

FIVE

Star

R.H. looks at the 'Top Five' competition racing 4WD off-road buggies available...

In Europe, 4WD buggies are still the most popular type of off-road cars being raced. Quite why this should be, I don't really know, but the fact remains that nearly every 4WD national this year has been over subscribed.

There are many 4WD buggies available to choose from, and we have gathered together the 'Top Five' racing models, in an attempt to find out which is the best.....

**TOMY
INTRUDER**

Schumacher

BoosCat

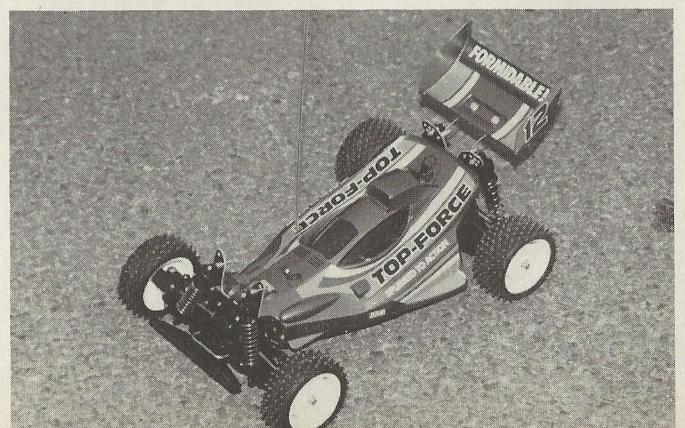
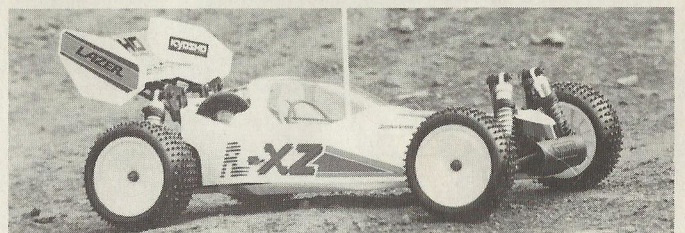
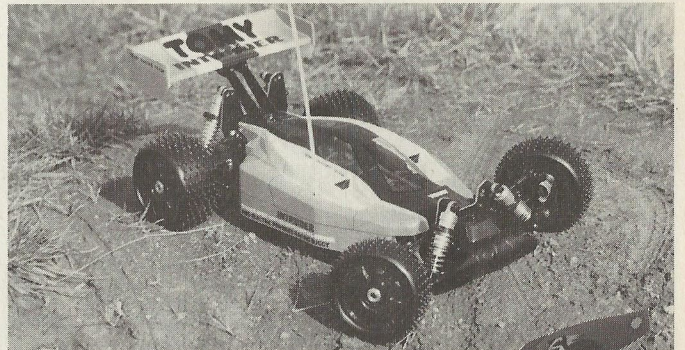
KYOSHO

LAZER ZX

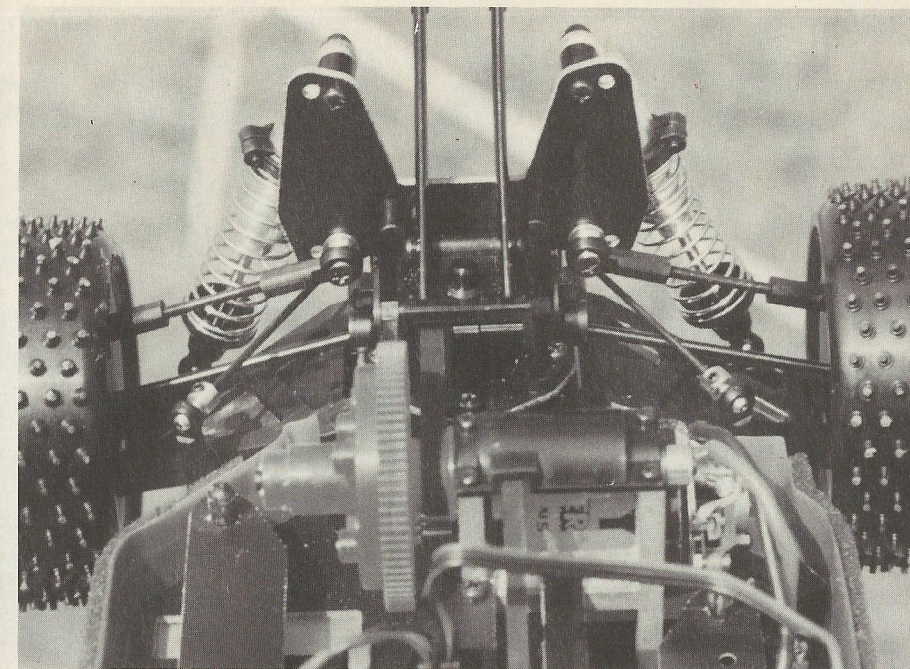
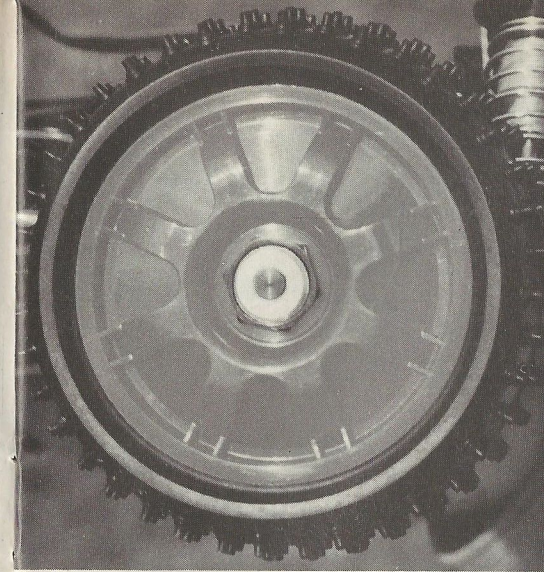
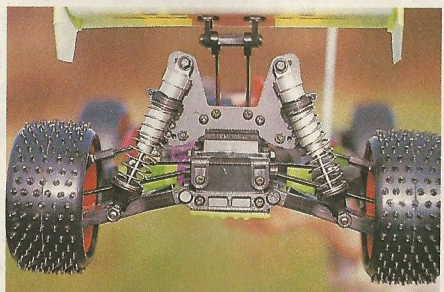
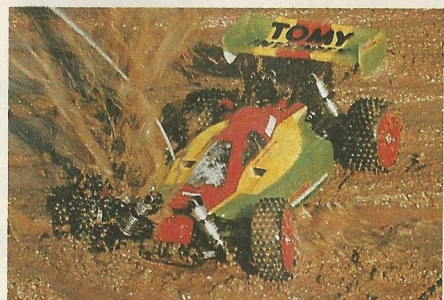
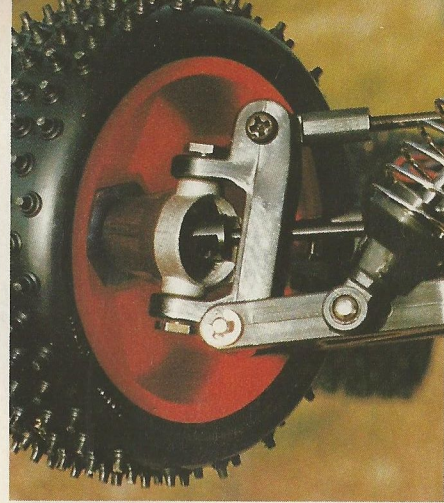
SOCKMO WORKS

