



When you hear of people wishing that they could 'crush the opposition', they might now be in a position to actually do that with this 1/12 scale American Dodge Van, known affectionately as Vanessa's Lunch Box.

JOHN VARLEY looks at the latest 1/12 car crusher from Tamiya.

This outrageous machine runs on huge 115 millimetre diameter tyres, imagine that on a full scale model. With an overall height of 225 millimetres, the full size again twelve times taller, needs a fair sized ladder in order to enter the cab.

This style of customized vehicle does not lend itself to racing, but it certainly is an eye catcher at shows and offers immense pleasure when shown off to friends and family around the garden or paddock.

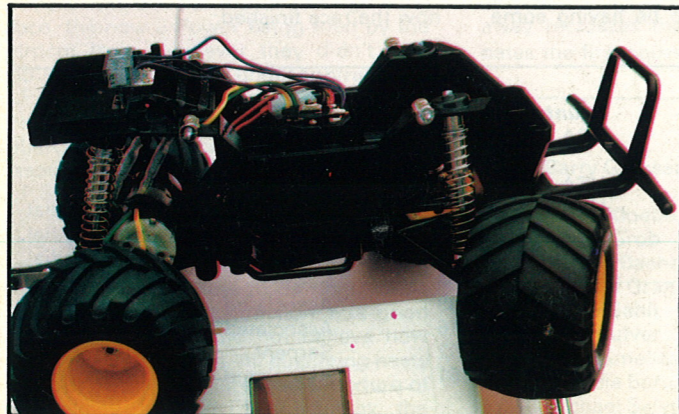
Tamiya are world renowned for their range of kits. No nonsense cars that are simple to build and run, good spares availability and pleasing modern designs.

The 'Lunch Box' is no exception to Tamiya's standards and thus deserves a closer look from ourselves.

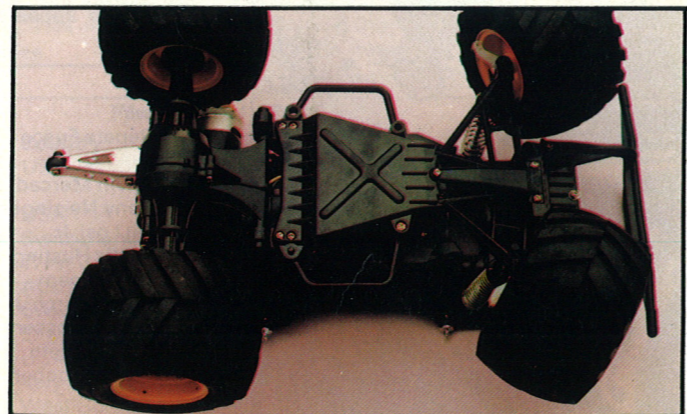
The kit is based around a single,



All electrics are kept neatly out of the way inside the bathtub chassis.



Strong solid construction makes this car crusher a low maintenance vehicle that will give hours of fun.



