

HELION

# Animus 18SC



## AT A GLANCE

- WHO MAKES IT** Helion
- WHO IT'S FOR** Any mini and short course enthusiasts
- HOW FAST** 23.67mph
- HOW MUCH** \$99
- BUILD TYPE** RTR
- VEHICLE TYPE** 1/18 electric 4x4 short course truck
- THE BOTTOM LINE**  
The Helion Animus 18SC is a small short course truck that does not disappoint. It is quick, lightweight, efficient and very durable and handles most terrain with ease.

**B**reaking into the hobby level radio controlled market is no easy task. With so many established manufacturers, it is easy to get overlooked as just a flash-in-the-pan company. So, what did Helion do to make sure they were noticed and let the rest of the industry know they meant business? First, they looked at two of the hottest segments of our hobby, short course trucks and 1/18 vehicles, and released the Animus 18SC exclusively through Hobby Town USA. Equipped with a 2.4GHz radio, full bearings and authentic-looking bumpers, it is sure to make the establishment take notice. So, does Helion mean business? If the Animus 18SC is any indication, yes, they sure do!

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The compound terrain short course style tires are mounted to black 5-spoke rims. The rims mount to the truck with miniature hex adapters.

What's in the box? A well detailed body, 1100mAh 7.2V NiMH battery pack, wall charger, 2.4GHz transmitter and the truck. Just add some AA batteries for the transmitter, charge the battery pack and you are ready to roll.



NEED TO KNOW

The Animus 18SC is 4WD and features a light plastic shaft to deliver power to the front and rear of the vehicle. The front and rear differentials are of the gear variety and can be used for hours before requiring service. Unlike many shaft driven 1/18 vehicles, the pinion and spur gear are sealed from the elements, so dirt and debris have a hard time getting at the pinion and spur gear.

- 6.5mm coil over oil-filled shocks are standard equipment on the Animus 18SC. Spring tension can be easily adjusted by adding or subtracting spacers and there are multiple shock mounting positions. The shocks are easily removable, so changing oil or replacing seals is a painless task.
- On all four corners of the Animus 18SC are soft compound, high traction, treaded tires mounted to black rims. The five spoke rims use a hex adapter to

mount them to the axles unlike the vast majority of 1/18 vehicles. This helps prevent them from being misaligned and helps the tire and rim run very true.

The Animus 18SC utilizes an all inclusive ERS (ESC/ Receiver/Servo) unit. This combination piece of electronics helps save space, positions all of the electronics to the right hand side of the chassis, opposite the battery, for better balance and make for neat and tidy wiring.

The center drivetrain of the Animus 18SC glides on a set of sealed ball bearings. This makes for friction-free performance and less time between rebuilding.