TAMIYA

TOP-FORCE



FIVE *Star*



TOMY INTRUDER

This is probably the most under rated model car on the market today. As yet no mega 'super stars' have decided to drive this car in top level competition. (Matthew Hodgson has qualified with his Intruder for a BRCA 'A' final however — a potential super star maybe?)

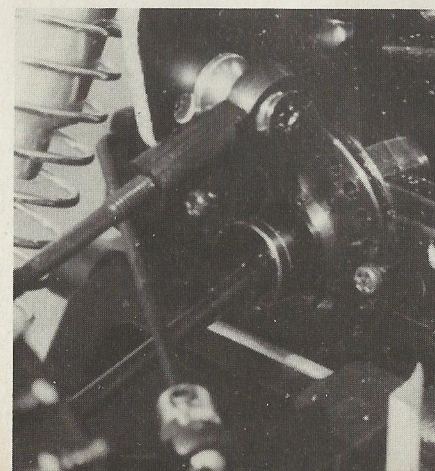
After the 'first time out track test', the Intruder was definitely the best balanced car of them all. The weight distribution is almost ideal on this car which made it so easy to drive. The Intruder lacks some of the refinement of other models, ie. a lack of graphite chassis and shock towers, but it has a huge amount of potential.

There are lots of 'up-grade' modification parts available for this car at very reasonable prices. More of these cars should be being used around the circuits.

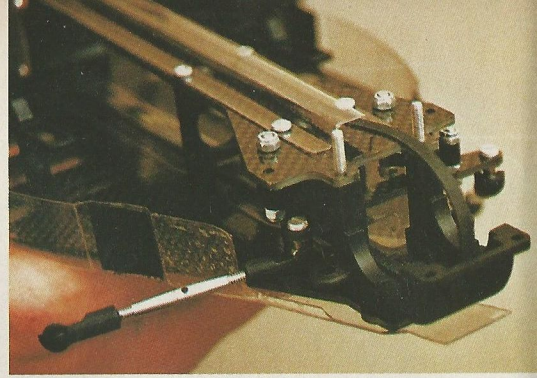
Available from Top Gear Model & Trading Co., 157 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1ER or Samifran Racing, 2D Guild House, 28 Guildford Street, Luton, Beds., LU1 2NR.

WHEEL BASE	273mm
WHEEL TYPE	2.2 Pin Spike
FRONT WIDTH	237mm
REAR WIDTH	237mm
CHASSIS TYPE	Double Deck
CHASSIS MATERIAL	F.R.P.
DIFFS. (NO & TYPE)	Three. Two ball F & R. Centre-geared/adjustable
DRIVESHAFTS F.	Metal U.J.
DRIVESHAFTS R.	Metal Dogbone
DRIVE TRAIN	Coarse pitch Kevlar belt
BALLRACES	Yes. Fully ballraced
RADIO ROOM	Limited
BODY & WING	Polycarbonate
DRIVERS	Matthew Hodgson
TITLES	None to date. BRCA 'A' Final
WHEN ON MARKET	April '91
BEST POINT	Out-of-box handling
WORST POINT	Looks
PRICE	R.R.P. £169.99

