

Saitek Trim Template Video Script

Roger Dodger Aviation

Proper pitch control helps you climb or descend at a constant airspeed.

During cruise, proper pitch control helps you maintain a specific altitude.

The elevator trim tab is essential for proper pitch control and I was very happy when Saitek released the Saitek Pro Flight Cessna Trim Wheel.

It works great. The only issue is that I'm starting to run out of room. My yoke is getting crowded out, and I don't want to move the yoke over because that would make it off-center.

I tried several different mounting options, but nothing worked for me.

But this would be perfect, here below the dual throttle quadrants.

I'm really happy with this solution. Everything is in a very natural location.

I created an adapter plate from a simple 1x6 board. It attaches between the throttle quadrants and the trim wheel.

If you want to build an adapter plate for your flight simulator, it's pretty simple, but you need to drill 10 holes in exactly the correct locations.

Fortunately, I made a template to help you do that.

Download the template from the DIY Flight Sims website. The link is in the video description. It's free. [website]

Open the template in Adobe Acrobat, choose Print..., and it is very important you select NONE for the Page Scaling.

Cut around the outer rectangle.

And saw a 7 1/4" length from a 1x6 board. Align the edges and tape down the template.

There are 10 holes marked on the template. Use a hammer and nail to punch a divot in the center of each hole.

Now remove the template

And draw a circle around each divot to make them easier to see.

I highly recommend you use a drill press for this project. A hand held drill may not be accurate enough.

Drill the first 8 holes with a 3/16" drill bit.

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Notice we did not drill those two holes yet.

The Saitek controls are tapped for metric fasteners. These are M4 size screws, the thread count is 0.7, and the length is 20 mm. We use these to attach the trim wheel.

We can't allow the head of the screw to extend above the top of the board, so we will drill a larger hole for the head. This is similar to a countersunk hole, except you won't need a special drill bit.

We will only countersink these four inner holes with a 3/8" drill bit.

Set your drill press to a hole depth of 1/4". If your drill press doesn't have this feature, simply measure 1/4" from the tip of the drill bit and wrap a piece of tape around it.

Drill the four inner holes with the 3/8" drill bit. Be careful not to drill too deep.

We only have two more holes to drill. These are the large 3/4" holes.

Place a board underneath so the spade bit doesn't strike the platform.

Use a clamp to help you hold the board in place.

Reference the template again. We're looking at the top of the adapter. This edge faces the pilot, and this edge faces the monitor or front of the airplane.

Before I bring out the controls, I like to tape the USB plugs so they don't get contaminated with dirt.

Let's assemble it starting with the trim wheel.

The adapter plate fits on the side with the USB cord.

Use the M4 screws, 20 mm long.

Locate the mounting holes and attach the trim wheel with the screws. They don't have to be really tight, just snug.

The USB cord has plenty of room to make this bend.

Now we attach the throttle quadrants.

These are also M4 screws with the same thread count, but they are slightly longer. They're 25mm long.

Find the mounting holes and attach each throttle quadrant. We can only use two screws for each throttle quadrant.

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Again, don't over-tighten the screws. The throttle quadrants will have additional stability once they're clamped to your desk.

Now we've verified that all the pieces fit together.

I recommend you remove the adapter plate, paint it with flat black spraypaint, and allow it to dry for several hours.

Simply re-assemble the unit and install it in your flight simulator.

Congratulations! You've completed the adapter plate for the Saitek Elevator Trim and Throttle Quadrants.

I hope you enjoy many fight hours with this DIY flight sim project. Happy Landings!

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- Use your favorite flight simulator software



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