



### BEHIND THE WHEEL

It didn't take long to get the Kontakt out of the box and ready for action. The partially charged LiPo battery only took about a half hour before it was fully charged with the included charger. Once the Kontakt was ready to go, I put it down on the tarmac and ripped on the throttle and it took off with authority. The Kontakt has strong acceleration, especially on high-traction surfaces. Top speed is a GPS-confirmed 18.3mph, and it was easy to pop wheelies by rolling backward with reverse then blasting full throttle. The Kontakt's tires have lots of grip on asphalt and it is very reactive to steering inputs, enough to traction-roll. The little truck proved to be pretty resilient, and came back for more despite a few hard tumbles. On the dirt, the Kontakt still exhibited a good amount of traction despite the tire tread's wide-and-flat lug design. The front end gets light under power which contributes to understeer while accelerating, but once the front tires are on the ground and at speed, the Kontakt turns exceptionally well as it moves from obstacle to obstacle. The Kontakt doesn't mind airtime and the truck flies nice and level, but hard landings can bottom-out the shocks and slap the chassis. The friction dampers do an adequate job soaking up small bumps and imperfections, but the Kontakt tends to bounce and bottom out in very rough terrain. Since the Kontakt is a 1/12-scale truck, I didn't expect it to get over all the obstacles a 1/10 scale (or larger) car would. On surfaces appropriate for its size, it's an excellent fun-runner.

