

Wheel Stand Pro Deluxe v2 for Saitek Pro Flight System



Publisher / Developer:

[Wheel Stand Pro](#)

Description:

In-depth Impression Wheel Stand Pro Deluxe v2 for Saitek Pro Flight System

Software Source / Size:

N.A.

Flight Simulator:

FS2004 / FSX / Prepar3D

Reviewed by:

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Computer / Software Specifications

Computer System:

- iMac 27" 3.5Ghz Late 2013
- Intel i7 3.5Ghz / 3.9Ghz during Boost Mode
- NVIDIA GeForce GTX 780M 4096 MB
- 32 GB 1600 MHz DDR3
- Internal 1TB SSD
- Saitek Pro Flight System

Software:

- Windows 7 x64 Ultimate (BootCamp) / Mac OS X 10.9.2
- Flight Simulator X Acceleration
- Prepar3D Version 2.2
- X-Plane 10.25

Introduction

Developed and manufactured in Poland, the Wheel Stand Pro is a product that provides a convenient way to mount yoke, throttle unit, pedals and other Saitek Pro Flight components for flight simmers who haven't got much space at home. This review will cover the Wheel Stand Pro in combination with the Saitek Pro Flight hardware. It doesn't cover the installation and operation with the Logitech G25/G27 racing wheel nor the Thrustmaster T500RS.

According to Wheel Stand Pro, *"Our Wheel Stand Pro Deluxe version 2.0 comes with the following features:*

- *Tilt of the steering wheel column 360° STEPLESS adjustable,*
- *Quick release mechanism for rapid adjustment,*
- *Support of Saitek Pro Flight Yoke System with throttle quadrant,*
- *Support for the Saitek trim wheel and Pro Flight panels,*
- *Support for the Saitek Rudder pedals,*
- *Adjustable for all sizes of players and for every chair and sofa,*
- *Ready to work out of the box,*
- *Handcrafted full metal construction for lifetime durability and stability,*
- *High quality anti-sliding rubber feet prevent floor damage,*
- *Precision build for maximum rigidity and stability,*
- *Easy upgrade for other wheels."*

Now, it's up to me to figure out what you get for your money and how easy it is to use.

The Wheel Stand Pro Package

I was surprised about the slim box I received. I honestly didn't know what to expect or how it was packed. After I opened the box, I found that the wheel stand itself is basically ready for use. It's of stainless steel construction, partly with chrome, partly painted black with some rubber protections around it. The box also contained a couple of components wrapped in plastic. And finally, some instruction documents: one for the Saitek Pro Flight hardware and one for the Logitech G25/G27 hardware and they show how to install your hardware components.



Box with contents, leaflets and wrapped packages
At the second row from left to right a leaflet, package I, package II and package III
See below what each wrapped package contains

As you can see in the photos, the Wheel Stand Pro is well packed and secured with enough plastic to prevent any damage. The unit has two handles that allow you to adjust the angle of the vertical bar with the Pro Flight yoke and other components mounted on top of it. The other handle is used to adjust the height of the vertical bar.

For this, you don't need any other tools, just the handle. Then, on top of the vertical bar, you'll have the main plate with the Pro Flight Yoke unit mounted on it. This main plate or, as the flyer describes it, "volant plate", is also adjustable. Adjustable means the plate's angle position. For this, you need a wrench and Allen key which are supplied. Other tools you need to install the Saitek Pro Flight hardware, are not included. Additionally, you'll need a medium and large size Philips screwdriver, an M4 and M6 wrench.

After unpacking the three wrapped packages, I can see that the **first wrapped package** has the following components:

- two black strips
- six M4x20 bolts (screws) for mounting the Saitek components
- four M4x10 bolts (screws) with nuts (cups) for mounting the yoke assembly
- four M6x20 bolts (screws) with nuts for mounting the black strips
- two additional M6 nuts (cups) for the mounting of the rudder pedal unit
- four M6 washers for mounting the rudder pedal unit

Oddly, this bag misses two black M6 nuts (cups) which are needed for the mounting of the rudder pedal, but there's good news in a minute.

The **second wrapped package** contains one plate, a wrench, two Allen keys, a long black bolt, a small bag and two T-wraps. When it comes to the Saitek Pro Flight hardware, from this wrapped package, you only need:

- the wrench 13 mm
- the Allen key M6
- two T-wraps
- two black M6 nuts (cups)

The wrench and Allen key are needed to adjust the main plate. The T-wraps are needed to arrange the component cables and the two black nuts belong to the rudder pedal mounting parts and they turn out to be the two missing elements from the first wrapped package. Now you should have left over four M6 black nuts and four M6 washers. Those, together with the two steel plates and four bolts (third wrapped package) are needed to mount the Saitek rudder pedal to the bottom part of the Wheel Stand Pro.

