

MODEL 5708



SPARTAN™

TRAXXAS®

OWNER'S MANUAL

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The Traxxas Spartan raises the bar for reliable, high-performance RC boating. Never before has there been an R/C boat with 50+mph speed, waterproof electronics, stable handling, and the run-after-run ruggedness you expect from Traxxas—all in a Ready-To-Race® package with stunning, factory-applied graphics. The Spartan is powered by an all-new brushless speed control and motor system developed specifically for high-performance marine use. The long-range TQ 2.4GHz radio system keeps you in control with switch-on-and-drive convenience. Stainless-steel turn fins and trim tabs allow stable, precise handling. The machined-aluminum drive strut and rudder assembly channel brushless power directly into the water for incredible speed, aggressive cornering, and blistering acceleration with a cascading roost that lets everyone know you've got the wildest ride on the water.

Please keep in mind that this boat is not a toy, and is not intended to be used by children without responsible adult supervision. This is due to the inherent dangers that are always associated with any body of water. Please respect the water and use extreme caution when launching and retrieving boats. We're confident that you will enjoy the power, speed, and reliability that the Spartan has to offer.

We know you're excited about getting your new model in the water, but it's very important that you take some time to read through the Owners Manual. This manual contains all the necessary set-up and operating procedures that allow you to unlock the performance and potential that Traxxas engineers designed into your model. **Even if you are an experienced R/C enthusiast, it's important to read and follow the procedures in this manual.**

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 truly want you to enjoy your new model!

Thank you again for going with Traxxas.

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 R/C 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 7 to begin.



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. You may also e-mail customer support with your question at support@Traxxas.com. Join thousands of registered members in our online community at 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 BuyTraxxas.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!

*Toll-free support is available to U.S. residents only.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

All of us at Traxxas want you to safely enjoy your new model. Operate your model sensibly and with care, and it will be exciting, safe, and fun for you and those around you. Failure to operate your model in a safe and responsible manner may result in property damage and serious injury. The precautions outlined in this manual should be strictly followed to help ensure safe operation. You alone must see that the instructions are followed and the precautions are adhered to.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Do not drive your model at night.
- Never, under any circumstances, operate your model in any water where people are swimming or wading. Your model is fast and could cause injury if allowed to collide with anyone. Avoid running in areas reserved for water fowl!
- 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 loss of radio control, always allow a safety margin in all directions around the boat in order to prevent collisions.
- Do not reach underneath the rear of your model. The propeller could spin unexpectedly. Always pick up the boat from the front or the side.
- Because of the many dangers involved with any body of water, Traxxas recommends that you never try to wade or swim to retrieve the boat. Another section in this manual outlines safer, alternative methods for boat retrieval.
- Due to the high-performance nature of the electric motor, it can become **extremely hot** during use. Do not touch the motor when installing and removing battery packs.
- **Most importantly, use good, common sense when you are around the water to avoid mishaps such as slipping on a muddy bank. Always observe water safety rules and regulations.**

SPEED CONTROL

- No Brakes: The VXL-6s Marine speed control is not equipped with brakes and should not be used in land-based vehicles.
- Disconnect the Batteries: Always disconnect the battery packs from the speed control when not in use.
- Transmitter on First: Switch on your transmitter first before plugging in the speed control to prevent runaways and erratic performance.
- Always Water Cooling: A silicone water-cooling jacket has been installed on the motor and the speed control is cooled by water running through the installed tubing. Never operate your model without these cooling systems intact. When operating your boat, be certain a steady stream of water is coming from the water outlet while the boat is running at speed.

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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 under 16 years of age without the supervision of a responsible and knowledgeable adult. Battery choice (see *LiPo Batteries, right*) effects the skill level of the model. See chart below.



Batteries: Two 7-Cell NiMH (Stock)
Voltage*: 16.8V
mAh: 3000+mAh



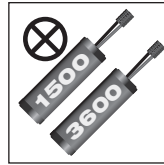
Batteries: Two 2S LiPo
Voltage*: 14.8V
mAh: 5000+mAh



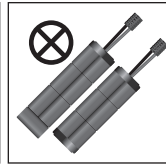
Batteries: Two 3S LiPo
Voltage*: 22.2V
mAh: 5000+mAh

*Nominal

- Use the same batteries: **Do not mix battery types (NiMH or NiCad), brands or capacities. Use the same voltage and capacity for both batteries. Using mismatched battery packs could damage the batteries and speed control.**



Do not mix battery capacities. Use two batteries with the same capacity.



Do not use a 6-cell 7.2V battery in combination with a 7-cell battery 8.4V pack.

- Use Stock Connectors. The Traxxas High Current Connectors installed on your model are the most efficient available and are designed to handle extreme loads. For best performance, do not use adapters or replace the Traxxas connectors with another brand. If you do decide to change the battery connectors, only change one battery or motor connector at a time. This will prevent damage from accidentally mis-wiring the speed control. Please note that modified speed controls can be subject to a rewiring fee when returned for service. **Removing the battery connector on the speed control or using the same-gender connectors on the speed control will void the product's warranty.**
- No Reverse Voltage: The speed control is not protected against reverse polarity voltage. When changing the battery and/or motor, be sure to install the same type of connectors to avoid reverse polarity damage to the speed control. Removing the battery connectors on the speed control or using the same-gender connectors on the speed control will void the product's warranty.
- Insulate the Wires: Always insulate exposed wiring with heat shrink tubing to prevent short circuits.

BATTERIES AND CHARGING

Your model uses rechargeable batteries that must be handled with care for safety and long battery life. Make sure to read and follow all instructions and precautions that were provided with your battery packs and your charger. It is your responsibility to charge and care for your battery packs properly. In addition to your battery and charger instructions, here are some more tips to keep in mind.

- Never leave batteries to charge unattended.
- Remove the batteries from the model while charging.
- Always unplug the batteries from the electronic speed control when the model is not in use and when it is being stored or transported.
- Allow the battery packs to cool off between runs (before charging).
- Children should have responsible adult supervision when charging and handling batteries.
- Do not use battery packs that have been damaged in any way.
- Do not use battery packs that have damaged wiring, exposed wiring, or a damaged connector.

- Only use approved chargers for NiMH battery packs (such as the Traxxas EZ-Peak™ Charger, Part #2930). Do not exceed the maximum charge rate of 4 amps.
- Do not short-circuit the battery pack. This may cause burns and severe damage to the battery pack.
- Do not burn or puncture the batteries. Toxic materials could be released. If eye or skin contact occurs, flush with water.
- Store the battery pack in a dry location, away from heat sources and direct sunlight.
- Nickel Metal Hydride batteries must be recycled or disposed of properly.

Recycling Your Traxxas Power Cell NiMH Battery

Traxxas strongly encourages you to recycle your Power Cell battery when it has reached the end of its useful life. **Do not throw your battery in the trash.** All Power Cell battery packs display the RBRC (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation) icon, indicating they are recyclable. To find a recycling center near you, ask your local hobby dealer or visit www.call2recycle.org.

LiPo Batteries

Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries are becoming popular for use in R/C models due to their compact size, high energy density, and high-current output. However, these types of batteries require special care and handling procedures for long life and safe operation. **Warning:** 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 16 use or handle LiPo battery packs without the supervision of a knowledgeable and responsible adult.**

Your model is able to use LiPo batteries with nominal voltage not to exceed 22.2 volts. LiPo batteries have a minimum safe discharge voltage threshold that should not be exceeded. The Velineon VXL-6s Marine 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 on the speed control is just one part of a comprehensive plan for safe LiPo battery use. **It is critical for you, the user, to follow all other instructions supplied by the battery manufacturer and the charger manufacturer for proper charging, use, and storage of LiPo batteries. Make sure you understand how to use your LiPo batteries.** Be aware that Traxxas shall not be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages arising out of the installation and/or use of LiPo batteries in Traxxas models. **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.

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.

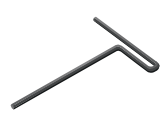
SUPPLIED TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT



Two 10mm motor coupler wrenches



2.5mm "T" wrench



2.0mm "T" wrench



1.5mm "L" wrench



4-way wrench



Spare Prop



Two 7-cell NiMH battery pack with Traxxas High-Current Connector*



Using Other Batteries

Your model is equipped with a state of the art, high-performance power system. It is designed to be able to flow large amounts of power with the least amount of restriction. The benefits are drastically increased speed and acceleration. However, this places extra demands on the battery and electrical system connections. For best performance, your model requires the use of NiMH battery packs that have cells rated for high discharge and use high-quality, low-resistance assembly techniques, such as the included Traxxas Power Cell Battery Pack. Cheaply made battery packs do not retain their performance characteristics after repeated uses in high-powered electric applications. They will lose their punch and run time and may require frequent replacement. In addition, poor-quality, high-resistance cell connectors could fail, requiring disassembly and repair. The main goal is to reduce all sources of high resistance in the pack. This includes the connector, the wire, and the bars attaching the cells together. High pack resistance will create additional heat and rob you of the full power the cells are capable of producing. We recommend using Traxxas Power Cell batteries for best performance.



