

# BANTAM e-STATION CHECK MASTER II

HELI AND AIRPLANE DATA SYSTEM

## GO GO GADGET CHECKMASTER II

**Words:** Ryan Kephart

**T**oday, we have an avid group of pilots who came to the RC world by starting off in this hobby with an airplane. Most of us today still enjoy flying the airplanes we once solely controlled. Interest in helicopters has grown considerably over the years, and above all, manufacturers have been producing helicopters that are easier to fly and more affordable. When going to the flying field and bringing the necessary gadgets for both helicopters and planes, you will discover that you need a head speed tach, prop tach, servo tester, temp gauge, and everything else that goes on top of that.

What if I said you can combine some of these items into one compact unit?

Bantam has released a new version of the original CheckMaster, which once checked only airplane-related functions. The new CheckMaster-II offers features for both airplane and heli in one compact unit. Let's take a look at the e-STATION CheckMaster-II and go over the features.



A single tool to rule them all.

### FEATURES OF THE CHECKMASTER-II

Bantam has thought of everything when it comes to portability, ease, and functionality. The CheckMaster-II includes a built-in 1000 mAh NiMH battery to power the display, rotor tachometer, and the ability to power a servo for testing. The display is backlit and can be adjusted for brightness from 0% to 100%. The backlight shuts off to conserve energy and prolong battery life. The unit is charged through the supplied adapter, which is a servo lead connector that can be charged using a standard wall wart charger like the type that comes with your transmitter. In addition, you can charge the battery with any rapid charger.

The CheckMaster-II also has an auto shut-off in case you leave the unit on by accident. The non-adjustable time is 10 minutes; then the unit shuts down.

### ROTOR HEAD OPTICAL TACH

The CheckMaster-II uses a precision slit-style rotating drum to synchronize the viewfinder to your rotor blades. The heli tachometer is adjusted using the increase and decrease button until the rotor blades stop. Once you find the correct settings, you can store them in the unit to view them after the flight is complete. You can store up to 10 rpm in the memory. The CheckMaster-II has one of the best optical tachometer ranges in the hobby.

You can measure your head speed from as low as 800 rpm, which is good for larger-scale birds that don't need a high head speed. Bantam did not leave the small 3D machine out. The CheckMaster-II can read an rpm up to 4000.

### TEMPERATURE SENSOR

Bantam has included the software to check the temperature of any surface with a temperature probe. The probe does not come with the CheckMaster-II but can be purchased separately at the retail store you purchased the CheckMaster-II. When using the surface contact sensor, the unit displays both Fahrenheit and Centigrade and

has a range from 0°C to 120°C. The temperature menu also displays the current voltage of the onboard battery pack. If the battery pack voltage is below 4.5V, then the unit needs to be charged.

## PRECISION PULSE GENERATOR, A.K.A. "SERVO TESTER"

The CheckMaster-II houses a servo tester that can check and measure how many amps are drawn from the servo while it is operating. The travel can be adjusted using the ATV menu after the servo tester has been started. This value can be set from 10% to 100% by using the increase or decrease buttons. The next screen you come to in the servo test function is the manual movement mode. In this mode, you can operate the servo using the Inc. and Dec. buttons. Each button moves the servo arm left or right. The value that is displayed is relevant to the position of the servo. A value of 2100ms equals at one end of the servo travel, and 900ms at the other end. A value of 1500ms centers the servo. This function especially helps when you are setting up a helicopter. This will allow you to make all your linkages 90° and center your servo horn. The next screen leads you to an automatic movement mode. The automatic movement operates the servo in each direction in equal amounts, which was set by the ATV screen. The speed the servo moves can be adjusted while it is moving. This value can be set from 1% to 100%. The display also shows the amp draw of the servo. Knowing the amp draw of each servo can help you select the appropriate receiver battery to power your entire helicopter.



## Perfect Setup Out of Reach?

Grasp it!

# Grasp it!



"I truly enjoy how thorough you are in the book and DVDs. As a mechanical engineer, I like to know **WHY**, and your materials are excellent in providing me a better understanding of helicopters. Thanks!"

— David Messina, LaGrangeville, NY



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## PROPELLER TACHOMETER

This feature is for the user who has more than just a helicopter. The propeller tachometer can measure anywhere from one to six blades. The measurement is read through an optical sensor on the top of the CheckMaster-II. The value is read out on the display in rpms. Once again, the rpms can be stored temporarily in the unit by pressing the enter key. You can scroll through the individual readings by pressing the Inc. and Dec. buttons.



## DATA READER (YET TO COME)

The CheckMaster-II will also serve as a data reader for one of Bantam's new products. The FlightRecorder will be coming out in the near future, and the CheckMaster-II will be the display for this new feature. The FlightRecorder is expected to have the ability to read the voltage throughout the flight, amp draw, and other unknown features.

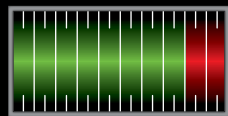
## CONCLUSION

If you have more than just helicopters and need a convenient tool to check both your plane and helicopter, then this gadget is second to none. With the ability to check temps, rpm, and servos, the CheckMaster-II is one of the most versatile tools you could have in your arsenal. Bantam did a good job creating a tool with a rugged outer shell and functional internals that can get the job done. *[T.H.]*

### » SCORECARD

SCALE RATING: 1=POOR 10=EXCELLENT

8.0



#### + THE GOOD

- Great for a pilot who flies both airplanes and helicopters
- Small compact unit that incorporates four tools in one
- Tachometers have one of the best rpm ranges

#### - THE BAD

- Could use a voltage checker
- Does not come with the temp gauge probe

### CONNECT

**MANUFACTURER:** Bantam

**DISTRIBUTOR:** [www.rcaccessory.com](http://www.rcaccessory.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.bantamtek.com](http://www.bantamtek.com)

**PART NUMBER:** CheckMaster-II

**STREET PRICE:** \$114.95

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## Doohan Battery Voltage Display - \$12.95

Displays the voltage of individual cells up to 6 cell packs  
Works Great!

## E-Sky Dauphin Coaxial Helicopter 72-MHz RTF \$94.95

Includes transmitter, receiver, gyro, mixer, servos, battery, and charger. The RTF Dauphin comes in red or dark blue. A white scale fuselage is available and sold separately. Features blinking tail light. Replacement parts are available. Some parts are compatible with other E-Sky coaxial helicopters.

Dauphin Scale Fuselage (White) (EK1-0678) - \$15.39

