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RC REPORT



Brushless Entry-Level RC Revolution From Traxxas

Traxxas Slash 4x4 BL-2s & Rustler 4x4 BL-2s

Not long ago, hobby-grade radio-controlled vehicles were a hassle, potentially keeping many people from enjoying the hobby.

Often, they were kits that required time and patience to assemble, and everything had to be purchased separately. They had glitchy AM radios, and things went awry if your neighbor had the same frequency. Mechanical speed controls would overheat and fail, uncontrollably sending



The integrated BL2-s system includes features for beginners and pros.

vehicles into danger. The only power source was nickel-cadmium batteries that didn't last long, were toxic to the environment, and were charged with a clunky timer box. The weather mattered as nothing was waterproof.

Fortunately, technology and the user experience have constantly improved, and RC vehicles are more reliable with higher performance and convenience than ever. One thing has remained constant

throughout these changes: entry-level vehicles still used brushed motors.

Another RC evolution has arrived with Traxxas BL-2s brushless trucks. The Traxxas Slash 4x4 BL-2s Brushless and the Rustler 4x4 BL-2s



and a reverse lockout for racing. With the extra power of brushless now on tap, I expect many beginning drivers should initially start in the training mode.

The power system isn't the only evolutionary improvement. The new lineup also includes clipless body designs that save the drama of lost body clips, plus the Extreme Heavy Duty Upgrade Kit, including

The popular Slash roars with the new brushless power system.

heavier suspension arms and suspension components with larger bearings. These are all robust and welcome improvements proportional to the new brushless power. The heavy-duty components add weight to the vehicles, making them feel stout and substantial but still not cumbersome.

Jumps and air acrobatics do feel a little different, but when all four tires are on the ground, it helps plant the trucks and adds to the driver's confidence with consistent stability and predictability.

Because this is an evolutionary change, many of the components carry over from the previous generations. This is helpful so that store



Brushless are entry-level vehicles with brushless 2S Lipo-capable power systems factory installed. The first driving impression of the new vehicles is sure to illicit grins from both beginners and experienced drivers alike. The new BL-2s vehicles offer pro-levels of performance with higher top speed, acceleration, reliability, and efficiency. Even though there is extra power on tap, it feels linear and controllable, offering a fulfilling experience for all enthusiasts.

The bruiser Stampede monster truck is one of the new BL-2s family.

Unlike previous Traxxas power systems, the new BL-2s system does have a delay when changing direction from reverse to forward. This feature was designed to save wear and tear on the drivetrain, preventing beginning drivers from excessive sudden drivetrain load adding longevity and reliability. It can feel foreign to experienced drivers, but it is a great way to introduce beginning drivers to this level of performance.

The new BL-2s ESC offers both LiPo and NiMH battery modes, a training mode



owners and the bustling parts aftermarket do not have to start from scratch with an all-new parts redesign and restock. Worth mentioning in this progressive design approach, the new clipless body mount system is backward compatible with the existing traditional body post and clip design bodies.

The fun and excitement of modern RC is thriving and better than ever. Traxxas says, "The future is brushless," and after driving these vehicles, I agree. HM

