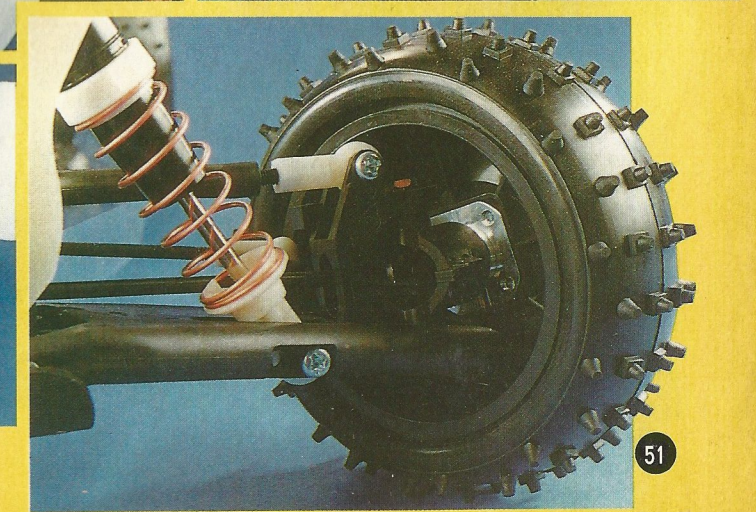
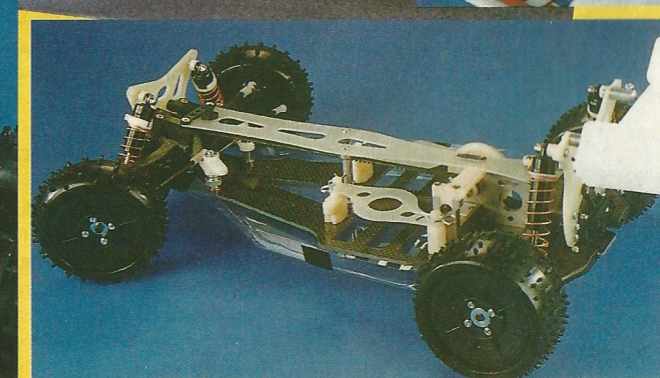
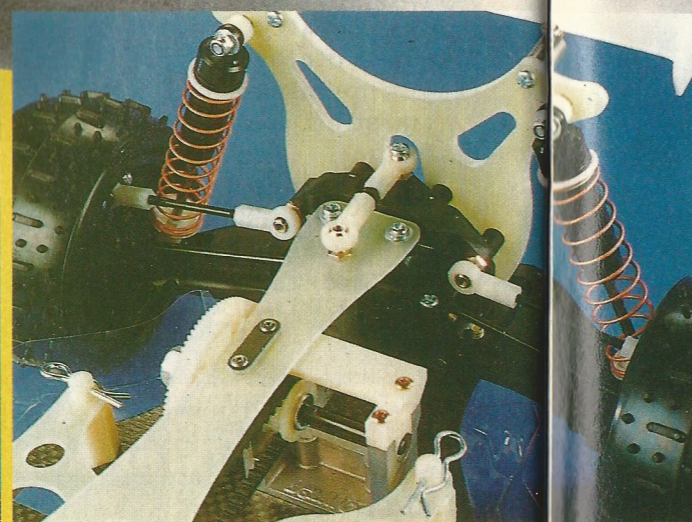
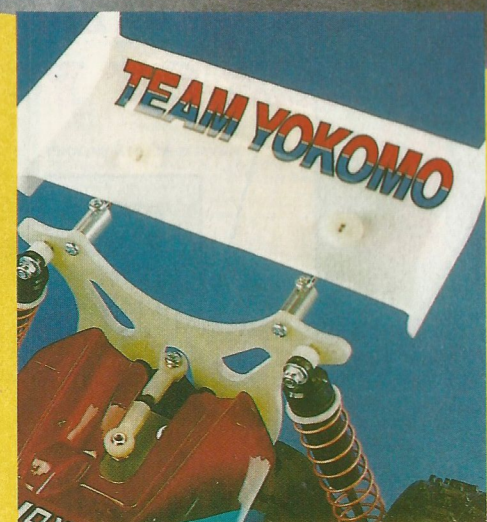
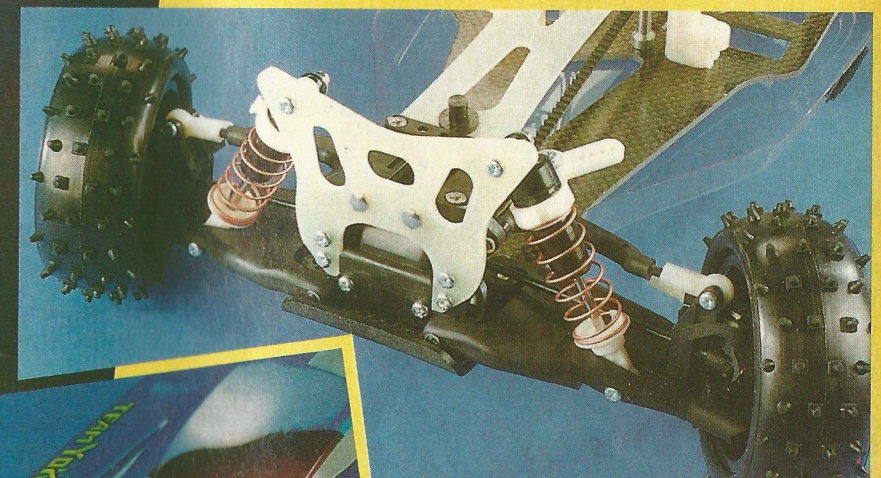




