

State of the Hobby?

NOTHING NEW
TOP 5 QUESTIONS I
GET ASKED



IMMERSE YOURSELF
A WEEKEND WITH
FINAL GLIDE AUS



THE REVERB
STILL GOING STRONG
GREAT REVIEWS



LIVING THE DREAM
NEXT MONTH - HOW TO
MAKE MONEY IN THIS
HOBBY

FGA PATREON NEWS



Joy In My World

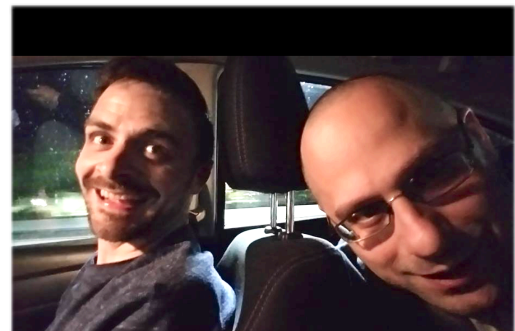
I've been home for a couple of months now and have actually enjoyed chillin out with friends and family - not having to rush to catch planes or stressing out about organised schedules or worrying about project deadlines. The truth is that I have started to reflect on my last 3 years of living in the fast lane - something that most people would call "living the dream." It has certainly taken its toll. I am not financially better off by any stretch of the imagination - just more contented with my lot in life and looking forward to what's next. These past years in the glare of FPV community limelight meant living out of a suitcase for months on end and rushing around the world on filming projects. When I was not travelling I was spending every minute of my days testing products offered to me by manufacturers - who all sought my opinion so they could use my positive recommendations in their advertising. Interesting to note that

sometimes my opinions were not at all well received. I am not prepared to sully my reputation. The precious free time I had I flew for the fun of flying and if footage was memorable it ended up in a video. As you may already have discovered I am not one for vlogging or having the camera on my face while I take a shit or cook a meal or flip a bottle. FPV quadcopters have certainly enhanced my life but I have always flown for fun and created videos to record my special memories.

Top 5 Questions?

I get asked these questions all the time:

1. Your preferred quad setup? What components would you recommend?
2. I am keen on racing - what advice would you give?
3. What can I do to get rid of jello on my videos?
4. Can I fly your quad? It seems so locked in. What's your secret?
5. How do you make money in this hobby?



Expert advice is hard to come by.

I answer questions during my video blogs, during public talks/presentations, when I am flying with my mates and when visiting pilots come around to catch up with me at my private “office/apartment in amongst the trees” near Brisbane. These same questions also form the basis of the “curriculum” covered in my Weekend with FGA training sessions (albeit in a lot more detail and with lots of practical hands-on experience).

What do I fly?

I fly products that I had a hand in developing. I’ve always hankered after a FPV quad with great components - durable, well balanced, easily tuned, strong performance and simple to construct. In my efforts to develop a complete product I created the Reverb frame (and had major input into the development of the Alien before that). I also invented the HQ Prop V1S line of propellers and wrote the specifications for the HypeTrain line of motors. Most people in the industry know about my ongoing work helping develop KISS products but I was also able to tweak and improve the performance and efficiency of a number of other components as well. As I have said many times before - once I have a package that I am happy with I am loath to change unless there is a really good reason. It is a sad fact that there are many pilots out there who feel they need to change/upgrade because they have been hoodwinked into believing there is something better on offer. All the components I use do their job tremendously well so the need to tinker further and spend less time flying is out of the question. Check out my videos - I list what I fly in the description. How many quads do I have? Usually about 4 (all basically the same) so I can easily compare like for like when testing new component releases.

Racing advice?

