

RADIO CONTROLLED ROCK AND ROLL

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magazine

The Future's Bright...

TEAM LOSI

MUGGY



HELLFIRE SS

HPI's truggy takes on the race track

XRAY MICRO MONSTER

M18MT with bling and
hopped up motor

CARSON SPECTER

Top value, entry level
rallycross buggy



Truggy Tyre Guide

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Workbench

- ▶ Spektrum Telemetry System
- ▶ KO Helios users guide
- ▶ Setup Tips

First Look

- ▶ TNX 5.2
- ▶ Hyper ST



The racing mini monster



XRAY M18MT

HOPPED UP

Xray M18MT

One of the many things in life that make me happy, is a good mini truck. Especially with a cold harsh winter setting in, they make for a welcome break from racing nitros in the biting winds of a racetrack and are small enough to enable me to have a play in the warmth of the house. Sometimes I'll go as far as moving all the furniture around so my daughter Saphron and I can have a decent race, but she's getting too good so I decided to tip the scales in my favour and invest in a new model with which to do battle.

CREATING THE SPECIAL ONE

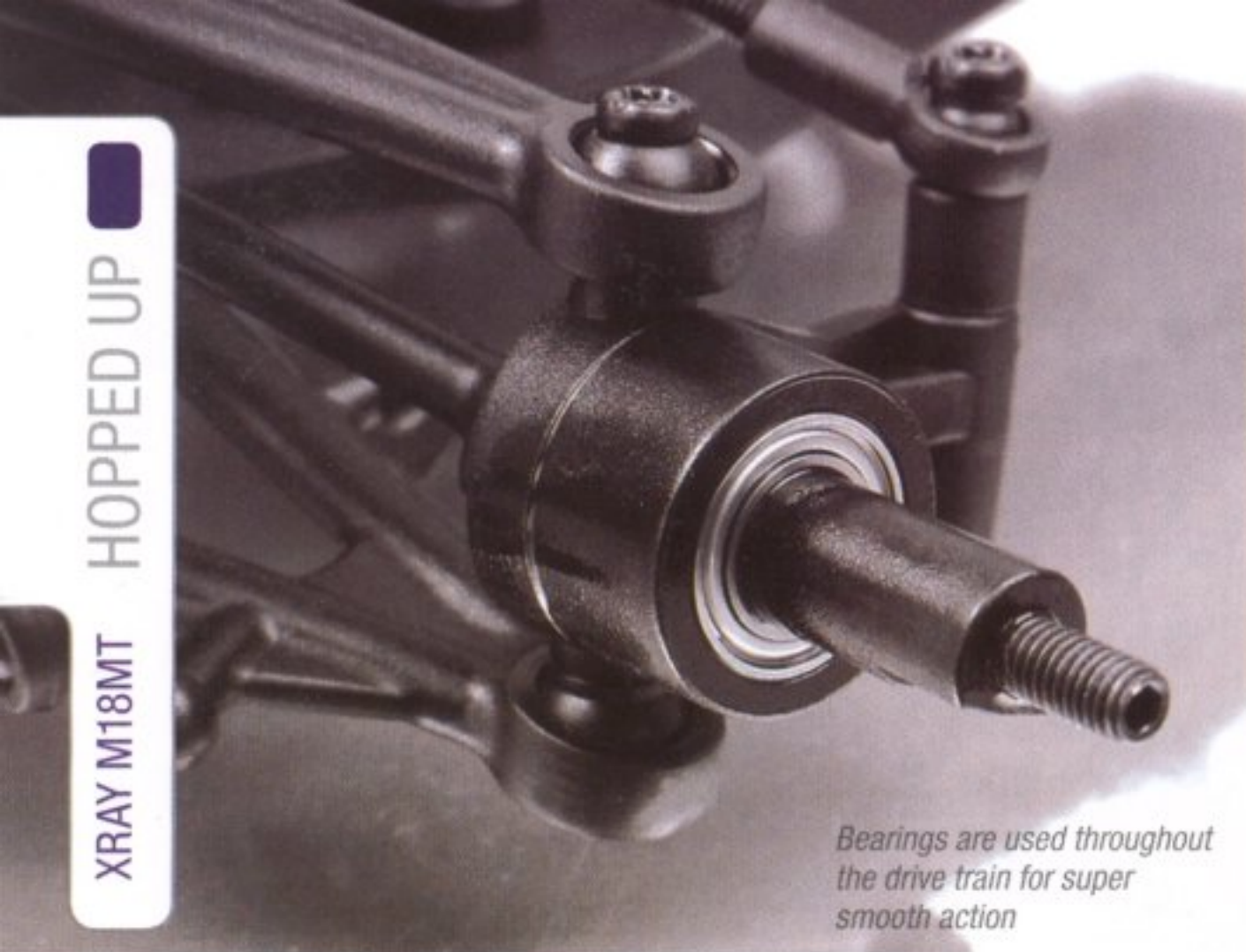
Having built and driven both the Xray M18T and NT18T, I wanted to experience the taller, sturdier M18MT, that plus I had some leftover upgrade parts that would fit on a treat whilst I built it up. Not to mention that I'd get Jim from Absolute Control to knock me up another Sonic the Hedgehog themed body shell!

