

RC Hobby Enthusiasts

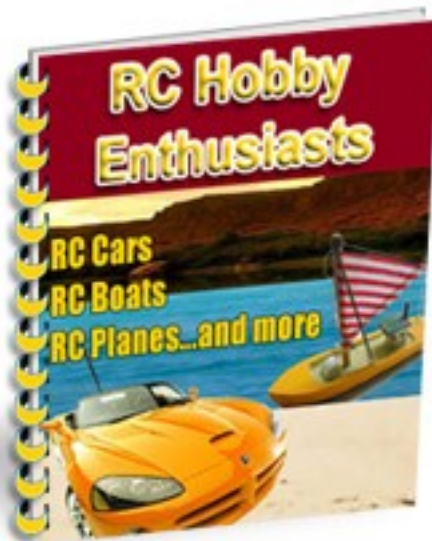


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How To Get Started

Remote controlled hobbies have a little something for everyone. Whatever kind of model you decide to build, you are going to have a good time controlling it, and taking pride in building it yourself. For some, the thought of building an RC car seems to be a daunting task while for others it's an exciting challenge. Whichever one you are, the key to having a rewarding experience is to work on a project that fits how much time you want to spend working on it.

RC Hobby Projects

RC projects can be purchased anywhere from partially assembled to a box full of individual pieces all needing to be put together. Next I'll try to give you the information you need to decide which one is right for you.

RC Hobby Projects Choices

If you happen to be a complete beginner you may want to begin with a completely assembled car, where all you have to do is insert a few batteries to have your car up and running. These are fine if you just want to drive or fly for a while, but they wouldn't be much good if you want to become involved with competitions like races or exhibitions. While they have their limitations, these pre-assembled cars are a good way to get a feel for the radio-controlled hobby, and to become familiar with how a vehicle is put together. And, because they are fairly inexpensive to purchase, you won't have a heavy financial investment to start out with. Just be certain you don't buy a child's toy. You'll want to be sure you buy one of the hobby type vehicles.

Another choice you have is to buy a model kit, which comes with all the parts you need to assemble your model. Everything has been pre-measured and made to fit. All you need to do is fit the pieces together, and add a little glue.

These kits are easy to find in most hobby stores, they are usually reasonably priced, which is why they are a very popular choice. If you can't find what you want in a hobby store, you can check out the specialty websites on the Internet, where you should be able to find just what you're looking for.

A third and far more complicated choice would be to build your remote-controlled car entirely from scratch. This will take a great deal of effort and planning. To begin with, you will need a very good set of plans complete with detailed diagrams and supply lists. You will also need to purchase all of the tools and components from the appropriate stores, before you will be ready to begin.

To build a remote control car from scratch, you will need precise measurements right down to the last millimeter before you begin cutting the plastic or wood. Unless you are very skilled, your first project probably won't turn out all that great, and it will look as if it was built by an amateur. It was. But, you will be gaining skill and experience with each piece you assemble.

Hopefully, I've been able to help you decide whether or not radio controlled hobbies are for you. It can be a very enjoyable and rewarding hobby for people of all ages. Even a small child can run a radio-controlled car. As a hobby, you can invest as much or as little time and money as you want. You may only want to assemble kit cars for the kids, or you may choose to become a serious hobbyist and spend both hundreds of hours and dollars building cars from scratch for the various competitions. However you want to do it, there is something for everyone. All you have to do is decide what will work best and be the most fun for you.

RC Cars Are A Lot Of Fun

Because boats and planes are so easily destroyed when something goes wrong, most hobbyists start out with a car. Building basic remote control cars is very easy, and you will learn a great deal as you build it. Once you've gained a little experience, you can use that knowledge to build more advanced and stronger cars. Each successive car you build will be an improvement over the last one. A car can be built in just a few minutes, or you can spend many months building a super fast easy handling car. How much time and money you want to put into your car is completely up to you.

Your First RC Hobby

If you're just getting started with a remote controlled hobby, it would probably be a good idea to begin with a pre-made car. These can be purchased in just about any toy store. It will most likely be clumsy and slow, and you may not find it all that satisfying. Just the same, it is a good first car. Once you've spent a few days playing with it, take it apart to see what makes it tick. Pay attention to the way it's wired and how the engine is connected to the wheels. Take a look at the structure of the car.

