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> Profile: Axial Brand Strategist Matt Higgins
> Losi Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger Monster Truck RTR

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for 12.3" (313mm) Wheelbase Scale Crawlers

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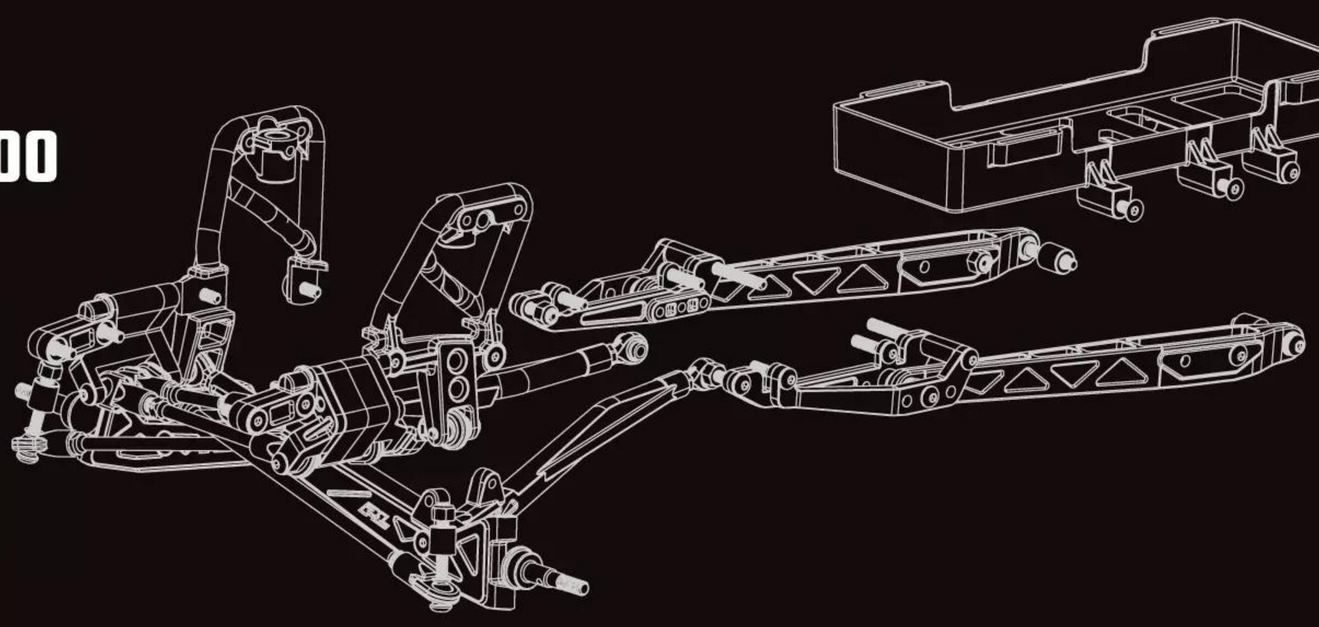
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Welcome to another action-packed issue of RC Car Action magazine, where we bring you the best in RC builds, new model reviews, and exclusive interviews. Whether you're tearing up the trails, dominating the race track, or even making waves with watercraft, this month's edition has something for every RC enthusiast.

This month's issue is packed with exciting content for every RC enthusiast. Gracing the cover is the eye-catching Axial SCX24 Lexus GX 470, an overland-inspired build that's sure to capture the imagination of scale enthusiasts.

We also take a splash with the Traxxas Disruptor brushless speedboat, a high-speed machine built for the water, offering a thrilling alternative to the traditional RC experience.
For those with a love of racing history, we review Tamiya's limited-edition Porsche 956, a dominating force in Group C racing. It's sure to be a collector's favorite.

On the monster truck side, we dive into Losi's Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger, a compact yet powerful monster truck that brings the legendary spawn of Grave Digger flair to your backyard bash sessions.

We also have an exclusive sit-down with Axial Brand Strategist Matt Higgins, where we get to know him better and discuss all things RC, from the latest trends to what's next for the brand. It's a chat you won't want to miss!

On the Test Bench, we feature a CTEK automotive battery charger and maintainer. This reliable tool has become one of our staples at RC events, ensuring our gear stays charged and ready for action.

As always, we enjoy seeing what you are doing with your RC vehicles. If you have a build you'd like to share with fellow readers, consider submitting your ride to be included in our Readers Rides department. You can find the easy-to-submit form at RCCarAction.com. It's never been easier to submit your ride.

Until next time,
Jerry Tsai
Editorial Director

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BUILDER'S KIT 3

STEALTH XF OVERDRIVE TRANSMISSION #40135

ALWAYS FORWARD, NEVER BACK. Here at Element RC we are always improving things, and this kit is no different. With added features and updated materials, the new and improved Enduro Builder's Kit 3 is the perfect platform for any build. ***Your journey begins here!***

SHOCK MOUNT INSERTS: GKS™ shock mount inserts provide drivers with the ability to tune shock angle, droop, and vehicle ride height without affecting spring preload.

STEALTH® XF GEARBOX: This design moves the motor forward to help keep the weight over the front wheels. The Stealth® XF features the ability to adjust the rear drive ratio independently of the front drive across three levels.

FACTORY TEAM SHOCKS: For ultra-smooth performance and looks, our machined aluminum threaded bronze-anodized shocks with black plastic caps and aluminum collars are included

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ALUMINUM TRACK BAR MOUNT: The GKS™ aluminum track bar mount bolted directly to the steel frame rail makes the front suspension more rigid and flex-free with a more precise steering feel.

Body, wheels, tires, and electronics not included with Builder's Kit 3.

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Managing Editor
Karl Funke

Art Director
Jeff Chen

DIGITAL MEDIA

Web Development
Cirrata Services

Online News Editor
Trevor "Chilly" Duncan

Social Media Contributor
Michael Wiene

ADVERTISING

Strategic Account Manager
Leigh Guarnieri | leigh@airage.com | @lguarnieri

PUBLISHING

Group Publishers
Louis V. DeFrancesco Jr.
Yvonne M. DeFrancesco

Associate Publisher
Leigh Guarnieri | leigh@airage.com | @lguarnieri

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Circulation Managers
Charles Mast
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1. Reefs RC - Reefs 8.4V EZ-BEC

The Reefs RC 8.4V EZ-BEC makes powering your RC servos simple with its plug-and-play design. Delivering a consistent 8.4V from a 3S LiPo battery, it eliminates the complexities of traditional BEC installation. Housed in a durable, water-resistant, CNC-machined aluminum case, this EZ-BEC ensures reliable performance, providing enhanced power for high-performance RC applications without the hassle.

P/N: #REEFS206
MSRP: $49.99
URL: reefsrc.com

2. Cow RC - Jet Blaster Mini

The Cow RC Jet Blaster Mini is a compact powerhouse, offering up to 110,000 RPM with variable speed control. Its ergonomic design includes a reverse-flow vacuum function, a collection basket, and versatile attachments. USB rechargeable, this durable tool is perfect for RC maintenance and provides exceptional cleaning power at an unbeatable price.

MSRP: $59.99
URL: cowrc.com





3. FuriTek USA - EcoPower Intelligent 2S 2200mAh EC3 LiPo Battery/“Electron Mini” Charger Bundle

This charger and battery bundle offers a safer, smarter charging solution for your RC vehicle. Ideal for the SCX10 series and other 1/10 crawlers, this bundle simplifies battery management with advanced safety features and efficient charging technology. It’s perfect for hobbyists seeking reliability and ease in powering their RC adventures.

P/N: ECP-1010
MSRP: $69.99
URL: amainhobbies.com

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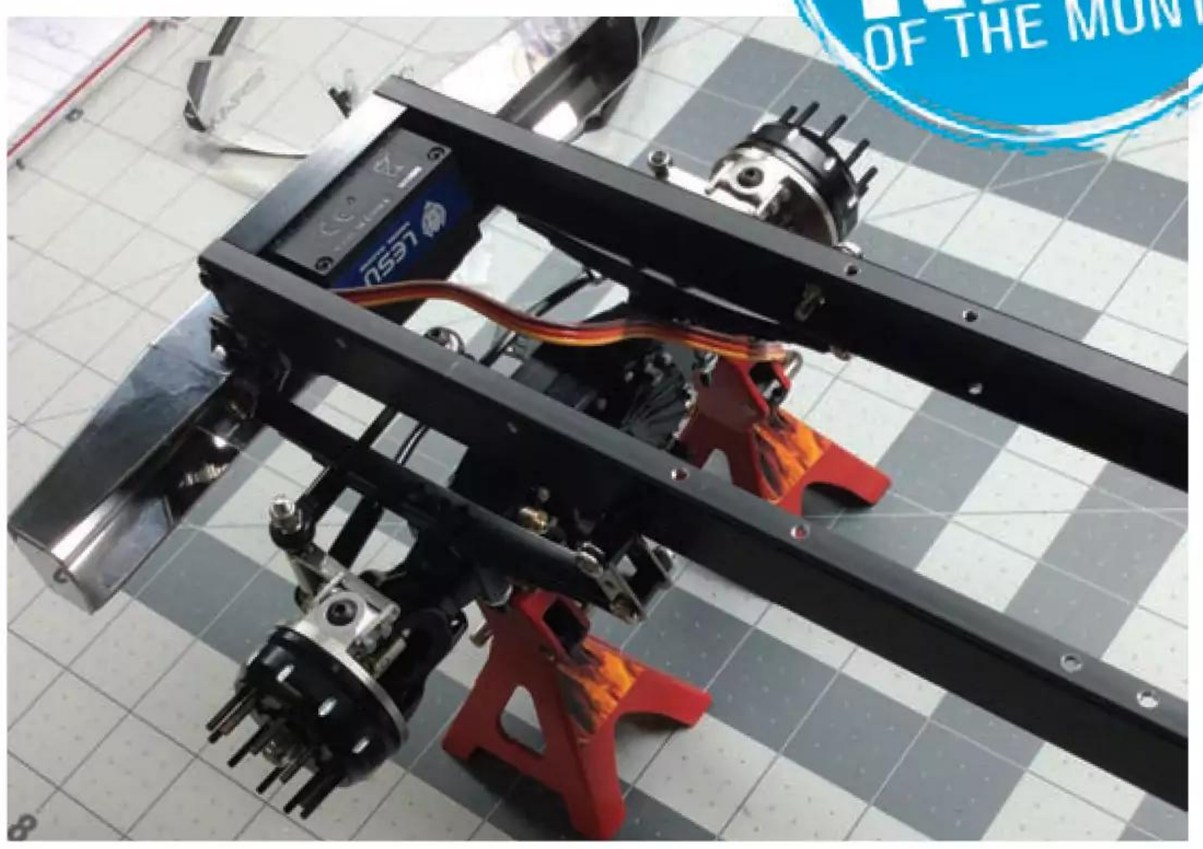
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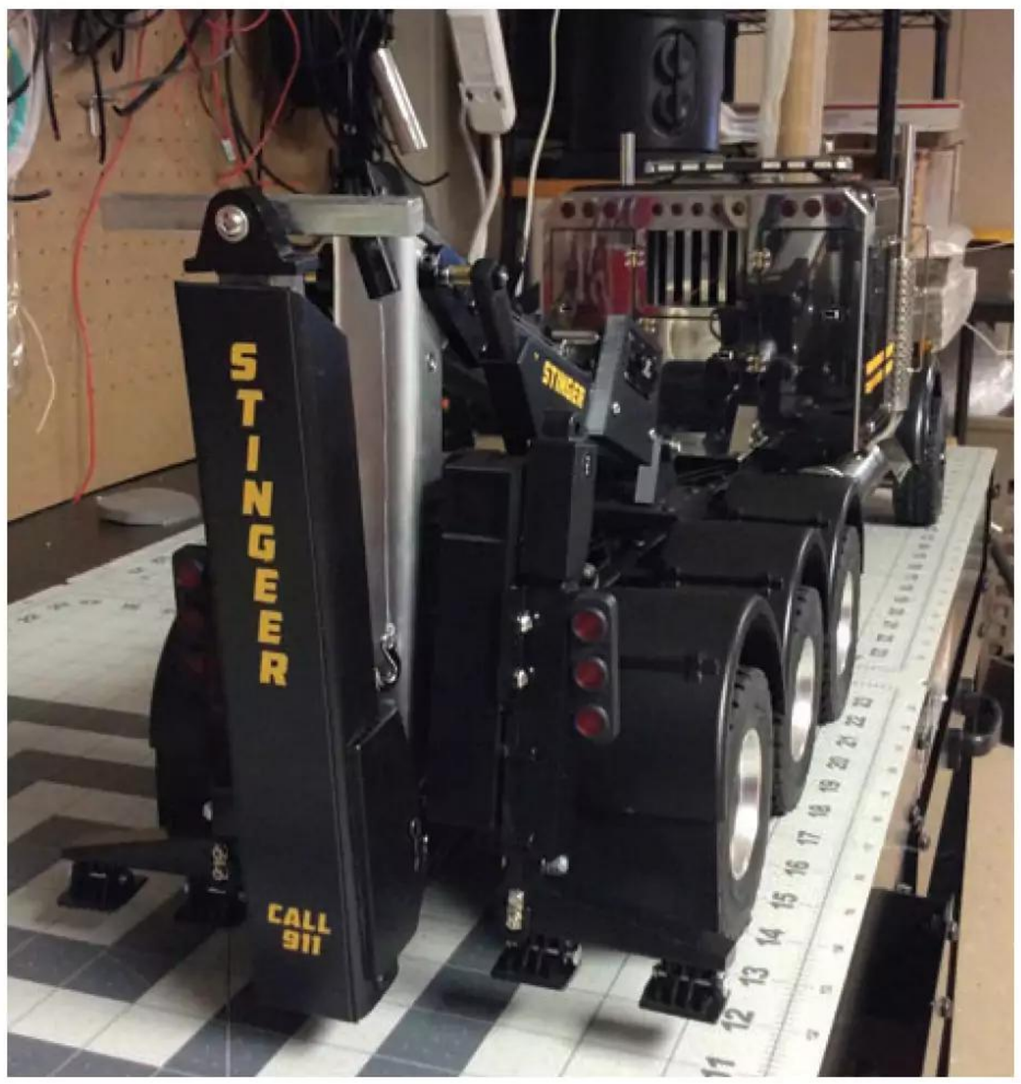
6X6 POLICE STINGER

