

Hirobo Falcon 555

This review is not here to do a step by step of this model, as this is thoroughly and very well done in its instructions. This is to give a guide to the model's suitability for its use as a trainer. (Review courtesy of the B.R.C.H.A. newsletter.)

The latest Falcon in the range, the 555 replaces the Falcon 505 and 505S. The concept behind the 555 is to provide a model with ultra quick build facility, at no expense to its flying quality or mechanical reliability. Ease of construction for the uninitiated, and superb flying qualities for the beginner are its key ideas, couple this with Hirobo's excellent engineering and experience, and you have the Falcon 555. Rapid construction is achieved by many of the major components coming ready factory assembled. A half size exploded diagram of the whole model and some very explicit comprehensive English instructions complete the picture.

Using the well established formula of pod and boom, the layout is as follows. Mechanics and transmission are mounted on or between two vertical aluminium side frames, servos and radio equipment are mounted at the front end and are covered by a fibre glass canopy with a smoke tinted windshield. Undercarriage mounts directly to the bottom of the turned out main frames, and the aluminium tail boom is mounted between the frames at the rear and supported by two tail boom stays.

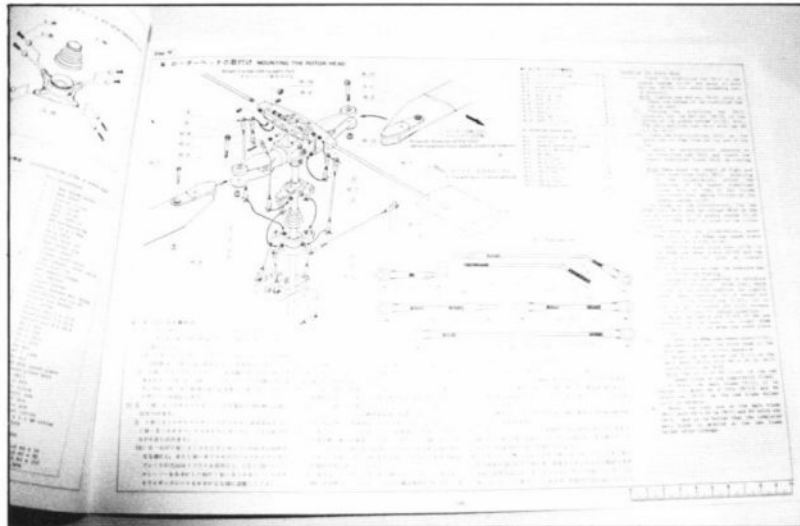
Mainframes (black anodised), transmission and collective pitch system (ballraced) come as one complete assembled unit.

Tail rotor gearbox, (metal cased with double bearings) with pitch change mechanism comes as another factory assembled unit.

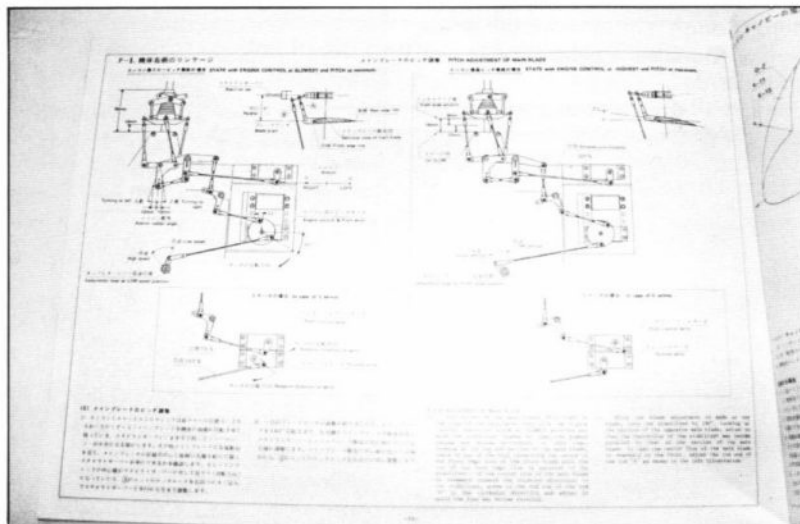
Rotor head, the now familiar Hirobo Bell/Hiller collective head, also comes factory assembled, obviously this eliminates a great deal of assembly and speeds up the construction time.

