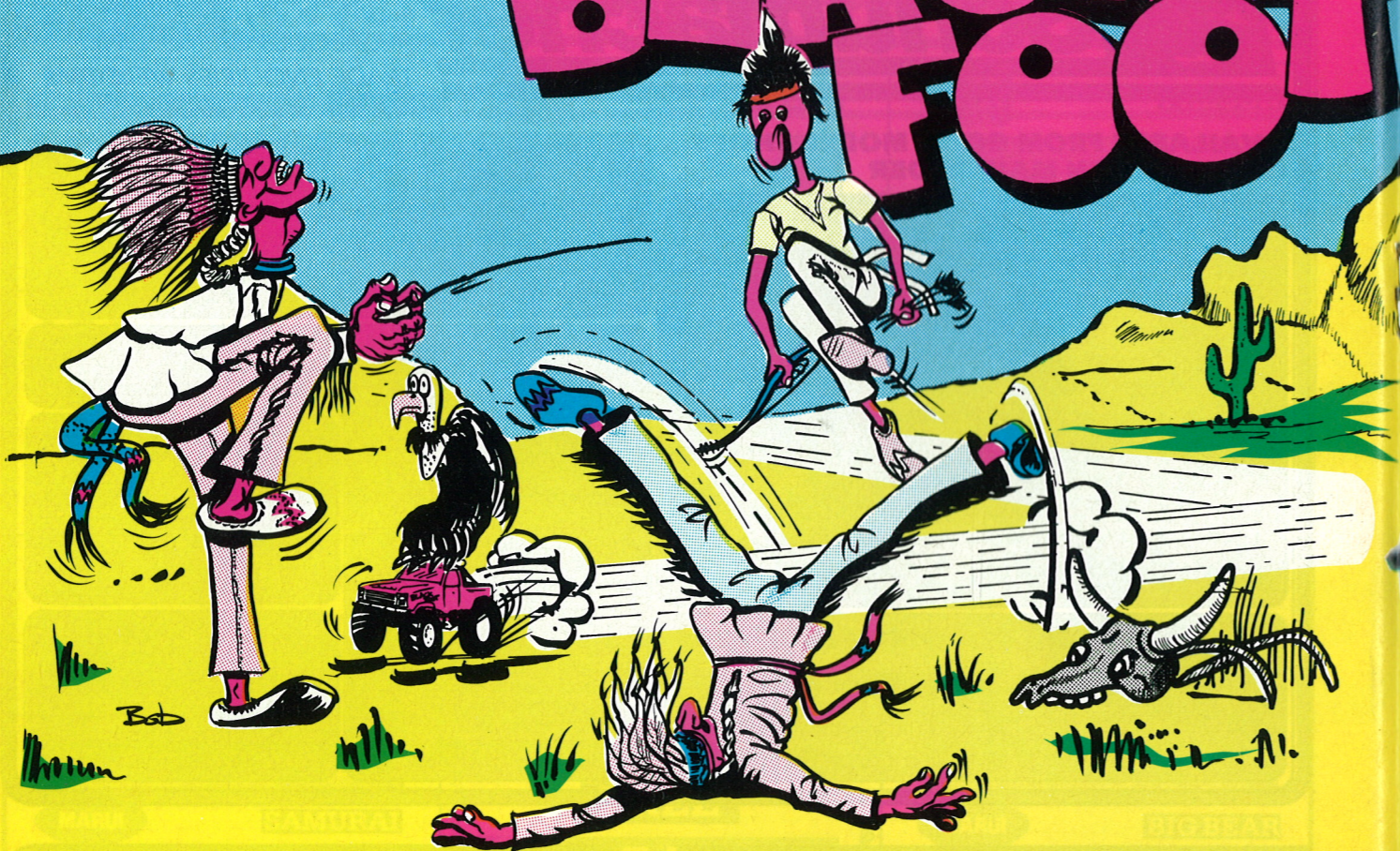
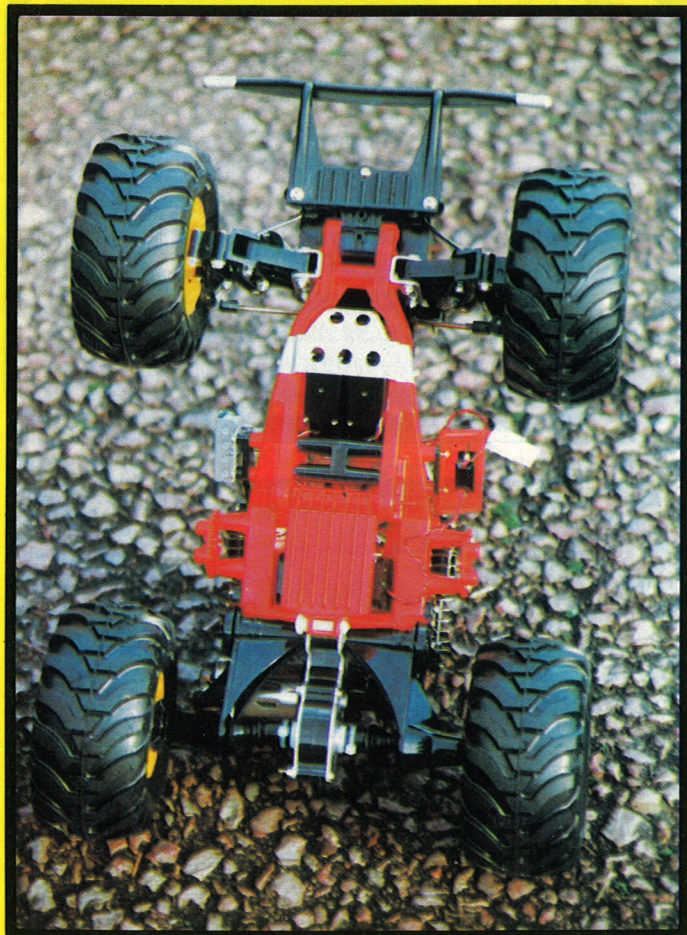


