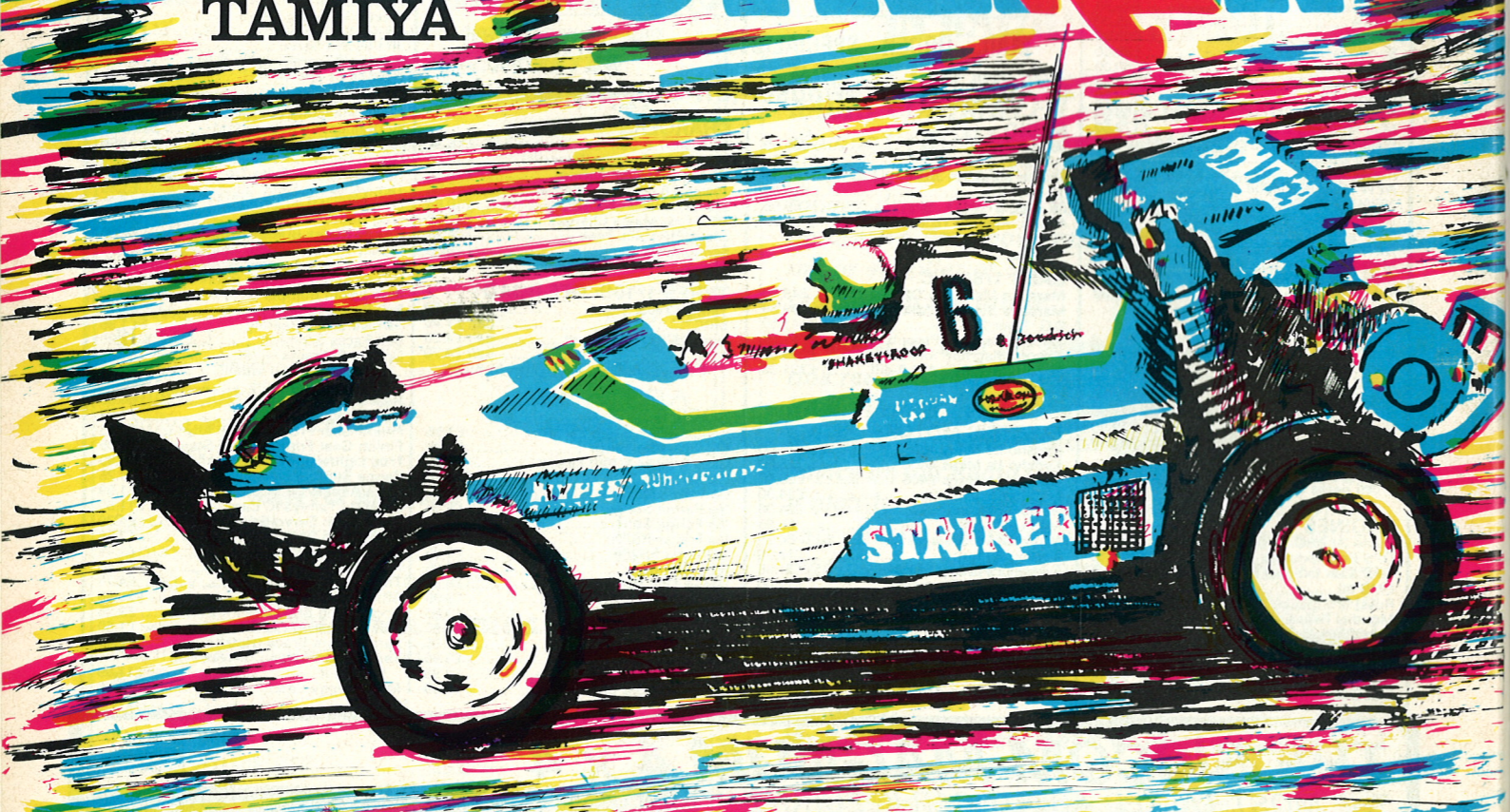




STRIKER



Striker, the new clubman racer from Tamiya is reviewed by DAVE PEARSON

Every once in a while a company will produce the type of car that accomplishes more than it originally set out to do. With the introduction of the Striker it may be possible that Tamiya have done just that. The Striker is unashamedly aimed at the inexperienced, would be club member, who is dipping his toe in the water of club racing hoping that the temperature is just right. If you fit this description then the Striker is possibly the car to look at. No claims are made for the Striker and it certainly would not win the World Championships for you, what it will do is far more important than that. The Striker will teach any newcomer how to build a 1/10 racer, it will teach the basics of maintaining a car to the newcomer and most importantly it will teach an inexperienced driver what he or she needs to know most of all, how to get from point A to point B smoothly, safely and quickly.

The Striker is a 2wd car based loosely around the ever popular formula one shape. The famous Tamiya packaging shows no decline in standards, the box top artwork is superb, a diagram showing the cars major systems is included and all components are safely bagged, boxed or blister packed inside the box. The accompanying instruction booklet is crystal clear giving step by step exploded views allowing the most inexperienced to assemble the Striker correctly and quickly. Supplied with the kit is a Mabuchi 540 standard motor and a three forward one reverse mechanical speed controller fitted with battery eliminator plug.