Many improvements have been made to the 555 model when compared to its predecessor the Falcon 505, the major one is the use of the Hirobo Bell/Hiller collective head. Single bolt fixing for the main blades allows the blades to pivot back should they contact anything!! This also allows them to fold back for easy transportation.

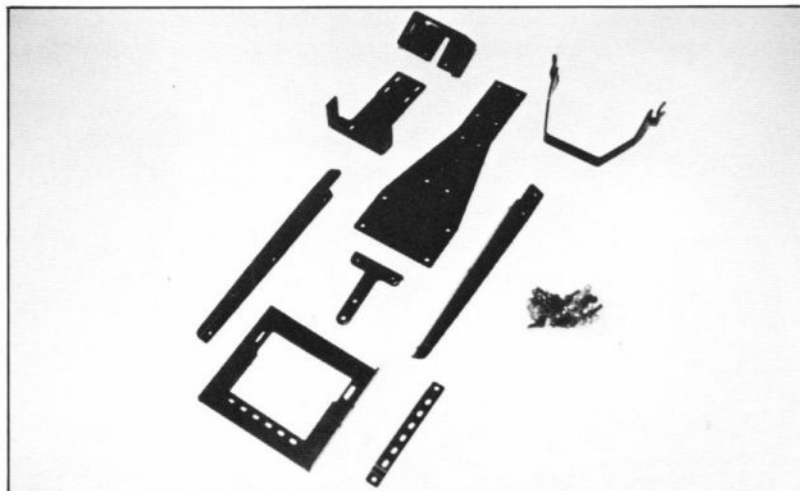
Laminated wooden blades of semi-symmetrical section are supplied for main and tail blades,



An example of the excellent instructions in Japanese and fluent English.



Another example showing how to set up the servo/rod linkages.



Metal servo trays prior to installation.



The model in a steady hover after final trimming. The tail is reasonably powerful and with the help of a gyro anyone could learn to fly with it, as they could the same with GMP's Cobra.
Photos by Diana Cameron-Tough



All the components of the 555 kit. Instructions are extremely good and main frames come pre-assembled with collection installed. You shouldn't fail with this model.

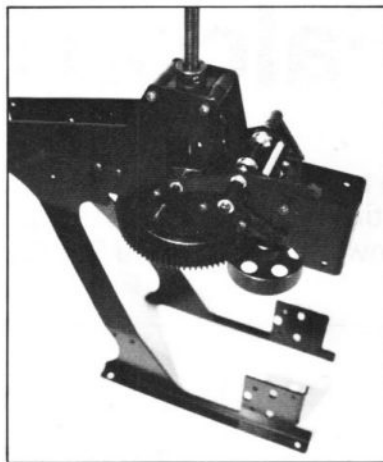
HIROBO 555 KIT REVIEW

they come pre-drilled, weight graded, and are supplied with black heat shrink covering. A plastic washout is mounted on the 8mm main shaft, this drives the swash plate and also maintains the paddles in a neutral position irrespective of collective movements. Other improvements are the metal ready-drilled adjustable servo mounts; smoke-tinted windshield ready cut to shape, fuel tank retainer, moulded plastic fin and stabilizer, improved tail rotor gear box fixing, nyloc nuts, and a new clutch bell and clutch with Ferodo lining, also an entirely new fan shroud holder incorporating a belt retainer.

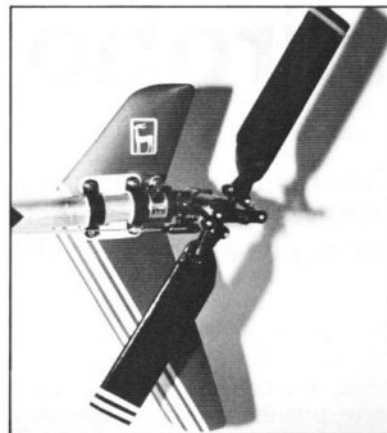
Putting the whole thing together is therefore pretty simple even for the novice. The instructions are comprehensive and easy to understand and when installing the radio gear it is all fairly straightforward.

