



Academy Road Runner II

This nicely presented 1/10 two wheel drive off roader comes as a ready built car.

However, the first class instructions provided with the kit, deal with the vehicle as if it were in kit form. No doubt this is appropriate should any repairs or rebuild be necessary. In any case the instructions are clear and easy to understand.

Model Cars builds the Academy Road Runner II

Design

Although it is not always appropriate to mention other makes of car in a review, it is impossible not to notice similarities between this car and the Tamiya Hornet. Having said that, there are differences

even if they are of a minor nature.

The basic chassis is an ABS injection moulded tub with battery access gained from the chassis under-side by means of a sliding cover.

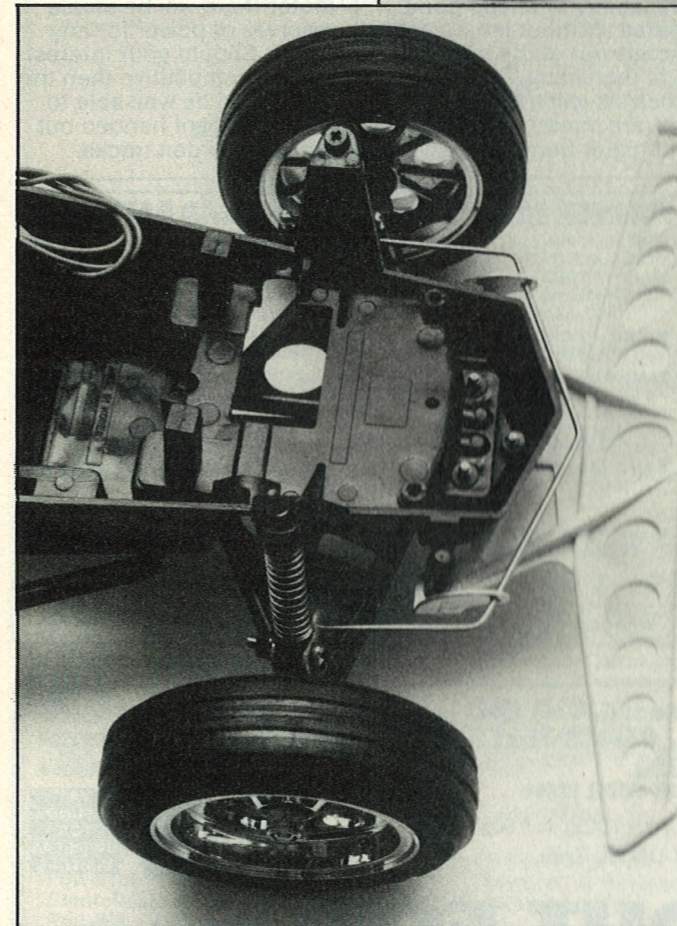
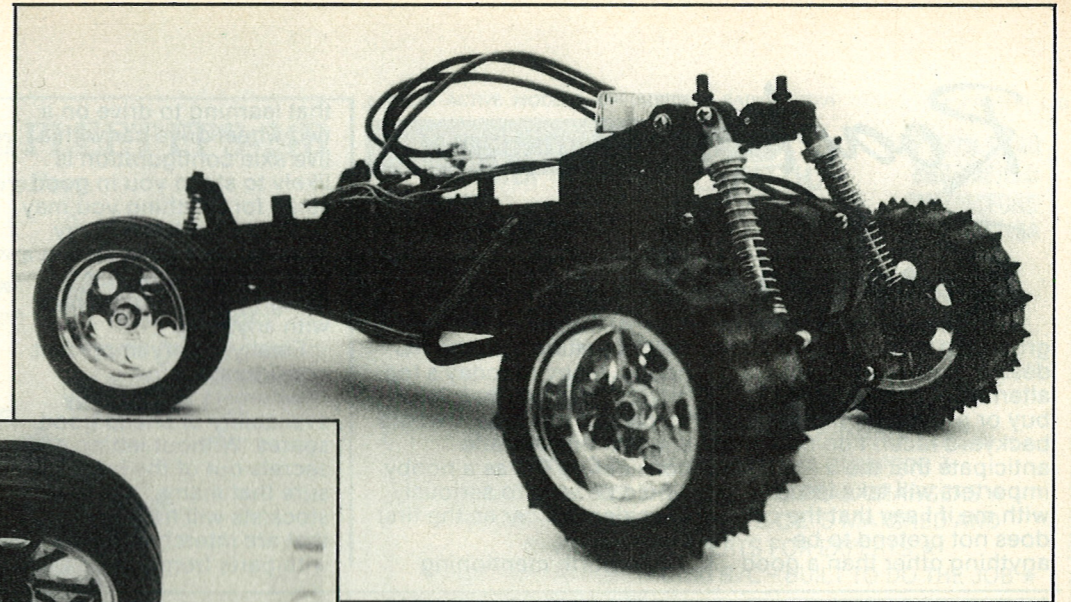
Plastic nerf bars are fitted to the chassis sides to help

keep other cars and obstructions away from the rear wheels. A relatively soft full width front bumper provides excellent protection for the frontal area of the car.

