

FlyzoneTM
how high will you soar



playmateTM

ASSEMBLE ONLY WITH ADULT SUPERVISION

Please read through this instruction booklet to **THOROUGHLY** familiarize yourself with the assembly and flight characteristics of this airplane prior to assembly. Please inspect all parts carefully before starting assembly! If any parts are missing, broken or defective, or if you have any questions about the assembly or flying of this airplane, please call us at (217) 398-8970 and we'll be glad to help.

WARRANTY

Hobbico® Inc. guarantees this kit to be free from defects in both material and workmanship at the date of purchase. This warranty does not cover any component parts damaged by use or modification. **In no case shall Hobbico's liability exceed the original cost of the purchased kit.** Further, Hobbico, Inc. reserves the right to change or modify this warranty without notice. In that Hobbico, Inc. has no control over the final assembly or material used for final assembly, no liability shall be assumed nor accepted for any damage resulting from the use by the user of the final user-assembled product. By the act of using the user-assembled product, the user accepts all resulting liability. **If the buyer is not prepared to accept the liability associated with the use of this product, the buyer is advised to return this kit immediately in new and unused condition to the place of purchase.** To make a warranty claim send the defective part or item to Hobby Services at the address below:

Hobby Services
3002 N. Apollo Dr. Suite 1
Champaign IL 61822 USA

Include a letter stating your name, return shipping address, as much contact information as possible (daytime telephone number, fax number, e-mail address), a detailed description of the problem and a photocopy of the purchase receipt. Upon receipt of the package, the problem will be evaluated as quickly as possible.

FCC REQUIREMENT This device complies with part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions.



- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference.
- (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

NOTE: THE MANUFACTURER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY RADIO OR TV INTERFERENCE CAUSED BY UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATIONS TO THIS EQUIPMENT. SUCH MODIFICATIONS COULD VOID THE USER'S AUTHORITY TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT.

PRECAUTIONS

Your Playmate should not be considered a toy, but rather a sophisticated, working model that functions very much like a full-size airplane. Because of its performance capabilities, the Playmate, if not assembled and operated correctly, could possibly cause injury to yourself or spectators and damage to property.

1. Operate the plane **according to instructions**. **DO NOT** alter or modify the model. If you make any modifications, you void your warranty.
2. **Test** the operation of the model **before each flight** to insure that all equipment is operating properly and that the model remains structurally sound.
3. Fly only indoors or on very calm days (with wind speeds less than 5mph) and in large open areas free of trees, people, buildings, or any other obstacles.
4. Although the Playmate is designed to be successfully flown by the first time pilot, you may still benefit from the assistance of an experienced pilot for your first flights. If you're not a member of an R/C club, your local hobby shop has information about clubs in your area whose membership includes experienced pilots. You can also contact the National Academy of Aeronautics (AMA) which has over 2,500 chartered clubs across the country. Instructor training programs and insured newcomer training are available through any of these clubs. Contact the AMA at the following address or toll-free phone number:



Academy of Model Aeronautics
5151 East Memorial Drive
Muncie, IN 47302-9252
Tele. (800) 435-9262
Fax (765) 741-0057
www.modelaircraft.org

The R/C model hobby becomes more and more enjoyable as your experience grows. Your chances for success and graduation to higher levels are very good if you take your time and follow the flying instructions carefully and completely. We hope you enjoy flying your Playmate plane.

GLOSSARY

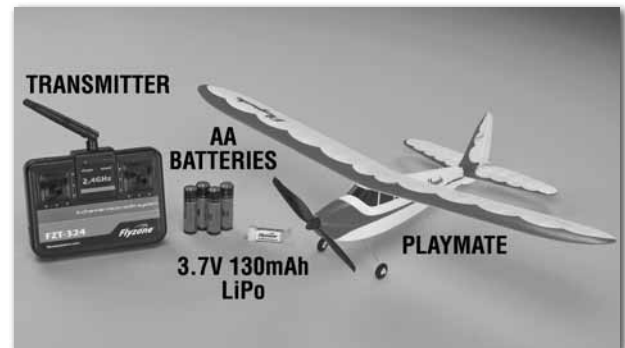
- **Lithium Polymer (LiPo) Battery:** Rechargeable battery which is used to power the airplane. LiPo batteries are lighter and smaller than most other types of rechargeable batteries.



- **Transmitter (TX):** This is the hand-held unit that sends the signal to the control unit, or RX.
- **Rudder:** Controls turning direction.
- **Elevator:** Controls altitude.

