Dazzler of Thunder

KIT REVIEW
By Marcus Nicholls

Tamiya have introduced a simple chassised car that requires a flat surface but will deliver high speeds at an economical price...

A slightly unusual kit has been released by Tamiya - a US style stock car. The car's markings were inspired by a machine sponsored by the Japanese car magazine "Daytona". The model retains the striking yellow scheme of the full size car, which has been taking part in stock car races in Japan.

Tamiya's kit is not entirely new, as it uses the successful chassis also to be found in the Nissan R91CP (kit No.58109) from Tamiya. In fact, this raises an important point. The Daytona Thunder is a limited release and some modellers might miss the chance to own one, but as the chassis can be found in the Nissan kit, all is not lost. By purchasing a body shell (made by Parma in this kit, not Tamiya) and mating it to the earlier Tamiya chassis, you can own virtually the same model, in around about way!

Back to the kit, and the first stage involves the tyre/wheel assembly. Strong double sided tape is supplied to hold the tyres to the rims, but getting the tyre onto the rim and then removing the tape's backing is not an easy task...

The radio gear will be needed from the word go, as the steering servo is sandwiched between chassis components. The uprights are built up using solid steel king pins, which are secured with grub screws. Make sure these are centred or the king pin might pop out of place. The front end of the chassis assembles quickly once the servo/servo saver and tie rods are in position, and this unit can then be bolted to the tub.

Rear suspension movement is provided via an FRP T plate that is flexibly mounted to the rear of the tub with bolts through rubber O rings. The sturdy motor block/rear axle mount is supplied as four hefty plastic mouldings that must be screwed together and then attached to the T plate, again using those familiar Tamiya self tappers. A ball connector is also screwed into position, which will take one end of the damper. Make sure that this assembly is not twisted in any plane as this will affect the handling later on.

Next, work begins of the rear axle. Take a little time to fit the steel shaft so it spins freely in its bearings. The kit includes a Dyna Tech 01R motor, and this is installed prior to the differential build up. This vital component goes together quickly, adding ball diff grease (supplied) as you go. The tension of the diff is fully adjustable of course, made by tightening the final lock nut that holds the unit together.

A single oil filled damper is provided for the rear suspension, and anyone who has built a Tamiya RC car kit recently will recognise this item. Once built up, the damper is mounted within a subframe and screwed to the chassis tub, and the free end popped onto the ball connector on the added earlier.

The rest of the radio equipment can be eased into position, securing everything with double sided foam tape. Body mount posts to take the large Parma stock car body are screwed into position, and the model is nearly complete. The wheels are popped on, and the chassis of the "Daytona Thunder" is finished. As Tamiya have included a Parma shell, a slightly different approach must be taken when preparing it for painting. The wheels arches need extremely careful trimming to obtain the correct curve, and holes must also drilled to mount the body to the chassis. Tamiya's extremely helpful vinyl coating is not present on this body shell, so don't forget to mask to entire external surface before spraying! The kit does include Tamiya's now familiar "masking seals" for the windows, and this saves a lot of time in masking them up.

With all masking in place, Tamiya PS-6 Yellow was sprayed on all internal surfaces. Three light coats were applied with ten minute intervals to prevent paint sag, and the body then put to one side to dry.

The decals went on easily, and really finish off the yellow body colour beautifully. All in all, a very impressive looking car, and being based on a race proved chassis, you can bet it's a performer...