

Story, photos & paint
by Tony Phalen

ROBITRONIC

Scalpel

SCOOBY HORTON EDITION



I first drove a Robitronic Scalpel late in 2009 when I tested a bone-stock 4-cell Pro kit. With foam tires on carpet, the little rocket was fast, nimble and a lot of fun! Skip ahead a couple months to the release of the Brown Engineering Scooby Horton Edition. This longer-wheelbase chassis not only accepts a 6-cell pack, but rumor has it that it also handles like a micro 1/12 scale! I decided to put that rumor to the test but with a slight twist: I'll take it to a high-speed asphalt track!

ELECTRONICS

For the build, I used the Hitec HS-225MG servo and Futaba 4PK radio system from my original Pro kit. The Scooby kit includes new angled servo mounts that take up quite a bit of room with my slightly larger servo. After dropping in the receiver and a Tekin Mini-Rage ESC, I only had enough room for a Reedy 4-cell pack. That's quite all right, though, as it means I can strap in a slightly higher-Kv motor, and I chose a Reedy 7000Kv mini brushless.

CHASSIS & SUSPENSION

In addition to the new, longer 6-cell chassis, the Scooby kit includes a new rear-end setup. A new, larger center shock and damper tubes have replaced the adequate damper plate. This well-proven suspension setup is easy to tune. The stock carbon-fiber T-plate has been swapped for a new fiberglass unit.

BODY & TIRES

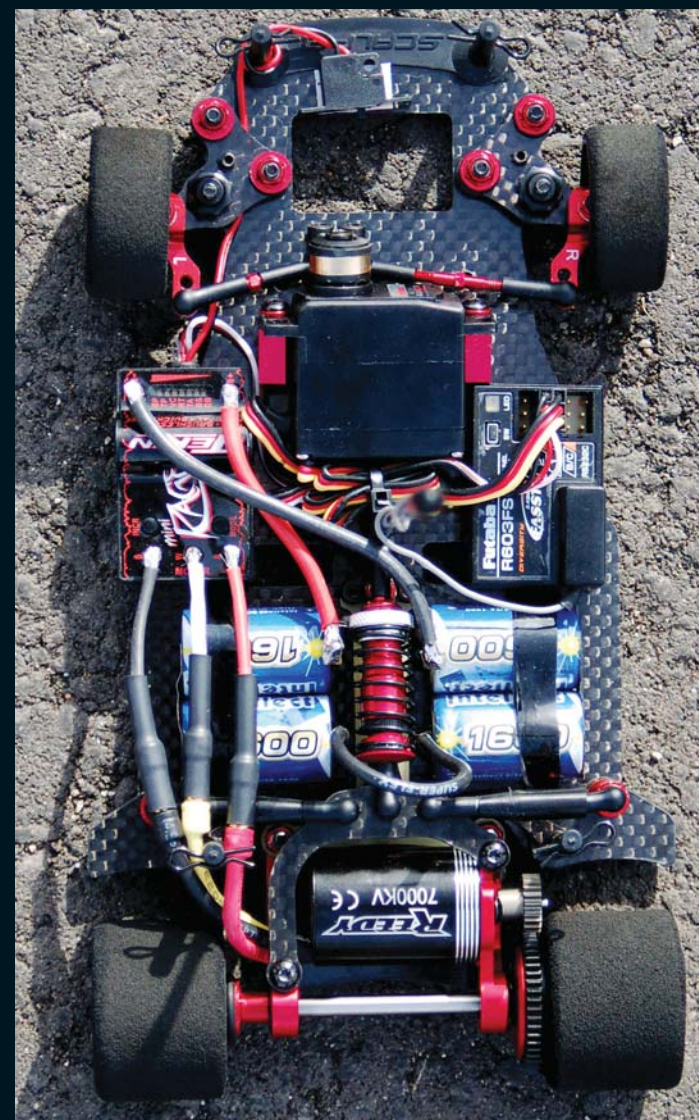
I chose the Parma Mini Speed 8 body for its high downforce. For most of my reviews, I like to showcase some professional RC painters' work, but for this project, I did it myself. I applied a stellar paint scheme of red and white—highly visible colors on a large, asphalt, indoor track. Brown Engineering sent me an assortment of tires in different compounds to help me tune the Scoob for asphalt. Pink fronts and white rears made their way onto the car for the final runs.

THE DRIVE

Final preparations included setting the tweak, setting the Tekin ESC and saucing the tires. I put Jack the Gripper tire sauce on half of the front tires and the entire rear tires. Once I was ready, I wiped the tire sauce off, locked the body into place and took the Scoob for a test run. Thank goodness I made the main color white, as this little rocket was soon a blur on the large track. Handling was a little twitchy, and the Scoob was hard to control, so when I brought it back in, I gave it a once-over. I swapped the tires, installed a different pinion gear and reapplied the tire sauce. Now we're talking! Back on the track, the softer rear tires locked the rear end in, and the altered gearing not only made the Scoob faster but also extended run times. The Tekin ESC/Reedy motor combo was very smooth; I can only imagine what it would do on a 6-cell pack!

FINAL THOUGHTS

I thought I'd have my hands full with this little car on asphalt. Heck! I thought I'd have my hands full—period! But out of the box, it's a good little conversion. You'll have to massage it a bit to get it to work as you want, but all the ingredients are there. It wasn't a rumor: it is fast, it is fun, and it is nimble. Add an additional 2 cells, and it will be insane—just the way I like it.



PARTS USED

Brown Engineering

- Scooby Horton conversion kit—P117

- Scalpel tires (F/R)—109D (pink)/110A (white)

Parma

- Mini Speed 8 body—P104

Futaba

- 4PK 4-channel 2.4GHz—FUTK4900

Hitec

- Mighty Mini Servo—HS-225MG

Tekin

- Mini Rage Brushless ESC

Reedy

- Micro brushless 7000Kv motor—913
- VMX Concept 1600mAh micro pack—621

Links

Brown Engineering,
browneng.org

Futaba, distributed exclusively
by Great Planes Model
Distributors, futaba-rc.com
(800) 682-8948

Hitec RCD USA, hitecrcd.com
(858) 748-6948

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