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Kraken RC KV5TT Replica Bryce Menzies Red Bull Trophy Truck

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Welcome to another thrilling issue of RC Car Action! Whether you're hitting the dirt, tackling trails, customizing your rigs, or hunting for the best RC gear, this edition is packed with inspiration for RC enthusiasts of all levels.

Leading the charge this month is the Traxxas Bigfoot 4x4 BL-2s, a fresh take on the iconic monster truck that brings serious performance to backyard bashing. We also take a close look at the Tamiya Baja Bronco CC-02, a scale crawler that pairs vintage style with modern off-road capability.

For custom build enthusiasts, we showcase a jaw-dropping Kraken KV5TT 1/5 Trophy Truck that's outfitted with expert modifications that take this beast to the next level. On the upgrade front, we dive into RPM's latest parts for the Losi Mini-T 2.0, proving that even smaller rigs can benefit from

We've also packed in some essential how-tos and guides to keep you at the top of your RC game. Don't miss our article on 7 Tips for Gluing RC Tires, offering pro advice for a critical RC skill, and our Pit & Hauler Bag Buyer's Guide, which highlights the best options for transporting your gear in style and comfort.

As always, we love seeing your builds and setups. If you've got an RC you're proud of, submit it to our Readers Rides section at RCCarAction.com. Who knows—you might see your ride featured in an upcoming issue.

Until next time, Jerry Tsai Editorial Director



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READERS RIDES

A NEW WAY TO SUBMIT YOUR RIDE!

We now have an easy new way to submit your Readers Rides to RC Car Action online. Just go to *Rccaraction.com/readers-ride-entry-form/* to fill in your vehicle's info and upload your pix directly to us! As a bonus, it will generate a shareable link that you can send to your friends or share on social media to show off your ride to everyone!

65 RAMBLER

GARY DAVIS « DASSEL, MN

Gary has crafted a stunning 1965 AMC Rambler RC car that's all about scale realism. Built on a Traxxas 4-Tec 3.0 chassis with a stock brushed power system, Gary's creativity shines in the custom scratch-built body made from heat-molded and sanded styrene and wire. Innovative touches like wheels crafted from water bottle caps and PVC pipe showcase his ingenuity. The Rambler's polished finish comes from Rustoleum spray paint, wet-sanded and buffed to perfection, with custom vinyl emblems for added detail. It even features a driver figure molded out of clay, highlighting Gary's dedication to realism. "I enjoy creating convincingly realistic scenes and videos," he says. This build exemplifies what makes the RC hobby so captivating. Outstanding work, Gary—this Rambler is truly one of a kind!

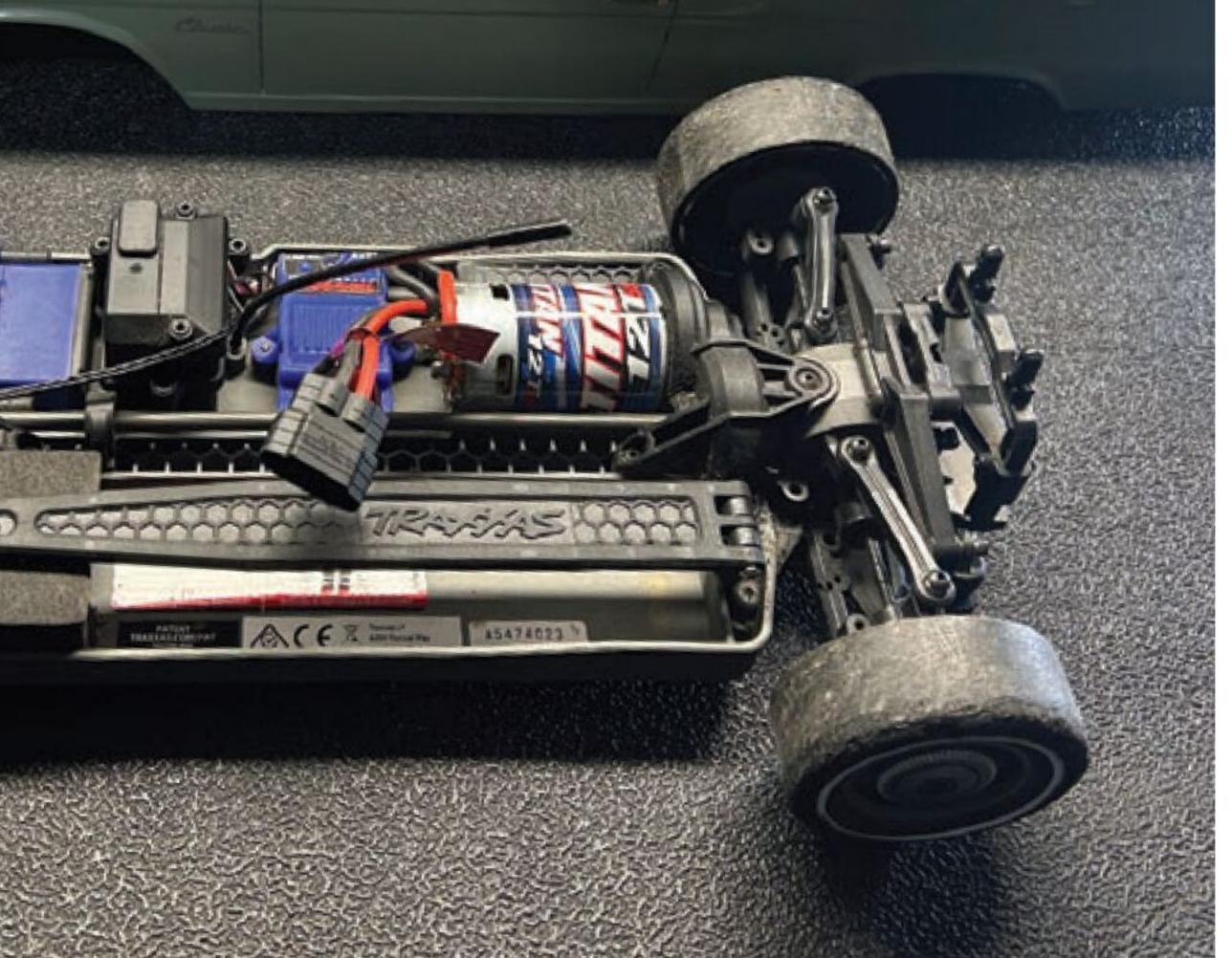












BUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- Chassis: Traxxas 4-Tec 3.0
- Body: Custom scratch-built 1965 AMC Rambler
- Motor: Traxxas
- Speed Control: Traxxas
- Battery: Traxxas
- Wheels & Tires: Built using water bottle caps added to rims and PVC pipe for tires
- Shocks: 1/14-scale RC4WD semi shocks
- Axles: Traxxas
- Paint: Rustoleum spray paint for plastics, wet-sanded and buffed
- Graphics: Custom vinyl emblems
- Radio System: Traxxas
- Other Options: Molded clay driver figure

SPONSORED BY WIN A PRO-LINE PRIZE PACK! READERS' OFF-ROAD PERFORMANCE

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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.





NORTHALL HOOLIGAN

TIM CASTO « AKRON, OH

Now for something truly creative! Tim has built a unique belt-driven gas tank drag car, the "Northhill Hooligan," using an eclectic mix of parts and ingenuity. The chassis and body center around a 1965 Simplicity lawn tractor gas tank, with a modified Team Associated RC10 T front end and narrowed Losi A-arms for a T-bucket vibe. The rear uses Team Associated aluminum

rims paired with slicks made from Goodyear ashtrays, and it's all powered by a 540-4370kV brushless motor and a Race Star ESC. Green Halo headlights and a Rat Fink figure complete its vintage hot rod look. "It moves well straight, but flips if you turn too fast," Tim notes. Built from old parts over two years, this shelf queen is a testament to creativity and craftsmanship. Fantastic work, Tim!







BUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- Chassis: Custom-built using a gas tank, Team Associated RC10 and Losi car
- Body: Gas tank off a 1965 Simplicity Lawn Tractor
- Motor: Unknown brand 540-4370kV

- Speed Control: Race Star 45A
 Battery: Tindling 5200mAh 7.4V 50A
 Wheels & Tires: Front wheels are from a mid-'80s car called the Fire Fox. The rears are Team Associated aluminum wheels and the slicks are made from Goodyear ashtrays.
 - Lighting: Green Halo headlights
 - Radio System: Dumbo RC
 - Other Options: Rat Fink driver figure



MOON WAGN

BARRETT BUNGARD « BLACKSBURG, VA

Barrett (@bigbearRC) wowed
the crowd at AxialFest
Badlands 2024 with his "Woody
Wagon," a first-place concourswinning SCX24 build. Inspired
by a "Wheeler Dealers" episode
featuring a hand-painted
wood-grain Jeep Wagoneer,
Barrett re-created the effect
using a "toothpick technique"
to achieve realistic wood grain.
Combining Testors Revving Red
Spray Lacquer with enamel
paints for the wood panels,

wheel flares, and details, this custom finish is truly a work of art. The build features Pro-Line Super Swampers on brass wheels, Big Bore SCX24 shocks, and 3D-printed wood bed rails that are hand-painted to match the body. Real oak logs and tiedown ropes complete the scale realism. Barrett's passion and creativity earned him the top spot—and lasting memories—from AxialFest. Thanks for sharing, Barrett!



BUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- Chassis: Axial SCX24
- Body: Axial Power Wagon
- Motor: Spektrum
- Speed Control: Spektrum Battery: Spektrum
- Wheels & Tires: Pro-Line Super Swampers, Pro-Line brass wheels
- Shocks: Pro-Line Big Bore SCX24
- Paint: Custom hand-painted. Base created by Testors Revving Red Spray Lacquer followed by Testors Spray Lacquer Dullcoat. Wood panels created by special "toothpick" technique to create wood grain by combining Testors GÍ Brown, Fl Tan, and Fl Brown enamel paints. Fl black enamel hand-painted wheel flares, running boards and tailgate logo.
- Lighting: Axial
- Radio System: Spektrum
- Other Options: 3D-printed wood bed rails from Etsy, also hand-painted using technique described above. Real scale logs cut from oak branches in yard. Bow serving string used to create tie-down ropes.











HOT OPTIC

STEPHEN LEWIS « TAYLORSVILLE, UTAH

impressive Vanquish H10
Optic into a personalized rock-crawling masterpiece with his "Hot Optic" build.
Maintaining the Optic's sleek stock look, Stephen added his own custom touches to blend performance upgrades with a cohesive aesthetic.

