

1/10 Scale
Electric
Off Road
Buggy



only the possible double meaning in its name.

The Grasshopper's new mouldings are used extensively in the running gear, otherwise it's all new again.

Chassis

A 'tub version' of the Grasshopper holds all the radio gear, speed controller and drive battery. Rigidity is maintained in its 'folded ribbed' section and looks a robust moulding.

Alternative mounting positions for the nicad receiver pack and the receiver give the desired instability for stunt driving!

It's a shoe horn job to get the receiver into its transverse position but two options are available — either turn it round longways or carefully shave some plastic off the case.

Gearbox/final drive

The new Grasshopper components are used with a modified differential shaft assembly.

Resin bearings are supplied as standard but the whole of the box can be ball raced for even better results (the plastic B2 bearing is available as a ball race from Howes of Oxford).

Drive to the rear wheels is via the plastic flange currently favoured by most of the Tamiya models of 1984. A functional wheelie bar is attached to the gearbox.

Motor

The Mabuchi 540S drives via an 18 tooth pinion — in use the standard motor is more than adequate for speed and gives around six and a half minutes running.

Rear Suspension

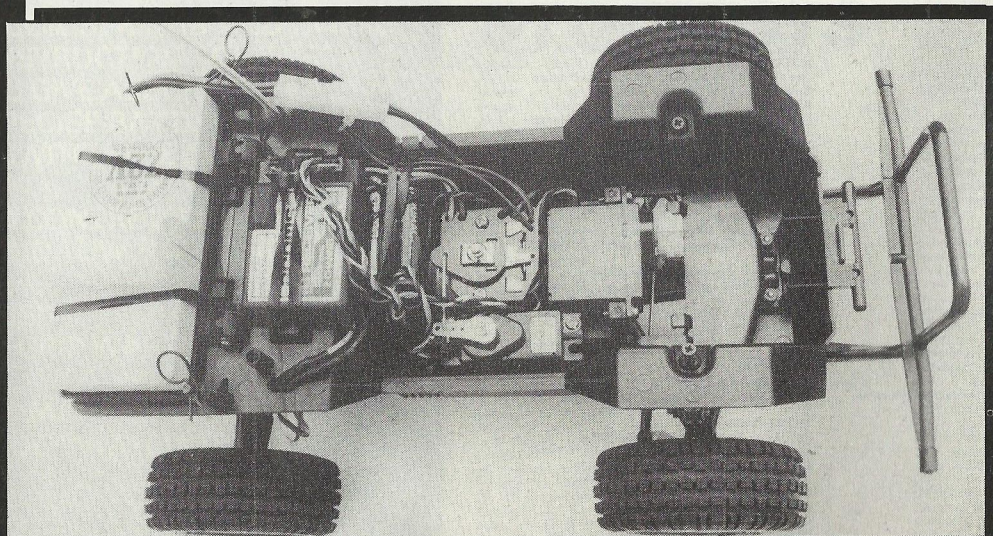
The gear box mounts identically to the Grasshopper and carries two dry plastic shock absorbers. To cope with the wheelie antics spring spacers are fitted.

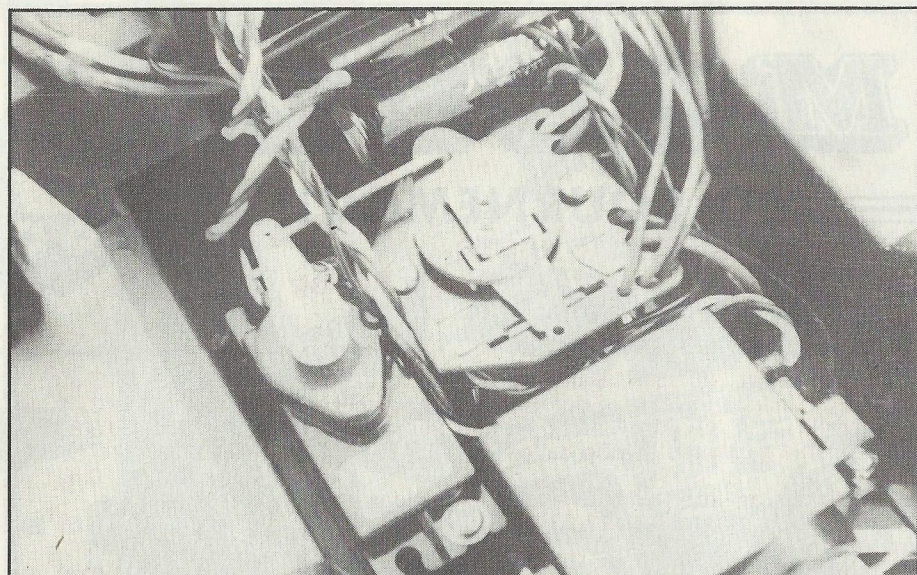
The Pajero's tub chassis is well shown here. Radio and nicad positions can be changed to alter the Centre of Gravity and thence the running characteristics.

