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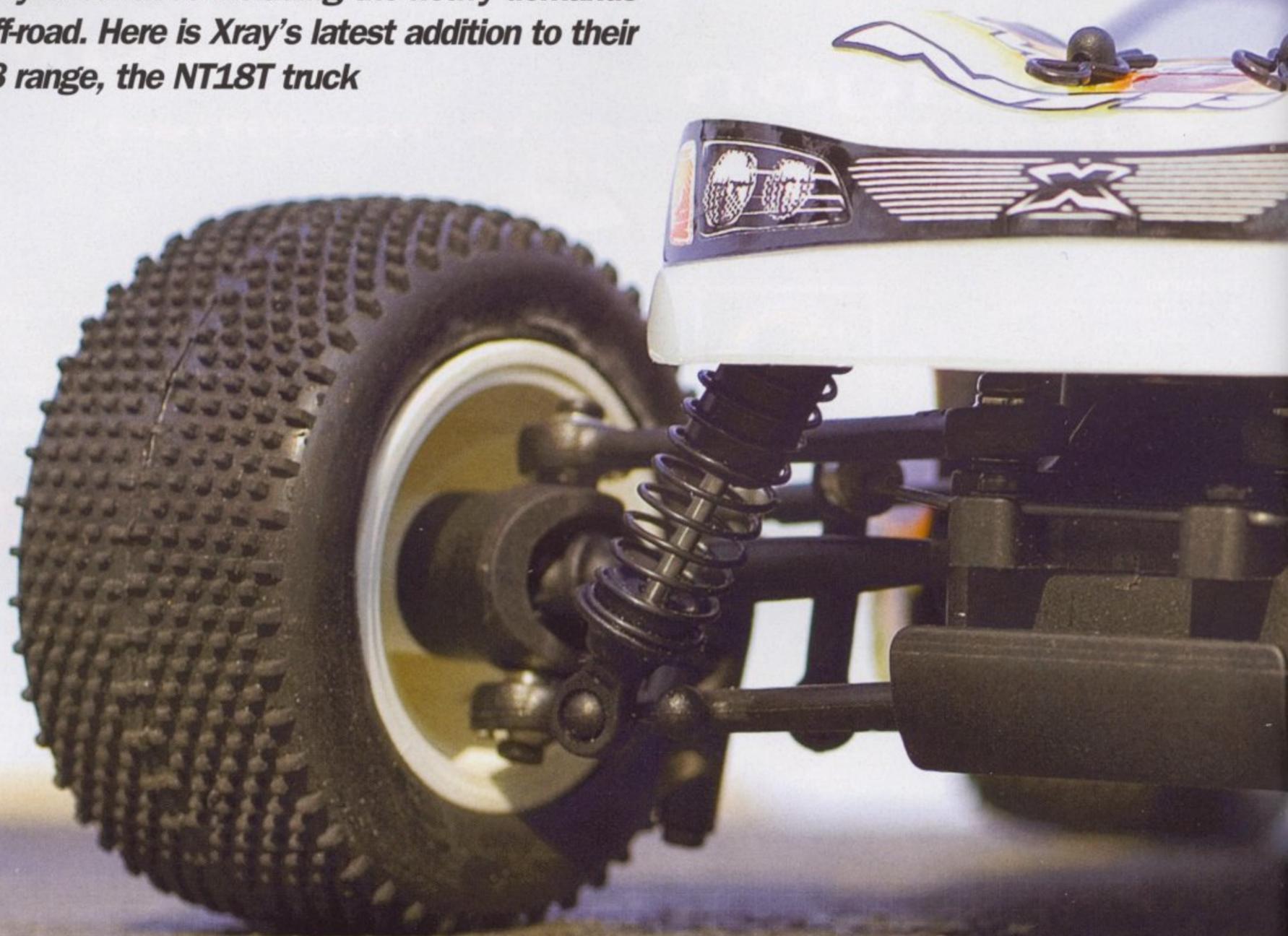
TAMIYA ARE BACK

TRF design new competition buggy p86

SPEC: 4WD ALLOY CHASSIS / CLASS: OFF-ROAD / COST: £179.99

Making Small Noises

It's micro, nitro and capable of running on a variety of surfaces including the heavy demands of off-road. Here is Xray's latest addition to their 1:18 range, the NT18T truck



How small can we go? You wouldn't have imagined some years ago that you would be able to go out and buy a car of such size, which incorporated a true high performance nitro-racing engine. Well now times have changed. Xray, recognised for producing such high quality cars have released the world's smallest yet - a 1:18 4WD micro nitro truck in the form of the NT18T.