When you begin to understand how it all works, you'll have a much easier time building your own. Possibly you'll even be able to use some of the parts such as the radio components and body in your own car. However, you should probably not use the motor.

Once you have gained this basic knowledge of how everything works, your next project can be anything you'd like. Most people want to build a car from scratch using plastic or wood. They want to install all the electrical parts themselves, then paint and apply the decals to make it a totally hot looking, and great performing car. Others will want to build a super fast show car for

all their friends to see. You can build your car anyway you want to. Just remember to take it one step at a time, and learn everything you can as you go. Before you know it you'll be a remote control car expert.

Finding Good RC Hobby Resources

There are all kinds of resources to help you become a radio control expert, but you will need to take a little time doing research to find the needed information. The Internet is a great source, and you can even find tutorials. If you need more specific information, forums and community groups are a good place to look. These places are where people gather to talk and brag about their hobby, as well as supporting each other. This is an excellent place for someone new to the hobby to get answers to their questions.

Enjoying Your RC Hobby With Others

If you enjoy competition, radio controlled cars is a good place for you to be. There are a lot of races and exhibitions all around the world where you can compete against others to see who has the fastest and sharpest looking car. You may have to do a bit of traveling to get to the competitions so just plan on making it a weekend trip.

The time you spend with others who share your passion will be well worth your effort. Some of these meetings will include races and exhibitions, while others will be conventions where hobbyists will be selling components as well as sharing a great deal of information. There is much to be learned at these conventions.

Beginning any new hobby can be a daunting task, and radio controlled cars is no exception. However, if you begin with the basics, and take it one step at a time checking out the available resources as you go, there is no reason for you not to succeed.

How To Find Radio Controlled Components

There are two ways to build a radio controlled car, boat, helicopter or plane. You can build it from a kit, or you can do it from scratch. A kit will come with everything you need, and about all you have to do is snap or glue it all together. Using a kit is a great way for a beginner to build his first car. However, after you have your first radio controlled car up and running, you'll probably want to go on the bigger and better things. This means finding a good detailed set of plans and building a car from scratch. To do this, you'll be using wood, power tools and glue to build your car to look as much like the real thing as you can.

RC Hobby Suppliers

When you're building a radio-controlled car from scratch, you should have a good supplier you can rely on for your tools and equipment. I don't care how well you have prepared or how careful you are, there is sure to come a time when you run out of glue, or your exacto-knife breaks, or maybe your wife uses your wood for the fireplace. Fortunately, there are a lot of choices for where you can buy your components and supplies, whether it's from a local hobby store, or online. Whoever you choose, you'll want to do a little research before you decide on the one you'll use.

You can almost always find some of what you want at the local hobby or craft store. You will probably be able to find knives some types of wood, model glue, paint and other items. However, what you won't be able to find are the actual radio controlled hobby components. For these items, you'll want to find a source, which deals in the specialized items you'll need.

Finding Specialized Tools

In order to find the specialized tool for radio controlled hobbies it will be helpful to look on the Internet where you'll find many website that either sell or will point you to just what you need for your project. Frequently, these websites will have reviews by users so you'll be able to get an idea how reliable they are, how quickly they ship, and whether or not customers have received broken items. While there is usually no problem, you still want to check it out before you place an order.

RC Hobbies and eBay

You can usually find plenty of useful tools and parts for your radio controlled project on eBay, if you know what you're looking for, and you will probably pay less that you would from a specialty store. However, if you're uncertain what you want or need, and you'd like to look around at what's available, eBay may not be the best place for you. What you might want to do is check out the specialty sources to find what you want, then check on eBay to see if they have it at a better price.

As with buying any other kind of tools or equipment, always buy the very best you can afford. It may cost you a bit more in the beginning, but if you buy quality items the first time, you will probably not have to buy them again, or at least not as soon. Let's face it, if you buy low quality merchandise just because of the price, you will end up replacing it time and again, which will cost you a great deal more in the long run. I strongly recommend you take the time to do a little research for the best source of tools and components for your radio-controlled hobby.

Build a RC Car Without Breaking The Bank

All across the country, the passion for building and racing remote controlled cars has continued to grow rapidly. But, you would be surprised to hear how much money these people are spending to build their remote controlled cars. The investment can be sizeable, involving literally hundreds upon hundreds of dollars in order to purchase top-of-the-line equipment for an incredibly fast and great looking car.

