

GREAT PLANES[®]

REAL FLIGHT

R/C SIMULATOR

NexSTAR[®] EDITION



INSTALLATION AND START-UP GUIDE

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WELCOME

Welcome to the RealFlight NexSTAR Edition software- the no fear way to learn to fly your NexSTAR trainer. With its realistic sights, sounds and R/C feel, RealFlight is arguably the fastest and easiest way to gain R/C experience. By the time you venture to the flying field you'll look, and feel, like an experienced R/C pilot.

This Installation and Start-Up Guide provides you with a brief overview of this software; answers some of the most frequently asked questions; and assists you with the installation and start-up of your simulation.

**THIS PRODUCT SHOULD BE USED AS A TRAINING AID
AND NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR A QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR.**

GETTING STARTED

Note: Great Planes is continually striving to make an already delightful program even better through refinements in the programming. If you'd like to take advantage of these advancements, we suggest that you update your software. It's FREE and it's easy. It will only take a few minutes of your time and will enhance your experience even further!

Additionally, we strongly suggest that you review your video and sound card drivers prior to installing the RealFlight software. If the drivers do not meet the minimum system requirements as noted, please update them accordingly prior to installing the software. For information on how to do so, please see the owner's manual that accompanied your PC or visit: <http://www.gpssoftware.com>

Minimum System Requirements

- Windows® XP*, 2000*, ME, 98SE
* Local administrator access required
- Intel® Pentium® 300 or equivalent
- Direct X™ 8.1 (or above) compatible video and sound card
- 3D accelerated video card with 8 MB (or more) RAM (VooDoo 1 and VooDoo 2 video cards are not supported)
- 64 MB RAM
- 500 MB hard drive space
- 4X CD-ROM drive
- USB Port
- USB NexSTAR Interface Unit and NexSTAR transmitter

Optimum System Requirements

- Intel Pentium 600 or equivalent
- 3D accelerated video card with 16 MB (or more) RAM (VooDoo 1 and VooDoo 2 video cards are not supported)
- 128 MB RAM

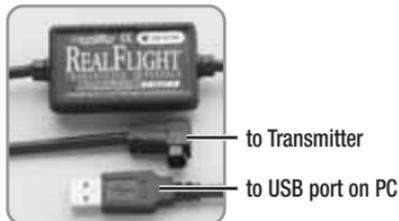
INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE AND THE USB TRANSMITTER INTERFACE

Software Installation:

1. Close ALL open applications. Note: This includes virus checkers and other such applications.
2. Insert the RealFlight NexSTAR CD-ROM into the appropriate CD-ROM drive.
3. If 'Auto-Play' is active setup will begin automatically when you close the CD-ROM drive. However, if 'Auto-Play' is not active, click 'Start' then click 'Run'; when a dialog box appears type: 'd:\setup' assuming that 'd' is your CD-ROM drive.
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the setup procedure. The setup procedure will ask for your serial number. This number is located on the back of the CD-ROM jewel case. Please be sure to enter the numbers exactly as they appear. When entering the serial number please make sure that you include all dashes, letters, etc. as found on the product serial numbers. Failure to enter the serial numbers correctly will not allow you to proceed to the next step. Once the serial numbers have been appropriately entered, the 'Next' button will become active. Click on the 'Next' button to continue with the installation procedure.
5. Upon completion of the RealFlight setup, the installation process will continue by inquiring of you would like to install Microsoft's DirectX on your computer. DirectX is necessary in order to run your RealFlight software. If, however, you do not wish to install DirectX, please click 'No' at this time. If you are unsure as to whether your PC has the appropriate version of DirectX, we suggest that you allow RealFlight to install DirectX onto your computer at this time. DirectX will automatically install only the appropriate files on your computer.
6. Click 'Finish' to complete this portion of the software installation procedure. Upon the completion of the USB Transmitter Interface (as described below), RealFlight will need to finalize the software installation.

