



RC TECHNIK STICK SWITCH for Futaba 14SG



When I was at the Weak Signals show in Toledo, Ohio, this past April, I was visiting the Open Hobby booth and admiring a Graupner MC-20 transmitter that had taller gimbal sticks with a switch on one and a potentiometer on the other. I thought that they were a standard feature of the radio but after talking to them, I discovered that they were an aftermarket product by a German company called RC Technik.

Flying multirotors, especially with a gimbal-controlled camera, you have two functions that are frequently used: flight modes and gimbal tilt control. Often, you assign a 3-position switch to the flight modes and use a slider or a dial to control the camera tilt. The problem is that you must remove a finger or two from the control sticks while flying to use these features. The RC Technik Stick Switches allow you to activate a 3-position switch on one (I use it on the left stick) and the potentiometer on the right stick

allows me to tilt the camera with the same two fingers that I use to fly my machine. Additionally, the sticks are much taller than the stock sticks, which makes controlling the multirotor much smoother for me.

I noticed that they had a stick set for the Futaba 14SG which happens to be a radio that I use a lot for multirotor flying so I got a set of sticks and installed them. I will say that this is NOT a simple task. You need to disassemble the radio and cut and solder wires, and this will void your factory warranty. If you do not have electronic soldering and metering skills then I suggest you summon a friend or even contact a repair center that might be willing to take on the task. The instructions that come with the sticks are more general in scope and are not specific to the 14SG. Because of that you will need to use a meter to determine the correct wires to connect inside the radio. Explaining this would take more room than I have available here in this article, so I created

a web page that documents this to the best of my ability. You can visit multirotor-pilot-mag.com/rctechnik for instructions on how I did it.

The only downside to putting these sticks on my 14SG is that the radio will not work for me for RC helicopter flying anymore, as I use my thumbs when I fly helis. I use the pinch method with my index finger and thumb for flying planes and multis.

While this is not an easy mod, if you are a diehard multirotor and aerial photography pilot, I am positive you will find these sticks invaluable, as they greatly increased the smoothness of my flying and made things much more comfortable, especially when a higher level of flying precision is required.

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For more information, please see our source guide on page 82.

PHOTOS BY WALTER SIDAS