

RADIO CONTROL FOR THE TIGER

The time has come to attempt to fit some form of remote control to the 1/8th Tiger

I purchased a 14 channel Transmitter & Receiver for the job, more channels than I will probably require but will allow for future updates without having to replace the Transmitter / Receiver package. The question was where to fit the receiver/ antenna combination. I wanted it in a location that allowed me access to the motors, battery & electronics without having to disconnect or move it & out of the way as much as possible.

The answer was to mount it off the rear engine bulkhead clear of the deck so that access was as unrestricted as possible. A length of 50 X 3mm bar was cut & bolted to the inside rear hull over the tracks. This will carry the receiver & eventually the motor speed controllers, all clear of the Battery & moving parts. The antenna could then pass out through the hull clear of the lift up deck.

The next problem was how to make it look part of the tank and not just a bit of modern wire. After much thought I remembered I'd made the Arial mounts for our replica Stug 3, so digging out a picture I realised a suitable copy would do the job.

An off cut of 15mm Square brass bar was found to be about right (annual jumble sale to the rescue). Marked up & milled to a wedge shape. A 6mm brass bolt was drilled out in the lathe to create a threaded tube. This was used to make the holding bolt & the antenna base. The threaded tube was tapped home & soldered, as I couldn't get more than 3 threads in the mounting and wanted it secure. Both tubes were drilled out 3mm so the holes meet up in the middle of the bracket.

A look around found some plastic tube & the plastic end seal off a Lead Acid battery overflow (not throwing anything away has its uses). Drilling the rear engine bulkhead near the transmitter at 6.5mm allowed the mounting to be bolted in place. The wire threaded through on the second attempt & the plastic tube & end seal were pushed over leaving about 30mm of bare wire showing. This gave rigidity & protection to the wire whilst recreating the insulated mounting of the real thing. A coat of paint & I have an unobtrusive antenna ready to go.

Now when the Speed controllers arrive I'm going to be completely out of my comfort zone as this is my first radio control project!







