

MODEL 85076-4

**TRAXXAS**®

**UNLIMITED  
DESERT RACER**

**TRAXXAS**

OWNER'S MANUAL

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Thank you for purchasing the Traxxas Unlimited Desert Racer equipped with the Velineon® VXL-6s Brushless Power System. The Unlimited Desert Racer combines the look and feel of a full-scale Baja truck with huge Pro-Scale™ size and blistering pro-level performance. From the realistic cockpit, spare tires, and fire extinguishers to the limiting straps on the rear axles, scale parts are rendered in extreme detail. If it's on a real Baja truck, it's on the Traxxas Unlimited Desert Racer.

This manual contains the instructions you will need to operate and maintain your model so that you can enjoy it for years to come. We want you to feel confident that you own one of the best-performing models in the market and that it is backed by a team of professionals who aim to provide the highest level of factory support possible. Traxxas models are about experiencing total performance and satisfaction, not just with your model, but also with the company that stands behind it.

We know you're excited about getting your new model on the road, but it's very important that you take some time to read through the Owner's Manual. This manual contains all the necessary setup and operating procedures that will allow you to unlock the performance potential that Traxxas engineers designed into your model. Also be sure to read and follow the precautions and warnings in this manual and on any labels or tags attached to your model. They are there to educate you on how to operate your model safely and also get maximum life and performance from your model.

**Even if you are an experienced RC enthusiast, it's important to read and follow the procedures in this manual.**

Thank you again for going with Traxxas. We work hard every day to assure you receive the highest level of customer satisfaction possible. We truly want you to enjoy your new model!

### FCC Compliance

This device contains a module that complies with the limits for a Class B digital device as described in part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

The limits for a Class B digital device are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in residential settings. This product generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy, and, if not operated in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. The user is cautioned that changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

### Canada, Industry Canada (IC)

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003 and RSS-210. This device complies with Industry Canada license exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions: This device may not cause interference, and This device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

### Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure Statement

This equipment complies with radio frequency exposure limits set forth by FCC and Industry Canada for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with a minimum distance of 20 centimeters between the radiator and your body or bystanders and must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

## Traxxas Support

Traxxas support is with you every step of the way. Refer to the next page to find out how to contact us and what your support options are.



## Quick Start

This manual is designed with a Quick Start path that outlines the necessary procedures to get your model up and running in the shortest time possible. If you are an experienced RC enthusiast, you will find it helpful and fast. Be sure and read through the rest of the manual to learn about important safety, maintenance, and adjustment procedures. Turn to page 10 to begin.



## REGISTERING YOUR MODEL

In order to serve you better as our customer, please register your product within 10 days of your purchase online at [Traxxas.com/register](https://www.traxxas.com/register).

[Traxxas.com/register](https://www.traxxas.com/register)

## BEFORE YOU PROCEED

Carefully read and follow all instructions in this and any accompanying materials to prevent serious damage to your model. Failure to follow these instructions will be considered abuse and/or neglect.

Before running your model, look over this entire manual and examine the model carefully. If for some reason you decide it is not what you wanted, then do not continue any further. **Your hobby dealer absolutely cannot accept a model for return or exchange after it has been run.**

### WARNINGS, HELPFUL HINTS, & CROSS-REFERENCES

Throughout this manual, you'll notice warnings and helpful hints identified by the icons below. Be sure to read them!



An important warning about personal safety or avoiding damage to your model and related components.



Special advice from Traxxas to make things easier and more fun.



Refers you to a page with a related topic.

### SUPPORT

If you have any questions about your model or its operation, call the Traxxas Technical Support Line toll-free at: **1-888-TRAXXAS (1-888-872-9927)\***

Technical support is available Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 9:00pm central time. Technical assistance is also available at [Traxxas.com/support](http://Traxxas.com/support). You may also e-mail customer support with your question at [support@Traxxas.com](mailto:support@Traxxas.com). Join thousands of registered members in our online community at [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com).

Traxxas offers a full-service, on-site repair facility to handle any of your Traxxas service needs. Maintenance and replacement parts may be purchased directly from Traxxas by phone or online at [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com). You can save time, along with shipping and handling costs, by purchasing replacement parts from your local dealer.

Do not hesitate to contact us with any of your product support needs. We want you to be thoroughly satisfied with your new model!

Traxxas  
6250 Traxxas Way  
McKinney, TX 75070  
Phone: 972-549-3000  
Toll-free 1-888-TRAXXAS

Internet  
[Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com)  
E-mail: [support@Traxxas.com](mailto:support@Traxxas.com)

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## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



All instructions and precautions outlined in this manual should be strictly followed to ensure safe operation of your model.



This model is not intended for use by children or minors under 14 years of age.



Previous experience with radio controlled models is required! These models are very large, capable of high speed and acceleration, and require the use of LiPo batteries! These models are intended for advanced users that have the experience, knowledge, and maturity to safely operate and maintain the vehicle and the LiPo battery system for the safety of themselves and others.



### WARNING!

**RISK OF FIRE, INJURY, OR DEATH**



This product is not a toy. This product is Skill Level 5 and is not intended for use by children or minors under the age of 14. Individuals under the age of 18 require responsible adult supervision during operation and maintenance. The Unlimited Desert Racer (Desert Racer) is capable of extreme performance and high speeds. Responsibility, maturity, and common sense are required. This model must be treated with respect and caution to ensure the safety of yourself and others around you. Operating the Desert Racer in a careless, unsafe manner, without adequate care and preparation, can result in collisions with catastrophic consequences, such as serious injury or death. Know your limits. Be honest with yourself about your true ability, and be certain you have a location where you can safely run the model.

**The Desert Racer requires the use of LiPo batteries. LiPo batteries have a severe risk of fire and injury if they are improperly handled, abused, or misused. User must read and understand all included instructions, warnings, and precautions regarding the handling, care, and use of LiPo batteries. A LiPo balance charger (such as the Traxxas EZ-Peak Live™, part #2971, sold separately) is required to charge the batteries. Consult Traxxas or your hobby dealer if you do not know what a LiPo balance charger is. NEVER USE A NiMH OR NiCAD CHARGER TO CHARGE LIPO BATTERIES AS THIS CAN CAUSE FIRE RESULTING IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND/OR PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.**

#### Terms of Use:

This product is surrendered by Traxxas to the purchaser with the understanding that the purchaser accepts the responsibility that driving this model and using the enclosed accessories in a careless, improper, or unsafe manner can result in serious injury or death. Also, the purchaser assumes all liability resulting from any misuse, unsafe handling, failure to follow instructions, or any action that constitutes a violation of any applicable laws or regulations.

Traxxas, and all Traxxas suppliers and component makers, shall not be liable for personal injury, loss of property, or loss of life resulting from the use of this product under any circumstances, including intentional, reckless, negligent, or accidental behavior. Traxxas, and all Traxxas suppliers and component makers, shall also not be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages arising out of the assembly, installation, or use of their products or any accessory or chemical required to use their products. By the act of operating/using the product, the user accepts all resulting liability and releases Traxxas, and all Traxxas suppliers and component makers, of any and all liability associated with its use.

If you as the user do not accept liability of ownership, Traxxas requests that you do not use this product. Do not open any of the enclosed materials. Return the model to your hobby dealer. **Your hobby dealer absolutely cannot accept an item for return or exchange after it has been run or is otherwise no longer in as-new condition.**

All information contained in this Owner's Manual is subject to change without notice. Traxxas reserves the right to make changes and improvements to products without incurring any obligation to incorporate such improvements into products previously sold.

If you have any questions about your model or its operation, call Traxxas Customer Support at 1-888-TRAXXAS (1-888-872-9927); outside the US, +1-972-549-3000. E-mail: [support@traxxas.com](mailto:support@traxxas.com).

**Safety Is Your Responsibility!**



## FIRE HAZARD!

This vehicle requires LiPo batteries. Charging and discharging batteries has the potential for fire, explosion, serious injury, and property damage if not performed per the instructions. In addition, Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries pose a SEVERE risk of fire if not properly handled per the instructions and require special care and handling procedures for long life and safe operation. LiPo batteries are intended only for advanced users that are educated on the risks associated with LiPo battery use. Traxxas does not recommend that anyone under the age of 14 use or handle LiPo battery packs without the supervision of a knowledgeable and responsible adult. Dispose of used batteries according to the instructions.

- Your model requires the use of LiPo batteries. LiPo batteries have a minimum safe discharge voltage threshold that should not be exceeded. The electronic speed control is equipped with built-in Low-Voltage Detection that alerts the driver when LiPo batteries have reached their minimum voltage (discharge) threshold. It is the driver's responsibility to stop immediately to prevent the battery pack from being discharged below its safe minimum threshold.
- Low-Voltage Detection is just one part of a comprehensive plan for safe LiPo battery use. It is critical to follow all instructions for safe and proper charging, use, and storage of LiPo batteries. Make sure you understand how to use your LiPo batteries. If you have questions about LiPo battery usage, please consult with your local hobby dealer or contact the battery manufacturer. As a reminder, all batteries should be recycled at the end of their useful life.

## WARNING! CAUTION! DANGER!

- DO NOT use a charger designed for NiMH or NiCad batteries. The use of a NiMH or NiCad charger or charge mode will damage the batteries. Failure to use the correct charger may result in battery damage, fire, personal injury, and/or property damage.
- ALWAYS inspect your LiPo batteries carefully before charging. Do not use or charge battery packs that have been damaged in any way (bent, dented, swollen, torn covering, or otherwise damaged).
- BEFORE you charge, ALWAYS confirm that the charger settings exactly match the type (chemistry), specification, and configuration of the battery to be charged. DO NOT exceed the maximum manufacturer recommended charge rate. DO NOT attempt to charge non-rechargeable batteries (explosion hazard), batteries that have an internal charge circuit or a protection circuit, or batteries that have been altered from original manufacturer configuration.
- While charging or discharging, ALWAYS place the battery (all types of batteries) in a fire retardant/fire proof container and on a non-flammable surface such as concrete.
- ALWAYS charge batteries in a well-ventilated area.
- Charge the battery in a safe area away from flammable materials. Monitor the charging process and never leave batteries unattended while charging. Do not allow small children to charge or handle LiPo batteries.
- DO NOT disassemble, crush, short circuit, or expose the batteries to flame or other source of ignition.
- DO NOT let any exposed battery contacts or wires touch each other. This will cause the battery to short circuit and create the risk of fire.

- DO NOT leave the charger and battery unattended while charging, discharging, or anytime the charger is ON with a battery connected. If there are any signs of a malfunction, unplug the power source and/or stop the charging process immediately.
- ALWAYS unplug the charger from the wall outlet and disconnect the battery when not in use.
- Never charge LiPo battery packs in series or parallel. Charging packs in series or parallel may result in improper charger cell recognition and an improper charging rate that may lead to overcharging, cell imbalance, cell damage and fire.
- If a battery gets hot to the touch during the charging process (temperature greater than 110°F / 43°C), immediately disconnect the battery from the charger and discontinue charging.
- DO NOT store or charge LiPo batteries with or around other batteries or battery packs of any type, including other LiPos.
- Store and transport your LiPo batteries in a cool dry place. DO NOT store in direct sunlight. DO NOT allow the storage temperature to exceed 140°F or 60°C such as in the trunk of a car or the cells may be damaged and risk of fire created. ALWAYS store battery packs safely out of the reach of children and pets.
- Keep a Class D fire extinguisher nearby in case of fire.
- DO NOT disassemble LiPo batteries or cells. DO NOT disassemble the charger.
- DO NOT attempt to build your own LiPo battery pack from loose cells.
- REMOVE the battery from your model or device before charging.
- DO NOT expose the charger to water or moisture.





**Important Points to Remember**

- Because your model is controlled by radio, it is subject to radio interference from many sources that are beyond your control. Since radio interference can cause momentary losses of radio control, always allow a safety margin in all directions around the model in order to prevent collisions.
- Range test your radio system in the area that you will be running the model to ensure that you have range that covers the area you want to drive. After range testing, drive slowly in the area at first to make sure there is no interference that can cause momentary lapses of control.
- Always use new or freshly charged batteries in your model to maximize signal power output and range.
- The motors, batteries, and speed control can become hot during use. Be careful to avoid getting burned.
- Choose the right location to drive. Your model is absolutely not intended for use on public roads or congested areas where its operation can conflict with or disrupt pedestrian or vehicular traffic. This is to prevent the possibility of injury or death resulting from collision with the model by another human being or animal.
- Do not drive the Desert Racer by yourself. Bring a friend along to act as a spotter to alert you if a person or animal is approaching.
- Do not operate your model at night, or anytime your line of sight to the model may be obstructed or impaired in any way.
- Do not drive the model close to you where a mistake or loss of control could cause the model to collide with you or any spectator.
- Always carefully inspect your model for damage or loose components before running. Do not drive the model if it is damaged in any way. Tighten any loose hardware. Tighten the wheel nuts before each running session and periodically check the tightness of the wheel nuts while you are running.
- Never pick up the model by its tires or wheels. Always keep your hands safely clear of moving parts whenever the batteries are plugged in.
- Keep the Desert Racer stored with the batteries removed, out of the reach of children and protected from access by any other unauthorized driver.
- Always disconnect the batteries in the model when it is not in use. Never store the vehicle with batteries in the model, as this can cause a fire leading to property damage, serious personal injury or even death.

- Do not continue to operate the model with low batteries or you could lose control of it. Indications of low battery power include slow operation and delayed vehicle response. Stop immediately at the first sign of weak batteries. When the batteries in the transmitter become weak, the red power light will begin to flash. Stop immediately and install new batteries.
- Most importantly, use good common sense at all times.

**Speed Control**

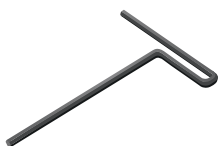
Your model's electronic speed control (ESC) is an extremely powerful electronic device capable of delivering high current. Please closely follow these precautions to prevent damage to the speed control or other components.

- **Disconnect the Battery:** Always disconnect the battery or batteries from the speed control when not in use.
- **Insulate the Wires:** Always insulate exposed wiring with heat shrink tubing to prevent short circuits.
- **Transmitter on First:** Switch on your transmitter first before switching on the speed control to prevent runaways and erratic performance.
- **Don't Get Burned:** The ESC and motor can become extremely hot during use, so be careful not to touch them until they cool. Supply adequate airflow for cooling.
- **Use Traxxas High-Current Connectors:** Do not change the battery and motor connectors. Improper wiring can cause fire or damage to the ESC. Please note that modified speed controls can be subject to a rewiring fee when returned for service.
- **No Reverse Voltage:** The ESC is not protected against reverse polarity voltage.
- **No Schottky Diodes:** External Schottky diodes are not compatible with reversing speed controls. Using a Schottky diode with your speed control will damage the ESC and void the warranty.
- **Always** adhere to the minimum and maximum limitations of the speed control as stated in the specifications table in the Owner's Manual. Your ESC operates on two batteries. Do not mix battery types, capacities, or charge levels; use the same voltage, capacity, and charge level for both batteries. Using mismatched battery packs could damage the batteries and electronic speed control.

