



Devin Troy

# Boat Report

## Pro Boat PT-109 40 EP

**Horizon's marine division models the definitive Elco patrol-torpedo boat.**

There are PT boats and PT boats, but without question, the world's best known Patrol-Torpedo boat is the PT-109, skippered by United States President-to-be John F. Kennedy. Pro Boat's PT-109 40 EP brings one of the most famous armed forces small boats to modelers' hands. Whenever PT boats are mentioned, we immediately think of the "109," so what better boat to have on the pond? With this great model, RCers can take on an enemy fleet and fight their own battles with swift action and power.

The 109 really owes its place in history to John F. "Jack" Kennedy, who upon having his boat hit and sunk by an enemy escort ship, led his men through their awe-inspiring rescue. Swimming miles while pulling one of his crew mates along, he led the way across multiple islands, searching for any other American forces for assistance, even treading water for an hour to watch in the night.



Night after night yielded no results, until Kennedy and a fellow crew member finally encountered two islanders, scouts for the Allies who helped them send for rescue. Kennedy assisted in leading the rescue mission to his men, and received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and a Purple Heart for his action. When later asked how he became to be known as a hero, Kennedy remarked, "I had no choice; they sank my boat!"



Two massive 550-class, water-cooled, electric motors and a heavy-duty reversing speed control ride inside the PT-109 RC bay. Three rudders and a twin-propeller setup provide turning authority and plenty of planing power.



So now that I've given you the history lesson, it's time to add some PT-boating adventures of my own. The Pro Boat PT-109 40 EP has a short preparation time. Start by charging the two 7.2-volt motor batteries (not included), making sure to never leave any battery on charge unattended. While the batteries are topping off, install eight AA alkaline cells in the transmitter, and add



### Specifications

- Length: 40 inches
- Beam: 10.5 inches
- Motors: 550 water cooled (2)
- Drive: Twin-propeller direct
- RC: 2-channel 27MHz AM with steering servo to three rudders, and a reversing, heavy-duty ESC

### RTR Features

- Factory-assembled PT-109
- Factory-installed drive system
- Factory-installed RC system
- Four non-functional torpedoes and two non-firing deck guns
- Navigation and running lights
- 20-page owner's manual



The 40-inch-long PT-109 EP is loaded with convincing deck detail. Two deck guns are ready for owner-supplied crewmen figures, and the four torpedoes can be quickly rotated from the stowed, running position (port bank) to angled outward and fire-ready (starboard).

the scale details. The first details to attach are the torpedoes, which are retained by short lengths of fuel tubing over their rear studs. No glue is needed. The rear mast slides into a tube on the rear deck, the scale antenna is inserted into a hole on the side of the driver's cabin, and the spotlight slides into a second tube next to the driver seat. The navigation light/mast assembly is inserted into the forward hatch, threading the wires for the working light through the holes in the cabin. Solder or twist the wires together, then use heat-shrink tubing or electrical tape to insulate the connections.

When the two motor batteries are fully charged, secure them in their RC bay compartments with hook & loop material. With the propellers free from any objects,

test the throttle, reverse speed and steering operations. To turn the navigation and running lights on, just use the left-side switch inside the RC bay. Once you have completed these few steps, your Pro Boat PT-109 40 EP is ready for the water — with great rewards.

The Pro Boat PT-109 is no small boat, so I was really impressed when it got on the step almost immediately. There is plenty of power coming from the twin 550 motors, and they really take the boat through the straights with a cool wake trailing. The PT-109's turning ability is exemplary. It can sweep in wide, gentle turns, yet whip around in really tight circles if desired. It's fast.

Pro Boat has created a versatile, great-handling and fun-to-run tribute to PT-109, a U.S. Navy superstar. **HM**



The Pro Boat PT-109 gets on the step quickly and turns tightly. Great handling and good speed make this scale boat fun to drive.