

CHRIS JACKSON

FORMULA for fun

CHRIS JACKSON TAKES A
LOOK AT THE LATEST
M CHASSIS KIT

Why stop when you have a good thing going" must be the motto of the Design Department at Tamiya! This time they have come up with the latest product from the world renowned Porsche company, and added it to their range of 'dream machines' based on the M chassis.

Well known for their excellent mechanical design work, Tamiya have developed a range of classic car models of superb scale appearance, all based on a more or less standard chassis adjusted for both wheel base and track to reproduce exactly the original car's dimensions at 1:10th scale. Starting with the Mini Cooper and VW Beetle, and going on to the Fiat Abarth, the Alpine A110, the Honda S800, and the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint, they have covered vehicles which evoke a particular period, or were famous at that time for outstanding performance. Thus Tamiya's choice of the latest Porsche Boxster can be seen to fit comfortably within the parameters of this range, having the superb curves and styling common to Porsche cars with the outstanding performance and road holding of the modern era.

The M Chassis

This is made up of a central compartment commonly known as a bathtub, which holds the radio

receiver, speed controller and steering servo with battery pack underneath, attached to the ends of which are the front and rear assemblies with the motor and drive shafts on one and the steering on the other. These components can be arranged to suit front wheel or rear wheel drive, and thus only minor adjustments offer a range of wheel base and layouts to exactly match the prototype being modelled.

The suspension consists of double wishbones at all four corners, each with it's own spring, and a coil spring damper linking the opposite wheels. Neat and very efficient, and it handles all the bumps on your local parking lot with ease!

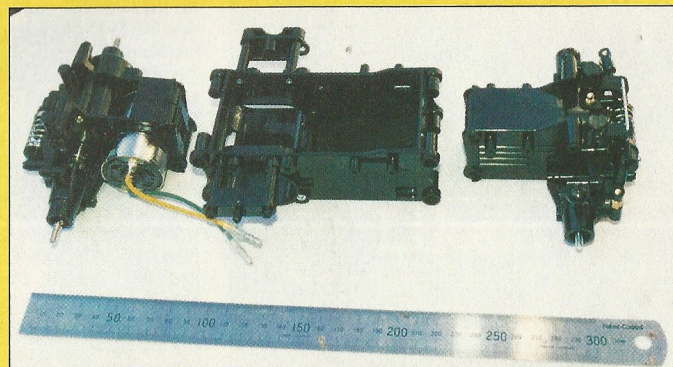
Building the Model

The Tamiya instruction manuals are noted for their clarity, and any one new to model car assembly will find no difficulty in following those in this kit. Over the years Tamiya have obviously listened to comments from customers and the many small parts are now packed into sachets which are then marked so that you do not need to open some until later stages of construction are reached. We strongly advise the use of a flat tray to hold all the components during building and we made one up using the card packing piece at the bottom of the kit.

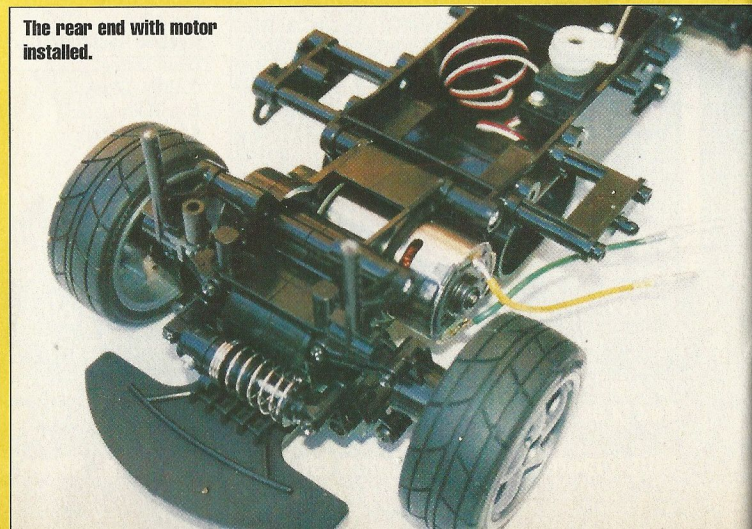
The tools required are minimal, but do make sure your Phillips head

screwdrivers are in good shape as some pressure is needed at times to tighten down the many self tapping screws and a slip will result in burred screw heads and possible hand damage!

