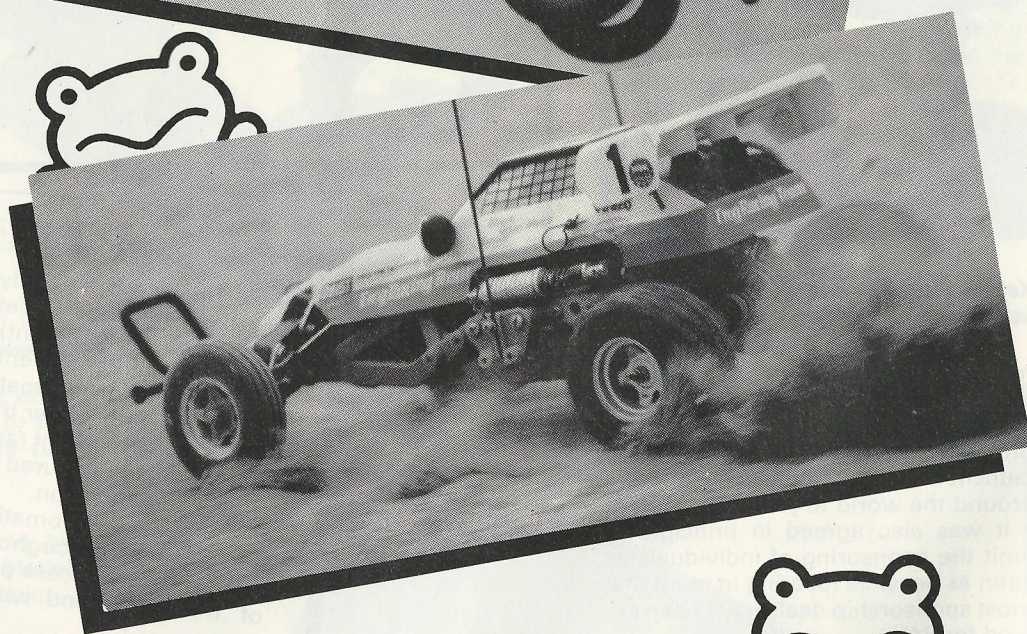
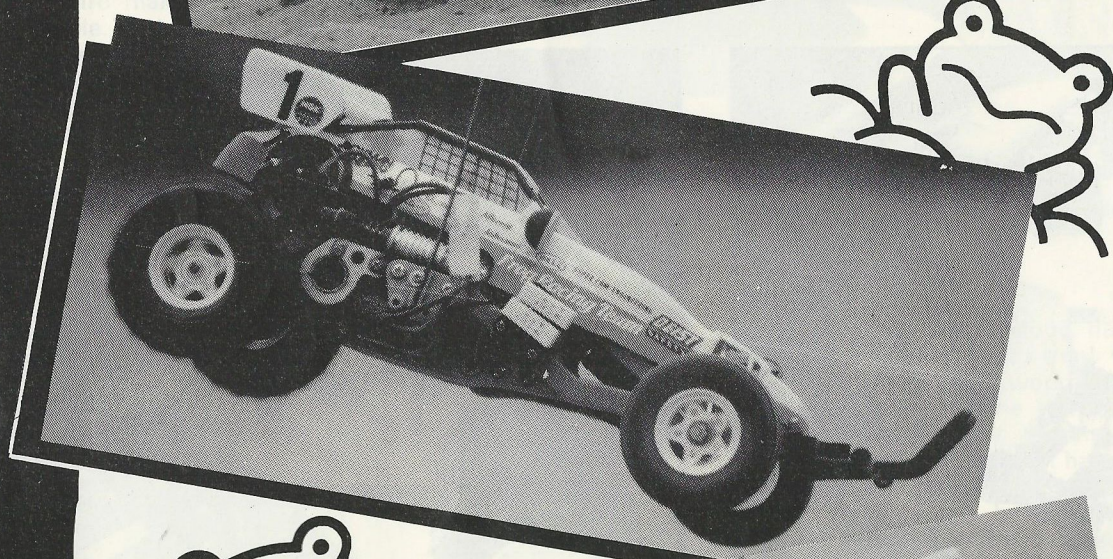
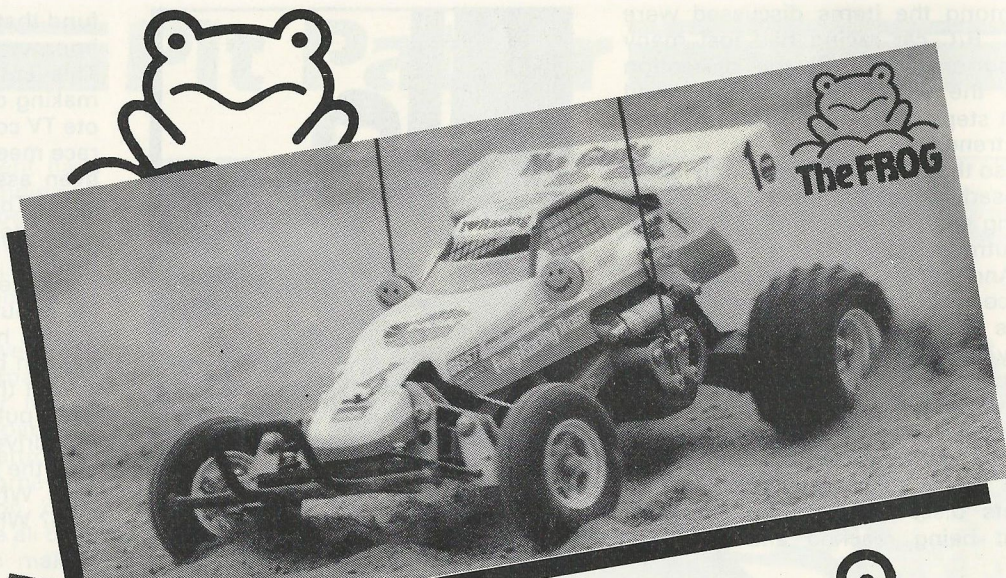