## TOOLS, SUPPLIES, AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Your model comes with a set of specialty metric tools. You'll need to purchase other items, available from your hobby dealer, to operate and maintain your model.

### Supplied Tools and Equipment



2.5mm "T"  
wrench



2.5mm "L"  
wrench



2.0mm "L"  
wrench



Universal wrench



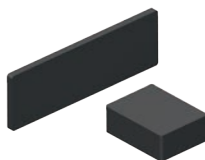
Suspension multi-tool



4s battery retainer



4s accessory adapter



Battery spacers

### Required Equipment



Two 2s/3s LiPo battery packs with Traxxas High-Current Connectors  
(or single 4s LiPo battery pack using the supplied accessory adapter)

Traxxas Power Cell LiPo batteries recommended

Minimum: 5000mAh 7.4v 2-cell (2S)

Recommended: 6700mAh 14.8v 4-cell (4S)



LiPo battery charger

EZ-Peak Live™  
(part #2971,  
sold separately)

Traxxas Power Cell Batteries  
(part #2914,  
sold separately)



4 AA alkaline  
batteries



For more information on  
batteries, see *Use the Right  
Batteries* on page 14.



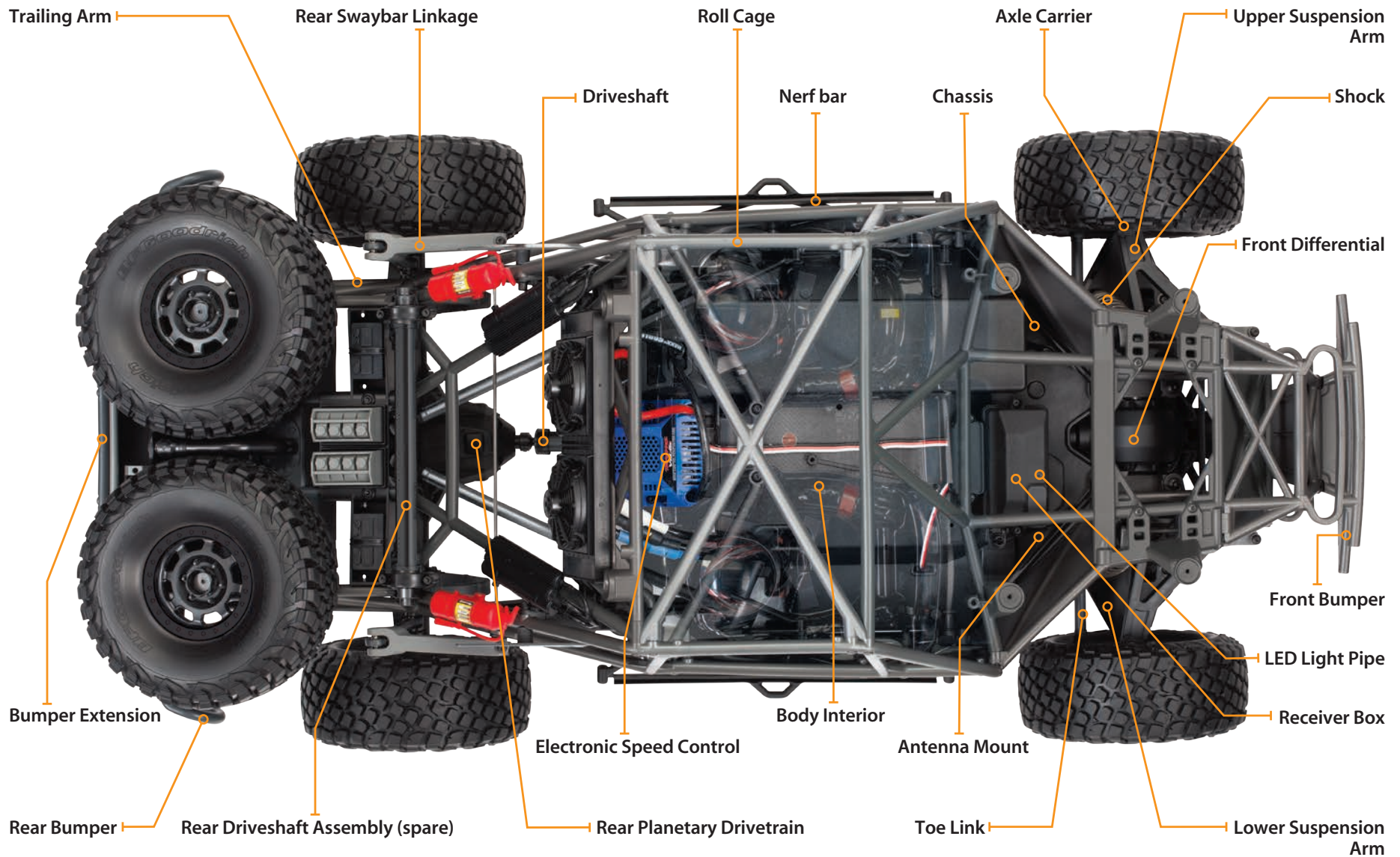
### Recommended Equipment

These items are not required  
for the operation of your  
model, but are a good idea to  
include in any RC toolbox:

- Safety glasses
- Traxxas Ultra Premium Tire Glue, Part #6468 (CA glue)
- Hobby knife
- Side cutters and/or needle nose pliers
- Phillips screwdriver

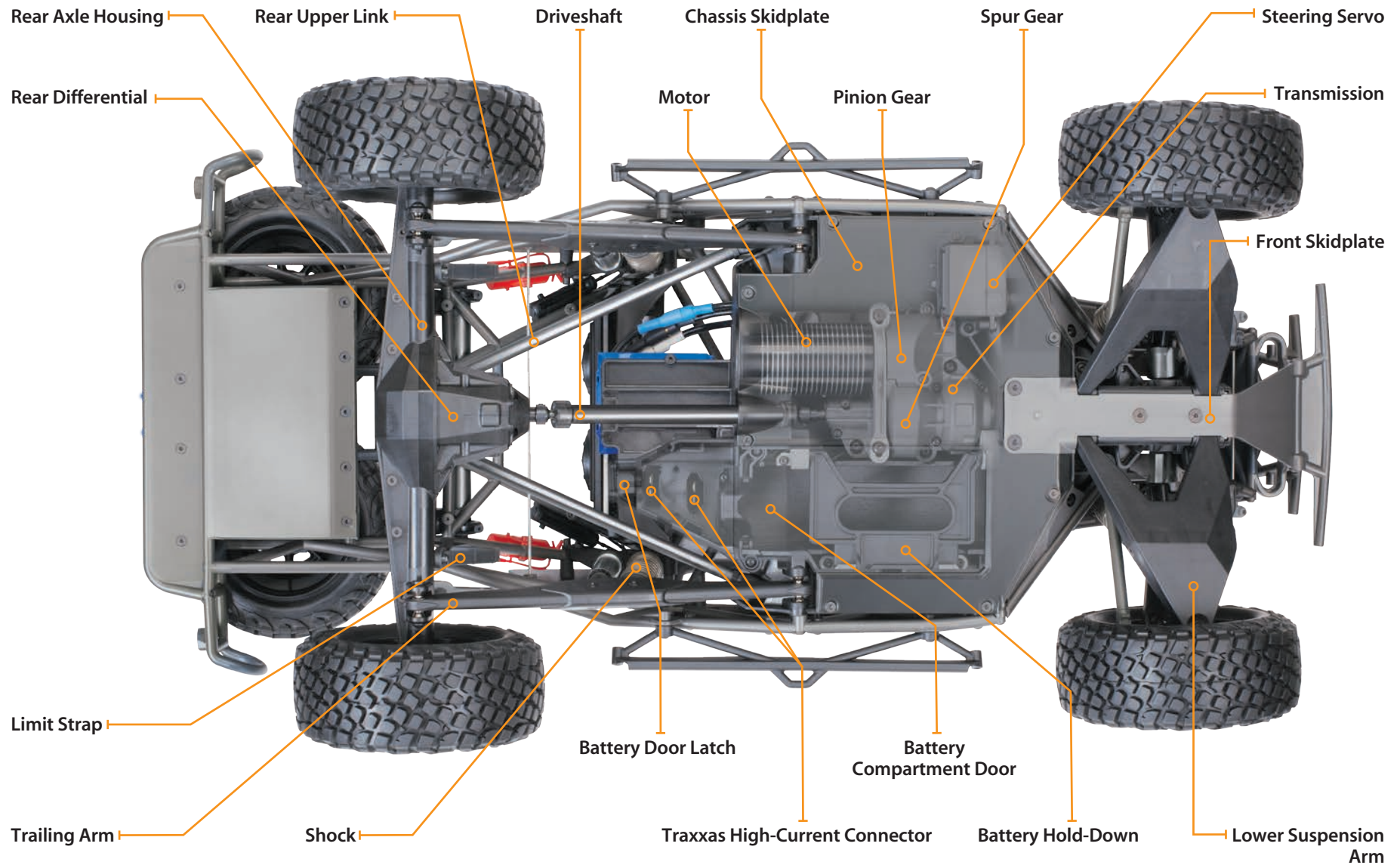
# ANATOMY OF THE UNLIMITED DESERT RACER

## Chassis Top View





## Chassis Bottom View



## QUICK START: GETTING UP TO SPEED



The Quick Start Guide is not intended to replace the full operating instructions available in this manual. Please read this entire manual for complete instructions on the proper use and maintenance of your model.

Look for the Quick Start logo at the bottom of Quick Start pages.



The following guide is an overview of the procedures for getting your model running. Look for the Quick Start logo on the bottom corners of Quick Start pages.



### 1. Read the safety precautions on page 4

For your own safety, understand where carelessness and misuse could lead to personal injury and product damage.



### 6. Check servo operation • See page 18

Make sure the steering servo is working correctly.



### 2. Charge two battery packs • See page 14

Your model requires two identical LiPo battery packs and a compatible battery charger (sold separately). Never use a NiMH or NiCad charger to charge LiPo battery packs.



### 7. Range test the radio system • See page 18

Follow this procedure to make sure your radio system works properly at a distance, and that there is no interference from outside sources.



### 3. Install batteries in the transmitter • See page 14

The transmitter requires 4 AA alkaline batteries (sold separately).



### 8. Detail your model • See sidebar, page 11

Apply other decals if desired.



### 4. Install the battery packs in the model • See page 15

Your model requires two fully charged battery packs (sold separately).



### 9. Drive your model • See page 23

Driving tips and adjustments for your model.



### 5. Turn on the radio system • See page 17

Make a habit of turning the transmitter on first and off last.



### 10. Maintaining your model • See page 28

Follow these critical steps to maintain the performance of your model and keep it in excellent running condition.

## INTRODUCTION

Your model includes the latest Traxxas TQi 2.4GHz transmitter with Traxxas Link™ Model Memory. The transmitter's easy-to-use design provides instant driving fun for new RC enthusiasts, and also offers a full complement of pro-level tuning features for advanced users – or anyone interested in experimenting with the performance of their model. The steering and throttle channels feature adjustable Exponential, End Points, and Sub-Trims. Steering and braking Dual-Rate are also available. Many of the next-level features are controlled by the Multi-Function knob, which can be programmed to control a variety of functions. The detailed instructions (page 31) and Menu Tree (page 34) included in this manual will help you understand and operate the advanced functions of the new TQi radio system. For additional information and how-to videos, visit [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com).

## RADIO AND POWER SYSTEM TERMINOLOGY

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these radio and power system terms. They will be used throughout this manual. A detailed explanation of the advanced terminology and features of your new radio system begins on page 31.

**2.4GHz Spread Spectrum** – This model is equipped with the latest RC technology. Unlike AM and FM systems that require frequency crystals and are prone to frequency conflicts, the TQi system automatically selects and locks onto an open frequency and offers superior resistance to interference and “glitching.”

**BEC (Battery Eliminator Circuit)** – The BEC can either be in the receiver or in the ESC. This circuit allows the receiver and servos to be powered by the main battery pack in an electric model. This eliminates the need to carry a separate pack of 4 AA batteries to power the radio equipment.

**Brushless Motor** – A D/C brushless motor replaces the brushed motor's traditional commutator and brush arrangement with intelligent electronics that energize the electromagnetic windings in sequence to provide rotation. Opposite of a brushed motor, the brushless motor has its windings (coils) on the perimeter of the motor can and the magnets are mounted to the spinning rotor shaft.

**Cogging** – Cogging is a condition sometimes associated with brushless motors. Typically, it is a slight stutter noticed when accelerating from a stop. It happens for a very short period as the

signals from the electronic speed control and the motor synch with each other. The VXL-6s electronic speed control is optimized to virtually eliminate cogging.

**Current** – Current is a measure of power flow through the electronics, usually measured in amps. If you think of a wire as a garden hose, current is a measure of how much water is flowing through the hose.

**ESC (Electronic Speed Control)** – An electronic speed control is the electronic motor control inside the model. The VXL-6s electronic speed control uses advanced circuitry to provide precise, digital proportional throttle control. Electronic speed controls use power more efficiently than mechanical speed controls so that the batteries run longer. An electronic speed control also has circuitry that prevents loss of steering and throttle control as the batteries lose their charge.

**Frequency band** – The radio frequency used by the transmitter to send signals to your model. This model operates on the 2.4GHz direct-sequence spread spectrum.

**kV Rating** – Brushless motors are often rated by their kV number. The kV rating equals no-load motor rpm with 1 volt applied. The kV increases as the number of wire turns in the motor decreases. As the kV increases, the current draw through the electronics also increases.

**LiPo** – Abbreviation for Lithium Polymer. Rechargeable LiPo battery packs are known for their special chemistry, which allows extremely high energy density and current handling in a compact size. These are high performance batteries that require special care and handling. LiPo battery packs are for advanced users only.

**mAh** – Abbreviation for milliamp hour, a measure of the capacity of the battery pack. The higher the number, the longer the battery will last between recharges.

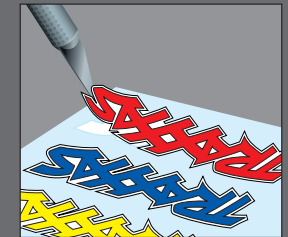
**Neutral position** – The standing position that the servos seek when the transmitter controls are at the neutral setting.

**NiCad** – Abbreviation for nickel-cadmium. The original rechargeable hobby pack, NiCad batteries have very high current handling, high capacity, and can last up to 1000 charging cycles. Good charging procedures are required to reduce the possibility of developing a “memory” effect and shortened run times.



## Applying the Decals

The main decals for your model have been applied at the factory. Additional decals are printed on self-adhesive clear mylar and are die-cut for easy removal. Use a hobby knife to lift the corner of a decal and lift it from the backing.

