









SAFETY FIRST!

-  Castle Creations is not responsible for your use of this product, or any damage or injuries you may cause or sustain as a result of it's usage.
-  For use by adults only.
-  Understand that an electric motor that is connected to a battery and speed control may start unexpectedly and cause serious injuries. Always treat them with necessary respect. Keep the propeller away from your body and others at all times.
-  We suggest that you remove the propeller when you are working on the plane with the battery connected.
-  Please observe all local laws regarding the flying of remote control aircraft.
-  Never fly over others or near crowds.

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BATTERY ELIMINATOR CIRCUIT

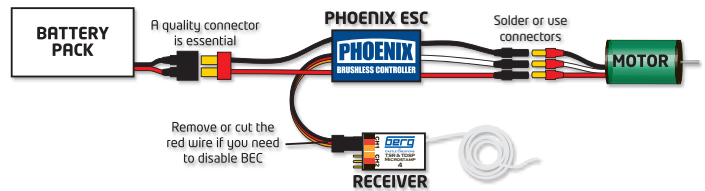
Phoenix Series controllers provide a Linear Battery Eliminator Circuit (BEC) that will convert the voltage in your battery pack to the proper voltage for the operation of your receiver and servos. The Phoenix Linear BEC will supply 3 amps of current with a 2s Lithium Polymer (LiPo pack). Please note that the current supplied by the Linear BEC is limited, and that the capacity is affected by the number of cells in your system. Higher numbers of cells **REDUCE** the amount of current your Linear BEC can deliver. Refer to the following chart as a guide for Linear BEC usage.

| Servo Type | 5-6 Ni cells | 7-8 Ni cells 2 cell LiPo | 9-10 Ni cells 3 cell LiPo | >10 Ni cells >3 cell LiPo |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Standard or Micro | 4 | 4 | 4 | Do NOT use ESC BEC |
| High Torque or Digital | 4 | 4 | 2 | Do NOT use ESC BEC |

If you are using more than ten NiMH/NiCad cells, more than 3 LiPo cells, or your power consumption is excessive, you must disable the BEC and use a separate power source for the receiver. Disable the BEC by cutting or removing the red wire from the servo connector on the controller. Do not use the BEC to power other items on your plane such as lights.

Phoenix HV controllers do not have an integrated BEC. You must use an external battery or BEC to power your receiver and servos.

HOW TO CONNECT YOUR PHOENIX



1. Add Your Battery Connector

You must attach a quality battery connector of your choice to the red (+) and black (-) power wires. Solder the battery connector to the wires. **ENSURE THAT THE POLARITY IS CORRECT (red wire to battery red wire, black wire to battery black wire)**. Follow the instructions provided with the battery connector.

2. Connect the Motor to the Phoenix

Cut the three (red, white & black) motor wires coming off the ESC to the length you require. Solder the corresponding connectors for your motor to the wires coming from the Phoenix, or solder the motor wires directly to the motor leads on the Phoenix. You may find it convenient to temporarily connect the motor leads to the Phoenix and test for proper rotation before you permanently solder them. See "Reversing Rotation" below.

3. Connect the Phoenix to Your Receiver

Connect the receiver lead (the three colored small wires with a black plastic connector on the end) to the throttle channel on your receiver. Do not connect a receiver battery pack to the receiver, as the Phoenix ESC will supply power to the receiver and servos through the receiver connector.

 **Phoenix HV (High Voltage) controllers require the use of a separate BEC or receiver pack to power your receiver and servos. Phoenix HV Controllers DO NOT have an onboard BEC.**

 **NOTE TO USERS WITH A FUTABA TRANSMITTER: You must reverse the throttle channel signal on your transmitter.**

Please refer to your Futaba instructions.

4. Reversing Rotation (if necessary)

Bench test the motor and speed control after the connections are made to determine the rotation of the motor. To change the rotation of the motor, swap **ANY** two motor wire connections, or use the Castle Link USB interface to change the rotation direction.

5. Mounting the Phoenix


Mount the ESC with the LED side of the controller facing outward. We recommend using Velcro to attach the ESC to the airframe for easy removal. Double sided tape is also acceptable. If zip ties are used, do not place them over any of the components on the ESC. Instead, zip tie around the motor and battery wires, leaving some slack to allow for movement.


USING YOUR PHOENIX

 **You must follow this initialization sequence before the motor will operate.**

1. Ensure that the Phoenix is connected to the proper channel on your receiver.
2. Turn your transmitter ON and set the throttle stick to mid throttle or higher.
3. Connect the main power battery to the speed controller. The speed controller will remain disarmed and will not operate the motor until it sees zero throttle.
4. When you are ready to fly, move the throttle stick to the lowest position on your transmitter.

