## <u>Colin Betteridge</u>

# Standaste for the Standard Sta

#### The Multiplex Stampede 4WD IC Stadium Truck



Show me where the rough stuff is

n the past I have built several electric model cars, and enjoyed every minute of doing so. Whilst buying parts for these in the model shops, I have often looked at the I/C models and seriously considered building one. I imagine like many of you, there are several questions that immediately spring to mind: Can I afford it? As it is partially built, will it be as much of a challenge? - On the one hand it will not take so long to build and I will get to drive it sooner, but - there again, will it give me the same satisfaction as I get from tightening up every little nut and bolt? The pros and cons see-saw in my head, and then, when I nearly convince myself to go for it, the Wife's impatient foot tapping becomes louder. The decision is made - another time!

So, when, following a conversation with Nigel McStay, I was invited by PeterE, the editor of Radio Race Car International to build an I/C



Turnbuckle adjustment for camber, neat

model and compare it to the Bandit (as reviewed by Nigel M in last July's edition of RRCi), the decision was easy and quickly made - YES! er, PLEASE!

I collected the model and drove home, the box sitting quietly beside me asking to be opened. This is it I thought I have moved from division three into the premier - I had progressed into the big league!

## Open the box

When I had the model indoors, I lifted off the lid, and there it was, a lovely sight! My eight year old son's head was all I could see followed by "Wow! Cool truck Dad!" Peter E had told me that the truck was 90% built and I had thought this would be an ideal model for my son to help build, and needless to say he was very keen to do so.

We started straight away, this was definitely a truck not to be kept waiting! The model did in fact look almost complete and came with foam inserts for the tyres. The wheels and tyres went together very simply and were soon onto the model. This was looking good!

## The Ed' comments

I spoke to Multiplex about the instructions. The Hobbyline range of R/C Cars is imported and distributed in the UK by CML and Multiplex. Multiplex are working closely with CML to improve the UK instruction set, the sheets will probably have changed by the time you read this. Our sample was an early pre-production unit and may not be typical.

Close examination of the instructions however, soon showed them to be a bit unfriendly. The written instructions would I am sure have been extremely useful if a) I could read and understand German, and b) I was building the Multiplex Lightning. Although the front cover shows pictures of both the Lightning and the Stampede, and there are several pictures in the booklet of the Stampede, they do seem to be predominantly for the Lightning, but not knowing anybody who could translate the written word into English, these instructions were as much use to me as slick tyres in a heavy downpour of rain. But wait! There is another set of instructions, and yes they are in English, but no, these were not much help either. These were for the Bandit! Since Nigel built the Bandit there have been some design changes in several areas, for the better I might add. The large exploded diagram of the complete truck was quite useful, but there is no doubt that this selection of instructions did confuse the issue. I decided to settle for the exploded diagram, as it was clear that this was definitely for the Stampede, and it was the only positive way I could identify the screws and nuts and bolts used to complete the kit. One thing that this kit lacks is a key to each type and screw size used.

At this point there was no doubt, I would not be missing a challenge!

# **Changing** times

One area that there does seem to be a big improvement against the Bandit is the positioning of the servos. These are not mounted parallel to each other on the chassis, but are slightly offset making them easier to fit, although doing up the nuts and bolts to hold the servos in place was a fiddle, eight year old fingers came in very useful here! Also, connecting the throttle, break and steering linkages is very easy. None of the linkage bars needed to be cut to size.