This kit has been designed for the novice/beginner and will enable him to progress to do most things capable within the learning/early stages of model helicopter flying. Autorotations (with the autorotation free wheel/gear) are superbly initiated and the models hovering capabilities are quite superb though a little more tail power like the GMP Cobra would not come amiss.

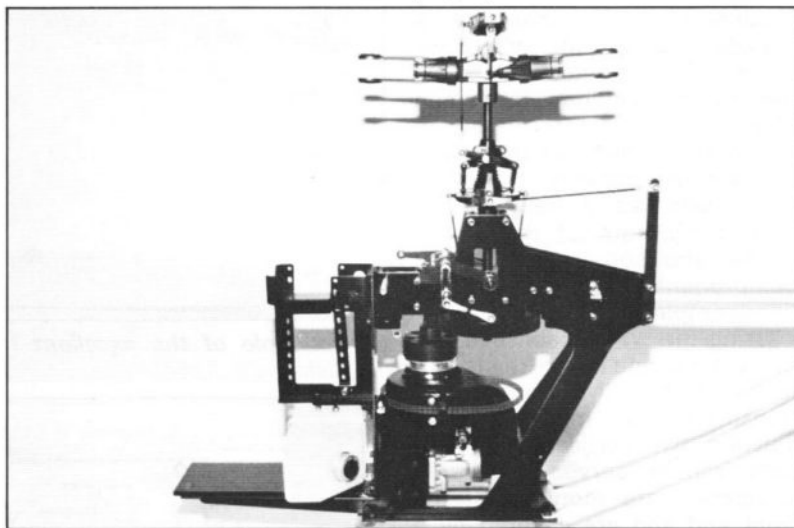
All in all a very stable and good model for those of you who want to progress more than you have so far.



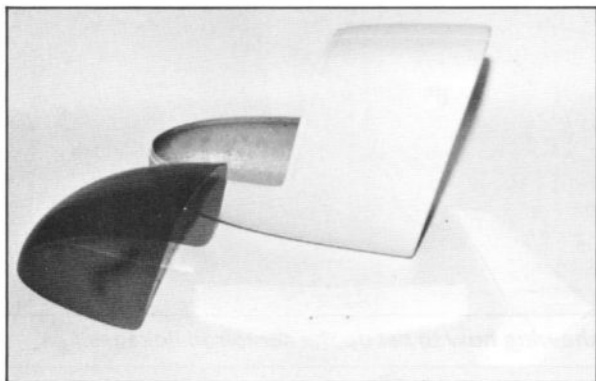
The main frame as it comes pre-assembled. What could be easier?



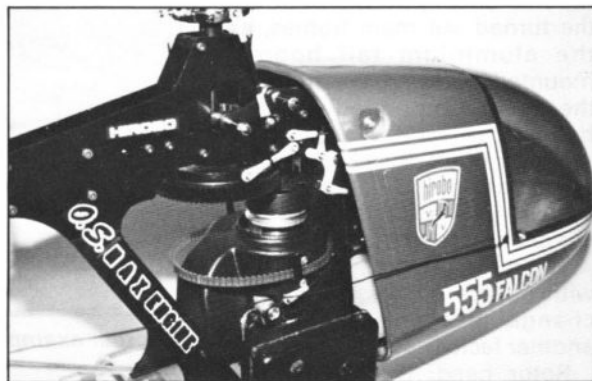
Tail rotor gearbox and blades and vertical fin made from a sort of polystyrene.



Semi-assembled showing Bell/Hiller head, scissors link and collective mechanism. No it hasn't got 2 heads - that's a shadow!



Canopy and pod with vertical and horizontal coated plastic polystyrene fins.



A view from the right or left - depends which way you stand!



View from the right.



The completed model. Differences are minimal to the GMP Cobra. Both models are excellent.