

Maxford USA Butterfly V3 ARF

Low weight and a polyhedral wing make this a great sport model.

JEFF TROY



Maxford USA offers an excellent collection of sport and scale RC models. Many of their designs are park flyers, and a few are larger, more complex models, some for glow or gasoline power. The company does a great job of blending solid aeronautical design with lightweight construction and pleasing appearance, and the result always seems to be an outstanding airplane. The Butterfly V3 (Version 3) is no exception. I get to build and fly a lot of model airplanes, and although many of them are highly advanced renditions of extremely complex subjects, I still find a lot of pleasure in simple, fun-filled designs like the Butterfly V3. I haven't seen V1 or

V2, and I understand that both are now discontinued, but the new V3 is a terrific little airplane — and it has night lights.

The Butterfly comes in your choice or blue, orange or red transparent film covering. I chose orange, although any of the three available colors makes an attractive model that stands out nicely against the sky. The wooden parts are all laser cut and neatly assembled, and the pushrods come factory installed. A small brushless electric motor and electronic speed controller are also included.

The Butterfly is an ARF, but no adhesives are required for its assembly. It's all done with screws, and it all happens within a few hours. My model went from box to field-ready in one sitting, and putting it together was a lot of fun.

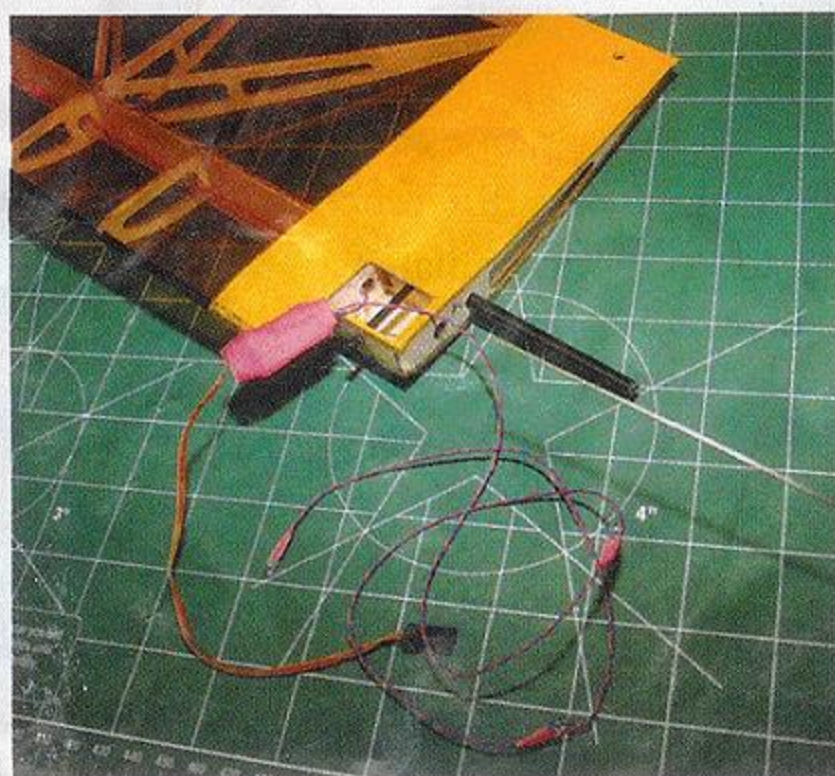
At 17 ounces with a wide-chord, polyhedral wing, the Butterfly can't help but fly like a pussycat. This is an extremely buoyant and gentle airplane that doesn't have an aggressive motion anywhere in its envelope. The model will rise off ground (ROG), in this case rise off grass, after a short rollout, and climb to altitude at a very comfortable pace.

The Butterfly is capable of lazy loops and stalls, and most of the other basic maneuvers you would enjoy with a three-channel airplane. It's also light enough to thermal if you can catch a little lift. ➔

TYPE	Almost-ready-to-fly sport trainer
SPAN/AREA	47.2 inches/309.5 square inches
WEIGHT	17 ounces
LENGTH	40.3 inches
PRICE	\$139.99, \$149.99 with lights
INFO	www.maxfordusa.com

ARF KIT FEATURES

- Factory-built, laser-cut airframe components
- Factory-applied, lightweight film covering
- Brushless motor and speed control
- Crystal-clear canopy and rear deck
- Optional in-wing lighting system
- Available in transparent blue, red or orange
- Complete hardware and fasteners package
- Horns, linkages and pushrods
- Music wire landing gear
- Instruction sheets with photographs



Optional wing lighting system puts three bulbs in each wing panel. Lights plug into receiver, and come on when the motor battery is connected.