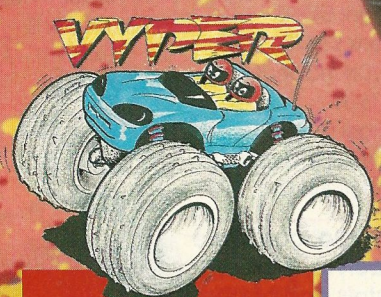


Schumacher are a racing company. That is where they earned their reputation and that is what they are known for. With the Vyper they have entered new territory, inexpensive kits aimed at beginners. The question is have they done the job as they should...



# Kit Review Fibre

## KIT REVIEW

Reviewed by Mike Caine

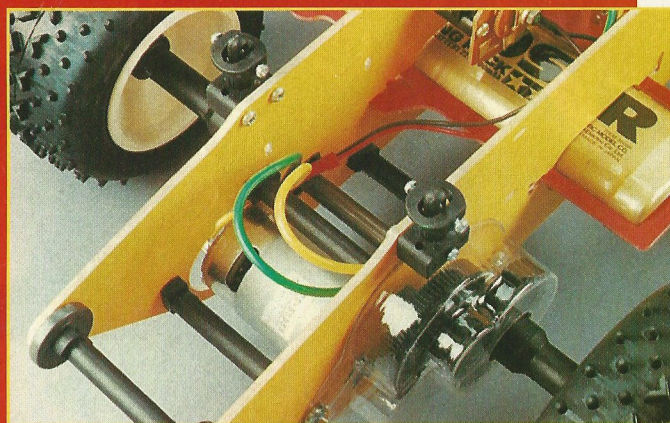
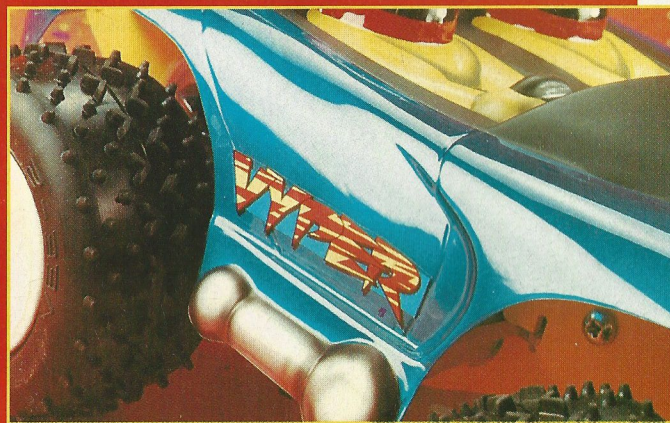
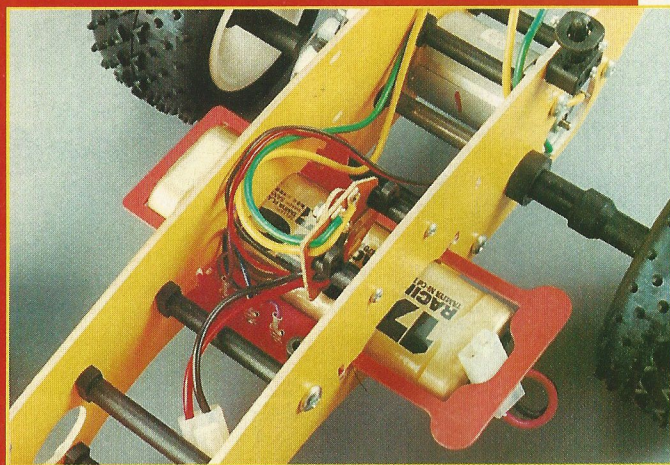
In the Schumacher factory the CNC glass fibre cutting machines have more than paid their way. All Schumacher cars from the first 1:12 scale models to the latest Cougar 2000 '95 Spec rely on the neatly cut and shaped glass fibre parts that form the chassis and shock mounts on these kits.

The Vyper at present probably relies more on these glass fibre creations than any other Schumacher vehicle. The chassis, battery holder, suspension and even the supplied tool to help put the car together are all created in glass fibre, all on the CNC cutting machines. With this low cost, beginner aimed Vyper costing less than £70, this could be the most popular kit Schumacher have ever made...

### What is the Vyper?

Good question! It is an RC Car aimed at attracting beginners into buying a first RC Car. It is designed to be simple to build, very competitively priced, very, very tough and to break Schumacher into the beginner market. It is simple to build, it is definitely competitively priced and we've given the car more than its fair share of strength testing - and it passed! It also is incredibly good fun to drive and deserves a closer look.

The car is based around two large, yellow glass fibre chassis sides that form the main base for the car. This was the form that our review car was in but plastic, moulded sides



will soon form the main chassis in future kits. The first stages of construction include cleaning up these parts with a file.

Next the body mounts are cut and assembled to the chassis with self tapping screws. So far so good, but the filing and cutting came as a little surprise for a beginners kit - of course this will all be removed on the plastic moulded items.

Between the two chassis parts a number of plastic posts are fixed using self tapping screws. At this stage the wheelie protecting discs are also fitted..... Yes the wheelie protecting discs. These save the chassis when the car is being wheelied or crashed - this is all alien to me!