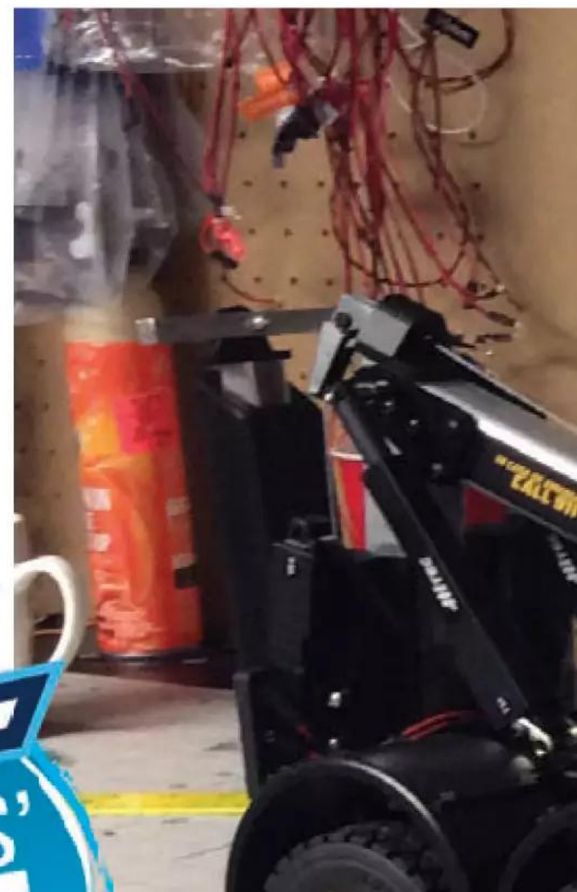
JOSEPH KOVACH « HAMILTON, NJ

READERS' RIDE OF THE MONTH

Behold Joseph's stunning 1/14-scale 6x6 wrecker, aptly named "Police Stinger." This impressive big-rig features a JTS, Lesu, and Tamiya chassis topped with a Tamiya Grand Hauler body. Powered by a Surpass 550 can 5-slot 20T motor and an 80A ESC, the rig runs on a Zeee 7200mAh 3S battery. The wheels are Lesu heavy haulers paired with Lesu all-terrain tires. The fully functional wheel lift is a custom combination of parts from Tamiya, Hitec, and JTS, while the lights and sounds are powered by GT-Power. The build also includes Lesu planetary axles with an option lock and cab accessories from both Lesu and JTS. Joseph's wrecker is an outstanding example of detail and functionality in the scale RC world. Great job, Joseph!

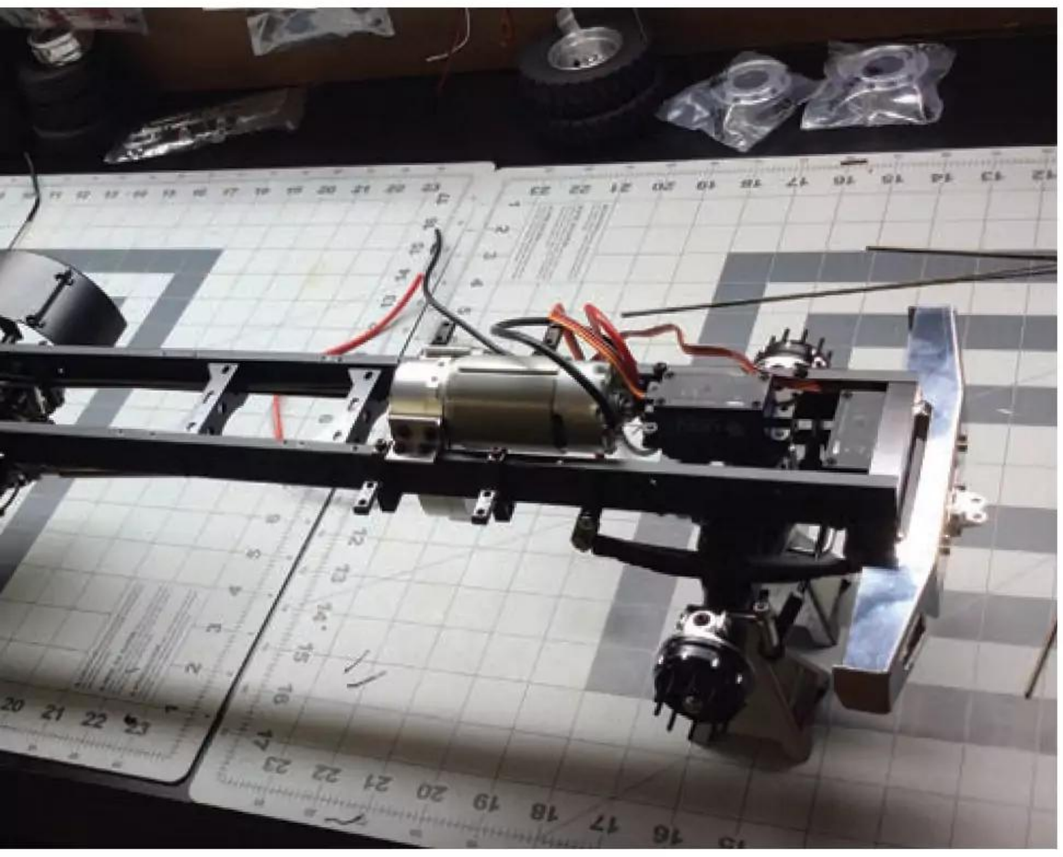












BUILD HIGHLIGHTS
- Chassis: Customized JTS, Lesu, Tamiya
- Body: Tamiya Grand Hauler
- Motor: Surpass 550 can 5-slot 20T
- Speed Control: Surpass 80A
- Battery: Zeee 7200mAh 3S
- Wheels & Tires: Lesu heavy hauler wheels, Lesu all-terrain tires
- Shocks: Lesu
- Axles: Lesu 9:1 planetary, option lock
- Paint: Tamiya
- Graphics: Decals from Matt Morris, local print shop
- Lighting: GT-Power
- Radio System: Radiolink AT10 II
- Sound System: GT-Power
- Other Options: Working wheel lift combined from Tamiya, Hitec, and JTS parts, all cab accessories from Lesu and JTS

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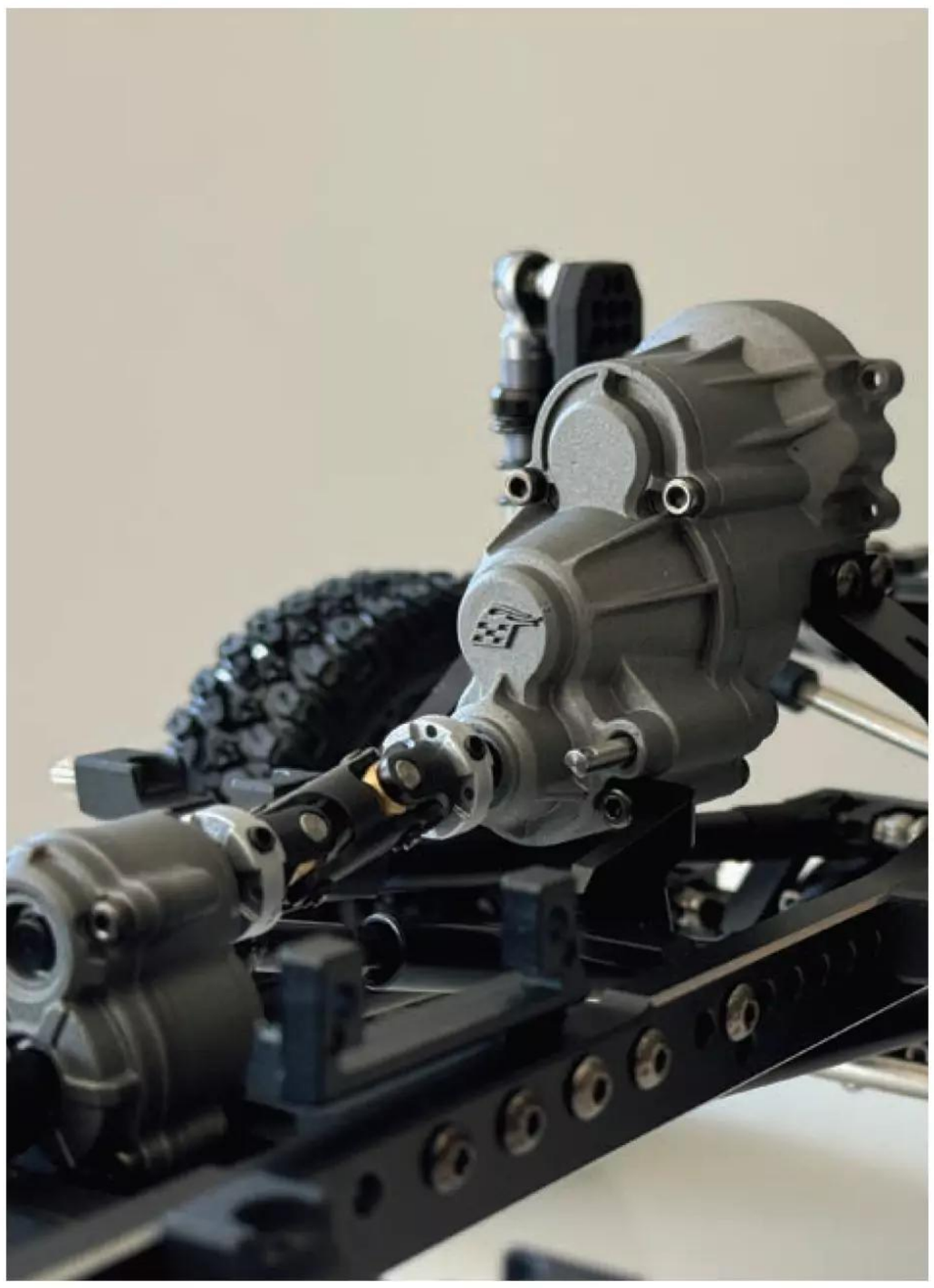




P-L READERS' RIDE OF THE MONTH

The special "P-L" logo marks the Readers Ride of the Month. If you see it on your vehicle, you win a Pro-Line prize pack that includes a T-shirt, cap, and Pro-Line body.

To submit your vehicle, email your high-resolution JPEG images and a description to **readersrides@airage.com**. Readers Rides is also on Facebook! Visit **facebook.com/rccaraction** and post your ride; we'll message you if we want to feature it here in the mag.





