



The Surfite was a genuine surfer's car. Under its unique custom surfboard-carrying body is an Austin Mini Cooper chassis. Power was supplied by a 1269cc Austin Mini Cooper chrome-plated engine. Ed tried to get Surfite in a movie that he heard was being filmed in Sportsman's Cove in Malibu, and even though it was only a split second, Surfite made a brief appearance in Beach Blanket Bingo. Tool down to the beach in the Surfite, set up your Tiki Hut, sack out, and wait for the big one. This is the perfect set of wheels for the supreme surfer dude.

For the Modeler: This review covers the Re-Release (Re-Pop) kit from Revell, Kit #4347, Surfite custom car and Tiki Hut. The model is 1/25 scale and rated as a Skill Level 3 for the advanced builder. The build consists of 104 parts molded in White and Chrome and has Vinyl tires, a sheet of Clear Acetate and a pre-painted figure. While this looks like a simplistic build the chassis and motor is quite detailed. The body is a multiple part unit. The Tiki hut is multiple parts and needs detail painting to really stand out. There are three surfboards included and a figure of Ed Roth also. The decals are complete and include t-shirt designs for Ed. Instructions are straight forward and easy to understand. There are two major units in this build, the car and hut. Overall dimensions are: CAR: Length: 3-3/4", Width: 2-3/8", Height: 3". HUT: Length: 4", Width: 3" Height: 4-1/2".

BUILDING CAVIATS: Having organization and a proper work area is important if you want to build a model properly. But even without dedicated space a place to leave your build while you work is necessary. Being able to lay out your parts organized helps the build as you are not digging for parts in the box possibly losing or damaging them. Also you really should have a place to let painted parts cure.

Throughout the review you will find **OPTIONAL IDEAS** that I suggest. These are completely your choice. Not doing these steps will in no way affect the build, they are just ways to offer some personal and custom touches to your builds. **OPTIONS** will be noted. One of the best parts of model building is using your imagination to create the car YOU want! Unless you are building a “Factory Stock” or a “Replica” car your choices of color and build options is completely up to you. The instruction give recommendations but you are free to substitute whatever options you want. There is no “Wrong way” to build your kit! Have fun and enjoy your hobby. Review the instruction sheet thoroughly to get familiar with the assembly sequence. Decide your color scheme in advance and your custom options so you can build accordingly.



PIC 1 This is the box art for this kit as released in the 2015 Release version. Unless otherwise stated I use Testors Tube Glue (Orange Tube) for assembly of the parts. Other adhesives used in the construction are Superglue and Elmer's White Glue. Paints consist of Testors Enamel or Tamiya Acrylic bottle paints and different brands of “Rattle can” spray paints. The body is finished using 1:1 automotive use paint products shot with an airbrush. One of the major benefits of using automotive paint is a very fast drying time. You can get just as good results using Spray can products but they require a longer drying time. Automotive paint is FULLY cured in less than an hour and clear about 6 hours. Use a good quality airbrush to paint automotive products because Lacquer Thinner will destroy the cheaper ones quickly. Assembly paint colors may vary from instructions as I use simplified colors that most model builders should have on hand. Before beginning your build soak and wash your parts with a mild detergent like DAWN to remove any mold release agents and help with paint adhesion. **Note to remember:** Always follow the Manufacturer's Safety and Use Guidelines when using any of the products mentioned in the review for your own protection.



