

[PRODUCTPROBE]



The kit includes everything you need. RPM supplies the antenna mount and servo mounts.

RCM RC PRODUCTS PRO G-10 CHASSIS KIT FOR TRAXXAS RUSTLER

A few plate-chassis kits for the Traxxas Rustler have drifted in and out of the hobby over the years, but none have been as complete, well-designed and precisely executed as RCM's superb design. Everything you need to convert the Traxxas Rustler (old or new style) to a double-deck, G-10 "fiberglass" plate chassis is included with the kit.

RCM manufactures the upper and lower chassis decks and supplies an antenna mount and servo mounts from RPM to complete the kit. All the hardware you need (and then some) is included to complete the install, and the chassis' bottom is completely smooth when the job is finished; all the holes are countersunk, and there are no protruding bolt heads.

Assembling the kit is easy, but the instructions could be more detailed for new builders. However, no one with RC experience will have any trouble. I only encountered a few glitches during the build. Assembled according to the instructions, the steering bellcranks slide up and down about 2mm on their posts. A few washers easily took up the slack. The other problem was the top-deck clearance for the steering servo linkage; the mounting nut rubbed the upper deck, limiting steering throw. To fix the problem, I just reversed the bolt so that the screw head faced the chassis instead of the nut. The other area that could use improvement is the battery hold-down; the E-Maxx battery strap tends to pinch the ends of the stick pack rather than sitting flush across the top of the pack, and the pack can slide from side to side in the chassis (but it can't escape, so this is more of an annoyance than a real problem). I plan to install a pair of servo mounts to act as centering blocks for the pack. Total assembly time for the conversion was only about half an hour.

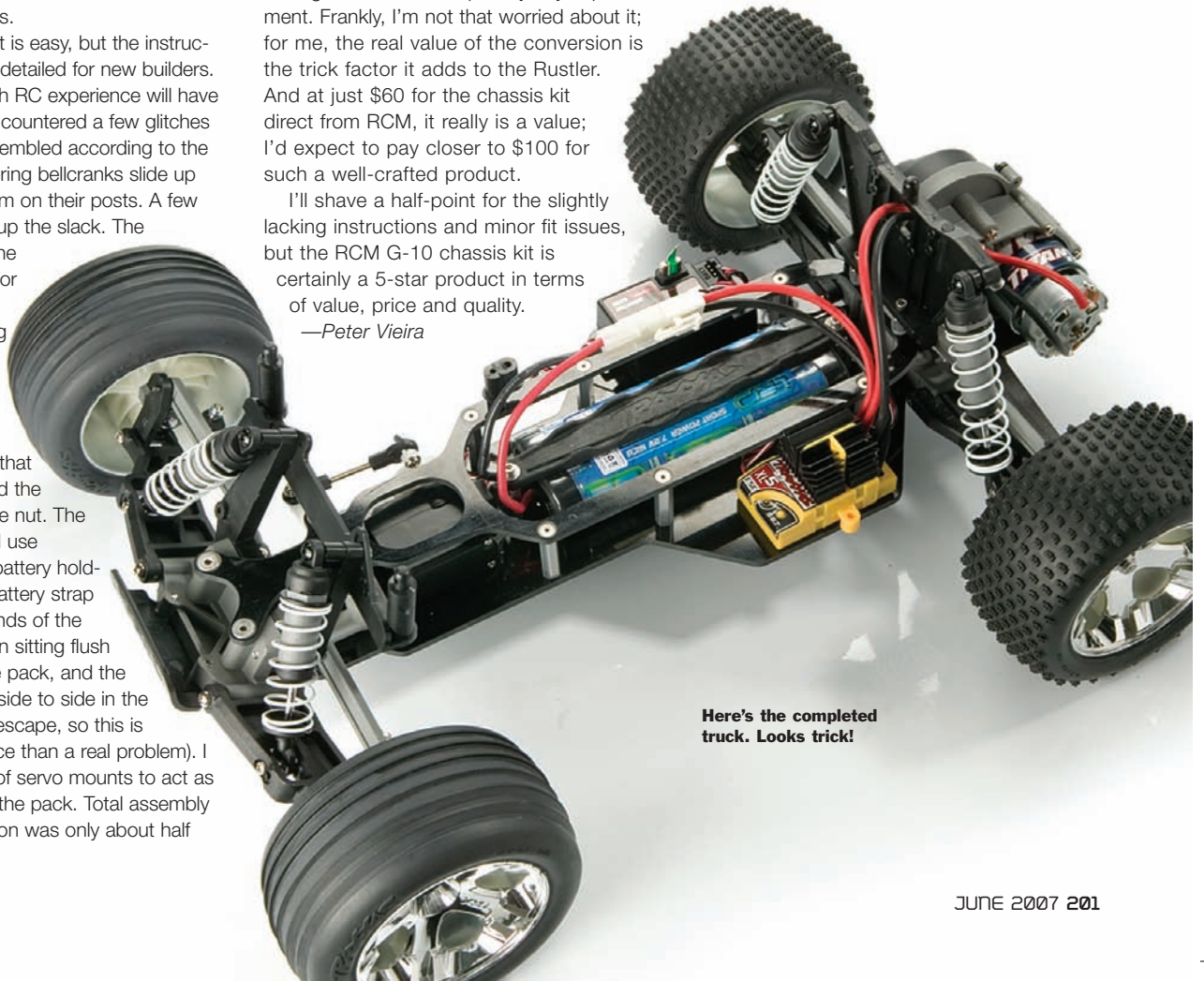
The completed conversion looks very trick and is exceptionally stiff. It's also about 2 ounces lighter than the stock chassis. The Rustler's handling should be improved, as the stiffer chassis will let the suspension work more effectively, but without stock and modified Rustlers available for back-to-back testing, it was hard to quantify any improvement. Frankly, I'm not that worried about it; for me, the real value of the conversion is the trick factor it adds to the Rustler. And at just \$60 for the chassis kit direct from RCM, it really is a value; I'd expect to pay closer to \$100 for such a well-crafted product.

I'll shave a half-point for the slightly lacking instructions and minor fit issues, but the RCM G-10 chassis kit is certainly a 5-star product in terms of value, price and quality.

—Peter Vieira

RATING 4.5 ●●●●●

RCM RC Products G-10 chassis for Traxxas Rustler—item no. CK001; \$60
RCM RC Products rcm-rc.com



Here's the completed truck. Looks trick!