

this ford's no fraud!

Tamiya Ford Escort WRC

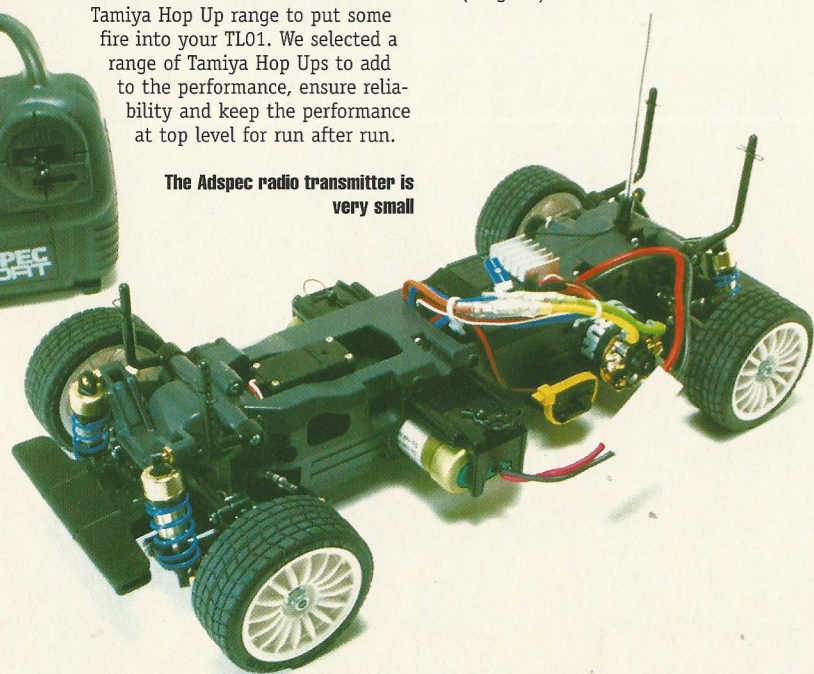
Kit Build

The Tamiya TL01 chassis has become a staple of the ever widening Tamiya 1/10th Electric range. It offers a simple build, robust components and pretty well fail safe handling in an extremely economic package. Yet another beautifully crafted 1/10th race shell, this time of the Escort World Rally Car, completes the deal. The release of the Ford Escort WRC is particularly interesting as it adds yet more impetus to the Rally Racing movement, clearly this is going to happen. The Escort joins the Mitsubishi Lancer, Subaru Impreza and the Toyota Celica and Corolla in the Tamiya Rally car line up.

Competition

We liked this model a lot so we wasted no time in making it the prize in the competition this month. At the end of this article you will have a chance to win a standard Tamiya Escort WRC. Although this is the first TL01 chassis that I have assembled RRCi has looked at the TL01 chassis on a few occasions this year so this time we have added some spice to the mix. We have taken the basic TL01 and added some choice items from the Tamiya Hop Up range to put some fire into your TL01. We selected a range of Tamiya Hop Ups to add to the performance, ensure reliability and keep the performance at top level for run after run.

The Adspec radio transmitter is very small



The temptation is to simply say 'it's a Tamiya', after all they have become the standard by which other kit builds are judged. Every Tamiya that I have built over the years has been characterised by excellent instructions and impeccable parts fit, this one is no different. I will say that taking your time and studying the instructions carefully will result in an A1 model every time. As I pointed out to Emery junior when he was building the Subaru WRC - if a Tamiya part does not fit properly - you are probably trying to fit it incorrectly! So take another look at the instructions and take your time.

Essentially the kit is straightforward. I would recommend that you pay attention to centering the steering servo before assembly, this is very important. Use plenty of grease where the instructions indicate, don't skip here. If at all possible fit a ball race set, the difference on this shaft drive, 4WD model is huge. For more details of the kit build see the reviews of the Bosch Alfa 155 (March), Toyota Celica (April) and Peugeot 406 (August).

Hop Ups

OK, what did we fit to the project Escort and why?



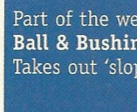
Ball Race Kit - 53292
The first and most important addition was a ball race kit. This also includes replacement gearbox shafts but these were not used as we fitted carbon items.



Hollow Carbon Gear Shaft set - 53322 & Carbon Prop shaft 53323
These lightweight shafts should increase the efficiency of the drive train. Oh and the prop shaft looks super cool as well.



Turnbuckle set - 53300
These allow accurate set up of front toe adjustment.



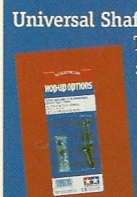
Lightweight king Pin - 53141
Part of the weight saving campaign.



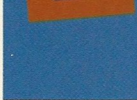
Ball & Bushing set - 53144
Takes out 'slop' of standard components



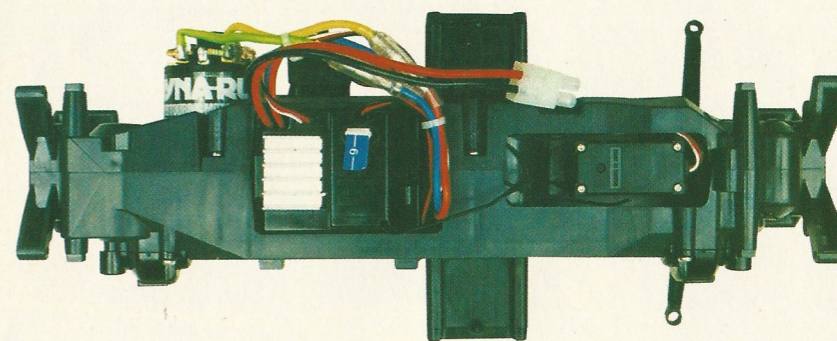
Ball Differential (x2) - 53267
The standard gear diffs are robust and reliable but the ball diff is smoother and can be adjusted.



