering, no radio installation, no mess! If you just want to charge-and-fly straight from the box then this is for you.

RCMW

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