

DJI Inspire 1

Pilot-friendly flying camera

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THE INSPIRE 1 BY DJI represents the next in a series of accessible all-in-one aerial video production platforms. It comes with just about everything you need in a really well thought out hard shell carry case that has foam cutouts for all the items included and room for spares like extra batteries.

SPECIFICATIONS

Name: Inspire 1
Manufacturer: DJI (dji.com)
Type: camera/video quad
Size: 600mm
Weight: 6.5 lb.
Motors: DJI 3510 (4 included)
Battery: 6S 4500mAh DJI Intelligent Flight Battery (included)
Speed controls: DJI proprietary
Flight Controller: DJI proprietary
Radio: C1 (included)
Price: \$2899

WE LIKE

- + Innovative new design
- + Capable 4K camera and gimbal
- + Newest generation stabilization system
- + 15-minute flight times

AERIAL RECAP

Taking off and landing can be performed semi autonomously at the push of a button, but I'm a control freak and wanted to do things the old fashioned way. Upon lifting off from the ground, all anxiety of controlling a \$3,000.00 system on loan quickly goes away when you feel just how stable the flight performance is. I began in P-GPS, and in this mode it was so smooth and predictable that I understand why people believe these fly themselves. I was able to fly quite far away and still keep orientations thanks in part to the bright status lights on the front and back. Switching to the P-Opti mode allows for the visioning position system to help steady your ship. This stabilization relies mainly on the camera fixed to the bottom of the frame, and sonar technology instead of GPS. It's great for indoor work in a large sound stage, but I found you could trip it up a bit if the floor is too "noisy." The A mode allowed me to open up the flight envelope a bit and have some fun. It still allows for limited use of GPS if available to support the Return Home feature. When you land the Inspire, a failsafe automatically lowers the landing gear as soon as the drone comes within a few feet of the ground—a nice touch!



Once in the air the landing gear and motors retract up, providing a 360-degree view for the camera, which may be controlled by another operator.

HIGHLIGHTS

The very first thing that catches your eye about the DJI Inspire 1 is its vertical frame and landing gear mounted propellers. The glossy white exterior and contrasting carbon fiber components makes this unit stand out and look futuristic. The motors are mounted on the ends of the landing gear on an "H-Style" configuration. Once you activate the landing gear from the controller, the landing gear is slowly retracted up by a jackscrew style mechanism well out of the camera's line of sight. The propellers are color coded with silver and black tips so you know which one fits on which motor. The proprietary 4K camera and gimbal unit are more than capable of capturing stunning footage at up 30fps in 4k or up to 60fps in HD. The DJI Pilot App can have a bit of a lag especially in some WiFi-saturated areas.

One of the surprises you get from the DJI Inspire 1 happens to be hidden in the transmitter: it has DJI's Light Bridge telemetry and HD wireless transmission system. On the back of the radio you'll find HDMI ports to view video on an external monitor and USB ports allow you to connect your compatible handheld device for video and telemetry viewing.



Above: Here the author is getting ready to attach the blades to the DJI Inspire. They are designed so only the correct props can be attached to the correct motors.

Left: An iPhone or mini tablet can be used as a navigation screen or camera monitor.

LAST WORD

As soon as you take the Inspire 1 out of its case, attach the props, camera and take flight, you'll experience a welcome confidence boost. Aptly named, the Inspire is ready to take your creativity to new heights!