

KYOSHO WILLIAMS HONDA FW-11B

Model Cars

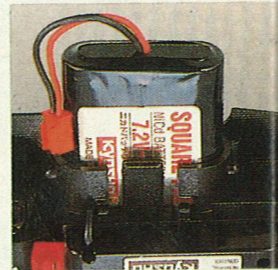
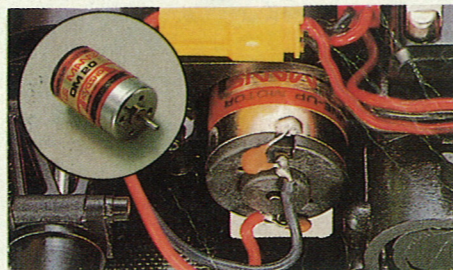
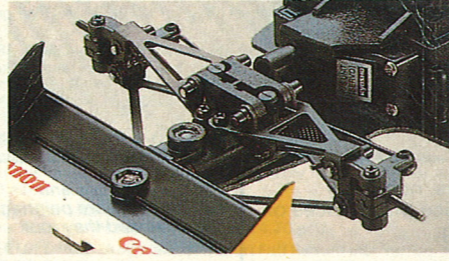
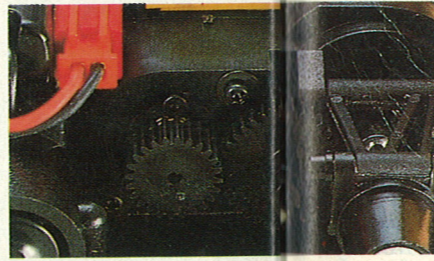
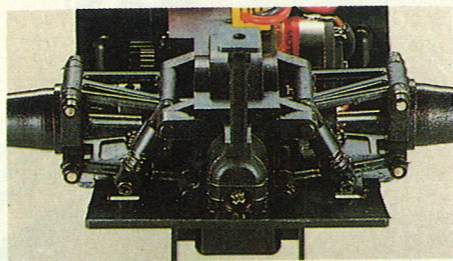
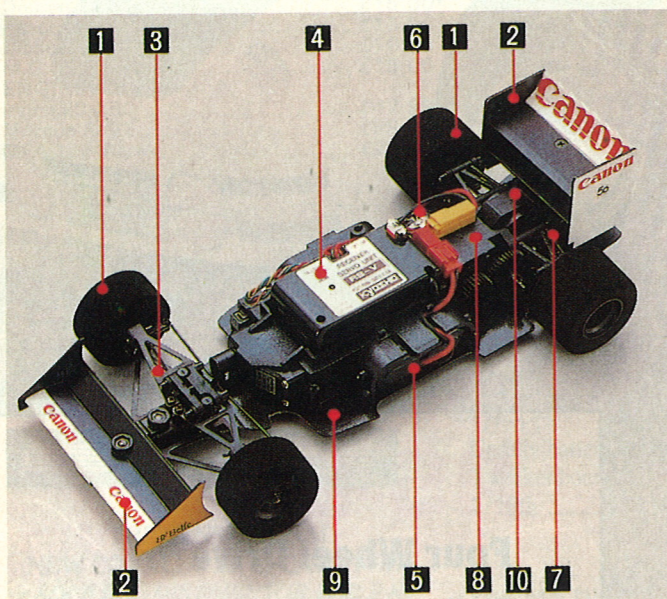
reviews

Kyosho's

miniature

F1 Racer

1. Sponge tyres front and rear. 2. Scale front and rear wings for realistic appearance. 3. Front suspension arms with scale geometry. 4. The two channel radio equipment. 5. Battery pack. 6. Le Mans racing motor. 7. Rear suspension with spring dampers. 8. Adjustable final drive. 9. GRP chassis. 10. Differential.