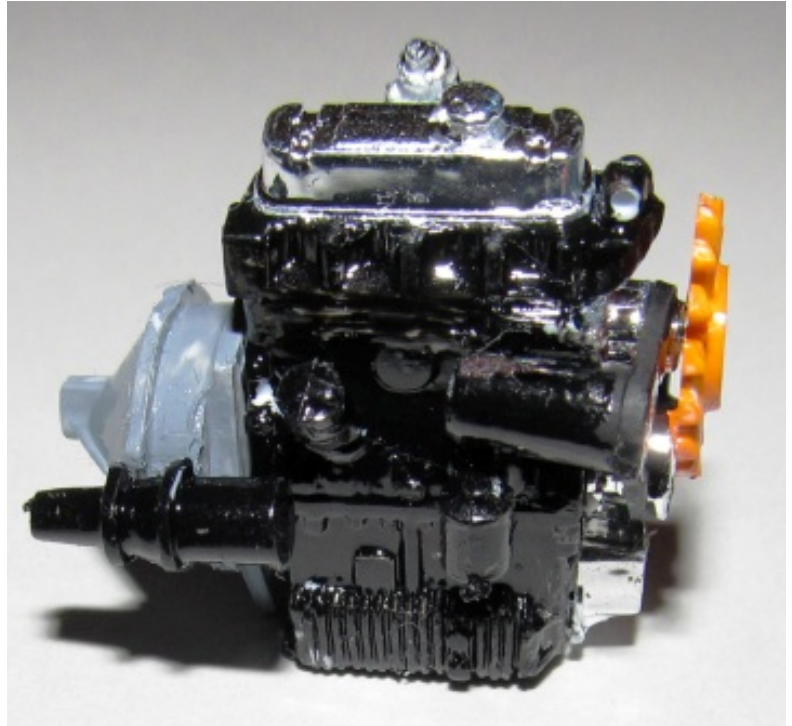
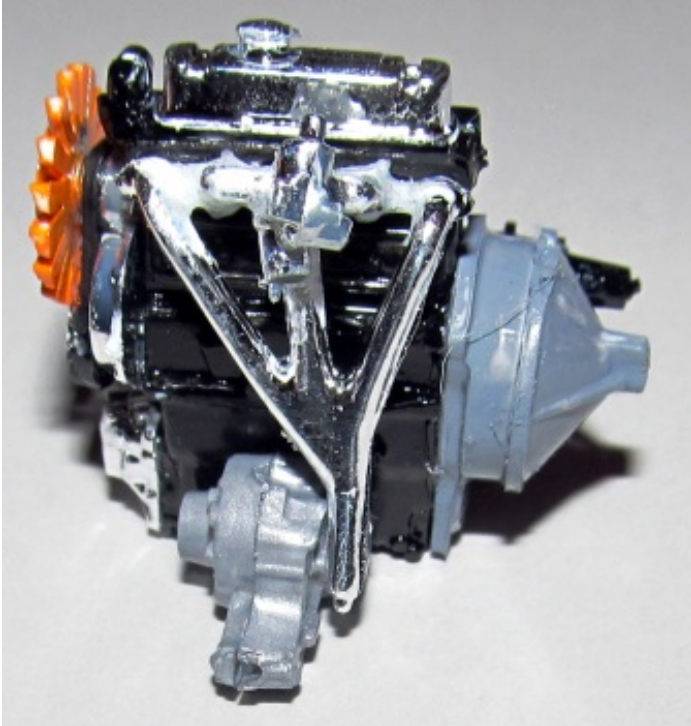
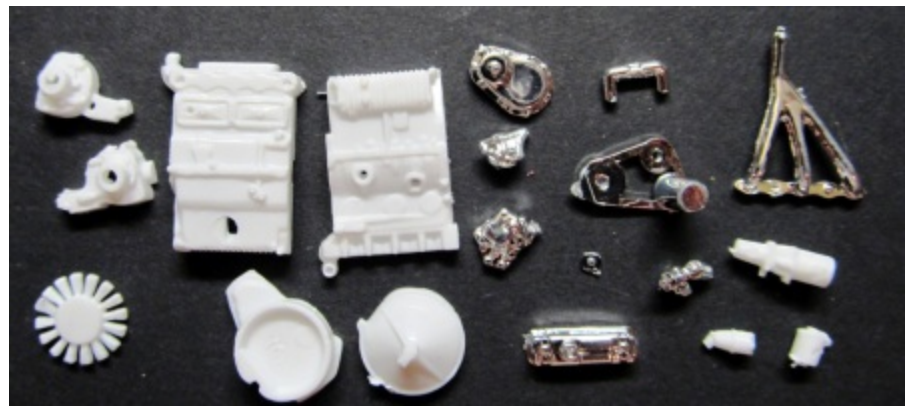
PIC 2 PIC 3 Here are the decals in this new edition. You get Surfboard decals, T-shirts for the figure and the hut signs and a fire. The car itself has only tail lights and grille decals. Like all recent Revell decals these are high quality with a good color and resolution. The decal will float quickly and adheres quickly also. I would recommend using a setting solution to give the extra time to line up the decals. I use Microscale Ind. solutions as they are the most compatible with all of the decal brands I have used.



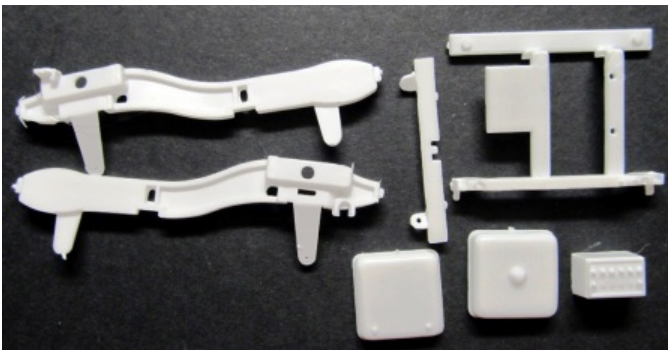
PIC 4 PIC 5 My kit did come with the resin figure damaged. As of this point I have not seen a replacement part from Revell. I was forced to repair the resin figure and use it damaged for this review.



PIC 6 Now, to start the motor. Some parts are assembled prior to painting. Assemble the transmission and paint it Gray. Assemble the block and paint it Black. Assemble the transaxle and paint it Aluminum. Paint the distributor, oil filter and starter Black. The belt and generator are Flat Black. The fan is Yellow.

