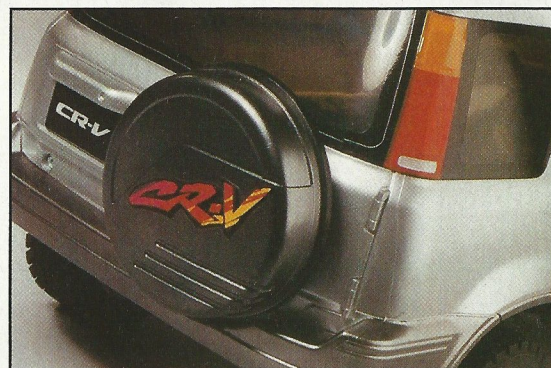
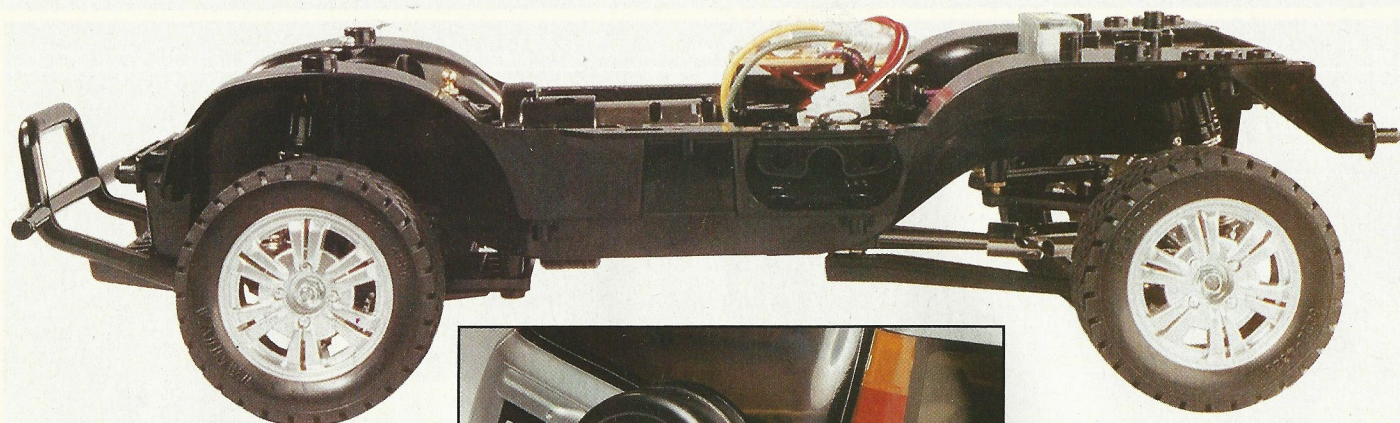




RCMC takes a long look at Tamiya's latest release onto the off road market in the form of the Japanese Honda CR-V. Tamiya's version features a mid mounted motor and a high specification

High Rise



Over the years Tamiya's reputation for producing accurate scale models has led to close co-operation with many car manufacturers and racing teams, particularly Honda which has resulted in several 'coincidental' releases, that's to say the Tamiya model has been launched at the same time as the real thing. The stunning NSX and then the superbike NR obviously paved the way for Tamiya's latest offering the Honda CRV. What's that you may ask for in Europe this model is yet to be fully launched. In the UK October's Motor Show at the NEC will reveal the latest 4X4 recreational vehicle from Japan's number one manufacturer Honda. So it's a Shogun clone - not strictly true as Honda have combined the mechanics of an off roadster with more than a touch of luxury interior fitments and the much sought after collection of

electronic toys. If you want to see for yourself then get along to your local Honda dealer.

In the meantime, whilst you save up your hard earned cash to buy one consider the Tamiya model in detail.

We mentioned the Shogun well surprise surprise the Honda is based on the same chassis used also for the Jeep Wrangler and Isuzu Mu. However as this time the model replicates a five door

long wheelbase version it does differ from it's predecessors by utilising a longer prop shaft and the longer wheelbase is achieved by relocating the rear trailing arms.

This Tamiya chassis design is unique in that it features a scale moulded underside coupled with the practicality of true four wheel drive. The mid mounted motor transmits power through a series of reduction gears and you even have the option of running a

locked rear diff to get out of those slippery conditions like deep sand or mud!

Simplified oil filled shocks (the pistons are integral with the shaft) with long travel plus high profile off road tyres mean that the model will perform well 'off road' but be careful when trying high speed manoeuvres on tarmac; the high centre of gravity induces an inbuilt tendency to barrel roll. Not so good when you've spent hours making a first class job of the injection moulded bodywork!