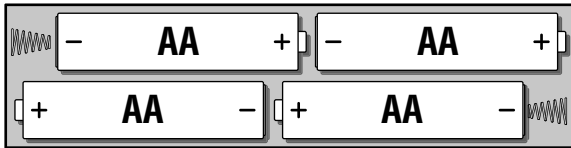
UNPACK THE BOX

Check the parts against those shown below. If any parts are damaged or missing, give us a call at: (217) 398-8970.



GET THE MODEL READY TO FLY

PREPARE THE TRANSMITTER



1. Remove the battery cover on the back of the transmitter and insert four “AA” batteries being sure the negative ends of the batteries are touching the springs.

TRANSMITTER CAUTIONS:

- Do not use rechargeable (NiCd) batteries.
- Do not mix old and new batteries.
- Do not mix alkaline, standard (carbon-zinc) or rechargeable (NiCd) batteries.



2. Open the charge lead door on the side of the transmitter and extend the charge lead as shown.



3. Close the door with the charge lead exiting from the notch in the door. Ensure that the charge lead is not pinched or severed when the door is reinstalled.

CHARGING THE PLANE'S LIPO BATTERY

IMPORTANT!

NEVER LEAVE A CHARGING BATTERY UNATTENDED!

WARNING!! Failure to follow all instructions could cause permanent damage to the battery and its surroundings, and cause bodily harm!

- ONLY use the Playmate transmitter to charge the LiPo battery.
- ALWAYS charge in a fireproof location.
- NEVER allow battery temperature to exceed 150°F [65°C].
- NEVER disassemble or modify pack wiring in any way or puncture cells.
- NEVER place on combustible materials or leave unattended during charge or discharge.
- ALWAYS KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.



1. With the power switch on the transmitter set to “OFF”, connect the battery to the charge lead on the side of the transmitter.



2. With the power switch in the “OFF” position and the battery connected to the charge lead, the left LED will illuminate green.

3. When the charging process has been completed, the LED will go out.

4. After each flight, remove the battery pack from the airplane and allow it to cool completely before recharging.

5. **Do not leave the battery connected to the Playmate for an extended period of time. This can cause permanent damage to the battery.**

BATTERY CHARGING PRECAUTIONS

1. Always remove the battery from your Playmate before charging.
2. Do not leave a charging battery unattended! Unplug the battery if it gets warm, even if the left LED has not gone out.
3. Do not use a different charger to charge the Playmate flying battery.

WARNING: Misuse or malfunction may overheat the battery and charger, resulting in personal injury or damage to surroundings.

BATTERY RECYCLING

ATTENTION: The product you have purchased is powered by a rechargeable battery. At the end of the battery's useful life, under various state and local laws, it may be illegal to dispose of this battery into the municipal waste system. Check with your local solid waste officials for details in your area for recycling options or proper disposal.

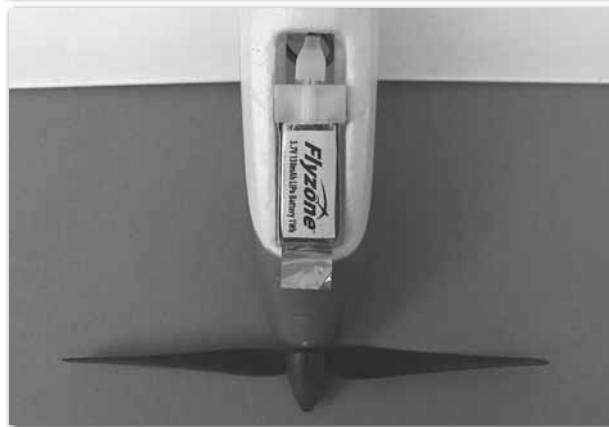
WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer.

FIRST FLIGHT

INSTALL THE AIRPLANE BATTERY



1. Be sure your transmitter has fresh "AA" batteries installed. Turn on the transmitter by moving the switch to the right.



2. Connect the battery to the airplane and press it into the battery compartment. The hook and loop material will hold it in place during flight. **NOTE:** Always stay clear of the propeller when the battery is plugged into the airplane!

