

HELION
Animus
18TR



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Small Truggy with a Big Attitude!

Having already released two very successful vehicles, the 1/18 scale Animus 18SC and the 1/10-scale Dominus SC, the folks at Helion needed a new vehicle to please their already large, and growing following. Realizing that their first release flew off the shelves at every Hobby Town USA across the country faster than they could have predicted they looked to this reliable 1/18 4WD platform for a follow-up release. After a few tweaks here and there including a truggy style body and new bumpers; poof, the Helion Animus 18TR has been released. By keeping the revisions from the 18SC to a minimum, the Animus 18TR is delivered at the same great price point too, just \$99.99



AT A GLANCE

- MADE BY:** Helion
- MADE FOR:** Mini and entry level enthusiasts
- WHAT'S IT COST:** \$99.99
- TYPE:** RTR



REVIEWER'S OPINION



Helion nailed it in the micro department once again in creating a fully ready to rock Truggy that can go from the box to the dirt after simply waiting for a battery to charge. The 18TR offers so much fun, it's almost criminal they don't charge you more for this machine!



With the plastic top plate removed the lightweight plastic center driveshaft and spur gear are exposed on the Animus 18TR. The drivetrain is designed to keep all foreign objects out, reducing possible failure and maintenance.



Aggressively treaded soft compound tires are mounted to cool looking black 3-spoke rims. The rims mount to the truck with miniature hex adapters so they run straight and true.



The front and rear suspension are typical of other 1/18 vehicles as they feature oil filled shocks, multiple mounting positions on the shock towers and fixed plastic turnbuckles. What really sets the Animus 18TR apart is the no slop steering linkage and spring loaded servo saver. This really helps the vehicle track straight.



FACTS

◆ The Animus 18TR comes equipped with a fast and powerful 370 sized brushed motor that features a sealed end bell making maintenance a non-issue. A 7.2V, 2/3A 1100mAh battery pack and trickle charger are included to make the Animus 18TR a near complete package. Just pop some AA batteries into the transmitter and the truck will be ready to go.

◆ An all-inclusive ERS (ESC/ Receiver/Servo) unit is utilized on the Animus 18TR. This combination piece of electronics helps save space and money and positions all of the electronics to the right hand side of the chassis, opposite the battery, for a well-balanced vehicle with a clean lay out for easy wrenching.

◆ The pinion and spur gear on the Animus 18TR are sealed from the elements unlike many other

◆ The center drivetrain of the Animus 18TR glides on a set of sealed ball bearings. This makes for friction free performance and less time between rebuilding. The wheels ride on bushings that can be easily and inexpensively upgraded at a later time should you choose to do so.



What's in the box? A sleek body, 1100mAh 2/3A 7.2v NiMH battery pack, trickle wall charger, adjustable 2.4GHz transmitter, cross wrench and the truck. Just add some AA batteries for the transmitter, charge the battery pack and you are ready to go.



1/18 vehicles on the market. This means dirt and debris won't cut your fun short and ruin the spur gear. The Animus 18TR is also 4WD resulting in great traction and cornering speed. It features a light plastic drive shaft to deliver power to the front and rear of the vehicle. Both the front and rear differentials are of the gear variety and can be used for hours before requiring service

◆ Found on all four corners of the Animus 18TR are 6.5mm coil over oil filled shocks. The spring can be easily adjusted by adding or subtracting spacers and there are multiple shock mounting positions to fine tune handling. The shocks pop off easily so changing oil or replacing seals is quick and easy.



PROS

- ◆ Well proven platform
- ◆ A crystal free and glitch free 2.4GHz radio comes standard
- ◆ The pinion and spur gear are sealed from the elements
- ◆ Efficient shaft driven drive train

CONS

- ◆ A separate ESC/receiver unit would make upgrading easier
- ◆ No low voltage cut off for LiPo batteries

ITEMS NEEDED

- ◆ 8 AA batteries for the transmitter

ON THE TRACK

STEERING Understeer Neutral **OVERSTEER**

The spiked tires on the Animus 18TR provide a lot of steering! When you first get behind the wheel take it easy and don't try to take a sharp turn at or near full speed or the truck is likely to flip. Once I got used to this the truck was great and fun to drive. Turning down or dialing out some of the dual rate steering on the transmitter also makes the truck much easier to drive.

ACCELERATION Poor Fair

GOOD Very Good Excellent Pulling the throttle back quickly on the Animus 18TR caused the truck to kick up a fair share of dust, dirt, and debris as it shot forward. Seeing as it utilizes a 370-sized brushed motor the top end is more than admirable. Due to the larger tires the Animus 18TR has just a touch more top end than its predecessor, the Animus 18SC. It can clear nearly any obstacle in its path, even those intended for larger 1/10 vehicles



BRAKING Poor

Fair Good Very Good **EXCELLENT**

For such a small vehicle the Animus 18TR can gain a good head of steam. While not programmable, the stock ERS has a strong linear brake. Just a tap will slow the truck down while pushing on the brake for all its worth will lock the wheels and stop, potentially causing the Animus 18TR to traction roll.

SUSPENSION Poor Fair Good **VERY GOOD** Excellent

Driving on smooth to medium surface the Animus 18TR was well planted, able to take corners fairly fast as the suspension was able to keep all four wheels in contact with the ground. When on rougher surfaces it did get thrown around just a bit and would sometimes find itself out of shape. I think the stock oil may be a touch too light and going to thicker viscosity oil may alleviate this bouncing.

JUMPING Poor Fair Good Very Good **EXCELLENT**

Whether getting big air and landing off a large jump, or rolling over a whoop, ruts and bumps, the Animus 18TR was smooth and graceful and easy to control. It seldom bottomed out even on the most aggressive obstacle and it was easy to adjust the attitude of the truck when in flight by applying throttle or brake.

DURABILITY Poor Fair Good Very Good **EXCELLENT**

I ran close to a dozen packs through the Animus 18TR, many of them being LiPo packs and not a single part had failed. Even after too many hard jumps, flips and crashes the truck remained intact and tight.



The motor and ERS unit are neatly positioned on the right hand side of the chassis while the battery sits on the left for a well-

balanced truck. The battery position is large enough to accommodate most mini LiPos on the market.

A long center link attaches one side of the dual bellcrank steering system to the other. It operates smoothly and with minimal slop. A servo saver attaches to the output of the ERS unit, keeping the gears safe.



THE LAST WORD

Helion is here to stay, that is a fact; and if they keep producing vehicles like the Animus 18TR it will only be a matter of time before they rank among the industry giants. With consumers looking to stretch each and every hard earned dollar, the Animus 18TR is by far one of the greatest values on the market today. It is fast, durable and most of all, very fun to drive. The cost factor makes it possible for a family to pick up more than one, enabling everyone to have fun together. ☺

Links

Helion, helionrc.com

MaxAmps, maxamps.com, (888) 654-4450

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