

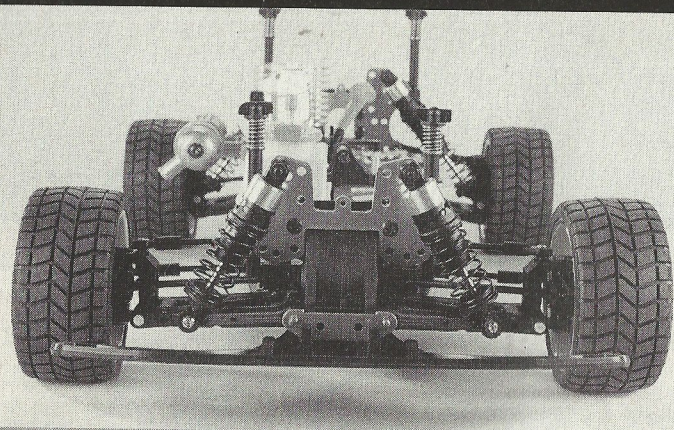
KIT REVIEW

Kyosho seem to have the knack of producing just the right model, with the IC powered M3 they have again made the right choice with this good looking high performance 1:10 on roader

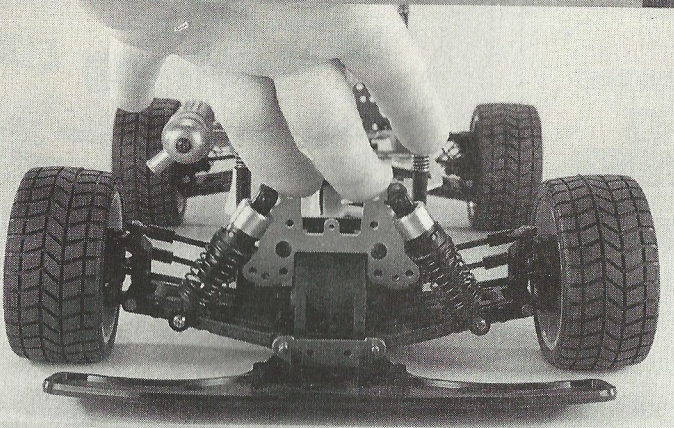
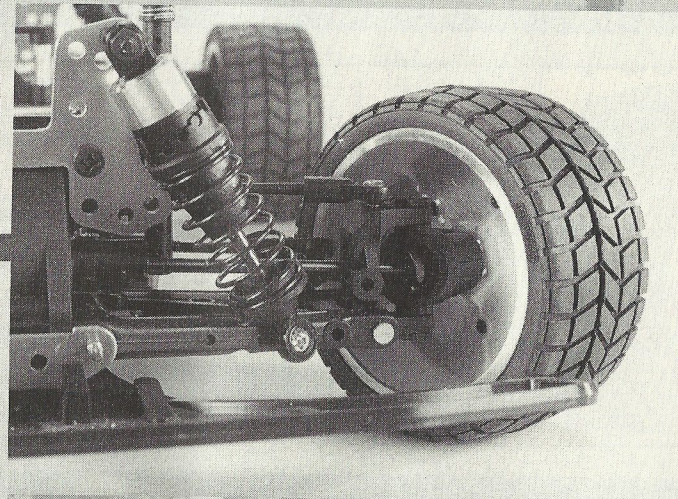
Small attention to detail in the design of any product can make the difference between success or failure and it is also the small aspects of design that are the most difficult to get right. Kyosho's M3 features a number of design features that are 'just right' from the clever wheel design incorporating moulded brake discs to the well designed carburettor mounting on the latest GS11X engine.

Kyosho's concept of a 1:10 scale IC powered car was first seen with their early 2WD off road chassised cars with engines literally bolted at the back where the electric motor was designed to go, in those days they were real fun but the chassis were not up to IC power and engine technology was not as advanced as today, cars could be unreliable. One of the biggest breakthroughs for 1:10 IC was Kyosho's RS200, a chassis designed for the purpose using Optima parts and 4WD, this was a really good design and launched the class.





Below; Oil filled plastic dampers and clever spring adjusting detail. Left; Limited suspension is designed for on road use. Note; Excellent detail on the moulded tyres and just visible fixings for multi piece wheels.