BLACK FOOT

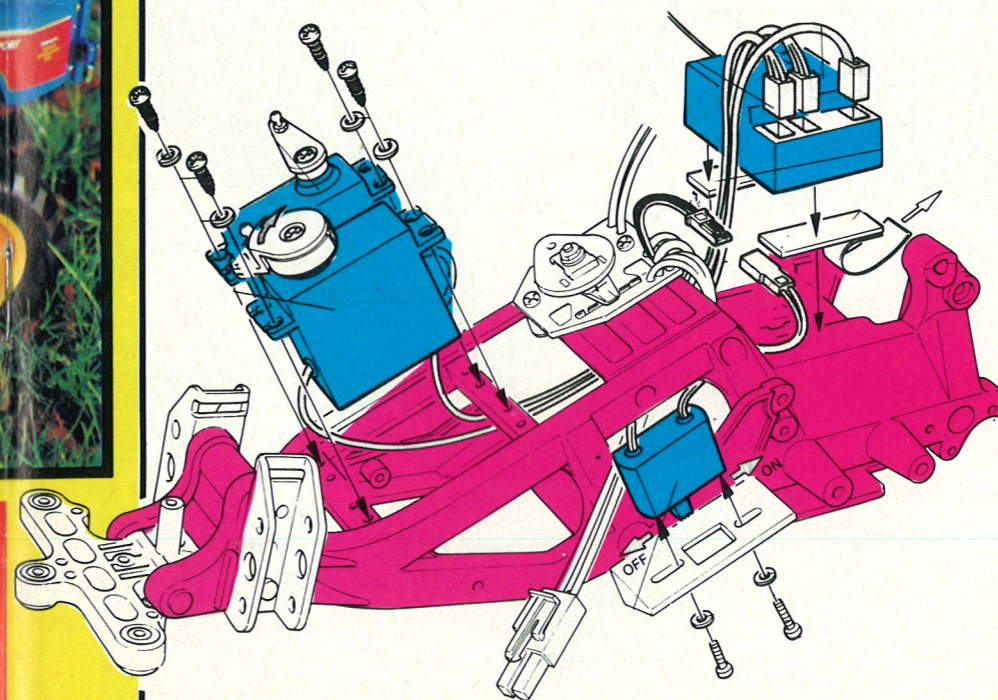


Blackfoot in action, muddy or loose surfaces present no problem.



