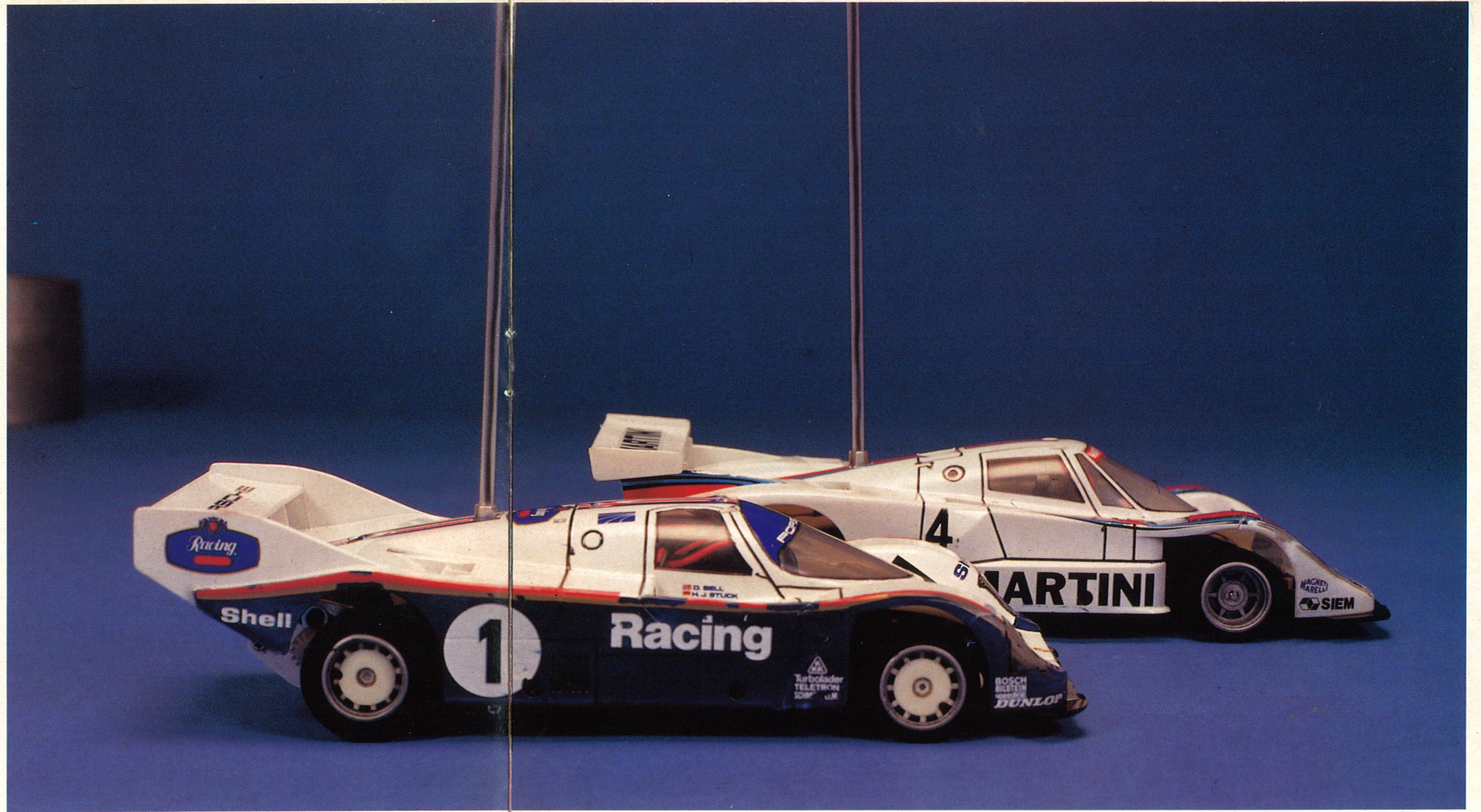
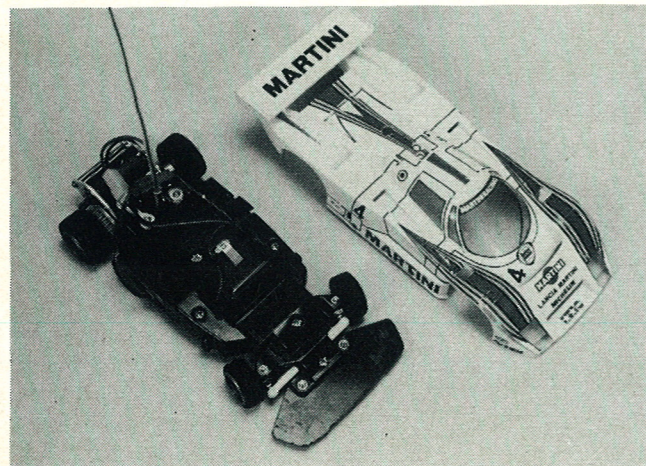


