



***Rotor**Tales*

The Official Monthly Newsletter of **Hummingbird Helicopter**

OCTOBER
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Beyond the Build: Your Journey to First Flight



From blueprint to
takeoff—discover
what comes next.



PLANNING YOUR PATH

Key steps and
milestones on the
road to first flight.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Stories from builders
who are taking
their dreams higher.



TIPS FROM THE FIELD

Expert advice to
help you prepare
with confidence.

Beyond the Build: *Your Journey to First Flight*



Completing a Hummingbird helicopter is an incredible accomplishment. After investing hundreds of hours assembling your aircraft from Section 1 through Section 14 of the Hummingbird Assembly Manual, the finish line is finally in sight—but there are still several important steps before your helicopter is ready to take to the skies.

The good news is that you won't be navigating this process alone. At Vertical Aviation Technologies, Inc., we're committed to supporting our builders from the day they receive their kit through the day they complete their flight test program.

Step 1: Complete the Aircraft Assembly

Before moving on to inspections and testing, ensure that every section of the Hummingbird Assembly Manual has been completed and all applicable systems have been installed, adjusted, and thoroughly checked.

Step 2: Weight and Balance

Once the helicopter is fully assembled, a complete Weight and Balance must be performed. This establishes the aircraft's empty weight and center of gravity, confirming that it falls within the approved operating limits. Accurate weight and balance information is essential for safe flight operations.

Step 3: Final Inspection

A comprehensive Final Inspection follows the completion of the aircraft. Every system should be carefully inspected to verify that the helicopter has been assembled in accordance with the assembly instructions and is ready for operation. This final review helps identify any items that require adjustment before flight testing begins.

Step 4: Registration and FAA Documentation

Before flight, the aircraft must be properly registered and the required documentation prepared in accordance with applicable FAA requirements for Experimental Amateur-Built aircraft. This includes completing the necessary paperwork and coordinating the inspection process required before receiving authorization to begin flight testing.

Step 5: Pilot Production Test Procedure

Once the aircraft has received the appropriate authorization, the builder will perform the Pilot Production Test Procedure. This structured series of ground and flight evaluations is designed to verify that all aircraft systems operate properly and that the helicopter performs as expected before entering its flight test phase.

Step 6: Complete the 40-Hour Flight Test Program

The next milestone is the required 40-hour flight test program. During this period, the aircraft's performance, handling qualities, and reliability are evaluated while operating within the designated test area. This phase allows the builder to become familiar with the aircraft while documenting its operating characteristics.

Step 7: Final Documentation

After successfully completing the flight test program, all required documentation should be completed and maintained as part of the aircraft's permanent records. Proper recordkeeping ensures compliance with FAA requirements and establishes a complete maintenance and operating history for the helicopter.

We're With You Every Step of the Way!

While the certification and flight test process may seem intimidating at first, it doesn't have to be. Vertical Aviation Technologies provides builders with the guidance, documentation, forms, manuals, inspection checklists, and technical support needed to make the transition from completed project to flying helicopter as straightforward as possible.

Our goal is not only to help you build an exceptional helicopter, but also to help you confidently complete the steps leading to that unforgettable moment—your very first flight.

Order Now!



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CERTIFIED DESIGN AT A HOMEBUILT PRICE

Vertical Aviation Technologies, Inc., located in Sanford, Florida, is the manufacturer of the Hummingbird helicopter. The company was founded by Bradley G. Clark in 1987. We have sold over 400 helicopters worldwide from commercial helicopter operators to governments. Currently, Vertical Aviation Technologies, Inc. produces the Hummingbird S-52 series helicopters.



Vertical Aviation Technologies: Making Aviation Great Again.