

Devin Troy

Boat Report

Global's RTR Capricorn 54

Entry level sporting fun in an all-inclusive package for electric power.

Global Hobby's new Capricorn 54 by Compass is a ready-to-run, ready-to-race electric boat. It's a fun and enjoyable sporting boat, and novice to intermediate drivers can have a really great time with it. The Capricorn 54 is a deep vee racer, so it's reasonably fast, easy to control and packed full of excitement.

Compass' Capricorn 54 comes completely built and ready-to-run with a 2-channel FM radio control system, proportional motor controller (ESC), 540-size closed end-bell electric motor, 6-cell 1800mAh Ni-Cd battery and a 110-volt AC wall charger. The only items dealers need to offer purchasers are six AA alkaline batteries for the transmitter, lubricating oil for the driveshaft, a non-abrasive cleaner and paper towels.

Getting the Capricorn 54 ready for the water is extremely simple. The very first step I performed was to charge the battery. This takes a little than an hour, and then I headed for my favorite water hole, one of the scenic ponds at Greenfield Corporate Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



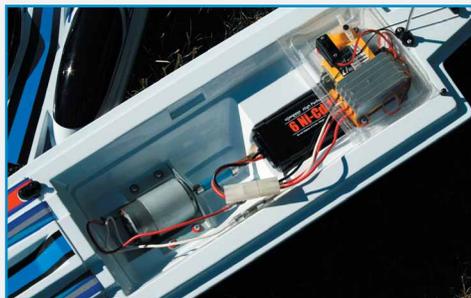
Once at the pond, I prepared the transmitter by screwing in the antenna and inserting the six alkaline cells in the battery tray. Next, I removed the battery access hatch from the deck by removing the two retaining spring clips, then I slid the battery into the mounting slot. Hook & loop is factory applied, and holds the battery in position, but not so firmly that it's hard to remove; the pack actually comes free with very little pressure.



A complete 2-channel RC system comes factory installed. Capricorn 54 also comes with an 1800mAh 7.2-volt NiCD battery and AC charger.

After installing the antenna support tube around the receiver antenna wire, and checking that both the transmitter and receiver switches were in the off position, I plugged the connector on the NiCd battery into the connector on the speed control, then I checked the controls. I adjusted the two control trim tabs on the transmitter so that they were centered, turned on the transmitter first, then the receiver,

and completed my check by operating the rudder and motor speed controls. Response was perfect, and the Capricorn 54 was now ready to race around the pond.



Specifications

- Length: 30 inches
- Beam: 7 inches
- Motor: 540 with closed end bell
- Drive: Direct via stuffing box
- RC: 2-channel with one servo and electronic speed control
- Hull: ABS deep vee

RTR Features

- Factory-assembled boat
- Factory-installed electric drive
- Factory-installed RC system
- 7.2-volt, 1800mAh NiCD battery and 110-volt AC wall charger
- Plastic and metal boat stand
- 12-page instruction manual

Compass's Capricorn 54 is an extremely fun boat to drive. I can really put it through its paces, and it has great entry level racing speed. It's fast and exciting, gliding and sweeping across the pond with grace and agility while sporting a beautiful rooster tail. However, what really impresses me is that while the Capricorn 54 is at full racing speed, it is still easily controlable. Its rudder is capable of delivering very tight radius turns, and easily demonstrates its ability to whip around in sharp 180's and shoot off in the opposite direction.

While I really have a blast with the Capricorn 54 at its full racing speed, another way I truly enjoy the boat is driving it leisurely. I place it at a fast yet still calm speed and sweep it across the pond in wide arcs and big figure eights. Its positive control amazes me. It turns exactly where and how I instruct it, obeying my every command.



The Capricorn 54's deep vee hull cuts through the water and delivers a stable glide. This is an excellent entry level boat.

The Capricorn 54 will instantly pick up speed and get on the step when I want it to do so, and when I want that more relaxing drive, the Capricorn 54 slows to my lower cruising speed at the very moment I pull back on the motor stick. Capricorn 54 is truly a great drive.

As a sport boat or an informal, entry-level racing boat, Compass's Capricorn 54 is a great choice. It encompasses a full range of abilities, allowing it to please almost anyone with any kind of sport boating fun in mind. It can be used to race and test your abilities in a slalom course, or it can deliver a relaxing cruise so drivers can just enjoy the quality of a sunny day at the pond.

For more information about the Capricorn 54, see the ad on Cover 2, visit www.globalhobby.net on the Web, or telephone Global Hobby Distributors in Fountain Valley, California, at 800-346-6543. **HM**



Devin Troy zips Global's 30-inch, electric-powered Capricorn 54 around the fountain on the pond at Greenfield Corporate Center.