



Brandon Wright

Car Report

Traxxas Rustler VXL

This stadium truck wrote the ticket for brushless power and outrageous speed.

The Rustler VXL 1/10-scale stadium truck from Traxxas is powered by their new and exclusive Velineon 3500 Brushless Motor and the Velineon VXL-3S Electronic Speed Controller. According to battery selection and the way the vehicle is set up, the Rustler VXL can deliver actual top-end speeds of up to 70 miles per hour, not bad at all for an out-of-the-box, over-the-counter RTR. Could you expect anything less from the RC car company that showed the world how to build a good RTR?

The Velineon 3500 Brushless Motor provides the Rustler VXL power, but the harness comes from the VXL-3S ESC. This speed control has three programmable modes. Training Mode gives you 50-percent Forward/Brake/50-percent Reverse. Sport Mode makes it Forward/Brake/Reverse). The last is Race Mode, and that's Forward/Brake only.

The VXL-3S ESC is compatible with LiPo, NiCd and NiMH battery types. It has two-stage voltage detection



that can be turned on for LiPo battery use, or turned off if using NiCd or NiMH batteries. This speed control is a great feature. It's super easy to set up, and it gives you maximum performance with minimum hassle.

Being able to tone down the power for beginners, or driver just stepping up from slower vehicles is really smart. They can work their way into all that available



Front- and rear-end chassis views show rugged, composite nylon construction, beefy arms, sturdy coil-over shocks, heavy drive shafts and sealed transmission.



power at their own comfortable pace.

The VXL-3S is a brushless speed controller, but in addition, it also auto-detects brushed, brushless sensor, or brushless sensorless type motors.

The VXL-3S speed control in the Rustler VXL is mated to the

Velineon 3500 brushless motor for outstanding performance and battery duration. This motor features a precision-balanced rotor and high-speed ball bearings for super efficient operation and very low maintenance, and there are no brushes to worry about. This power setup is good



Specifications

- Length: 17.5 inches
- Track: 12.25 inches front and rear
- Wheelbase: 11.375 inches
- Height: 7 inches
- Motor: Velineon 3500 Brushless
- ESC: Velineon VXL-3s
- RC: 2-channel pistol 75MHz

RTR Features

- Factory-assembled stadium truck
- Factory-installed brushless motor
- Factory-installed RC system
- Composite tub chassis
- Long and XX coil-over shocks
- Ribbed and step-pin 2.8-inch tires
- Instruction manual

for 65+ M.P.H. with simple Traxxas option parts such as a larger pinion gear, a different spur gear

and a battery tray extender for LiPo packs, and a different spur gear. Even box stock, the Rustler VXL setup is very potent setup, and just adding a LiPo battery makes it super fast with really long run times so the fun lasts.

The Rustler's chassis is a composite nylon molded tub design. The transmission is an all-ball-bearing unit with steel gears to handle the power of the brushless motor, and a Revo-spec Torque Control slipper clutch to help dial in all that power to the ground. The gearbox is sealed, and it features a composite, planetary-gear differential to deliver the power to the wheel that needs it. The power is transferred to the wheels through updated, heavy-duty telescoping U-joint drive shafts to handle the extreme power of the Velineon brushless motor.



Traxxas Rustler VXL chassis layout provides for ample cooling of high-speed components. Wiring is heavy duty, and all equipment is readily accessible for use or service.



Traxxas' 2070 digital steering servo can really take a pounding, and the adjustable, oil-filled

shocks offer good dampening. The VXL has oversize, heavy-duty hubs and carriers to handle the rough stuff and power. The entire driveline runs on ball bearings, and the overall layout is really good for CG and maintenance.

Traxxas' versatile Velineon Brushless systems make good choices for beginners to advanced drivers. With a couple of setting changes and four simple parts, you can transform the Rustler VXL from a sporty stadium truck to a 70-M.P.H. fire-breather.

For more information about the Rustler VXL, special Velineon gears and accessories or hitting that 70-M.P.H. mark, see the ads on page 57 and Cover 4, visit www.traxxas.com on the Web, or call our friends at Traxxas in Plano, Texas, at 972-265-8000. **HM**



Velineon Rustler VXL pours it on over hard or loose surfaces. Grass and mulch fly as the stadium truck digs in and blasts off the line.