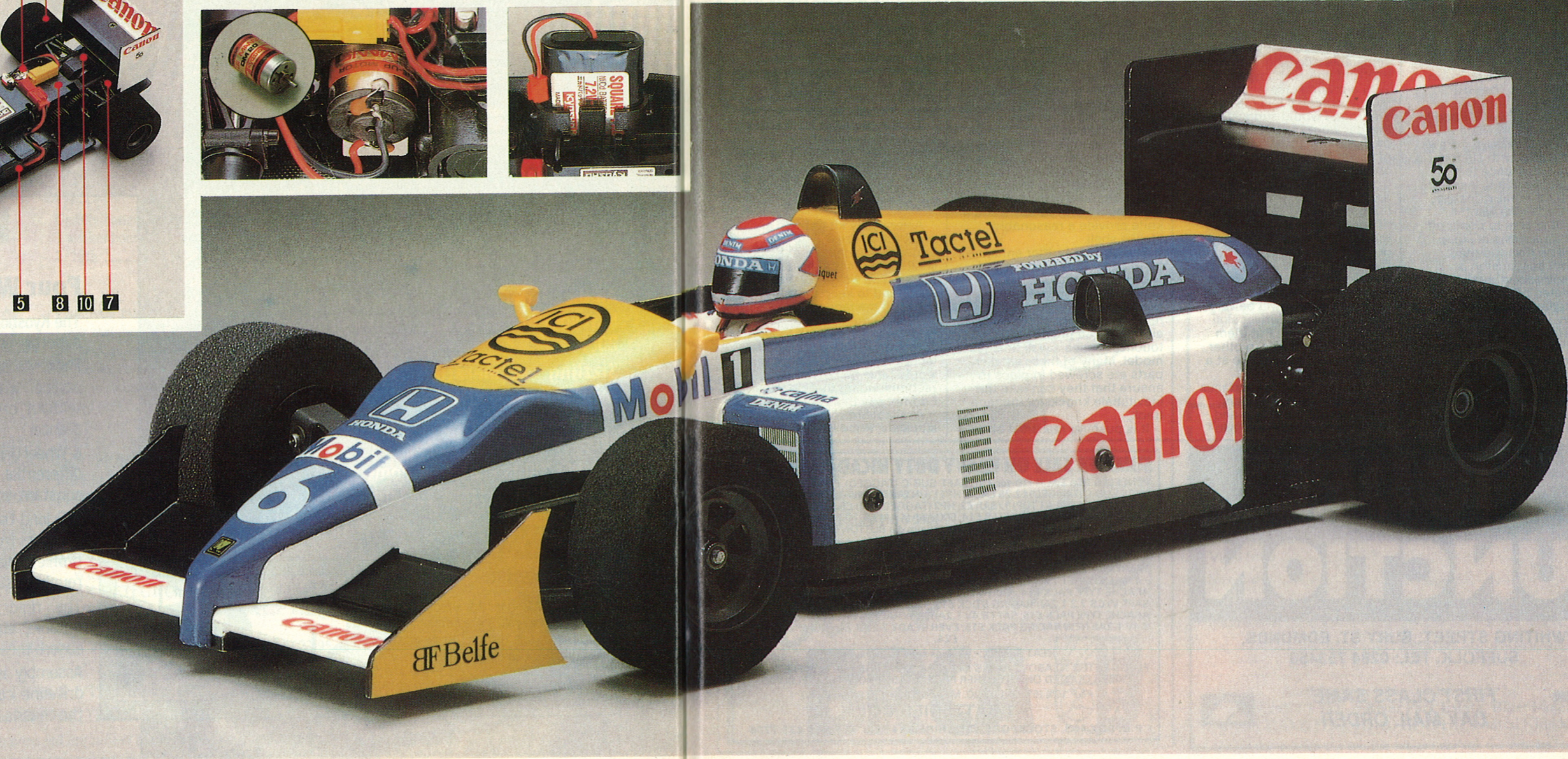
Left: the Williams Honda was our review kit but both McLaren, Honda & Lotus are available - using the same chassis with different bodyshells and decals.