- 2950 Battery, Series 4 Power Cell, 4200mAh (NiMH, 7-C flat, 8.4V)
- 2951 Battery, Series 4 Power Cell, 4200mAh (NiMH, 7-C hump, 8.4V)
- 2952 Battery, Series 4 Power Cell, 4200mAh (NiMH, 6-C flat, 7.2V)
- 2940 Battery, Series 3 Power Cell, 3300mAh (NiMH, 7-C flat, 8.4V)
- 2941 Battery, Series 3 Power Cell, 3300mAh (NiMH, 7-C hump, 8.4V)
- 2942 Battery, Series 3 Power Cell, 3300mAh (NiMH, 6-C flat, 7.2V)
- 2923 Battery, Power Cell, 3000mAh (NiMH, 7-C flat, 8.4V)
- 2926 Battery, Power Cell, 3000mAh (NiMH, 7-C hump, 8.4V)
- 2922 Battery, Power Cell, 3000mAh (NiMH, 6-C flat, 7.2V)

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

(SOLD SEPARATELY)

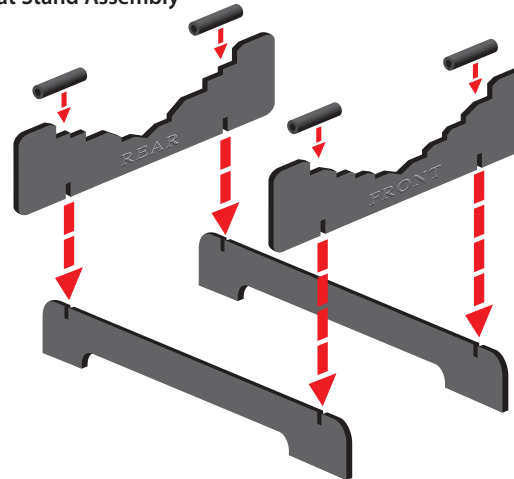


4 AA alkaline batteries



Peak Detecting Charger (Traxxas EZ-Peak recommended)

Boat Stand Assembly



*Battery style is subject to change and may vary from images.

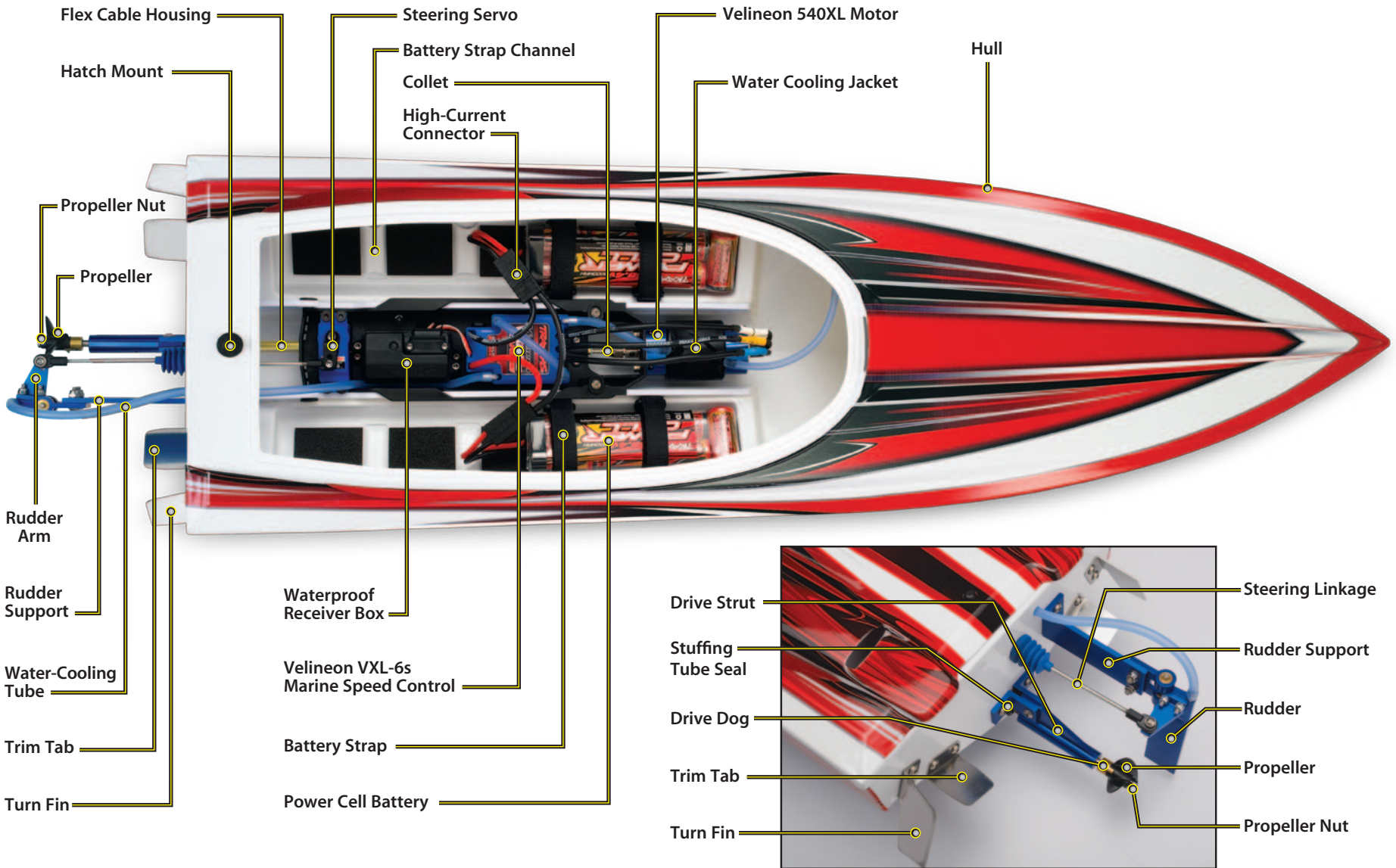


For more information on batteries, see *Use the Right Batteries* on page 11.




- #### Recommended Equipment
- These items are not required for the operation of your model, but are a good idea to include in any R/C toolbox:
- Safety glasses
 - Thin, hobby-quality cyanoacrylate instant tire glue (CA glue)
 - Hobby knife
 - Side cutters and/or needle nose pliers
 - Philips screwdriver
 - Soldering iron

ANATOMY OF THE SPARTAN



QUICK START: GETTING UP TO SPEED

 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. Charge the battery packs • See page 11

Charge your batteries (included) now so they will be ready when you finish the other setup procedures.

2. Install batteries in the transmitter • See page 11

The transmitter requires 4 AA alkaline batteries.

3. Install battery packs in the model • See page 12

4. Turn on the radio system • See page 13

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

5. Check servo operation • See page 14

Make sure the steering servo is working correctly.

6. Range test the radio system • See page 14

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

7. Drive your Spartan • See page 18

Driving tips and adjustments for your Spartan.

8. Maintaining your Spartan • See page 21

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



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.



INTRODUCTION

Your model includes the latest Traxxas TQ 2.4GHz transmitter with Traxxas Link™ technology. The transmitter's easy-to-use design provides instant driving fun for new R/C enthusiasts, and also offers a full compliment 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 functions. The detailed instructions (page 24) and Menu Tree (page 26) included in this manual will help you understand and operate the advanced functions of the new TQ 2.4GHz radio system. For additional information and how-to videos, visit 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 24.

2.4GHz Spread Spectrum – This model is equipped with the latest R/C technology. Unlike AM and FM systems that require frequency crystals and are prone to frequency conflicts, the TQ 2.4GHz 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.

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 Marine 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 that allows extremely high energy density and current handling in a compact size. These are high performance batteries that require special care and handling. 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.

Motor Over-Temperature Detection – The receiver monitors the motor temperature and reduces power to 25% when it detects a temperature that is above the normal operating range. Disconnecting the battery and allowing the motor to cool will reset the system to full power. See page 23 for more information.

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.

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. The VXL-6s Marine electronic speed control is designed for use with sensorless motors.

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 Marine electronic speed control is optimized for smooth sensorless control.

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

Solder Tabs - Accessible, external contacts on the motor that allows for easy wire replacement.

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 Marine 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 TQ 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

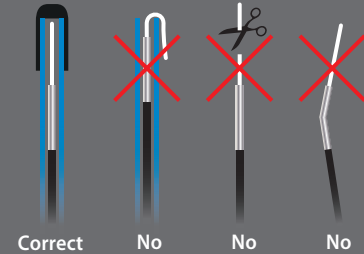
- ☞ For maximum range, always hold the transmitter so the antenna is in a vertical position (pointing straight up). The transmitter's antenna can be swiveled and angled to allow for a vertical position if necessary.



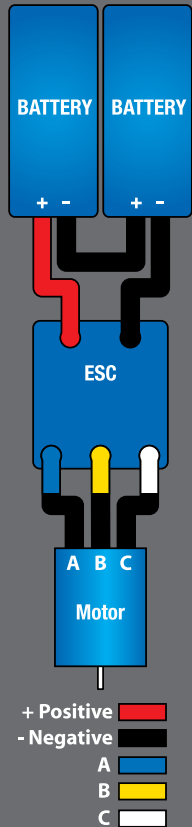
- ☞ Do not kink the receiver's antenna wire. Kinks in the antenna wire will reduce range.
- ☞ DO NOT CUT any part of the receiver's antenna wire. Cutting the antenna will reduce range.
- ☞ Extend the antenna wire in the model as far as possible for maximum range. It is not necessary to extend the antenna 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. Always keep the wire protected (in the antenna tube) to prevent the chance of damage.



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.