6X6 DEFENDER

RADOSLAW SLUGOCKI « WARSZAWA, MAZOWIECKIE, POLAND

This impressive 6x6 was built by Radoslaw from Poland. He tells us he believes that this Boom Racing kit is the best scale 6x6 on the market. Built on the Boom Racing BRX02 chassis and equipped with a Team Raffee Defender D110 6x6 body, this vehicle combines high-quality materials and exceptional off-road capabilities. Powered by a HobbyWing Fusion Pro 2300kV motor and a Gens Ace 3S HV 4300mAh LiPo, the rig runs on Boom Racing 1.9" Classic Steelie wheels paired with Maxgrappler tires. Custom LED lights, rock lights, and a Boom Racing Muscle Winch add functionality, while Kudu skid plates and bull bars enhance durability. It's easy to see why Radoslaw enjoyed every moment of building this ultra-detailed scale masterpiece. Thanks for sharing this beautiful build with us!









BUILD HIGHLIGHTS
- Chassis: Boom Racing BRX02
- Body: Team Raffee Defender D110 6×6
- Motor: HobbyWing Fusion Pro 2300 kV
- Speed Control: HobbyWing Fusion Pro 2300 kV
- Battery: Gens Ace 3S HV 4300 mAh LiPo
- Wheels & Tires: Boom Racing 1.9" Classic Steelie, Boom Racing 1.9" Maxgrappler 97x32mm
- Shocks: Kudu 90mm scale coilover shocks
- Axles: Boom Racing BRX90 High Pinion Phat Axle
- Paint: Tamiya TS-81 Royal Navy Gray
- Lighting: Custom LED light system with rock lights
- Radio System: Radiolink RC8X
- Other Options: Boom Racing Muscle Winch 3S 40 kg, Boom Racing B3D nylon side skid plate, front and rear inner fenders, Kudu steel front skid plate, Kudu front wide steel bull bar, Kudu aluminum rock sliders, Kudu LED rock light set



BIG RED

LUKEY MILLER « WINCHESTER, MA

Lukey transformed his Axial SCX24 Ford Bronco into a vintage farm truck, affectionately named “Big Red.” Inspired by classic farm vehicles, Lukey replaced the Bronco body with an Axial Chevy C10 Long Bed body and hand-cut wood bark to create a rustic truck bed. He added a weathered paint finish for further authenticity. For performance, he upgraded the motor to a Little Guy Racing Parts 66T Reaper and fitted Pro-Line Big Bore Scaler shocks for superior handling. A 450mAh EcoPower Trail Pack LiPo provides extended run time. Axial 1.0 Nitto Trail Grappler tires and SCX24 axles ensure great off-road capability. With its classic look and robust mechanics, Big Red perfectly blends vintage aesthetics with farm truck power. Fantastic work, Lukey!

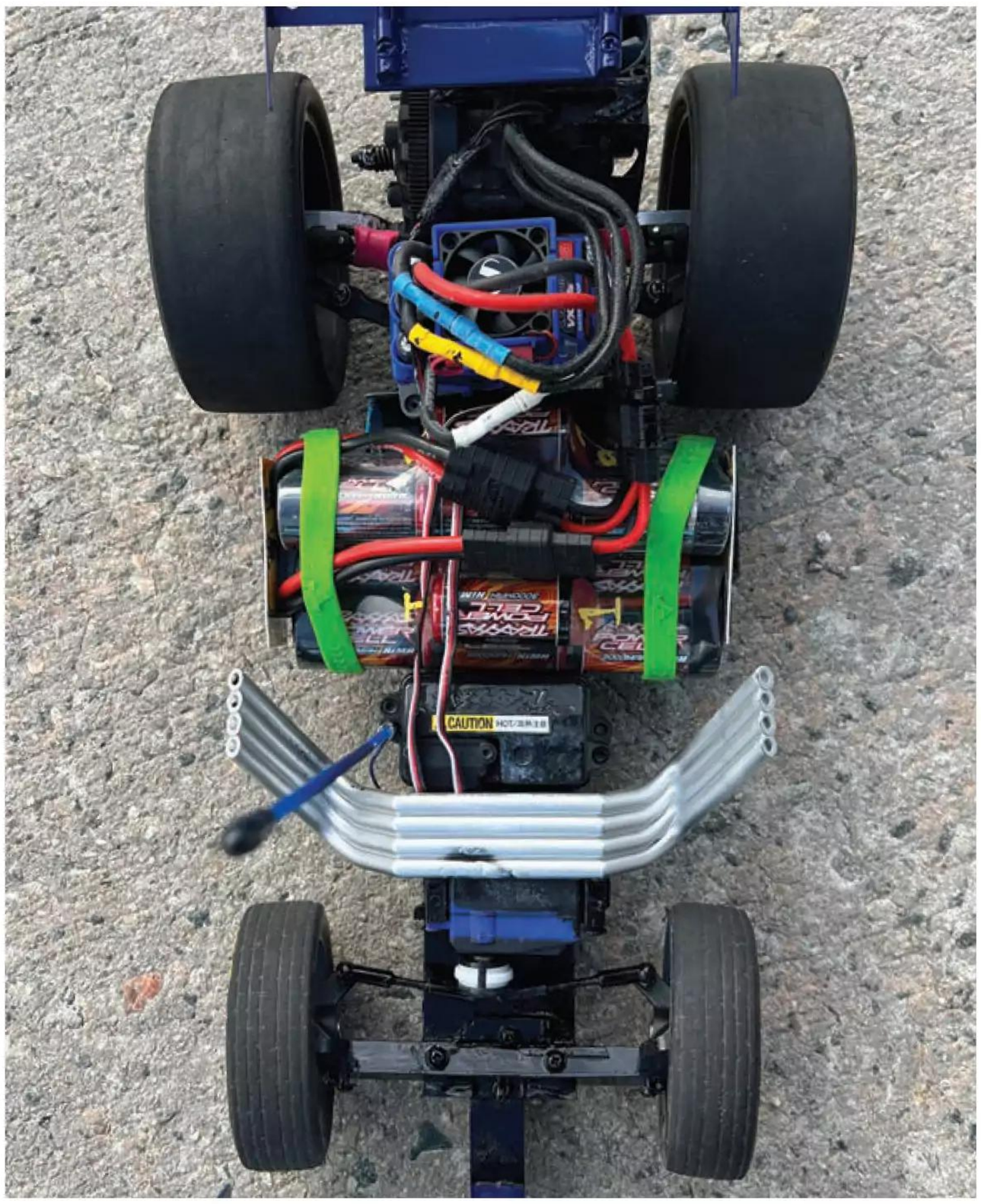


BUILD HIGHLIGHTS
- Chassis: Axial SCX24
- Body: Axial Chevy C10 Long Bed
- Motor: Little Guy Racing Parts 66T Reaper
- Speed Control: Horizon EC2 ESC/receiver combo
- Battery: Ecopower Trail Pack 7.4V, 450mAh
- Wheels & Tires: Axial 1.0 Nitto Trail Grappler tires, 1.0 Bronco wheels
- Shocks: Pro-Line Big Bore Scalers with 22.5wt oil
- Axles: Axial SCX24
- Paint: Tamiya PS-15
- Graphics: Axial, LGRP, and custom
- Radio System: Horizon 4-channel surface transmitter
- Other Options: Hand-made wood bed











BATMAN BAT RACER

PASCAL TIMMERS « CANNING VALE, WA, AUSTRALIA

We love seeing creative builds and this one definitely qualifies. This unique drag car, named the "Batman Bat Racer," is inspired by 1980s altered drag cars and Pascal's favorite superhero, Batman. Built on a custom 3mm aluminum chassis, this dual-NiMH-powered machine features a homemade body, crafted from a juice bottle, with custom PVC wings and old credit card winglets. Powering the Bat Racer is a Traxxas Velineon 3500kV sensorless, brushless motor with dual cooling fans and a Traxxas Velineon ESC. Dual Traxxas ID NiMH 8.4V 3300mAh batteries wired in parallel provide the juice for this beast. The Batman driver figure and 1/10-scale Hemi engine add to the theme, while the custom-made parts bring the build to life. It's a unique and imaginative tribute to both drag racing and the Dark Knight. You did a bang-up job, Pascal!





BUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- Chassis: : Custom dual plate 3mm aluminum
- Body: Custom crafted from juice bottle, PVC drain pipe and old credit cards
- Motor: Traxxas Velineon 3500kV sensorless brushless motor fitted with dual large Arrma cooling fans
- Speed Control: Traxxas Velineon 3355R VXL-3S ESC with Traxxas cooling fan
- Battery: Dual Traxxas ID NiMH battery 8.4V 3300mAh wired in parallel formation
- Wheels & Tires: Front and rear from Losi DR10 22S drag car
- Shocks: None, relying on chassis flex
- Axles: Custom steel telescoping driveshafts from eBay
- Paint: Super-cheap auto blue enamel
- Graphics: Custom Batman logo decal sheet from Hot Stuff stickers
- Radio System: Traxxas TQi 2.4 GHz 4-channel
- Other Options: Traxxas Magnum 272 transmission, 48 pitch Traxxas pinion 32T, Traxxas spur gear 86T, fully sealed Traxxas ball bearings, Hemi engine from 1/10-scale non-hobby-grade brand toy car, Batman figure from Big W and has been cut down to fit, body is cut in half juice bottle, struts for wings is upside-down Traxxas Stampede 2WD chassis brace

HORNET EVO

1/10 SCALE R/C HIGH PERFORMANCE OFF ROAD CAR

ITEM 58742 **2WD** ASSEMBLY KIT R/C system, battery pack and charger sold separately.

The year 2024 marks the **40th anniversary** of the original release of **the iconic Hornet off-road buggy!** To celebrate the milestone, Tamiya's designers have cooked up a fun variant that is sure to please new hobbyists and veteran hobbyists alike!



- The 0.7mm thick polycarbonate body has the same shape as the classic body from the original Hornet.
- The 2WD chassis has the same bathtub frame as the one used in the original Hornet. (Item 58336)
- While the color scheme of the original Hornet is carried over, this kit features an updated sticker design.
- Includes 540 Brushed motor and ESC.
- Required to complete: 2-channel radio, steering servo, 7.2-7.4volt battery with compatible charger, and Tamiya PS paints.

NEW EVO FEATURES!

- Suspension: 4-wheel independent double wishbone suspension.
- Rear gearbox: Sealed gearbox with differential gear from the DT-02 chassis.
- Includes full ball bearings!
- CVA oil dampers (front & rear

The rest of the team

COMICAL HORNET

1/10 SCALE RADIO CONTROL CAR

ITEM 58666 L:356 mm **2WD** ASSEMBLY KIT
R/C system, battery pack and charger sold separately.



THE HORNET

1/10 SCALE R/C HIGH PERFORMANCE OFF ROAD RACER

ITEM 58336-A L:400mm **2WD** ASSEMBLY KIT
R/C system, battery pack and charger sold separately.