The latest from Tamiya is the Blackfoot, based on the Frog with Ford 150 Ranger. This car crushing pick-up will perform well over a variety of surfaces and obstacles. As the photographs show, massive tractor type tyres coupled with long travel suspension units make light work of the toughest terrain.

Both servos are installed in the Blackfoot's chassis on servo rails provided in the kit.



Tamiya's new car crusher, the Blackfoot, reviewed by DAVE PEARSON.

The current trend towards car crushing pick up trucks continues with the latest release from Tamiya of their 1/10 scale Ford pick up truck, aptly named The Blackfoot. First impressions are important, and again Tamiya have produced artwork for the box that is excellent and would not look amiss hanging on a bedroom wall. The presentation of the Blackfoot is again typically Tamiya, with every component neatly and safely bagged or blister packed.

Save Them

Before construction work begins, servos have to be prepared by fitting the correct servo saver and output arm to the type of radio gear you use, both servo saver and output arm are supplied to fit most modern radio equipment. This done construction can begin.

The Blackfoot's chassis is the first part of the car to be assembled, spacing bars held with self tapping screws soon help you to accomplish this giving the Blackfoot a strong, rigid framework type chassis, which is perhaps just as well for it is on or in this construction that the rest of Blackfoot hangs or fits. At this point the two servos, already prepared, can be fitted.



An interesting point is that Tamiya supply plastic servo bearers especially for this job that slide in the chassis/framework, again allowing a choice of radio gear to be used. Speed controller followed by receiver soon had the basics in place. As our Blackfoot was to be used for public display purposes, it was decided to fit a separate power source to power the radio gear this would ensure that if, as sometimes happens, the Blackfoot is used near the prudent limit of its Ni-Cad power pack, then the radio would still answer commands and Blackfoot would not attempt to disappear its own exhaust pipe, probably running over some innocent spectators small dog in the process, safety lecture over.

Shockers

Shocker absorbers are of the coil only type, nevertheless they are reliable, strong units that cope well with the weight of Blackfoots heavy chassis and bodywork, front shockers are post mounted while rears are inclined at almost 90° to the vertical.

Suspension

Front suspension is of double wishbone variety, again heavy gauge with moulded in bump stops top and bottom, whilst the rear wheels are held in place by a swinging arm rear axle set up that works very well.

Transmission

Power is transmitted to the giant rear wheels by means of a simple bevel gear type, differential gearbox unit, there is a standard 540 motor supplied in the kit that is more than adequate for the job and indeed Tamiya supply a warning to the effect that the use of an uprated motor could damage the gear box so take note. Blackfoot's wheels are secured at the rear by a locking device, to avoid any slip in transmission at the front they are secured only by a nyloc nut this allowing for free rotation.

Conclusion

So electrical connections made, Ni-Cad charged, does the Blackfoot work? Yes it does, with all sorts of objects negotiated, or if, you prefer just climb over the garden rockery and then enter a race, the Blackfoot could cope admirably. Maybe someone will hold a hill climb event just for Blackfeet or should that be Blackfoot? What is the plural of Blackfoot?

Available through Richard Kohnstam Ltd., or your nearest Tamiya Stockist. Price around £87.00.

Above: Any terrain is tackled with ease.

Right: A well planned chassis has everything tucked neatly away for safety.

Below Right: Receiver sits high on the chassis to make crystal changes easy.

Below: Double wishbone suspension with heavy duty tie bars copes well with heavy going.