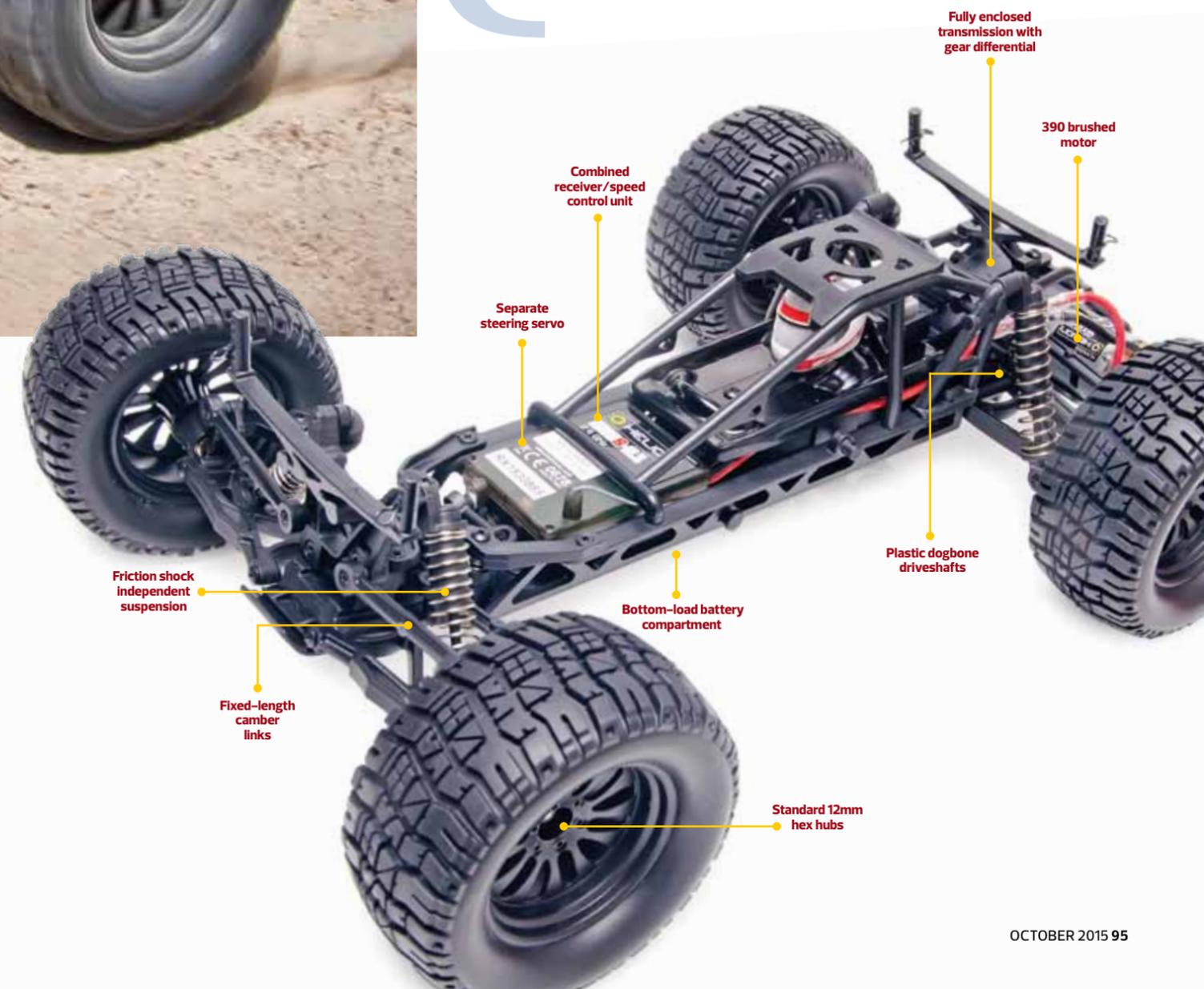
## HELION **CONTACT 12TR**

Helion goes truggy with its latest right-sized RTR

WORDS & PHOTOS BY JOEL NAVARRO

**Helion's line of affordable RTRs** has been joined by another 1/12 scale entry with the Kontakt 12TR, which dresses a 2WD platform with truggy styling. Just like the other 1/12 scale cars in their lineup, the Kontakt packs a lot of value into a small package at a low price. A 2.4GHz radio system controls a water-resistant electronics package, and there's no skimping on the included battery; it's a high-capacity (for its size) LiPo, and there's even a balance charger and charging bag included. All you need to add are four AA batteries, and the Kontakt is ready to go directly from box to back yard.

-  LiPo battery and balance charger included
- Responsive handling
- Water resistant electronics
-  Friction shocks give a bouncy ride





No body clips to remove here. The bottom loading battery compartment makes it easy to access the battery for quick removal and installation.



The speed control/receiver combo unit mounts ahead of the battery pack. The driver is hard to see with the body on, but he looks good under the roll cage.

## VEHICLE SPECS



**Item no:** HLNA0545  
**Scale:** 1/12  
**Price:** \$155

**Wheelbase:** 9.8 in. (250mm)  
**Length:** 16.5 in. (420mm)  
**Width:** 8.1 in. (205mm)  
**Height:** 5.6 in. (143mm)  
**Weight:** 2.0 lbs. (907g)

### CHASSIS

**Type:** Tub  
**Material:** Plastic

### SUSPENSION

**Type F/R:** Front and rear H-arm with fixed-length camber link  
**Inboard camber link position (F/R):** 1/1  
**Outboard camber-link positions (F/R):** 1/1  
**Shock positions, towers (F/R):** 1/1  
**Shock positions, arms (F/R):** 2/2

### SHOCKS

**Bodies:** Plastic, friction type  
**Shafts:** 2.5mm steel

### DRIVETRAIN

**Type/ratio:** 2WD enclosed gearbox  
**Differential:** Sealed bevel gear  
**Driveshafts:** Plastic dogbones  
**Bearings:** Metal shielded in gearbox, oilite bushings on axles

### WHEELS & TIRES

**Wheels:** Black spoke with 12mm hex  
**Tires:** Helion all-terrain

### INCLUDED ELECTRONICS

**Transmitter:** Helion HRSS-2.1 2.4GHz  
**Speed control/receiver:** Helion 2-in-1 combination unit  
**Motor:** Helion 390RR brushed  
**Battery:** Helion 1500mAh 2S 7.4V LiPo  
**Charger:** Helion AC LiPo balance, 0.5amp

### REQUIRES

4 AA batteries for transmitter



The plastic friction shocks do a good job of taming smaller obstacles, but are bouncy when the going gets rough.



The included 390RR brushed motor had a good balance of punch and speed that makes the Contakt fun to drive.



The HRSS-2.1 transmitter appears the same as the HRSS-2 we last tested with the Helion Impakt, but the new model adds steering dual-rate capability and two limited-throttle modes for new drivers. You can select 50% or 70% power if the default 100% setting is too quick for whoever you're handing the radio to.



No upgrade required in the battery department, there's a LiPo right in the box. Helion supplies an AC-powered mini balance charger to juice it up, but its 0.5amp output requires about three hours to do the job. Expect about 15 minutes of run time per charge.

## FINAL WORD

The Helion Contakt delivers a lot for about \$150 bucks. Its user-friendliness makes it easy for a first-time driver to get a feel for the wheel, and the reduced-power settings are especially helpful for little guys. Responsive handling makes the Contakt fun to rip on and off road, and its 1/12 scale size offers easy portability for anytime RC action.

## SOURCES

**Helion** [helionrc.com](http://helionrc.com)