The Phoenix will beep the motor to indicate that it is armed. The Phoenix will not provide any power to the motor, regardless of where the throttle stick on your transmitter is positioned when first powered up. You must move the throttle stick to its lowest position to arm and use the Phoenix.

 **Always power your radio transmitter before powering up the receiver and/or the ESC. Some receivers with failsafe features or Spektrum receiver units that are not bound on receiver power up are entirely capable of causing the arming sequence to occur and command the ESC to drive the motor. Always keep the aircraft restrained and clear of body parts when the ESC is powered.**

 **Always perform a range check at full, half, and zero throttle before flying with any new speed controller! For helicopters, range check with the blades off the helicopter at full, half, and zero throttle.**

Notes on the Features of Your Phoenix

Standard Features are always employed by the Phoenix.

(continued in next column)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| LED | The LED is used for programming the features on the Phoenix. Once armed, the LED also provides an indication that the controller has reached full throttle by lighting continuously. |
| Loss of Signal | The Phoenix will stop the motor as a safety feature when the throttle signal is lost or corrupt. Moving the throttle to the brake position for two seconds may be required to rearm the motor. |
| Safe Power Up | To arm the controller, the throttle must be held in the "Brake" position (all the way down). Until the controller is armed, it will not provide any power to the motor regardless of where the throttle stick on your transmitter is positioned when first powered up. |

Programmable Options can be changed at the discretion of the user. The Phoenix comes with default or factory settings on these options which are the best for most applications. You may change these settings using your transmitter and receiver or with the Castle Link, which is sold separately. There are more programmable options available with the Castle Link, these extra settings are not easily made using the YES/NO abilities of the stick programming mode.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Low Voltage Cutoff | ESC optionally stops or ramps down the motor power when the input battery voltage drops to the programmed cutoff voltage. |
| Current Limiting | ESC optionally detects an over-current and shuts down to protect it's circuitry. |
| Brake | Stops rotation of the motor when the throttle signal is moved to the lowest position. |
| Throttle | Allows user to choose between the Phoenix automatically calibrating the throttle endpoints every time it is powered up, using preset throttle endpoint settings, or using one of a number of helicopter specific settings. |
| Electronic Timing Advance | A setting that may improve the efficiency of the system for some motors. The standard Phoenix setting is to automatically detect and adjust for the motor it is driving. |
| Low Voltage Cutoff Type | Select the method of cutoff employed by the Phoenix when the low voltage set in #1 is reached. Options are Hard Cutoff and Soft Cutoff. |

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem: *The BEC (receiver and servos) works, but the motor does not respond to throttle.*

Solution: The controller may not be seeing a low enough throttle signal to arm. Increase the low side throttle endpoint in your transmitter until you hear the ESC arm. If you do not have a computer transmitter, bring the throttle stick and throttle trim all the way down to arm the ESC. If using a Futaba transmitter, verify the throttle channel is reversed.

Problem: *When I throttle all the way up, the controller “cuts off”, even with fully charged batteries.*

Solution: The controller will automatically shut or ramp down the motor (depending on which cutoff type is selected) if the battery voltage falls below the cutoff voltage. Your controller will repeatedly blink the LED with 2 flashes. If the cutoff occurs with freshly charged batteries, it means that the voltage has dropped very quickly. This is usually an indication of a power system that is drawing too much current for the batteries to handle. Try using a smaller prop on the motor or use a pack with a higher mAh capacity.

Problem: *The LED comes on when I go to full throttle.*

Solution: This is normal. The LED comes on when full throttle has been reached. If the unit is in Auto-Calibrating Throttle mode (program setting 4-1) then you may see full throttle LED indication before the stick is in the full up position. Simply continue moving the stick to full up. The controller will detect the high stick travel and adjust full throttle accordingly.

Problem: *Nothing is working - receiver, servos, and motor are all dead.*

Solution: Check all connections to ensure that the polarity (+/-) of the connections are correct (especially the receiver plug polarity). If everything is correctly connected, contact the dealer where you purchased your Phoenix ESC or contact Castle Creations directly.