The black Sparco cage pairs seamlessly with the Yokohama version's black panels, all of it enhanced by a clean color scheme using

Tamiya paints. Performance upgrades include a Castle Creations Slate 2280kV motor, Copperhead 10 ESC, and ProTek 3S Graphene HV battery, paired with Pro-Line BFGoodrich T/A KX tires and Vanquish KMC Riot beadlocks. With a custom Jeep-inspired grille, functional lighting, and precision detailing, Stephen's Hot Optic shines both in style and performance. Great work, Stephen!





BUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- Chassis: Vanquish Products H10 Optic
- Body: Vanquish Products H10 Optic
- Motor: Castle Creations Slate 2280kV
- Speed Control: Castle Creations Copperhead 10
- Battery: ProTek 3S 90C Graphene HV LiPo
- Wheels & Tires: Vanquish KMC KM237 Riot gray beadlock wheels with Vanquish scale hardware, Pro-Line BFGoodrich Crawler T/A KX (G8 compound) tires
- Shocks: Incision S8E 90mm
- Axles: Vanquish H10 with Vanquish aluminum third member and RC4WD diff guards
- Paint: Tamiya white primer, TS-93 Pure Blue, TS-100 Semi-Gloss Bright Gun Metal, TS-79 Semi-Gloss clear
- Graphics: Vanquish, Pro-Line and RC Hand
- Lighting: GCR Racing 16mm circle spotlights, MyTrickRC remote on/off switch
- Radio System: Futaba 4PM Plus, R304SB receiver
- Other Options: H-Tech bump stops, KNK limit straps, Reefs RC RAW 400LP USTE Trail Edition servo, H-Tech steering clamps, Aluminum grille and custom front mount

ITEM 47330 L:390mm 4WD



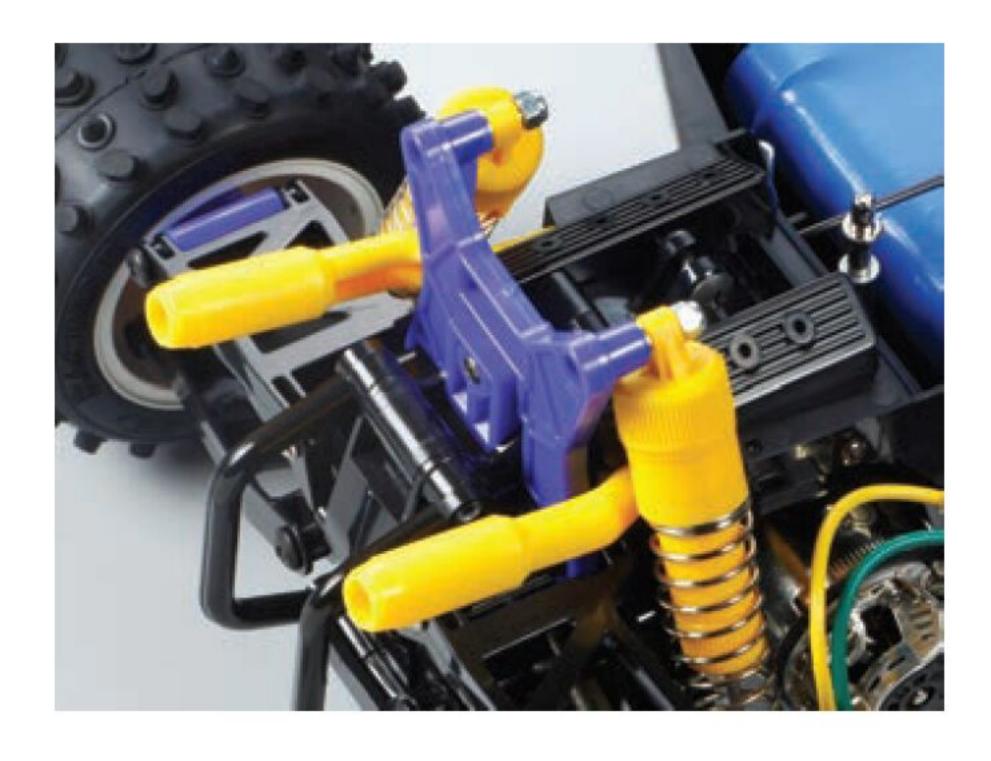
RE-RELEASE

The Bigwig is back! This is a 2017 version of the shaft-driven 4WD buggy that was released to commemorate 10 years of Tamiya R/C models back in 1986. It features several updates while keeping largely to the classic design of the original. The slimline body, designed and penned in 1986 by famed Japanese designer Takuya Yura, is still a classic today, as it possesses advanced aerodynamics thanks to his encyclopedic design knowledge. Updated markings retain the flavor of the original Bigwig and include the Mooncraft logo of Yura's design company.

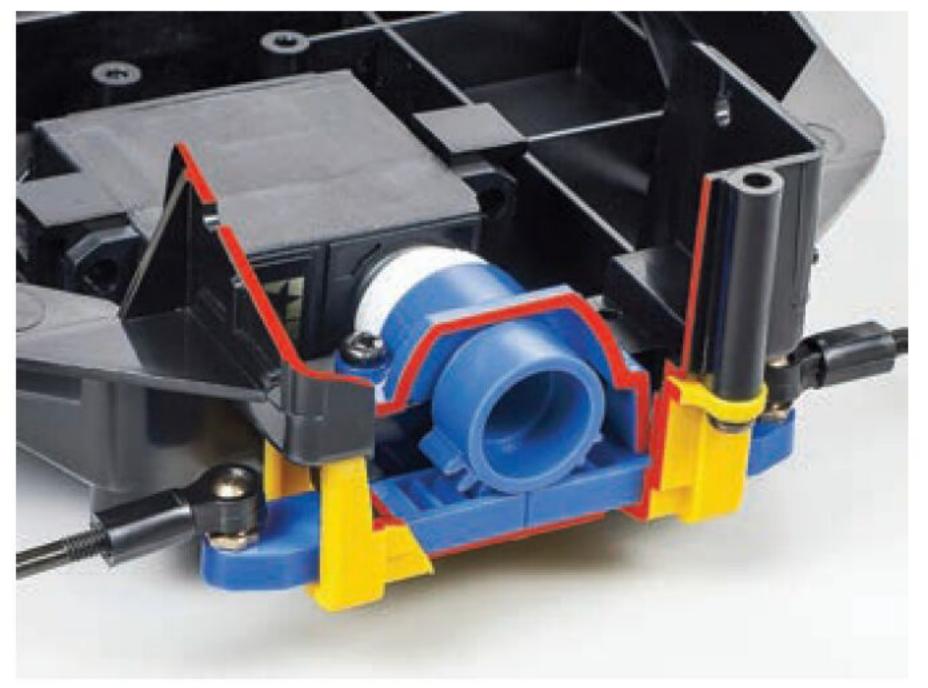


Specifications

- Length: 390mm, Width: 235mm, Height: 140mm, Approx weight: 1,340g (excludes R/C equipment)
- Wheelbase: 262mm
 Tread (F/R): 200mm/198mm
 Tire width/diameter: 30mm/88mm (front), 38mm/88mm (rear) • ABS resin bathtub frame • Shaft-driven 4WD • 3-bevel differential gears • Rack & pinion steering • 4-wheel independent double wishbone suspension • CVA oil dampers x4 • Gear ratio = 8.7:1 or 10.04:1 • GT-Tuned Motor included (features unique sticker)



Exhaust pipes and engine head are recreated at the rear of the chassis for a detailed finish.



The steering system used is a rack and pinion type, which is used in many real cars and features excellent responsiveness and a linear steering feel.



Comes with a GT tuned motor with a special label featuring the Bigwig logo.