Within the main chassis tub there is ample space for the radio gear. The car comes complete with a wiper board type, three speed controller and separately mounted aluminium shielded ceramic resistor.

Independent coil sprung front suspension is

complete with an anti-roll bar, something of a must with this type of suspension. Rear suspension can best be described as a transaxle. The rear, live axle unit includes the reduction gear, differential and 540 style motor. Anodised blue rear shockers are oil filled and fitted between the transmission unit and



chassis rear arm extensions. Any live axle suspension configuration will be skittish when it comes to riding the bumps, the inclusion of oil filled dampers can only improve handling over rough surfaces.

Gold coloured wheels finish the car very nicely and come with ribbed tyres on the front and spikes on the rear. Wheel bearings in common with all the other bearings on the car are plain plastic. Pretty obvious

it is important to keep these well lubricated to get the best from the car. Standard Tamiya size wheel bearings could be fitted to the front wheels.

The body is injected moulded in ABS, which, although increasing the possibility of impact

Above: the Road Runner has simple single wishbone suspension and a neat anti-roll bar.

damage, does make it easy for the first time buyer to produce a good looking model with just the application of the decals provided with the kit. The body (in my opinion) looks quite smart and comes with a rear wing.

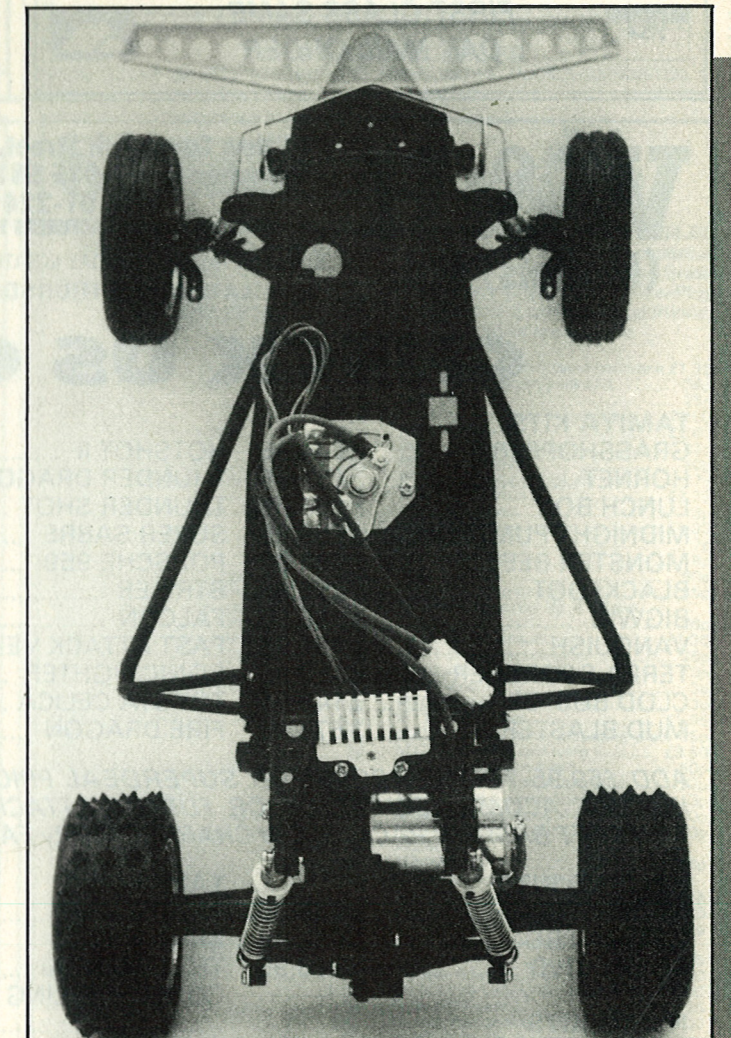
A spanner, hexagon wrench, servo saver and track rods are all included, the only other items needed

Above: chromed wheels and pin spike tyres are included. Below: simple tub chassis and three step speed controller.

will be radio gear, battery and charger.

First timer

This car makes no attempt to break new



Road Runner II

Road

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Runner II

ground in technology or design. It does offer an alternative as a first time buy or a value for money backyard racer. I do not anticipate that the importers will take issue with me if I say that the car does not pretend to be anything other than a good

way of getting into the RC hobby. Many of today's top drivers have cut their teeth on cars of this type. I would suggest that anyone considering RC as a hobby would be wise to seriously consider this car as the first stop.

It is worth mentioning

that learning to drive on a two wheel drive car with a live axle configuration is likely to stand you in good stead for anything you may come across later. In my experience if you can win a race with a car of this design you can win a race with anything.

Finally, a very important consideration for newcomers is the ready availability of cheap good spares. Without letting any secrets out of the bag I am sure that many Tamiya stockists will have spares that are interchangeable with parts from this car. Of

course Academy spares are readily available and will of course fit this and other makes of car.

To sum up

The Academy Road Runner II, based as it is on a well proven design and technology should prove a first class car to start into RC racing. With its 540 size motor there will be ample reserves of power for any driver. Should your interest be non competitive then the car should be well able to take treatment handed out on most garden tracks.