Error Codes:

The following error codes are only applicable to controllers running version 1.55 or made after December 15, 2006. The LED will blink out error messages. They are:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 Flash | Start failure: The motor was jammed or locked. |
| 2 Flashes | Low Voltage Cutoff: Your batteries are likely discharged. Check that batteries are fully charged and that Phoenix detects the proper number of cells at power-up. |
| 3 Flashes | Over-Current: Current draw exceeded the safe capacity of the controller. Reduce current draw by changing to a smaller propeller, different gear combination, or fewer cells. |
| 4 Flashes | Prop Strike: Your motor stopped spinning freely. Check for proper operation of motor. |
| 5 Flashes | Radio Signal: Signal from receiver is corrupt or non-existent. Check transmitter and receiver. |

Look for more troubleshooting tips on the Castle Creations website at:
www.castlecreations.com/support/faq.html

CONTACT & WARRANTY INFO

Your Phoenix ESC is warranted for one year from date of purchase to be free from manufacturing and component defects. This warranty does not cover abuse, neglect, or damage due to incorrect wiring, over voltage, or overloading. If you have any questions, comments, or wish to return

your Phoenix ESC for warranty or non-warranty repair or replacement, contact Castle Creations, Inc. at:

Phone: (913) 390-6939
Fax: (913) 390-6164
235 South Kansas Avenue
Olathe, Kansas 66061 USA
www.castlecreations.com

NON-WARRANTY REPAIRS

Never throw away a damaged Phoenix! You may send it to Castle and take advantage of our flat price replacement offer. Please check our website for specific pricing.

PROGRAMMING PHOENIX AND PHOENIX HV ESCS

Phoenix Series controllers offer users the option of changing programmable settings. You do not need to program anything to make the controller work. Programming is only necessary if you wish to change the default settings or if you wish to use advanced features such as helicopter modes.

If you need to change settings, we highly recommend using the Castle Link (sold separately). It is easier and allows you to modify many more settings than the “stick” programming procedure described below. **Please note that there are many features that may only be accessed via Castle Link.**

Connecting Phoenix HV to Castle Link

You must power the Phoenix HV using a battery pack on the battery leads in order to power the onboard processor for Castle Link operation. This is necessary because the throttle lead/Castle Link serial wire is optically isolated from the controller and cannot provide power from the USB port to the controller. Any pack of 4s or larger will be sufficient for this purpose. You **must** plug the HV controller into the Castle Link **before** you plug in your battery pack. The ESC will not link if connected out of order.

The Phoenix line is capable of drawing power for Castle Link operation from the USB port and does not require an external power source.

Manually Changing Programmable Settings

The Phoenix ESC software is designed to make it difficult to accidentally enter programming mode. Once in programming mode, the Phoenix ESC “asks” questions by flashing the setting number, followed by the number for each of the setting values. You must answer “yes” or “no” by moving the throttle stick on your transmitter to each of the setting values as the



Phoenix ESC presents them. The values are always presented in sequence, and do **NOT** “tell you” what any of the settings are currently programmed for.

The current setting and setting value are “flashed” out by the LED. (For example if you are on setting #3 and value #2, there will be 3 beeps/flashes, then 2 beeps/flashes repeating until you answer). Answering “no” to a setting value will cause the Phoenix ESC to ask for the next value in sequence. Answering “yes” to a setting value will store that setting in the permanent memory, and skip to the next setting.

NOTE: If you answer “no” to all values for a particular setting, the Phoenix ESC will keep whatever value had been previously programmed. Only by answering “yes” to a value will the Phoenix ESC store/change any value.

You will need to move the transmitter stick to the “yes” (full throttle) position or the “no” (zero throttle) position to answer the question. When the Phoenix ESC has accepted your answer, it will flash the LED rapidly, and emit a constant beeping. Move the throttle stick back to the middle position for the next question.



After you have verified that the controller works properly, follow the steps below to change settings.

If you wish to re-program only some of the features you do not need to continue through the programming steps for the remaining settings. Once you have programmed each of the features you wish to change and the Phoenix ESC has confirmed the selection, instead of returning to mid-throttle for the next question, disconnect battery power, re-connect power, and arm the speed control as normal.

1. Enter Programming Mode

1A. The Phoenix controller must be connected to a motor in order for you to hear the programming beeps. Turn your transmitter on, and leave the Phoenix ESC **unpowered**. Move the transmitter stick to the top position (full throttle).

1B. Connect battery power to the Phoenix ESC. The Phoenix ESC will beep its initialization tones when first plugged in. After a short period of time the Phoenix ESC will emit another short tone and the LED on the Phoenix ESC should flash a short, single flash that repeats. If the ESC flashes continuously it is not seeing a full throttle position. Move your throttle trim to the top position or increase your full throttle endpoint or ATV on your transmitter.

