

## The Picoo Z Helicopter

By: Dr. Alan J. Pierce

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The Picoo Z helicopter is tiny in size and extremely light in weight and it compensates for its size/weight limitations by being tons of fun to fly. Actually its diminutive physical attributes helps it to withstand multiple crashes without any physical damage.

This little 39.99 dollar helicopter comes in red, yellow, and blue. If you purchase more than one unit make certain that they differ in color so more than one person can fly the little machines in the same "airspace" at the same time. Three controllers can independently control their own helicopters for simultaneous flying by setting the paired sets to the same channel. If the birds don't differ in color it will be very difficult to stay focused on which helicopter you are actually controlling.

The Picoo Z is about six inches long and it doesn't

weigh much more than a first class letter. It actually has a blue strobe light that adds to its realism during flight. Once you get the controls down pat it is



major fun flying the machine in a darkened room.

The infrared controller runs on six AA batteries and the helicopter plugs into this controller to recharge its internal lithium polymer battery. A full charge, about a half hour, will allow the helicopter to fly for about ten minutes.

The controller has sticks for lift and rudder control and a rocker switch for trimming the bird so it doesn't spiral clockwise or counter clockwise during flight. This helicopter is designed for flying indoors and your ability to control its flight can be quickly affected by a breeze from an open window, hot air heating duct, or airflow from an air conditioner.

It probably shouldn't be piloted by children who are immature or under eight years old. I also need to emphasize that it is capable of causing injury if it crashes into someone's face or eyes.

The photo was taken just as the Picoo Z flew in front of a painting in my home.

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*Dr. Alan J. Pierce CSIT is a Tech Ed consultant. Visit [www.techtoday.us](http://www.techtoday.us) for past columns and other resources.*

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By: Alan Pierce & Dennis Karwatka

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