

HELI-X

User's Guide



Version 4.0 (2011-01-10)

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If you are interested in a commercial use of HELI-X, please contact info@heli-x.net.

This program was built using Java, Xith3d, Jogl, Joal, LWJGL, Jdom, the java networking library, Jama, Jagatoo, Gluegen and JInput. Many thanks to all developers involved in these great projects. All licenses for these projects are stored in the particular folder.

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Note: Flying with R/C helicopters may be dangerous. R/C helicopters are no toy.

Have fun with HELI-X.

Release Notes

Version 4.0 New in Version 4.0 compared to 3.0:

- Download manager for the installation of models, airports, scenes, videos
- improved physics
- physics for coaxial helicopters
- controller curves with dead zone in the middle for weaker controllers
- reaction training
- no collective training
- promenade training
- funnel training
- wind display
- better rotor reflections, dependent on the pitch value
- elastic blades visualization of the rotating rotor
- new models
- new 3D scene Heli Flying field
- better performance in multiplayer simulation
- rework of the keyboard and button functions
- Polish and Italian Language support
- some bug fixes

Version 3.0 New in Version 3.0 compared to 2.0:

- Crash-Objekte in foto scenes
- 3D scenes
- Pilot position variable (in 3d scenes)
- FPV-View (in 3D scenes)
- Smoke
- Tail rotor sound
- ambient sound
- multiplayer using color and texture information
- Basket training
- Rope training
- Failure training
- variable vertical helicopter position on screen
- Object zoom
- Performance updates
- History for helicopter and airport selection
- Filter for the helicopter selection
- Plugins
- Statistics information
- Online news
- New helicopter models
- Czech and Norwegian language supported

Version 2.0 New in Version 2.0 in contrast to 1.1:

- Update of the helicopter physics
- Simulation of three axes gyro systems
- Import of V-Stabi Settings
- New dynamic objects (boxes, balls, etc.)
- Balloon training
- Cargo training
- Cage training
- Display of a position marker
- Throttle and pitch curves can be stored
- Slow motion
- French version
- Possibility of a game server (already in the demo version)
- Better adjustment to the performance of the hardware
- New helicopters, textures with alpha channel
- Helicopter colors can be changed interactively

Version 1.1 New in Version 1.1 in contrast to 1.0:

- Pitch- and throttle-curves, Possibility for fixed pitch helis
- Gyro settings dependent on flight state
- Improvements of the gyro algorithms. Simulation of the tail servo
- Auto rotation training
- Tail training
- Stall-meter
- Slip-meter
- Rotor head instability
- Improvement of the hover training
- New keyboard functions
- Automatic screen saver deactivation
- Improvements of the graphics of rotating parts
- Change of the view during multi player not only via the menu but also by click in the pilot window
- New helis: T-Rex 600, Honey Bee King V2, Dragonus

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1 Getting Started

The usage of HELI-X is not that complicated so that it is possible to use HELI-X without reading the user's guide completely. But you should consider the following points:

- The controller should be plugged in *before* the start of HELI-X.
- At the beginning, you should configure the controller, see Section [3.3.1](#).
- You also have to assign the functions Idle Up 1 and 2 to a switch of your controller or a key of the keyboard. Only then, the engine of the helicopters can be started.
- Then you can select an airport. There are different kinds of airports available: SkyBox1024 has only a limited resolution (for not so strong graphics adapters) while SkyBox offers the full resolution, a HD resolution is available with SkyBoxHD.
- 3D-Scenes offer the possibility for a variable pilot position and to fly "with" the helicopter.
- Then, you can select a helicopter and your training can start.
- Many functions in HELI-X can be used by assigning functions to a switch on the controller or a key on the keyboard. Thus, you might want to have a look at Section [4](#).

Have fun with HELI-X!

2 Installation

HELI-X is based on Java and can be run on different operation systems. In order to make this compatibility possible, HELI-X does not make use of features which are dependent on the operating system (e.g. the registry in Windows). The important data is thus stored in files. Hence it is mandatory that the structure of the directories in HELI-X is not changed.

2.1 Directory Structure

The standard installation of HELI-X expects (based on the root directory of HELI-X) a directory structure of the following form:

```
+ files -----+
|               + Application
|               + controller
|               + screenshots
|
+ resources --+
|               + environments --+
|               |               + SkyBox
|               |               + SkyBox1024
|               + flights
|               + help
|               + miscellaneous
|               + models -----+
|               |               + helicopter
|               + Rotor
|               + scenes
|               + utils
+ libs
+ Java
```

Please note:

- In the directory `files` the configuration data of HELI-X is stored. In `screenshots` you can find the screen shots, if there are any.
- Airports, helicopters, utilities and scenes are stored in `resources`.

- Since the models can be edited, it is necessary that the user has the permissions to write in the directory `files` as well as in `resources`.
- All libraries are stored in `libs`.
- In the Windows version of HELI-X, a Java distribution is included. It is stored in `Java`. The Linux and Mac OS-X versions require that Java is already installed on your machine.
- When you install the Mac OS-X version from a `dmg` then the directories `files` and `resources` are automatically in the private directory of the user.

Experienced users have the possibility to change the paths for `files` and `resources`. To do this, you can use the following parameters in the Java call:

- `-DheliX.path.home=absolute path`
With this statement, the home directory is set, so that `files` and `resources` are expected below this directory.
- `-DheliX.path.resources=absolute path`
With this parameter, the path for `files` can be set.
- `-DheliX.path.files=absolute path`
With this parameter, the path for `resources` can be set.
- If both `files` and `resources` are set, then the parameter `-DheliX.path.home` is ignored.

2.2 Windows

To install HELI-X on Windows, you only have to execute the setup programme. The standard installation directory is `C:\HELI-X\`. Remember that you need write access to the directory. Do not forget to calibrate the controller in the windows settings.

2.3 Linux

The installation of the Linux version is done by unzipping the file into a directory. Dependent on your system (32 bit or 64 bit) you have to execute the correct start script. HELI-X expects that Java 5 (or later) is installed on your system. Do not forget to calibrate the controller in the system settings.

2.4 Mac OS-X

HELI-X on Mac OS-X requires the version Mac OS-X 10.4 or better. For the installation just move the installation dmg package to the programs directory and start HELI-X as any other application. You do not have to calibrate the controller within the operating system as it should be done with Windows. When you start HELI-X for the first time, the `files` and `resources` directories are created automatically in the user's library directory (e.g. `/Users/name/library/Heli-X`). The file permissions are automatically set and you can add your models and airports there. Thus, the first start may take some minutes.

3 The Menu

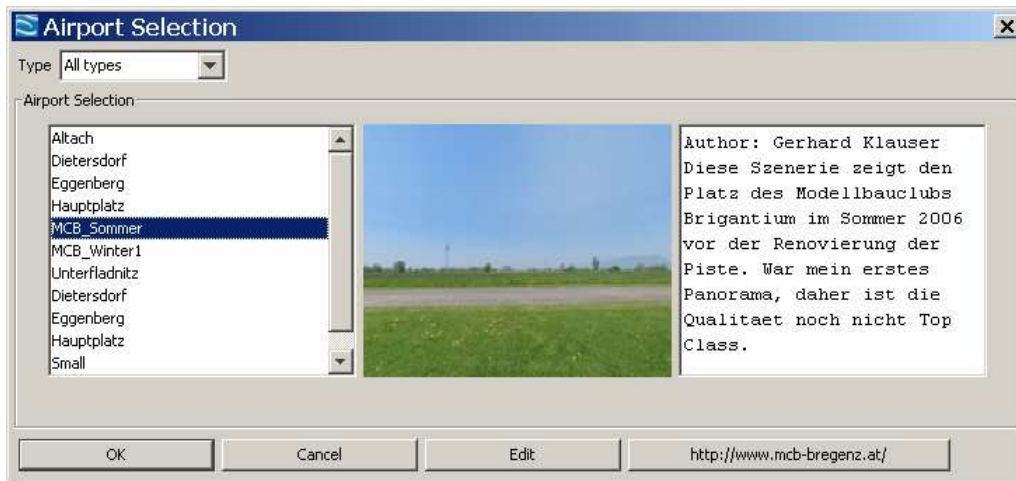
Most of the functionality of HELI-X can be accessed from the menu bar.

Simulation Configuration Record/Play Multi Player Training View Shortcuts Settings Help

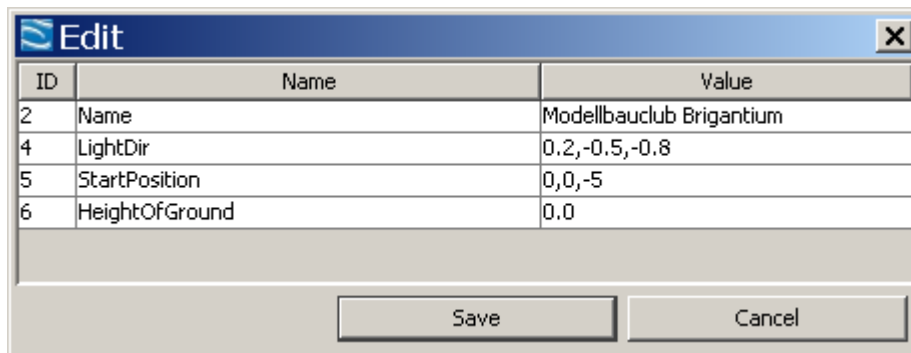
- **Simulation.** Here you can load airports, helicopters, and utilities. In addition you can load and save scenes. Also all editing processes are started here.
- **Configuration.** Here you can perform many configuration tasks: controller, stick display, camera, view, sound, and shadows. In addition, you can modify the dual rate/expo-settings. Furthermore, the brightness of the scenes and the wind can be set.
- **Flight Recorder.** Here you find everything for the record/play functionality.
- **Multi Player.** Here you find all functionality to practice together via the internet.
- **Training.** Available training modes can be found here.
- **View.** HELI-X offers many possibilities to control the view. Furthermore you can switch on additional windows, e.g. the stick display.
- **Shortcuts.** Some of the most important functions in HELI-X can be found here. The complete functionality can be accessed via the key and button functions.
- **Settings.** Define the language and the look and feel here.
- **Help.** Here you find everything which belongs to the help system. Furthermore you can update your model and airport library.

3.1 Simulation

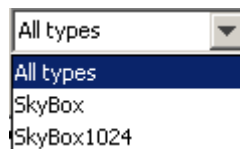
For the selection of airports, helicopters, utilities and scenes, there comes up a window of the following kind:



The choice is performed using OK. Note the edit button. If it is pressed, there appears a window to edit the parameters:



All changes are permanent in the sense that they are also valid in further runs of HELI-X. You can also find this combo box:



Using this box, you can restrict the choices, see next section.

3.1.1 Airports

There are different kinds of airports in HELI-X: SkyBox, SkyBox1024 and SkyBoxHD and Scene3D. The first one uses 6 textures of the size 2048 times 2048 pixels, while the second one uses textures of the size 1024 times 1024. This might be important for users with not so efficient graphics adapters.

Hint: During a multi player session, all players use the same airport as the server. Thus it might be a good idea to use an airport of type SkyBox1024, since you do not know how fast the computers of the other players are.

Starting with Version 3.0 there is also the class Scene3D. Here you have more possibilities for the camera settings, e.g. variable pilot position or flying "with" the helicopter.

3.1.2 Utilities

Currently there exist three kinds of utilities: boxes (in particular interesting for landing training), pylons and heliports. The positioning is done using a coordinate system with x and z running at the bottom and y pointing upwards. To simplify the positioning it might help to switch the matrix view on (function "**Toggle Matrix View**"). It is not possible to remove the utilities piece by piece. To remove all of them together, there is a menu entry in "**Shortcuts**".

3.1.3 Scenes

In scenes an airport is stored together with utilities and (optional) a helicopter. When you save a scene with a selected helicopter, then the helicopter is stored as part of the scene, otherwise not.

3.1.4 Import VStabi 4 configuration

If the selected helicopter uses a 3-axes gyro system, you can import the VStabi settings from the VStabi software in HELI-X. You can decide which settings will be imported. If you want, you can decide to store these settings permanently into the configuration file of the selected helicopter.

3.1.5 Helicopter Colors

If the selected helicopter offers the possibility to change its colors, you can do it here. As long as you do not choose a color, it is selected randomly.

