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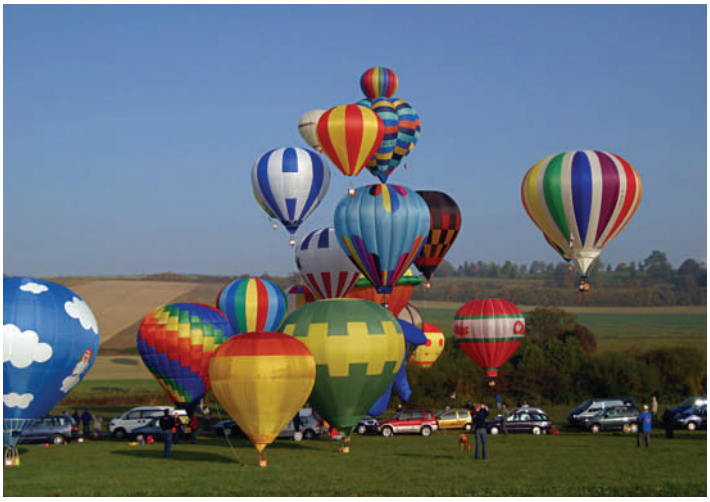
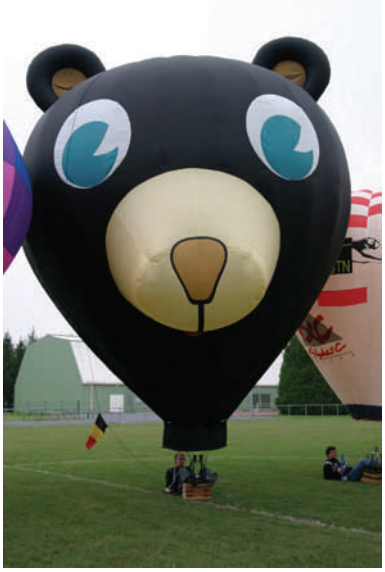
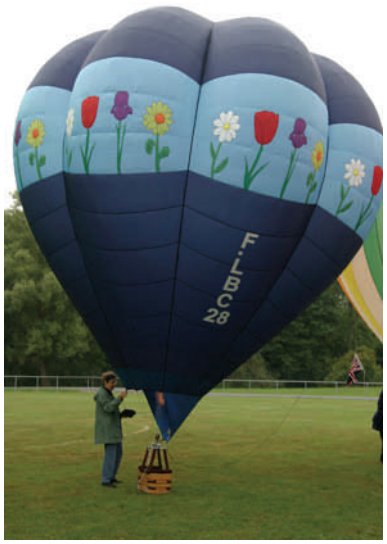
CIAM FLYER
FAI
The Introduction to the Modelaircraft World



Thousands years ago, Chinese used to burn paper bags to let their prayers fly up to their gods.
Two centuries ago, the brothers Montgolfier flown the first Hot Air Balloon in Annonay (France).
Twenty years ago, the first radio controlled Hot Air Balloons were built and launched in Germany and in France.
Now, Hot Air Ballons is a part of the new class « Lighter than Air (F7) »
My last evaluation is around 800 RC Hot Air Balloons worldwide (mostly USA, Germany, France, Switzerland)



For sure they are smaller than the normal balloons but still big enough to be seen very far away and so attractive.
The volume of the smallests is around 1 m3 whereas the volume of the biggests is around 150 m3. For competitions, most of the RC balloons are between 30 and 40 m3 (still 6-8 m height and 12 kg weight) as they are more reactive.
Remember that 1 m3 hot air can sustain around 250 g.
Two ways to get one: either to buy from specific manufacturers (but really costly (3-8000 US$ depending on size) or to built it yourself. So, for a 80 m3 balloon, you need over 100 m2 specific tissue (silk based), a nice basket (which contains the gas cylinders, the electrovannes and the radio receiver), one or several burners plus a pilot light. You also need a lot of involvement as you will have to sew more than 2 km to joint the gores (my wife did not…). The shape and colors of the enveloppe are reflecting your imagination.
Take a ventilator and inflate the enveloppe.



As we handle gas (liquid phase), the security rules are critical.
The competition rules reflect the competitions rules of the size balloons. The aim of most tasks is to drop a marker (or to land) as close as possible to a target. The target is defined either by the marker dropped from a balloon (the fox) flown by the organiser) or by a specific point/line/area defined by the Flight Director. The difficulty is to find the right wind direction and so you have to prospect several altitudes during your flight and follow your balloon over pastures, ditches and streams, fences and gates. A good personal training (early morning or late evening).

If the weather is not acceptable (wind over 2 m/s, rain, …), indoor tasks such as stationary flight (not easy at all…) can be implemented.
During public meetings, it's so nice to share the space between normal balloons (3000 m3) and RC Balloons (it looks like father and son).

For any question, please contact Marcel PREVOTAT
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Enjoy your flights.