



Brandon Wright

Car Report

DuraTrax Cliff Climber

Full-scale rock crawling is a huge sport, and the RC industry is in on the action.

The all-new Cliff Climber from DuraTrax is a 1/14-scale, ready-to-run rock crawler with 4-wheel drive, 4-wheel steering and a long list of features to set it apart from many others. The Cliff Climber comes fully assembled, with everything needed to run the truck except the batteries and a charger.

The factory-installed, 2-channel Tactic TTX-200 surface system that comes with the Cliff Climber is made for DuraTrax by Futaba. The transmitter has mechanical trim and servo reversing for each channel. The two servos are standard-size TSX-200 units, one each to handle the power and climbing advantages of heavy-duty front and rear steering. The Cliff Climber uses all-wheel-steering all the time, so no special transmitter control is needed for activation. The speed control is designed to handle the dual 380 motors and dual 7.2-volt batteries, and the Cliff Climber thrives on the combination. The dual 380's are set up for maximum torque, since that is just what you need for rock climbing's challenges.



Two DuraTrax 7.2-volt 1600mAh motor batteries and eight AA alkaline cells for the transmitter are the only extras needed. Everything else is included in the RTR.



The chassis is a stacked-frame design, and the metal side frames deliver maximum strength and durability. The setup is extremely well organized, with a four-link-style suspension system for maximum articulation over the roughest terrain. This layout further ensures that everything is protected by something on the underside so it doesn't get hung up or damaged. The Cliff Climber's four aluminum-body shocks provide both strength and performance, and the dual batteries make great power, extend runtime and keep the CG lower to the ground than a single pack.

Two separate differentials, each carrying one of the 380 motors, is something you would only expect to find on much larger and more costly crawlers. There's absolutely no doubt that this feature is one strong point that really sets the Cliff Climber apart from others in its class.



Specifications

- Length: 14.2 inches
- Width: 9 inches
- Height: 7.9 inches
- Wheelbase: 9.5 inches
- Power: Dual 380 brushed motors
- RC: TACTIC TTX-200 system with ESC and dual steering servos

RTR Features

- Factory-built rock climber
- Factory-installed motors and ESC
- Factory-installed RC system
- Stacked frame design
- Front and rear diffs with motors
- Four aluminum-body, coil-over shocks
- Comprehensive instruction manuals



DuraTrax' Cliff Climber is a "rock-solid" performer, as so clearly demonstrated by this one-two-three action sequence over the rock pile on Brandon Wright's hobby-oriented property. Brandon also tested the Cliff Climber over wooden steps, rough terrain and a wood pile.

The hardened-steel drive shafts take a lot of the abuse that's all part of rock crawling, and the body is set up to be rock-crawling specific, with the maximum clearance available from all four tires as the frame articulates.

The Cliff Climber's wheels and tires are specifically designed for rock crawling. The rubber gets a really good grip on almost every imaginable surface, and there's tread on the sidewalls to help grab everything possible everywhere when crawling. The overall setup is great for Cliff Climber's purpose, and works very well for an out-of-the-box, ready-to-run vehicle that won't break the bank. The packaging is great for attracting customer attention.

The cliff climber performed very well on my private rock pile, and didn't have any problem getting through some of the tricky sections with the right line and throttle control. This is a great truck for getting into rock crawling, and the DuraTrax StressTech Parts Guarantee is hard to beat. Just send back any defective part and DuraTrax will send back a new one for up to a year.

The Cliff Climber is available in several different body colors, and the truck is also available as an ARTR version for customers who want to add their own favorite radio and ESC combinations. If a customer wants to trick out his ride, DuraTrax offers a full line of upgrades. **HM**



The Cliff Climber is a fine entry-level rock crawler, with plenty of excess power, outrageous four-wheel-steering and dual powered diffs.