

SO what do we have, we have here the 2dof Motion platform by DOF REALITY, I have had this chair for a month and so far I LOVE IT, it's a solid well-built platform which can withstand my 17 stone weight with ease!!!! It can handle upto 150kg

I use these with this chair:
oculus Rift Not mounted on the chair
Thrustmaster Wathog
Saitek Peddles

So what is it made from !!

THE FRAME

Well its a metal frame platform frame with decent stability, the design has been thought out and upgraded to give the best balance and stability.

I opted to have the side mounts (which are an extra cost £100) this gave me the ability to house the hotas on each side of the chair, again it's a personal preference.





THE CHAIR

Yes you have to supply your own seat, again this I feel is a positive. Not everyone will like the same thing, I decided to use a RX7 seat from my old car.

I also mounted the Jetseat motors within the chair. These for those that don't know are from a vibration cushion, here is a link

<https://forums.eagle.ru/showthread.php?t=134704>

Once you place your order give them the details and they pre drill the holes for you. So when build time comes, you don't have to get the black and decker out 😊

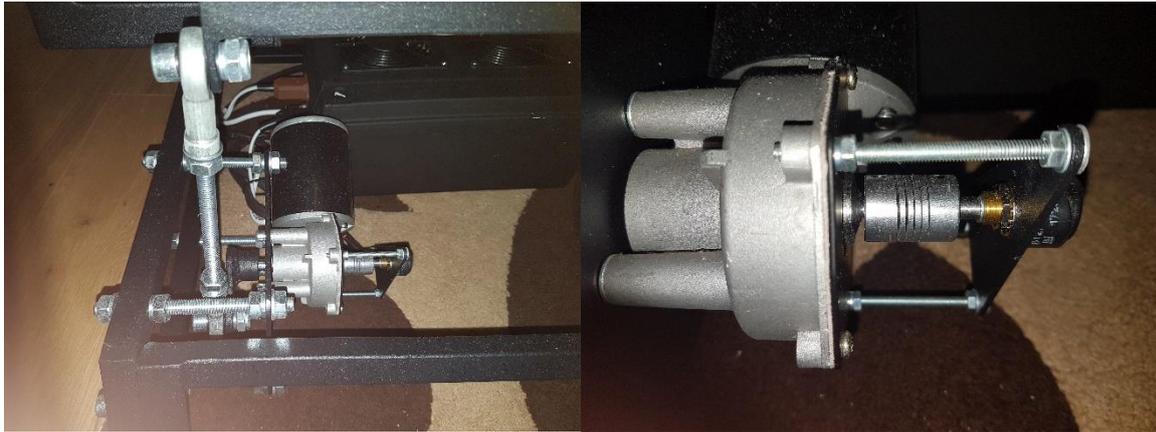
THE MOTORS & POTENTIOMETERS

A solid pair of motion platform motors and decent Potentiometers that seem really solid but have their flaws, I noticed the motor has a deadspot.

Unfortunately, the motors do have a bit of travel but from reading up on this, it's completely normal, but can be felt in game and has a slight impact on the roll of the platform, Sometimes it feels like its slipping.

The Only issue I had with the motor is the bracket that holds the Potentiometers in place to the motor, the lock key had slipped resulting in a loss of motion, the motors alignment was off as a result BUT, a bit of lock-tight and a screw of the hex bolt sorted this out.

Rather I didn't have to fix it after a week, BUT I'm happy non-the less.



THE ELECTRICAL PART

So this seems to use a couple of Monster boards and an andrino for the control of the platform, the power comes from two linked power units.

the electrical box is smart looking, but it looks like a white box that's been sprayed, you WILL get paint chips which sucks. So, care has to be taken when moving this.

The box has good ventilation at the top with two grills and the rear of the box has two fans, THESE ARE REALLY LOUD and are simply connected direct to the power supply, on messaging the supplier ref the noise. They replied stating the heat sinks need to be below 80c to keep the unit from breaking.

You can look at replacing these with quieter ones, but I honestly would like to have seen these installed for me, this is a £1200 toy and an extra £10 shouldn't break the piggy bank.

Here is a link to the video of the fan noise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaWdqDiJ5lk&feature=youtu.be>

So inside the box the boards seem to be glued to a plastic plate, unfortunately mine was broken in transport so the usb plug is tricky to plugin, I had to remove the box and hold the board.

However, this is not the fault of the supplier but the courier company. As a note, the packaging was exceptional.

