

PREDATOR A HOVERCRAFT FOR THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE



Once again time for the imagination to go into overdrive came along when the design for the Griffon 600 Hovercraft came into being, originally designed and made in wood, however later becoming available in Depron as a kit. Which I am informed can be assembled fairly quickly.

Available from Palaform Ltd. Tel: 01933 401914. (Jag Ramgee)

The extras that you will need are a motor and the usual electronic gizmo's, i.e. a speed controller and a servo, not forgetting a propeller.

Having obtained a set of plans, for the Griffon 600, this imaginary SAS military version took considerably longer as I decided to build it in wood as per the original prototype, by sandwiching Balsa Wood and one Sixty Forth plywood, with the wood grains running in opposite directions, which has made the structure very strong and robust.

On the original model the Duct is constructed in wood, I decide to experiment with a light weight sheet of Aluminium laid out flat, then cut out incorporating the support for the rudders, also curving into the lower curved area of the duct, which has given the craft a more natural look, rather than down flat at the sides. Then took some considerable time to gently bend it into a curved duct. This experimental duct has turned out to be very successful.

The original model has a built up cabin, I decided this would not be best suited for a small assault craft so I contacted (Jag Ramgee) he had recently vacuum formed, a new type of top for the Griffon 600. I purchased one and it has turned out to be just the job after a few alterations.

The power drive is a brush-less motor, turning a three bladed balanced propeller, at around approx 18,000 to 20,000 rpm, depending on the size of Li-Po used, which can be two or three pack type the battery compartment being designed to accommodate both sizes.

Speed controller is a Fusion Tornado 40 HV Forward Only. Receiver is a Futaba R2006GS 2.4 Gig and it also has fitted a GWS Giro.

The craft is painted with Hunter Green, by Plasti-Kote, which once again is perfect for Marine Assault craft. Working Features to date are, Two Headlights, Amber Light on top of duct, and last but not least a working compass.

Having done all this I then had to post a couple of my Royal Marines from the Griffon Hovercraft Charlie 23. To more clandestine duties on the Predator. They seemed to be happy about this as they are both Speed Freaks. This also meant I would have to live up my reputation yet again and install a gun or two, on the craft, so they are well armed and ready to change the world!

Hope you enjoy my efforts, she is also one of a kind.
Stan Robinson

