

# Aquila-6

**KEN  
SHEPPARD**



A NEW 6-channel computer set from Sanwa

**T**he Sanwa Aquila-6 is publicised as the perfect all-flight transmitter. It is claimed to be easy to use and therefore ideally suited both for beginners and advanced pilots. This new Sanwa flight Tx offers multiple functions for airplanes as well as for helicopters. It has six channels and can be used for a wide range of models, from trainer to scale models. Ten model memories can be activated quickly and programmed without complication. In addition, the Sanwa Aquila-6 features Direct Model Select, different flight modes in airplane and helicopter programmes, general trim, trim for each flight mode, adjustable mixes for independent flight modes, and advanced swashplate programming. In short, a 6-channel computer radio for all seasons! The set comes with a

full-range RX71E 7-channel 2.4GHz FHSS-1 receiver that features twin thin wire antennae of 20cm length.

As well as the 'break the mould' styling design (e.g. moulded hand grip instead of conventional metal or plastic handle) the system features some significant innovations compared to the forerunner SD-6G radio - due to an improved stick design, the pilot feels more directly connected to his model. In addition, the 6 x AAA size battery tray is removable, so that a 2S 7.4v lipo can be substituted if desired. Last but not least, a 7-channel receiver is included with the Tx.

The 'easy' menu structure and the software have been taken over from the SD-6G and are the basis for this innovative 6-channel radio.

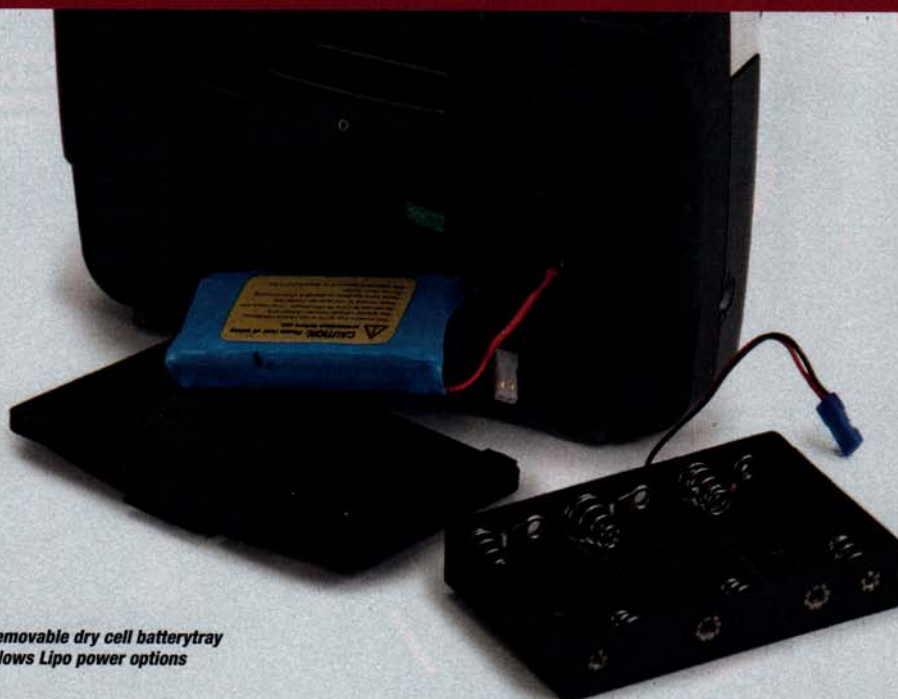
The instruction manual takes the reader through all the set-up screens

in a logical step-by-step presentation and programming is via four screen select push-buttons and a five push-button, increment input, cluster. The Bind button and indicator LED is positioned on the front panel adjacent to the bottom of the LCD screen. The Aquila 6 boasts four switches on top of the Tx - two either side of the folding aerial - with an additional two switches on the front panel at the top, either side, including a push button 'throttle cut' switch on the right hand side.