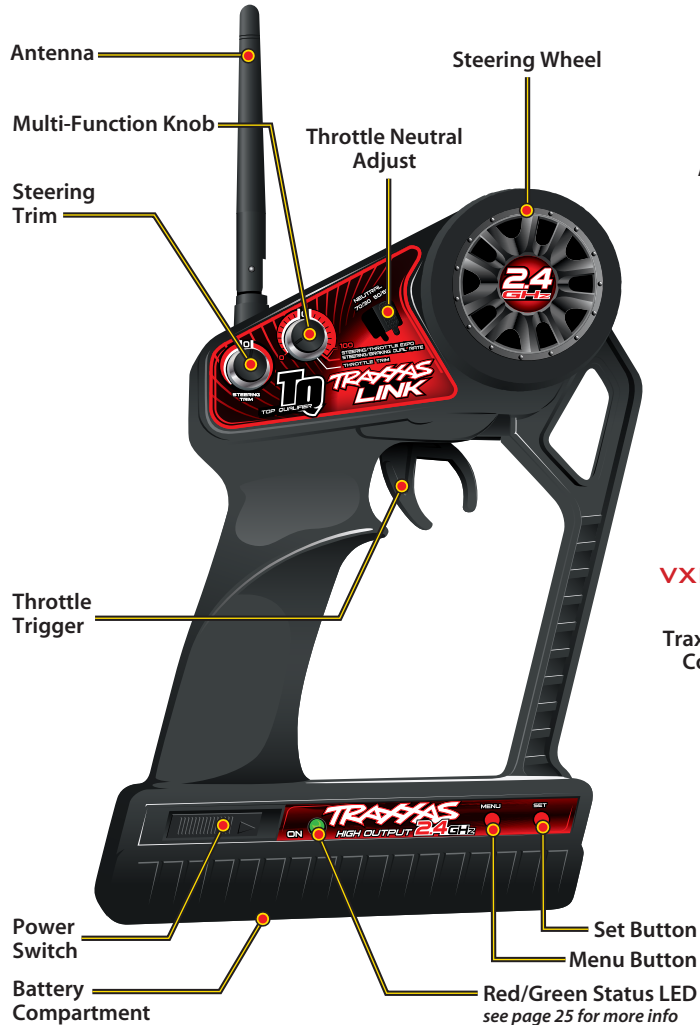


ESC/Motor Wiring Diagram

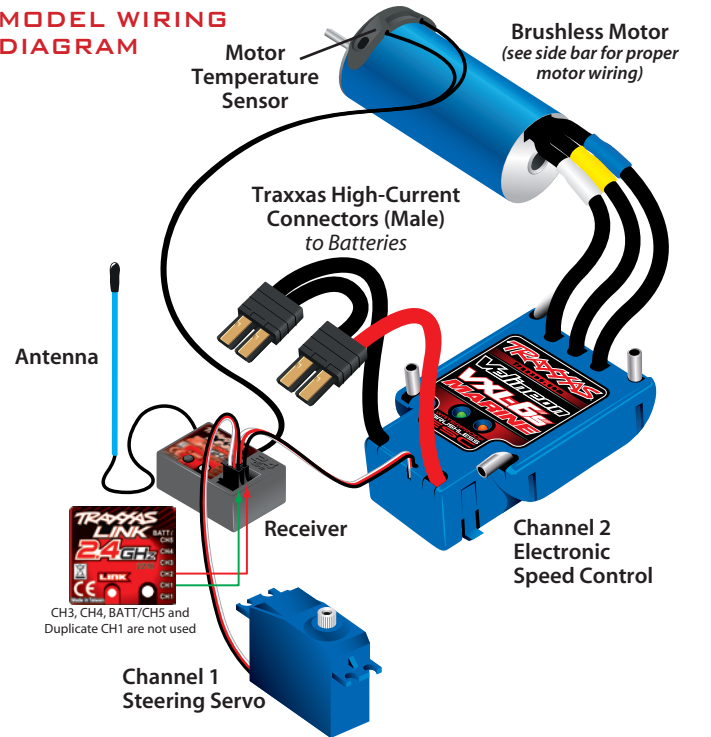


Your model is equipped with the newest Traxxas 2.4 GHz transmitter with Traxxas Link™. The transmitter has two channels for controlling your throttle and steering. The receiver inside the model has 5 output channels. Your model is equipped with one servo and an electronic speed control.

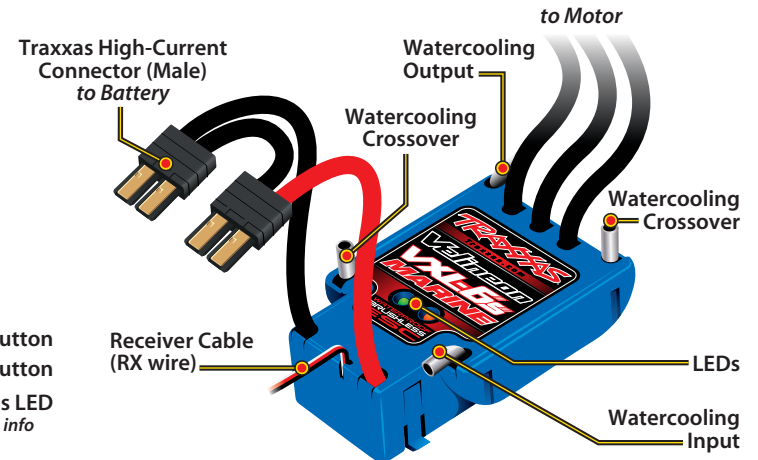
TQ 2.4GHZ TRANSMITTER



MODEL WIRING DIAGRAM

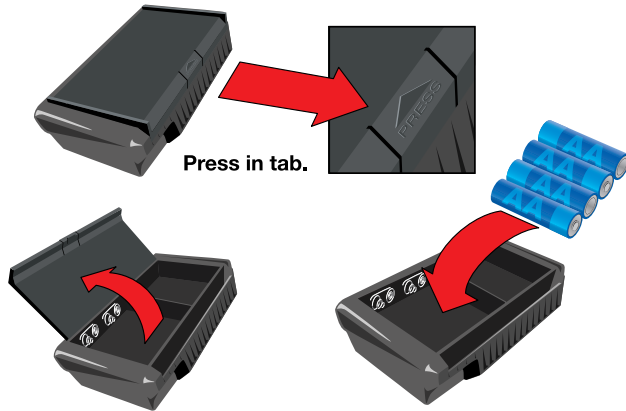


VXL-6s MARINE ELECTRONIC SPEED CONTROL



INSTALLING TRANSMITTER BATTERIES

Your TQ 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 lifting the door up.*
2. Install the batteries in the correct orientation as indicated in the battery compartment.
3. Reinstall the battery door and snap it closed.
4. Turn on the transmitter and check the status indicator 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 or freshly charged batteries. The power indicator light does not indicate the charge level of the battery pack installed in the model. Refer to the Transmitter LED Codes table on page 25 for more information on the transmitter Status LED codes.



*A Quick Reference Guide has been provided for you in the battery compartment of the transmitter. Always store the Quick Reference Guide in your transmitter.

CHARGING THE BATTERY PACKS

The most convenient type of charger for charging the included battery packs is an AC peak-detecting charger that plugs directly into an AC wall outlet, such as the TRX EZ-Peak™ (Part #2930). It contains special peak-detection circuitry that automatically shuts the charger off when the battery is fully charged.

For faster charging, the included batteries may be charged at 4 amps. The TRX EZ-Peak is a 4 amp charger and will charge one included battery in only 45 minutes!

Caution: Never use a 15-minute timed charger to recharge your model's battery packs. Overcharging may result, causing damage to the battery packs.

The Traxxas High Current Connector



Your model is equipped with the patented Traxxas High-Current Connector. Standard connectors restrict current flow and are not capable of delivering the power needed to maximize the output of the Velineon Brushless Power system.

The Traxxas connector's gold-plated terminals with a large contact surface ensure positive current flow with the least amount of resistance. Secure, long-lasting, and easy to grip, the Traxxas connector is engineered to extract all the power your battery has to give.



Use the Right Batteries
Your transmitter uses AA batteries. Use new alkaline batteries, or rechargeable batteries such as NiMH (Nickel Metal Hydride) batteries in your transmitter. Make sure rechargeable batteries are fully charged according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If you use rechargeable batteries in your transmitter, be aware that when they begin to lose their charge, they lose power more quickly than regular alkaline batteries.

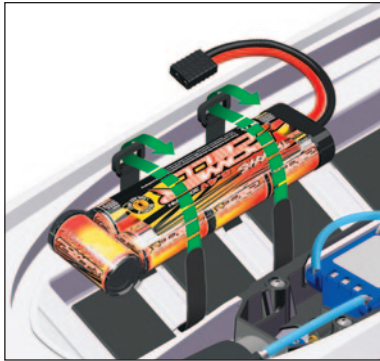
Caution: Discontinue running your model at the first sign of weak batteries (flashing red light on the transmitter) to avoid losing control.



If the power indicator doesn't light green, check the polarity of the batteries. Check rechargeable batteries for a full charge. If you see any other flashing signal from the LED, refer to the chart on page 25 to identify the code.

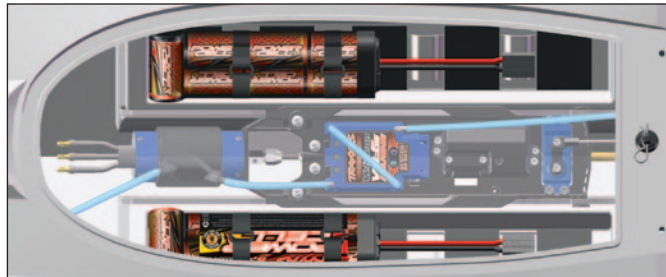
INSTALLING THE BATTERY PACK

Spartan uses hook-and-loop straps to secure the batteries. To install the batteries, simply loosen the straps, slide the battery pack beneath them, and tighten the straps to hold the batteries snugly against the battery tray's foam pads. They should be tight enough to prevent the batteries from sliding, but should not be pulled excessively tight. If you wish to use other positions in the battery tray, simply remove the straps and reinstall them in the additional channels provided. Assemble the straps as shown in the illustration.

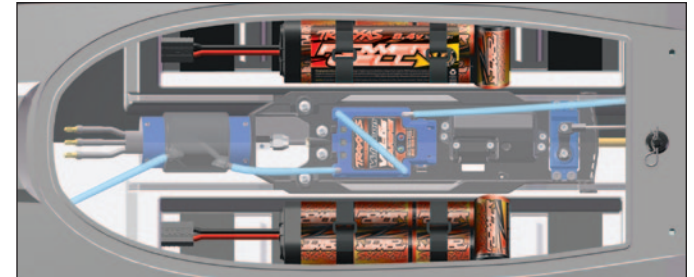


Positioning the Battery Packs

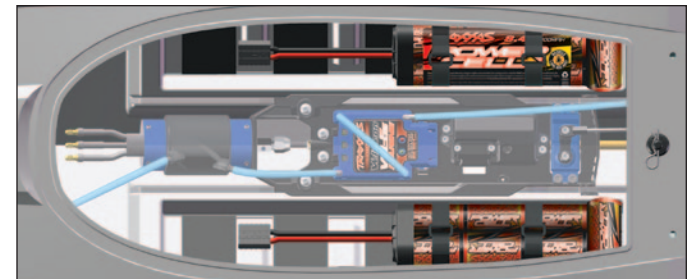
• **Battery Packs Forward:** This is the standard battery position for Spartan. Placing the battery packs at the front of the battery trays will give Spartan the greatest stability in all water and wind conditions. Whether you are using the included Power Cell 7-cell batteries or aftermarket NiMH or LiPo packs, always begin with the batteries in the forward position.