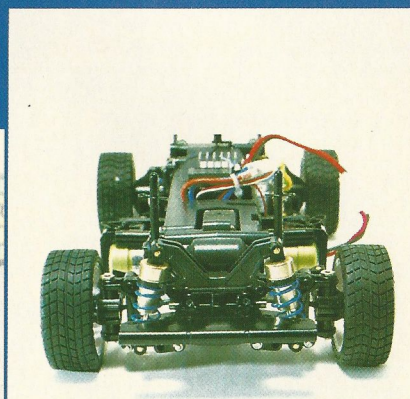
Stainless Steel Suspension set - 53301
We replaced all of the screw type suspension shafts with these tough, smooth stainless items. They should improve performance and reliability.



Universal Shaft set (x2) - 53115
The standard cup and dog-bone set-up is fine but the universals are more efficient, a particularly benefit for the front end.



The chassis complete and ready for the suspension to be fitted



The shocks were probably the nicest I have built, very smooth

Body Beautiful

OK, I will own up, I took the easy way out and asked Terry Atkinson to paint the body for me. Terry and Tony King, RRCi resident shell wizards, can be relied upon to turn out an immaculate shell every time. Thanks Terry!

Terry followed the recommended colour scheme but did have a couple of comments that might help the newcomer to the hobby. So over to 'Terry the Paint'.

Terry reckons that.....
I have been reading the Tamiya reviews in your mag' recently and I have noticed that people seem to have a problem with Tamiya stickers, mainly getting them to stick to curved surfaces and getting them to stay on the bodyshell in general. My tip is to use a hot air gun/hair dryer - for flat surfaces stick the sticker on and then heat it up until it feels just a bit warmer than warm and then rub it with a cloth. The hot air gun has the effect of softening the glue on the sticker and makes it stick better. For the curved surfaces just stick a small area of the sticker on and then heat

Now where is that gravel?



Stabiliser Set - 53324

We used the softer of the two available roll bars, fitted to the rear. This gave the chassis a nice balance. Suits me anyway!



Super Low Friction Damper Set - 53280

The standard TL01 kit dampers are simple friction devices, these are the business! Ultra Smooth and with a range of spring rates available. We started off with the Blue (hard) springs provided but this may change.



Dyna Run Motor - 53263

The standard 540 type motor is a willing item but this puts some real fire into the Escort

Radio Active

The radio set used was an Adspec Sport set. This is a 27 MHz, 2 channel set that is supplied with a servo and a CPR. What is a CPR you might ask? Well it is a combined receiver and speed controller which fits neatly into the recess on the top of the TL01 chassis, clearly made for each other. The transmitter features a steering servo reverse switch and LED indication of battery health. For younger racers the Adspec has the advantage of being a very small tranny. I had my doubts about the Sport CPR units ability to cope with a hot Dyna Run Motor and this was confirmed after a few runs. The combination is not right, nor would you expect it to be as the Dyna Run is a seriously quick motor and the CPR is definitely a 'sport' unit. I tried the CPR with a Tamiya 'Sport Tuned' 540 and all was well. Interestingly the Adspec Box only mentions the standard and Sport Tuned motors. For the rest of the testing I switched the TL01 to my normal 40 MHz Radio with a GM forward Speedo only and this car flew.

The rest of the stickers were applied using the hot air gun method, to get them around and over all of the curves on the Escort body. The rear wing was done in the same colour blue as the body (only this time using the paint for plastics - not for polycarbonate), and again it was a different shade of blue. But all in all it looks absolutely fantastic. These rally cars look superb. See you soon! - Terry Atkinson

PS. we should start a series up for rally cars it would be very different 'cos I want one now!

Late breaking News for Terry - the first Rally Race meeting is a joint RRCi/Stafford RCMCC effort on the 11th October!

Driving Impressions

I began by using a 'cooking' 1400 cell pack to check out the car, trim etc. before giving it any serious grief. First impressions were that it had too much understeer (even for me!) and that the grip from the kit tyres was fairly poor. Great fun though to slide the car around in big power-on arcs. I had set the diffs up a bit soft so I tightened these up a bit as they were wasting power and this improved things. I then fiddled around with the spring rates and pre-loads a bit and finally found the balance I wanted but the grip of the kit tyres let the car down a bit. Less of a problem for the standard model but try Tamiya type 'A' slicks on the tarmac and Fastrack or Tamiya Rally Blocks or Schumacher Mini Pins on the loose stuff.

This car is great fun in standard form and pretty quick in modified form, recommended. Given the interest being shown in racing these Rally Cars I reckon this is one model that is in for a busy life!

RRCi



For anything other than the car park, change the tyres

Quick Spec

1/10 Scale Rally Car for smooth surface operation. 4 WD by shafts. Supplied with 540 type motor and a 3 speed mechanical speed controller. Requires 2 channel radio, servos, battery pack, charger and paint to complete.

Testers Kit

Adspec Sport 27 MHz radio Set including steering servo and CPR unit
Various Cell Packs

Likes:

Simple build
Robust construction
Super Shell and decals

Dislikes:

Kit Dampers
Kit Tyres