The latest

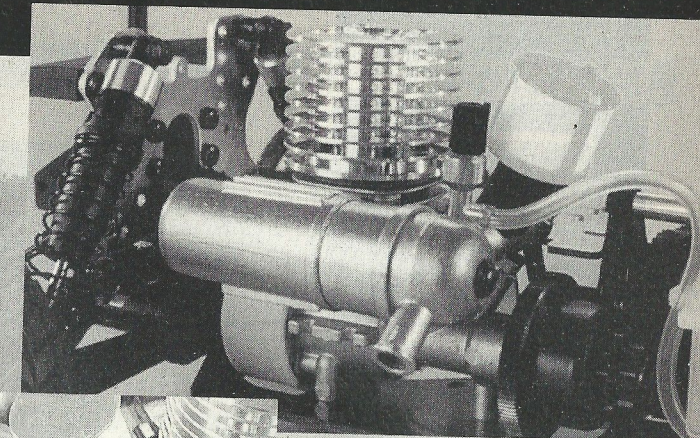
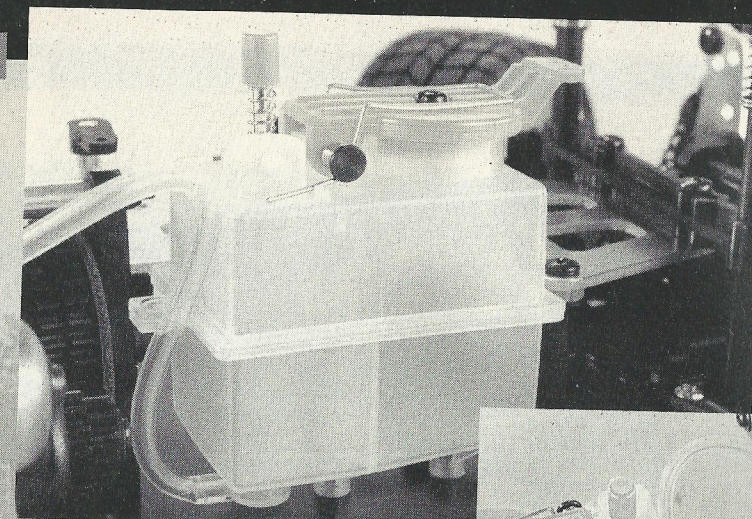
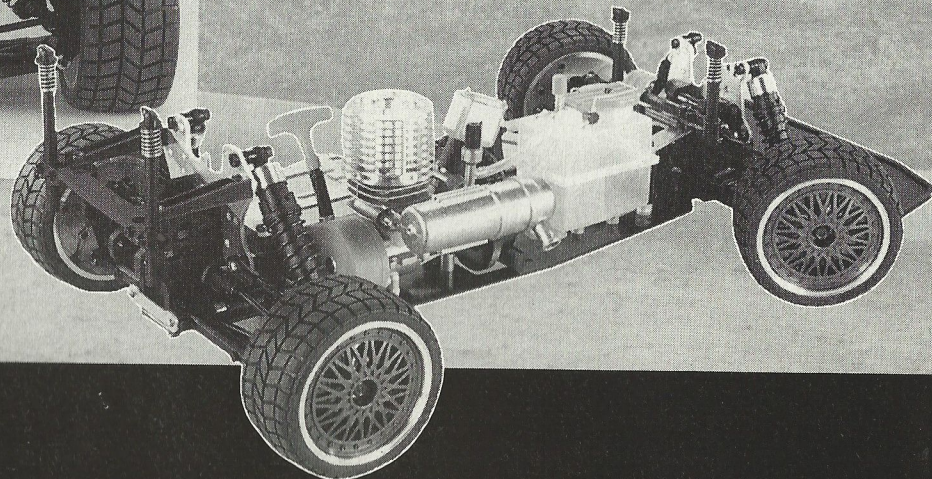
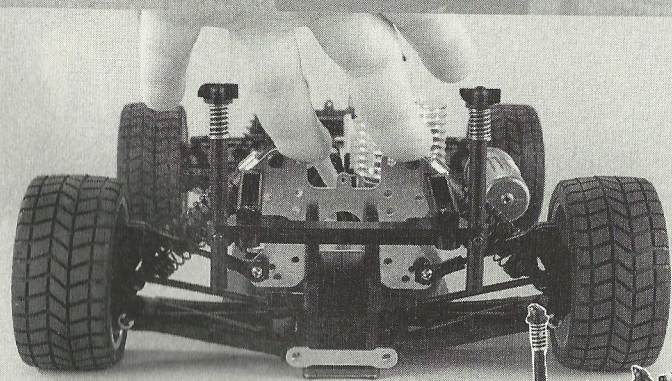
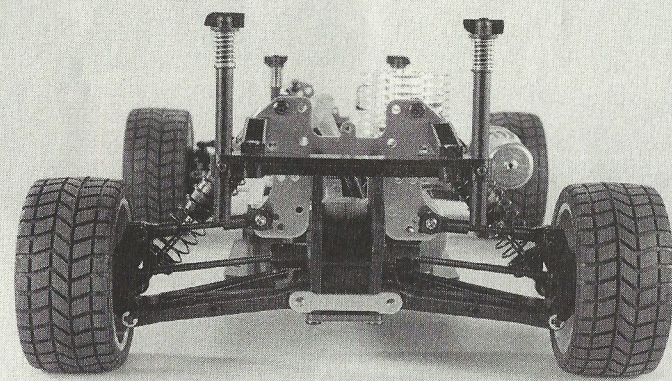
The latest variation of Kyosho's theme is the BMW M3. This consists of a 4WD chassis with 2 speed transmission. Fully working suspension on all four corners is controlled by oil filled dampers with adjustable ride height via a clever motor cycle style quick change spring adjuster. The chassis is formed from 2.5mm thick alloy and is anodised in a very attractive (to us anyway) blue, a second alloy top deck houses the RC gear and forms a ridged box section that keeps the chassis strong and stiff.