3.1.6 Helicopter Textures

If the selected helicopter offers the possibility to change its textures, you can do it here. As long as you do not choose a texture, it is selected randomly.

3.1.7 Recent Helicopters

For the quick selection of recently used helicopters.

3.1.8 Recent Airports

For the quick selection of recently used airports.

3.2 Plugins

Here is the possibility to use external programs.

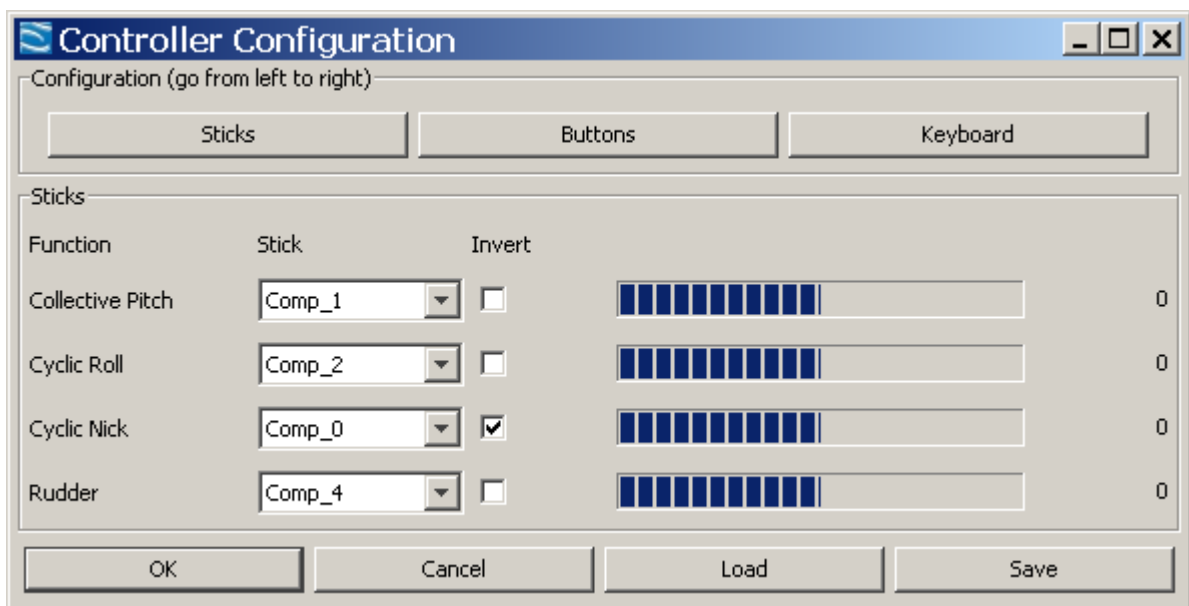
3.2.1 Quit HELI-X

When you quit HELI-X then your last settings are stored automatically. They are used for the next start of HELI-X.

3.3 Configuration

3.3.1 Controller

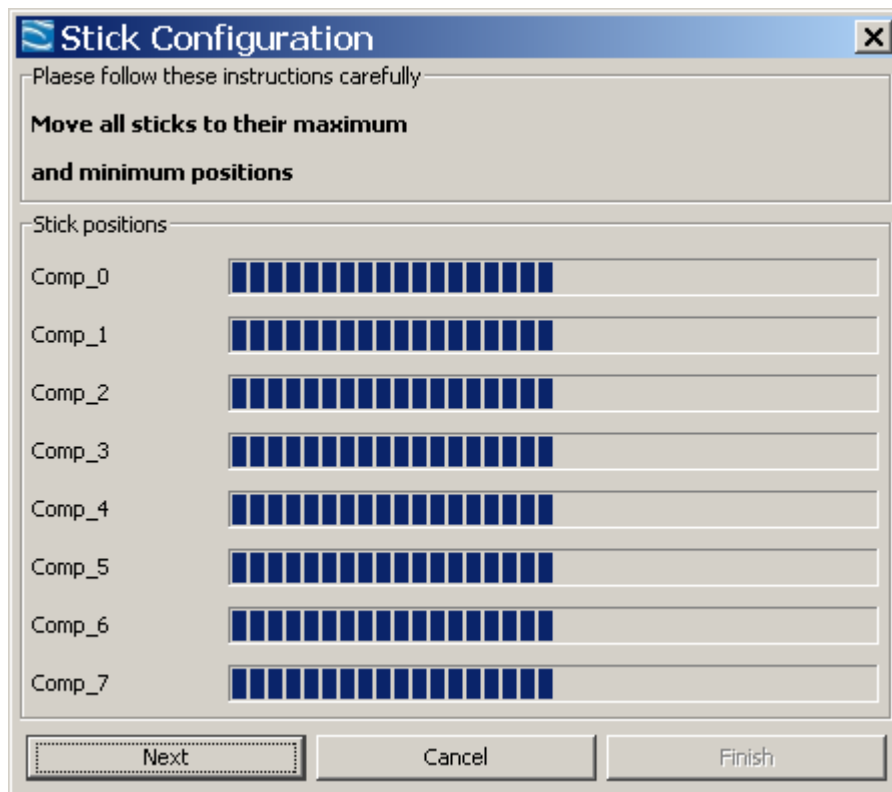
This is perhaps the most important configuration issue. Starting point is this window:



Here you configure (from left to right):

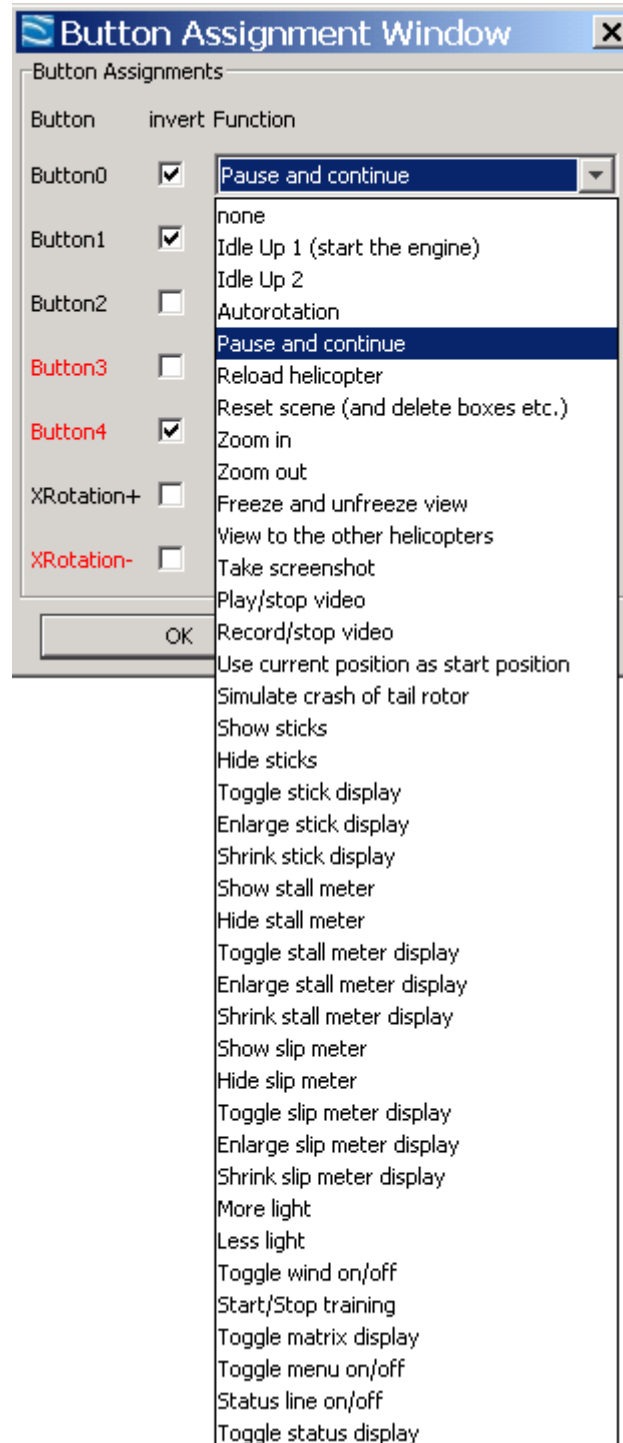
- The sticks
- The buttons and switches of the controller
- The keys of the keyboard.

The configuration of the sticks is made here:



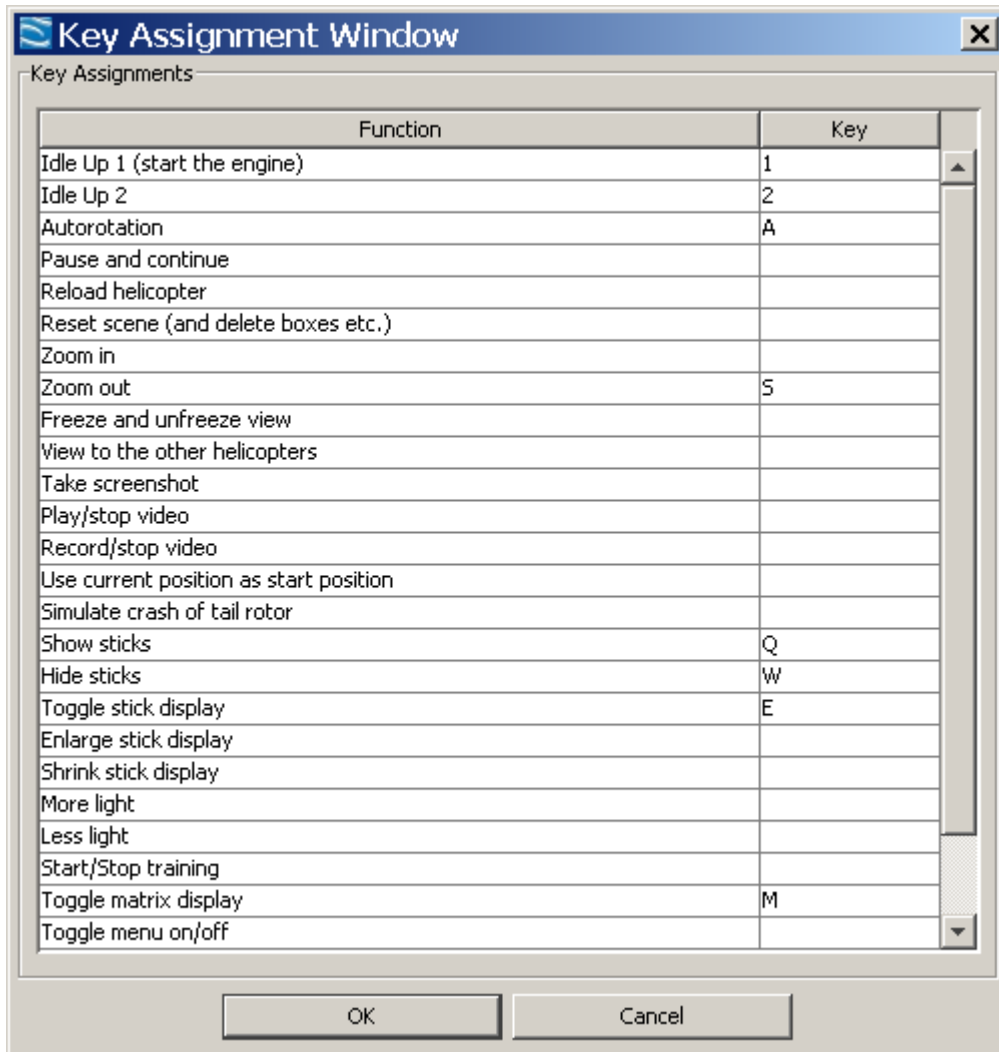
You only have to follow the messages in the window. If you have other switches or sliders on your controller, do not forget to move them to their end positions also.

In the next window you can assign functions to the buttons of your controller:



The checkboxes "invert" can be used to toggle the on and off position.