From within the small box of part bags, the truck goes together almost identically to the M18T, but with twin shock towers at each end and eight shock absorbers as found typically on a monster truck. The pre-built micro ball diffs get surrounded by A-arms on pivot balls that hold the bearing clad hub to make sure the drive shafts spin freely as they feed from the diff cups.

I decided here that I wouldn't be using the stock chassis as my base because I already had a carbon fibre version that, in my opinion, is far nicer, so my diffs (the rear one with a 54t spur gear on it) were soon in place on the carbon plate with the solid aluminium drive shaft system connecting them together for the 4WD action.

The steering turnbuckles are easily made up next and the manual is ever so helpful here because it has the precise measurements of what they need to be in a 1:1 scale drawing, as





Bearings are used throughout the drive train for super smooth action



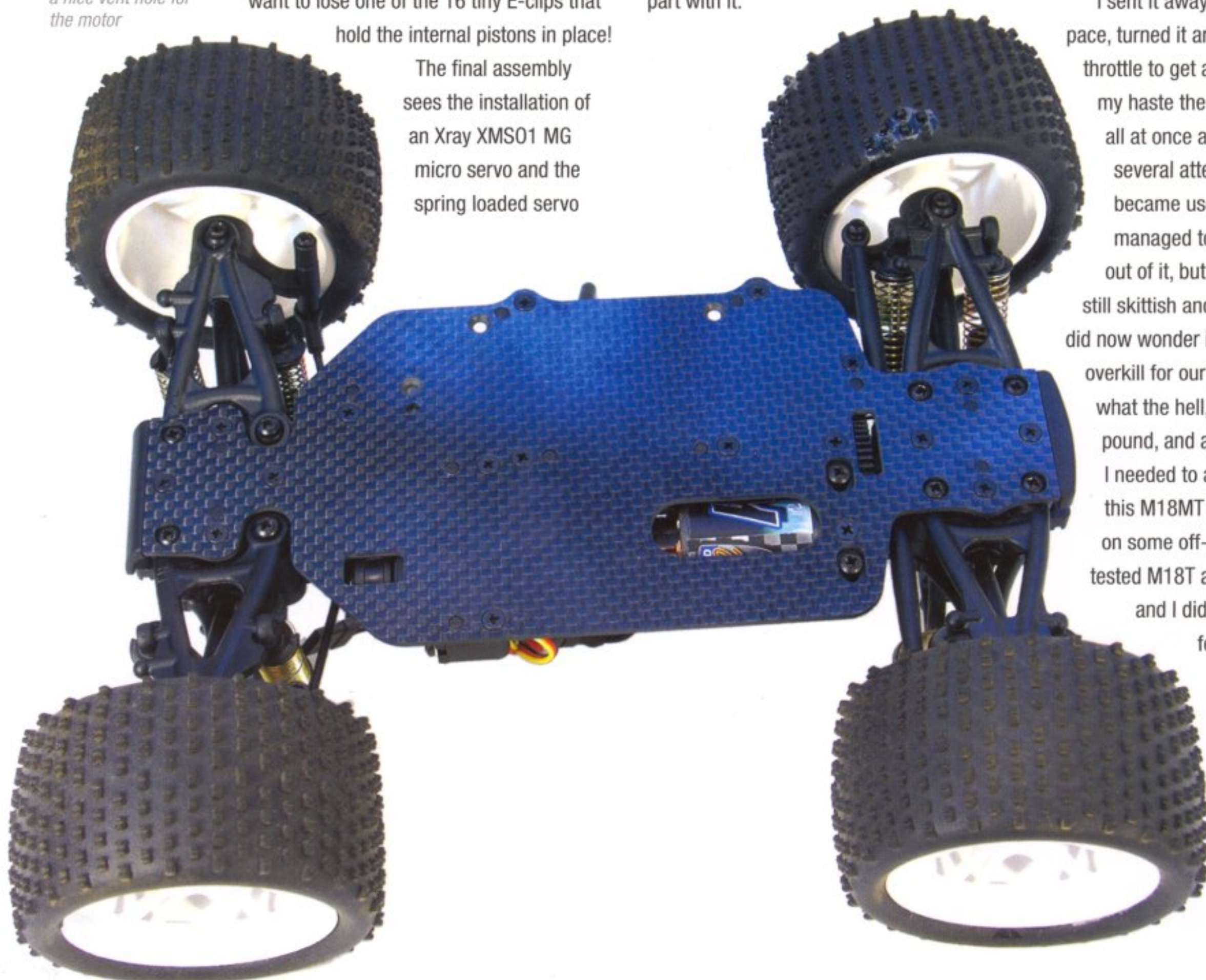
each step of the build is throughout. Again, the top deck comes in matching carbon fibre where the bell crank and four shock towers are screwed into place. As the shock towers are all the same with each of the four having their own body posts, Xray have designed a small extension that slips on with body pins to raise one set up enough to make sure you only need one set of mounting holes front and rear.

