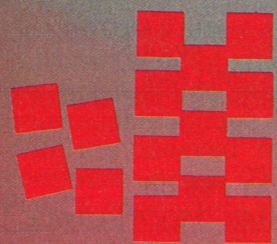
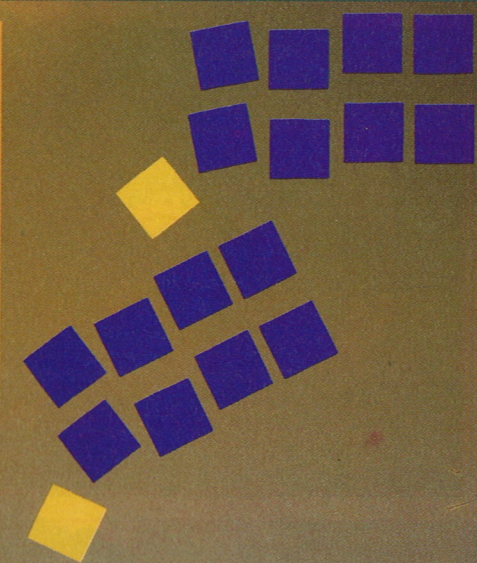




SAURUS



Model Cars goes for
a spin in Kyosho's
2WD Saurus

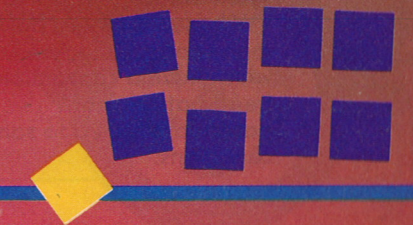


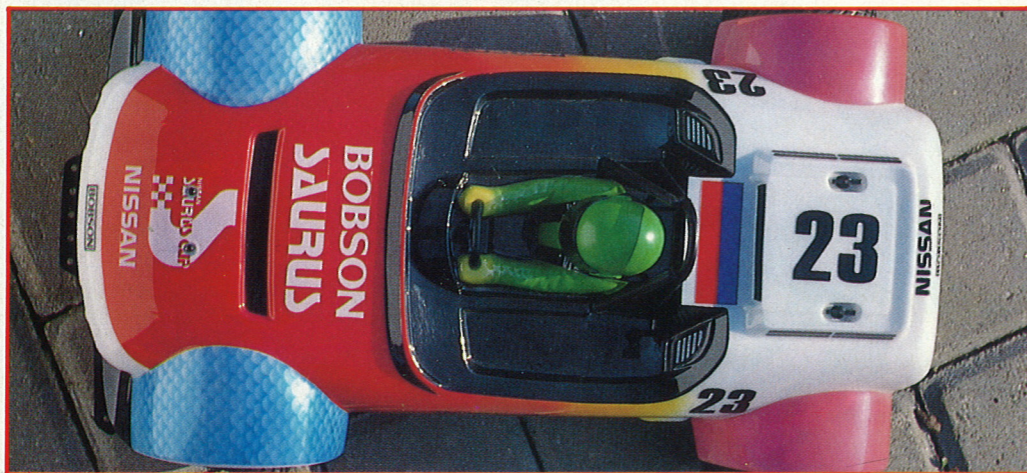
If there's one thing that writing about radio control car kits has taught me, it's got to be that the Japanese are a weird bunch of people.

I don't mean that in an unpleasant way - I guess what I'm trying to say is that they are, well, different I suppose. For instance, every now and then Kyosho, or Tamiya, or whoever, bring out a new kit which sets you thinking, "what the heck are they up to now!" If the kit in question is a model of a full size car then even better. Who knows how the fiendish Nipponese mind works? But for sure it's ticking away, dreaming up new and obscure things to swamp the world with. Just one such item is a new kit from Kyosho called the Saurus. Apparently this little gem is a model of a full size car, it must be because it comes with a sticker sheet which includes 'Nissan' and 'Saurus Cup Race Series' decals.

So, somewhere in Japan there are a bunch of people racing these cars for real, what's more Nissan make them. I've never seen one for real, not even in motoring magazines.

