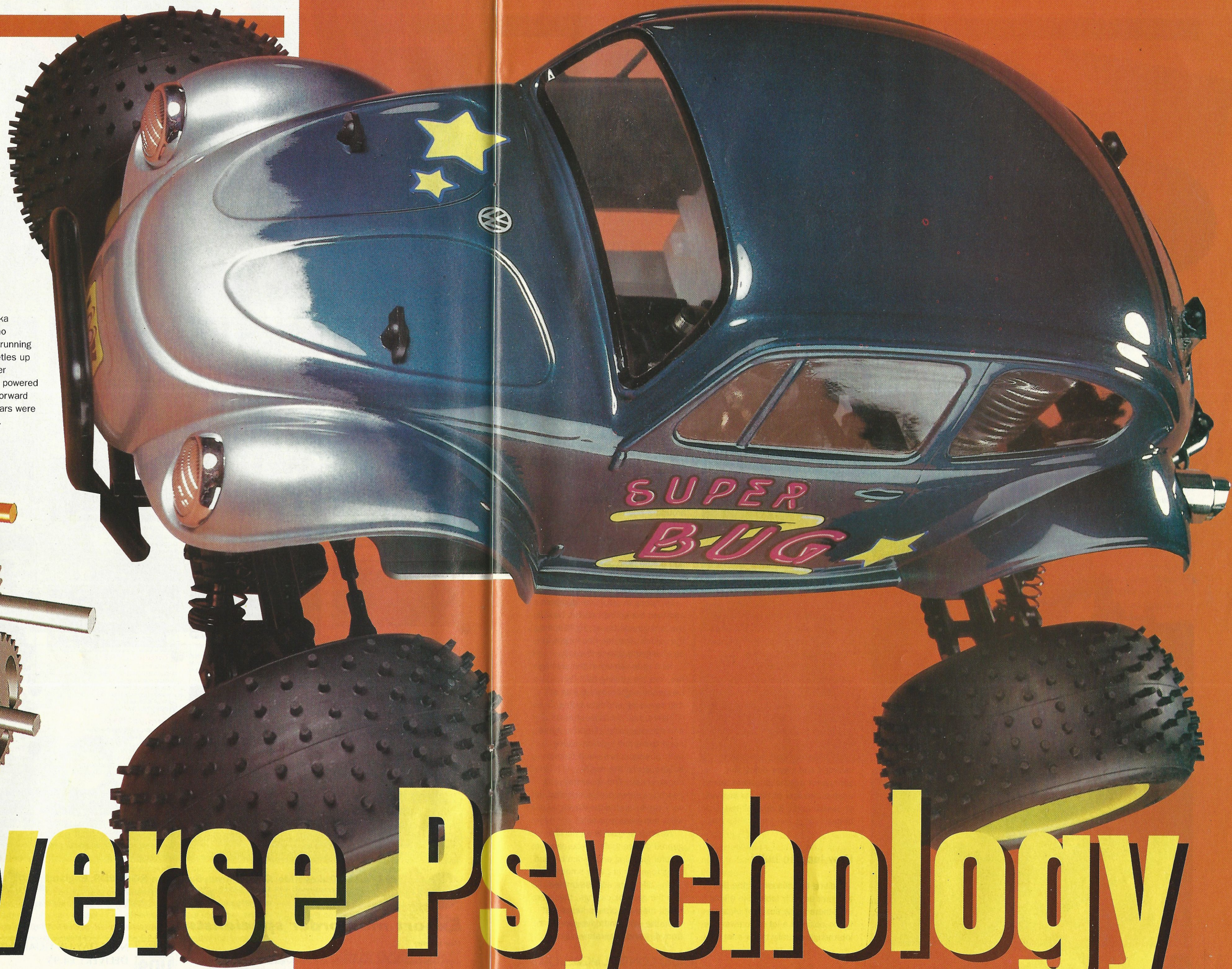
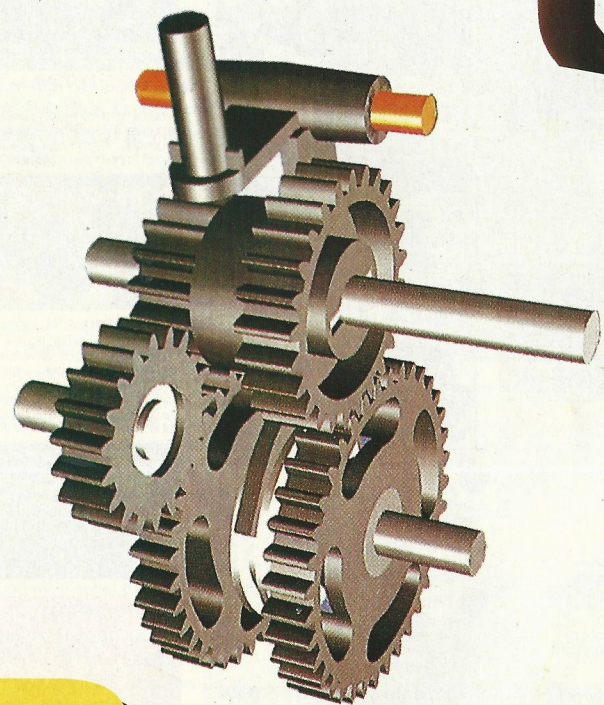


