

## DROMIDA HoverShot

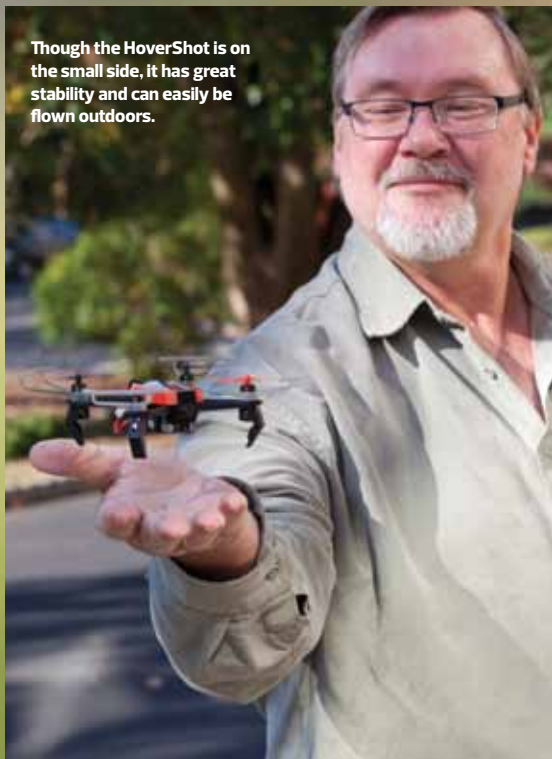
### A mini FPV camera drone

BY GERRY YARRISH PHOTOS BY PETER HALL

Camera drones are all the rage today, and the hobby is getting easier and easier for the beginner to be successful. Not too long ago, you needed to pick and choose compatible equipment that would work properly together, but today there are a lot of drones ready to go without any additional equipment needed. One of these is the new the HoverShot FPV 120mm camera drone from Dromida, and it really is a blast to fly. And best of all, it comes with everything you need to get this little ready-to-fly (RTF) quadcopter into the air and is priced at less than \$100. Let's take an up-close look at what's in the box.



Though the HoverShot is on the small side, it has great stability and can easily be flown outdoors.



#### SPECIFICATIONS

**MODEL:** HoverShot  
**TYPE:** FPV camera drone  
**MANUFACTURER:** Dromida (dromida.com)  
**DISTRIBUTOR:** Hobbico (hobbico.com)  
**SIZE:** 120mm  
**DIAGONAL DIAMETER:** 8 in.  
**WEIGHT:** 2.5 oz.  
**POWER INCL'D:** 3.7V 1S 650mAh LiPo  
**RADIO INCL'D:** MR101 2.4GHz  
**PRICE:** \$99.99

#### GEAR USED

**RADIO:** MR101 2.4GHz transmitter (included)  
**BATTERY:** Dromida 3.7V 1S 650mAh 20C LiPo (included)  
**CHARGER:** USB-powered, 1S charger (included)  
**CAMERA:** FPV camera (installed), with included 2GB micro memory card

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Rugged construction
- Stable flight performance
- Included FPV camera and 2GB micro memory card

### UNIQUE FEATURES

First of all, the HoverShot comes with a built-in 720p FPV (first-person-view) camera for in-flight still pictures and video footage. The transmitter has camera control buttons for Start, Stop, and Pause functions, and after takeoff, a built-in Altitude Hold feature helps the HoverShot maintain a stable hover for good-quality aerial photography. A built-in safety feature is the Motor Start/Stop button, which must be engaged before you can fly. Also an Auto Flip button adds some excitement, while push-button automatic takeoffs and landings make flying the HoverShot a piece of cake, even if you've never flown a quadcopter before.

The transmitter is equipped with digital trims, making it easy to dial for smooth control response. It also features a universal mobile-phone holder, two flight modes, and the separate camera and video buttons mentioned above. The transmitter is equipped with dual rates, and you can switch from High to Low rate settings by depressing the right stick downward until you hear a click. You can also adjust the sensitivity of the dual rates manually.

The RTF package is rounded out with a 1S 650mAh LiPo battery with a USB charger, four transmitter AAA batteries, a 2GB micro memory card, four extra blades, basic instructions, and a screwdriver. High-intensity LED lights aid in orientation and tracking, making it

The HoverShot is a ready-to-fly drone. There's nothing else to buy to get it into the air. Included with the HoverShot is the 2.4GHz transmitter with AAA batteries, a 1S LiPo battery and USB charger, a micro memory card, spare propellers, and a screwdriver. The transmitter features a built-in iPhone holder.



