

Preserving Manual Skills in an Automated Environment

'Everyone complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it'

Charles Dudley Warner



Basic instrument flight skills are threatened as the opportunities for manual flight are continually reduced (RVSM, RNP approach etc)

Too many accidents are due to poor instrument flying skills, Paris-Rio, Perm, Beirut, Cameroon, and many more.

Eye-Brain skills used for manual Instrument flight are perishable, they need reinforcement every few days/week. but:

- Simulator visits are too infrequent to do the job
- Line flying provides fewer opportunities to fly manually
- 'Flying manually' may not be any more than an alternative autopilot mode, which doesn't improve the instrument scan
- Disabling advanced/protective features in line flying is not appropriate and could simply swap one problem for another



An **alternative solution** is needed that offers frequent exposure, maintains normal protections in line service, and is affordable and **practical**.

Micro Sessions of only a few minutes (the duration of an approach from 2000ft) **repeated daily**, on a suitable **desktop part task trainer/iPad** could be integrated with pre-flight briefing, would **preserve scan skills** (these were learnt initially on just such a device, or a Link), and be **affordable**.

The Honourable Company of Air Pilots has proposed a trial of the effectiveness of such devices and short sessions to the UKCAA's Loss of Control Action Group which is actively considering it.

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