



Mantua Demon

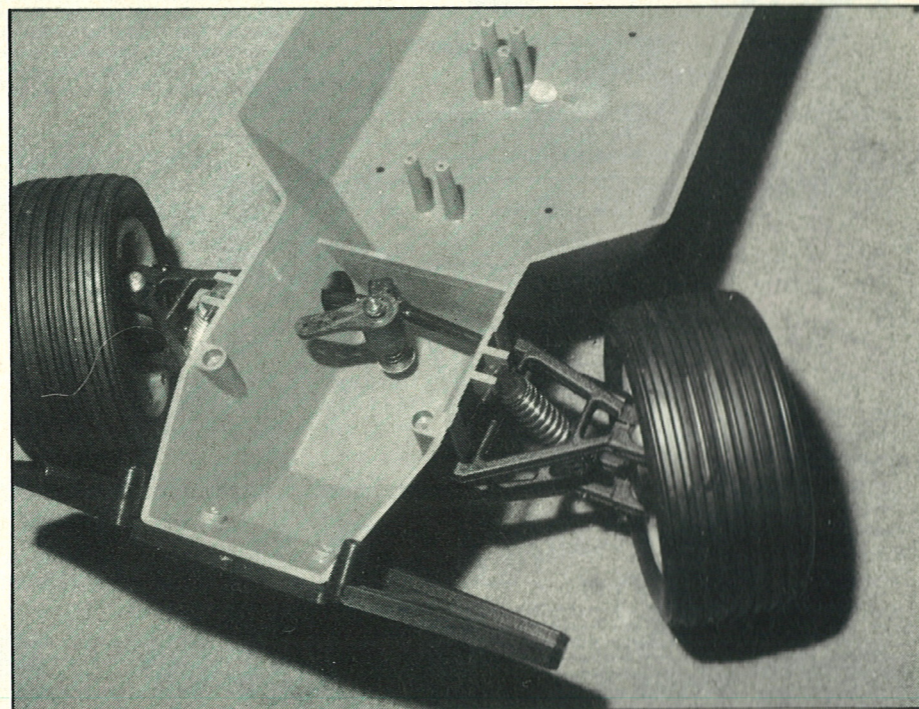
R.R.C. reviews this great introduction to 1/8 racing.

A short time ago R.R.C. pointed out the increasing trend for A.R.T.D. cars (Almost Ready To Drive). Although it must be said at that time, the A.R.T.D. trend was amongst 1/10 scale cars. As if to prove us wrong, within weeks T.M.S. had introduced the Mantua Demon, a 1/8 scale A.R.T.D. car.

From Box To Track

As soon as you lift the lid the impression that here is something completely different hits you. The first big surprise is when you find a Picco .21F already neatly fitted, raring to go. When you've got over that one, the feeling that all is not quite as it should be begins to take hold and you suddenly realise why, the Demon is constructed entirely of plastic of one sort or another. No problems with items such as wishbones, servo mounts etc., but whole chassis, well that's another ball game altogether. The Demons chassis is a monocoque, almost like a bathtub, which everything hangs on or sits in. It must be said that first impressions are not good, however this soon fades after several attempts to bend and twist the plastic chassis all proved useless, in fact it may be torsionally stronger than aluminium.

A differential is also pre constructed and fitted to the demon, again the diff holds surprises in store, no less than four ballraces are fitted as standard, two in the output drive cups and two in the primary gear shaft. Starting is by means of an extended boss which passes through the clutch so an aero type starter is called for.

