



Valuable Airspeed Readings

In actual use the system works perfectly, we carried out five flights and had it switched on through all of these, the maximum speed in a gentle dive being announced as 180 mph, whilst landings were down at around 35 mph. Notable was the rapid variation in airspeed during the landing approach, particularly as the nose of the model is lowered or raised, as is the difference in speed when a tight turn is flown, the speed dropping extremely rapidly in this case. The verbal speed data is very easy to hear as long as the model is not too close, however it is soon drowned out when a low pass is performed, or when another model is fairly close, so on a busy flying field an earphone would be a more practical proposition. Of course as well as displaying real time speed the transmitter also stores the highest speed each time the model is flown and this can be checked after landing. The use of this device has a couple of really practical advantages due to its accurate flying speed data, particularly when used with a transmitter such as the 18MZ, where a warning sound and/or vibration alert can be programmed to activate when the model is flying too slowly, or conversely when it is being flown too fast.

As an example, a heavily loaded scale jet could have its stall speed noted in landing configuration at a safe height, a safe approach speed slightly above this then being used on final landing approach ensuring that the touchdown is made with the model flying as slowly as is safe, minimising the length of runway required and reducing the chance of bouncing due to excess speed. For those countries that have maximum flying speeds, or where a lightweight model should be speed restricted due to structural limitations the alert can be programmed to activate just below this critical speed, allowing the pilot to reduce power and thus airspeed.

Do I like it? Well I am just about to order more, both for a couple of my own models and for some friends! ✈

Contacts

www.cb-elektronics.de

The pitot tube was simply glued into the nose of the Xcalibur



Photo of the 18MZ telemetry screen taken after a flight with the model stationary, but showing a maximum recorded airspeed of 175 mph

Go flying!

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The Xcalibur sport jet used for the flight test