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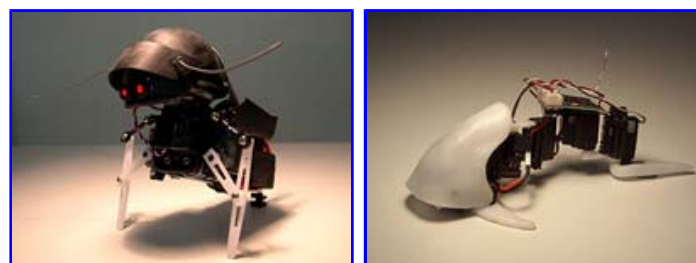
• [August TRC Project Contest Winners!](#)

As many of you may know by now, the [Trossen Robotics](#) crew hosts [project contests](#) every few months, where the winners are awarded in lavish gifts such as gift cards, robot kits and trips to the Playboy Mansion! (Okay, maybe not that last one. But they won't put me in charge of picking out the prizes for some reason)

Members of the [Trossen Robotics Community](#) (TRC) face off in a battle of robotic wits! They come up with all sorts of great inventions, document their work, take a ton of photos and video, and post about it all in our [Project Showcase Forum](#) in hopes of being whisked off to the Playboy Mansion! Or...in hopes of winning fantastic robo-prizes.

The time is nigh to pick out winners. We flew our finalists out here to Chicago and determined the winners the only fair way we could think of: We put their projects on the sidelines, armed the inventors with sporks, and threw them into an arena in a fight to the death ala Bloodsport! (Okay, again, this didn't happen.. who makes these contest rules anyway?) The TR crew locked wits in the discussion as to who would place these past few weeks. Heated public debates were held, dirt-throwing campaign commercials were made, friendships were torn apart... and in the end we finally came to an agreement. Without further ado, here are the runners-up and winners, in suspense-building ascending order!

Honorable Mention:



Project: [Swashbot\(s\) & Flapper Fish](#)

Creator: [CrabFu](#)

You're probably wondering: "Wait, why didn't The Great Crabfu win??" Well, that's exactly why. He's too great! It wouldn't be fair to let "[Geppetto Emeritus](#)" steal away first place, so we took him down a notch and gave him an honorable mention. This man might not even be human the way he produces robots, it seems like we had a new invention from him every other

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When we say one stop shop we mean it. Have you noticed how large our [nuts](#), [bolts](#), and [washer section](#) is?



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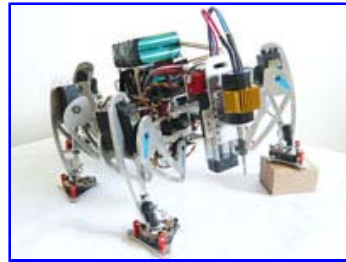
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week! Keep em coming Crabfu!



Project: [Walking CNC Router Robot](#)

Creator: [Matt Denton](#)

Matt Denton, animatronics whiz of MicroMagic Systems is known for his incredible hexapods. If you're not familiar with them, I suggest you check them out [here](#). Well simply walking, dynamically balancing, and snapping pictures of people to post on it's site (yes, the robot has a website) wasn't enough for this Hexapod. Matt went ahead and taught it how to be a CNC router. That walks. Flashbacks from "Runaway" aside, this project is really amazing and shows how far robotic technology is progressing. He went all out and cut a 3D image of a face out of foam using the robot's I.K. engine alone. Big kudos!

Runners-Up:



Project: [Butler Robot](#)

Creator: [airman00](#)

Average Score: 7.1

Prize: \$25 Gift Card to the Trossen Robotics Store

Everyone always wanted their own Rosie the Robot as a kid right? Well meet Chives the Butler Bot. Good ol' Chives here can pour drinks, respond to voice commands, has onboard vision processing and can be controlled via laptop or iPod Touch! To make things better, you can even [build your own](#). Airman00 wrote up a comprehensive step by step guide to build your very own robotic butler! He even is provided all of his code as open source. Great job!

