

**W**hen it comes to electric cars, we have so many choices, and the products are constantly being improved. CEN is right in the flow with its new 1/16-scale ME 16. It has many of the same features as its larger counterparts, and it uses 1/10-scale electrical parts. Let's get started.

CEN

ME16

## Little Rascals

**KIT** **RTR**

**1/16**  
**ELECTRIC**  
**4WD**

**AT A GLANCE**  
**WHO MAKES IT**

Genka Trading Corp./CEN Racing

**WHO IT'S FOR**

Beginners & fun-seekers

**HOW FAST** 23.32mph

**HOW MUCH** \$150

**WHAT WE LIKED**

■ Well engineered from the ground up

■ Accepts 1/10 electronics

■ Fully shaft-driven

**WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED**

■ Body could look more "realistic"

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

CEN has definitely upped the ante with this RTR mini. Its scale is perfect, and with 1/10-scale electronics, it has the power and speed that will allow it to use some of the many available upgrades. With indoor racing season around the corner, I wouldn't be surprised to see this car running often in the mini class.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

■ The scale of CEN's ME 16 breaks new ground and is a first for the company. The ME 16 is offered in three versions:

**16MT**—a mini monster truck. This has big chevron tires, a truck-style body and a high-impact front bumper;

**16TC**—the sedan version. It runs street treads and has a cartoon-style sports car body;

**16RY**—a rally car. This has the looks that I admire most; it has a hatchback body and all-terrain tires.

■ The battery and charger are included. The standard 7.2V stick pack fits into the bottom of the chassis and ensures a super-low center of gravity and, therefore, good handling. The ME 16s also have a 540 motor and 1/10-scale servos and receiver, so you have more options for upgrades. The included Skyion DSX digital radio has functions that range from digital dual rates to a 10-model memory.

■ The drivetrain has a fully adjustable slipper-clutch system with full-time 4WD and a center driveshaft (no belts). The simple transmission has only 3 internal gears, and bearings keep the tranny working flawlessly.

■ CEN has given the ME 16 series the "HIC" treatment—high-impact composite is used throughout. It's flexible enough to "give" on impact so that it doesn't snap or break. This flexibility also enhances traction and stability.

■ The independent, adjustable suspension has oversize oil-filled, coil-over shocks all around. The "monster" truck has a slightly bigger shock to handle its larger tires, but the chassis setup and everything else are basically the same on all three ME 16 versions.

The CEN 16 features a solid chassis with a compact layout that accepts 1/10-scale electronics and tires.



### NEEDED TO COMPLETE

- 8 AA cells for the transmitter

### WHAT WE USED

- Energizer Batteries
- MRC Super Brain 960 charger



The monster truck features a strong front bumper that protects it during collisions and when it's otherwise abused.



The little CEN truck has a low-profile body, but its tires give it decent ground clearance.



The sedan body makes the car look something like a cartoon character.



■ **DRIVEN REVIEW CEN ME 16**



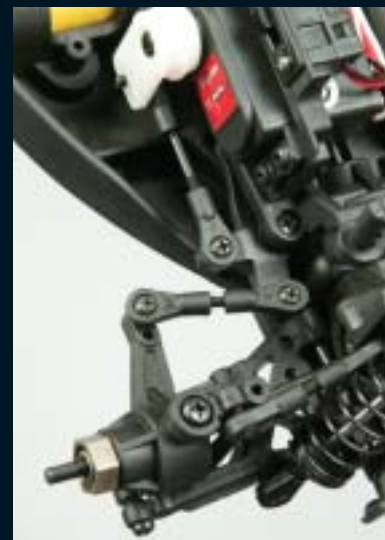
These electric RTR minis are available with three distinct looks.



Big-bore oil-filled shocks soak up the bumps. Check out the beefy hub carrier.



The fully adjustable slipper-clutch system allows you to adjust the power transfer from the motor to the wheels.



The three CEN minis have bellcrank-style steering and adjustable linkage.



The tranny is made of a durable, high-impact composite. Three gears send the power to the wheels, and full bearings smooth everything out.