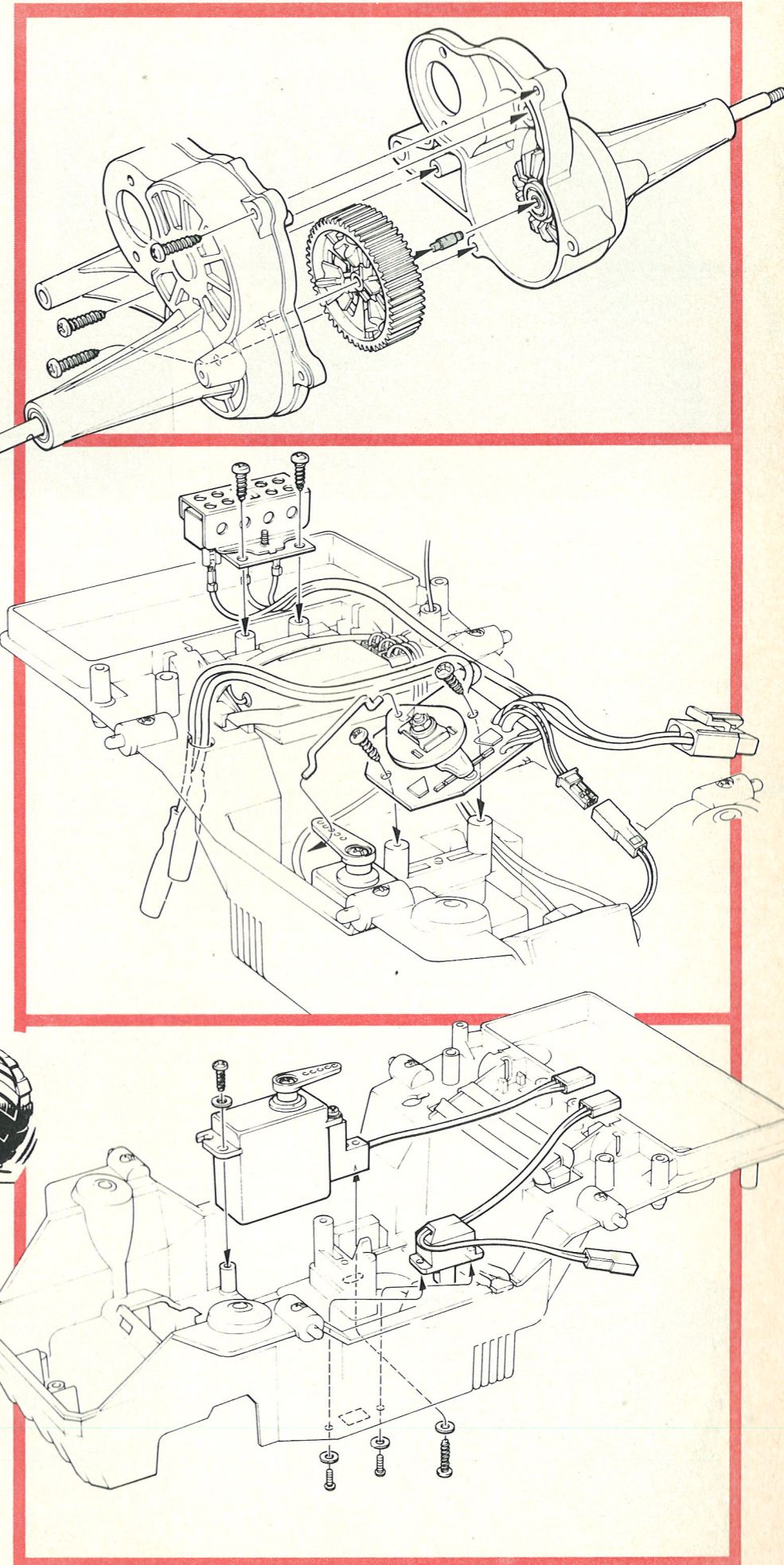
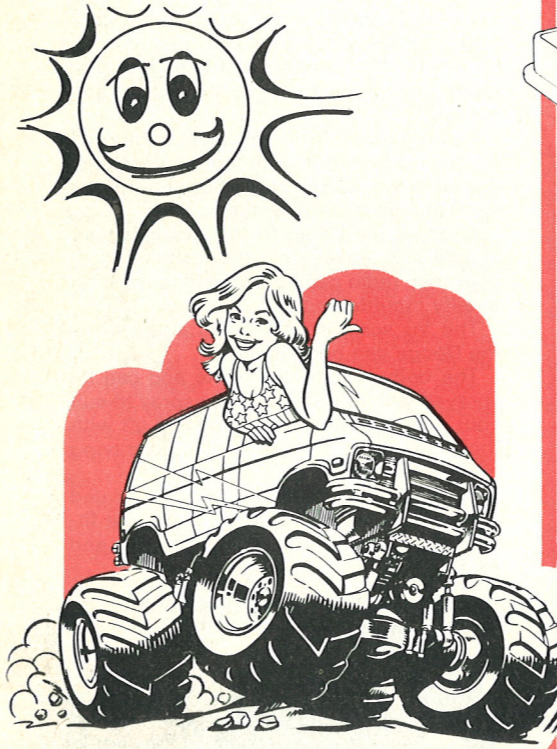
moulded, bathtub type chassis with all the necessary provisions for radio installation, kit speed controller and battery installation.