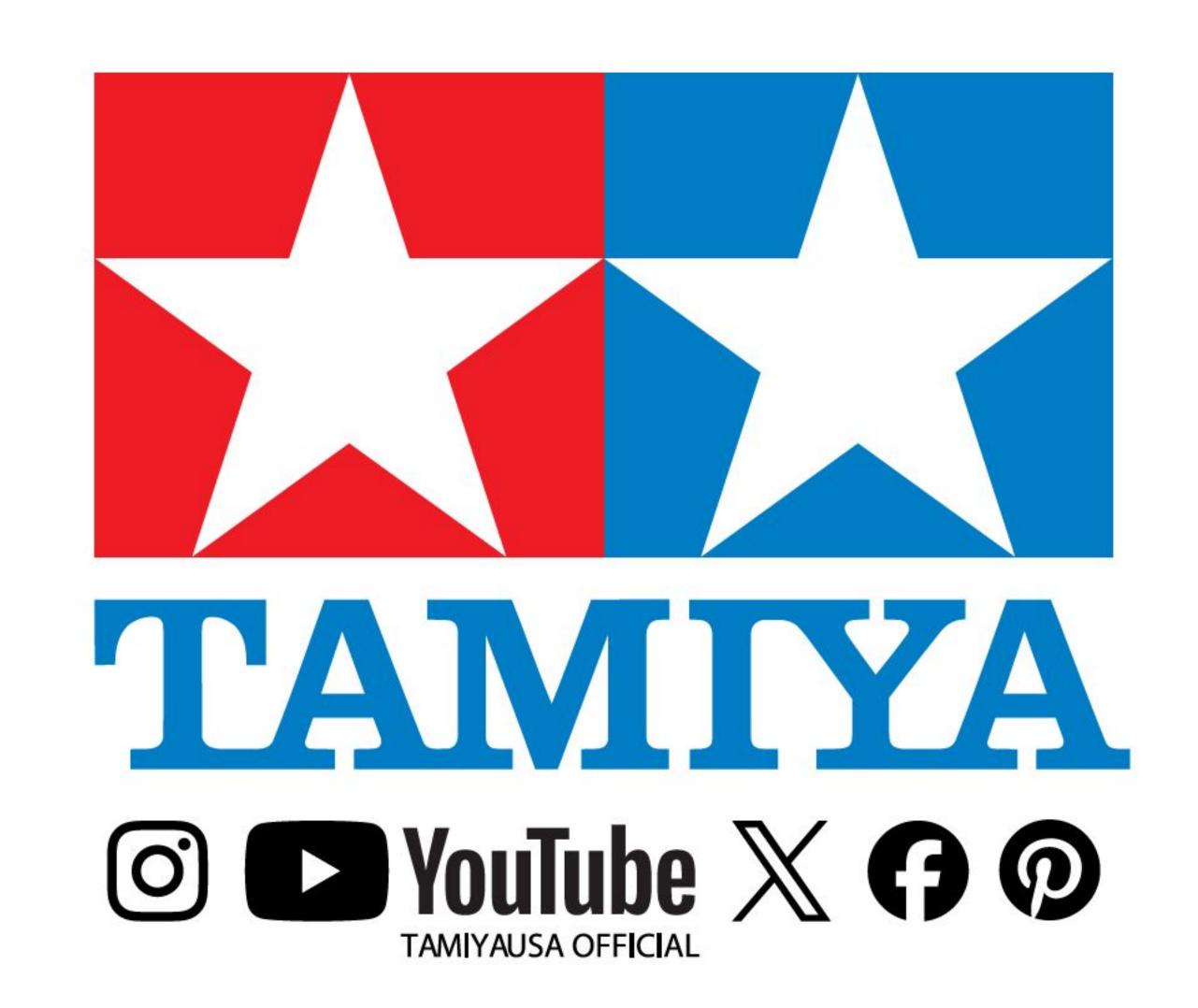
King of the Off-Road

The extremely stable shaft-driven 4WD drive train has excellent efficiency thanks to full ball bearings, while differential gears ensure cornering is smooth. 4-wheel independent double wishbone suspension employs A-shaped front and H-shaped rear arms for excellent durability, with CVA oil dampers for high-quality suspension stroke. Dish wheels are not just aesthetically pleasing, but also practical on the off-road surfaces the Bigwig (2017) calls home; they are paired with grippy oval bock tires. The rack and pinion steering setup remains unique to the Bigwig among Tamiya R/C cars.





Watch The Bigwig in Action!







monster truck nowadays. It's only fitting that the original monster truck was duplicated in RC form by one of the leading names in the RC industry: Traxxas.

iconic monster truck, like myself, this RC replica is the perfect way to relive childhood memories while enjoying the thrill of highspeed bashing and rugged off-road action.



Based on the Stampede 4x4, Bigfoot blends two monster truck legends into one high-riding package.

ICONIC DESIGN

Bigfoot is a household name in the world of monster trucks, and Traxxas honors this legacy with a highly detailed Ford pickup replica body. The bumpers, authentic decals, and retro paint scheme faithfully re-create the look of the iconic Bigfoot No. 8.

From the iconic metallic blue paint to its striking graphics, every element pays homage to Bigfoot's legendary status. The oversized Terra Groove tires and Traxxas' all-new white monster truck wheels complete the look, ensuring this RC truck turns heads whether it's on display or tearing up the terrain.



Bigfoot 4x4 features Traxxas' all-new white monster truck wheels and oversized Terra Groove tires.



Powering the Bigfoot 4x4 is Traxxas' BL-2s Brushless Power System, which comes complete with a 3300kV motor and waterproof ESC.

STAMPEDE

The Traxxas Bigfoot
4x4 is built on the
proven Stampede
4x4 chassis, blending
two legends into one
thrilling package. The
Stampede's rugged
modular design, known
for its durability and
off-road prowess, pairs
perfectly with Bigfoot's
iconic monster truck
styling.

This combination not only honors Bigfoot's legendary status but also ensures the truck is ready for all-terrain domination. We appreciate how seamlessly these two RC icons come together, delivering a truck

that's as tough as it is nostalgic.

BRUSHLESS PERFORMANCE

The monster truck is powered by the reliable and powerful Traxxas BL-2s Brushless Power System. Its 3300kV brushless motor is paired with the BL-2s ESC, which delivers smooth acceleration and responsive throttle control.

This system is not only powerful but also versatile, offering multiple drive modes such as Sport Mode (forward/brake/reverse), Race Mode (forward/brake),

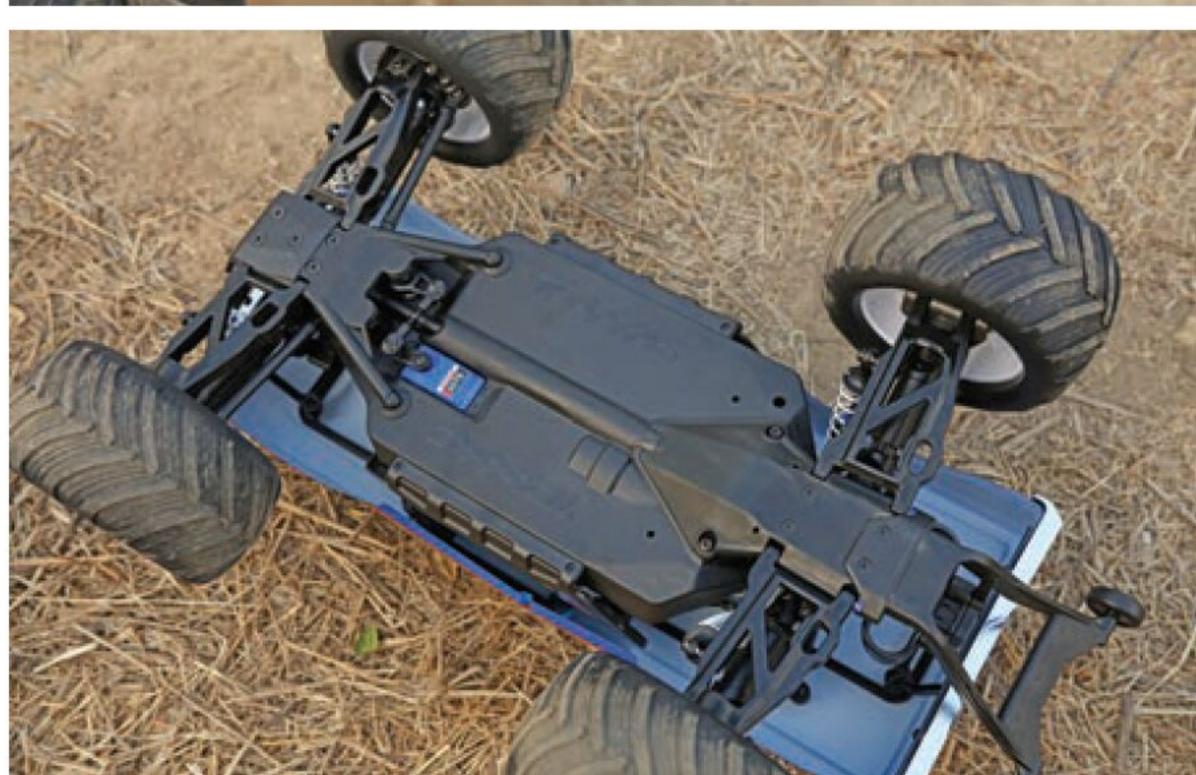






A rear-mounted wheelie bar keeps the truck upright, even when it's on its two rear wheels.





Here's a look at the underbelly of the Bigfoot's chassis. Note the exposed steering servo.

and Training Mode (50% forward/reverse for beginners). The waterproof ESC and motor ensure that this Bigfoot can handle wet and muddy conditions without missing a beat, making it perfect for all-weather fun.

RUGGED DURABILITY FOR MONSTER TRUCK ACTION

Built for serious bashing, Bigfoot features a composite chassis that absorbs impacts and protects internal components. Its fulltime, shaft-driven 4WD system delivers reliable power to all four wheels, while the sealed steel planetary differentials and 32-pitch gears provide strength and durability. Oil-filled Ultra Shocks offer superior damping, soaking up the roughest terrain and cushioning landings from big jumps.

The truck's oversized tires ensure maximum traction on dirt, grass, and gravel, while the energy-absorbing bumpers protect the chassis during high-impact collisions. Combined with its legendary ruggedness, Bigfoot is built to withstand intense RC action.



ADVANCED FEATURES FOR MAXIMUM CONVENIENCE

Traxxas has made the Bigfoot 4x4 as user-friendly as it is powerful. The truck includes a TQ 2.4GHz radio system for precise control and long-range connectivity. The clipless body mounting system makes it easy to remove and reattach the body without the hassle of traditional body clips, streamlining maintenance and preserving the truck's clean appearance.

BATTERY AND CHARGER COMPATIBILITY

The Bigfoot 4x4 is compatible with Traxxas iD technology, simplifying the charging process for LiPo and NiMH batteries. While batteries and chargers are sold separately, this system ensures quick and safe charging, getting you back on the road faster.



FINAL WORD

Whether you're reliving the glory of Bigfoot's heyday or discovering its magic for the first time, the Traxxas Bigfoot 4x4 BL-2s offers a perfect blend of nostalgia and cutting-edge performance. Its detailed replica body, rugged design, and powerful brushless system make it a standout for bashing, showcasing, or just having fun.



POWER Electric

BUILDKit

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TAMIYA FORD BAJA BRONCO COMBINES OFF-ROAD FUN WITH CLASSIC STYLE

Text by Jerry Tsai Images Courtesy of Tamiya

Tamiya has long been celebrated for its ability to combine performance and nostalgia, and its radio-controlled rendition of the Ford Baja Bronco is no exception. This 1/10-scale RC truck captures the rugged spirit of the classic Ford Bronco, blending iconic design with modern engineering to deliver an exciting off-road experience for hobbyists of all skill levels.



The Bronco includes an accurate chrome grille and headlights for an authentic look.

AN OFF-ROAD LEGEND

The Ford Baja Bronco pays homage to the iconic Baja Bronco developed by off-road racing pioneer Bill Stroppe in the 1970s. Known for its durability and versatility, the original Bronco became a symbol of off-road racing excellence.

Tamiya's RC version brings this history to life with a detailed polycarbonate body that replicates the Bronco's unmistakable lines, grille, and light setup. Complete with vintage-style decals and a bright color



Retro chrome wheels and all-terrain tires add to the retro charm of the Baja Bronco.