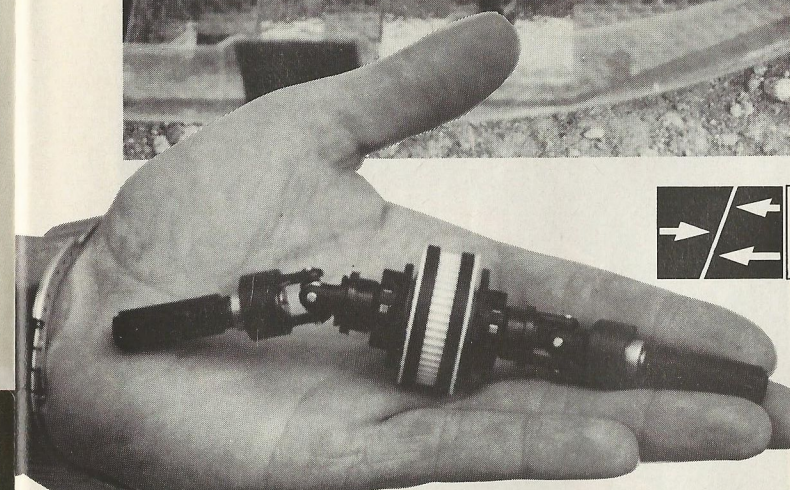
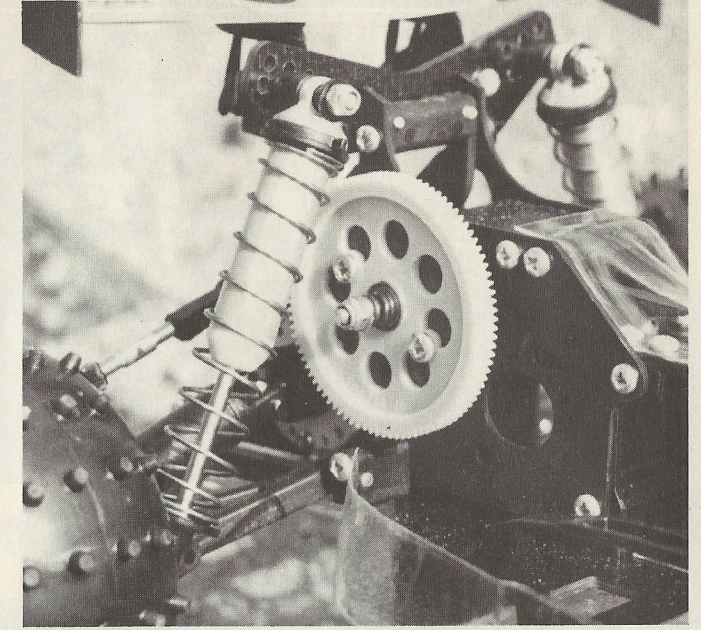
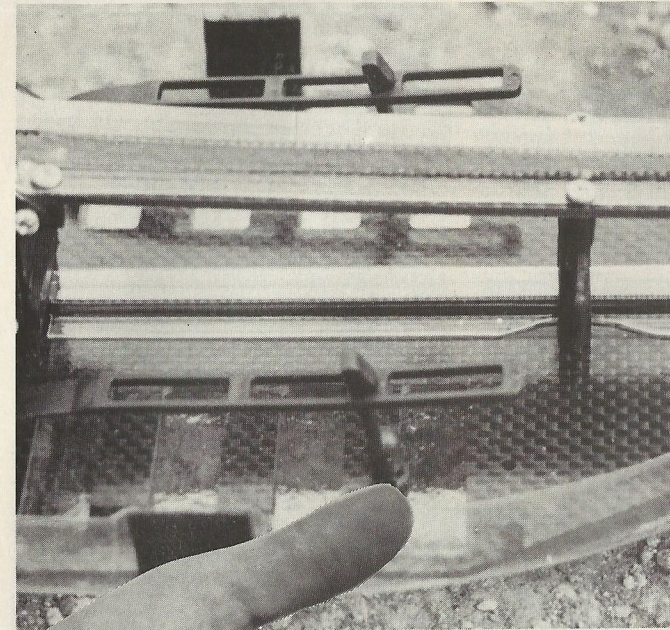
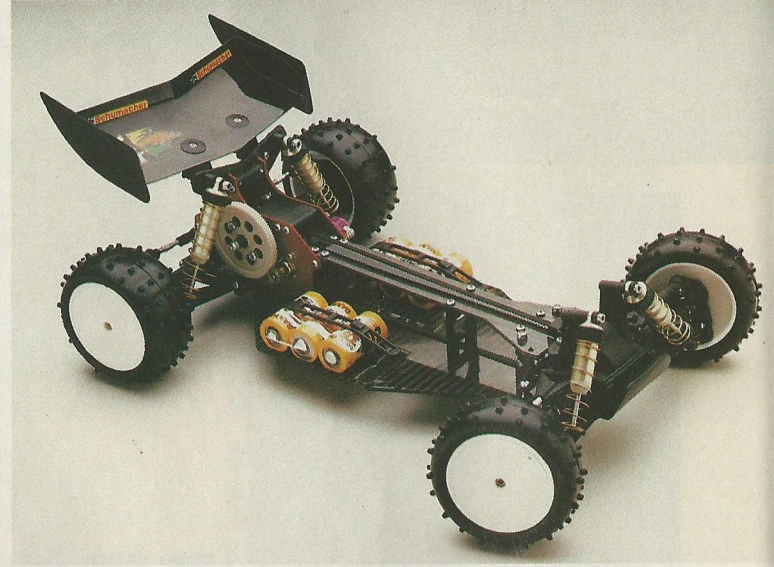
FIVE STAR RATINGS	
OUT-OF-BOX PERFORMANCE	*****
ADJUSTABILITY	***
EASE TO WORK WITH	***
LOOKS	**
DRIVEABILITY	*****
EASE OF ASSEMBLY	**
'UPGRADE ABILITY'	**
INITIAL T-TEST RATING	*****
SEX APPEAL	**
VALUE FOR MONEY	***



FIVE Star



Kevin Moore's Boss Cat.



Schumacher BossCat

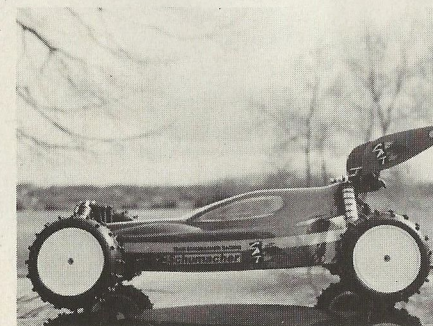
From the U.K.'s most famous model car manufacturer, the Boss Cat has a good pedigree, being designed by the same team that made the 1987 World Championship winning C.A.T. XLS. The Boss Cat is a major improvement over the old cars. It comes with almost every conceivable 'goodie' and 'gadget' as standard, to make it as competitive as possible 'out of the box'.