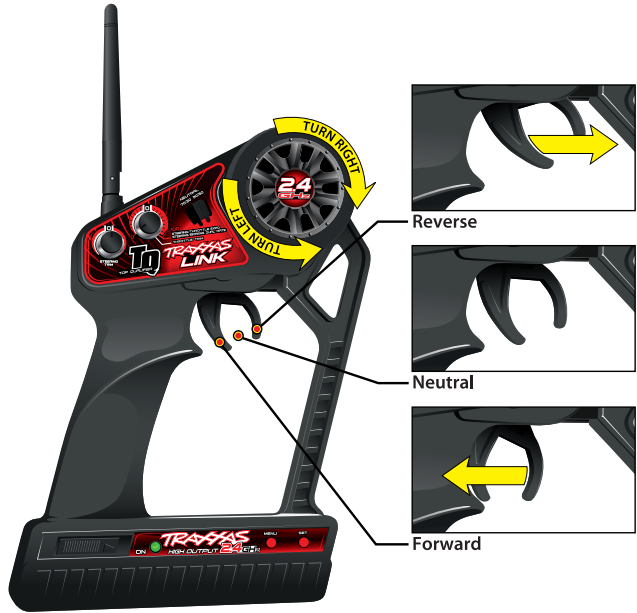
• **Battery Packs Centered:** Smooth water and calm winds may allow you to move the battery packs rearward in the hull to allow the bow to ride higher and increase Spartan's speed. Be aware that positioning the batteries farther aft increases the likelihood of the boat blowing over at speed or becoming unstable.



• **Battery Packs Aft:** Positioning the batteries all the way back in their trays may provide higher top speeds but will also make Spartan more prone to blowing over, spinouts, and instability. Experiment with this position only in very calm conditions, and closely monitor the hull's attitude as you increase speed.



TQ 2.4GHZ RADIO SYSTEM CONTROLS

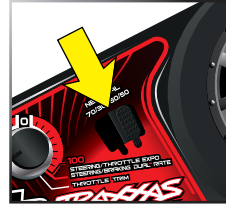


- In order for the transmitter and receiver to bind to one another, the receiver in the model must be turned on within 20 seconds of turning on the transmitter. The transmitter LED will flash fast red indicating a failure to link. If you miss it, simply turn off the transmitter and start over.
- Always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

TQ 2.4GHZ 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%).

Note: We strongly recommend to leave this control in its factory location until you become familiar with all the adjustments and capabilities of your model. To change the throttle neutral adjust position, turn the transmitter off before adjusting the neutral position. You will need to reprogram your electronic speed control to recognize the 70/30 setting. Turn to ESC Setup Programming on page 16 for instructions.

Steering Trim

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



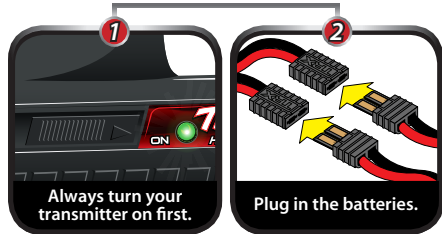
Multi-Function Knob

The Multi-Function knob can be programmed to control a variety of functions. From the factory, the Multi-Function knob controls steering sensitivity, also known as exponential or "expo." When the knob is turned counterclockwise all the way to the left (default position), expo is off and steering sensitivity will be linear (the most commonly used setting). Turning the knob clockwise will "add expo" and decrease the steering sensitivity in the initial range of steering wheel travel left or right from center. For more detail on steering exponential, refer to page 15.



TQ RADIO SYSTEM RULES

- Always turn your TQ 2.4GHz 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 or freshly charged 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.



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

i **Automatic Fail-Safe**
The TQ 2.4GHz 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 Fail-Safe activates while you are operating your model, determine the reason for signal loss and resolve the problem before operating your model again.

! When rechargeable batteries begin to lose their charge, they will fade much faster than alkaline dry cells. 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 THE TQ 2.4GHZ RADIO SYSTEM

The TQ 2.4GHz 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 the included stand. Make sure your hands are clear of the moving parts of the model. **Keep fingers and objects away from the propeller!**
3. Plug the battery packs in the model into the speed control. This turns the speed control on.
4. 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 rear of model, the rudder should be pointing straight back. If the rudder is turned slightly to the left or right, slowly adjust the steering trim control on the transmitter until it is pointing straight back.
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 your adjustments have been made, turn the receiver and the model off by unplugging the batteries, then switch off the receiver. The receiver is always switched off last.



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 watch the model. **Make sure hands and clothing are clear of the propeller and other moving parts on the model.**
3. Make sure your transmitter antenna is fully upright, and then 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 50mph, a model can cover 73 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 midpoint of the model's running area, not the far end, so you drive back and forth 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.

TQ 2.4GHz 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.

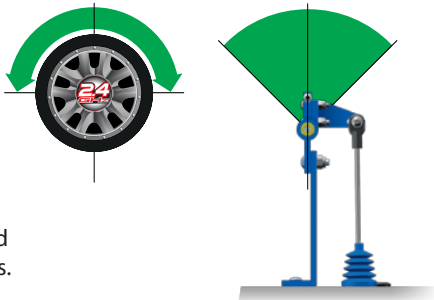
1. Press and hold the transmitter's SET button as you switch transmitter on. The transmitter's LED will flash red slowly.
2. Press and hold the receiver's LINK button as you plug in the speed control.
3. When the transmitter and receiver's LEDs turn solid green, the system is bound and ready for use.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

Steering Sensitivity (Exponential)

The Multi-Function knob on the TQ2.4GHz transmitter has been programmed 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.

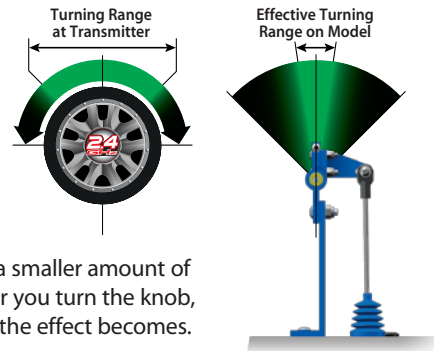
Normal Steering Sensitivity (0% exponential)

In this illustration, the steering servo’s travel (and with it, the steering motion of the model’s rudder) 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 your model at high speeds, or anytime a less aggressive steering feel is desired. The ranges are exaggerated for illustrative purposes.

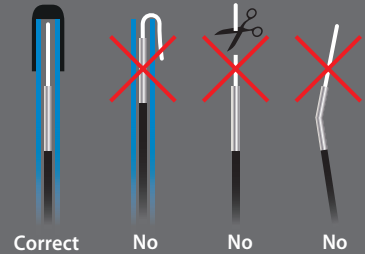
Experiment! Try varying degrees of exponential. It’s easy to go back to “zero” if you don’t like the effect. There’s no wrong way to adjust exponential. Any setting that makes you more comfortable with your model’s handling is the “right setting.”

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 bottom of antenna tube until white tip of antenna is at top of tube under the black cap. Next insert the antenna tube into the mount while making sure that antenna wire is in 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 over tighten. **Do not bend or kink the antenna wire!** See the side bar 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.





Velineon VXL-6s Marine Specifications:

Input voltage:
4.8-25.7V (6 to 18 cells NiMH or 2S to 6S LiPo)

Supported Motors:
Sensorless brushless

Motor limit:
None

Continuous current:
80A

Peak current :
300A

BEC voltage:
6.0V DC

Transistor type:
MOSFET

Battery connector:
Traxxas High-Current Connector

Motor connectors:
TRX 3.5mm bullet connectors

Motor/Battery Wiring:
12-gauge Maxx® Cable

Protection systems:
Low-Voltage Detection;
Over Voltage; Thermal
Overload; Throttle-Neutral
Setting Protection

The VXL-6s Marine speed control is factory set and should not require any adjustments. These instructions are provided for your reference.

VXL-6s Battery Settings (Low-Voltage Detection Setting)

The Velineon VXL-6s Marine electronic speed control is equipped with built-in Low-Voltage Detection. The Low-Voltage Detection circuitry constantly monitors the battery voltage. 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 so you may bring the boat back to shore. When the battery voltage attempts to fall below the minimum threshold, the VXL-6s will shut down all motor output. The LED on the speed control will slowly blink red, indicating a low voltage shutdown. The VXL-6s will stay in the reduced power mode until a fully charged battery is connected.

Your model includes two Power Cell NiMH batteries. The VXL-6s speed control's Low-Voltage Detection has been disabled for best performance with these batteries. The speed control's LED will glow red when it is turned on, indicating Low-Voltage Detection is disabled. **Be certain to activate Low-Voltage Detection if you install LiPo batteries in your model. Never use LiPo batteries while Low-Voltage Detection is disabled.**

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. If the ESC's LED glows red, then the Low-Voltage Detection is DISABLED (not safe to use LiPo batteries). If the LED glows green, then Low-Voltage Detection is ACTIVATED.

To activate Low-Voltage Detection (LiPo setting):

1. Turn on the transmitter and hold the trigger to full reverse.
2. While holding the trigger to full reverse, connect two fully charged batteries to the VXL-6s.
3. Continue to hold reverse. After about ten seconds, the red LED will go out and the green LED will switch on. You will also hear a 'rising' musical tone.