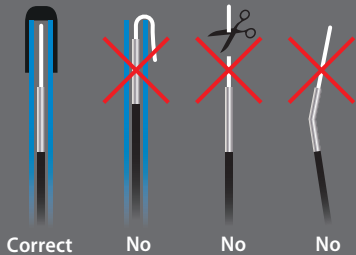


To apply the decals, place one end down, hold the other end up, and gradually smooth the decal down with your finger as you go. This will prevent air bubbles. Placing both ends of the decal down and then trying to smooth it out will result in air pockets. Look at the photos on the box for typical decal placement.





To prevent loss of radio range do not kink or cut the black wire, do not bend or cut the metal tip, and do not bend or cut the white wire at the end of the metal tip.



**NiMH** - Abbreviation for nickel-metal hydride. Rechargeable NiMH batteries offer high current handling and much greater resistance to the “memory” effect. NiMH batteries generally allow higher capacity than NiCad batteries. They can last up to 500 charge cycles. A peak charger designed for NiMH batteries is required for optimal performance.

**Receiver** - The radio unit inside your model that receives signals from the transmitter and relays them to the servos.

**Resistance** - In an electrical sense, resistance is a measure of how an object resists or obstructs the flow of current through it. When flow is constricted, energy is converted to heat and is lost. The Velineon power system is optimized to reduce electrical resistance and the resulting power-robbing heat.

**Rotor** - The rotor is the main shaft of the brushless motor. In a brushless motor, the magnets are mounted to the rotor, and the electromagnetic windings are built into the motor housing.

**Sensored** - Sensored refers to a type of brushless motor that uses an internal sensor in the motor to communicate rotor position information back to the electronic speed control.

**Sensorless** - Sensorless refers to a brushless motor that uses advanced instructions from an electronic speed control to provide smooth operation. Additional motor sensors and wiring are not required. The VXL-6s electronic speed control is optimized for smooth sensorless control.

**Servo** - Small motor unit in your model that operates the steering mechanism.

**Transmitter** - The hand-held radio unit that sends throttle and steering instructions to your model.

**Trim** - The fine-tuning adjustment of the neutral position of the servos, made by adjusting the throttle and steering trim knobs on the face of the transmitter. **Note:** The Multi-Function knob must be programmed to serve as a throttle trim adjustment.

**Thermal Shutdown Protection** - Temperature sensing electronics used in the VXL-6s electronic speed control detect overloading and overheating of the transistor circuitry. If excessive temperature is detected, the unit automatically shuts down to prevent damage to the electronics.

**2-channel radio system** - The TQi radio system, consisting of the receiver, the transmitter, and the servos. The system uses two channels: one to operate the throttle and one to operate the steering.

**Voltage** - Voltage is a measure of the electrical potential difference between two points, such as between the positive battery terminal and ground. Using the analogy of the garden hose, while current is the quantity of water flow in the hose, voltage corresponds to the pressure that is forcing the water through the hose.

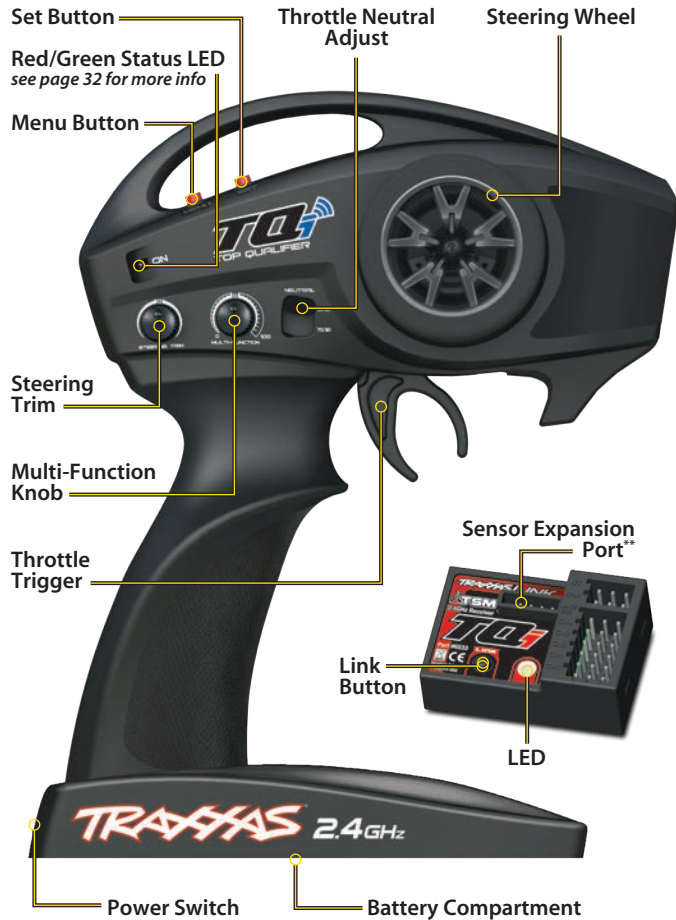
#### IMPORTANT RADIO SYSTEM PRECAUTIONS

- Do not kink the receiver's antenna wire. Kinks in the antenna wire will reduce range.
- DO NOT CUT any part of the receiver's antenna wire. Cutting the antenna will reduce range.
- Extend the antenna wire in the model as far as possible for maximum range. It is not necessary to extend the antenna wire out of the body, but wrapping or coiling the antenna wire should be avoided.
- Do not allow the antenna wire to extend outside the body without the protection of an antenna tube, or the antenna wire may get cut or damaged, reducing range. It is recommended to keep the wire inside the body (in the antenna tube) to prevent the chance of damage.

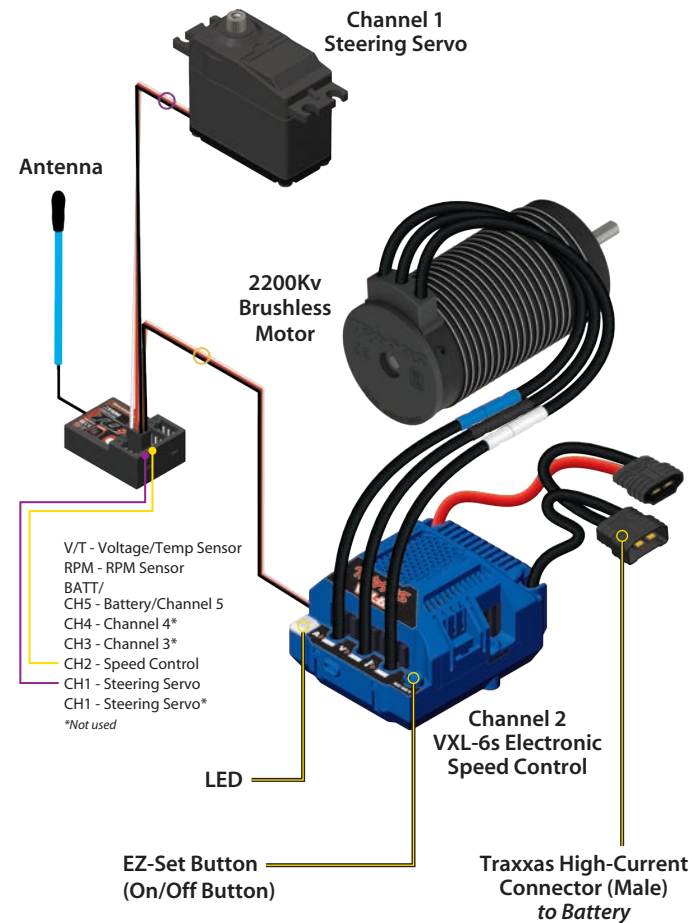


Your model is equipped with the newest TQi 2.4GHz transmitter with Traxxas Link™ Model Memory. The transmitter has two channels for controlling your throttle and steering. The receiver inside the model has 5 output channels. Your model is equipped with one servo and an electronic speed control.

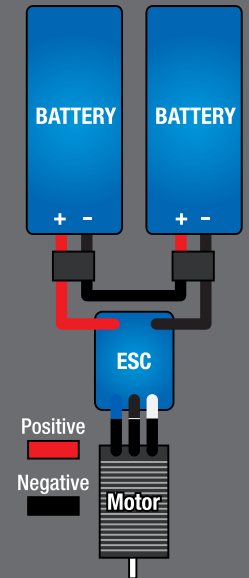
## TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER



## MODEL WIRING DIAGRAM



## ESC/Motor Wiring Diagram



\*\* Accessory sensor expansion port for use with the Telemetry Expander Module (see Traxxas.com and included materials for more information)



### Use the Right Batteries

Your transmitter uses AA batteries. Use new alkaline batteries (part #2914). Do not use rechargeable AA batteries to power the TQi transmitter, as they will not provide sufficient voltage for optimum transmitter performance.

Caution: Discontinue running your model at the first sign of weak batteries (flashing red light on the transmitter) to avoid losing control.



If the status LED doesn't light green, check the polarity of the batteries. If you see any other flashing signal from the LED, refer to the chart on page 32 to identify the code.

## INSTALLING TRANSMITTER BATTERIES

Your TQi transmitter uses 4 AA batteries. The battery compartment is located in the base of the transmitter.



1. Remove the battery compartment door by pressing the tab and sliding the door open.
2. Install the batteries in the correct orientation, as indicated in the battery compartment.
3. Reinstall the battery compartment door and snap it closed.
4. Turn on the transmitter and check the status LED for a solid green light.

If the status LED flashes red, the transmitter batteries may be weak, discharged, or possibly installed incorrectly. Replace with new batteries. The status LED does not indicate the charge level of the battery pack installed in the model. Refer to the troubleshooting section on page 32 for more information on the transmitter status LED codes.

## SELECTING BATTERIES FOR YOUR MODEL

Your model does not include batteries or a charger. Two identical 2s/3s Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries equipped with Traxxas High Current Connectors (or a single 4s LiPo battery using the supplied accessory adapter) are required. **Do not use Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries.** Traxxas Power Cell iD batteries are strongly recommended for maximum performance and safer charging.

The following chart lists available Power Cell iD LiPo batteries for your model:

### LiPo Batteries with iD

2842X	5000mAh 7.4v 2-Cell (2s) 25C LiPo Battery
2872X	5000mAh 11.1v 3-Cell (3s) 25C LiPo Battery
2843X	5800mAh 7.4v 2-Cell (2s) 25C LiPo Battery
2869X	7600mAh 7.4v 2-Cell (2s) 25C LiPo Battery
2888X	5000mAh 14.8v 4-Cell (4s) 25C LiPo Battery
2889X	5000mAh 14.8v 4-Cell (4s) 25C LiPo Battery
2890X	6700mAh 14.8v 4-Cell (4s) 25C LiPo Battery



### WARNING: FIRE HAZARD!

Users of Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries must read the Warnings and Precautions beginning on page 4. You **MUST** use a LiPo charger for LiPo batteries or battery damage with the potential for fire will result.

**DO NOT** use Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries with this model. The batteries will become extremely hot and damage or injury could occur.



### CAUTION

Burn hazard.  
Hot surface.  
Do not touch.

## SELECTING A CHARGER FOR YOUR MODEL

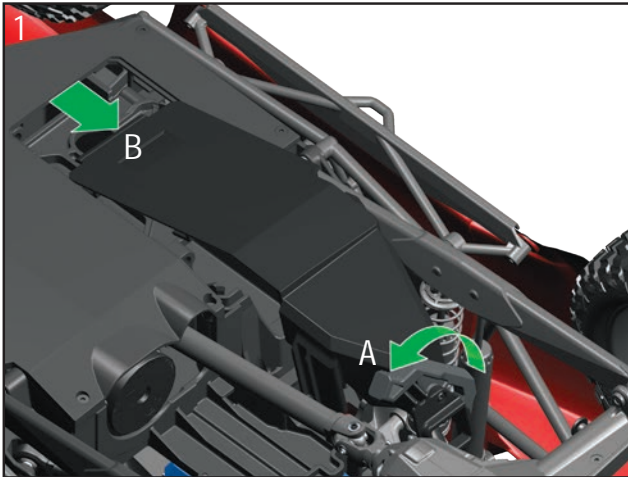
Make certain you choose the correct type of charger for the batteries you select. Traxxas recommends you choose a genuine Traxxas EZ-Peak iD charger for safer charging and maximum battery life and performance.

Charger	Part No.	NiMH Compatible	LiPo Compatible	Battery iD	Max. Cells
EZ-Peak Plus, 4 amps	2970	YES	YES	YES	3s
EZ-Peak Live, 12 amps	2971	YES	YES	YES	4s
EZ-Peak Dual, 8 amps	2972	YES	YES	YES	3s
EZ-Peak Live Dual, 26+ amps	2973	YES	YES	YES	4s

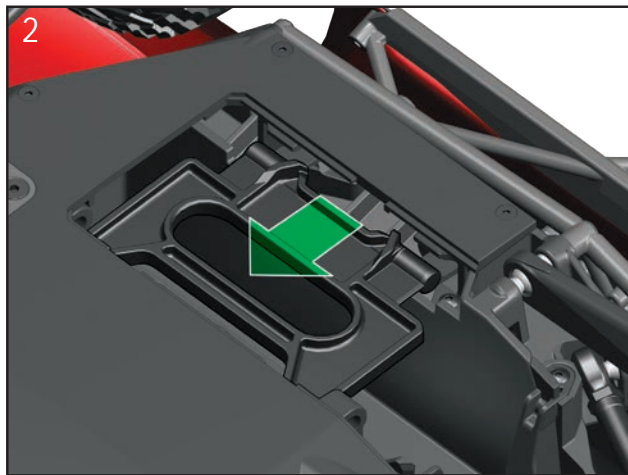
## INSTALLATING BATTERY PACKS

### Dual Battery Installation

1. Remove the battery compartment door by releasing the latch (A) and sliding the door open (B).

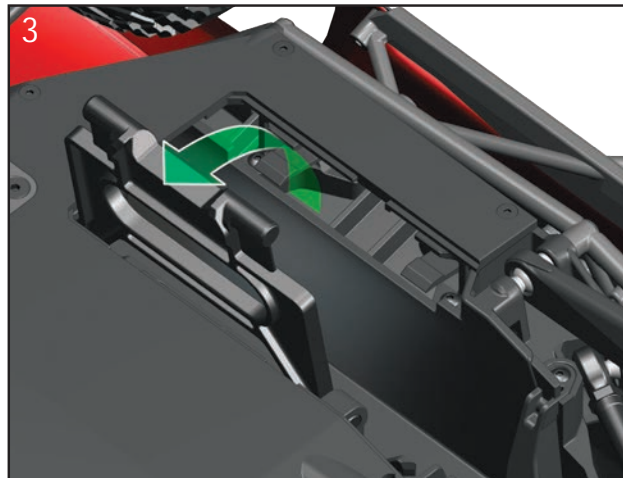


2. Pull the battery hold-down toward the center of the truck to release it.

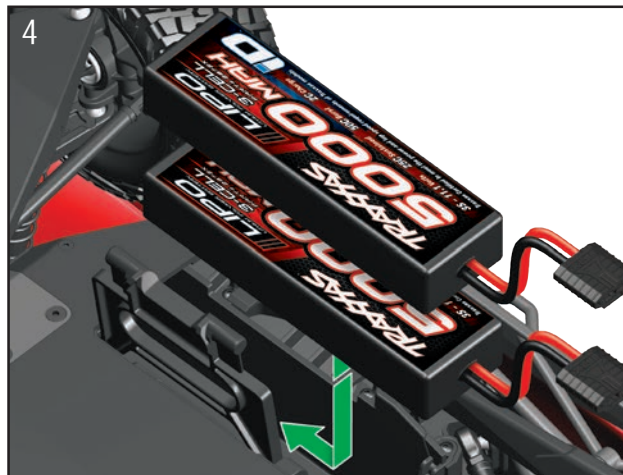


3. Flip the hold-down up to access the battery compartment. Rest the battery hold-down against the chassis in the open position.