The **third and last wrapped package** has two steel strips for the rudder pedal mounting and four long M6x70 bolts (screws).

Mounting It Together

As I've already mentioned, the package comes with a document that explains how to mount all your Saitek hardware to the Wheel Stand Pro. I'd like to highlight one thing and that's to be sure to put a blanket or anything that's soft underneath the Wheel Stand Pro before mounting any Saitek stuff. I had an unfortunate accident when the Wheel Stand Pro fell or flipped down while I was busy mounting the Saitek pedals. Since my Pro Flight yoke unit was already mounted, it hit the ground and damaged the horn of the yoke. It only resulted in some scratches on the horn, but nevertheless, it's something to keep in mind as you mount all the Saitek components.

First, I suggest that you mount the Saitek pedals as indicated in the instruction document's picture 4. The pedals are correctly mounted when they hit the front bumper. This gives the

unit a hard point when you apply a force to the pedals. Although the unit is fixed to the bars with four screws (bolts), it's good to have a rigid blockage. As you can see in one of the photos, I decided to remove the washers that normally should protect the rudder pedal plastic base.

I removed them because otherwise it's impossible to tighten the bolts (screws). Before tightening the metal strips with the bolts and nuts, position the rubber rings underneath the pedal unit in such a way that they're not between the metal bar and metal strip. The rubber rings are there to prevent any damage to your pedal unit, but it also works as an anti-slip device once the pedal unit is mounted to the Wheel Stand Pro bars. A strange thing is that when you've tightened the bolts and nuts, you'll see that the threads have completely filled a nut, but the moment you add the washer in between them, there's not enough thread to fit it together.

Doing it in this way, the tension on the bolts and nuts is way too high to fit it together. I think a bolt of M6x75 would be a better option.

My opinion is that the set of four M6x70 bolts (identified as screws on the paper) are way too short. You could tighten the nut (identified as cups on the installation document) with the washer underneath, but only for one thread. The nut should be tightened in that way so that the nut fits completely over the bolt's threads. At that point, I decided to remove the washers and tighten the bolts-nut, which results in having no protection for the plastic parts of the rudder pedal unit.



Next, I followed pictures 1, 2 and 3 of the instruction document. These pictures show you how to mount the Saitek throttle unit, trim unit (if you have that) and the Saitek Pro Flight Panels. The two black plates should be mounted to the main plate. The main plate is the plate that holds the Saitek Pro Flight Yoke Unit. Each black strip is mounted with a bolt (M6x20) and nut (see instruction document picture 1).

Personally, I'd have put a washer underneath the nut. I have suggested this to the Wheel Stand Pro team. Once you've mounted these two black strips, you can mount your Saitek components, the throttle unit, trim unit and panels on each side of the main plate. Needless to say, what you actually mount depends on which Saitek components you have. You'll have the throttle unit, which is a part of the Pro Flight yoke unit. With the help of some photo's, I'll show you how and where to mount the throttle unit, trim unity and on the other black strip, the Saitek Pro Flight Panel Switch Unit.

I've already mentioned that the Wheel Stand Pro package comes standard with six M4x20 screws/bolts for mounting these Saitek panels. These are intended for mounting the throttle unit, the trim unit (again, if you have it) and one Saitek panel. Picture 3 of the instruction document shows you how to add more Saitek panels on top of the already mounted panel. These screws/bolts aren't added to the package because for this you can use the standard Saitek black screws that come with the Saitek Panel component.

Finally, when you've installed all the Saitek components on each side of the black strip, you install the Pro Flight Yoke Unit in the middle on the main plate. I installed the Saitek Cessna model, but the regular Saitek yoke model also fits. Position the yoke unit on the main plate and use the four M4x10 bolts/screws to tighten the unit to the main plate. A note from me to the Wheel Stand Pro folks - please deliver M4x15screws. The additional 0.5-centimeter gives each screw/bolt a little more grip into the Saitek yoke unit than these too short screws/bolts.



Once you've mounted all the Saitek components, then you can arrange all the cables and you can see in the photos as how I've arranged things. The package comes with two black T-wraps. I suggest that you connect the Saitek Rudder pedal USB cable directly to your PC or Mac or to a powered USB hub.