To disable Low-Voltage Detection (NiMH setting):

1. Turn on the transmitter and hold the trigger to full reverse.
2. While holding the trigger to full reverse, connect two fully charged batteries to the VXL-6s.
3. Continue to hold reverse. After about ten seconds, the green LED will go out and the red LED will switch on. You will also hear a 'falling' musical tone.

Transmitter Adjustments for the VXL-6s Marine speed control

Before attempting to program your VXL-6s Marine electronic speed control (ESC), it is important to make sure that your transmitter is properly adjusted (set back to the factory defaults). Otherwise, you may not get the best

performance from your ESC. Follow the steps below if your transmitter is not already adjusted as follows:

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

Setup Programming (Calibrating your ESC and transmitter)

Read through all of the following programming steps before you begin. If you get lost during programming or receive unexpected results, simply unplug the batteries, wait a few seconds, plug the batteries back in, and start over.

1. Place the boat on the included stand. **Always make sure that objects and fingers are clear of the prop.**
2. Turn on the transmitter. Pull and hold the trigger to full throttle.
3. While holding full throttle, connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s Marine ESC. It will turn on automatically.
4. Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two seconds, the ESC will beep once and its red LED will light. The full throttle position is now stored.
5. Move the trigger up to the full reverse position and hold it there. After about two seconds, you will hear two beeps and red LED will blink twice. The reverse throttle position has been stored.
6. Release the trigger so it is at the neutral position. The ESC will beep three times and the red LED will blink three times. After a short pause, the ESC will beep three more times and the LED will blink three times (red, red, green). The speed control is now programmed and ready for use.

VXL-6s Marine Operation

To operate the speed control and test the programming, place the boat on the included stand so the propeller is off the ground. **Always make sure that objects and fingers are clear of the prop.**

1. Turn the transmitter on.
2. Connect two fully charged batteries to the ESC. It will turn on automatically. The ESC will beep three times and blink three times (red, red, green).
3. One LED will glow. If the red LED is glowing, it means Low-Voltage Detection has been switched off for use with NiMH batteries (as included with the Spartan). The green LED will glow when Low-Voltage Detection is enabled, for use with LiPo batteries. **Low-Voltage Detection must be switched on when operating the model with LiPo batteries.** See the Low-Voltage Detection Setting section for more information.
4. Pull the transmitter's trigger toward the grip to apply forward throttle. The LED will go out, then glow at full throttle.



- Return the trigger to neutral and allow the prop to stop. Note that there is no programmed delay when changing from reverse to forward. Use caution to avoid slamming the speed control from reverse to forward and vice versa. This could result in driveline damage.
- Push the trigger away from the grip to apply reverse throttle. The LED will glow out, then glow at full throttle. (Note that reverse throttle is only about 15% of forward throttle. This is normal.)
- To turn the speed control off, unplug the batteries.

Thermal Shutdown Protection

The VXL-6s Marine is equipped with thermal shutdown protection to guard against overheating caused by excessive current flow. If the operating temperature exceeds safe limits, the VXL-6s Marine will automatically shut down and the ESC's red LED will blink. The LED will continuously blink red, even if the throttle trigger is moved back and forth. After the ESC cools down to a safe level, the ESC will once again function normally.

VXL-6s Marine Profile Selection

The speed control is factory set to Profile 1. To change the profile, follow the steps on described below. The speed control should be connected to the receiver and the transmitter should be adjusted as described previously. The profiles are selected by entering the programming mode.

VXL-6s Marine Profile Description:

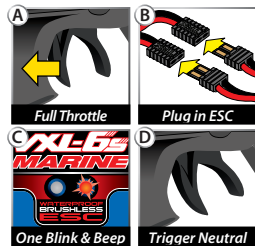
Profile 1 (Sport Mode): 100% Forward, 15% Reverse

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

Profile 3 (Training Mode): 50% Forward, 15% Reverse

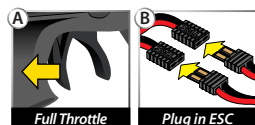
Selecting Sport Mode (Profile 1)

- Place the boat on the included stand and make sure objects and fingers are clear of the propeller.
- Turn on the transmitter. Pull and hold the trigger to full throttle (A).
- While holding full throttle, connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s Marine ESC (B). It will turn on automatically.
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two seconds, the red LED will blink once and the ESC will beep once (C).
- Move the trigger to neutral (D). The ESC is ready for use and is set to Profile 1.



Selecting Race Mode (Profile 2)

- Place the boat on the included stand and make sure objects and fingers are clear of the propeller.
- Turn on the transmitter. Pull and hold the trigger to full throttle (A).

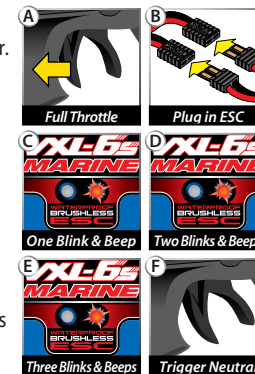


- While holding full throttle, connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s Marine ESC (B). It will turn on automatically.
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two seconds, the red LED will blink and the ESC will beep once (C).
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two more seconds (4 seconds total), the red LED will blink twice and the ESC will beep twice (D).
- Move the trigger to neutral (E). The ESC is ready for use and is set to Profile 2.



Selecting Training Mode (Profile #3)

- Place the boat on the included stand and make sure objects and fingers are clear of the propeller.
- Turn on the transmitter. Pull and hold the trigger to full throttle (A).
- While holding full throttle, connect two fully charged battery packs to the VXL-6s Marine ESC (B). It will turn on automatically.
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two seconds, the red LED will blink and the ESC will beep once (C).
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two more seconds (4 seconds total), the red LED will blink twice and the ESC will beep twice (D).
- Continue to hold the transmitter trigger at full throttle. After about two more seconds (6 seconds total), the red LED will blink three times and the ESC will beep three times (E).
- Move the trigger to neutral (F). The ESC is ready for use and is set to Profile 3.



Over-Voltage Detection

The VXL-6s Marine speed control also detects when too much voltage is being input. If batteries with more than 25.2 volts are connected to the speed control, it will not operate. The red and green LEDs will blink, and an alternating high-low tone will sound. Unplug the batteries and install packs with 25.2 volts or less.

Throttle Neutral Protection

If the transmitter's throttle neutral position is moved after the VXL-6s speed control has been switched off, the speed control will not recognize the new position when it is turned back on and will not operate the throttle. This prevents the boat from running out of control due to an accidental change of the neutral position. If Throttle Neutral Protection detects that the throttle neutral position has changed, the VXL-6s speed control's green LED will blink and it will beep steadily. Return the throttle trim position to neutral to resume normal throttle operation.



Caution! If your model suddenly stops running or runs very slowly, release the throttle immediately! Refer to *Troubleshooting* on page 23 for more information.

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.

- Use extra caution when traveling into the wind and/or against the direction of waves. The added pitch motion caused by driving into cresting waves combined with wind blast tends to lift the boat out of the water further and might cause the boat to blow over backwards.
- If the boat starts getting very light on the water (about to blow over) reduce throttle to settle the hull back into the water.
- Always be ready to reduce the throttle if your model appears to be unstable or "chine walking" (rocking violently from side to side). Make trim tab or weight placement changes to reduce chine walking, as this behavior can cause a crash in rougher water.
- Always reduce the throttle when turning, especially in rough water. Once the boat has begun leaning into the corner increase throttle to maintain speed and keep the bow up.
- Use caution when driving parallel to waves or wind chop. The waves will cause excess rocking and may cause the boat to spin out or crash unexpectedly.
- When traveling at high speeds (40+ mph) be very gentle with control inputs to avoid hooking or flipping the boat.
- Avoid reversing for more than a few seconds at a time. Reversing causes water to rush over the stern of the boat and may cause it to sink.
- Drain the boat after every run. Even though every precaution has been made to keep water out of the hull it may be necessary to drain any ingested water. Excess water in the hull will hurt performance and unbalance the boat.
- Do not leave the boat sitting in the water after each run. Water could enter the boat if the stuffing tube seal is worn.
- Do not operate the boat continuously at low speeds when using LiPo batteries. The ESC and motor could overheat from lack of cooling water flow.
- Remove the prop for transportation to avoid accidentally breaking it.
- Do not lift the boat by grabbing the sides of the hatch opening. This may cause the upper hull to tear. Instead use two hands to lift or handle the boat, grabbing the sides of the hull about 1/3 way up from the back.
- To prevent spin outs, avoid steering sharply at high speed.
- Jumping your model or towing anything with it should not be attempted.
- Return your model to shore at the first sign of weak batteries. Your model will begin to slow and the controls will become sluggish.

Cavitation

If your model is running at full throttle but is only barely moving forward then the propeller is cavitating. Try advancing the throttle slowly to get your model on plane. If you are having trouble with cavitation, check the propellers for nicks or tangled debris. Your model's propellers are specially designed for their application and are very sensitive to any changes or modifications. If a prop is damaged it should be replaced.

Where to Run

Select a body of fresh water, which is calm and free of debris, tree stumps, moss, etc. Do not drive your model in extremely rough, choppy water or in high wind (more than 15 MPH). These conditions could cause your model to flip over. Also, find a clean, stable area of shoreline to launch from. The water must be at least 10-inches deep. Be aware that some ponds restrict the use of model boats. Always choose a launch site which is downwind so that the wind and waves will drift the boat back to you if it should ever become disabled or capsize. **Running your model in salt water is not recommended. Damage from corrosion is not covered by the warranty. Your model is too fast to run in a swimming pool.**

BOAT RETRIEVAL

If your model accidentally flips over and fills with water, it is equipped with foam flotation to help prevent it from sinking. Traxxas does not recommend swimming or wading to retrieve a boat. If you have chosen your launch sight carefully (downwind), your model will probably drift back to you on its own. If there is no wind, you will need a tennis ball and a length of string. Tie the tennis ball securely to one end of the string and then throw the ball over the drifting boat. Pull the ball in and try to entangle the boat in the string. Pull the boat back slowly to shore. If only the bow of the boat remains visible, try using a fishing lure with many hooks and a fishing pole. Try to snag the lip of the upper deck or drive mechanism with the hooks.