Below: Tamiya's 1/24th scale 'Porsche' and 'Lancia' line-up next to a 1/12th scale racer. Below centre: Tamtech transmitter produced by Futaba. Bottom: 'Lancia,' with the body off to reveal the all-plastic chassis.



SMALL WONDERS

If racing space is at a premium then Tamiya's 'Tamtech' cars could be for you. RCMC investigates 1/24th scale racing

Small is beautiful so the saying goes and who are we to disagree with that when faced with these two small wonders from Tamiya.

Taking the small first part it is fairly easy to see what 1/24th scale equates to by referring to the above two colour shots. On the left the 'Porsche' in the background is 1/12th scale whilst the main picture has been enlarged to show the actual size of Tamiya's 'Porsche 962C' and 'Lancia LC2.'

So much for small, what about beautiful?

Well, a close look (get out the binoculars) and you will see that Tamiya have not skimped

on the scale detail. Both cars are very true renditions of their full-size counterparts with good moulding detail and extensive decal sheets.

Interestingly the bodyshells are produced from styrene and not polycarbonate as is usual. Because the shell is thicker and the material opaque the paint needs to be applied on the outside.

Now that small and beautiful have been dealt with what about underneath the bodyshell?

This is really where things get interesting because Tamiya have really made the problem of applying R/C to a 1/24th scale quite easy.

By calling upon R/C equipment manufacturers Futaba, Tamiya have overcome the problem of limited space. Futaba have put together a combined receiver and speed controller, (CPR unit) and used a specially shaped mini steering servo. The CPR unit operates as a receiver in the normal way and the speed control features forwards, braking and reverse.

The receiver is powered by the drive battery which consists of six 1.2 volts-270mAh Ni-Cads which Tamiya claim will give you 8-15 minutes of racing.

A Mabuchi FK-180SH Mini-Blackmotor is used driving the rear wheels through a geared

differential.

When the 'Tamtech' cars were unveiled at the Model Engineer Exhibition in January there was some concern that organised racing for these cars would be difficult to achieve. However UK Tamiya importers RIKO International are confident that small hall users will be attracted to these cars because they require less racing space.

The other advantage is that if you buy a complete 'Tamtech' outfit (approximate retail price £150.00) then everything you need is included. Radio gear, batteries, charger (albeit of the slow type) and choice of gear ratios. If you cannot acquire the

complete system in one go, then individual parts can be brought separately.

As for racing, RIKO International already have special racing events planned through their Tamiya club. Contact them at 13-15a High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., HP1 3AD.

RCMC will be undertaking a full Track Test shortly, meanwhile why not enter our free competition to win one of these cars?

Manufacturer: Tamiya Model Co.