**Note:** The battery hold-down will remain attached to the chassis.



4. Insert a fully charged battery pack into the battery compartment. Place the second battery on top of the first.



#### Battery iD

Traxxas recommended battery packs are equipped with Traxxas Battery iD. This exclusive feature allows Traxxas battery chargers (sold separately) to automatically recognize connected battery packs and optimize the charge settings for the battery. This eliminates the need to worry over charger settings and menus for the easiest and safest charging solution possible. Visit [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com) to learn more about this feature and available Traxxas iD chargers and batteries.



#### Battery Compartment Specs

Standard Configuration  
(2s/3s LiPo):

- 160mm (6.3") long x 46.75mm (1.84") wide x 56.5mm (2.23") high

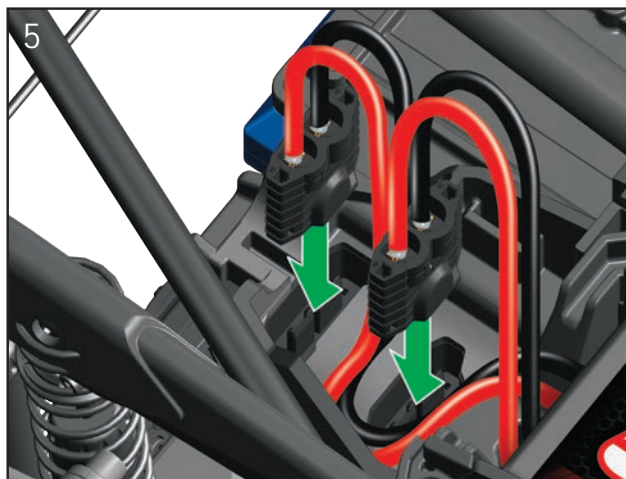
Optional Configuration  
(4s LiPo):

- 181.9mm (7.16") long x 46.75mm (1.84") wide x 56.5mm (2.23") high





5. Plug the batteries into the speed control. **Note:** The battery connectors from the speed control are fixed inside the chassis. Align the + and – markings. Make certain the plugs are completely inserted; the plugs only insert one way.



6. Lower the battery hold-down and push it in toward the outside of the truck to snap it closed.
7. Reinstall the battery compartment door and secure with the latch. **Note:** Be sure that the door is installed correctly and secure to the chassis to protect the batteries and connectors from the elements while driving.



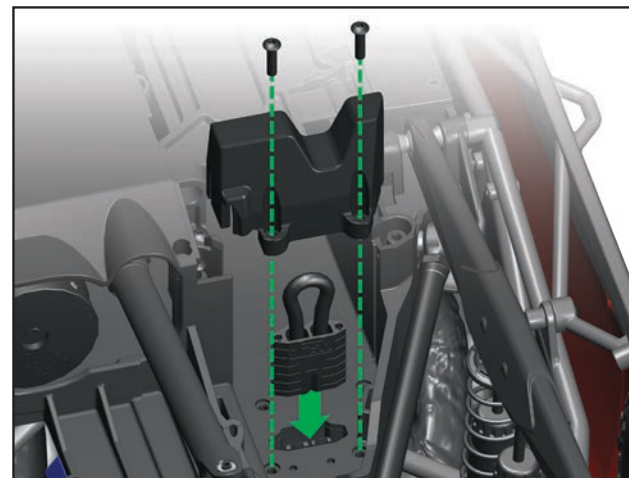
### **WARNING: FIRE HAZARD!**

Do not operate the model without the battery door securely in place or the batteries could be damaged.

### **Single Battery Installation**

The supplied 4s accessory adapter must be used for single 4s LiPo operation. Plug the 4s accessory adapter into the 2s/3s battery connector from the speed control.

- When using a Traxxas 5000mAh 4s battery pack (part #2888X), install foam battery spacers in the battery compartment for proper fitment. Install the battery pack as described in the previous section.
- When using the Traxxas 6700mAh 4s battery pack (part #2890X), use the supplied 4s battery retainer to enlarge the battery compartment. Remove the four 3x12 BCS from the existing 2s/3s battery retainer and remove the retainer from the battery compartment; then, install the 4s battery retainer using two of the 3x12 BCS as shown below. Install the battery pack as described in the previous section.





## RADIO SYSTEM CONTROLS



## RADIO SYSTEM RULES

- Always turn your TQi transmitter on first and off last. This procedure will help to prevent your model from receiving stray signals from another transmitter, or other source, and running out of control. Your model has electronic fail-safes to prevent this type of malfunction, but the first, best defense against a runaway model is to always turn the transmitter on first and off last.
- Always use new batteries for the radio system. Weak batteries will limit the radio signal between the receiver and the transmitter. Loss of the radio signal can cause you to lose control of your model.



- In order for the transmitter and receiver to bind to one another, the receiver in the model must be turned on within 20 seconds of turning on the transmitter. Either the transmitter or receiver LED flashing flash red indicates a failure to link. If you miss it, simply turn off the transmitter and start over.
- Always turn on the transmitter before plugging in the battery.

## RADIO SYSTEM BASIC ADJUSTMENTS

## Throttle Neutral Adjustment

The throttle neutral adjustment is located on the transmitter face and controls the forward/reverse travel of the throttle trigger. Change the adjustment by pressing the button and sliding it to the desired position. There are two settings available:



**50/50:** Allows equal travel for both acceleration and reverse.

**70/30:** Allows more throttle travel (70%) and less reverse travel (30%); this will NOT increase the top speed of the vehicle.

**WARNING: RISK OF INJURY!**

**DO NOT** change the throttle neutral setting on the transmitter while the vehicle and the transmitter are turned on. This will cause the vehicle to move with no throttle input and could result in personal injury or property damage.

Turn off the vehicle and the transmitter, change the throttle neutral setting, and then turn the transmitter back on; the ESC will need to be reprogrammed to recognize the new setting. *Turn to VXL-6s Setup Programming on page 20 for instructions. Do not attempt to power on the ESC until programming is complete.*

## Steering Trim

The electronic steering trim located on the face of the transmitter adjusts the neutral (center) point of the steering channel.



**Note:** Traxxas Stability Management (TSM) must be completely turned off while adjusting steering trim. See page 19 for TSM adjustments.

## Multi-Function Knob

The Multi-Function knob can be programmed to control a variety of functions. From the factory, the Multi-Function knob controls Traxxas Stability Management (TSM). For more detail on TSM, refer to page 19.



Remember, always turn the TQi transmitter on first and off last to avoid damage to your model.

**Automatic Fail-Safe**

The TQi transmitter and receiver are equipped with an automatic fail-safe system that does not require user programming. In the event of signal loss or interference, the throttle will return to neutral and the steering will hold its last commanded position. If the Fail-Safe activates while you are operating your model, determine the reason for signal loss and resolve the problem before operating your model again.



Stop immediately at the first sign of weak batteries. Never turn the transmitter off when the battery pack is plugged in. The model could run out of control.



Using Reverse: While driving, push the throttle trigger forward to apply brakes. Once stopped, return the throttle trigger to neutral. Push the throttle trigger forward again to engage proportional reverse.

## USING THE RADIO SYSTEM

The TQi Radio System has been pre-adjusted at the factory. The adjustment should be checked before running the model in case of movement during shipping. Here's how:

1. Turn the transmitter switch on. The status LED on the transmitter should be solid green (not flashing).
2. **Elevate the model on a block or a stand so that all the tires are off the ground.** Make sure your hands are clear of the moving parts of the model.
3. Plug the battery pack in the model into the speed control.
4. The on/off switch is integrated into the speed control. With the transmitter on, press and release the EZ-Set button (.25 seconds). The LED will shine GREEN. This turns the model on. To turn the VXL-6s off, press and hold the EZ-Set button until the LED turns off (.5 seconds).
5. Turn the steering wheel on the transmitter back and forth and check for rapid operation of the steering servo. Also, check that the steering mechanism is not loose or binding. If the steering operates slowly, check for weak batteries.
6. When looking down at the model, the front wheels should be pointing straight ahead. If the wheels are turned slightly to the left or right, turn off TSM (see page 19) and slowly adjust the steering trim control on the transmitter until they are pointing straight ahead; then, return the multi-function knob to the desired TSM setting.
7. Gently operate the throttle trigger to ensure that you have forward and reverse operation, and that the motor stops when the throttle trigger is at neutral. **Warning: Do not apply full throttle in forward or reverse while the model is elevated.**
8. Once adjustments are made, turn off the receiver on your model, followed by the hand-held transmitter.

### Range-Testing the Radio System

Before each running session with your model, you should range-test your radio system to ensure that it operates properly.

1. Turn on the radio system and check its operation as described in the previous section.
2. Have a friend hold the model. Make sure hands and clothing are clear of the wheels and other moving parts on the model.
3. Walk away from the model with the transmitter until you reach the farthest distance you plan to operate the model.

4. Operate the controls on the transmitter once again to be sure that the model responds correctly.
5. Do not attempt to operate the model if there is any problem with the radio system or any external interference with your radio signal at your location.

### Higher Speeds Require Greater Distance

The faster you drive your model, the more quickly it will near the limit of radio range. At 60mph, a model can cover 88 feet every second! It's a thrill, but use caution to keep your model in range. If you want to see your model achieve its maximum speed, it is best to position yourself in the middle of the truck's running area, not the far end, so you drive the truck towards and past your position. In addition to maximizing the radio's range, this technique will keep your model closer to you, making it easier to see and control.

**No matter how fast or far you drive your model, always leave adequate space between you, the model, and others. Never drive directly toward yourself or others.**

### TQi Binding Instructions

For proper operation, the transmitter and receiver must be electronically "bound." **This has been done for you at the factory.** Should you ever need to re-bind the system or bind to an additional transmitter or receiver, follow these instructions. **Note:** The receiver must be connected to a 4.8-6.0v (nominal) power source for binding, and the transmitter and receiver must be within 5 feet of each other.

1. Press and hold the transmitter's SET button as you switch the transmitter on. The transmitter's LED will flash red slowly. Release the SET button.
2. Press and hold the receiver's LINK button as you switch on the speed control (by pressing the EZ-Set button). Release the LINK button.
3. When the transmitter and receiver's LEDs turn solid green, the system is bound and ready for use. Confirm that the steering and throttle operate properly before driving your model.



## TRAXXAS STABILITY MANAGEMENT (TSM)



Traxxas Stability Management or TSM allows you to experience all the speed and acceleration that was engineered into your Traxxas model by helping you to maintain control of the vehicle in low-traction situations. TSM helps provide straight ahead full-throttle acceleration on slippery surfaces, without fishtailing, spinouts, or loss of control. TSM also dramatically improves braking control. High speed cornering and control is also made possible as TSM makes corrections for you, without intruding on your fun, or creating unexpected side effects.

The Multi-Function knob on the TQi transmitter has been programmed to control TSM. The recommended (default) setting for TSM is to rotate the knob to the 12:00 position (the zero mark on the dial).



Turn the knob clockwise to increase assistance; turn the knob counterclockwise to decrease assistance. Turn the knob counterclockwise to its stop to turn TSM completely off. **Note:** TSM is deactivated automatically when driving or braking in reverse.



When driving on surfaces with some traction, decrease the TSM setting to allow the vehicle to feel more "loose" for power sliding, drifting, and so on. On surfaces with very little traction (loose dirt, smooth concrete, ice/snow), increase TSM to maximize acceleration and control.

Drive with TSM on and off to test how it is making your control of the vehicle easier and more precise. For more information, visit [Traxxas.com/tsm](http://Traxxas.com/tsm).

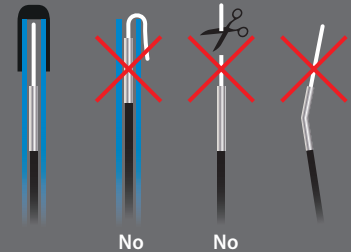
**Note:** TSM must be completely turned off while adjusting steering trim.

## SETTING UP THE ANTENNA

The receiver antenna has been set up and installed from the factory. The antenna is secured by a 3x4mm set screw. To remove the antenna tube, simply remove the set screw with the included 1.5mm wrench.

When reinstalling the antenna, first slide the antenna wire into the bottom of the antenna tube until the white tip of the antenna is at the top of the tube under the black cap. Next, insert the antenna tube into the mount while making sure that antenna wire is in the slot in the antenna mount; then, install the set screw next to the antenna tube. Use the supplied 1.5mm wrench to tighten the screw just until the antenna tube is securely in place. Do not overtighten. **Do not bend or kink the antenna wire (see the sidebar for more information). Do not shorten the antenna tube.**

To prevent loss of radio range do not kink or cut the black wire, do not bend or cut the metal tip, and do not bend or cut the white wire at the end of the metal tip.



## ADJUSTING THE ELECTRONIC SPEED CONTROL

### VXL-6s Specifications

Input voltage:  
4S/6S LiPo  
(max. 22.2 volts)

Supported Motors:  
Sensorless Brushless

Battery connector:  
Traxxas High-Current  
Connector

Motor connectors:  
TRX 6.5mm bullet  
connectors

Motor/battery wiring:  
10-gauge Maxx® Cable

Weight:  
207g (7.3 oz.)

Case size:  
58mm (2.28")/ 72mm  
(2.83")/ 46mm (1.81")

### Electronic Speed Control Adjustments

The VXL-6s electronic speed control's default settings were programmed at the factory and should not require adjustment for normal operation. The following information is helpful to confirm the settings or allow you to customize the settings for your needs.



#### ATTENTION: USING LiPo BATTERIES

The VXL-6s electronic speed control is designed to operate on 4S or 6S LiPo battery power. When you turn your model on, the speed control's status LED is green, indicating that **Low Voltage Detection** is activated to prevent over-discharging of LiPo batteries. **LiPo batteries are intended only for the most advanced users that are educated on the risks associated with LiPo battery use.**



#### WARNING: FIRE HAZARD!

Do not use LiPo batteries in this vehicle with Low-Voltage Detection disabled.

DO NOT use Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries with this model. The batteries will become extremely hot and damage or injury could occur.



#### CAUTION

Burn hazard.  
Hot surface.  
Do not touch.

