



Devin Troy

Boat Report

AquaCraft's Alligator Tours

Ready-to-run, nitro-powered swamp boat is big fun to drive.

AquaCraft Models' newly introduced Alligator Tours Airboat is certainly bound to catch any avid boater's eye. With awesome decals, two realistic on-deck chairs and a big, above-water air propeller, this boat is unique — and just begging to be driven. I know that the second my dad showed me the box, I wanted to get my hands on it; it just looked so cool. There's no doubt that plenty of other boaters will feel the same way about the Alligator Tours. It's different. I like it. I want it.

Getting the sleek Alligator Tours air boat ready for excitement on the water is super easy. So easy, in fact, that my dad and I prepared our review model right on our living room in a little less than 10 minutes. This is a clean and simple design, and one thing I love about a nitro or gas boat is that you don't have to charge anything. You do, however, need 12 AA batteries, and you will also need model airplane fuel, a glow driver and an electric starter for the engine.



Water-resistant radio box is easily accessible, right under the deck chair. Receiver is balloon wrapped. Easy-fill tank holds 10-15-percent airplane fuel.



The first step is to screw the antenna into the transmitter, then remove the battery door from the bottom of the handle. Then, being sensitive to polarity, insert eight of the 12 AA batteries and reinstall the door. Turn the transmitter to "on" and the LED should glow green. If it blinks red, the batteries need to be reinstalled or replaced.



Next, use a #1 Phillips screwdriver to remove the two Phillips head screws from the top of the radio box. Take off the seat assembly and the radio box cover, then install the other four AA batteries in the battery holder. Slip the battery box back into the radio box, replace the cover and

reinstall the seat assembly with the two Phillips screws.

AquaCraft did a really cool thing in making the decals in two primary color schemes — red or green — so



Specifications

- Length: 30 inches
- Beam: 11.25 inches
- Height: 14 inches
- Weight: 6 pounds, 5 ounces
- Power: SuperTigre G34 2-stroke
- RC: TACTIC 2-channel pistol with two servos and RX battery box

RTR Features

- Fully assembled swamp boat
- Factory-installed 2-stroke engine
- Factory-installed RC system
- Sturdy propeller guard
- Colorful, stick-on graphics sheet
- Carrying handle and boat stand
- 12-page instruction manual

drivers can choose a color they like to decorate their boats.

A nitro-powered RC boat, the Alligator Tours air boat comes with a SuperTigre .34 two-stroke engine. You will

need an electric starter to get your engine going, and I use a standard Hobbico airplane starter. The "Tigre" started right away, growling with power. The carburetor has two main adjustments you can make, the high speed needle (HSN) and the low speed needle (LSN). Tuning the HSN adjusts the amount of fuel entering the engine, where the LSN adjusts the fuel mixture during idle. Run the engine and adjust both needles to get maximum performance.

Once you have the engine fine-tuned, walk the boat to the water's edge, making sure to keep your hands away from the propeller, and place the boat in the water. The Alligator Tours is so cool to drive, and very different from conventional boats in that it doesn't use a water rudder.



Alligator Tours gets on the step almost immediately, and has unexpectedly high top-speed performance.

Since there's no turning device in the water, getting the best turn authority to the air rudders helps when you have some speed behind the boat. On the other hand, having no water rudder is awesome because you can also run the boat over snow and swamps, even moist, dewey grass.

While it took me a minute or two to get used to the handling of the Alligator Tours, this AquaCraft air boat is a really cool model to drive. There is plenty of power, but you can also run the boat at lower speeds if that's what you want. I just think it's so fun to drive something that's so far removed from the boating norm.

Every drive is full of excitement and surprise. Also, it's great for improving your driving skills because the different handling lets you to build on what you already know. Alligator Tours is an awesome RC boat that will fascinate you more and more with every run. **HM**



Alligator Tours looks great on the water, and also runs well over wet grass, snow and similar slick surfaces. This boat is a blast to drive.