

# ALL ABOUT 1/43 SCALE MODEL CAR RACING

The vast majority of the model car racing sets sold by toy stores and chains like Target and Toys 'R Us, have cars that are considerably smaller than the 1/32 scale cars that are featured in Model Car Racing magazine. The reason why 1/32 scale race car sets are not sold in these mass retail chain stores is simple, the 1/32 scale sets and cars are about two to three-times the price of 1/43 scale sets and cars. There's less material in the 1/43 scale cars and track and the cars are much simpler models with no interiors and fewer separately-applied detail parts. Few are painted---most are pad-printed directly on colored plastic (as are some 1/32 scale cars). The lack of fine detail is not that apparent, however, thanks to smaller size of the 1/43 scale cars. You can have as much fun racing 1/43 scale cars as you can racing 1/32 scale cars.

Mathematically, the 1/43 scale cars are 3/4ths the size of the 1/32 scale cars but that is a linear dimension---in three dimensions, the 1/43 scale cars appear to be about half the size of 1/32 scale cars. The 1/43 scale track is also proportionally narrower and the sections are shorter than 1/32 scale track. As a result, it's difficult to tell, from a photograph, whether the cars are 1/43 or 1/32 scale. Ironically, the 1/43 scale cars look more realistic on 1/32 scale track than most 1/32 scale cars because the track overwhelms the size of the cars---as the track does in full-size racing.

The major disadvantage with 1/43 scale is the limited selection of cars but, depending on your interests, there may be enough choices. Carrera Go!!! offers NASCAR, Formula 1 and LeMans cars, as well as a choice of "Muscle" cars, tuner cars, police cars and taxis (with flashing roof lights), and an array of cartoon vehicles from the films Cars, Batman, Spiderman and Speed Racer and Mario Brothers. The SCX Compact cars in 1/43 scale include NASCAR, Formula 1, DTM (Mercedes and Audi), GT (Porsche and Ferrari) and Tuner cars. You can check out the SCX and Carrera websites to see how many other cars they offer in 1/32 scale and that choice is expanded, of course, with other brands like Scalextric, NINCO, Slot.it and a half-dozen others. So far, only SCX and Carrera offer ready-to-race 1/43 scale cars (although there are occasional toy offerings in sets from firms like Artin).

Yes, you can race SCX Compact cars on Carrera Go!!! track and vice versa and both brands will run on any brand of 1/32 scale track. The Carrera Go!!! track and SCX Compact track are not, however, interchangeable nor are the power supplies or controllers---pick a brand of track and stick with it, just as you must with 1/32 scale.

The 1/43 scale cars will run on virtually any brand of 1/32 scale track---that's the good news. The bad news is that the 1/43 scale track is too narrow for the 1/32 scale cars. If you want a broader selection of cars, then, you will have to opt for 1/32 scale. The Pros and Cons comparing 1/32 to 1/43 scale are at bottom of this page as well as some "Pros and Cons" of the two brands of 1/43 scale sets, track and cars.

Will 1/43 scale replace 1/32 scale? It is highly unlikely because 1/32 scale has had nearly half a century to establish itself as the standard for serious racers and the choice of cars and tuning parts and track sections is superb. Conversely, 1/43 scale is certainly "good enough" to be a lasting hobby, especially for the casual racer. If you have a broad interest in many types of full-size racing cars from all eras and you want to see those cars compete on a tabletop with you as the driver, you will likely be happier with 1/32 scale. Pick either one and go racing!

## **1/43 vs. 1/32 Scale; Pros and Cons**

### **1/43 Scale:**

#### **Pros:**

- Proportions of some cars as realistic as 1/32 scale
- Small enough to fit an excellent race track on a 4 x 8-foot board
- About half the price of 1/32 scale
- Cars will run on any brand of 1/32 scale track

#### **Cons:**

- Selection of cars very limited compared to 1/32 scale
- Proportions of some cars are a bit toy-like
- Cars and track only available from only two major manufacturers
- Very limited selection of tires and other performance parts
- Limited choice of curved track sizes
- No borders or skid aprons available
- Cannot race cars without magnets unless skid aprons are fitted
- Skid aprons must be fabricated from model railroad cork roadbed.
- 1/32 scale controllers must be adapted to provide brake feature
- 1/32 scale cars too wide to run on 1/43 scale track
- Digital limited to three cars or less (Carrera Digital 143)

