

FRAG RC Tank Recommendations as of Jan-2020

NOTE: Most clubs use the Tamiya Infra Red battle system (TBU) for their games. Whatever tank you use must be compatible with the TBU.

Type RC tank to buy:

1st Choice: Any **Tamiya “kit”** or one that has already been built.
German: Tiger 1, Panther or Panzer 4 (not KT or JP...they are hard to drive)

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)

2nd Choice: These come ready to run “**RTR**” and do not require a lot of assembly:

Taigen...either metal & plastic or all metal. 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.

Mato or Torro.....same comments as abovechange out electronics package

Toucan Hobbies “ “ “ “

Shantou-Mato..... “ “ “ “

Last Choice: **Heng Long** (HL) or **Walterson**...not the greatest quality control but looks OK. Still needs electronics package converted

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+” 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:

1st 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). A good alternate to Tamiya is now the **IBU2**. This unit runs around \$180 and performs the same as Tamiya, and has a lot more options to program into the circuitry.

2nd Choice: **Clark TK Boards**... a number of different units come preprogrammed for 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 1: Most tank models come with a 2.4GHz radio today, which has a floating frequency and ID tied to each tank, with upwards of 10 tanks possible per radio.

Note 2: Tamiya models work with either a 75 MHZ or 2.4 GHz radio as long as you also use the correct RC receiver with a radio transmitter.

Note 3: FRAG likes to convert each radio transmitter so that 2 push buttons can be used (mounted to the top rear of the transmitter case) for firing the MG and cannon (see specific tip in the Intelligence page of our website), but these have not yet been converted on a 2.4 GHz radio.

No one radio manufacturer is recommended over another, but Tamiya was initially designed with Futaba radios in mind, and they still work fine today.