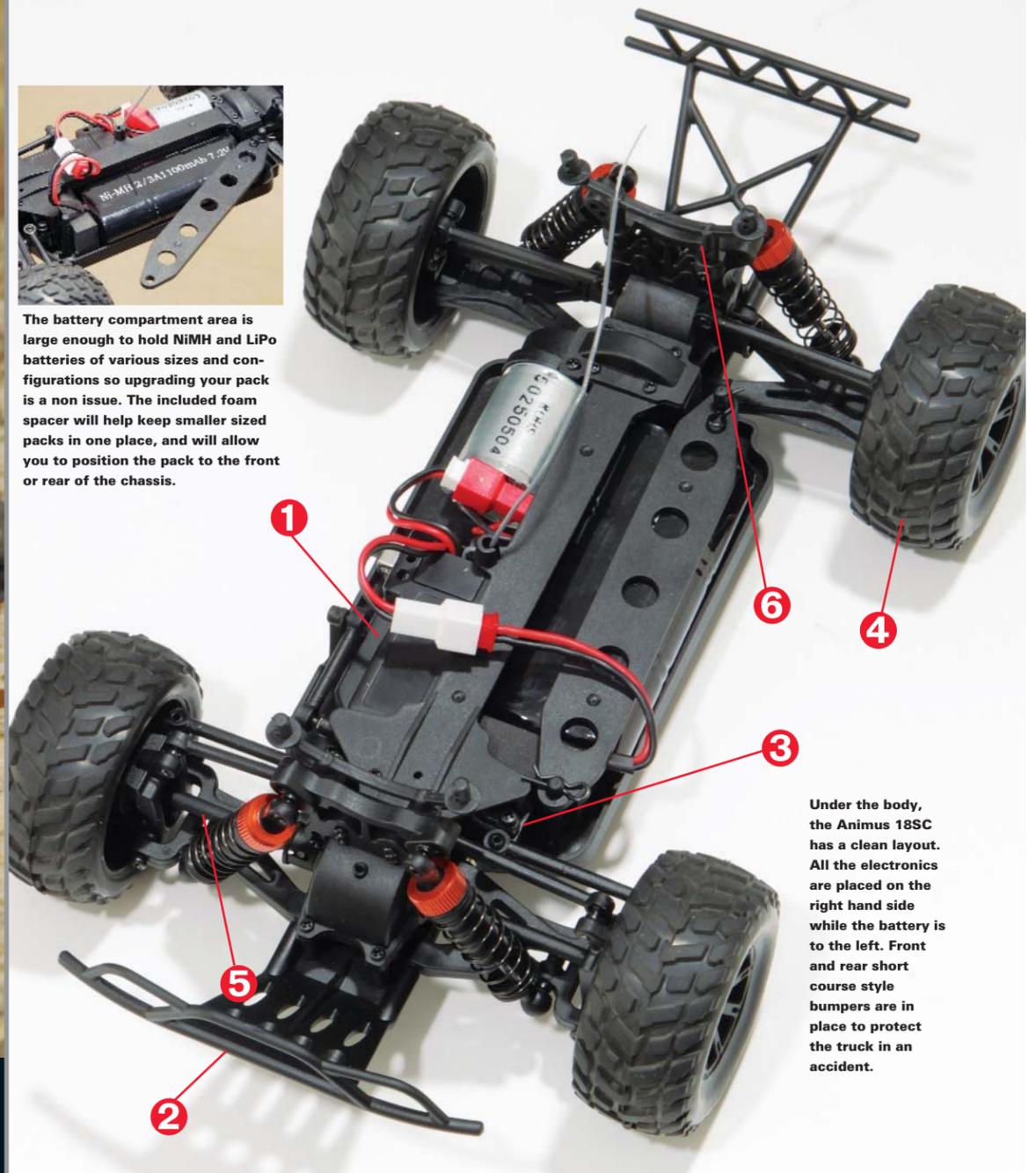
The 370-size brushed motor has a sealed end bell making maintenance a non-issue and performs well in almost any condition. A 7.2V, 1100mAh battery pack and trickle charger are included to make the Animus 18SC a near complete package. Just buy some AA batteries for the transmitter and you are good to go!

PROS & CONS

- + Cool body and bumpers
- + 2.4GHz radio comes standard
- + Efficient shaft driven drive train
- + Smooth oil filled shocks
- + Great price point
- Would like to see separate electronic components



The battery compartment area is large enough to hold NiMH and LiPo batteries of various sizes and configurations so upgrading your pack is a non issue. The included foam spacer will help keep smaller sized packs in one place, and will allow you to position the pack to the front or rear of the chassis.



Under the body, the Animus 18SC has a clean layout. All the electronics are placed on the right hand side while the battery is to the left. Front and rear short course style bumpers are in place to protect the truck in an accident.

ITEMS NEEDED & USED

- + Max Amps AAs
- 8 AAs for the transmitter

TOOLS INCLUDED & NEEDED

- + Phillips screwdriver and box wrench
- Hobby grade screw and nut driver set

DESIGN ANALYSIS

1 An all inclusive ERS, (ESC, servo, receiver) unit makes for tidy wiring and helps keep chassis weight evenly distributed from left to right when the battery in position. The receiver portion on the unit is of the 2.4GHz variety making for glitch free operation.

2 The front and rear bumpers don't just give the Animus 18SC a true scale short course look. They are also fully functional, protecting the front and rear suspension from damage should you find yourself in a collision.

3 Bellcrank style steering linkage operates very smoothly and virtually eliminated steering slop. They linkage attaches to fixed plastic turnbuckles that are very durable and don't pop off, even in a front end crash.

4 Short course inspired tires found on all four corners feature a soft compound and a tread that can be used on most any surface, from carpet, to asphalt to dirt. Because of this, you won't need to purchase extra sets of tires anytime soon.

5 While the vast majority of haft driven 1/18 vehicles utilize ball differentials, the Animus 18SC uses geared diffs. They are very durable, always perfectly adjusted and can be used for a very long time before requiring a rebuild.

6 A powerful, 370 sized brushed motor generated enough horsepower for the Animus 18SC to spin the tires on demand. This reliable motor will last a very long time, and was cool as a cucumber even after running the truck for 10 plus minutes straight.