TAMIYA

YouTube
TAMIYAUSA OFFICIAL

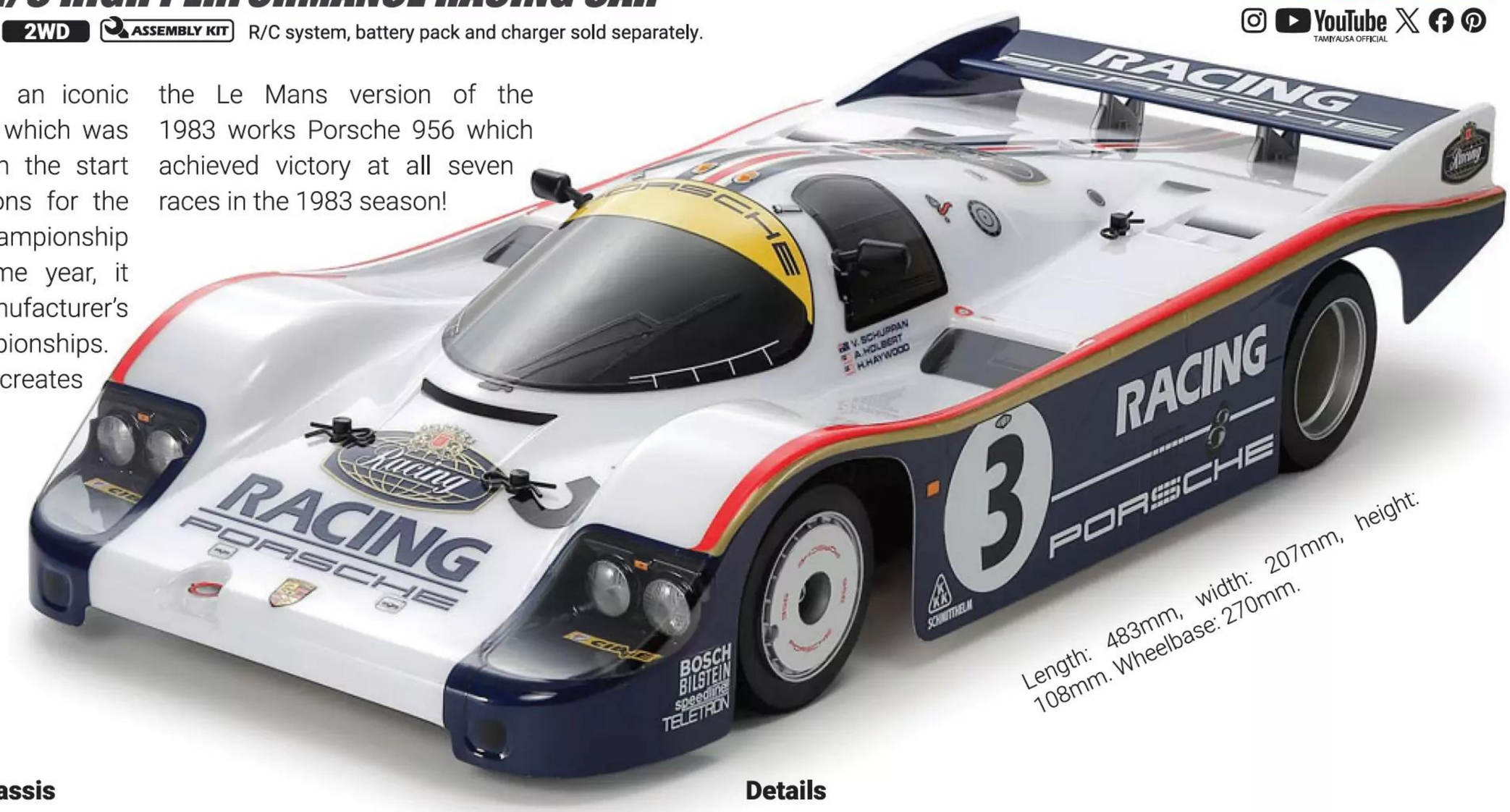
Tamiya America, Inc. 36 Discovery, Ste 200, Irvine, CA 92618 www.tamiyausa.com (800) 826-4922

PORSCHE 956

1/10 SCALE R/C HIGH PERFORMANCE RACING CAR

ITEM 47508 L:483mm 2WD ASSEMBLY KIT R/C system, battery pack and charger sold separately.

The Porsche 956 is an iconic sports prototype car which was developed along with the start of Group C regulations for the World Endurance Championship in 1982. In the same year, it achieved both Manufacturer's and Driver's Championships. This assembly kit recreates the Le Mans version of the 1983 works Porsche 956 which achieved victory at all seven races in the 1983 season!



Length: 483mm, width: 207mm, height: 108mm. Wheelbase: 270mm.

Direct-Drive 2WD Chassis

Based around an ABS plastic bathtub, with space frames front and rear and FRP plates, the chassis is a composite design that offers a rigid base to back up the fluid suspension: the result is a crisp, responsive driving experience. At the front, it has an independent coil-sprung king pin suspension setup, while the rear rigid suspension is a 3-point design with a 1.5mm thickness FRP T-bar and single CVA oil damper; teamed up with sponge tires front and rear, they ensure superb traction on smooth asphalt and carpeted surfaces. Additionally, use of spacers allows two different front and three rear ground clearance setups.

Details

- The distinctive long-tail body, front and rear light cases, and wing are separately molded in polycarbonate.
- Features black ABS plastic side mirrors and wing stays.
- Based around an ABS plastic bathtub, with space frames front and rear and FRP plates, the chassis is a composite design that offers a rigid base to back up the fluid suspension: the result is a crisp, responsive driving experience.
- The model is powered by a Sport-Tuned motor and uses a direct drive setup with spur and pinion gear mated to a ball pressure plate differential for smooth cornering performance.
- Dish (front) and 5-spoke (rear) wheels are paired with high-grip sponge tires.
- Includes 540 Sport Tuned brushed motor.

Another Classic

PORSCHE 911 CARRERA RSR 2.8

1/10 SCALE R/C 2WD HIGH PERFORMANCE RACING CAR

ITEM 58740 L:457mm 2WD ASSEMBLY KIT R/C system, battery pack and charger sold separately.

The iconic Porsche 911 RSR 2.8 makes its way to the highly versatile BT-01 chassis! To faithfully recreate the motor and drive train layout as much as possible of the full-size car, this kit instructs the builder to assemble the chassis in the short wheelbase, midship rear motor / rear wheel drive (MR) setup. This layout configuration provides rear wheel drive handling excitement at every turn and exciting throttle response.

Porsche 911 RSR 2.8:

The Porsche Carrera RS 2.7 is a legend of the Porsche 911 series. Developed to join European GT races in 1973, it employed a 2,687cc horizontally opposed 6-cylinder engine capable of 210hp, a lightweight body with improved aerodynamics, and wide rear tires. The Carrera RSR 2.8 racing version increased displacement to 2,808cc and output to over 300hp; in 1973, it was a European GT race champion and took numerous global victories.





Length: 457mm, width: 204mm, height: 138mm. Wheelbase: 251mm. (Short)

SKIMMING THE SURFACE

SKILL LEVEL

AT A GLANCE

TYPE
Watercraft

LENGTH
29.76”

DRIVETRAIN
42mm
2-blade Prop

POWER
Electric

BUILD
RTR

PRICE
$349.99

THE ALL-NEW TRAXXAS DISRUPTOR BRUSHLESS 4S SPEEDBOAT

Text by Jerry Tsai
Images courtesy of Traxxas

Nothing beats the thrill of hammering down the throttle of a brushless vehicle—especially when that vehicle has no wheels. We’re talking about RC speedboats, and if you have never piloted one before, we have to inform you that you’re missing out.

Splashing around at high speed is a thrill that we hope all RC enthusiasts get to enjoy. Traxxas must agree, since they just dropped an all-new RC speedboat, the Disruptor. The Traxxas Disruptor is a brushless 4S-powered speedboat designed for RC enthusiasts looking for high-speed aquatic action.

Engineered to reach speeds of over an astonishing 50 mph, the Disruptor combines Traxxas’ reputation for rugged durability with advanced technology, offering both performance and precision.

Traxxas offers a Tandem-Axle Boat trailer specifically made to tow the Disruptor with.

A DEEP DIVE

The heart of the Disruptor lies in its Velineon 540XL brushless motor paired with a 4S LiPo-compatible VXL-4S Marine ESC. This new power system is engineered for speed and control, giving the boat the ability to slice through the water with incredible power and agility.

The 26" Deep-V hull design, complete with an integrated dual trim tab system, enhances stability at high speeds while reducing drag. Whether on smooth surfaces or choppy waters, the Disruptor delivers a thrilling experience.





Designed for high-RPM marine applications, the included brushless outboard motor and VXL-4s Marine ESC can send the Disruptor racing in excess of 40mph over water.

The VXL-4S ESC provides precise throttle control, ensuring a responsive and smooth acceleration curve. This ESC is fully waterproof, giving it reliability in all conditions. Paired with a 4S LiPo battery, the boat's power output allows for extended run times and aggressive handling on the water.

ALL SKILL LEVELS

The Traxxas Disruptor is built with more than just speed in mind—it's designed for stability and nimble handling, making it accessible for all skill levels.

The Deep-V hull design provides excellent stability, even at top speeds. This hull shape keeps the boat steady during sharp turns, helping prevent the possibility of flipping or spinning out. The center of gravity and layout have been carefully engineered to balance weight for optimal control during both high-speed straight runs and quick, responsive maneuvers.

The boat is equipped with an adjustable stainless-steel trim tab system and dual pickup rudders. This setup enhances directional stability and ensures the cooling system functions efficiently. The high-torque, waterproof servo provides precise

Disruptor's hatch is secured by a handy clipless latching system.





No painting required, the speedboat features great looking factory applied graphics.



Traxxas Rapid Self Righting

Traxxas' self-righting feature is a game-changer for RC boat enthusiasts. If your boat flips over during high-speed runs, this feature quickly gets it back on its hull with minimal downtime. By simply blipping the reverse throttle on the transmitter, the boat uses a burst of motor power to right itself, saving you from the hassle of retrieval. This innovative feature ensures more time on the water and less time dealing with an overturned boat, making your RC boating experience safer and more enjoyable.

The Disruptor's ABS hull features a sleek shape that helps it glide and dice through the water with ease and agility.

steering, allowing for tight, controlled cornering at any speed. Whether you're racing or just out for fun, the Disruptor maintains precision handling that sets it apart from other RC boats in its class.

SLEEK DESIGN

Traxxas has given the Disruptor an eye-catching, streamlined design that matches its high-speed capabilities. The boat features a durable, injection-molded ABS hull and rugged construction that can withstand the abuse of aggressive RC boating.

In addition to its performance features, the boat's aesthetics are equally impressive. The sleek, aerodynamic body comes in multiple striking color schemes, making it as visually exciting as it is fun to pilot.

The Disruptor comes fully assembled and is almost ready for the water right out of the box. All it needs are the batteries and charger. Traxxas includes their 2-channel TQ 2.4GHz radio system, known for providing a responsive and interference-free connection. The boat's electronics—including the servo, ESC, and motor—are waterproof, ensuring reliability in wet conditions.

Hitch Disruptor's available trailer to your TRX-4 for amazing boat launching realism.

TRAXXAS DISRUPTOR BRUSHLESS 45 SPEEDBOAT VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: 106064-4
MSRP: $349.95
URL: traxxas.com

Length: 29.76"
Hull: Deep-V, Injection-molded ABS
Drive system: Direct drive 0.15-inch flex cable
Prop: 42 mm 2-blade composite (59 mm pitch)
Outdrive: Anodized aluminum
Motor: Velineon 14-pole brushless outrunner
Radio: Traxxas TQ 2.4GHz
ESC: Velineon VXL-4s Marine
Steering Servo: Traxxas 2056 waterproof high-torque
Requires: Batteries for the transmitter and boat, battery charger

FINAL WORD

For those looking to push the boundaries of speed and performance on the water, the Traxxas Disruptor is an exciting, top-tier option in the RC boating world. Whether you're racing or just enjoying a day on the water, the Disruptor offers an exhilarating and reliable RC boating experience.



PILOTING RC SPEEDBOATS

Piloting RC speedboats like the Traxxas Disruptor offers an exhilarating experience, combining speed, precision, and the thrill of water racing. The challenge of navigating through waves or racing against other boats brings a unique rush for enthusiasts. For safe operation, always pilot your RC boat in designated areas away from swimmers or real boats. Keep a safe distance from shorelines, and ensure your electronics are waterproof. Regularly inspect your boat for damage before and after runs, and avoid operating in rough conditions to prevent loss or damage to your model.

THE LEGENDARY 962

TAKING A LOOK AT TAMIYA'S LIMITED EDITION PORSCHE 956

Text by Jerry Tsai

Images courtesy of Tamiya

The Tamiya Porsche 956 RC model brings the glory of one of the most iconic endurance racers to the world of radio control. Developed for Group C regulations, the Porsche 956 dominated the 1983 World Endurance Championship, winning all seven races that season, including the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans.

This 1/10-scale assembly kit faithfully re-creates the 1983 Le Mans version of the Porsche 956, featuring a sleek long-tail body and detailed polycarbonate moldings for the lights and wings. Tamiya's craftsmanship ensures that this model captures the aggressive yet elegant appearance of the original car.