Some of the simple drive system of the car is next to be placed onto one of the chassis sides. This consists of a metal shaft and a plastic moulded gear mounted on moulded plastic bearings.

So far all this has only taken a number of minutes and is simple to carry out.

### 550 in the back...

The motor and speed controller for the kit come totally pre-wired and ready to be dropped into the chassis. The motor is clearly marked '550'. This is the size of the motor and it is slightly bigger than the standard RC Car style 540 motor. In fact the motor was chosen for the car specifically for its extra torque - ideal for wheelies and running the car in long grass.

The motor is simply placed through a hole in the glass fibre chassis and fixed in place with

two screws. There is no adjustment for gear meshing and this therefore removes any chance of the builder making a mistake. There is an extra set of holes for mounting the in a slightly different place so that the optional 32 tooth pinion can be fitted for extra speed.

The mechanical speed controller - three steps forward and reverse is then fixed to the chassis side plate.

At this stage the two sides of the chassis come together. The wheelie bar wheels, battery holder and front suspension wishbone all need to be placed where they should be as the two sides come together. At this stage of putting the review kit together I totally missed out the front suspension wishbone and put the battery holder in the wrong way up! Be warned, the instructions are a little vague but it only took a few minutes to right my silly mistake...

### Check out the back axle

This really is a tough piece of equipment. After placing the final gears on the shaft with a simple pin system the rear axle is fitted to the chassis, again with plastic moulded bearings.

The motor pinion is then placed on the motor and the drive system is complete. The moulded gears are protected from damage and from accidentally touching the gears while they are moving by a lexan moulded gear cover. The trimming out of this gear cover seemed like another stage of construction that would be tricky for a beginner. In practice though the design of the cover



makes this task quite easy. Once in place the moving parts are safely out of harms way.

The ultra simple front suspension is next and this uses more glass fibre and plastic mouldings.

Wheels and tyres are next to be assembled and placed on the car using plastic bearings for the front wheels and bolting directly onto the rear axle at the back. At this stage the car is now standing on four wheels with only the RC gear to be installed.

### Stick and wrap

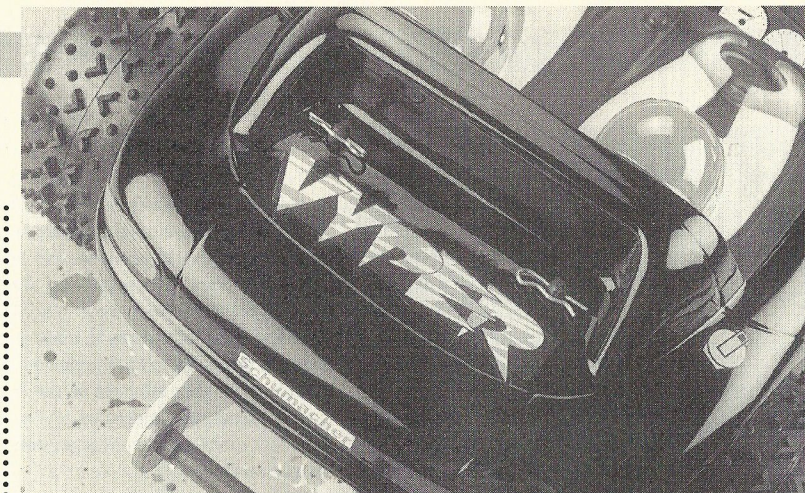
The RC gear is placed in the car with double sided tape and tie-wraps. This is quick and easy and makes the radio fitting a simple process. At this stage the RC links need to be assembled and again the link lengths and fitting of them is left to the builder. No lengths are given for the links and they are a little fiddly - wheels should be set to both face forward and centred with the servo.

After the receiver is fitted to the car the basic construction is over. Now the body just needs trimming...

The instructions show where to cut the body shell out. Once trimmed the body can receive a quick coat of paint on the inside and the decals supplied. We applied some extra paint on the outside to give the driver figures some extra detail.

### Spot on?

The Vyper really is a very simple car to build - or at least it was for me, for the complete beginner some of the tasks may come as a little unexpected but there is nothing that will cause real problems. The instructions are a little low on information and really don't give much running or general RC use information, (it is a good idea to read the instructions with your radio gear as extra-info is in here). All this is vital for beginners and is what the other companies in this side of the industry are very good at. The Schumacher car is very good and has proved to be a lot of fun,



tough is not the word to describe it as it really is almost unbreakable.

Schumacher will certainly sell lots of Vypers as it does deserve to do well in the marketplace, and the car will act as the model that will launch a lot of racers RC car careers...

Another plus point is that if you decide to continue racing after the Vyper your radio, battery, charger and even some of the Vyper parts can be used on your next model - something not all starter type cars can offer...

Whether the Schumacher racing team will be seen with Vypers on their racing pit tables..... now that's a different matter.



Remember the Vyper is for fun and the bodyshell reflects this. Below; Could the two pilots of the Vyper have been modelled on Schumacher staff Tim Walden and Phil Booth?...

