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Car Report

Mini-Rock Crawler RTR

There's unbelievable articulated action in this compact machine.

Losi's new 1/18th scale Mini-Rock Crawler RTR is sure to be a big hit with the rock crowd, and should surely get a lot of full-scale enthusiasts hooked on the rapidly growing sort of RC rock crawling. The Mini-Rock is a much less expensive entry into the sport than larger crawlers, but its great performance lets it work and climb with the best of the big stuff.

The Mini-Rock comes in a great display box, all decked out on rocks with a desert background. The window box is large enough to show the entire truck, and let shoppers see just how advanced this little crawler really is.

Losi's crawler is loaded with features. The 2.4GHz Spektrum DSM radio lets drivers and event organizers forget about channel issues. They just turn on the RC and have a great time crawling with friends or competitors. The vehicle features the new Losi high-torque Digital Mini-Servo for precise control and plenty of power for tight spots on the rocks.



The twin vertical-plate chassis design is ideal for rock crawling, yielding tons of clearance and maximum suspension travel. The suspension is a multi-link design, with metal lower links and plastic upper "Y" links for maximum travels and good ground clearance. It also has extra-long-travel, oil-filled shocks to maximize suspension movement and get the axles over surprisingly large obstacles with no problem.

The axles are heavy duty, with metal ring-and-pinion gears for superior strength and durability under heavy loads. The axle shafts are metal, too, to help with flex under the high stress of rock crawling.

The axles are positioned to optimize the drive shaft angles for less drag and better drive train geometry, as well as clearance and strength. The axles and differentials are locked for the best possible traction, and the drive shafts are telescoping



Losi 2.4GHz pistol-grip transmitter and alkaline batteries are included in the set, as are the onboard motor battery and AC charger. Note heavy-duty steering servo.



Specifications

- Scale: 1/18
- Length: 12 inches
- Width: 7 inches
- Wheelbase: 8.5 inches
- Weight: 2.04 pounds
- Chassis: Metal, twin vertical plate
- RC: Spektrum 2.4GHz 2-channel

RTR Features

- Factory-assembled crawler
- Painted body in blue, red or black
- 4WD with lock differentials
- ESC with reverse and drag brake
- Losi Mini-Rock Claw tires
- 7.2V 1100mAh battery and charger
- Easy-to-read instruction manual



This left-to-right set of images demonstrates the Mini-Rock Crawler as it gyrates and twists to climb the nasty rock pile at Pit Stop Hobbies in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Rock climbing is the current rage in full-scale circles, and hobby shop rock courses are popular, too.

with metal yokes, all for super strength and a suspension setup with the articulation needed for the big obstacles.

The center-mounted transmission features a standard, three-gear design, with a spool and a slipper to maximize getting the power to the ground and letting you tune it to your driving style. The entire drive line rolls on precision ball bearings, so it's really smooth and efficient.

The motor is specifically designed for crawling, with a ton of torque to get over and through those tough spots. The ESC is also specific to crawling, with no reverse delay, and extra drag brake programmed in. The drag brake helps hold you in position till you have your line figured out, and you definitely don't want any delay going into reverse. Losi's Mini-Rock Claw tires get tons of grip. I run the larger Claws on my larger crawlers and they work better than anything else I've tried.

We visited the new course at Pit Stop Hobbies, where rock crawling has really taken off. Watching the truck work and how well it handles the rocks is impressive. The suspension articulates beyond all expectation — I couldn't believe how far it would lift the opposite tire. It had no problem climbing up the large pile of rocks and logs.

The Losi Mini-Rock Crawler's small size and low cost will help get more people into the rock crawling scene. Getting your store ready for action is easy, too. Just find a construction company with some extra rock from a job site, then ask if they'll drop it off. Some companies will do it for a small charge, even free. Having a rock pile will increase your sales. It doesn't take much room, and noise is no problem since the crawlers are electric.

Losi truly nailed their end of the deal. The Mini-Rock Crawler is an awesome little truck. **HM**



Check the unbelievable angle of the suspension. Losi's Mini-Rock articulates like bigger machines costing twice the price — or more.