

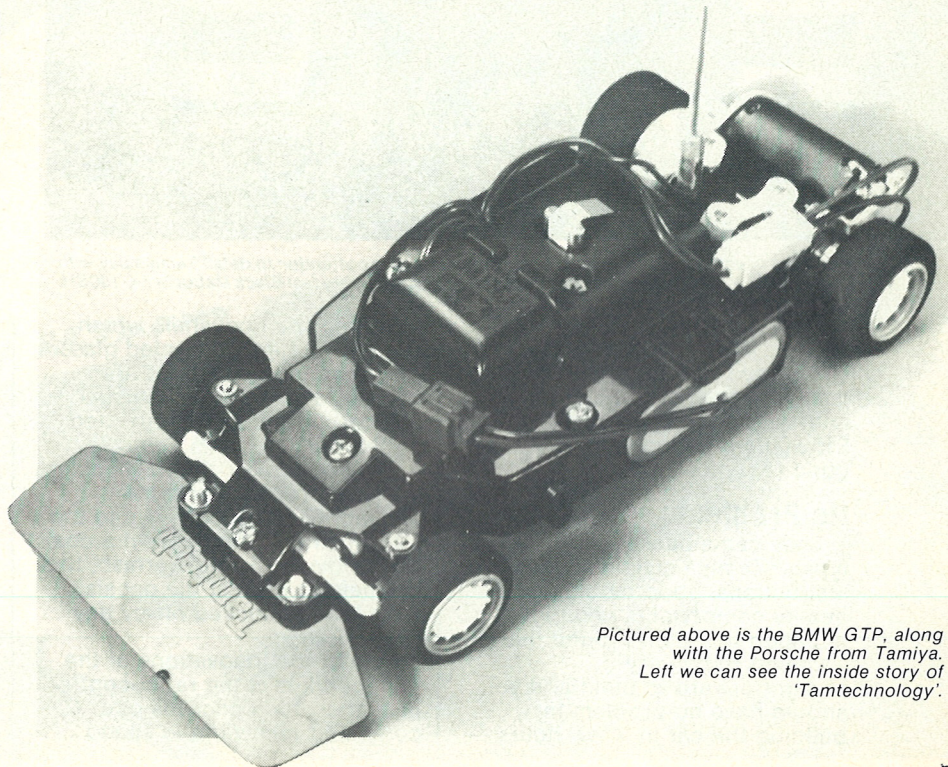
BMW GTP

Small ones are more juicy!

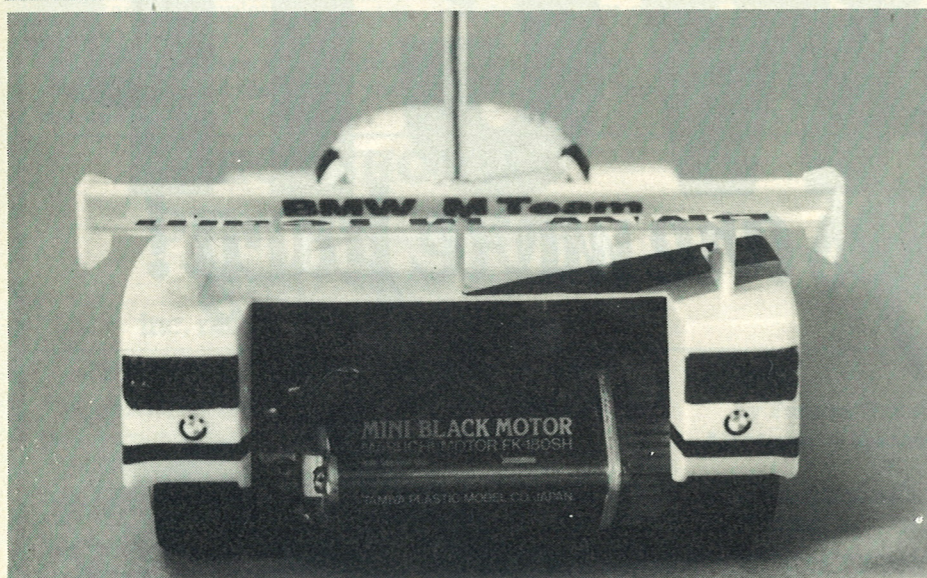
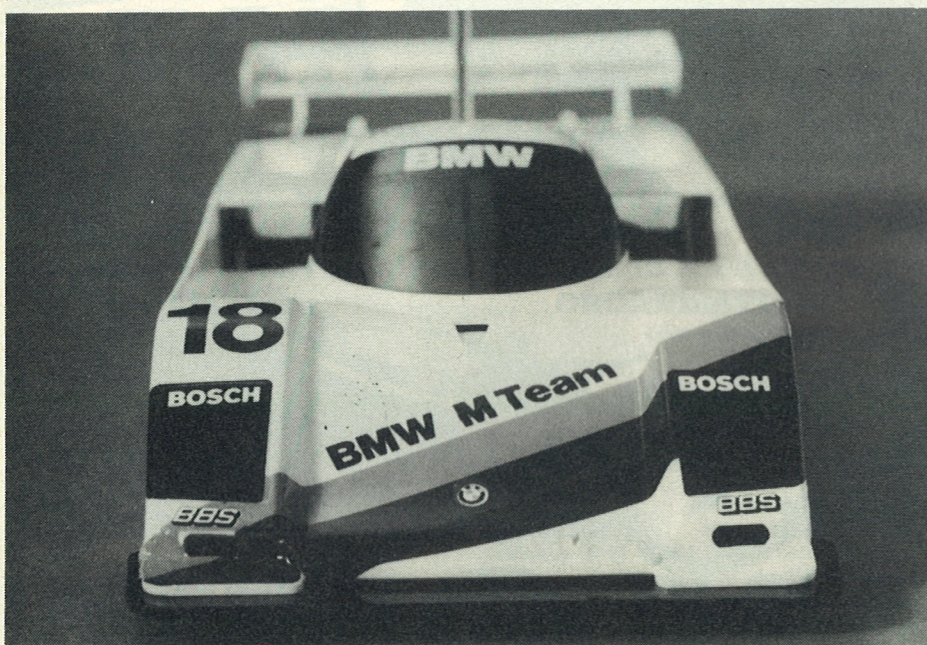
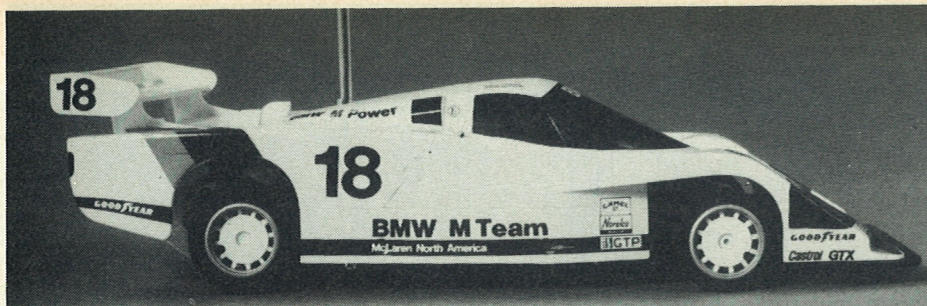
Ron Cunnington gets his teeth into Tamiya's latest mini