The remaining functions can be assigned to keys of the keyboard. For this, use the following window:

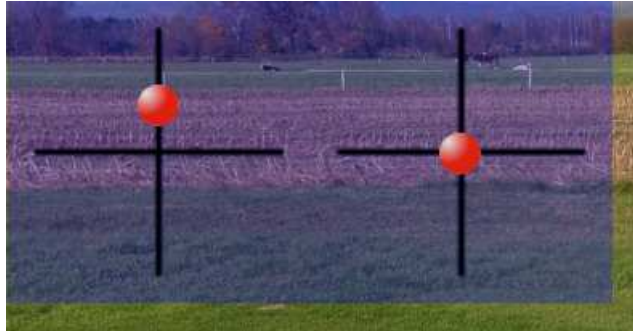


The exact meaning of each function is explained later. It is of crucial importance for the use of HELI-X, that the functions "idle up 1" and "idle up 2" are assigned to a button or a key. Otherwise, it is not possible to start the engine.

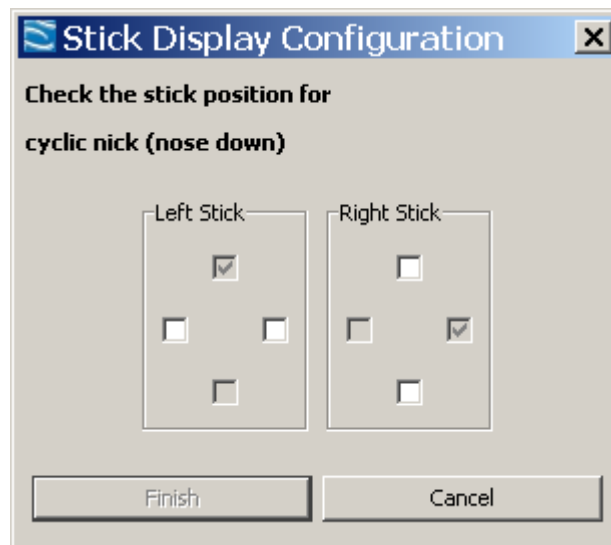
You do *not* have to store the settings. This is done automatically. This works also, if different controllers are used with HELI-X. The save function is only to be used, if you want to use different settings for the same controller.

3.3.2 Stick Display

There is the possibility, that the stick movement of the pilot is shown in HELI-X:



The configuration of the stick display is done in this window:



It is independent of the configuration of the controller, so that it is possible for example that you fly with mode 1 but the stick display looks as if you flew with mode 2.

3.3.3 Camera

This is the window for the camera configuration:



With *View Angle* you define the default as well as the minimal and maximal view angle. There are two kinds of auto zoom. The global auto zoom works on the helicopter and the airport, whereas the object auto zoom does only considers the objects, so that it might look not real. It should be used only with large reference distances.

Auto zoom is switched on and off at the top right. Auto zoom means that there is an automatic zoom-in when the helicopter is far away from the pilot and vice versa. The corresponding parameter can be input with the slider. 1.0 (i.e., the rightmost position) means that the zoom is performed in such a way, that the helicopter keeps its size. 0.0 means that there is no automatic zoom. A good starting point for you might be a value 0.2. The reference distance defines the starting distance at

which the auto zoom works. If you select "auto zoom in inner area" it works also within a distance which is less than the reference distance.

Hint: In reality there is no auto zoom. So you might want to try to switch off this feature after some time and try to fly in such distances that you can still see and control your helicopter.

Below, you can adjust the soft camera mode for vertical and horizontal camera movement separately. Soft camera means that the helicopter is not fixed in the midpoint of the window but can move freely around the center and the camera does not follow immediately. There are the following settings:

- The maximum angular speed of the camera.
- The time constant determines how fast the camera reacts to the movements of the helicopter. The larger this number is, the slower reacts the camera.
- The inner area determines the area in which the helicopter can be without a movement of the camera.

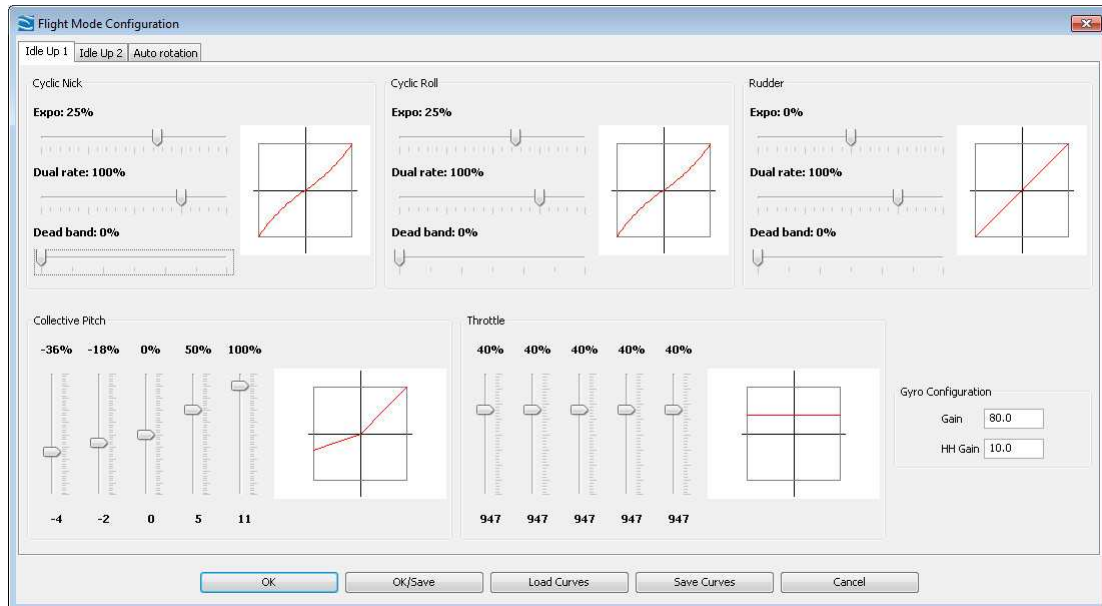
A variable camera location can be activated with First Persons's View (FPV), which works only in airports of type Scene3D. There are several settings for the camera movement:

- *Pilot's view* means that the camera moves with the helicopter as if you were a pilot inside the helicopter..
- *rigid* means that the camera is moving with a fixed distance behind the helicopter.
- *flexible* means that the camera movement is around the helicopter with a preferred distance.
- *On ground* is similar to the flexible mode, but in this mode, the height of the camera is the usual height of the eyes above the ground.

Note that the same settings are also valid when you look to another helicopter in multiplayer mode or to the video helicopter. And remember that you can switch the view in multiplayer mode by clicking on the pilot's name in the pilot window or by using a function.

Further settings for the camera can be found in the menu "View".

3.3.4 Flight mode

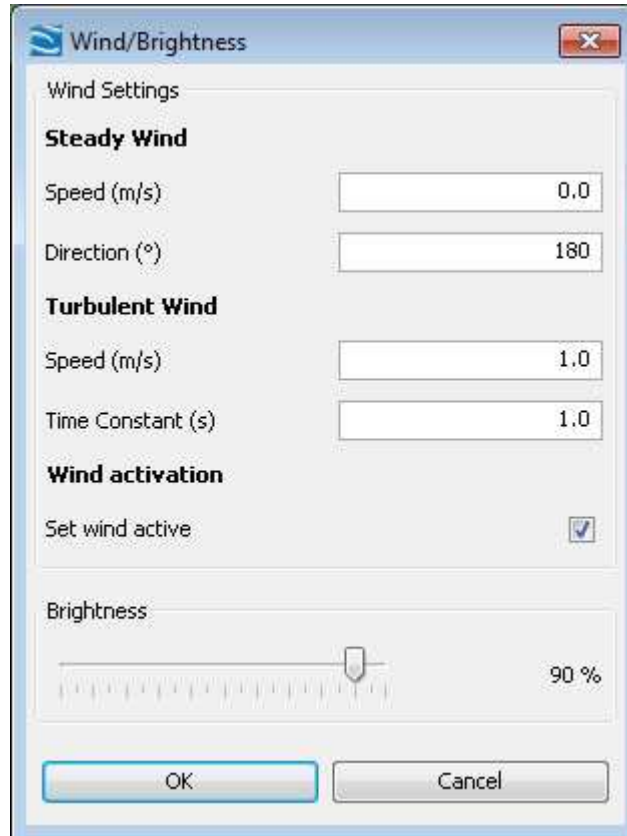


In this window you can adjust the dual rate and expo setting as well as the pitch and throttle curves to your own needs. In addition, it is possible to define the gyro gain and heading hold gain value. Of importance are the two possibilities to save the settings: If you press OK/Save, then the settings are stored in the parameter file of the selected helicopter. If you press only OK, then the settings are used but not stored together with your helicopter. Thus, it might be a good idea, to experiment with the settings (pressing OK) and at the end you store the settings with the helicopter (OK/Save).

You have the possibility to load and save expo and dual/rate curves. The gyro settings are not stored.

New in V4 is the dead band. You can use it when your controller has problems to deliver a correct zero signal.

3.3.5 Wind/Brightness



The wind in HELI-X has two components (as in nature):

- The steady or laminar part has a constant speed and direction.
- The turbulent part changes its direction and speed during time. The time constant determines how fast the wind changes. A small constant means that the wind is very unsteady. With the checkbox you can switch the wind on and off. There is also a function which can be assigned to a key, if desired.

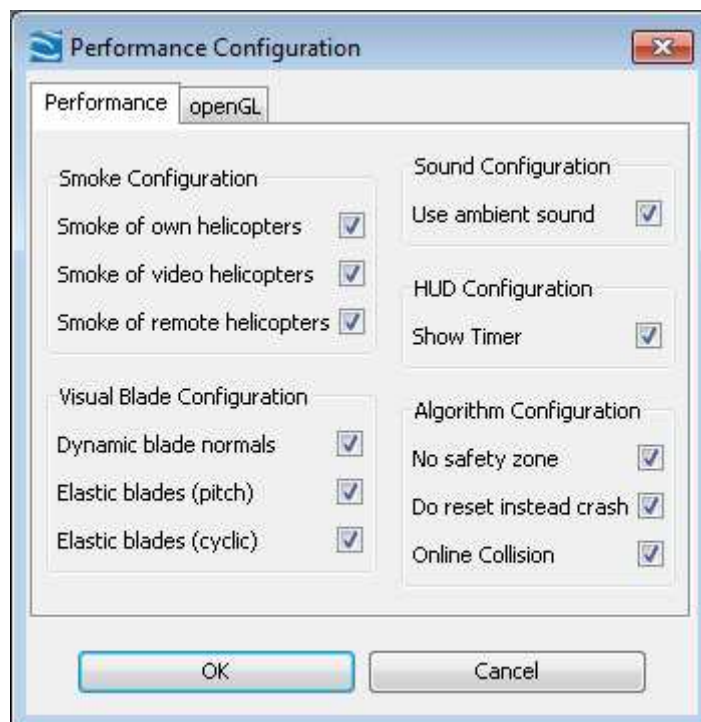
The brightness of the scene can be influenced with the slider at the bottom. This is interesting for night flying. In this case you should use helicopters which have lights. The standard value is 90%.

3.3.6 Slow Motion

Here you can choose the simulation speed (with the same physics) of your own helicopter.

3.3.7 Performance

In this window you can adjust HELI-X to the possibilities of your hardware.



In the performance tab, you can configure the smoke settings. In the visual blade configuration you decide, if dynamic blade normals are used so that the reflections of the rotating rotor depend on the actual pitch value.

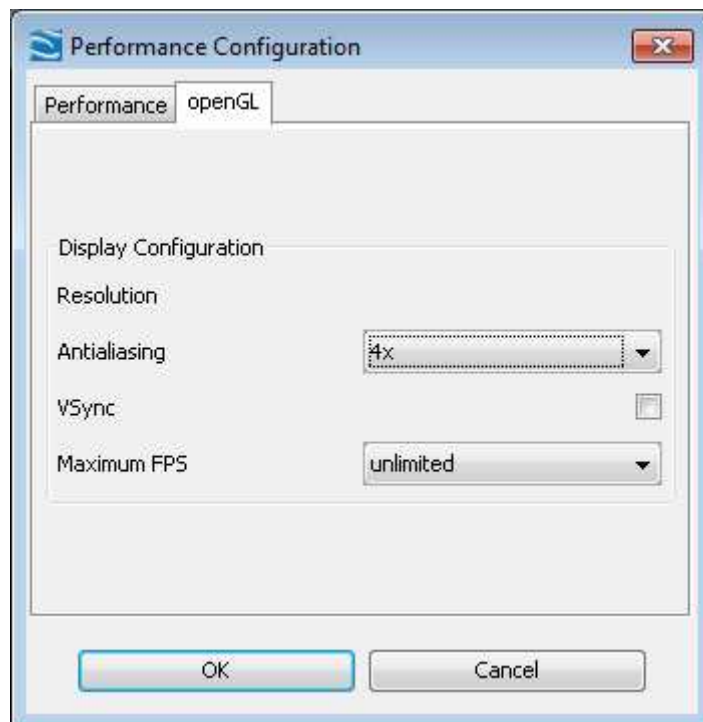
In some helicopters, the blades and/or the paddles are elastic or movable. With these switches you decide if the elastic parts react to collective and/or cyclic inputs. The default value is of course on. Turn the switches off if you run into performance problems.

