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magazine

Hyper 8.5

EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
WINNING KIT
REVIEWED



TRUGGY SHOOTOUT

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XRAY XT8

OVERVIEW:

Xray kits always tend to exude quality and the XT8 doesn't fail in this department, it has to be one of the best looking kits around at the moment with its machined black aluminium parts and silver chamfered edges gleaming away at you. In the engineering department it doesn't really offer anything new but like Ronseal, it does exactly what it says on the tin, and gives you a competent handling truck that's capable of winning races. It's a pure pleasure to build the kit with quality instructions and well packaged up parts. On the downside, Xray have tried to keep the retail price down to make it competitive and in doing so have been forced to lose some of the aluminium hinge pin retainers in order to achieve this which is a shame. Other downsides include spare parts being

expensive (in league with Kyosho and Mugen) and availability can also be an issue, although to be fair, it's not very often you break an Xray kit as everything is so well made. Xray are dedicated to the racer and only produce kits with this in mind, so for that reason the body shell is wafer thin; you might worry about this but ours has done half a dozen race meetings and it's lasting reasonably well (for our level of driving). During this time no real weaknesses have arisen although the front body mounting posts do come loose the moment it looks like it might hit dirt. In general though it's a very competent bit of kit and deserves to be right up there among the top choices in this market!



Xray's infamous black aluminium parts with silver chamfered edges really make this kit look the part

Unfortunately there are no solid captured aluminium hinge retainers on the lower A-arms but this support brace adds strength

HUDY spring steel is used on all the drive line components including the diff output gears and the CVDs for extra strength

DAN'S VIEW:

I love this truggy, and having been through four different truggies in the last year I feel I can say that with good justification. It's just so smooth to drive, it even makes my driving look clean and as the others with undoubtedly agree, my skills are the worst amongst us, so if it can handle a race in my hands, it's got to be tough. The on-power steering isn't the best but off-power it really excels and will just glide round the corners. Its take off is truly impressive and it flies through the air with more grace than a ping pong ball in a Thai bar. The build quality is second to none (well maybe second to the Mugen) but coming from a person who loves ready-to-run kits, this is high praise indeed although the overall quality is let down by the plastic hinge pin brace and the use of e-clips on the lower braces. I truly thought nothing could surpass the feel of the XT8 but having driven the others I have to admit the Losi is on the same level and the Hyper gives you a real buzz to drive. Even knowing that though, I'd still prefer to be behind the wheel of the XT8 just because it offers so much predictability and when your driving is as unpredictable as mine, you need all the help you can get!

MATT'S VIEW:

Looking over the Xray it is easy to see this is a serious piece of kit. The Xray plastic and alloy parts are again, like the Mugen, first class and I found driving it was pretty similar but this does have the edge - those big bore shocks soak up the bumps even better than the Mugen's. This was probably the most stable truck of all due to its long, low and wide stance. The quality and durability of this truck gives you the confidence to drive it hard and fast and being Dan's truck I know this is the way he likes it! The only thing I didn't like was the "old school" C-clips holding the hinge pins in position, apart from that it's a very fine truck with lap times being very consistent and pretty fast. This is a great truck for all levels of racing, I'd definitely buy one! The outright winner in the quality category and it's right up there in desirability.

GUNG HO PRO SAYS:



This handled very similar to the Losi, i.e. very smooth and consistent. Very good pick up on acceleration and jumped very well even when initially it had a knackered OS engine in there, it still flew easily over the jumps.

Does feel like it's running a lot of caster which could be a bad point but steering is very good although not quite as good the Hyper ST.

Top all round performer

SCORES ON THE DOORS...

After a heavy session at the track the only thing left for the MB Team to do was to hit the pub and discuss the finer points of each kit. Whilst doing this we scored each kit in different areas out of 5 (with 5 being the best). A special mention at this point goes to Leggie who works at Apex Models as he joined us to give the hobby shop perspective on things...