TRACK TEST

Hot on the heels or should it be the tail, of the last issue's Grasshopper Review comes yet another 'Off Roader' from Tamiya in the guise of a dual purpose stunt/racing budget priced model.

Derived from an idea which brought Wild Willies to these shores (Ester Rantzen's show took up on them via an advert submitted by a Milton Keynes reader), the new model lacks





Mechanical speed controller provides a three stage forwards and reverse.

Speed Controller

3 speed forward and reverse unit tucked away in the 'tub chassis'. The resistor is neatly out of harm's way by gearbox. 6V or 7.2V operation.

Steering/front suspension

Transverse steering servo carries the directly mounted moulded saver. Horns for Sanwa, JR, Futaba and Acoms included as standard.

Independent front swing arms are damped by coil springs.

Nylon mouldings with steel shafts form the uprights carrying the front wheels.

Wheels and tyres

Ford Ranger 3 part hubs carry the treaded Rough Rider pattern tyres.

Completion

Decide whether you want a racer or a stunt vehicle and arrange the radio gear accordingly.

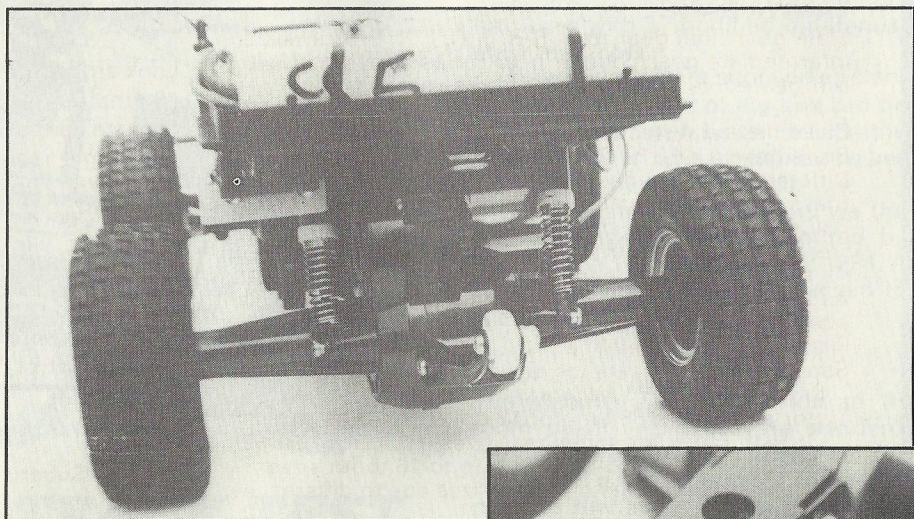
You're then ready for the time consuming exercise of finishing the bodyshell.

