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So you want to take up model aircraft flying?

I was very fortunate in that having decided that I needed a hobby that would be interesting (get me out of the house), allow me to meet new people and gain new skills I embraced my second childhood and decided to look at model aircraft.

In Hexham I was happy to find a small, outgoing and enthusiastic club which welcomed potential new members.

What followed was a wide ranging conversation about the best way for me to embark on my model flying. I had practically no experience of RC, made chuck gliders in my youth more than half a century ago and recently for the benefit of my grandson. This process involved a number of club members and an informal review of what was available for indoors and out.

Many club members used Spektrum transmitters and as I would benefit from some "Buddy" time I was advised to get a Dx6i – I have to say this was very good advice and even though now I am more independent the Tx is still right for me.

As I was going to use electric power I was taken through the choices I should make as to charger, batteries and safety. Once again I was set on my path with excellent guidance and support.

For indoor flying I was advised to look at the Parkzone Night Vapour, I sold it last year but still have very fond memories of its slow pace in the gym and the skills it taught me.

For outdoors I was encouraged to try the Multiplex Easy Star, I bought the basic kit and chose my own motor, ESC & Rx, during construction I introduced a few modifications designed to improve its survival in what would no doubt be a tough life. I still use the Easy Star, much repaired, battered & scored, now on its third suit of wings. Much of my development has been with this model and it now carries a GoPro camera. I would certainly recommend this model (now Easy Star 2) it has withstood much and taught me a great deal about flying and repairing foam models.

While building the Easy Star I found people were happy to give their time and experience with such arts as soldering and circuit planning – it made my progress so much easier than it might have been.

So you want to take up model flying? The very best counsel is to follow the old BT slogan "It's good to talk", meet local enthusiasts, talk to them, watch them fly, decide what you would like to try and do, listen to their thoughts. Once you embark on the road to model flying you can be confident of helping hands, coaching and encouragement.