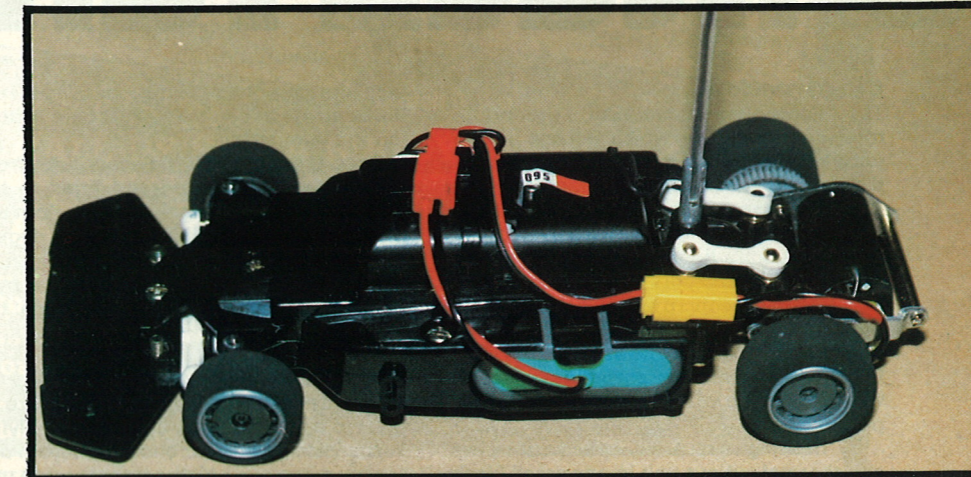


Tamtech — the latest racing concept from Tamiya featuring 1/24 scale high speed action.



The Tamtech chassis, which takes less than an hour to assemble.

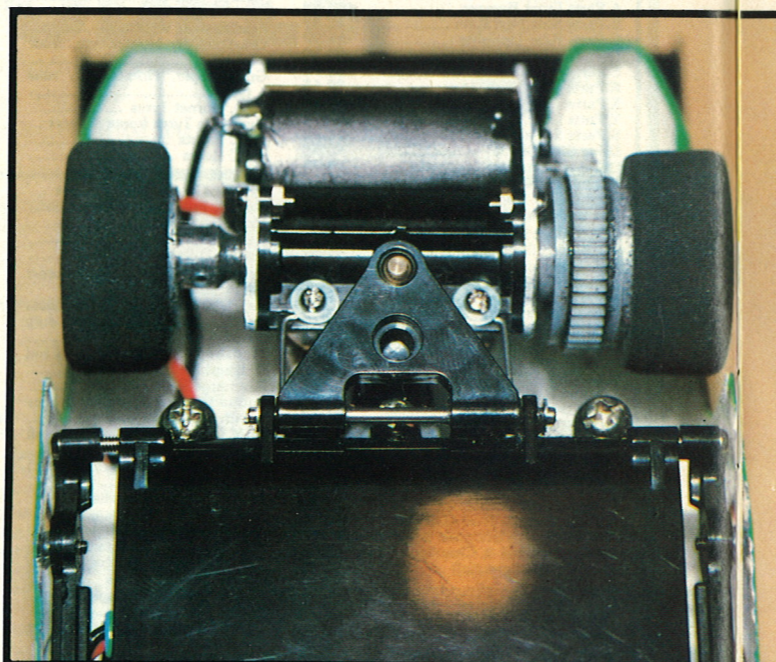
Left, Tamtech 201 is the designation of the radio system included in the full kit.

Radio Race Car reviews the new Tamtech series of cars and equipment.



The Tamtech kit includes this 7.2 volt 270 mAh nicad pack, which may be fast charged with a purpose designed charger.

Suspension consists of a floating rear end incorporating the motor and differential. Four motor pinions provide a wide range of gear options.



Where do we go from here? That was the question some people were asking at the close of last season. With the release of the 1/24 scale series, namely the Porsche and the Lancia LC2, Tamiya have very effectively answered the question, bringing to all R/C drivers a new and very exciting formula that because of its small scale is fast, furious and relatively inexpensive. So what's involved in building one of these 1/24 scale cars? More to the point, lets take a look at some of the innovations that have had to be made to produce a car of this scale at all.

What You Get

If you wish to purchase everything you need to race 1/24 scale, then Tamiya have the very package, to give the outfit its proper name we should call it the Tamtech Complete Kit. The Tamtech Kit consists of, one car, at present either the Porsche 926C or the Lancia LC2, both Le Mans style circuit cars. A Tamtech 201 two function radio, one mini servo, one C.P.R. unit — more about that later — a charger and last but not least a six cell 7.2 volt battery pack.

A handful of power. A floor full of white cars would present a problem for the drivers, hence the enthusiastically non-scale colour scheme.



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Construction

The Lancia is constructed around a monocoque chassis which houses all the onboard radio equipment, a recess secures the steering servo firmly in place, whilst a security strap prevents the C.P.R. from going anywhere once the two halves of the monocoque are bolted together. An on/off switch is also incorporated into the chassis, this is actually a micro switch held in the on position by a cam, simple really. We know your dying to ask, what is a C.P.R.? The C.P.R. or Control Processing Receiver is what makes the whole concept of 1/24 scale possible.

By housing a receiver, speed controller and thermal cut out unit in one small black

box, the complete rolling chassis is kept under seven and a half inches long including the bumper.