USB Transmitter Interface:

1. Because the Transmitter Interface adapter uses the USB (Universal Serial Bus) port there is very little to do in the way of setup. With the software installation procedure completed, plug in the interface's USB cord into any open USB port on your PC. These ports are labeled accordingly. Additionally,



the USB port allows the controller to be plugged in with the PC 'on'. Therefore, there is no need to power down the computer in order to connect the interface adapter.

2. The green light on the interface unit should begin to blink. This indicates that the interface is properly connected. If the light does not glow, please remove the interface from the USB port and plug in firmly once again.
3. Firmly plug the square six-pin cord into the receptacle on the back of your NexSTAR transmitter.
4. Turn the transmitter's power switch to 'on'.

Note: It is possible that Windows® may need to install the appropriate files for the USB interface unit to function correctly. Should the need arise, please have your Windows® CD-ROM available.

Starting the RealFlight Program

1. Make sure that no other programs are running.
2. With the RealFlight- NexSTAR Edition CD in the CD-ROM drive, click on the RealFlight NexSTAR icon on your desktop.
3. The program will now guide you through the final installation steps. Please follow the onscreen instructions.
4. Upon completion of these steps, your RealFlight NexSTAR software experience will begin.

After the initialization process, the program will go through a brief flyby. Using the NexSTAR transmitter, take off and fly briefly to ensure that RealFlight is functioning correctly.

FIRST FLIGHT AND VIRTUAL FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR-

Entry-level pilots will benefit greatly from a brief introduction to R/C flight. First of all, it is important to learn the function of each of the controls on your R/C transmitter. Holding the transmitter in front of you so that the antenna exits the top, you will notice that there are two sticks. These sticks are commonly referred to as gimbals. They will be used to provide the primary input to your R/C aircraft.

It is probably easiest to picture yourself as the pilot of the aircraft (with the aircraft upright) when discussing the input directions.

Note: The following input directions are written for Mode 2 transmitters.



Moving the left stick up or down will increase or decrease the **throttle** (or engine) speed of your aircraft. The further forward (away from you) that it is pushed, the faster the aircraft will travel. The opposite is also true. Pulling the throttle stick towards you will decrease the throttle, slowing the aircraft.

The left/right motion of the left stick will cause the **rudder** control surface to move left/right accordingly. When viewed from the pilot's perspective, this causes the airplane to turn left or right — on the ground and in the air.



Moving the right stick up or down changes the pitch of the aircraft. Pulling the stick back, for example, causes the **elevator** control to rise — forcing the nose to point up and thereby increasing altitude.

Moving the right stick left and right manipulates the **aileron** (located on each wing) and makes the plane tip toward one side or the other. That's how you're able to “bank” into a turn.



Please remember, the control movements mentioned assume that the aircraft is facing away from you (tail closest to you) and that the aircraft is in the upright position. If the aircraft is coming towards you, right input appears to be left and left appears to be right. Again, picture yourself in the pilot's seat to avoid any confusion.

Also, if the aircraft is inverted (upside down) with the wheels facing skyward, the forward movement of the elevator will increase altitude rather than decreasing altitude. To decrease altitude, simply pull the elevator stick towards you.

A general rule of thumb for R/C is that slight, fluid movements of the stick are best. Rapid, jerky movements will cause the aircraft to respond too dramatically. The best way to learn precise control over the aircraft is to practice frequently.

Additionally, we are pleased to offer you 'hands-on' flight training from an award-winning R/C pilot, who talks you through the key points of the maneuver. These pre-recorded maneuvers can be utilized to learn new maneuvers and to perfect those that you might already know.



RealFlight includes basic flight lessons for entry-level air-plane pilots. During the lesson, you can use the controls to speed up, slow down, and loop segments of the maneuver, enabling you to study each phase of the maneuver in-depth. You can even view the instructor's stick movements in real time, using an onscreen digitized controller. As the instructor's aircraft is a "live" part of your simulated world, you may choose to either watch his aircraft, or fly your aircraft alongside to mimic the pros.