WHAT a month this has been! I've always fancied myself behind the wheel of a 'Supercar', and no sooner had I indulged myself at the controls of a Ferrari Testarosa I found myself in charge of a BMW GTP. Alright they might not be the 12-cylinder monsters that fly around Monaco or tear up and down the Appian Way, but I can dream, can't I? And with their latest Tamtech kits, *Tamiya* have helped make my dreams come true.

The 1:24 scale BMW GTP is a copy of the famous West German Group C racer which utilises the same chassis and running gear as the previous *Tamtech* kits, the 'Porsche 962C' and the 'Lancia LC2.' The kits come as a



Pictured above is the BMW GTP, along with the Porsche from Tamiya. Left we can see the inside story of 'Tamtechnology'.



The sleek lines of the GTP give us some indication of the attention to detail Tamiya pay with their models. Above we see the standard motor in-situ - a very fast Black Mabuchi FK-180SH.

complete package with all you need to start racing. Everything is included — Radio gear, Ni-cad pack, charger, etc., etc., and, with a price tag around £150.00, they represent very good value for money.

No Problems

They came packaged in the typical Tamiya style with clear instructions, good mouldings, quality components and high attention to detail. I found the Tamtech BMW very straightforward to build and you should have no problem in building the car in a few hours —

including the bodyshell, which comes in white with tinted glass. The Tamtech bodyshells are made in styrene, not the usual polycarbonate, and are painted on the outside using Tamiya Acrylic paints. As the BMW came in the appropriate colourway I applied the decals directly to the bodyshell and then gave it a coat of Tamiya T-13 clear varnish, this will help to protect the decals from being knocked off by any slight prangs.

One of the innovations of the Tamtech kits is the radio-control package which consists of a combined receiver and speed

control unit — the CPR (Control Processing Receiver), and a specially shaped micro-steering servo which was designed by Futaba exclusively for the Tamtech cars. A lot of research has gone into the development and production of these units in order to make 1:24 scale racing a viable proposition and they tuck nicely into the sturdy polycarbonate chassis — especially the CPR which simply slots into place and held by a plastic clip.

Change gear!

The kit comes with a high performance Mini-black Motor, the Mabuchi FK-180SH, with a choice of pinion gears made of toughened nylon. These are a push-fit direct onto the motor drive-shaft — I used the 12-tooth gear in order to obtain a good balance between sheer top speed and good acceleration. I should point out at this time that these cars are FAST, so care should be taken in choosing the gear which suits your needs best, if you overgear it too much, you'll find yourself doing an Andrew Ridgely on the corners. In order to help keep you upright round these bends, the car is fitted with a simple, but well designed, coil-damped suspension system and a rear stabiliser which consists of a piano-wire torsion spring to control any swing axle movement.

The unit is powered by a compact 7.2-volt ni-cad which is included in the outfit along with a slow charger. There is an optional 12-volt quick charger available which will give you a full charge in 15 minutes direct from your cars' cigarette-lighter socket. This charge will give you about 20 minutes running time and the pack can be recharged more than 500 times which will give you more than 125 hours of racing — I think I'll enter it for the Indianapolis 500!

With these kits, racing is fun and everything you need (apart from the skill) is there in the package. Just put it all together, turn up at the track and you're ready to go. Tamiya have solved the problems of applying radio-control to the 1:24 scale and, in conjunction with Kohnstams, they have plans for a series of special races lined up. Whether 1:24 racing catches on remains to be seen, but with the range of Tamtech models available now and the new releases coming from Japan (more about those next month), Tamiya have made model car racing more accessible to a wider audience.

So, with next month in mind, I'll go back to my dreaming. Maybe this time I'll dream of a Lambourgini — or a Porsche — or a Zzzzzz...

