

Help Your Flying

By John Burdin

For many years I have used a neck strap to support my transmitter. I have found that this eliminates the urge to move the transmitter around, raise and lower it and simply makes it more stable. Whether I am flying a Jet, Helicopter, Pattern Plane or a fun-fly sport ship, it makes things a bit more enjoyable and less to worry about.

For the maximum in convenience and performance, the length of the neck strap should be so your transmitter is about level with your elbows as the transmitter hangs in front of you. This enables you to rest your hands on the transmitter without feeling like you have to raise them up over the top of the transmitter. Or, at the same time reach for it. After all the purpose of all this is to put the transmitter in a comfortable and manageable position.

From here it is very easy to rest your hands on the transmitter allowing for your full concentration to be directed towards flying your model, instead of how to hold your transmitter. As one moves to higher performance aircraft this all becomes even more useful. It's pretty tough to operate the different controls on a transmitter such as levers, switches and knobs while flying and holding the transmitter all at the same time.

A transmitter tray may also be very useful. It accomplishes many of the same objectives of the neck strap, however there are some trade off's. The tray is an extra piece of equipment that must be carried with your gear. The neck strap simply goes in your transmitter case, or field box or toolbox. From a safety standpoint the transmitter tray is not optimal. It is very difficult in most cases to hand off the transmitter to another pilot in an emergency. It's not good for a beginner or even moderately experienced pilot for the same reason.

Both neck straps and trays are popular with many levels of pilots, and some of the best pilots don't use them. However, most of the better pilots do use them, and almost all of the pilots of high performance models use them.

My choice and my recommendation for simplicity, and ease of use is the neck strap. If you give it a try, don't make a snap decision on how you like it the first flight. You must learn to use it like most other things, and once you do, you will likely love it !!!