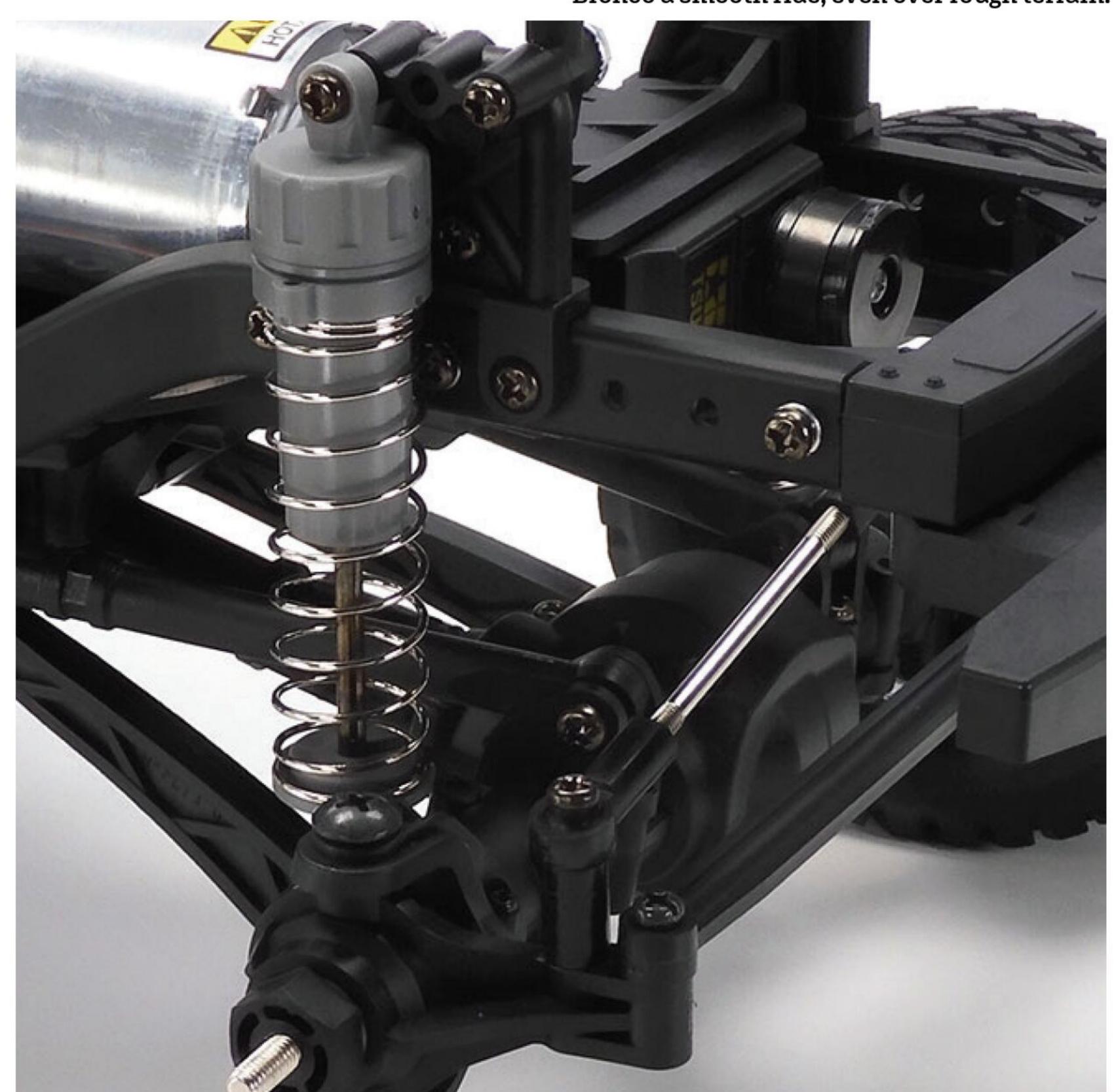
Long-travel CVA oil-filled shocks give the Bronco a smooth ride, even over rough terrain.

scheme, this model perfectly captures the adventurous spirit of its full-sized counterpart.

RUGGED CC-02 CHASSIS

The Ford Baja Bronco is built on Tamiya's CC-02 (Cross Country 2) chassis, a platform specifically designed for off-road performance. The ladder frame construction provides excellent strength and stability, making it ideal for tackling challenging terrain. The 4WD system uses a planetary gear reduction setup, ensuring smooth power delivery and consistent traction.

The suspension system features a rigid four-link configuration with CVA oil shocks, allowing the Bronco





Tamiya's red,
white and
blue-hued Ford
Baja Bronco
pays homage
to the iconic
Baja Bronco
developed by
off-road racing
pioneer Bill
Stroppe.

to soak up bumps and uneven surfaces with ease. Whether you're driving over rocks, gravel, or dirt trails, the CC-O2 chassis ensures a smooth and controlled experience. Additionally, the Bronco is equipped with blockpattern tires mounted on stylish wheels to enhance both grip and aesthetics.

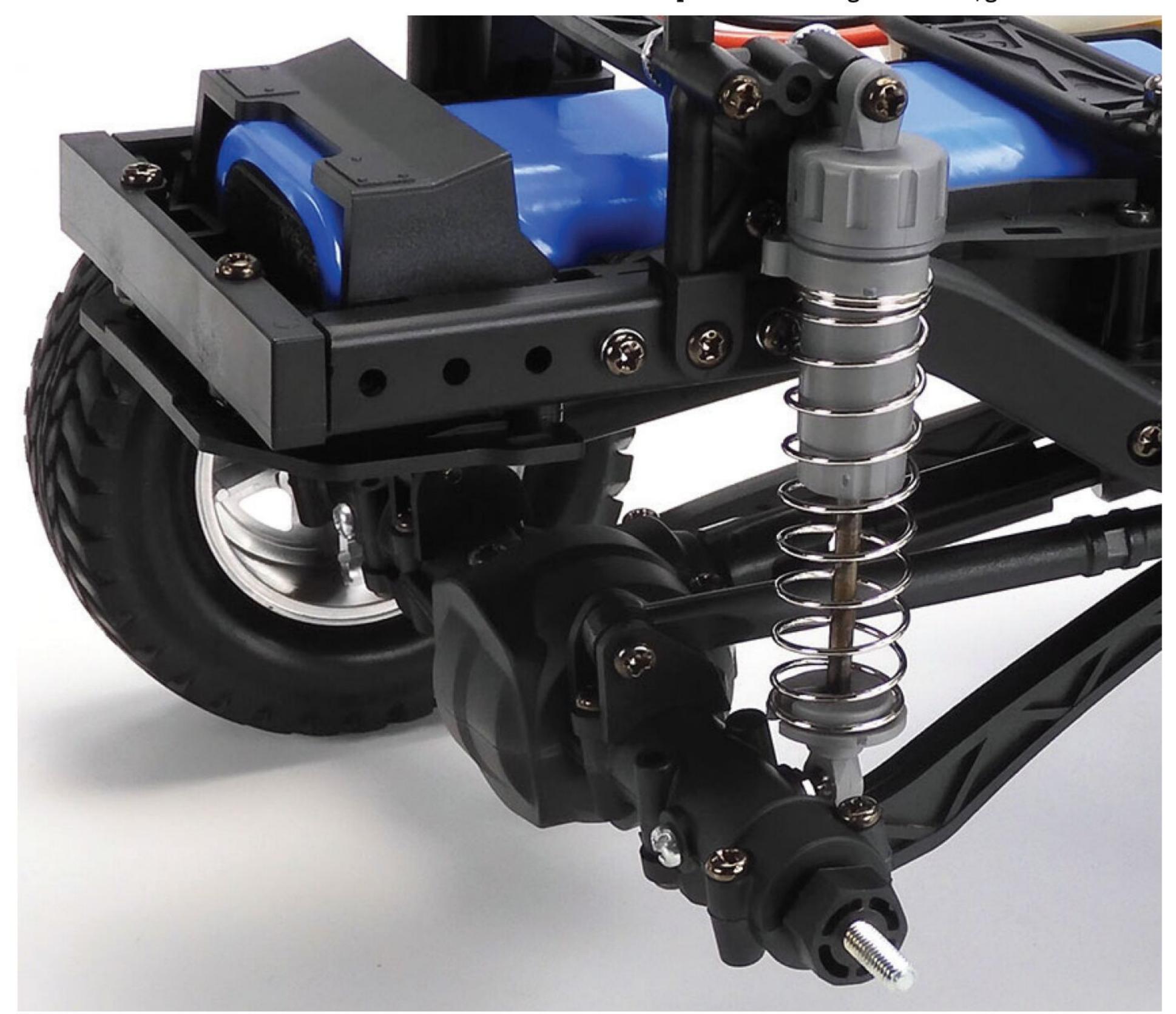
THE BALANCED POWER SYSTEM

The Ford Baja Bronco comes with a 540 brushed motor, providing reliable power for climbing and crawling. The motor is paired with an efficient planetary gear transmission, which reduces stress on the drivetrain while delivering plenty of torque for navigating tough terrain. This setup makes the Baja Bronco an excellent choice for both beginners and seasoned RC enthusiasts looking for a capable offroad vehicle. A HobbyWing THW 1060 brushed motor ESC is included with the kit, and it makes a perfect match for the 540 motor.

REALISTIC DETAILING

Tamiya is known for attention to detail, and the Ford Baja Bronco is no exception. The polycarbonate body features realistic appointments, from the grille and headlights to the wheel arches and roll bar. Intricate decals add to the model's authenticity, making this RC truck look as good as it performs.

The CC-02 chassis rides on a rigid four-link suspension system that allows the Bronco precise handling over rocks, gravel and sand.





Intricate details such as chrome side mirrors add to the Baja Bronco's authenticity.



Whether it's displayed on a shelf or taken out to conquer the trails, the Baja Bronco is sure to turn heads.

A KIT FOR BUILDERS

As a kit model, the Ford Baja Bronco does require assembly, making it an ideal project for hobbyists who enjoy the building process. The kit includes an easy-to-follow instruction booklet and all the necessary parts to construct the truck, but it also allows for personalization through upgrades or custom paint schemes.

While building it out, hobbyists will gain a deeper understanding of the truck's mechanics, which can be

useful for future maintenance and tuning. To complete the Baja Bronco, you'll need a two-channel radio, a steering servo, a 7.2-7.4V battery with a compatible charger, and polycarbonate paint.

PERFECT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

The Ford Baja Bronco isn't just a collector's item; it's built for outdoor fun. The robust CC-02 chassis and powerful drivetrain allow it to tackle a variety of environments, from wilderness trails to backyard obstacles. Its versatility and durability make it a great option for hobbyists who want to combine the thrill of RC driving with the challenge of exploring new locations.

