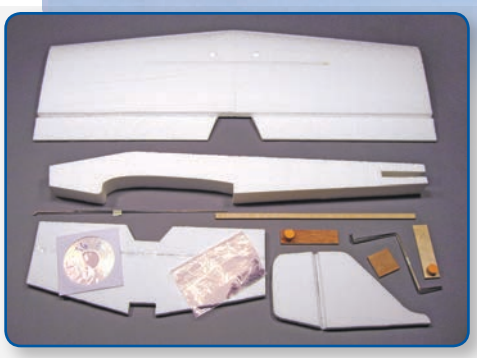
YGI Flyer

It's easy to see and easy to build, and a capably aerobatic, intermediate sport model.

TOM SULLIVAN



SPECIFICATIONS

Type:	Full-kit sport
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Wingspan:	36 inches
Flying Weight:	24 ounces
Length:	35 inches
Price:	$44.95
Info:	*www.ygiflyer.com*

FEATURES

- Wire-cut, white-foam airframe components
- Simple construction
- Plywood firewall and landing gear mounts
- Semisymmetrical airfoil
- Factory-formed wire landing gear
- Factory-hinged control surfaces
- Hardware and fasteners
- Pushrods, control horns and clevises
- Instruction manual on CD-ROM
- Requires motor, propeller, ESC, receiver, three mini servos, LiPo battery and charger
- 250-450-W brushless motors recommended

At first glance, the YGI Flyer might not catch your eye. Let's face it — it doesn't have the wow factor of other designs. The model's relatively simple lines could best be described as "sensibly rugged," but after spending time with it, I've come to believe that its simplicity is a good thing.

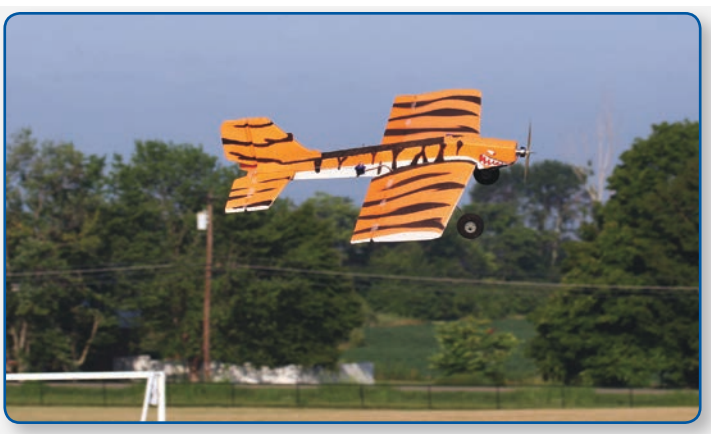
Think of the YGI Flyer as more of a blank canvas than a finished work of art. The airframe comes as four separate pieces of white foam and a handful of smaller parts. The instruction manual is included on a CD-ROM that equates to 18 pages of written information and color images to help you complete the project.

Before jumping into the build, take a few minutes to round the edges of the fuselage, stabilizer and elevator with 120-grit sandpaper on a block. How much you round them is up to you, but I did just enough to remove the hard edges and reduce the drag.

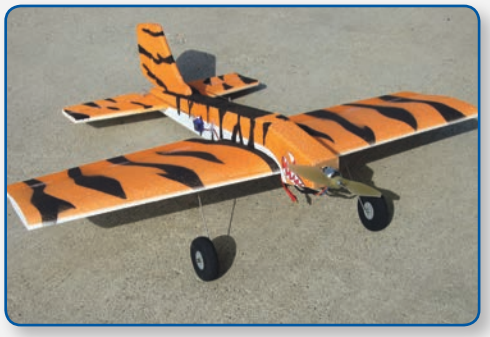
Basic construction of the YGI flyer goes fairly quickly using white glue or epoxy, so you'll have to wait between the steps while the glue cures. I built my review model in three separate stages over a couple of weeknights — roughly five hours, not including paint.

Stage one is the two main subassemblies, which can be built in the same sitting. Glue the plywood spar and hardwood landing gear blocks into the wing, then glue the horizontal stabilizer and vertical fin to the fuselage.

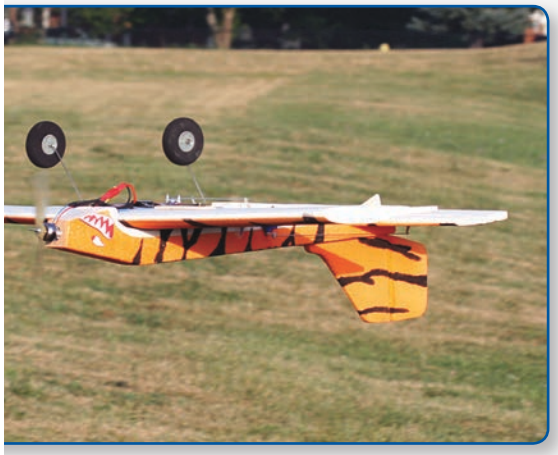
Stage two is gluing the two assemblies together the next day when the glue from stage one is dry. Before advancing to stage three, think about how you want to



Smooth, stable and easy to fly, the YGI Flyer is a capable, intermediate model with everything you need for aileron training. It's a very solid, entry-level or mid-level aerobat.



Tom and his son chose this tiger paint scheme, similar to the scheme used on many modern fighter aircraft.



The YGI Flyer is a solid, intermediate aerobat. Loops, rolls and inverted flight are all easy and predictable.