Tamiya Striker

Monocoque

The chassis of the Striker is a pure monocoque, that is to say, the car body also acts as the main structural member allowing the radio gear, speed controller and 7.2 volt battery pack to be contained within it. All other important bits such as front wishbones and rear trailing arms are also fitted on or into the monocoque

Suspension And Damping

Rear suspension is trailing arm variety, both arms are located in plastic receiver cups, one attached to the gearbox the other is firmly screwed to the monocoque. Overall the system of ball and socket joint works well, it is self lubricating being constructed from a nylon/plastic compound and offers a high degree of movement.

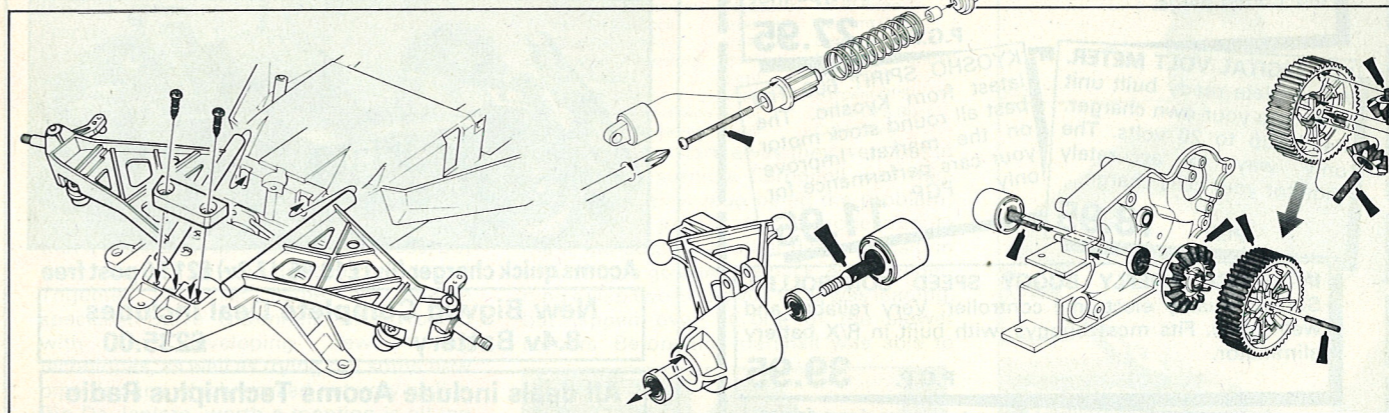
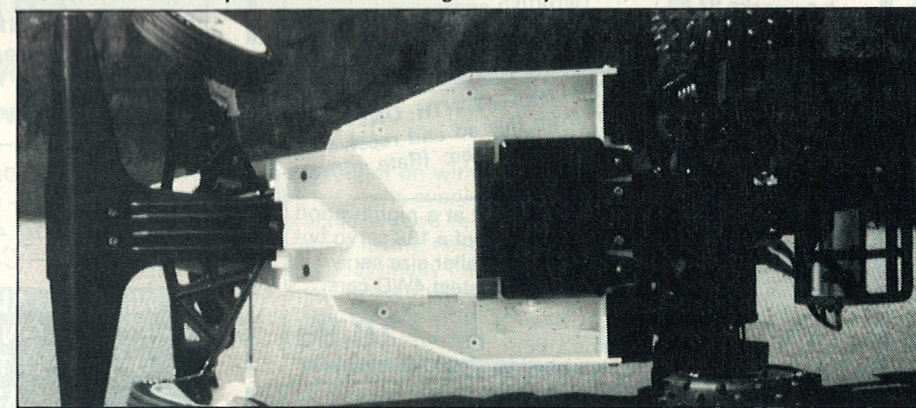
Dampers front and rear are coil only and consequently are a little on the lively side, Tamiya are fully aware of this and the instructions show alternative coil over oil dampers that can be fitted to the rear as and when the individual thinks fit. In fairness the spring only original damper units do give quite a stable ride over most surfaces.

Drive Unit

Tamiya supply a Mabuchi 540 motor as standard, this drives through a very robust, very simple gearbox. One crown and pinion wheel differential and one primary gear are all there is to assemble. The primary gear is located on a shaft, the differential is located directly onto the drive shaft output and all is held together using a plastic gearbox case that simply bolts together.



The formula one shape has been used to give a very attractive finished model.



Radio Gear

Again nothing here to worry the complete novice, both servos are fitted into trays, recessed into the Strikers floor pan. The steering servo is situated right up front adding weight in just the right place, above the steering wheels. The speed control servo sits just behind leaving ample space to position your transmitter to suit. A battery eliminator plug is fitted to the Striker negating the bulk of receiver batteries.

Conclusion

All in all the Striker is an ideal beginners car, the total layout is one of uncluttered simplicity. Striker will offer the chance to anyone to enter the world of radio controlled racing both cheaply and reliably.

It will allow the novice an easy ride through the constructional stages and then let he or she experience the thrill of that first ever club meet. The Striker from Tamiya is available at your nearest Tamiya stockist. Price approx £60.00.

