

DA50R

Owners Manual ***7/12***

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Safety Instructions

READ THIS!

WARNING!

This motor can cause severe harm to you, and/or others, if misused, or if these safety precautions and instructions are not observed. Desert Aircraft is not responsible for any loss, injury or damage resulting from the miss-use of its products.

You alone are responsible for the safe operation of your motor.

This motor can stop at any time, for a variety of reasons. Do not fly your plane in such a way that damage or harm will result if the motor stops running. If you cannot fly your plane safely if the motor stops running for any reason, do not fly the plane.

- Do not operate this motor if you do not want to be completely responsible for any damage or injury incurred or caused during its operation.
- Read all instructions before operating your motor.
- If you have any questions about any aspect of operating this motor, do not attempt to start or operate it.
- **Never operate the motor, or fly, alone**.
- When operating the motor, never stand, or allow anyone else to stand, in front of, or to the side of the propeller. Always stand behind the propeller.
- Keep away from the prop while operating the motor. Do not wear loose clothing near the motor or prop. Do not run the motor near loose material such as dirt, gravel, power cords, ropes, sand, etc. Loose material can be drawn into the turning prop causing injury or damage.
- Always operate the motor in an open area. Do not operate indoors.
- This motor can develop tremendous thrust. Make sure the aircraft is properly secured when starting or operating the motor.
- Inspect motor mount bolts and firewall integrity before operating the motor.
- Anyone in the immediate area of the motor should use eye protection during operation of the motor.
- Keep spectators at least 30 feet away when operating the motor.
- Turn off the motor before making any adjustments.
- Always use the correct length propeller bolts. Do not use spacers behind the propeller.
- Spinner cones must not touch the propeller.
- Thinner props may require using shorter prop bolts, especially if not using a spinner back plate. Make sure your prop bolts do not bottom out in the propeller hub.
- Check that the propeller bolts are tight before every flight.
- Always install an ignition kill switch to stop the motor.
- Adjust the carburetor linkage so that the motor will stop when the carburetor is completely closed.
- Gasoline is extremely flammable. Be careful of any sparks from electrical contacts such as fuel pumps, battery chargers, etc. Do not allow smoking in the area of your fuel supply or motor. Store fuel in approved containers and in well ventilated areas.
- Allow the motor to cool before touching or fueling.
- Always flip the prop a few revolutions after running the motor to discharge the ignition system.
- The ignition system develops extremely high voltage. Do not touch it during operation.
- Never use a damaged, modified, or repaired prop, or a prop that has struck the ground or any other object. Damage that can be hard to see, could turn into disaster when the prop is turning at thousands of RPM.

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Motor Installation

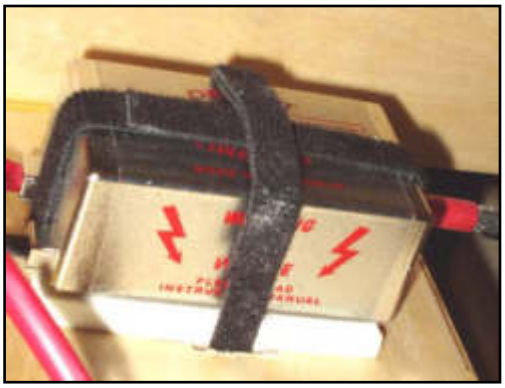
The DA 50R features a rear induction carburetor that is intended to protrude or breath through the fire wall. This carburetor location provides a stable air environment for consistent high performance, while carburetor noise is greatly reduced. The width of the motor is also reduced for tighter cowl installations.

