

BoLink's

ROUND TRACKER II

LESS COMPLICATED THAN ITS INVADER COUSIN, THIS IS A GOOD ENTRY-LEVEL R/C RACER FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

BY TOM KRAMER

The Round Tracker from BoLink is an easy car to put together, when you get the kit, you have to look twice, because there are so few parts! But it's all there, and the best word to describe assembly is simplicity.

The car comes with a six-page set of instructions, along with one supplemental page. Simple though it is, don't fall into the trap I did by jumping ahead of the steps. Just follow each one as BoLink intended, and you'll come out okay.

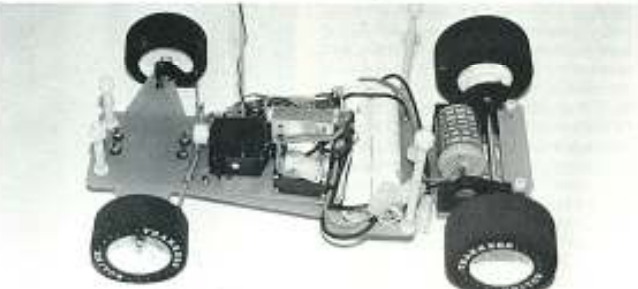
Voted the Creative Excellence Award by HIA (Hobby Industry Assn.), the Round Tracker 2 features front and rear working suspension and a limited-slip differential. Included in the kit is a fiberglass chassis, and a body, in either asphalt, dirt, or sprint car configurations. This particular car had the Thunderbird NASCAR body.

BUILDING YOUR TRACKER

Initial steps in building the Tracker involve mounting the radio tray standoffs to the chassis. Six screws, four 1/8-inch thick spacers, a T-brace, and six jam nuts are used to mount the chassis. BoLink points out in a side note to make sure that on the center set the T-brace goes on first, then a 1/16-inch spacer, then the jam nut.

The radio tray is installed next, and a rubber grommet is lubed and pushed into a hole in the rear of the radio tray. BoLink has supplied large rubber O-rings which are stretched over the sides of the tray, and these will hold the battery in place. A good idea. They appear to be strong, but their durability over the long run may be wanting. Still, I like the way these work. If you plan on using Tamiya or Kyosho racing packs you will have to widen the battery compartment, as Sanyo or Sait stick packs are the only type that fit easily. The Tamiya-Kyosho packs can be used, but one end will be left out of the tray, although only slightly. Use your own judgment.

The front end assembly is actually very easy. Let's take it a step at a time. The front pod is installed with flat-head screws, jam nuts and spacers, rubber washers and locknuts. Tighten the locknuts only enough to take out the vertical play; don't mash the



The Round Tracker II is a simple car to assemble, and access to the innards is no problem. Wiper speed control comes with the R/C, so all you need to add are the servo, radio, and battery pack.



Futaba's FP-T2P two-channel Magnum Sport radio system is a good choice for the Round Tracker.



Stickers from Autographics finish off and really enhance the Grand National Stocker look on the Round Tracker. Let's go racing!

washer! The kingpin is installed in each side, then you thread a jam nut on all the way. This is then inserted through the pod and then a locknut is added. You'll need a vise of some sort to tap the stub axles into the steering blocks. This is the only strength tester in the assembly.

The differential assembly is easy; just make sure you don't put a set screw in the adapter on the diff side of the axle. BoLink offers remedies for any problems you may encounter during assembly, so our hat's off to them for the consideration.

The tires, body posts, motor and, of course, your radio installation are all that remain, then it's off to the races!

The body was painted with Pactra R/C Car Finish Paints, and with 18 colors to choose from, I'll be coming back again! They went on smoothly, covering completely with the aerosol can I used. They won't crack, chip, or flake, so this is one product you can rely on. Some Autographics stickers from the choice of 11 multicolored theme sheets helped to brighten up and personalize my Tracker in no time.

I used a Futaba Magnum Sport radio, and an Astro Flight AC/DC charger. You can charge any four- to seven-cell pack in about fifteen minutes with its variable current adjustment. Larry Scribnick of SR provided some battery packs, and we were ready.

ROAD TEST

Down at Carl Schurtz Park's Super Speedway, featuring a 250-foot straightaway, and two 80-foot turns, is a speed racer's dream. At first, the Tracker didn't seem to be handling well. I checked, and found I'd overtightened the locknuts on the front pod causing the racer to oversteer in the turns. I loosened the nuts, and the car started performing much better.

All considered, the Round Tracker is a good choice for someone who is looking for a simple 1/10 car to build that will perform well on the track. The Round Tracker should make some people very happy this year.

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