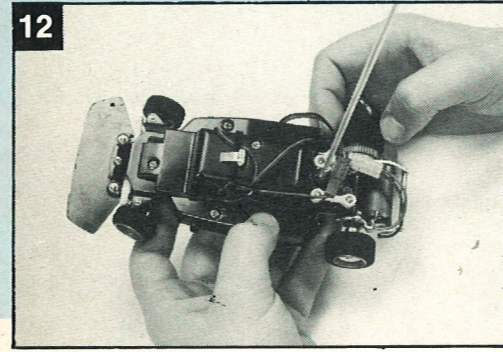
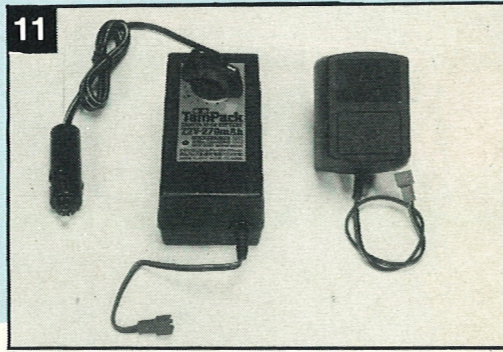
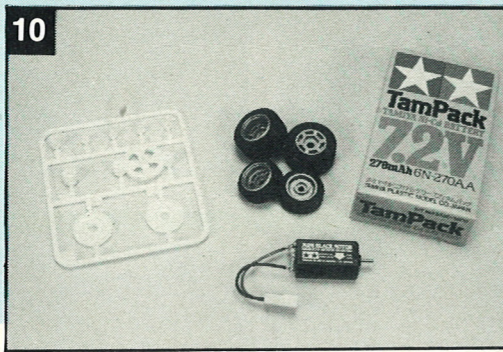
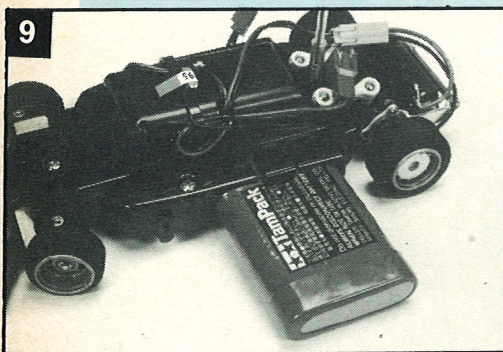
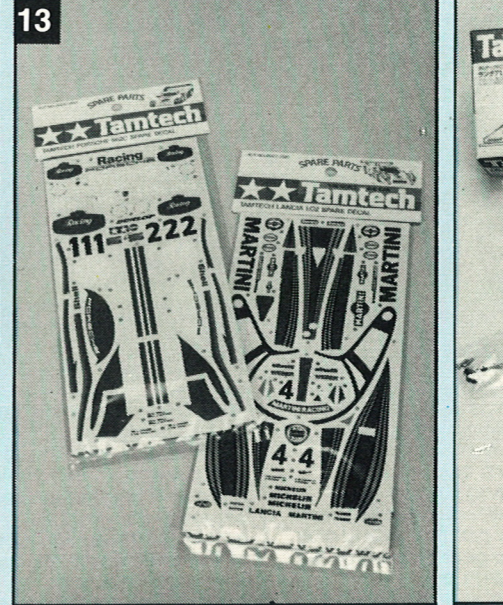
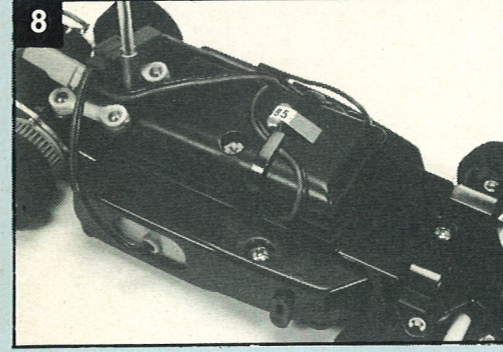
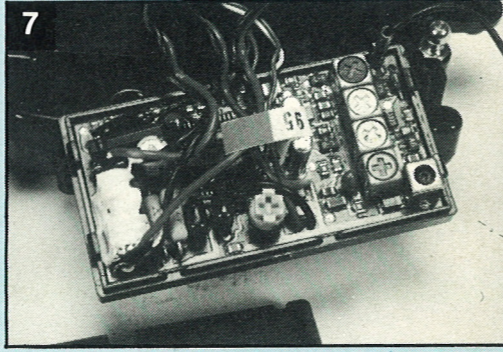
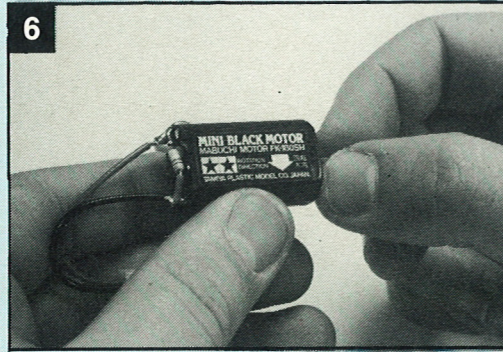
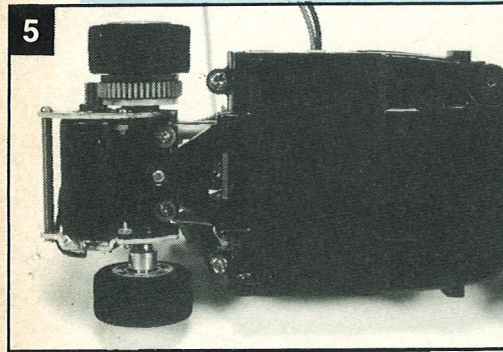
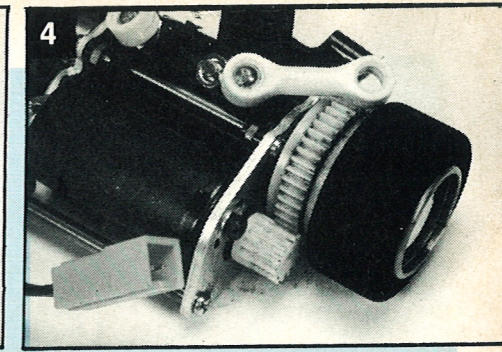
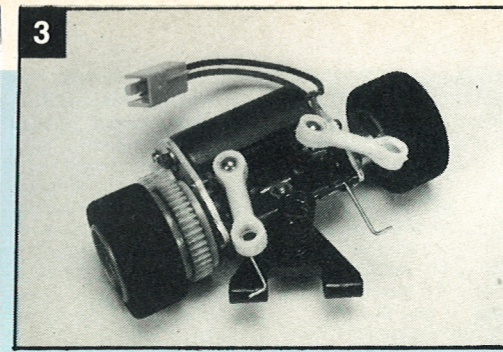
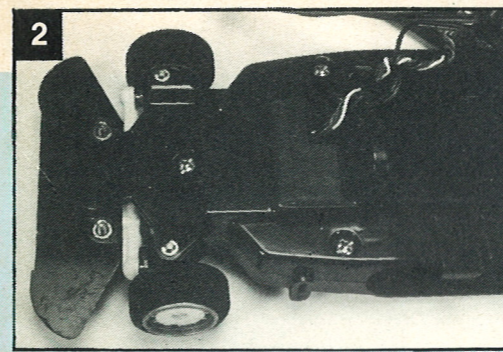
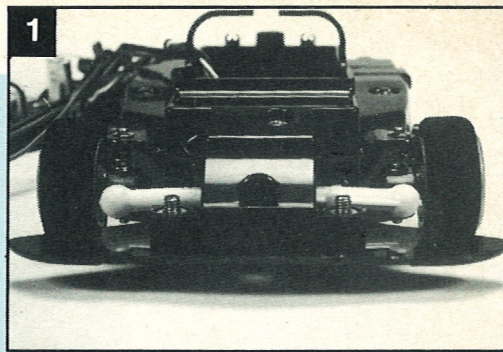
UK importer: Riko International

