



# MIDNIGHT PUMPKIN

Model Cars goes  
to the ball with  
Tamiya



**T**amiya's fast growing range in all scales and classes of model cars has again been increased by another in the line of "Monster Trucks". For their latest edition Tamiya have crowned their baby the 'Midnight Pumpkin' which must be the most odd name given to

a model car to date. The 'Midnight Pumpkin' is basically a rebodied 'Lunchbox' using the same mechanics as before but with slight changes to accommodate the new 'Ford F-100' pick-up bodyshell.

### Construction

The car is based around a

plastic tub chassis which houses the radio control equipment and drive batteries.

It is also the mounting point for the front and rear suspension. This tub is the start of the building procedure as the radio equipment is installed into this first.

The steering servo is first to

be fitted and has a plastic servo saver, unit bolted to it before installation - this protects the servo during bumps or crashes.

Next comes the throttle servo which is bolted in the centre of the tub. To this the rod connection is made to the 3-step speed controller which is already bent to the correct

length. The receiver tucks neatly under a rubber band on the rear bulkhead and this completes the radio installation.

### Keep on running

Next to be constructed is the rear differential and gearbox. The car is fitted with one of the Tamiya 3 bevel geared diffs

which when greased and assembled gives an extremely free running smooth unit. This fits easily into the gearbox and drives to the wheels via long stub axles.

The standard 540 motor has an aluminium 10-tooth pinion to be fitted before it is installed in the car.

The rear suspension comes next and is probably the most tricky part of the kit to build. The whole rear axle and gearbox is suspended via four points. Two are the coil over spring units and two are via axle springs which just allow a small amount of movement at the front end of the gearbox.

Once this stage is completed it can be bolted to the main chassis and your 'pumpkin' starts to look like a car!

### Round about

The steering rods are odd in length, this allows for the servo to be mounted centrally. These rods are fitted with the white



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nylon type *Tamiya* balljoints seen on so many of their cars. Tow-in can be adjusted by screwing the ball joints on farther to the rods at a later stage.

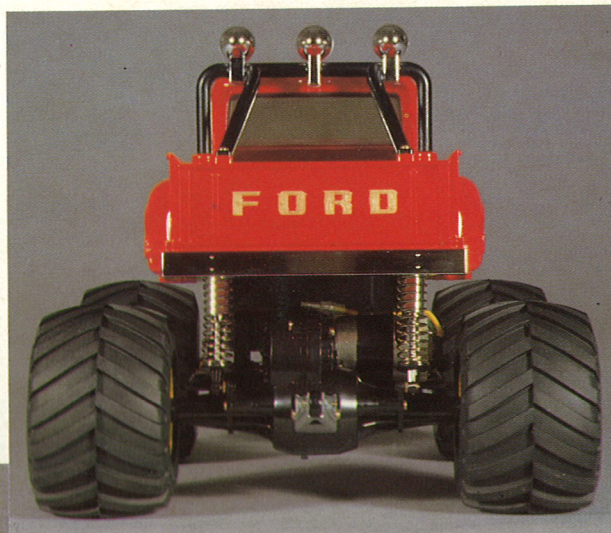
The front suspension is simple but effective, two triangular mouldings form the suspension arms to which the front stub axles and spring units are fitted, these arms are

trapped between the chassis and the front bumper moulding and are held rigidly by three self-tappers – simple and effective. The car is sprung all round by four spring units. These are chrome in colour and just act as spring holders, these could be changed at a later date for the *Tamiya* yellow 'CVA' type shock units.

Now the front and rear suspension has been completed all that's left to do is the wheels, tyres and the bodyshell.

## Finish it off

The wheels and tyres are the same as those seen on the 'Lunchbox'. Yellow one-piece



wheels are the order of the day which could of course always be painted to match the shell. The tyres simply pull onto the rims and there is no need for gluing.

The bodyshell is an excellent moulding which includes some great detail. The body is actually a very scale-like copy of the original F-100 but has a sunroof and roll-over bar fitted to jazz up the look of the model.

The decals included in the kit are blue flames but as we decided to paint our 'Pumpkin' red we decided to leave them off although the shell could be painted in any colour and smartened up with the flames.

## On the road

The 'Midnight Pumpkin' is obviously made for fun and with this in mind the car can give enormous pleasure. It is perfectly fast enough, and can

*Top: The rear of the "Midnight Pumpkin" looks all the better for the gold "Ford" badge. Main picture: The "Midnight" car sits four inches off the ground on its enormous boots. Left: The neat chrome grille has the Chevy "V8" badge placed in the centre.*

even perform wheelies if provoked by jamming firstly into reverse! Steering with the power on is virtually non-existent but if the power is left off, the car turns in quite a tight radius. Racing of the 'Pumpkin' up against Model Cars' 'Lunchbox' was also good for some laughs although for next time maybe a set of ball races, shocks and a *technigold* motor maybe fitted – as I don't like getting beaten! Available through Tamiya Stockists. Price £68.