Turnigy Talon Hexcopter v2.0 Build

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1 Intro

This document details how the Turnigy Talon Hexcopter v2.0 was assembled and the peripheral devices were mounted so that others may replicate this process. It first details assembling the frame, and then mounting each peripheral device (motors, ESC's, Odroid-XU4, etc..).

2 Turnigy Talon Hexcopter v2.0 Frame

This first section will detail how the carbon fiber frame is put together.

2.1 Bolts

The first thing to do is make sure you know which screws correspond to each label in the figures that will follow.



Figure 1: Bolt definitions.



Figure 2: Another view of the bolts.

2.2 Arm

Now that there is a quick reference guide for each of the types of screw, we can begin building the frame. The first part to be constructed is the motor mount and the tip of each arm.

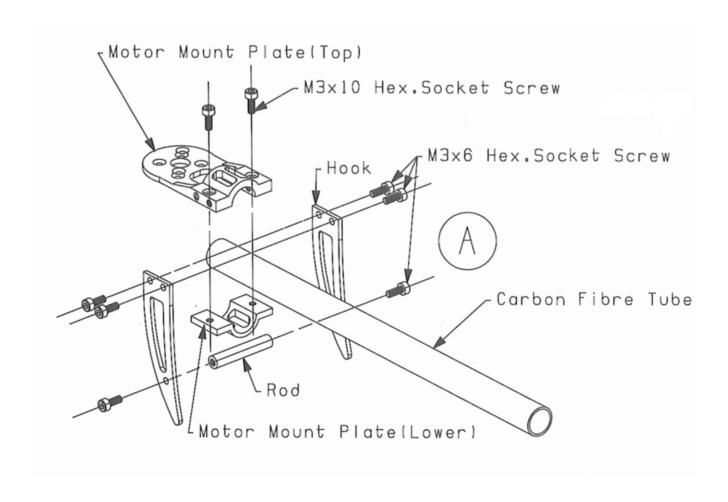


Figure 3: Instructions for assembling motor mount.

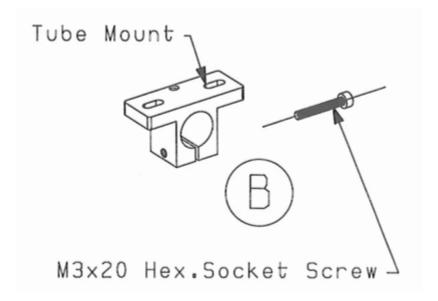
After carefully following the directions above we are left with a carbon fiber tube with an assembled motor mount which is shown in the image below.



Figure 4: My completed motor mount.

2.2.1 Frame Mount

Now that the motor mount has been attached to one end of the carbon fiber arm, it is time to attach the frame mount to the other end so that the center plates will be able to hold each arm in place.



2.3 Center Support

Once all of the arms have been assembled they must be affixed to the top and bottom plates to keep everything stable. This step is a bit tricky as each arm must be loosely connected to the top and bottom plates before tightening the screws down or it will be impossible to insert the other arms.

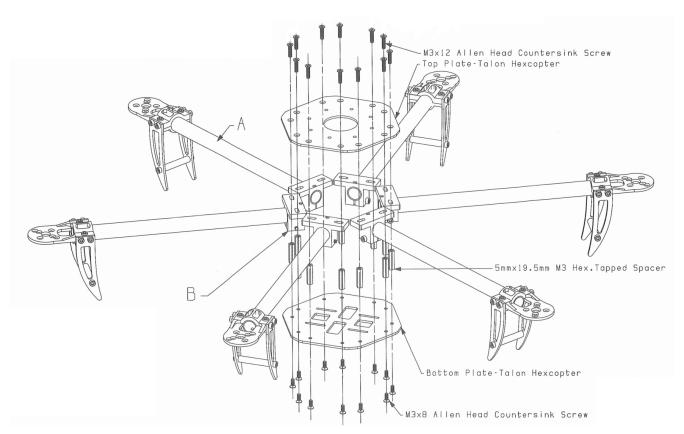


Figure 5: Instructions for Top/Bottom plates.

3 Motors

Once the whole frame has been constructed it is time to attach the DC motors. These DC motors will attach to the very tip of the each arm with their power cables routing through the hollow carbon fiber arms.

3.1 Mounting

One note for this particular build is that the leads that came attached to the motor were much too short to connect to the controllers in the center console. This was fixed by simply soldering some 16 gauge extension wires onto the motor leads and then connecting these to the ESC's. Once the DC motor leads have been extended route them through the carbon fiber tube arm and affix the motor to the arm using 4 - M3x6 Hex Head screws.

3.2 Electronic Speed Controllers

ESC's are attached to the DC motor leads **after** they come out of the arm holes and are in the center console. The ESC's are fixed to the frame of the hex-copter and the +/- leads from each ESC are attached to the power distribution board, and the signal wires from the ESC' are attached to the Pixhawk.

4 Controllers

Now it is time to attached the brains of the hex-copter to the frame and motors. To do this we will simply stack the Pixhawk, ODROID, and power distribution boards in the center of the frame.

4.1 Power Distribution Board

The first level in the stack will hold the power distribution board which is simply just a way of connecting six different +/- motor leads to the single +/- terminal on the battery. This board will be the base of the controller tower in the center of the hex-copter.

4.2 Pixhawk

Once the power distribution board has been placed and the ESC's signal lines are connected to the Pixhawk, the Pixhawk can be mounted on top of the power distribution board.

4.3 ODROID-XU4

Finally mount the ODROID on top of the Pixhawk. The ODROID doesn't handle any controls at this point so its only connection right now is power and the camera data lines.

5 Camera

The final thing to mount on the hex-copter is the camera that will be used for viewing the landing pad. This is mounted in a position so that it is facing straight down so that it can see the landing pad from directly above it.