TAMIYA FORD BAJA BRONCO CC-02

P/N: 58736-A MSRP: \$320 URL: tamiyausa.com

FINAL WORD

Tamiya's Ford Baja Bronco is a perfect blend of vintage charm and modern RC performance. Its combination of detailed design, durable construction, and capable off-road features make it a standout choice for enthusiasts of all ages. Whether you're a seasoned RC builder or are just starting out, the Baja Bronco offers an exciting and rewarding experience.



RC DRAG RACING IS ALL ABOUT THE RUSH OF STRAIGHT-LINE SPEED Text by James York Images by RCCA Staff

The excitement of drag racing isn't limited to life-sized cars; RC drag racing brings the same adrenaline rush and competitive spirit to a smaller, more accessible scale. Imagine lining up against another driver, your heart racing as the lights on the tree count down.

The moment the green flashes, you slam the throttle, and in the blink of an eye, your RC car blazes past the finish line. Did you win? The sheer speed can make it hard to tell. This is the thrill of RC drag racing.

Much like full-sized drag racing, RC drag cars are purpose-built to go fast in a straight line. Typical races are run over a 132-foot track, which scales down the classic 1/4-mile drag strip for 1/10-scale vehicles. Competitors bring a variety of cars, from custom-built dragsters to modified off-the-shelf models, all designed for maximum speed and performance.

What makes RC drag racing appealing is its accessibility. Unlike full-scale drag racing,







you don't need a lot of space, a big budget, or extensive mechanical expertise to get started. Many manufacturers now offer ready-to-run drag cars, such as the Traxxas Drag Slash, Team Associated DR10, or Losi's 22S. These vehicles provide a solid platform for beginners while offering plenty of room for customization as your skills grow.

RC drag racing is also about community. Events often attract a mix of hobbyists and serious competitors, creating an

inclusive atmosphere where newcomers are encouraged to join in. Whether you're a seasoned RC enthusiast or simply someone curious about the hobby, drag racing offers an exciting and welcoming way to get involved.

So, if you're looking for a hobby that combines speed, strategy, and competition, RC drag racing might be for you. Grab a car, find a local event, and experience the thrill for yourself!











KRAKEN RC KV5TT

The foundation of Todd's build is the Kraken RC KV5TT Trophy Truck, a 1/5-scale kit known for its rugged design and large-scale appeal. Assembling it from the kit allowed Todd to customize it extensively, and he wasted no time upgrading it with parts that elevate both aesthetics and performance.

TAYLOR RC UPGRADES

Todd incorporated a range of Taylor RC billet aluminum upgrades, including the Taylor RC Billet Chassis, which enhances durability while adding a sleek, polished look. Billet parts not only improve structural integrity but also contribute to the truck's



Taylor RC's Billet
Chassis increases
vehicle durability
while adding a sleek,
polished look.





premium feel, making it as robust as it is visually stunning.

All Taylor RC components were sourced through Detroit Performance RC, the go-to destination for 1/5-scale enthusiasts in the U.S. Whether you're after durability, style, or both, we're told that Detroit Performance RC and Taylor RC are a winning combination, and that statement is easy to believe from the looks of this build.

At the heart of this custom truck lies the Taylor RC 50GT big-bore engine, a 50cc gas powerhouse that delivers immense torque and speed. This engine transforms the





truck into a high-performance machine capable of tackling tough terrain and thrilling high-speed runs.

The truck also features a
Samba Kraken Torque Exhaust
Pipe, which complements the
Taylor engine by maximizing
performance and producing
an aggressive, race-inspired
sound. To handle the engine's
power, Todd installed a Vertigo
Transmission, known for
its ability to withstand the
extreme demands of largescale RC vehicles.

CRITICAL ELECTRONICS

Precision and safety are paramount in a build of this caliber. Todd outfitted the truck with top-tier servos, including two options for steering: the AGFRC Brushless 78KG Bullet Servo or the HiTec D845WP Monster Torque Steel Gear Servo. For throttle control, Todd relies on Kraken RC's Stock Large Scale Servo, which delivers dependable performance.

To enhance safety, Todd installed the Hilantronics I-Killy II kill switch, a critical addition for gas-powered RC vehicles. This feature provides peace of mind by allowing the engine to be shut off remotely in case of an emergency.

SUSPENSION & BRAKING

The truck's suspension system includes an independent front suspension and rear trailing arms with Heim joints, offering superior stability and control. Whether navigating rough

terrain or hitting high speeds, this setup ensures a smooth and composed ride.

Stopping power is equally impressive, thanks to the RCR Brake Upgrade kit, which provides precise and reliable braking performance. This

upgrade is essential for managing the speed and power of the Taylor RC 50GT engine.

CUSTOM AESTHETICS

Todd's KV5TT isn't just about performance—it's a visual

masterpiece. The stock Lexan body features a hand-painted Bryce Menzies Red Bull livery, custom-created by a talented artist in Japan. This striking design, complemented by hand-made number plates and window nets (crafted from ping-pong table netting), takes







the truck's realism to another level.

Even the Losi 1/5-scale wheels were custompainted to enhance the truck's scale appearance, while the stock KV5TT tires provide the grip needed for high-performance driving.

BUILT WITH THE BEST

Todd credits much of his truck's success to the high-quality parts sourced from Detroit Performance RC, the leading supplier of 1/5-scale RC components in the U.S. From the Taylor RC upgrades to the Vertigo transmission, Detroit Performance ensures access to the best parts available. Their partnership with Taylor RC, renowned for their precision-engineered products, makes them a one-stop shop for serious RC builders.



FINAL WORD

Todd Moen's custom Kraken RC KV5TT Trophy Truck is a showcase of craftsmanship, innovation, and dedication to the hobby. By combining Taylor RC's top-notch components with the reliable service of Detroit Performance RC, Todd created a truck that's as functional as it is beautiful. This build demonstrates what's possible when passion meets quality.

Whether tearing up the dirt or turning heads at the track, Todd's truck is a masterclass in custom RC design, proving that good looks and high performance can go hand in hand. For those interested in following Todd's work or connecting with him, he can be found on Instagram and Facebook under the handle @scaleradiocontrol.





BEEFING-UP OUR LOSI MINI-T 2.0 WITH RPM UPGRADE PARTS

> Text by Jerry Tsai Images by the author & courtesy of RPM

The Losi Mini-T 2.0 is already a fantastic platform for hobbyists, but upgrading it with parts from RPM takes it to the next level. Known for their durability and smart design, RPM's upgrades are a perfect match for the Mini-T 2.0 and its sibling, the Mini-B.

After swapping out the stock suspension arms and front and rear bumpers on our Mini-T 2.0 with RPM parts, the benefits were clear. These upgrades are not only functional but also proudly made in the USA, offering exceptional quality and performance.

WIDE FRONT BUMPER

The RPM Wide Front Bumper for the Mini-T 2.0 and Mini-B measures an impressive 3.5 inches across, offering unmatched front-end protection. Extending beyond the wheels and chassis, it absorbs the brunt of impacts, saving your vehicle from damage when obstacles "suddenly appear."

The bumper is more than just a shield—it also features a wide plate that protects the aluminum chassis from scuffs and scratches. Built-in skid ribs allow the Mini-T to glide over obstacles that might otherwise cause a snag, making it easier to navigate rough terrain. It's a simple yet effective upgrade that pays for itself the first time you avoid a costly repair.





REAR BUMPER AND SKID PLATE

The RPM Rear Bumper/Skid Plate is the ultimate rear-end protector for the Mini-T 2.0 and Mini-B. It combines a durable bumper to absorb rear impacts with a skid plate that extends 3.25 inches forward over the aluminum chassis. This dual-purpose design protects your chassis from scrapes while adding a second layer of defense

against rear-end collisions.

Like the front bumper, the rear skid plate includes skid ribs to help your Mini slide over obstacles and reduce the risk of damage. For a platform with no stock rear bumper, this upgrade is a game-changer.

HEAVY-DUTY A-ARNS

The RPM Heavy-Duty
Rear A-Arms are
significantly stronger
than the stock options,
with 20-50% thicker
components in key
areas. Designed for
both the Mini-T 2.0 and
Mini-B, these A-arms
feature reinforced
hinge pin bosses,
uniform support
beams, and a unique
shock surround that

protects the lower shock mount from damage.

Constructed from RPM's engineering-grade nylon, these lightweight A-arms offer exceptional durability and performance, making them a must-have for drivers who push their vehicles to the limit.





FINAL WORD

After installing RPM parts on our Losi Mini-T 2.0, we noticed immediate improvements in durability and functionality. The bumpers provided excellent protection during hard hits, while the A-arms delivered unmatched strength and reliability. The upgrades fit perfectly, and their lightweight construction didn't compromise performance.

Whether you're bashing, racing, or simply enjoying the Mini platform, we consider these RPM upgrades essential. Built in the USA and designed with thoughtful engineering, they represent the best in aftermarket RC parts. If you own a Mini-T 2.0 or Mini-B, RPM parts are must-have upgrades. They protect your investment while enhancing its performance—allowing you to focus on having fun.

RPM R/C Products

Wide Front Bumper for the Losi Mini-T 2.0 & Mini-B

MSRP: \$11.95

Rear Bumper / Skid Plate for the Losi Mini-T 2.0 & Mini-B

MSRP: \$11.95

Heavy Duty Front A-arms for the Losi Mini-T 2.0 & Mini-B

MSRP: \$9.95

Heavy Duty Rear A-arms for the Losi Mini-T 2.0

MSRP: \$9.95

URL: rpmrcproducts.com

BONDING THE BEAD

HOW TO GLUE RC TIRES IN 7 SIMPLE STEPS

Text & Images by RCCA Staff

Gluing RC tires is a task that every hobbyist will face at some point. While it may seem intimidating—sticky fingers and messy results can be common—a little patience and the right technique will ensure professional results every time. The key is using the right amount of glue; a small amount goes a long way. Follow these steps to glue your tires like a pro while keeping the glue exactly where it belongs.





WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Tire glue
- Glue tip (one may be included with your tire glue)
- Windex Original Glass Cleaner
- Paper towels
- Cotton swabs
- Rubber bands or an alternative (zip-ties, electrical tape, etc.)



STEP 1: REMOVE THE FOAM INSERTS

Start by removing the foam inserts from your tires. This makes cleaning the tire beads much easier and ensures better adhesion later on.



STEP 2: CLEAN THE TIRE BEADS

Spray some Windex onto a folded paper towel. Roll the bead of the tire over the damp towel while applying light pressure to clean the surface thoroughly. Re-fold the towel to expose a fresh area and repeat for the opposite bead. A clean bead is crucial for a strong bond.