Yokomo have finally released the car that Masami Hirosaka took the World title with, RCMC take a close look at the new YZ-10

Champs choice! ▶▶



Yokomo have an excellent reputation in the RC car racing market, they have 3 World Championships to their name so far and the latest, captured at Basildon in the Summer of '93 was with a prototype of the kit you see here – the YZ-10.

A lot of the Yokomo success is of course due to the fact that they have Masami Hirosaka driving their cars, Masami is a fantastic driver and now has an incredible six World titles to his name. Masami has been instrumental in designing the YZ-10 and many feel the car has been designed to suit his aggressive driving style, this may be

no bad thing as the car is obviously good and featured heavily in the main Worlds A final.

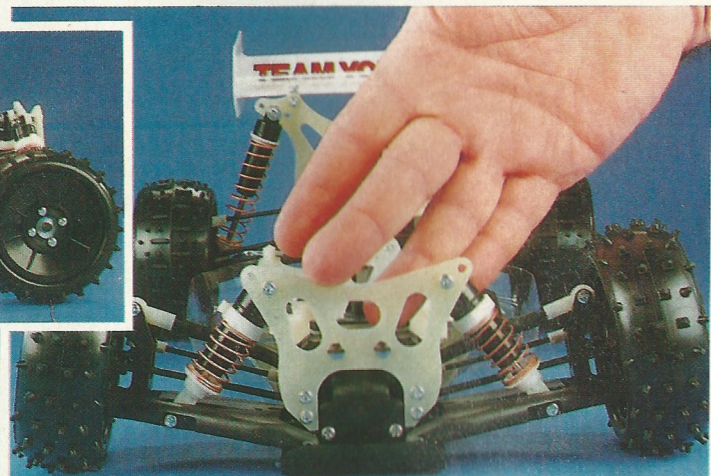
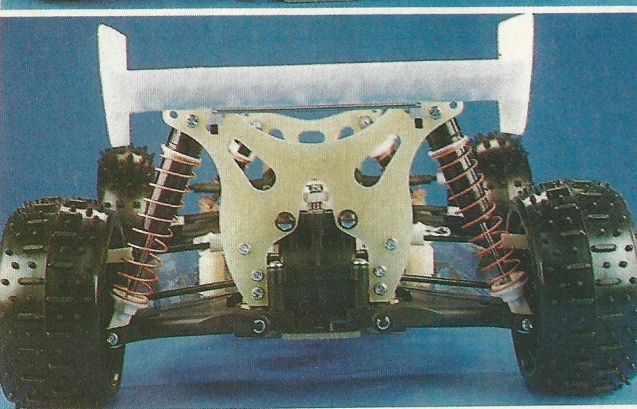
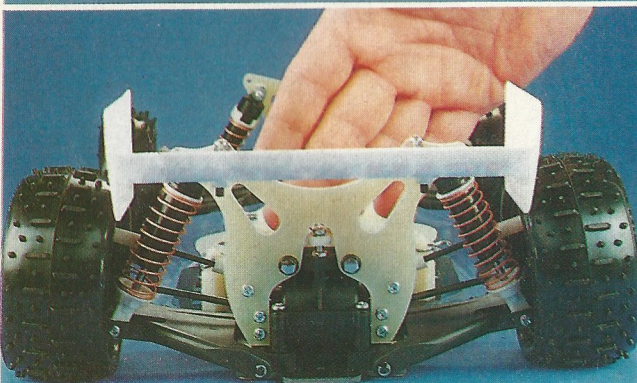
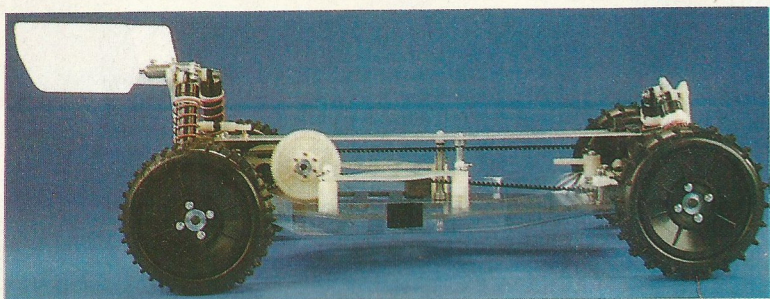
The big build

