

# Ron Gray, Xtra Wot build, 7

Unfortunately I didn't hit my target of having the Xtra Wot finished when planned, instead it overran by 3 days! Still not too bad, just over a couple of weeks from box to ready for flight.

But lots of little jobs done, hard points fitted to rudder, elevator and ailerons. All hinge points slotted and hinges fitted. Elevator joining wire fitted. Rudder, elevators and ailerons covered. Fin and tailplane glued in place, for the latter I had to slightly trim one fuse tailplane slot as it was about 1/2 degree out from level. I also spent a bit of time drawing and cutting out some letters for the fuse and wings, for this I used the Silhouette Cameo cutting covering film.

Not many photos of this, as the work was pretty basic and covering is covering! For the hinges I'm using 'furry' plastic type glued into the control surfaces using medium, slow set cyano, then Gorilla Glue (white) to attach them to the wings etc,

Hinge slots cut using the slotting tool.



Most of the parts can be seen in this shot plus the lettering has been added to the fuse.





Over now to painting.



Primer applied to the various bits that are white and need to be black

I had already primed the fuse decking so I set about cutting the front section out to form the battery access hatch.





Back to the outside spray booth and black topcoat applied.

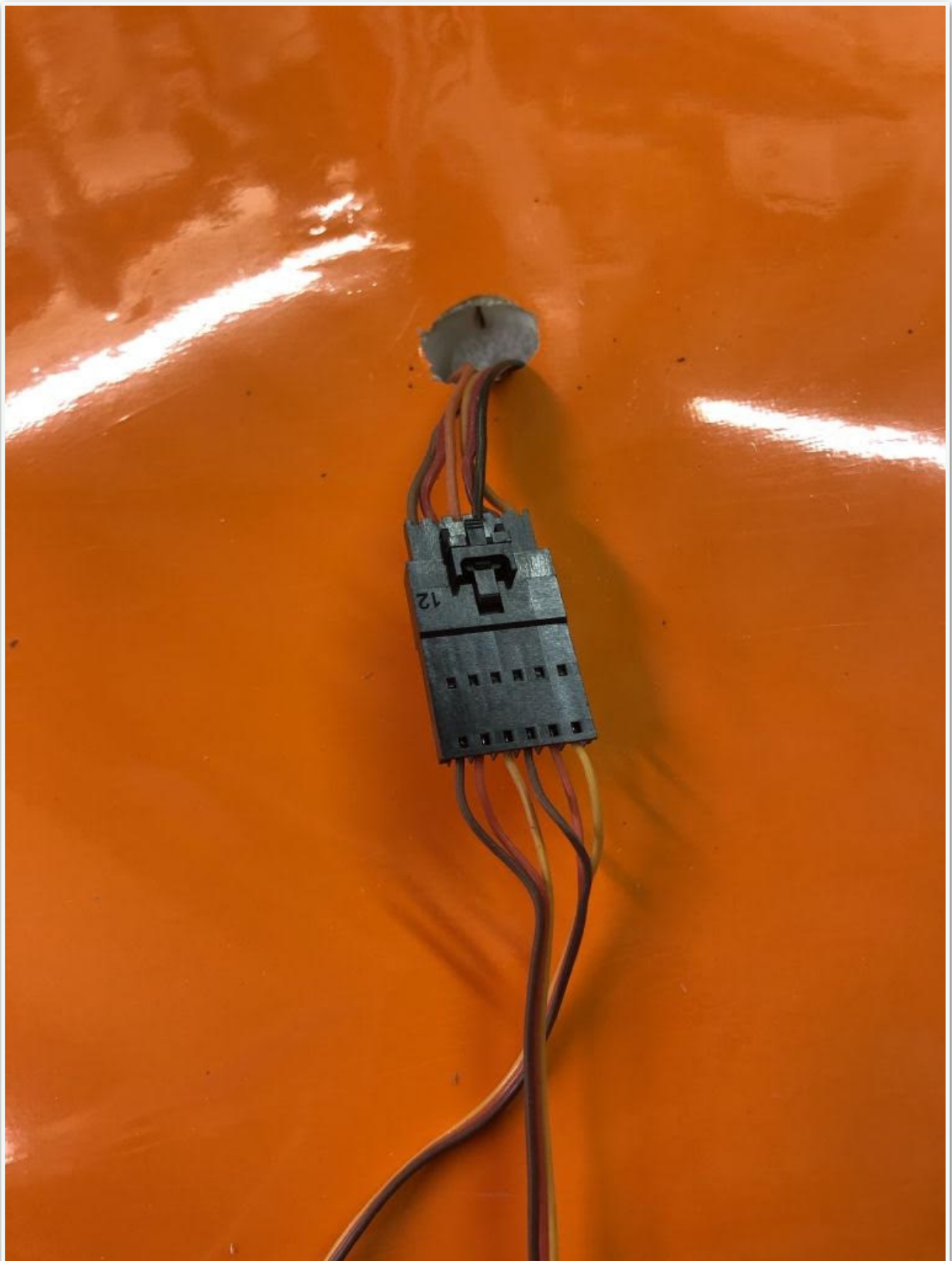




Control linkages fitted to the ailerons (I've already done the tail ones), using a Z bend for the servo end, keeping it nice and simple.



