

# Lost Model Alarm

Many flying sites, such as the International Aeromodeling Center (IAC) in Muncie, Indiana, are bordered with cornfields or other obstructions, making it difficult to locate a lost aircraft. These improvised landing sites aren't always eager to return what they have taken, so having a device to help us can be a great benefit.

The new Lost Model Alarm does just that by providing an 85dB to 90dB audible signal and is available in two versions to best suit your needs.

The LMA-P Lost Model Alarm is passively triggered, meaning the lost model alarm is activated after 1 minute of inactivity on behalf of the pilot. The LMA-P model alarm is linked directly or indirectly to an actively used channel (such as elevator, rudder, or ailerons) and monitors command changes on this channel. If there is inactivity longer than 1 minute, the alarm sounds.

The LMA-A Lost Model Alarm is actively triggered, meaning an explicit servo control command is required to activate it. This command is issued by the pilot operating the transmitter or by a receiver's fail-safe movement to a preprogrammed position in case of a lost radio connection.

We installed the Lost Model Alarm in a PA Addiction, which is a built-up balsa aircraft. The LMA-A version was plugged in the gear channel on the receiver and mounted inside the aircraft.

We could activate the alarm by activating the retract switch. We set the aircraft on the ground with the alarm activated and two of us walked away from it, while keeping track of our distance from the "downed" aircraft with a surveyor's wheel.

We were able to hear it faintly from as far away as 316 feet on level ground with no obstructions. Wind and other sounds at times masked the alarm. The type of aircraft it is mounted in and whether it is mounted on the inside or outside will also affect your range.

The company's website lists 50-meter range (164.04 feet), which would be realistic in most situations. The recommended operating voltage is 4V to 5.5V and the current drain is less than 1mA silent and less than 20mA emitting sound.

For \$7.99 and an added 3.5 grams of weight on your aircraft, the Lost Model Alarm seems like a bargain, especially to those who fly in areas surrounded by aircraft-eating crops!

*Lost Model Alarm; website: [www.lostmodelalarm.com](http://www.lostmodelalarm.com)*