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Project: [RC Truck Robot Conversion](#)

Creator: [Orac](#)

Average Score: 7.3

Prize: \$25 Gift Card to the Trossen Robotics Store

Leave it to one of our members to steal an R/C Truck from his kid and slap a computer on it. Regardless of this R/C Truck's origins, its obvious that it is awesome. Orac took this car, modded it and added a fully functioning PC and a webcam to it. This not only gave it the option for off-road telepresence, it made it simultaneously chase and run away from orange colored balls. Like a puppy! A really ugly puppy. Made of plastic and metal.



Project: [iLush Bartender](#)

Creator: [metaform3d](#)

Average Score: 7.5

Prize: \$25 Gift Card to the Trossen Robotics Store

Okay, first of all, this robot serves booze. Do we really need to continue as to why this kicks ass? Metaform3d impressed the judges at Robogames 2008 with his iLush Bartender, which serves up mixed drinks and is controlled via a touchscreen computer. He ended up walking away with a gold in the Bartending category (Yes, there is a robo-bartending category). Wow!

**Project:** [RoboCam](#)Creator: [Norris56](#)

Average Score: 7.7

Prize: \$25 Gift Card to the Trossen Robotics Store

This isn't your average telepresence bot, creator Steve Norris took this one to the next level. Starting off with just an iCreate base, he built a very professional looking robot that can be driven from anywhere there is internet. That's right, the entire robot can be remotely piloted from across the globe via a custom web interface that Steve designed. He even armed it with a laser to assist with depth perception (I thought lasers were only supposed to be mounted on sharks?) I guess our only question is, when can we buy one?

Third Place:**Project:** [XR-B3](#)Creator: [Inxfergy](#)

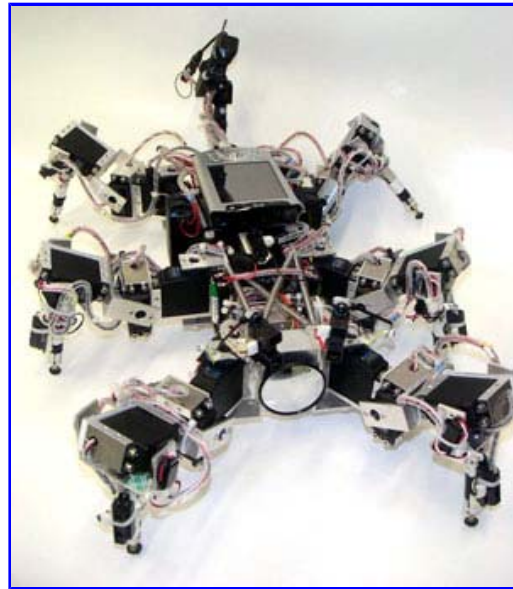
Average Score: 8.7

Prize: [Wowwee Alive Elvis](#)

This cool little bot runs a custom microcontroller onboard that has a wireless link back to a computer, which handles the heavy lifting. And by heavy lifting

we mean machine vision and room mapping capabilities. Not only is this impressive from a technical standpoint, it also has a very slick aesthetic, and overall a very impressive build quality to it. Be sure to check out the project page on this for more information and updates!

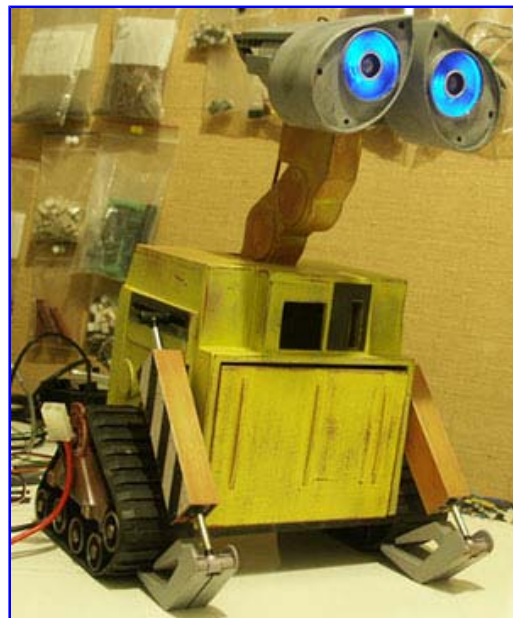
Second Place:



