

Field & Preflight Checklist

A practical RC airplane checklist for the shop, field and everything in between.

1

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Make sure you have everything you need.

- ☐ Correct model(s) in the car
- ☐ Transmitter charged; correct model memory available
- ☐ Flight / receiver batteries charged, undamaged and packed safely
- ☐ Charger and power source if needed
- ☐ Tools and field equipment
- ☐ Spare props, hardware and supplies
- ☐ Fuel, glow driver and starter if needed
- ☐ Field box / pit gear
- ☐ Sun protection, water, chair, etc.

2

FIRST FLIGHT OF THE DAY

Or after setup changes or repairs.

- ☐ Airframe inspected: fuselage, wing and tail
- ☐ Hinges, control horns, clevises and linkages secure
- ☐ Servo mounts and screws tight
- ☐ Prop, spinner and adapter secure
- ☐ Landing gear secure
- ☐ Steering / tailwheel linkage intact
- ☐ Battery or fuel system checked for leaks or damage
- ☐ CG verified after changes or repairs
- ☐ Transmitter settings confirmed: rates, expo, mixes and flight mode
- ☐ Receiver and antenna secure
- ☐ Stabilization system working correctly if equipped

3

BEFORE EVERY FLIGHT

At the field, every time.

- ☐ Correct model selected on transmitter
- ☐ Flight battery charged and secure / fuel sufficient
- ☐ Receiver powers up normally
- ☐ Control surfaces move in the correct direction
- ☐ Stabilization correction direction verified if equipped
- ☐ Throttle works smoothly and throttle cut is set
- ☐ Failsafe set and working when applicable
- ☐ Range check complete when applicable
- ☐ Area clear; runway / flightline safe
- ☐ Wind direction and field conditions checked
- ☐ Call out and communicate with other pilots
- ☐ Timer set

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AFTER THE FLIGHT

A few quick checks keep you flying.

- ☐ Disconnect flight battery on electric models
- ☐ Check for damage or loose parts
- ☐ Look over prop, spinner and motor / engine
- ☐ Check for fuel or oil leaks on glow / gas models
- ☐ Let components cool before packing
- ☐ Make notes about flight performance or setup changes
- ☐ Set batteries to the appropriate charge / storage state

QUICK TIPS

- ☐ When in doubt, don't fly.
- ☐ A few minutes of checking can prevent a bad day.
- ☐ Fly within your skill level.
- ☐ Keep the fun in it!

FIELD NOTES
