

Devin Troy

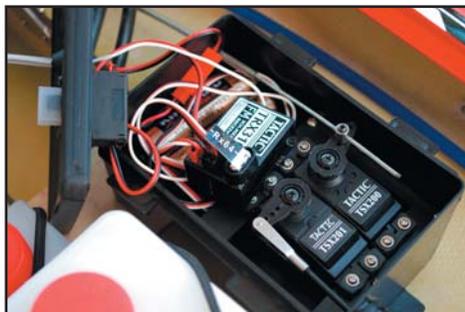
Boat Report

Rio 51 RTR Deep Vee

AquaCraft's giant offshore racer uses TACTIC RC and Fuji-Imvac gas power.

AquaCraft's Rio 51 ready-to-run deep vee is an all-new, gasoline-powered racing boat that will fill any power-hungry boater's need for speed. The Rio 51 is an impressive giant, and it's 57 inches long from the tip of the bow to the end of the propeller shaft. Even more impressive is that the boat's size is easily matched by its massive power. The Rio 51 is a monster in the water, smashing over the surface and producing an awe-inspiring wake. Once boaters feel the power of the Rio 51 deep vee, they'll be hard pressed to put the transmitter down.

The all-fiberglass Rio 51 comes complete with a factory-installed Fuji-Imvac Marine 28cc gasoline engine and a TACTIC FM RC system by Futaba, composite turn fins, a three-blade 67 by 105mm brass propeller, a sturdy wood stand and an instruction manual with detailed pictures of every necessary step.



Devin Troy holds the Rio 51 to give you an impression of this all-glass racing boat's enormous size. Rio's water-resistant RC box holds the TACTIC FM receiver, two powerful TACTIC servos and a four-cell dry battery box.



Not included but suggested items to assemble and run the Rio 51 are a 5.5mm nut driver, 7mm nut driver, 3mm hex driver, #2 Phillips screwdriver, #2 slotted screwdriver, 10mm wrench, a small personal retrieval system (we use the AquaCraft Atlantic Harbor Tugboat), 12 AA batteries, a gasoline jug, 2-cycle oil, mixing cups and funnel, GrimRacer 50 weight cable oil and GrimRacer Speed Grease drive lubricant.

I was extremely excited about running the Rio 51 as it was my first experience with a gasoline-powered boat. I wanted to make sure I handled the boat properly so I didn't cause any damage, so my dad and his friend Brandon Wright came along to lend their experience. After following the instruction manual to install the rudder and propeller, Brandon, most familiar with



Specifications

- Hull length: 51.5 inches
- Overall length: 57 inches
- Beam: 13.5 inches
- Weight: 13.75 pounds
- Power: Fuji-Imvac 28cc gas
- RC: TACTIC FM 2-channel pistol with throttle and rudder servos

RTR Features

- Factory-assembled offshore boat
- Factory-installed gasoline engine
- Factory-installed FM RC system
- Composite rudder and turn fins
- Three-blade brass propeller
- Wooden boat stand
- 28-page instruction manual



Final assembly steps include installing the composite rudder blade into the yoke, installing the brass propeller and greasing the exposed areas of the shaft. Separate tank in hull holds lubricant for flex shaft. Great Planes also offers Fuji Super Lubricating 2-Cycle Mixing Oil.

gasoline engines, showed me how to properly start the engine. We filled the fuel tank with the gas/oil mix, then filled the oil tank for the flex shaft. We turned on the transmitter and receiver and depressed the priming bulb until we saw fuel enter it. Brandon showed me how to remove the spark plug wire from the spark plug, close the choke and pull the recoil starter. We opened the choke, replaced the plug wire, opened the oil shutoff clip and pulled the recoil to start the motor. By the end, I had actually learned how to start a gasoline-powered engine.

Now that I'd learned about how the inside of AquaCraft's Rio 51 works, it was time for us to toss it in the water and have some fun — and toss it is exactly what we did. My dad, having raced boats before, knew

exactly how to give the Rio 51 a racing start. As the boat doesn't have a clutch, it has to be vaulted into the water to keep the motor running. My dad gave the Rio a strong launch and the boat all but flew across the water.

Dealers should understand that the Rio 51 is so powerful and fast that it needs a wider turning area than most EP sport boats. This one is best used in large, open areas, such as rivers, lakes or large ponds. Smaller areas can be okay, too, but drivers should be reasonably experienced.

The Rio 51 is the definition of pure power. The Fuji-Imvac gas engine gives the boat plenty of speed, and the performance is amazing. The Rio is so powerful that I'd estimate its speed at roughly 60 M.P.H. It is truly difficult to match the power and handling of the Rio 51. **HM**



Rio 51 gets on the step immediately, and rips for all it's worth. This boat is every kind of major fast, and handling is rock-solid crisp.