The Boss Cat is easy to set up and maintain, and spares back-up and availability is more than equal with that of the much larger Japanese manufacturers, Kyosho and Tamiya. The Schumacher team are constantly developing and improving their cars, and as soon as a modification is found to work, it becomes available to you, the owner.

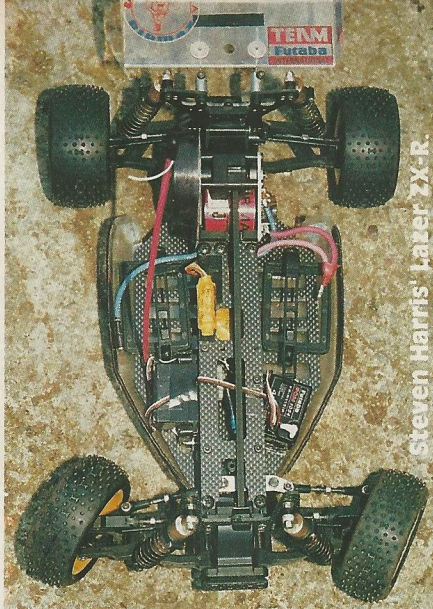
Available from good model shops through Schumacher Racing Products, Hanson Business Park, 71-73 Tenter Road, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 1AX.

WHEEL BASE	279mm
WHEEL TYPE	2.2 Pin Spike
FRONT WIDTH	244mm
REAR WIDTH	244mm
CHASSIS TYPE	Double Deck
CHASSIS MATERIAL	Graphite
DIFFS. (NO & TYPE)	Two, ball T.C. diff balls
DRIVESHAFTS F.	One way U.J. Telescopic
DRIVESHAFTS R.	Roller U.J. Telescopic
DRIVE TRAIN	Fine pitch Kevlar belt
BALLRACES	Yes. Fully ballraced
RADIO ROOM	Limited
BODY & WING	Polycarbonate
DRIVERS	Kevin Moore, Jurgen Lautenbach, Phil Davies, William Mitchum
TITLES	None to date
WHEN ON MARKET	May 1992
BEST POINT	Spares availability
WORST POINT	Rear gearbox access
PRICE	R.R.P. £265.00

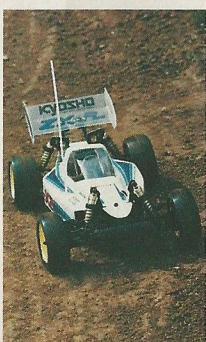
FIVE STAR RATINGS	
OUT-OF-BOX PERFORMANCE	****
ADJUSTABILITY	****
EASE TO WORK WITH	***
LOOKS	***
DRIVEABILITY	****
EASE OF ASSEMBLY	***
'UPGRADE ABILITY'	****
INITIAL T-TEST RATING	****
SEX APPEAL	**
VALUE FOR MONEY	****



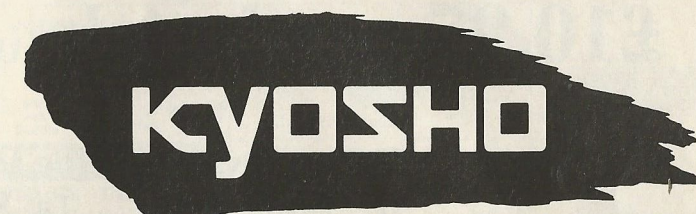
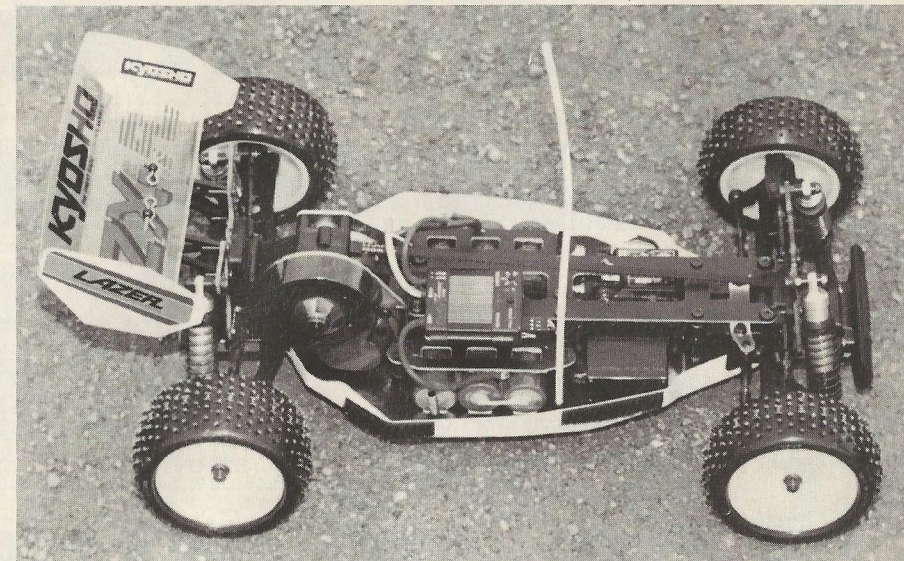
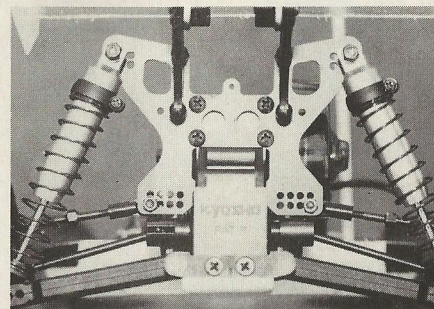
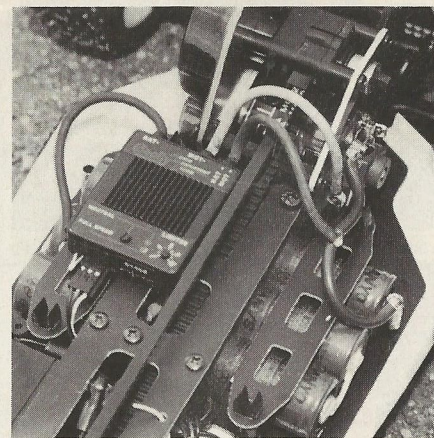
FIVE Star



Steven Harris' Lazer ZX-R.