SKILL LEVEL

AT A GLANCE

TYPE
On-Road

SCALE
1/10

DRIVETRAIN
RWD

POWER
Electric

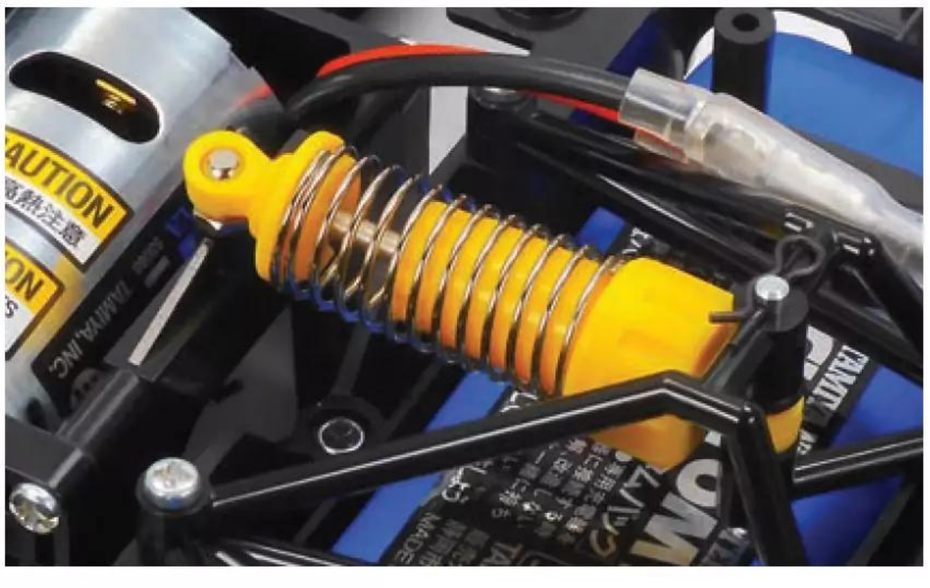
BUILD
Assembly Kit

PRICE
$208

Tamiya is renowned for its accurate RC bodies and detailed decals, and this Porsche 956 kit is no different.

PERFORMANCE-FOCUSED

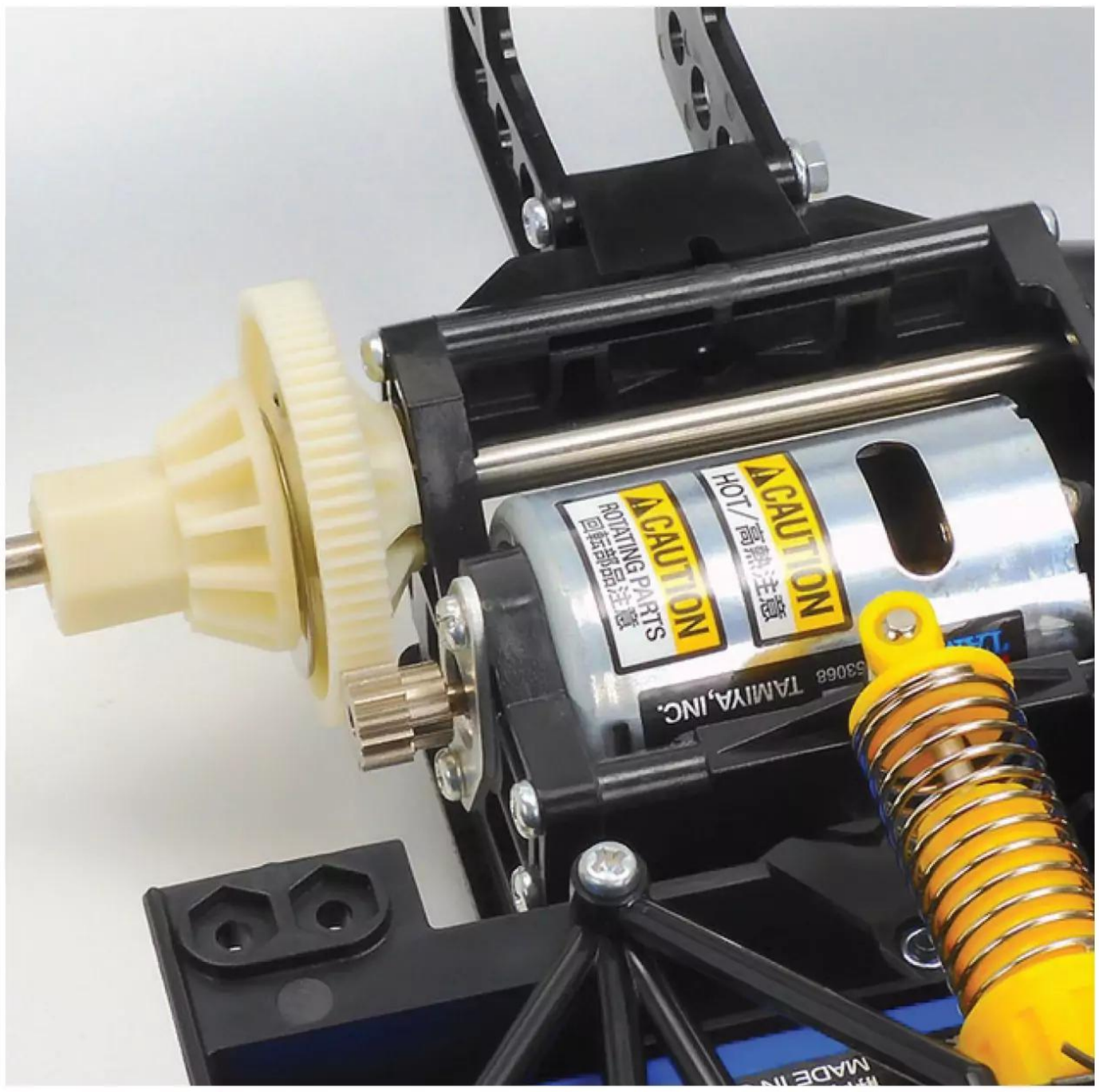
The Porsche 956 is powered by Tamiya's 540 Sport-Tuned motor and uses a direct-drive setup, with a ball pressure plate differential to deliver smooth, controlled cornering. The chassis is a composite design that combines an ABS plastic bathtub frame with FRP plates to provide a solid, responsive base. It's designed for sharp, crisp handling, making it a joy to drive on smooth surfaces like asphalt or carpet.



A 1.5mm-thick FRP T-bar and CVA oil damper are the stars of the 956's rear suspension.



The Porsche is powered by a Sport-Tuned motor, and it uses a direct-drive setup with the spur gear next to the ball-style diff.



FANCY FOOTWORK

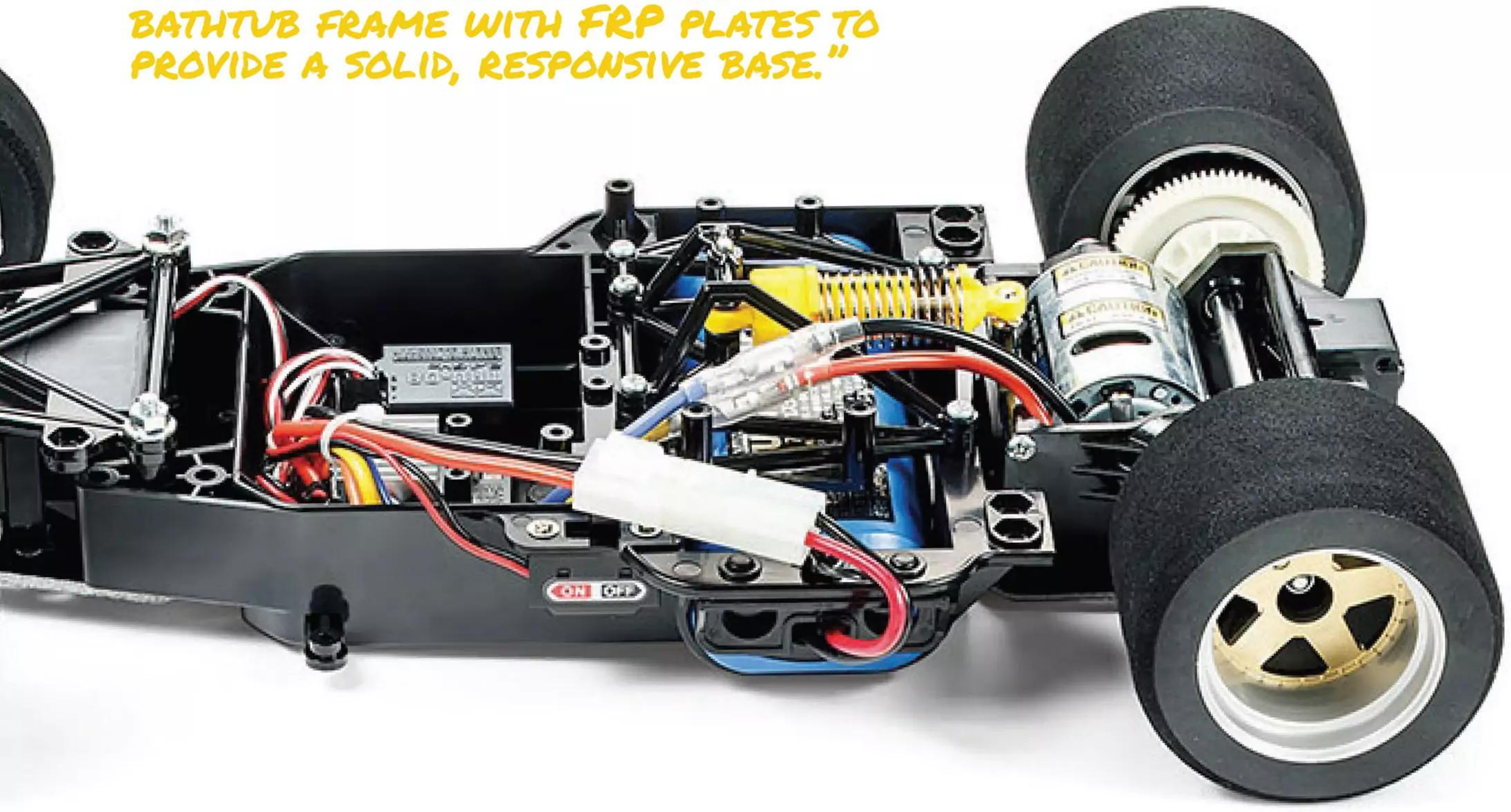
The suspension setup is equally impressive, with independent coil-sprung king pin suspension at the front and a three-point rear setup using an FRP T-bar and a single CVA oil damper. This combination, paired with high-grip sponge tires, endows the Porsche 956 with excellent traction and handling.

Tuning options include adjustable ground clearance, with two front and three rear setups possible using spacers, to allow drivers to fine-tune their car's performance for different track conditions.

SCALE DETAILS

The model boasts meticulous attention to scale accuracy.

"THE CHASSIS IS A COMPOSITE DESIGN THAT COMBINES AN ABS PLASTIC BATHTUB FRAME WITH FRP PLATES TO PROVIDE A SOLID, RESPONSIVE BASE."