1C. Move your transmitter stick to the middle position. The Phoenix ESC will emit another short tone, and the LED on the Phoenix ESC should flash a short, double flash that repeats.

1D. Move your transmitter stick back to the top position again. After a short time, the Phoenix ESC will emit a short tone, and the LED on the Phoenix ESC should flash a short, triple flash that repeats.

1E. Move your transmitter stick back to the middle position again. The Phoenix ESC will emit four short tones in a row, and the LED on the Phoenix ESC will start a repetitive flash sequence of a single flash followed by a long pause.

The Phoenix ESC is now in programming mode and asking you the first question.

2. Enter your Settings

NOTE: When setting LiPo cutoff voltage, always follow your battery brand recommendations.

Setting 1A: Cutoff Voltage - Phoenix

| Option | Recommended Use |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Auto-LiPo* | Automatically detects LiPo cell count, and sets 3v/cell cutoff voltage. Safe for use with any LiPo packs, but DO NOT use with NiMH/NiCad packs. The Phoenix ESC will keep the number of cells it's detected immediately after the initialization tones, and before the arming tones. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 2 4.0V Cutoff | 5 cell NiCad or NiMH packs only. |
| 3 5.0V Cutoff | 5-8 cell NiCad or NiMH packs only. |
| 4 6.0V Cutoff | 5-10 cell NiCad or NiMH packs, or safe for 2 cell only LiPo packs. |
| 5 9.0V Cutoff | 5-16 cell NiCad, 5-16 cell NiMH, or safe for 3 cell only LiPo packs (BEC MUST be disabled for MORE than 10 NiMH/NiCad cells). |
| 6 12.0V Cutoff | Up to 16* cell NiMH or NiCad packs, or safe for 4 cell LiPo packs (BEC MUST be disabled for MORE than 10 NiMH/NiCad cells, or 3s LiPo). |

*up to 20 cells with PHX 60/80/125

Setting 1B: Cutoff Voltage - Phoenix HV

| Option | Recommended Use |
|--------------|---|
| 1 Auto-LiPo* | Automatically detects LiPo cell count, and sets 3v/cell cutoff voltage. Safe for use with any LiPo packs, but DO NOT use with NiMH/NiCad packs. The Phoenix ESC will keep the number of cells it's detected immediately after the initialization tones, and before the arming tones. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 2 12V Cutoff | 4s LiPo packs |
| 3 18V Cutoff | 6s LiPo packs |
| 4 24V Cutoff | 8s LiPo packs |
| 5 30V Cutoff | 10s LiPo packs |
| 6 36V Cutoff | 12s LiPo packs |

NOTE: 3v per cell is the lowest cutoff that should be used for LiPo packs. Some cell manufacturers may recommend higher voltages. Please use the cutoff recommended for your cells.

Setting 2: Current Limiting

NOTE: Change this setting at your own risk! Damage to the controller as a result of over-current is NOT covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Only experienced modelers should use this programming feature. Current limiting describes the reaction of the Phoenix ESC when an over-current condition is detected.**

| Option | Recommended Use | |
|--------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Very Sensitive | Will rapidly shut down when over current is detected. |
| 2 | Sensitive | |
| 3 | Normal* | Moderate over-current threshold, will shut down after a slight delay. Recommended for all systems except for helicopters and high power LMR applications. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 4 | Insensitive | **Recommended setting for all helicopters and LMR applications (covered under warranty). |
| 5 | Disabled | Use at your own risk! |

Setting 3: Brake Type

Soft brake provides 50% of full braking power; hard brake is 100% braking power.

| Option | Recommended Use | |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Soft Delayed Brake* | General aircraft use, with fixed or folding prop. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 2 | Hard Delayed Brake | Direct drive applications where more braking power is required. Hard brake should only be used on 10 cells or less. |
| 3 | Soft Brake - No Delay | Competition use where a very short brake delay is required. |
| 4 | Hard Brake - No Delay | Competition use where a very short brake delay is required. Brake action may be very abrupt. Be very cautious with high-powered setups. |
| 5 | Brake Disabled | Helicopters, 3D airplanes, and by choice, on most aerobatic airplanes. |

Setting 4 - Throttle Type

| Option | Recommended Use | |
|--------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Auto Calibrating Throttle* | Any fixed wing aircraft, but NOT for use with helicopters. When using Auto Calibrating Throttle, you must throttle up to full throttle for four seconds and back to the off position each time you power up and fly your airplane. This will set the automatic throttle endpoints within the controller. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 2 | Fixed Throttle | Any fixed wing aircraft, fixed pitch helicopters, and collective pitch helicopters using a manually created and tuned pitch and throttle curve on your transmitter. This mode uses normally accepted TX throttle endpoints; some TX throttle signals are outside these values. Use auto calibrating throttle for those setups. |

FOR THE FOLLOWING HELICOPTER APPLICATIONS ONLY

We highly recommend programming your ESC using the Castle Link USB Programming Kit to gain access to advanced helicopter settings that are not accessible with throttle programming.