Normally at this point in the build, you'd seat the Xray ESC onto the top deck if using the separate Xray power pack for the electrics. I did try the ESC but it couldn't take the draw from the modified motor I wanted to use, so I'll add my own ESC and motor later. Now having eight shocks might be better for the monster truck look, but it is a little tedious building them all. Don't lose your concentration though because you won't want to lose one of the 16 tiny E-clips that

hold the internal pistons in place!

The final assembly sees the installation of an Xray XMS01 MG micro servo and the spring loaded servo

The carbon fibre chassis plate is so gorgeous and has a nice vent hole for the motor



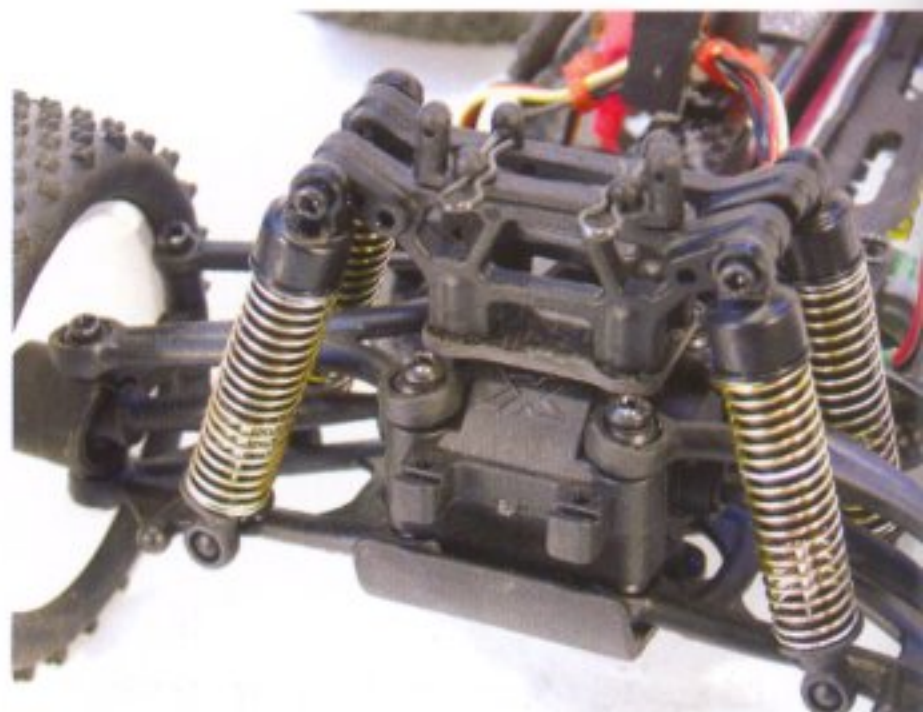
saver, the knobby tyres get glued to the Starburst Aerodisk wheels and then it's just the secret ingredient left... the motor and ESC.