- The DA 50R can be mounted with or without the included stand-off spacer mounts. The spacers are mounted to the motor mount flange tabs with steel M5 metric screws (supplied). The rear of the stand-off mounts are threaded for ¼-20 SAE mounting bolts (not supplied). The engine is mounted to the firewall with ¼-20 mounting bolts that pass through the stand-offs from the rear of the firewall. **Note:** Export (Metric) versions of the stand-off mounts are red color, and are threaded for M6 metric screws at the rear.
- We recommend blue Loctite on all engine mounting screws. Check the mounting bolts regularly to insure they are tight.
- **Be very careful using shims or spacers behind the supplied stand-off mounts. The rear face of each stand-off must be in the same plane. If they are not in the same plane, the mounts and crankcase will be under stress. This can cause damage to the engine, such as cracked/broken mounting tabs.**
- Make sure the carburetor has adequate clearance near the inlet to allow an unobstructed airflow into the carburetor. If the carburetor is located in front of the firewall, be sure there is at least 1" (25mm) of clearance from the carburetor inlet. If there is less than 1" clearance, make a hole larger than the carburetor inlet diameter in the firewall.
- The throttle arm is tapped for a 2-56 SAE ball link. The spring tension on the DA 50R carburetor is fairly light and most users will leave it as is. If you wish, the throttle return spring can be released (not removed) off the end that hooks on the throttle spring return arm. (Opposite side of the carburetor from the throttle arm)
  NOTE: Removing the throttle spring will allow the shaft to move and wear due to vibration. This wear/damage will allow air and fuel to enter the engine when in the closed position.
- The throttle arm is attached firmly to the carb linkage with red Loctite. Removing it may cause damage.
- The choke lever can be actuated by finger or by a small servo behind the firewall. Another option is to remove the choke arm and replace it with a nose wheel steering arm (Goldberg or equivalent) this allows adjustment for linkage access from the bottom or rear. Do not remove the detent ball and spring on the choke shaft.
- Soft mounts can cause problems with exhaust systems and carburetor linkages.
- Make sure the aircraft's firewall and/or motor box are strong and secure.

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Ignition System

- When making electrical connections to the ignition system, use the same gauge wire (or larger) as used on the red and black power leads on the ignition module, all the way to the battery pack. Keep wire length to a minimum. Heavy-duty plugs, as supplied on the ignition, or as used on electric cars and planes, are recommended.
- We recommend mounting the ignition on high density foam padding with Velcro strapping. Do not use sticky back Velcro or foam tape to mount the module. This can cause the case to crack in the area where the tape adheres to the module and void the warranty.
- Use a high quality switch such as JR's heavy-duty switch. Small size R/C receiver switches are not recommended.
- Isolate the charge circuit from the ignition while charging the batteries. In other words don't "charge" the ignition module.
- Keep ignition components and wiring separated, as much as possible, from your receiver, receiver battery, servos, wiring and switches.
- Don't use metal-to-metal linkages to operate the throttle.
- Use a 4.8 or 6 volt battery pack. The ignition can handle the higher peak voltage of these packs when fully charged. Higher voltage packs (Lithium, etc) can be used, but require a regulator. We recommend a regulator with a 5.5 or 6 volt output. Excessive voltage will damage the ignition system and will void the warranty. We recommend an1800 mAh or larger capacity pack. This size pack should be sufficient for 5 or more flights. If the voltage entering the ignition shows 5.0 volts or less, don't fly, re-charge.





- **When connecting the red pick-up sensor to the ignition module, make sure that the polarity of the wires entering the connectors is correct (Brown to brown, orange to orange)**
- Unlike some ignitions, the Desert Aircraft ignition is designed to spark only when the prop is flipped at a high speed. If the prop is not turned over at "starting" speed, the ignition will not fire. This helps to prevent the motor from firing accidentally. Unless you are having problems starting the motor, don't bother "testing" the ignition with the plug removed from the cylinder.
- When removing the spark plug caps, PULL STRAIGHT out on the caps. **Do not pull on the shielded ignition wires and do not use pliers!** To prevent radio interference, the spark plug caps must have the split retainer ring around the base to insure a tight fit. – DON'T FLY WITHOUT THEM!
- **Protect the shielded plug wires from rubbing against fiberglass or sharp edges of wood or metal.** Rubber grommets and plastic "spiral wrap" insulation from automotive or electronic supply stores work well. Holes in the braided shielding can emit R/F noise or loose connections (spark plug caps, connectors and switches).
- Timing is set at the factory and should not need adjustment. Contact Desert Aircraft if you have any questions regarding timing.
- Only use NGK CM-6 spark plugs. Other plugs may not fit the plug caps firmly.
- Plug gap is .018" to .020" (.38 to .50 mm)
- Never operate the ignition without a spark plug in the plug caps! This can permanently damage the ignition coil.
- Always perform a radio range check before flying. If there are "glitches", DON'T FLY! Check for holes in the braided shielding, loose connections, or other radio issues .

