



# QUICK drivers!

We take a look at the Tamiya Avante 2001 and Shooting Star Quick Drives

New sleek bodies and improved chassis make the new Avante 2001 and Shooting Star a good buy for anyone who fancies the fast option into R/C.



Suspension is simple but effective - servo is a separate unit to the speed controller. Wide front bumper helps against damage.

Both cars require either the wing to be fitted (Avante) or the body to be assembled (Shooting Star) also the stickers to be applied.

Let's say you walk into Beatties to look at buying a model car. "You walk into Beatties to..." Not that literally I mean you've got some spare cash, you've seen cars on the telly or at a local club and you want to know how much they cost and how you get started. When you go in you're given a whole load of prices from £100 upwards to anything like £400!, you look in the box and see a million bits - then you need a separate radio unit, a battery, a charger (fast or slow) - the list sounds complicated and long. We know that building a starter kit is easy, but to someone new to the subject it's easy to see why when they're offered the car in the box ready to go, with rechargeable batteries at under £100 they grab the chance while they can.

### Got to be Good!

So quite a few people end up with Ready to Run or Quick Drive cars, therefore it's really important that the cars are strong, reliable and fast enough to keep interest up. The latest two from Tamiya are the Avante 2001 and the Shooting Star, the first is of



Shooting Star body is from a Japanese comic character - still pretty good though!



course a smaller version of its big brother the 1:10th Avante 2001 and the Shooting Star is based on a character in a Japanese comic! Both cars

share the same design of chassis. This is a simple two wheel drive unit with independent front suspension sprung by soft springs but no dampers and a floating rear end which is also sprung by springs but is helped to soak up bumps with its floating system. The motor sits in front of the rear axle which gives good weight distribution. The electronics of the car are enclosed within the chassis and consists of the receiver and speed controller in one,



Rear of the car has the gearbox changer, two settings give low or high speed and therefore different running times.

the servo is a separate unit that sits at the front of the car and this has a servo saver fitted. The batteries that power the car are fitted into a hatch from underneath, eight are used and these can be charged via the charge socket in the car. This takes around five hours for a full charge!

### Performance Time

The performance of the car can be altered by changing the setting on the gearbox, the high and low settings change the gear ratio and give more or less speed of the car of running time. The speed of the cars is really quite a surprise, wheelspin on tarmac is no problem and spinning the back of the car out is also easy. On slow you can expect about 25 minutes running time and this is reduced to around 15 minutes on the fast setting. The frequency of the car can be changed as the standard format of 27MHz crystals are used in the car. This means racing the cars in numbers of up to six is easily possible. The toughness of the cars is also quite a surprise, the cars have a wide front bumper which gives good protection and the plastic the cars are moulded from is almost unbreakable. The cars are quite fast, are ready to run after just minutes of work and have a good running time - what else can be expected for under £100.