

MUD BLASTER

► Graham Garner and friend about to put Tamiya's Mud Blaster through its paces.



As I write my partner is somewhere outside with his latest acquisition the Tamiya Mud Blaster, he has been outside for some time now and as far as I can tell intends to remain there. Which is probably why the family cat is safely curled up on the carpet.

The Mud Blaster is the latest in a line of monster trucks from Tamiya and is based around the Subaru Brat pick up truck. This kit is aimed squarely at the young driver market so it is only fair that a young driver should build and review the kit. My partner, as referred to earlier, is in fact my ten year old son and at this point it should be said that he did successfully build the Mud Blaster, yes I

GRAHAM GARNER get to grips with Tamiya's latest monster truck. Story by dad!

Although you can use B.E.C. Radio gear, the Mud Blaster will accept a radio battery pack with ease!

was involved in an advisory capacity, to pour the pop and tighten the screws just that little bit extra, they can be quite hard for young wrists to cope with. However, this does have advantages inasmuch as the whole kit is not falling apart every ten minutes.

Tamiya's amazing production methods allowed my ten year old to produce a finished item with not one mistake. The key to this ease of assembly lies in the combination of two things, superb tooling giving excellent flash free mouldings that fit first time, every time. In fact you can assume the policy of if it doesn't fit then you have got the wrong part. The second, oft praised reason is the clearly detailed instruction booklet that Tamiya supply as standard throughout their range of r/c kits.

Notable Points

My suspicions that the chassis was an updated original was confirmed by a telephone call to the R.R.C. offices, this is not to the detriment of the Mud Blaster, indeed it is a creditable way of off setting tooling costs on Tamiya's behalf.

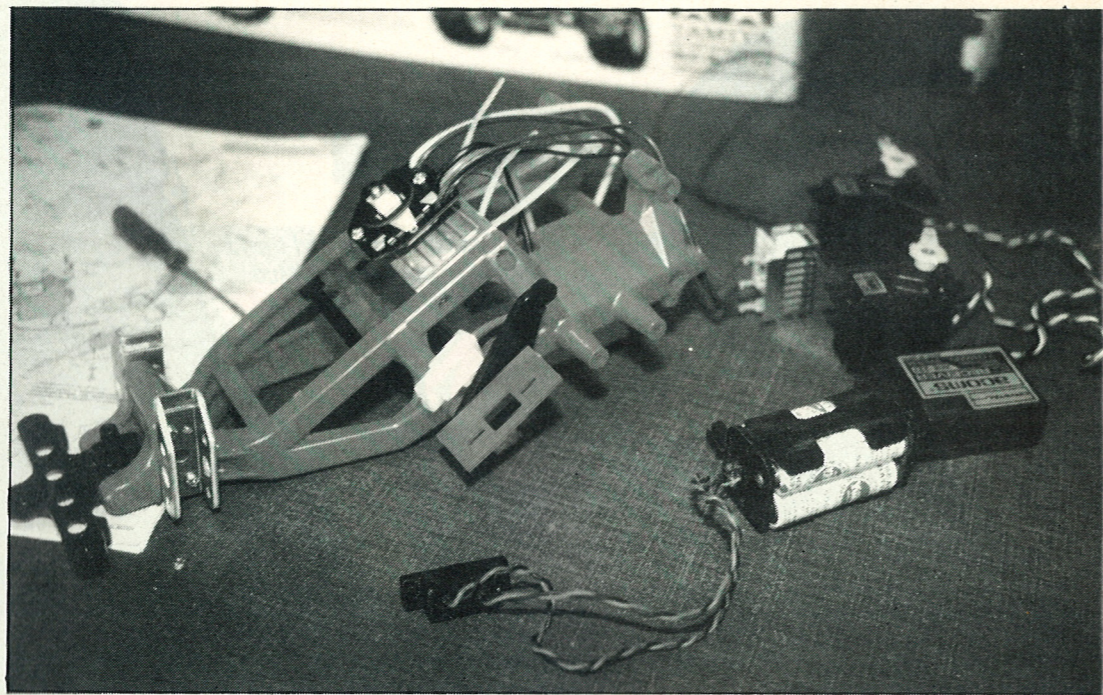
Being an illustrator myself I must make further mention of the instruction booklet, 24 pages of pictorial instruction, each one saving a thousand words as the saying goes. All screws are illustrated in the margin directly opposite the assembly that you are working on, the illustration also shows an identification code (alphabetic) the main drawing also shows all part number and gives a code letter for the correct sprue, there is no way that you could mess this one up!

My Partner Builds The Chassis

At first we started with the mane strucksher.....sorry, hold on I've picked up my sons write up! Not wishing to induce mass insomnia amongst R.R.C. readers by giving a blow by blow account of how the Mud Blaster was assembled, we took a series of photographs of the chassis build to illustrate the point.

As someone who is more used to building model helicopter kits one thing did dawn on me, and that was

The radio gear is a tight fit but you should find no installation problems, Tamiya have it right.