Assembly of the YZ-10 was surprisingly simple, the car seems

- to have as many parts as the competition but slips together with ease and speed giving the impression that the car is less complicated. Instructions on the car are minimal, this doesn't mean they are not good, they are – clear and simple but leaving the emphasis on the builder to assemble the parts to

- a drawing, in fact the instructions are probably one of the reasons that make the car go together quickly, as they move on through the stages with no fuss. Differentials on the YZ-10 are of a new lightweight design based the same principle as always, they use 3mm balls and have neat locking

- extra steering and a slipper can be fitted to help 'save' the drive system from the rigours of racing. The chassis on the car is a formed carbon 3mm unit that is very nicely made. The material used is of a very high quality and is formed with a 'kick up' at the front that



washers onto the drive hubs.

The central drive unit on the car that holds the main gear contains crisply moulded pulleys but in the kit comes as a solid drive unit – this means there is no one way roller clutch or slipper clutch. Often a 'permanent' 4WD system can make a car easier to dive and more forgiving, but in general a one way roller will need to be fitted to give

- car and aids ground clearance. Not many kits come standard with a carbon chassis and this is a welcome 'standard' feature of the kit.

- On to the chassis is fitted the alloy gearbox/motor mount and the battery holders – these are wonderful shapes that have been dreamed up by someone at the Yokomo factory!



Strange mix of carbon fibre, glass fibre and both black and white plastic parts give the YZ-10 a distinguished look.

Long, long suspension...

The YZ-10 takes the 1:10 off road car even further to the limits in size of suspension components. The wishbones on the car are super long and solid and give the impression that a spare set will never be needed being so chunky.

The shape is formed with upturns on the inboard end that allow ground clearance without the arms binding on the chassis. The suspension goes together easily and the parts require virtually no cleaning up. Bearings are of a good quality as are the steel UJ drive shafts (front and rear).

The rear of the car features a moulded gearbox top that together with the glass fibre shock bracket makes for a very rigid assembly, interestingly Yokomo have allowed the shock bracket to be slightly rubber mounted to allow a little 'give', this seems a good idea that will protect the car from crashes.