Some airports provide an ambient sound file. Decide if you want to use them.

On some systems, the timer in the Cage Training needs too many resources. In this case, disable the timer.

Furthermore, you can deactivate the safety zone and you can disable the crash simulation so that the simulation starts faster after a crash. Decide also, if your helicopter will be crashed when it collides in a multi player simulation with an other helicopter.

The second tab provides possibilities to adjust the openGL settings.



The anti aliasing settings are responsible for the smoothing of edges. These settings might drastically influence the performance of HELI-X, depending on your graphics adapter. VSync means that the frame rate is synchronized with the monitor refresh frequency, which causes a limitation of the frame rate. If you do not limit the frame rate, HELI-X tries to get as much performance as possible to maximize the frame rate of the simulation.

If you are a really experienced user, you can set in the file `ApplicationSettings.xml` the value of `ShowAllOptions` to `true`. Then you can adjust more settings.

3.3.8 Sound

Here you can turn on and off the sound and adjust the volume. The Doppler factor influences how the pitch of the sound changes dependent on the velocity of the helicopter.

You can also define the volume of the ambient sound which is available for some airports.

3.3.9 Shadow configuration

The calculation of the shadows (in particular when there are many utilities in the scene), can influence the performance if you have a graphics adapter which has not so much performance. Thus you can define here which shadows are displayed.

3.3.10 Window size

You can set the window size to a standard value with one click.

3.3.11 Video size

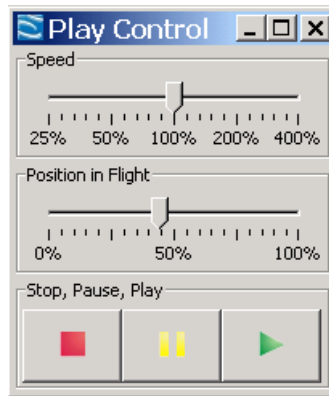
Here you can determine the size of the canvas. This is of interest, if you want to create screen shots or videos.

3.4 Flight Recorder

Record/Play	Multi P
Load Flight	
Save Flight	
Record/Stop	
Play/Stop	
Play Control	

The flight recorder has the following features:

- A recording can be started and stopped with the menu entry "record/stop". The recording time is then displayed in the status bar. In case of a crash, the recording is stopped automatically. After recording, the video is in the internal memory of HELI-X and can be played.
- To play the video you can use the menu entry "Play/Stop" or you can use the play control window:



- It is possible to fly simultaneously with the video. Using the menu "View Direction", it can be determined to which helicopter the camera looks.
- There is only one video stored in the internal memory of HELI-X. If you record another one, the previous one is lost.
- To store a video, use the menu "Save Flight". This creates automatically a new directory to store the video.
- If you want to share this video with you friends, make a zip file out of the complete directory. You find it in `resources/flights`.
- You can edit the corresponding xml file to include your comments about the video.
- You can also add a picture `preview.jpg` to the directory. Then this picture is shown in the video selection window.
- You can access stored videos with "Load flight".

3.5 Multi Player

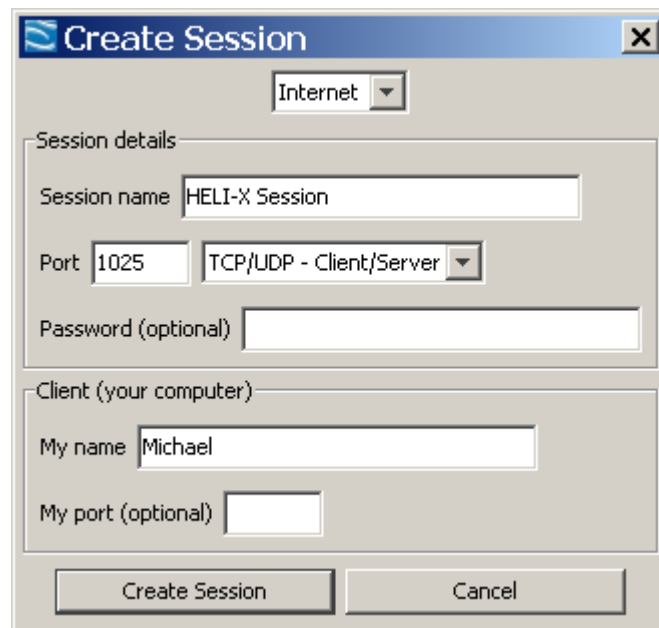
The multi player functionality is based on a client/server principle. That means: One pilot acts as the server: he starts the sessions and predefines the airport and the utilities. The other pilots can connect as client. All communications are directed via the server. Thus, the server should have a good computer with a fast internet access. The multi player menu looks as follows:



In this state there are two possibilities: You can start as a server or you can connect as a client to a running session.

3.5.1 Create session as server

To create a session the following window appears:



- Before creating a session you have to select the airport and the utilities.
- Since some pilots might have a poor graphics adapter you might wish to select an airport of the kind SkyBox1024.
- In the combo box in the top of the window, you decide if this is a session used in the internal network or a session via the internet. Depending on this selection, the IP address for internal or external use is published.
- Then you specify a name for this session.
- You can select the kind of communication for this session. This is only for very experienced users. In most cases you should keep the standard settings.
- The port defines the port to which the clients have to connect. It is published.
- If you want, you can define a password. In this case, only those people can connect who know the password.
- You have to specify your name which is also visible to the other players.
- You can specify a port on which you want to send. In most cases the field can be left empty.
- Pressing the right button, the session is created.

- And then, other pilots can connect to your session.

3.5.2 Connecting with a running session

To connect with an existing session you can use this window:

The screenshot shows a 'Join Session' dialog box with the following content:

Name	Airport	Pilots	IP	Port	Mode	Private
HELI-X Session	Altach	1	217.238.6.110	1025	TCP/UDP	no

Server

IP: 217.238.6.110 Port: 1025 Mode: TCP/UDP - Client/Server

Client (your computer)

My name: Peter My port (optional):

Password (optional):

Buttons: Connect, Cancel, Update List

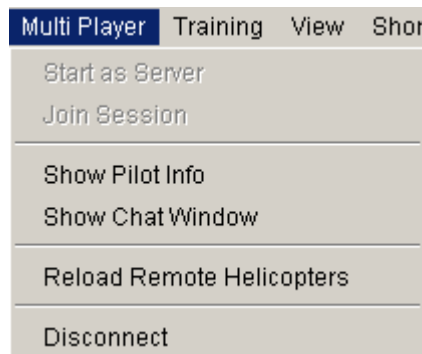
- In the top area you find a list of all sessions HELI-X is aware of. Using the button "Update List" you can force a refresh of the list.
- If you click on a session, then all the necessary parameters are put into the right places.
- You need the port and the IP address of the server as well as the kind of the connection.
- If you want to connect to a session which is not in the list, you can write the data in the fields by yourself. In this case, the pilot of the server has to give you the information.
- You have to input your name and you can input a port which is the send port of your computer. In most cases you do not have to determine a port.
- If the session has a password protection (you see this at the column "private" in the list) you

have to input the correct password to join the session.

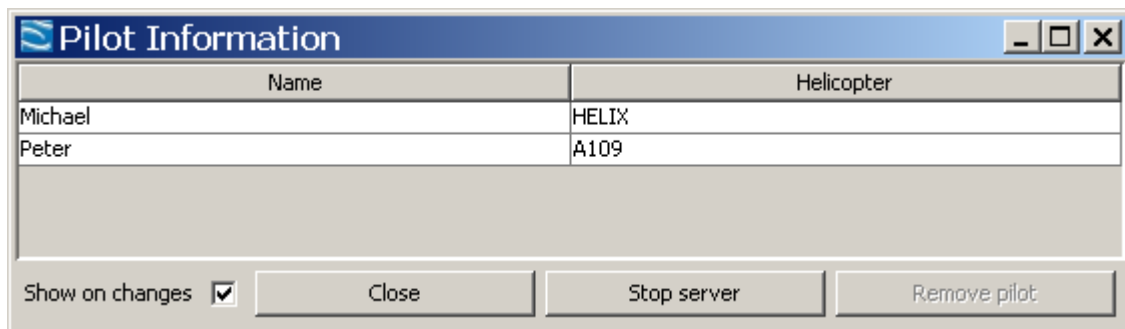
- If you press "connect", the connection to the server will be established.

3.5.3 Other windows

After the session is online, other menu items are available:



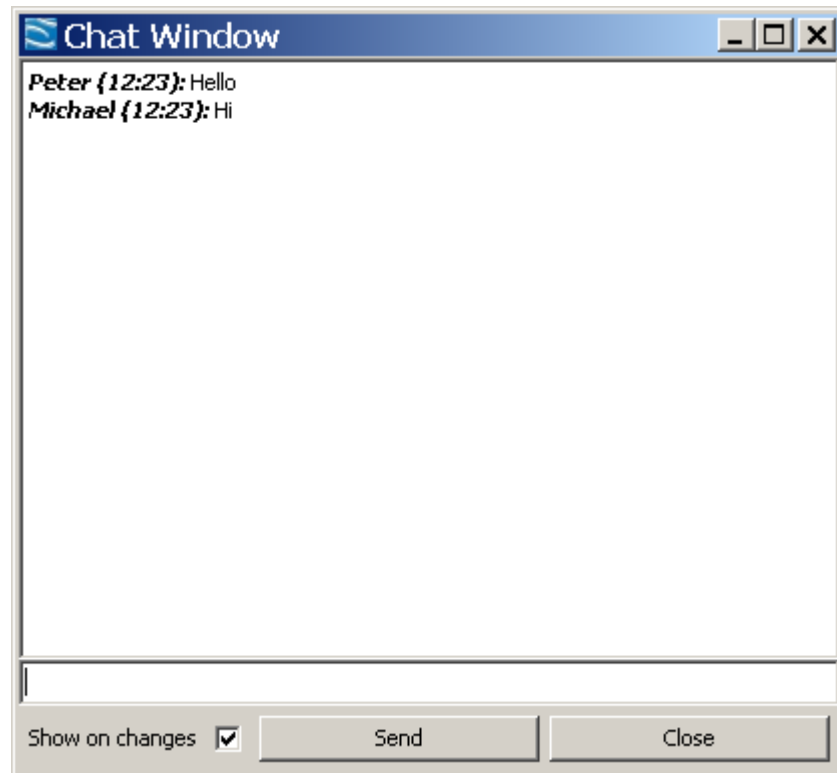
The window with the pilot information looks like this:



- All pilots are listed together with their helicopters. When a pilot selects a model which is not available at your computer, you get an appropriate message in this window.
- If you click on a line, the view follows automatically the particular pilot.
- If the box "Show on changes" is checked, the window is brought to the front at every change. This might be an advantage when you want to know who is in the session, but it might also disturb you during your flying.

- The server has an additional button to disconnect another player. You have to select the appropriate player in the list beforehand.

Another window which can be activated is the chat window:



It's use is obvious. A message is sent when the send button is pressed or when you type Enter. The messages which were sent before you connect, are not shown.

3.5.4 Other functions

If the session is out of sync, or you have updated your helicopter library and you want to use the new helicopters for the remote pilots, you can use the menu entry "Reload Remote Helicopters". In this case, all remote helicopters are removed and reloaded afterwards. You should need this item only rarely. The last menu item can be used to disconnect. If you act as the server, the whole session is closed.