Locating the receiver, aileron servo and ESC on the underside keeps the upright appearance cleaner.

cover or paint your YGI Flyer. I asked my 11-year-old son to help me pick a color scheme, so he searched through several airplanes on Google, settling on a tiger scheme used by a few modern fighters.

We worked out a simplified version, and applied the design with inexpensive, waterbase acrylic paints from a nearby craft store. Using water, I thinned the paint for airbrushing, and quickly turned the YGI Flyer's stark white foam into a unique work of art.

Stage three is installing the servos, pushrods and clevises, landing gear and other hardware. Paying attention to where you mount everything, especially the battery, will help you hit the center of gravity without having to add weight. I chose to hide most of the radio equipment on the underside of the fuselage, but there aren't many options for locating the battery. My YGI Flyer weighs just a touch over one pound without the battery.

I decided on a hand-launch for the maiden flight. With full-throttle and a quick underhand toss, the YGI Flyer was airborne and quickly gaining altitude. Be prepared to put in aileron and rudder trim to counteract the weight and drag of the side-mounted LiPo pack.

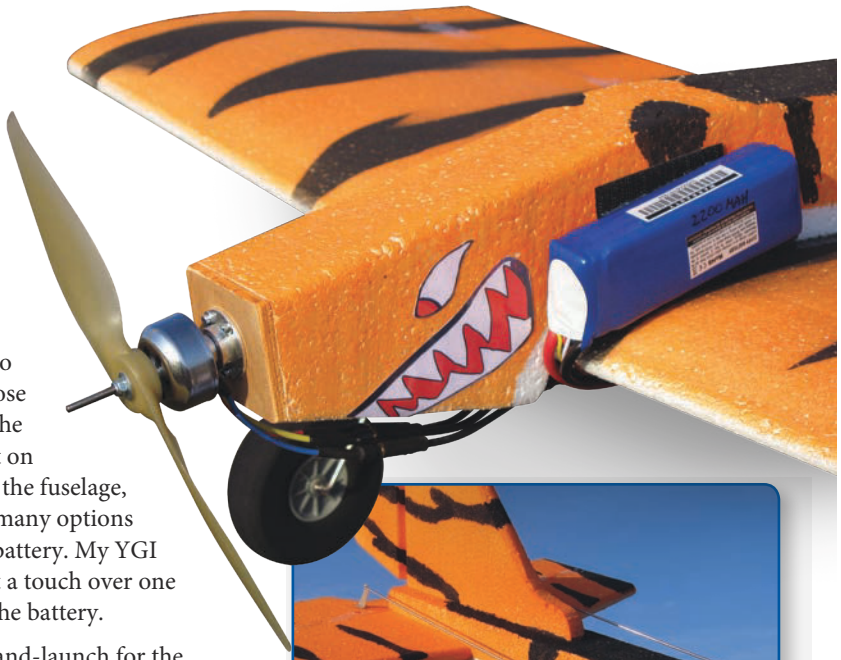
Once the trim and photo passes were finished, I experimented a bit, pleasantly surprised with the performance. Loops from level flight, rolls and inverted flight are all easy and predicable. My setup doesn't have enough power to hover, but the Flyer was never designed for 3D.

With it's low-mounted, semisymmetrical wing, the YGI Flyer makes a great second airplane, especially if you use reduced throws or low rates. You can fly slowly and steadily, honing your skills with basic aerobatics at less than two-thirds-throttle An unexpected surprise is how well the airplane glides under low or even no power with no hint of tip-stall or snap.

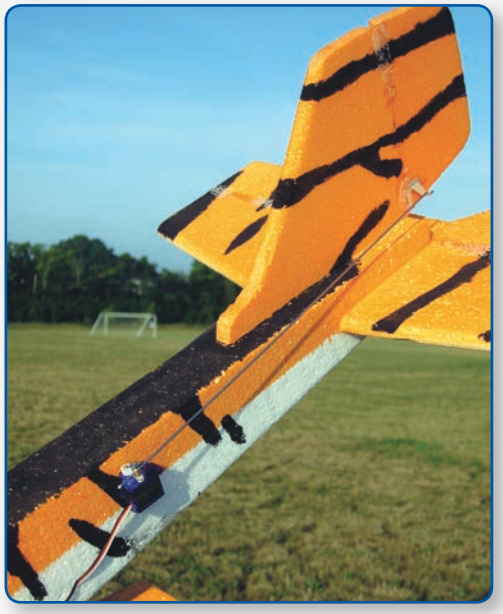
The large wheels make takeoff and landing on mowed grass fairly easy. Keeping your takeoff straight on paved surfaces can be a challenge, and the wire gear can bend on a typical landing, but it's easy to bend it back by hand.

When you're ready to take on more excitement, move the throttle up to full. Granted, it's not a precision aerobat and the flight time will be reduced, but the model has more than enough power to execute most basic and intermediate aerobatic maneuvers.

Although the YGI Flyer might not catch your eye compared with other models in its size range, it does come in at a very affordable price, and that's always an eye-catcher. The model takes a bit more



Tom Sullivan mounted the elevator and rudder servos on the fuselage, just behind the wing.



The rear-mounted tail servos help balance the model on the CG. Shorter pushrod runs help to reduce flex.

building and finishing than most typical ARF kits, but that can help you to develop some of the skills you'll need when stepping up to more advanced builds.

Consider the raw, unfinished-foam construction of the YGI Flyer as a bonus, giving you the freedom to customize the airplane and make it truly your own.