RUN TIME

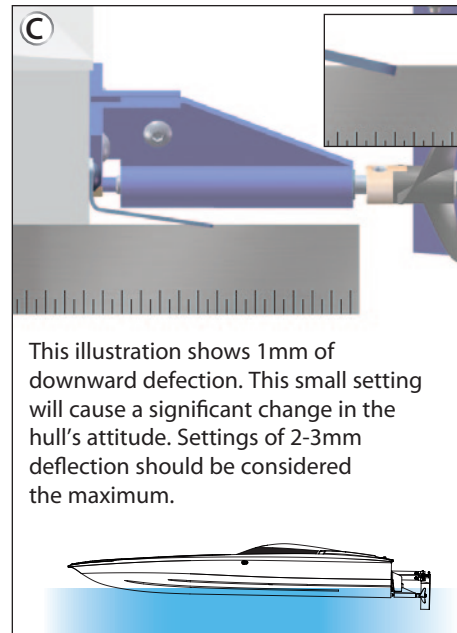
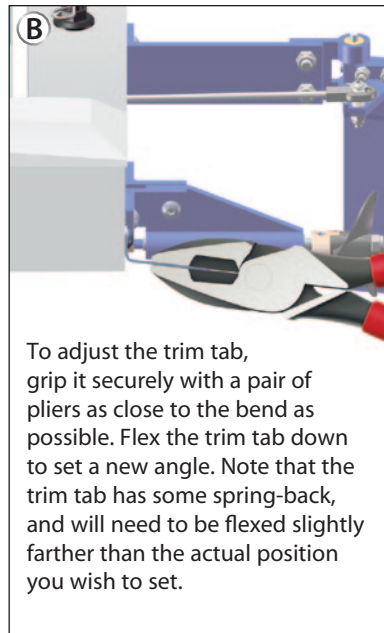
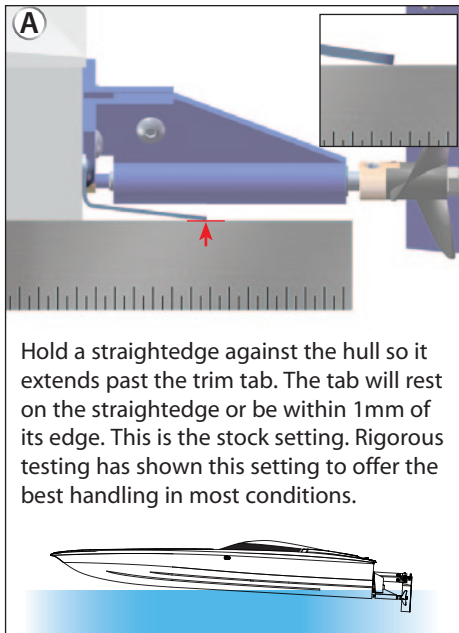
Your model is able to achieve long run times due to the greater efficiency of the high voltage electrical system. A large factor affecting run time is the type and condition of your batteries. The milliamp hour (mAh) rating of the batteries determines how large their "fuel tank" is. A 3000 mAh battery pack will theoretically run twice as long as a 1500 mAh 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 for us to give you exact run times for your model. Another major factor which affects run time is how your model is driven. Our experience has shown that the run times are shorter when the boat is driven continuously at top speed.

Tips for Increasing Run Time

- Use a high-quality peak-detecting charger.
- Discharge the batteries completely after each run.
- Vary your speed. Continuous high speed shortens the run time on your model.
- Maintain your model. Do not allow debris or damaged parts to cause binding in the drivetrain. Keep the motor clean and the motor bearings lightly lubricated.
- Apply the throttle smoothly. Hard acceleration, especially from a stop, will shorten your run time.

Adjusting the Trim Tabs

Spartan features stainless-steel trim tabs to help set the angle of the boat's hull as it rides in the water. Setting the trim angle correctly will provide maximum speed and efficiency from your model. From the factory, the trim tabs are set for best all-around performance and stability at Spartan's maximum speed, but you can experiment with their position to improve performance. Slightly bending the tabs down will cause the bow to run closer to the water, "wetting" more of the hull and increasing stability. Be sure to set the left and right trim tabs equally.



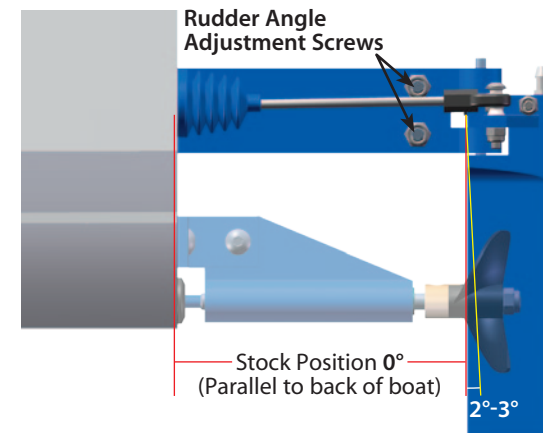
Optional Accessory: Machined Aluminum Trim Adjusters
For the most precise trim adjustments, Spartan can be outfitted with machined aluminum trim adjusters.



These install using the existing trim tab mounting holes, so no drilling is required. Once installed, the adjusters' stainless-steel screws can be used to make fine trim settings. Once Spartan is trimmed to your preference, corrosion-resistant nickel-plated nuts hold the adjustment. Refer to the parts list for more information and accessories.

Adjusting the Rudder Angle

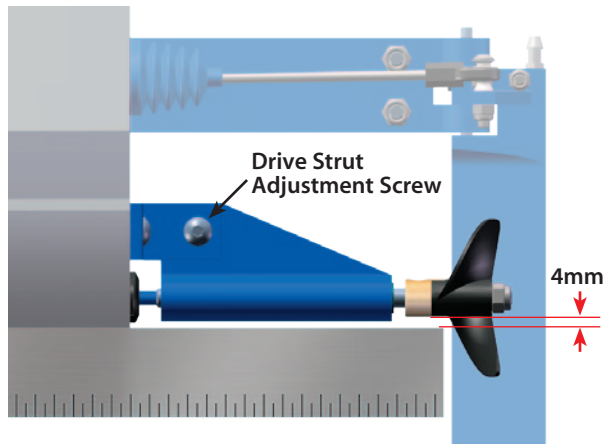
Spartan features an adjustable rudder support that permits the angle of the rudder to be changed to alter the model's cornering feel. The stock setting is 0°, or 'vertical,' meaning the rudder is parallel with the transom (see illustration). By loosening the rudder angle adjustment screws, the rudder can be pivoted back up to 3°. Altering the rudder angle effects how much the rudder 'lifts' the hull while cornering. Increasing the rudder angle will allow the hull to ride higher while cornering, which may potentially raise cornering speeds but also lessens stability. If you experiment with this feature, remember to retighten the adjustment screws after making your setting.



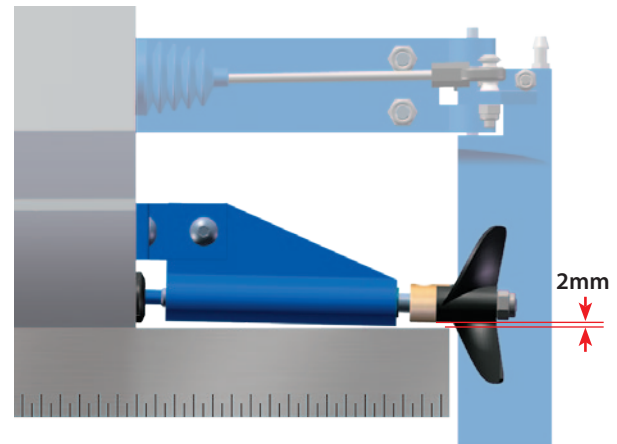
Adjusting the Drive Strut

Spartan has a surface-piercing prop, meaning the prop is not fully submerged when the model is at speed. Varying the depth that the prop is submerged will alter the model's performance. The stock setting is 4mm above the lowest point of the hull. To adjust prop depth, loosen the drive strut adjustment screw and angle the strut down. The minimum setting is approximately 2mm above the bottom of the hull. Submerging more of the prop may increase speed with lower-voltage battery configurations, but amp draw will also be increased (the electronic speed control and batteries will have to 'work harder,' reducing battery life). For maximum performance with most battery configurations and in most conditions, the stock setting is best.

Stock Setting



Minimum Setting



MAINTAINING YOUR MODEL

Your model requires maintenance in order to stay in top running condition. The following procedures should be taken very seriously. Form the habit of visually inspecting the mechanical integrity of the model before and after each run.

Inspect the model for obvious damage or wear:

- Normally, some water will accumulate inside the boat. Empty any standing water out of the boat between runs. Pour any water out the side or back of the boat.
- Check the wiring for any frayed wires or loose connections.
- Check the tightness of the set screws in the collars on the steering linkages, in the propeller. Thread-locking compound can be applied to these screws to prevent them from loosening.
- Check the mounting of the receiver and servo.
- Check the driveshaft seals for damage. Do not attempt to run the model if these seals are damaged in any way.
- Check the tightness of the propeller. Visually inspect the prop for nicks, dings, and warping. Replace if any damage is noticed.
- Check the operation of the radio system, especially the condition of the batteries.
- Visually inspect the hull for any cracks, damage, or possible leaks.
- Drain all water out of the model and thoroughly dry it before you store it. Store the model with the top deck removed so that any remaining moisture will evaporate.

After each run:

- Make certain the motor is completely dry, particularly the bearings.
- Lubricate the motor bearings with the light oil included with your model.
- Release the drive cable from the collet as explained on page 22 and remove the drive cable by pulling the propeller away from the drive strut. Thoroughly dry the drive cable and lubricate it with the light oil included with your model.
- While the drive cable is removed from the model, dry and lubricate the bushings in the drive strut. Apply oil to the exposed bushing faces, and also apply a few drops of oil to the oiling hole in the drive strut. Reinstall the drive cable by reversing the removal steps.
- Keep all of the screws in the drive system tight.

