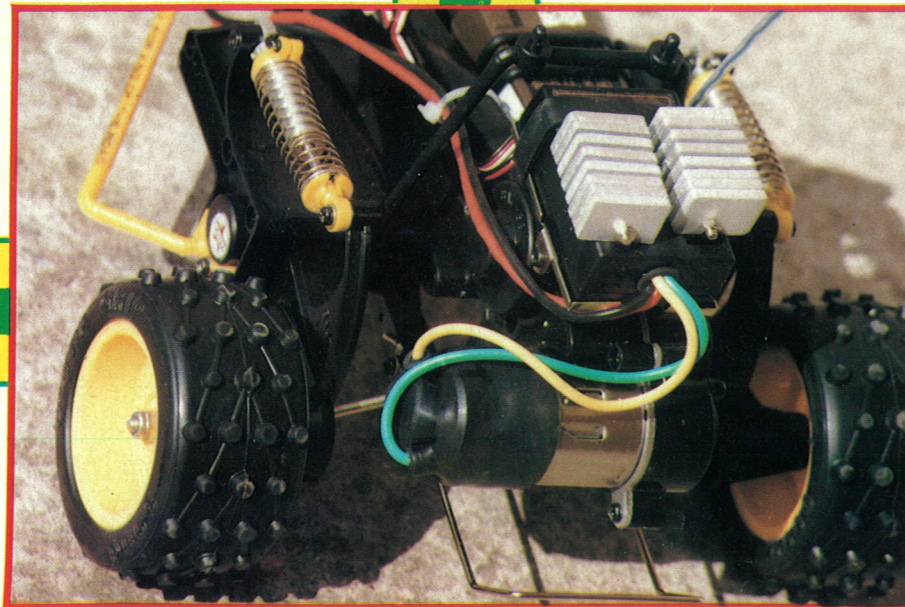


CHALLENGER Kangaroo



Close up of speed controller showing neat wiring installation and heat sinks bolted in place.

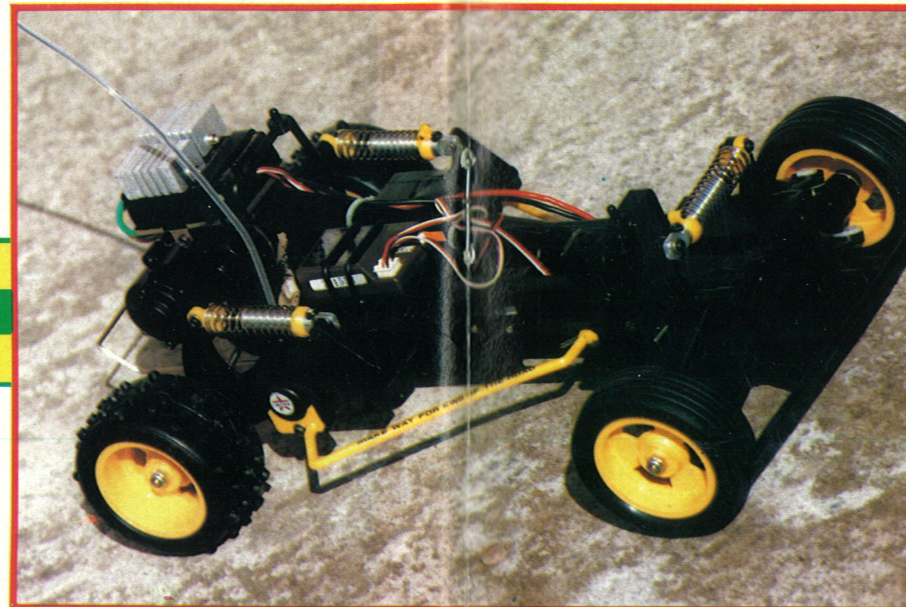


We take a look at the new model from Powermax. Priced at less than a ton, the Kangaroo is the first car we've seen that is literally ready to run, with radio control already fitted and included in the price.

Picture the scene, Captain Cooke is busy flag planting, claiming the Australian new world for the British Empire. Suddenly something distracts him, in the near distance he sees what resembles a giant rabbit in a very badly knitted sweater furiously bounding across the open bush. In surprise he turns to the first of his Aboriginal guides and mumbles something like "What the flipping heck is that", sailors were very polite in those days. The trusty old Aborigine guide not hearing what the good Captain said, turned to the second trusty Aborigine guide and said Kanga-roo. "Ah" says good old Captain Cooke "So thats what it is a Kangaroo", and to this day the the strange, oversized, ill fitting jersey wearing marsupial of Australia is called a "What did he say", for in Aboriginal that is what Kangaroo means.

What has all the above got to do with this review, well everything and nothing really, except that on being told about this new car the reply was "What did he say".