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| 3 | Governor Mode LOW | For collective pitch helicopters only: Governor mode acts as an RPM control, rather than a throttle control. Throttle stick position (or throttle curve %) determines the RPM that the motor will run and the controller will attempt to hold that RPM regardless of how the load (collective) changes. This is useful in a collective pitch helicopter where a constant head speed is desirable. The low RPM range has finer RPM control at lower RPMs. The low RPM range is useful for low pole count motors (Hacker, Feigao, HiMax, etc.) and low RPMs on higher pole count motors. Brake is ALWAYS disabled in Governor Mode. |
| 4 | Governor Mode HIGH | Same operation as Low Governor, but allows for higher head speeds if the desired head speed cannot be reached in Low Governor. RPM range has finer RPM control at higher RPMs. The high RPM range is useful for higher pole count motors (Aveox, Astro, Mega, Neu, and all outrunners) and higher RPMs. Brake is ALWAYS disabled in Governor Mode. |

(continued on next page)

Setting 5: Electronic Timing Advance

Electronic timing advance may be used to fine tune either a bit more power or a bit more efficiency out of an electric power system.

| Option | Recommended Use |
|---------------------|--|
| 1 High Advance | May give an increase in RPM and current draw at the expense of runtime and a hotter motor and batteries. |
| 2 Standard Advance* | Almost always the best balance of power and efficiency for any motor. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 3 Low Advance | May slightly decrease RPM and current draw, and will give longer runtime and a cooler motor and batteries. This is the preferred setting for outrunner motors. |

Setting 6: Low Voltage Cutoff Type

| Option | Recommended Use |
|----------------|---|
| 1 Hard Cutoff* | Will shut the motor off when the programmed cutoff voltage is reached. The motor may be restarted by lowering the throttle to the brake position, and re-arming. For gliders and some parkflyers where a "motor off" situation does not put the model in danger. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 2 Soft Cutoff | Instead of turning the motor off, the Phoenix ESC ramps down the throttle to safely maintain the battery voltage at the programmed cutoff level. Very useful for 3D flying, indoor flying, all helicopters, and most any sport flying where you do not want the motor to turn off when the low voltage cutoff is reached. |

Setting 7: Soft Start

| Option | Recommended Use |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Very Soft Start | Governor mode: slowest spool up, and softest start. Other throttle types: softest start, most throttle change dampening. |
| 2 Soft Start* | Governor mode: soft start, medium spool up. Other Throttle types: soft start, slight throttle change dampening. This is the FACTORY setting. |
| 3 Fast Start | Governor mode: faster start, fast spool up. Best on manually optimized pitch and throttle curves with fixed throttle type. Other throttle types: fast start, least throttle change dampening. |

Setting 8: PWM Switching Rate

⚠ Note: The following settings apply only to the Phoenix-35 and above.

| Option | Recommended Use |
|-----------|--|
| 1 13 kHz* | Recommended for most brushless motors. This is the FACTORY setting, and recommended for all R/C applications. |
| 2 26 kHz | Recommended for low inductance motors. |
| 3 52 kHz | Recommended for very low inductance motors. |

Thank you for buying a Castle Creations Phoenix Series Controller. We hope that it brings you many hours of happy flying!

YOUR PHOENIX ESC REQUIRES NO PROGRAMMING!

If you choose, you may simply connect the wires to your components and go fly.

The following standard settings will work for most applications.

STANDARD SETTINGS:

- ★ Auto-LiPo cell detection with soft cutoff when cells reach discharged state
- ★ Throttle Range is self-adjusting
- ★ Auto motor cutoff when radio signal is lost or radio interference becomes severe

Your Phoenix Series Controller along with Castle Creations' **Castle Link USB Programming Kit** gives you access to a whole new world



of tuning options. Customize the settings on your Phoenix to get exactly the performance you want, right from your PC. You can download all the latest features and install them on your Phoenix at any time.



Designed in Kansas

Components manufactured in the USA, Mexico, and China.

castlecreations.com

This product may contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not eat this controller, it doesn't taste good.