#### Verify Low-Voltage Detection setting:

1. Turn on the transmitter (with the throttle at neutral).
2. Connect two fully charged batteries to the VXL-6s.
3. Press and release the EZ-Set button to turn the VXL-6s on. If the LED is solid green, then Low-Voltage Detection is ACTIVATED. If the LED is solid red, then Low-Voltage Detection is DISABLED (not safe to use LiPo batteries).

#### To activate Low-Voltage Detection (LiPo setting):

1. Make sure the LED on the speed control is on and red.
2. Press and hold the EZ-Set button for ten seconds. The LED will turn off and then light green. Release the button.
3. Low-Voltage Detection is now ACTIVATED.



#### Selecting a Throttle Mode: SPORT, RACE, or TRAINING

1. Connect two fully charged LiPo batteries to the VXL-6s and turn on your transmitter.
2. With the model off, press and hold the EZ-Set button until the LED turns solid green, then solid red and then begins blinking red. It will blink once, then twice, then three times, then repeat.

**One blink = Sport Mode** is the default setting. It allows full forward and reverse throttle.

**Two blinks = Race Mode** removes reverse throttle in case your track does not allow it.

**Three blinks = Training Mode** will slow the model down by 50% to make it easier for new drivers to control the model.

3. Release the EZ-Set button after the number of blinks for the mode you wish to select. **Note:** If you missed the mode you wanted, keep the EZ-Set button pressed down and the blink cycle will repeat.
4. The LED will blink and then turn solid green (Low-Voltage Detection ACTIVE). The model is ready to drive in the mode you have selected.

#### VXL-6s Setup Programming (calibrating the speed control and transmitter)

The speed control is calibrated at the factory. If the LED on the speed control is flashing green, then follow these steps to recalibrate it (set the throttle to the neutral position).

A



Green then Red

1. Connect two fully charged LiPo batteries to the VXL-6s.
2. Turn on the transmitter (with the throttle at neutral).
3. Press and hold the EZ-Set button (A). The LED will first turn green and then red. Release the EZ-Set button.
4. When the LED blinks RED ONCE, pull the throttle trigger to the full throttle position and hold it there (B).
5. When the LED blinks RED TWICE, push the throttle trigger to the full reverse and hold it there (C).
6. When the LED blinks GREEN ONCE, programming is complete. The LED will then shine green.

B



Once Red



C



Twice Red



#### VXL-6s Profile Selection

The speed control is factory set to Profile #1 (100% forward, brakes, and reverse). To disable reverse (Profile #2) or to allow 50% forward and 50% reverse (Profile #3), follow the steps below. The speed control should be connected to the receiver and battery, and the transmitter should be adjusted as described previously. The profiles are selected by entering the programming mode.

#### Profile Description

Profile #1 (Sport Mode): 100% Forward, 100% Brakes, 100% Reverse

Profile #2 (Race Mode): 100% Forward, 100% Brakes, No Reverse

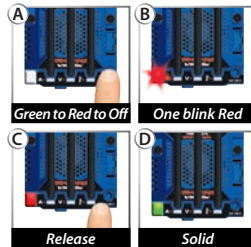
Profile #3 (Training Mode): 50% Forward, 100% Brakes, 50% Reverse



### Selecting Sport Mode

(Profile #1: 100% Forward, 100% Brakes, 100% Reverse)

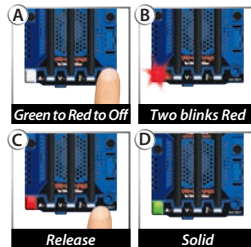
1. Connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s and turn on your transmitter.
2. With the VXL-6s off, press and hold the EZ-Set button until the LED turns solid green, then solid red and then begins blinking red (indicating the Profile numbers).
3. When the LED blinks red once, release the EZ-Set button.
4. The LED will blink and then turn solid green. The model is ready to drive.



### Selecting Race Mode

(Profile #2: 100% Forward, 100% Brakes, No Reverse)

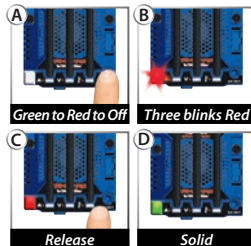
1. Connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s and turn on your transmitter.
2. With the VXL-6s off, press and hold the EZ-Set button until the LED turns solid green, then solid red and then begins blinking red (indicating the Profile numbers).
3. When the LED blinks red twice, release the EZ-Set button.
4. The LED will blink and then turn solid green. The model is ready to drive.



### Selecting Training Mode

(Profile #3: 50% Forward, 100% Brakes, 50% Reverse)

1. Connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s and turn on your transmitter.
2. With the VXL-6s off, press and hold the EZ-Set button until the LED turns solid green, then solid red and then begins blinking red (indicating the Profile numbers).
3. When the LED blinks red three times, release the EZ-Set button.
4. The LED will blink and then turn solid green. The model is ready to drive.



**Note:** If you missed the mode you wanted, keep the EZ-Set button pressed down and the blink cycle will repeat until the button is released and a mode is selected.

### Accessory Power Panel

The VXL-6s electronic speed control is equipped with a power panel that can be used to power optional accessories, such as LED light kits or additional cooling fans (see Traxxas.com for additional information). Always be sure to keep the panel cover installed when accessories are not being used to protect the pins from damage.



### LED Codes and Protection Modes

The VXL-6s electronic speed control is equipped with sophisticated circuitry designed to help protect the electronics from damage caused by overloading and excessive temperatures. When a protection circuit is activated, an LED on the VXL-6s ESC will light, indicating a fault.

EZ SET	A	V	Key	Explanation	Solution
				Overcurrent Protection, Stage 1	Stop driving; inspect the vehicle for overgearing or damage.
				Overcurrent Protection, Stage 2	Stop driving; inspect the vehicle for overgearing or damage.
				Low Voltage Protection, Stage 1	Stop driving; inspect the batteries and recharge.
				Low Voltage Protection, Stage 2	Stop driving; inspect the batteries and recharge.
				Overvoltage	Stop driving; turn the ESC off and disconnect the batteries. Inspect the batteries and confirm the battery voltage.
				Thermal Shutdown Protection, Stage 1	Stop driving; inspect the cooling fan on the ESC. Allow the power system to cool before continuing.
				Thermal Shutdown Protection, Stage 2	Stop driving; inspect the cooling fan on the ESC. Allow the power system to cool before continuing.
				Critical functioning error	Contact Traxxas Customer Service.
				Programming error	Contact Traxxas Customer Service.



**Patented Training Mode** (Profile #3) reduces forward and reverse throttle by 50%. Training Mode is provided to reduce the power output, allowing beginning drivers to better control the model. As driving skills improve, simply change to Sport or Race Mode for full-power operation.



The VXL-6s has built-in programming that prevents accidental activation of reverse while in forward motion and vice-versa. You must come to a complete stop, release the throttle trigger, then apply opposite throttle to engage the motor in the desired direction.



• **Solid Green:** VXL-6s power-on light. Low-Voltage Detection is **ACTIVATED** (LiPo setting).



• **Solid Red:** VXL-6s power-on light. Low-Voltage Detection is **DISABLED** (NIMH setting).



• **Current LED (A) Solid Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Overcurrent Protection, Stage 1**. When excessive current flow (amperage) is being routed through the power system caused by failure to use the appropriate gearing ratio for the drivetrain and the driving surface, the VXL-6s will limit the power output to 50% throttle. Make sure your model is properly geared for the driving conditions. Before continuing, inspect the vehicle for damage. To reset, turn the ESC off and back on again.



• **Current LED (A) Fast Blinking Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Overcurrent Protection, Stage 2**. When the current flow (amperage) spikes temporarily due to a bound or restricted driveline (model is stuck against an object or encountered a restrictive driving surface), the VXL-6s will automatically shut down (fail-safe mode). Stop driving the vehicle. The VXL-6s will stay in this mode until the current flow is recovered (obstruction is removed, model is moved to a smoother driving surface) and the throttle is returned to neutral. To reset, turn the ESC off and back on again.



• **Voltage LED (V) Solid Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Low Voltage Protection, Stage 1**. When the battery voltage begins to reach the minimum recommended discharge voltage threshold for LiPo battery packs, the VXL-6s will limit the power output to 50% throttle. Stop driving the model. The VXL-6s will stay in this mode until the battery voltage is recovered or fully charged batteries are connected.



• **Voltage LED (V) Slow Blinking Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Low Voltage Protection, Stage 2**. When the battery voltage attempts to fall below the minimum threshold, the VXL-6s will automatically shut down (fail-safe mode). The LED on the speed control will slowly blink red, indicating a low-voltage shutdown. Stop driving the model. The VXL-6s will stay in this mode until fully charged batteries are connected.



• **Voltage LED (V) Fast Blinking Red:** If the motor has no power, the VXL-6s has entered **Overvoltage Protection**. If the battery voltage from the connected battery packs is too high, the VXL-6s will go into a fail-safe mode.

**WARNING:** If input voltage exceeds approximately 33.6 volts (16.8 maximum peak input voltage per battery pack), the ESC may be damaged. Do not exceed 33.6 maximum total peak voltage. Stop driving the model, turn the ESC off, and disconnect the batteries.



• **Temperature LED (T) Solid Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Thermal Shutdown Protection, Stage 1** to guard against overheating caused by excessive current flow. The VXL-6s will limit the power output to 50% throttle. Stop driving the model. Inspect the cooling fan on the ESC to make sure it is operating. Allow the power system to cool before continuing.



• **Temperature LED (T) Fast Blinking Red:** The VXL-6s has entered **Thermal Shutdown, Protection Stage 2** and has automatically shut down (fail-safe mode). Stop driving the model. Inspect the cooling fan on the ESC to make sure it is operating. Allow the power system to cool before continuing. If you are experiencing frequent warnings about temperature, it could be caused by overgearing (from stock), overly aggressive and continuous high speed driving, vehicle damage, or driving in conditions such as deep sand, heavy mud, and tall grass.



• **Current/Voltage/Temperature LEDs Solid Red or all LEDs Fast Blinking Red:** The VXL-6s has entered this protection mode due to possibly having Thermal Shutdown Protection and Low Voltage Protection (see above) occur at the same time or there is a critical functioning or programming error. Turn the ESC off and contact Traxxas Customer Service for assistance.

Now it's time to have some fun! This section contains instructions on driving and making adjustments to your model. Before you go on, here are some important precautions to keep in mind.

### Where to drive

The Unlimited Desert Racer is a large vehicle capable of high speed and requires a large area to run. Choose a location where the Desert Racer will not have an opportunity to collide with onlookers or interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

Like its full-size counterpart, your Desert Racer uses both steering and throttle input to help maintain control of the vehicle during off-road driving. TSM will keep the front end planted while you rotate the rear of the truck with precise throttle control. The locked solid rear axle will allow smooth power slides on loose surfaces for sharper turns and an authentic driving experience. For best on-road performance, slow the truck when turning and apply throttle gently until you become familiar with driving your model and the surface conditions.

Mixed driving across different surface types is recommended. If you are running frequently in tall grass, deep sand, or other high load conditions, you may overheat the motor or the speed control. This will result in reduced power output until the system cools. We recommend allowing time for the power system to cool between battery packs.

- Allow the model to cool for a few minutes between runs. This is particularly important when using high-capacity battery packs that allow extended periods of running. Monitoring temperatures will extend the lives of the batteries and motors.
- Do not continue to operate the model with low batteries or you could lose control of it. Indications of low battery power include slow operation, delayed vehicle response, or ESC shutdown due to the Low-Voltage Detection circuitry. Stop immediately at the first sign of weak batteries. When the batteries in the transmitter become weak, the power light will begin to flash red. Stop immediately and install new batteries.
- Do not drive the model at night, on public streets, or in large crowds of people.
- If the model becomes stuck against an object, do not continue to run the motor. Remove the obstruction before continuing. Do not push or pull objects with the model.

- Because the model is controlled by radio, it is subject to radio interference from many sources beyond your control. Since radio interference can cause momentary losses of control, allow a safety margin of space in all directions around the model in order to prevent collisions.
- Use good, common sense whenever you are driving your model. Intentionally driving in an abusive and rough manner will only result in poor performance and broken parts. Take care of your model so that you can enjoy it for a long time to come.
- High-performance vehicles produce small vibrations that may loosen hardware over time. Frequently check wheel nuts and other screws on your vehicle to ensure that all hardware remains properly tightened.

### About Run Time

A large factor affecting run time is the type and condition of your batteries. The milliamp hour (mAh) rating of the batteries determines how large their "fuel tank" is. A 3000mAh battery pack will theoretically run twice as long as a 1500mAh sport pack. Because of the wide variation in the types of batteries that are available and the methods with which they can be charged, it's impossible to give exact run times for the model.

Another major factor that affects run time is how the model is driven. Run times may decrease when the model is driven repetitively from a stop to top speed and with repetitive hard acceleration.

### Tips for Increasing Run Time

- Use batteries with the highest mAh rating you can purchase.
- Use a high-quality peak-detecting charger.
- Read and follow all maintenance and care instructions provided by the manufacturer of your batteries and charger.
- Keep the VXL-6s cool. Get plenty of airflow across the ESC heat sinks.
- Lower your gear ratio. Installing a smaller pinion or larger spur gear will lower your gear ratio, causing less power draw from the motor and battery, and reducing overall operating temperatures.
- Maintain your model. Do not allow dirt or damaged parts to cause binding in the drivetrain. Keep the motor clean.

### mAh Ratings and Power Output

The mAh rating of the battery can affect your top-speed performance. The higher capacity battery packs experience less voltage drop under heavy load than low mAh rated packs. The higher voltage potential allows increased speed until the battery begins to become discharged.



### RUNNING IN WET CONDITIONS

Your new Traxxas model is designed with water-resistant features to protect the electronics in the model (receiver, servos, electronic speed control). This gives you the freedom to have fun driving your model through puddles, wet grass, snow, and through other wet conditions. Though highly water resistant, the model should not be treated as though it is submersible or totally 100% waterproof. Water resistance applies only to the installed electronic components. Running in wet conditions requires additional care and maintenance for the mechanical and electrical components to prevent corrosion of metal parts and maintain their proper function.

#### Precautions

- **Without proper care, some parts of your model can be seriously damaged due to contact with water. Know that additional maintenance procedures will be required after running in wet conditions in order to maintain the performance of your model. Do not run your model in wet conditions if you are not willing to accept the additional care and maintenance responsibilities.**
- **Not all batteries can be used in wet environments.** Consult your battery manufacturer to see if their batteries can be used in wet conditions.
- The Traxxas TQi transmitter is not water resistant. Do not subject it to wet conditions such as rain.
- Do not operate your model during a rain storm or other inclement weather where lightning may be present.
- Do not allow your model to come in contact with salt water (ocean water), brackish water (between fresh water and ocean water), or other contaminated water. Salt water is highly conductive and highly corrosive. Use caution if you plan to run your model on or near a beach.

#### Before Running Your Vehicle in Wet Conditions

1. Consult the section "After Running Your Vehicle in Wet Conditions" before proceeding. Make sure you understand the additional maintenance required with wet running.
2. The wheels have small holes molded in to allow air to enter and exit the tire during normal running. Water will enter these holes and get trapped inside the tires if holes are not cut in the tires. Cut two small holes (3mm or 1/8" diameter) in each tire. Each hole should be near the tire center-line, 180 degrees apart.