In the absence of any hard facts about what this





The bodyshell is a single seater type, so it must be for racing (plus the driver figure has got a racing helmet and gloves on so he's not just going down the shops for some Sushi).

But what kind of racing are we talking about? I suppose it could be dirt track, maybe on an oval, although the Saurus doesn't look as if it is designed for any form of contact with other cars. I'm still scratching my head here, trying to figure out what you are supposed to do with the thing - what kind of racing is this car designed for, full-sized or model.

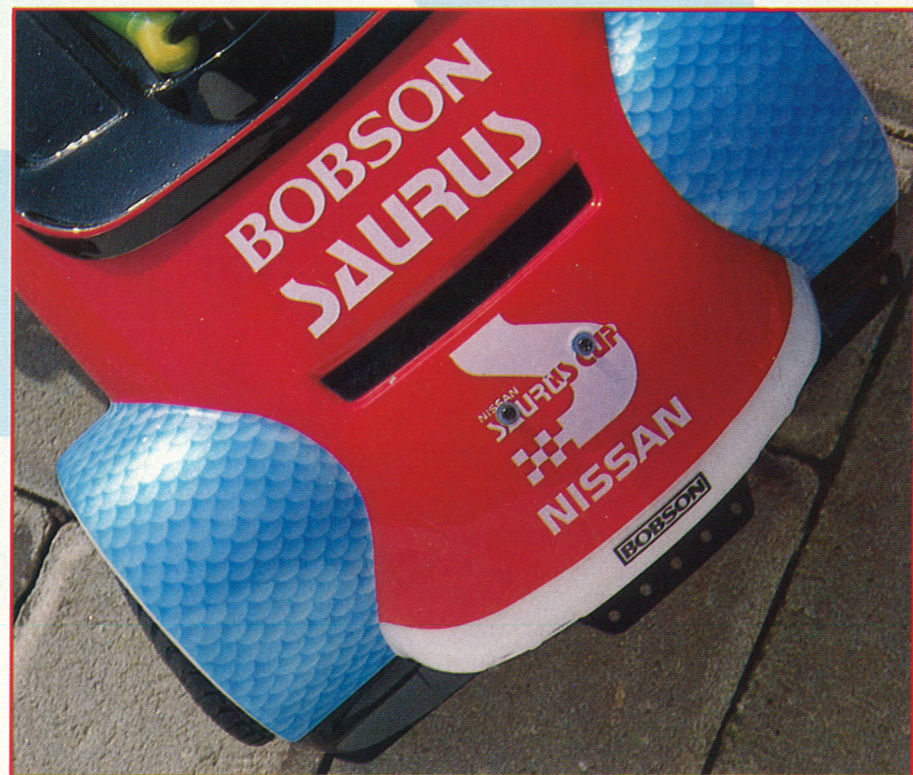
Unless anyone knows different I doubt I will ever find out. Which leaves me with Kyosho's latest baby and a sore head.

Underneath the pram-like bodyshell we find very few surprises. Once again Kyosho have done their usual trick of releasing a new car with an old chassis and a different bodyshell. The chassis in this case is basically Ultima derived to produce a two-wheel drive Saurus.

Aah hah! Another clue. The Saurus shocks are smaller than normal and the damper positions, particularly at the rear, are set further inboard to decrease the amount of