Full kit price: £150.00 (approximate).



SMALL WONDERS

Continued



1: Front-end detail shows steering ball joint links and sprung stub axle blocks to give suspension movement.

2: Futaba mini-steering servo has been designed specially for use in the Tamtech cars.

3: Rear motor and axle pod is linked to the chassis using a three point fixing to give vertical and sideways suspension movement. Main spring controls vertical damping operation whilst piano wire torsion spring

and upper arm links control swing axle movement.

4: Close-up of motor pinion and spur gear mesh. The rear axle features a planetary bevel geared differential housed within the main spur gear. The motor pinion is produced from toughened nylon and is a push fit on the motor shaft. A choice of ratios is included in the kit.

5: From underneath showing the three point suspension link. The rear connection is a balljoint fixing.

6: Mabuchi's Mini-Black FK-180SH motor is supplied with leads and capacitors already attached. Some idea of scale can be gauged from the hands. The motor is non-ballraced.

7: The heart of the matter is the combined Futaba receiver and speed control unit (CPR). As you can see much use of surface mounted component technology is used. Receiver

crystal is also one of the larger items.

8: The CPR unit simply slots into the chassis recess and is retained by a plastic clip. Adjustment of the throttle neutral preset is made through the outer casing.

9: The 7.2 volt Ni-Cad battery pack uses six 1.2 volt, 270mAh cells to achieve the necessary shape and small size. The pack is a push fit into the chassis monocoque.

10: Spare parts for the cars are available and include replacement pinion and differential gears, trued foam rubber tyres mounted on hubs, Mini-Black motor and battery pack.

11: The Tamtech kit includes a slow mains charger as standard but a 12 volt lead/acid quick charger (shown left) is an optional replacement.

12: Some idea of scale.

13: and **14:** Replacement body parts sets and decal sheets are also available. Finally below: Tamiya's track layout shows how little space is necessary to give these cars a race. We think you will need to be reasonably skilled in driving however!

