

FLASH

RTR FAST ELECTRIC

BARRIE REVIEWS THE LATEST POCKET RTR

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Some time ago we reviewed in MMI a small RTR fast electric boat that looked very similar to this new one we had sent to our office recently. On close inspection the hull looks very familiar BUT the inside and on the water performance was VERY different. This RTR model is imported to the UK by J. Perkins Distribution Ltd who supplies most of the model shops and UK online traders. The Flash Hyper-speed Racing Boat is part of the Atomic range of RTR models. The main point of interest on the well-packaged box was the magic words 2.4 GHz! After eagerly unpacking and reading the assembly and operating guide it was pleasant to read that this is NOT a toy and should be operated responsibly, recommending that the safety guidelines of the Model Power Boat Association (MPBA) should be observed.

ITEMS INSIDE THE BOX

This is a complete RTR model which comes with: display stand, 2.4 GHz transmitter (pistol grip type), Flash racing boat with factory fitted radio, steering servo, drive motor, prop shaft, Li-ion battery and mains charger, protective nose cowl and a spare propeller. All of the parts inside the boat can be easily replaced and spare parts are available from the importers. The only other items required to get on the water are six AA alkaline batteries for the transmitter, a small pozi-drive screwdriver (to remove the transmitter battery cover) and a small piece of foam packing for the drive battery.

A very good safety feature is that the boat motor and propeller will not operate until it is placed in the water, likewise if the model is taken out of the water the motor will stop, preventing any accidents and cut hands from the propeller.

BELOW: Flash sits on the water level without any adjustments

All the parts when the box is opened



The attractive box art showing both versions of paintwork available for Flash





Brushed motor with cooling fan

The first job after reading the instructions is to charge the battery, the charger has two LED indicators, one red which glows when the power is received from the supplied AC wall adaptor and the other LED is green which only glows when the battery is charged. The charging only takes just over one hour from discharge but as with all battery chargers they should be monitored at all times. The batteries should not be fully discharged as this could reduce or end their life!

ON THE WATER TRIALS

The most important part of the review! Our local model boating lake is small and protected and hence any waves are very small which for a model of this size is very important.

The first job at the lakeside is to install and plug in the battery, I must confess that due to the good seal between the hatch and the hull there is a bit of a knack to clip down the hatch and twist over the locating plate, after a few times I was getting used to it! After lifting the protective cover on the transmitter you can access the slide on/off switch. There are two LEDs, one red which glows when switched on and the other which is green and flashes, I assume while the transmitter is binding for a few seconds, then it glows a constant green. The transmitter has trim controls for the steering and speed controller.

Ready to go, at this point I must confess that I was not driving the model, my thoughts were that by using the assistance of fellow modeller Steve, I could take some on the water action pictures (sadly I failed in this – small boat, high speed etc., etc!). The control of the speed was impressive from very slow to high speed and the turning circle was sharp but again very smooth and stable. We tried



The pistol grip transmitter showing the trim adjustments and function LED's

a range check and after 70+ metres all was working fine BUT even at that distance it was difficult to see which direction the model was going in! After prising the transmitter from Steve and installing a new battery in the model I had a go and must confess that even though I have not been keen on the pistol grip transmitters with a short antenna it did feel quite comfortable. I was soon zooming around and quite liking this fun model; it would make a good club model to have a few of these racing together. For a value for money fun model with the potential for club racing you should look closely at the Flash. At the time of the review the complete price was around £40! **MMI**

DATA BOX

Length of Hull: 350 mm

Hull Width: 88 mm

Height: 70 mm

Battery: Super Li-ion 7.4 V 700 mAh

2.4 GHz radio

Imported to the UK trade by J. Perkins Ltd

www.jperkinsdistribution.co.uk



Deck artwork and logos



Small enough to fit in one hand or large pocket!