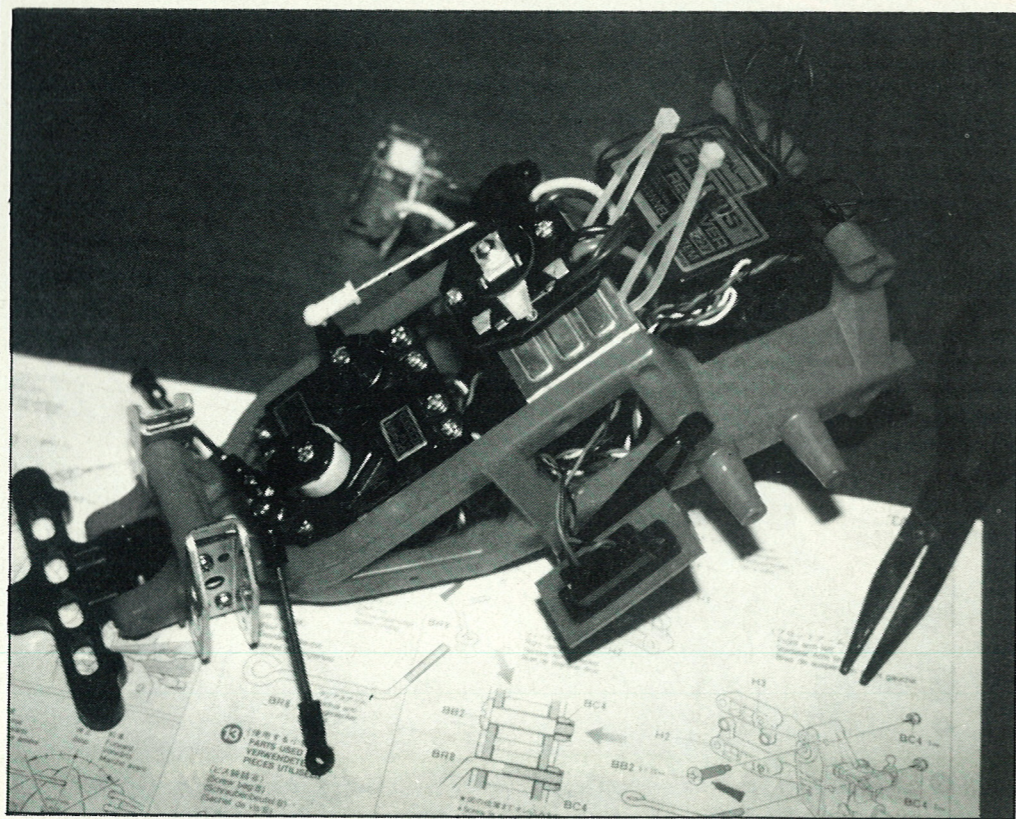
the lack of instructions that mentioned the use of lockite or some other threadlocking agent. It is after all better to be safe than sorry, and a model such as this will be used in the roughest of terrain and, in our case at least, be used by an inexperienced driver, so as a precautionary move we would suggest the use of just a little threadlock or some other proprietary brand around all screws not directly fixed in deep plastic mouldings.

The First Blast

Wishing to keep the Mud Blaster clean until the review photographs were taken, my partner was banned from using the model just in case. Unfortunately dad could not show the same restraint and while junior was asleep a battery pack was charged, even the old hump back types fit if you still have them lying around, was then inserted and the left hand stick was fiddled with, and dad was left looking at a patch of Paisley carpet,

this was swiftly followed by a dull thud! Whilst un-wedging the assembly from under the radiator and trying to camouflage the dent in the skirting board Mrs reviewer appeared! May I suggest that Mud Blaster is not tested in anyone else's living room. Time, as they say, is a good healer and my wife and dog are now speaking to me again.

Since the above incident the photographs have been taken and my son is out enjoying the fruit of his



labour. His street cred has rocketed amongst his friends and as far as I am concerned to hear the shrieks of laughter that the Mud Blaster has brought is repayment enough.

Radio Gear, and other Bits

The radio used was Acoms equipment, tailor made for the job although any equipment should fit the spaces provided, in fact several servo horns and discs are provided in the kit for this purpose. Again it must be said that fitting the radio gear provided no problems at all, everything fitted and screwed in exactly where it should have.