#### SYSTEM FEATURES:

- 6-channel 2.4G FHSS-1 digital proportional computer RC system for aircraft and helicopters
- Includes a full-range RX71E 7-channel 2.4G FHSS-1 receiver
- Uses 6 "AA" batteries (included) for lighter weight and better feel





Removable dry cell battery tray allows Lipo power options

- 10-model memory
- Direct Model Select (Models 1-3)
- Easy-to-read multi-function LCD with digital voltage display
- User-selectable Model Type templates
- Digital trims
- Trainer system compatible with all SD series Tx
- Model naming
- Model select
- Audible low-voltage alarm
- Low-power range-check Mode
- Programmable failsafe
- User-selectable Flight Modes
- Stopwatch and Count-Up timers
- Data copy and Data reset



Unusual moulded handle/carry grip

#### AIRCRAFT - FEATURES:

- Servo Monitor
- 3 Flight Modes (FN/F1/F2)
- Aileron, elevator, and rudder Dual Rate
- Aileron, elevator, and rudder Exponential
- Servo reversing
- Servo centring Sub-Trim
- End-point adjustment
- Throttle Cut
- 5-point programmable Throttle Curve
- Aileron differential
- Flaperon mixing
- Flap-to-elevator mixing
- Dual elevator mixing with end-point adjustment
- Ailvator mixing

- V-Tail mixing with end-point adjustment
- Delta (elevon) mixing with end-point adjustment
- Two programmable compensation mixers
- Common or flight mode-specific trim with Throttle-Trim lock

#### HELICOPTER - FEATURES:

- Servo Monitor
- 3 Flight Modes (FN/F1/F2)
- 9 Pre-programmed swashplate templates
- Aileron, elevator, and rudder Dual Rate
- Aileron, elevator, and rudder Exponential
- Servo reversing
- Servo centring Sub-Trim
- Advanced swashplate adjustment
- CCPM end-point adjustment
- End-point adjustment
- Throttle cut
- 5-point programmable Throttle Curve
- Throttle hold
- 5-point programmable Pitch Curve
- Revolution mixing
- 2 Remote Gyro Gains
- 2 Programmable compensation mixers
- Common or Flight Mode-specific trim with Throttle-Trim lock

Price: £169.99

Availability: SMD (Spire Models Distribution) [www.smdirect.co.uk](http://www.smdirect.co.uk)

#### PROGRAMMING

As you can see from the 'Features' listing, it's got quite a lot packed into its electronics board and is well comparable with other 6-channel sets and better than quite a few. Sanwa has never seemed to have enjoyed the popularity of other Japanese sets in the UK, mainly due to the seemingly lack of promotion of earlier UK Distributors – a pity, as the Sanwa range is good quality, sophisticated gear and based on the 'proven to be really reliable' FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) system. The styling may seem to some to be a little different in its four colour finish, but that does not effect the performance and reliability of the sets. It feels a little 'plasticky', but it also feels very comfortable in the hands.

There are 24 Menu screens to work through (but some of them are not active) and the logic, moving through the screens and making



Home screen much like other sets



Servo monitor. Note channel numbering



5 point throttle curve - very useful!

input adjustments soon becomes familiar. The channel allocation is different to other brands, that is as follows:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Elevator             |
| 2 | Aileron              |
| 3 | Throttle             |
| 4 | Rudder               |
| 5 | Gear (undercarriage) |
| 6 | Flaps                |

Some of the screens offer facilities not expected in a 6-channel set and are most welcome and very useful. These include 'Throttle Curve' – a four-point screen very useful for setting up petrol engine throttles with non-linear movement; a dedicated Flap to Elevator mix which makes inputting an elevator compensation during flap deployment very easy and straightforward; Sx Monitor – a servo monitoring screen which shows the existing throws and directions of all six channels – very useful when checking the mixes that are 'on'.

#### SUMMARY

The Aquila 6 radio system is slightly more expensive than other available comparative 6 channel sets available, but has the renowned reliability of the FHSS technology AND Airtronics software. It's easy to programme (all new logic programming takes a bit of time to get used to) being reasonably intuitive. In our opinion, it is definitely worth consideration, it's lead attractions being the Airtronics heritage and the FHSS technology. ●

Price: £169.99 ([www.s-m-d.co.uk](http://www.s-m-d.co.uk))