Author/Photographs: **RICHARD MORRIS**

In absolutely calm conditions the Nano SR is quite capable of flying outdoors

ROTARY WINGS

Micro heli's have much improved in recent years; Richard Morris explores the Nano SR RTF from Century UK

Century UK are a growing model distributor, committed over the years to bringing the modeller the best products that are available. They have, for many years, been the UK distributor for the whole range of Century products, from the Hummingbird, right through to the Predator. Adding to their current product lines has given Century UK quite a portfolio and one could even go as far as to say that they would have a model helicopter that would suit most newcomers and experts alike.

NOT JUST AN INDOOR MICRO HELICOPTER

This month we are going to take a look at the Century UK Nano SR, a four-channel fixed-pitch helicopter aimed at the novice pilot who has already mastered the basics of flight with a co-axial machine and now needs to move up to the next level. The Nano SR, it is claimed, will give the "Full-on Flying Experience" of big performance machines costing much more. Big circuits, fast forward and backward flight, pirouettes are all claimed to be possible with this sensational indoor micro helicopter. So let us take a look at what makes this model stand out from the crowd.

The Nano SR is supplied complete with an ergonomic 2.4 GHz transmitter, with built-in charging socket and lead for the included LiPo flight battery. In addition to this you also get the dry batteries for the transmitter, spare main and tail blades along with a spare vertical tail fin and a comprehensive manual. The Nano SR is a fixed pitch helicopter with the main rotor

What you see is what you get

This is the 2.4 GHz transmitter is supplied – it has an integrated USB charger

A single cell LiPo battery of 150 mAh capacity is supplied as standard along with this USB charger lead

A set of spare main blades along with a tail rotor blade and a vertical fin

The Nano SR from Century UK comes RTF; straight out of the box and into the hover!

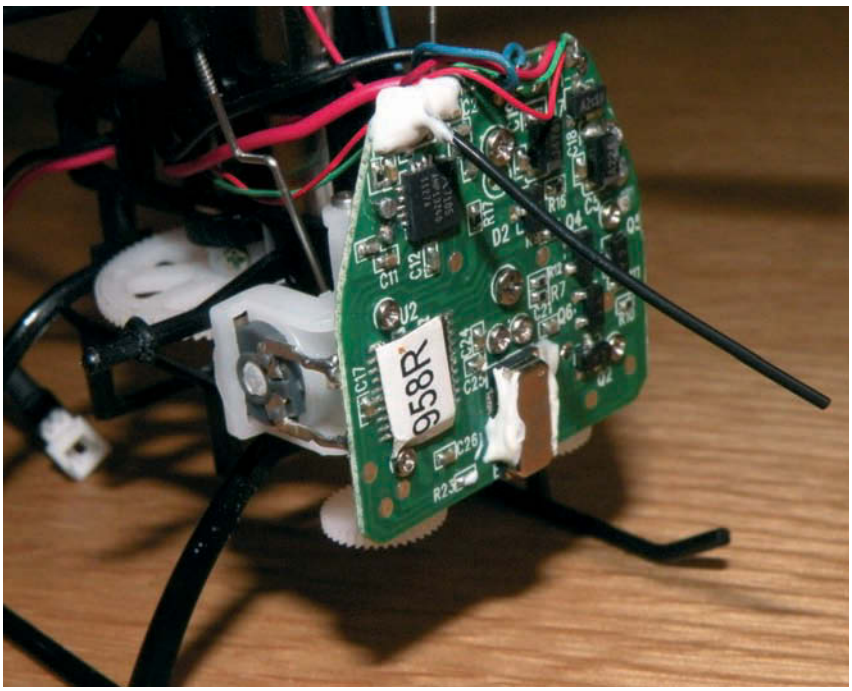
powered by a brushed electric motor, as is the tail rotor. Two servos operate the plastic swash-plate, which in turn gives control inputs to the rotor head through the under slung stabilising fly-bar. The rotor head is carried by a metal main shaft that runs in two ball races mounted in the plastic main frames.

