



**Model Cars  
tests Tamiya's  
latest  
off-roader**

**F**or their latest creation Tamiya have pulled out all the stops and have gone for a whole new car. The ThunderShot breaks new ground in some areas and improves and refines some old ideas to make a very compact, neat and competitive car.

As with most of the Tamiya range the ThunderShot is based around a plastic tub chassis. This is now the norm but the ThunderShot chassis is very tough and performs more than just the task of holding the gearboxes on.

The chassis houses all the radio gear including the speed controller and main drive batteries, but it also acts as the mounting point for the two steering arms. These arms are all new and act as two bell cranks which turn the servo movement into steering movement. With this new system there is no bumpsteer thus giving better turning ability.

The gearbox mouldings are also all brand new. They are made to the usual high standards and coupled to the new gears and diffs give a very smooth-running drive system. The new diffs also deserve a mention. They are now all enclosed in the final drive gears. This means no more gears falling out during assembly just when you thought you'd got it sussed! The new diffs have bevel gears and a new one-piece three-way shaft which holds them all in place.

**Over the Hills**

The suspension of the car is also all new. The most striking feature is that the swinging arms are blue! Also the arms are much slimmer than the usual 'Hotshot' type.

The rear suspension has two yellow 'GVA' type shocks to soak up the bumps. Up the front a single damper is utilised coupled to a strong anti-roll bar. The driveshafts are also new and have a 'dimple' in the centre although we're not sure what for.

Rubber 'O' rings are also used in the drive shaft diff ends - these make the driveshafts slightly sticky but does take up any slop.

**In Front and on Top**

A new bumper is also the order of the day which is moulded in a nice rubbery plastic - this should soak up the bumps and crashes.

The ThunderShot bodyshell

*Below, clockwise: The front suspension has plenty of "movement" and has the facilities to fit two separate shock absorbers. The speed controller supplied in the ThunderShot is that of the standard 3-step type. The suspension arms are moulded from tough blue plastic. The radio crate is formed from light plastic to give a purposeful chassis box section. The radio equipment is protected by a lean oversay. The new one-piece flat face plastic wheels certainly look purposeful. The new futuristic shell tops the car off well to give a purposeful look. The rear end is sprung by two of Tamiya's CVA shocks. Finally the new front bumper is neat and strong.*



# ThunderShot



is also quite new in design. The car has a very 'space' orientated design with a bubble-type canopy. The rear end of the bodyshell is also cleanly finished to give a very aerodynamic look.

type which should produce good grip.

**Wheels and Tyres**

New black wheels are also included, these are flat fronted and should keep all the mud away from the bearings. The tyres are low profile and are rubber in construction, they have a new pattern of the 4x3

**Conclusion**

The car goes together very easily and causes no problems in construction. The suspension is slightly stiff but a change of oil or springs would put this right. Speed is reasonable because the car is very light although a set of ball races would improve things. Available from Tamiya stockists.