STEP 3: CLEAN THE RIM BEADS

Spray some Windex onto a cotton swab and use it to clean the bead of the wheel rim. Use one side of the swab for one bead and the other side for the opposite bead. A clean rim surface is just as important as a clean tire bead.





REINSTALL THE FOAM AND MOUNT THE TIRE

Insert the foam back into the tire and mount the tire onto the wheel. If the tire is directional, double-check the orientation to ensure it's mounted correctly. For non-directional tires, place any colored dots or markings on the inside of the wheel for protection.



SECURE THE BEAD

Wrap a large rubber band, zip-tie, or electrical tape around the outer edge of the tire. This compresses the tire bead against the wheel and ensures close contact during the gluing process.



STEP 6: APPLY THE GLUE

Pull back the edge of the tire bead slightly and apply a small amount of glue into the gap. Release the bead so it snaps back into place and so the compression ensures a tight fit. If necessary, gently press the bead into the rim using your finger. Continue this process around the entire bead. Once done, let the glue dry and repeat for the other side.

FINAL WORD

Gluing tires doesn't have to be messy or stressful. The key to a strong and durable bond is clean beads and proper contact between the tire and rim. By following these steps, you'll be able to glue tires for any RC application with ease. With a little practice, you'll have a clean, professional-grade result every time. Happy driving!



STEP 7: CHECK THE BOND

After both sides have dried, pull back gently on the tire bead all around its circumference to check the adhesion. If any areas lift, apply a small amount of glue to secure them and let them dry again.





RC PRODUCTS TESTED & EVALUATED



PROTOFORM BETTER EDGE SYSTEM

The Protoform Better Edge Designed specifically for System Sanding Drum is a ground-breaking tool for RC enthusiasts who take pride in creating clean, professional-looking bodies for their vehicles.

finishing polycarbonate RC body wheel wells, this tool delivers both precision and ease of use, making it a standout addition to any RC toolbox.



KEY FEATURES

The Better Edge Sanding
Drum is the first product in
Protoform's Better Edge line,
and it's tailored to address
a common challenge in RC
body preparation: achieving
perfectly smooth wheel
wells. Measuring 1.5 inches
in diameter, the drum is
versatile enough to handle
bodies ranging from 1/12
scale to 1/8, as well as offroad models.

Built with high-quality anodized aluminum and steel, the sanding drum is as durable as it is functional. The red and black anodized finish and laser-etched Protoform logo also give it a sleek, professional appearance that looks great on your pit table.

Using the tool is straightforward. Simply slide the high-grade silicon carbide sanding band over the drum, secure it with the included retainer ring (finger-tight, no tools required), and attach it to your handheld rotary tool (not included). The sanding drum's antislip rubber O-rings keep everything secure, while the steel mandrel ensures compatibility and durability.

GOING HANDS-ON

One of the standout aspects of this tool that we found when we used it is how effortless it makes wheelwell finishing. Cutting wheel wells with scissors often leaves jagged edges that detract from the body's overall look. The Better Edge Sanding Drum quickly and easily smooths out imperfections to give your body a clean, concoursworthy finish.

We appreciated the tool's simplicity and effectiveness. Setup is quick, and the drum's design ensures even pressure for a flawless result. It's also versatile enough to work across different scales, making it a valuable investment for a wide range of RC projects.

FINAL WORD

The Protoform Better Edge System Sanding Drum is an essential tool for any RC enthusiast aiming to achieve a polished, professional look. Its durable construction, ease of use, and precision make it well worth adding to your pit setup. If you're ready to give your RC race body the perfect finish, this tool is a must-have. Highly recommended!





Protoform
Better Edge System Sanding
Drum
P/N: PRM610300
MSRP: \$33.99
URL: prolineracing.com





RETURIS

WE WELCOME BACK TEAM ASSOCIATED'S RC10GT CLASSIC GOLD EDITION



Text by James York Images Courtesy of Team Associated

We're excited that the RC10GT is back. Originally released in 1993, the Team Associated RC10GT revolutionized RC racing by introducing nitro power to the competitive stadium truck scene. It became the gold standard for gaspowered RC vehicles, amassing countless wins and earning its place as the most iconic gas truck of all time.

To celebrate its legacy, Team Associated has unveiled the RC10GT Gold Edition, a faithful re-release of this legendary truck, engineered to capture the nostalgia and performance that defined a generation.

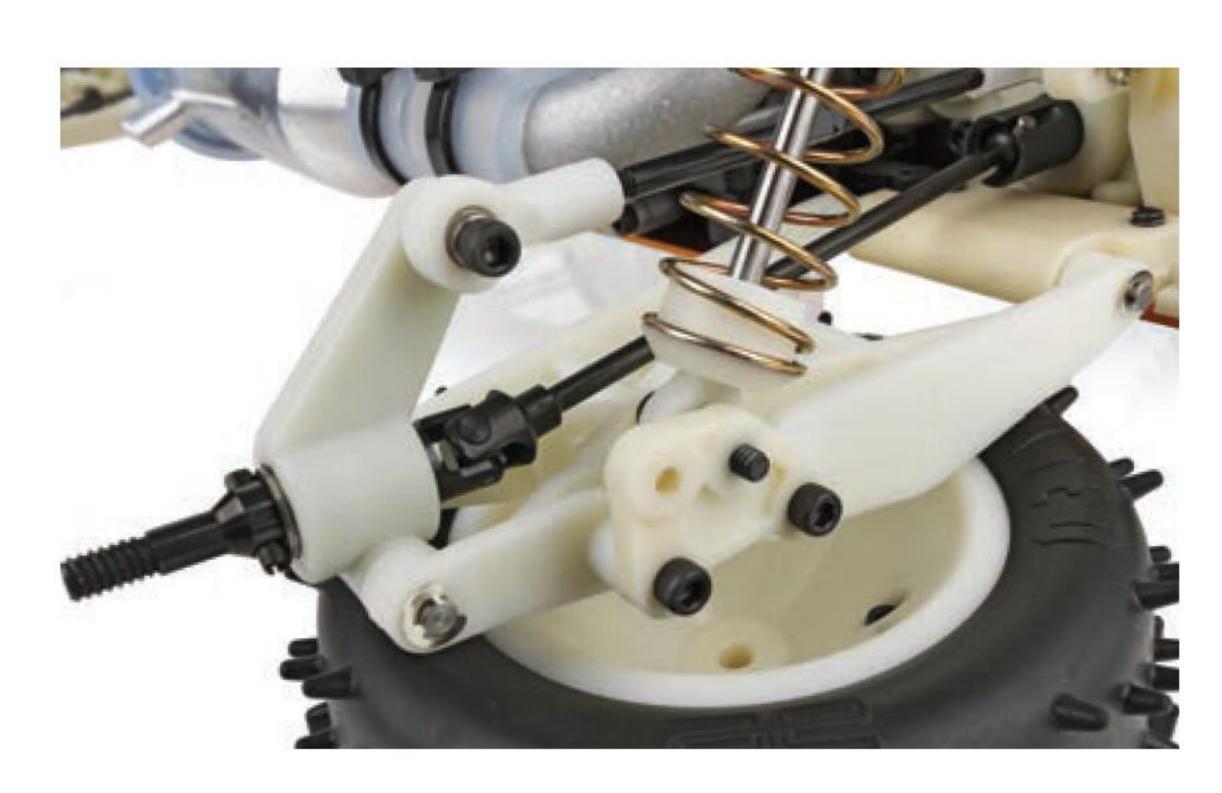
The RC10GT successfully retains its original 1993-era look.



THE RC10GT LEGACY

When the RC10GT debuted in 1993, it changed the trajectory of RC racing. Building on the success of the RC10 buggy and RC10T electric stadium truck, Team Associated engineered the RC10GT to take full advantage of nitro power. It combined the raw excitement of gas engines with the precision and handling of competitive RC vehicles.

The RC10GT's performance was unmatched, featuring a lightweight chassis, a robust four-wheel independent suspension system, and the Team Associated Stealth ATC gearbox, which efficiently







With a 2.6:1 gear reduction, Team Associated's Stealth ATC gearbox is perfectly optimized for the type of gas-powered truck racing that the RC10GT is known to dominate.

transferred nitro power to the ground.

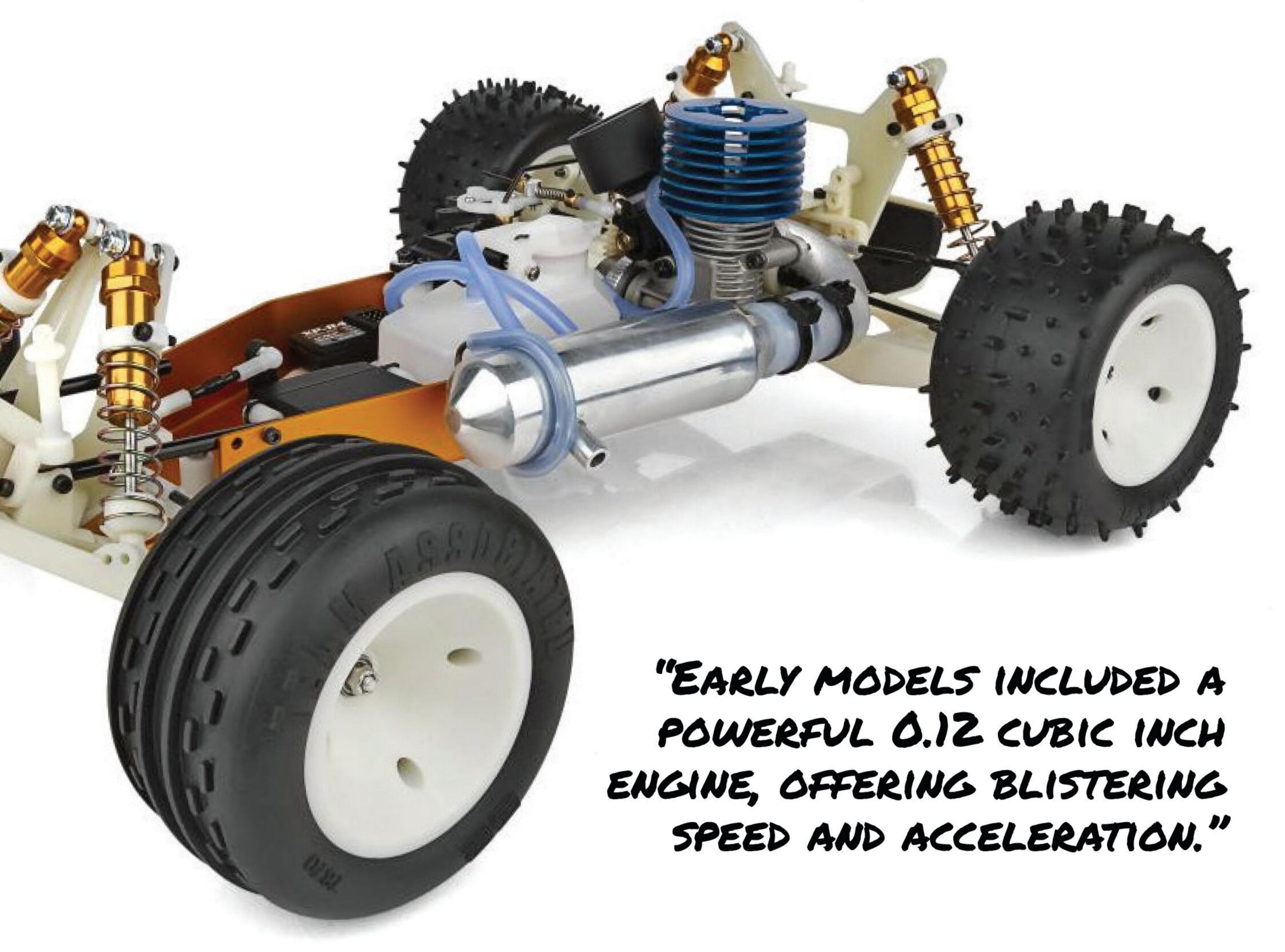
Early models included a powerful 0.12 cubic inch engine, offering blistering speed and acceleration. Enthusiasts could opt for preassembled RTR models or kits that allowed for complete customization, catering to both racers and hobbyists.

