



## Airshows – Sport with no Limits



**It is often thought that aeromodelling only ever involves seconds, metres and performing geometrically precise aerobatics manoeuvres as accurately as possible. In our modern society, this limited perception of the term "sport" is no longer relevant. On the contrary – in this day and age, the sport of "aeromodelling" has to be understood much more broadly. It can involve anything from aerobatics with a simple and cheap ready-built model to the creation of the most imaginative and elaborate aircraft designs.**

### Airshows attract spectators

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Every year, there are numerous shows with aircraft controlled from the ground. At these events, pilots control their machines with the same professional skill as their colleagues sitting in real cockpits. These airshows provide excellent insights into the variety and unlimited scope for imagination of aeromodelling. Unlike official World Championships and other competitions, such shows are able to attract tens of thousands of spectators who are not only interested in flying but always show great enthusiasm for the creativity

and tremendous spectacle being displayed. The versatile entertainment schedules don't just consist of scaled-down and very realistically reconstructed old and modern aircraft but also include performances with assorted amusing and sometimes even weird flying machines. These include limbo, air racing, fox hunting and balloon bursting, which frequently draw collective exclamations from the crowd.

### Indoor airshows are conquering the world

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In the last few years, indoor meets have become increasingly popular. New and



cheap materials along with the miniaturisation of electronic components have led to an almost explosive acceleration of creativity – especially among younger people. The weight of modern efficient propulsion systems, consisting of motor, power supply and propeller is only 20 to 30 grams. The receiver also weighs only a few grams. Foam materials are easy to work with and mostly minor damage due to crashes is easily repaired. We can think of little that is more attractive and meaningful than young people showing enthusiasm and using their imagination to explore the limitless world of aviation. Artistic expressiveness combined with delicate craftsmanship is always something to marvel at. Then

there is the art of flying itself, where many attempts result in setbacks that have to be overcome and which requires complex considerations of flight mechanics and aerodynamics. All these aspects of aeromodelling cannot be appreciated enough and make an excellent change and complement to computers and other screens and purely intellectual work.

## Freestyle aerobatics pilots are artists

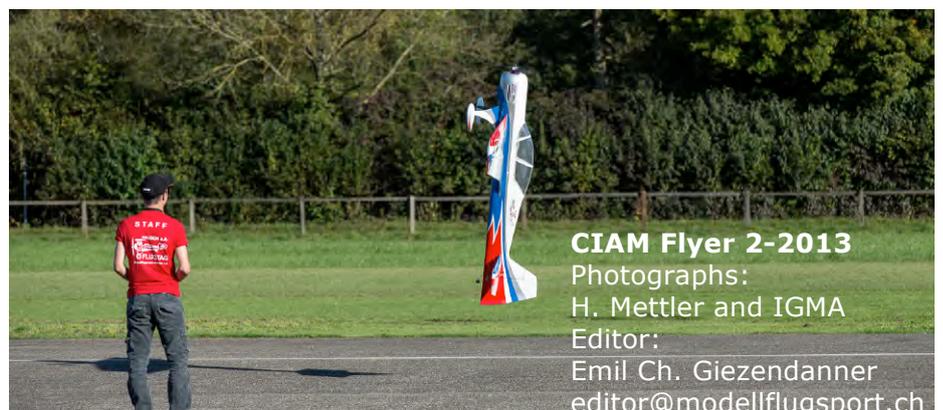
Freestyle aerobatics demonstrations accompanied by music are a relatively new phenomenon in aeromodelling and are particularly popular with young people. Similarly to

other freestyle sports, many of them clearly want to distance themselves from the traditional competition aerobatics and avoid even the most casually organised competitions in favour of informal meets. Breakneck stunts accompanied by wild music with changing tempos are popular. Demonstrations during airshows or freestyle events – frequently with spectator appraisals – are among the main attractions on offer from the youngsters in aeromodelling. It cannot be emphasised enough that these aircraft are built with very modest financial investment – unlike those used in outdoor freestyle aerobatics where the pilot has to spend far more on propulsion and aircraft. However, most 3D planes built from wood and covered with foil, are generally much cheaper than specialised aerobatics machines. Freestyle demonstrations accompanied by music – including as part of airshows – are very popular with spectators and frequently trigger spontaneous applause.



**You will find rules for freestyle aerobatics in the FAI Sporting Code, Volume F6 Airsports Promotion (F6A Artistic Aerobatics and F6B AeroMusicals)**

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