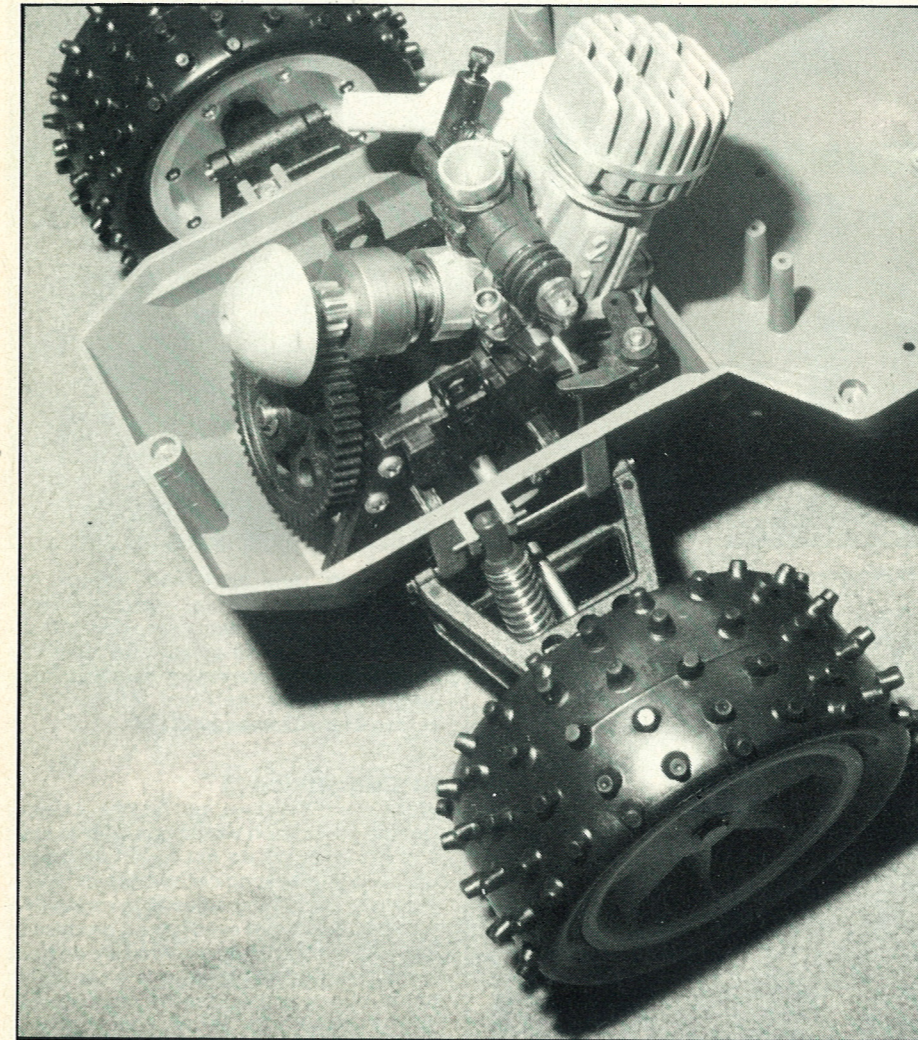


Front end of the Demon showing the neat bellcrank/servo saver arrangement.

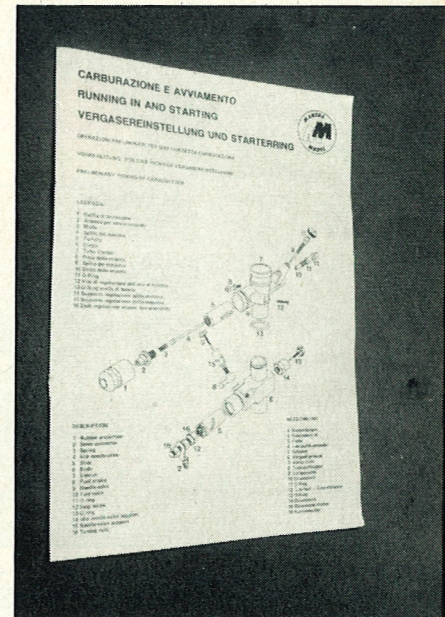
Suspension

Suspension front and rear is double wishbone variety with shockers mounted inboard, this system gives about two inches total travel plenty for any rough terrain. Shock absorbers are of the coil spring

only type and do bounce rather a lot, there is no reason why these cannot be changed at a later date for more sophisticated shockers, indeed Mantua are offering a beef up kit for the Demon which includes this option.



Above, the neat engine, clutch, starter assembly is all pre-assembled great for the beginner. Above right, starting and running instructions are explicit and very welcome to first time drivers. Right, the rear of the Demon, full length bathtub type chassis protects all expensive components. Below right, should repairs become necessary a booklet showing construction details is provided. Below, body stickers are provided to be used after painting.