This is the area that Tamiya excels in. The investment they have made with the latest state of the art machinery ensures a wholly accurate replica of the real thing. The bodyshell is large by any standards and includes many details not found in polycarbonate counterparts. Door handles, side mouldings and rear door panels are all replicated with the greatest intricacy. Add the chrome coloured head lamps, mirrors etc. and the CRV starts to look the part. Moulded tinted windows bolt in simply to the roof section to complete the effect. There's even a

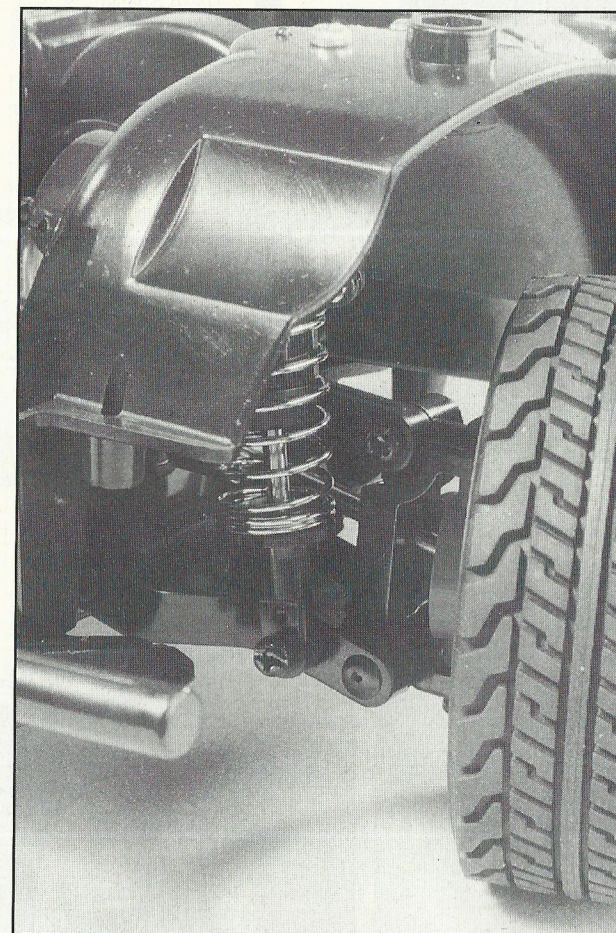
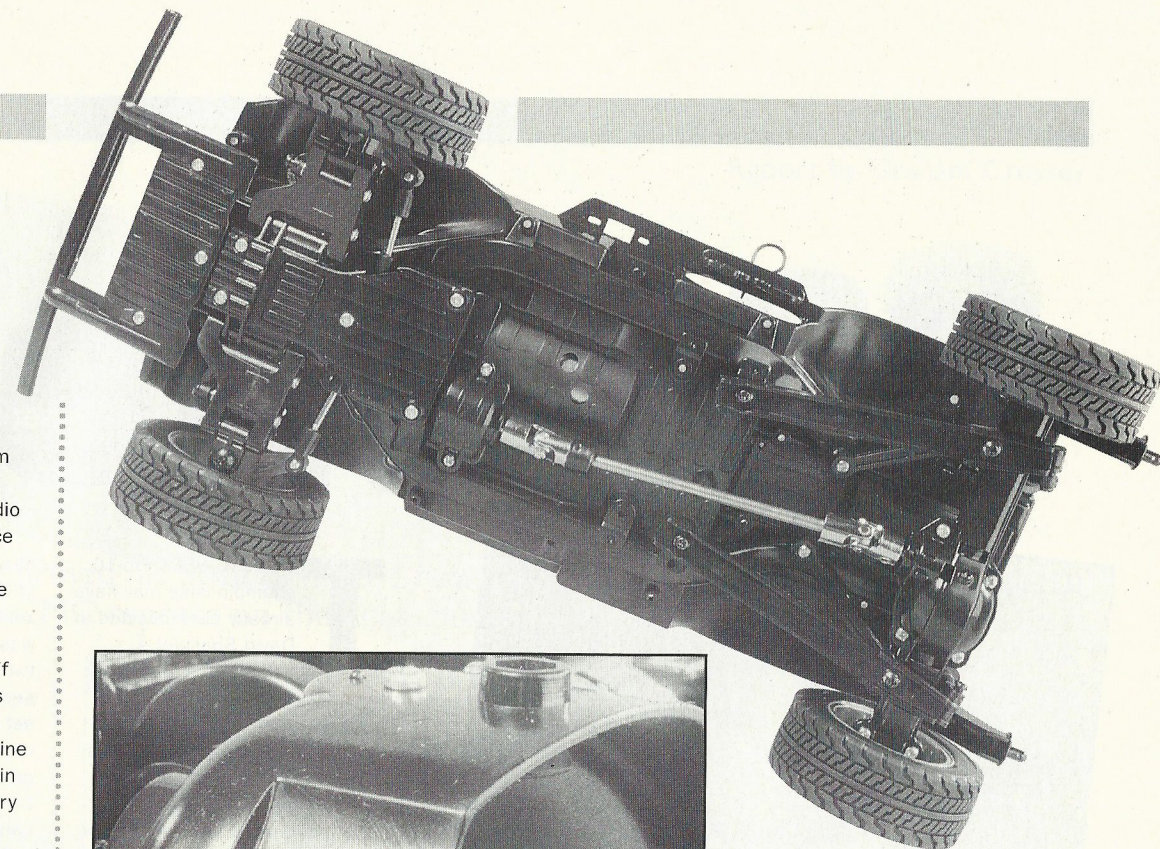