Storage:

- Disconnect and remove all batteries.
- Thoroughly clean and dry the model before storing it.
- Always store the model with the top deck cover removed. This will allow harmful moisture and condensation to evaporate.

Centering your Servo

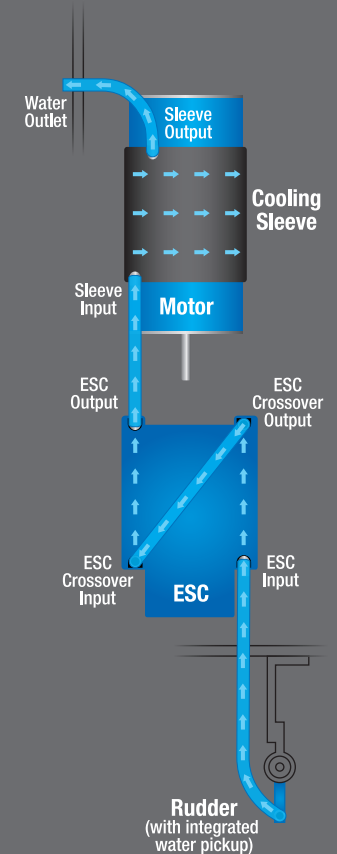
Whenever your radio system has been removed for service or cleaning, the steering servo must be re-centered prior to installing the radio system in the model.

1. If the radio system is already installed in the boat, disconnect the servo horn from the servo.
2. Connect the steering servo to channel 1 on your receiver and the electronic speed control to channel 2.
3. Place fresh "AA" batteries in the transmitter and turn the power switch on.
4. Turn the throttle and steering trim adjustments to the center position.
5. Keep fingers and objects away from the propeller. Connect two fresh battery packs to the electronic speed control. The servo will automatically jump to its center position.
6. The servo horn is now ready to be installed.
7. Be careful not to move the servo shaft when installing the linkages. Readjust the electronic speed control as described in the previous section.



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

Water Cooling Diagram

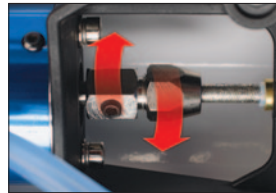


Radio Tray Removal

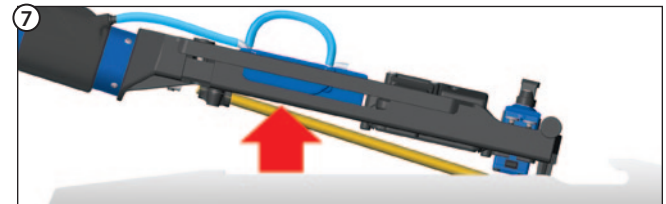
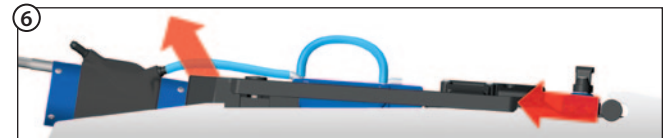
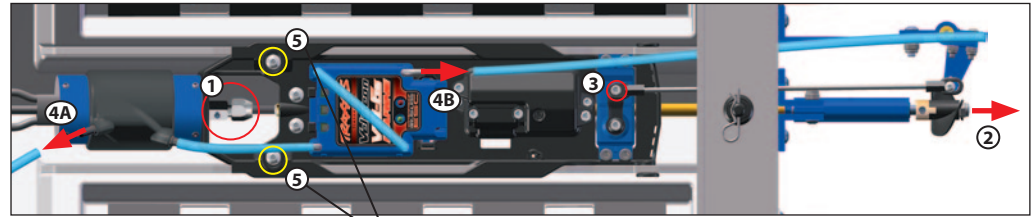
Spartan's unique power module allows you to easily remove the motor, drive system, and electronics as a unit for easy access to the hull interior. With the power module removed, you can easily work on the drive system or electronics without the entire hull taking up your bench space. To remove the power module, follow these steps:

1. Loosen the drive cable collet.

Using the two 10mm wrenches supplied, grip the collet base and collet clamp. Rotate the parts away from each in the direction shown to loosen the clamp. You do not have to fully unthread the collet, it will take less than one full rotation to loosen the clamp.



2. Remove the drive cable. Pull the propeller away from the drive strut. The cable will come out with the propeller. There is no need to remove the prop from the cable.
3. Remove the steering linkage. Use the supplied 2.5mm wrench to unthread the 15mm screw in the servo arm and disengage the steering linkage.
4. Unplug the water cooling outlet tube (A) and inlet tube (B).
5. Loosen the retaining screws. Use the supplied 2.5mm wrench to loosen the screws approximately 5 full turns. It is not necessary to remove these screws, only loosen them.
6. Gently lift the power module from the motor end. If it does not release easily from the hull rails, loosen the retaining screws another turn.
7. Slide the power module forward. Gently pull on the module to slide the tabs out of the slots in the hull rails.



Note: Sometimes the stuffing tube sticks in the seal. Extra force may be required to break it free.

TROUBLESHOOTING

The following section addresses some very basic questions you may have about your model. If you can't find a solution here, you may call Traxxas Customer Service at 1-888-TRAXXAS (U.S. residents only).

If the model stopped suddenly:

- Release the transmitter trigger immediately. Do not try and "force" the model to move. Refer to the *Boat Retrieval* section on page 18 for recovery.

If there is an inconsistent reduction in power:

- There could be something wound around the prop (such as trash, algae or fishing line). If you continue to drive your model with a bound prop, the high load could create excessive heat and seriously damage the batteries, speed control, or motor. Refer to the *Boat Retrieval* section on page 18 for recovery.
- The model might have struck an object in the water causing driveline damage. Refer to the *Boat Retrieval* section on page 18 for recovery.

If there is an immediate reduction in power:

If the model's power output is reduced suddenly, it is likely because the Low-Voltage Detection or Motor Over-Temperature Detection systems have switched on.

- **Low-Voltage Detection** will reduce power output to 50% if low battery voltage is detected. Return the boat to shore immediately to recharge the batteries. The LED on the speed control will slowly blink red, indicating a low voltage shutdown.
- **Motor Over-Temperature Detection** will reduce power to 25% if the motor's temperature exceeds its normal operating range. Drive the model back to shore, the LED on the receiver will flash red, indicating motor over-temperature. Disconnect the battery, and allow the motor to cool. While the motor cools, inspect the model for possible causes of overheating. These may include:
 - Worn motor bearings
 - Driveline binding due to insufficient lubrication or wear
 - Debris wrapped around the prop
 - Plugged or disconnected water-cooling linesFull power will be restored when the motor has cooled and a battery is reconnected to the speed control. Allowing the motor to cool without disconnecting the battery will not restore full power. Always disconnect the battery if Motor Over-Temperature Detection reduces the model's power.
- If you are not sure which of the above conditions occurred, **do not operate the model**. Refer to the *Boat Retrieval* section on page 18 for recovery.

INCREASING PERFORMANCE

While your model is a great performer out of the box, there are steps you can take to increase the speed of the boat.

1. **Adjust the trim tab angle correctly.** The trim tab angle should be trimmed down just enough to keep the bow of the boat from porpoising (bouncing up and down) in the current water conditions. If the trim tabs are set too low, then it pushes the bow lower and increases drag in the water (see page 19).

2. **Maintain your boat.** Your model will be faster if it is kept clean and in good working order. Replace the prop if it gets nicked or damaged. Keep the motor clean and oiled. Make sure the drivetrain turns freely with no binding or excess friction.

3. **Use the best batteries and charger you can afford.** Low-cost, low-capacity battery packs will limit the performance of your model. Likewise, a low-cost charger may not allow your batteries to achieve their peak power and capacity. For best performance, use battery packs rated for 3000mAh or higher. Traxxas Power Cell NiMH packs are specially constructed for durability and performance in high-power Traxxas models. The Traxxas EZ-Peak charger (#2930) is recommended for use with Power Cell NiMH batteries. If you plan to purchase LiPo batteries, consult your local hobby dealer or call 1-888-TRAXXAS for advice on purchasing the appropriate LiPo batteries and LiPo charger for your model.

Using Aftermarket Props

Spartan's included prop has been carefully designed for maximum performance and durability. It does not require sharpening or balancing and is inexpensive to replace if damaged. If you do wish to experiment with aftermarket props, Traxxas recommends using props that range in diameter from 38-42mm, with a pitch-to-diameter ratio of about 1.4:1 (To determine this ratio, divide pitch by diameter. For example, the Spartan's stock prop is 42mm in diameter with a pitch of 59mm. $59 \div 42 = 1.404$). Avoid props larger than 42mm, as these will increase amp draw and reduce performance.

Using Aftermarket Motors and Speed Controls

Important: The Velineon VXL-6s Marine Speed Control and Velineon 540XL motor have been optimized to work together for the absolute best performance, reliability, and efficiency. Using an aftermarket motor with the VXL-6s speed control, or an aftermarket speed control with the Velineon 540XL motor, may result in damage to the Traxxas components and/or aftermarket components. Damage incurred by mixing Traxxas and aftermarket components will not be covered by any expressed or implied warranty. Only use the Velineon VXL-6s Marine speed control with the Velineon 540XL motor.

If you wish to outfit your model with an aftermarket brushless system, you must replace both the motor and the speed control. Traxxas recommends a motor with a kV rating of 1600-1800 kV. Make certain the speed control you choose is compatible with your motor, is designed for marine use, and is waterproof. Water cooling is highly recommended. Additional silicone tubing may be required to properly plumb your speed control's water-cooling system. The Traxxas water-cooling motor jacket is not compatible with all motors. Install an appropriate water-cooling system for the motor you choose. Traxxas is not responsible for damage to your model or the components you install in the model if you replace the Velineon power system with non-Traxxas components. **Note:** The Motor Temperature Sensor may not fit onto aftermarket motors and will not work with an aftermarket receiver.

