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Battletech Technical Readout: 3060



Synopsis

The Clan's new secret weapon revealed!The Great Houses of the Inner Sphere have created a new Star League to end the Clan threat, launching an all-out attack against the most powerful Clan, Smoke Jaguar.During this campaign, the Inner Sphere was assaulted by a new and deadly creation: the ProtoMech. Swift and deadly, these half-size 'Mechs proved agile and difficult to destroy. Now, other Clans will quickly field this potent new weapon against the Inner Sphere, hoping to once more tip the balance of power in their favor.

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Customer Reviews

The Clan's new secret weapon revealed!The Great Houses of the Inner Sphere have created a new Star League to end the Clan threat, launching an all-out attack against the most powerful Clan, Smoke Jaguar.During this campaign, the Inner Sphere was assaulted by a new and deadly creation: the ProtoMech. Swift and deadly, these half-size 'Mechs proved agile and difficult to destroy. Now, other Clans will quickly field this potent new weapon against the Inner Sphere, hoping to once more tip the balance of power in their favor.

Good technical readout. Has some great designs that can be used in the game.

After so many technical readouts and with not much new technology to work with, it's hard to come up with a new design that truly doesn't resemble something before it. TRO3025 is always going to be the staple because it's the definitive Level 1 source, and the introduction of the Clans and Level 2 with TRO3050 cements that book's place in the BattleTech pantheon. With quite a few readouts

since then, by the time 3060 came out it seemed the well for individual concepts had run dry. This is mostly true for the BattleMechs. While there are good designs, and a lot of them look cool in the illustrations, if you drew up a record sheet and examined it it would probably just look like a tweak of something that's been around. This is less true of the vehicles for the simple reason that there are still comparatively few vehicle designs, as opposed to the plethora of BattleMechs, even though conventional vehicles supposedly form the majority of cavalry in the 31st century. What separates TRO3060 is the addition of the ProtoMech, a machine that fills the gap between battle armor and ultralight 'Mechs (10-15 tons, originally allowed (although FASA never published such a design) but banned since the BattleTech Master Rules published in 1998). While a cool idea, it just seems to me to add an unnecessary level of complexity to the Level 2 arena. In my opinion, middle-of-the-road players have enough rules to worry about as it is - can anyone tell me off the top of their head the rules for hull breach in a vacuum? didn't think so - so while the ProtoMech is an interesting concept, it belongs in Level 3. All in all, with the exception of the ProtoMech, there's no real compelling reason to pick this TRO up unless you want to add more complexity to your game - not necessarily a bad thing, but not a badly necessary one.

Of all the TRs that I have read (excluding 3057 which was for battlespace), 3060 is probably the best. It has an interesting assortment of mechs, including a lot of useful second-line clan forces. It also includes some impressive (clan and IS) vehicle designs. The book has a ton cool of information throughout about the current condition of the Inner Sphere and the Clans. Perhaps the coolest thing about this TR is it actually has a complete set of rules regarding a new unit, the protomech. A lot of people say they suck and a lot of people say they are invincible. My fellow roleplayers and I are currently using them as part of a campaign and i can say that they don't suck and definitely aren't invincible but that they are very cool and useful for most scenarios. My only gripe was that there should have been a section with level 3 designs and some new battle-armor types would have been cool (we did get protomechs though which make up for this). All and all 3060 is a great battletech book that most players will find useful, particularly for scenarios dealing with the current battles between the clans and Inner Sphere.

First, to the previous review, I beg to argue. The industry of the Inner Sphere is more than capable of supporting so many new designs-they geared up for rapid and voluminous production when the Clans first hit. Anyway, TRO:3060 is, in my view, the best of the bunch. The artwork for the 'Mechs is wicked cool, although the vehicle pics leave something to be desired. The 'Mechs themselves

show that the IS is slowly adapting to Clan tactics. The number of IS Omnis is astounding, considering that the technology was first pioneered in 3058 by the Combine. The number of Clan second-line 'Mechs and vehicles gives them depth in the storyline. They can no longer be regarded as straight attackers-the existence of machines built only for defense humanizes them.

The clans do not use quads. The clans also do not field combat vehicles aka trucks. It is simply an issue of continuity and pride. No self respecting true born warrior gets into the cockpit of a quad, even in the inner sphere quads are treated with disdain. My game group has played with protos for a bit now and we can safely say that they are the most powerful things in the game. As long as a star of protos does not break apart, they are harder to kill than any mech in existence. By a lot. Might as well be indestructible. Because each hit is randomly given to a separate proto, the protos all have individual hit locations, some shots that hit a proto will still miss, and the protos can move faster than your average assault mech yet still deal a brutal amount of damage at close and long range, the protos are the most dangerous units in existence. They make hardened armour look balanced. I strongly doubt much play testing went into this book, especially the protos. What ever happened to the kind of testing that went into the 3050 clan release book.

This Technical Readout definitely has the best Mechs ever created by FASA. You want proof? When Mechwarrior 4 comes out in November, try piloting the Nova Cat and you'll know what I mean. Also nominated for coolest new Mechs are the Shugenja, the Toyama, the Guillotine IIC, the Canis, and the Blood Asp. The ProtoMechs, although being a good addition to the game, are themselves pretty cheesy (I mean, c'mon, they're really just weird-looking, oversized Elementals). Aside from that, the drawings are much, much better than a certain OTHER TRO (3058, cough, cough) which obscured parts of the Mechs by the positions they were drawn in, which ruined them because you could not see what the entire Mech looked like. I definitely recommend this, because it will allow you play BattleTech using the coolest Mechs ever. PS: Buy it here at , because it's a lot cheaper than at bookstores. I learned the hard way. Clan Coyote forever!

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