We all knew it was possible to have a similar type of chassis using battery power thanks to their previous M18 kits but now you can experience the immense sound and speed only a nitro engine can offer while ripping up the turf of a local park. Powered by a 0.8cc engine complete with tuned exhaust this truck is by no means short in the power to size ratio!

With Xray very much renowned for being one of the most reputable in the RC market, when buying a model from them you almost expect something that is more superior and the NT18T is no exception. The

Xray range boasts some of the finest quality designed kits in both on and off-road competition models. The NT18T's bigger brother the XB8TQ has taken numerous victories worldwide and is an indicator of Xray's high standards. The NT18T follows on from this with quality made parts evident throughout the kit.

The design concept for this kit sees the layout very much similar to that used upon the on-road equivalent, the NT18. The aluminium chassis is a CNC machined 7075 T6 piece, with Xray choosing to employ a 4WD shaft drive system, radio housed on an easily accessible one-piece mount and oil filled coil over shocks, giving excellence suspension performance.

The kit itself is well presented, in a nicely detailed glossy box, inside numbered bags containing the different stages to help you work through the instructions provided in the manual. This is thorough with exploded diagrams to help

you understand any misinterpretations you may have. Most of the tools and equipment required are provided with the exception of the superglue required for sticking the tyres on.

DRIVE STRUCTURE AND SUSPENSION

The NT18T features a shaft drive set-up and comes with front and rear ball differentials which are factory assembled to help ensure smooth delivery of drive to all parts. An important factor is that Xray give instructions on how these parts should be adjusted in the break-in period, which should be followed to ensure long life.

The suspension is relatively simple to put together although you should take care with the direction when fitting the nylon arms and with the pivot balls as these vary in size very slightly. Parts interlink very neatly from the front diff to outer

in a Big Way



steering blocks. Both the front and rear ends are very similarly made from nylon and composite materials, which can be later updated with aluminium versions available for those keen on adding that extra 'bling'. A combination of steel spur gear, aluminium main driveshaft and ball bearings throughout provide efficient drive to this fierce little truck.

A SMALL BUT POWERFUL MOTOR

Following the order of instructions the next step is the installation of the 0.8cc nitro engine, which comes as part of package when purchasing the kit complete with engine and muffler. This is by far the smallest engine I have ever seen in comparison to that used in other classes, yet performance is not to be compromised. It features a slide adjustable carburettor and typical needle adjusters arranged to allow the fine-tuning of this motor. Complete with

a polished pipe and designed to run on standard model car fuel you find at your local hobby store, this is a good engine to start honing your skills on.

A conventional clutch shoe system is fitted to the NT18T with advice provided to help in the set-up and adjustment of clutch engagement. The clutch bell provided is a 16-tooth but a whole range of different ones is obtainable for changing the gear ratio. Keeping to their high standards Xray supply a fuel tank with hypertonic lid, something you normally only find on a competition race car, carrying on the theme that Xray go that bit further with added luxury.

NO COMPROMISE IN STOPPING

When driving a car lap after lap you inevitably expect performance to drop slightly after being driven hard. Xray have ensured that this will not be the case when it comes to stopping the NT18T.

Fitted with specially made Ferodo fibre brake pads these offer fade free braking power. When assembling the pads make sure all is in-line as shown in the manual illustrations before use.

If you decide to purchase the extra electrics you will find yourself with two micro servos and battery pack perfect for handling the job of controlling this machine. There is a one-piece radio plate housing both servos, battery pack, a switch and receiver neatly with the ability to be separated from the chassis by loosening only a couple of screws. The mount is suitable to house the majority of different micro servos available from other manufacturers. One downside we found which had room for improvement was the excessive length of wires on the servos provided which make it very hard to find somewhere to put all the extra length. So perhaps these could be shortened in the future if known to be for a specific kit. ▶