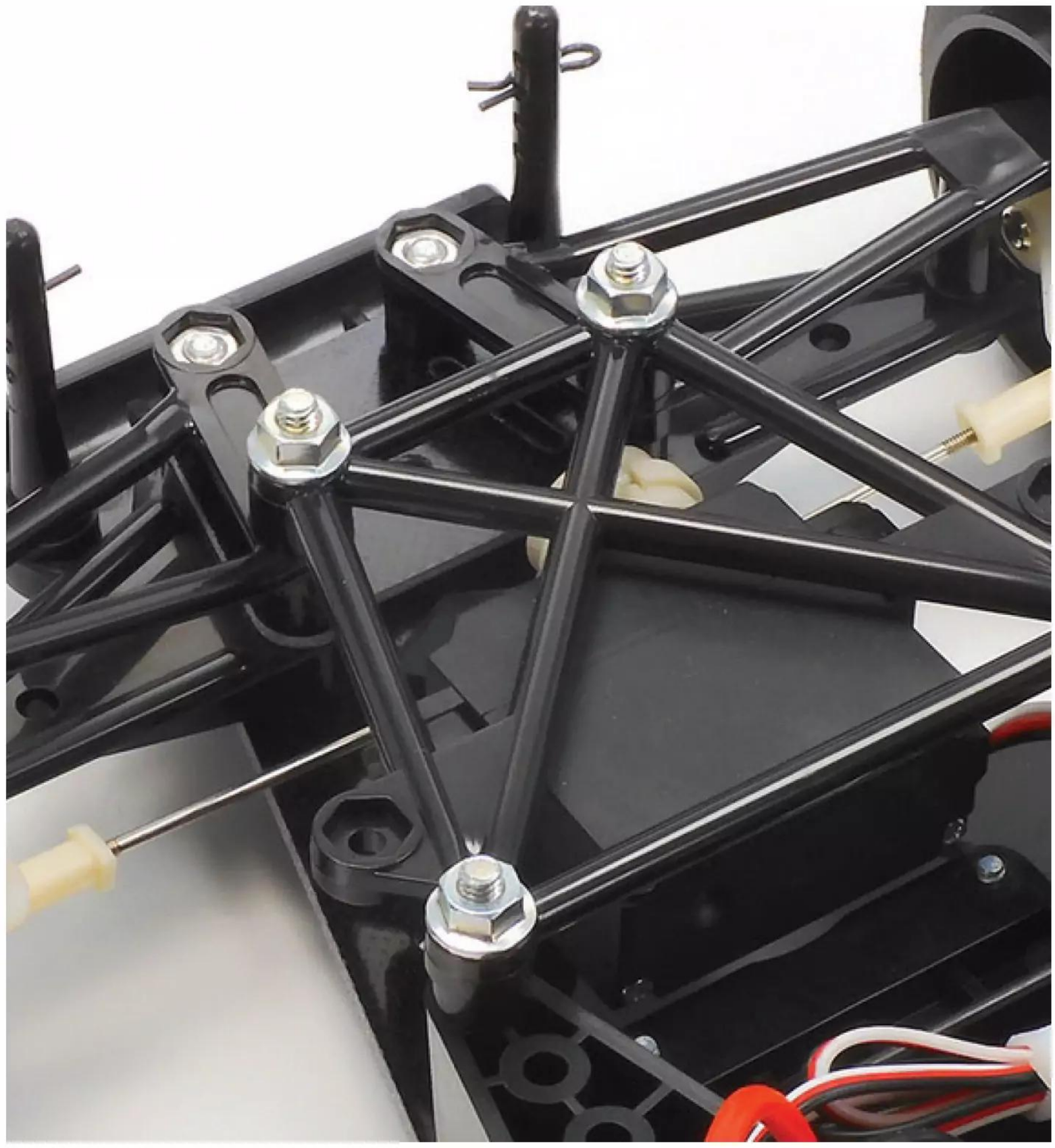
956: Total Domination

The Porsche 956 is one of the most successful prototype sports cars in racing history. Introduced in 1982 for Group C competition, it dominated the World Endurance Championship, securing both the Manufacturer's and Driver's Championships in its debut year. The 956 achieved legendary status by winning the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1982, 1983, and 1984. With victories in all seven races of the 1983 World Endurance season, the 956 established itself as a symbol of Porsche's engineering excellence in endurance racing. Tamiya's RC replica is a fitting tribute to this dominating racecar.

Porsche 956 at Isle of Man 1984 by daves_archive _inactive, Flickr licensed under CC BY 2.0

The bodywork is not just a single mold; instead, the light cases, mirrors, and wings are separately molded, allowing for more realistic detailing.

It comes with a set of dish wheels up front and five-spoke wheels in the rear, both designed to replicate the original car's racing setup. These wheels, along with the car's body, require painting, giving enthusiasts an opportunity to customize their model's appearance.



The chassis features a direct two-piece steering tie-rod setup. Its sturdy front space frame provides rigidity for the car's frontend.

A look at the Porsche 956's aerodynamically sculpted body from the rear, re-created accurately in polycarbonate.



TAMIYA PORSCHE 956 VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: 47508
MSRP: $208
URL: tamiyausa.com

Scale: 1/10
Chassis: ABS plastic
Shocks: : CVA oil filled
Suspension: Mono-shock rear, coil spring front
Drivetrain: RWD
Body: Unpainted polycarbonate
Wheels: Dish (front) and 5-spoke (rear)
Tires: High-grip sponge
Motor: Tamiya 540 Sport Tuned brushed
Requires: 2-channel radio, servo, ESC, 7.2V battery with compatible charger, paint



Here's a closer look at the racecar's front suspension, which uses a king pin and coil spring setup.

FINAL WORD

Tamiya's limited edition Porsche 956 is a must-have for both collectors and performance-driven RC enthusiasts. With its blend of detailed scale realism and high-performance features, this model brings the excitement of one of the world's greatest endurance racers to life. Whether you're building it for display or racing it on the track, the Porsche 956 offers a blend of historic charm and modern RC performance.

TROPHY TRUCK

ACTION

ARRMA 1/8 MOJAVE 4X4 4S BLX DESERT TRUCK RTR

Text by Jerry Tsai
Images courtesy of Horizon Hobby

The Arrma 1/8 Mojave 4X4 4S BLX Desert Truck RTR is a high-performance RC vehicle designed for serious off-road enthusiasts. This 1/8-scale model offers a thrilling combination of power, durability, and agility, making it ideal for tackling a variety of terrains with ease.



AT A GLANCE

TYPE
Off-Road

SCALE
1/8

DRIVETRAIN
4WD

POWER
Electric

BUILD
RTR

PRICE
$499.99

“Don’t just bash. Blast.” It isn’t just Arrma’s slogan, but also the fun-to-drive Mojave’s calling card.

POWER AND SPEED

At the heart of the Mojave 4X4 4S BLX is a powerful 4S-capable Spektrum Firma 120A ESC paired with a Firma 2400kV brushless motor. This setup delivers impressive torque and speed, allowing the truck to achieve velocities that make it stand out on any track or trail.

The power system is designed to handle the roughest terrain, from dirt to sand, giving drivers the ability to push the limits without compromising control. The truck is 4S LiPo compatible, providing ample power for extended sessions and aggressive driving.





The 1/8-scale Mojave features protective parts such as wishbone dirt guards that help increase its reliability.



The Real Desert Racing Trucks

Desert racing trucks, like those the Arrma Mojave 4X4 4S BLX replicates, are built for endurance and speed across some of the toughest terrain in the world. Known as "trophy trucks" in professional off-road racing, these vehicles feature powerful engines, advanced suspension systems, and rugged tires to tackle sand, dirt, and rocky stretches at high speeds. With aggressive body designs and durable components, they can withstand the extreme heat and harsh environments of desert racing, making them some of the most durable vehicles in motorsport.

The Firma 120A ESC provides smooth and reliable power delivery, while the high-torque motor enables the Mojave to handle tough climbs and challenging off-road conditions. Additionally, the truck comes equipped with a heat sink and fan for motor cooling to ensure that the system remains stable even during intense runs.

RUGGED DURABILITY

Arrma is known for building RC vehicles that can take a beating, and the Mojave 4X4 4S BLX is no exception. This trophy truck features a tough composite chassis that provides a strong foundation, allowing it to absorb impacts and handle rough landings. The wide stance and robust suspension system help the truck maintain stability over uneven terrain, while the multi-



The desert truck's tough MT multi-spoke wheels are mounted on these CNC-machined, red anodized hubs.



The 4S BLX 4X4 is built to handle amped-up brushless power with a strong composite chassis and protective front and rear skid plates.

terrain dBoots Fortress LP vented tires offer excellent traction across various surfaces.

The vehicle's 4X4 drivetrain, complete with durable differentials and strong metal gears, ensures smooth power transfer and reliability in harsh conditions. The rugged chassis guards and side impact protection further enhance the truck's ability to withstand hard crashes and jumps. This level of durability makes the Mojave 4X4 4S BLX a great option for both beginner and advanced RC enthusiasts who want to push the boundaries of what their vehicles can handle.

TERRAIN CHEWER

The Mojave's suspension system is designed to provide optimal performance over tough terrain. The oversized oil-filled shocks with large-bore pistons allow for superior handling and control, absorbing impacts while keeping the truck stable during high-speed runs and big jumps.

The trophy truck's responsive handling is further enhanced by its fully adjustable turnbuckles and threaded shocks, which allow drivers to fine-tune the suspension to match their driving style or the terrain at hand. This customization makes the Mojave 4X4 4S BLX highly versatile and capable of adapting to a wide range of off-road conditions and driving demands.

TROPHY LOOKS

Aesthetically, the Mojave 4X4 4S BLX stands out with its desert racing inspired body and aggressive styling. The truck's polycarbonate body shell is not only durable but also features striking, high-quality graphics that add to its visual appeal. Its aerodynamic design and protective body panels give it a sleek look while making sure the truck can handle the wind resistance and debris it encounters on off-road tracks.

READY-TO-RUN CONVENIENCE

The Mojave 4X4 4S BLX comes fully assembled and ready to run (RTR), making it a convenient option for RC enthusiasts who want to hit the trail right out of the box. This desert truck does require one 4S, two 2S, or one 3S LiPo battery, along with a compatible charger, which are not included in the box.

Arrma does include a Spektrum SLT3 2.4GHz transmitter, which offers precise control and easy adjustments for throttle limits, steering rates, and other settings. The receiver is waterproof, ensuring that the truck can handle wet or muddy conditions without performance issues.

This desert truck doesn't shy away from dirt, thanks to its chassis dirt drain and an inner body that helps keep its internals clean.





dBoots Fortress LP tires are vented to let air in and out for improved traction. The vents also allow water and dirt to escape for increased tire life.



ARRMA 1/8 MOJAVE 4X4 4S BLX DESERT TRUCK RTR VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: ARA4404
MSRP: $499.99
URL: arrma-rc.com

Scale: 1/8
Chassis: Composite
Shocks: Oil-filled coilover
Suspension: 4-wheel fully independent
Drivetrain: 4WD
Body: Painted and decorated
Wheels: Black multi-spoke
Tires: dBoots Fortress LP
Motor: Spektrum Firma 2400kV
Radio: Spektrum 2.4GHz SLT3 transmitter and SR315 receiver
ESC: Spektrum Firma 120A ESC with IC5 connectors
Steering Servo: Spektrum S652 metal-geared waterproof digital servo
Requires: Two 2S LiPo or one 3S or 4S LiPo battery with EC5 or IC5 connector, battery charger

FINAL WORD

The Arrma 1/8 Mojave 4X4 4S BLX Desert Truck RTR is an excellent choice for off-road enthusiasts looking for a powerful, durable, and versatile RC vehicle. With its combination of speed, ruggedness, and high-performance handling, this desert truck is built for serious RC drivers who want to tackle a variety of terrains. Its RTR setup makes it accessible to both beginners and seasoned veterans, offering hours of off-road excitement right out of the box.



Pro-Line Mirage TT Belted Tires

We love using Pro-Line Racing's Mirage TT Belted Tires on our Arrma Mojave 4X4. The belted design handles extreme power and high speeds without ballooning, offering a major performance boost. The scale look combined with M2 compound grip makes these tires perfect for any surface, ensuring durability and control during intense bashing sessions.

THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF

SKILL LEVEL

AT A GLANCE

TYPE
Off-Road

SCALE
1/24

DRIVETRAIN
4WD

POWER
Electric

BUILD
RTR

PRICE
$149.99

OFF-ROADING

A LOOK AT AXIAL'S ALL-NEW SCX24 LEXUS GX 470 RTR

Text by Jerry Tsai
Images courtesy of Horizon Hobby

Keeping eyes on what's popular on the 1:1 off-road trails, we're excited that the team at Axial made moves to create an RC replica of one of the hottest off-road and overland SUVs on the trails today: the Lexus GX 470.

Axial's Lexus GX 470 is an exciting addition to the brand's popular SCX24 lineup, bringing luxury and off-road capability together in a 1/24-scale RC vehicle. Just like its full-size counterpart, the replica GX 470 is a stylish, rugged overlander ready for adventure.

AUTHENTIC LOOKS

The SCX24 Lexus GX 470 offers a highly detailed, injection-molded body that's officially licensed by Lexus. It's available in three color options, giving enthusiasts a choice to match their personal style.

With features like a snorkel, roof rack, ladder, recovery boards, and fuel containers, this model comes packed with all the accessories that an overlander would need. The scale realism is enhanced by LED running lights in the bumper, making it perfect for nighttime driving and adding to its overall appearance.



The GX 470 comes with accurately reproduced and licensed Black Rhino wheels with Nitto tires.





The luxury SUV comes with working LED running lights.

SCX24 PERFORMANCE

Underneath the detailed exterior, the SCX24 Lexus GX 470 delivers impressive off-road performance. Axial equipped this model with steel C-channel chassis rails, mimicking the construction of full-scale trucks and ensuring structural integrity on tough trails. The worm gear axles with all-metal gears provide durable power delivery, essential for crawling over obstacles and rough terrain.

One of the notable upgrades in this version of the SCX24 is the inclusion of oil-filled composite shocks, a popular feature among hobbyists looking for enhanced suspension performance. These shocks absorb impacts effectively and provide smoother handling on rugged surfaces to improve both the truck's performance and durability.



"Out of the box, this ready- to-run truck comes fully assembled andincludes everything you need to hit the trail..."



