

TURBO OPTIMA BAJA BUG

Warren Dawson builds and enjoys Kyosho's little marvel, the 1/20 scale Baja Bug.

Now the dark nights are beginning to set in and you've spent hours getting your 1/20th car ready to race for next season. What are you going to do through the winter, the chances are nothing and when you do start racing in March-April time you will probably find that the skills of a once hard to beat top driver are having an awful time because you haven't driven for 4-5 months.

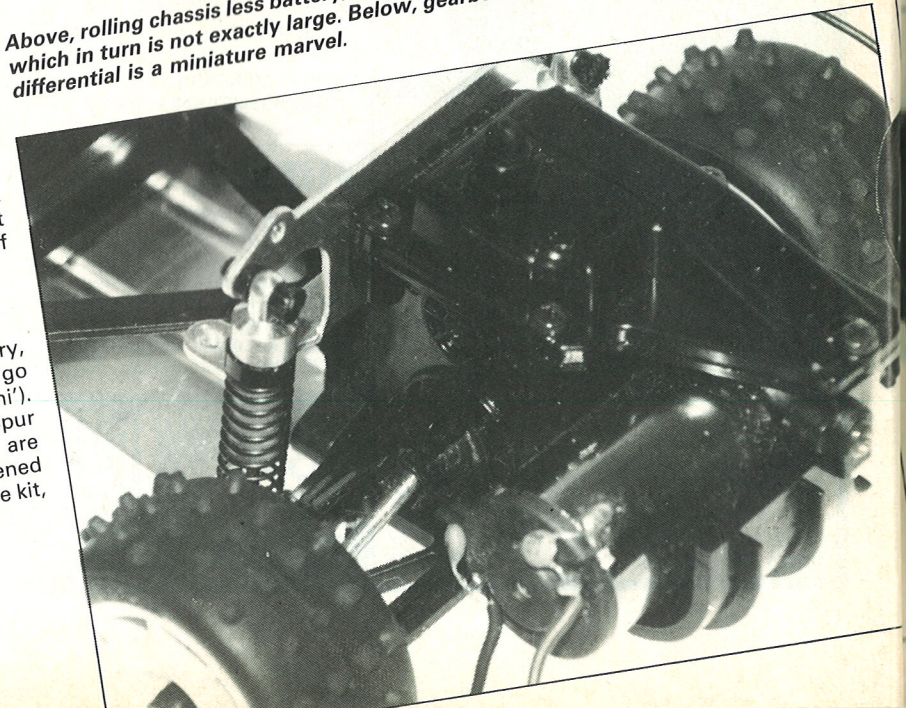
So what better to race than a 1/20th Scale Baja Bug, practically maintenance free, no cold hands, no mud, just a very fast great to drive car. There are loads of places where they can be used. If you asked nicely you're local indoor club might allow you to race. Well what do you get in the kit? First you get a 7.2v 270mA battery, fast charger, Le Mans DM20 motor, and of course the car.

Construction

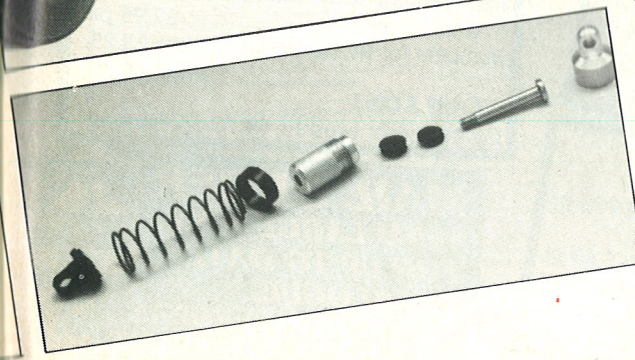
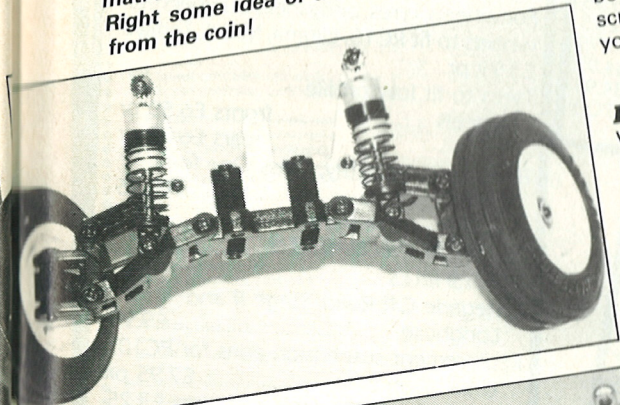
Firstly you are told to charge the battery, which just shows how quick it should go together. Now the mini diff (I mean 'mini'). Three bevel gears are housed in the Spur Gear then small amounts of grease are applied to this. Once it is all tightly fastened using the screwdriver that comes in the kit, it is then slotted into place.



Above, rolling chassis less battery, as you can see the car is dwarfed by the R.S.U. which in turn is not exactly large. Below, gearbox and D.M.20 motor, all working differential is a miniature marvel.



Above, gearbox and transmission is criticised. Below complete rear end follows the same format. Bottom a disassembled shock absorber. Right some idea of true size can be gauged from the coin!



Shocks

The shocks are very simple to construct, two very small friction sponges are pushed on to the piston and then placed into the shock itself, once the cap and spring have been put into place they are then bolted on to the shock stay and wishbone, which has two different positions. Also four black spring spacers are provided to alter the tension of the shock, depending on the surface you are running on.

Once the front end and rear gear box have been screwed onto the chassis, it is then time to put in the radio gear. Make sure the servo saver is in place on the servo and then it is time to get the R.S.U. (Receiver Servo Unit) in position.

What's an R.S.U.? Well where do I start? This unit incorporates the functions of a receiver, speed controller, and servo amp. It is handily designed for small cars. An on and off switch is provided with a slide adaptor. The idea of the unit is to make it as quick and as easy to use as possible with the least amount of fuss.

When you've done all that a centre mount is used to stop the R.S.U. from sliding back. Glue the tyres onto the 1/20th style rims, cut the mini Turbo Optima lexan body out, take the battery off charge, and screw it into place. Then switch on and you're away.

Performance

Well, being used to off road, my immediate reaction was to full throttle the car, which may seem logical but not in your lounge. The little car reacted instantly and pulled a wheelie with no problems what so ever. After a few laps around the table and a few close encounters of the chair leg I was beginning to get the hang of it. This little car has amazing grip and fully working independent suspension. The high grip knobbly tyres help when cornering at high speed. Next I tried it on the road. What a beast, up the road like a rocket, the neighbours peering out of the windows thinking 'what is he doing?' After about 15-20 minutes the battery started to run down but what a great 15 minutes. A must for the indoor enthusiast, and if you're one of those people who are never satisfied, you can always buy the ball race kit which contains 14 bearings and will increase running time



and bring down friction, or for the real poser the alloy wheel and sponge tyres to improve the looks of the car; wait for it, a Le Mans DMC20BB modified motor which will increase the speed, and a front shock stay.

All Baja Bugs and accessories are available from Ripmax stockists everywhere.