3. Confirm that the receiver box O-ring and cover are installed correctly and secure. Make sure the screws are tight and the blue O-ring is not visibly protruding from the edge of the cover.
4. Confirm that your batteries can be used in wet conditions.
5. Use lower gearing (smaller pinion gears, as low as 23T or spur gear as large as 55T) when running in mud, deep puddles, snow, or other similar situations that will restrict the tires and put much higher loads on the motor.

#### Motor Precautions

- Velineon motor life can be greatly reduced in mud and water. If the motor gets excessively wet or submerged, use very light throttle (run the motor slowly) until the excess water can run out. Applying full throttle to a motor full of water can cause rapid motor failure. Your driving habits will determine motor life with a wet motor. Do not submerge the motor under water.
- Do not gear the motor by temperature when running in wet conditions. The motor will be cooled by water contact and will not give an accurate indication of appropriate gearing.
- Use special care when operating your model in muddy conditions. Stop operating your model if it appears to be straining due to the tackiness of the mud or build-up of mud on the chassis. Do not allow mud to collect on the motor or pack around the motor.

#### After Running Your Vehicle in Wet Conditions

1. Drain the tires by spinning the tires at high speed to "sling" the water out. One way to do this is to make several high-speed passes on a flat, dry surface (if possible).
2. Remove the batteries.
3. Rinse excess dirt and mud off the truck with low-pressure water, such as from a garden hose. Do not use a pressure washer or other high-pressure water. Avoid directing water into the bearings, differentials, etc.
4. Blow off the truck with compressed air (optional, but recommended). Wear safety glasses when using compressed air.
5. Remove the wheels from the truck.
6. Spray all the bearings, drivetrain, and fasteners with WD-40® or similar water-displacing light oil.
7. Let the truck stand or you may blow it off with compressed air. Placing the truck in a warm, sunny spot will aid drying. Trapped water and oil will continue to drip from the truck for a few hours. Place it on a towel or piece of cardboard to protect the surface underneath.



8. As a precautionary step, remove the sealed receiver box cover. While unlikely, humidity or tiny amounts of moisture or condensation may enter the receiver box during wet running. This can cause long-term problems with the sensitive electronics in the receiver. Removing the receiver box cover during storage allows the air inside to dry. This step can improve the long-term reliability of the receiver. It is not necessary to remove the receiver or unplug any of the wires.
9. **Additional Maintenance:** Increase your frequency of disassembly, inspection, and lubrication of the following items. This is necessary after extended wet use or if the vehicle will not be used for an extended period of time (such as a week or longer). This additional maintenance is needed to prevent any trapped moisture from corroding internal steel components. Refer to your exploded view diagrams for help with disassembly and reassembly.
  - **Stub axle housing bearings:** Remove, clean, and re-oil the bearings.
  - **Differentials:** Remove, disassemble, clean, and re-grease the differential components. Use a light coating of Traxxas high-performance grease (part #5041) on the metal gear teeth.
  - **Rear Drivetrain and Transmission Gears:** Remove, disassemble, clean, and re-grease the drivetrain components. Use a light coating of Traxxas high-performance grease (part #5041) on the metal gear teeth. Remove, clean, and re-oil the bearings.
  - **Rear Center Driveshaft:** Apply small amounts of high-performance grease (part #5041) at the pin location on each end of the driveshaft. Make sure the driveshaft rotates freely without binding.
  - **Transmission Output Shaft:** Apply small amounts of high-performance grease (part #5041) to the rear transmission output shaft for a smooth fit to the bearings. Remove, clean, and re-oil the bearings.

#### RECEIVER BOX: MAINTAINING A WATERTIGHT SEAL

##### Removing and Installing Radio Gear

The unique design of the receiver box allows the removal and installation of the receiver without losing the ability to maintain a watertight seal in the box. The patented wire clamp feature gives you the ability to also install aftermarket radio systems and maintain the watertight features of the receiver box.

##### Removing the Receiver

1. To remove the cover, remove the two 3x8mm button-head cap screws.
2. To remove the receiver from the box, simply lift it out and set to the side. The antenna wire is still inside the clamp area and cannot be removed yet.
3. Remove the wire clamp by removing the two 2.5x8mm cap head screws.
4. Unplug the servo cables from the receiver and remove the receiver.

##### Receiver Installation

1. Always install the wires into the receiver box before installing the receiver.
2. Install the antenna wire and the servo cables into the receiver box.
3. Arrange the wires neatly using the wire guides in the receiver box. The excess wire will be bundled inside the receiver box. Label which wire is for which channel.
4. Apply a small bead of silicone grease (Traxxas part #1647) to the wire clamp.
5. Install the wire clamp and tighten the two 2.5x8mm cap head screws securely.
6. Using double-sided adhesive foam tape, install the receiver into the box.



**Note:** For best performance, it is recommended that the receiver be installed in the original orientation as shown.

7. Plug the wires into the receiver. Refer to page 13 for the wiring diagram.
8. Make sure the box light pipe is aligned with the receiver LED. Make sure the O-ring is properly seated into the groove in the receiver box so that the cover will not pinch it or damage it in any way.
9. Install the cover and tighten the two 3x8mm button-head cap screws securely.
10. Inspect the cover to make sure that the O-ring seal is not visible.

## BASIC TUNING ADJUSTMENTS

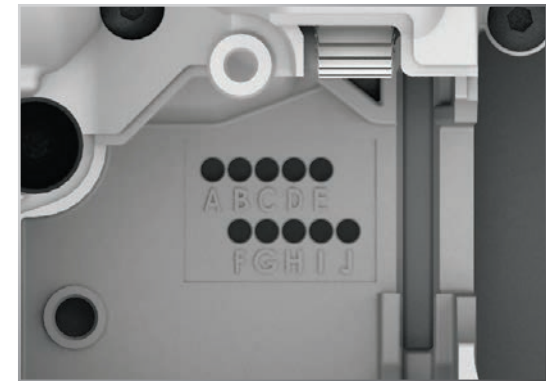
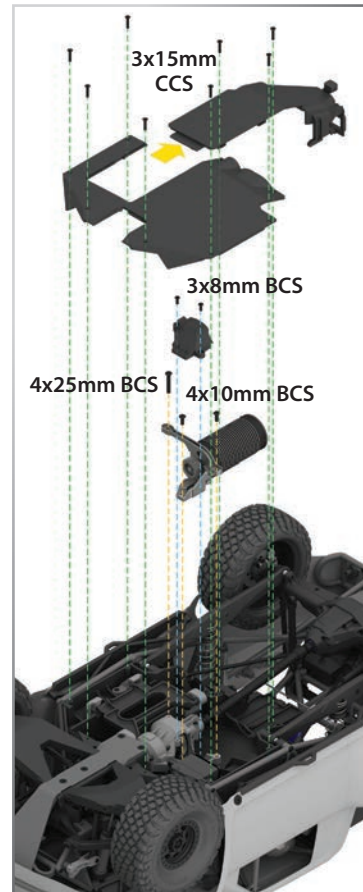
Once you become familiar with driving your model, you might need to make adjustments for better driving performance.

### Adjusting Gear Mesh

Incorrect gear mesh is the most common cause of stripped spur gears. Your Desert Racer makes improper gear mesh virtually impossible. A pin system helps set the motor in the proper place according to the pinion and spur gear that are selected.

To access the pin system, remove the eight 3x15mm coutersunk cap screws from the bottom skidplate. Remove the skidplate from the chassis. Next, remove the two 3x8mm button-head cap screws that secure the gear cover and remove the gear cover. Remove the three motor mount screws (4x10mm button-head cap screws (2), 4x25mm button-head cap screw (1)) and lift off the motor. This will expose the pin. Be sure not to lose the pin that goes between the motor and the chassis.

Select the desired gearing from the pin location chart. Replace the spur and pinion gears as needed. When installing the motor, install the pin into its proper location based on the gearing that is chosen. The pin on the bottom helps to lock the motor into the proper place for correct gear mesh. Secure the motor in place with three screws inserted into the transmission housing.



**Pinion/Spur Pin Location**  
**Spur Gear**

Pinion Gear		47-T Part #8573	51-T Part #8574	55-T Part #8575
	27-T Part #5647	-	F	C
	31-T Part #5638	A	C	E
	34-T Part #5639	G	E	-

**Note:** Should you choose to do so, you can also set the gear mesh manually without the pin. With the pin removed, use the 4x10mm button-head cap screws (2) and 4x25mm button-head cap screw (1) on the bottom to set gear mesh. Loosen the screws. Cut a narrow strip of notebook paper and run it into the gear mesh. Slide the motor and pinion gear into the spur gear. Tighten the screws, and then remove the strip of paper. You should be able to run a fresh strip of paper through the gears without binding them.

### Centering Your Servo

If you have removed the servo horn from your Desert Racer's steering servo, or the servo has been removed for service or cleaning, the servo must be re-centered prior to installation of the servo horn or installation of the servo.

1. Remove the servo horn from the steering servo.
2. Connect the steering servo to channel 1 on the receiver. Connect the electronic speed control (ESC) to channel 2. The white wire on the servo lead is positioned toward the receiver's LED.
3. Turn the transmitter power switch on. Make certain the transmitter's batteries are not depleted.
4. Turn off TSM (see page 19).
5. Turn the transmitter's steering trim knob to the center "0" position.
6. Disconnect both the blue and white motor connectors (see page 13) to prevent the motor from turning during the next steps. Connect a fresh battery pack to the speed control and turn on the ESC (see page 20). The servo's output shaft will automatically jump to its center position.



7. Install the servo horn onto the servo output shaft. With the servo laying down flat, the servo horn should be installed vertically so that it is in the centered position.
8. Check servo operation by turning the steering wheel back and forth to ensure that the mechanism has been centered properly and you have equal throw in both directions. Use the transmitter's steering trim knob to fine-tune the position of the servo horn so the model tracks straight when the steering wheel is at neutral.

### Fine Tuning the Shocks

The eight (8) oil-filled aluminum shocks (dampers) effectively control the suspension movement by preventing the wheels and tires from continuing to "bounce" after rebounding from a bump. Changing the oil in the shocks can vary the suspension damping effect. Changing the oil to a higher viscosity oil will increase damping. Lowering the viscosity of the oil will cause the suspension damping to be reduced. Damping should be increased (with higher viscosity oil) if the model

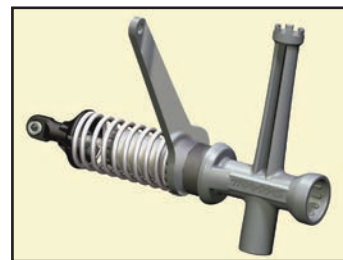
is bottoming easily over jumps. Damping should be decreased (with thinner viscosity oil) if the model is hopping over small bumps and feels unstable. The viscosity of shock oil is affected by extremes in operating temperature; an oil of certain viscosity will become less viscous at higher temperatures and more viscous at lower temperatures. Operating in regions with cold temperatures may require lower viscosity oil. Only use 100% silicone oil in the shock. From the factory, the shocks are filled with 30W silicone oil in the front and 60W silicone oil in the rear.

For shock piston tuning, see *Advanced Tuning Adjustments* on page 29.

### Replacing Shock Oil

The shocks have to be removed from the vehicle and disassembled to change the oil.

1. Remove the lower spring retainer and shock spring.
2. Remove the upper shock cap using the shock wrench and the suspension multi tool.
3. Empty the used shock oil from the shock body.
4. Fill the shock with new silicone shock oil up to the top of the shock body.
5. Slowly move the piston up and down (always keeping it submerged in oil) to release the air bubbles. Let the shock sit for a few minutes to allow any remaining air bubbles to surface.
6. Slowly thread the upper cap with the installed shock bladder onto the shock body with the suspension multi tool. The excess oil will bleed out of the small hole in the shock cap.
7. Tighten the shock cap until snug. Use the included steel shock wrench to hold onto shock body while tightening.



**Important:** The shocks are assembled at the factory with the correct center-to-center distance (between the rod end balls). Any time the shocks are removed and disassembled, this distance should be checked to ensure proper operation of the suspension.

See your parts list for correct center-to-center measurements (for front and rear shocks with and without springs).



Always wear eye protection when using compressed air or spray cleaners and lubricants.



High performance vehicles generate small vibrations while driving. These vibrations may loosen hardware over time and require attention. Always check your wheel nuts and other hardware and tighten or replace when necessary.

Your model requires timely maintenance in order to stay in top running condition. **The following procedures should be taken very seriously.**

### Frequently inspect the vehicle for obvious damage or wear.

#### Look for:

1. Cracked, bent, or damaged parts
2. Check the wheels and steering for binding.
3. Check the operation of the shock absorbers.
4. Check the wiring for any frayed wires or loose connections.
5. Check the mounting of the receiver and servo(s) and speed control.
6. Check the tightness of the wheel nuts with a wrench.
7. Check the operation of the radio system, especially the condition of the batteries.
8. Check for any loose screws in the chassis structure or suspension.
9. Check the operation of the steering servo and ensure that it is not binding.
10. Inspect the gears for wear, broken teeth, or debris lodged between the teeth.

### Other periodic maintenance:

- **Chassis:** Be sure to keep the motor and ESC free of grass, dirt and grime to be sure to keep the components cool for optimal run times and temperatures.
- **Suspension:** Periodically inspect the model for signs of damage, such as bent or dirty suspension pins, damaged toe links, loose screws, and any signs of stress or bending. Replace components as needed.
- **Steering:** Over time, you may notice increased looseness in the steering system. The toe links may wear out from use (part #8547). Replace these components as needed to restore factory tolerances.
- **Shocks:** Keep the oil level in the shocks full. Use only 100% pure silicone shock oil to prolong the life of the seals. If you are experiencing leakage around the top of the shock, inspect the bladder in the top cap for signs of damage or distortion from overtightening. If the bottom of the shock is leaking, then it is time for a rebuild. The Traxxas rebuild kits for two shocks is part #8455 and #7468X.

- **Driveline:** Inspect driveshafts to make sure the drive pins are not cracked or extremely worn. Additional driveline noise can occur if the driveline components are worn out. Remove the gear cover. Inspect the spur gear for wear and check the tightness of the set screws in the pinion gears. Tighten, clean, or replace components as needed.

- **Torque-biasing Center Drive Unit:** The Unlimited Desert Racer is equipped with a torque-biasing center drive unit. The drive unit can be rebuilt, but it requires a detailed maintenance procedure and the use of 1M weight differential oil (part #5042). For additional information and how-to videos, please visit [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com).

- **Rear Drivetrain and Transmission Gears:** Periodically inspect the gears and bearings for damage or excessive wear. Remove, disassemble, clean, and re-grease the components. Remove, clean, and re-oil the bearings. Replace components as needed.

- **Rear Center Driveshaft:** Frequently inspect the rear center driveshaft for wear. Apply small amounts of high-performance grease (part #5041) at the pin location on each end of the driveshaft. Make sure no parts are excessively worn or deteriorated. Replace the driveshaft assembly if damaged.

