

Foam is followed by Fabric

Flying with model paragliders and motorised kites

Flying with model paragliders or RC paragliders and motorised kites is not a complete novelty in the world of aeromodelling. However, small and lightweight electronic radio control systems as well as the use of today's very lightweight batteries have given these attractive aeromodelling categories a new boost.



Designer from the world of people-carrying paragliding

The individuals driving the RC para boom all come from people-carrying paragliding and also have an aeromodelling background. Some of them are active, others former paraglider pilots who can relive their beloved hobby by controlling RC paragliders. And flying a model paraglider, e.g. on a slope, does indeed come very close to the feeling of real flying.

Self-build is possible too

Experienced RC paraglider enthusiasts design their own aircraft, sometimes using design software, and then assemble them in many hours of painstaking work. Patience and manual dexterity are particularly required for making and fine-tuning the lines. A model

paraglider contains many square metres of fabric – and there is a lot of waste – and around 100 metres of lines with 50 to 100 joints. This explains why these aircraft are not cheap to buy.

RC paragliders with and without engine

RC paragliders usually consist of the canopy and a gondola. The

canopy is sewn or glued, possibly welded, from synthetic fabric such as nylon or thin film. The span is between two and three metres. The gondolas – trikes – are usually equipped with an electric motor and wheels so they can take off from the ground. The craft is controlled by means of the lines which are moved using two actuators. Paragliders with a dummy pilot are becoming increasingly popular. These

aircraft are capable of long and silent flights in the updraughts over mountains and hills. Some of the dummy pilots control the glider with their arms. To prevent the loss of altitude, the dummy pilot can additionally be equipped with a backpack engine in the form of an electric motor. RC paragliders weigh between two and three kilograms.



Exemple of a Gondola or trike to start from the ground

Backpack engine



RC paragliders will fit into any backpack and are easy to Fly

RC paragliders are lightweight, easy to carry, require little space and can therefore be taken along on walks in the mountains and along the coast. When winds are light to moderate, flying is easy and crashes are rare. If a hard landing does occur, there is little that can break and repairs are quickly taken care of. Motorised paragliders can even be launched on a plain. Climbing and descent are controlled by varying the propeller speed.

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RC paragliders can be taken on walks in the mountains and along the coast



Radio controlled powered kites

RC flying has also conquered kite flying. Well-known manufacturers of kites offer a large and colourful selection of radio-controlled motorised kites. They are steered by means of a vector-controlled electric motor. This means that when the motor is stopped, the kite can no longer be controlled and is at the mercy of the winds. Motorised RC kites are also very easy to fly and are an impressive and attractive addition to aeromodelling.



Radio controlled motorised kite

