



# Malmö Radioflygsällskap

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## Test-flying of Rowan Wright's corrugated cardboard model

I have flown the most the hobby has to offer since I first began back in 1965. I have been competing in the Swedish Graupner Aresti Cup (IMAC in the US) since 1998. [www.graupner-aresti.nu](http://www.graupner-aresti.nu)

As a flying instructor (5 years) and member of the Malmö Radio Model Flying Association, I was approached by Rowan Wright in the summer of 2000 to test-fly and evaluate a trainer model that he was developing.

The very first model that Rowan presented to me was constructed from 4mm, brown corrugated cardboard. The idea sounded like fun, its said that there is not much that you can't get to fly. This first creation also flew, though maybe a little heavy for the tired 40 engine. The untreated surface absorbed a certain amount of oil and so understandably it was difficult to wipe clean.

With a few changes including a thinner, white 3mm corrugated cardboard and a plastic spray coating on the areas exposed to the engine oils, the next model was ready for testing. With the same motor as before, this model flew lighter and with forgiving flying characteristics, a little slow in the rolling plane but good for beginners.

The durability of the model was far better than I dared believe. Rowan thought it was a good idea to push the model to its limits. Despite pulling out violently from repeated dives I was unable to break it. Cleaning the surfaces was still a little difficult.

The third model, was made of 1,7 mm white corrugated cardboard and incorporated a thin, clear plastic film. The flying characteristics were the same as the earlier model but in this case the surface resisted the fuel-oil effectively and it was as easy to clean as any ordinary model.

The latest model tested was as above except for an altered configuration with a steerable nose-wheel and a flat, dihedral-free wing with ailerons. The trim was cut from coloured adhesive film opposed to the earlier painted trim. Now it began to be a real lot of fun, with inverted flight, rolls and loops, yes! There wasn't much this model couldn't handle. It takes a surprising amount of hard handling, though one should take care of the nose-wheel on landings as no model in the world can land on the nose-wheel alone.

It can be built with the skid if this is preferred, but there is always a tendency to tip forward on take-off and landings.

My final comments dealing with this model is; good flying characteristics, robust, light and easily decorated. This is a light model, and light models fly better than heavy model in all respects. Build it, fly it until you can fly confidently. Have it as a fun model, as both young and old enjoy a little adventure. It would also make a good club combat model between friends.

Gert Holmqvist