

# RC Tank Recommendations

## Dec-2022

**NOTE: FRAG uses the Tamiya Infra Red battle system for its games "TBU". Whatever tank you use must be compatible with the TBU.**

Type RC tank to buy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: Any Tamiya "kit" or one that has already been built.  
German: Tiger 1, Panther or Pz 4 (not KT or JP)  
American: Pershing, then Sherman (this gun is a 105 mm Howitzer type and not truly a tank vs tank type gun, but still performs OK)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: These come ready to run "RTR" and do not require a lot of assembly: Taigen Tanks...either metal & plastic or all metal. Try to get the 7.0 vrs bc it will interface with the TBU. If you can't, then choose Airsoft not IR type because it's cheaper and you need to change out the electronics package to something that will be compatible with the TBU. See choices below. Be sure you get steel gearboxes, metal suspension and running gear, and metal tracks.

Other choices: Mato or Torro/Matorro.....get the 7.0 vrs or apply same comments above about converting the electronics package for compatibility.

Last Choice: Heng Long (HL)...not the greatest quality control but looks OK. Get the 7.0 vrs for compatibility to the TBU.

IR System:

Note: FRAG has modified the Tamiya system by installing a \$1 plastic "restrictor" in the barrel of the tank and placing the IR emitter in the barrel and removing the flash unit. This gives a hit zone of "6-9" radii at 30 feet, so you have to aim accurately. The TBU is factory set up to have 10' kill radii at 30 feet and thus you can hit multiple tanks with one shot.....not very realistic.....makes games too short.

Electronics:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: Tamiya MF and DMD units are very reliable but the combined prices can run to \$300-400 (sometimes on eBay for half this price range). However the IBU2 Ultimate runs around \$180 and performs the same as Tamiya, and has a lot more options to program into the circuitry.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: Clark TK Board @ \$90...comes preprogrammed for all different tank sounds and will accept a TBU plug but all the various functions are set to different stick positions on transmitter, which gets very confusing and hard to operate.

Other Choices: Elmod, David's Battle Unit and Mako Adaptors.

Radios:

- Note: Most tanks come with a 2.4 GHz radio now days which has a floating frequency and ID tied to each tank, up to 10 tanks.
- Tamiya: Works with a 75 MHz or 2.4 GHz radio, just requires the specific receiver to go with the transmitter.....both on the same frequency.

I like Futaba Skysport 75 MHz radios...used ones are \$25 from eBay  
Conversion: FRAG likes to convert each radio so it has a push button on the back for the cannon and for the MG, otherwise you have to move the stick and a trim tab to fire....which takes time and concentration away from the field of battle. We have not yet done this with 2.4 GHz radios, only the 75 MHz ones.

Paint: Tamiya Armor colors, Model Masters armor colors, and Krylon spray paints are used mostly. Paints come in spray cans and bottles....your choice is acrylic or enamel.....I prefer enamels.

Glue: I use ACC from Balsa USA "Gold CA"....Thick gap filling #A705 and Quik-Shot accelerator spray #709 800-225-7287 I also use 5 min epoxies and Testor's plastic cement.

Tools: You will need a variety of screw drivers, pliers, Xacto knives, small files, mini saws, paint brushes, thinners, and a lot more ....if you get serious about the hobby.

Batteries: RC tanks run on 7.2 volt currents. Most RTR tanks will come with a battery charger, but if not then this also something you will need. If you use Lipo batteries, they will require a different type charger than NiMh or NiCd batteries. Lipo batteries also require extra care not to deplete the charge below the cut off level or they can overheat and cause a fire. It is always safer to use a low voltage indicator with Lipo batteries (cheap ones can be found on Amazon).