- **Transmission Output Shaft:** The rear transmission output shaft is greased for a smooth fit to the bearings. Also, there is an x-ring seal installed to keep the grease from coming out of the transmission. Periodically check to be sure the x-ring is in place. Add grease to the shaft when necessary.

### Storage

When you are through running the model for the day, blow it off with compressed air or use a soft bristled paint brush to dust off the vehicle. Always disconnect and remove the battery from the model whenever the model is stored. If the model will be stored for a long time, also remove the batteries from the transmitter.







## Roll Center

The Unlimited Desert Racer has provisions for adjusting the roll center geometry of the rear suspension. Roll center refers to the virtual axis around which the chassis will roll when subjected to cornering forces. The rear upper suspension link is set in the upper position, which is the recommended position for running. Moving the link to either of the two alternate mounting holes will increase the roll center and reduce anti-squat.

## Gearing

One of the more significant advantages to your model's transmission is the wide range of available gear ratios. Changing the gearing allows you to fine tune the speed of the model and control the temperatures of the battery pack and motor. Use a lower gear ratio (numerically larger) to reduce current draw and temperatures. Use a higher gear (numerically lower) to increase top speed. Use the following formula to calculate the overall ratio for combinations not listed on the gear chart:

$$\frac{\text{\# Spur Gear Teeth}}{\text{\# Pinion Gear Teeth}} \times 9.47 = \text{Final Gear Ratio}$$

When using higher gear ratios, it is important to monitor the temperatures of the battery, motor, and speed control. If the battery is extremely hot (150°F) and/or the motor is too hot to touch (180°F), your model is probably over-gearred and drawing too much current. This temperature test assumes that the model is close to factory stock weight and operates freely with no excessive friction, dragging, or binding, and the battery is fully charged and in good condition. **Note:** If not using the pin system, check and adjust gear mesh if a spur and/or pinion gear is changed.

This model is equipped with a 2200Kv brushless motor. The gear combination that comes stock on each model provides good overall acceleration and top speed.

## SHOCK TUNING

### Shock Pistons

The shock pistons can be replaced with the available optional pistons to vary the amount of damping. Optional pistons with bypass holes that are larger or smaller than the factory installed stock pistons can be used to decrease or increase damping respectively. Change the pistons if you only have one weight of shock oil available to you.

From the factory, the Desert Racer is equipped with pistons with 1.7mm bypass holes (recommended).

### Shock disassembly

The shocks must be removed from the vehicle and disassembled to change the pistons. Use the shock exploded views included with the model to aid in the assembly process.

1. Remove the 2.5x10mm cap screw from the lower spring retainer. Remove the lower spring retainer and spring from the shock.
2. Remove the shock cap (A) and empty the shock body of shock oil.
3. Remove the lower cap (B) and the X-ring from the shock body.
4. Use side cutters to grip the shock shaft just above the rod end (C). Remove the rod end from the shock shaft using the suspension multi-tool (C).
5. Remove the shock shaft with piston from the shock body out through the top of the shock body.

### Shock assembly

1. Replace the stock piston with desired optional piston. Be careful not to lose the small washer located below the piston.
2. Position the new piston onto the shock shaft above the small washer. Grip the threads of the shaft with side cutters or needlenose pliers and tighten the nut with the 4-way wrench to secure the assembly (D).
3. Insert the shock shaft assembly through the shock body until the piston bottoms out.
4. Lubricate the shaft and X-ring with silicone oil.

### Multi-tool Shock Functions



#### A. Tighten/Loosen Upper Cap



#### B. Tighten/Loosen Lower Cap



#### C. Remove/Install Rod End



#### D. Piston Installation/Removal

### Gearing Compatibility Chart:

The chart below shows recommended gear combination ranges for your model.

		Spur Gear		
		47	51	55
Pinion Gear	23	-	-	2.39
	24	-	-	2.29
	25	-	-	2.20
	26	-	-	2.12
	27	-	1.89	2.04
	28	-	1.82	1.96
	29	-	1.76	1.90
	30	-	1.70	1.83
	31	1.52	1.65	1.77
	32	1.47	1.59	1.72
	33	1.42	1.55	-
	34	1.38	1.50	-
	35	1.34	1.46	-
	36	1.31	1.42	-
	37	1.27	-	-
	38	1.24	-	-
	39	1.21	-	-
	40	1.18	-	-

**Out of Box Setup;** recommended for most running, 4S/6S LiPo.  
2S 5000mAh + recommended  
3S 5000mAh + recommended  
4S 5000mAh + recommended

**Usable gearing range for 4S LiPo only.**  
Increases torque and run time.  
4S 5000mAh + recommended

**Usable gearing range for 4S/6S LiPo.**  
Increases torque and run time.  
2S 5000mAh + recommended  
3S 5000mAh + recommended  
4S 5000mAh + recommended

**4S LiPo, 40mph running only.**

**Fits; not recommended.**

**Does not fit.**



Never slide the threads on the shock rod past the X-ring seal when it is installed and compressed by the bottom cap of the shock. Doing so will damage the seal and cause shock oil to leak.

5. Install the X-ring over the shaft and into the bore of the shock body.
6. Install the lower cap using the suspension multi-tool (B).
7. Grip the shaft close to the threads with needle nose pliers or side cutters and thread the rod end onto the shock shaft until the rod end bottoms out (C).
8. Fill the shock with new silicone shock oil up to the top of the shock body. Slowly move the piston up and down (always keeping it submerged in oil) to release the air bubbles. Let the shock sit for a few minutes to allow any remaining air bubbles to surface.
9. Slowly thread the upper cap with the installed shock bladder onto the shock body with the suspension multi tool (A). The excess oil will bleed out of the small hole in the shock cap. Tighten the shock cap until snug. Use the included steel shock wrench to hold onto shock body while tightening.
10. Reinstall the spring and lower spring retainer. Reinstall the 2.5x10mm cap screw.

### Tuning the Front Sealed Gear Differential

The Ultimate Desert Racer's front gear differential allows the left and right wheels to spin at different speeds while turning so that the tires do not scuff or skid. This decreases the turning radius and increases steering performance.

The performance of the front differential can be tuned for different driving conditions and performance requirements. The differential is filled with silicone differential fluid, and is sealed to maintain consistent long-term performance. Changing the oil in the differential with either lower or higher viscosity oil will vary the performance characteristics of the differential. Changing to a higher viscosity oil in the differential will reduce the tendency for engine power to be transferred to the wheel with the least traction. You may notice this when making sharp turns on slick surfaces. The unloaded wheels on the inside of the turn have the least traction and tend to spin up to extremely high rpms. Higher viscosity (thicker) oil causes the differential to act like a limited-slip differential, distributing more equal power to the left and right wheels. Your Desert Racer will generally benefit from higher viscosity oil when climbing, rock crawling, or racing on low traction surfaces.

**Note:** Heavier oil will allow power to be transferred even with one or more tires off the ground. This can make the vehicle more likely to overturn.

From the factory, the front differential is filled with SAE 30,000W viscosity silicone oil. Only use silicone oil in the differential. Traxxas offers SAE 10,000W and 50,000W viscosity oil (see your parts list). The differential has to be removed from the vehicle and disassembled to change/replace oil.

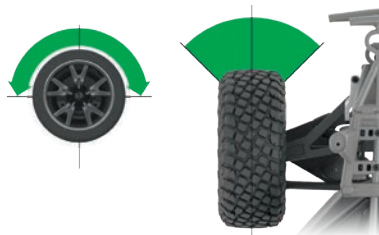
Your Traxxas transmitter has a programmable Multi-Function knob that can be set to control various advanced transmitter functions (set to Traxxas Stability Management (TSM) by default, see page 19). Accessing the programming menu is done by using the menu and set buttons on the transmitter and observing signals from the LED. An explanation of the menu structure follows on page 34. Experiment with the settings and features to see if they can improve your driving experience.

## Steering Sensitivity (Exponential)

The Multi-Function knob on the TQi transmitter can be set to control Steering Sensitivity (also known as exponential). The standard setting for Steering Sensitivity is “normal (zero exponential),” with the dial full left in its range of travel. This setting provides linear servo response: the steering servo’s movement will correspond exactly with the input from the transmitter’s steering wheel. Turning the knob clockwise from center will result in “negative exponential” and decrease steering sensitivity by making the servo less responsive near neutral, with increasing sensitivity as the servo nears the limits of its travel range. The farther you turn the knob, the more pronounced the change in steering servo movement will be. The term “exponential” comes from this effect; the servo’s travel changes exponentially relative to the input from the steering wheel. The exponential effect is indicated as a percentage—the greater the percentage, the greater the effect. The illustrations below show how this works.

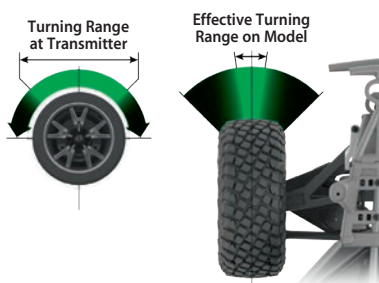
### Normal Steering Sensitivity (0% exponential):

In this illustration, the steering servo’s travel (and with it, the steering motion of the model’s front wheels) corresponds precisely with the steering wheel. The ranges are exaggerated for illustrative purposes.



### Decreased Steering Sensitivity (Negative Exponential):

By turning the Multi-Function knob clockwise, the steering sensitivity of the model will be decreased. Note that a relatively large amount of steering wheel travel results in a smaller amount of servo travel. The farther you turn the knob, the more pronounced the effect becomes. Decreased steering sensitivity may be helpful when driving on low-traction surfaces, when driving at high speed, or on tracks that favor sweeping turns where gentle steering inputs are required. The ranges are exaggerated for illustrative purposes.



**Note:** Moving the mounting screw to the optional lower hole in the servo horn (as shown) can also help decrease steering sensitivity when driving the Desert Racer at higher speeds in locations with large open spaces and few obstacles.



## Throttle Sensitivity (Throttle Exponential)

The Multi-Function knob can be set to control Throttle Sensitivity. Throttle Sensitivity works the same way as Steering Sensitivity, but applies the effect to the throttle channel. Only forward throttle is affected; brake/reverse travel remains linear regardless of the Throttle Sensitivity setting.

## Steering Percentage (Dual-Rate)

The Multi-Function knob can be set to control the amount (percentage) of servo travel applied to steering. Turning the Multi-Function knob fully clockwise will deliver maximum steering throw; turning the knob counterclockwise reduces steering throw (**Note:** Turning the dial counterclockwise to its stop will eliminate all servo travel). Be aware that the steering End Point settings define the servo’s maximum steering throw. If you set Steering Percentage to 100% (by turning the Multi-Function knob fully clockwise), the servo will travel all the way to its selected end point, but not past it. Many racers set Dual-Rate so they have only as much steering throw as they need for the track’s tightest turn, thus making the model easier to drive throughout the rest of the course. Reducing steering throw can also be useful in making a model easier to control on high-traction surfaces, and limiting steering output for oval racing where large amounts of steering travel are not required.

## Braking Percentage

The Multi-Function knob may also be set to control the amount of brake travel applied by the servo in a nitro-powered model. Electric models do not have a servo-operated brake, but the Braking Percentage function still operates the same way in electric models. Turning the Multi-Function knob full clockwise will deliver maximum brake throw; turning the knob counterclockwise reduces brake throw (**Note:** Turning the dial counterclockwise to its stop will eliminate all brake action).

## Throttle Trim

Setting the Multi-Function knob to serve as throttle trim will allow you to adjust the throttle’s neutral position to prevent unwanted brake drag or throttle application when the transmitter trigger is at neutral. **Note:** Your transmitter is equipped with a Throttle Trim Seek mode to prevent accidental runaways. See the sidebar for more information.

## Starting Over: Restoring Factory Defaults

When programming your TQi transmitter, you may feel the need to start over with a clean slate. Follow these simple steps to restore the factory settings:

1. Turn the transmitter off.
2. Hold both MENU and SET.
3. Turn the transmitter on.
4. Release MENU and SET.  
The transmitter LED will blink red.
5. Press SET to clear settings.  
The LED will turn solid green and the transmitter is restored to default.

## Throttle Trim Seek Mode

When the Multi-Function knob is set to throttle trim, the transmitter remembers the throttle trim setting. If the throttle trim knob is moved from the original setting while the transmitter is off, or while the transmitter was used to control another model, the transmitter ignores the actual position of the trim knob. This prevents the model from accidentally running away. The LED on the face of the transmitter will rapidly blink green and the throttle trim knob (Multi-Function knob) will not adjust the trim until it is moved back to its original position saved in memory. To restore throttle trim control, simply turn the Multi-Function knob either direction until the LED stops blinking.



### Failsafe

Your Traxxas radio system is equipped with a built-in failsafe function that returns the throttle to its last saved neutral position in the event of a signal loss. The LED on the transmitter and the receiver will rapidly flash red.

### Steering and Throttle End Points

The TQi transmitter allows you to choose the limit of the servo's travel range (or its "end point") independently for left and right travel (on the steering channel) and throttle/brake travel (on the throttle channel). This allows you to fine-tune the servo settings to prevent binding caused by the servo moving steering or throttle linkages (in the case of a nitro model) farther than their mechanical limits. The end point adjustment settings you select will represent what you wish to be the servo's maximum travel; the Steering Percentage or Braking Percentage functions will not override the End Point settings.

### Steering and Throttle Sub-Trim

The Sub-Trim function is used to precisely set the neutral point of the steering or throttle servo in the event that simply setting the trim knob to "zero" does not completely center the servo. When selected, Sub-Trim allows finer adjustment to the servo output shaft's position for precise setting of the neutral point. Always set the Steering Trim knob to zero before making final adjustment (if required) using Sub-Trim. If Throttle Trim has been previously adjusted, the Throttle Trim will need to be reprogrammed to "zero" before making final adjustment using Sub-Trim.









### Setting Lock

Once you've adjusted all of these settings the way you like them, you may want to disable the Multi-Function knob so none of your settings can be changed. This is especially handy if you operate multiple vehicles with a single transmitter via Traxxas Link™ Model Memory.




### Multiple Settings and the Multi-Function Knob

It is important to note that settings made with the Multi-Function knob are "overlaid" on top of each other. For example, if you assign the Multi-Function to adjust Steering Percentage and set it for 50%, then reassign the knob to control Steering Sensitivity, the transmitter will "remember" the Steering Percentage setting. Adjustments you make to Steering Sensitivity will be applied to the 50% steering throw setting you selected previously. Likewise, setting the Multi-Function knob to "disabled" will prevent the knob from making further adjustments, but the last setting of the Multi-Function knob will still apply.