For the best performance, we highly recommend the Spartan's factory-installed Velineon brushless system. It is optimized for the best performance, reliability, and ease of use in the Spartan and fully supported by Traxxas customer service.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, call Traxxas at

1-888-TRAXXAS

(1-888-872-9927) (U.S. residents only)



Starting Over: Restoring Factory Defaults

When programming your 2.4GHz transmitter, you may feel the need to start over with a clean slate. Follow these simple steps to restore the factory settings:

1. Turn transmitter off.
2. Hold both MENU and SET.
3. Turn transmitter on.
4. Release MENU and SET. The transmitter LED will blink red.
5. Press MENU once. The transmitter LED will blink red twice repeatedly.
6. 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.

Your Traxxas transmitter has a programmable Multi-Function knob that can be set to control various advanced transmitter functions (set to Steering Sensitivity by default, see page 15). 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 26. Experiment with the settings and features to see if they can improve your driving experience.

Throttle Sensitivity (Throttle Exponential)

The Multi-Function knob can be set to control Throttle Sensitivity. Throttle Sensitivity works the same way as Steering Sensitivity as described on page 15, 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 counter-clockwise reduces steering throw (note: turning the dial counter-clockwise 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 tightest turn, thus making the vehicle easier to drive throughout the rest of the course. Reducing steering throw can also be useful in making a car or truck easier to control on high-traction surfaces, and limiting steering output for oval racing where large amounts of steering travel are not required.

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.

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.

Steering and Throttle End Points

The TQ 2.4GHz 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 vehicle) 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.

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.

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.

Braking Percentage

R/C boats do not have brakes, as the natural resistance of the water will slow and stop the boat when the throttle is shut off. However, if you use your TQ 2.4GHz transmitter with a car or truck, you may find the Braking Percentage function useful. When set for Braking Percentage, the Multi-Function knob will control the amount of brake travel applied by the throttle/brake 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 counter-clockwise reduces brake throw (**Note:** Turning the dial counter-clockwise to its stop will eliminate all brake action).

TRAXXAS LINK

Traxxas Link is an exclusive, patent-pending feature of the TQ 2.4GHz 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 feature can store up to twenty models (receivers) in its memory. If you bind a twenty-first receiver, Traxxas Link 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 Traxxas Link 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, there is no need 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 LED will blink red twice repeatedly.
7. Press SET, the LED will blink rapidly green. The memory is now locked. Press MENU and SET 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.

TRANSMITTER LED CODES

LED Color / Pattern	Name	Notes
	Solid green	Normal Driving Mode
	Slow red (0.5 sec on / 0.5 sec off)	Binding
	Flashing fast green (0.1 sec on / 0.15 sec off)	Throttle Trim Seek Mode
	Flashing medium red (0.25 sec on / 0.25 sec off)	Low Battery Alarm
	Flashing fast red (0.125 sec on / 0.125 sec off)	Link Failure / Error
Programming Patterns		
	Counts out number (green or red) then pauses	Current menu position
	Fast green 8 times	Menu setting accepted (on SET)
	Fast red 8 times	Menu SET invalid

RECEIVER LED CODES

LED Color / Pattern	Name	Notes
	Solid green	Normal Driving Mode
	Flashing slow red	Binding
	Flashing medium red	Fail-Safe / Low-Voltage Detect
	Flashing fast red	Motor Over-Temperature Detection



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.

MENU TREE

The menu tree below shows how to navigate through the TQ 2.4GHz 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.

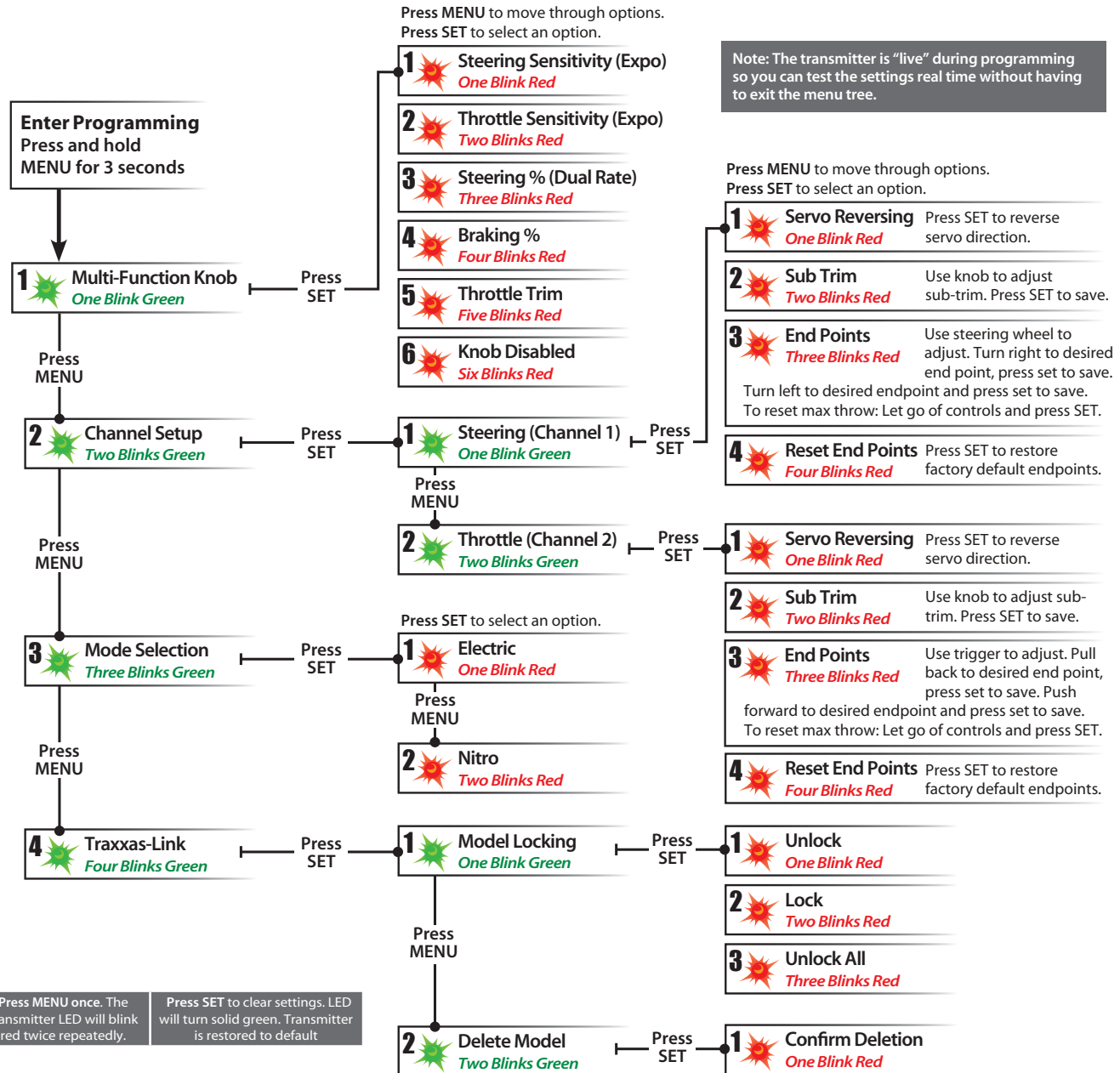
ECHO: Press and hold SET to activate the "echo" function. Echo will "play back" your current position on the Menu Tree, should you lose your place. For example: If your current position is Steering Channel End Points, holding SET will cause the LED to blink green twice, green once, and then red three 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 Dual Rate has been selected.
 4. Press MENU twice. The red LED will blink three times repeatedly to indicate Steering Percentage 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 MENU once. The transmitter LED will blink red twice repeatedly.	Press SET to clear settings. LED will turn solid green. Transmitter is restored to default
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Note: The transmitter is "live" during programming so you can test the settings real time without having to exit the menu tree.

Set Multi-Function knob for STEERING SENSITIVITY (Expo)	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	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	Press MENU to confirm red LED blinks (x2)	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	Press MENU twice red LED blinks (x3)	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	Press MENU 3 times red LED blinks (x4)	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	Press MENU 4 times red LED blinks (x5)	Press SET to select green LED blinks (x8)	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode	Adjust the Multi-Function knob until the LED turns solid green.				
To LOCK the Multi-Function knob	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU 5 times red LED blinks (x6)	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	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	Press SET to reverse servo direction	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode				
To set the SUB TRIM of the STEERING servo	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU red LED blinks (x2)	Use Multi-Function knob to set neutral	Press SET to save position	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode		
To set the END POINTS of the STEERING servo	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU twice red LED blinks (x3)	Turn steering wheel to desired max left and right travel	Press SET to save each position	Turn steering wheel to test settings	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
To reset the END POINTS of STEERING servo to defaults	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU 3 times red LED blinks (x4)	Press SET to reset end points	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode			
To REVERSE the direction of THROTTLE servo	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET red LED blinks	Press SET to reverse servo direction	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode			
To set the SUB TRIM of the THROTTLE servo	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU red LED blinks (x2)	Use Multi-Function knob to set neutral	Press SET to save position	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode	
To set the END POINTS of the THROTTLE servo	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU twice red LED blinks (x3)	Use throttle trigger to set desired max throttle or brake	Press SET to save Use trigger to test	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
To reset the END POINTS of THROTTLE servo to defaults	Press/hold MENU green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET green LED blinks	Press MENU green LED blinks (x2)	Press SET red LED blinks	Press MENU 3 times red LED blinks (x4)	Press SET green LED blinks (x8)	Press/hold MENU returns to driving mode		

MENU TREE FORMULAS

To select functions and make adjustments to the TQ 2.4GHz 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.



Always turn your transmitter on first.



SPARTAN™

OWNER'S MANUAL

MODEL 5708

TRAXXAS®

1100 KLEIN ROAD, PLANO TEXAS 75074

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