The receiver is kept in place using a strong rubber retaining strap.



Complete with Challenger 250 radio, the radio is indeed a quality item.



The Kangaroo is built around a girder chassis, everything else just bolts on.

The Kangaroo, this is just how the car arrives, minus stickers of course.



Concept

The Kangaroo is a new concept in race car marketing in as much as that the car is pre-assembled, all you have to do, is put the transfers in place on the bodyshell, install a drive battery, switch on and away you go, the Kangaroo even comes with radio gear and transmitter. So what do you get for your money.

A Giant Leap For Mankind

So why the surprise? Well for one thing the Kangaroo is sold fully assembled, ready to run with steering servo, 540 motor and electronic speed controller fitted and fully wired. Secondly, there is also supplied a transmitter of high quality and lastly all the above will cost less than one hundred pounds!

Boing ... Boing ... Boing ...

The Kangaroo is a 2wd 1/10 off roader that seems to be aimed at the newcomer to our sport, as it does provide all that is needed, excluding batteries and recharger. The car itself is constructed around a four rail chassis, making the Kangaroo torsionally very rigid. A wide flexible bumper protects the front suspension from the worst of any impact damage that may be inflicted upon the car.

Suspension

Front suspension is of double wishbone variety and employs a monoshock system to soak up the bumps. The front shocker is a coil over oil unit that is well manufactured from alloy, does not seem to leak and even incorporates a bleed screw.

Rear suspension employs trailing arms each supported by its own shocker, these units are identical to the front. Both rear trailing arms are supported by a plastic cross beam and held in place using three self tapping screws.

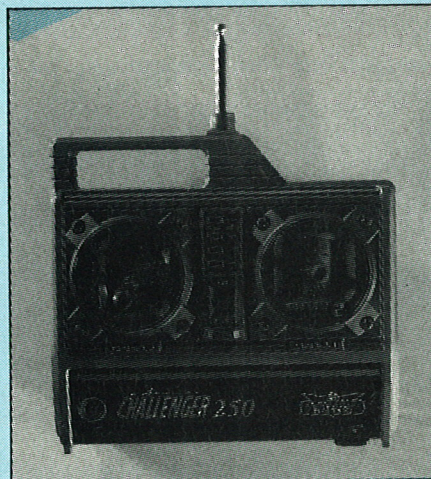
Gearbox

Should the need arise to strip down or replace the gearbox, included in the instructions is a detailed drawing of the position, shape, size, etc., of the components. This drawing shows the gearbox to be straightforward in construction utilising a spur gear, a differential gear and two bevel gears, a tried and trusted method of trans-

mitting power to the rear wheels that should work and work well for the life of the car.



A very good looking, neat and tidy car.



The Aristocraft two channel radio bristles with features not normally associated with a radio in this price range.

The receiver and steering servo are fitted

Radio Gear

The receiver and steering servo are fitted

and working straight from the box. All radio equipment is Aristocraft Hi Tec and was featured a couple of months ago in Radio Race Car. The Kangaroo is also fitted with an electronic speed controller that is fitted with adequate heat sink capability. The controller is fitted with a neutral point adjustment. The Aristocraft Hi-Tec transmitter is a super two channel radio that is fitted with features normally found on radio sets costing as much as the whole Kangaroo package. These features include, adjustable neutral throttle point, servo reverse on both channels, a charging socket, L.E.D. battery state indicators and a neat built in carrying handle.

All In All

A lot of thought has been given to the design of the Kangaroo, everything that should be accessible is, making maintenance easy, very little bump steer is encountered which shows that the car has not been hastily thrown together but researched rather well. Which brings us to the question, why wasn't glass filled nylon used in the manufacture of the chassis and wishbones? It would have made a good car, very good. Sure the cost would have risen but, strength would have been added, that these days is so vitally important. In operation the Kangaroo is precise and crisp, the speed controller works well throughout the speed range giving positive control wherever the throttle is positioned, steering is also precise but for really tight turns the throttle must be used in conjunction. Overall roadholding albeit a little bouncy is good, the Kangaroo stayed on the ground with no real tendencies to skip, bounce or leap about.

So, what have we got a full blown racer, no, a toy, no. The Kangaroo falls somewhere above toy level and definitely below full blown racer. Ideally the Kangaroo is package for dad to buy little Jimmy, he can then practice all he wants, ready for the that he too can go off to race with dad on Sundays, complete with his radio gear, that by now he is used to, installed in his new racer. Dad should at this stage be worried, because with all the practice Jimmy has been able to put in, dad may well be in for a good old fashioned thrumping.

One final worrying point remains, what on earth is a Kangaroo really called?

Available from Powermax, Millett Street, Bury, Lancashire. Price £99.00.

