

DF65 - NEW SKIPPER PURCHASE SUGGESTIONS

(Information provided by Phil Burgess [ADFRSA President] & Mike Jefferys [Qld DF65 Class State Champion & Qld DF Coordinator] July 2020)

Yacht

Recommend Version 6 with no transmitter package- \$189 Buying without the transmitter reduces the cost by \$58.

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/joyway-dragonforce-65-v6-df65-rc-yacht-pnp-without-transmitter-or-receiver.html> [Hobby Warehouse - sole Australian importer]

Transmitter – Flysky i6 - \$86

For \$32 extra, this one is fantastic value and used by almost all sailors because it has considerably more functionality. The best features are battery life in the boat is displayed on the screen, so you don't run out and the boat sails away, plus more fine tuning of the controls. I can send you a comprehensive operating manual (better than the manufacturer's one) when you are ready.

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/flysky-fs-i6-transmitter-and-receiver-mode-2.html>

There are two modes – Mode 1 gives you left hand steering and Mode 2 right hand (recommended) depending on your dexterity. Also make sure you buy one that has the hard case shell for the receiver and dual antennae (for better receiver reception) – Flysky i6B. There is a version for planes that is covered in cardboard and will not last as well. Watch for lower cost offers because they may not have the receiver inside.

Set-up Manual for FlySky FS-i6 Transmitter (Tx) and FS-iA6B Receiver (Rx) for DF65 RC Racing Sailboat:

<https://klausharris.files.wordpress.com/2019/04/set-up-of-flysky-tx-and-rx-david-flakelar-12apr19.pdf>

Batteries – Get at least 2 or 3.

Hobby Warehouse 6.6V 850mAh DF65/DF95 RX LiFe at \$14.50 are OK

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/hobby-warehouse-6-6v-850mah-rx-life-rechargeable-battery.html>

.....but prefer ZIPPY Compact 700mAh 6.6V 5C LiFePo4 Receiver Pack as they are lighter and cheaper.

https://hobbyking.com/en_us/zippy-compact-700mah-6-6v-5c-lifepo4-receiver-pack.html?queryID=a8f9b7deb65f559f4ac0d4e6cc131b4b&objectID=82559&indexName=hbk_live_magento_en_us_products

NB: Research and learn how to care for these batteries as they will balloon up and be useless if left to discharge below about 4.7volts.

http://www.paradiseradioyachtclub.com/images/RC_YACHT_BATTERY_INFORMATION.pdf

Battery Charger

Any charger that is designed for LiFe batteries and has a balance charge function is okay. Make sure they come with the power transformer and plugs that will fit Futaba leads (these are the type of cable connection used in the boat)

Available from many suppliers e.g.:

https://www.banggood.com/Original-SKYRC-IMAX-B6-Mini-60W-6A-Balance-Charger-Discharger-with-Power-Supply-for-LiPo-Li-ion-LiFe-Nimh-Nicd-Battery-p-1422718.html?rmmds=search&ID=47184&cur_warehouse=CN

A+ Mast Set (Part #881530) – (Hobby Warehouse - sole Australian importer) \$67

You will quickly realise that the boat is sailed predominantly in winds under 20kph. The standard A rig (3/4 jib) is best in 12-18 knot wind. The A+ rig (mast head jib and bigger main) is used about 85% of the time.

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/joysway-881530-dragon-force-65-v6-a-complete-rig-assembly.html>

Sails

The standard ones for A rig are okay but the A+ are a bit too heavy at 50 micron and not recommended.... talk to your local members about 36-micron A+ sails available for purchase.

Braid cord

The Dyneema braid cord supplied with the boat is pretty poor quality, but it can be used. It is better to buy some 30lb spectra/dyneema from BCF or any fishing shop. It will wear better and is easier to thread.

Spares

The low price of this gear also means the efficacy is not top of its class, so expect to replace some parts from time to time.

Rudder servo (part #881504)

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/joysway-881504-dragonforce-65-v6-dragonflite-95-digital-metal-gear-rudder-servo.html>

Sail servo (part #880545)

<https://www.hobbywarehouse.com.au/joysway-880545-dragon-force-65-2014-version-winch-servo-set.html>

There are several other smaller parts needed – extension cable, antennae holders, hatch covers, hull sealing patch etc

Corrosion Protection

If you plan to sail in salt water, it is essential to buy some CorrosionX from Whitworths (\$35) and use it regularly on all electrical and metal parts.

<https://www.whitworths.com.au/corrosionx-lubricant-170g>

...check out this video!!! (but use safely)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4z8QMgTEA4&t=14s>