The connectors – There are 4, 2 per motor and you can't get this wrong as they are colour coded, the connectors are strong and I cannot see these getting broken anytime soon. So, kudos for these.

There is another noise which comes from this unit, a vibration of sort. I have placed by platform on a rug, and the electrical box is sitting on a rubber mat. I recommend you do the same as the vibration drone can become really annoying 😬

HOW EASY WAS IT TO BUILD

Well I'm not a fan of flat pack furniture but like most I always manage to get the job done, This build took me about 3 hours. I found the instructions ok, but they are emailed to you in advance so make sure you have a printer, or a tablet to view them on as they don't come in the box.

However, they do supply the tools which is handy, they are cheap but they get the job done. The bolts provided are quality and 3 weeks after the build, they haven't budged, so a thumbs up from me 😊

However, the instructions can be confusing at times, as the pictures don't really show the parts all that well. So you will have a scratch your head moment with them.

THE SETUP

This platform comes with a licence key for the latest simtools program

* this is the program that allows your game outputs move the platform as desired.

This is the first time I have used simtools and it can be a little tricky if you're not a current user. The instructions do cover this part really well, it provides links to the plugins and pre-sets you need to get this thing moving, as well as help with making sure the chair communicates with your pc.

So, once its installed you have to patch the game, again the instructions really help with this but I fell at the axis setup.... The default axis needed reversing and tweaking for this to work correctly with dcs. THIS for me was hard part as you have various options for the axis, rember you have 2 axis for the 2dof.

The axis can handle Roll, Pitch, Sway, Heave and Surge:

Roll – left and right

Pitch – Up and Down

Sway- pendulum effect (rudders) altho the 3dof would be best suited for this

Heave – vertical pull. (imagine the your banked left and pull on it stick (its that)

Surge – motion of acceleration or de-acceleration

Not many have these platforms within the dcs community so I did struggle with support for the axis, maybe I didn't look hard enough BUT I prevailed and managed to get the setup where I wanted it. I recommend researching while you're waiting of your delivery.



DELIVERY

So the delivery, this was a nail biting step for me and im sure it is for most, when waiting for your new toy to arrive.

After placing my order the platform was built and shipped within 2 weeks, I believe they build to order rather than carry stock, and this makes sense.

so I received the notification it was on its way (this is when you receive the emailed instructions) two weeks went by and the tracking information still stated it was in the Ukrainian postal system, IT didn't change :(

I feared customs may have held the item and contacted the supplier, who I must say were great. They chased but couldn't get any info.

A few days passed and ironically they arrived out the blue 😊 YIPPY I didn't have to worry about Tax or duty charges as they sent them as 'warranty parts' (this saved me a LOT of £)

So the delivery took 3 weeks form the Ukraine to the Uk. They state a 2-week delivery but they can't help customs or the postal systems.

HOW IS IT IN DCS

being as this is the only platform I have ever used, for me it is truly amazing, even tho the platform moves 20-30 degrees. Trust me its more than enough. The emersion is amazing...

I have my sensors mounted in the corner of the room, not on the platform itself, some have argued this could affect the vr motion. In response, you may be right but I always tilt my head with the horizon and as such I haven't noticed the sensor motion.

I'm sure some will prefer to mount the sensor on the chair, and you can but I use the rift for other games so that really isn't an option for me.

The flight inputs to motion question has come up a lot, bare in mind I'm not an expert on this in any way, however the motion reaction will be different depending on how violently you pull the stick.

Slow movements are always in line with the motion and the high turns left then right again, do show signs of lag. This is still an ongoing learning curve for me, and trust me I have barely scratched the surface of Simtools.

I will always try and fine tune my setup and settings, but I fear i will always be chasing the perfect tune, BUT I guess it's not gaming unless your chasing something 😊

TO THE PROS & CONS

PROS

its cheap compared to other platforms
It well built
Its flexible (fight or racing games)
Its compact
the motors and running is quiet.

CONS

The electrical box could be painted better
The box fans could be quieter
Vibrations from the electrical box get a little annoying
The instructions could be better

So would I recommend this ??

HELL YES in VR it gives a level of emersion which is a must have. Even tho the movement is slight, its still enough to trick the brain and bring back motion sickness all over again - that's right- its like staring in VR for the first time, all over again 😊.

Even with the small number of Cons, I can't recommend this highly enough. For the price, this is by far the BEST there is.