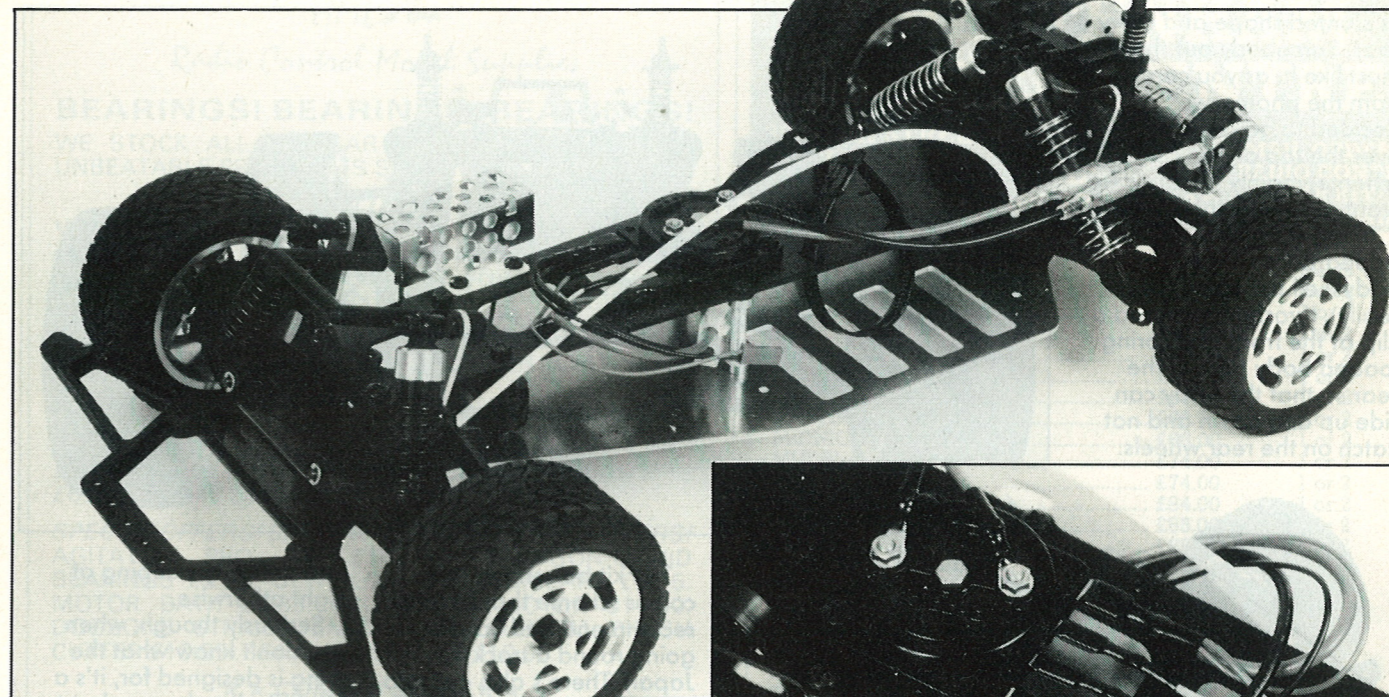


Saurus driver figure comes complete with tinted visor! RCMC paint job features fish scales to enhance the Saurus looks.

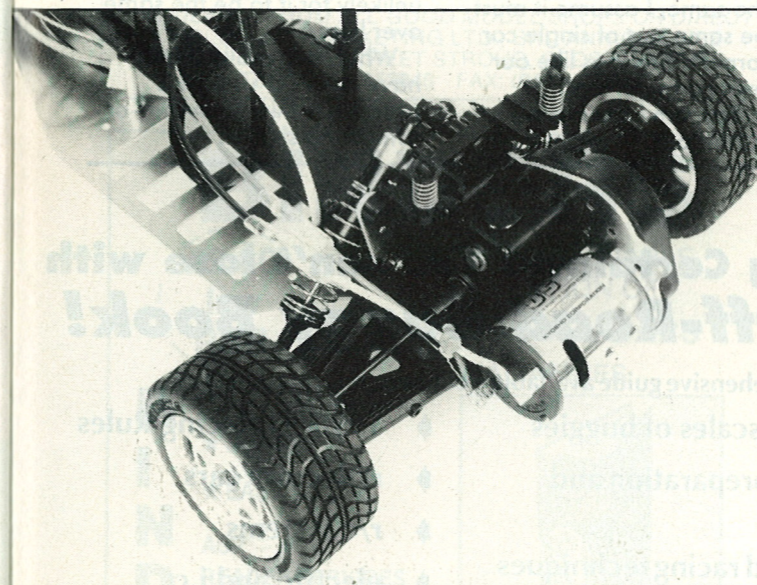
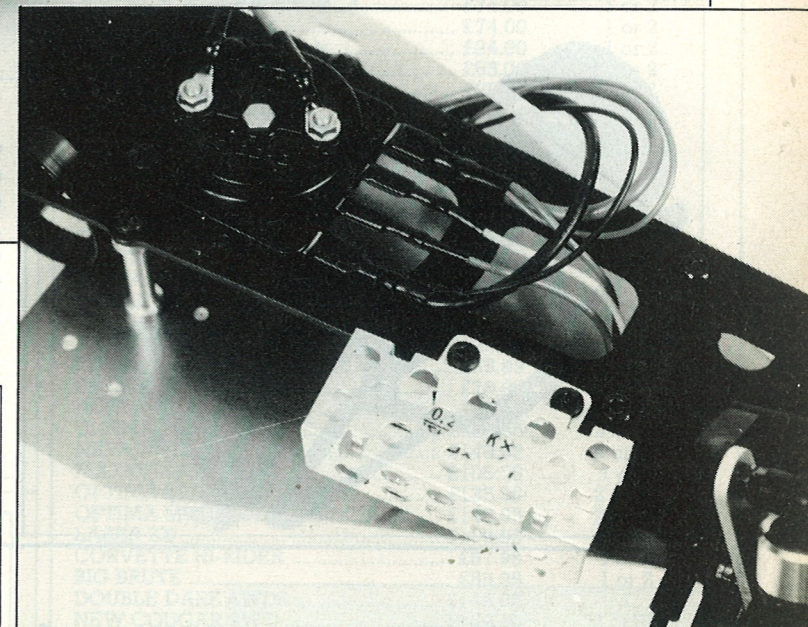


