

Rookie Project

Foreword

Aviation, science and technology are inextricably linked and occupy a prominent place in modern society. In order to introduce children to the world of science and technology in a fun way, Vincent Merlijn has developed a workshop in collaboration with the Royal Dutch Aviation Association (KNVVL) in which the students are

surprised and challenged. Building and flying a model aircraft specially designed for this purpose provides an impressive introduction to science and engineering. Through a healthy mix of thinking, creating and doing, students learn in an investigative, didactic and powerful way.

The aviation theme is ideally suited because of its integration with other

themes such as arithmetics, language and the skills associated with this modern era. We hope that this program is a practical tool for those who want to allow students to enter the world of science and technology in a fun way.

Vincent Merlijn.
CIAM Education s/c

Introduction

The Rookie project is a collaboration between Vincent Merlijn and the CIAM Education s/c/FAI, Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.

From the need to make children enthusiastic about aviation, science and technology at an early stage, a workshop was created in which we introduce children from the age of 8 to this wonderful world in a fun way.



Our enthusiastic and open approach ensures a fun and above all educational workshop where various aspects are discussed: building, explaining the basic rules, safety, parts, adjusting the model and flying itself.



For this workshop, a special model aircraft has been designed that meets all requirements, the Rookie. Safe, small, light, electrically powered and constructed in such a way that children from 8 years old can assemble it themselves under supervision. The performance is very good and flying with these models can be done in a gym, auditorium or of course outside. The model is virtually unbreakable, ideal for a first acquaintance without disappointment.

The Rookie work shop

The workshop during the day itself is organized in such a way that there is a nice balance between listening, learning and doing. Below is an example with an explanation of the various steps that are taken.

-Introduction of the Rookie workshop.

A brief explanation of the activities, learning objectives and the role of the CIAM/FAI in this. Naturally, the supervisor also introduces

him- or herself. After sharing this information, it is important to ask the children if they already know anything about airplanes. A good start for the first step.

-Building the Rookie kit.

First, the box with the Rookie kit is checked, glue is distributed with accompanying warnings and neatly displayed on the worktables. The Rookie is built up step by step. These steps are available with photos and written description in a document provided to children and supervisors.

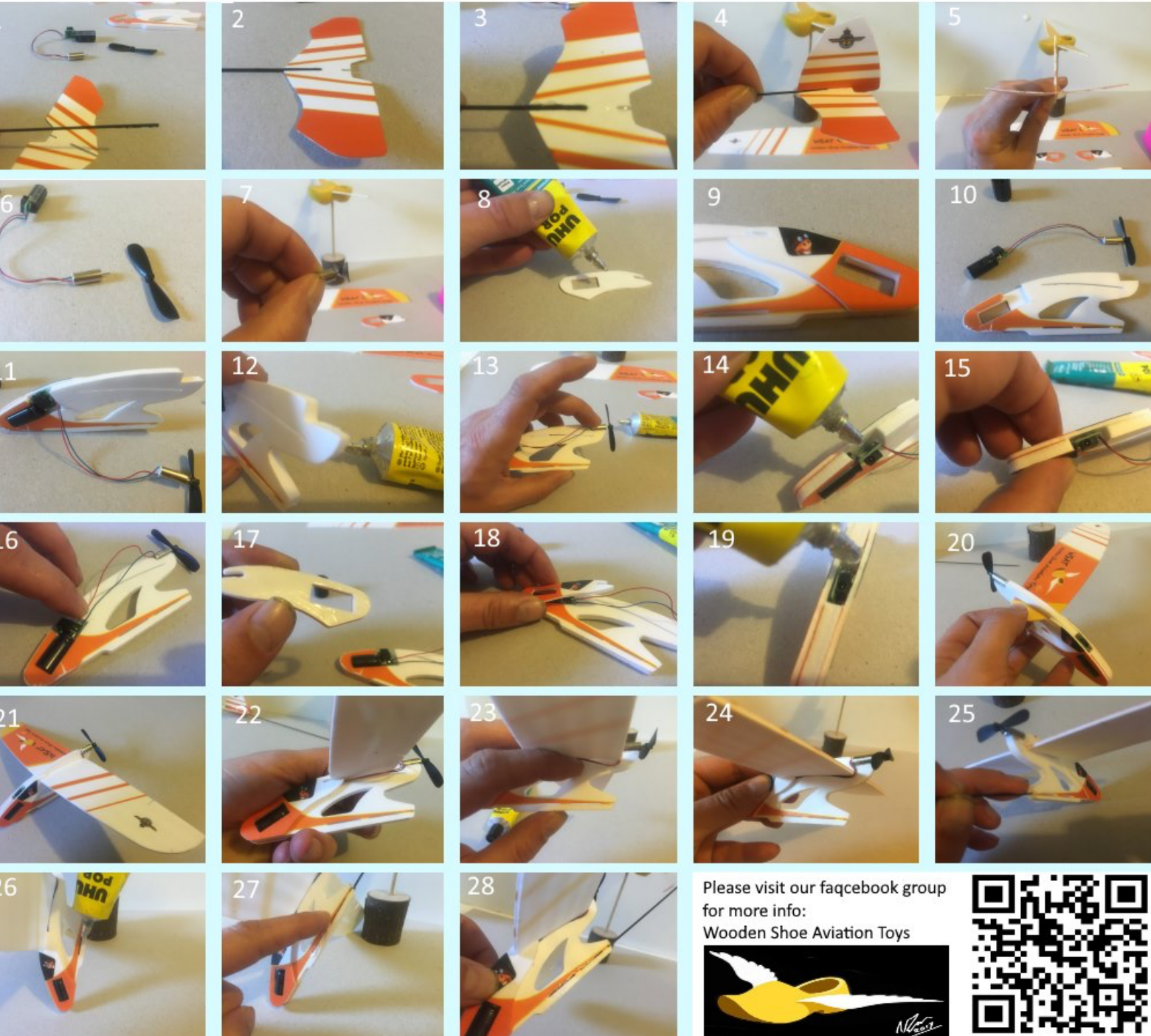


The sequence that the CIAM/FAI supervisor applies ensures a systematic build-up and results in the Rookie kits being completely ready to fly after about 1 hour. Sometimes even faster, depending on the size of the group of children and the number of supervisors. All Rookies are provided with the name of the owner / owner and placed safely on the tables to give them the last chance to dry.

-Basic explanation about the Rookie and how you can make nice flights with it, or loopings of course!

Building instructions WSAT Rookie kit.

Use foam safe glue.



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Important aspects in this explanation are of course the safety, performance of the Rookie and finding a suitable place to fly. Emphasis is placed on the 'cause and effect' phenomenon, airplanes

provide a very clear visualization of this important aspect!

-Flying your own Rookie model plane.

Before the children are

allowed to go "loose", a number of important things are first agreed for safety and fun. Then practical experiments will be done, the Rookies will perform the



craziest antics and even crash. No problem with these Rookies, they really don't break! The great thing about

the Rookie is that it can be flown both indoors and outdoors.

In case of bad weather or a lot of wind, you can fly in the gym, large auditorium, hall of the school or any other large space!

The trick is to adjust the model in such a way that it does not fly up against the walls, in which the children receive explanations and advice in a playful way. When flying outside, there are other things to take into account instead of walls. Think of the wind and thermals, for example. Thermals can take your plane extremely high, a beautiful theme in which the imagination and wonder for nature merge nicely with technology and science.

-Closure of the activity.

A fun "debriefing" where the children can share their experiences about those 10 loops or super high flight! Everyone gets the Rookie and a nice CIAM/FAI certificate to take home.

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