Axial Trailer

Axial's SCX24 Flat Bed Vehicle Trailer adds scale realism and fun to your 1/24 scale adventures. Designed for SCX24 rigs like the Lexus GX 470, it features functional ramps, 1.75" rubber tires, and pre-wired red LED lights. Load up your AX24 or similarly sized crawler, hitch it up, and tow it to the trail for an authentic scale experience!

ELECTRONICS & POWER

The SCX24 Lexus GX 470 is powered by a Dynamite 88-turn brushed motor, which delivers the torque necessary for crawling over rocks, dirt, and other obstacles. The reliable Spektrum electronics include a 2-in-1 ESC/receiver system that ensures smooth control and responsiveness. The model is equipped with a Spektrum SLT2 2.4GHz transmitter, offering precise steering and throttle inputs, making it an excellent choice for both beginners and experienced drivers.

The included Spektrum 7.4V 350mAh 2S LiPo battery powers the GX 470, providing long-lasting performance during extended crawling sessions. The battery is easily rechargeable using the included Spektrum USB charger, offering convenience for drivers on the go.

The SCX24 Lexus GX 470 rolls on officially licensed Nitto tires mounted on Black Rhino wheels, which are available in either gray or bronze. These tires provide excellent traction on a variety of surfaces, allowing the truck to tackle everything from smooth rocks to loose dirt. The realistic tire design and durable construction ensure that the GX 470's performance is as on-point as its looks.

READY TO RUN

Out of the box, this ready-to-run truck comes fully assembled and includes everything you need to hit the trail, even the battery and charger. With no extra RC gear to buy, it makes an excellent choice for newcomers to the RC hobby.



With features like a snorkel, roof rack, ladder, recovery boards, and fuel containers, the GX 470 is ready for your next RC overlanding adventure.

AXIAL SCX24 LEXUS GX 470 VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: AXI-1532
MSRP: $149.99
URL: axialadventure.com

Scale:	1/24
Chassis:	Steel C-channel
Shocks:	Oil-filled coilover
Suspension:	4-wheel fully independent
Drivetrain:	4WD
Body:	Painted and decorated
Wheels:	Licensed Black Rhino
Tires:	Licensed Nitto
Motor:	Dynamite 88-turn brushed
Radio:	Spektrum SLT2 2.4GHz
ESC:	Spektrum 2-in-1 ESC
Steering Servo:	Axial AS-1
Requires:	Nothing needed… truly ready to run; everything is included.

FINAL WORD

The Axial SCX24 Lexus GX 470 is a must-have for RC enthusiasts who value both style and performance. Its combination of scale realism, durable construction, and upgraded features makes it an exciting option for those who want to take their mini off-roading experience to the next level. Whether you're an overlanding fan or a scale crawler enthusiast, this model offers the perfect blend of luxury and off-road capability in a compact package.

Off-Roading in Luxury



The Lexus GX 470, originally designed as a luxury SUV, has gained significant popularity in the off-roading and overlanding communities. It may seem funny that a luxury SUV has become so popular with hardcore off-roaders, but underneath that luxurious Lexus sheet metal lies a truly capable Toyota 120 Series Land Cruiser Prado. With its robust body-on-frame construction, powerful V8 engine, and advanced 4WD system, the GX 470 is well-equipped for rugged terrain. Its combination of luxury and durability makes it a top choice for adventurers looking to explore off the beaten path in style. Enthusiasts appreciate its reliability and comfort, both of which make it a favorite for long-distance overlanding and off-road excursions.

ALL-IN ON RC



Q&A

AXIAL'S BRAND STRATEGIST MATT HIGGINS TALKS THE TALK & CRAWLS THE CRAWLER

Text by Jerry Tsai
Images by Matt Higgins and Axial

When it comes to rock crawling and off-road RC, few names are as synonymous with the hobby as Axial. At the forefront of this iconic brand is Matt Higgins, the Brand Strategist responsible for shaping how Axial brings its innovative products to market. Whether it's promoting the latest RC crawler or supporting events around the globe, Matt's passion for the hobby fuels every project he undertakes.

Matt is a former Group Editor-in-Chief of RC Car Action (RCCA), so it was great catching up with him in this exclusive interview, where he opens up about his role at Axial, his history with the RC community, and what the future holds for the brand and the hobby as a whole.





RCCA: **HOW DID YOU GET INTO RC CRAWLING?**

MH: As a full-size off-road enthusiast, I had been doing some "kit bashing" for a little while. I'd modify touring cars and slap on truck bodies with rally tires. They didn't perform all that well, but they looked the part. When purpose-built RC crawlers started coming out, I was instantly hooked—just like I had been when I first got into RC. I've been building crawlers ever since, from early Supers to 2.2 rigs, but the scale stuff is where my heart is, and, the reality is—at least in my opinion—the scale aspect is what's really kept this segment from being a flash in the pan.

RCCA: **DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RC CAR?**

MH: There's no way I could have a single favorite, but the Axial SCX10 II instantly comes to mind to top a list. The SCX10 III Base Camp Builder's Kit is right there. As a Jeep owner, I absolutely love my SCX10 III Jeep CJ-7. For bashing, my current favorite is the Arrma Gorgon. It's the perfect backyard basher. I've also been experimenting with pullers and drag cars lately, and I even fly a little bit. The variety in the hobby right now is just amazing.

RCCA: **WHERE DO YOU SEE THE HOBBY AND THE ROCK CRAWLING SEGMENT GOING IN THE FUTURE?**

MH: Both the hobby and the crawling segment are continuing to grow, but in terms of brand-new categories, things have leveled off a bit. What's exciting, though, is the variety. You have everything from micros like the SCX24 to large-scale rigs like the SCX6, and I think we'll see more vehicles that combine performance with incredible realism, like the Axial CJ-7. People are leaning more toward creative builds and less toward strict rule-based RC competition, which keeps things fun. Technology will also continue to advance, with features like Spektrum's Smart Technology making RC more accessible than ever.

RCCA: **YOU TALKED ABOUT RULES IN RC AND PEOPLE NOT WANTING TO BUILD TO RULES. DO YOU SEE RULES AS A BAD THING?**

MH: Rules aren't inherently bad, but they need balance. Some segments, like No Prep drag racing, suffered because rules became too lax, leading to overly competitive builds and losing the fun, casual spirit. Better rules could have slowed its decline. In rock crawling,





creativity is key, and complex rules can stifle that. Competitions need guidelines, but simpler is better. Too loose, like no penalties for rollovers or repositions, doesn't work, but overly strict rules, like excessive body measurements, also don't fit. The challenge is finding the sweet spot that keeps things fun and fair for everyone. So, yes to rules, but keep it relatively simple and know your audience.

RCCA: **WHY DO YOU THINK THE MINI CRAWLER SEGMENT HAS BEEN SO STRONG FOR SO LONG?**

MH: There are a lot of reasons. The SCX24 is budget-friendly and has a ton of aftermarket support. You can hop up every part, and it won't break the bank. Plus, the small size means you can crawl anywhere—even in your living room. It's great for beginners and seasoned hobbyists alike. And once you get one, you'll want more. It's like the Pringles of the RC world—you can't have just one.

RCCA: **WHAT'S NEXT FOR AXIAL?**

MH: Axial has big plans. We're going to keep expanding with more minis and micros, more large-scale rigs, and everything in between. Our product development team is incredibly talented, and you can expect to see new additions to existing platforms as well as all-new ones. Axial is committed to staying at the forefront of the RC crawling scene, and we're going to keep pushing the envelope. So, like I said, we'll be keeping things fresh with updates and new versions, but will also be unveiling completely new platforms. Again, Axial is the leader and plans to stay there.

FINAL WORD

With a passion that runs deep and a finger on the pulse of the hobby, Matt Higgins is not just shaping Axial's future—he's helping to lead the entire rock crawling community into its next chapter. Whether it's a mini crawler or a large-scale rig, if it's Axial, you know it's built with the same enthusiasm and love for the hobby that drives Matt every day.

For more on Matt, you can follow his YouTube channel, In2RC, at: youtube.com/@In2RC-1.

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER



AT A GLANCE

TYPE
Off-Road

SCALE
1/18

DRIVETRAIN
4WD

POWER
Electric

BUILD
RTR

PRICE
$269.99

THE LOSI MINI LMT SON-UVA DIGGER MONSTER TRUCK RTR

Text by John Scott
Images courtesy of Losi

Losi has outdone themselves once again with the Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger, bringing the thrill of full-scale monster truck action to the 1/18-scale world. Paying tribute to the iconic Son-Uva Digger, this compact monster truck is designed to deliver the same excitement and scaled-down jaw-dropping stunts that fans have come to expect from the full-sized version.

The Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger features a detailed, miniaturized body that captures the spirit of the famous monster truck. From its signature blue flames to the intricate skeletal graphics, this model doesn't just look good—it commands attention.

Beneath the aggressive styling is a durable composite chassis that promises to take on rough landings and extreme maneuvers with ease, ensuring this mini monster is more than ready for serious action.

MONSTER PERFORMANCE

Under the hood, the Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger is powered by a 25T 380-sized brushed motor paired with a Spektrum 2-in-1 ESC/receiver. This robust setup ensures that the truck delivers the torque and speed needed for high jumps, flips, and those gravity-defying stunts that make monster truck events so captivating. Thanks to its 4WD drivetrain, power is evenly distributed across all four wheels to provide excellent traction and control on various terrains—from dirt tracks to smooth pavement.

The Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger's underpinnings are just as impressive as those of its full-sized counterpart. With



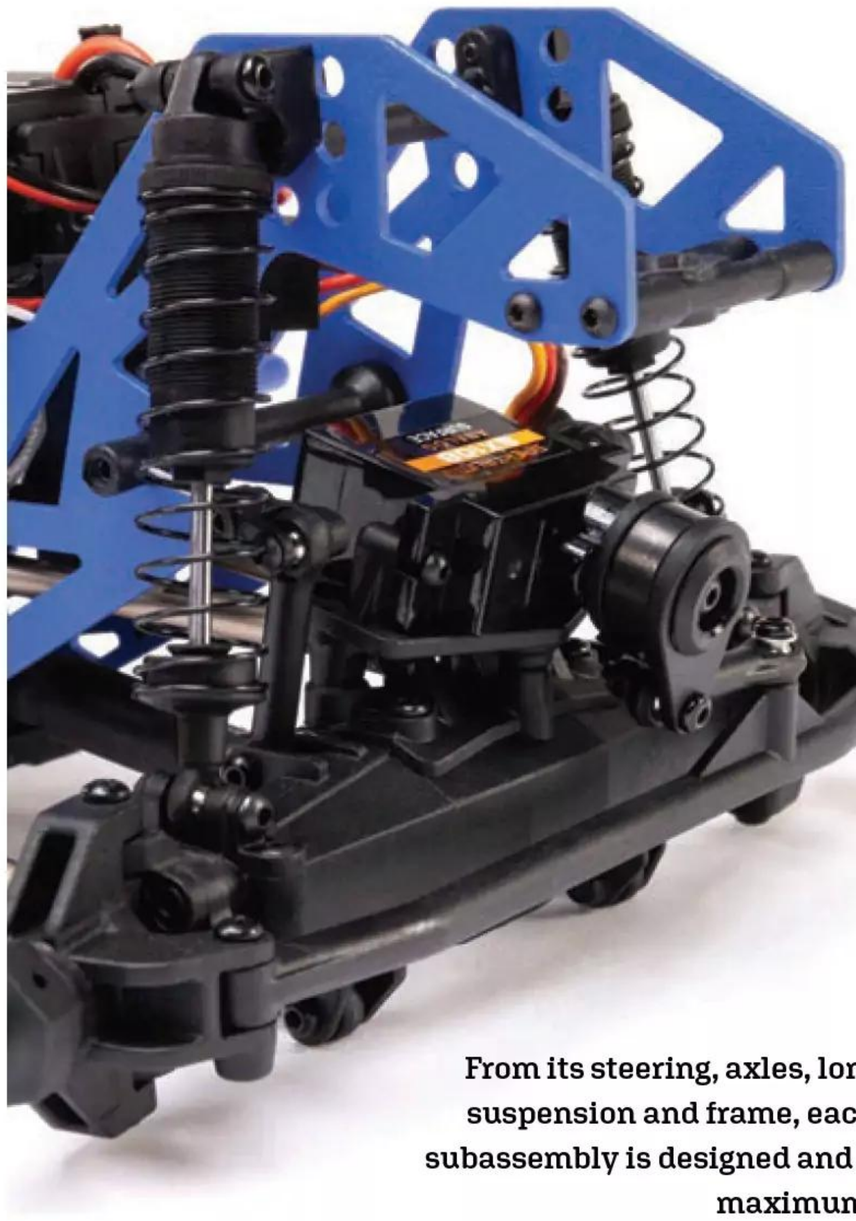
Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger is a ready-to-run kit that comes pre-assembled and ready to roll right out of the box.

long-travel shocks and a multi-link suspension, this truck handles jumps and obstacles with exceptional stability and precision. Whether you're charging over rough terrain or taking on a backyard course, the Mini LMT's suspension ensures a smooth, controlled ride that will leave you confident and in control.