This same applies for the Saitek Pro Flight Yoke unit. For example, the built in USB hub can be used or as in my case, the Pro Flight Switch Panel and the trim unit. The throttle unit has a PS/2 connector and goes into the respective PS/2 receptacle, next to the USB hub. I noticed that one USB receptacle of the Pro Flight yoke USB hub doesn't give much space for a USB cable. You can see in the photo that this USB plug isn't really optimally mounted because of the trim unit.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if the Wheel Stand Pro team drills the holes for the trim unit and throttle unit a little further outwards. This would then give more space for the USB cables in the Pro Flight Yoke unit USB hub.



After everything has been fitted it together, as I've done for you in this review, it should look like you can see in the previous screen shots. The only final adjustment you have to make, depending on which chair or sofa you sit, is the angle of the vertical bar, the height of the vertical bar and tilting position of the main plate. You can also check this [Wheel Stand Pro YouTube movie](#) that explains it all again.

Ready to Go?

Due to its slim design, you can use it anywhere. At least, that's what Wheel Stand Pro is suggesting and I can confirm this. You don't need much space for the wheel Stand Pro and you can slide it partly under a table, put your seat in front of it, install your notebook and off you go. That's what I tried and it works great. The construction looks not only solid, it is solid!

By the way, although not tested by me, you could decide to sit on a sofa, connect your notebook or Mac Book using an HDMI cable to your TV set, slide the Wheel Stand Pro in front of you, adjust the high of the vertical bar, tilt the main plate more or less for convenient access and then you can fly your favorite aircraft from the sofa. Awesome design!



Table Wheel Stand Pro in situ

You can use this Wheel Stand Pro combination basically in every situation. The only thing you need to do is to adjust either the height of the main plate depending on the Saitek equipment you have, the tilting of the main plate for the accessibility of the Saitek yoke and other components and the angle of the vertical bar. If it's not too expensive I'd suggest changing the bolt-nut construction which allows you to tilt the main plate for the same handle construction as on the vertical bar. Then you don't need to have the wrench and Allen key in close proximity. Due to its compact design, it's easy to move, it lies stable on the ground due to the rubber feet and is made of durable materials.



What do you do with the unit when you've finished a flight? Release the lever to lower the bar and tilt the main plate to fold it down as one compact unit. Check out the following screen shots.



Folded together and lifted from the ground

Although it's made of high quality and durable components, it's not difficult to pick up and move for storage. Even with Saitek components it weighs no more than 10 kilograms (22 pounds) so weight shouldn't be a problem. Overall, this is a very interesting hardware add-on for your Saitek Pro Flight yoke and rudder pedal system with a plus of having space for additional Saitek Pro Flight components.

Summary

OK, what does it cost and is it worth the money? You can buy the Wheel Stand Pro at the official Polish [Wheel Stand Pro website](#). The "Saitek" Wheel Stand Pro I received came directly from Poland and arrived at my home address in the Netherlands within 4 days. I had email communications with Wheel Stand Pro representative Kamil Wójcik who was very pleasant and helpful. So, what does it cost? When you visit the [Wheel Stand Pro webshop](#) you'll notice that the majority of their products deals with car racing hardware. I found two flight simulator hardware constructions. The one reviewed and a construction for the Thrustmaster HOTAS WARTHOG. I'm pretty sure they'll have a similar construction for the Saitek X52 Pro and for the recent released X-55 Rhino.

Finally, the Saitek Pro Flight Wheel Stand Pro Deluxe v2 cost 139,00 Euros including shipping costs. From what I've seen on this nicely designed, developed, and manufactured Wheel Stand Pro, I think it's a great hardware unit to combine many Saitek components and in particular for those who don't have much space. That's a good argument, but even for other simmers who like to switch between the Saitek Pro Flight yoke with rudder pedals and the Saitek X52 Pro or X-55 Rhino, it's still an interesting tool and not too expensive, keeping in mind the overall heavy duty materials. The fact that you can easily take it, folded, in the car to another location is an awesome thought. I could even take it with me on vacation ... no, come to think about that, it's not a good idea, although my Mac Book Pro can handle X-Plane 10 perfectly.

I can say that after testing for many hours, including the feedback given from Kamil Wójcik, I'm pleased with this Wheel Stand Pro. Remember, in this review, I've mentioned my thoughts about the length of several bolts (screws) and my opinion about the absence of some washers, but other than that, it's a great hardware add-on!

For more information, visit the official Wheel Stand Pro website by using this [link](#) and feel free to contact me if you've got additional questions related to this review. You can reach me at email address Aerosoft.Sim.News@gmail.com.

With Greetings,
Angelique van Campen

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