



**Tamiya's tiny rear wheel drive Fiat 500 is the nicest model to come from Japan in years, full of character and raring to be raced...**

**Battleship grey**

This kit features a superb bodyshell, complete with racing body kit, moulded integrally with the main shell. The real highlight however is at the back end of the car. The full sized machines were raced with the engine covers fixed in an open position to increase the airflow over the powerplant, and Tamiya's model includes an injection moulded engine block with full exhaust system and twin carbs. When painted and installed with the moulded engine cover and struts fixed in position, it looks superb, adding a lot of realism.

The body itself is two tone, painted light grey over white. Masking off the border between the grey and the white is fairly easy if you use a narrow, flexible tape such as Tamiya's own masking tape.

The sticker set, as with all of Tamiya's RC cars, is very well planned and even the potentially tricky markings on the front of the bonnet fit almost perfectly. One way of getting a stubborn sticker to conform to a curve is to position it on the model, then heat it with a hair dryer on full heat, then quickly press it down while it's still soft (take care not to burn yourself). The stickers shrink slightly when heated, and this can also help them to lay flat.

The finished shell is clipped to the chassis, and the Fiat 1000TCR is complete. Like the Mini, this model conveys the compact feel of the original, and Tamiya's perfectly moulded bodyshell with engine detail really is one of their best.

It's a scale model that could stand on the shelf of any model car collector alongside static kits, and still look superb. If you add radio however the Fiat comes alive, and using the same power battery and motor as the larger touring cars, you can be sure it goes as good as it looks.

# OmniGorssan

**T**amiya, through some ingenious engineering have designed the M-Chassis that the Fiat 500 and Mini is built on so it can be front or rear engine, by simply swapping the front and rear suspension units. Obviously, it's a little more complicated than just unbolting and switching the units, but the modular design of this chassis does offer a number of interesting choices. Using more than one kit, it is possible to build a front and rear motored car.

**Under construction**

The differential is of the familiar geared type that will be found in many of Tamiya's RC car kits, and it has proved it's reliability in many model vehicles. Use plenty of grease and it will last for years.

Assembly proceeds rapidly, and opportunities to upgrade your model appear at regular intervals. Ballraces can be added to the gearbox, and the instructions show the types you will need to buy. The suspension arms look tiny if you are used to the items in the touring car kits, but they are moulded from the same tough plastic as the larger cars and will withstand a lot of abuse. The front suspension unit carries the complete steering system, as well as a single friction damper. The chassis can be completed in a few hours, and attention can soon be turned to the body.