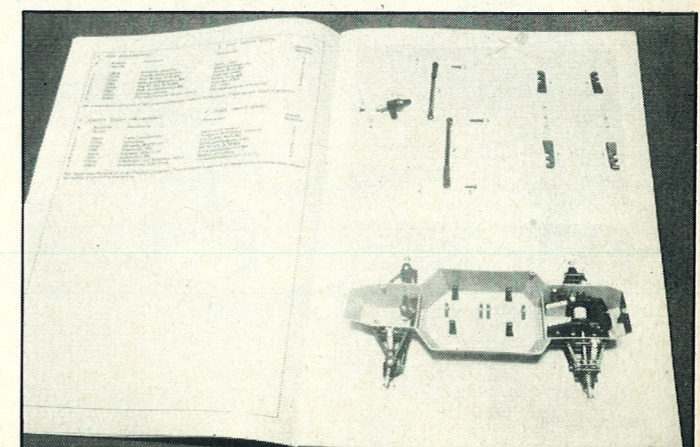
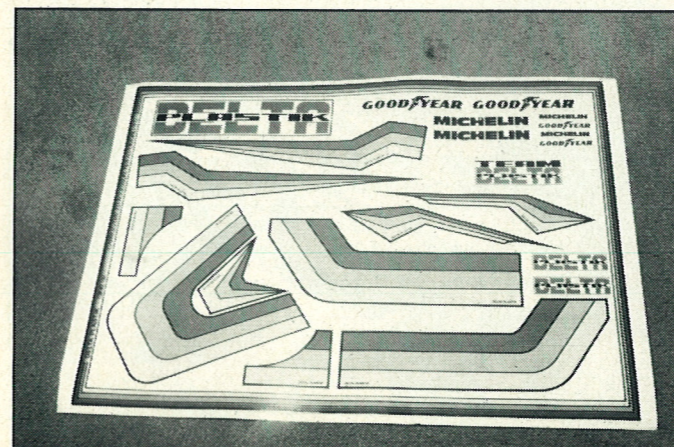
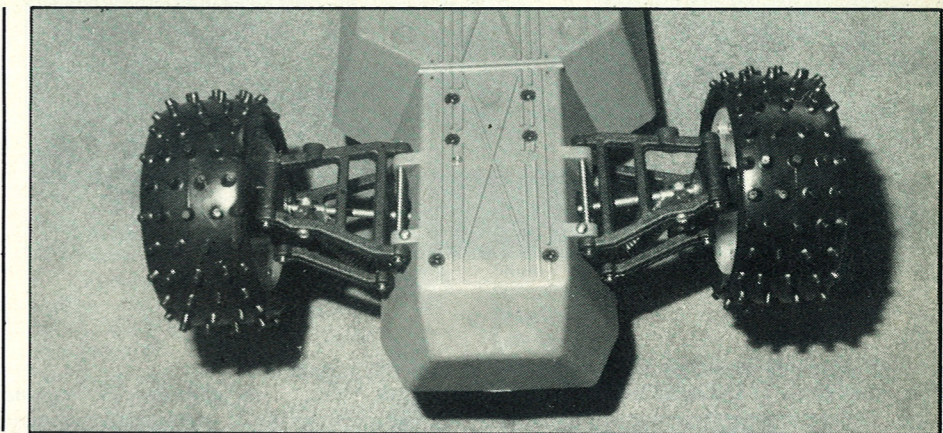


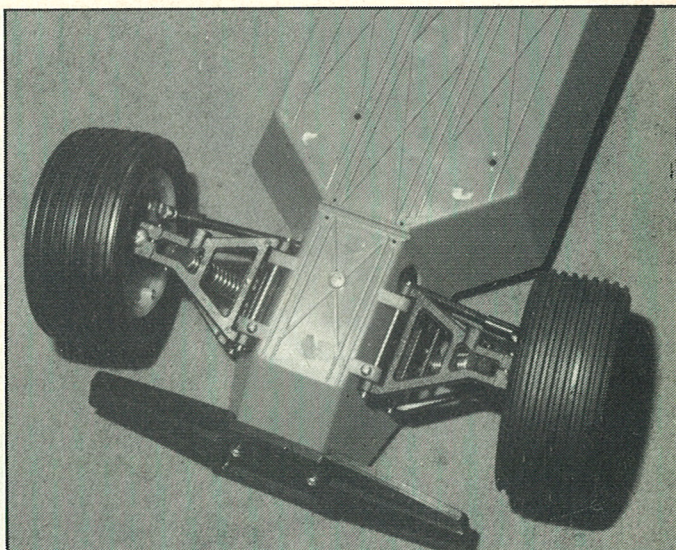
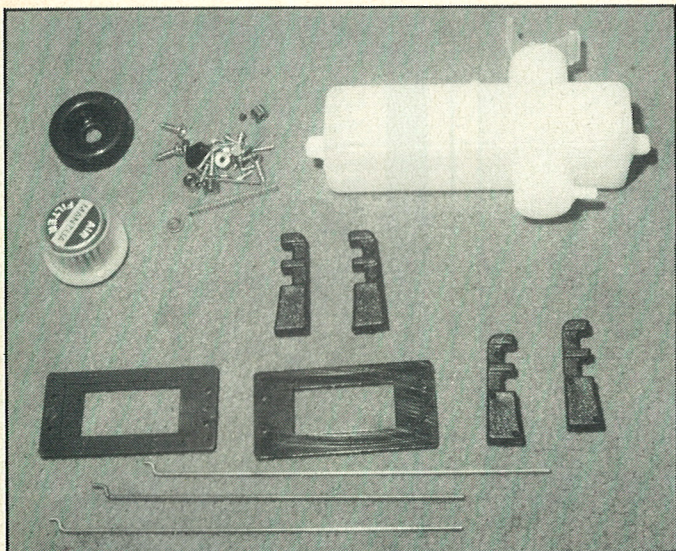
Wheels And Tyres

Front tyres are ribbed and fit onto a three piece hub. This type of hub has been proved time and time again to be the most secure there is, no less than eight securing screws holding both sides of the rim together trapping a flange on the tyre, super glue is then used as a final locking agent to keep the tyre well and truly in place.