Saurus thing is I can only make guesses.

At first I thought it was some kind of beach buggy - it does share a passing resemblance with California VW based buggies. But then I noticed the tyres which have a conventional tread pattern, not particularly suited to sandy conditions.



Saurus wheels look aluminium, but are moulded from plastic. Right: Trusty Kyosho speed controller is included.



Nicad is held in by tie wraps - a point which could be improved. Note spring loaded body mounts.

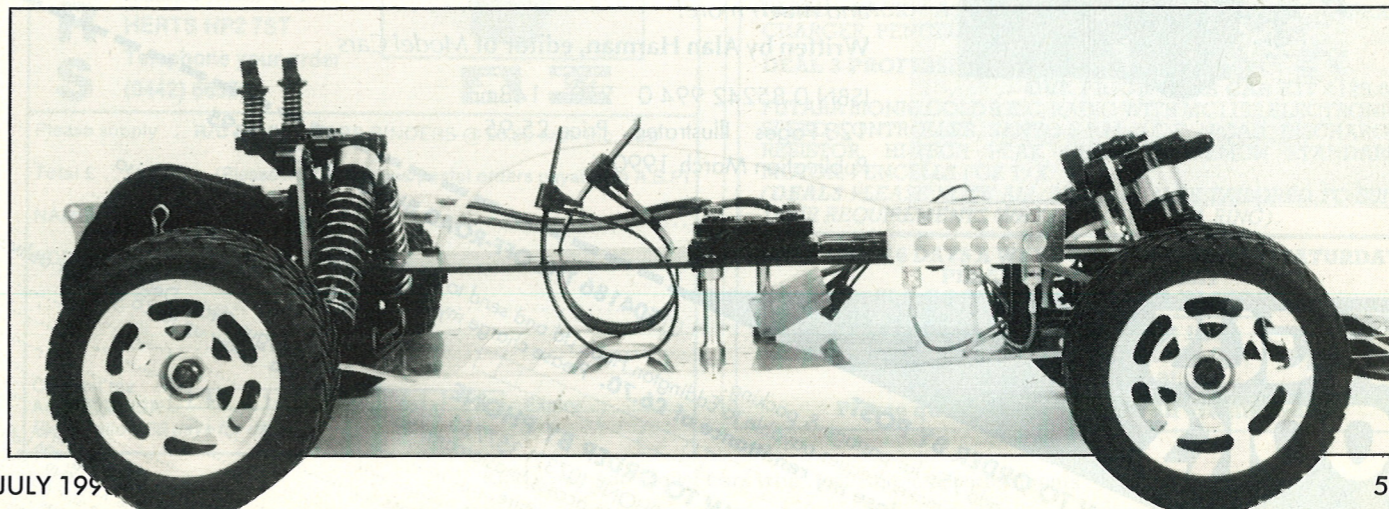
suspension movement. Along with the low profile tread pattern tyres this must mean full-size Saurus' race around fairly smooth, fast circuits.