### TRANSMITTER LED CODES

LED Color / Pattern	Name	Notes
 Solid green	Normal Driving Mode	See page 17 for information on how to use your transmitter controls.
 Slow red (0.5 sec on / 0.5 sec off)	Binding	See page 18 for more information on binding.
 Flashing fast green (0.1 sec on / 0.15 sec off)	Throttle Trim Seek Mode	Turn the Multi-Function knob right or left until the LED stops flashing. See page 31 for more information.
 Flashing medium red (0.25 sec on / 0.25 sec off)	Low Battery Alarm	Put new batteries in the transmitter. See page 14 for more information.
 Flashing fast red (0.125 sec on / 0.125 sec off)	Link Failure / Error	Transmitter and receiver are no longer bound. Turn the system off and then back on to resume normal operation. Find source of the link failure (i.e., out of range, low batteries, damaged antenna).
<b>Programming Patterns</b>		
 Counts out number (green or red), then pauses	Current menu position	See Menu Tree for more information.
 x8 Fast green 8 times	Menu setting accepted (on SET)	
 x8 Fast red 8 times	Menu SET invalid	User error, such as trying to delete a locked model.

### RECEIVER LED CODES

LED Color / Pattern	Name	Notes
 Solid green	Normal Driving Mode	See page 17 for information on how to use your transmitter controls.
 Slow red (0.5 sec on / 0.5 sec off)	Binding	See page 18 for more information on binding.
 Flashing fast red (0.125 sec on / 0.125 sec off)	Fail-Safe / Low Voltage Detect	Consistent low voltage in the receiver triggers Fail-Safe so there is enough power to center the throttle servo before it completely loses power.



### TRAXXAS LINK MODEL MEMORY

Traxxas Link Model Memory is an exclusive, patented feature of the TQi transmitter. Each time the transmitter is bound to a new receiver, it saves that receiver in its memory, along with all the settings assigned to that receiver. When the transmitter and any bound receiver are switched on, the transmitter automatically recalls the settings for that receiver. There is no need to manually select your vehicle from a list of model memory entries.

#### Model Lock

The Traxxas Link Model Memory feature can store up to thirty models (receivers) in its memory. If you bind a thirty-first receiver, Traxxas Link Model Memory will delete the “oldest” receiver from its memory (in other words, the model you used the longest time ago will be deleted). Activating Model Lock will lock the receiver in memory so it cannot be deleted.

You may also bind multiple TQi transmitters to the same model, making it possible to pick up any transmitter and any previously bound model in your collection and simply turn them on and drive. With Traxxas Link Model Memory, there is no need to remember which transmitter goes with which model, and there is never a need to have to select any model from a list of model memory entries. The transmitter and receiver do it all for you automatically.

#### To activate Model Lock:

1. Switch on the transmitter and receiver you wish to lock.
2. Press and hold MENU. Release when the status LED blinks green.
3. Press MENU three times. The status LED will blink green four times repeatedly.
4. Press SET. The status LED will blink green in single-flash intervals.
5. Press SET once. The status LED will blink red once repeatedly.
6. Press MENU once. The status LED will blink red twice repeatedly.
7. Press SET. The LED will blink rapidly green. The memory is now locked. Press and hold MENU to return to driving mode.

**Note:** To unlock a memory, press SET twice at step 5. The LED will blink rapidly green to indicate the model is unlocked. To unlock all models, press MENU twice at step 6 and then press SET.

#### To delete a model:

At some point, you may wish to delete a model you no-longer drive from the memory.

1. Switch on the transmitter and receiver you wish to delete.
2. Press and hold MENU. Release when the status LED blinks green.
3. Press MENU three times. The status LED will blink green four times repeatedly.
4. Press SET once. The status LED will blink green once repeatedly.
5. Press MENU once. The status LED will blink green twice repeatedly.
6. Press SET. The memory is now selected to be deleted. Press SET to delete the model. Press and hold MENU to return to driving mode.

## MENU TREE

The Menu Tree below shows how to navigate through the TQi transmitter's various settings and functions. Press and hold MENU to enter the Menu Tree, and use the following commands to navigate through the menu and select options.

**MENU:** When you enter a menu, you always start at the top. Press MENU to move down the Menu Tree. When you reach the bottom of the tree, pressing MENU again will return you to the top.

**SET:** Press SET to move across the Menu Tree and select options. When an option is committed to the transmitter's memory, the status LED will rapidly blink green.

**BACK:** Press both MENU and SET to go back one level in the Menu Tree.

**EXIT:** Press and hold MENU to exit programming. Your selected options will be saved.

**ECHO:** Press and hold SET to activate the "echo" function. Echo will "play back" your current position on the Menu Tree should you lose your place. For example: If your current position is Steering Channel End Points, holding SET will cause the LED to blink green twice, green once, and then red three times. Echo will not alter your adjustments or change your position in the programming sequence.

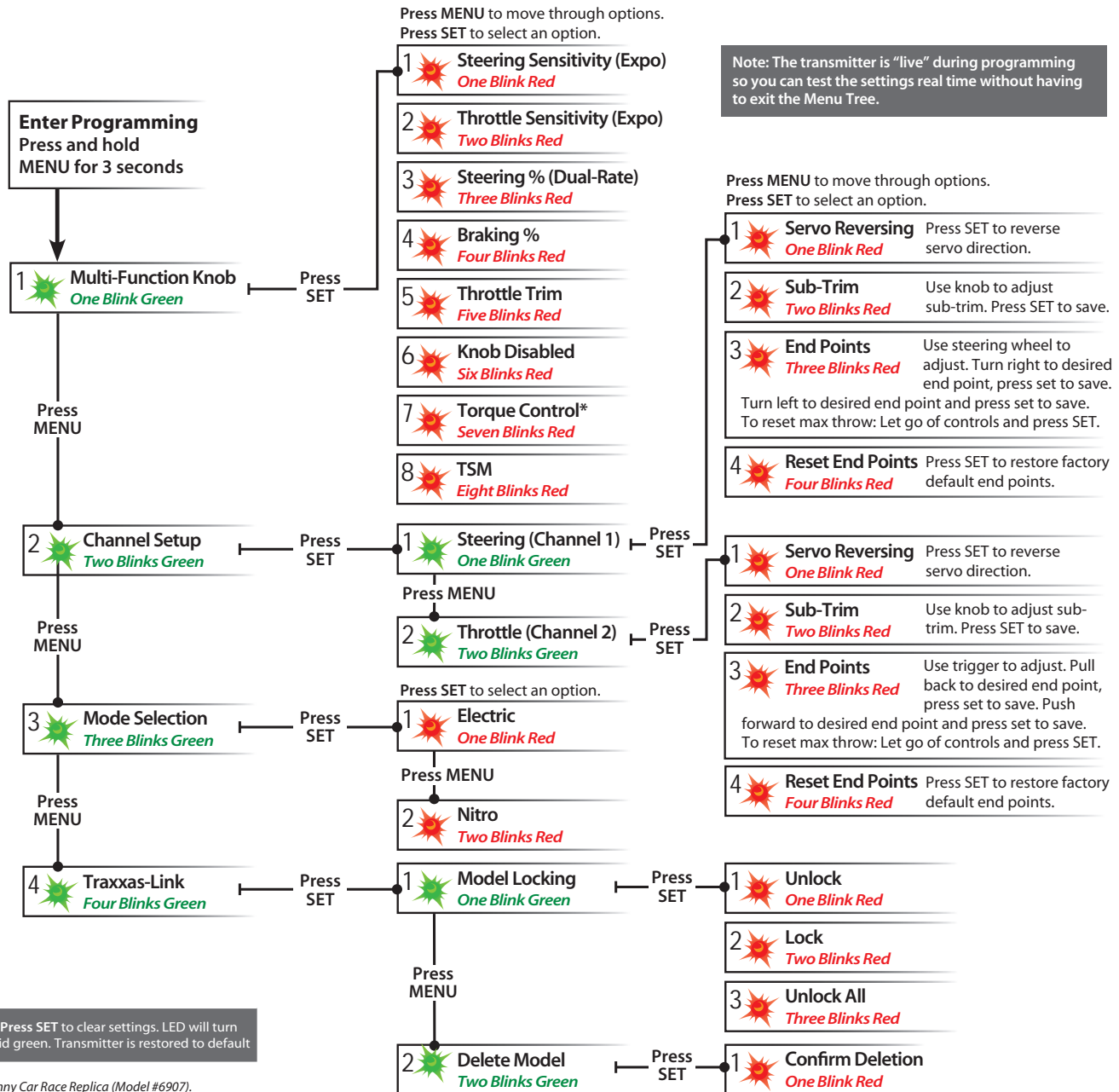
Below is an example of how to access a function in the Menu Tree. In the example, the user is setting the Multi-Function knob to be a Steering % (Dual-Rate) control.














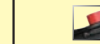









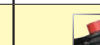




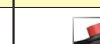
























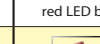




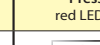




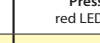




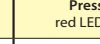
To set the Multi-Function knob to control STEERING % (DUAL-RATE):

1. Switch the transmitter on.
2. Press and hold MENU until the green LED lights. It will blink in single intervals.
3. Press SET. The red LED will blink in single intervals to indicate Steering Sensitivity (Expo) has been selected.
4. Press MENU twice. The red LED will blink three times repeatedly to indicate Steering % (Dual-Rate) has been selected.
5. Press SET to select. The green LED will blink 8 times fast to indicate successful selection.
6. Press and hold MENU to return to driving mode.

## Restoring Factory Defaults:

Transmitter OFF	Hold both MENU and SET	Transmitter ON	Release MENU and SET red LED blinks	Press SET to clear settings. LED will turn solid green. Transmitter is restored to default
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Set Multi-Function knob for STEERING SENSITIVITY (Expo)	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x8 Press SET to confirm green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode	
Set Multi-Function knob for THROTTLE SENSITIVITY (Expo)	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU to confirm red LED blinks (x2)	 x8 Press SET to select green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode
Set Multi-Function knob for STEERING Dual-Rate (%)	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x3 Press MENU twice red LED blinks (x3)	 x8 Press SET to select green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode
Set Multi-Function knob for BRAKING PERCENTAGE (%)	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x4 Press MENU 3 times red LED blinks (x4)	 x8 Press SET to select green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode
Set Multi-Function knob for THROTTLE TRIM	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x5 Press MENU 4 times red LED blinks (x5)	 x8 Press SET to select green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode
To LOCK the Multi-Function knob	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x6 Press MENU 5 times red LED blinks (x6)	 x8 Press SET to lock green LED blinks (x8)	 Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode
To REVERSE the direction of STEERING servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x8 Press SET to reverse servo direction
To set the SUB TRIM of the STEERING servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU red LED blinks (x2)
To set the END POINTS of the STEERING servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x3 Press MENU twice red LED blinks (x3)
To reset the END POINTS of STEERING servo to defaults	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 Press SET red LED blinks	 x4 Press MENU 3 times red LED blinks (x4)
To REVERSE the direction of THROTTLE servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET red LED blinks
To set the SUB TRIM of the THROTTLE servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET red LED blinks
To set the END POINTS of the THROTTLE servo	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET red LED blinks
To reset the END POINTS of THROTTLE servo to defaults	 Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET green LED blinks	 x2 Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	 Press SET red LED blinks

## MENU TREE FORMULAS

To select functions and make adjustments to the TQi transmitter without referencing the Menu Tree, turn your transmitter on, find the function in the left column you wish to adjust, and simply follow the corresponding steps.



Adjust the Multi-Function knob until the LED turns solid green.

Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode

Press SET to reverse servo direction

Use Multi-Function knob to set neutral

Turn steering wheel to desired max left and right travel

Press SET to reset end points

Press SET to reverse servo direction

Press MENU red LED blinks (x2)

Use throttle trigger to set desired max throttle or brake

Press SET to save position

Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode

IF END POINTS ARE OK: Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode

IF END POINTS NEED TO BE CHANGED: Press SET and repeat steps 6-8

Press SET to save each position

Turn steering wheel to test settings

Press SET to save position

IF END POINTS ARE OK: Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode

IF END POINTS NEED TO BE CHANGED: Press SET and repeat steps 7-9



The Traxxas Link Wireless Module is sold separately (part #6511). The Traxxas Link application is available from the Apple App store for iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch and on Google Play for Android devices. iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or the Android device are not included with the Traxxas Link Wireless Module.

For more information about the Traxxas Link Wireless Module and the Traxxas Link application, visit [Traxxas.com](http://Traxxas.com).

## PROGRAMMING YOUR TQi TRANSMITTER WITH YOUR APPLE IPHONE, IPAD, IPOD TOUCH, OR ANDROID MOBILE DEVICE

The Traxxas Link™ Wireless Module (part #6511, sold separately) for the TQi transmitter installs in minutes to transform your Apple® iPhone®, iPad®, iPod touch®, or Android™ device into a powerful tuning tool that allows you to replace the transmitter's button/LED programming system with an intuitive, high-definition, full-color graphical user interface.



### Traxxas Link

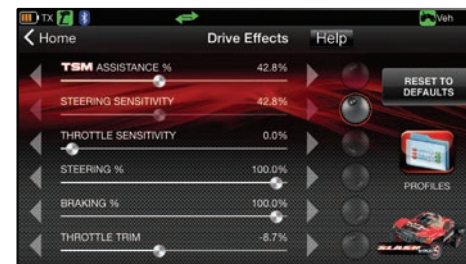
The powerful Traxxas Link app (available in the Apple App Store<sup>SM</sup> or on Google Play<sup>TM</sup>) gives you complete control over the operation and tuning of your Traxxas model with stunning visuals and absolute precision. Install Traxxas Link telemetry sensors on the model, and Traxxas Link displays real-time data such as speed, RPM, temperature, and battery voltage.



Compatible with:  
iPod touch (5th generation and later)  
iPad mini  
iPad Pro

iPad 2  
iPad Air  
iPhone 4s (and later)  
Android 4.4 (and later)

Intuitive iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Android interface Traxxas Link makes it easy to learn, understand, and access powerful tuning options. Control Drive Effects settings such as TSM assistance percentage; steering and throttle sensitivity; steering percentage; braking strength; and throttle trim by simply touching and dragging the sliders on the screen.



Tap and slide to adjust TSM, Steering Sensitivity, Throttle Trim, Braking Percent, and more!

### Real-Time Telemetry

When you equip your model with sensors, the Traxxas Link dashboard comes to life showing you speed, battery voltage, RPM, and temperature. Set threshold warnings and log maximums, minimums, or averages. Use the recording function to document your dashboard view, with sound, so that you can keep your eyes on your driving and not miss a single apex.



The customizable Traxxas Link dashboard delivers real-time rpm, speed, temperature, and voltage data.

### Manage up to 30 Models with Traxxas Link

The TQi radio system automatically keeps track of what vehicles it has bound to and what settings were used for each—up to 30 models total! Traxxas Link provides a visual interface to name the models, customize their settings, attach profiles, and lock them into memory. Simply choose a model and any previously bound transmitter, power them up, and start having fun.



Traxxas Link Model Memory simplifies organizing your collection of vehicles.







# TRAXXAS<sup>®</sup>

## UNLIMITED DESERT RACER

OWNER'S MANUAL



# TRAXXAS

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