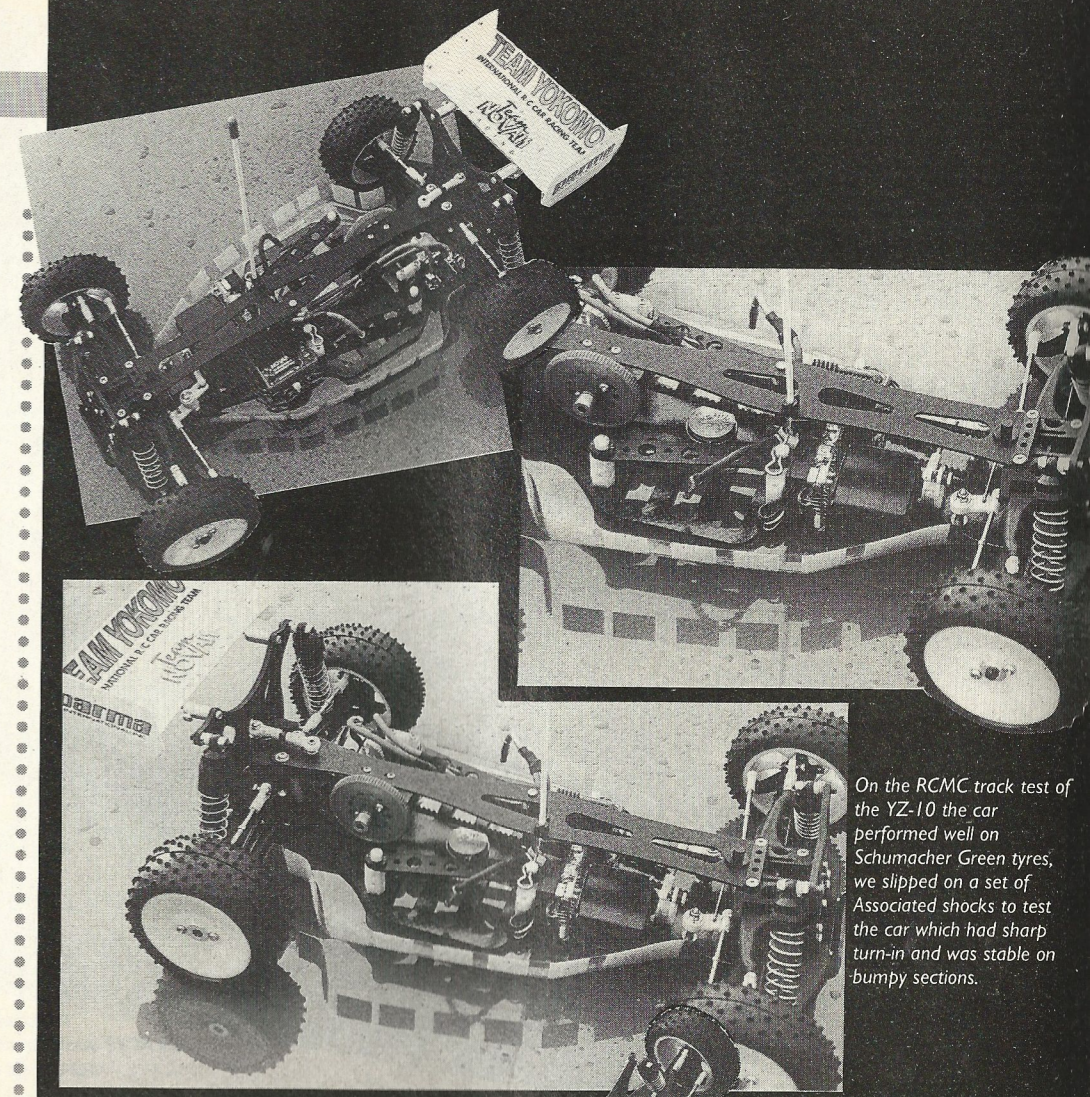
The front of the car again has enormous shaped arms that are fitted with 5 degree castor blocks and a moulded top link that helps keep the front suspension solid, all these components bolt to the 'flip up' chassis to create a simple looking suspension set up again with a rubber mounted glass fibre shock bracket.

The steering assembly is next up consisting of the superb Yokomo ball joints but disappointingly ordinary right hand threaded track rods, the steering is smooth and positive and very clean and simple in design.

The top plate in 1.5mm glass fibre slips on to the car next and stiffens up the chassis, this is again a superb smooth flowing shape that makes the top plate a real asset to the look of the car, included in this procedure is an adjustable link at the rear that allows the long belt to be adjusted for tightness.

Lastly the shocks are fitted, these come with pre-assembled seals in the bodies are alloy units, two hole pistons are fitted and the Yokomo 'Copper' coloured springs are in the kit. The shocks are fitted to the car with the neatest most well moulded ball joints we've ever seen and the shock collars and adjusters follow suit. The very lightweight and rather flimsy undertray and body are fitted as is the classic moulded Yokomo rear wing.

Wheels and tyres are a strange combination being a mix of sizes that don't seem to go together too well but are a starting point. A very brief diagram shows suggested electrical fittings in their place and that is where the instructions finish.



On the RCMC track test of the YZ-10 the car performed well on Schumacher Green tyres, we slipped on a set of Associated shocks to test the car which had sharp turn-in and was stable on bumpy sections.

A true World Champion?

The Yokomo YZ-10 represents the car that Masami Hirosaka won the World title with, the actual kit though is of a slightly different specification to the actual winning car, the kit YZ-10 has a number of features that are easily updated to top spec but are not necessarily need for the car to perform very well indeed, in fact when we drove the car we only fitted a one way roller and adjustable track rods and were very impressed with the sharpness, speed and accuracy obtainable with the car. To bring the car up to a very high standard would require some Associated shocks (as used by the Team), a one way roller and some new track rods.

Good points are of course the carbon chassis, UJ's all round and small points like the excellent wing. On the whole choosing a new car is often more about trends that anything else as racers will have 'what they want!'

The Yokomo YZ-10 represents a very fine car that will surely continue the success that Yokomo have had in the past.

Specification.

- Length 410mm
- Width 248mm
- Wheel Base 270mm
- Weight 1650g
- Full time 4WD
- Carbon chassis G/Fibre Shock towers
- Fully ballraced
- 5 degree castor blocks
- Oil filled alloy dampers
- Lightweight Differentials
- Lexan-body and undertray

CML are the UK Distributors for Yokomo products.