

HM Review

G.T. Bradley

Dark Thunder

"0-60 in 2 Seconds!" is the claim to fame for Megatech's RTR dragster.



Specifications

- Length: 30 inches
- Wheelbase: 24-1/2 inches
- Width: 7-3/4 inches
- Front track: 7.1 inches
- Rear track: 7-3/4 inches
- Height: 5 inches
- Clearance: .35 inches
- Weight: 53 ounces

ARF Includes

- 100 percent factory-assembled dragster
- Factory-installed M-16 engine
- Factory-installed two-channel, pistol grip RC system
- Factory-painted body with graphics applied
- Front & rear spoilers
- Narrow aluminum front rims and strip profile tires
- Wide rear racing slicks
- 16-page instruction manual

The classic "rail," the dragster, makes a profound statement in the world of speed. It doesn't just go fast; it goes *faster* — and with an unmistakable form that sets it apart from all other racing machines. The dragster is lean and mean, and Megatech International nails this one on the head.

Megatech's Dark Thunder "Mega Dragster" follows all the rules. It's built to run straight ahead as fast as possible. Steering is tight but the radius is very wide, assuring that the model is not overly sensitive during the straight run to the finish line. The front wheels are aluminum with lightening holes, and the tires are non-treaded so they hold but the bite is not too severe. The fat rear slicks are pure drag strip, ready to bite hard and never let go.

I had no idea what to expect when I first laid eyes on Megatech's racing machine. What do you do with a straightline drag car? Would such a machine be fun to drive without the turning element thrown into the mix? What about a wheelie bar? Would the Dark Thunder punch so hard that the nose would pull up and ground loop?

One blinding run had all my questions answered as the Dark Thunder instantly transformed all the ground in front of it into ground behind it. Here's the deal.

Dark Thunder is powered by Megatech's 1.15 horsepower M-16 racing engine, the same powerhouse used in their 1/10-scale nitro cars and trucks. Unlike a car or truck, Dark Thunder has almost no frontal area, and at just 53 ounces, it weighs far less than traditional 1/10-scale RC vehicles. There's no glitz on this machine beyond the sponsor decals, and all it has to do is go fast.



Megatech M-16 engine provides ample power for instant off-the-line acceleration and blinding top end.



Dark Thunder looks plenty mean from either end — and it is. Narrow aluminum "skinnies" are mounted up front, and ultra wide drag slicks are on the rear. Front and rear wings are effective at speed, and Dark Thunders brings an excess to the party. 0-60 in 2 seconds is no joke.



Megatech's 25 percent High Velocity Racing Fuel was used to feed Hobby Merchandiser's review dragster.

wheelie bar is necessary because the length of the dragster is enough to prevent the nose from going airborne. The Dark Thunder's design is proven dragster technology, and it works very well, even at this scale.

I was very pleased with how quickly the machine can be prepared to run, how easily the engine was broken in and how manageable the car is during a speed run. The model is completely factory assembled, and there are no final assembly steps required beyond installing eight AA batteries in the Megatech bullet-style transmitter and four more in the battery compartment adjacent to the dragster's engine. Megatech offers an MTC7500 Nitro Car Performance Pack that includes these batteries, two pints of racing fuel, a #3 glow plug, a glow driver and charger, and even a heavy-duty four-way wrench.

There is a large, commercial business center near my home, complete with a heli-pad and a huge, paved overfly

Dark Thunder travels quickly because of the high power-to-weight ratio, the low center of gravity and the aerodynamics of its sleek body. The front and rear wings keep the wheels firmly planted throughout the run, and no typical

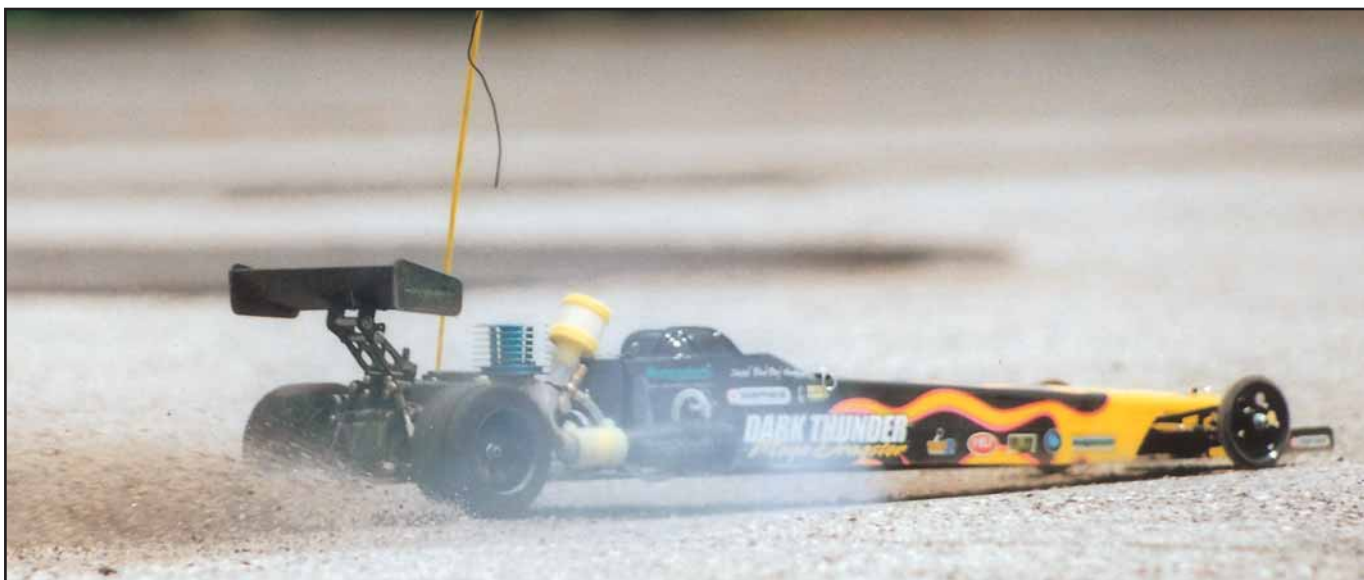
area. This spot is ideal for running RC cars and trucks, flying small electric-powered airplanes and even track tuning my full-scale 1960's vintage racing karts. I pulled the Megatech dragster out of the van and topped off the tank with Megatech's 25 percent High Velocity Racing Fuel, connected the glow driver and gave the starter a pull. By the third pull, the engine was running steadily and never stopped. I cautiously drove the dragster to the low side of the pavement, aimed it straight up the line and squeezed the trigger. Dark Thunder was in front of me and passed me in a heartbeat, and was amazing fun to watch.



Fuel tank topped, engine at idle at the low end of the run, Dark Thunder waits for the trigger.

There is no down side to this machine. It's all business — and that business is making sure that every driver gets a good speed rush with every run. It works.

For more information about Megatech's ready-to-run Dark Thunder Mega Dragster, circle #6 on the Reader Service Card, see the ad on pages 12 and 13, or telephone Megatech International in North Bergen, New Jersey, at 201-662-8500. **HM**



No joke — this RC rail almost flies down the strip! Dark Thunder by Megatech International, North Bergen NJ.