Kyosho seem to have a car and a scale for all occasions. The latest in a long line of differing racing car scales is a 1/18 series of formula one cars. There are in fact three kits. The 'Lotus Honda 99T', 'McLaren MP4/3 TAG turbo' and a 'Williams Honda FW-11B'. All three cars use a common chassis, so comments about the review kit hold good for all models. The first thing that must be said is that although these kits are a deminutive scale, the quality, engineering and design is superb. There is no suggestion of these cars being a throw away toy quality. Indeed there are features on

those cars that should be of interest to the manufacturers of larger scale models. **Description** The chassis is designed to accept a square pack battery (same as the 7.2 volt *Tamtech*). This sits low on the GRP chassis under a specially moulded housing. Above the battery is a moulded chassis recess to accept the CPR unit. CPR units are combined receiver/speed controllers all in a single case. I borrowed a CPR from a Tamtech which fitted perfectly and powered the car with no difficulty. *Futaba* market a range of suitable CPR units for this type of car. In fact I see in the latest

Kyosho catalogue that *Kyosho* themselves are entering the field of RC units. The steering servo sits neatly in front of the battery pack and everything plugs tidily together with the miniature 7.2 volt connectors. The drive is from a mid positioned motor mounted crosswise and driving through a reduction gear train to the differential unit. Metal drive shafts with ball and pin joints drive the rear wheels. All bearings are plain, usually nylon inserts. **Building the kit** The excellent instructions make kit building a pleasure. The gearbox has a series of

plastic moulded gears that connect the motor output (incidentally it is the same type of motor as used in the 1/20 buggy series) to the differential. It is possible to choose from four gear ratios with the gears provided in the kit. For newcomers to electric RC there is even a little chart in the instructions to indicate which gear gives good speed, acceleration or duration. The three pinion differential is easy to assemble as long as you remember to have a clear clean work surface. Some of the small parts can very easily get lost if you drop them into a pile of junk (sorry, handy little bits). I found the differential was quite smooth out of the car, but



once installed it felt a little notchy. I have mentioned this in other reviews of *Kyosho* kits and have come to the conclusion that *Kyosho* do this deliberately. It is an easy way to tighten up on clearances, but it does mean that the car will have a "running in" period.

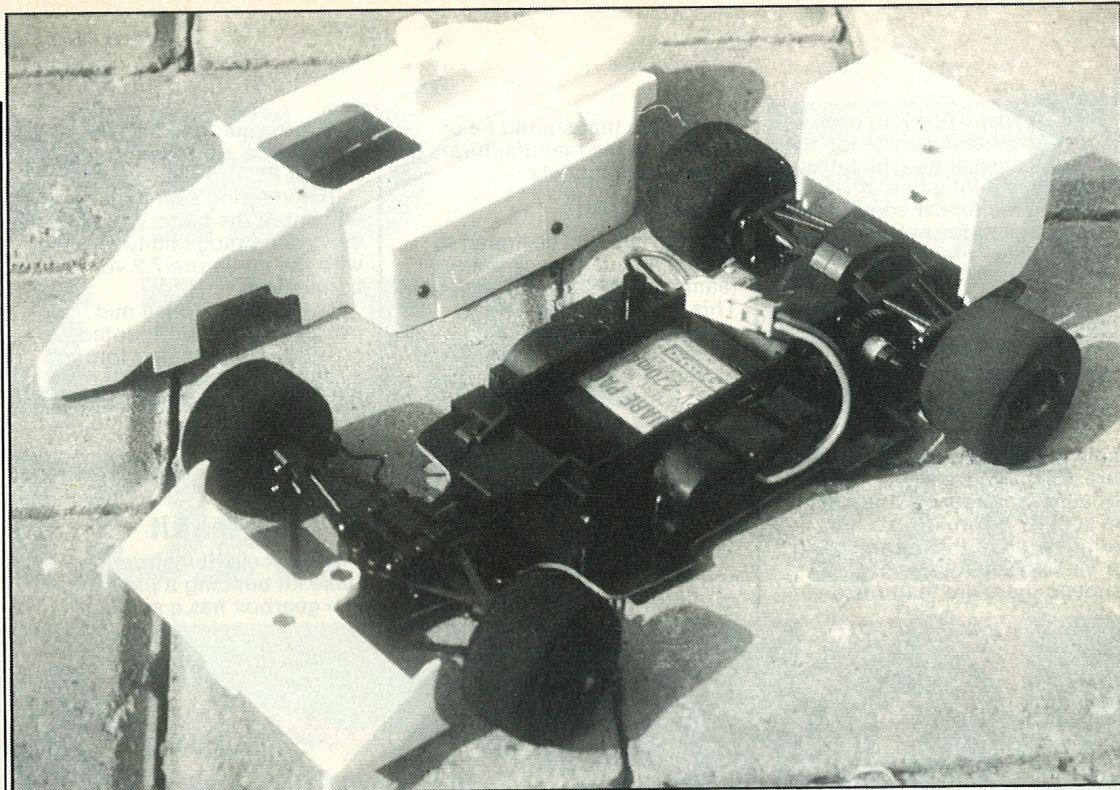
Some idea of the completeness of the kit can be judged by the inclusion of a very small cross point screwdriver and a special tool for fitting and removing what *Kyosho* have chosen to call "shaft stoppers". These shaft stoppers are plastic alternatives to E clips. In fact I would suggest that these plastic bits are essential for anyone with less than perfect eyesight or fingers like a surgeons forceps. Installing E clips on those shafts would be like threading a needle in the dark.

