



ZIGOLO MG12



THE KIT STEP BY STEP

If you can assemble an Ikea bookshelf, you are ready to assemble the Zigolo kit! It sounds like a joke, but it not far from the truth.

To show you my view, I immersed myself in the assembly of this nice aircraft. Take a spanner and a drill.

COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION

Since the publication of an article about the Zigolo on "Vol Moteur" n°325, we have received an avalanche of requests for information. A real infatuation for a single-seater ULM which costs less than 10000 euro. With such a machine, there was no need to have a big advertising campaign . Its builder was followed closely and the success came early. Even a Facebook page has been dedicated to the Zigolo, and more than 2000

persons are following the adventures of the tiny machine. (facebook/aviad).

At the time of writing, the kit n°14 was under construction. The Zigolo is sold everywhere in the world and a few machines are already flying in Italy, Japan, USA, Qatar... only France was missing. But from now on the bug is fixed, because the distribution is ensured by Pierangelo Mezzapesa of ULM Technologie. Pierangelo sensed the trend and started a collaboration during the last AERO in Germany.

Here you have the ready-to-fly Zigolo and, under its wing, the complete kit is shown. Some pipe, an engine and the third dimension is yours!

THE KIT



The Zigolo kit in detail. The wooden propeller can be changed with an optional Carbon one.

After a little delay of one of our national courier, due to the transport strike, two packages arrived in the Lille region, and finally to Valenciennes. The kit is composed in two wooden boxes: one is about 3.7 meters long, it contains the pipes (for the wings, the rudder, the tail...), while the other box contains all the rest, i.e. the airframe, the engine, the propeller, the wheels, the tires, the bolts... everything you need.



Pierangelo, Alain and José are ready for the challenge.

PREPARATION

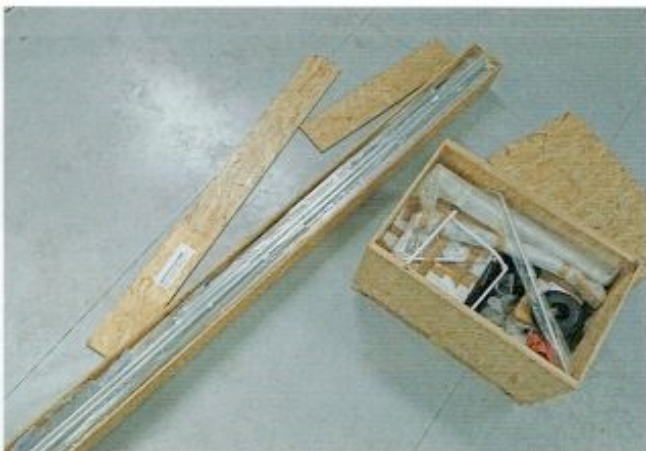
To properly work on the kit, the ideal is to have a large space such as a garage for a car. About 5,5 meters are enough. The first step is the unboxing. Patience and organization are the keywords of this first phase, you must have a great care in putting in order all the different elements of the kit. At ULM Technologie, they choose to hang all the small plastic bags over a wooden board and to divide them in groups: the screws, bolts, and rivets by one side, small metal pieces by the other, in order to find everything at the right moment. This method also helps you to verify that all the parts are there. A very large table or two stands would also be useful for the assembly of the wings, while the fuselage and the pilot seat could be assembled on the ground.

As a little reproach, it is worth mentioning that the assembly plans are, for the moment, available only on the website of the manufacturer and its Dropbox. Pierangelo is committed to deliver a full paper version of the plans for its customers. In our opinion, this is of primary importance because not everyone has a computer and a printer at hand; on the contrary there are some useful files in 3d, accessible from any computer, that give a clear idea of how the piece is mounted.

All the parts are fully catalogued. If they are in a bag, they are properly labelled. For the rest, a reference is directly engraved on some parts, impossible to make mistakes. All the components and their smaller pieces are pre-formed, pre-punched, laser cut and it only remains to align the holes and pull a rivet or insert a bolt.

TOOLS

After the excitement of the unboxing, we cannot overlook a minimum of necessary equipment. Because the right tools allow you to save time and mostly to get a quality assembly. We are still talking of an ULM. We suggest, for example, to use wrenches and pliers that would ensure the perfect sealing of the elements after the final fixing. This avoids to drill wrongly or sideways to realize, only at the end, that the piece is reversed. To have a toolbox with good quality tools is a good idea. Be aware that most of the measurements are given in metric scale, except for a few exceptions, only a couple of bolts are measured the American way.



A box for the pipes, and one for all the rest, engine included!

To fix the many rivets, a compressed air riveting gun is quite essential. That will ensure you a repeated celerity and, mostly, it will avoid you to get a tendonitis at the end of the first day of “do it yourself”.

Before to put some rivets on, the holes need to be enlarged. A cordless drill and some good quality drill bits are indispensable. For the rest, the equipment is a your ease: cordless screwdriver, pillar drill, air conditioner, coffee machine, reception girl...

FIRST CHECK UP



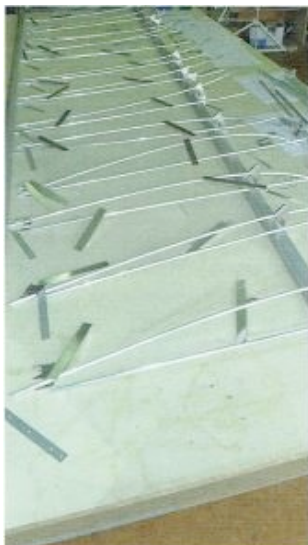
On the left, the small pieces inside the bag are labelled according to the codes you find on the mounting plans.



On the right, the team is leaned over the plans, they must study carefully before the start!



Cleco rivets are precious for the right mounting.



Preparing all the elements for the wing. Even if all the bolts have a self fixing nut, a drop of Loctite is always wellcome. Once you have put the canvas on the wing, nothing should move!



The tail parts are oversized! The mounting doesn't need any special skill



The airframe is on its wheels just a few hours after the unboxing. It already looks as an Ultralight.



The two pieces in the last picture are the wings struts. It still remains a lot of work to do. Follow us on the next issue.

After the first steps, we can already make some considerations. Overall, the Zigolo kit is very accessible. With the proper attention and organization, the assembly presents no problem. In the next issues, we will deal about the ongoing of the airframe, of the wings, and of the engine.