The RC10GT quickly dominated the racing scene, winning numerous ROAR Gas Truck National Championships and earning accolades for its innovation. With the help of legendary drivers like Brian Kinwald, Cliff

Lett, Richard Saxton, and Jared Tebo, the RC10GT became synonymous with winning. Its reliability, adjustability, and superior handling made it the vehicle of choice for professional racers and casual drivers alike.

REVISITING A CLASSIC

The re-released RC10GT Gold Edition stays true to the original design while offering a nostalgic trip back to the golden era of nitro RC racing. This kit is a near-perfect replica of the 1993 model, retaining all the features that made the RC10GT a legend.



The gold anodized aircraftgrade aluminum tub chassis is a standout feature, providing a lightweight yet durable foundation. This exclusive chassis is paired with the iconic gold anodized, oil-filled coilover shocks, ensuring smooth handling over rough terrain.

Team Associated also brought back the original Stealth ATC transmission, optimized for gas truck racing with a 2.6:1 gear reduction for efficient power delivery. The addition of a powerful rear disc brake ensures that the RC10GT can stop just as quickly as it

accelerates, providing precise control in high-speed races.

ACCURATE REISSUE

The RC10GT Gold Edition successfully captures the look and feel of the original. Vintage enthusiasts will appreciate the white plastic parts, original clear Lexan body, and three-piece front and rear wheels. The truck is outfitted with vintage multi-surface wide front tires and spike rear tires, just like the original, for an authentic driving experience.

Under the body, the RC10GT features an aluminum engine

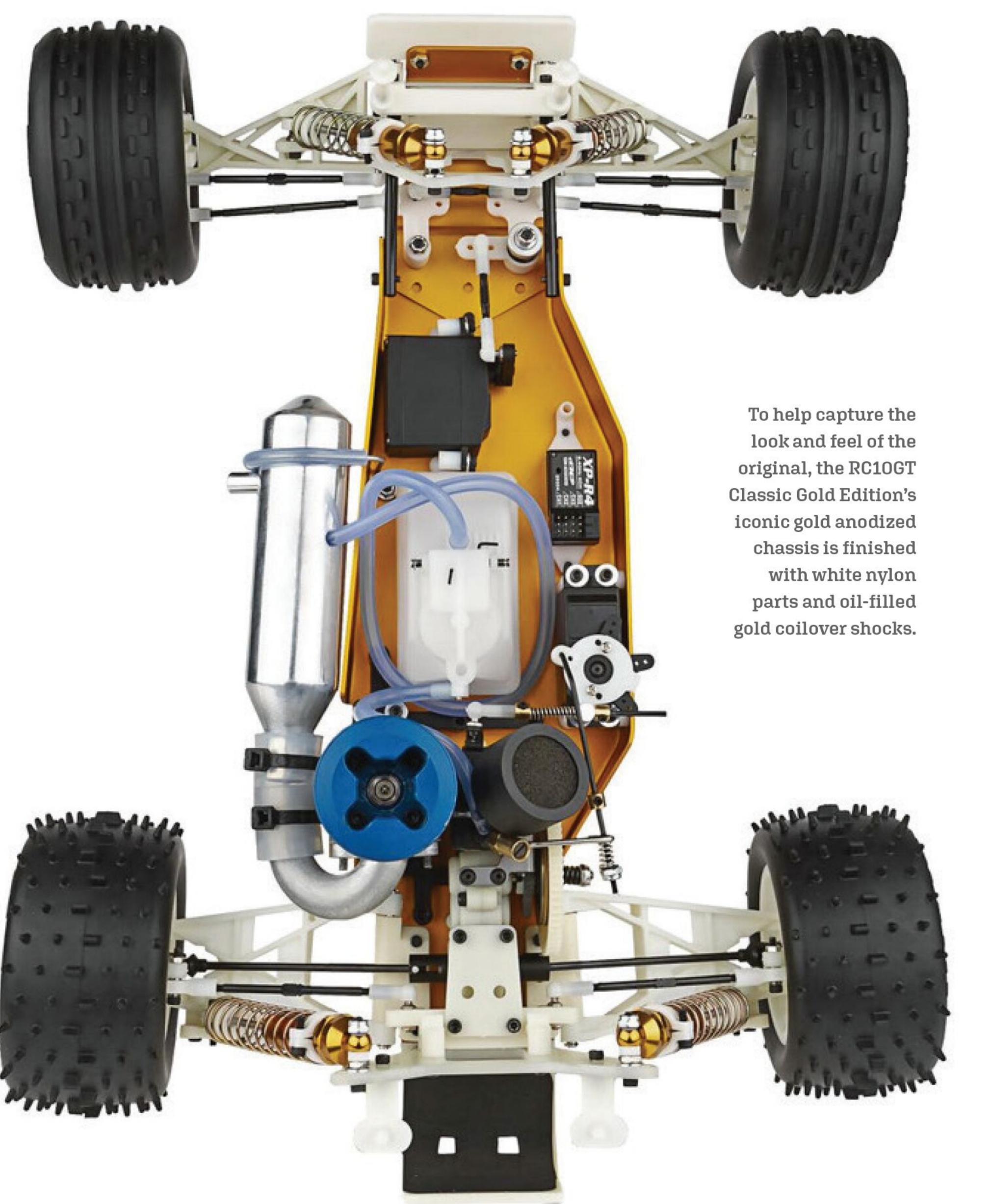
manifold, polished exhaust pipe, and a two-shoe clutch system—classic components that pay homage to its nitro roots. A quick-fill fuel tank with a built-in filter makes refueling fast and hassle-free, ensuring you spend more time driving and less time in the pits.

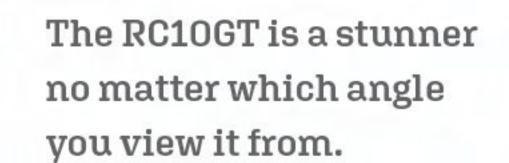
For adjustability, the truck includes adjustable turnbuckles for camber and toe, a slipper clutch, and reversible bellcrank steering with a built-in servo saver. These features allow racers to fine-tune the RC10GT to suit their driving style and track conditions.

FULL FEATURED

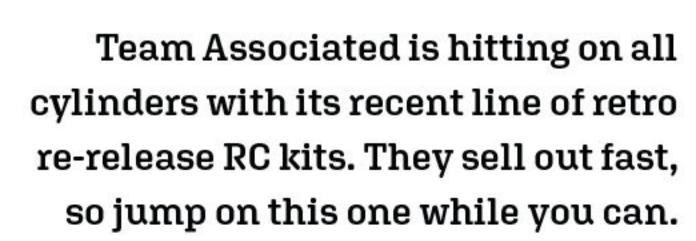
For collectors, the RC10GT is a chance to own a piece of RC history, faithfully recreated with all the details that made it iconic. For racers, it's an opportunity to experience the thrill of nitro racing with a platform engineered from over 20 years of gas racing expertise.

The RC10GT Gold Edition is packed with all the features that honor its ancestor's legendary status—from the gold anodized tub chassis and iconic Stealth ATC transmission to the oilfilled gold shocks, polished exhaust, and white nylon parts, making this re-release a true homage to the classic nitro RC era.











P/N: 7066

Street Price: \$399.95

URL: 60 years. associated electrics. com



The Team Associated RC10GT Gold Edition is a love letter to the nitro era of RC racing. With its authentic design, competitionproven features, and nostalgic appeal, this re-release is perfect for long-time fans and new enthusiasts looking to experience a piece of RC history. Whether you're reliving the glory days of nitro racing or discovering the RC10GT for the first time, the Gold Edition delivers the performance, reliability, and excitement that made the original a legend.





LOAD AND



PIT & HAULER BAG BUYER'S GUIDE Text & Images by Jerry Tsai If you like to carry your RC vehicles bag is the ultimate solution. These with you everywhere you go, organizational powerhouses are designed to carry all the tools, you're in good company. For many of us, there's nothing better than parts, and accessories you'll need to keep your RC adventures spending the day tinkering with our running smoothly. Some include radio-controlled cars and trucks. This hobby is a blast and comes enough space to store your vehicle, with its fair share of challenges, but while others feature wheels to one hurdle that's hard to avoid is make transporting heavier loads hauling all the gear you need for a easier. full day at the track or trail. Let's take a look at some of the top hauler bags available today. When it's time to take your mobile workshop on the go, a pit or hauler MARCH 2025 61







TAMIYA - TRF TROLLEY PIT BAG

The Tamiya RC Trolley Pit Bag is a must-have for RC racers. With rear wheels and an adjustable handle, it's easy to transport. This water-resistant bag includes five inner compartments one large for 1/10 cars and four smaller ones, all with

durable handles for drawerlike organization. The side pouches can hold various tools, while a rear pocket might store things like setting boards and sheets. Perfect for organizing batteries, chargers, and parts, this bag keeps your gear ready for action. Interior Compartments: 1 large drawer, 4 small drawers Exterior Pockets: 3 Dimensions: 23 x 21 x 10 in.

