

## CASTILLA LA MANCHA AND OCAÑA REVIVE INDOOR FREE FLIGHT IN SPAIN (extraits)

On the 22nd of October, in the town of Ocaña, Toledo, took place the Spanish championship of indoor free flight in the F1M-L modality. The championship was organised by Miguel Monedero, member of the Aeroclub Ocaña aeromodelling club and Jorge García of the Club Halcón de Veleros.

At 9:00 h, the municipal pavilion "Rafa Yunta" opened its doors and the participants began to adjust and test their models. One of the aspects to take into account in the indoor free flight is the height of the pavilion. The "Rafa Yunta" has a clear height under the main beams of 8 m, being classified as Category I in the jargon of indoor free flight. The roof structure is made of full-core concrete beams, which is a great advantage for indoor flying, as it prevents aircraft from getting stuck in the structure.

A total of 14 contestants from different model airplane clubs from Castilla-La Mancha, Madrid, Cantabria and the Canary Islands took part in the Spanish 2022 championship, which can be considered a great success. During the morning there was the possibility of flying planes of various categories such as F1D, F1R or gliders, although finally, due to the nerves of the competition, the participants preferred to put the championship models, planes of the F1M-L category, to the test. These planes have a minimum weight of 3 g and the rubber band that acts as an engine may not exceed 1.5 g. Knowledge of aeronautics, skill in model construction and experience in indoor flying are the key ingredients needed to reach the top marks.

In this Spanish championship, the F1M-L "No Touch" mode was given the importance it deserves, and was assigned the time slot between 13:00 and 16:00. This mode allows participants to deepen their knowledge of model settings and flight strategies in order to keep the models in the air as long as possible without touching the ceiling. This helps participants to deepen strategies based on aerodynamic theories to improve their times, while improving model tuning and flying skills.

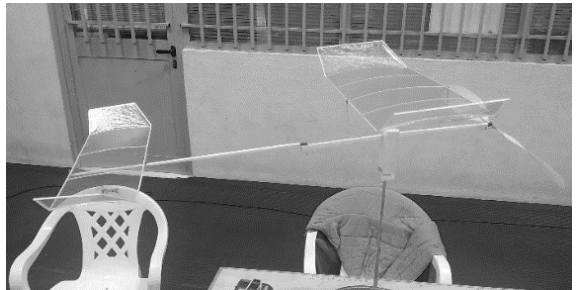
From the first flights, times of close to 5 minutes were being achieved, which gave an idea of the experience and level of some of the participants.

After this series of flights, as can be seen in the classification, the best flight was by Miguel Monedero, with a time of almost seven minutes. It should be remembered that these planes do not have a variable pitch propeller, so these times in a category I can be considered quite an achievement.

The "Rafa Yunta" has few points where the planes can get hung up, which makes it an ideal pavilion for indoor flying. Although the planes did not get hung up, they did crash against the side of the beams, slipping off the tail and losing many metres of height in some cases. This, which can be beneficial in some cases, in others caused the planes to plunge to the ground.

At some points during the contest, more than 6 planes could be seen flying at the same time, which resulted in some collisions between them, subsequently plunging to the ground and ending the flight, which is never desirable.

At least four participants achieved flight times in excess of 8 minutes, on a par with what is being achieved by the best European specialists in this category. The Spanish record was set by Manuel Angel Díaz of Aeromodel Club Santander with a time of 8 min 58 sec.



Winning model of the F1M-L "No Touch" mode.



Participants in the Spanish indoor free flight championship



Model F1M-L "Big Victor" Spanish Champion