THRASH TEST

SPEC: 4WD ALLOY CHASSIS / CLASS: OFF-ROAD / COST: £179.99

ON TEST

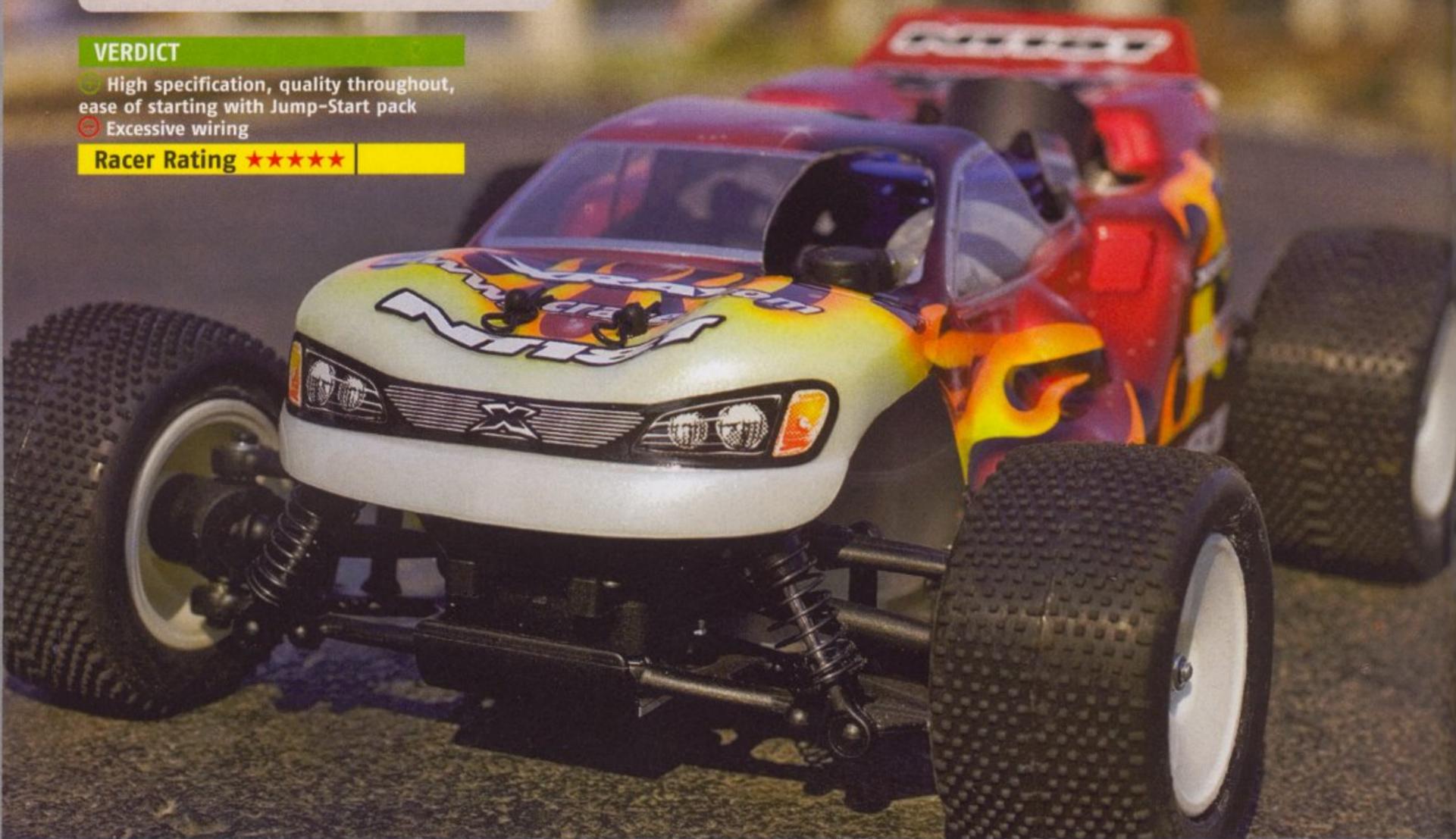
RACER TIPS

Use the manual for reference after building the kit as the Xray instructions are some of the best in the business. Don't forget that they have a very useful website too where there are pages of helpful information.

