

Radio Round up

On show new sets of radio control equipment for beginner and novice racers alike

To make a change from our usual focus on the various types of cars we thought it about time we took a look at one of the most important areas of R/C car racing — the guidance system!

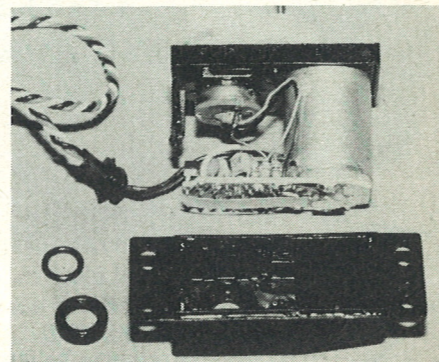
And not before time either as several new systems from both new and established manufacturers have become available. A round-up of radio gear — that's what was needed and so here it is.

The systems on show here range from specialist 'pistol-grip' sets to the basic two channel stick type with grades of sophistication and price in between.

It is true to say of all modern R/C gear that reliability of operation is no longer linked to the price tag. Thus it is that the higher cost of some radio sets is a result of them having other specialist functions other than the basics. Reliability is a feature common to all the systems on show here.



Above: the circuit board of the 'Techniplus' receiver displaying a 'forest' of discreet components. Fly leads replace the circuit board block connector which accounts for the greatly reduced size of the unit. Below: the new Acoms servo is a very nicely made unit featuring Acoms own custom built integrated circuit. O-ring sealing is present around the output shaft with rubber sealant around the leads.



The 'Techniplus' is Acoms' replacement for their 'best selling' 'MkIII' system. Basically the changes are cosmetic with new mouldings for the case and stick units. The reasons for this are probably that the 'MkIII' injection moulding tools have worn out!

The electronics remain virtually unchanged although the battery box now requires eight pen-cells instead of six as previous. The 'Techniplus' is sold as a complete system with receiver (smaller version) two servos, receiver battery box and switch.

Available from most model shops, price between £50 and £60.

Acoms Techniplus

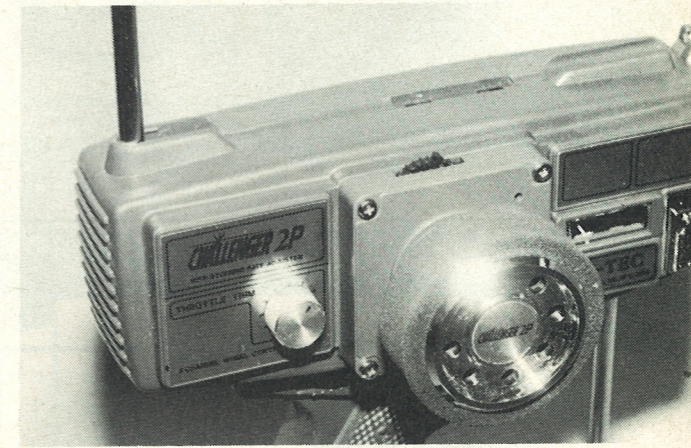


Hi-tech Challenger 2P

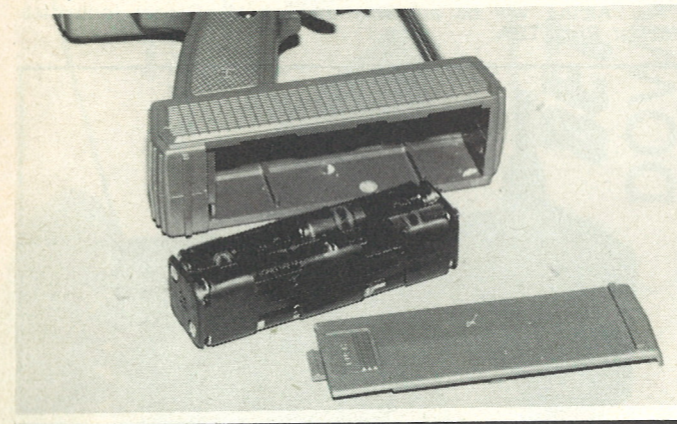
The 'Challenger 2P' is Hi-Tech's version of the increasingly popular 'pistol-grip' type of radio using a trigger and wheel for throttle and steering respectively.

Below: throttle trim adjustment allows precise setting of the servo travel. Servo reversing switches can be seen on top of the case. Bottom: total steering throw is set by the small trim tab under the wheel. The steering rate trim adjusts the servo throw within that pre-set limit and can be altered whilst driving.

