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SEPTEMBER 2006 ISSUE 33

\$4.99US \$6.99CAN



FAST TRACK REVIEW

Text by Erich Reichert

Photos by Walter Sidas

TEAM XRAY

M18

M18



MATCHBOX



Every few months, something arrives at the office that gives me what I like to call "I-gotta-have-that-itis." Usually, the only cure for the "itis" is a rousing game of MINE! between me and my fellow editors, which is usually settled by our age-old tiebreaker: rock, paper, scissors (and if this doesn't work, we revert to Everything is Greg's). This month I found myself burning with the I-gotta-have-its. Maybe it was the Mexican food I had for dinner the night before... either way I got my way once again, and this month's prize was the Xray M18MT. Bred from an all-out racer, the M18T, the MT is the product of a simple equation: add large tires, double up the shocks, top with a monster truck body, shake briskly, and you've got high-flying, Matchbox-car-crushing action. Slug in Xray's Power Pack, which includes an all new high-output motor, and you have what I've come to refer to lovingly as Blue Thunder.

FAST FACTS

MANUFACTURER: Team XRAY

VEHICLE: M18MT

CLASS: 1/18 scale monster truck

DRIVER: Anyone looking for a race truck in basher's clothes

PRICE: \$214.95

SPEED (AS TESTED): 18.18 mph

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED:
Radio and receiver, glue, paint, 8 AA batteries

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED:
0-10mph: .81sec.; 4.54sec @
18.18mph in 97.72ft.

CRUSHER

THE RUNDOWN

Xray didn't just slap big tires on the M18T and call it a day. The biggest difference after the tires is the addition of a second shock tower and pair of shocks on each end of the chassis. Other than that, all the race-winning features of the M18T can be found here, making the MT a lethal weapon from the track to the sandbox.

DRIVETRAIN—The M18MT shares its driveline with all of Xray's 1/18 vehicles. A metal center shaft puts the twist on a pair of ball-bearing-supported ball diffs. A set of 22 bearings keeps everything smooth and efficient while a set of plastic dog-bones puts the moves on a set of oversized, Chevron-style tires.



MOTOR AND SPEED CONTROL

Our MT kit included the Xray Power Pack. A high-output 300 micro motor and ESC are included to put more pump in the little monster. The pack also throws in an 1100mAh six-cell battery complete with micro plugs as well as a metal-gear micro servo.

INCLUDED ACCESSORIES—Race truck handling and top-notch electronics aren't where it ends with the M18MT. Xray includes a Hudy Profi Phillips screwdriver to assemble the truck in comfort as well as a Protoform Cadillac Escalade truck body to top off the MT, while a set of starburst wheels and Chevron-style tires give the truck a lift. Lastly, a set of four pinion gears allows you to tune the M18MT for top speed or power.

ON THE TRACK—The first thing I noticed from the first pull of my JR Z1's trigger was how quick the M18MT is. I chose the 11T pinion, which leans more toward the speed side of things, but the 300 motor still had more than enough crank to get the monster moving in a hurry. The suspension's eight oil-filled shocks do a great job of keeping all fours on the ground. Taking the MT off jumps is met with level flight and silky smooth landings. The doubled-up suspension really does its job on this little monster.



Differentiating the M18MT from its stadium-truck sibling, the M18T, is the addition of an extra oil-filled shock at each corner. The shock towers have been doubled-up as well to provide additional strength.



Larger and heavier monster-truck tires create more load for the M18MT's drive train, but Xray designed this platform solidly from the get-go, so the additional strain is handled with ease.



TEAM XRAY M18MT



Composite CV driveshafts provide smooth power delivery, while the long-travel double-wishbone suspension works its terrain-taming magic.



The M18MT features a bearing-supported steering "uni- crank" setup that provides slop-free and solid response. A powerful micro steering servo is provided in Xray's Power Pack.



Factory assembled ball diffs can be found at each end of the M18MT. They can be tightened to enhance the truck's climbing/crawling abilities, or loosened slightly to increase traction on slippery surfaces.



CONCLUSION

Xray's M18 1/18 vehicles have proven the company's no-compromise racing design a force to be reckoned with on the track. The M18MT takes it one step further by offering race truck designs with enough ground clearance to go where few micros have gone before. More than just a big tire version of the race truck, the MT was improved in all the necessary areas to accommodate the larger wheels and extra weight. If you're looking for a micro that you can take to the track or use to terrorize the sandbox, then there's no reason there shouldn't be an MT in your garage. ●

Links

Xray, distributed by Xray USA, contact RC America, www.teamxray.com, (800) 519-7221

JR Racing, distributed by Horizon Hobby, www.horizonhobby.com, (217) 355-9511

Spektrum, distributed by Horizon Hobby Inc., www.spektrumrc.com, (800) 338-4639

For more information, please see our source guide on pg. 193.

TECH SPECS

MATERIAL	Molded plastic
TYPE	Tub with upper brace
WHEEL BASE	5.9 in. (150mm)
LENGTH	8.74 in. (222mm)
WIDTH	7.68 in. (195mm)
WEIGHT	20.6 oz. (585g)

AUTHOR'S OPINION: M18 trucks (T, and MT) use a revised chassis with a lip around the edge that increases rigidity but still has enough flex to make the M18MT easy to drive.

RATING-9

MATERIAL	Molded composite
TYPE	Fully independent with fixed upper control link and molded lower control arm
GROUND CLEARANCE	1.18 in. (30mm)
WHEELS	White split spoke
TIRES	Medium rubber chevron

AUTHOR'S OPINION: Dual shocks found on all four corners do a good job of keeping the MT shiny-side up. Getting the tower's mounting screws in can be a little tricky; use a dab of grease to hold the screw on the driver when installing.

RATING-8

TYPE	Shaft driven
DIFFERENTIALS	Dual ball diff
BEARINGS	Metal shielded bearings
DRIVE	4WD
DRIVE RATIO	1:2.5
DRIVESHAFTS	Xray universal axles

AUTHOR'S OPINION: The MT's drivetrain is patented Xray-smooth right out of the box. The axles come with a tool to help assemble them more easily. The diffs need to be a little tighter than I expected, but this wasn't a big deal.

RATING-9

TYPE	Xray 300
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AUTHOR'S OPINION: Xray's Power Pack includes a 300-size motor that has great power and rpm. A set of four pinions lets you choose your final drive.

RATING-9

STEERING SERVO	Xray XMS01MG metal gear servo
SPEED CONTROL	Xray XMC300R

AUTHOR'S OPINION: The Power Pack includes a XMC300R ESC that is plenty capable of handling the 300-size motor with ease. The metal gear steering servo is a huge improvement and is strong enough to handle the plus-size wheels.

RATING-9

CHASSIS

SUSPENSION

DRIVETRAIN

MOTOR

ELECTRONICS