



Chattanooga Radio Control Club

Academy of Model Aeronautics Club No. 599

www.crcflyers.org

Electrodynamics Ultra Switch II

Have you ever had concerns about the quality or reliability of your aircraft's power switch & charging jack? Ever had a switch vibrate loose or even turn itself off in flight? I can't swear to it, but I have always had the feeling that my first airplane had a "less than optimal" physical arrangement or some other problem with the power switch. That plane decided to take an unplanned excursion on its' third flight. (Ask me about the "Southeastern Salvage Special" sometime!)

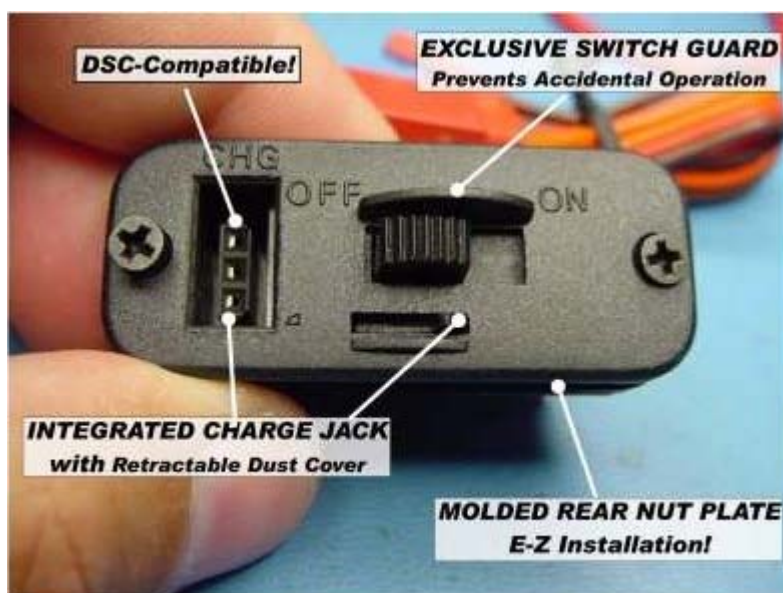
I spent close to 15 years in the electronics service industry and to be honest, I am amazed at some of the switch arrangements that are being sold by the big name companies. I've had my eyes open for quite some time for a better solution....I think I've found exactly what I've been looking for!

Electrodynamics, Inc of Livonia, Michigan (www.electrodynam.com) claims to supply "Electronics and More for the Discerning Modeler." You've probably seen the ads for their Ultra Switch product in Model Aviation or Model Airplane News. It's a rather small ad (usually near the back) but it always looked rather intriguing to me. I always told myself "One of these days I'll get around to ordering one of these to check it out."

As luck would have it, installation of wiring and such usually sneaks up on you when you are building and you don't have time for a special order. Well, I finally thought far enough ahead in the building process of my latest project so that I had plenty of lead time. I probably went a bit overboard...I ordered three switches, with the hopes that it would be good enough that I would consider retro-fitting a couple of my other planes. I was not disappointed!

The Ultra Switch II is great! The pictures in the ad and on their website do not do it justice. This is one impressively engineered switch. If you've dealt with the Dubro or Great Planes charge/switch assemblies you know what I mean when I say it just feels like a mish-mash of stuff bolted together. The end result just does not give you the warm fuzzies as far as something that feels "solid". One look at the Ultra Switch II and all doubts are gone!

The entire switch assembly is one piece. The wiring is very securely attached and it just looks as if you could run over it with a car and it would still live. (I *don't* recommend that and I did not try it either!)



As you can see from the picture, the charging jack is fully integrated into the assembly...no pinching it in place with a set screw as with other brands. The switch itself is a very heavy duty slide switch with solid detents...there's no doubt that you have it in one position or the other. There is an integrated switch guard to help in accidentally bumping the switch. One other nice feature is that the charging jack has a built-in sliding cover to keep dust and fuel residue out when airborne.

The electrical specs are just as impressive. This switch can handle most anything you can throw at it as far as standard RC electrical systems are concerned. Standard R/C connectors are rated for 3 amps. The Ultra Switch II is rated internally for up to 10 amps. Now, this does not mean that

you can run 10 amps through it...you are still limited to the maximum current carrying capability of the rest of your system's connectors, which is 3 amps. But just in case you have an upgraded system with heavier current requirements, they have a heavy duty version that includes Deans style connectors which will give you the full 10 amp capacity.

I am very impressed with the Ultra Switch II. I feel that I have finally found a switch that I can count on and that does not feel like it is going to fall apart due to vibration.

Check it out at www.electrodynam.com. The standard version is listed at \$16.00 and the heavy duty version is \$28.00.

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