### **1/32 Scale:**

#### **Pros:**

- Cars often as detailed as larger die-cast models
- Cars available from more than a dozen manufacturers
- Wide selection of street and race cars from all eras
- Wide selection of tires and other performance parts
- Most controllers include brake circuit
- Borders or aprons available for all track sections
- Cars can be raced without traction magnets when track borders are installed
- 1/43 scale cars can be raced on any brand of 1/32 track
- Digital cars and sets available to race six or more cars at a time

#### **Cons:**

- Larger space required for a given track configuration
- 5 x 9-feet is a practical minimum area for a 1/32 scale track
- About twice the price of 1/43 scale

## **Picking the Best 1/43 Scale Track; Pros and Cons**

### **SCX Compact:**

You can download the Model Car Racing With SCX booklet here:

[http://modelcarracingmag.com/index.php?option=com\\_flippingbook&view=book&id=16](http://modelcarracingmag.com/index.php?option=com_flippingbook&view=book&id=16)

**Pros:**

- Proportions of most cars as realistic as 1/32 scale
- Cars will run on any brand of 1/43 or 1/32 scale track
- Controllers offer “Turbo” button for slower speed option for younger children
- Track easy to assemble and disassemble
- Track locks together well on a solid floor or tabletop
- Track Includes red/white borders on all curves
- Mechanical lap counter included with most sets
- Simplified two-car lane-changing available

**Cons:**

- Relatively weak downforce magnets in the cars can make learning to drive a bit of a challenge for a newcomer
- Track does not interchange with any 1/43 scale track
- Track does not interchange with any 1/32 scale track
- Selection of cars very limited compared to 1/32 scale
- Only two curve track sizes: standard and outer
- Only one banked curve size
- No electronic lap counter
- No borders or aprons for any track section
- Track comes apart too easily to be moved without complete disassembly

**Carrera Go!!!:****Pros:**

- Stronger downforce magnets make the cars easier for newcomers to drive
- Cars will run on any brand of 1/43 or 1/32 scale track
- Controllers offer “Turbo” button for slower speed option for younger children
- Track locks together well on a solid floor or tabletop
- Track Includes red/white borders on all curves
- Mechanical lap counter included with most sets
- Offers standard, outer and outer-outer curves
- Offers standard and outer banked curves
- Offers electronic lap counter
- Offers digital cars and sets as “Digital 143” to race three cars at a time

**Cons:**

- Stronger downforce magnets in the cars make them a bit too easy to drive
- Track does not interchange with any 1/43 scale track
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- Track interlock pins must be removed to disassemble track

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below from website 1/12/10

# ALL ABOUT SCX COMPACT & CARRERA GO!!!

## 1/43 SCALE MODEL CAR RACING

- 1/43 scale Model Car Racing

- 1/43 vs. 1/32 Scale; Pros and Cons

- Picking the Best 1/43 Scale Track; Pros and Cons

- SHOOT-OUT TRACK TEST: SCX Compact vs. Carrera Go!!! vs. 1/32 NASCAR cars

- SPEC SHEET: The size of the Carrera Go!!! and SCX Compact models vs. the dimensions of the real car

- Hop-Up Parts & Bodies for 1/43 Scale

- Comparison photos of SCX Compact vs. Carrera Go!!! cars

The vast majority of the model car racing sets sold by toy stores and chains like Target and Toys 'R Us, have cars that are considerably smaller than the 1/32 scale cars that are featured in Model Car Racing magazine. The reason why 1/32 scale race car sets are not sold in these mass retail chain stores is simple, the 1/32 scale sets and cars are about two to three-times the price of 1/43 scale sets and cars. There's less material in the 1/43 scale cars and track and the cars are much simpler models with no interiors and fewer separately-applied detail parts. Few are painted---most are pad-printed directly on colored plastic (as are some 1/32 scale cars). The lack of fine detail is not that apparent, however, thanks to the smaller size of the 1/43 scale cars. You can have as much fun racing 1/43 scale cars as you can racing 1/32 scale cars.

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Will 1/43 scale replace 1/32 scale? It is highly unlikely because 1/32 scale has had nearly half a century to establish itself as the standard for serious racers and the choice of cars and tuning parts and track sections is superb. Conversely,

1/43 scale is certainly “good enough” to be a lasting hobby, especially for the casual racer. If you have a broad interest in many types of full-size racing cars from all eras and you want to see those cars compete on a tabletop with you as the driver, you will likely be happier with 1/32 scale. Pick either one and go racing!