Bodyshell

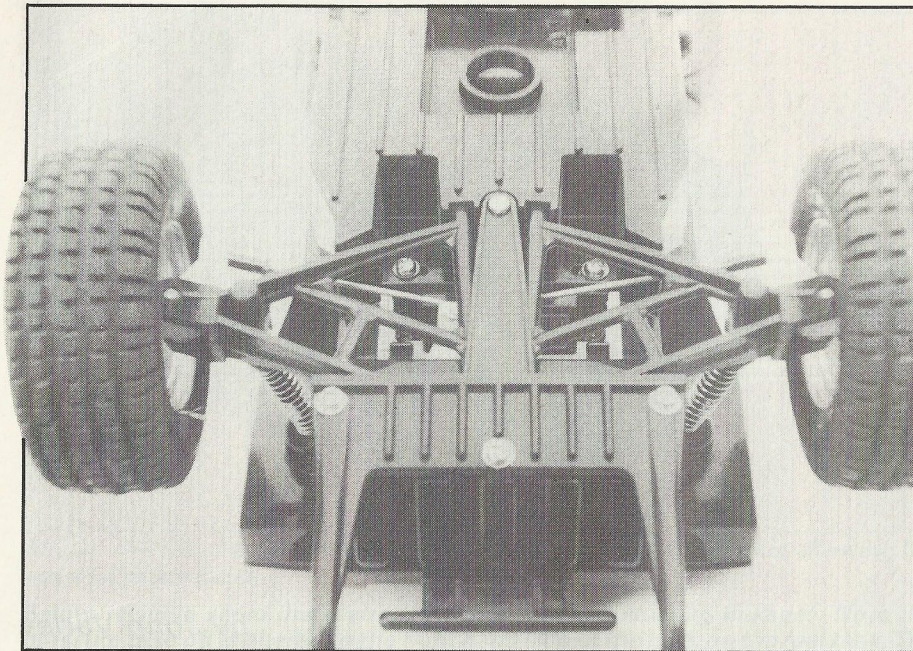
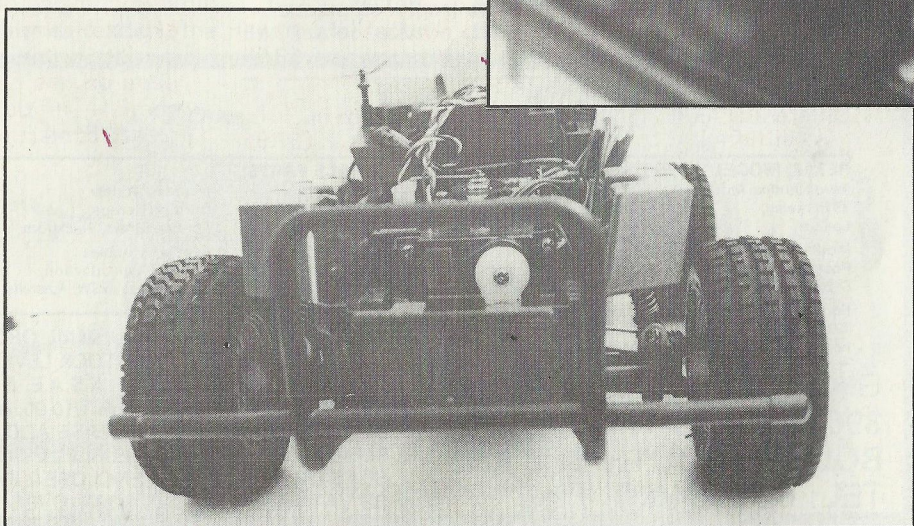
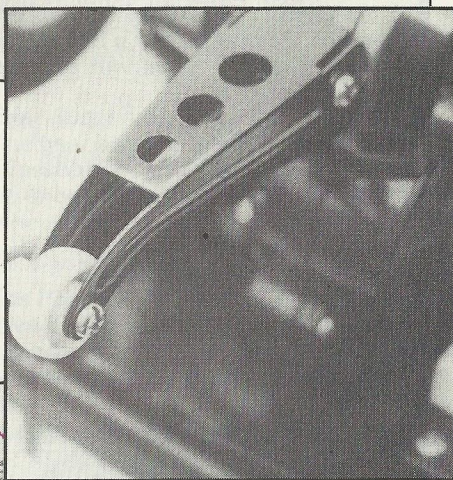
A styrene injection moulded shell completes the effect of this Paris Dakar Rally entrant. Only giveaway is the moulded lump on the rear decking to cover the humped battery pack. Roll over bar, lamps and spare wheel cover are all there waiting to be knocked off! The Mylar decal sheet in 'Sonauto' colours is superb — no painting apart from details is really necessary.

I covered the off-white shell with a few coats of clear acylic lacquer to give that 'showroom' finish. Front grille, lamps and bumpers were finished afterwards using Tamiya markers.

Worth taking the trouble in finishing a well engineered design — a brightly coloured bodyshell is an alternative if you don't want to use the sticker set.

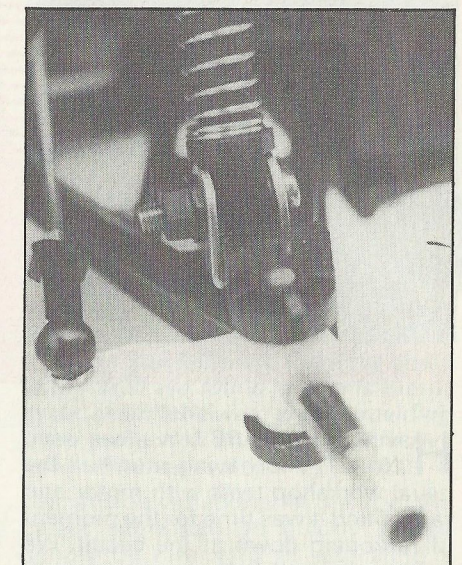


Above, the rear axle contains differential, transmission and motor. Right, wheelie bar on the Pajero takes the form of a wheeled outrigger. Head on view, below, shows the depth of the chassis tub.



Front suspension, left, employs single wishbones with coil springs. The steering arms are carried in the ends of the wishbones, below.

The bodyshell is moulded in white styrene and presents an attractive picture when decorated with the kit decals (left centre).



Track test

The kit was completed a couple of hours prior to the Tamiya model car display team's appearance at the 60th Northampton Town Show.

Its potential was ably demonstrated as it out accelerated and out jumped the Wild Willy jeeps performing in the arena.

A short wheelbase and high centre of gravity leads the model into its stunting tendencies.

Move the radio gear down lower and you have a fast lightweight budget priced racer.

Find a Lexan body and you could be in business.

Very rapid indeed and with a tendency to run in excess of the now obligatory five minutes.

The Pajero was an instant hit with the display team members and the many hundreds of spectators around the arena.

The World's End circuit is perhaps a more arduous test but early performances show distinct possibilities. Tune up goodies available include the racing dampers (SP5193) and the rubber bag waterproofing set (SP5194). Obviously all of the other Off Road type wheels and tyres can be fitted.

Another winner from Riko with a specification that offers superb value for money.

Price £49.99 or less.
From good model shops.