There is no question that building radio controlled cars can be a bit expensive, and you will have to spend some money. While some of the components can be quite pricey, you won't have to sell your home, and rent out the wife and kids in order to build your first car. In the next few paragraphs, I'll try to show you a few ways you can save some money.

Getting the Most for Your Money

First of all, never buy supplies just because they come with a cheap price tag. At the same time, since this is your first radio controlled car, you do want to get a good idea what the hobby is all about, without maxing out your credit cards. For this reason, you'll want to buy good quality parts so you can build a really great car. On the other hand, after building your first car, you may decide this hobby is not for you. Maybe you simply won't have the time or interest it takes to spend hours assembling your car. Because this may be the case it's just another reason to avoid spending a great deal to build your first car.

As time goes on, if you do continue to build cars, you will want to spend more time and money. By that time, you'll also have the experience to do a much better job.

RC Hobby Kits

One of the least expensive ways to build your first radio-controlled car would be to buy a components kit, which includes just the radio and motors. At a craft store, these kits usually only cost \$20 or \$30. Always buy this kit before you begin actually building the car. This way you'll know ahead of time what size you need the car to be to hold the radio components and motors.

Once you have the components kit, the car can be built with a little bit of inexpensive wood, some glue, and lots and lots of time. You can go to your local hobby store or lumber yard to look for a lightweight wood, with which to build your car. When your wood has been chosen, all you need is some superglue or epoxy to hold the pieces together, and of course, lots and lots of time, as I mentioned before.

If you're not into the "do-it-all-from-scratch" approach, there are remote control car kits, which include all the components as well as the car. Unless you are a woodworking genius, this will probably give you a much nicer looking car when you're done, and these kits are fairly inexpensive. The advantage of building the car from scratch is that you will have complete control over what your car looks like, which you don't get when you work from a kit.

However you choose to build your car, it should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you. Your choice will depend on how much time, and courage you have.

I do have to caution you about one thing. If you try to race your kit built car against one of the more expensive and advanced cars, you will be left in their dust. There is simply no way your kit car will have the same power as one of the custom built cars. On top of which, it probably won't look as good either. Please don't allow either of these things to discourage you from your first

effort. The important thing to remember is that once you have built your first car, you will have all that much more experience when it comes time to build the custom car of your dreams.

Buy building an inexpensive kit car as your first car, you will have a chance to see if you would really enjoy building radio controlled cars as a hobby. Even if you are someone like me, and like to run before you can walk, I would suggest you take it easy at first and stay with one of the inexpensive car kits.

How To Power Radio Controlled Cars

Life is full of choices, and building a radio -controlled car is no exception. You will be asking yourself such questions as: How will the model be built? How should the radio transmitter be incorporated? And of course, how should my new car be painted? But the main question you'll need to answer is: How will my new car be powered. While this question has several answers, none of them stands out as being the very best for all cars. Because each method of powering your car has its own set of trade-offs, you'll have to consider what you are planning on doing with the car. In the following paragraphs, I'll try to explain a little bit about the differences between three main power sources for radio-controlled cars.

RC Battery Packs

The easiest way to power your radio-controlled car would be to use a battery pack to run the motors. Most beginners' cars are powered this way, and if it's done properly, it can be a good way to do it. The greatest benefit of using a battery pack is that electric power is very lightweight and keeps the overall weight of the car down. This is particularly useful since electric cars are usually fairly slow, and not likely to be winning any races. For this reason, you will want to decide whether you want that is lightweight and easy to handle, or a speed demon that will give the competition a run for their money.

Gas-Powered RC Cars

The most common remote controlled cars are the gas-powered cars. However, because the gas and combustion equipment is fairly heavy, the cars can be a bit awkward to control. Fortunately, the increased speed over the electric cars can certainly make up for the drawbacks. If you're looking for this type of motor for you car, you should begin by checking out your local hobby shops and online specialty sites. There are some RC hobbyists who prefer the gas

powered cars because they are quite loud and remind them of their full sized counterparts, and they see this as a good thing.

Nitromethane Power

One of the most popular and fastest ways to power your car is with Nitromethane. The nitro cars come in many different styles. You can even build a truck made to take high-speed jumps, and run on off-road driving courses. Or, if high-speed is what you're looking for, you can build a car designed for speeding along tracks, pavement or other relatively smooth surfaces. As with the gas -powered cars, nitro cars require heavy motors, which can be a bit awkward to maneuver on the track. But, they are a perfect choice if you want to change out to an electric motor during a race.