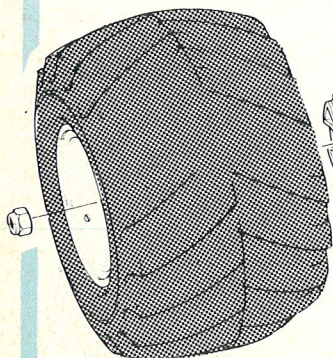
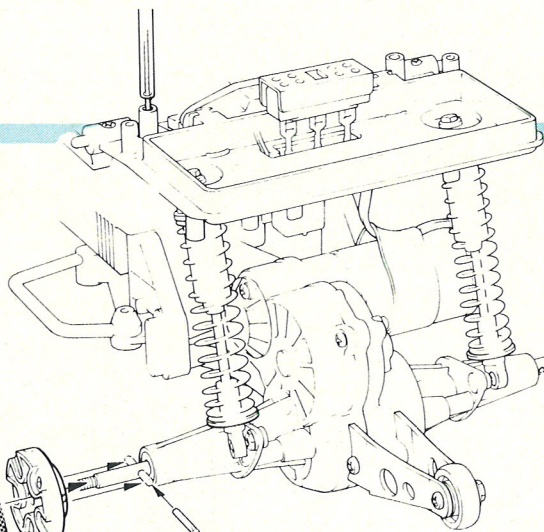
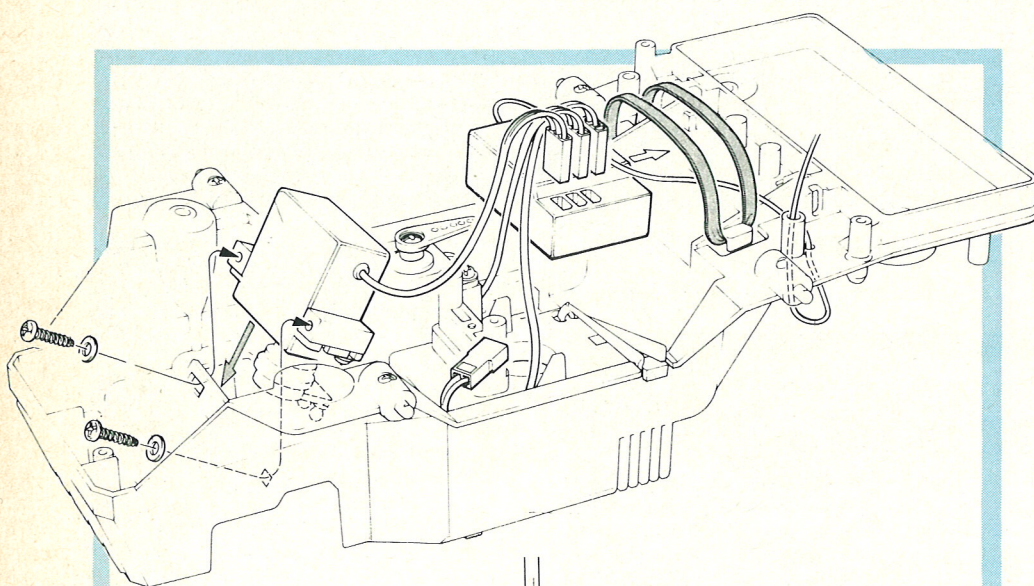
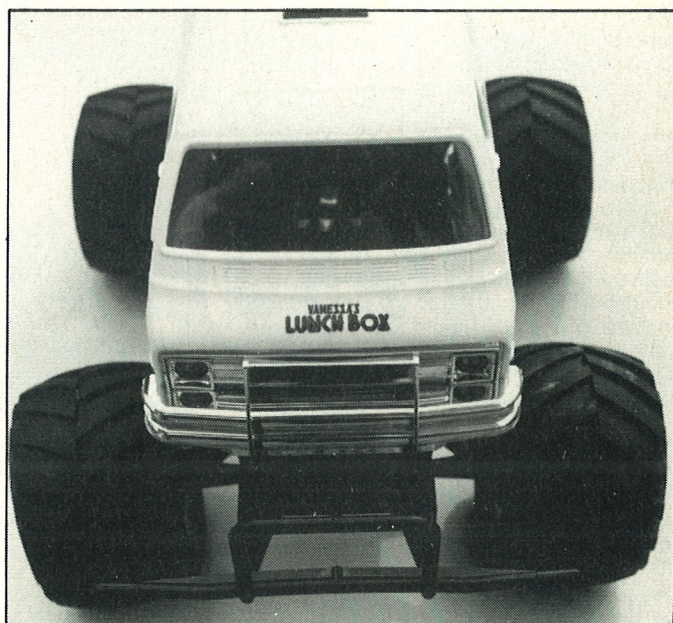
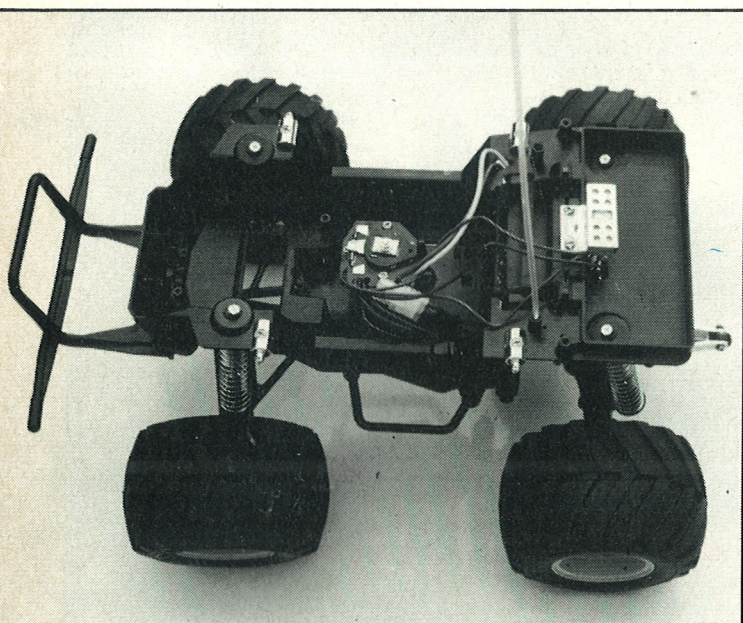
The rear wheel drive is through a moulded gearbox. Traditional straight cut spur gear with nylon bevel gear differential, housed in a centrally split gearbox moulding. The moulding incorporates nylon bushings, easily replaced at a later date with ballraced for the drive shafts to run in.

