



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL AIR BOAT

This model was purchased as a kit having seen a preview of it in a magazine a year before it was available in the UK. It is a ready to run model if you wish it to be and is called Cajan Commander.

The first thing I did was to remove the speed controller, a 50 amp forward only type and the receiver. I replaced these items with a 60 + amp reversible item and a Futaba 2.4 gig receiver.

Having said this, it is supplied with a 2.4 receiver along with a transmitter, of the type that car modellers use. This was discarded and instead programmed into my Futaba 14 SG transmitter.

The hull is heavily camouflaged, and is done a bit over the top in my opinion, so I obtained and installed a non slip decking product and installed it as you will see from the pictures. Then sprayed it with chrome paint, made by Plasticote.

The seats were without any foot rests so I set about manufacturing these and made them also to be non slip. As I was going to have a reverse function on the craft. I then need to make a higher back to the stern to withhold some of the back wash if the craft was reversed a little to fast. I had to take into account the consequence's of this as the propeller thrust at the lower end could cause the machine to use the angled back plate as an aileron and lift the prow into a disastrous situation. So I cut out a section with a self folding flap that lets the thrust out and closes if reversing to fast, or a back wash wave was to hit it when slowing down. It will not of course stop all the water but it certainly reduces the water flowing into the low back of the air boat.

Next came the lighting, the model is supplied with a profusion of head lights on the prow, I did not like these so I made a light bar instead out of Lego, this did not look the part so I contacted a guy in Canada that advertised a smart looking bar and purchased it from him, and installed that instead.

His name is Gregory Mcroberts. rcdetailscanada@gmail.com

The model has a rubber removable plug at the stern to let out any water that gets into the sealed hull. I was not happy about this so managed to find a smoker! (Attached him) via a tube into the hole and got him to blow smoke into the sealed hull, smoke appeared from the rubber grommets holes that all the lighting wires went through these were plugged with Blue Tac then painted black. That would stop any water on the deck entering the sealed hull. Next I turned the the model over and put silicon sealing over the hard sealing product the manufactures have used to join the two half's together. If water gets in now I will be P----d off.

The figures on the craft I did an internal posting to some of my Marines on the Hovercraft C23. Made up the 30 cal machine gun from scrap parts. As with all my models, got to live up to my name and have a gun on it. The working features are a US Police flashing beacon and a workable police siren, which can be operated via radio, or for the kids, a plug in wander lead when on static display.

Hope you enjoy my efforts, she is in the livery of the Heading above which you can find on the internet. Had the transfers made locally. She is one of a kind in this livery

Stan Robinson.