



# SO YOU WANT TO FLY MODEL GLIDERS :



## The Hobby

Model flying as a hobby has two distinct parts.

1. Building
2. Flying

However for those who don't enjoy/want to build you can now buy ARTF (almost ready to fly) models, where all you do is fit the radio equipment and go fly. In some cases the equipment is also fitted and all you do is charge the batteries!

## Model Gliding

Model gliding is broadly split into two areas. Flat field (thermal) and Slope soaring. These have differing requirements for the types of models.

## Starting

Before you spend any money, contact the British Model Flying Association (BMFA, [www.bmfa.org](http://www.bmfa.org)) and find your local club. The local club will be able to advise on radio equipment, models etc. They will also advise on what mode of radio to buy as well as type that they are familiar with.

It would be essential to buy the same **mode** of radio and also a good idea to buy similar equipment. This allows the use of a “buddy lead” during training. This allows your instructor to take control of the model if you get in to difficulties. A sensible precaution, which could prevent lost flying time.

## What You Need

- Glider (kit or ARTF)
- Radio Equipment
- A few basic tools and adhesives
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insurance (not essential, but most clubs will demand it, the easiest way to get this is to join the BMFA)

## The Radio

It is possible to start with a simple 2 channel radio, but if you intend to progress past basic models, it may be as well to spend a little more on at least a 4 channel radio. The following are a few pictures of available radio's in the £100- £200 bracket



Hitec Flash 5X



Futaba FP6EXAN

There are also similar radio's available from JR, GWS, Multiplex and Sanwa.

Best advice is to speak to fellow club members (you have contacted your local club, haven't you?) They will tell you what they use, what the local model shop supports and what they have “Buddy Leads” for. These allow connection between instructor and trainee's



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transmitters. Also bear in mind, that in the UK, airborne models are required to fly on 35 or 27 MHz, but 27MHz is also shared with land based models like toy cars.

Buy the best you can afford at the time and definitely rechargeable batteries

## The Model.

Most people start with a simple 2 channel model similar to one of these:



Eppisoar



Summerbred

These are both basic thermal models. This is slightly more advanced.



Spirit Elite

A couple of slope beginners models:



The Synergy



And a more advanced model:



A Pike WR

The thermal models can be used on the slope in light wind conditions

EPP is a good choice of materials for building a beginners model from as it has a degree of “bounceability” and reduce repair time.

A beginners model will probably cost in the region of £50 - £80



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### Tools & Adhesives

These will depend on the type of model you purchase. An EPP kit will require little more than epoxy and some glasspaper. Whilst a balsa kit will also use other glues, such as cyano, (superglue) and PVA. You will also need some basic tools such as craft knives, razor saw and possibly a razor plane. Basically the additional tools are to cut and shape the wood and streamline the finished fuselage. Most model shops will advise on what you need to complete the kit you purchase.

Some additional items that are useful, but far from essential are:

Battery checker (£10 – 15)

Fast charger (for the good days when you've forgotten to charge your gear!) (£25 – skies the limit)

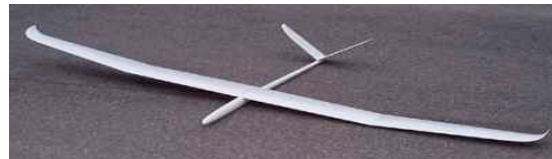
Spare crystals on a different frequency (~£10 per set)

### Contacts:

British Model Flying Association (BMFA)  
Chacksfield House, 31 St. Andrews Road  
Leicester LE2 6RE  
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e-mail: [admin@bmfa.org](mailto:admin@bmfa.org)  
[www.bmfa.org](http://www.bmfa.org)

Can supply lots of information particularly helping in finding your local club

Finally some more advanced models and radio's:



Eclipse



Acacia



Multiplex MC3030