

THRASH TEST - TORRO US MAXXPRO MRAP

■ spec: wd moulded chassis ■ class: 1/16-scale fun ■ cost: 179 euro

Full Protection

Torro is a new one to us here at Racer, despite the German brand having an impressive stand at the annual Nuremberg Toy Fair every year. Ian Peckett gets his hands on their new US MaxxPro MRAP vehicle that is likely to appeal to those getting into the hobby

Torro has been producing high quality RC models since 2004, and over this time they have established themselves as one of the leading brands in the world of military models primarily producing 1:16-scale tanks. When Torro contacted us about their new 1:16-scale US MaxxPro Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armoured fighting vehicle we were keen to take a look. In real life the vehicle weighs in at an impressive 20 tons, powered by an 8.7-litre 350BHP engine so we couldn't wait to see how the 1:16-scale model stacks up. ➤



What is MaxxPro MRAP?

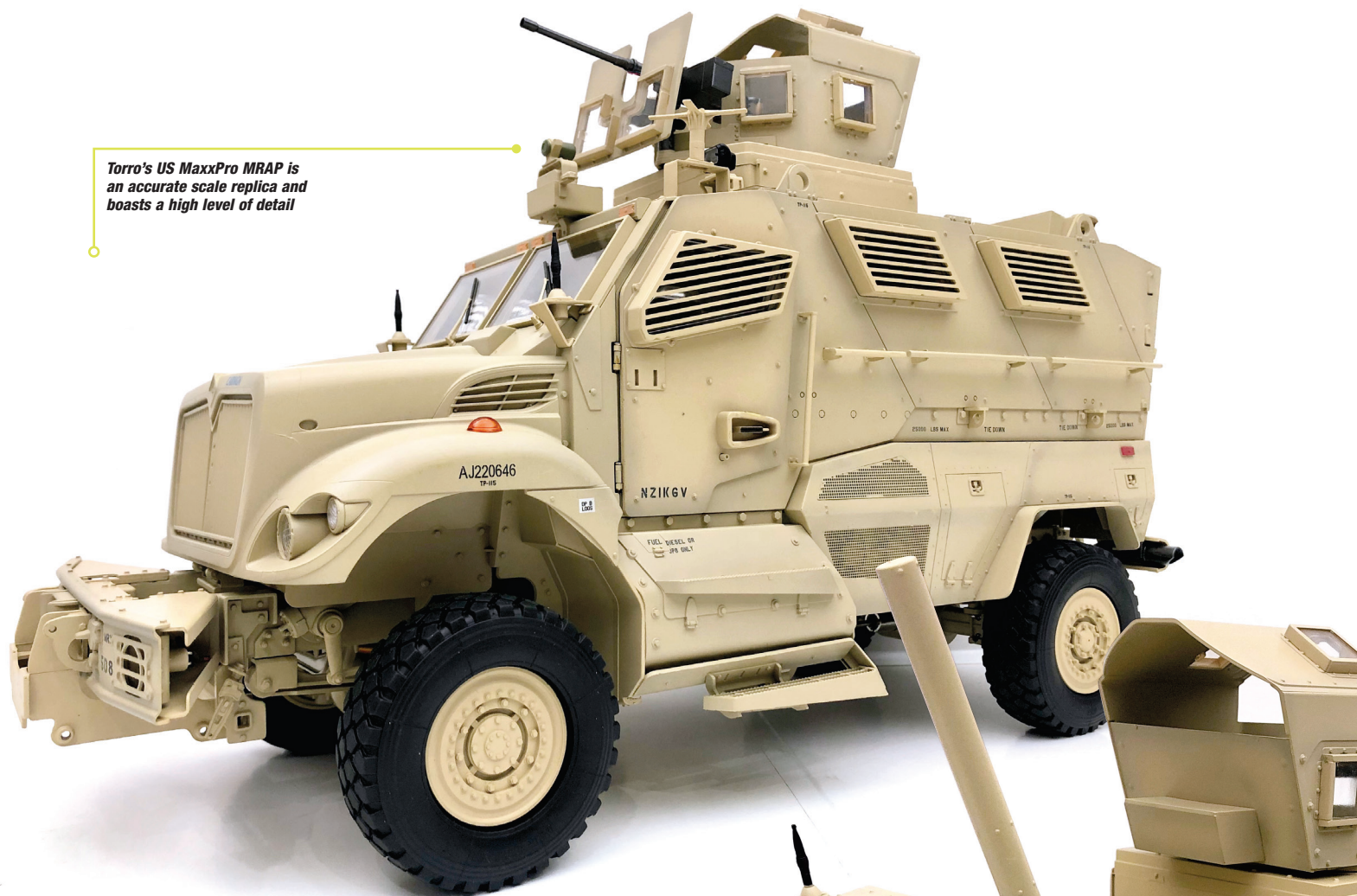
MRAP stands for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and the name MaxxPro signifies maximum protection. The international M1224 MaxxPro MRAP vehicle is an armoured fighting vehicle designed by American company Navistar Defence along with the Israeli Plasan Sasa, who designed and manufactures the vehicle's armour. The vehicle was designed to take part in the US Military's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle program led by the US Marine Corps, as well as a similar US Army-led Medium Mine Protected Vehicle program. This 20-ton monster is powered by an 8.7-litre diesel engine and can carry up to ten personnel including three crew. The 360-degree machine gun turret carries a Browning M2 .50 calibre heavy machine gun that can fire up to 60 rounds a minute at a distance of 2000 metres.