3.5.5 Requirements for the communication

The communication of the HELI-X multi player mode is based on TCP and UDP. Please note the following hints:

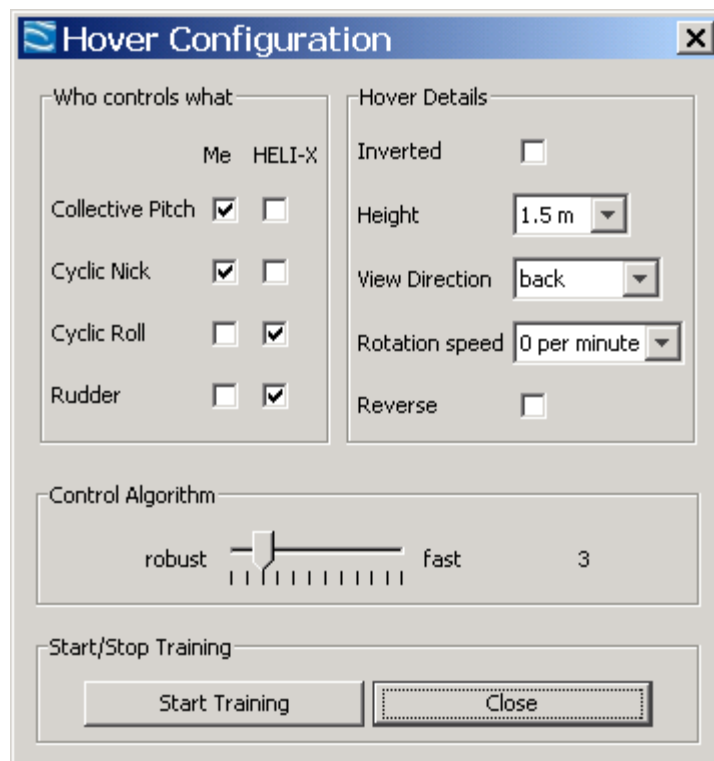
- The client has to allow outgoing connections. For this, a configuration in the router might be necessary. Used is the given port and the two following port numbers, for example 1025-1027.
- The port should be able to communicate with TCP *and* UDP.
- The server has to allow incoming connections.
- If you have a fire wall, you should be aware of the parameters there. In Windows, it might help to deactivate the fire wall.
- If your router does perform a port mapping, it has to be configured accordingly.
- All these settings depend strongly on your particular hardware. Thus, if there are any questions, you should ask for help at the HELI-X forum <http://forum.heli-x.info>.

3.6 Training

Here you can start and configure all the available training methods. The first entry in the menu allows to start and stop any training.

Hover Training

To configure the hover training, the following window appears:



- On the left hand side, you can decide which functions are controlled by HELI-X and which you want to control by yourself.
- Several details are specified on the right hand side.
 - Do you want to practice inverted or not?
 - In which height is the hover training performed?
 - Which side of the helicopter should be visible?
 - With the box "Rotation Speed" you can define if the helicopter should rotate around the vertical axis or not. You can also specify the rotation speed.
 - With the checkbox below you can change the rotation direction.
- Those functions which are controlled by HELI-X, are performed in such a way, as a teacher would do. The position of the helicopter is therefore not held artificially. The control algorithm can be set to fast or robust according to the value of the slider. If the helicopter starts to swing you should choose a lower value. And if the heli does not hold its position, chose a higher

value.

- Using the buttons, you can start or stop the training.
- It is possible during the training to change the airport or the helicopter.

Promenade Training

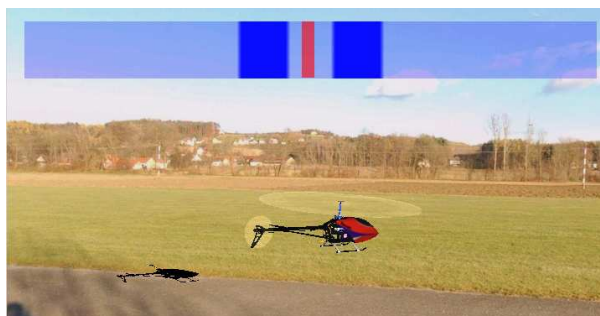
The promenade training is similar to the hover training. However, this time the pilot walks around the helicopter. The nose of the helicopter should typically point into the same direction. The promenade training does only work when an airport of type Scene3D is selected.

Reaction Training

The idea of this training is that the helicopter starts in a random situation and it is your task to bring the helicopter safely to the ground.

Tail Training

The tail training is to practice the tail in such a way, that the helicopter is always oriented along its flight path. For this, the slip meter shows the angle difference between the helicopter orientation and its flight direction.



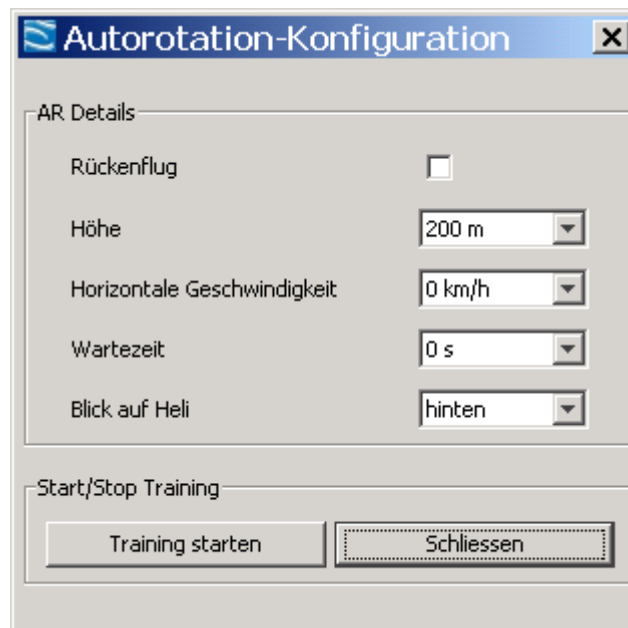
When you start the tail training you get an explanation and the slip meter is activated. Therefore there is nothing to stop.

Funnel Training

The funnel training is similar to the tail training. This time, however, the flight direction is perfectly orthogonal to the helicopter orientation. The display is then called a side slip meter.

Autorotation Training

For the configuration of the auto rotation training, the following window appears:



Here you can define the height for the start, the horizontal velocity during start, the time until the engine stops and the view direction to the heli. The checkbox defines if you want to start inverted. The goal is of course, to land with a small vertical velocity.

The stall meter might help you with the training. It is explained later.

Balloon Training

In order to configure the balloon training, the following window is used:



You choose the number of balloons, the size of the area where they are and their size. For the lines, you define their lengths and the details in the dynamic simulation.

Cargo Training

For the configuration of the cargo training, you can use the settings in this window:

Cargo Training

Rope Details

Length (m) 1

Details normal

Automatic Connection exact

Hook Position Middle

Object Details

Number of Objects 1

Object Type Ball 0.4 kg

Area small

Heliport Details

Number Heliports 0

Position stretch 1

Heliport Type 1.5 m

Start/Stop Training

Start Training Close

The settings are similar to the balloon training. Note that you have to put the cargo from where it is placed to the active heliports. There it is unloaded automatically as soon as it touches the active heliport.

Basket Training

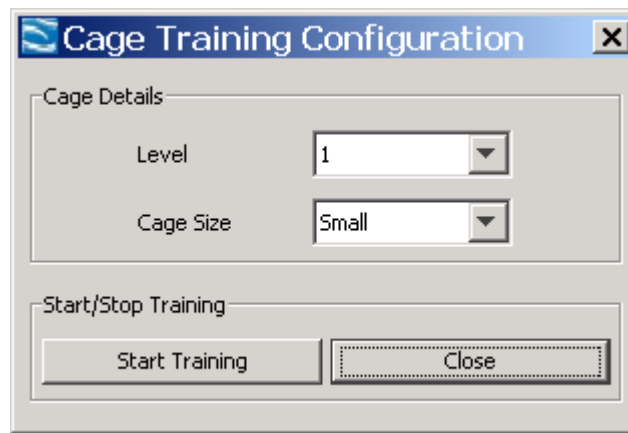
The basket training is similar to the cargo training. But the balls are stored in baskets.

Lasso Training

The goal of the lasso training is to fly with the rope. The rope can be cut by the rotors. So typically the helicopter has to fly backwards.

Cage Training

The goal of the cage training is to hover as long as possible inside of the cage. Depending on the level, the cage moves. If the display of the timer needs too many resources on your computer, you can switch it off in the configuration menu.

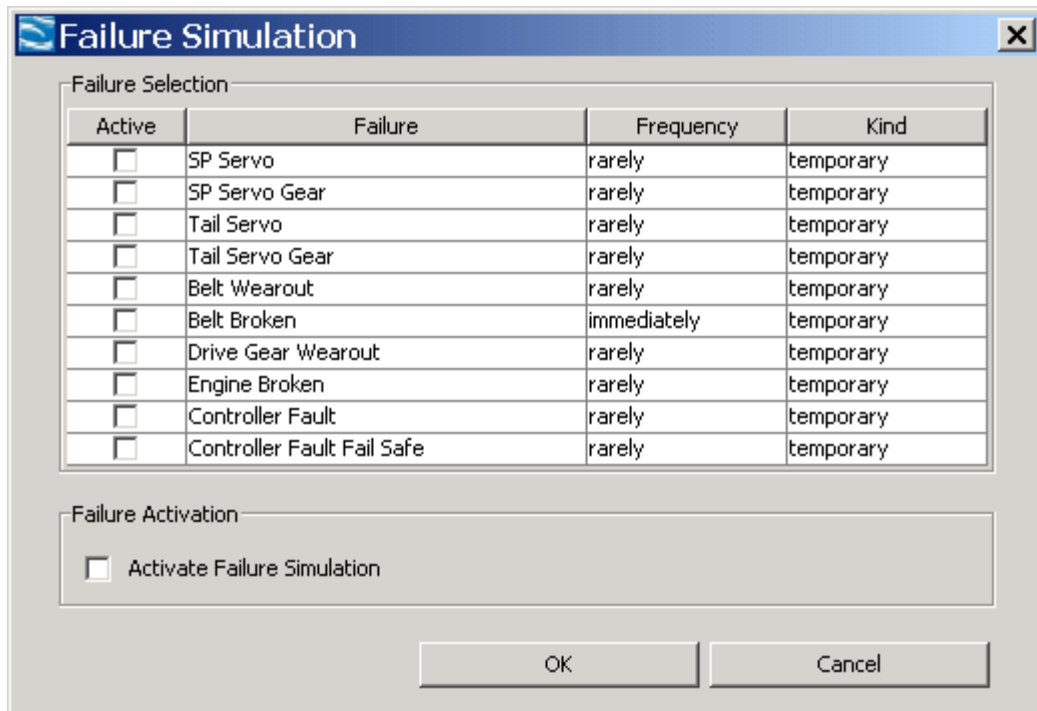


No Collective Training

The idea of this training is that the helicopter is held artificially at a given height and the collective input of the helicopter is ignored. This can be used to practice the stick movement of the cyclic stick, e.g. to get clear about what to do in a piroflip.

Failure Training

With the failure training you can practice the right reactions when parts of the helicopter fail. Use this window to choose the right settings:



Show Statistics

The statistics window gives you information about your usage of HELI-X.

3.7 View

In this menu you find several functions to define the view within HELI-X.

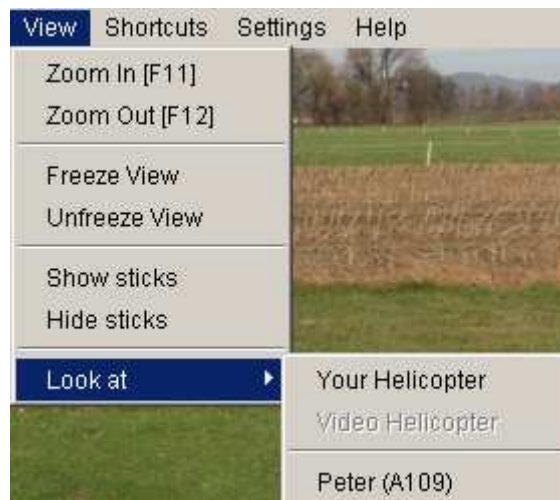
- Zoom functions (instant zoom) are set to F11 and F12 (can be changed). In contrary to the zoom **functions** they are active while pressing the keys and not while releasing the keys.
- Freeze view means that the view does not follow any helicopter anymore. You can look around using the arrow keys.
- Using „Heli on Screen“ you can achieve that the helicopter is above the center of the screen. This may help to see the ground earlier during auto rotation landings or to achieve to see both the cargo and the helicopter together during the cargo training.
- The position pointer is a circle on the ground. It may help you with the cargo training.