## KIT REVIEW

Report by Mike Caine

Kyosho have finally done it - they have made a reliable IC powered car that doesn't need rescuing every time you crash because it has a reliable and easy to use reversing gearbox

**W**e first saw this car at the Shizuoka Hobby Fair in May '96, the Kyosho display team were there in force running a team of beautifully painted Beetles up and down the display area, the difference to other displays in the hall was firstly that they were gas powered and secondly that they were being jammed into forward and reverse continuously by the operators! The cars were pulling full blown wheelies and were fully reliable.

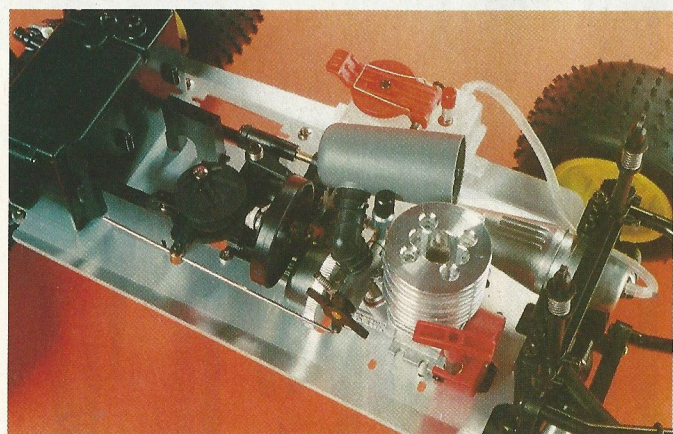
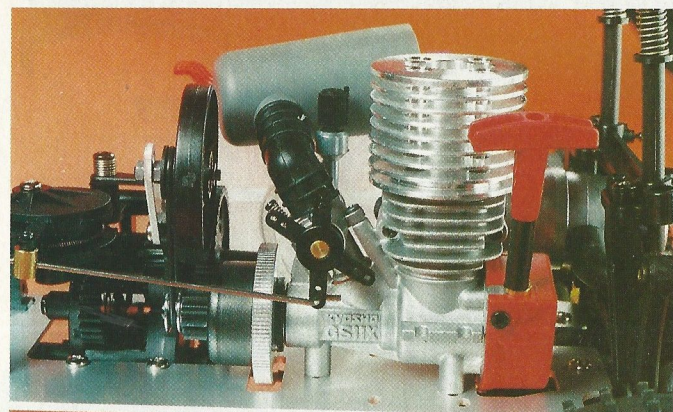


# Reverse Psychology





With the body shell on and off the Beetle shows off its 4WD and reversing gearbox system plus its timeless good looks. Kyosho engine comes complete with pull starter installed, in fact the engine is ready to run and comes with excellent running instructions.



### In the UK

It has taken some time for the car to make it to the UK but after the wait it soon becomes obvious that the wait was worth it.

The car is actually a very advanced chassis with a high specification, four wheel drive will come as a surprise to many as the car is obviously designed for fun and often the fun spec cars come as 2WD.

Oil filled dampers are also included and clever adjustable springs for ride height, all of this adds to the feel of the car and will of course make it drive all the better.

### How long to build

Bolting the chassis of the Beetle together actually looks like a long job - there really are a lot of parts in the box and a lot of screws. The job though actually takes a lot less

time than expected, in total a rolling chassis was achieved in around 3 hours.

