NO HALF MEASURES

The Hyper 8 gets a makeover to give the 8.5, a race-ready competition rallycross buggy loaded with all the options

When the name HoBao is mentioned, the name is normally associated with rallycross buggies. This was, and indeed still is the area where the Far Eastern manufacturer is most prominent. Firstly with the Hyper 7 and latterly the Hyper 8. They are not just a manufacturer of high-end competition buggies though, their range centres on nitro but also includes on-road chassis and truggies, filtering down their race-bred knowledge into an excellent and well-priced range of Ready-To-Run cars too.

But here we are focused squarely on the competition market with the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK, a top of the line rallycross buggy that has recently tasted success in the hands of Robert Batlle, winning the EFRA Rallycross European Championships at the time of the cars announcement and launch, a fine debut by anyone’s standards.

THE EXTRA POINT FIVE

Firstly, we have to recognise that the Hyper 8.5 is not a wholly new buggy from HoBao. What it represents is a substantial overhaul of the Hyper 8 platform, incorporating all the development and option parts used by the team drivers to improve the Hyper 8, hence the additional .5 designation rather than moving onto a Hyper 9, which would be a whole new buggy altogether. This means that you get a factory race ready buggy with the Hyper 8.5 incorporating all the lessons learned over it’s predecessors lifetime with the Pro UK version here being further optimised for racing over on these shores.

Rather than going over the buggy in its entirety, we’ll go through this review giving you the fundamental differences between the Hyper 8 and 8.5, showing where and how the improvements have been made. To give a brief overview, the Hyper 8.5 uses a four-wheel-drive transmission system complete with three differentials, alloy chassis and features the conventional layout and double wishbone suspension layout that has become the industry standard for rallycross buggies. This could be used to describe virtually any rallycross racer on the market so let’s move on and see where the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK aims to gain the advantage.

SLIP IN SOME EXTRA LENGTH

Out of the box, the Hyper 8.5 comes almost as a race roller, the main chassis is built leaving the owner to build the shocks, paint the body and install their choice of radio and engine. The Hyper 8.5’s changes start immediately with a new chassis plate. This hard anodised, 3mm thick 7075 aluminium plate has an extra 2mm added to the front and rear sections, making for a longer chassis and wheelbase to keep the 8.5 more stable over rough tracks. The chassis, when combined with it’s machined alloy lower centre diff mount brace along with the front and rear braces it provides a very solid platform for the suspension to work from. The machined alloy braces are very nicely finished too and whilst the rear one is conventional and comes from the top of the rear gearbox down to the chassis, the front one comes off the top carbon fibre radio plate and attaches to the top steering.
HOBABO HYPER 8.5 PRO UK

ON TEST

Seeing all the test pieces for running the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK ever since, the Horizon Trex FM radio is...
The rallycross marketplace is, without a doubt, the most competitive sector in RC racing at the moment. There is simply so much choice when it comes to manufacturers that to get your hard earned cash spent on a new buggy, it has to offer something special as well as boast proven performance. To our mind, the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK succeeds on both counts. HoBao Hyper’s have always been popular on the rallycross scene and this new version looks to continue the trend, and with good reason. The Hyper 8.5 Pro UK offers a proven package, witness Battle’s Euros win, and includes such a high specification along with option parts in the box that makes it a prime pick for your next rallycross ride especially at its highly competitive price.

**SPECIFICATION**

**Model:** HoBao Hyper 8.5 Pro UK

**Scale:** 1:8

**Class:** Off-road

**Application:** Competition

**Format:** Part built

**Power:** Nitro

**Chassis:** Alloy

**Drivetrain:** 4WD

**Transmission:** Shaft

**Differentials:** Gear

**Shocks:** Oil filled

**Bearings/Bushes:** Bearings

**TECHNICAL DATA**

- **Length:** 520mm
- **Width:** 304mm
- **Height:** 188mm
- **Wheelbase:** 325mm
- **Front Track:** 304mm
- **Rear Track:** 303mm
- **Weight:** 3610g

**OPTIONS INCLUDED**

The Hyper 8.5 Pro UK is already a comprehensive package but there is more lurking in the box to help you get the best out of the buggy and tune it to your requirements and track conditions. In addition to the massive amount of adjustment already available on the chassis, you also get an alternative aluminium rear wishbone pivot complete with inserts to adjust rear toe-in, all five anti-roll bar sets available for the car and different blocks to change the castor on the front end. This does make the options list somewhat sparse for the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK but it does also mean that all is needed comes in one box.

**VERDICT**

- Extremely high specification
- Proven performance – Euros winner
- Additional tuning items included
- Bodyshell design
- Alignment of the tuned pipe exit with the bodyshell/sideguard

**Racer Rating** ★★★★★

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**SUMMARY**

The rallycross marketplace is, without a doubt, the most competitive sector in RC racing at the moment. There is simply so much choice when it comes to manufacturers that to get your hard earned cash spent on a new buggy, it has to offer something special as well as boast proven performance. To our mind, the Hyper 8.5 Pro UK succeeds on both counts. HoBao Hyper’s have always been popular on the rallycross scene and this new version looks to continue the trend, and with good reason.