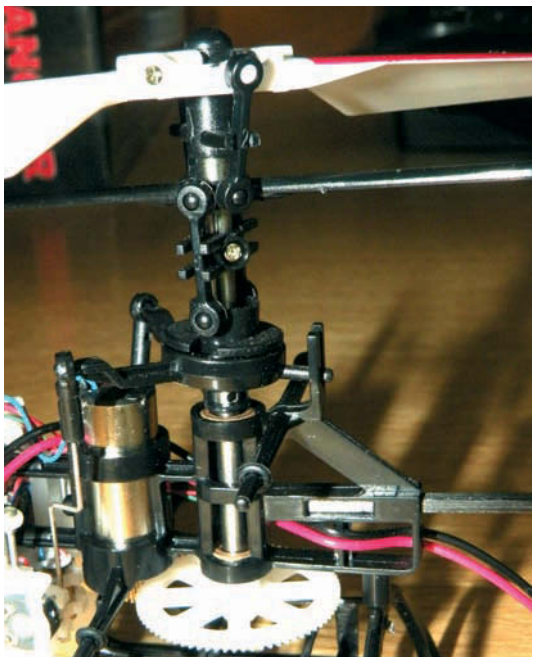
The main control board houses the receiver, both speed controllers for the main and tail rotor motors, along with a gyro to assist with tail rotor control. The servos that operate the swash-plate are also mounted on the main control board. Power is supplied by a single cell lithium polymer 3.7 volt 150 mAh battery, which should give a flight time of anything between four and five minutes. The control board is mounted on the front of the main frames and protected by the canopy, which also protects the receiver aerial. The tail boom is a square section carbon fibre tube within which the wires that carry the power to the tail rotor run. The battery is carried in a cradle that straddles the undercarriage, allowing easy access without the need to remove the canopy, making changing both quick and simple.

NOW TO THE TRANSMITTER

This is a simple four-channel 2.4 GHz unit, powered by no fewer than six AA pencil batteries, which are supplied. This means that everything required to get the model into the air is supplied in the box. Four of the batteries fit into the main battery box in the rear of the transmitter,

The canopy is removed to reveal the control board, which is the heart of this helicopter





"Keep it simple" was the brief when this helicopter was designed


Hovering side on for the camera, what could be easier?

SPECIFICATION

INFORMATION

NAME:	Nano SR
FUSELAGE LENGTH:	189 mm (7.9″)
MAIN ROTOR DIAMETER:	190 mm (7.5″)
WEIGHT:	31g (1.1 oz)
POWER:	3.7 V Lithium Polymer 150 mAh
RADIO:	4-channel 2.4 GHz
PRICE:	£49.99

while the other two fit into the two grips at the side of the transmitter. There are digital trims on each function, which emit an audible indication when they are operated. The transmitter is available in either mode 1 (throttle on right stick) or mode 2 (throttle on left stick). Ours was supplied as a mode 2 unit. The model and transmitter are supplied ready bound, so once the batteries were fitted in the transmitter and the flight battery charged, we were ready to start flying. Should you find at any time you need to re-bind the model and transmitter, all you need to do is apply the power to the helicopter and while the red light in the canopy is flashing, switch on the transmitter with the throttle stick pressed into the transmitter. The transmitter will beep and the LED indicator will flash red, then green for a few seconds. Once bound the LED indicator in the transmitter will become solid red and the LED in the helicopter will also stop flashing and become solid red.

The LiPo flight battery can either be charged from the USB port of a computer or from the transmitter, although this will seriously affect the life of the batteries in the transmitter. Once the flight battery has been charged you are ready to go flying.

The Cardinal in the back garden – good job it's sheltered from the wind

While the Nano SR is described as an indoor model, it is of course possible to fly outdoors in the calmest of conditions, and luckily for me conditions outdoors were just about perfect when I was ready to fly. As with all these small models, I find that once the rotors are almost up to flying speed, it is a good idea to lift the model quickly up into the hover. The Nano SR popped up into the hover with no problems at all, and after a few beeps of trim were added remained there, so some of the flying pictures could be taken.

The controls are quite docile, but can be altered by switching the dual rate on the transmitter from 70% to 100%. This is done by pressing the throttle stick; a beep from the transmitter will confirm the switch has been made. I did try this and found the Nano SR to be much more to my liking once the 100% rate was engaged. The 70% setting is most certainly intended for the novice to learn to hover, so once the rate was on 100% it was time to go and fly.

It will fly around no trouble at all, and can certainly get up to a fair speed, especially in the confines of one's garden. As for flight time… four minutes is easily achieved, with six to seven minutes being the absolute maximum, but batteries are cheap enough and quite quickly charged, so with two or three you should be able to have some real fun.

CONCLUSIONS

There are a large number of models all contesting this sector of the marketplace but I must say the Century UK Nano SR RTF is certainly one of the better ones. The instruction booklet is easily followed and with everything required to get flying in the box, an absolute beginner should have few problems. The model, although quite stable once in the hover, is nimble enough to fly around and will keep the more experienced occupied. Over the years we have come to expect a certain standard from Century UK and the Nano SR RTF certainly lives up to expectations.

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