

## Turbo Vee 3™

**RTR**  
READY-TO-RUN



### ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION MANUAL

#### WARRANTY

- Tower Hobbies® will warrant this kit for 90 days after the purchase from defects in materials or workmanship. Tower Hobbies will either repair or replace, at no charge, the incorrectly made part.
- Make sure you save the receipt or invoice you were given when you purchased your model! It is your proof of purchase and we must see it before we can honor the warranty.
- To return your Tower Turbo Vee 3 for repairs covered under warranty you should send your boat to:

Hobby Services  
3002 N. Apollo Drive Suite 1  
Champaign, Illinois 61822  
Attn: Service Department  
Phone: (217) 398-0007 9:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time M-F  
E-mail: [hobbyservices@hobbico.com](mailto:hobbyservices@hobbico.com)  
[www.hobbyservices.com](http://www.hobbyservices.com)

**THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING THE TOWER HOBBIES TURBO VEE 3 ELECTRIC BOAT! THIS MANUAL CONTAINS THE INSTRUCTIONS YOU NEED TO SAFELY BUILD, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN YOUR TURBO VEE 3. READ THIS MANUAL THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPERATING THE TURBO VEE 3.**

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Adult supervision is strongly recommended! **Children should be warned** about the dangers of playing in close proximity to water.
- Do not attempt to charge battery packs in the immediate vicinity of swimming pools, lakes, rivers, oceans, inland seas, etc. Above all, **NEVER ATTEMPT TO OPERATE A CHARGER IF YOU, THE CHARGER, OR THE BATTERY PACK ARE WET.**
- **Always** remove the battery pack from the boat before recharging.
- This boat is controlled by radio signals, which are susceptible to possible interference from other R/C transmitters, paging systems, or other electrical noise. **Before turning your radio transmitter and receiver (boat) on**, make sure no one else in the area is operating a radio on the same frequency (channel).
- Do not touch the propeller anytime the electronics are turned "ON". **Pay close attention** to items such as loose clothing, shirtsleeves, ties, scarves, long hair or any loose objects that may come in contact with the spinning propeller. If your fingers, hands, etc. come in contact with the spinning propeller, you may be severely injured.
- The speed and mass of this boat can inflict property damage and severe personal injury if a collision occurs. **Never run this boat in the presence of swimmers** or where the possibility of collision with people or property exists.
- Electric motors can generate considerable heat. **Do not touch any part of your motor** until it has cooled. Touching the motor immediately after running the boat may result in a serious burn.

If the buyer is not prepared to accept the liability associated with the use of this product, the buyer is advised to return this kit immediately in new and unused condition to the place of purchase.

## REPAIR SERVICE

Repair service is available anytime.

After the 90-day warranty, you can still have your Turbo Vee 3 repaired for a small charge by the experts at Tower's authorized repair facility, **Hobby Services**, at the address listed on the front page of this manual.

To speed up the repair process, please follow the instructions below.

1. Under all circumstances return the **ENTIRE** system. This includes the boat and radio.
2. Make sure **all batteries are removed from the boat and radio!**
3. Send written instructions, which include a list of all items returned, a **THOROUGH** explanation of the problem, the service needed and your phone number during the day. If you expect the repair to be covered under warranty, **be sure to include a proof-of-purchase date.**
4. Be sure to send your **full return address.**

## SPECIFICATION & DESCRIPTION CHANGES

All pictures, descriptions, and specifications found in this instruction manual are subject to change without notice. Tower Hobbies maintains no responsibility for inadvertent errors in this manual.

## ITEMS REQUIRED FOR COMPLETION

- TOWC1030 Tower 7.2 volt 1500mAh NiCd battery pack
- TOWP0100 Tower Model 400 AC/DC Auto-Charger
- Eight (8) "AA" batteries (for the transmitter)

## TOOL BOX ITEMS YOU MAY NEED

- Phillips screwdriver
- 1.5mm Hex Driver
- 4mm socket or wrench
- Paper towels
- Spray-on glass cleaner
- Hook & Loop Material
- Hobby Knife (TOWR1010)
- Electrical tape

