

STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION

Introduction

This leaflet contains the required information to permit straightforward fitment of a radio installation in a 3-axis control microlight aeroplane.

It permits only certain ways of doing this. This is because these ways are known to be straightforward, risk and hassle free. This doesn't mean that there aren't other ways of fitting a radio in an 3-axis control microlight, but if you wish to do it in another way, this must be done through a more conventional mod application (at slightly greater cost) and more information than is required here may be requested by the BMAA technical office.

Notwithstanding the simple approach taken by this TIL, it is the aircraft owner's responsibility to ensure that all materials used in a modification are of adequate quality, that proper aircraft engineering standards are applied, that this modification does not create any safety problem when combined with any other modification to the aircraft, and that no relevant information has been withheld from the BMAA or inspector.

This issue specifies that radios must be 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable. This is a legal requirement for new fitments from 17th November 2013. (Previously approved 25 kHz channel spacing capable fitments may continue to be used until 1st January 2018.)

Permitted Options

- 1 Radio Type
 - 1.1 The radio is to be either a hand-held type or a panel-mount type.
 - 1.2 The type must be CAA approved.
 - 1.3 The radio must be 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable.
- 2 Antenna Type
 - 2.1 The antenna is to be of a "whip" type, or...
 - 2.2 The antenna is of a flat plate type.
- 3 Power Supply
 - 3.1 The radio will have an internal or integral battery, or...
 - 3.2 The radio will be powered by an external battery and/or a regulator attached to the engine's electrical generator.
- 4 Radio Location
 - 4.1 A panel-mount radio is to be mounted in the instrument panel.
 - 4.2 A hand-held radio is to be located in the cockpit, out of the airflow, and, in particular...
 - 4.3 The radio is to be mounted on the instrument panel, or...
 - 4.4 The radio is to be mounted on the inside side of the pod, or...
 - 4.5 The radio is to be mounted on an overhead panel fastened, without drilling, to an overhead keel tube.

STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION

- 5 Antenna Location
 - 5.1 The antenna is to be located on the kingpost (if one is fitted), or...
 - 5.2 The antenna is to be fitted, without drilling, to the fuselage tube (normally using large jubilee clips over plastic tape, or by fitting a bracket to an existing bolt), or...
 - 5.3 The antenna is to be attached to the radio, or...
 - 5.4 The antenna is to be on the nose of the fuselage (but not in front of the pitot, venturi, or static source), or...
 - 5.5 The antenna may be mounted above the wing (high wing types) or fuselage (low wing types) on the centreline, without cutting or drilling the wing, or...
 - 5.6 The antenna may be mounted below the fuselage, with at least 6" / 150mm ground clearance.
- 6 Other Options
 - 6.1 If attached to the fuselage or wing, the antenna can have a metallic ground plane at its base, consisting of a plate or metallic tape attached to the inside of the aircraft. It is also possible to use the airframe as a ground plane in (predominantly) metal aircraft. (Recommended).

Essential Safety Checks

- 1 Radio
 - 1.1 The radio (including any mounting brackets and integral battery(s)) must be weighed.
 - 1.2 A load test, using scales or a spring balance to 9 times the radio weight forwards, 4.5 times the radio weight up and down, 3 times the radio weight to port and starboard must be carried out.
 - 1.3 For hand-held radios there must also be a "retaining lanyard" attached to both the aircraft and the radio when it is fitted, to stop it falling out of the aircraft if it comes loose from its mounts. This must be short enough to prevent it snagging the pilot as they enter or leave the cockpit.
 - 1.4 For panel-mount radios, if a new cutout is required, this is only acceptable if the panel is not load bearing primary structure. If unsure, make certain first and cut later. There must be enough space around the radio that there is adequate mechanical strength left in the panel to carry the additional weight. Obviously this means that with a thick metal panel the radio can be far closer to other instruments than with a thick GRP panel for example (instruments with backing plates that are screwed into the panel are unlikely to have a significant weakening effect). In addition to the load test of check 1.2, test the panel in the area of the new radio with 9 times the combined weight of the radio and its adjacent instruments forward (spread the load over an area when performing this test). If there is any question as to whether the whole panel can cope with the additional weight, repeat the test with 9 times the combined weight of all the instruments.
 - 1.5 The radio (or accompanying paperwork) must have a CAA or EASA approval number, and must be 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable.

STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION

- 2 Cabling
 - 2.1 Any cables between the radio, intercom box, power supply and antenna, must be firmly secured (without over-tightening) with cable ties to the aircraft at intervals of 150mm / 6” or less.
 - 2.2 Any cables bridging “de-riggable” parts of the aircraft must have quick release fasteners at the join.
 - 2.3 No holes must be drilled in any metal structure for cables to pass through.
 - 2.4 No holes must be cut in the sail for cables to pass through.
 - 2.5 Cables, if passing through the wing, must be routed so that they cannot snag any flying controls.
 - 2.6 If powered from anything but an internal or integral battery, the radio must be connected to its power supply via an in-line fuse and a switch (such that it is easy for the pilot to turn the power supply to the radio off in flight). The fuse rating must be between 1.5 and 2 times the maximum current draw of the radio, and placarded on, or adjacent to, the fuse holder. The switch can be a separate switch or the supply can be routed via the master switch. In the case of a separate switch, it must be clearly placarded with its function (for example ‘radio’) and its sense (on/off), which must be down for off.
- 3 Intercom Box
 - 3.1 This should be fastened with cable ties to a non-moving part of the aircraft (e.g. a cockpit tube, or instrument panel). It must be secured and located so that aircraft occupants can’t inadvertently push it off.
 - 3.2 This must be mounted within the cockpit, out of the airflow (obviously not possible if no pod is fitted).
- 4 Antenna
 - 4.1 This must be either permanently secured to the aircraft, or attached using a locking mechanism (e.g. twist lock, wire locking) that can’t come undone.
 - 4.2 There must be no way in which it can rotate to come within 6” / 150mm of the propeller or exhaust.
 - 4.3 It is recommended that the antenna is located at least 12” / 300 mm from the compass. In any case a check must be made that radio transmission does not deflect the compass.
- 5 Ground Plane
 - 5.1 If fitted, the ground plane must be firmly secured so that there is no significant risk of it peeling-off.
- 6 Aircraft Weight and Balance
 - 6.1 The last weight report must be checked to ensure that the additional weight of the installation won’t put the aircraft overweight.
 - 6.2 The inspector must calculate, from the known weight and position of the radio the empty CG change, and satisfy themselves that this will not in any condition make the aircraft go outside the permitted CG limits. If a W&CG report is not held for the aircraft, one must be prepared or BMAA HQ contacted for the file copy (Note: it is an ANO requirement that whenever an aircraft is weighed, details of the weighing are included in the aircraft logbook).
 - 6.3 The inspector must make an amended weight and balance entry in the aircraft logbook.

STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION

What to do once you have fitted your radio

In conjunction with your inspector, fill in the form on pages 4 and 5 of this TIL, and return it to the BMAA. The BMAA will return this form to you, with the full modification approval number shown at the bottom of the page. This mod number must then be entered in the aircraft logbook. The mod number will also be needed on your permit renewal form (form BMAA/AW/001), otherwise your permit renewal may be refused.

It is acceptable to send in the form with your permit renewal form, noting in the modifications box 'TIL 102 submitted'.

Aircraft must be wholly owned by BMAA members. A BMAA Ownership Trustee Grid should be submitted with this form for syndicate, group and company owned aircraft.

Prepared by:

Approved for Issue:



R S Mott
Airworthiness Engineer
British Microlight Aircraft Association

B J Syson
Chief Technical Officer
British Microlight Aircraft Association

BRITISH MICROLIGHT AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

NO: 102

ISSUE 5

OCT 2013

**STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION**

BMAA – STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION CHECKLIST: TIL 102

| | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| Reg: G- _____ | Aircraft type: | Serial No: |
| Owners name ¹ : | | Owners BMAA No: |
| ¹ BMAA Aircraft Ownership Trustee Grid required for syndicate/group/company owned aircraft | | |

Installation Details

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Radio Make and Model | | Radio Weight | g |
| Type Approval No. | | Total Installation Weight | g |

