



Brandon Wright

Flight Report

Showtime 4D

Here's Mike McConville's latest aerobat for Horizon Hobby's Hangar 9 lineup.

The latest addition to the Hangar 9 line of quality aircraft kits is the Showtime 4D 90 ARF. Created by master designer and aerobatic champion Mike McConville, the Showtime is a highly aerobatic, advanced 3D model, primarily intended for experienced fliers who will surely appreciate its exceptional capabilities.

The Showtime kit comes with factory-assembled and covered wooden airframe components. These components are light and strong, and go together quickly. Covering is gloss white Hangar 9 UltraCote, with bright red, yellow and pearl purple trim. This color scheme yields exceptionally high visibility in the air, and it's also very attractive on the ground. The covering was drum tight upon arrival, and has stayed drum tight throughout our test flights.

Hangar 9 provides a high-in-quality fiberglass cowl and wheel pants, all painted to match the covering on the airframe — and the colors really do match well. A full hardware kit is included, packed with quality Hangar 9 components such as Pro Lite wheels, a large fuel tank, an adjustable engine mount, tail wheel assembly, pushrods, control horns, clevises and ball ends. The main landing gear is a heavy-duty, one-piece, painted carbon fiber unit, and it's extremely rugged.

Like all Hangar 9 ARF kits, the Showtime 4D 90 goes together quickly and requires nothing out of the ordinary to complete. After getting all the control surfaces



Bright scheme and large flying surfaces assure the highest visibility.

attached to the flying surfaces with the provided CA hinges and Zap Thin CA from Pacer, I installed the horizontal stabilizers and vertical fin, then followed with the landing gear, wheels and wheel pants.

The Showtime has new Side Force Generator (SFG) technology, which translates to four vertical winglets, one above and another below each wing panel, that generate additional lift when flying the airplane in knife edge maneuvers. The generators are secured to the wing by knurled thumb screws, and can be easily removed and replaced with plugs if fliers would like to try the airplane without them. It only takes a minute to make the change.

Radio installation goes smoothly because the servo openings are already provided in the fuselage and wing panels, and the servo linkage hardware is also provided. Everything fits perfectly in the slots and lines up nicely. I chose four JR servos for the ailerons and elevators, and a new JR 8611A high torque servo for the rudder. The 8611 is a bit of an overkill at 240 ounces and .18 sec/60 at 4.8 volts, but I have no problem enjoying its additional



Specifications

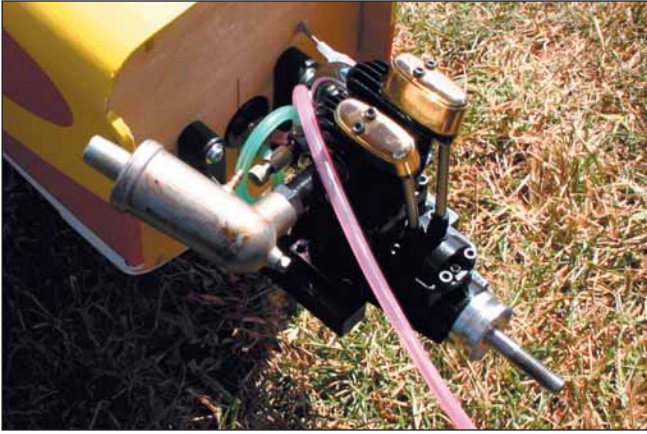
- Wingspan: 66 inches (1676mm)
- Length: 68.3 inches (1734mm)
- Area: 900 square inches (58.1 sq dm)
- Weight: 8 to 9 pounds (3.6 to 4.1kg)
- RC: Four-or-more channel systems with one standard servo and five high torque servos (minimum 80 ounces)
- Power: Two stroke .61 to 1.00
Four-stroke .91 to 1.10

RTF Features

- Factory-built airframe components
- Factory covered in UltraCote
- Fiberglass cowl and wheel pants
- Rugged carbon fiber landing gear
- Control horns, pushrods & clevises
- Engine mount, wheels and gas tank
- Complete fastener packages
- 10- to 15-hour assembly
- 36-page instruction manual

Hangar 9's Showtime 4D 90 ARF will hover indefinitely and pull straight vertical on the Saito FA-100GK four-stroke used in Hobby Merchandiser's review model. Performance is nothing short of outstanding.





Saito FA-100GK four-stroke engine from Horizon Hobby has power to spare for 3D aerobatics or any style of sport flying.

performance. If modelers prefer, the rudder servo can be mounted in the fuselage as a pull pull setup. Hardware is included for both options. I used a standard JR 537 ball bearing servo for throttle, along with a JR R700 receiver, a JR Extra 1400mAh battery, a JR deluxe charge switch and my JR 10X transmitter to round out the RC setup.

I chose the Saito FA-100GK (Golden Knight) four-stroke engine for my Showtime 4D, and I am very happy with this combination's performance. I was concerned that it might be a little light on the power side for good pullouts from a hover or getting me out of trouble at low altitude, but my worries were gone from the first second that I had the model in the air. The Saito-equipped Showtime 4D performs knife edge flight with ease with the SFG's installed, and it's also a great hovering airplane. Precision aerobatics, hard 3D or simple afternoon flying are all easy with this great flying Hangar 9 machine.

I'm really impressed with how smoothly the show-time flies, and how well it performs complex maneuvers with no unpredictable traits. I had no problem getting it in low, and it only took a couple flights to get everything completely dialed in. Slow flight characteristics are great, and it's almost impossible to stall this airplane. When I do choose to stall, it's straight ahead with no wing rock. Landing is a dream with the Showtime's great slow flight capability. Just setup for the approach and coast in.



Brandon Wright walks Showtime 4D 90 ARF toward flight line.

The showtime 4D flies equally well with the SFG's removed and the plugs installed. It still performs knife edge flight, as well as any other maneuver. It just takes a little more rudder in knife edge without the SFG's. From its great looks, laser-cut factory-assembled airframe, UltraCote covering, rugged landing gear and super smooth flight characteristics, the Showtime 4D is one of the best aircraft models I have ever owned. **HM**



Showtime 4D in knife edge attitude over the runway. This airplane is one of designer Mike McConville's finest advanced 3D machines.