Jamie Booth's Lazer ZX-R.



LAZER ZX

The ZX-R is possibly the most popular car early '92, with many people swapping to a ZX-R for this season. It seems that the simplicity of design, and the ease with which the car can be driven and set up, are the reasons which have made it a great success.

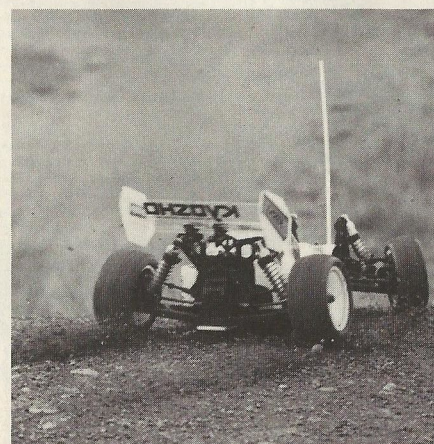
Like the Tomy, it lacks a little refinement here and there, but the modified parts are easily available. The current 4WD British Champion, Jamie Booth, has chosen to drive Kyosho cars this year, and he has already had some success.

The ZX-R is a good all round racer, and its greatest feature is that it is simple enough for a beginner, yet it is more than good enough for the professional.

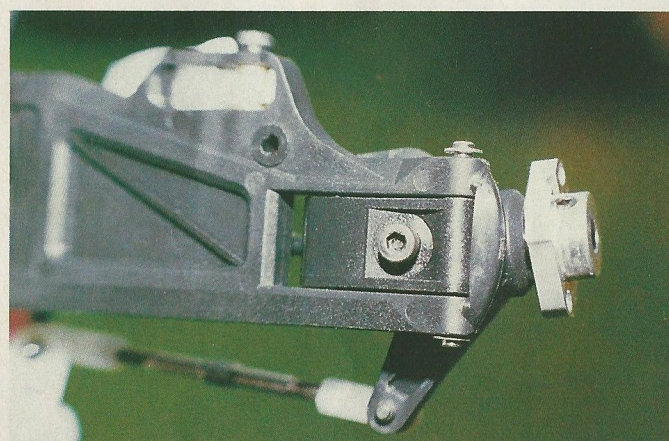
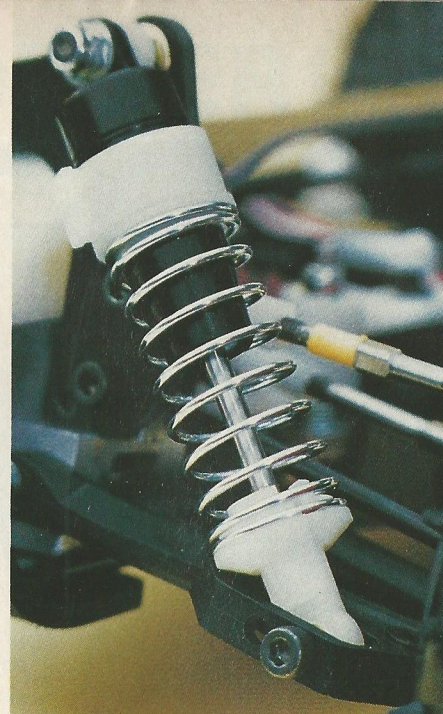
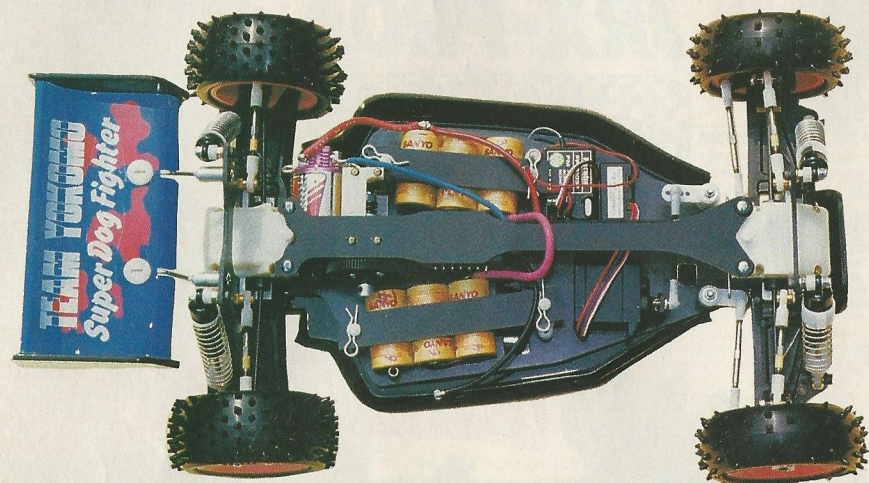
Available from all good model shops through Ripmax, Ripmax Corner, Green Street, Enfield, EN3 7SJ.