THE FROG



RRC Review this exciting New Tamiya

Frog Kit Review

This exciting new model from the Tamiya factory in Shizuoka City is a competition orientated (sorry pun not intended) 1/10th scale electric off road kit.

Based on the highly successful Subaru chassis concept this model features all the desirable tune up goodies within the specification of the standard kit.

The packaging is where the superb specification starts — what a colour scheme!

Inside the box the bubble packed sections retain all the fiddly bits!

Chassis

Centred around the A.B.S. resin space type frame this wide tracked chassis features low centre of gravity, lightweight design plus durability for the off road use intended.

A functional front bumper from nylon 66 resin and a 'stressed member' gearbox casing complete this unique design. An aluminium underguard is a functional feature worth the extra 1½ ounces.

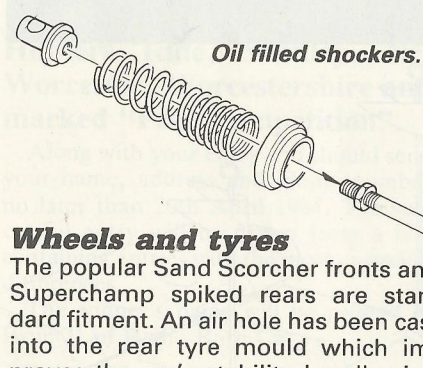
Suspension

Four wheel independent suspension is featured.

At the front double wishbones with transverse coil spring shocks and radius arms are the main features.

At the rear oil damped trailing arms support the drive shafts and axles.

The adjustable oil filled shockers work very well and transform the back end into effective damping which rides the bumps with little movement



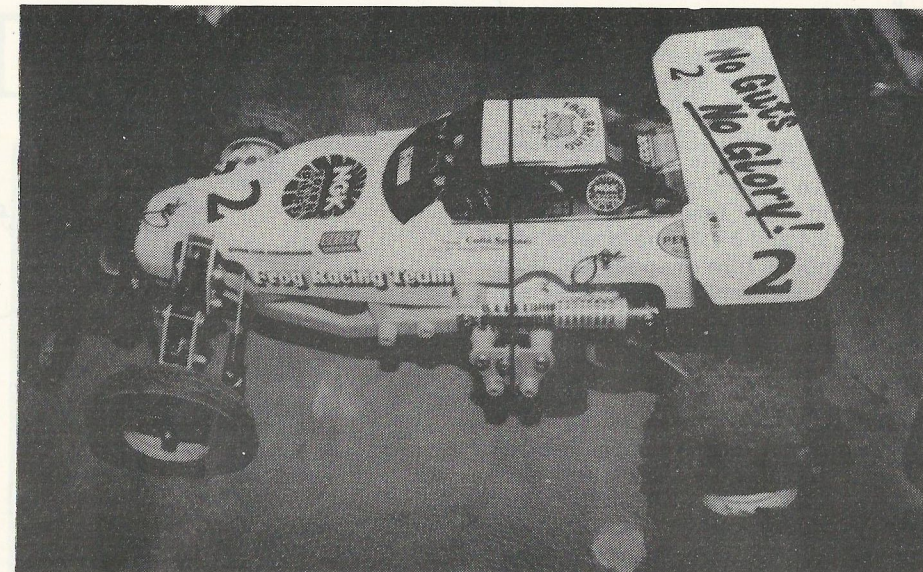
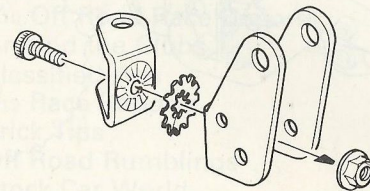
Wheels and tyres