CHECK THE CONTROL DIRECTIONS



1. When the right control stick is moved down, the elevator should move up.



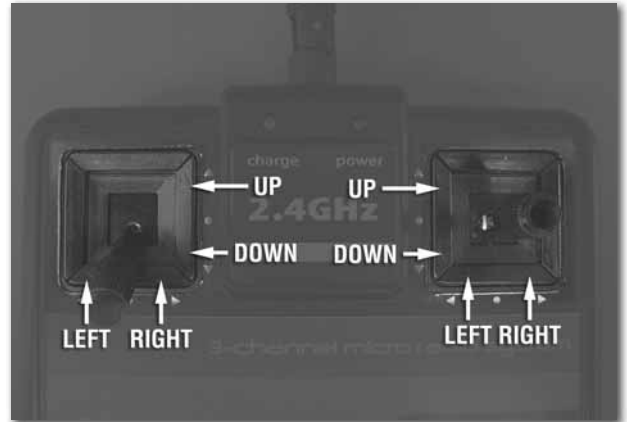
2. When the right control stick is moved to the left, the rudder should move to the left.



3. With the left control stick in the down position, the propeller should not be rotating. To test the operation of the motor, be sure to have a firm grasp of the airplane with your hands clear of the

rotational arc of the propeller. Be sure to point the nose of the airplane away from people or obstructions. **Note: when the LiPo battery is first plugged into the Playmate, the propeller will not rotate until the left control stick is first moved all the way to the down position. Once this is done, the motor is considered "armed" and will rotate if the left control stick is moved up.**

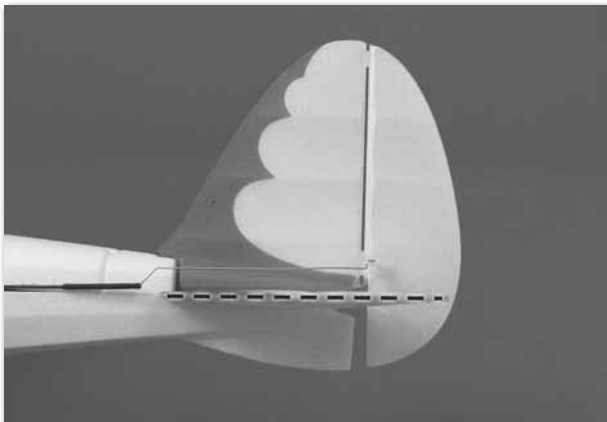
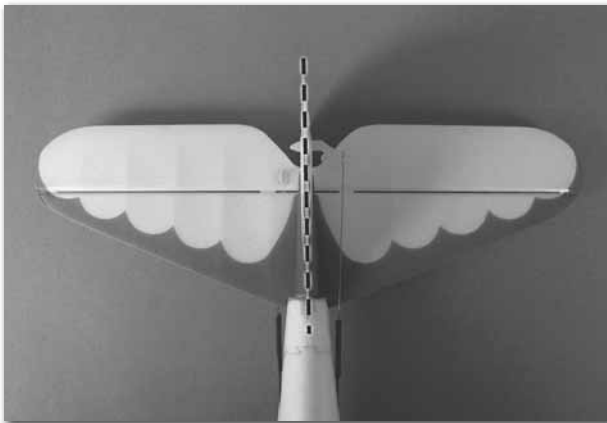
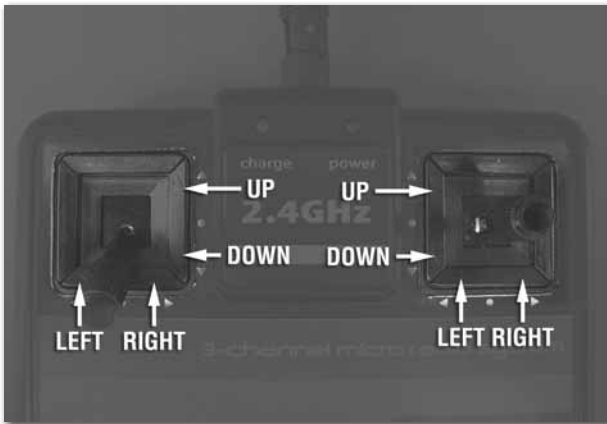
If any of the control surfaces need to be reversed using the procedure below, we recommend unplugging the LiPo battery from the airplane to prevent accidental rotation of the propeller.