Once the chassis is finished, both front uprights are assembled and fitted to the static wishbones using a king pin, both upright units are sprung giving a good degree of suspension effect without any detectable bump steer. Steering is effected by a connecting rod to both uprights via the servo.

The Noisy End

Motor, transmission and differential are all housed as one free floating unit, supplying suspension to the rear end. Apart from one rear suspension shaft the transmission unit

is held to the chassis using three fixing points, each one a ball connector, this arrangement allows the unit to move around two axis. A differential unit consisting of a spur gear containing four pinion wheels is mounted onto the rear axle shaft, driven directly from the Mabuchi mini black motor through a choice of pinion gears. Supplied as standard with the kit are four pinion gears ranging from eight to fourteen teeth.

Wheels 'n' Tyres

Foam front and rear tyres are supplied fitted, glued and trued, all that the builder need to is fit a nylon washer in front and behind each hub and then secure the wheel and tyre with an e-clip. A useful tool is supplied in the kit to fit the e-clips as they lie deeply recessed inside the wheels.

Bodywork

Here is where the real masterstroke is played by Tamiya, they have reproduced the Lancia LC2 bodyshell in perfect, minute detail and supplied waterslide decals which once in place finish the car off superbly, although a large amount of patience needs to be shown as well as some delicate prodding to arrange the decal in just the right place, on second thoughts perhaps the size of Mr Averages fingers don't help too much.

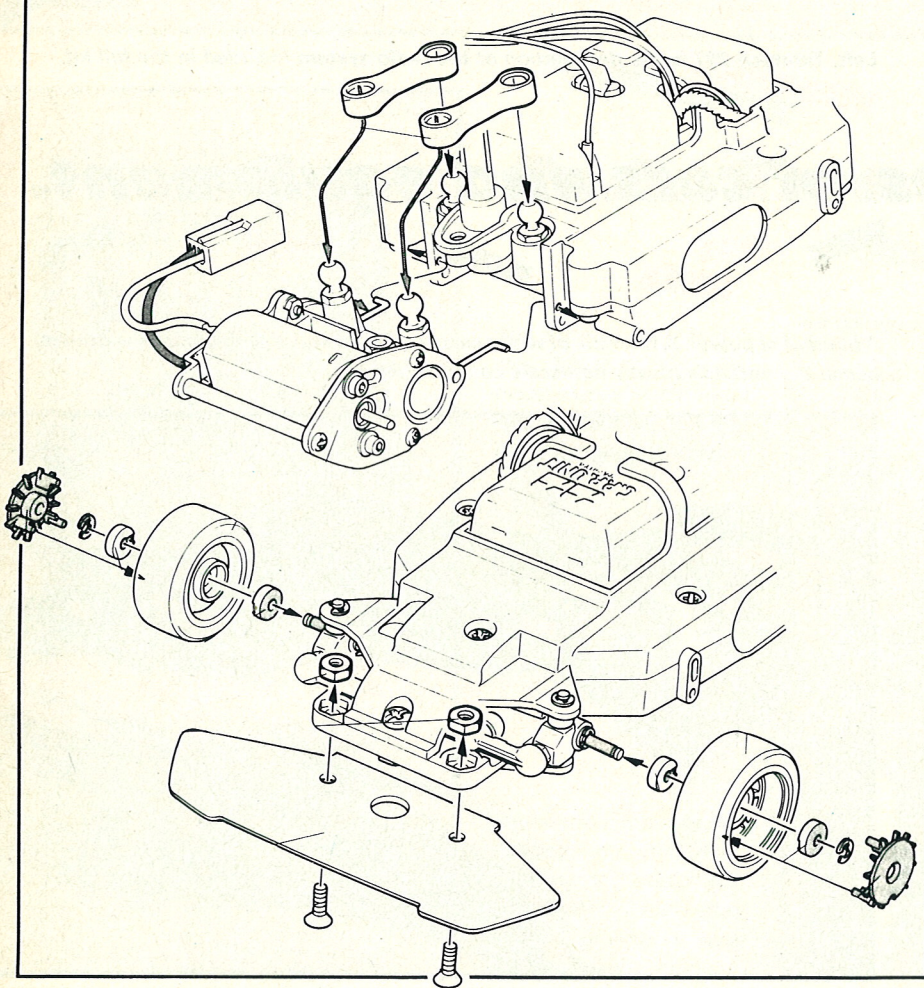
Summary

So here we are with car built, everything working in the direction it should, bodywork finished and dry, battery fully charged, no more excuses it is finally time to clip the Lancia together and see how she goes. With about six pairs of eyes anxiously waiting, possibly more in the hope that the little Lancia would make a complete and utter fool of the driver, we were off streaking across the floor at what seemed a breakneck speed, a left turn was gingerly tried. Instantly the Lancia reacted almost turning at right angles to the direction of travel heading straight for a desk, right turn, oops, left, right, panic. The Lancia did not let the crowd down.

So R/C drivers, here is another challenge to be taken up, anyone who mistakenly has the idea of 1/24 scale being little more than toys had better start to think again because these cars are fast, furious and require a very deft touch in order to negotiate the simplest of bends. Multiply the problem with four or five other cars driving in your way and the whole thing becomes a lot of fun. Let's hope we see lots more 1/24 scale racers this season, somehow we think we will.

Tamtech Series available from your nearest Tamiya dealer. Price around £190.00.

Two exploded diagrams, showing methods of attachment of the Mabuchi mini black motor and both front wheels.



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