Servo wiring sorted and for the wing I'm using a Maxloc (Ashlock) connector, one plug instead of 2 to connect at the field.





Other bits done, cowl mounting blocks fitted and cowl cut out for the motor shaft and the air intakes. U/C drilled and fitted along with wheels.

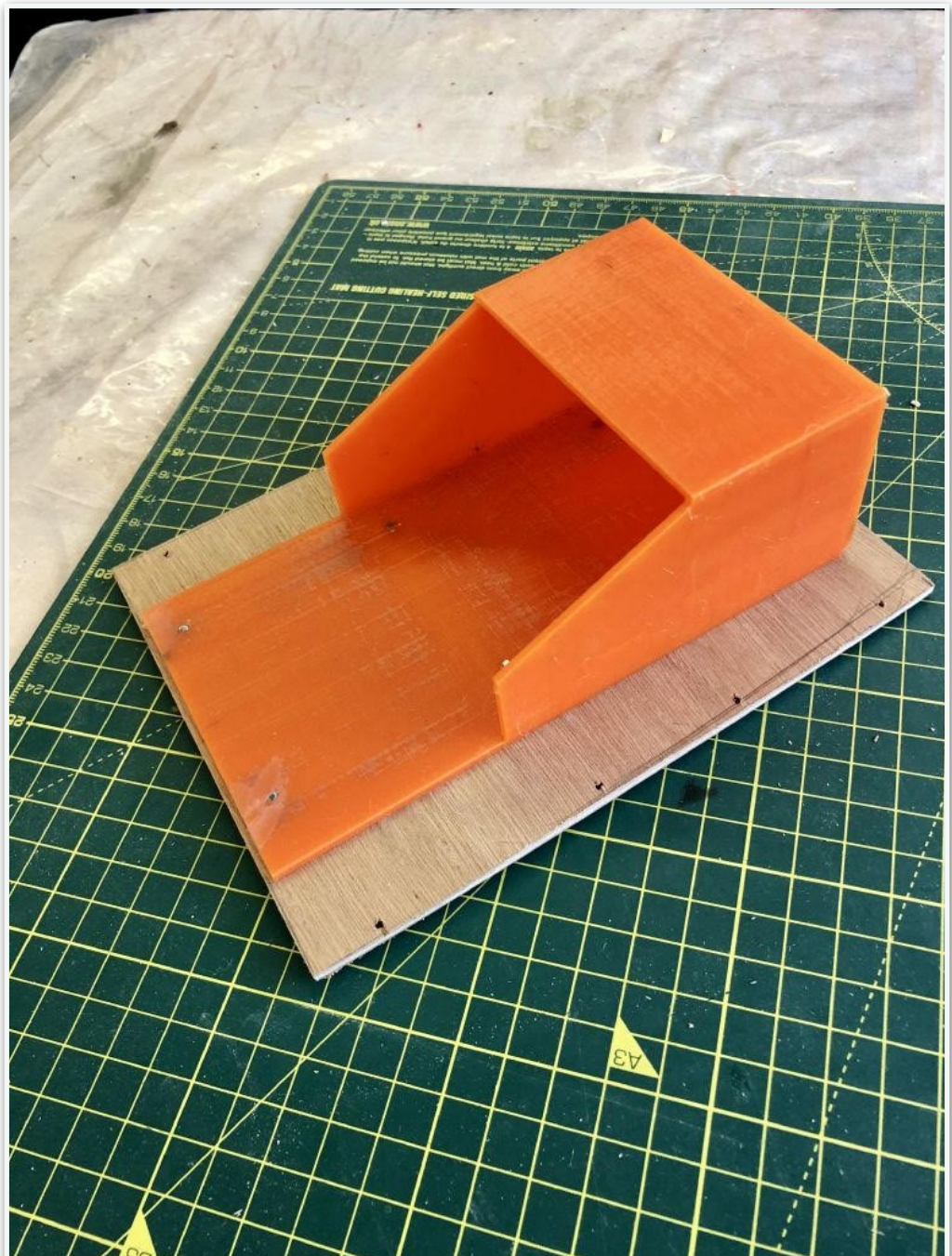
I needed to get the fuse up to a position where I could check the C of G as that will determine where the battery pack goes and the support platform for them. Fortunately Chris Foss gives a fuse only C of G and having checked it out, the batteries should fit into an easily accessible space. So that will be the next main job, build the platform followed by permanently fitting the top deck and making the battery hatch.

