

Which is Best Nitro or Electric?

There is a lot of debate on this topic, mainly by experienced modellers who have a bias one way or the other.

The truth is Nitro is better for some people and Electric is better for others.

Here we are looking at it from a beginner's perspective and trying to provide you with the pro's and con's so you can choose.

Speed

Nitro is faster than most Electric models but not all, the latest Brushless Electric Cars and Trucks are now the fastest.

Noise

Nitro models are very noisy but some people like this, however the neighbours may not agree. Electric on the other hand is whisper quiet.

Maintenance

Nitro models need much more maintenance and tuning than Electric models, again some people enjoy this aspect of the hobby, however we all have trouble starting Nitro engines at times and they need constantly retuning for different weather conditions. Electric on the other hand is simply plug in the battery, switch on and go.

Messy

Due to the fact the Nitro Fuel contains the lubricant for the engine, when the engine is running a constant stream of oil comes from the exhaust, as most exhausts exit near the front of the car this tends to coat most of the car in an oily deposit. We don't know anyone who enjoys cleaning a Nitro car after its been used.

Run Time

Provided you have Nitro fuel and have not broken your car you can keep running, Electric cars can run 30 to 40 minutes on an upgraded battery but then they need recharging, you should really let the battery cool first and a recharge, depending on the type of charger and battery, takes between one to eight hours. Extra batteries are very useful but add to the cost.

Summary

The main differentiator between Nitro and Electric used to be speed, but now with the latest Electric Brushless models this is no longer the case and in fact the fastest cars are now Electric.

The main difference now comes down to the following:

Nitro is Noisy, Messy and needs constant maintenance and tuning but you can keep running until you run out of fuel. Electric is Quiet, Plug and Go but you need to either wait for the battery to recharge or invest in extra batteries.

Chose Nitro if you like the idea of a real internal combustion engine, have some mechanical ability, don't mind the noise and the mess and want the keep going all day.

If you want something what works straight out of the box, you are not interested in tinkering with it and don't mind waiting for the batteries to charge then Electric is the choice for you and if speed is important go for a brushless model.

We hope this helps.

If you need more advice or would like to chat about which model is best for you please call 07748 900005 or email enquiries@RC-Hobbies.co.uk