This rear drive assembly swings via moulded pivots, attached to each side of the main chassis moulding; with large chrome plated coil spring assemblies, that can be replaced with upgraded oil filled shock absorbers, sold as bolt on extras.

The front has independent suspension, with single swing arms, with identical coil spring assemblies as at the rear, offering the necessary ride height. Full ball jointed track rod assemblies are provided with a range of servo savers to suit all modern servos currently used.

Protection from frontal crashes comes via a reinforced special resin bumper, whilst at the rear the car is provided with a neat bracket and roller to retain it when doing those wheelies common to this style of kit.





Tamiya's well known three speed controller comes with the kit, provided with resistors for first and second speed, wiring loom and plugs for receiver, motor and battery.

Power comes from the now traditional Mabuchi 540 motor, with that power transmitted to the road through those enormous semi pneumatic rubber tyres.

Building the kit up to this stage is very simple and leaves only the installation of your own radio gear, before fitting the high quality moulded body.

The 1/12 scale is only given away when the Dodge van body is fitted.

The body is moulded white and can be sprayed with any car cellulose spray to suit your own colour scheme, finished off with those excellent Tamiya decals portraying 'Vanessa's Lunch Box'.

To finish off the illusion, chrome plated grille, bumpers and side exhausts are fitted, along with tinted glass windows and roof skylight.

A traditional starter kit for youngsters, well made and easy to assemble, it offers hours of fun to run and satisfaction to build.

Very little can go wrong and therefore little to replace in the long term. With some original thought it could be made into a real eye catcher for shows and concours.

Available from all Tamiya stockists. Price approx £65.00.