The popular Sand Scorcher fronts and Superchamp spiked rears are standard fitment. An air hole has been cast into the rear tyre mould which improves the car's stability by allowing 'flatter' tyres to aid the damping effect. Watch out though if running in wet conditions as you get a bath when blipping the throttle.

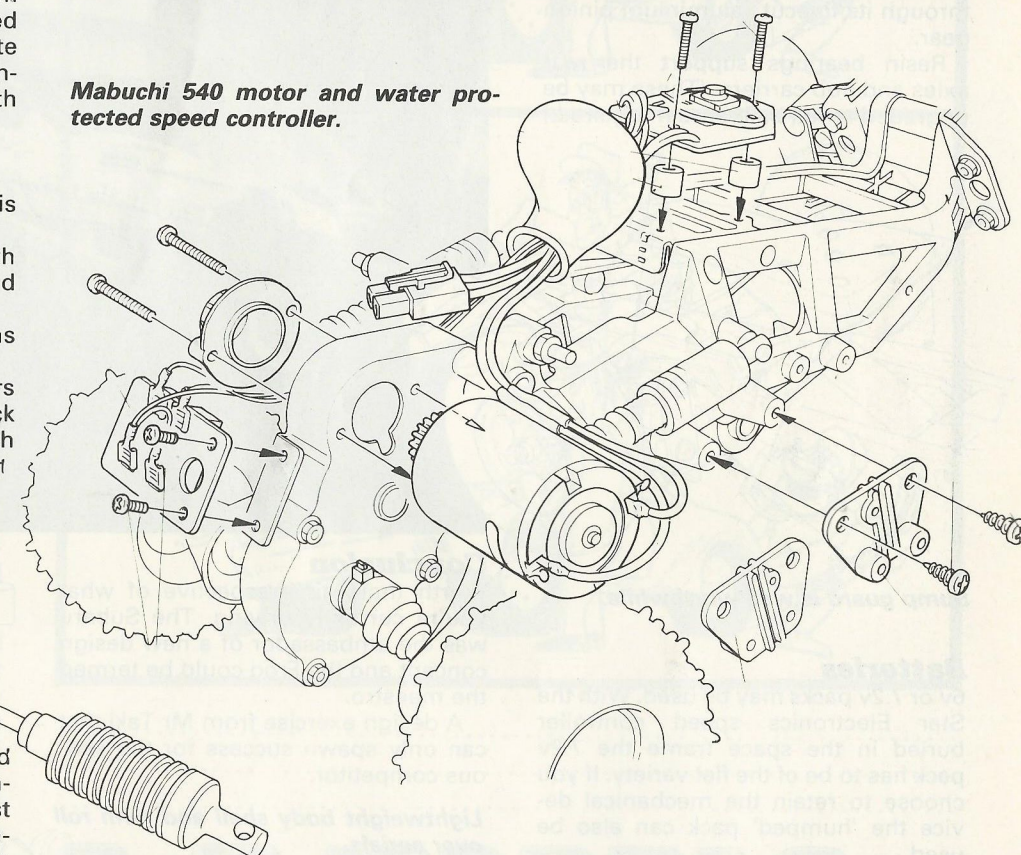
All of the alternative replacements will fit.

Front wheels feature the resin bearings which again can be upgraded.

Don't forget that "star" washer!



Mabuchi 540 motor and water protected speed controller.



Steering

A newly designed servo top mounted steering servo saver is fitted. Alternative output discs for Sanwa, Acoms, Futaba etc. are supplied. Wire track rods fix into the standard ball joint arrangement.

The steering servo is slightly forward of its position in other space frame models.

Speed controller

The mechanical wiper type speed controller is fitted, although on this model a waterproof rubber boot encloses the contact mechanism. Three forward and three reverse speeds are featured.

The ceramic resistors are tucked out of the way on the gearbox.

Radio installation

Ample room is provided within the space frame for most modern 2 channel sets. Our own Acoms AP 227 Mark II dropped in easily. Even with an alternative electronic speed controller installation is easy. Only thing not liked in the standard kit arrangement is the radio on/off switch which should locate in the rear window of the bodyshell. I found this impractical and offer two alternative positions.