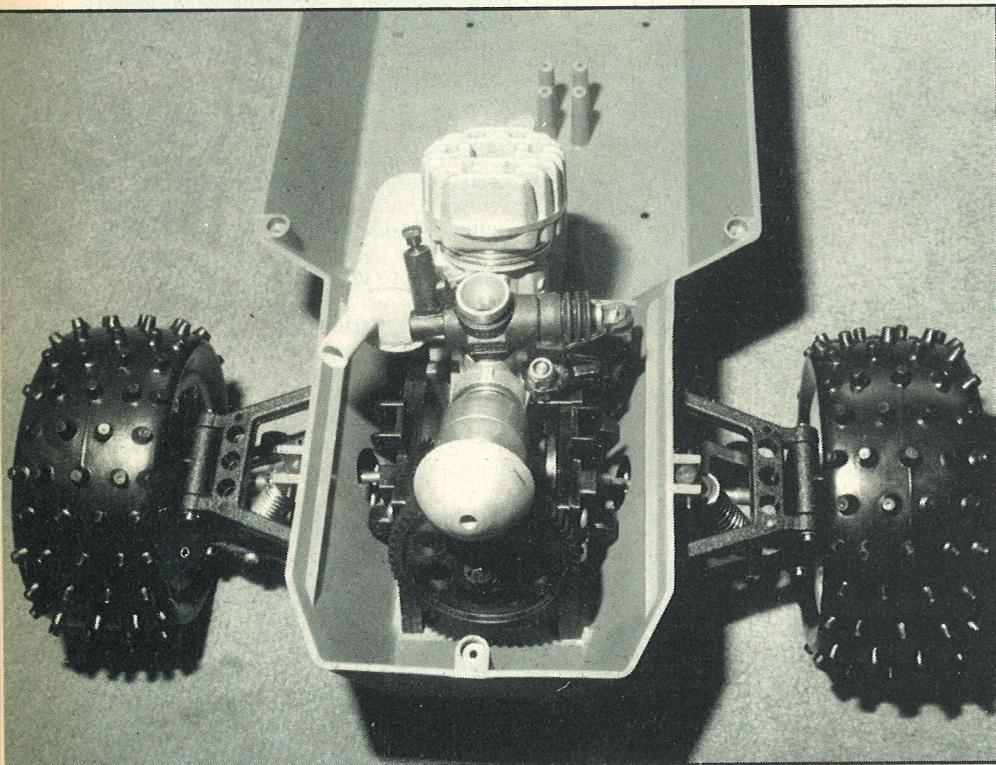
Radio Equipment

All fittings are included to mount any size radio gear, pushrods, springs and balls are also included, fitting can be undertaken in minutes due to the huge access inside the chassis. The fuel tank is another included item and again fitted in minutes.





Above left, fuel tank and fittings are supplied, only tubing needs adding. Above, double wishbone suspension front and rear coupled to spring only damping provides some interesting handling. Left, another view of the Picco .21 this is included in the Demon package.



In Conclusion

What then have we got in the Mantua Demon package? It would be easier to start and list what we do not have, we do not have a world beating car, we do not have a high tec, everything adjustable rocket of a race car, we do not even have a promise of all those things. However, what we do have is much more important, it is a car that is tough, strong and will teach a raw beginner all he needs to know about driving technique at the same time as introducing him/her to 1/8 racing and that is far more important than anything, for without people, we don't have a sport. It would be nice to see a special class set up for this type of car, so that at least a season spent racing against others of its type could be spent learning the black art of motor twiddling. Anything along the lines of the Demon has to be good for 1/8 off road racing, let's hope the powers that be can see this and adapt the sport for the cars and not the other way around.

Available from T.M.S., Deanfield Mill, Asquith Avenue, Leeds, LS27 9QS. Price £199.95.

A two part body that clips firmly together will stop the ingress of mud and dirt into the radio and battery compartment.

The Demon, beginners could learn a lot from this car.

