



# TRAXXAS DCB M41 WIDEBODY

Boilin' water! Traxxas' big cat is a 50mph pond projectile

BY PETER VIEIRA PHOTOS BY PETER VIEIRA & JEFF NEMECEK

As “the fastest name in radio control,” Traxxas is best known for high speed on four wheels, but the brand also gets down on the water with some of the highest-performance machines on the market. The Spartan set the benchmark for RTR speed with a 6S-rated power system and 50mph at full tilt, and Traxxas' latest water-boiler puts the same hardware to work in a catamaran design. The hull shape replicates the DCB (Dave's Custom Boats) M41, a 41-footer that will top 175mph and set you back about \$600,000. Needless to say, you'll get away a lot cheaper with the Traxxas model, which is 1/12 the size, 1/3 as fast, and 1/1250 the price. Who can turn down a smokin' deal like that?

### BOAT SPECS

Item no.: 57046-4

Price: \$450

Hull length: 39.5 in. (1003mm)

Overall length: 40.6 in. (1030mm)

Weight (RTR): 5 lb. 6.7 oz. (2458g)

Hull width (beam): 10.5 in. (267mm)

Hull: ABS catamaran

Motor: Sensorless 540XL, 1600Kv water-cooled

Speed control: Velineon VXL-6s Marine, water-cooled, Traxxas high-current plug

Transmitter & receiver: Traxxas TQi/Traxxas 5-channel TSM

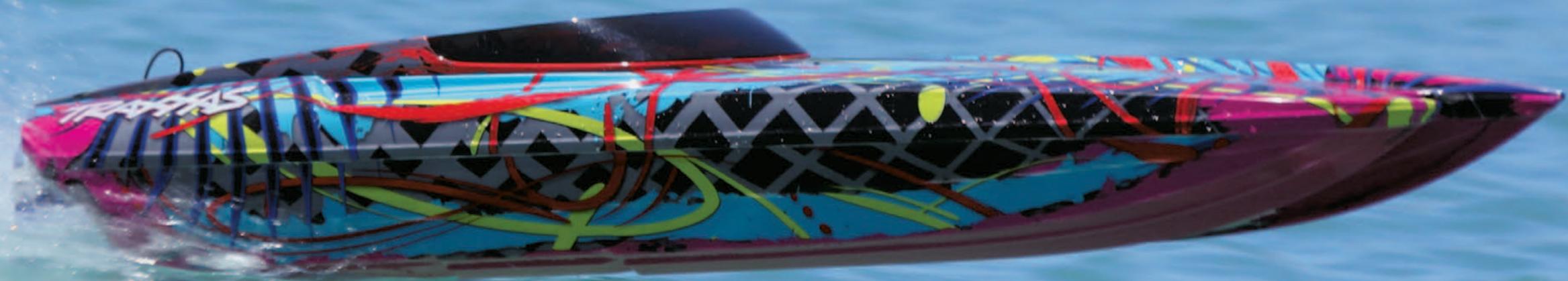
Propeller: Composite plastic, 2-blade, 42x59mm



### TEST GEAR (NOT INCLUDED)

Battery: Traxxas Power Cell ID 3S 5000mAh (x2)

Charger: Traxxas EZ-Peak Dual ID



## ON THE WATER

Traxxas offers a range of recommended 2S and 3S Power Cell LiPo packs for the M41. I first tested the boat in my neighborhood's small man-made pond, simply because it was an easy walk. A pair of 2S packs was plenty, as I found myself running out of water almost as quickly as I got on the trigger. Even with 33 percent less voltage than the full 6S (22.2V) jolt the M41 can handle, it still jumped on plane and reached its 35mph top speed quickly with an impressive roost from its surface-piercing prop. I spent most of my time carving turns because of the pond's small size, and found the big cat to be an aggressive but stable handler with the batteries in the recommended position. Turning puts a greater load on the batteries than straight-line running, but I still managed to get 10 minutes of run time from a pair of 5800mAh packs. For a trip out to the big pond, I strapped in a pair of 3S 5000mAh packs to see what the M41 can really do. Pack changes are a little fiddly because the Velcro straps are tucked into the hull, but the straps do hold tight. It only took one pass across the pond to appreciate what an extra two cells brings to the party. Water just explodes off the prop, and you can feel the torque as the big boat jumps up on plane. At full tilt, it's just dancing on the last few millimeters of the hull, and the sensation of speed is unlike anything on four tires. GPS confirmed 51mph, but it feels even faster. Cut the wheel and the M41 slices a sponson into the water with authority to muscle the long hull into a turn. Despite the boat's big size, it transitions easily from left to right turns with a light touch. Traxxas Stability Management might be handy in choppy water, but in calm water, the M41 is a rock-solid ripper.



