

CONTROLAIRE Mule Mark II (1965)

Single Channel R/C was popular in the 50's & 60's

A single button can give you Left and Right Rudder
 Three Motor Speeds
 Elevator control

Most single channel models flew with “Rudder Only” These models were capable of stable free flight and used the radio control to prevent them from flying away! With a little practice loops and rolls could be accomplished.

The demo represents the pinnacle of single channel control.

Control surface actuations are by rubber driven escapements.

The wound up rubber provides the torque to activate the control functions.

Rudder Control

This is your primary control. Rudder allows you to keep the model in sight & prevent it from flying away!!

Pressing and holding the control button one time gives you FULL RIGHT rudder, releasing and quickly pressing and holding the button a second time provides FULL LEFT rudder, how long you hold it for determines how much the model will turn. Small control surfaces and throws were the order of the day. The next evolutionary step was to control motor speed

Motor Control

Functions with this demonstrator are low, medium and high motor speed. Many were just two speeds, low and high. Starting with low speed you must “tap” the button quickly to get medium speed and tap again, quickly to get high speed. The next time you tap the button quickly the motor will go to medium speed. If you want high speed next you must cycle through low, medium and then back to high, in other words tapping on the control button three times quickly to get back to high speed.

Usually you leave the motor at the speed which flies the model best, reducing throttle to land (landing in one piece was a stunt in itself)

Elevator Control

The demonstrator has a dual compound escapement that *could* provide up and down elevator. I say “could” because this one is quite worn and is rigged for up elevator only. Most models of this era would not sustain inverted flight due to the (by today’s standards) a large amount of positive incidence set in the wing. Inverted flight had to be a medium speed or else the model would descend under high power, inverted to the ground!

Pressing the button quickly but not too quickly three times, holding the third press will give you full up elevator. Pressing the buttons too quickly would change the motor speed.

Timing was everything!