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Recommended Props

- Always check and **tighten prop bolts** before each flight! **Loose prop bolts allow prop movement, which will shear the bolts.**
- Always use the correct length prop bolts. If a spinner back plate is not used, the prop bolts may be too long and can bottom out in the hub before they fully tighten against the prop washer.
- The DA50 has a very wide power band. The "normal" peak operating rpm is 6,400 to 7,400 rpm. While special break-in props are not required, be careful to not overload the engine during break-in.
- Some recommended props are:
- Wood: 20x12, 22x8, 23x8, 23x8, 24x8
- Mejzlik Carbon: 22x8, 22x10, 23x8, 23x10
- Mejzlik Carbon 3 blade: 20x12, 21x11.5
- A general rule of thumb for good flight performance is the larger and/or heavier the plane, the lighter the prop load to allow the engine to create more horse power. On a lighter/smaller/cleaner airframe horsepower requirements are not as critical. You may enjoy the benefits of a larger prop disc for better down line braking, torque rolling, etc.
- Smaller diameter props with more pitch, especially 3 blades, can reduce tip speed and noise.
- Always use a drill guide to drill your props. We normally drill from the back side first, then again from the front to insure the screws don't bind in the holes.
- Always check the balance of your prop
- For safety, we recommend painting the tips of your props (front and back) with a bright color, especially on black props.
- Never use a damaged or repaired prop, or a prop that has struck the ground or any other object. Damage that can be hard to see could turn into disaster when turning at thousands of RPM.

Fuel and Oil Mix

- We recommend Low to Mid octane pump gas, such as 89 to 91 octane for your DA50. If a tuned pipe is used, we recommend Premium/Hi octane pump gas.
- We recommend purchasing your fuel from "name brand" gas stations. We have seen problems with cheaper gas from some discount type outlets.
- We recommend filtering your fuel between your fuel container and your plane's fuel tank. A high flow filter, or clunk/filter, between the tank and motor is also a good idea.
- Make sure the plane's tank is well vented and the fuel clunk moves freely.
- **Use of any other fuel or additives such as nitro formulas, aviation gas, white gas, etc., can harm the motor and void the warranty.**
- Do not use silicone sealers on the fuel system. Gas can break it down and carry it into the carb.
- We recommend a high quality synthetic oil. As for the brand of oil, there are many good ones on the market. Some oils, and their mix ratios, that Desert Aircraft recommends are: Red-line Two Stroke Racing Oil (40 to 1), Motul 800 (50 to 1), and Stihl HP Ultra (50 to 1). These oils can be found at most motorcycle or chainsaw shops.

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Break-in phase

- The engine should run well from the beginning and improve as flight hours accumulate. We do not recommend breaking the engine in on a test stand. The stationary load and lack of air ducting can lead to engine over heating. Proceed with flying once the engine is tuned and running correctly. Engine break-in can be a slow process, taking place over many hours of flight time. Peak RPM will improve along with idle characteristics as run time accumulates.
- Special "break in only" props are not required. Preferably start with a prop that allows peak RPM over 6,400 during the break-in process.
- The High needle can be set for optimum RPM or just slightly rich during break-in. Too rich will cause problems with excess residue and carbon build up. Adjust the needles as needed and give the engine a few test flights using a variety of throttle settings and engine loads. Avoid extended high rpm or extended hovering conditions for these first few flights. After a few test flights the needles may need adjustment as the engine settles in and other things change such as different props, exhaust, weather, and altitude.

Starting

1. Always wear a heavy leather glove when starting the motor.
2. Check that prop bolts are tight and spinner is secure.
3. Make sure the starting area is free of dirt, sand, gravel, or other loose debris
4. Turn on the radio system and check the throttle operation and position.
5. Have someone (with eye protection) firmly hold the plane from a position behind the wing.
6. Close the choke completely.
7. Open the throttle to approximately 1/4 position.
8. Turn on the ignition. **ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR THE MOTOR TO START ON ANY FLIP OF THE PROP**, whether the ignition switch is on or off!
9. Give the prop a quick, firm, flip counter clockwise. Follow through quickly as you flip the prop so that your hand is out of the propeller's path. Repeat until the motor fires or “pops”.
10. Open the choke.
11. Set throttle to idle position. (carb butterfly plate slightly open)
12. Flip the prop again until the motor runs.
13. Let the motor warm up for 15 or 20 seconds before advancing the throttle.

