

Cars with a semi scale appearance seem to be really popular at present. Tamiya are renowned for their plastic modelling skills and seem to be transferring their undoubted talents of recreating the real thing in miniature to RC cars. This gives us the chance to drive cars modelled properly on the real thing. The Nissan 300ZX IMSA GTO to give it its full and rather long title is the latest to receive the Tamiya magic touch. The car may not be

RADIO CONTROL MODEL CARS

Model Cars builds another scale racer from the Tamiya Plastic Model Company

# Nissan 300ZX



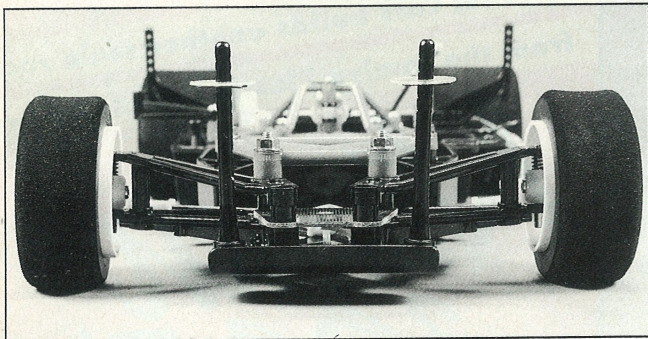
known to many of you in the UK as the road going sleek Nissans have not been over her to long, the car in its home country though is very popular and in the USA the car is well known as a road car and as the race version on which the Tamiya car is modelled.

**Got It Taped**  
The Nissan uses components already manufactured by Tamiya. The chassis is that used on the Mercedes with great success and the kit is

JUNE 1991



Underside of the Nissan shows the use of the plastic tub and the glass fibre components. Bottom; Rear damper is mounted to a plastic moulding that looks like a real spaceframe chassis.



updated with different wheels and body mounts etc.

Construction starts with the assembly of the wheels and tyres. Some people have had trouble in the past carrying out what seems an easy task, the instructions are pretty clear on the operation but it does help to roll the double sided tape onto the wheel 1 or 2mm inside the outer edge. This stops the tape running off the edge of the wheel if you don't get it perfectly lined up. Slip the tyre on and line it up with the wheel making sure you keep a good bit of the pull off coating hanging out. Once this is done pull off the coating and realign the tyre where it moves a little on the rim.

The chassis construction is very straight-forward. A plastic tub and glass fibre plates make up the base and the suspension components are from the F1 kits, this includes the sturdy rear pod.

### Ride High

Ride height is made adjustable on the kit via a set of plastic spacers. These are placed under the rear pod before being fixed to the glass fibre rear "T" piece. Two of the spacers are

inserted in the initial assembly when the tyres are new and at their biggest, as the tyre wears down the spacers are removed to give greater clearance. The front of the car also has a height adjustment but this time there is just one spacer that can be placed in alternative positions. The rear axle of the car is the steel unit as per the

F1 cars, using the smooth and unique design of differential. Wheel fixings are slightly different to the F1 cars using as plastic spacer into which alloy captive nuts are placed, this allows the rear track of the car to be wider and the removal and fitting of the wheels to be faster.

### Shock Changes

The kit is supplied with a standard CVA Tamiya damper, this controls the rear of the car and is supplied with different pistons and one grade of oil. Following the instructions gives a basic set up which is reasonably docile, a good way to alter the cars handing would be to experiment with different oils and maybe even one of the Tamiya "Hop Up" option shocks.

Radio installation in the kit is simple. The kits for the UK have a standard 3 speed controller in the kit, the instructions show

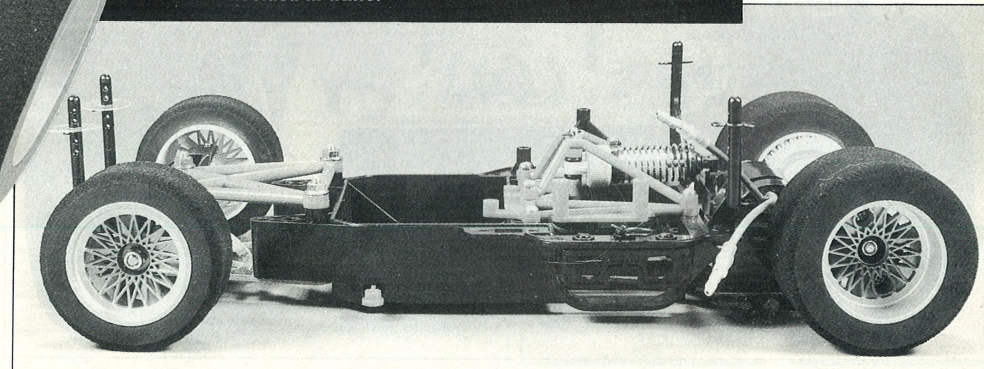
the inclusion of an "Adspec" system, this can be purchased separately but an extra set of instructions are in the kit showing exactly how to install the included speedo specially for the UK.

### Tension Mounts

The body posts are fitted to the front bumper and to the rear of the chassis. The front uses standard posts but the rear has an elaborate moulding to hold the shell towards the outside to give it good stability.