Above: A full interior is incorporated into the hatch, complete with a transparent, smoked windshield. Left: It only takes a minute to remove the electronics tray. Stainless-steel hardware is used throughout.



Incredible performance—this thing moves!

Machined-aluminum hardware

Easy-access electronics tray

Tolerates choppy water well



Velcro straps are fussy

Wild graphics might not suit conservative tastes

The M41's graphics are screened directly onto the ABS hull—nothing to peel off here.



### VERSATILE ABS HULL

The M41's ABS hull is a monster at 40 inches long, and the catamaran design isn't picky about running conditions. If the wind kicks up some chop, the tall twin hulls (sponsons) keep plenty of plastic in the water to maintain stability. In smoother conditions that allows higher speeds, air trapped beneath the broad flat area that bridges the sponsons helps lift the hull out of the water. Battery position helps tune how the hull rides, and there's ample space inside the hull to move the Velcro-secured packs fore and aft. The hull's interior is supported by an intricate molded-plastic stiffening structure that incorporates a beefy transom bulkhead. Stainless-steel hardware secures the waterproof electronics and receiver box, which are fitted to a removable tray. Disengage the servo linkage, unplug the speed control's water-cooling hoses and wires, loosen two screws, and the entire electronics tray is in your hand—pretty trick.

Right: All the hardware is aluminum, and you can set strut height and angle. Stainless-steel trim tabs are factory installed. Below: A flex cable spins inside the greased stuffing tube. Traxxas supplies a big tube of marine grease to keep the shaft lubed.



### MACHINED-ALUMINUM HARDWARE

There's plenty of blue-anodized action at the business end of the M41. The rudder, rudder support, and strut begin life as 6000-series aluminum extrusions before final machining, and stainless fasteners secure the parts. The rudder incorporates the pickup for cooling water, and pivots on bronze bushings for slop-free action. Rudder angle, prop height, and strut angle are adjustable, with a pair of stainless trim tabs allowing further tuning of the hull's attitude on the water. To help with precise drive-strut adjustment, an alignment tool is included, which makes it easy to set the strut height (6 or 7mm) and angle (0, 1, or 2 degrees).



A sturdy stand is included for easy maintenance—and for display, if you've got a really big empty shelf.

The M41 includes the Bluetooth-ready version of the TQi transmitter. Add the #6511 Traxxas Link module, and the free Traxxas Link app gives you full computer-radio functionality.

### 6S-RATED VELINEON POWER SYSTEM

The M41 gets the same VXL-6s Marine speed control and 540XL motor as the Spartan, so you're looking at a 50+mph machine on a pair of 6S LiPo packs. The water-cooled speed control is "powered by Castle," well-known big-amp power-system maker, and the unit is appropriately rugged. Gold-plated 6mm plugs hook up the motor, and of course Traxxas High-Current Connectors are ready for a pair of Power Cell packs. Training mode is available to knock speed down for noobs (you can also install packs with fewer cells), and the speed control is protected against voltage and temperature overload. The system will also recognize a locked rotor if you tangle the prop. As for the motor, there's a big ol' sensorless spinner—all you need in a boat where the fine control of a sensed system isn't required. A rubber water jacket cools the motor, and a flex shaft connects the motor to the 42mm prop.



The 6S-rated power system is water cooled and "powered by Castle." It rips.

### FINAL WORD

You can get into RC boating with a smaller, more affordable ride, but if you've got enough water and extra room in your paycheck for the M41, you'll never wish you had something bigger or faster. Back on land, the M41 is extra easy to maintain, thanks to its easy-out electronics tray. The DCB M41 cat is simply Traxxas' best boat ever. 🚤

**SOURCE**  
Traxxas [traxxas.com](http://traxxas.com)