If, when you build your car, you don't permanently attach the engine, you will be able to switch engines at any time you feel a different one would work better for you. Over a period of time, most RC hobbyists will acquire a variety of different engines, and will know which ones will work best for them in which situations. For this reason, there is no need to go into a panic about buying the wrong engine. Sooner or later, you'll probably either want or need to use it.

Just be certain you consider the performance qualities of each type of engine, and compare those qualities with what you expect from your remote control car. Compare both speed and maneuverability then make your choice. If there is a hobby store near you, you might want to ask if you can test-drive some of the different engines to get a feel for how they operate. In the long run, you'll be glad you took the time to do your homework before making a purchase.

Hobby Grade RC Vehicles

There are two basic types of RC vehicles; toy grade, and hobby grade. The toy grade items can be found in just about any retail store, and are mass-produced with no user serviceable parts. The toys are not very strong, nor do they have much in the way of speed and maneuverability. You cannot exchange the parts of one toy with those of another one. Generally speaking the toys are fairly fragile, and probably shouldn't be used outside. When you purchase one of these toys, they are completely assembled. All you have to do is take it out of the package, insert the batteries, and it's good to go. These toys are great for kids, but not for the serious RC hobbyist.

Hobby grade RC vehicles are made of strong materials, and they are usually custom made. Because the design is usually fairly simple, they can be redesigned as well as being user serviceable. It's easy to use the parts and radio controller of one item for another one. Although some RC stores will deliver the vehicles fully assembled, they do not normally come that way when you buy them. Most hobbyists prefer to buy the individual parts and assemble their RC models themselves.

For the die-hard hobbyist, the designing, assembly and driving of the RC model is all part of the enjoyment of the hobby. This type of hobbyist likes to enter competitions, where there are specification and rules, so they can race in competition with others, and win enhancements for their remote controlled models. These days, just about every RC model is available as either a toy grade or hobby grade model whether it's a car, helicopter, boat, airplane or robot.

RC Airplanes

Remote controlled airplanes can be found in just about every size and shape from fairly small to gas turbine driven models for aerobatics. Some models are tethered to a pole, while others are free flying. The power source for these planes can be either electric or fuel driven. Some of the newer models can attain speeds of up to 250mph. It takes a high level of control and knowledge to operate airborne models, and should include adult supervision when used by children. Another good reason for adult supervision is the fact that these models are quite a bit more expensive than some of the other RC models. Because of this, crashing one of them can, not only cause damage it can also get expensive.

RC Cars

RC cars are the most common type of radio-controlled model, and they come in just about every size and shape. Like the airborne models, they can also be powered by either electricity or fuel. However, unlike the airborne models, they are fairly safe to operate and can be used even by children. RC cars are frequently raced whether on a track or off-road.

RC Helicopters

Another airborne remote control model is the helicopter. Although the design and flight is different than the airplane, some hobbyists find it much more fun to fly. However, because it is an airborne model, the same safety considerations that apply to airplanes, also applies to helicopters.

RC Boats

The first remotely controlled toy was a radio-controlled boat, which was demonstrated by Tesla. He presented it to the public as a toy that "obeyed people's commands". Actually, he was the one controlling the boat according to the people's commands.

Remote controlled robots have long found most of their popularity in Japan, although they are rapidly catching on in other countries as well as the U.S.A. Hobbyists who design, model and control robots are not all that uncommon, and there are all kinds of competitions held for them to create the best and sometimes the wildest robot ever. However, robots are now moving from mere radio controlled models to artificial intelligence and voice controlled units, although the radio controlled models are still quite popular.

In today's world, robots are not only for the hobbyists any more. They are being used in science, medicine and manufacturing, as well as being used as a safety tool for handling bombs.

How To Build A Fast Radio Controlled Car

Most people seem to think of children's toys when they think of remote controlled cars. However, there is an enormous difference between the remote control cars kids play with and the ones the adults like to play with. There is a huge difference in the complexity of the two kinds of cars. While all it takes is a few AA batteries to run a kid's car, the adult cars have full miniaturized engines.

Fuel for the RC Cars

Some of the more popular kits run on real fuel such as nitro or gasoline, while other run on large battery pack, which are a bit like versions of the kid's toys, but on steroids. These cars will require just as much maintenance as the one you drive to work, because they have all the same components. On top of which, you also have the radio transmitting equipment to take care of.

