

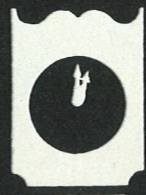


exactly that. With their Quick Drive series Tamiya have created a winner and demonstrated at the same time that their strengths lie in playing to the mass market. While everyone else has been trying to cram every piece of racing technology into the same size car in an attempt to de-couple the fun from racing, Tamiya have predominately kept their cars aimed at the masses.

That's why they are the biggest model manufacturer in the world.

That's why they are one of the top ten companies in Japan. That's why they don't care who wins world championships. I think they have the right attitude.

The policy of taking cars from their 1/10th range to turn into QD has now brought one of their more bizarre creations to the model shop (although nothing will ever top the Wild



# TIME FOR A CHANGE

In their quest to hit all parts of the market Tamiya and various other Japanese manufacturers are pouring a lot of money into R/C cars aimed at people who would like to get into the hobby but can't be bothered to actually build a kit.

Scaling down their existing range into 1/14th scale, supplying the car ready built with radio and calling them Quick Drive has done the trick. There is widespread debate as to whether these cars should appear in a magazine devoted to radio control racing, simply because they don't exactly fit the image of mega-thrashing, gear-gnashing, totally serious racing bugs.

This is of course a load of old tosh.

There has to be an entry level for anyone wanting to get to grips with R/C racing cars. Forcing them into the highest level right from the outset is no way to encourage a long-term involvement.

The problem had been aggravated by the non-availability of kits that could bridge the gap between the cheap and nasty runabouts and proper radio control machinery.

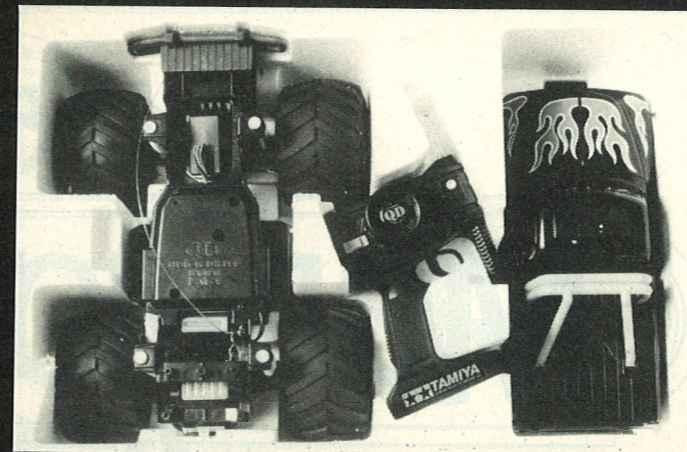
Now at last the manufacturers have taken the bull by the horns and done

**If you want to  
get going fast -  
Tamiya have  
the QD**

Willy as the all-time great!

The Midnight Pumpkin is apparently modelled on a full-size car somewhere in the States. I have no reason to think this isn't true since only the Yanks could come up with something as over the top as this. Can't you just imagine it: some West Coast air head taking his Pumpkin to the drive in for a B movie double feature and a quick chomp on a cheeseburger.

It could only happen in America of course, somehow it wouldn't work on a trip to the local Odeon in Bicester would it?



## Inside the Pumpkin

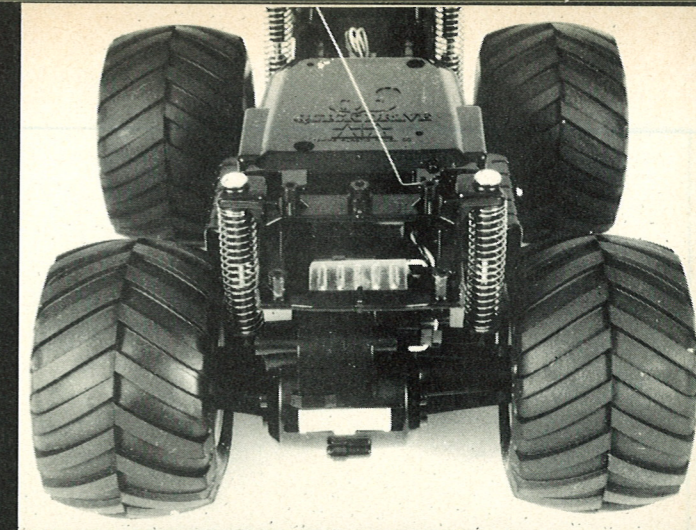
This QD car doesn't actually come completely assembled - don't worry though all the bits that need bolting on won't take more than five minutes.

The rear guard and clamp has to be added basically because the car won't fit into the box otherwise. Also the bodyshell must be fitted with a single bolt through the top after the front has been clipped in to the chassis. In the case of the rear guard, this also just clips into place whilst the body bolt is screwed in by the box wrench used for taking the wheels off.

