

An Amazing (And Cheap) FF ARF

By George White

Your friendly editor isn't exactly a fan of Harbor Freight Tools Co. (pretty much a branch of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Enterprises!), whose handling and shipping charges get a bit over the line. Now with that negative send-off, let me tell you about a little foam ARF free flight model they offer which will astonish you with its flying ability. Several clubs around the country have discovered it — Chris Weinrich, editor of the Bat Sheet up in Washington state says they are thinking about putting together a competition for the things.

It's a little 14" high wing thing, which takes about 10 minutes to put together, and has an electric motor, NiMh battery, charger and on/off switch. Charged 2 minutes with fresh AA batteries, the thing will climb to a point that if there any thermals, you will lose it. I threw away the AA battery charger which came with it and bought a Radio Shack plastic holder for two D cell batteries and soldered the charge connector onto that. Less hassle with depleted charge batteries. The model won't just fly out of your hand — you've got to give it a toss to gain air speed, but then it really goes. Give some thought to rigging a DT for it. Those PLA aero engineers did a good job of trimming. The model normally sells for \$13.99, but it goes on sale every so often for \$6.99, and if you know the correct suffix on the stock number, Harbor Freight will honor the sale price. The stock number to ask for is 42619-8HZB. That's the current number for the \$6.99 model. They have a "processing and handling charge of \$5.95 for any size order, plus \$2.95 postage for one model. If several folks place a gang order, the shipping charges become more reasonable. The postage is free if the order exceeds \$50. Their order phone is 800-423-2567. I'm anxious to crash one of them so I can take the motor and battery and put it in a "real" model.