1. If using the standard slide switch fix it just ahead of the mounting lug of the nearside damper.

2. If using a toggle switch you can just get it in alongside the nearside damper.

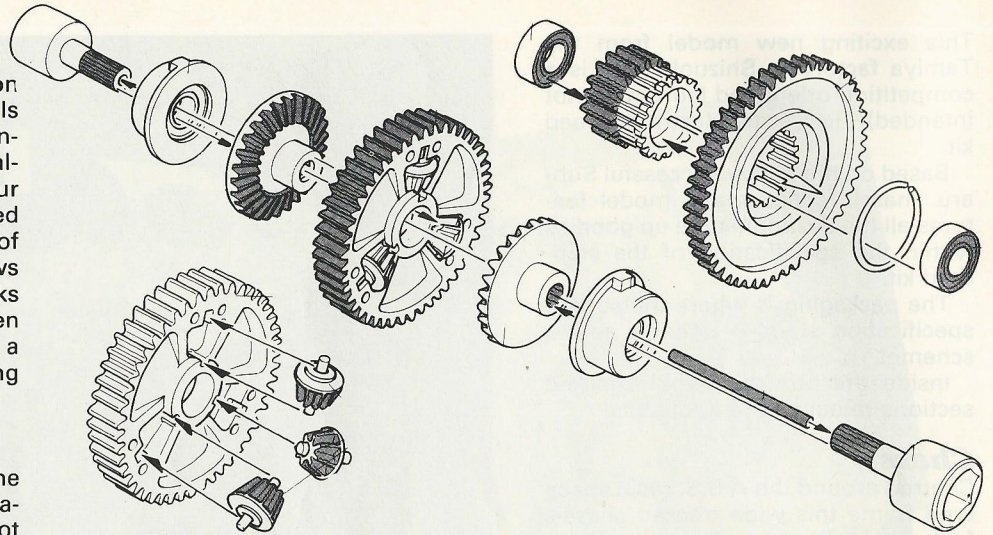
Gearbox

Whilst the side plates and the nylon moulding are the same the internals are brand new. A ball raced differential (geared) allows choice of three alternative ratios. The pinion and spur gears have to be changed in matched pairs and offer final drive ratios of 8.5:1, 7.3:1 and 6.7:1. The latter shows a tremendous turn of speed but lacks duration. The middle ratio has been giving encouraging results and lasts a comfortable six minutes under racing conditions.

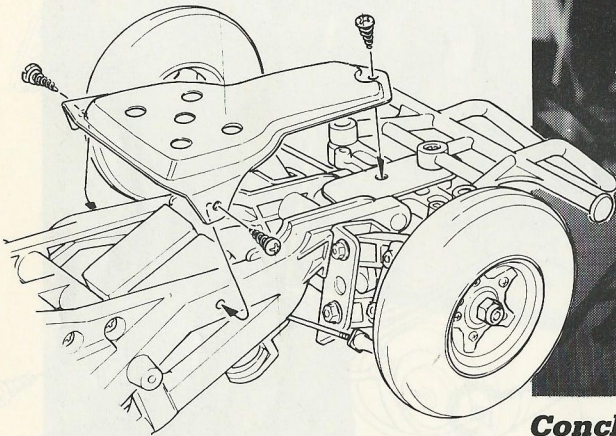
Final Drive

A 2mm shaft locates and aligns the output shafts that connect to the hexagonal drive shafts. A rubber boot covers and protects from the elements. The 540 Mabuchi motor smoothly transmits the power through its finecut aluminium pinion gear.

Resin bearings support the rear axles and hub carriers. (These may be upgraded to full ball races if required.)



Intermediate gear and differential detail.



Sump guard is well worthwhile.

Batteries

6v or 7.2v packs may be used. With the Star Electronics speed controller buried in the space frame the 7.2v pack has to be of the flat variety. If you choose to retain the mechanical device the 'humped' pack can also be used.

Cosmetics

Body design of the Frog is a Tamiya original. This polycarbonate shell is lightweight and functional, an integrated rear airfoil is fitted. A super set of Mylar stickers complete the overall effect. (Don't forget to paint on the inside with suitable colouring — pink or green frogs seem appropriate!)

A moulded driver figure can be fitted if desired, as can the by now obligatory driving lamps!

Twin roll over aerials appear pretentious but work — watch the new Tamiya video for proof. Paint the wheels to match the bodyscheme and you will have a distinctive vehicle ready for the off.

Conclusion

Worth the wait irrespective of what you're currently driving. The Subaru was the ambassador of a new design concept and the Frog could be termed the maestro.

A design exercise from Mr Taki that can only spawn success for the serious competitor.

Lightweight body shell and twin roll over aerials.