As I progressed on through, it became quite clear that there were some parts missing. Panic! No, contact Nigel, he may be able to help. After a brief conversation telling him the sort of problems I was encountering, he was kind enough to bring the Bandit over to my





The blue anodised alloy looks trick

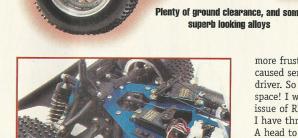
house, and I was able to use it as a guide to see how certain parts went together. Another minor problem area was the stay to support the exhaust. This is a straight rod of metal with a loop at one end, according to the diagram it should pick up on the screw securing the radio antenna bracket. All well and good on the Bandit, but they have actually moved the radio antenna to the other side of the chassis on the Stampede, hence there was nothing to secure it to. This meant a slight adjustment to the rod. The older enthusiasts amongst you may remember starting handles, reshaping the rod to this design, enabled me to secure the loop on one of the nuts and bolts holding one of the servos. It was very fiddly getting this into position, but it was well worth the effort, and small fingers again helped.

According to the instructions both the receiver and battery carrier should sit between the top and bottom of the chassis. This could not be done, the gap between the two is not large enough for the components I was using. After a bit of thought and a cup of tea, I fitted the receiver onto the top plate of the chassis, put the battery pack between the top and bottom chassis plate, and secured with two re-usable tie wraps which were supplied with the kit.

With the servos and radio gear fitted, all that remained was the last half a dozen or so screws securing the top and bottom chassis plates. This is where the exploded overall diagram came in very useful. Finally, the two body shell mounts to secure the shell, this was difficult as a major part that was missing was one of the body shell mounts and all of the nuts and bolts for the both mounts, so I borrowed these parts off of the Bandit.

# Body and paint

Now for the body shell. I am always concerned at this point that the shell will crack whilst being cut out. I was very careful making sure that no sharp edges were left, and one thing I did find useful was using a sharp pair of curved manicure scissors to cut around the wheel arches. With this all nice and neatly cut out, I offered it up to the model. Oh dear.



**Everything neatly strapped into place** 

None of the marks for drilling on the shell lined up with the body mounts. It took a bit of time making sure the body shell was central on the model paying particular attention to the front so it did not foul the front wheels when on full lock. Once in the correct position, one small dot with a marker pen on the top of the body shell ensured the correct drill positions.

I do not know whether this model should have come with any masks for the windows, whether it should or should not, there were certainly none in the box and the instructions don't indicate that there are any. So after carefully masking the windows, we were ready for the spraying.

The picture of the model on the top of the box shows it very much in the United States livery, stars and stripes etc. I felt this would be a bit ambitious for my first one for a review. In a conversation with PeterE, we initially thought about red, but the decals impact would have been lost as they are predominantly red, so we settled for Daytona Yellow.

Several coats of Daytona Yellow and several hours later, followed by two good covering coats of the backing white (left for another hour or two), I was able to peel off the protective film and unmask all of the windows. Wow! Daytona Yellow certainly is bright! The decals for this model are very easy to use and applied without any problems or air bubbles. The fob was done. The only thing that remained was to give it a trial run. This had to wait until after the photo shoot, all good models like to look their best for the camera!

### Reflections

Although frustrating at times due to the poor instructions and odd parts missing, building this model did prove to be an enjoyable challenge, and the satisfaction of the completed model is equal to any I have built previously. Once the obstacles have been overcome, it is undoubtedly a superb model.

adly the run of the truck has had to be put hold due to the inclement weather. This is more frustrating than anything else, and has caused serious distress to my eight year old codriver. So my fellow enthusiasts, watch this space! I will tell you all about this in a future issue of RRCi, but, I have a little secret for you, I have thrown down the gauntlet to Mr McStay A head to head - Bandit v Stampede.

Move over Bandit and make way for Stampede! Will the Bandit Stand & Deliver or will the Stampede ride rough shod over the Bandit? We shall see in 'Drive In' next month! RRCi



Strong front bumper and bulkhead



he tuned pipe is standard

# Quick Spec

1/10th scale 4WD stadium truck for 2ch RC. Powered by 2.5 cc engine. Supplied part assembled with polycarbonate body and decals

## Likes

Almost ready to run Foam inserts for tyres included Good decal sheet Chrome effect wheels

### Dislikes

Poor instructions
Missing/ill-fitting parts
Waiting for a change in the weather

wealth safety prosperity

