

*"Before I knew it the rear gearbox was completed..."*

After always wanting a radio controlled car when I was younger, I finally got my wish when I was asked if I'd like to review Tamiya's Chevy S-10 Truck. Jonny the Ed thought that the best way of looking at this machine was through the eyes of a complete novice like myself, rather than an expert who might be a little blasé about it all, so here goes, a total beginner building Tamiya's smart little Chevy truck.

**In The Beginning...**

Before opening the box I was given a word of friendly advice from a seasoned model car builder: "If you follow the instruction booklet, you simply can't go wrong!", so I opened the box to reveal the masses of plastic parts and bags of

assembling the pieces exactly as described in the booklet. Guess what, it went okay! Before I knew it, the rear gearbox was completed and I actually started to feel that I was getting the hang of building my very first car. Before long, the front and rear gearboxes and axles were complete, I was amazed at the way it had all gone together, and so far I hadn't lost my temper once!

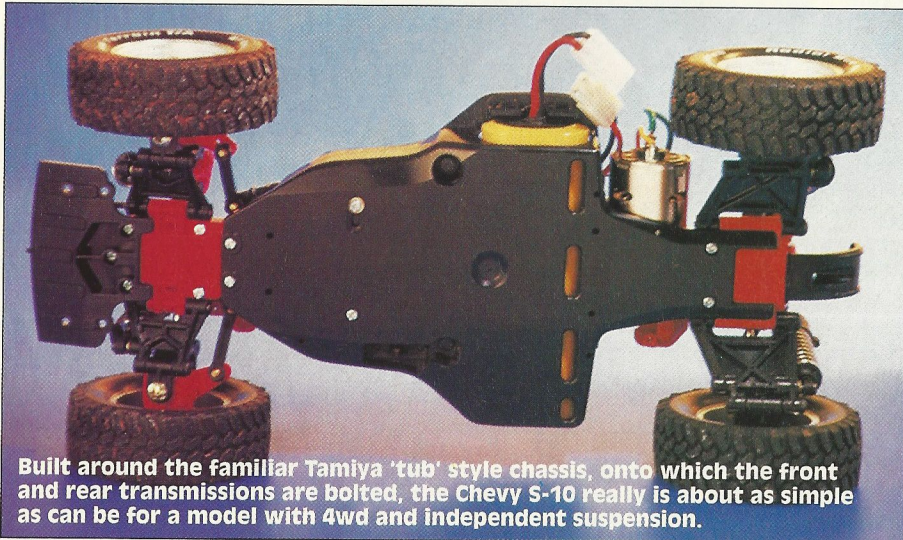
So, with newly found confidence, I moved on to assemble the four suspension dampers. These built up without too much of a problem until it came to fitting the plastic 'C' shaped clips - could I see where they were meant to go? After a quick discussion with someone in the know, and studying the booklet once again, it all fell into place, revealing that they were actually adjustment spacers to alter the stiffness of the

as myself. I was very impressed with the way the battery pack was positioned, and the simple way it could be removed without having to take the bodyshell off was a great help.

**In For A Penny...**

After much thought and worry about whether or not I could cut the bodyshell out myself and then manage to paint it successfully, especially when I knew that the result of my very first attempt at painting was going to be used for the photo's in RRC, I decided that if this was going to be a true review of a beginners' car by a beginner, I should do the lot myself. Making the lexan shell ready was a case of lightly scoring along the lines

**'ABSOLUTE BEGINNER' NIGEL MCSTAY TRIES HIS HAND AT R/C FOR THE FIRST TIME...**



Built around the familiar Tamiya 'tub' style chassis, onto which the front and rear transmissions are bolted, the Chevy S-10 really is about as simple as can be for a model with 4wd and independent suspension.

screws, a sheet of stickers for the clear lexan bodyshell, and the instruction booklet that would be my lifeline. Easy, I thought!

I read the instruction book through properly before actually starting to put any parts together, then turned back to the beginning and started

suspension springs! My next little problem arose when I went to attach the resistor to the rear gearbox, having already attached the front and rear gearboxes to the chassis and added the servos etc. I realised that the resistor's mounting plate hadn't been attached, so frantically checking back through the booklet for an indication of where I'd gone wrong, I discovered that any mention about the fitment of this part was missing (are you sure? Ed), so I then had to remove the rear gearbox and motor to fit the mounting plate which should have been added earlier. As this was the only real problem I was to encounter, I guess it wasn't such a big deal.

I thought I would have a problem fitting the radio gear, but it was actually a pretty straightforward process, even for a total novice such

Those tyres are so life like! The Chevy's massive ground clearance, chunky All-Terrain tyres and 4 wheel drive should see it able to cope with the rigours of Off Road driving.