## FINAL ASSEMBLY

### Decals

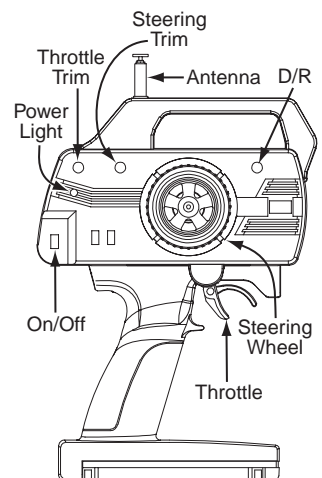
- 1. Carefully remove your Turbo Vee 3 from the box and place it atop the included boat stand. Remove all remaining components from the box. **You may wish to keep the box in order to more easily transport and store your Turbo Vee 3.**
- 2. Decals have been provided for your Turbo Vee 3. Simply cut them out, peel, and stick! See the box for decal placement.

### Transmitter Assembly

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The transmitter is not water resistant and should never come in contact with water.

- 1. Remove the transmitter antenna from the parts bag and screw it into the top of the transmitter. To ensure that the antenna is attached, lightly pull on the base of the antenna. If it slides out, it is not installed properly.

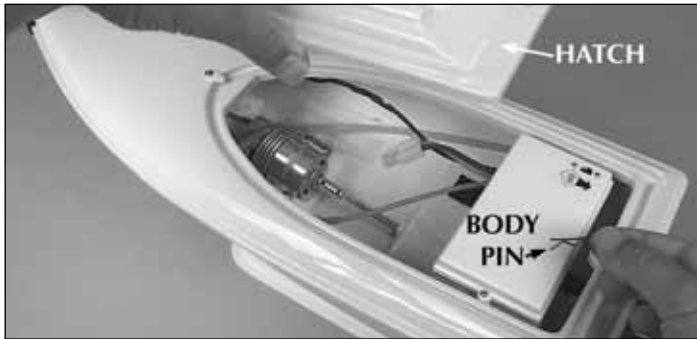
- 2. Slide off the battery door on the bottom of the transmitter. Install 8 fresh "AA" batteries into the bottom of the transmitter in the configuration molded into the battery holder. Re-install the battery door onto the bottom of the transmitter.



○ 3. Turn the transmitter on using the switch on the front. The LED light next to the on/off switch should light up green. If the LED begins flashing, turn the transmitter off and check to make sure that the batteries are installed properly. **If you see a red LED, the batteries are low and need to be replaced.**

### Installation of Battery Pack

- **Never leave a charger and battery pack unattended while charging.**
- **Use only 6-7 cell hobby battery packs with the Turbo Vee 3.**
- **Charge battery packs only after they have been fully discharged.**



○ 1. Remove the body pin toward the rear of the hatch cover and carefully lift the hatch away from the hull.



○ 2. Plug a fully charged battery pack into the speed control's battery connector and position the pack as shown. **Do not force them together**; they are designed to fit together only one way. **Use the included hook and loop material to hold the battery pack in place.**

○ 3. Replace the hatch and body pin.

## RUNNING THE TURBO VEE 3

### Check the Radio System

- Standing behind the boat with both the boat and transmitter powered up, rotate the transmitter's steering wheel to the left. The back of the rudder will move towards the left. Move the wheel to the right. The back of the rudder will move towards the right.
- Squeeze the trigger on the transmitter; this should activate the propeller in a counter-clockwise motion. Conversely, moving the trigger forward should start the propeller moving clockwise, this is the reverse function.
- The adjustable steering rate knob (labeled D/R) located atop the transmitter (see page 2) is the steering rate adjustment. Turning the knob to the right increases the amount of travel of the rudder while turning it to the left decreases the rudder amount of travel. Beginners may want less amount of travel to start with.