GUNG HO PRO LAP TIMES

| KIT | TIME | ENGINE | TYRES |
|----------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|
| LOSI | 39.80 | GO 21 | PL BOWTIE MTR |
| HYPER ST | 39.91 | WERKS B7 PRO | PL BOWTIE MT |
| XT8 | 40.42 | OS VSPEC / FALCON 28 | PL BOWTIE MTR |
| ST-R | 40.87 | FALCON 28 | PL BOWTIE MT |
| CRT | 41.06 | WERKS B7 PRO | PL BOWTIE MTR |
| MBX5T | 41.21 | NOSRAM 21 | GRP GRIPS |
| RDT | 42.91 | PORTED PICCO 27 | HOBABO TRI SPIKES |

WHAT WOULD THE MB TEAM BUY?

| | MARCUS | MATT | NOBBY | JULIO | DAN | TOTAL |
|----------|--------|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| LOSI | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| XT8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| HYPER ST | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| CRT | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| MBX5T | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 24 |
| ST-R | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 30 |
| RDT | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 35 |

IN CONCLUSION

Well if you've read it all and looked between the lines you can't miss the fact that we, the MB Team, are happy to award the Losi 8ight-T as the best truggy around at the moment. That doesn't mean it's a runaway winner though, in fact for most of us it was a tough call between the Losi and the Xray, and if we weren't such a vain bunch the Hyper would be well in the mix too.

Despite being the granddaddy of the bunch, the CRT still gave us all pause for thought and if you're looking to get into the truggy scene this is still probably the best kit to get started with because it's just so easy to get out there and drive well. The Mugen shouldn't be ignored but it just doesn't do it for us at the club level and offers no top team drivers to charm us. The Kyosho ST-R is a bit of an enigma and hampered in this review by the fact that four out the five of us have been there and done that and are now happier with different kits but the new ST-RR version promises to be a whole different story and it would have been very interesting to see how it fared. The RDT is still a work in progress but deserves recognition for the feat achieved in its creation.

| | PRICE | DURABILITY | HANDLING | QUALITY | DESIRABILITY | TOTAL |
|--|-------|------------|----------|---------|--------------|-------|
| LOSI | 4 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 4 | 4.5 | 20.5 |
| Comment: Durability knocked down with some reports of easy wearing and increased slop in things like the A-arms, and early problems with the steering servo saver. Also expensive spare parts but the kit comes packed with extra parts which saves on costs of buying tune up bits like different springs and sway bars | | | | | | |
| XRAY | 3 | 4.5 | 5 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 20.5 |
| Comment: Initial cost and price of spares let this down. The normal Xray quality is very obvious making it highly desirable, but lack of aluminium hinge pin retainers and not having some captured hinge pins are a let down | | | | | | |
| HOBABO | 4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4 | 3 | 20 |
| Comment: HoBao is a good stable brand but not one that holds a lot of prestige despite its recent success in the UK Truggy Pro series. Is perhaps more for the club person than the show off, although as the steering is by far the best, it could catch the newbie out at first | | | | | | |
| HONG NOR | 4.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3 | 18.5 |
| Comment: Like the HoBao it's quite common and doesn't have a real high desirability, does offer excellent value for money and is possibly the best kit for a newbie to pick up and run with but as they improve they may find it hard to get more out of the kit | | | | | | |
| MUGEN | 3 | 4 | 3.5 | 4 | 3 | 17.5 |
| Comment: Possibly the most underrated, it's actually a very good contender but is severely let down by its initial price although it does come with more bling parts than any other. Spares prices and availability are also an issue and it doesn't have quite the same desirability simply because there are a real lack of good Pro team drivers out there showcasing the kit | | | | | | |
| KYOSHO | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 16 |
| Comment: Kyosho have always had a certain prestige to them but this truggy just doesn't show the same durability as their buggies. Price of spare parts are also a big issue and some of the parts used just don't come across as top quality although they perform well, but you need to spend around £150 on extra parts to give it the same specs as the likes of the Mugen and Losi kits | | | | | | |
| RDT | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4.5 | 3 | 15.5 |
| Comment: Amazing bit of engineering and a hard kit to judge, guess that's why it's a wild card! Was unfortunately the only kit to break in testing, this was Revo parts in both cases though, would you buy this over a Hyper ST or CRT though? We're not sure. Can perhaps be more related to a Muggy | | | | | | |

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- Hannibal - Contrary to some reports he didn't die in 1994, but instead is living in a green hippy commune somewhere in the Welsh valleys as a tree hugger who sells his own weaved baskets and embroidery at a local market.
- Murdoch - Still confined to a mental asylum, kept company by padded walls and a bunch of imaginary friends, one of whom is stalking him!
- Face - The years have been kind to him and he is still held in high respect within the modelling industry, mainly because he can build up a series of Airfix kits without gluing his fingers together.
- BA - Works for a parenting helpline and gives classes for parents with rebellious offspring. This involves scaring the daylights out of them until they behave, threatening to get them whilst they sleep if they're naughty again!
- Amy - Nobody knows and quite frankly nobody cares!

But all of them are ready for the next time someone has a problem that nobody else can help them with, and if they're lucky enough to find them, the MB team will return!