The 'Challenger 2P' is available from Powermax stockists approximate price £75.



Below: the base of the 'Challenger' case holds the battery pack, eight pen-cells are needed. Ni-Cad batteries can be fitted very easily as the holder connects into an internal charging circuit.



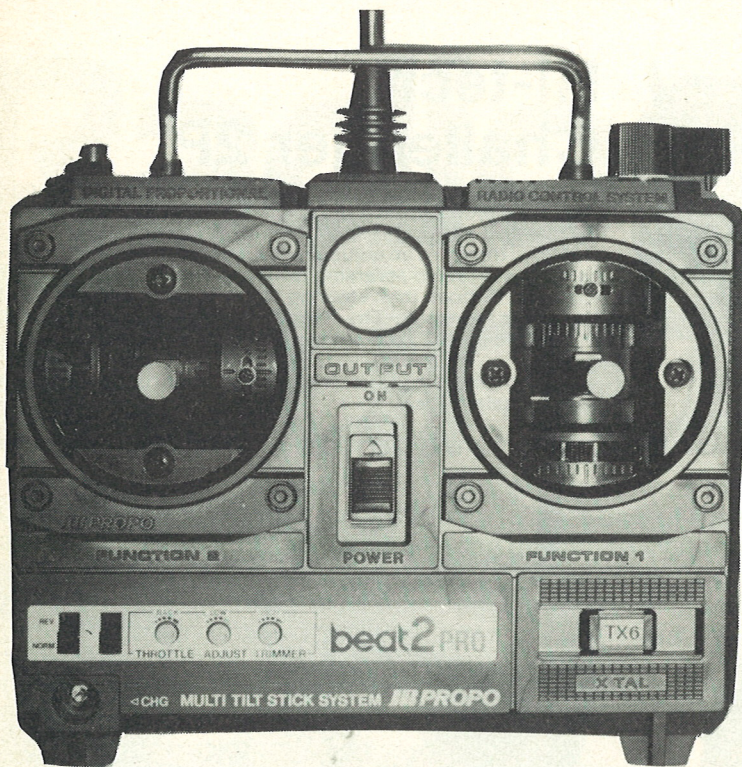
Sanwa Dash R2

The 'Dash R2' is Sanwa's basic two-channel (throttle and steering) system aimed primarily at the car market. Even so Sanwa's usual high quality of manufacture is present along with the additional servo reversing feature (see below). This allows the direction of servo travel to be reversed on both channels if necessary.

The 'Dash R2' is available through Irvine Engines stockists. Price £50.00 approx.



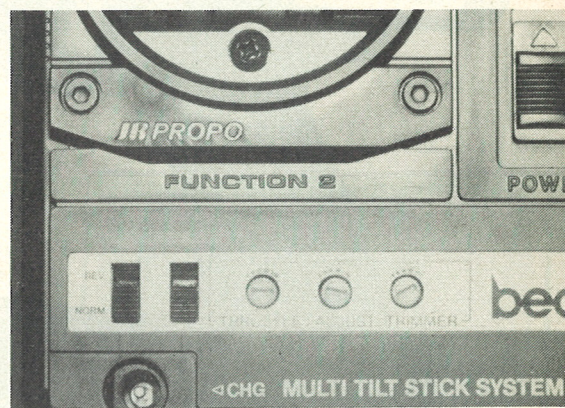
Test Report



JR Beat 2 Pro

The 'Beat 2 Professional' is JR's specialist car radio system carrying a host of features to make setting up throttle and steering more precise. Servo reversing and steering rates feature along with throttle end point adjustment and over-ride button. This latter feature allows the throttle servo to be over-ridden to a pre-set position regardless of stick position. This allows the brake to be pulsed very quickly without resorting to large stick movements.

Available from MacGregor Industries stockists. Price £79.95 (complete system).



Multiplex Delta

The *Multiplex Delta* may look familiar and well it might because it is exactly the same radio as the *Acoms Techniplus* but with a 'Delta' sticker. There are two differences however. The receiver has different fly-leads to allow use of *Multiplex* range of servos whilst the transmitter features an in-built charging circuit. The 'Delta' is supplied as a combo (no servos) and is available from *Powermax* stockists. Price £39.50.

JR Beat 2 Alpina

The 'Beat 2 Alpina' is JR's specialist 'pistol-grip' system which along with the 'Beat 2 Pro' allows car users the choice of a specialist car system using the wheel or sticks. Both systems have features in common although the 'Alpina' does not have the brake button.

The 'Alpina' will be available through MacGregor Industries stockist. Price TBA.