**Driving the Chevy S-10 Truck**

At last I could finally get to drive my Chevy, and despite so many of my friends telling me I was just a big



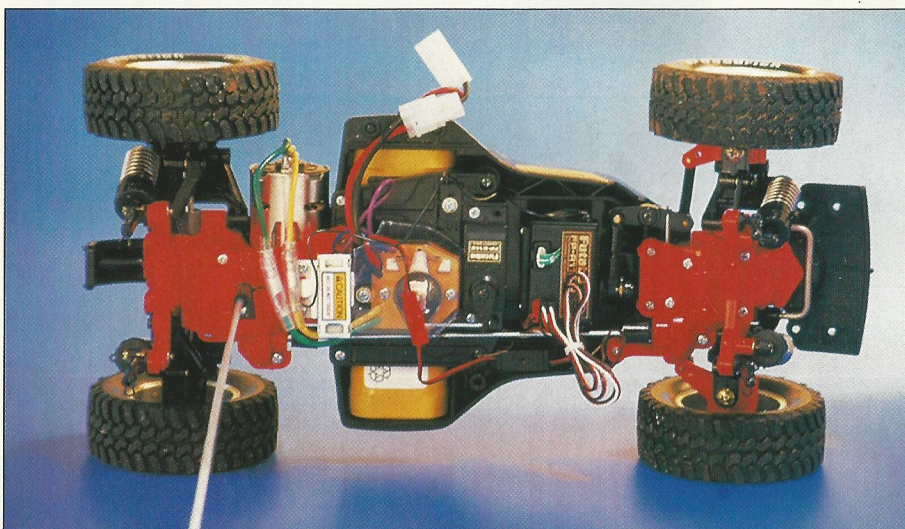
*"As for the painting..."*

Tamiya  
**CHEVY**

**S10 TRUCK**







**Once a budget priced 2ch radio set has been purchased, the Chevy's kit provides every other item needed to get it rolling apart from the battery pack. The mechanical wiper board speed controller is clearly seen here above the 7.2v battery pack.**

kid whilst I was building it, amazingly they all wanted to have a play when it was finished! Various comments like "Hey, that's one smart truck" and "I've got to get one of those" really boosted my ego, especially with the Chevy being my very first effort.

The time eventually came to put the Chevy through its paces. When it comes to driving radio controlled cars, especially decent ones like this, I was totally green, so I started off by checking that the steering worked properly at a walking pace. I was surprised by how responsive the steering was, but I thought "It's now or never", so I hit the throttle and the truck shot off up my driveway. The Chevy wasn't exactly a rocket, but it was quite fast enough for someone just getting used to the delights of radio control like me (Tamiya market some 'Hop-Up' parts such as a faster motor and ball raced bearings etc., but for the time being I think I'll stick with the standard kit's parts until I think I can handle any more speed).

After much spinning around and getting a feel

for the Tamiya Chevy (not to mention getting to grips with the 'reversed' steering when it came towards me), I felt I was ready to put it through its paces, at least as far as I could within my capabilities as a novice driver! Minor obstructions presented no problems at all, and the speed with which it would respond to the slightest movement of the transmitter's sticks was certainly a revelation.

As for the handling, well, as I've said, I am an 'absolute beginner', so who am I to make comment, but the cornering on grass and tarmac is impressive. Four wheel drive certainly seems to make a real difference. The suspension handled the bumps on undulating terrain without causing the car to deviate too much from my chosen path, a good thing with my slow reactions! I played around with the spring spacers on the shock absorbers and finally settled in favour of a slightly softer setting than I started off with, after which it

really soaked up

the bumps. If I did have a problem, it was with controlling wheelspin when accelerating away from rest. This in itself isn't a real problem, and is no doubt due to my lead foot (or should I say finger?!)

### Conclusion

All in all, Tamiya's Chevy S-10 performed extremely well, and because it is my first ever r/c car, it really did give me great pleasure to build, paint and complete. When it actually ran for the first time, I think I felt just like a dad!

Speaking as a beginner, the Chevy is an excellent first r/c car, with which I've already had a lot of fun. It was very easy to build, helped by much reference to the comprehensive instruction book, and every part fitted in the right place just as it should.

I can't wait to build my next r/c car, because yes, it looks as if I'm now well and truly hooked!

The Tamiya Chevrolet S-10 Truck is imported and distributed by Richard Kohnstam Ltd, 13-15a High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Available from Tamiya stockists everywhere.



"After much spinning around..."