

TL13: Eel Dragon personal jumpcraft

The Eel Dragon is a classy, high-performance personal jumpcraft originally designed for both joyriding and fast-response media. It is sleek and contoured, and its small carrying capacity is outweighed by its speed and handling. With a speed like that of this jumpcraft, some armoring is necessary simply to protect occupants from airborne debris.

Special effects

Despite the small size of this vehicle, it should be noted that the cockpit is fully enclosed. Although there is little room to move about, the seat is in a semi-reclined position and the position of the rider is unlikely to become uncomfortable in any reasonable amount of time. The mass of an 80kg pilot is included in the loaded mass of the vehicle. The amount of additional accessories, hardpoint mounts, or cargo carryable will vary from user to user.

The turbofans that power the Eel Dragon are three broad disks with air outlets at the bottom. They are capable of being controlled individually or pivoted on any axis, giving excellent maneuverability. The armor value listed is for the shells that contain the actual turbines. This holds for all but the front of the first turbofan; this is AV11 in order to withstand impact with debris at top speed.

Design note

The power train is adjusted by errata for helicopters, and is designed as as three many-bladed rotors with a total wing area of 3 square meters. Power to generate a hover is about 165kw, and the rest is used to generate the listed performance, with top speed limited by rotor tip speed (page 58).

The Eel Dragon's sensors and efficient computer give its pilot a +2 to all piloting rolls in which the sensors are usable. This does not apply under conditions that block sensors; also, it cannot be applied to situations in which human judgement is required - the computer helps coordinate performance, but it cannot think.

Campaign notes

It is important to keep in mind with the Eel Dragon that the listed turn mode is the maximum that the vehicle is capable of. Six g's is a lot. The Eel Dragon is capable of any turn mode up to 60, and under normal circumstances people will not subject themselves to such forces. Wise players will only use the maximum turn as a last resort if they are about to crash into something hard and immobile.

The Eel Dragon's three hardpoints were intended for media recording and broadcasting devices, but can easily mount any sort of high-tech (or low-tech) weaponry, making a well-outfitted Eel Dragon an excellent hit-and-run combat vehicle. Remember that the Eel Dragon is quite expensive for its capacity, and will therefore be only available to those who have some money to spare. Nevertheless, the vehicle's versatility and unequalled performance will probably make it relatively popular and prestigious in any campaign to which it is introduced.

Designed by: Rick Havlak

Specifications:

Configuration:	Prism ₁ , partial optimum streamlining		
Length:	3.22m	Size modifier:	-1
Width:	.97m	Toughness:	x1.0
Depth:	.483m		

	Area	Volume	Mass
Design figures:	6.221m ²	1.502m ³	650kg

Structure:	TL13 composite, stressed to turn of 60 and .65 tons		
Stats:	-	.006m ³	28.2kg

Surface:	TL13 Lightweight armor (transparent front, sides, top)		
Front (7.7mm, AV11):	-	.004m ³	8.9kg
Rear (2.1mm, AV9):	-	.001m ³	5.2kg
R.side (2.1mm, AV3):	-	.002m ³	3.3kg
L.side (2.1mm, AV3):	-	.002m ³	3.3kg
Top (2.1mm, AV3):	-	.002m ³	3.6kg
Bottom (2.1mm, AV9):	-	.007m ³	32.6kg

Power plant:	AV5, TL13 tweaked exotic (jet turbine)		
Stats:	300kw	-	.085m ³ 170.0kg
Radiators	.60m ²	-	-

Power train:*	AV5, TL13 turbofans, can turn on axis, best quality		
Stats:	300kw	3.0m ²	.156m ³ 78.0kg

*uses errated helicopter rules from BTRC web site

Fuel:	Exotic (jet fuel), 2 hours		
Stats:	-	.055m ³	55.3kg

Other:			
Luxury seat(1), plus pilot	-	1.00m ³	120kg
Rating 1 60° radar	.5m ²	.002m ³	3kg
Rating 2 60° thermal	.8m ²	.02m ³	40kg
Rating 2 computer	-	.01m ³	7kg
TL13 freebies	-	.03m ³	30kg
Hardpoints x 3	-	-	23kg
Subtotals:	4.90	1.327m ³	611.4kg
Spare capacity*:	1.321m ²	.175m ³	38.6kg

*Vehicle exceeds volume because of rounding on very small components

Performance:	650kg
Base top speed:	m/s (kph/mph)
Adjusted:	154m/s (554kph/346mph)
Base acceleration:	9.1
Adjusted:	5
Base deceleration:	5.5
Adjusted:	1
Base Turn Mode:	7
Adjusted:	60

Bugs:	None
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