And let's not forget the tires—they are officially licensed BKTs, the very same used by Monster Jam pros. The chevron tread pattern provides superior grip, while the smooth sidewalls minimize the chance of rollovers by reducing the risk of catching on obstacles. Losi has truly paid attention to the smallest details, bringing a level of realism and performance that's hard to match.

BUILT FOR TOUGH PLAY

Built to handle rough play and tumbles, the Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger features a rugged design that's built to last. The waterproof electronics allow you to take on wet and muddy



From its steering, axles, long-travel suspension and frame, each robust subassembly is designed and built for maximum action.

Keeping things compact under the body, Son-Uva Digger is powered by a 25T 380-sized brushed motor paired with a Spektrum 25A 2-in-1 ESC/receiver. Note the realism of the officially licensed BKT monster truck tires.

Son-Uva-Digger is built for high-flying monster truck antics.

conditions without fear, making this truck perfect for all-weather adventures. Maintenance is also a breeze thanks to its modular design, making repairs and upgrades straightforward. This thoughtful engineering ensures you spend more time enjoying the action and less time worrying about upkeep.

READY-TO-RUN FUN

Out of the box, the Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger is fully assembled and ready to tear up the track. Whether you're new to the RC world or a seasoned enthusiast, the ready-to-run (RTR) format means you can jump straight into the action. The truck comes equipped with a Spektrum SLT2 2.4GHz transmitter for precise control, a high-capacity Spektrum Smart G2 810mAh 2S LiPo battery, and a Spektrum Smart G2 2S LiPo USB-C battery charger, giving you everything you need to start tearing it up right away.

COMMUNITY & COMPETITIONS

Owning a Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger isn't just about solo stunts and backyard fun—it's also about becoming part of a thriving RC community. Many local and national RC clubs host events and competitions where you can showcase your skills and pit your monster truck against others. These events offer a great opportunity to connect with fellow RC enthusiasts, pick up new techniques, and experience the thrill of competition.



LOSI 1/18 MINI LMT SON-UVA GRAVE DIGGER MONSTER TRUCK RTR VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: LOS01026T2
MSRP: $269.99
URL: losi.com

Scale: 1/18
Chassis: 1.5mm powdercoated 6061-T6 aluminum chassis plates
Shocks: Threaded oil-filled
Suspension: Multi-link
Drivetrain: 4WD
Body: Fully decorated
Wheels: Monster truck style
Tires: Licensed BKT monster truck style
Motor: 25T 380 brushed
ESC: Spektrum 25A 2-in-1
Included: Spektrum SLT2 2.4GHz radio, Spektrum Smart G2 2S LiPo USB-C battery charger, Spektrum Smart G2 810mAh 2S LiPo battery



Mini LMT features a neat and tightly packed chassis layout for optimal balance.

"OUT OF THE BOX, THE MINI LMT SON-UVA DIGGER IS FULLY ASSEMBLED AND READY TO TEAR UP THE TRACK."



FINAL WORD

The Losi Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger Monster Truck RTR features detailed design, impressive performance, and out-of-the-box convenience. It brings the excitement of full-scale monster truck racing into a compact, accessible package. Whether you're a novice looking for your first taste of RC fun or a veteran ready to conquer new challenges, this mini monster truck is guaranteed to deliver hours of entertainment. From backyard stunts to organized competitions, the Mini LMT Son-Uva Digger is ready to dig deep and take on whatever you throw at it.

TEST BENCH

RC PRODUCTS TESTED & EVALUATED

Text by James York
Images by Jerry Tsai



CTEK CS FREE 4-IN-1

The CTEK CS Free is a portable, 4-in-1 battery charger, maintainer, adaptive booster, and power bank designed primarily for automotive use. It works as a smart solution to keep your 12V batteries (both lead-acid and lithium) in top condition, even when off-grid. Its robust adaptive boost technology can bring a dead battery back to life in just 15 minutes without damaging electronics, which sets it apart from traditional jump-starters.

What makes the CS Free stand out is its ability to operate entirely off-grid, using solar panels or other power sources to charge its internal battery. With additional USB-A and USB-C outputs, it also doubles as a power bank for devices like smartphones, laptops, and





even RC battery chargers, making it a multi-functional tool.

Though designed for full-size vehicles, we've found the CS Free exceptionally useful in the RC world, particularly when we are ourselves off the grid, attending RC events where access to power outlets is limited. Its portability and large-capacity internal battery have allowed us to charge RC batteries anywhere, making it a vital part of our RC setup. Even during extended periods of use, the CS Free performed reliably, charging multiple batteries without needing to be plugged into an external power source.

Its rugged design and the added convenience of solar charging make it an ideal tool for RC enthusiasts who frequently find themselves in remote areas or at events. Its internal power bank battery has a capacity of 66Wh, which translates to 5500mAh at 12V. This reserve capacity, added to the ability of solar replenishment, allowed us to keep many RC vehicles running at events such as Axialfest and Pro-Line by the Fire.

Whether you're charging RC car batteries or using it as a power bank for your electronic devices, the CTEK CS Free offers plenty of flexibility, keeping your gear powered up without the need for traditional electrical outlets. Its dual-purpose functionality as both a 12V car battery booster and a maintainer also make it a great investment, especially if you're someone who loves versatility in your tools.

Being able to power your RC vehicles as well as jumpstart your actual vehicle provides peace of mind for those of us who take our RC hobby out to natural areas, away from the power grids of the city. Its compact size is a bonus, being able to fit easily in a bag or backpack.

The CS Free features both USB-A and USB-C sockets, allowing any number of RC battery chargers to be used with it. Pictured here are USB-A compatible chargers from Traxxas and FMS, but more powerful USB-C chargers from Traxxas, Gens Ace and other brands can really take advantage of the CS Free's deep well of reserve power. Using CS Free is simple; just plug in and press the power button.



That's it! Charging CS Free is also easy. Plug it into a house plug, the optional CTEK solar panel, or even use included alligator clips with a 12V car battery.

For the price, size and ease of use, we're very happy with it so far. As mentioned earlier, we have been using this at shows and events for a few months now to great effect. The CS Free may be designed for automotive use, but it's clear its applications extend far beyond, making it a great addition to the RC enthusiast's toolkit, especially when paired with CTEK's solar panel in off the grid areas.



CTEK CS Free 4-in-1
P/N: 40-462
MSRP: $209.95
URL: smartercharger.com

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AS REAL AS IT GETS



AT A GLANCE

TYPE
Off-Road

SCALE
1:10

DRIVETRAIN
4WD

POWER
Electric

BUILD
RTR

PRICE
$529.99

RC4WD TRAIL FINDER 2 RTR WITH 1982 TOYOTA PICKUP

Text by James York
Images Mike Wiene

The RC4WD Trail Finder 2 RTR with the 1982 Toyota Pickup Hard Body Set offers RC enthusiasts an incredible mix of scale realism and rugged off-road performance. Built to replicate the iconic Toyota pickup truck, this ready-to-run (RTR) model comes with stunning attention to detail, from its hard-body design to its fully functional suspension system.



RC4WD are masters at re-creating realistic-looking rigs. This handsome replica features accurate details like side mirrors, door handles, and bumpers—all molded into the body for an authentic look.

ICONIC TOYOTA DESIGN

This model is equipped with a fully licensed 1982 Toyota pickup hard body that captures every detail from the full-sized classic. It offers intricate details like side mirrors, door handles, and bumpers, all molded into the body for an authentic look. The classic square body lines, realistic decals, and scale-accurate proportions make it a head-turner both on the trail and on display.

BUILT FOR ACTION

But it isn't just for looks. Built on RC4WD's



The pickup's retro chrome wheels come shod with RC4WD's licensed BFGoodrich All Terrain K02.

The 3rd-Gen Toyota Pickup



1982 Toyota Pickup SR5 4WD by Mr.choppers licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

The third-generation Toyota Pickup, produced from 1979 to 1983, became an icon of reliability and rugged performance. Known for its tough construction, 4WD capability, and versatility, it became a favorite among off-road enthusiasts and adventurers. This generation also marked the introduction of the legendary Toyota Hilux to the U.S. market. Its durability and off-road prowess made it a popular choice for overlanding and recreational use and cemented its status as a classic in both real-life and scale-model RC forms—like the RC4WD Trail Finder 2.

proven Trail Finder 2 chassis, this truck is designed for serious off-road action. The twin ladder frame chassis is made from billet aluminum, offering strength and durability. Combine that with steel leaf springs and the realistic suspension setup gives the Trail Finder 2 the ability to handle rugged terrain while maintaining scale accuracy.

The truck is powered by a brushed motor and a reliable two-speed transmission, allowing for both high-speed cruising and slow, controlled crawling. The transfer case delivers torque to the axles through heavy-duty steel driveshafts to deliver smooth, consistent power.

FUNCTIONAL FEATURES

The Trail Finder 2 also comes equipped with RC4WD's Yota II axles, designed to provide reliable performance on rough terrain. These axles are paired with 1.55" beadlock wheels wrapped in 1.9" Mud Thrasher tires, giving the model excellent traction across dirt, gravel, and rocky trails. This combination of high-grip tires and solid axles enables the Trail Finder 2 to excel in off-road conditions, just like the full-sized Toyota pickup it replicates.



This pickup sure is satisfying to drive thanks in large part to its strong crawling capability and realistic looks.



There's no beating the looks of a hard bodied RC truck, and RC4WD's 1982 Toyota SR5 pickup is proof of that.

Although the Trail Finder 2 platform is capable of competition-level crawling, we were delicate with the controls so as to not damage the throwback paintjob.

READY-TO-RUN CONVENIENCE

This RTR model comes fully assembled and ready to hit the trails right out of the box. A 2.4GHz XR3 3-channel radio system is included to guarantee a reliable connection and smooth control over your truck.

Additionally, waterproof electronics make it suitable for use in varying weather conditions, so you can take it through puddles, mud, and dirt without worrying about damaging sensitive components. A 6-cell 3000mAh NiMH battery and a NiMH peak battery charger are also included.

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

The Toyota Pickup may be one of the more detailed RTR vehicles available, but don't let that stop you from heaping on some upgrade parts. RC4WD makes both upgrade and scale-accurate parts that can make this good-looking pickup into an off-road beast or a class-winning, highly detailed and accurate show vehicle. The choice is yours.

RADIO CONTROL car action

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Sporting front and rear leaf spring suspension, this truck not only looks the part but drives similarly to how a 1982 Toyota pickup would, only in 1/10 scale.

RC4WD TRAIL FINDER 2 RTR WITH THE 1982 TOYOTA PICKUP HARD BODY SET VEHICLE SPECS

P/N: Z-RTR0069
MSRP: $529.99
URL: store.rc4wd.com

Scale: 1/10
Chassis: Billet aluminum
Shocks: Oil-filled shocks
Suspension: Leaf springs front & rear
Drivetrain: 4WD
Body: Hard body
Wheels: Stamped Steel 1.7" beadlock SR5
Tires: RC4WD BFGoodrich All Terrain K02 1.7"
Motor: 540 Crawler brushed motor 45T
ESC: Outcry III waterproof ESC
Included: XR3 3-channel 2.4GHz transmitter/ receiver radio, RC4WD 6-cell 3000mAh NiMH battery pack, RC4WD universal NiMH peak battery charger

FINAL WORD

The RC4WD Trail Finder 2 RTR with the 1982 Toyota Pickup Hard Body Set represents a perfect blend of scale accuracy and off-road capability. With its detailed hard-body design and tough, performance-driven chassis, it's an excellent choice for RC enthusiasts who appreciate realism and performance. Whether you're looking to explore rugged terrain or simply showcase a highly detailed replica, the Trail Finder 2 delivers an impressive, all-around RC experience.

REDCAT

MEET THE FAMILY

1:10 Scale

ASCENT
1:10 BRUSHED

ASCENT FUSION
1:10 BRUSHLESS

1:18 Scale

ASCENT 18
ASCENT 1:18 BRUSHED

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