To activate the pre-recorded maneuvers, select **Virtual Flight Instructor** from RealFlight's **Options** menu. This will bring up a list of pre-recorded training maneuvers. From the list, please select the recording that you wish to utilize. More information regarding the Virtual Flight Instructor and playing back the flight is available in the complete NexSTAR manual located on the hard drive of your PC.

REALFLIGHT NEXSTAR EDITION: MENU-BASED PROGRAM

The RealFlight NexSTAR Edition software is a menu-based program. As such, there are menus that appear across the top of the screen. Clicking on a menu will, in turn, bring up the menu items for the respective menu. Use the menus to access the selected feature.

Below you will find a brief introduction to each of the menus and their contents. For complete details and information pertaining to the menus, please refer to the manual located on the hard drive of your PC.

Airport Click on this menu to access Airport-related options.

Aircraft This menu brings forth all of the Aircraft-related options.

Options This menu allow you to access a variety of options pertaining to the NexSTAR Edition's features and functionality.

View This menu allows you to control the view-related options.

Help The help menu is used to access a variety of options that are designated to assist you in further understanding and enjoying the simulator.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE

Upon installation, RealFlight attempts to optimize the configuration in order to achieve the best possible performance based upon your computer's specifications. If performance is less than you'd expect, below you will find some suggestions for improving the speed of the simulation:

- Ensure that the drivers for the video and sound cards are up-to-date.
- Close all other programs, especially virus checkers and network applications such as Instant Messengers, while running RealFlight NexSTAR Edition. Use CTRL-ALT-DELETE to ensure that nothing else is running in the background. The process for turning 'off' background applications varies by operating system. For information on how to do so, we suggest that you consult the owner's manual included with your operating system.
- Run the simulation in **Full Screen Mode** rather than using the **Run In Window** option. To do so, uncheck the **Run In Window** item in the Options menu. If the **Run In Window** item is checked, you are already running in **Full Screen Mode**.
- If running RealFlight NexSTAR Edition in **Window Mode**, alter the screen resolution from 32-bit to 16-bit color. Also, decrease the size of the window.
- Reduce the texture quality as this can have a profound effect on cards that do not have a high texture memory. To reduce the quality, select **Graphics Optimizations** from the **Options** menu, and then move the **Texture Quality** slider to the left.

- Eliminate shadows from the airport objects. In the **Options** menu, select **Graphics Optimizations** and then remove the check from the **Show Airport Object Shadows**.
- Eliminate the detail textures. In the **Options** menu select **Graphics Optimizations** and uncheck the Use **Detail Textures** box.
- Reduce the graphics quality used by RealFlight NexSTAR Edition. To do so, select **Graphics Optimizations** in the **Options** menu, and then move the **Graphics Quality Slider** to the left to decrease quality.
- Remove the trees from the airport. In the **Airport** menu, remove the check from the **Show Trees** item. If the item does not have a check, the trees have already been removed from the airport. To restore the trees, select the **Show Trees** item and check it.
- If you feel that the performance of the RealFlight NexSTAR Edition is not running at its optimum on your computer, you may want to eliminate some of the airport objects. To do so, click on the **Airport** menu and highlight **Item Visibility**. This brings up a submenu containing a list of objects. Objects marked with a check are visible. To “uncheck” them select the object from the list.

If you have 64MB or less of system RAM, you may need to upgrade your computer's RAM. To determine the amount of RAM on your computer, open the RealFlight Control Panel and then click the **Technical Support** button. The amount of RAM will be displayed as Memory in the upper left portion of the technical support information box.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY WITH REALFLIGHT NEXSTAR EDITION

Prior to attempting any further resolutions we strongly suggest that you update the drivers for your sound and video cards. Outdated drivers are a common cause for difficulties. Even if the computer is brand new, manufacturers often include drivers that are quite old and should be updated.

Additionally, updating the RealFlight software may also resolve any difficulties you are experiencing.

There are a variety of resources that are available to assist you in resolving any difficulties that might arise during the installation and/or use of your NexSTAR Edition software.

