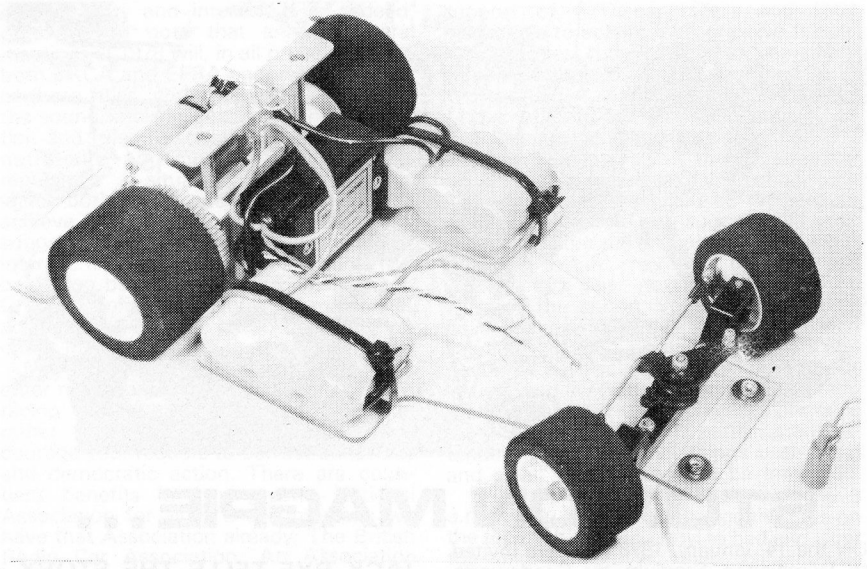


SPECTRON

NEW BRITISH 1/12th ELECTRIC

ONE of the very first people I got to know when the Ally Pally Electric Car Club was in its infancy was Richard Gammon, then intent on perfecting his Smoothtronic speed controller fitted, I believe originally to the then only car — Lectricar available, but soon to be transferred to his first scratch-built. He was always knowledgeable about plastics as well as electronics, and soon was obviously working towards a production kit of his own. Well, he has taken the plunge and is now whole time engaged in model manufacture, with the first fruit of his efforts coming fast off the assembly line in the shape of the "Spectron."

This is a kit for the connoisseur. It will cost you £76.68 including VAT. What will you get for the money? Here is a brief specification: Polycarbonate chassis 3mm thick, duly waisted, with rear bumper, indented for battery cable ties, plus separate polypropylene front bumper of adequate size to enable a whole range of bodyshells to be used. Welded battery packs with heavy duty leads in heat shrunk dustproof sleeving secured by cable ties and servo tape. Standard RS54 Mabuchi motor, 54/14 gear mix — but slotted rear axle hanger to enable other combinations to be used. Rear wheels trued and glued to ensure no errors in rear balance. Popular hexagon section for non slip fitting, and compatibility with most U.S. accessories. Axle machined to close tolerance to reduce gear chatter and avoid bearing slackness. Coming to the front we have heavy duty front axle assembly, with circlipped kingpins. Glassfilled nylon servo saver, all linkage adjustable via ball and socket connectors. You will have to glue on your own tyres at the front in the usual way.

What more is there? We almost forgot, you get the latest Smoothtronic speed controller included for your money, now with regulator integrated in the circuit and the usual dynamic braking facility. And still more, a polycarbonate bodyshell is provided prepainted in two colours with choice of Porsche, Lola, Abarth Alfa. These are nearly ready to fit, requiring only trimming to bodyline.

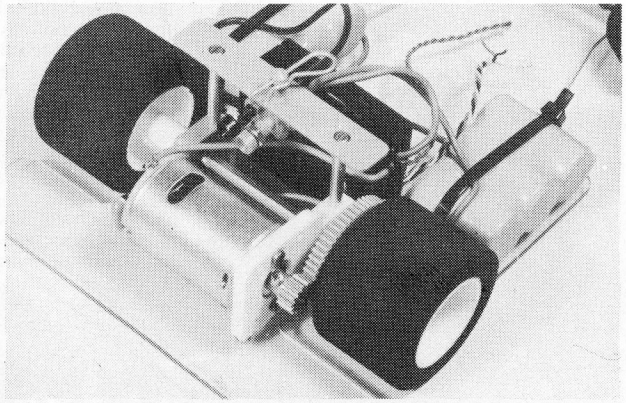
This leaves you with only radio to install and one servo to provide plus aerial rig.

Just a bald statement of kit contents but we should also mention some of the subtle refinements. Rear body posts are joined with a stiff cross piece which incorporates the rear body fixing peg in the centre, and

Left: This is the kit as made up — plenty of room for Rx and servo (only one needed of course)

Right: Rear view of kit assembled. Note rear body posts and cross fixing strip, with charging sockets fixed below.

This is the Spectron run for quite some time now by Wendy Bork. Just for a change Skyleader Rx and servo are fitted and have given complete satisfaction — but plenty of room.



has the two charging jacks just below. This fixing strip imparts complete rigidity to the rear end, while leaving the chassis to flex as required. You should see it run over rough board, like a "jelly on springs" . . . On/Off switch for radio can also be conveniently fixed on this cross support. Then the front bumper is rivetted to the chassis. This gives very strong attachment and also enables the smooth bottom of the rivets to slide easily over any uneven surface. On frontal impact it can bend right up and over protecting the front of the car from damage, and even reducing effects of impact on the **other** car! With thoughts of rough surfaces and screw-loosening activities self-locking nuts are used on front suspension and linkages which prevent a lot of grief. (Some very neat little box-spanners for these small sizes can be obtained from Charles Kennion of Railway Place, Hertford, or Charles will be at the M.E. Exhibition of course).

Even the box the kit comes in is designed for after-use. It takes the car as built up for transport to the club, always a problem unless one sets to and makes up a purpose built carrying case.

Initially Richard's own company I & D Electronic will be handling mail order from Barnes. This is good winners' kit and a lot can be expected on the circuits by the new year.