Final set ups before moving

Low slung chassis can be adjusted for ride height as standard. Note; Silver and gold wheels need to be painted as they come moulded in white.



# Nissan 300ZX

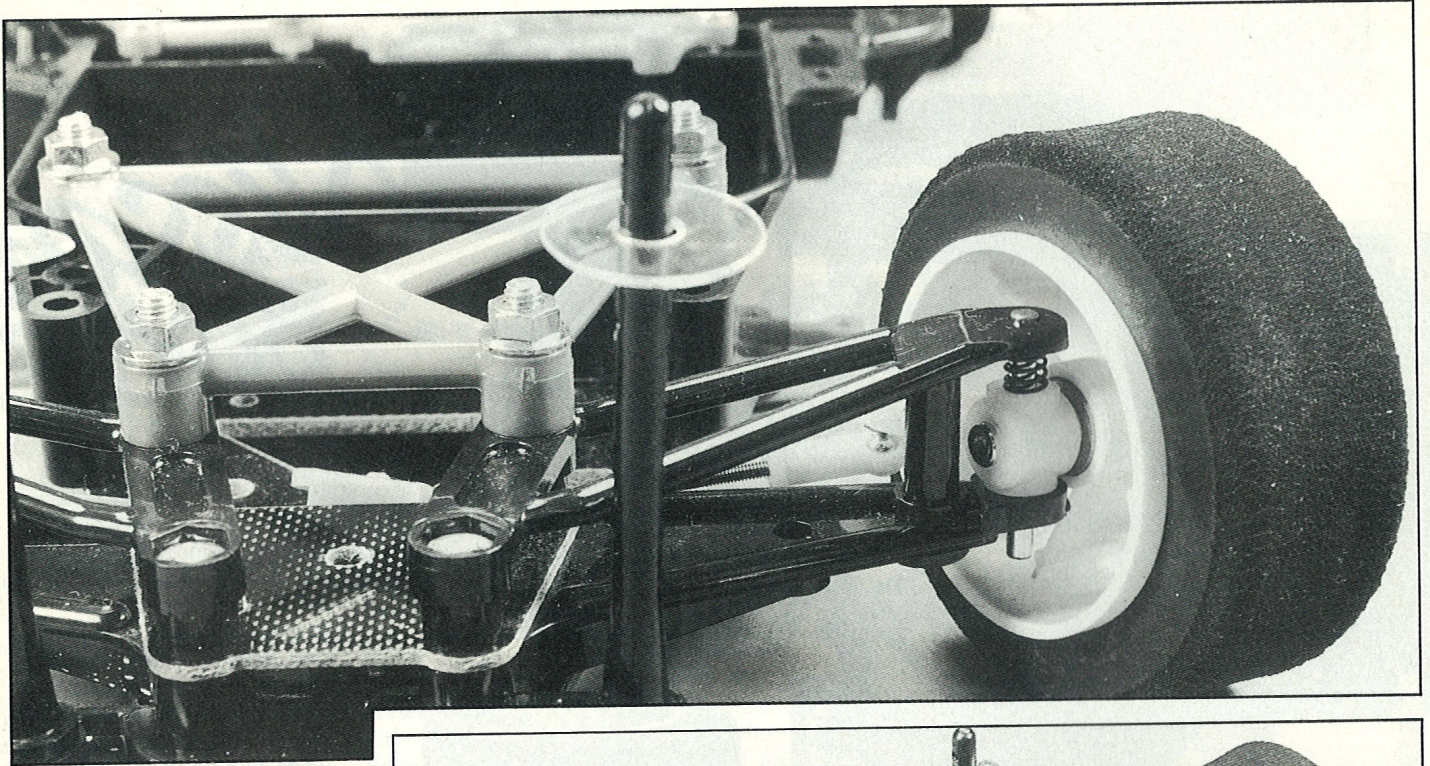
because with the kit decals applied the finished product is a real winner. Lights and details are all included on the decal sheet and all go together to make a very sleek and detailed finish. The next step to make the car look a million dollars is to paint the wheels. These are moulded in white and need to be painted gold and silver. Spray the silver on first, then tape off the outer section to spray the centre gold. Add the Yokomo tyre decal and bob's you uncle!

### Still To Come

The kit as can be seen is really very nice. The shape is bang on the real car which has tempted Americans to buy Japanese - no easy task. The handling of the model is up to a high standard and only a hotter motor and front ballraces need to be added to see some real speed, altogether another winner.

Our photos also show an early prototype of the next kit in the line up - the Jaguar in Castrol colours. Who knows - give it another year and we may be all racing Group C racers around a mini Le Mans!.....





**Top; Again some of the mouldings are made to resemble real racing chassis designs. Bottom; Rear bulkhead is from the F1 chassis so has a mounting point for a rear wing if required!**

**Specifications;**

3 Point Suspension System.  
 RS540 Sport Tuned Motor.  
 Bathub Chassis.  
 Ball Differential.  
 Sponge Racing Slicks.  
 Polycarbonate Bodyshell.  
 One Piece Wheels.  
 Available from all Tamiya stockists.

