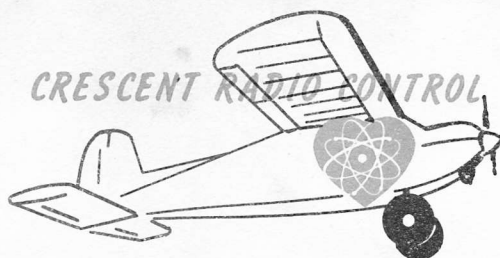


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## MAINTENANCE NOTES FOR RADIO CONTROL EQUIPMENT

We cannot over emphasize the need for periodic and adequate maintenance on radio control equipment. Good maintenance habits can predicate the success or failure of your radio control equipment to operate to your satisfaction. Many malfunctions of R. C. gear are incorrectly blamed on poor equipment design when in reality it is a lack of understanding and poor maintenance of the equipment that causes the failure. In the following paragraphs we will cover some generalities and precautions to be taken to assure yourself of trouble-free operation.

The really simple things are sometimes completely overlooked in the general maintenance of an R. C. model. The most common troubles lie in broken wires, faulty plugs and switches, dead or near dead batteries or battery holders that are loose or have corroded contacts. One of the simplest yet most common causes of malfunction is poor, inadequate tuning of the receiver to the transmitter. This one may seem hard to believe, but we have found it to be true in many cases.

Broken wires are a real bugaboo. They usually show up after a model has been flown for some time, but may occur before the model ever gets to the flying field. A broken wire in many cases cannot be seen. It is broken inside the insulation about a quarter inch away from a solder connection. This type break often causes intermittent operation and vibration trouble. Loose or "cold" solder joints will react the same way. Broken wires can be found by pulling gently on each wire until you find one on which the insulation stretches. This will be your broken wire. In most installations, wires should be kept as short as practical and securely anchored at least a half inch behind each solder joint to stop flexing due to vibration. Certain types of commercially available liquid rubber or "Goo" can also be used to anchor the wires at the solder joint.

Faulty or worn plugs are also a hazard to proper R. C. operation. Plugs, after much use, will become so loose that they will make improper or intermittent contact and may even fall out. Badly worn or otherwise faulty plugs are often the source of vibration troubles. The best course of action in the case of a bad plug or socket is to replace it. Plugs should always be anchored securely in their sockets to make sure they don't vibrate out when the model is in the air.

Switches are one of the worst hazards. A large, heavy switch is not always the answer. Slide switches are the most commonly used switches for R. C., and are the cause of the most trouble. Most slide switches are open on the ends. Dirt, oil and other foreign material can get into the switch and contaminate contacts causing faulty operation. They can also coat the contacts allowing the switch to be turned on but creating a high resistance across the contact that will cause your receiver or servo to operate as tho the batteries were run down. A slide switch is a relatively simple mechanism, and can be disassembled, cleaned, adjusted

Continued on page 7