

# Florida style Airboat

Designed and built by Tony Middleton



The model is a freelance design based on the airboats used in the swamps of Florida, USA and represents a possible National Guard usage for drugs and immigration enforcement.

Construction of the hull is balsa and light ply skinned with 1/64<sup>th</sup> birch ply.

Seats and motor mount are brass tube and rod , soft soldered together the geodetic design making a very strong structure.

The rear safety cage is brass tube, soft soldered, covered with small square steel mesh cut to shape and soldered where necessary.

Twin, upside down, balsa and 1/64<sup>th</sup> rudders provide steerage as per the full size.

A cheap 650 Dc motor provides power via a belt drive 2.3/1 gear box to turn an 11x7.5 wooden propeller forwards only.

Speed control is provided by a Jeti 60Amp electric aircraft controller taking power from an eight cell nickel cadmium battery pack of 1680 ma capacity. Full power takes 20Amps from the battery.

Radio control is provided via a Futaba two channel 27 Mhz transmitter/receiver with a Futaba servo for rudder control.

Model details are –

Length                720mm

Width                400mm

Height               390mm

Weight               4.3Kg(9.5lbs)

Scale                1/6<sup>th</sup>

Model completed 2002

Modifications 2010