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## **Picking the Best 1/43 Scale Track; Pros and Cons**

## SCX Compact:

(Click on the link below to view the 16-page Model Car Racing With SCX booklet)

[http://modelcarracingmag.com/index.php?option=com\\_fippingbook&view=book&id=16](http://modelcarracingmag.com/index.php?option=com_fippingbook&view=book&id=16)

### Pros:

- Proportions of most cars as realistic as 1/32 scale
- Cars will run on any brand of 1/43 or 1/32 scale track
- Controllers offer “Turbo” button and a slower speed option for younger children
- Track easy to assemble and disassemble
- Track locks together well on a solid floor or tabletop
- Track includes red/white borders on all curves
- Mechanical lap counter included with most sets
- Simplified two-car lane-changing available

### Cons:

- Relatively weak downforce magnets in the cars can make learning to drive a bit of a challenge for a newcomer
  - Downforce magnets in SCX Compact cars not strong enough to hold the cars upside down in Carrera GO!!! #61613 Looping Sections
- Track does not interchange with any 1/43 scale track
- Track does not interchange with any 1/32 scale track
- Selection of cars very limited compared to 1/32 scale

- Only two curve track sizes: standard and outer
- Only one banked curve size
- No electronic lap counter
- No borders or aprons for any track section
- Track comes apart too easily to be moved without complete disassembly

## **Carrera Go!!!:**

### **Pros:**

- Stronger downforce magnets make the cars easier for newcomers to drive
- Cars will run on any brand of 1/43 or 1/32 scale track
- Controllers offer “Turbo” button and a slower speed option for younger children
- Track locks together well on a solid floor or tabletop
- Track Includes red/white borders on all curves
- Mechanical lap counter included with most sets
- Offers standard, outer and outer-outer curves
- Offers standard and outer banked curves
- Offers electronic lap counter
- Offers digital cars and sets as “Digital 143” to race three cars at a time

### **Cons:**

- Stronger downforce magnets in the cars make them a bit too easy to drive

- The downforce magnets are so strong they will hold the cars upside down through the Carrera G0!!! #61613 Looping Sections

- Track does not interchange with any 1/43 scale track

- Track does not interchange with any 1/32 scale track

- Selection of cars very limited compared to 1/32 scale

- Proportions of some cars are a bit toy-like

- No borders or aprons for any track section

- Track interlock pins must be removed to disassemble track

# TRACK TEST:

## 1/43 SCALE: CARRERA GO!!! VS. SCX COMPACT CARS OF TOMORROW

(Photos of Carrera Go!!! and SCX Compact cars are at the bottom of this page)

Both Carrera Go!!! And SCX Compact are close-enough to exact 1/43 scale in wheelbase and, since NASCAR does not release the other dimensions, the correct wheelbase is essential—the rest of the cars' proportions are matched to that correct wheelbase. The major difference in the appearance of the two brands is that the Carrera Go!!! tires on their NASCAR cars are 15% too large in diameter and the wheel cutouts are, of course, shaped to clear the tires. The tires on both are wider than exact scale but that is typical of most 1/32 scale cars as well. Both brands weigh about the same.

The Carrera Go!!! cars have a massive downforce magnet, stronger than about 95% of the magnets on 1/32 scale cars. That downforce allows the cars corner quickly but slows them down somewhat on the straights. We subjected both cars to a full Race Track Test to see how well they would perform on four different brands of 1/32 scale track.

Both of these 1/43 scale cars very quick indeed! They are faster on the Carrera 1/32 scale Indy F1 track than any of the 1/32 scale cars and both 1/43 scale cars

are very close to the performance of the 1/32 scale cars on the Scalextric Classic/SCX Indy F1 track. Why? Because the 1/43 scale cars have enough magnetic downforce to be able to negotiate nearly all of the curves on the 1/32 scale test tracks at full throttle. The relatively slow maximum speeds of the 1/43 scale cars (on the 27-foot straightaway used for the top speed and acceleration tests) are not a handicap on the short 5-foot straights of the two 5 x 9-foot test tracks---the 1/32 scale cars are quicker than the 1/43 scale cars on tracks with 9-foot or longer straights.