The three main components of the M Chassis ready for assembly.



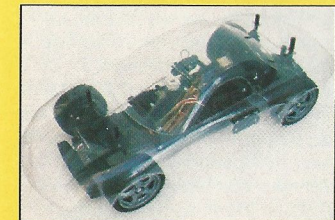
The rear end with motor installed.



The Bodyshell

This is always the hardest bit for a new modeller, and a little care is required to cut out the body from the moulding provided. No one ever mentions what to do if you slip during this process, but one

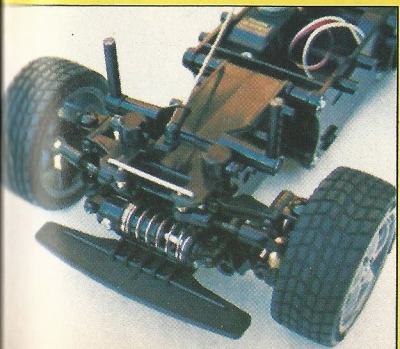
With unpainted bodyshell in place you can check wheel clearances. Note overhang of shell at both front and rear. Drive carefully!



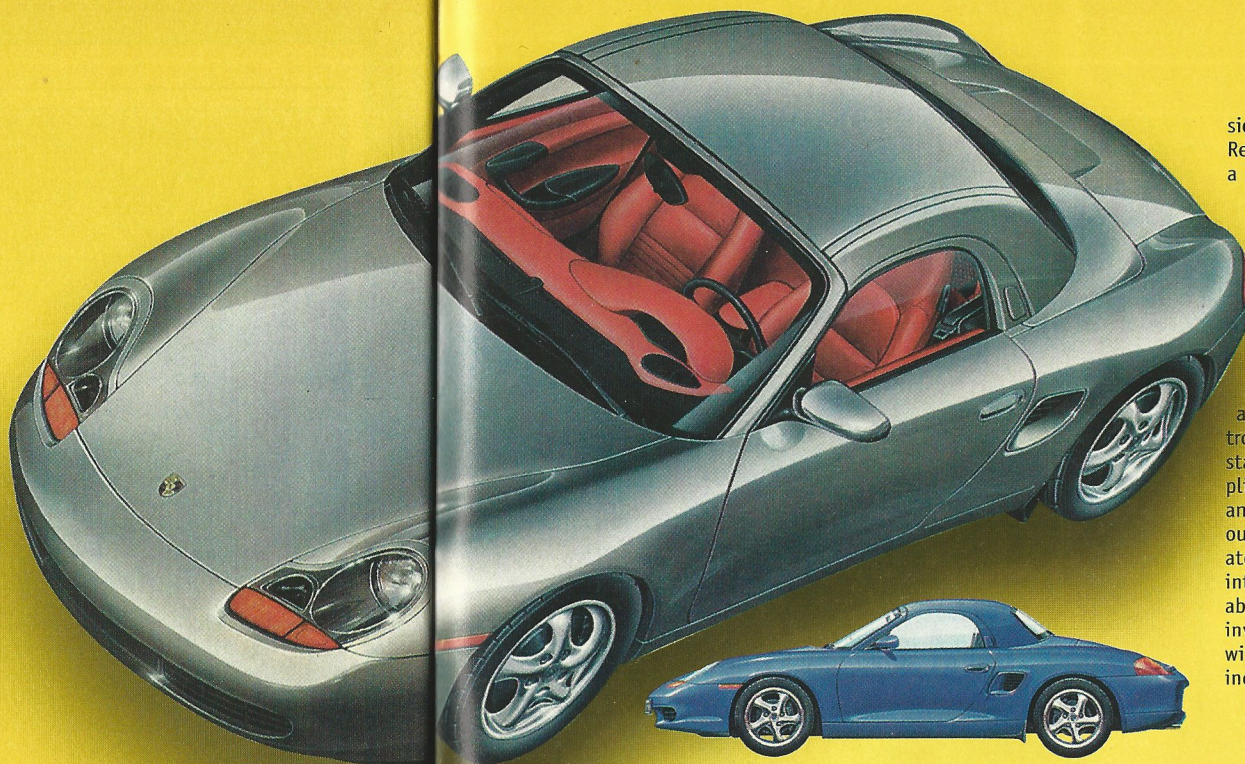
solution is to apply industrial quality sticky back tape AFTER painting. This binds the split area together and is also a solution if you later damage the bodywork whilst driving the car!