With the next five menu entries you can switch on and off the display of the sticks, the stall meter, the slip meter, the side slip meter and the wind display.

The stall meter has three bars. The red vertical bar shows how much percent of the main rotor is in stall. The green bar shows the rotation speed of the main rotor. The small red horizontal bar shows, how much pitch is given at the tail rotor. The stall meter should help you to practice auto rotation landings.



- You can switch on and off the status line with the next item.
- With the menu item "Look at" you can decide which helicopter you want to follow. This can be your helicopter (which is the default) the video helicopter or helicopters from other players within an internet session.



You can follow a remote helicopter also by clicking on a line in the pilot information window.

3.8 Shortcuts

Some of the most important functions are available in the shortcuts menu. Note that all functions can be assigned to a key on the keyboard or to a button of your controller.

- The Pause and Resume functions stop your own helicopter and release it again. Remote helicopters or the video helicopter will continue their flight.
- Reset helicopter means that your own helicopter is moved to its start position.
- You can remove your own helicopter with the next item. This can be helpful, when you are watching at a video helicopter or in a multi player setting.
- With Remove Utilities you can remove all boxes, pylons and heliports from your scene.
- With Reset Scene you remove your helicopter and all utilities.
- The next items can be used to enlarge or shrink the stick display.
- The same can be made with the stall meter.
- And with the slip meter.
- And with the side slip meter.

- And with the wind display.

3.9 Settings



Here is the place to change the language settings and the look and feel of HELI-X. These settings are stored so that they are effective at the next start of HELI-X.

3.10 Help



Here you find different things concerning help issues and update. With the first item you obtain the online user manual version (updated). Next you find links to the HELI-X Homepage and the support forum.

The following items start a process where HELI-X looks for updated versions of airports, helicopters and so on. Of course you need to have online access for this feature. You get a list where you can see for which local data there is an update available. Decide what data you want to download and press the update button.

Updates of HELI-X are available online. When you select this item you see whether your version is up-to-date. When there is an update available, you can obtain it with your personal registration data.

The news screen gives you the most recent information about HELI-X.

For further assistance have a look at the HELI-X-Forum (<http://forum.heli-x.info>).

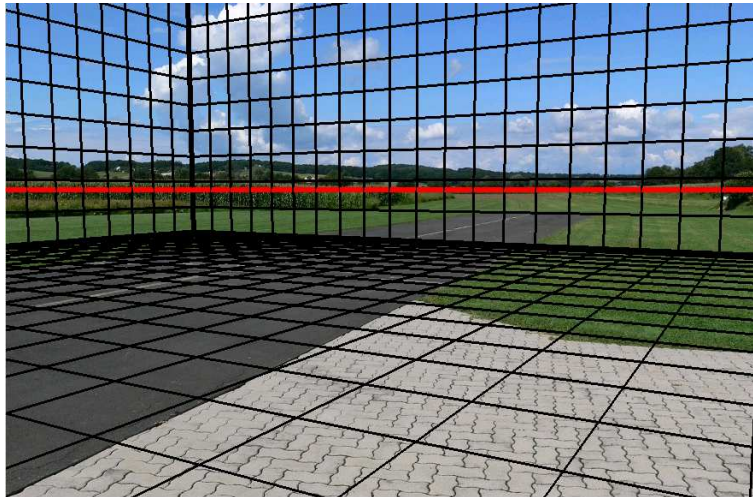
4 Functions

This important section describes the many functions of HELI-X which can be assigned to a button or switch of the controller or to a key of the keyboard. Since many features of HELI-X can be used with these functions, this is a section which you should read.

- **Idle Up 1 (start the engine).** You start or stop the idle up 1 state, that means the engine is started and runs with a low speed.
- **Idle Up 2.** The state with a higher rotor speed.
- **Autorotation.** You start the auto rotation with this function.
- **Airport Selection.** Same function as the corresponding menu entry.
- **Helicopter Selection.** Same function as the corresponding menu entry.
- **Utility Selection.** Same function as the corresponding menu entry.
- **Scene Selection.** Same function as the corresponding menu entry.
- **Pause.** Turning on the pause.
- **Resume.** Turning off the pause.
- **Toggle pause and resume.** Turning on and off the pause.
- **Reload Helicopter.** The actual helicopter is reloaded. This function is in particular useful when you are editing model parameters with an external editor. Using this function you can immediately try the changes made in the xml file.
- **Reset scene (and delete boxes etc.)** The reset functionality of HELI-X.
- **Zoom in/Zoom out.** These zoom functions can be assigned on any key.
- **Freeze and unfreeze view.** Toggle on and off of the dynamic view.
- **Switch view from heli to heli.** Changes the view focus from helicopter to helicopter. The other helicopters can be a video helicopter and the remote helicopters.
- **Toggle Heli position on screen.** Moves the heli position vertically. This may be of advantage while in an auto rotation or cargo training.

- **Take Screenshot.** Take a screenshot and store it in the screenshots directory.
- **Play/Pause Video.** Start and stop the playback of a video.
- **Record/Stop Video.** Start and stop the recording of a video.
- **Use current position as start position.** After the next crash or a reset the helicopter is at this position with the current engine state. This might help the impatient pilots who do not want to wait until the engine starts.
- **Simulate crash of tail rotor.** The only way to "repair" the tail rotor is a reset (or crash) of the helicopter.
- **Show/Hide/Toggle Sticks.** These functions can be used to control the stick display. You might prefer the toggle function on the keyboard.
- **Enlarge/shrink Stick Display.** Change the size of the stick display. The settings are stored when HELI-X is finished.
- **Show/Hide/Toggle Stall Meter.** These functions can be used to control the stall meter. You might prefer the toggle function on the keyboard.
- **Enlarge/shrink Stall Meter.** Change the size of the stall meter. The settings are stored when HELI-X is finished.
- **Show/Hide/Toggle Slip Meter.** These functions can be used to control the slip meter. You might prefer the toggle function on the keyboard.
- **Enlarge/shrink Slip Meter.** Change the size of the slip meter. The settings are stored when HELI-X is finished.
- **Show/Hide/Toggle Side Slip Meter.** These functions can be used to control the side slip meter. You might prefer the toggle function on the keyboard.
- **Enlarge/shrink Side Slip Meter.** Change the size of the side slip meter. The settings are stored when HELI-X is finished.
- **Show/Hide/Toggle Wind Display.** These functions can be used to control the wind display. You might prefer the toggle function on the keyboard.
- **Enlarge/shrink Wind Display.** Change the size of the wind display. The settings are stored when HELI-X is finished.

- **Toggle Position Pointer.** This function can be used to control the position pointer.
- **More light/Less Light.** Use this to make the scene darker for night flights.
- **Toggle wind on/off.** Use this function to turn the wind on and off. The velocity settings for the wind are stored.
- **Start/Stop Training.** To start and stop the currently selected training.
- **Unload Cargo.** To unload the cargo manually during the cargo training.
- **Toggle matrix display.** The matrix display can help you to find the right position for utilities.



- **Toggle menu on/off.** You have the possibility to switch the menu on and off, so that the area for the display of the scene can be enlarged. This might be of use when you have several windows opened. For Mac users this function does not make sense since the menu bar is at the top of the window.
- **Status line on/off.** You have the possibility to switch the status line on and off, so that the area for the display of the scene can be enlarged. This might be of use when you have several windows opened.
- **Toggle status line.** There are three different status lines possible. Besides the standard line, you can chose to display the helicopter position. This might be useful to define the start position or utility positions. The third possibility is to display the direction of the sun light. During this display, the cursor keys can be used to change the light direction. The numbers can then be put into the configuration file of an airport.

- **Toggle Sound on/off.** You can switch the sound on and off.
- **Switch to next texture.** If the helicopter has several textures, they can be changed with this function
- **Switch to next color.** If the helicopter supports the change of a color, this can be done with this function
- **Toggle topography shape.** If you construct crash objects, you can make them visible with this function.
- **Reload topography.** Using this function, you can update the crash objects from the topography files without loading the sky box pictures.
- **Instant Zoom In/Out** These functions are only available for the keyboard. In contrast to the normal zoom functions, they act instantly when a key is pressed and not when it is released. In a standard installation they are assigned to F11 and F12.

5 Developer

5.1 Helicopter Models

Currently, all helicopters are seen as helicopters which have paddles. If you want to model a helicopter without paddles, just set the coupling between paddles and blades to zero.

5.1.1 General remarks

- Models for helicopters consist out of a couple of files which are collected in one directory.
- The name of the helicopter is the name of the directory.
- In order to ensure compatibility with the different operating systems, you have to take care of the cases in the filenames.
- As said before, all files are collected in one directory.
- Three files have the same name as the directory: *.wav with the sound of the helicopter, *.xml with the parameters and *.obj which is a wavefront graphics file.
- There might be other files in the directory, e.g. for the materials or the textures.
- If there is a picture "preview.jpg" in the directory, this picture is used as preview in the model selection window.
- The .obj-File is a wavefront file. Please take care about the following:
 - The center of gravity of the model is the origin of a right handed coordinate system. The x axis points to the front, the y axis is vertical. The z axis points to the right.
 - The rotating axis of the main rotor lies on the y axis.
 - The groups which build the main rotor have names beginning with "Mainrotor".
 - The groups which build the tail rotor have names beginning with "Tailrotor".
 - Groups with transparent material must have a name that ends with `_transparent`, e.g. `canopy_transparent`.

- HELI-X uses different graphical objects for the rotor with low speed and the rotor with high speed. The low speed rotors are the ones from the object file. For rotors with a high speed, a different object is used. If you want specific objects for your helicopter, these objects have to be in the directory with the names "Mainrotor.obj" and "Tailrotor.obj". If these files are not present, HELI-X uses standard rotors.
- Within the xml file there are some parameters for the graphics. They are used for the position of the rotors and for the size of the helicopter.

5.1.2 Visual parameters

In the xml file of the model the following parameters are used for the visual representation of the model.

`<MainrotorPosition> [f , f , f]`

The position of the main rotor in local model coordinates. It is used when the rotor is substituted by the transparent disk.

`<MainrotorTurnAxis> [f , f , f]`

The turn axis of the main rotor.

`<MainrotorAngle> [f , f , f]`

Tipping angles of the axis of the main rotor.

`<TailrotorPosition> [f , f , f]`

The position of the tail rotor in local model coordinates. It is used when the rotor is substituted by the transparent disk.

`<TailrotorTurnAxis> [f , f , f]`

The turn axis of the tail rotor.

`<TailrotorAngle> [f , f , f]`

Tipping angles of the axis of the tail rotor.

`<TailrotorCrashSizePercentage> [f]`

using this value (0-100) you can reduce the sensitivity of the tail rotor with respect to crashes.

`<Scale> [f]`

This parameter can be used to define the scale between model coordinates and real coordinates. Usually, it is not used. Then the actual size of the helicopter is determined by the next two parameters.

`<ScaleDeterminantPartName> [s]`

Here you write e.g. Mainrotor

`<SizeOfScaleDeterminantPart> [f]`

and then you specify the diameter of the main rotor here in meter.

`<HelicopterType> [s]`

Type of the helicopter: Trainer or Scale.

`<HookPosition> [s,f,f,f]`

Defines a hook for the cargo training. A comma separated list. Name and x,y z coordinates.

`<FactorVisualElasticBladePitch> [f]`

If you want that a part of the main rotor object deforms due to the pitch or cyclic values, give those parts a group name that contains the string `elastic`. Similarly if you want that the face normals change their angle due to the pitch value, give the corresponding group a name that contains `dynamic_normal`. This factor now determines the amount of elastic bending due to pitch.

`<FactorVisualElasticBladeCyclic> [f]`

This factor determines the amount of elastic bending of the main rotor due to cyclic controls.

`<ColorShape> [s]`

It is possible to change the colors of Shapes within HELI-X. You define the shapes for which this is possible as `ColorShape`. To identify which color is possible for which shape, there are used groups. An example:

```
<ColorShape group="0" color="1">Body</ColorShape>
```

There is a shape with the name `Body`. It is associated with the group 0. The optional value for `color` means, that color 1 is used for this shape.