RADIO CONTROL MODEL CARS

moulded spare wheel cover plus some jazzy decals to finish it off. Oh yes, the body is moulded in white plastic which is an ideal base to paint it any colour you like. Acrylic paint spray is the best and we used illusion silver from dare I say the Ford range!

Virtually any two channel radio will fit as there's loads of space in the chassis. The European Tamiya version comes complete with the standard mechanical speed controller but you can easily fit an electronic version if you so wish. Despite the CRV's comparatively heavy weight we found it would run for around nine minutes over a mixture of terrain including gravel, tarmac and very short grass. The locked differential does not operate at the flick of a lever like it's full size counterpart, so if you really are going to use the model mainly in sand or mud you will have to insert the necessary alternative parts during build up. As an option you could try it in standard form first, then if you want to make the change it's relatively straight forward to remove and reassemble the rear axle assembly the longer wheelbase doesn't seem to affect the handling except for the fact that it can get stuck with the rear overhang in deep ruts.

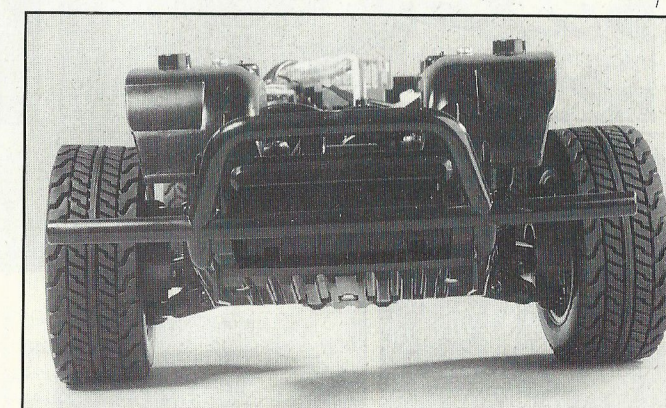
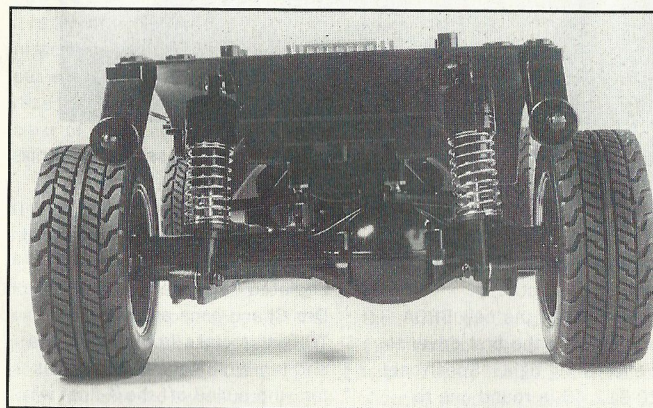
If you're looking for a realistic model that differs from the current breed of on road cars then the Honda CRV could be for you. There's a limited choice of Tamiya Hop Up parts available for this chassis but faster motors, low ride suspension and tyres plus working lights are available and would make your CRV something special.



Available from all good model shops priced at around £165 for the kit. Remember you will also need a two channel radio, battery and charger plus finishing materials unless you want a boring white one.

Specification

1/10th scale recreational off roadster. Four wheel drive with longitudinal mid mounted motor, three speed mechanical forward and two speed reverse controller. Highly detailed injection moulded styrene body set with chrome effect parts. Unobtrusive body mounting system, newly designed alloy look plated wheels, high profile realistic off road tyres. Option of standard rear differential or locked diff set-up. Oil filled shock absorbers with coil over spring set.



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