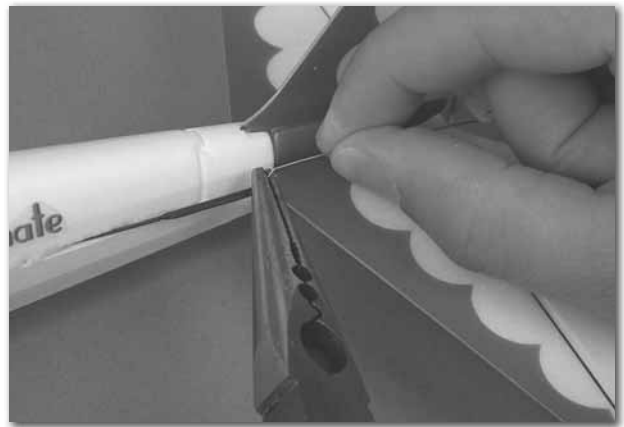
4. If the elevator does not move in the correct direction according to step #1, you can reverse its movement by pressing and holding the **LEFT TRIM** button below the left control stick and simultaneously pressing the **UP TRIM** button next to the right control stick.

5. If the rudder does not move in the correct direction according to step #2, you can reverse its movement by pressing and holding the **LEFT TRIM** button below the left control stick and simultaneously pressing the **LEFT TRIM** button below the right control stick.

ADJUSTING THE CONTROL TRIMS



1. Before making your first flight, use the trim buttons for the right control stick to center the elevator and rudder. Adjust the trim as necessary using the trim buttons until the elevator and rudder are inline with the horizontal stabilizer and vertical fin as shown.



2. If additional trim is required beyond what the trim buttons are capable of (when the maximum trim has been reached, the transmitter will make four quick beeps), the bends in the pushrods can be adjusted to “mechanically” change the trim of the control surfaces. When setting up the trims for the first flight, be sure that you will have trim movement available in both directions so you can make fine adjustments during the flight. Do not make your first flight with any of the trim buttons set at their maximum position. Mechanically trim the control surfaces as necessary if this is the case.

CHOOSE A GOOD FLYING SITE

The Playmate should be flown indoors, but can also be flown outside only when the wind speed is 5 mph [8km/h] or less. If the wind is calm or very light, the Playmate will be docile and easy to control. Also, find an area clear of trees, power lines and other structures. A flying field for R/C planes is best. Don't fly around groups of people, especially children.

PREPARE FOR TAKEOFF

1. Find an open area free of buildings, trees, power lines and people. If flying indoors, we recommend a minimum flying area of 60' x 60' [18m x 18m] with a 12' [4m] ceiling. A single court gymnasium would be a good choice.

2. For your first few flights, fly only when the wind is calm. After you are comfortable with the airplane, you can fly in winds that are no more than 5 miles per hour [8km/h]. If flown in stronger winds, the plane will be very difficult to control or may be blown downwind and not have enough power to get back.

3. Make sure the battery pack is fully charged and that the transmitter has fresh “AA” batteries installed.

FLYING THE PLAYMATE

1. Perform a range check on your radio system before each flight. Switch on the transmitter and then connect the battery to the plane. Have a helper hold the airplane. **CAUTION:** Keep your hands behind the propeller. Walk 50' [15m] away from the airplane (or the maximum distance your flying site allows), holding the transmitter with the antenna pointing up. Move the right control stick, checking that the control surfaces respond. Move the throttle stick up to check the motor. If you still have control of the airplane, it is safe to fly. If you do not have control of the plane, make sure the batteries in the transmitter are fresh and the battery in the plane is charged.

2. With the throttle stick in the full up position, hand launch the Playmate into the wind (or if inside, launch in a direction that will provide you with the largest available space to make your first turn), at a slight upward angle. **NOTE:** For the first couple of flights, we recommend having a helper hand launch the airplane.

3. Your transmitter controls the altitude, direction and speed of the airplane. The right control stick controls the direction and altitude and the left stick controls the throttle. After you become comfortable with the flight characteristics of the Playmate, the plane can fly comfortably at 1/2- to 3/4-throttle.

4. When your airplane is moving away from you, moving the right control stick to the left will make your plane turn to the left. Moving the stick to the right will make the airplane turn to the right. To stop the turn, move the stick the opposite direction until the airplane is flying straight.

5. When the airplane is coming toward you, moving the right control stick left still causes left rudder, but your airplane goes to your right. In short, you have to reverse the way you control the rudder. Here's a good way to familiarize yourself with the controls: When the airplane is coming toward you, turn your body so that you are facing the same direction the airplane is going, looking over your shoulder at the airplane. Now when you move the right control stick left, the plane will go to your left.

6. Don't let the airplane get too far away from you. The farther away it is, the harder it is to see what the airplane is doing.