The Carrera Go!!! car was noticeably slower than the SCX Compact car on both the 1/32 scale Indy F1 Test Tracks, however it was easier to drive the Carrera car thanks to the larger downforce. The SCX car was quicker on both tracks and had a higher top speed and quicker acceleration---some of that can be attributed to the drag of the Carrera downforce magnet which helps keep the car on the track through the corners but produces drag on the straightaways and when accelerating.

The Carrera Go!!! car was a bit slower on the Scalextric Classic/SCX test track because the Carrera pin guide was too wide for the slot. We filed it down but the car was clearly quicker when running on the Carrera 1/32 scale Indy F1 Test Track with its wider slot. The “good news” for 1/43 scale fans is that the slot in the SCX Compact track is wide enough to accommodate the Carrera Go!!! guide pin so you can run the Carrera Go!!! cars (or the SCX Compact cars) on either brand of 1/43 scale track.

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## **SHOOT-OUT TRACK TEST:**

**SCX Compact 1/43 Scale 2009 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Toyota Camry vs.**

**Carrera Go!!! 1/43 Scale 2009 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Dodge Charger vs.**

**SCX 1/32 scale “Pro” NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Chevrolet Impala vs.**

## SCX 1/32 scale 2008 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Chevrolet Impala vs.

## Carrera 1/32 scale 2007 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Chevrolet Impala vs.

## SCX 1/32 scale 2006 Ford Fusion NASCAR vs.

## Scalextric 1/32 scale 2005 NASCAR Ford Taurus

	SCX Compact 1/43:	Carrera Go!!! 1/43:	SCX 2009 1/32:	SCX 2008 1/32:	Carrera 2007 1/32:	SCX 2006 1/32:
Out of the Box:						
Lap Time, 36-foot Scalextric Indy F1 Course:	3.94 sec.	4.22 sec.	5.78 sec.	3.96 sec.	4.16 sec.	3.77 sec. 3.74 sec.
Lap Time, 36-foot Carrera Indy F1 Course:	3.52 sec.	3.62 sec.	4.33 sec.	4.61 sec.	4.70 sec.	4.18 sec. 3.89 sec.
Cornering Speeds:						
Scalextric Classic Skidpad (32-1/4-inch circle)*:			12.61 fps	11.24 fps	6.72 fps	11.30 fps
Sport skidpad (32 1/4-inch circle):	11.66 fps	10.22 fps	10.88 fps			
Carrera Skidpad (35-1/4-inch circle):	11.77 fps		11.63 fps	9.86 fps	6.49 fps	11.71 fps
SCX Skidpad (32-1/4-inch circle):	8.89 fps		10.72 fps	10.67 fps	7.64 fps	8.69 fps
NINCO Skidpad (36-3/4-inch circle):	11.20 fps		12.61 fps	11.24 fps	6.72 fps	10.56 fps
Top Speed and Acceleration at the end of a 1/8-scale-mile (27-foot) straight from a standing start:						
Speed (in 1/32 scale miles per hour):	NA	130.8 smph	118.0 smph	225.06 smph	NA	NA
Acceleration time to cover the 1/8 mile:	NA	NA	2.49 sec.	2.94 sec.	1.75 sec.	NA

NOTES: \*The older Scalextric Classic and new SCX track surfaces are so similar we are now using only SCX for this skidpad test.

NA: No Acceleration and Speed figures are available for cars that were Race Track Tested prior to issue number 45.

The letters fps indicate feet per second.

NOTES: The lap times and other test results for all of the track tests in the first 48 issues are available on the website under "Model Resources", then click on the link "Race Car Test Results". All of the previous Race Track Test of NASCAR cars have been conducted using cars with magnets---the SCX "Pro" car is, however, almost as quick magnet-free as the others with traction magnets.

The SCX "Pro" 2009 NASCAR "CoT" Chevrolet Impala was Race Track Tested in the November/December 2009 number 48 issue, the SCX 2008 NASCAR "CoT" Impala was in the November/December 2008 number 42 issue, the Carrera 2007 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Chevrolet Monte Carlo in the March/April 2008 number 38 issue, the SCX 2006 NASCAR Ford Fusion in the

March/April 2007 number 32 issue, and the Scalextric 2006 NASCAR Ford Taurus in the May/June 2006 number 26 issue.