Construction starts with the dampers, these are plastic bodied with one piece shafts and pistons, add a little drop of oil to the shaft and this will make them super smooth.

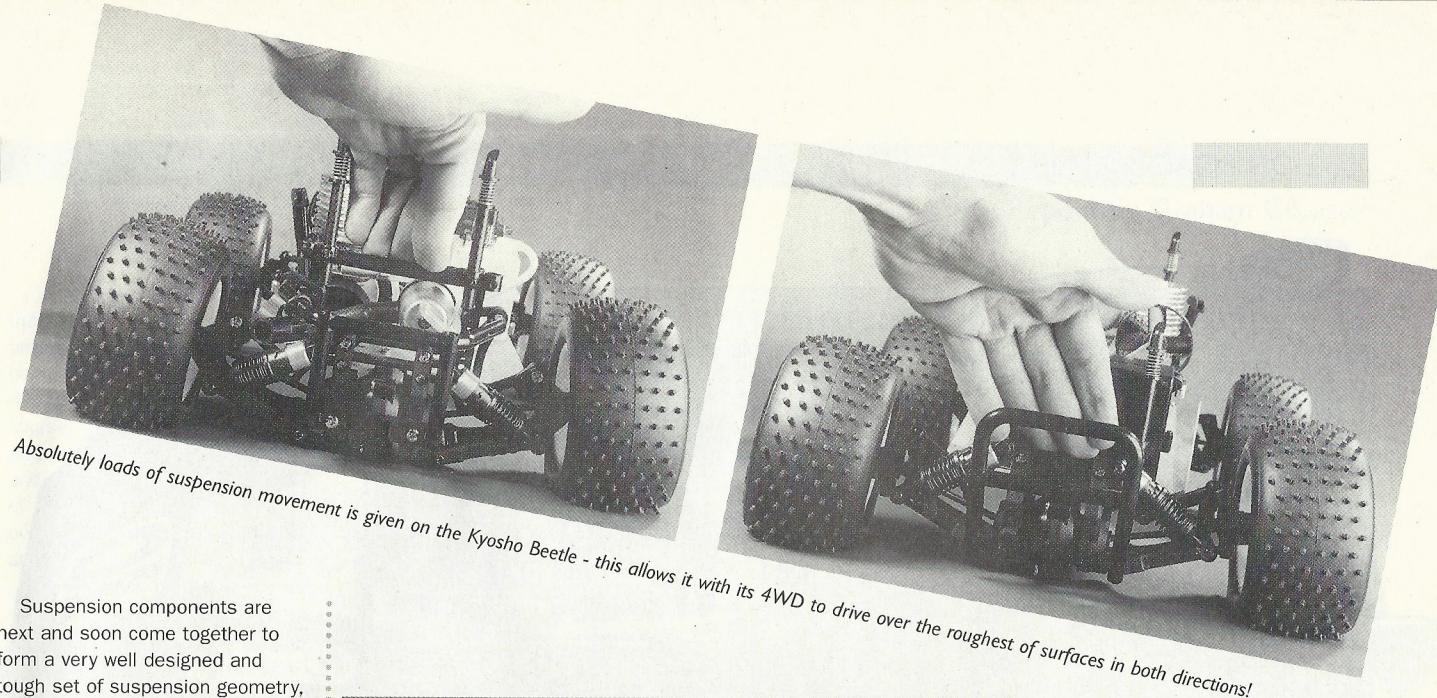
Oil needs to be put in the dampers and then the springs added. Next is the springs and the spring keepers, the collars allow the ride height to be changed quickly and easily.

Next is assembly of the cooling fan. Yes the cooling fan! This keeps the engine cool during all that reversing and forwarding...

Next up is the alloy chassis and the reversing gearbox, these need to be put together using self tapping screws and form a solid start to the main construction. The reversing gearbox comes pre assembled, is very clever and looks strong - what more can you ask?

Next up to build is a pair of geared differentials, these need careful greasing and assembly and once together are very smooth.

The diff units are assembled into the gearbox casings, these are tough moulded plastic items that keep the diffs and drive gears safe from dirt and accurately aligned.



Absolutely loads of suspension movement is given on the Kyosho Beetle - this allows it with its 4WD to drive over the roughest of surfaces in both directions!