VERDICT

- ⊕ High specification, quality throughout, ease of starting with Jump-Start pack
- ⊖ Excessive wiring

Racer Rating ★★★★★



There is no doubt that the Xray NT18T is unique in its looks. The bodyshell hugs the chassis and has to mould itself around key items like the air filter, engine, etc. For use, you are advised to cut out part of the front window for access to the fuel tank and this helps to aid cooling with increased airflow to the engine. To make sure everything was working properly, we initially ran a tank of fuel through the engine whilst sitting on the dedicated Hudy Start Box. Although many engine and chassis manufacturers would prefer you to put a load on the engine during break-in, we like to run it firstly on the stand as this gives you a chance to check the radio settings and make sure everything is working before you run it in anger and speed!

Our first run was out on a smooth area and this gave us a chance to get a feel for the handling. The soft off-road tyres offered lots of grip, which made the NT18T sharp to drive. To be honest, we felt that the Xray chassis' ride height was better suited to smoother surfaces rather than more bumpy and rough areas. The small pin tyre design and limited clearance caused the truck to kick up off larger stones and the lock stops on the steering arms also sit close to the ground.

All this said, the NT18T is great fun and despite its 0.8cc engine, the overall package is a strong performer. Unlike some other micro engines we have tested, the one included with the Xray range of micro kits is easy to use, aided greatly by the powerful starter box that

turns the engine over at a good speed. One of the best things is that the tiny engine sounds the part as it revs cleanly with a nice pitched exhaust note courtesy of the alloy tuned pipe. The short wheelbase and our initial front toe-out setting made the truck a little twitchy so we dialled in some toe-in which made the NT18T more sure-footed. If you want to use the truck on a track with jumps, be prepared to have to learn the best technique. Keeping the truck on the ground as much as possible will allow it to excel – launching it skywards will not be the best method. Bearing in mind the small fuel tank, we achieved run times of over six-minutes once the engine had been tuned but bear in mind battery changes are not required and with a quick pit stop, the fun can continue...

The bodyshell is a snug fit around the chassis and its components

1



The build of the truck is excellent – something that we have come to expect from Xray

2



We found the ground clearance a little limited on the NT18T

3



LINKAGES/SHOCKS

With radio gear in place it is necessary to add linkages to both throttle and steering. The design of this is very well thought out as they simply fit on top of existing items and leave enough space to still make adjustments without any problems. The shock towers have different mounting positions, adding further to the adjustability of the car. The shockers are one of the standout features on the NT18T. With oil-filled coil-over damping, this helps the car to ride bumps with precision. Again these come with adjusters to help make ride height changes quickly and effectively. It is also possible to change front toe-in by alteration of the turnbuckle's length. Another inclusion is both front and rear anti roll bars, which only adds to the performance of the handling.

ADDING THE GLAMOUR

With such a great car underneath us it was only right to add some charisma to this little beast on the outside. By fitting racing style dish wheels with low pin tyres and a racing truck bodyshell to complete the NT18T, we can proudly present the world's first micro nitro off-road truck in full colour. ■

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www.teamxray.com

OPTIONAL PARTS

- Anti-Roll Bars (1.2mm)
- Aluminium 4mm Shock Towers
- Aluminium Oil Shock Absorbers
- Aluminium Suspension Blocks
- Adjustable Ball Differential
- Aluminium Driveshafts



We loved the tiny engine that Xray supply. Despite its small size, its a pleasure to use

SPECIFICATION

MODEL: XRAY NT18T



SCALE: 1:18
CLASS: OFF-ROAD
APPLICATION: FUN
FORMAT: KIT
POWER: NITRO
CHASSIS: ALLOY
DRIVETRAIN: 4WD
TRANSMISSION: SHAFT
DIFFERENTIALS: BALL
SHOCKS: PLASTIC
BEARINGS/BUSHES: BEARINGS

TECHNICAL DATA

LENGTH 208MM
WIDTH 185MM
HEIGHT 240MM
WHEELBASE 150MM
FRONT TRACK 178MM
REAR TRACK 180MM
WEIGHT 690G

WHAT WE USED

Nitro Kit

Transmitter: KO Propo Esprit II Vantage
Receiver: Nosram Gemini 40MHz
Steering Servo: Xray XMS01MG
Throttle/Brake Servo: Xray XMS01MG
Receiver Pack: Xray
Engine: Xray 0.8cc (kit)
Pipe/Manifold: Xray
Fuel: Tornado 16%
Glow Start: HPI

SUMMARY

Xray's impact on the RC industry has been huge and with recent developments in nitro, off-road markets and micro markets, they have combined their knowledge to create a very good package in the form of the NT18T.