



This latest creation from the Tamiya stable certainly has a single function in mind, with its ridiculous appearance and specification having fun is certainly top of the menu if you decide to have a go at building the 'Lunchbox'. This is the latest in the present run of over tyred over powered monster cars to come from Tamiya although is the first to come down a scale to 1/12th.

On opening the usual faultless Tamiya box you might be surprised by the seemingly small amount of parts on show, this is because the 'Lunchbox' is basically a very simple car, constructed around a one-piece 'tub' type chassis. The first step in construction incorporates installing the radio equipment into the chassis, this is very simple as Tamiya supply all the various types of servo horn and fixing's for all the popular makes of radio. The only tricky part of the radio installation is the mounting of the speed controller, this just needs to be set so that it returns to neutral and that it doesn't over run on the full forward and reverse section of the circuit board. Usually by now I can't resist putting the wheels and tyres together just to see what they look like! Although if you followed the instructions the wheels and tyres would be the last part of construction: how annoying!

Next in construction comes the rear axle/differential, this contains a standard Tamiya differential which when greased as per instructions runs very smoothly. Bolted to the gearbox comes the power unit, a standard 540 motor is used which is coupled to a very long motor pinion, this drives the rear differential and completes the drive train.

Four Point Suspension

Next to be done is the rear suspension which is certainly original! Apart from two chrome spring units at the rear the axle also pivots on two light 'Axle Springs' via a swivel bar on the front of the gearbox. This seems unusual but when completed the rear suspension works well and should help the car ride over

almost anything. The battery tray comes next and when this is fitted a new taughtness becomes apparent to the chassis.

Front Ends Ups and Downs

The front suspension is more conventional, two wishbones pivot directly from the chassis and carry the stub axles and front spring unit mounts.

At this stage the steering arms are fitted, these are odd in length to allow for the non-central servo horn positioning. The front end is sprung via two chrome spring units, these look great, although as the box lid reveals Tamiya oil filled shocks can be fitted as an extra which I'm sure would improve any handling the car is like to have.

Now comes in those wheels and tyres, these tyres are big! 115mm to be exact, and coupled to a 1/12th scale van they look ridiculous, but fun!

The front wheels have plastic bearings and are secured with nyloc nuts. The rears are fitted with small drive pins and round plastic drivers'. Now the chassis is complete the fun comes in.

The Lunchbox Body

Although Tamiya supply a full set of stickers for the 'Lunchbox' they do suggest that a 'wild' paint job is attempted. I'm a bit of a chicken and decided to go for the standard body trim which I think looks great, although don't let this put you off, have a go at personalising your van with a different paint job. Why not try the A-Team!

Performance of the van is really very exciting, being quite small compared to the 'Monster Beetle' and yet having the same power unit and Ni-Cad, the van certainly has ample speed.

Wheelies on a fully charged battery are no trouble, although beware, when the front wheels are off the ground you soon find out that the steering doesn't work! Overall this kit is for fun, it's fun and quick to build and fun to drive. For anyone who's not interested in racing this is the one, as it's still fast, although handling is really something it lacks in, although that wasn't what it was designed for anyway!

OUT TO LUNCH!

Alan Harman reviews Tamiya's latest addition to the menu

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