The drive system on the car starts with the clutch, this is bolted to the engine and is a centrifugal unit, two clutch shoes fly out at certain revs and make contact with the clutch drive bell, this has a gear drive to the first of the centre gears. It is always important with IC cars that the centre drive unit has a firm fixing as many of the main stresses are taken here, Kyosho have used a well tested design here scaled down from their 1:8 unit - it is

good and tough and well up to the job. The drive is then passed through the included two speed transmission, again this works with a centrifugal clutch system and uses a one way roller bearing. The theory behind the unit is that a speed continues the second gear will come into play automatically, this gives the car good acceleration and good top speed and the sound of the gearbox changing can just be heard above the engine note! The change point is factory set but can be adjusted.

Moving the power...

Steel drive shafts take the power to the front and rear of the car where the power is transferred to the ball differentials. The differentials allow the wheels to turn at different speeds when cornering, they were at one time an ultra expensive unit in RC cars but Kyosho's design as with other RC companies have enabled them to include a diff in all their car kits. The diffs have hardened steel drive



Top left; Fuel tank is well designed and features a clever pump to take fuel to engine before starting. Above; Latest GS11X has new cooling head. Left; Two speed transmission in the centre of the car.

outputs that transfer the power via more steel drive shafts to the wheels and the drive system is complete. The last feature on the drive system is to slow it down! A very neat cam operated disc brake unit is mounted along with the 2 speed transmission in the centre of the car, this uses proven RC car technology to slow the car down and stops the whole transmission rather than just the wheels like on a real car.

The power

The car features the latest engine from Kyosho - the GS11X. This latest version features a new silencer to keep the engine quieter than the original and a new crankcase that has a dual mounting system that is tougher. A new larger head is also featured - this is to keep the engine cool and when the body is fitted to the car the most cooling available is a very good idea...

The engine features a built in pull start, this avoids the need for a separate electric starter and has proven reliable in our hands.

As mentioned the car has oil filled dampers to keep the wheels on the ground. These are plastic units that are light yet strong - they are very smooth in operation and come semi-pre assembled, all the tricky work is done for you!

The overall chassis on the car has a feeling of good quality and sound design, all the parts needed to complete the car are in the kit except for the usual RC gear and there are some very nice touches like the fuel tank primer and clever body mounts that allow

a little movement in the unavoidable crash landing!

Latest design

Topping off the car is the body. Kyosho do not always produce the most accurate bodysells, they tend to produce a shape that is both purposeful and representative of the real car but with the M3 they have produced one of our favourite designs so far. The actual shape of the lexan shell is very good, low sleek and instantly recognisable. To add to this are all the add ons - these are really good, wing mirrors, the rear wing and the grill. These are all plastic mouldings that require to be fixed to the body, they add realism and finish the body off very well. An advanced decal set is also included that takes some

applying but when on makes the car look just as it should - modelled on the German car that competes in the GTCC.

Lastly on the looks side are the wheels - they are great. Moulded in silver and multi piece they feature an insert for the middle of the wheel and a moulded disc to add realism - they just look really good but do remember to glue the tyres on otherwise they fall off when cornering!

Overall we felt this is one of the nicest all round kits from Kyosho for ages. It has a sound chassis that will be reliable and tough and looks the part with its low M3 body, our experience with running the car has been good and you find the noise and smoke from the IC engine hard to resist! If you fancy something a little different and special try one - and don't forget to listen for the gearbox changing up! Available from all Ripmax/Kyosho stockists. Price approx. £300.00