With the sort of power available from the motor it is quite acceptable to have gears push fit onto shafts. The purist may howl in indignation, but I have yet to make the gear slip on the motor shaft.

The rear suspension is fitted to the motor/gearbox unit prior to assembling the whole unit onto the chassis. Conventional independent parallel unequal length wishbone rear arms with spring units connected between bottom arm and gearbox provide the suspension. The transmission unit is screwed to the GRP chassis with countersunk screws. In fact all parts fitted to the chassis are screwed in place with countersunk screws. This is essential with such a low ground clearance to avoid grinding screw heads away on the race track. Unfortunately, those fanatics who want showers of sparks to come off of miniature sacrificial sump guard will be disappointed.

The front suspension is another sub assembly that can be completed off the car. The front suspension is in a league of its own.

The parallel wishbones are of stamped mild steel. In the interest of scale, although not perfect they look extremely good. Add to this the inboard springs operated by a pull rod linkage and you have a model suspension as close as you are



likely to get to the real thing. Of course with a chassis used on three quite different formula one cars, it would be unlikely that you will be able to satisfy the technical accuracy of any one car. Having said that, when completed the cars look good.

Another nice feature is the adjustable ride height on both the front and rear suspension. With a ground clearance at most around 5.6 millimetre at the front, I would suggest that this car would not be at its best on carpet. In any case the turn of speed from the car is not great, friction from rubbing the front spoiler through the Axminster is only likely to slow things further. The limited turn of speed does however make the car very controllable and perhaps ideal for someone who has never owned a proper RC racer. If these cars are raced against their own kind, i.e. all 1/18 cars, then it will be very much a matter of driver skill verses driver skill. Put them against other makes in other scales and they could be at a disadvantage.

Race on smoothest surfaces is of course best, the foam tyres provide good grip and although there are only two

exposed gears, non fluffy surfaces reduce the chances of gear clogging.

Body

The body is a white vacuum formed moulding and is really rather good. If I were to criticise anything about the body, it does look a little podgy. This is only because of the RC gear and battery which is housed inside. In fact *Kyosho* have done a remarkable job in getting the three different cars using the same chassis looking so realistic. All cut out lines are clearly marked and a few deft movements with scissors and a knife provide a reasonably lifelike shell.

The body is further enhanced by the add on bits. Front and rear injection moulded wings make the car much more realistic. Driver figure, wing mirrors, roll bars, radiators and air intakes all provide the nice touches to give a well finished model. Many of these smaller parts are screwed in place to ensure that they can take the inevitable knocks of the race track.

It is pushing realism a bit far

The bare chassis and bodyshell before painting - take time and they look great!

to accept that all three types of car have the same radiators, but I guess that *Kyosho* are allowed some licence especially as the radiators provide clips to hold the body to the chassis for all three cars.

To complete the kit there is a set of decals with the appropriate sponsors names to add to the body.

Conclusion

A very easy kit to build and great fun to drive. The attention to detail is excellent. In a nut shell I was most impressed with the kit. The weight of the model does tend to keep the top speed to manageable levels, but this is no hardship.

For anyone wishing to learn something of modern race car technology or just fun racing I would have no hesitation in recommending these cars, and I do not say this very often.

Available from all Ripmax stockists; Price £69.95.

