



Ed Rogala

R/C Report

Losi 1/10 Short Course Buggy

Fast and furious, this vehicle offers open-wheel racing at its best.

Well organized events, a result of major sponsorship and televised coverage of full-scale races on a number of cable and satellite channels, has whetted many a consumer's appetite for the SCT (Short Course Truck) genre of radio-controlled vehicles.

One of the classes of competition vehicles run during the full-scale SCT races is the open-wheel buggy class. Losi has just added a new twist to its extensive line of racing vehicles by the introduction of the RTR (Ready to Roll) SCB (Short Course Buggy).

Losi's new XXX-SCB is based on the chassis and components used in its popular short course truck series. In fact, over 90 percent of the parts are shared between the SCT and SCB. This makes a lot of sense. A customer who has experienced an SCT can make the transition from trucks to buggies without having to learn an entirely new chassis and suspension layout.

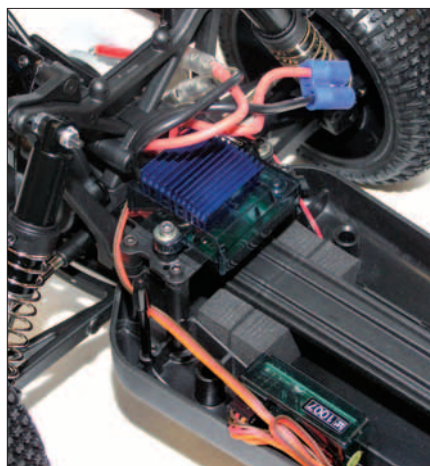
As a rule, R/C short course trucks are not terribly precise in terms of suspension and steering. Trucks are designed to slide in and out of corners and make huge leaps across bumps and dips. Contact between vehicles is expected, but due to the closed wheel nature of the vehicles they usually just bounce off each other.

On the other hand, SCB's are open-wheel vehicles, which makes for exciting racing and flipping as the open wheels inevitably come into contact with each other. The



very nature of an open-wheel racer requires much more precision in their suspension and steering, along with a more careful driving style. By developing the XXX-SCB, Losi has combined the ruggedness of a truck with the precision need to drive an open-wheel buggy, a truly great racing combination.

Beginning with a molded composite chassis, the SCB uses an LM-32K brushed competition motor, lithium compatible ESC and a Spektrum SR300 2.4 GHz receiver.



Left: Many of the suspension components on the Short Course Buggy are shared with Losi Short Course Trucks. Right: Due to the nature of open-wheel, full-contact racing, the steering on the SCB was tightened by Losi for more response.



Mechanics are supplied with a three-gear transmission that has an adjustable slipper clutch, and the suspension is provided by aluminum oil-filled shocks. Ball bearings are used all around. Losi's exclusive SCT traction tread tires are mounted to off-road beadlock-style wheels and put the power to the road.

The chassis is topped with a beautifully painted body, which is available in three different schemes. The XXX-SCB does not include a battery or charger. These are items that are up to a store to recommend to individual customers. Also available is the Losi XXX-Platform Short Course Tuning Kit #TLR9000, which includes everything needed to prepare a short course vehicle for competition.



There are a number of scale details present, like the simulated webbing designed to keep the driver's head inside the full-scale buggy during a roll-over collision.

The instruction manual is clear and concise, with four pages of exploded views. The replacement parts list will be useful to end users as well as store staff. The last two pages consist of setup sheets. These will help newcomers understand the near infinite amount of tuning possibilities and allow them to develop their own personal preferences as they become more proficient.

After programming the ESC for LiPo mode, it was time to take the buggy for a test spin. Contact was made with the owner of Raceworld Raceway in Griffith, IN (www.raceworldraceway.com), who graciously provided the use of an indoor clay track for driving impressions and photos.

The first thing noticed was that, when powered by a

lithium battery, the stock motor has a lot of "punch" and plenty of speed. The steering is responsive and smooth, much more precise than previous SCT's I've driven. Jumps are exhilarating. None of the "sail" that occurs with trucks and their wide, flat-bottom chassis. The XXX-SCB seems as comfortable in the air as it does on the track; this baby loves to fly.



Designed to be run on dirt tracks, the Losi XXX-SCB is fast, responsive and performs well in its intended environment.

In the world of full-scale racing, buggies compete at the same events as trucks. Losi is actively promoting SCB class racing, and there promises to be a growing market for this type of vehicle. The XXX-SCB along with the entire line of Losi vehicles and products are available through Horizon. **HM**

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E242XM & E216XM

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Dynamite Passport Ultrasport Charger

It doesn't matter what aspect of the radio control hobby an individual is participating in, all radio control ventures require batteries. And batteries require charging. Newcomers to radio control are besieged by the sheer number of battery types, sizes and brand names. In many instances a customer will ask why he needs to purchase a supplemental charger since his entry-level airplane, boat, car or radio system came with one. The answer is that while many products are supplied with chargers, they are generally rudimentary, often only capable of charging the battery for that product and rarely capable of charging a battery to its peak performance capacity.

For this review a Dynamite Passport Ultrasport 70 watt #DYN4104 charger was used to charge and peak the chassis battery so its full potential could be realized. Dynamite is a house brand of Horizon, and it is known as a quality supplier of tools, glow igniters, batteries and chargers. Plus, if a problem arises, the support provided by Horizon backs both a dealer and customer.

The included instruction manual does not overwhelm a user with the all-too-common flow charts that

electronics enthusiasts love but everyone else finds useless. Instead, there are easy-to-follow directions telling how to charge the selected battery. All of this is presented in a step-by-step manner that eliminates the confusion typically experienced with today's high-tech electronic devices.

The Dynamite Passport is a nice AC-only charger that is loaded with features. The Ultrasport will charge all forms of nickel, lithium (including lithium ferrite) and sealed lead acid or gel cells. The charge rate is manually adjustable, but has a "Battery Fast Charge Mode" that senses the condition of the battery and automatically adjusts the charge rate for the fastest possible, yet still safe, battery charging.

Although the Passport will charge any type of battery currently used in radio control, it is directed primarily at the surface user and therefore comes

equipped only with the common Traxxas and Sermos (Tamiya) connectors. To charge the Losi 7.4V 3600 mAh battery used in the review, a #DYN5007 charger-to-EC3 adapter was used. Other adapters, such as the commonly used Deans, are also available.



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