`<Color> ,[s,f,f,f,f,f,ff,f,f]`

With this tag you define the colors. It is a comma separated list. After the name of the color there are nine numbers between 0 and 1. They define the RGB values of the ambient, diffusive and specular intensities.

`<TextureShape> [s]`

It is possible to change the texture of the so called texture shapes which are defined with this tag. To identify which texture is possible for which shape, there are used groups. An example:

```
<TextureShape group="0" texture="1">Body</TextureShape>
```

There is a shape with the name `Body`. It is associated with the group 0. The optional value for `texture` means, that texture 1 is used for this shape.

`<Texture> [s,s]`

This tag defines a texture. in a comma separated list there is the name and then the file name of the texture. You should also use the attribute group.

5.1.3 Physics parameters

General parameters

<Name> [s]

The name of the model. It is displayed in the title bar of the window.

<TimeFactor> [f]

This factors determines the simulation speed. Default is 1.

<PhysicalModelName> [s]

The internal name of the physical model. Here you have to write `Helicopter_V1_1`.

<Author> [s]

The name of the author of the model.

<WWW> [s]

URL of the author's web site.

<Comment> [s]

Comments about the model.

Mass, geometry, etc.

<RhoAir> [f]

The density of the air in kg/m^3 . Default value is 1.209.

<Mass> [f]

The mass of the helicopter in kg.

<Ixx> [f]

Moment of inertia for rotation around the x axis. In kg m^2 .

<Iyy> [f]

Moment of inertia for rotation around the y axis. In kg m^2 .

<Izz> [f]

Moment of inertia for rotation around the z axis. In kg m^2 .

<Ixy> [f]

Combined moment of inertia for rotation around the x - y axis. In kg m^2 .

Main rotor

<RotorHeadPosition> [f, f, f]

The position of the main rotor in the true coordinate system. x, y, z in m.

<NumberOfBlades> [i]

The number of blades.

<MaxRadiusBlade> [f]

Outer radius of the blades in m.

<MinRadiusBlade> [f]

Inner radius of the blades in m.

<ChordLengthBlade> [f]

Chord length in m.

<MassBlade> [f]

Mass of a blade in kg.

<SenseOfOrientation> [i]

Direction of rotation. To the right: -1, to the left: 1.

<MultiplierMainRotorInertia> [f]

With this factor you increase the moment of inertia of the main rotor around the y axis, e.g. to take into account the paddles.

Main rotor — settings

<PitchAngleMinMax> [f, f]

Minimum and maximum pitch angle in degree.

<BladeRollAngleMinMax> [f, f]

Minimum and maximum roll angle in degree.

<BladeNickAngleMinMax> [f, f]

Minimum and maximum nick angle in degree.

<RotorRevPerMin100> [f]

Number of revolutions per minute of the main rotor. The value gives the speed when the throttle curve has the value +100%.

<PitchCurve> [i, i, i, i, i]

5 values, which define the pitch curve. Values from -100 to 100.

<PitchCurve2> [i, i, i, i, i]

Like <PitchCurve>, but for Idle Up 2.

<PitchCurveA> [i, i, i, i, i]

Like <PitchCurve>, but for auto rotation.

<ThrottleCurve> [i, i, i, i, i]

5 values, which define the throttle curve. Values from -100 to 100.

<ThrottleCurve2> [i, i, i, i, i]

Like <ThrottleCurve>, but for Idle Up 2.

<ThrottleCurveA> [i, i, i, i, i]

Like <ThrottleCurve>, but for auto rotation.

<NickExpo> [i]

Expo settings for cyclic nick, -100 up to 100. Default is 0.

<NickExpo2> [i]

Like <NickExpo>, but for Idle Up 2.

<NickExpoA> [i]

Like <NickExpo>, but for auto rotation.

<NickDualRate> [i]

Dual rate settings for cyclic nick, 25 up to 125. Default is 100.

<NickDualRate2> [i]

Like <NickDualRate>, but for Idle Up 2.

<NickDualRateA> [i]

Like <NickDualRate>, but for auto rotation.

<RollExpo> [i]
Expo settings for cyclic nick, -100 up to 100. Default is 0.

<RollExpo2> [i]
Like <RollExpo>, but for Idle Up 2.

<RollExpoA> [i]
Like <RollExpo>, but for auto rotation.

<RollDualRate> [i]
Dual rate settings for cyclic roll, 25 up to 125. Default is 100.

<RollDualRate2> [i]
Like <RollDualRate>, but for Idle Up 2.

<RollDualRateA> [i]
Like <RollDualRate>, but for auto rotation.

Main rotor — thrust

<MultiplierRotorLift> [f]
This factor is used to fit the thrust of the rotor.

<MultiplierRotorLiftAutorotation> [f]
Same as MultiplierRotorLift, but valid during auto rotation.

<MultiplierAirResistanceM> [f]
This factor determines the air resistance of the rotor which is independent of the angle of attack.

<MultiplierAirResistanceN> [f]
This factor determines the air resistance of the rotor which is dependent on the angle of attack.

<MultiplierStallLift> [f]
This factor controls the lift during stall.

<FactorAirResistanceDuringStall> [f]
During stall you can influence the air resistance (dependent on pitch) with this factor.

<StallAngle> [f]
This is the angle (in degree), for which a stall might occur.

<StallAngleAutorotation> [f]

Like StallAngle, but valid during the autorotation phase.

<StallRevPerMin> [f]

The stall can only happen when the number of revolutions is below this number.

<MultiplierNickRollPower> [f]

This factor increases the power consumption caused by cyclic controls. It is due to the air resistance of the paddles.

<AdditionalLinearAirResistance> [f]

With this parameter you can adjust the air resistance during forward flight (independent of the angle of attack).

<AdditionalLinearPitchAirResistance> [f]

With this parameter you can adjust the air resistance during forward flight (dependent on the angle of attack).

<GroundEffectExponent> [f]

Tuning of the ground effect. Default is 1. Higher values will increase the ground effect.

<TipLossFactor> [f]

The thrust at the tips of the blades is not optimal. If you decrease the value (default is 1) you can decrease the thrust in order to simulate the tip losses.

<VerticalClimbFactor> [f]

This factor is very experimental. Values greater than the default value 1 will restrict the maximal climb speed of the helicopter. Maybe this parameter will be erased at some time.

<MultiplierRotorTorque> [f]

Factor to increase the torque caused by the main rotor.

<EulerFlowMagicNumber1> [f]

This parameters controls the inertia of the air flowing through the main rotor. This influences the reaction speed in pitch changes.

<EulerFlowMagicNumber2> [f]

This factor controls the flow situation in forward flight. It is responsible for the gain of lift during forward flight.

<EulerFlowMagicNumber3> [f]

This parameter controls the shape of the air flow above and below the main rotor. This controls e.g. the maximum climb velocity.

<FactorRollNickCouplingForewardFlight> [f]

During forward flight torque is also produced in roll direction. This can be influenced by this value.

<PitchDynamic> [f]

Shortens the reaction time to pitch which is due to the dynamics of the blade angles. It makes the heli more aggressive, so use it with care. Default: 0:

<NickDynamic> [f]

Shortens the reaction time to nick which is due to the dynamics of the blade angles. It makes the heli more aggressive, so use it with care. Default: 0:

<RollDynamic> [f]

Shortens the reaction time to roll which is due to the dynamics of the blade angles. It makes the heli more aggressive, so use it with care. Default: 0:

Main rotor — rotor head

<RotorHeadStiffnessTimeConstant> [f]

The bearing of the feathering shaft can cause vibrations. This is the time constant of these vibrations (in seconds).

<RotorHeadStiffnessDamping> [f]

The damping of the system is determined by this parameter. Higher values mean a greater damping. Small values cause intensive vibrations. The value 1 is the limit between oscillating systems and strongly damped systems.

<RotorHeadStiffnessMinimalDamping> [f]

For small rotation speeds the vibrations are typically more intensive. Thus, this damping value is used for small rotation speeds.

<RotorHeadStiffnessMinimalOmega> [f]

And this damping value is used for revolutions per minute which are smaller than this value.

<RotorHeadStiffnessNickRollCoupling> [f]

The coupling of the vibrations in nick and roll direction is determined by this value. Zero means no coupling, larger values mean a greater coupling.

<RotorHeadInstabilityTimeConstant> [f]

Time constant (in seconds) for the rotor head instability. A good starting point is 2.

<RotorHeadStiffnessDifferential> [f]

This value (when greater than the default value 0) causes an amplification of the vibrations based on the vibration velocity.

<RotorHeadInstabilityAmplitude> [f]

Amplitude of the rotor head instability.

<RotorPhaseShiftDegrees> [f]

The phase shift (in °) between controlled and true cyclic controls.

Bell–Hiller paddles

<MassPaddle> [f]

The mass of a paddle in kg.

<MassFlybar> [f]

The mass of the flybar in kg.

<LengthFlybar> [f]

The length of the flybar in m.

<AreaPaddle> [f]

Area of one paddle in m².

Bell–Hiller paddles — settings

<PaddlePitchFactor> [f]

Factor between angles of the flybar and the angle of attack of the blades. Example: 1 means the angles of the flybar is equal to the angle of the blades. 0 is equivalent to a rotor without paddles.

<HillerNickAngleMinMax> [f]

Minimum and maximum nick angle of the paddles in degree. If there are two values, the first is for idle up 1, the second for idle up 2.

<HillerRollAngleMinMax> [f]

Minimum and maximum roll angle of the paddles in degree. If there are two values, the first is for idle up 1, the second for idle up 2.

Tail rotor

- <TailNumberOfBlades> [i]
Number of blades of the tail rotor.
- <TailMaxRadiusBlade> [f]
Outer radius of the tail rotor in m.
- <TailMinRadiusBlade> [f]
Inner radius of the tail blades in m.
- <TailChordLengthBlade> [f]
Chord length of the tail blades in m.
- <TailXyzPosition> [f, f, f]
Position of the tail rotor, x,y,z, in m.
- <TailXyzDirection> [f, f, f]
Direction of the rotation axis of the tail rotor.
- <TailFrequencyRatio> [f]
Frequency ratio between the revolutions of the tail rotor and the main rotor.

Tail rotor — thrust

- <MultiplierTailRotorLift> [f]
This factor is used to fit the thrust of the tail rotor.
- <MultiplierTailAirResistanceM> [f]
This factor determines the air resistance of the tail rotor which is independent of the angle of attack.
- <MultiplierTailAirResistanceN> [f]
This factor determines the air resistance of the tail rotor which is dependent on the angle of attack.
- <MultiplierSideShiftByTailRotor> [f]
This factor increases the sideward thrust of the tail rotor. Default is 1.
- <TailRotorFlightAirResistanceM> [f]
This factor determines the air resistance of the tail rotor in forward flight which is independent

of the angle of attack.

<TailRotorFlightAirResistanceN> [f]

This factor determines the air resistance of the tail rotor in forward flight which is dependent on the angle of attack.

Tail rotor, gyro — settings

<TailPitchAngleMinMax> [f, f]

Smallest and greatest angle of attack of the tail blades.

<TailServoSpeed> [f]

Maximum speed of the tail servo in pitch degrees per second.

<TailThrustReduction> [f]

This exponent is responsible for a non proportional reduction of the thrust. Default: 1. Values greater than 1 will make a stall at small numbers of revolution more likely.

<YawRateMax> [f]

Maximum rotation speed around the vertical axis in revolutions per second.

<GyroGain> [f]

Gyro gain.

<GyroGain2> [f]

Gyro gain for Idle Up 2.

<GyroGainA> [f]

Gyro gain during auto rotation.

<GyroHeadingHoldGain> [f]

Gain value for heading hold. 0 means no heading hold.

<GyroHeadingHoldGain2> [f]

Like <GyroHeadingHoldGain>, but for Idle Up 2.

<GyroHeadingHoldGainA> [f]

Like <GyroHeadingHoldGain>, but for Autorotation.

<GyroSensorQuality> [f]

For the simulation of the gyro drift. Value 0: no drift. Value greater than 0: Yes there is a drift.