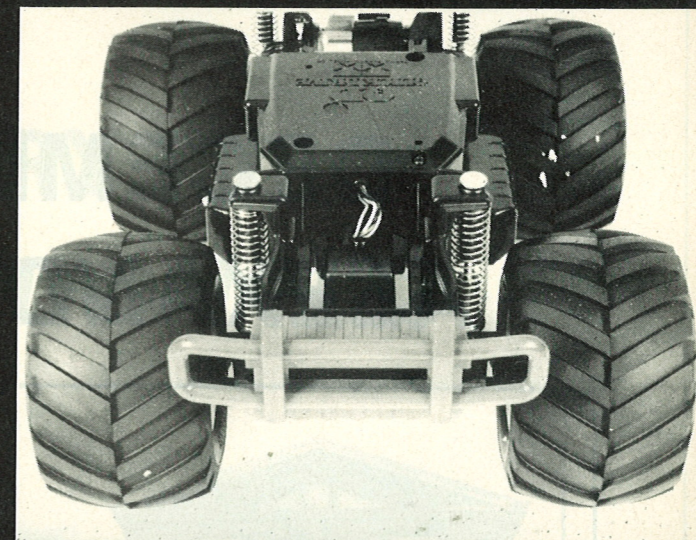
differential capable of providing two different gear ratios which are changed by a switch lever on the back of the gearbox casing. This gives high (Turbo drive) and low (normal drive) running.

Looking at the Pumpkin you can't help but be struck by the wheels which are out of all proportion to the car in the true Monster Truck style, despite the fact that the wheels put the rest of the car high off the ground, the position of the batteries in the bottom of the chassis means that it doesn't just fall over as soon as it looks at a corner.

The wheels can be removed



Left: as it comes - all the bits needed less batteries and charger. Top: large tyres fitted all round. Below: simple floating axle suspension and solid front beam.



To get the Pumpkin moving all you need is a single nine volt transmitter battery and eight AA size pen cell batteries for the car. These are inserted underneath an access panel in the underside of the chassis.

In the side of the car is a socket which allows Ni-Cad batteries in the car to be recharged without having to take them out.

Using rechargeable batteries will be short-term advantage because it won't take long before ordinary pen cells run out of juice. Tamiya have a charger suitable and a trip to the local model shop will provide the means to keep going for longer (make sure you ask for a quick charger and rapid charge Ni-Cads).

The Quick Drive series uses frequency crystals just like 'real' R/C cars. Different frequencies means that up to 12 cars can be run at the same time without interfering with each other. In the Pumpkin the receiver crystal sits under the batteries, so you have to take them all out to get at it.

The basic chassis of the Pumpkin is the same as the other cars in the QD series, except for the front-end which now uses a solid axle like the rear. These pivot up and down and are controlled by coil spring shock absorbers.

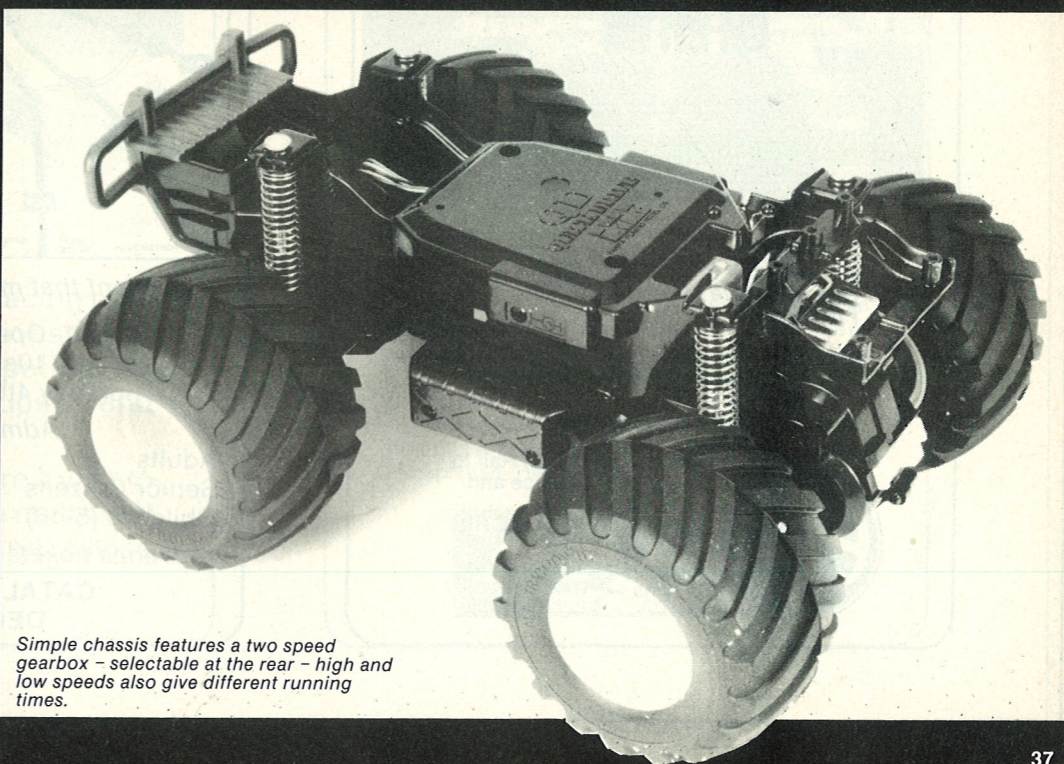
In the gearbox is a full-blown

and presumably changed for other types along with the tyres which will wear out if the Pumpkin is run on hard surfaces. Interestingly the instructions show that the plastic wheel bearings can be

replaced by proper ball races. This will not only make the drive system more efficient but more reliable over a longer period. No doubt those massive wheels will exert a major strain on the drive and every effort

made to lessen this will be worthwhile.

The last thing to look for now is some 1/14th scale plastic model cars to stomp all over then we can have some real fun.



Simple chassis features a two speed gearbox - selectable at the rear - high and low speeds also give different running times.