Building remote controlled cars brings with it a variety of choices when it comes to the quality of the components used. While you can build a perfectly adequate car using components from a hobby store, you certainly aren't going to win any races with them. In order to build a top quality car, you need to build it with top quality components, so prepare yourself to spend some money. Once you have good components, you'll be able to build a car of which you can be proud.

If you truly want to build an incredible car, there are several things in particular you'll want to keep in mind when buying the components. In the next few paragraphs, I'll give you some ideas how to get the maximum performance for the least amount of money.

Nitromethane for Speed

Nitromethane is the best choice for an engine, when you're going for a fast car. But, because it's a heavier engine, it makes the car more awkward to handle in a race. However, if the racecourse is going to be fairly straight and easy, a nitro engine makes an excellent choice and will give you great speed. As with most things, there is a down side to the nitro engine. Because the engines are so powerful, they tend to burn out and break down at a much higher rate than other engines. Because of this, it would be a good idea to keep an electric engine handy so you can change it out should the need arise.

There are other parts of the car which are every bit as important, if you are going for all out speed, and you can expect to spend a great deal of money on things like axels and wheels. You'll want your wheels to be both light and extremely firm. If you can, stop by a hobby store where you can test the different components of a car. This way you can try them out to determine what will work best on your car. It's always a good idea to try things out before you buy the, and remote controlled cars are no different. Because the parts are easily changed, you can try them out one after another before making the final decision.

Best Way To Assemble Your RC Car

If you don't happen to be all that technically inclined, you may find the task of choosing parts for your car more daunting than fun. Have no fear. You may not have to go through all of that. You can purchase a kit, which includes all the high-end components, and these kits are pretty easy to put together. The only downside is you won't be able to customize them as you could if you were building a car from scratch. While choosing to purchase your car parts separately has its benefits, you'll be able to replace most of the parts

individually should you choose to upgrade parts of your car for something better and faster.

The quality of the components you use does make a big difference. If you use even one lesser quality part, it can affect the entire performance of the car no matter how good all the other parts are, so you'll want to choose all of your parts and components very carefully.

Radio Controlled Car Competitions

Building a remote controlled car can take you hundreds of hours and a sizeable amount of money to build. There would be no point to putting all that time, effort and money into building your car, then just leaving it on a shelf for no one else to see. You've worked hard, and are proud of your accomplishment.

There are many different types of radio controlled car competitions, and you should be planning to enter as many as you can. As a rule, each one of the competitions will require a different kind of car, which has been built just for that kind of competition. On occasion you can just change out a few parts, and have your car ready to go, although most often you will need a completely different car.

Types of RC Hobbies Competitions

The first kind of competition most people think of is a standard racetrack, much like a NASCAR track, which is a large paved road. In this kind of race, all the cars start out lined up in rows. The length of the race can be anywhere from just a few laps to dozens of laps for some of the marathon races. As with any race, speed is the whole point. What your car looks like is unimportant. All that matters is whether or not it can run faster than the competition. This type of race is where you'll find the technically superior cars, with the high-tech engines. *The best car for this kind of race is a lightweight gas-powered car.*

Off Road Racing

The next kind of competition is a great deal of fun, and certainly one of the most popular competitions. As with the first type, it is a race. But this race is an off-road race, with a lot of steep hills, rough terrain, and sometimes there are even obstacles and ramps. These are rough tracks and the cars can take a

severe beating, which is why most of the cars will have large shock absorbers and look more like trucks than cars. A big part of winning this kind of race is to have your car survive the course. Because of this, competitors come up with some very inventive ways to survive the track. I've even seen cars with wheels on both sides, so that if the car flips over, it can keep on running. Needless to say, radio controlled off-road racing is one of the most exciting competitions.

Exhibition Competition

The last kind of competition I'll discuss here is the exhibition competition. This type is divided into segments, each of which shows off a different skill for your car. For instance, you'll need to accelerate down a strait track to show your cars maximum speed, and you'll be asked to run a slalom winding back and forth between cones to test the cars handling and agility. How the course is set up will vary from one competition to another, but they will always be variations of the same theme.

Whatever kind of competition you enter, just plan on having a good time even if you know your car can't win. You're certain to have a good time just spending the day with others who share your passion for radio-controlled cars.