



# How it all started..

A SIMULATOR COMES TO LIFE

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## Where does one start ?

Well often it starts with a vague idea and some software on a computer, a single screen and rudimentary sound, keyboard and mouse. It grows from there. A desire for more often festers until suddenly ideas and plans start to form.

There are many ways to achieve nirvana, and your own semblance of cockpit heaven. Some are happy with two screens , better software and better speakers. Some want a programmable joystick, others the ability to have any aircraft you can think of in their virtual hanger ready for the joy flight of your life.



Some take it to extremes that would make your eyes water. Cutting off real aircraft noses and bolting them to some sort of platform and interfacing them with today's modern computer systems, curved surround screens and even motion systems. Spending beyond \$200,000 on some of them.

Where you decide to go is your decision (don't worry if this decision changes often and rapidly as you learn what is possible). We all take a journey of discovery along the way, finding new things that can be implemented, and new ways to get around previously difficult challenges. No two sims are alike in every way.

## BIRTH OF A SIM

Mine started with MS Flight Sim, and one screen, mouse control and an EGA screen. It grew to two screens and then joysticks, throttles, extra views, Wider screens for more immersion, Mock instrument panels x3, a Flight POD, better /more specific throttles, programmable button panels, a pedestal and radios, flight instruments, switch panels,

a full flight cockpit, a full nose framework, a 737-800NG integrated Simulator with a full cockpit.



This didn't happen overnight... As with most projects there are many small steps that lead onto a larger achievement. If you are able to focus on the mountain of tasks, one at a time and consistently take baby steps up the mountain, then before long you are on the shoulder of the mountain looking upwards toward your desired peak. But if you focus solely on the peak it will often overwhelm you and you will falter and stop before reaching your goal.

You will learn many amazing things along your way, and gather many skills that you didn't have at the beginning. So don't sweat that you don't have all of the skills that you think you might need to get there but think more on the journey and what path you would like to take. How much resources would you like to devote to it, how long are you setting as your timeframe etc. what compromises will you allow yourself to

guide you to your end peak. These decisions will help you define your path and goal in a way that will ensure that you get there satisfied with what you have achieved.

Enjoy the journey and the discoveries, conversations with others and what they can teach you, even if it seems off the path you have chosen to take. Often the path forward is not as clear as first thought and an alternative approach will yield a better path, or a smoother path.

Embrace and enjoy the journey and FLY

