RCU Review: RC Specialties Turbo Header Muffler and right angle

Contributed by: Andrew Griffith  |  Published: May 2010  |  Views: 27917  |  Email this Article  |  PDF

Review by: Andrew Griffith

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Product: RC Specialties Turbo Header Muffler and right angle adapter.
Retail Price: $69.95 (Muffler) and $19.95 (Adapter*)
Manufacturer:
RC Specialties, LLC
Post Office Box 154
Zachary, Louisiana 70791
Phone: (225) 975-8072
Website: www.rcspecialties.net
Email: Info@RCSpecialties.net
*Adapter not required for all installations, see text.
RC Specialties, of Zachary, Louisiana was founded for the purpose of providing high quality aftermarket mufflers for Saito and other four stroke model aircraft engines. The company currently offers their TurboHeader for most of the Saito for strokes along with models that fit some OS, Magnum, ASP, and Thunder Tiger four stroke motors.

The mufflers are machined out of billet aluminum and polished to an attractive finish. RC Specialties uses OEM jam nuts and Dubro pressure fittings to maintain the high overall quality of their turbo headers. The relatively short mufflers are supposed to have a unique exhaust note, increase RPM, and fit inside most cowls. Sounds like a win-win-win situation to me so lets see how it worked out.

My friend Ashley, who appears holding many of the models in my reviews isn't just a pretty face, she's an active member of our club. Her Saito 180 equipped Extra 300 had a rather motley looking stock muffler that aside from being an eyesore, had a habit of allowing her exhaust deflector to fall off in flight due to the short flange. So when I needed a volunteer plane with a 4 stroke engine I looked on the RC Specialties web site, scoped out her plane, and her mechanic (dad) and I settled on the TH14X1A TurboHeader along with a machined right angle adapter.

I unpacked the muffler and adapter when it arrived and gave it a good inspection. The instructions say (several times) to install the muffler with silicon plumbers tape with three wraps around the threads. A visual inspection of the parts confirmed what I saw on the web site: first class machine work and a muffler that I was almost ashamed to hide inside a cowl.

Under the category of "nothing is ever easy" we did have to remove the motor from the plane to get the old muffler off and the new one installed. When we were done two things stood out. The old muffler had the possibility of rubbing on the firewall, the new muffler had good clearance between the header and the firewall. The other thing, and one that they really appreciated was the longer exhaust outlet allowed two tie wraps to be installed on the exhaust deflector and it has remained securely in place ever since.

After we made sure everything was securely assembled we went ahead and ran up the motor and put a tach on it. Ashley is a sport flyer and is beginning to learn a little IMAC so the Saito is equipped with an APC 16x8 composite prop. Before and after tach testing confirmed the manufacturers claim of a 200 to 300 RPM increase. We actually measured a 250 RPM difference. I also liked the throaty rumble that the TurboHeader gave while idling. Once up to flying RPM the motor does sound a bit different than a stock four stroke motor but you really have to hear them back to back to notice a difference.
If you're looking for an alternative to the stock muffler for your four-stroke motor you really should check out RC Specialties. The short profile makes it great for in-cowl installations. The right angle adapter is a well thought out option that makes mounting the TurboHeader so flexible that it should fit nearly any installation.

In the unlikely event that they don't have something in their online store that fits your needs you are welcome to call or email them with any questions or specific requirements and they will be happy to help you out. They are also planning on introducing other new products to check the website for announcements.

Comments on RCU Review: RC Specialties Turbo Header Muffler and right angle

Posted by: albsurfer on 05/31/2010
Good review. If you know SAITOs, you can tell the difference on the ground in your video, but I agree that in the air, it would be difficult. I had already corresponded with someone who is using this on his SAITO 100 and is getting around 270 RPMs higher with an APC 14x8. Thanks for the review and video.

Posted by: phililpb on 03/29/2014
Has anyone ever tried to use this with a smoke system. I would be very interested to hear the results
With its distinctive looks, it is probably safe to say that the J-3 Cub is one of the most recognized and known airplanes in ...

When Seagull Models announced that they were going to produce not just a model, but an ARF of the Super Rocket, I just had to...

The Flitework Edge 540 is an electric only ARF airframe with a generous wing span of 66.9” and also beautifully dressed up in...

Seagull Models introduced this biplane early on in 2015, and SIG mfg. had a pre-production sample at the Toledo Expo. That pr...

ST model brings us a fun aerobatic glider with the H101 Salto. The self-launch electric glider has no bad tendency and will b...

RCGF, a Chinese manufacturer of gasoline engines, designs and manufactures engines specifically for 'the RC aircraft market. ...

The new Funky Cub has some really cool attributes, borrowed from scale aircraft, that should add up to make it a great flying...

RCGF, a Chinese manufacturer of gasoline engines, designs and manufactures engines specifically for 'the RC aircraft market. ...