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Torro's US MaxxPro MRAP is an accurate scale replica and boasts a high level of detail

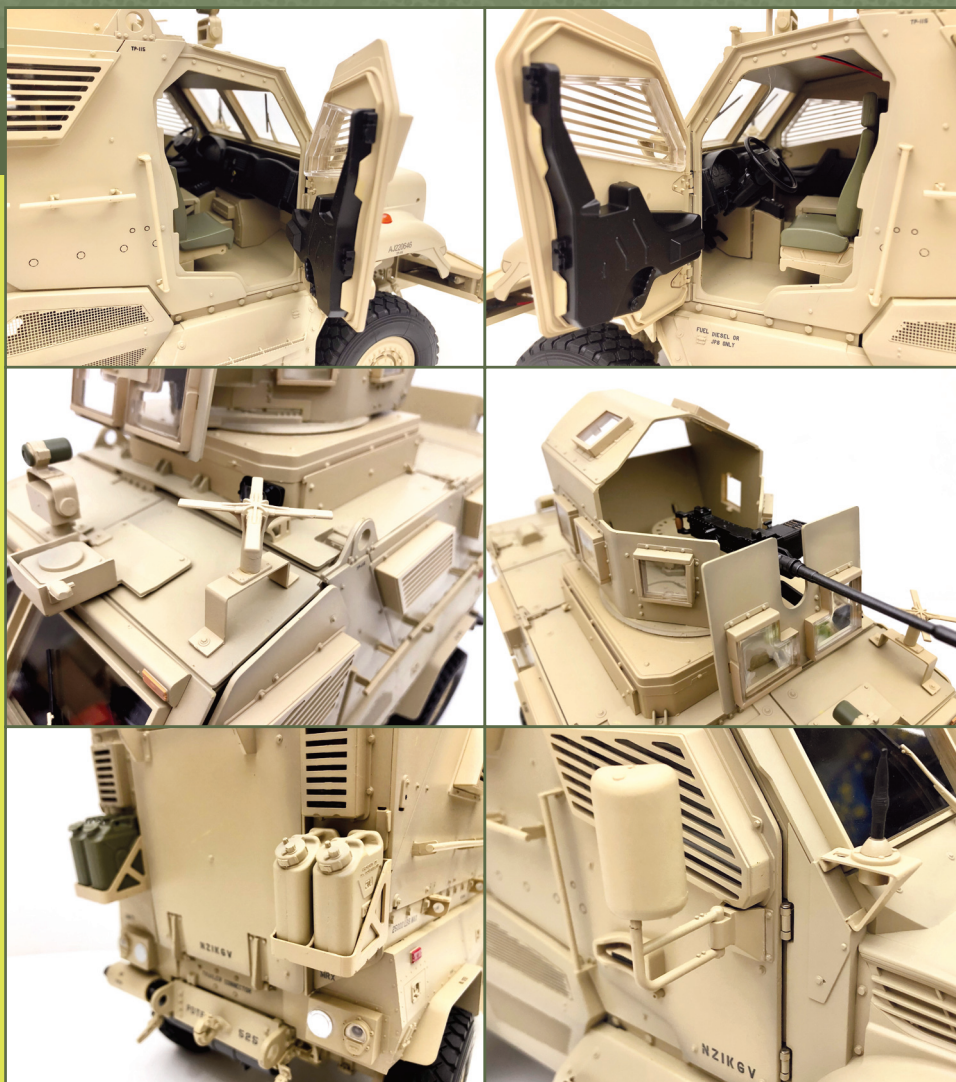


Access to the battery compartment is via the rear door

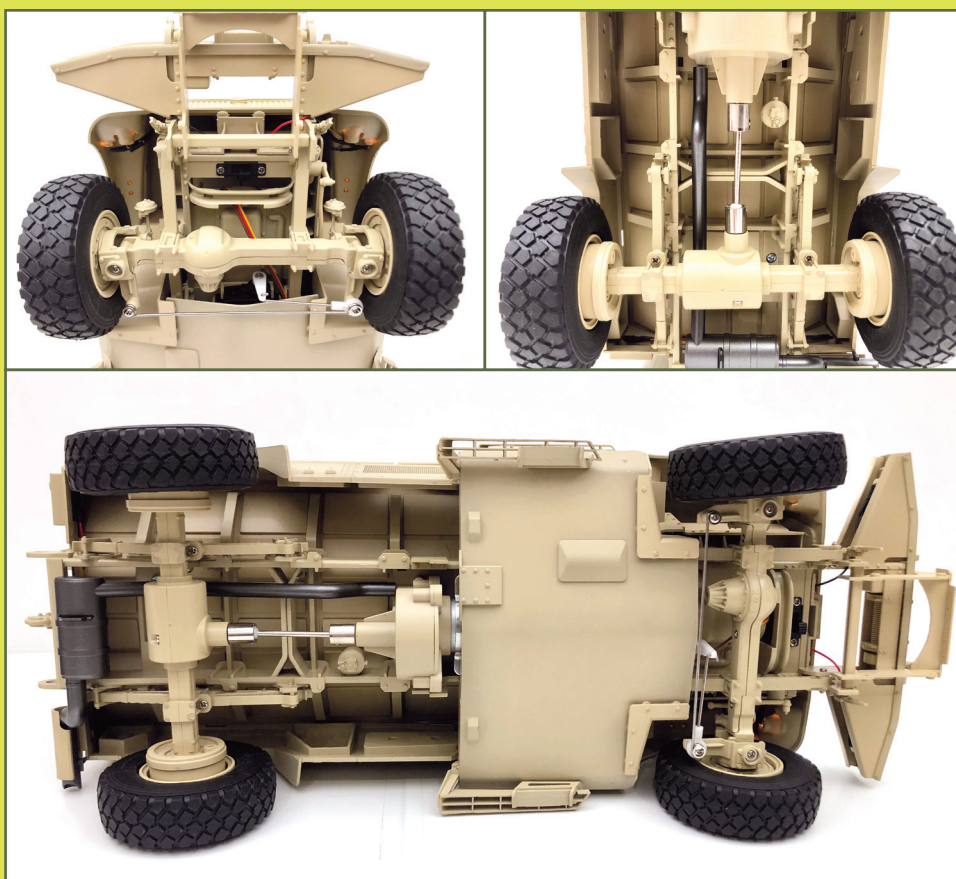


REAR-WHEEL DRIVE

The MaxxPro MRAP is based around a two-wheel drive transmission powered by a silver can 380-size brushed motor. The motor drives a sealed gearbox that has plastic gears and bushes inside, with a small dogbone shaft transmitting the power to a solid rear axle that is mounted directly to the chassis. The axle contains a geared differential that will improve the MaxxPro MRAP's turning circle, aided by the fully proportional steering servo that gives great steering response. The front wheels have small springs on the steering pins that offer a small amount of suspension travel whilst fixed links connect the steering