Suspension components are next and soon come together to form a very well designed and tough set of suspension geometry, that is designed to handle as well as take bumps and jumps.

The drive system and steering components are next and feature steel bearings that can be replaced with ball races. Drive shafts are steel dog bone style and need to be convinced into place at the same time as suspension parts - all good fun!

The car pretty much now has all the suspension and drive parts in position, and is really starting to look like the real thing.

### Kyosho power

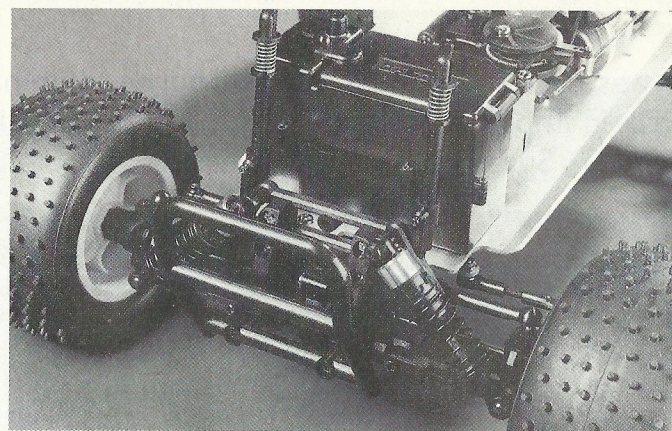
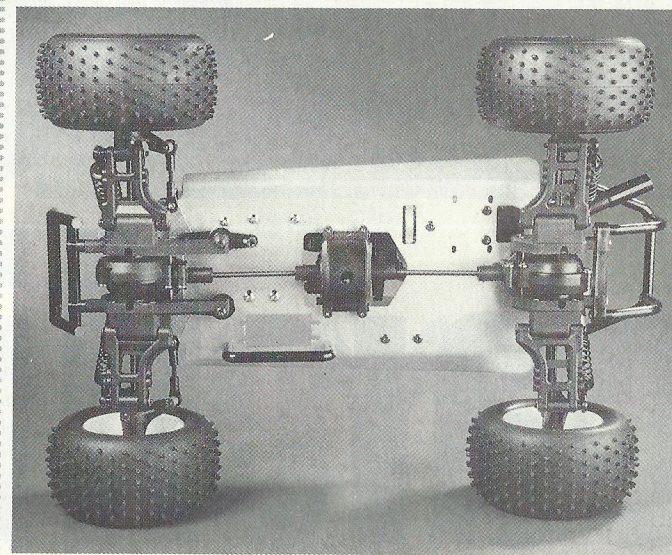
Kyosho now make their own engines - they have for some time, and they are now real experts in the field of car engine manufacture. The beautiful little engine in the kit is fully pre assembled and just requires to be popped into the car - gone are the days of fitting clutches and cutting crankshafts. The engine now just fits easily and simply into the car and complete with pull start system and ready to go!

The fuel tank and fittings are next up and again the Kyosho team have used their unrivalled gas experience to develop a tank that is easy to use and seals perfectly - giving the engine reliability and good fuel economy.

After a few more parts - radio box and linkages - some very clever, including the device to make the car still operate the throttle in both forwards and reverse.

### Clever design

The body mounting system on the car is really clever, the idea has been seen before but who



under the coating will stay clean.

Once the paint job is done the plastic parts can be bolted in place and the decals applied to finish off the final look.

So far we haven't explained fitting the RC system - the pictures of the car were taken pre radio fitting and eventually we were able to fit the latest Futaba Attack 2DR. The radio fitting is simple, just follow the instructions and the settings will make the radio work perfectly.

### So the big issue...

Just how does it go? Well the performance is excellent - there really is no other word for it, the speed is good, the handling more than adequate and the grip amazing from the 4WD. Most impressive though is the reverse. The car really can be jammed from forwards to backwards and back to forwards - if you see what we mean! Whether it's advised is not clear but we had real fun with the car on the dirt as the added dimension of reverse is a real whizz!

actually came up with the idea first is a mystery. Small sprung loaded clips keep the body in place and safe from the rigours of racing and crashing.

Wheels and tyres are next and need to be glued into place with a little super glue.

The crisply moulded Beetle body is easily cut to the marked lines and ready for painting, keep the protective coating in place as overspray will occur and the lexan