Project: [AMOS-WD06](#)
Creator: [AMOS](#)
Average Score: 9.3
Prize: [Silverlit R/C X-UFO](#)

This Hexapod is just downright impressive. The AMOS-WD06 (Advanced Mobility Sensor Driven-Walking Device) contains 21 actuators and 28 sensors and at its brain is a neural networked PDA. The programming behind this bot is what really makes it impressive as it is being designed to act and react like an insect. It exhibits [Phototaxis](#), has a dynamic obstacle avoidance routine, will shy away from 'predators' and if you flip it on its back it can flip around and keep walking! We expect to see even more great things as this project develops.

First Place:



Project: [Homebrew Wall-E](#)

Creator: [4mem8](#)

Average Score: 9.7

Prize: [SG-5UT Robotic Arm](#)

Well what can we say, we fell in love with this bot at first sight. We got to watch 4mem8 bring this guy to life and document every painstaking step that he took building this Wall-E robot from scratch. That's right, this was not a kit, in fact he had the majority of it done far before the movie actually hit theaters and the toy stores were flooded with Wall-E merchandise. The robot itself is carved and crafted largely out of wood, and the rest from random parts found here and there... like a true 'junk-bot' should be! 4mem8 has made a great contribution with his knowledge and experience in building bots, so we're very proud present to him with the first place prize in this round of the TRC contest. Good job 4mem8! You earned it! Be sure to also check out [4mem8's project on RoboCommunity](#).

We would like to take this time to congratulate and thank everyone who participated in this round of the contest. Not only have we seen some amazing projects entered, but we've gained some really incredibly talented members in our community as a result. We look forward to the next round of our contest, keep tuned in for more info. You can stay up to date on contest rules and regulations at the [Trossen Robotics Project Contest](#) page, and start posting your projects in our [Project Showcase Forum](#).

- [They're Heeeeeere! RoboBuilder has Arrived!](#)



The RoboBuilder kits have arrived !!

You can find them in the catalog in the [Humanoids](#) section or the [Full Robotics Systems](#) section.

RoboBuilder is the new building block robot kit on the scene. Designed for robot enthusiasts and education alike RoboBuilder hits a sweet spot with feature packed kits at great prices. Its designers focused on form as much as function and the result is a great looking robot. The 5720T kit even sports translucent plastic with multicolored internal LEDs. You could take this little guy to the rave with you on the weekends!

Don't let the streamlined good looks of RoboBuilder fool you. Beneath all that flash lurks plenty of substance. RoboBuilder is packed with advanced features not found on many of the other kits in the market such as: Precise PID Motion Control, distance detection, sound detection & speaker system, IR remote control included, Bluetooth upgradeable, and full-duplex drop-down UART serial communication on the smart actuators.

A common complaint in robotics is that too much time is often spent building robots and not enough is spent enjoying them. RoboBuilder solves this problem with their unique quick assembly joints which make assembly and design changes a breeze. Building is so easy that a complete humanoid takes less than two hours to assemble.

Once the robot is built there are multiple easy to use software interfaces to play with- WCK Programmer, Motion Builder, Action Builder, & Diagnostics Interface. RoboBuilder is ready to move as soon as it is assembled and using the software you can program your own humanoid motions in just 10 minutes. Another exciting feature is the ability to trade motion files on the internet uploading your own and downloading others. RoboBuilder is not only powerful, it's affordable. You can choose from four kits priced at: \$420, \$680, \$860, and \$1,560.

The RoboBuilder kits are manufactured by RoboBuilder, LTD a Korean company: www.RoboBuilder.net. RoboBuilder is distributed by Trossen Robotics, LLC. More information about RoboBuilder can be found on the website: www.TrossenRobotics.com, 877-898-1005. Interested resellers are invited to contact them for more information.

Download the Press Release [here](#).

Download the RoboBuilder Brochure [here](#).