Needle Adjustments

- The needle farthest from the motor is the “High End” needle. The needle closest to motor is the “Low End” needle. Turning the needles in/clockwise “leans” the fuel mixture. Turning the needles out/counter-clockwise “richens” the fuel mixture.
- Settings will vary with altitude, temperature, humidity, fuel, carb variances, etc. A "general" starting point for the DA50 is: 1 5/8’s open on the Low needle, 1 7/8’s open on the High needle.
- Adjusting either needle can have a slight effect on the other. Example: Leaning the low needle can "slightly" lean the high rpm range.
- Adjust the High End needle to peak rpm. A tachometer can help, but remember that the RPM normally drops a little bit after every start due to residual heat build up. Don’t lean the mixture any more than necessary. If the rpm steadily drops at full throttle or fades on long vertical maneuvers, the motor is too lean and is overheating.

(Cont'd)

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Needle Adjustments (Cont'd)

- Adjust the Low End needle until you achieve a smooth idle and a reliable transition to high throttle. Generally if the motor “stutters” or “coughs” in the mid range or when the throttle is advanced, the low end needle is too rich and possibly even the high end needle. If the motor dies quickly, the low end is probably lean.
- Don't set the needles overly rich to protect the engine. Operating the motor overly rich not only reduces power, it creates other problems such as poor transition, pre-mature carbon build up, fouled plugs, excessive exhaust residue, sticking rings, airframe vibration, and overall rough running.

Trouble Shooting

Motor won't start:

- Check battery voltage (should be 5.0+ volts) and all ignition connections, wiring and switches. Wires can break from vibration near connectors. Check and/or swap out regulator.
- Does fuel move towards the carb when the prop is flipped? If not, check tank venting, clunk position, and fuel lines for leaks. Is the choke plate closing completely? Is the carb or carb mount loose causing an air leak? Air leaks on the engine usually show as fuel seepage.
- Is throttle set at idle or slightly higher after motor “pops” and choke is opened?
- Make sure prop is flipped over with authority. The ignition won’t fire at low speed.
- If a lot of fuel drips from carb, the motor might be flooded. If so, remove and dry, or replace, the spark plug. Try starting again without using the choke. If engine doesn't fire after several flips, try choking again.

Other issues:

- RPM won’t go over 3,500 to 4,000: The connector between the ignition module and ignition sensor may be plugged in backwards. Check the color of the wires leading into the connectors to make sure that the polarity is correct.
- Broken prop bolts: In order for bolts to shear, some type of side loading (shear) movement is usually required. If the bolts are tightened correctly, nothing moves and prop bolts will rarely break. It’s a good idea to replace prop bolts routinely. Check prop bolts before each flight!
- Excessive vibration: Check that the low rpm needle setting is not too rich. Check prop and spinner balance. Check the firewall and motor box area of the aircraft for movement, poor glue joints, etc. This area must be rigid! Some aircraft on the market are lacking in this area and may require additional glue and/or structure. Poor quality or contaminated fuel can cause rough running.
- Pink or purple colored cylinders: These colors indicate engine temperature has been too high at some point. Check that needle settings are not too lean, air flow for cooling is sufficient, and oil/gas mixture is correct.
- Engine starts backwards: 2 stroke reed valve engines can generally run in either direction. Make sure the prop is flipped forcefully through the compression stroke. Without enough force, the prop may "bounce" off compression and run backwards.

IF ANY PROBLEM PERSISTS, PLEASE CONTACT DESERT AIRCRAFT FIRST!

We designed and manufactured your engine and have built, serviced, and analyzed thousands more. We cover your engine’s warranty, not someone at the field or a stranger on the Internet. Please give us the opportunity to help first!

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Maintenance

- Being a high performance 2 stroke engine, certain parts can wear quickly. Under normal operation, pistons, piston rings, needle bearings, spark plugs, etc. may need occasional non-warranty replacement to insure peak performance. Other factors can hasten the need for replacement parts such as ingested dirt and debris, exceedingly high temperatures due to improper lubrication, airflow, improper needle adjustments, excessive prop loads, etc.
- If the engine has been involved in a crash or severe prop strike, inspect it carefully for any signs of damage before operating the engine. Make sure nothing was ingested into the engine. Check that the prop hub rotates freely and without any "run out" or wobble. Look for any signs of cracks in the case, especially near the motor mount area. If the spark plug cap shows any damage, do not operate the ignition. If there is a short inside the cap, it can cause damage to the ignition module.
- Screws can come loose! After a few flights check that all screws are secure. Periodically check that all screws are tightened to the correct torque rating. It's recommended to replace, rather than re-use the red aluminum screws whenever they are removed. If exhaust flange screws become loose, the flange face and threaded holes can be damaged to the point where the header or muffler won't stay tight and the cylinder needs to be repaired or replaced.

