

# HM Review

Jeff Troy

## Piper J-3 Cub RTF

Attach the wing, tail and struts, charge the battery and head for the park. FlyZone's new full-house electric comes ready to fly.



### Specifications

- Wingspan: 36.25 inches
- Length: 26 inches
- Motor: Brushed 380
- Battery: 1100mAh NiMH
- RC: 4-channels, 3 servos and one speed control

### RTF Features

- Factory-built J-3 Cub
- Factory-installed RC system
- Factory-installed motor
- Factory painted with graphics already applied
- Tactic transmitter
- NiMH flight battery
- 12V DC battery charger
- Instruction manual

Scoring big with RC modelers is easy — just do a Cub. The Piper J-3 Cub is one of the most popular modeling subjects of all time, if not *the* most popular. The Cub is also one of the most easily recognized airplanes of all time, regardless of whether the bird is a model or the full-scale Piper. Even though the Cub has been offered in every possible modeling format from plastic and stick & tissue to paper, control line and radio control, modelers never tire of this timeless classic. Building a Cub from a kit was often easier than building a basic RC trainer, and now that factory-assembled electric-powered RC models are all the rage, FlyZone has everyone covered with a beautiful little RTF Cub that practically pops out of its box.

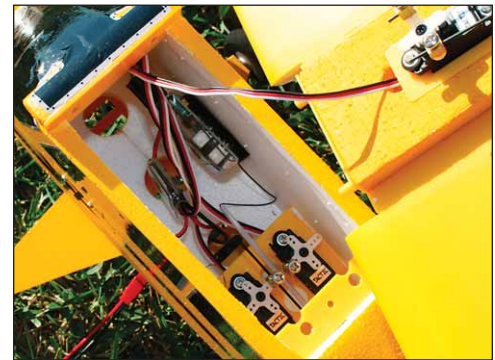
The model is constructed from sturdy foam, with reinforcement parts used where necessary and a painted ABS cowl. The finish is smooth and the paint is evenly applied, so the foam construction takes on a very realistic appearance from only a short distance away.

Other than the time it takes to charge the battery, getting the FlyZone Piper J-3 Cub ready for a trip to the park takes approximately 10 minutes. I'd suggest letting your customers know to place the battery on the charger while preparing the model. With a Coke break thrown in, the battery and airplane could be ready around the same time.

The Cub's final assembly couldn't be easier. Two finger nuts are used to fasten the horizontal stabilizer/elevator and vertical fin/rudder assemblies to the rear of the fuselage, and the wing is attached with factory-mounted dowel pins a single Phillips-head screw. Two flexible, crash-resistant V-struts are also secured with Phillips-head screws. Eight AA alkaline batteries must be purchased and inserted into the transmitter, and the model is ready to go. The landing gear and wheels are already installed, the motor and Tactic radio control system are factory installed, and even the propeller comes already mounted on the motor shaft.



Each wing strut attaches with three Phillips-head screws, and FlyZone even includes the correct size screwdriver.



Tactic RC system with three micro servos and an auto cut-off electronic speed control comes factory installed.

The included FlyZone Tactic RC system is a hobby grade radio

on 72MHz. It comes with three micro servos and an electronic speed control with auto cut-off, as well as a Futaba-compatible trainer "buddy" switch. The 1100mAh NiMH flight battery and a 12-volt DC battery charger round out the FlyZone Piper's package.

The included brushed 380 motor has the necessary power to fly the Cub realistically — fast enough to assure stable flight and accurate control response, but not fast enough to get a low-time pilot into trouble. It's just right. Rise Off Ground (ROG) from pavement is smooth and precise, and ROG from grass is also possible with a fully charged battery and a tightly mowed field. Our initial flights were over a field of not-so-tightly mowed grass, and we prudently chose to hand launch the model.

The FlyZone Cub is an ideal airplane for beginner to intermediate sport fliers, and it makes a very respectable



*FlyZone's Cub handles beautifully. This compact, electric-powered airplane is convincingly realistic in flight.*

primary trainer when the buddy box option is used. The J-3's flight characteristics are gentle, although the model is surely capable of a few rudimentary aerobatic tricks like inside loops following a shallow dive, and graceful stalls and wingovers.

FlyZone's Piper J-3 Cub RTF is certainly fun to fly, and the model is all "Cub" in every way. It's mellow at the end of the sticks, forgiving if an overly enthusiastic but

not-so-experienced pilot is a bit heavy handed. It looks spectacular in flight, even though it only spans a little more than 36 inches, and the electric-power format prevents pilots from having to perform cleanup operations after a trip to the park. This is a great little airplane.

For additional information about the FlyZone Piper J-3 Cub RTF, see the ads on pages 9, 57 and 72, visit [www.bestrc.com](http://www.bestrc.com) on the Web, or call Great Planes Model Distributors in Champaign, Illinois, at 217-398-3630. **HM**



*FlyZone's Piper J-3 Cub flies as good as it looks. The Cub is an ideal scale-like model for fun loving park pilots.*