Last little bits done, well I say the last but there are bound to be more.

Battery box and platform.

I 3D printed the box as the printer could be getting on with that whilst I was doing other bits.

Battery box mounted on ply platform. I may well re-print the box with lightening holes but we'll see how it goes. It's not glued together just screwed to cater for this eventuality.



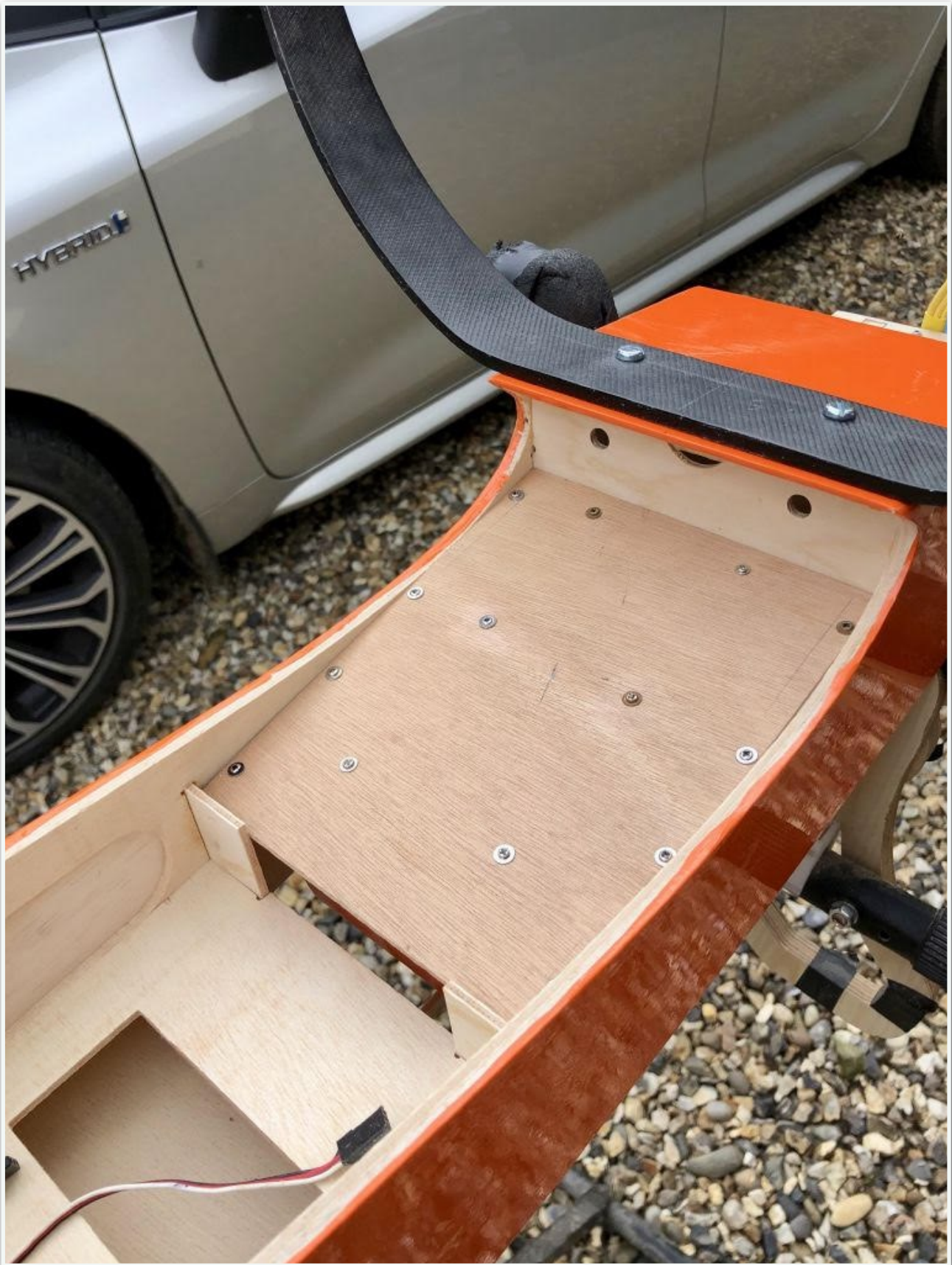


10s 5000's sit in there nice and snug (got to do the retaining strap!)





I stuck bearers to the fuse sides and the platform is screwed to them so that it sits, more or less, on top of the wing.