servo to the front wheels. The electronic speed controller is integrated with the 2.4GHz 4-channel receiver with sound effects into a single printed circuit board. This plugs directly into the provided 9.6V 500mAh battery tray that can also hold eight AA-size non-rechargeable batteries if you wish to use these instead of the provided pack. Torro has included a 240V mains wall battery charger, although this will require a plug adapter to use here in the UK. ➤



The Torro model combines plastic scale modelling with RC functionality, and will mainly appeal to all ages of military fans



The MaxxPro MRAP is based around a four-wheel drive transmission powered by 380-size brushed motor

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Working LED front lights are a nice touch



Included in the ready-to-run package is a 2.4GHz stick transmitter

HARD BODY

Torro has done an outstanding job in recreating the MaxxPro MRAP in 1:16-scale. The body is constructed in hard plastic and is assembled from multiple parts. Both the driver's and passengers' doors are fully functional and once open reveal a fully detailed cab including seats, a dashboard and steering wheel. At the rear of the body there is a larger door that lowers down to allow passengers to get in and out via a stepladder that is mounted on the inside, but in the case of the 1:16-scale version this is also the battery compartment door. With the rear door open you can see a set of six rear seats.

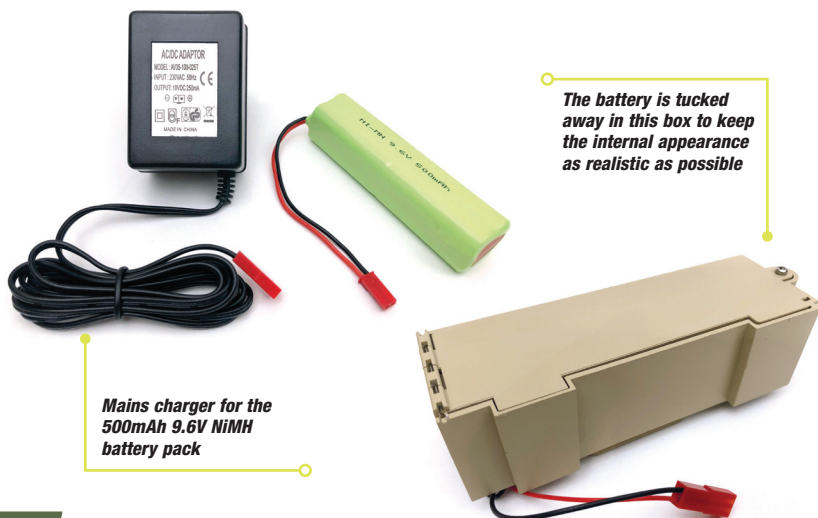
Staying at the rear there are also four jerry cans, a tow hitch, scale rear lights and even an exhaust system with dummy heatshield. The

sides of the body are bristling with detail such as handrails, door mirrors, mudguards and side steps. At the front, a large bumper features a dummy winch, towing eyelets and working lights.

