Spektrum’s patented SAFE® TECHNOLOGY

SAFE technology is an advanced flight assistance system that gives pilots the ability to fly without the worry of crashing due to common mistakes such as orientation loss or over-control. Built upon the successful Spektrum AS3X system, models with SAFE technology, such as the E-flite® Apprentice™ S 15e, have multiple flight modes with progressive flight envelope limitations as well as self-leveling and flight stabilization. By simply changing the position of a switch on the transmitter, a pilot can choose any flight mode for results that promote confidence and flight proficiency at a comfortable and often faster rate.

Self-leveling, heading-hold and bank-limit flight mode capabilities of SAFE technology reduce the chance of crashing and allow a pilot to get comfortable with an airplane. No other electronic system compares in options or ease of use. When a pilot becomes proficient enough to turn the SAFE flight modes off, turning it back on again is always a simple solution.

An important difference between SAFE and AS3X technology equipped receivers is that an AS3X only receiver can be tuned by the user and suitable in nearly any model. A SAFE receiver is a complex system custom made for the aircraft. A SAFE receiver is not intended to be taken from one model and put in another.

Several of the beginner planes sold by Horizon Hobbies have 3 flight modes, including, beginner, Intermediate and Experienced. In beginner mode, Pitch and Roll angles are limited, controls released, and the model returns to level flight, there is some mixing of Rudder with Ailerons. In the intermediate flight mode, Pitch and roll angles are expanded. With the Experienced mode, roll and pitch angles are not limited, and Safe is off. AS3X is operational in all 3 flight modes.

With the training program the Kamloops Model Airplane society uses, we were faced with the dilemma as to when do we as flight trainers turn the SAFE option off? If SAFE is shut off, and the plane is out of control or orientation is lost, will the R.C. pilot be able to get the plane back to flying straight and level without relying on SAFE, As R.C. flight instructors, we want to ensure the student will get the proper feel for the aircraft. We allow students to take their Flight exam with SAFE on but encourage all members to try flying without SAFE. If an R.C. pilot feels more comfortable using SAFE all the time and they are having fun, I don’t want to stop their enjoyment of the wonderful hobby of R.C. model flying.

Mark Betuzzi – Radio Spectrum Chairman – MAAC 26605L