Manual -

The RealFlight NexSTAR Edition manual, installed on the hard drive of your PC, is a comprehensive guide that includes a wealth of information and advice on resolving difficulties, accessing features and so forth. To access the manual, open the RealFlight Control Panel, select the RFNexSTAR.doc in the drop down menu and then click the **Read Document** button.

Online Help -

The entire content of the manual is also available by selecting **Contents...** from RealFlight's **Help** menu. This method provides additional indexing and cross-referencing guides.

Knowledge Base -

Visit <http://www.gpssoftware.com>. This site includes an indexed, searchable collection of articles that describe a variety of difficulties and solutions for RealFlight owners.

Message Boards -

Peer assistance is available at: <http://www.knifeedge.infopop.net>. These discussion boards are frequently visited by knowledgeable computer users and RealFlight patrons alike and contain answers to many frequently asked questions.

Product Support -

Generally speaking, the resources above will assist you in overcoming any potential difficulties. If, however, you are not successful in locating a solution please contact our Product Support staff.

Product Support can more efficiently assist you in solving the difficulty if you provide the following information: detailed specifications regarding your computer system (including make, model, amount of RAM, video and sound card specifications, etc.); RealFlight NexSTAR Edition serial number; simulator version number being used; and the nature of the difficulty as well. Of particular importance would be any onscreen error messages that might appear.

If communicating via email, please be sure to include a valid return email address. Additionally, if you have not submitted your system information when registering online, we suggest that you also include system information at this time. This will assist our staff in rapidly diagnosing the difficulty and determining a solution.

To gather system information for our technical support personnel, do the following:

1. In the Windows **Start** menu, select **Program Files/RealFlight/RealFlight Control Panel**.
2. Click the **Technical Support** button.
3. Click the **Assemble System Information** button.

Having generated your system report, there are two ways to send it to us. The first, preferred, method is to attach the file 'c:\cpaneloutput.txt' to an email. The second method is to click on the **Copy to Clipboard** button in the **System** Information dialog, then paste the information into the body of the email.

Should you choose to write us, please include your address and a daytime telephone number so that we can call you back or send you the relevant information. If you choose to call Product Support, please try to be at the computer that is having problems, as this will assist us in resolving the situation efficiently.

RealFlight NexSTAR Edition Product Support

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Suite #1

Champaign, IL 61822

Phone (217) 398-8970 (option 1)

FAX (217) 398-7721

E-mail: rfnexstar@greatplanes.com

Internet: <http://www.realflight.com>

Searchable knowledge base: <http://www.gpssoftware.com>

PRODUCT REGISTRATION

To register your NexSTAR Edition software, click the 'Start' button on your Windows Taskbar, then move your cursor to the 'Programs' item, and then to RealFlight. Choose the 'RealFlight Control Panel' and then click the **Online Update** button. Next, click on the **Online Registration** button and enter all required information. To submit the registration information click on the **Send Information** button.

ONLINE UPDATES

Registered NexSTAR Edition owners can download the latest software version through the RealFlight Control Panel. Click the 'Start' button on your Windows Taskbar, then move your cursor to the 'Programs' item, and then to RealFlight. Choose RealFlight Control Panel. Then click the **Online Update** button. From the **Online Update** screen you can choose to update to the latest version or update to a specific version.

KEYBOARD MAPPING

Weather Conditions	W
Show Trees	T
Reset Position	Space Bar
Kill Engine	K
Run in Window	Tab
Virtual Flight Instructor	V
View: Zoom Reset	F1
View: Zoom In	F2
View: Zoom Out	F3
View: Look at my Airplane	F9

GREAT PLANES[®] REALFLIGHT R/C SIMULATOR *NexSTAR* EDITION



INSTALLATION AND START-UP GUIDE

Note: We strongly suggest that you retain all RealFlight NexSTAR Edition components, for proof-of-purchase. These may be required for participation in future promotional offerings and/or rebates.

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