

RALLY LEGENDS RC **FIAT 131** **ABARTH 1981 WRC**



*Classic rally with
killer details!*

There are four functioning headlights on the Fiat 131 that are constantly on and add to the scale appearance. In the back are tail lights, reverse lights and functioning turn signals, making this car stand out in a crowd.



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1/10-SCALE RTR ELECTRIC 4WD RALLY CAR



Rally Legends RC snuck on to the RC market a short time ago, but now that the cars are beginning to make appearances, they are causing quite a stir. The classic body styles and functioning light systems take these cars to a new level in the RC world. Rally cars have occa-

sionally popped up from manufacturers over the years, but never to this level. Let's go back to 1981 and we are road side in Portugal. We hear a low rumble coming down the road, quickly the sound begins to roar with more ferocity, the sound soon begins to travel not just into your ears, but through your whole body. You can begin to make out a car, it dips below a crest for a second, only to explode over another into the air—that my friends was a Fiat 131 Abarth racing to the win in the World Rally Championship (WRC). Now it is your turn to take the wheel and relive these infamous rally moments.

AT A GLANCE

WHO MAKES IT: Rally Legends RC

WHO IT'S FOR: Everyone

HOW MUCH: \$349.99

BUILD TYPE: RTR



★★★★★ REVIEWER'S OPINION



This is a great value for the money with everything needed right in the box. It would cost you approximately \$500 to get a similar rally car setup, but Rally Legends RC includes a charger, battery, 3-channel 2.4GHz transmitter and a light system for just \$350. The ball dif-

ferentials add a nice smooth motion to the handling of the car, allowing for the 4WD system to really grab the road and pull the car through to the next corner. Rally Legends RC calls this car an RTS, which is "Ready-To-Slide" and it does just that. No need to scour the internet looking for classic rally footage of the greats of the 1970's and 80's; this car makes it so you can live the classic rally experience.



PROS

- ◆ Everything you need comes with the car
- ◆ Rally tires and wheels add to overall realism
- ◆ 23-turn brushed motor has plenty of power to whip the rear end around
- ◆ Durable—it jumps and tumbles with the best of them
- ◆ Scale appearance trumps anything else on the market
- ◆ Functional light system has headlights, reverse lights, blinkers and tail lights

CONS

- ◆ No underbody currently available



ITEMS USED

- ◆ This car comes ready-to-slide with everything in the box.

FACTS

- ◆ The chassis of the Rally Legends RC car shares layout characteristics with other shaft driven 4WD cars. This lends to the design working with current design aspects that are tried and true. The center drive shaft layout spins sealed ball diffs at the front and rear with the pinion/spur gear incorporated into the rear. The only open area to the gears is the bottom of the chassis exposing the spur gear. If you are concerned with the exposed gear, a simple covering of tape or chassis protector will seal everything up.
- ◆ Varying terrain is just a part of rally, whether it is tarmac or a snow packed road. Your RC rally car needs to be just as adjustable as a real rally car, this means belly clearance and camber adjustments are a must. The Rally Legends RC car has several points of adjustment on the shock towers or on the suspension arms. There are three points of adjustment on the arms and six positions on the shock towers. These adjustments allow ride height and travel tweaks.
- ◆ The Rally Legends Fiat 131 Abarth WRC from 1981 has several scale details including windshield wipers, side mirrors, auxiliary lighting buckets, functional light buckets in the front and rear and a historic paint scheme. The paint scheme and Fiat name remind us there is racing pedigree that has 18 World Rally Championship wins with the classic Fiat 131 Abarth. To add to the scale details of the 131 it comes with four functioning headlights, two taillights, two reverse lights, front side marker lights and rear turn signal lights.
- ◆ Traction is put to the ground with an original tread pattern by Rally Legends RC. These off-road rally tires work well on tarmac, but even better in the dirt. The soft rubber compound conforms to the surface allowing the tires to pull hard in loose and hard pack dirt tracks. Because of the soft tread pattern there is noticeable wear in the tires, but where most other rally tires are firm with less traction these are soft and work well. Understeer has been an issue in the past with rally cars, but because of the soft compound tires the rig follows exactly where the tires are pointing.
- ◆ The Rally Legends car comes with a 2.4GHz 3-channel transmitter. The pistol grip radio has the cool added detail of a faux disc-brake on the wheel, along with steering and throttle trims, a two position third channel under the wheel, dual rate steering adjustment, dual rate throttle adjustment and two-button maneuvering of the LCD screen. Not only does this radio have lots of adjustment, but it is also capable of supporting 15 models. The Rally Legends RC transmitter is also capable of ABS (antilock braking system), EPA (end-point adjustment) and EXP (exponential) adjustments. With only four "AA" batteries to power this radio, it is capable of fine tuning your car while also being nice and light in your hands.
- ◆ Along with the Fiat 131 Abarth reviewed here, Rally Legends RC also offers five other rally car options like the Lancia Stratos and Lancia Delta S4. You can also purchase the bodies separately in either unpainted clear versions or in a traditional paint scheme that was used in the 70's or 80's in the World Rally Championship.