WHEEL BASE	274mm
WHEEL TYPE	2.2 Pin/H Pattern
FRONT WIDTH	233mm
REAR WIDTH	241mm
CHASSIS TYPE	Double Deck
CHASSIS MATERIAL	F.R.P.
DIFF. (NO & TYPE)	Two. Ball
DRIVESHAFTS F.	Dogbone Metal
DRIVESHAFTS R.	U.J. Metal
DRIVE TRAIN	Medium pitch Kevlar belt
BALLRACES	Yes. Fully ballraced
RADIO ROOM	Limited
BODY & WING	Polycarbonate
DRIVERS	Jamie Booth, Steve West, Piet Goemans, Jack Johnson, Rick Howart, Steven Harris
TITLES	Reedy International — USA. 3rd in Worlds '91
WHEN ON MARKET	Dec '91
BEST POINT	Easy to build and drive
WORST POINT	Durability
PRICE	R.R.P. £236.00

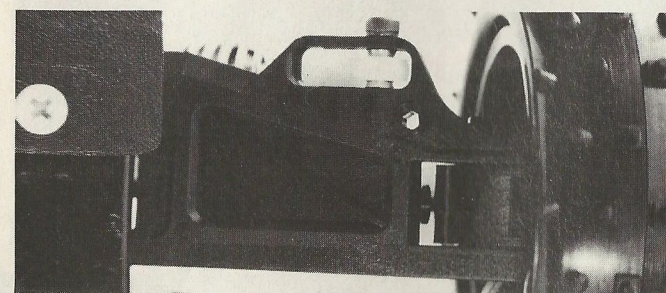
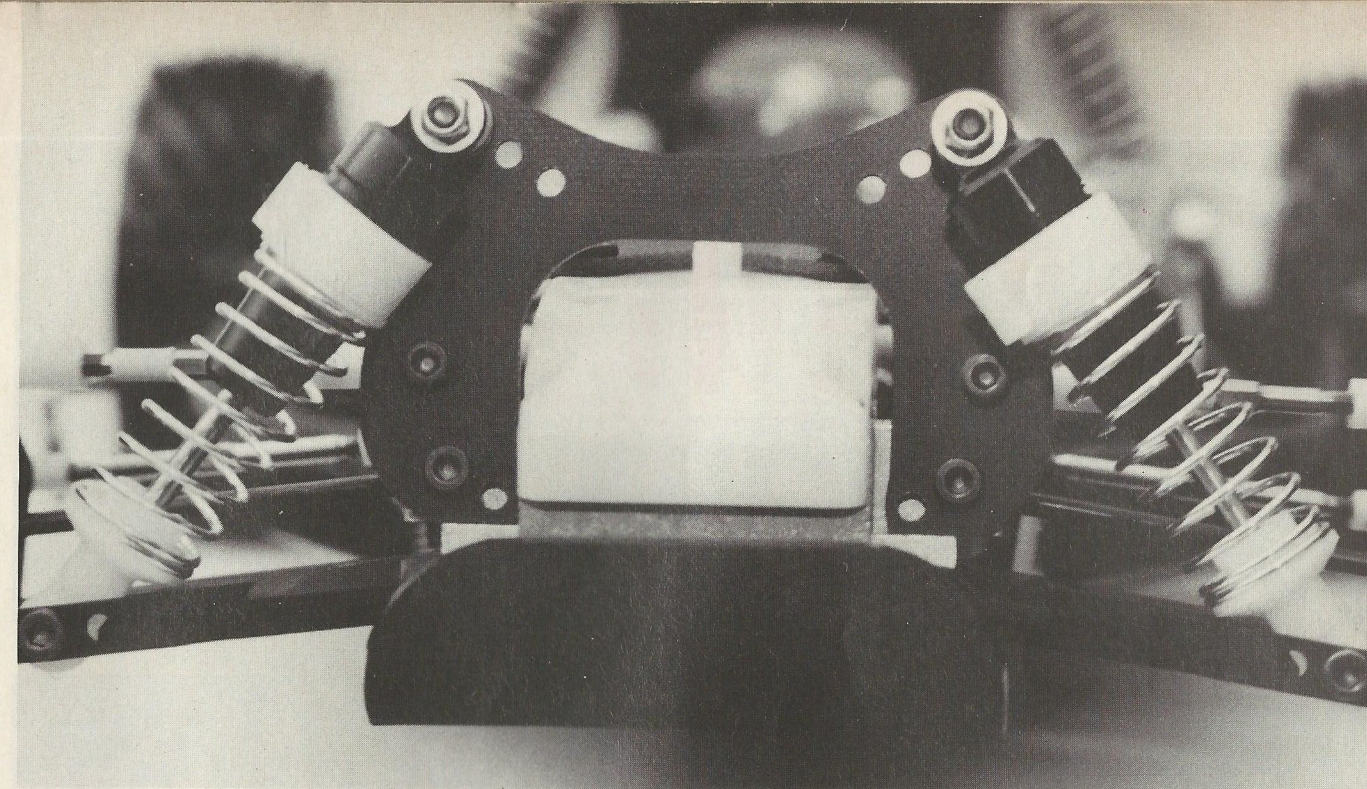
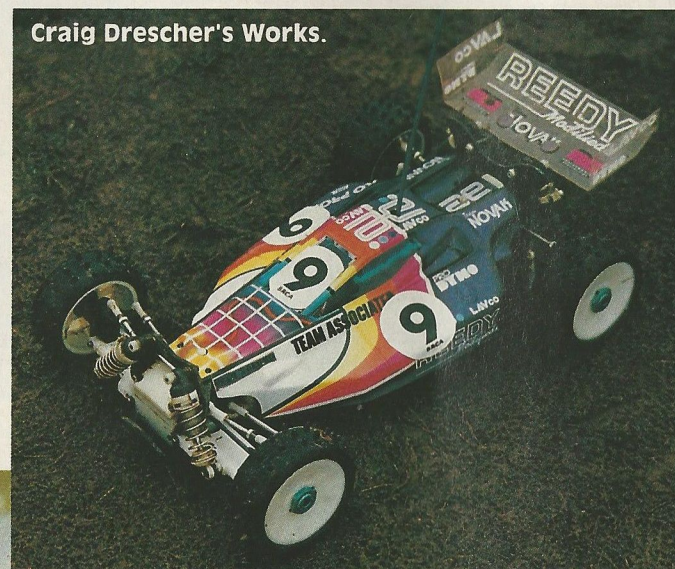
FIVE STAR RATINGS	
OUT-OF-BOX PERFORMANCE	***
ADJUSTABILITY	***
EASE TO WORK WITH	***
LOOKS	**
DRIVEABILITY	*****
EASE OF ASSEMBLY	*****
'UPGRADE ABILITY'	**
INITIAL T-TEST RATING	***
SEX APPEAL	**
VALUE FOR MONEY	**



FIVE Star



Craig Drescher's Works.



