



PHOTOGRAPHY VIC OBSATZ

Perfectly at ease with his transmitter tray, the author demonstrates the hand rests and the freedom of movement afforded by the design. Material cost is negligible, and they're easy to come by.

I'm not a great flyer. I can get my plane up, do a couple of loops and land it in one piece ... most of the time. This is the reason for this article.

When I fly I have a tendency to over control. Some of my landings would make even a dummy pilot nauseous, so I needed to learn how to make smaller and subtler movements with the sticks. But, holding a transmitter, while concentrating on flying smoothly, was not the easiest thing in the world for me.

So I considered: What do some of the best flyers do that I could do to fly better? One fact struck me. Many use a transmitter tray, of course.

Now, there are trays and holders advertised in our model magazines, but, none of them suited my perceived needs. Designing and building my own transmitter tray was the only way to go. When I finished it I found the effort more than justified by my improved flying. Perhaps you can benefit from my tray also.

Construction

The Tx tray is made of 1/4-inch plywood (I used scrap). Everything is epoxied together and painted with polyurethane.

The plans are simple and I think quite clear. Position of the eyebolts is important. The ones next to your body are spaced closer together than the outside ones. This allows your hands to grasp the sticks without any obstructions. The curve at the bottom was

shaped to fit my "junior" pot belly. Of course, it can be modified for your own "physique".

The cradle part of this tray was made to hold my radios, a Futaba FG, Conquest and Airtronic Vanguards. The narrower radios can be "snugged up" by inserting one or two 1/4-inch ply "shims" at the sides. The size and shape of the cradle can be altered before construction to fit any radio that you own. In designing mine, I used the largest measurements of my transmitters. Now all my radios fit.

The straps that go through the eyebolts were first attached by pop rivets. My riveter isn't very good so I went to small machine screws, washers and nuts—much better and very easy. Then a camera strap goes through "key rings" to the tray strap.

Before "riveting" the key rings to the straps, adjust the angle to your liking, then permanently fasten them. The camera strap can then be adjusted to raise or lower the tray as required.

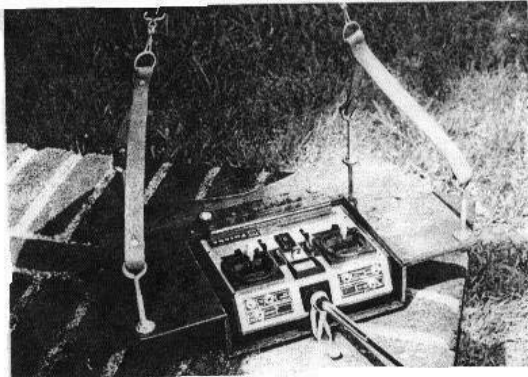
Now you can put the transmitter in the tray. A rubber band around the antenna and the retainer bar secures the Tx. The addition of a corner brace as illustrated in the plans can make things even more secure.

When I fly, the only work my hands do is to move the sticks while resting on the apron of the tray. My flying is better and more relaxed. After watching the sky for a while you can remove your radio and the tray will nicely hold a sandwich and a cup of coffee. Try that with the store bought ones!

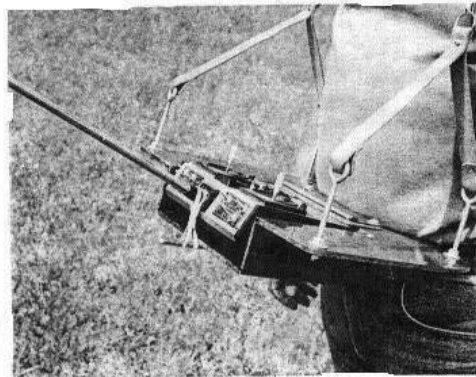
Transmitter Tray

By Vic Obsatz

You can customize it any way you need, it's comfortable, it's easy to build, and best of all, it's inexpensive. Try one on for size.



The recessed transmitter portion of the tray can be adjusted to suit whatever radio you use (above left). One of the key things to observe when building this



is the position of the eyebolts (above right). The ones closest to your body must be spaced closer together so your hands are free to grasp the sticks.