The front suspension features oil filled shocks, multiple mounting



positions and fixed turnbuckles. The short course style front bumper is securely attached with the front suspension arms.



The rear also uses a fixed camber link and beefed up suspension arms. Note the pinion and spur gear are completely sealed. The rear bumper extends far enough back to provide great protection.

## PERFORMANCE

**Test Conditions:** Local baseball diamond, stone dust parking lot

**STEERING** Understeer Neutral Oversteer

The 4WD drivetrain on the Animus 18SC can hold its line almost everywhere. On power the truck has a strong push, while off power it is much more predictable. One nice surprise was the Animus 18SC did not traction roll when cornering hard.

**BRAKING** Poor Fair Good Excellent  
The stock ERS unit has a much stronger brake that I would have guessed and when applied did a good job slowing the Animus 18SC down in a predictable fashion. Pushing all the way back on the brake hard and quick just about locked the wheels while applying it more gradually made for predictable turning.

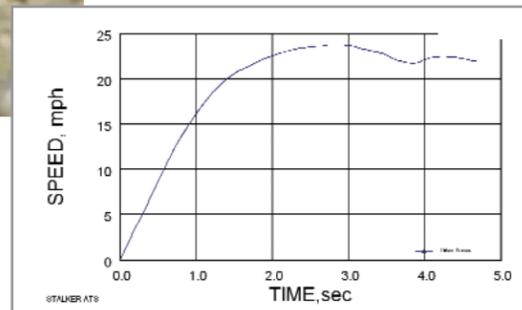
**ACCELERATION** Poor Fair Good Excellent  
When I grabbed the throttle on the 2.4GHz transmitter the Animus 18SC buggy started kicking up a fair share of dirt, sand and debris as it took off. Considering it utilizes a 370-size brushed motor the top end is admirable. In short bursts the truck can gain enough speed to clear scale jumps and in long stretches it can gather enough muster to clear obstacles meant for larger vehicles.

**SUSPENSION** Poor Fair Good Excellent  
On smooth surfaces the Animus 18SC was planted, able to take corners fair-

ly fast and the suspension kept all four wheels in contact with the ground. When on rougher surfaces, the truck got bounced around a bit and would sometimes find itself out of shape. I think the stock oil may be a touch too light and going to a thicker viscosity oil may alleviate this bouncing.

**JUMPING** Poor Fair Good Excellent  
I was not expecting the Animus 18SC to be all that graceful in flight with its full-fendered short course body. I was pleasantly surprised when each time it approached and hit a jump it almost always seemed to have the right attitude and landed almost perfectly square. If the nose did get pointed too high air would get under the body causing a kite like effect. Quickly grabbing the brake would most always help level the truck out while in air. Upon landing it would usually bottom out but this is most likely due to the light shock oil.

**DURABILITY** Poor Fair Good Excellent  
After running about 8 packs through the Animus 18SC, some of the LiPo variety, not a single part had failed. Even after hard jumps, flips and crashes the truck remained intact. Upon close inspection there was some usual wear and a small amount of oil had accumulated at the shock bottom, but this is nothing out of the norm.



Acceleration: 77.11 ft. in 3.01 sec. @ 23.67mph

## SPECS & TUNING OPTIONS

### Helion Animus 18SC

#### DIMENSIONS

**LENGTH** 10.8 in. (275mm)  
**WIDTH** 6.9 in. (177mm)  
**WHEELBASE** 6.3 in. (159mm)  
**WEIGHT** 1.2lb. (540g)

#### SUSPENSION

- Shock position—Three positions on the front and rear shock towers
- Shock oil—Oil can be changed to a variety of viscosities
- Bump steer—By adding or subtracting shims under the steering ball stud
- Ride height—Preload clips

#### DRIVETRAIN

- Gear ratio—Optional pinions

#### THE LAST WORD

I often look at new, fresh to the market manufactures and vehicles with a fair share of skepticism as they have a lot to prove. After having a chance to fully test the Helion Animus 18SC, it is more than clear that they have done their homework and want the public to know that they are here to stay. It is a great little entry level 1/18 short course truck that, for the price, is full of features, plenty quick, durable and will be fairly easy to upgrade when the time is right. ©

**Links**  
Helion, helionrc.com

**Max Amps,**  
maxamps.com,  
(888) 654-4450

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please see our source  
guide on page 137.