Tick one box per section

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 1. Radio | Handheld <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Power Supply | Integral Battery <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Panel Mount <input type="checkbox"/> | | Aircraft Power Supply <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Radio Location | Overhead <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Antenna | Whip <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Inside Side of Pod <input type="checkbox"/> | | Flat Plate <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Instrument Panel <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Ground Plane | None <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Antenna Location | Kingpost <input type="checkbox"/> | | Airframe <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Fuselage Tube <input type="checkbox"/> | | Metallic Plate <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Attached to Radio <input type="checkbox"/> | | Metallic Tape <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Aircraft Nose <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Intercom Box | None <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Above Wing on Fuselage Centreline <input type="checkbox"/> | | Attached to Radio <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Bottom of Pod <input type="checkbox"/> | | Separate <input type="checkbox"/> |

Safety Checks

| <u>CHECK</u> | <u>ACTION</u> | <u>COMMENTS</u> | <u>INSPECTOR'S INITIALS</u> |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>1 All radio types</i> | | | |
| 1.1 | Radio type approved and 8.33 kHz capable | | |
| 1.2 | Radio inside cockpit & outside airflow | | |
| 1.3 | Radio installation load tested | | |
| 1.4 | Aircraft within weight & CG limits – amended weight & balance entry in aircraft logbook | | |
| <i>2 Hand-held radios</i> | | | |
| 2.1 | Lanyard fitted | | |
| 2.2 | Primary flight instruments not hidden | | |
| 2.3 | Aircraft controls not restricted | | |
| 2.4 | Entry and exit of aircraft not impeded | | |
| <i>3 Panel-mount radios</i> | | | |
| 3.1 | Mounted in instrument panel - not primary structure | | |
| 3.2 | Instrument panel strength (see section 1.4) | | |
| <i>4 Radios powered by aircraft power supply</i> | | | |
| 4.1 | Circuit protected by appropriate fuse | | |

BRITISH MICROLIGHT AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

TECHNICAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

NO: 102

ISSUE 5

OCT 2013

**STANDARD MINOR MODIFICATION – 3-AXIS CONTROL MICROLIGHT
RADIO / INTERCOM INSTALLATION**

| <u>CHECK</u> | <u>ACTION</u> | <u>COMMENTS</u> | <u>INSPECTOR'S INITIALS</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 4.2 | Fuse rating placarded | | |
| 4.3 | Power to radio can be switched off by pilot in flight (master switch acceptable) | | |
| 4.4 | Switch function clearly placarded | | |
| 4.5 | Switch down for off and placarded as such | | |
| <i>5 General installation checks</i> | | | |
| 5.1 | Multi-strand cable used - adequate cable flexibility and current capacity | | |
| 5.2 | All cable terminations properly made - no exposed conductor | | |
| 5.3 | Cables and other components properly secured | | |
| 5.4 | Quick-release fasteners used for de-riggable parts of airframe | | |
| 5.5 | No holes or cuts made in airframe | | |
| <i>6 Antenna installation</i> | | | |
| 6.1 | Secure and clear of propeller & exhaust | | |
| 6.2 | Minimum 6" ground clearance (if under pod) | | |
| 6.3 | Not in front of pitot, venturi or static source | | |
| 6.4 | Ground plane secure (if applicable) | | |
| 6.5 | Transmission does not affect compass | | |
| <i>7 Separate intercom boxes</i> | | | |
| 7.1 | Intercom box inside cockpit & outside airflow | | |
| 7.2 | Secure (load test required if > 100g) | | |
| 7.3 | Primary flight instruments not hidden | | |
| 7.4 | Aircraft controls not restricted | | |
| 7.5 | Entry and exit of aircraft not impeded | | |

OWNER'S DECLARATION

I declare that the foregoing information is correct to the best of my knowledge and I will not change the installation design once approved.

| | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| Signed: | Name. | Date: |
|---------|-------|-------|

INSPECTOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the foregoing information is correct and the installation is fit to be flown.

| | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| Signed: | Name. | Insp No: | Date: |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|

This form must be sent with payment as per current fees in MF or www.bmaa.org, and BMAA Aircraft Ownership Trustee Grid (if applicable) to*:- technical.office@bmaa.org

BMAA Office Approval: _____ (signed) _____ (Name)

Mod No.: G-____ / TIL102 / 20 __ / _____ (Date)

**Whilst waiting for this form to be returned by the BMAA the aircraft may be flown for upto one calendar month from the Inspection date above. Once this form is returned to you signed please enter the full modification approval number above in your aircraft logbook and retain this sheet with your aircraft records.*