The reality is that I have not raced competitively for some time. I enjoy the thrill of flying fast through gates etc but not the bullshit that goes with it. Racing round and round the one boring course over and over again has never really turned me on. So what’s my advice to up-and-coming racing wannabies? One word - PRACTICE!! You will soon work out the angles you need to attack corners and when its best to pull out all stops and also when to pull the stick back. All high profile racing pilots practice for long hours. And despite this they don’t always win. The racing community is being populated with an ever increasing number of new younger pilots. Competition is getting fiercer while podium cash prizes are getting scarcer. Some are leaving the sport. Racing is not for me.



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mix with like
minded souls.

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Vibration free footage?

If you believe that celebrity pilots never have jello problems then you are a fool. EVERYONE experiences jello issues constantly - even the pilots who are known for their “juicy” smooth footage. The truth is that vibration is a pilot’s constant companion and everyone is always trying to find a workaround solution. A year or so ago “soft mounting” was all the rage. Then suddenly professional (expensive) software was being used (mostly on the quiet because it was very expensive and only available in Hollywood movies). Today its the new GoPro 7 with “vibration cancelling capabilities” built-in that has everyone excited. Do I have jello in my footage? You bet. I am like every other pilot. The



difference is that “professional” pilots have more opportunity to record lots of footage plus their footage is from different times in the day or different locations. The more footage you have the more chance you have of limiting jello in

your edits - and jello free footage is so important. You may notice some pilots don’t post videos for a few months? Its not good to show your fans that you have problems like jello and crashes. That is not to say that one cannot tune jello out of any quad. You certainly can do that and many videos released to show you how this is done. In essence there are many many factors that will bring on the jello. 3” quads have different vibration possibilities as do the bigger 7” frames. Different brands of motors and even individual motors of the same brand can and do vibrate differently. Props and the material they are made from contribute to jello as does the weather and air pressure at any particular time. Tuning with software is an art form and how to get rid of jello can only be appreciated through trial and error. I can give you lots of theory to help you tinker around to get maximum performance with low jello but a lot depends upon your build, components (incl frame) and of course the flying conditions. The best advice I can give anyone is to keep fiddling & tweaking so that you become more familiar with slight changes that you might make.



Locked in performance?

A locked in quad is the result of a variety of things - including tuning. In earlier days tuning a flight controller was somewhat of a mystery linked up to an understanding of how software works. Today most of the components used to control flight are rock solid even straight out of the box. I don't need to tweak anywhere as much as I used to because the process have become easier and certainly less mysterious. But that has not stopped many pilots from tinkering - something I too still do. Perfection is as much a curse as the jello that fans notice and comment on.

And one other thing. When people ask if they can fly my quad, just to get a feel of what perfection feels like, I ask them if they fly Mode 1 or Mode 2. 99% of pilots fly Mode 2 so they will never ever experience "perfection." I fly Mode 1. Lol.

Thank You For Your Ongoing Support

I trust that all of my Patreons are enjoying time in the air. I notice many of my close friends spend enormous time on building and testing. Most also have a range of different quads in their workshop. I appreciate that building and tinkering can be very addictive but most pilots originally got into this hobby because they were blown away by the FPV experience. Don't forget to smell the roses everyone. I have realised long ago that there is no perfect quad and that concrete is an immovable force you need to steer clear of. You don't need to fly at breakneck speed in dangerous situations and you don't have to prove anything to anyone or force anything or add to your existing stress. Just chill out and enjoy the wonder of

flight - something that not everyone gets to experience.

Any questions? Always willing to have a chat or give my opinion about a product I have researched or had a hand in developing. Use www.finalglideaus.com or FaceBook or email me.

October seats for my Weekends with FinalGlidAUS are almost booked out. 13-14 Oct has been set aside as a build weekend - its not too late but call me asap if you wish to attend.

Sales of the Reverb frame have continued to amaze me. For over 9 months now since its release its been the highest selling frame globally. Its been a delight to read the reviews and enjoy the positive feedback offered by pilots from all corners of the world. Its testimony to the great customer service provided by the boys at ImpulseRC. Thank you one and all for investing in my invention. Cheers. Chad.