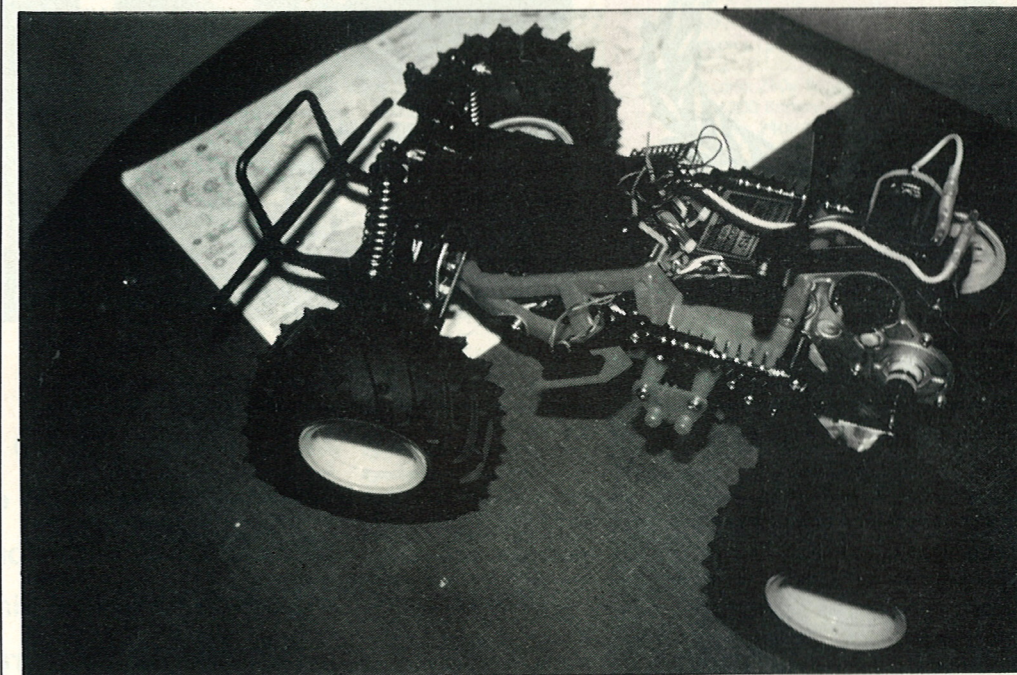
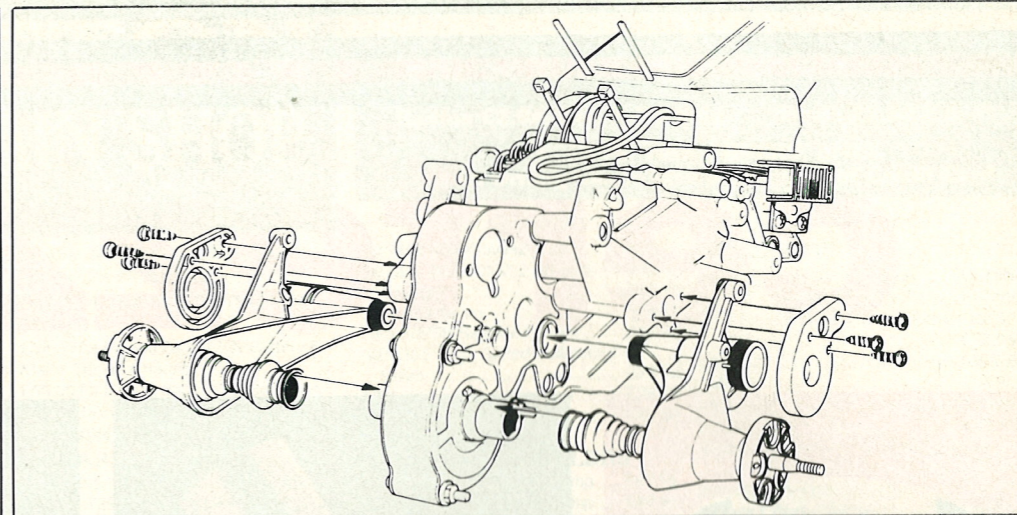
Changing the subject to another interesting point for a second to the fact that Tamiya supply rubber gaiters for the drive shaft in order to afford some protection to the drive cups and the ball on the end of the drive shaft.

Body

The Subaru body is made up from very few parts indeed, again this makes for swift and foolproof painting and final assembly. We painted every part of the body before assembly which consisted of using mainly red and silver for the bits around the windshield. Once the shell was completed the decals, again supplied, were applied. It must be said that you either find applying decals easy or very difficult, if you find decal application very difficult try our method, it's easy! First concoct a mixture of warm water and washing up liquid, then apply this to the area that you are about to decalise, the decal will slide easily into position without sticking. When you have positioned the decal correctly you simply squeeze out the excess water using a sponge or a forefinger and leave the whole thing to dry overnight, easy eh!

Summary

This is always the most difficult area of my review and if you try hard enough then you can always find something to moan about in my case, it would have been better if a little more grease was supplied as young boys are not the most careful of people. Having said that the Mud



Blaster is generally excellent on all counts. It is easy to build and quick too, is an excellent passive teacher and as we have proven can be built by boys as young as ten! Now you can't say a lot more than that in any kits favour! May I then make one suggestion to Tamiya "Would it be possible to include an aerosol can of kid dis-

Almost ready now, wheels and tyres are on, everything is hooked up and ready to go.

persant in your next kit please." Then all us dads can play.....

Mud Blaster is available from all Tamiya stockists. ○