The roof section is when things start to get interesting with a large machine gun nest protruding. This has a fully detailed Browning M2 .50 cal machine gun. There are nine windows that would allow the crew members to see their target in the full-size MaxxPro. Torro has installed a 360-degree motor driven mechanism that is controlled from the left-hand stick on the transmitter that allows the driver to fully control the turret whilst driving. The fun doesn't stop there as by pushing the fire button on the top left-hand side of the transmitter a red LED in the

barrel of the gun starts to flash and a machine gun sound can be heard – a nice scale addition to this fabulous looking model.

The body has lots of small details like rivets, aerials, grilles and a functional roof spotlight to add to the overall look of the MaxxPro MRAP. The body has been finished off in a desert colour scheme with some subtle weathering. There are some plastic detail parts that need to be fixed onto the body with superglue, but these are easy to attach and really add to the overall affect. The wheels have been moulded in a single piece of plastic and like the body have lots of scale detail, wrapped in hard rubber tyres that measure 22mm wide and 70mm in diameter and have a realistic tread pattern.



Mains charger for the 500mAh 9.6V NiMH battery pack

The battery is tucked away in this box to keep the internal appearance as realistic as possible



The battery connector extends out of the box and is easily accessible through the opening rear door

Thanks

We would like to thank Franziska Fendt at Torro GmbH for her help and support with this review.

On Test

The Torro US MaxxPro MRAP is supplied in a ready-to-run format so its super easy to get it up and running. Our battery came fully charged so it was even easier to get this review test underway. As always, we did a few quick checks before driving. The MaxxPro MRAP has a very scale speed and we noticed straightaway how smooth the throttle was and we could drive it slowly with no problems at all. The steering felt positive and the proportional servo really made the difference. The turning circle is still quite large, but is very much to scale. When we applied full throttle the MaxxPro MRAP had a good turn of speed, and slowing it back down was a breeze with the fully proportional brakes. After a short delay reverse is selected and we reversed into a tight area with ease.

Next, we turned our attention to the turret, this works well and has a full 360-degree rotation in both directions. The turret speed was exactly right and really added to the scale driving experience. Once we lined up the gun with our target, we opened fire. The red LED in the tip of the barrel did a great job of simulating muzzle flash and the sound system rung out to complete the effect. It was not long before we were driving around while firing the gun, which was surprisingly very enjoyable. The MaxxPro MRAP cannot handle rough terrain due to its limited suspension, but we can honestly say we had a great time driving it around in a scale manner. We even got a compliment from our teenage son who said it looked really cool - praise indeed! Once we have weathered it a bit more it is going to look even better both when driving and when its parked on the shelf.

Summary

The Torro US MaxxPro MRAP has outstanding detail that would normally be reserved for a static plastic model kit. The fact that this is a fully functioning radio controlled model makes even more of an impression. With such great detail the MaxxPro MRAP is crying out for some more weathering. With only a simple colour wash the detail could be further enhanced. The MaxxPro MRAP is perfect for gently driving around the garden or having on display on the shelf.

SPECIFICATION

Model:	Torro US MaxxPro MRAP
Scale:	1:16
Application:	Fun
Format:	RTR
Power:	Electric
Chassis:	Plastic
Drivetrain:	4WD
Transmission:	Shaft
Differential:	Gear
Shocks:	Springs
Bearings/Bushes:	Bushes

TECHNICAL DATA

Length:	420mm
Width:	195mm
Height:	280mm
Wheelbase:	245mm

WHAT WE USED

Electric Kit	
Transmitter:	Torro 4-channel 2.4GHz stick (kit)
Receiver:	Torro 4-channel 2.4GHz (kit)
Steering:	Torro mini (kit)
Motor:	380-size brushed (kit)
Speed Controller:	Torro (kit)
Battery:	Torro 500mAh 9.6V stick pack (kit)

VERDICT

- Scale detail
Machine gun sound effects
- Some parts are fragile
No scale crew figures

RACER RATING: ★★★★★

CONTACT

Torro GmbH
Website: www.torro-shop.de