Torque specifications

	Size	Torque setting
Spark plug:	CM-6, 10mm	90 in. lbs.
Steel prop bolts:	M5x 45mm	75 in. lbs. / wood props, 90 in. lbs. /carbon props.
Aluminum crankcase bolts:	M5x16mm	70 in. lbs. (One use only, do not re-use)
Aluminum cylinder base bolts:	M5x16mm	70 in. lbs. (One use only, do not re-use)
Aluminum carb mount bolts:	M5x75mm	8 in. lbs.*(Low torque value allows re-use)

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***Caution:** Care must be taken to not over tighten the carb mounting bolts. Over tightening can distort and damage the injected molded reed valve parts and rubber gaskets.

- Use a 4m hex wrench for all M5 cap screws.
- For spinner mounting, the crankshaft extension is threaded for M5 screws. In this application (steel to steel) the 10-32 SAE screws supplied with most spinners will work fine in the M5 threaded hole. **Do not substitute 10-32 screws for any other screws on the engine!**
- Inspect the engine periodically for any signs of fuel seepage. This can indicate an air leak which can create a lean fuel/air ratio, which in turn can cause erratic running and engine damage. If tightening the appropriate screws does not cure the problem, contact Desert Aircraft.
- After prolonged use, carbon deposits can build up on top of the piston and on the combustion dome of the cylinder. Great care must be taken when trying to remove these carbon deposits to avoid damaging the parts. Once an attempt to remove carbon has been made, the task must be completed, as any remaining carbon may be loosened and can dislodge while the engine is running. This can damage the engine and/or bridge the spark plug.
- If the engine is going to be stored for a long period of time, it is recommended to run a few minutes worth of non-ethanol fuel through the engine. This can help reduce the chance of corrosion from water associated with ethanol in gasoline. Often larger gas stations offer "race gas" or other high octane ethanol-free gas.

Manuals may be updated with additional tips and trouble-shooting info from time to time. Please check our web site, www.desertaircraft.com, for current downloadable manuals and updates, or contact Desert Aircraft.

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Remember! This motor can stop at any time, for a variety of reasons. Do not fly your plane in a way that damage or harm will result if the motor stops running. If you cannot safely fly your plane if the engine stops for any reason, do not fly the plane.
Desert Aircraft will not be responsible for damage caused in engine–out situations.

DA50 WARRANTY

Your DA50 motor and ignition system are covered with a 3 year warranty by Desert Aircraft, starting from the date of purchase.

- This warranty covers defects in workmanship and materials only.
- We strongly recommend to not disassemble the motor or ignition system. Improper disassembly or assembly of the motor or ignition system will void the warranty on that item.
- Any modifications to the motor, or the ignition system, other than those authorized by Desert Aircraft, will void this warranty.

This warranty does not cover the following:

- Shipping expenses to and from Desert Aircraft for warranty service.
- Damage caused by improper handling, operation, or maintenance.
- Damage caused by a crash, whether the engine stopped running or not.
- Damage caused by using improper fuel or additives.
- Damage incurred during transit to Desert Aircraft. **WRAP AND PACK ENGINE CAREFULLY!!**

NOTE: ***DESERT AIRCRAFT WILL NOT SHIP ANY WARRANTY REPLACEMENT ITEMS UNTIL THE POSSIBLY DEFECTIVE ITEMS IN QUESTION ARE RETURNTEND TO , RECEIVED, AND DEEMED DEFECTIVE BY DESERT AIRCRAFT.***

DESERT AIRCRAFT

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Repair/Return Form (Please make copy)

Please fill out and enclose this form when shipping items for service

Customer Name_____ Date_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Country_____
Phone #_____ Cell #_____
Email _____

Items in Box:

DA50 Serial #_____ DA60 Serial #_____ DA85 Serial #_____
DA100 Serial #_____ DA120 Serial #_____ DA150 Serial #_____
DA170 Serial #_____ DA200 serial #_____ Other_____

Single Ignition Serial # _____ Twin Ignition Serial # _____

Prop Bolts? _____
Prop washer? _____
Muffler(s)? _____ Muffler screws_____
Standoffs? _____
Other Items? _____

REASON FOR RETURN?
Crash: Yes___ No____ Other_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Oil used? _____
Gas type? _____
Exhaust system type? _____
Has the engine been sent in for service before? _____ If so, Why?_____
_____
_____
_____

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