BEHIND THE **WHEEL**

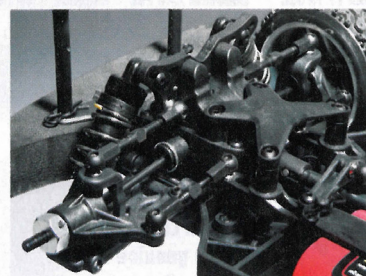
OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATING:

Poor Fair Good **VERY GOOD** Excellent

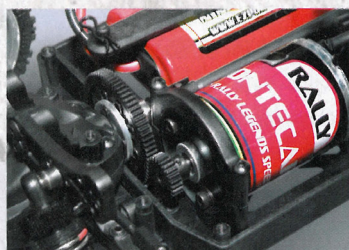
On the Tarmac, this car handles like a classic rally car of the past, tucking a wheel into the body as it pivots to slide the rear around those tight corners. Scandinavian flicks or pendulum turns are no problem and pretty realistic on tarmac. On the dirt it's even better. It carries over the tarmac driving characteristics, but kicks up clouds of dirt as it goes by. With the car's stock ride height, it did hang up in rougher terrain, but with all the adjustability of the Fiat it was a simple job of pulling out a couple of allen wrenches and adjusting the shocks and limiting screws. The aggressive tires worked well on and off-road, grabbing the course and using those big tread lugs to keep the car under control. The ball differentials worked flawlessly set loose for nice and smooth operation and allowed the car to track straight with the power going to the ground. Under rougher conditions, it was easy enough to tighten the differentials up a little to get all four wheels spinning at once.



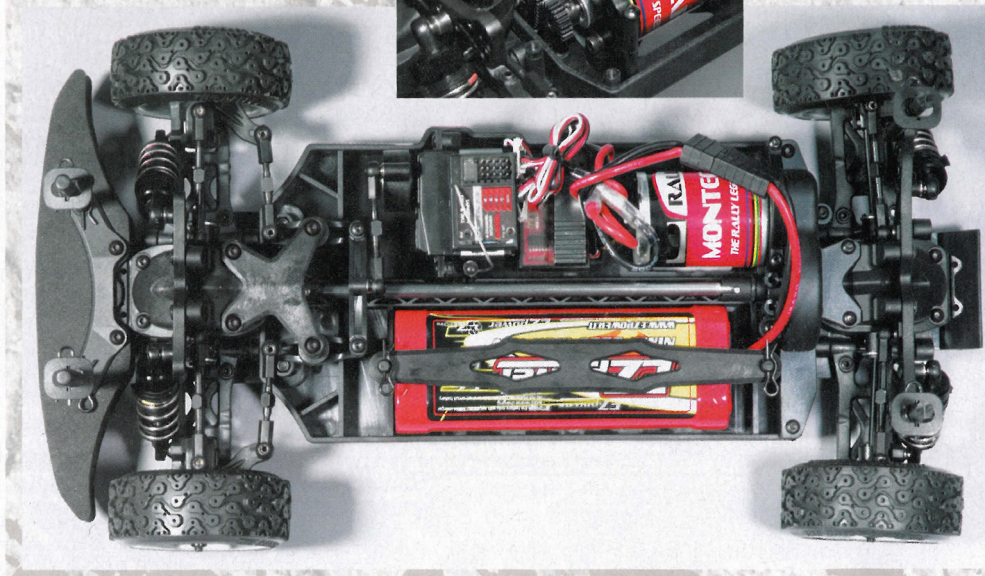
The aggressive tread pattern of the tires fits the scale appearance of the wheels, adding to the traditional rally feel.



The outputs to the ball diffs are plastic, but use metal collars to make them hold together when you're hard on the throttle.



The spur and pinion gears are sealed with a plastic cover to keep debris out of the precise moving parts.



THE LAST WORD

Rally, rally, rally, it seems to be a part of the radio control market that is picking up pace and gathering a following around the world. Sure it has been around for countless years, but it seems to be more popular now than ever. Rally Legends RC is fueling this charge for rally with the most realistic RC cars in the world. With full time 4WD and the best classic rally bodies in the world, Rally Legends RC gets you Ready-To-Slide with everything you need in one box. Backyard tracks, hiking trails, open parking lots or RC tracks, Rally Legends RC has built the vehicle for you to tackle the terrain and the weather, so if you are ready to start sliding around the corners like rally greats of the past then Rally Legends RC has the car for you. ©

Links

Rally Legends RC rallylegendsrc.com, 425-829-2096

For more information, please see our source guide on page 113.