Under the drone's chassis, a molded-in battery support bracket secures the flight battery.



The HoverShot comes with propeller guards attached. The props are easy to replace.



Left: The HoverShot comes with a micro memory card, but you will need a card adapter to download your images to your computer.



Below: The built-in camera is controlled with transmitter buttons and a touchscreen, using the downloadable app. The lens can be manually adjusted for view angle.

easier to control and hover the HoverShot even at an extended distance. The quality of the video and photos is very good, and the included micro memory card makes downloading the files easy with a micro SD card adapter (not included).

### IN THE AIR

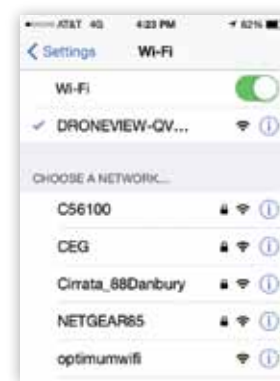
Whether it is set at High or Low rates, the HoverShot is extremely stable and easy to hover, even outside in slightly breezy conditions. Flying indoors, it is rock solid, and I was quickly flying over the heads of my fellow Air Age Media/RotorDrone magazine editors, zipping through the break room with ease. To get the HoverShot airborne, press the Motor Start/Stop button to activate the motors. Next, press the Auto Takeoff/Land button and the drone will liftoff to about a 3-foot altitude. If you don't move the throttle stick, the built-in Altitude Hold function will try to maintain the same altitude. You can also take off using the throttle stick. After the motors are running, advance the throttle slowly until the HoverShot lifts off; once it is at the altitude you want, release the stick and again the Altitude Hold will work to maintain

THE NEW HOVERSHOT FPV CAMERA DRONE IS A WINNER IN BOTH STABILITY AND THE QUALITY OF THE AIRBORNE PHOTOGRAPHY.



### Getting Connected

Downloading the free DroneView camera control app is easy from the Google Play Store or the App Store; if you do this while you are connected to Wi-Fi, it takes only a minute or two. To connect the app to the camera, first go to your device's Settings page and select the Wi-Fi submenu. Look down until you see the DroneView Wi-Fi network and select it. Exit the settings page, and launch the DroneView app. It will take a few seconds to connect and then you will see the screen showing what the camera is pointing at. There is a submenu column on the right side of the screen, and you use it to make on-screen adjustments as well as take photos or turn the video camera on and off. Also, if you do not have the memory card in the camera slot, it will give you a warning. You need the memory card in place to take photos and video. There is also a File Gallery, where you can see all your digital images and video files, sort them, delete them, or export them to your mobile device.



Above: This is the Settings page, with the DroneView Wi-Fi network selected. Right: This is the connected view for the camera, and the submenu column is shown.



The Dromida XL's transmitter has a mobile phone-holding fixture attached to the top of the case.



altitude. Pressing the Auto Takeoff/Land button while airborne will cause the drone to descend slowly, and once on the ground, the motors will shut off. Should you lose control and the drone is about to crash, press the Motor Start/Stop button to prevent damage to the propellers or motors.

### GENERAL FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

**Stability:** As with all Dromida drones, the HoverShot, even though it does not feature GPS tracking, is very stable, and it does a great job staying where you want it.

**Aerobatics:** The transmitter is equipped with an Auto Flip function. To do this, climb to a safe altitude (about 25 to 30 feet), and enter a stable hover. Press the left (throttle) stick downward until you hear a beep, then move the right stick in the direction you want the drone to flip. Return the stick to neutral and the drone will flip in that direction.

### PILOT DEBRIEFING

Overall, the new HoverShot FPV Camera Drone is a winner in both stability and the quality of the airborne photography it offers. I think anyone wanting to get an easy-to-fly camera-equipped quadcopter will love it.

### BOTTOM LINE

The Dromida HoverShot FPV camera drone is a great little quadcopter to fly. It is stable enough for less-experienced pilots to be successful right away, and it has plenty of zip on tap for experienced pilots to enjoy. Couple all this with a street price of less than \$100 and it becomes a great value. Give it a try; I know you'll be glad you did. ±