YOKOMO WORKS

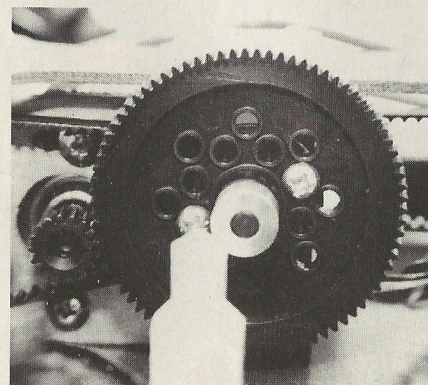
This is the current World Championship model, and was driven to victory in Detroit in '91 by Cliff Lett. The Works was chiefly designed by multi World Champion, Masami Hirosaka, so the pedigree of the car is not in question.

The design of the car is very simple indeed, and it uses the best materials available, such as titanium for the tie rods and graphite for the chassis and shock absorber towers. The only disappointing thing about the kit is the quality of the shock absorbers. Although they are good, they certainly aren't the best available.

At international level the Yokomo is, without doubt, the car to beat in 4WD class, and the team in Japan continue to improve and up-rate its design.

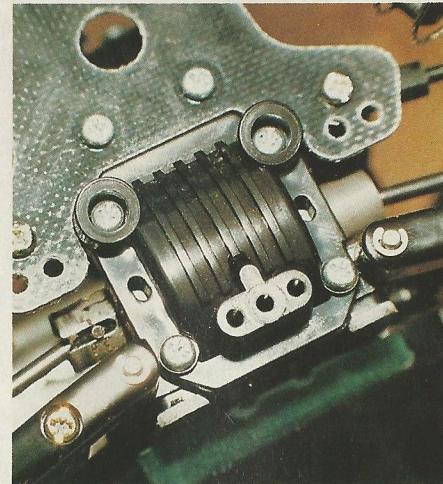
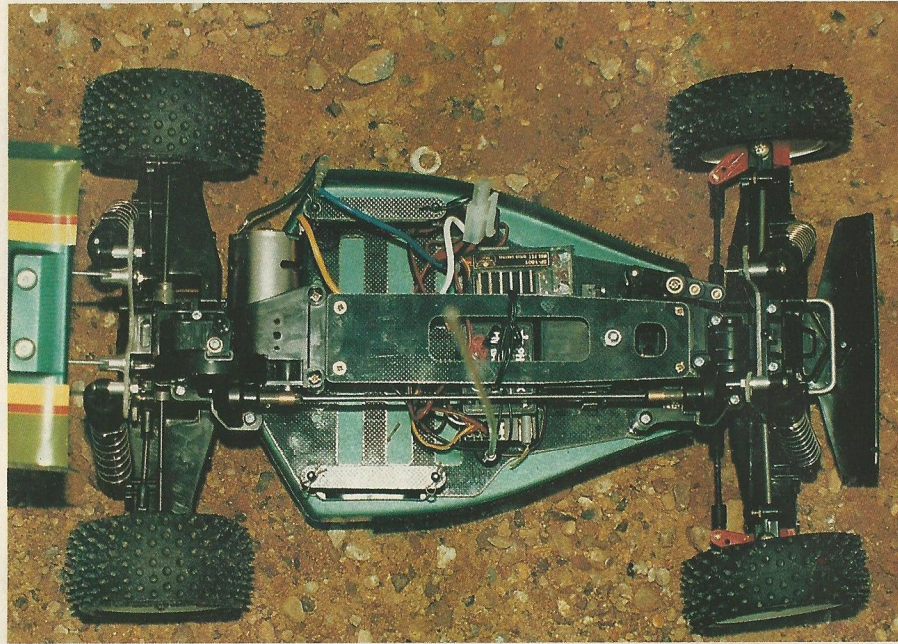
Available from good model shops through CML Distribution, 1684 Bristol Road South, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 9TZ.

WHEEL BASE	276mm
WHEEL TYPE	2.2 Pin Spike
FRONT WIDTH	245mm
REAR WIDTH	245mm
CHASSIS TYPE	Double Deck
CHASSIS MATERIAL	Graphite
DIFFS. (NO & TYPE)	Two. Ball
DRIVESHAFTS F.	Metal U.J.
DRIVESHAFTS R.	Metal U.J.
DRIVE TRAIN	Coarse pitch Kevlar belt
BALLRACES	Yes. Fully ballraced
RADIO ROOM	Good
BODY & WING	Polycarbonate
DRIVERS	Masami Hirosaka, Cliff Lett, Craig Drescher, Rory Cull
TITLES	World Champ '91
WHEN ON MARKET	June '91
BEST POINT	Calibre
WORST POINT	Shock absorbers
PRICE	R.R.P. £250.00