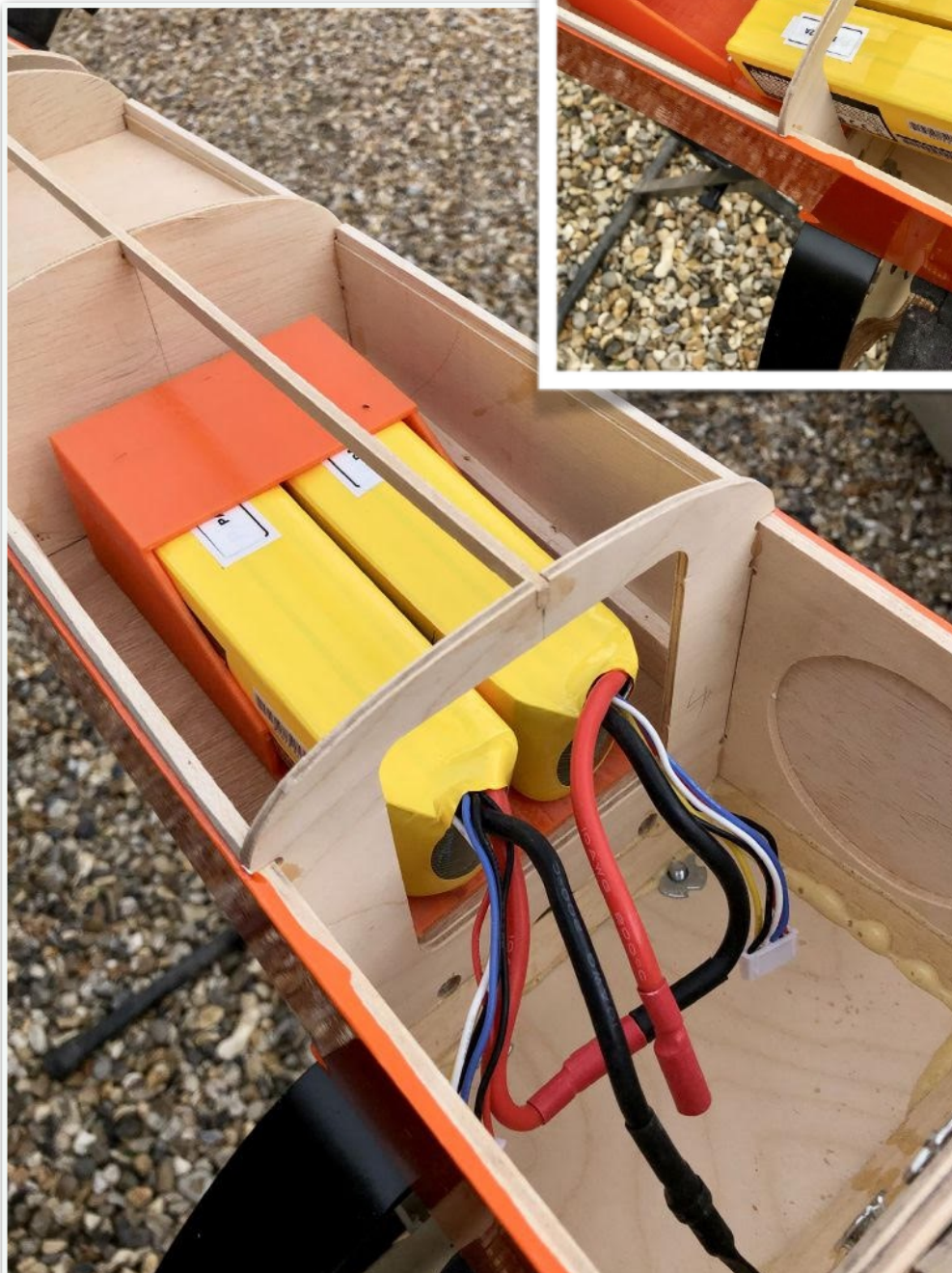


Battery box in place.





And testing out the insertion of the batteries through where the hatch will be.



There's quite a bit of room for the batteries to be moved to achieve the C of G.



After I had glued the front deck in place it was time to make up the battery hatch cover. Before gluing in place I covered the fixed formers with some masking tape to prevent accidental glueing taking place!



Then I cut out 2 top former pieces onto which the hatch will be stuck and to keep them in place whilst the cover glue dries I hot glued them to the masking tape.

The cover was then glued on using Gorilla Glue (brown).





The canopy was attached using very small socket head screws. I like the look of the fixings along the edge of the canopy and prefer it to just glueing the canopy in place.





Other jobs carried out have been the soldering of connectors onto the ESC and fitting it to the underside of the engine mounting box together with drilling the firewall for the ESC leads. The cowl has been fitted with its side cheeks, these have been reinforced with balsa base plates which also makes it easier to fit them to the fuse.

I Fitted the velcro restraint straps to the battery box and then finished off the construction of the access hatch, using a ply tongue for the front edge and a spring latch for the rear.









And so to the finished shots:









A couple of shots of the underside but the iPhone has difficulty in rendering true colours when there is a dark background to contend with, the lettering is actually the same orange as the topside of the 'plane, not yellow as it appears to show here!





There still is / are one or 2 jobs to be done, I'm not happy with the spinner as it is a bit too pointy plus could do with being 1/2" smaller diameter, so it's over to the 3D printer and print a new one. I also don't like the 'bandy legged' stance of the UC so may well change that for a more 'straight legged' part.

First the spinner; too pointy and too large so 3D print to the rescue:





And the bandy legs replaced with straight legs



I'm a lot happier now.