I've had the standard ones and they were always a little slow for me, I've also been down the road of the super powered competition brushless motors but they were a little fast for me, so for the M18MT I chose a United RC Krystal motor and an M.Troniks Digi Sprint ESC to handle it. I say handle it because the Krystal is a modified micro motor and is tuned to spin up to a maximum of an amazing 40,000rpm!

For the power supply and to compliment the quality of the motor, I have a 7.2 volt GP1100 stick pack and to keep things under close control I plopped in a Spektrum receiver to pair up to my KO Helios transmitter. So that's the build out of the way, but there's just one more thing to go and that's the Hummer H2 body shell freshly painted by Jim at Absolute Control to represent Knuckles, the final in the trilogy of my Sonic mini truck crew. The colours, shading and little touches like the painted sunroof and tinted windows are just to pimp it up a little more before I coated it in stickers for an even more distinctive look. If I could have gotten hold of some chromed wheels with spinners, I'm sure P Diddy or one of his entourage would have put in an offer to buy it from me, so I stuck with the white ones as I don't wish to part with it.



54 tooth spur gear mounts directly onto the solid aluminium drive shaft to give the 4WD action



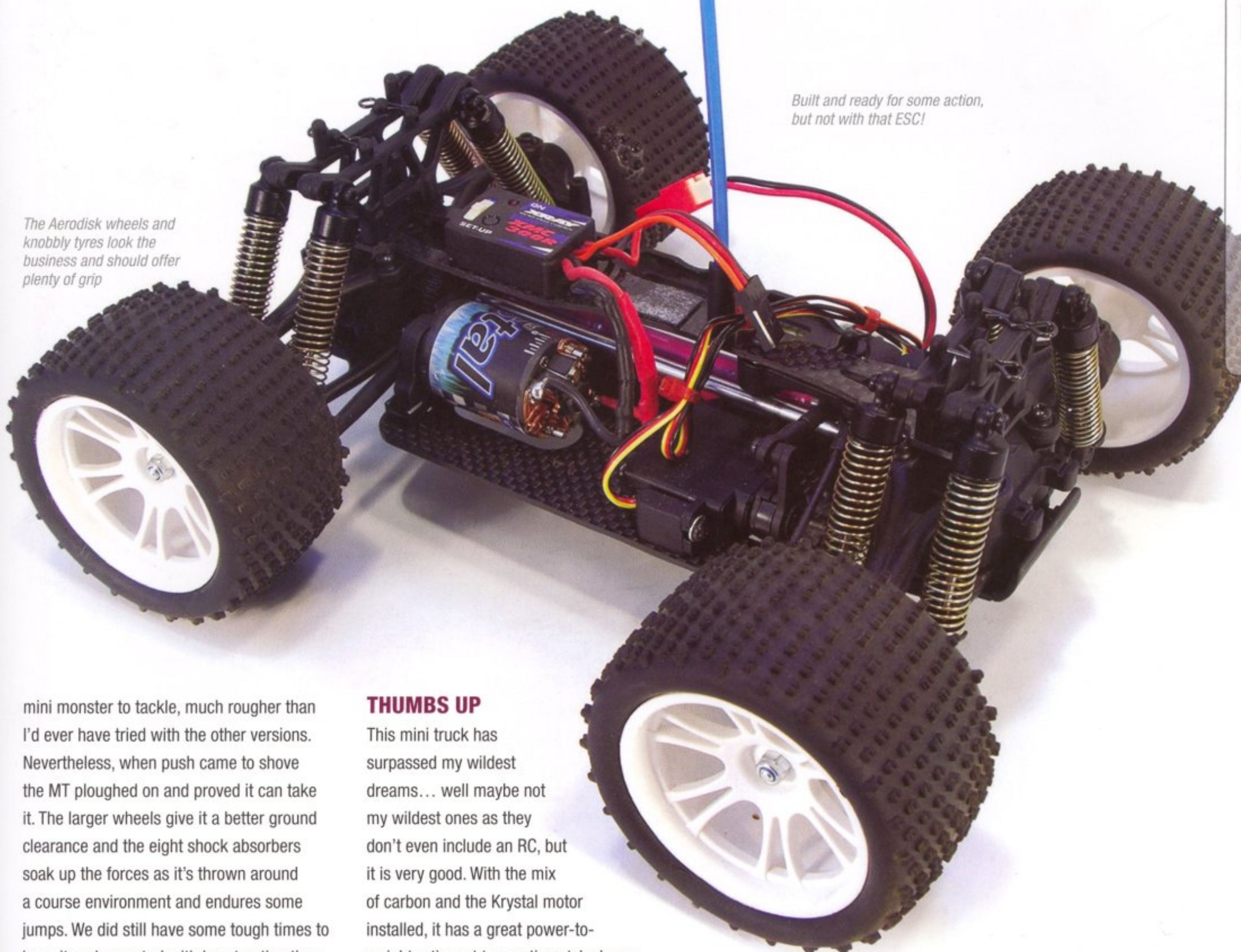
The twin front shock towers with their eight micro shocks and the clip-on body posts