- <YawExpo> [i]
Expo setting for yaw, -100 up to 100. Default is 0.
- <YawExpo2> [i]
Like <YawExpo>, but for Idle Up 2.
- <YawExpoA> [i]
Like <YawExpo>, but for Autorotation.
- <YawDualRate> [i]
Dual rate setting for yaw, 25 up to 125. Default is 100.
- <YawDualRate2> [i]
Like <YawDualRate>, but for Idle Up 2.
- <YawDualRateA> [i]
Like <YawDualRate>, but for Autorotation.

3-Axes-Stabilisation system

- <StabiNickGain> [f]
P-Factor for the control of cyclic nick.
- <StabiNickHeadingHoldGain> [f]
I-factor for the control of cyclic nick.
- <StabiNickSensorQuality> [f]
Quality of the sensor. 0 means best quality.
- <StabiNickRateMax> [f]
The maximum rate in revolutions per second.
- <StabiRollGain> [f]
P-Factor for the control of cyclic roll.
- <StabiRollHeadingHoldGain> [f]
I-factor for the control of cyclic roll.
- <StabiRollSensorQuality> [f]
Quality of the sensor. 0 means best quality.

<StabiRollRateMax> [f]
The maximum rate in revolutions per second.

<VStabiPitchFactor> [f]
The corresponding value of the V-Stabi system.

<VStabiExpoModeYaw> [i]
The corresponding value of the V-Stabi system.

<VStabiExpoModeSwashplate> [i]
The corresponding value of the V-Stabi system.

Engine

<EngineFrequencyRatio> [f]
Frequency ratio of the engine to the main rotor.

<OmegaTorqueData> [f, f, ...]
Table with the engine characteristics. Each pair represents a number of revolution per minute and the torque in Nm.

<GearFrictionCoefficientNormal> [f]
Friction coefficient for the friction which is proportional to the speed.

<GearFrictionCoefficientAutorotation> [f]
Same as above for auto rotation. Usually smaller than the normal value.

Servos

<ServoMaxSpeed> [f]
Maximum angular speed of a servo in degree per second.

<ServoClearance> [f]
Clearance of the servos in degree.

Fuselage

<Face> [node]
The fuselage is approximated using faces. Each face is represented by a list of the following

tags:

<Position> [f, f, f]

The coordinates of the midpoint of the surface.

<Normal> [f, f, f]

The direction of the normal vector (pointing outwards) of the face.

<CW> [f]

The C_W -value if the face.

<Area> [f]

the area of the face in m^2 .

<MultiplierAirResistanceTailRotorBroken> [f]

In case of a tail rotor crash, this parameter can be used to increase the air resistance against the rotation of the fuselage.

Horizontal and vertical tails

<VerticalTailArea> [f]

Area of the vertical tail plane.

<VerticalTailNormal> [f, f, f]

A vector which is normal to the vertical tail plane. Often, 0,0,1 is correct.

<VerticalTailPosition> [f, f, f]

The position of the midpoint of the vertical tail plane.

<HorizontalTailArea> [f]

Area of the horizontal tail plane.

<HorizontalTailNormal> [f, f, f]

A vector which is normal to the horizontal tail plane. Often, 0,1,0 is correct.

<HorizontalTailPosition> [f, f, f]

The position of the midpoint of the horizontal tail plane.

Landing gear

<ContactStiffness> [f]

Stiffness of the landing gear.

<ContactViscosity> [f]

Damping of the landing gear in normal direction.

<ContactViscosityTangential> [f]

Damping of the landing gear in tangential direction.

<FrictionCoefficientX> [f]

Friction coefficient in x-direction, i.e. forwards.

<FrictionCoefficientZ> [f]

Friction coefficient in z-direction, i.e. sideways.

<MaximalContactVelocity> [f]

The maximal velocity during contact so that there is no crash (in m/s). Default: 5.

Sound

<SoundVolumeFactor> [f]

Loudness factor of the engine sound, between 0 and 1.

<BladeVolumeFactor> [f]

Loudness factor of the blade sound, between 0 and 1.

<TailVolumeFactor> [f]

Loudness factor of the tail sound, between 0 and 1.

<CrashVolumeFactor> [f]

Loudness factor of the crash sound, between 0 and 1.

<BladeSound> [f]

This factor determines at which stall value the stall sound is created.

<BladeSoundExpo> [f]

This factor makes the blade sound behavior non linear.

<TailSound> [f]

This factor determines at which stall value at the tail rotor the tail sound is created.

<TailSoundExpo> [f]

This factor makes the tail sound behavior non linear.

Smoke

<SmokeIntensityFactor> [f]

The intensity of the smoke. Usually values in the range 0.5 up to 5.

<SmokeDurationSeconds> [f]

The life time of a smoke particle in seconds.

<SmokeDiffusionConstant> [f]

The value defines how fast the smoke spreads out in the air.

<SmokeTimeConstant> [f]

The time constant determined how fast the smoke follows the speed of the surrounding air. Values which are too small (less than 0.01) might cause instabilities in the smoke simulation.

<SmokeColorRGB> [f, f, f]

The smoke color as RGB value.

<SmokeSourcePosition> [f, f, f]

The position of the smoke source in model coordinates.

<SmokeDirection> [f, f, f]

The initial direction of the smoke velocity.

<SmokeEmissionVelocity> [f]

The speed of the smoke in m/s.

<SmokeEmissionSpread> [f]

This value determined the diameter of the cone of the smoke generation. Typical values are in the range 0.1 to 1.

<SmokeBlendingPreset1to8> [i]

Here you define one out of 8 presets how the blending is realized in terms of OpenGL.

<SmokeTextureNumber> [i]

You choose the texture of the smoke with an integer value between 0 and 5. Default value: 0.

<Smoke2IntensityFactor> [f]

The intensity of the smoke. Usually values in the range 0.5 up to 5. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2DurationSeconds> [f]

The life time of a smoke particle in seconds. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2DiffusionConstant> [f]

The value defines how fast the smoke spreads out in the air. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2TimeConstant> [f]

The time constant determined how fast the smoke follows the speed of the surrounding air. Values which are too small (less than 0.01) might cause instabilities in the smoke simulation. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2ColorRGB> [f, f, f]

The smoke color as RGB value. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2SourcePosition> [f, f, f]

The position of the smoke source in model coordinates. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2Direction> [f, f, f]

The initial direction of the smoke velocity. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2EmissionVelocity> [f]

The speed of the smoke in m/s. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2EmissionSpread> [f]

This value determined the diameter of the cone of the smoke generation. Typical values are in the range 0.1 to 1. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2BlendingPreset1to8> [i]

Here you define one out of 8 presets how the blending is realized in terms of OpenGL. For the second smoke source.

<Smoke2TextureNumber> [i]

You choose the texture of the smoke with an integer value between 0 and 5. Default value: 0. For the second smoke source.

5.2 Airports

We distinguish two kinds of airports: photo realistic ones with a fixed position of the pilot and a 3D type where the pilot position is not fix.

5.2.1 Photo realistic airports

Airports are made from photo realistic panorama pictures. Here are the details:

- HELI-X uses the cubic format. Details can be found e.g. here:
<http://www.panoguide.com/howto/panoramas/types.jsp>.
- Each airports consists out of 6 pictures. They have the format 2048×2048 (SkyBox), 1024×1024 (SkyBox1024) pixels or more (SkyBoxHD).
- The smaller format is in particular for poor graphics adapters.
- The six pictures should be in the same directory. The name of the directory is the name of the airport. An example: The airport Alvier is in the directory Alvier and there are six files with the following names: `Alvier_back.jpg`, `Alvier_front.jpg`, `Alvier_left.jpg`, `Alvier_right.jpg`, `Alvier_bottom.jpg`, `Alvier_top.jpg`.
- Furthermore, the file `Alvier.xml` is needed. In this file there are informations regarding the direction to the sun, the start position of the helicopters and the height of the horizon.

In the xml file which belongs to the airport, the following tags can be found:

```
<Name> [s]
    The name of the airport.

<Author> [s]
    The name of the author.

<WWW> [s]
    A link to the web site of the author.

<Comment> [s]
    Comments about the airport.

<HeightOfGround> [f]
```

The height of the ground in m. Typically 0.

`<HeightOfEyes>` [f]

The height of the eyes above the ground (in meter). A usual value is 1.7. This height should be the height of the camera when the photos are taken.

`<StartPosition>` [f,f,f]

The start position of the helicopter. The coordinate system is a right handed one with x and z on the bottom, and y pointing upwards. In order to find a suitable start position, you can use the option `-DheliX.statusformat=1` in the start script. In this case, the current position of the helicopter is shown in the status bar. Or you can use the matrix view.

`<LightDir>` [f,f,f]

The direction of the sun rays is important for the creation of the shadows. You have to input the x -, y - and z -component of the vector which describes the direction of the sun rays. Since the sun shines from above, the y value should be negative.

`<StartPosition0>`, `<StartPosition1>`, ... [f,f,f]

With these tags you can define the start positions for all the helicopters in the multi player simulation.

`<AmbientSoundFile>` [s]

The name of a sound file for the ambient sounds. It has to be in the ogg-Format.

`<UseStandardHeightOfGroundPlane>` True or false. You define, if the ground plane is seen as a crash object in this setting.

`<FrictionFactorGroundPlane>` [f]

With this factor, you multiply the friction of the ground plane, default: 1.

`<TopographyFile>` [s]

The file name of a topography file, where the crash objects are defined.

A topography file is a file which defines crash objects. There are three kinds of crash objects:

`<Triangle>` A triangle, defined by three points.

`<Parallelogram>` A parallelogram. It is defined like a triangle with three points.

`<Plane>` A flat plane of infinite size.

For each of these crash objects you can define

`<CrashSensitivityFactor>` This factor defines how dangerous it is to crash this object, default: 1.

`<FrictionFactor>` A factor, to increase (> 1) or decrease (< 1) the friction.

For triangles and parallelograms, there are in addition:

`<Alpha>` The Alpha value defines the opaqueness of the part. If Alpha is 1, the helicopter is not visible when behind the object. If Alpha is 0, the crash object is not visible. You can also use skybox pictures with alpha channel (then you have to use png files).

5.2.2 Scene3D–Airports

Airports of type `Scene3D` allow a free pilot position (for this, FPV has to be activated in the camera settings). In addition, the following tags are allowed.

`VariablePilotPosition` Set to true, if the pilot is allowed to move.

`MaxPilotRadiusGround` The maximum radius the pilot can move as long as he is on the ground.

`MaxPilotRadiusAir` The maximum radius the pilot can move when he is in the air.

`Object` An object is a graphical model in the wavefront format. Defining an object, you can define the following attributes:

`MakeCrashObject` This defines, if the object is included in the collision and contact detection.

`CeilingType` If a model is of ceiling type it is not considered when defining the height of the start position and in the ground effect.

`GroundType` When a model is of ground type then internally `setDepthBufferWriteEnabled` is set to false.

`FrictionFactor` The friction factor gives the friction a factor of the usual friction coefficient.

Within an object description, the following tags have to be defined:

`Path` The path to the wavefront file.

`Translation` A translation in x , y , and z direction

`ShadowOnGround` This determines whether a shadow is calculated for this object.

`Rotation` The rotation angle (in degrees) around the y axis. In the rotation tag, you might set the attribute `Billboard`.

`AutoTextureShapeName` This defines the name of a group where the texture is variable.

`AutoTexturePath` With several of these tags the different paths of the textures are defined.

`AutoTextureSeconds` The time in seconds in which the textures are changed.

`ShadowBox` A shadow box can be used, if you need a shadow on a horizontal rectangular face. Its attributes are `xMin`, `xMax`, `zMin`, `zMax`, and `yMax`. Inside the object you define the translation with the tag `Translation`, as before.

`ObjectFile` With this tag, you define another xml file where you can put object tags.

5.3 Utilities

It is possible, to load utilities in an airport. Airport and utilities are then called a scene. Currently, there are three types of utilities: Boxes, pylons and heliports. They differ in their creation of shadows and in their collision behavior. You can put the utilities at any position in the scene. As always: The coordinates of the ground are x and z .

The xml file for the utilities consists out of the following tags:

`<PhysicalModelName>` [s]

The name of the internal simulation model. You have the choice: `Pylon`, `Helicopter` or `Box`.

`<Author>` [s]

The name of the author.

`<WWW>` [s]

The URL of the author's web site.

`<Comment>` [s]

Comments about the model

<Scale> [f]

This factor scales from the model coordinates to the world coordinates. The default value is 1.