### Please Read Before Running the Turbo Vee 3

- **Never threaten any wildlife with your Turbo Vee 3!** This is the quickest way to get model boating banned from your favorite local pond.
- **NEVER** attempt to swim after a stalled or capsized boat! Wait patiently for the wind currents to return the boat to shore or use a tennis ball attached to the end of a fishing rod to retrieve a stalled or capsized boat.
- **CAUTION:** Windy conditions cause rough water that will affect the performance of your Turbo Vee 3 and increase the chances of capsizing.
- R/C models produce vibrations which *will* cause screws, nuts, bolts, etc, on your model to become loose over time. **It is important to make sure that all hardware is secure** before operating your model.
- **The edges of the propeller are very sharp and can cut your fingers** if you are not careful. At no time should you ever attempt to stop the prop with your hand. In the event that weeds become entangled in the propeller, turn the Turbo Vee 3's power "OFF" before attempting to remove them.
- **CAUTION:** Your Turbo Vee 3 may take on small amounts of water, especially when running in rough water due to high winds or when making tight turns. Keep a roll of paper towels handy and dry out the hull interior after every run.
- Total run time of the Turbo Vee 3 is approximately 6-10 minutes (assuming you begin with a fully charged battery pack). When you notice a decrease in power or sluggish steering response, it means the battery pack is nearly drained and it's time to head for shore. As soon as the boat reaches shore, turn off the power to the boat's receiver and transmitter (in that order).
- **CAUTION: The motor and battery may be hot!** Allow them to cool for a few minutes before attempting to remove the battery pack.
- **After you are done running for the day**, store your Turbo Vee 3 with the hatch open to allow the interior to dry out completely. If you fail to do this, it may result in corrosion of the electronic components.

- **IMPORTANT:** If, for whatever reason, your boat takes on a large amount of water causing the radio equipment to get wet, you must do the following immediately: Remove the battery pack and radio equipment from the boat. Allow the components to air dry completely before reassembling. Re-install the components and check for proper operation before running the boat in water.
- It is dangerous to operate any R/C vehicle at any time that there is not sufficient light.

### Launch Procedure

1. Turn the power "ON" to the transmitter and then the boat (in that order) and gently extend the transmitter antenna until it is fully extended.
2. Gently place the boat in water that is at least 8" deep and free of obstacles (weeds, rocks, sticks, ducks, muskrats, etc.).
3. Slowly advance the throttle to full speed and note if the boat has a tendency to turn right or left. Adjust the steering trim knob on your transmitter until the boat runs in a straight line when the steering wheel is at neutral.
4. When finished running, be sure to turn the power "OFF" to your boat and transmitter (in that order).

#### IF THE BOAT QUILTS:

If your Turbo Vee 3 should happen to capsize or quit, water currents will slowly carry it to shore. It is advisable to keep things like wind direction and size of the lake in mind when surveying areas to run your Turbo Vee 3. Do not run your boat on free-flowing bodies of water such as rivers or creeks.

If you run in salt water, you must rinse the exterior of the boat thoroughly with fresh water. Get rid of any water that enters the motor compartment or radio box, and flush out the motor with motor spray.

### Helpful Tip

Use a fishing rod with at least 12lb. line and a tennis ball tied to the end to retrieve a stalled boat.

## ORDERING REPLACEMENT PARTS

To order replacement parts for the Turbo Vee 3, use the following order numbers. Replacement parts are available only as listed and can be purchased from Tower Hobbies.

#### Replacement Parts List:

Order #	Item	Description:
TOWB4590	Prop Set	(2) Props, (2) Washers, (1) Nut, (1) Lock Nut.
TOWB4595	Prop Shaft Set	(1) Shaft, (1) Brass Tube, (1) Coupler, (2) Set Screws.
TOWB4650	Rudder Set	Rudder, Rudder Mount, Rudder Horn with Hardware.
TOWB4800	Trim Tabs	(1) Left and (1) Right Trim Tab with Hardware.

## MAINTENANCE

It is important to periodically (every 10-15 battery packs) remove the drive shaft and re-lube with a thin coat of petroleum jelly or light grease. This procedure will require a 1.5mm hex driver and a #1 Phillips screwdriver. **Make sure that power to the boat is "OFF" during this procedure.**



- 1. Use a #1 Phillips screwdriver to remove the 3x8mm rudder horn screw and pull the rudder away from the hull.



- 2. Use a 1.5mm hex driver to loosen the 3x3mm set screw located toward the rear of the drive coupler assembly. Pull the shaft out as shown.

- 3. After applying lubricant to the shaft, re-insert the shaft into the drive tube and rotate it while slowly pushing it back into place.

- 4. Re-tighten the 1.5mm set screw on the coupler assembly, making sure that the set screw rests on the flat spot of the drive shaft.

- 5. Re-insert the rudder and put the rudder arm back in place. Replace the 3x8mm rudder horn screw.