7. When learning to fly, it is best to keep the airplane high enough so that if you make a mistake, you have enough altitude to correct the mistake.

8. When you have become comfortable with the flight characteristics of the Playmate, it can takeoff from the ground. A smooth surface is required for the wheels to roll.

LANDING THE PLAYMATE

It's a known fact among fellow R/C pilots that your airplane will land. It is up to you as to where and how it lands.

1. For your first couple of flights we recommend that you attempt to land before the motor stops. When the battery voltage becomes low during flight, the motor will stop rotating to protect the battery from being discharged to an unsafe voltage. Flight speed will begin to decrease before this occurs. Land the Playmate when you notice a decrease in flight speed.

2. When the transmitter battery power gets low, the LED will become dim. When this happens, it's time to land your Playmate.

3. During your first flight, while at a high altitude, turn the motor off by moving the left control stick down and note how the Playmate reacts. This will give you an idea of how the airplane will react during a landing without power.

4. To land the Playmate, fly downwind, past the landing area. Gently turn into the wind and gradually reduce the throttle so that the airplane starts to slow into a smooth, descending path. Adjust the throttle as needed to reach the landing area, but not fly past it.

5. Just before landing, at about 1 foot [0.3m] above the ground, move the throttle control stick all the way down and apply some up elevator (right control stick down) to land the Playmate safely on the landing gear and tail skid.

CAUTION: If, during a rough landing, the propeller on the Playmate should become jammed and cannot rotate with the throttle in the run position, the battery and airplane electronics could become damaged. Immediately lower the throttle to stop the motor.

AFTER THE FLIGHT

Disconnect and remove the battery from the airplane. Then, switch the transmitter off. Allow the motor and battery to cool before recharging. Check the airplane over to make sure nothing has come loose or may be damaged.

REPAIRS

Even the best R/C pilots in the world damage their airplanes every now and then. In the unfortunate event that you damage your airplane, repairs are fairly simple to make yourself. If there are any cracks in the wing or fuselage, apply 6-minute epoxy, white glue, or foam-safe CA glue to the broken areas and hold them together with clear packaging tape. Let the glue cure, leaving the tape in place for added strength.

REPLACEMENT PARTS LIST

To order replacement parts for your Playmate, use the order numbers in the list below. Replacement parts are available only as listed. Replacement parts are not available from Product Support, but can be purchased from hobby shops or mail order/Internet order firms. If you need assistance locating a dealer to purchase parts, contact:

Product Support
 Phone: 217-398-0007
 Fax: 217-398-7721
 E-mail: productsupport@hobbico.com

Stock

HCAA6300
 HCAA6301
 HCAA6302
 HCAA6303
 HCAA6304
 HCAA6305
 HCAA6306
 HCAA6307
 HCAA6308
 HCAA6309
 HCAL7600
 HCAL7601

Description

Wing
 Tail Set
 Fuse Set
 Landing Gear
 Pushrods and Control Horns
 Propeller with Spinner
 Motor with Gearbox
 Motor
 Gearbox
 130 mAh LiPo Battery
 2.4GHz Tx
 Micro Control Unit (Rx/ESC/Servos)

TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM

CAUSE/SOLUTION

The power LED on the transmitter does not illuminate when the switch is moved to the ON position.

- The AA batteries in the transmitter are exhausted. Replace with new AA batteries.
- The AA batteries in the transmitter are installed incorrectly. Reinstall the batteries correctly as described on page 3.

The LEDs on the transmitter are dim or the transmitter emits a long beep.

- The AA batteries in the transmitter are low. Replace with new AA batteries.

The plane control surfaces or throttle do not respond to control stick inputs from the transmitter.

- The LiPo battery is depleted. Charge the battery.
- The LiPo battery is not properly connected to the airplane. Disconnect the battery and reconnect it, ensuring it is fully engaged in the connector in the correct orientation.
- The transmitter has become “unbound” with the airplane (the transmitter and airplane can no longer communicate with each other). To rebind the transmitter to the airplane, turn the transmitter switch to the ON position. Connect the LiPo battery to the airplane. While pressing the UP TRIM button next to the left control stick, press the DOWN TRIM button next to the left control stick. The transmitter will make several quick beeps, indicating the binding procedure is complete. Confirm operation of the airplane with the transmitter.

The control surfaces do not move in the correct direction.

- The transmitter control functions need to be reversed. Follow the reversing procedure described on page 5.

For any other problems not addressed here, please contact Product Support.