In the model Saurus the chassis is a flat plate with cutouts for saddle pack battery packs, another pointer to fast racing where good handling is important. You can also add a seventh cell to make things really interesting.

The Ultima gearbox used for the Saurus is pretty standard using a geared differential and plastic bushes for the drive outputs instead of ball races.

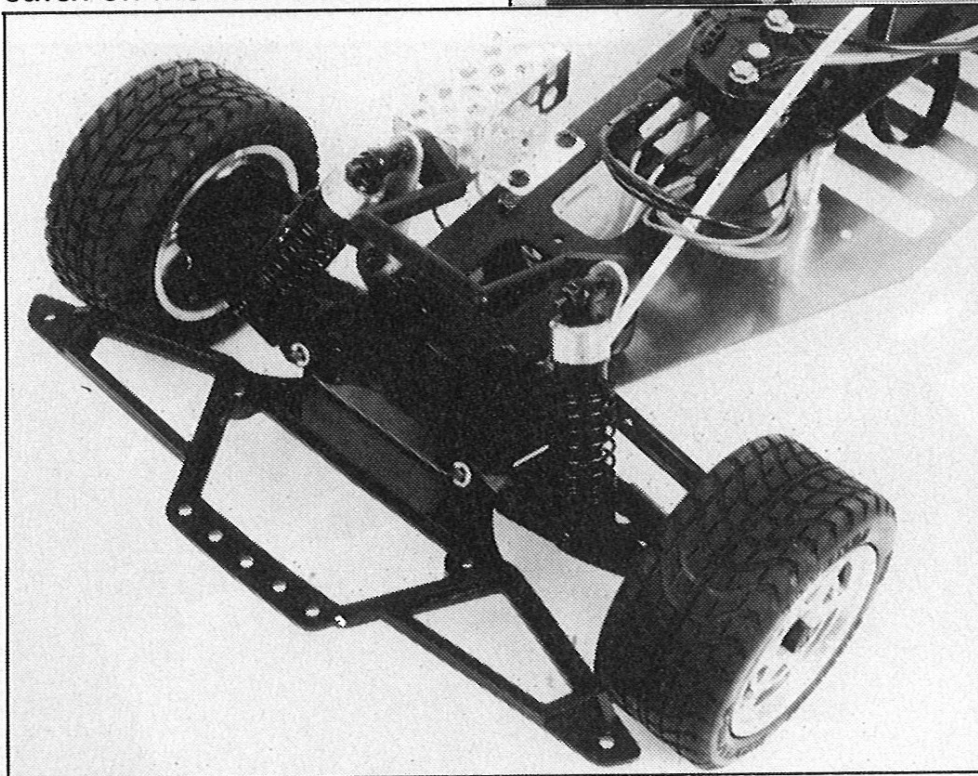
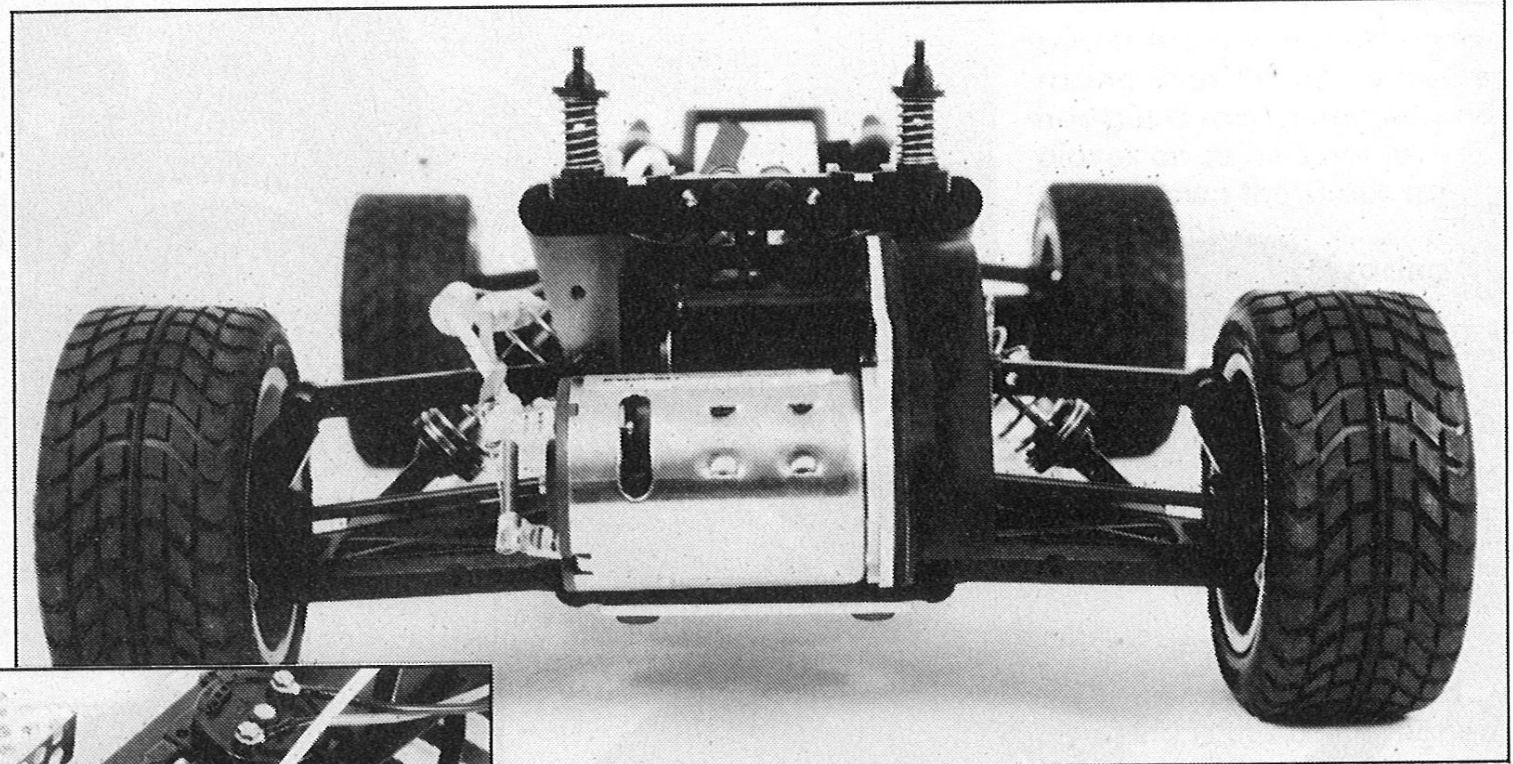
The wheels are pretty neat, chrome plated plastic jobs which have also featured on Kyosho's Ford RS200 kit. The tyres just slip on and are retained with a few dabs of superglue.

The bodyshell is obviously the main talking point with



its stunted shape and curvy lines. Somebody out there must like it. as you can see from the photos, we decided to go completely over the top on the colour scheme, mainly because we wanted to hide the shape.

In order not to spoil the appearance of the bodyshell too much (yes really), Kyosho have used a clip at the front and spring loaded body post at the rear so that the body can ride up and down and not catch on the rear wheels.



The kit box shows the colour scheme that Kyosho recommend and Saurus going round a track in Japan. There's also a photo of a whole load of them on a grid. The track is tarmac so they are obviously designed for circuit racing and, because they are all the same, I assume it must be some sort of single car formula perhaps like our own Formula Ford.

Boy, am I glad that's sorted out – I might have

had difficulty sleeping at night otherwise.

Seriously though, when you don't know what the thing is designed for, it's a bit difficult to know what to do with it. Saurus racing must be quite popular in Japan for Kyosho to make a model of them, it will be unlikely for it to be the same over here.

What they really should have done for us Brits is produce a Mini bodyshell or something similar.