

ver since the name Helion was introduced to us there seems to have been a fairly steady flow of RC vehicles making their way to our pages and ultimately your hands. They have recently launched a new boat that is promising big time fun on a small marine budget. The Lagos Sport is available for about \$60 and comes ready to go, right from the box. The best part is that you don't need a huge body of water to have fun with it. A small pond or calm lagoon will do but even if you only have access to a swimming pool you can experience micro RC boating at its best.

# AT A GLANCE

MANUFACTURER: Helion

WHO IT'S FOR: New RC Boater

**HOW MUCH:** \$60

BUILD TYPE: (RTR) Ready-to-Run

PART NUMBER: HLN0001

**HULL TYPE:** Vee Hull

BOTTOM LINE: This tiny watercraft can easily go with you anytime you may be near water, whether it's a swimming pool or pond. Its a quick little boat with a very useful ability to right itself. At around \$60 ready-to-go, it's the perfect next step between toy and hobby grades.



OHELION

# A BOATLOAD OF FUN



# GO AHEAD... FLIP IT OVER!

The most commonly asked question among new and would-be RC boaters is, "What happens if the boat flips over and you can't reach it?" Well, that is always a concern and there are varied solutions depending on who is proving the answer. Some people will take a fishing pole along and tie a tennis ball on the line to use as a retrieval method. Others take a second boat in hopes of being able to either flip the capsized boat or push it to shore. Some have been known to simply swim out to get the boat. You will be happy to know that the Lagos won't require any of those methods, should it flip over. It has the ability to right itself by briefly applying reverse throttle then quickly applying forward throttle. The torque of the motor works with the boat's weight distribution to quickly and easily turn it right side up. After successfully testing this near shore I tried another way of testing it. I tossed the Lagos out into the pond about 15 feet and it settled upside down. A quick reverse/forward throttle and it was up and on its way. This is an attractive feature of this affordable mini boat and will ease the minds of new RC marine hobbyists.

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Lagos

## **MARINE REVIEW HELION LAGOS SPORT**

#### **OUT OF THE BOX**

Out of this small box comes everything you need to get the Lagos Sport on the water. Install the included 6 "AA" batteries into the 2.4GHz transmitter and plug the wall charger in to get some juice into the included 700mAh 7.4V 2S Li-Ion battery pack. They even included a plastic boat stand for when it is in dry dock. It is all packed nicely in a molded styrofoam insert. I will keep the box for transporting the boat. It will protect the running gear.

The hatch is secured with a latch in the rear. Removal requires a bit of care as the front of the hatch hooks snugly under the hull. Inside, the mini steeering servo is mounted at the rear. In front of that is the battery tray that uses Velcro to help secure the pack in place. The brushed motor uses a plastic mount. On the shaft is a fan that helps to keep air flowing inside the watertight hull. The sealed receiver box is tucked into the front of the hull. It is not easy to access, although I have not yet had reason to do so. At the rear is a two-blade plastic prop and a large plastic rudder that is mounted at the center of the stern. The rudder has several holes for the steering link that will alter the throw of the rudder. The rudder's angle is fixed.

#### PERFORMANCE

There is a safety feature built into the Lagos that I have not seen before. The hull has sensors that prevent the electronics from operating unless the boat is in the water. Given that this could be used by small children I see that as a good idea. As an experienced RC boater I was not a fan of the feature. It makes it impossible to bench test the boat's functions.

I took the Lagos to my neighborhood pond on a chilly, overcast morning. The safety feature worked as designed and as soon as the hull was in the water everything functioned. As usual I just grabbed full throttle and the lightweight boat was at full tilt in a couple of seconds. It took another



few seconds to get up on plane but once it did it was cruising at speeds much better than I had anticipated from the brushed motor. Steering is touchy, as it often is in such small craft, but I never lost control of it. There were a few times when I thought for sure I'd be testing the self-righting feature. I discovered that if I wanted to test it I had to work hard to flip the boat. The feature worked perfectly once I had the Lagos hull side up. I hit reverse for a brief second then quickly hit forward and it rolled over like a dog and took off again. I squeezed between eight and 11 minutes of run time out of the battery before the performance slowed enough that I had to bring it in. I see a need for spare batteries here. I wasn't ready to stop playing, in spite of the chilly temps.

Briver OHELION



a fan to keep cooling air moving inside the sealed hull.

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It's a tight fit but everything is present and accounted for and works well.

• Lagos



electronics from working unless the boat is in the

water. This is a safety feature.

The prop and rudder are plastic. The steering linkage can be used to adjust steering throw.

#### **WRAP UP**

I can't view this boat as a true hobby-grade RC but it is beyond toy-grade classification. It's a good step up from your toy store purchases without committing you to hobbyist status just yet. But with the fun it provides it is very capable of making you want to grow your interest in marine RC

#### Link

Helion helion-rc.com

For more information, please see our source guide on page 74.

# **LAGOS SPECS**

HULL LENGTH: 13.8 in. (350mm)
BEAM: 3.46 in. (88mm)

HEIGHT: 2.76 in. (70 mm)
MOTOR: Brushed

ESC: Receiver/ESC combo

STEERING: Plastic Rudder
DRIVE SYSTEM: Shaft/direct

### PROS & CONS

- All inclusive package
- + Fun speeds for a small boat
- + Very cool looking styling
- + Nice price tag at about \$60
- + Self righting feature- No flotation foam in the hull
- Difficult to get to some of the components if maintenance or repairs are needed

# **NEEDED TO COMPLETE**

Electrical outlet to charge the included battery pack