P/N: 42337 MSRP: \$229 tamiyausa.com







PRO-LINE RACING - HAULER BAG

The Pro-Line Hauler Bag is the ultimate in storage and mobility. Featuring four drawer compartments—two large and two small—made of durable corrugated plastic, it offers ample organization. Exterior zipper pockets, a tool storage area on top, and

tie-down bungee straps for securing a vehicle enhance its functionality. Equipped with a collapsible pull handle and smooth-rolling casters, it's easy to transport from the parking lot to the pits, making it a must-have for serious RC enthusiasts.

Interior Compartments: 2 large drawers, 2 small drawers Exterior Pockets: 5 Dimensions: 21 x 20 x 15 in.

P/N: PR0605803 MSRP: \$228.99 prolineracing.com



Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Many Americans are fortunate to have dental coverage for their entire working life, through employer-provided benefits. When those benefits end with retirement, paying dental bills out-of-pocket can come as a shock, leading people to put off or even go without care.

Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

When you're comparing plans ...

- ► Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures or pay for preventive care only.
- ► Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- ► Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.

That's right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Even if you've had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn't take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... \$222 for a checkup ... \$190 for a filling ... \$1,213 for a crown.³ Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

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Dorothy P., TN

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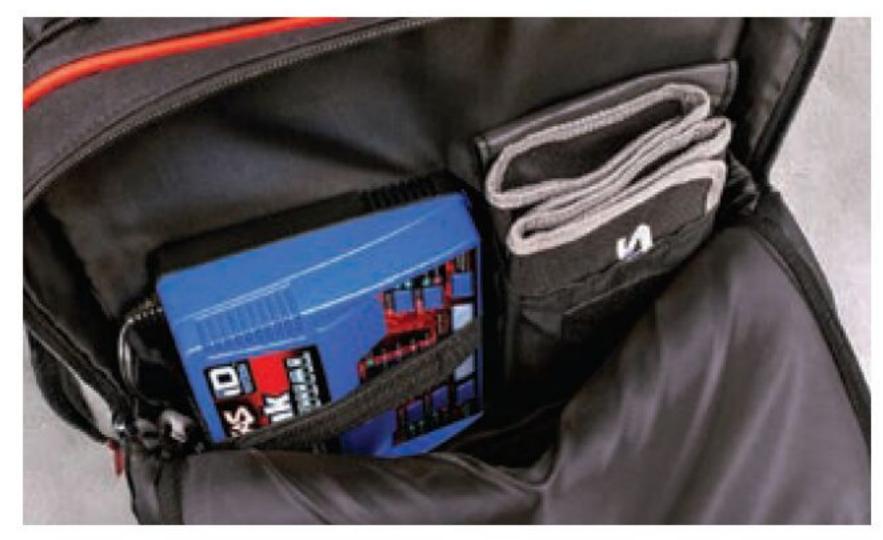
1-866-413-4318

Dental50Plus.health/flight









TRAXXAS RC DUFFLE BAG

The Traxxas duffel bag is designed for RC enthusiasts, accommodating 1/8- and 1/10-scale vehicles with robust protection. Its weather-resistant nylon construction features reinforced zippers, padded compartments, and durable foot rails. Dual ventilated side pockets and

adjustable end compartments securely store transmitters, tools, batteries, and gear. With thick nylon carry handles and an optional shoulder strap, it ensures style and functionality. Built to the same quality as Traxxas vehicles, it's perfect for field use and travel.

Interior Comparments: 1 Exterior Pockets: 2 Dimensions: 29.4"x 11.8"x 11.8"

P/N: 9917 MSRP: \$119.95 traxxas.com







WINGTOTE - DELUXE TRUCK TOTE

This tote offers impressive interior space and will easily accommodate a Traxxas Maxx with room to spare for accessories. Constructed from durable, water-resistant 600-denier nylon, it features five large external pockets for tools, batteries, and other

essentials. A protective layer of 3/8" closed-cell foam is sewn between the outer and inner shells to safeguard your RC vehicles. The angled handles and oversized main compartment make loading and transporting gear a breeze.

Interior Compartments: 1 Exterior Pockets: 5 Dimensions: 25 x 18 x 12.5 in.

P/N: WGT411 MSRP: \$89.99 wingtote.com



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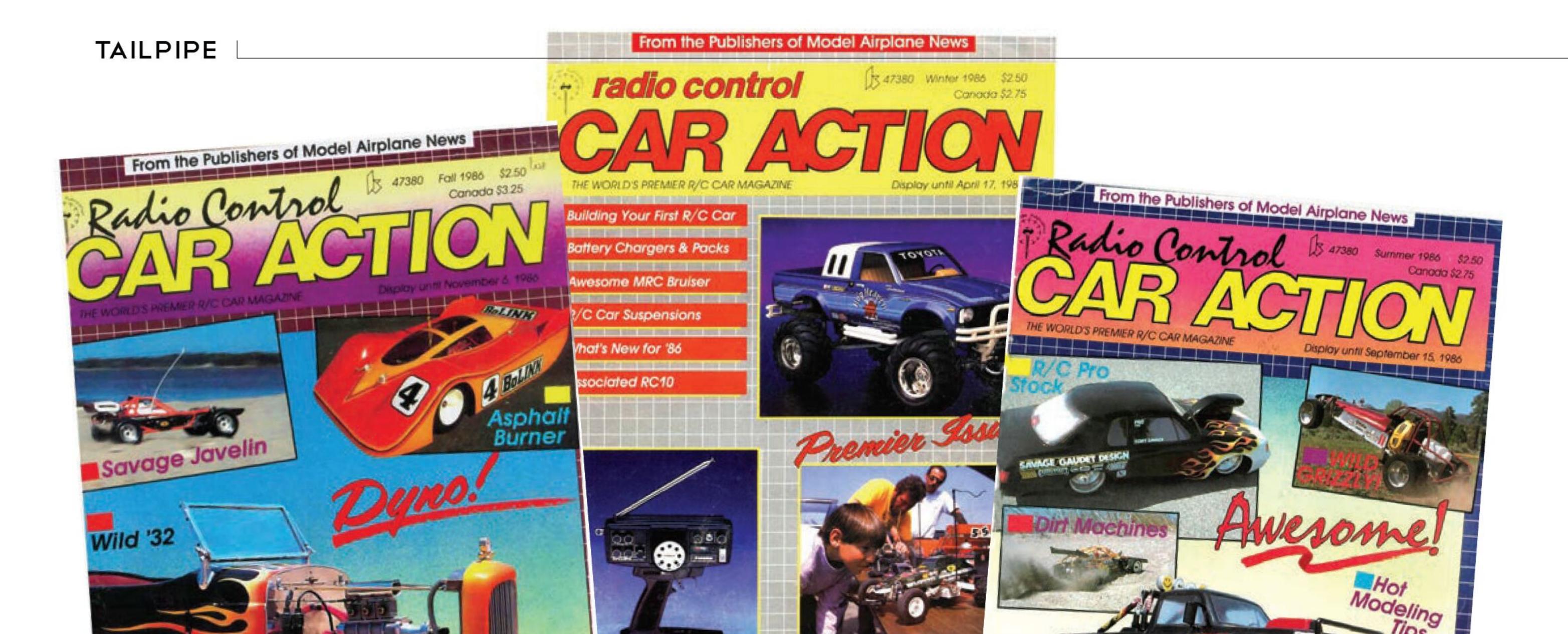
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DECADES OF RC PASSION



2025 MARKS NEARLY FOUR DECADES OF RC CAR ACTION

By Jerry Tsai

This year, RC Car Action Magazine proudly celebrates its 39th year of publication, a milestone made possible by the incredible support of our readers, friends, and industry partners.

Since our launch in 1986, we have been committed to bringing you the latest in RC news, in-depth product reviews, expert tips, and captivating features that have helped shape the world of radio-controlled vehicles.

From the early days of nitro-powered buggies to the rise of brushless motors and LiPo technology, we've been there to document the evolution of the RC hobby. Over the past four decades we've watched RC grow from a niche pastime into a global phenomenon, with innovative vehicles and advancements that continue to push the boundaries of performance and creativity.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our readers and the support of our industry partners. Your enthusiasm, feedback, and passion inspire us to keep innovating and delivering the best RC content.

As we look ahead, we're excited to explore the future of RC alongside you. Together, we'll continue to celebrate the past, embrace the present, and shape the future of this incredible hobby.

Thank you for being part of the RC Car Action legacy!

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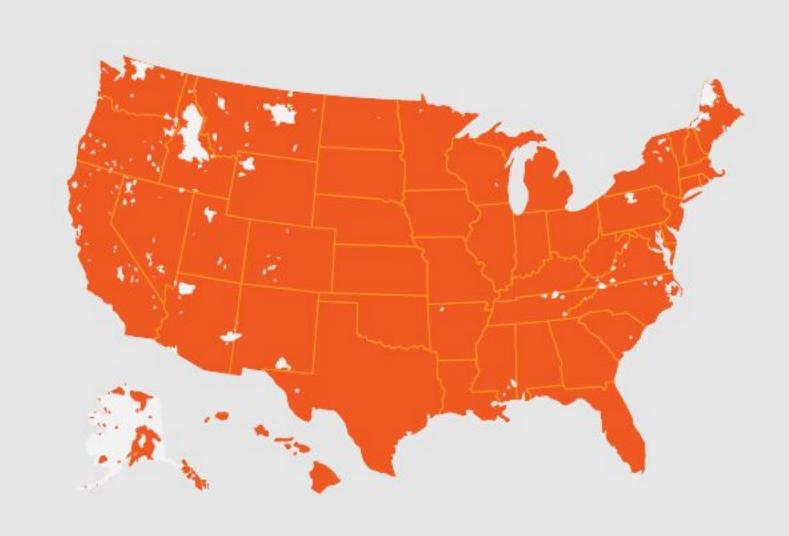
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-CUSTOMIZE YOUR

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