The fully adjustable independent suspension and oversize shock absorbers.



The 1/10 servo offers more options and will allow future upgrades. A servo-saver is built into the servo horn and has plenty of adjustment options.

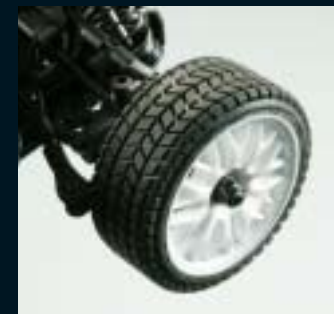
The truck version has dish-type wheels with chevron-tread tires.



The rally car has all-terrain tires mounted on spoked wheels.



The sedan has spoked wheels with street treads.



## DRIVEN REVIEW CEN ME 16

### DIMENSIONS

SCALE: 1/10

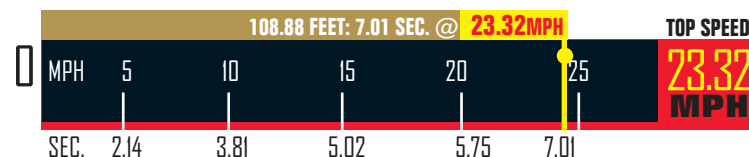
LENGTH: 10.5 in. (267mm) WIDTH: 7 in. (178mm)

WHEELBASE: 8 in. (203mm) WEIGHT: 4.8 lb. (2,177g)



### RADAR DATA

ACCELERATION:



### TUNING OPTIONS

#### SUSPENSION

- Shock positions—2 holes on towers, 1 on lower arms
- Camber—F & R
- Toe—F & R turnbuckles

#### DRIVETRAIN

- Gear drives—spur gear & pinion gear
- Differential stiffness—grease

### TOOLS

#### TOOLS INCLUDED

Wheel wrench

#### TOOLS NEEDED

Phillips screwdriver

#### HARDWARE TYPE

Phillips

### TIPS

- Read the manual before you start
- Set the endpoint adjustments on the Skyion radio

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

- More powerful battery
- Quick charger

### COMPETITORS

- All minis

### LINKS

**CEN/Genka Trading Corp.**, cenracing.com (714) 792-1923

For more information, please see our source guide on page 257.

### THE LAST WORD

I'm sure that CEN's ME 16s will sell well because they're meant for driving fun, and who doesn't want to have fun? With the 540 motor and standard ESC and servo, the sky's the limit: how fast do you want to go? From beginners to experts, we all have a home for one or more CEN ME 16s. ©

### PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

**TEST VENUE:** Hurricane, West Virginia

**CONDITIONS:** outdoor track; dusty pavement

#### STEERING

**Understeer** Neutral **Oversteer**

The steering works quickly and precisely. On the track, the cars push a bit. I also noticed that the rear end comes around, but I adjusted the slipper clutch to tighten the steering and keep wheelspin to a minimum.

#### BRAKING

Poor Fair **Good** Excellent

The ESC works very well and is a perfect fit. The Skyion radio has an anti-lock brake feature that pulses the braking.

#### ACCELERATION

Poor Fair **Good** Excellent

The best part of the test was nailing the throttle. On pavement, the CEN ME 16 series accelerate hard and show impressive top speed. On surfaces with less traction, such as a garage floor and hard-packed dirt, the tires spun until the car gained momentum.

#### SUSPENSION

Poor Fair **Good** Excellent

The suspension is rather firm but plush enough when needed, and there wasn't any body roll. The oil-filled shocks' damping and spring rate are just right. The cars ran smoothly—not bouncy, as some minis are.

#### JUMPING

Poor Fair **Good** Excellent

During my test, I did get a little air time, but it wasn't always intentional. The truck jumps as we all expect one to. None of the vehicles bottomed out—not even the TC Sedan, which hit a few berms and drove off sidewalks.

#### DURABILITY

Poor Fair **Good** Excellent

These minis are solid and tough. Their compact design keeps everything close to the chassis and somewhat protected. The suspension arms and shock towers are built to take abuse.