Note that the moulding is covered externally with a thin plastic film which is later removed but should remain in place whilst spraying the inside to avoid blow over of spray. If you have any doubts on this, then apply lots of parcel tape on the outer lower parts of the bodyshell before spraying.

The front end with servo linked to neat and adjustable ball link arms.



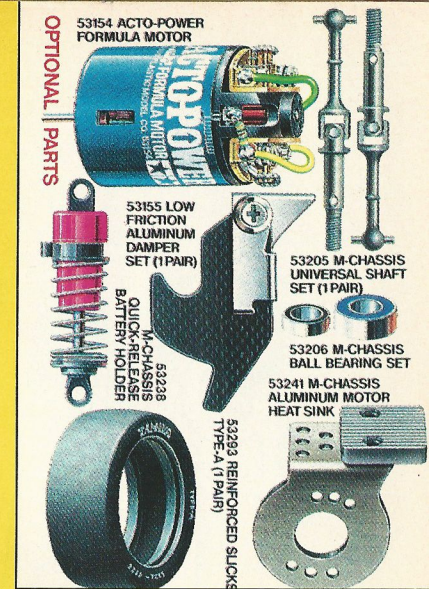
hi, good lookin'



sider going straight to the Reinforced Slicks which are one of a number of options in the Tamiya range.

Speed Controller

The kit contains a neat three position, forward, stop and reverse, mechanical controller which can be linked to a standard servo with all parts supplied. This will avoid the cost of an electronic unit but will obviously be very insensitive to operate. If you can afford it, or intend to use the car a reasonable amount, and you will, then invest in a moderately priced ESC, with reverse and brake function included.



The range of optional Tamiya Hop Up parts.

Conclusions

Tamiya have hit the jackpot with this model which combines the well tested M chassis with the modern lines and style of the very latest

The Tamiya M Chassis complete.

The obvious colour for a Porsche is silver, although other colours can be used to personalise your Boxster, but go carefully and apply several coats of the special body paint lightly. You can't cheat on this bodyshell with lots of stickers without ruining the Porsche style! The wind-screen and other clear areas have to be protected with the patterns provided and are later best sprayed with tint to give that luxury smoked glass look.

Wheels and Tyres

The kit offers different scale pattern tyres for front and rear, and they are also handed left and right, so check with the box-art and instructions before finally fixing the tyres on their rims with cyano adhesive. You will need to fix the tyres for any sort of high speed driving as otherwise they will very easily come off!

The kit tyres are clearly very scale, and will be quite OK for general fun use, but if you intend racing then you may want to con-



Run Time

The kit comes with a 16 tooth gear and suggests a standard 1700SCR battery pack.

Driving the car in this format you may get as much as 15 minutes of fun before needing a recharge, but if you change to higher tooth gears such as the 18 or 20 pinion options then you will have faster top speed but use the power up quicker and run time will drop accordingly.

Hop Up Options

The obvious one for almost all Tamiya kits is a set of ballraced bearings for the wheels and drive train, and quite honestly we would buy this at the time of initial purchase as the benefits compared to cost are high. Other racing mods are available, and the box top lists low friction dampers, an aluminium heat sink, replacement universal shafts, and the Acto Power Formula motor, but that is another story, and leads you into the racing scene.

Quick Spec

Testers Kit

Radio: Acoms Techniplus Alpha

Servos: Acoms IC AS12

Cellpack: Tamiya 1700 SCR

Likes:

Immaculate Instructions - as always
Wonderful scale wheels/tyres

Dislikes:

Very little, too small to sit in!