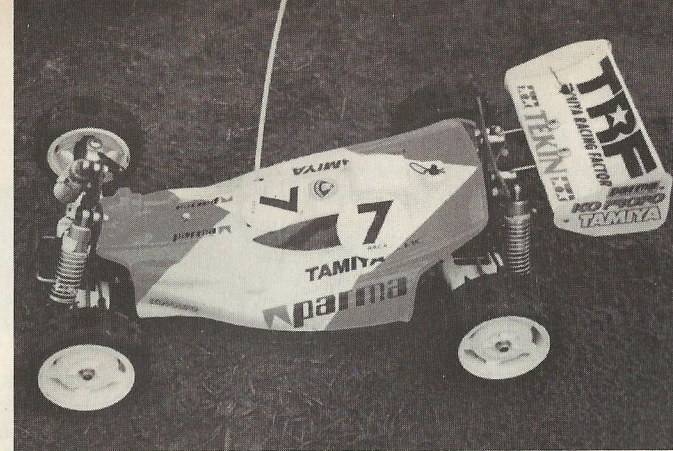


FIVE STAR RATINGS	
OUT-OF-BOX PERFORMANCE	****
ADJUSTABILITY	***
EASE TO WORK WITH	***
LOOKS	***
DRIVEABILITY	****
EASE OF ASSEMBLY	****
'UPGRADE ABILITY'	***
INITIAL T-TEST RATING	***
SEX APPEAL	**
VALUE FOR MONEY	**

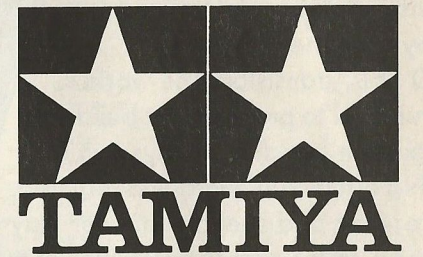
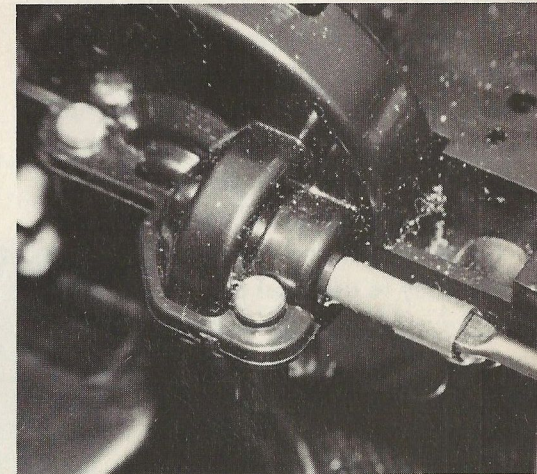
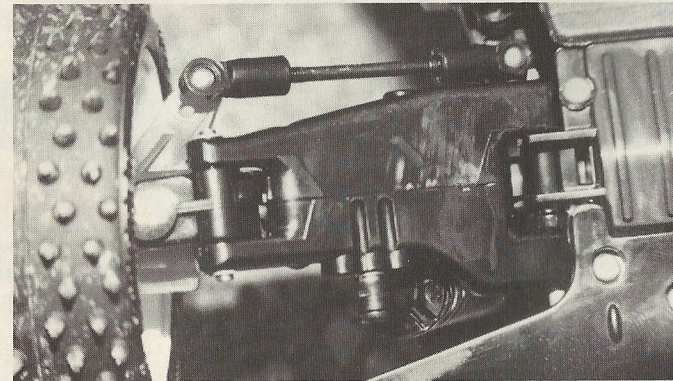
FIVE *Star*



Mark Tatman's Top Force.



Alan Harman's Top Force.

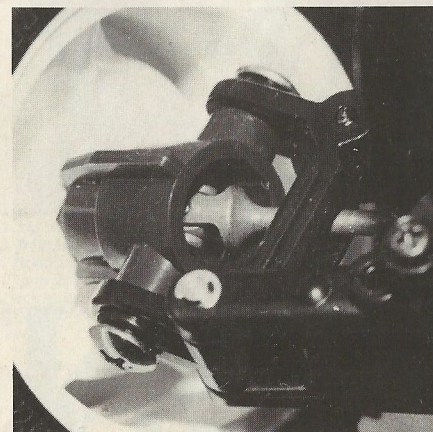


TOP-FORCE

This is the only car in our 'Top Five' that isn't driven by a belt. Instead, a metal shaft-drive system has been employed that works well enough, but maybe not as well/efficiently as a belt. To compensate for this the car handles supremely well, even with the plastic CVA oil filled shock absorbers.

For top line competition, this car needs to be uprated more than any of the others with better shock absorbers and ballraces. Although it is the least refined and sophisticated of all the models, it is by far the cheapest, making it an ideal choice for up-and-coming 'super stars'.

Available from most good model shops through Riko Ltd, 13-15a High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 3AD.



WHEEL BASE	272mm
WHEEL TYPE	2.2 Pin Spike
FRONT WIDTH	244mm
REAR WIDTH	250mm
CHASSIS TYPE	Double Deck
CHASSIS MATERIAL	F.R.P.
DIFFS. (NO & TYPE)	Two ball
DRIVESHAFTS F.	Metal U.J.
DRIVESHAFTS R.	Dogbone
DRIVE TRAIN	Shaft
BALLRACES	Yes. Partially ballraced
RADIO ROOM	Good
BODY & WING	Polycarbonate
DRIVERS	Mark Tatman, Alan Harman, Steve Haynes
TITLES	None. BRCA 'A' finalist
WHEN ON MARKET	Jan '92
BEST POINT	Ease of assembly
WORST POINT	Drive train efficiency
PRICE	R.R.P. £138.95
FIVE STAR RATINGS	
OUT-OF-BOX PERFORMANCE	****
ADJUSTABILITY	***
EASE TO WORK WITH	****
LOOKS	***
DRIVEABILITY	****
EASE OF ASSEMBLY	****
'UPGRADE ABILITY'	****
INITIAL T-TEST RATING	****
SEX APPEAL	*
VALUE FOR MONEY	****