TIME FOR A SPIN

Needless to say, I had a feeling inside me that just knew this would be a quick truck now, and with a fully charged battery it was time to take it outside to test.

I sent it away up the road at a gentle pace, turned it around and squeezed the throttle to get a full pelt pass by, but in my haste the power was a tad too much all at once and it spun out wildly! I had several attempts at this and once I became used to the brutal acceleration, managed to get some fantastic speeds out of it, but at almost full chat, it was still skittish and hard work to control. I did now wonder if this would be somewhat overkill for our planned indoor races, but what the hell, in for a penny, in for a pound, and all that. The big question that I needed to answer now was whether this M18MT was man enough to take on some off-roading, both the previously tested M18T and NT18T struggled here and I did mention at the time that I felt an NT18MT would have fared better as a nitro version. I was of course, quite right as usual.

With our testing session being in some deep dark woods, there were plenty of obstacles for my racing



The Aerodisk wheels and knobby tyres look the business and should offer plenty of grip

Built and ready for some action, but not with that ESC!

mini monster to tackle, much rougher than I'd ever have tried with the other versions. Nevertheless, when push came to shove the MT ploughed on and proved it can take it. The larger wheels give it a better ground clearance and the eight shock absorbers soak up the forces as it's thrown around a course environment and endures some jumps. We did still have some tough times to keep it under control with less traction than a tarmac road or carpet, and with the vast amount of stones and twigs about the place, there were times when it changed direction in an instant and again, spun out repeatedly. Great fun though.

