

Maxford USA Hughes H-1 ARF

Here's a sport-scale model of the breakthrough, cross-country racer.

MICHAEL RAMSEY



Concealed linkages are a rare treat for a model this size.



If you want an airplane with the clean look that only a retractable gear model can offer, not many choices are available that will meet the Park Pilot Program weight guideline of 2 pounds. Maxford USA began to expand our choices with a rarely modeled version of the winning, record-setting airplane made famous by the legendary Howard Hughes.

In the 1930's, the Hughes H-1 attracted a lot of attention as it punched holes in the sky, breaking records for speed and distance. Take a look at the German Fw190 and Japanese A6M Zero and you'll see a lot of similarities between them and the H-1. Americans were very proud of Howard Hughes' many accomplishments in aviation.

Maxford has a way with model airplane design. All of their models just seem to handle the laws of gravity and physics with gusto. This company produces some of the lightest models in the world, and some of the best looking, as well. I think the H-1 is their best yet, and they went one step above and beyond by offering retractable landing gear as an option. Fixed gear is included, but you can change your mind and add the retracts later. Not me. I couldn't wait.

No matter what the instructions say, I always like to install a model's motor and cowling first, primarily because when the tail is attached, the assembly is more cumbersome to move around. Maxford understands this, and came up with a motor installation that's dummy-proof. They put a detailed cowling on the front, and it made me a believer in miracles.

Max-Cowling is the trade name for the new Maxford cowling installation system, and if you're talented enough to turn the cap on a bottle of aspirin, you can install this cowling — without needing the pain pills. The Max-Cowling literally rotates and locks securely. There's not a thing to screw or glue on. I was impressed.

To keep the Maxford H-1 looking as clean as the full-size racer, all of the control surface pushrods are enclosed. The linkages are hidden by specially designed, magnetically attached hatch covers that also make it possible to service the servos and linkage when necessary.

The outline of Maxford's H-1 is true, accurately replicating the cross-country version of the racer, which has a longer wingspan than the closed-course version.

Eighteen pages of detailed instruction help to ensure that pilots assemble the

TYPE	Almost-ready-to-fly sport scale
SPAN/AREA	40 inches/320 square inches
WEIGHT	31 ounces
LENGTH	33 inches
PRICE	\$149.99
INFO	www.maxfordusa.com

ARF FEATURES

- Factory-built, laser-cut airframe components
- Factory-painted fiberglass cowling
- One-piece wing with factory-hinged ailerons
- Fixed gear standard, retracts optional
- Spring-loaded tail wheel
- Fully concealed flying surface controls
- Pull-pull rudder mechanism
- Complete hardware and fastener packages
- Pushrods, control horns and linkage
- Magnetic closures
- 18-page instruction manual



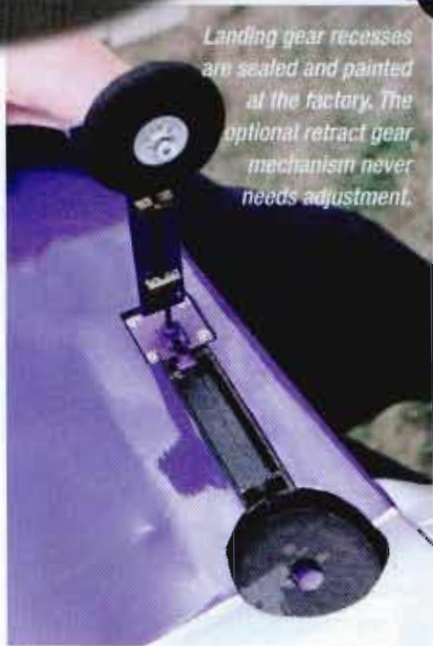
H-1 correctly from the first step. Be sure to inspect the film-covered parts, using a heat gun to remove warps if you find any. The retractable gear option adds an hour or so to the build time, and it's worth it.

The Maxford H-1's performance is excellent on the recommended Uranus outrunner. With the recommended 2100mAh 3S LiPo pack, 20-minute flights can be expected and the electronics will come down crispy cool.

Three-point landings are easy to accomplish. Check out the Maxford Web site's online video for a good look at this model's flight performance. My H-1 flies exactly like the model in the video.

Max-Cowling twist-locks on securely and requires no tools for installation. A 10x5 Master Airscrew S-2 series propeller offers excellent power for the H-1.

Landing gear recesses are sealed and painted at the factory. The optional retract gear mechanism never needs adjustment.



A 2100mAh battery can fit neatly under the magnetically sealed balsa hatch cover.

