



KIT REVIEW

Report by Mike Caine



The Fast Attack Vehicle was Tamiya's last Military based RC model - the Hummer is the latest. This time with four wheel drive and an awesome injected moulded body

Carmouflage

The chassis of a real Hummer is steel, with an aluminium body to save weight. Suspension is all round independent, featuring coil springs and double action shock absorbers. The powerplant for all variants is a General Motors 6.2 litre V8 Diesel that develops 150hp - not much for such a vehicle you might think, but that huge diesel engine generates a vast amount of torque, which is more important than quick 0-60 mph times.

Anyone who has built a Tamiya 1:10 scale RC touring car kit will instantly recognise the Hummer's TA01 4WD chassis, as this forms the backbone for the new kit. By cleverly tweaking a very well proven and easy to maintain unit, Tamiya have given more life to this design, and it even looks and functions like the chassis of the real Hummer!

Some changes have been made, but they are not immediately obvious. For a start, the whole chassis is longer, as are new wishbones. A set

of four superbly detail wheels are supplied, fitted with chunky Wrangler tyres. A host of other smaller changes can be seen such as new body posts, but you still have the solid TA01 Four Wheel Drive chassis in the centre.

The bodysell is a stunning item, supplied as a huge one piece moulding in ABS plastic which is tougher than regular styrene. It's coloured olive drab, but some work with the airbrush will be needed for realism.

The first assembly encountered is the rear differential. This is a ball diff, and careful studying of the assembly sequence will be needed to make sure the various washers and ball races are stacked in the correct order.

The result is a neat drum unit which drops into the large rear gearbox housing. The rear gearbox also carries the 540 motor, which is the standard item and more than capable of shifting the model at distinctly non scale speeds...

The front differential is next, and this is a less sophisticated but tougher geared unit. Add

plenty of grease and it will last forever. Again, this drops into the front gearbox moulding, followed by a set of gears that take power off the longitudinal steel propeller shaft from the rear gearbox. This system is not as efficient as a belt drive but it has proved to be bullet proof in operation, and once built, needs virtually no maintenance.

The new wishbones are added to the gearboxes, trapping the steel drive shafts in the process. The instructions say to add grease to these, but we ran ours dry to prevent dust from sticking to the exposed lubricant.

Following the instructions, the front and rear gearboxes are screwed onto the chassis tub, not forgetting to insert the prop shaft into the front and rear power take-offs.

The tyres are slipped onto the specially designed wheels and secured to both inner and outer rims with a drop of superglue. This might not seem to be necessary as the tyres are a tight fit, but when power is applied during driving,

centrifugal force makes the tyre expand and the wheel will slip, causing a loss of traction and control. The new design body mounting posts were screwed onto the damper frames, and the Hummer's chassis was complete.

With a fully charged Tamiya 1700 SCRC nicad pack inserted into the slot in the chassis, Tamiya's new M1025 Hummer was ready for action. Full power was applied and the Hummer sped off in a cloud of dust across our improvised test area (a local unmade car park).

The weight of the injection moulded bodysell makes the model a little top heavy, as we found to our peril. We watched in horror as our speeding model hit a patch of clean tarmac in a corner, suddenly gaining lateral traction and flipping up, rolling three times before coming to a rest on its roof. We rushed over to the crash sight and inspected the car. Luckily, very little damage was done to the Hummer, but cornering was taken a little more carefully for the rest of the test drive. Summing up the Hummer

The sight of this model zipping around is very dramatic, made all the more so by the fact that it represents a modern military vehicle that's in service all around the world, adding to the realism.

The Hummer's body is a superb piece of injection moulding, and coupled to the highly successful four wheel drive chassis from the touring car kits, this model is a winner.