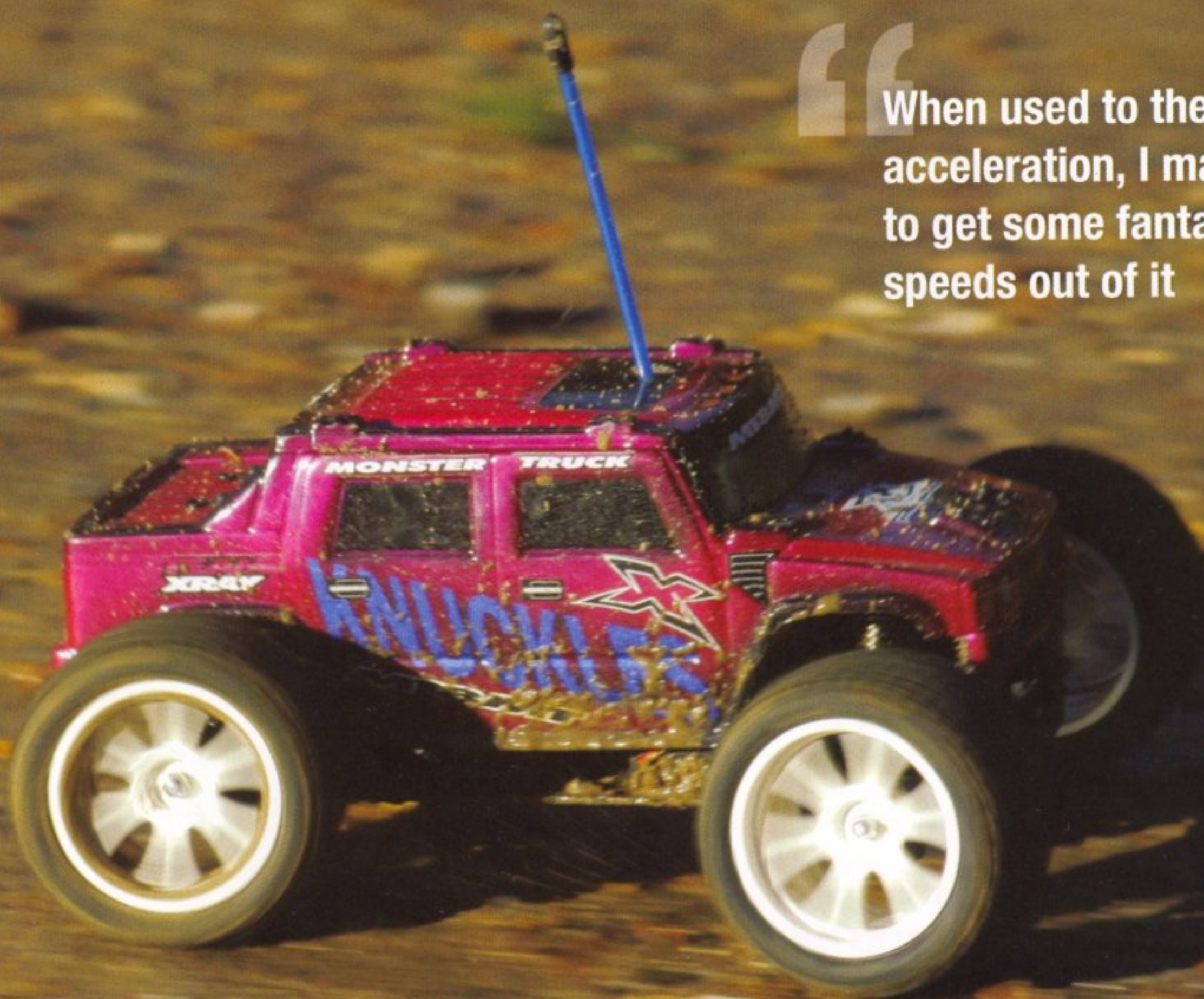
THUMBS UP

This mini truck has surpassed my wildest dreams... well maybe not my wildest ones as they don't even include an RC, but it is very good. With the mix of carbon and the Krystal motor installed, it has a great power-to-weight ratio, not to mention style. Inner strength isn't lacking either as I found out

The United RC Krystal motor packs a real punch for something so small



“When used to the brutal acceleration, I managed to get some fantastic speeds out of it”



when it struck a large tree root at pace, but it bounced off with no damage. I doubt very much if I'll ever add any more hop-ups to it or more cells to the battery pack, as I'm more than satisfied with the speed it reaches and I

believe it will be rugged enough to shake off any mishaps as I try to dodge the furniture. I can honestly see me getting a lot of run time out of this and it will be my weapon of choice in mini truck racing for the foreseeable future.

Saphron won't know what's hit her the next time I nonchalantly challenge her to a race and blow her away. The downside will be that she'll want to have a go and ultimately pester me to get her one for herself. **MB**



SPECS

XRAY M18MT

RRP PRICE

£139.99 inc. power pack

TYPE

Monster Truck

SCALE

1:18

POWER PLANT

300 sized motor

LENGTH

222mm

WIDTH

195mm

CHASSIS

Stock – Plastic

SUSPENSION

8 x Plastic dampers

DRIVE TRAIN

4WD