WORDS AND PHOTOS ANDREW GRIFFITH

RC FUELING SYSTEMS

Big Jug

I've been resisting getting a battery powered pump and gas can for a while now. My trusty hand pump and two-gallon gas can have been serving me well for several years. I'm often asked "why do you still use that thing?" and my reply is always the same; "because every time I turn the handle it pumps gas."

Now I have a tow plane though, that's powered by a DA-85 that has been seeing more and more action at aero-tow events and in order to get more tows out of one fuel & charge session I installed a Tail Dragger RC 55-ounce tank. That was a great idea right up until I had to fill it up a few times with the hand pump. As the Borg say "resistance is futile" so I went on the hunt for a bigger fuel can and one that was equipped with an electric pump.

RC Fueling Systems in Montgomery, Texas has a large selection of one, two, and five-gallon fuel jugs with battery powered fuel pumps. I browsed their selection and ordered a five-gallon gas can with an electric fuel pump and battery. I knew the five-gallon gas can would be heavy when full but I wanted to be able to mix gas once for a full weekend of aero-towing.

The receiver switch is the master power switch as well as the NiCad charge jack. The heavy duty toggle runs the pump to fill or drain your fuel tank.

Everything arrived fully assembled and ready to mix up a batch of gas and oil. I gave everything a good inspection to make sure everything was tight and put the battery on charge. The gas jug itself is a standard hardware store, five-gallon plastic safety gas can. The cap is modified with a hard plastic center piece that has the fittings for the pickup and return line. The first thing I did was pull the fill line to check the clunk and was pleased to see that it's equipped with a heavy, brass, filter-style fuel pickup. Hanging from the neck is a nicely textured thick plastic plate which is kept in place with an elastic strap.

The battery box is solid and includes a 12 volt 2450mAh NiCad battery pack. The battery has served me for three weekends of regular flying and is still going strong so unless you're filling up a pickup truck this should be plenty of battery capacity for any reasonable weekend of flying.

There are two switches on the face of the battery box. A heavy duty receiver switch with integrated charge port and a very bright LED that illuminates when the switch is on. If you're one that occasionally leaves the switch on just to find a dead battery out at the field, this LED is nice. The switch applies power to the pump as well as facilitating charging the pump battery with a standard receiver JR style charge lead. Based on my initial charge it appears the batteries are shipped with a 50 percent storage charge.

The RC Fueling Systems gas can came with a generous three-foot fueling line.

Heavy duty stuff here; the pump is mounted to an aluminum L bracket and sealed with a thick plastic cover.

The in-tank fuel line includes a filtered brass clunk.

There's also a stout three position ON-OFF-ON toggle switch, once the power switch is turned on, the toggle switch activates the pump to either fill or drain the fuel tank depending on which way you throw the switch. The pump itself is mounted to an aluminum 90-degree angle bracket and enclosed in thick plastic. The entire assembly is very heavy duty and should take any punishment even the busiest modeler can dish out.

I mixed up a batch of four gallons of gas mixed with Power Model 2-TS synthetic oil and headed to the field. I quickly found out it was a LOT faster to fill the fuel tanks on my large gas planes, especially so the 55-ounce monster in my glider tow tractor. In its entirety, the RC Fueling Systems gas can is made with high quality components. It also comes with three feet of fill line which is a welcome change from many gas cans available for modelers.

In addition to their red fuelers for gas, RC Fueling Systems stocks identically equipped blue jugs for jet fuel and smoke fluid. I wasn't sure an electric setup was for me at first, but after just a few weekends I have no idea how I got along without this for so long! ✪

CONTACTS
RC FUELING SYSTEMS rcfuelingsystems.com (866) 450-0017
DELUXE MATERIALS deluxmaterials.co.uk

For more information, please see our source guide on page 73.