

CLIO

Ideal to race in the front wheel drive class of the Tamiya Eurocup - we think so, the small and compact Renault Williams Clio in 1:10 RC...

Will smaller and lighter mean faster? Tamiya's new front wheel drive release is modelled on a Renault Clio (the Renault 5 replacement) and is a little different from the past front wheel drive cars. Those with good memories will remember that Tamiya first modelled an RC Renault 5 many years ago and in response to European agent's requests they have again produced a kit of Reno's baby.

The kit is the usual scale model of the real thing and this means that the car is smaller than those already available and this means a shorter wheelbase - therefore the overall model is also a little lighter and will handle a little differently...

Although we at RCMC only had the briefest of test drives of the Clio - before a slight accident brought a halt to the session so that photos could be taken of the car in one piece, we found the little car a real joy. Front wheel drive is really a fun class to drive as the power seems to be over the top for the grip, on a slightly dusty un-used car park the car could be easily persuaded to slide around with the power on - showing the slightest hint of under-steer and then as the power is let off the back of the car starts to come round. This makes the car really quiet different to drive when compared to other more conventional RC racers. Basically the Clio is more fun - the wheels spin like mad if the throttle is hit hard and it just seems faster than other standard motor propelled test cars we have driven.

Under the extremely neat and well design body of the Clio is a straightforward Tamiya front wheel drive chassis - but there is a difference that may well interest Tamiya racers - the rear bulkhead is fitted on the opposite way round which gives the car a shorter wheel base. This will of course give the car a different set of handling characteristics, and we are told by those who know that the car is better than the other Tamiya examples on the track...

The Clio comes in the new style small Tamiya box - we really don't like this because it doesn't give the perfect Tamiya packaging that other kits in their range do - we know the new box is more environmentally friendly and will reduce the price of the kit but we miss the perfect Tamiya artwork and skill that is used to present the kit to the buyer - isn't that one of your best memories of your first Tamiya kit?

The Clio is again another car from Tamiya that looks right and goes right being fun to drive and a pleasure to build - if you fancy a little not too serious racing then the front wheel drive class of the Tamiya Eurocup will be for you and the ideal car to have could well be the Clio - see it at a shop near you.