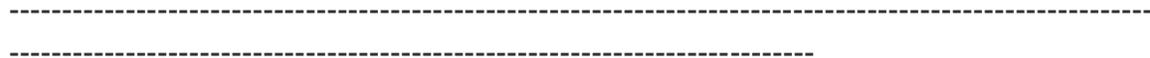
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**SPEC SHEET: Carrera Go!!! 2008 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Dodge Charger vs.**

**SCX Compact 2008 NASCAR Car of Tomorrow Toyota Camry:**

	<b>The Prototype dimensions of the  (the real car): Go!!! model:</b>	<b>The size the model The dimensions of the  should be in 1/43 scale: SCX Compact model</b>	<b>The  Carrera</b>
Width:	NA	NA	1.78
in. (45.2 mm)	1.76 in. (44.7 mm)		
Length:	NA	NA	4.62
in. (117.3 mm)	4.71 in. (119.7 mm)		
Height:	NA	NA	1.30
in. (33.0mm)	1.30 in. (33.0mm)		
Wheelbase:	110.0 in.	2.62 in. (66.5 mm)	2.48
in. (65.4 mm)	2.58 in. (65.0mm)		
Track, Front:	NA	NA	1.46
in. (37.1 mm)	1.43 in. (36.3 mm)		
Track, Rear:	NA	NA	1.46
in. (37.1 mm)	1.47 in. (37.4 mm)		
Tires, Front:	7.8 x 26.6 in.*	.181 x .618 in.(4.6 x 15.6 mm)	
7.3 x 17.9 mm	6.8 x 15.0 mm		
Tires, Rear:	7.8 x 26.6 in.*	.181 x .618 in.(4.6 x 15.6 mm)	7.3
x 17.9 mm	6.8 x 15.0 mm		

Engine: V8 90-degree 5,700 cc can                      small can	NA	small
Horsepower: 780 @ 9.300 NA                              NA	NA	
Weight:                      3,400 lbs. grams (1 ½ oz.)              35 grams (1 ¼ oz.)	NA	42
Weight on Front Tires: grams (1/2 oz.)              15 grams (1/2 oz.)	NA	15
Weight on Rear Tires: grams (1 oz.)                      20 grams (3/4 oz.)	NA	27
Magnetic Downforce on Carrera: grams (3 1/4 oz.)              78 grams ( 2 ¾ oz.)	NA	90
Magnetic Downforce on Scalextric: grams (9 ½ oz.)              105 grams (3 3/4 oz.)	NA	270
Ground Clearance on Carrera: 1.0 mm (.040 in.)              1.0 mm (.040 in.)	NA	
Ground Clearance on Scalextric: (.035 in.)                      .9 mm (.035 in.)	NA	.9 mm
Pickup Lead (pivot to rear axle): mm (2.87 in.)                      69.0 mm (2.72 in.)	NA	72.8
Gear Ratio: (8/32)                              4.00:1 (8/32)	NA	4.00:1

\*Source: [www.tirerack.com/tires](http://www.tirerack.com/tires)



## Hop-Up Parts & Bodies for 1/43 Scale

If you feel the need for more speed, set-screw-mount aluminum wheels, set-screw-mount gears, silicone tires, stronger magnets and replacement aluminum chassis kits are available for 1/43 scale cars. There are also some cast-resin and clear plastic bodies, but you must paint our own. Pattos offers decals in 1/43 scale.

Sources of tires, wheels, gears, stronger magnets, chassis and bodies for 1/43 scale cars:

Ranch-Design: [www.ranch-design.com/](http://www.ranch-design.com/) Tires, wheels, gears, stronger magnets, chassis, clear plastic and cast-resin bodies, cars and track

C Jent 1 Racing: [www.cjent1racing.com/](http://www.cjent1racing.com/) Tires, stronger magnets, cars, track and sets

Hot Laps Racing: [www.hotlapsracin.com./hot43bodies.htm](http://www.hotlapsracin.com./hot43bodies.htm) Clear plastic bodies

Pattos Place: <http://members.optusnet.com.au/pattosplace/home.html> Decals for 1/43 scale

Super Tires: [www.slotcarcorner.com/](http://www.slotcarcorner.com/) Silicone tires for SCX Compact NASCAR cars

K & D makes tires and C Jent sells them

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