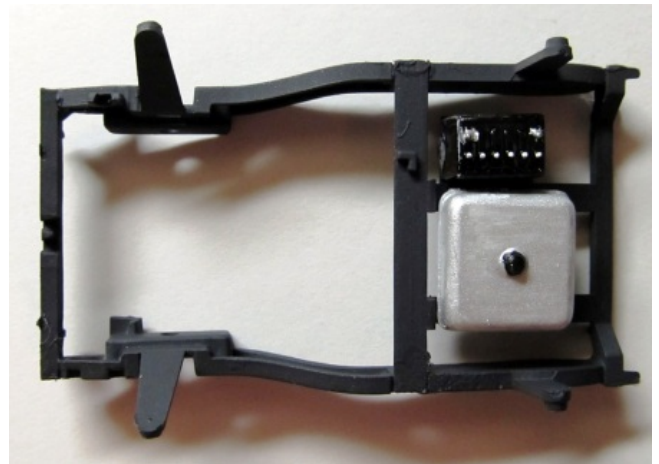


PIC 7 PIC 8 Attach the transmission to the block. Add the transaxle. Add the water pump, timing cover and engine cover. Attach the intake to the exhaust and the carb to the intake, install that to the block. Add the valve cover and oil cap. Install the oil filter, distributor and starter. Add the belt and fan.



PIC 9 PIC 10 Assemble the frame rails with the center and front supports and paint that unit Flat Black. The battery is Black

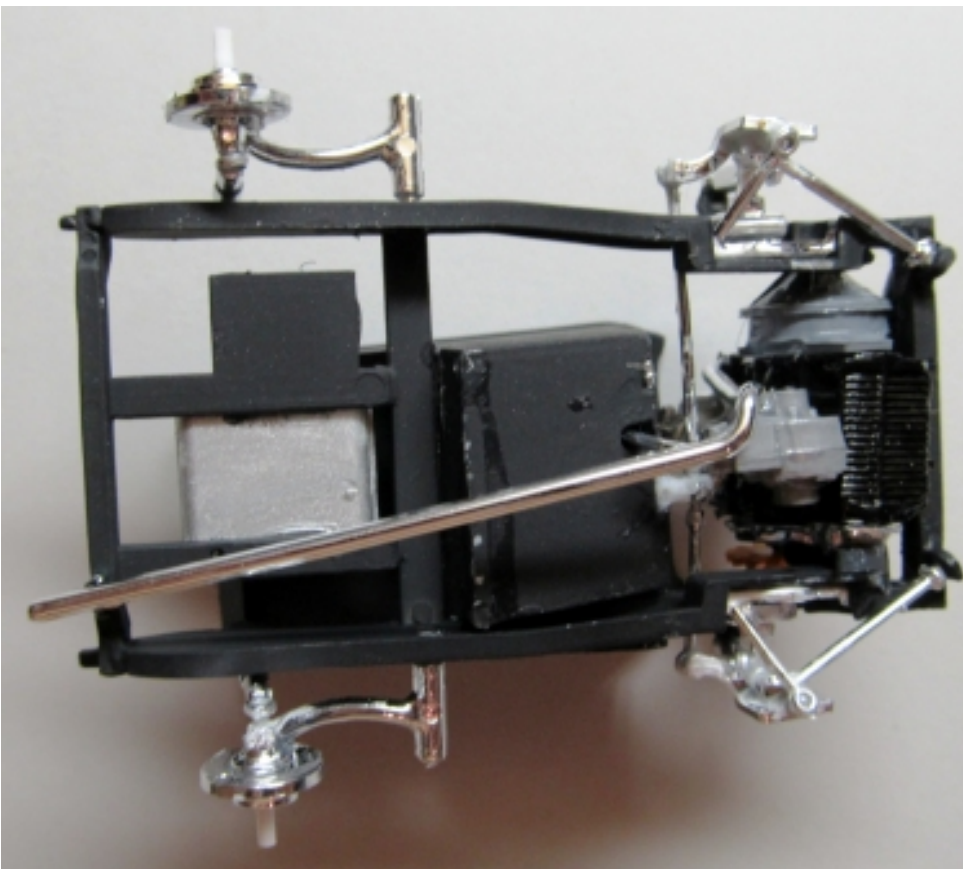
with White caps and Steel posts, install it. The gas tank is assembled and painted Aluminum with a Black cap and installed.





PIC 11 PIC 12 Use Superglue on this assembly. Paint the interior tub Flat Black with Black pleating. Install the gas pedal. Paint the clutch and brake pedals Black. Paint the wheel Black. The instruments have no details and there are no decals for them. I used scrap decals from my excess parts. Attach the instrument panel to the column and add the pedals. Install the tachometer to the column. Add the wheel to the column. Install the finished column into the tub.

PIC 13 The suspension is very detailed and has many small parts, alignment is important. Use Superglue for strength.

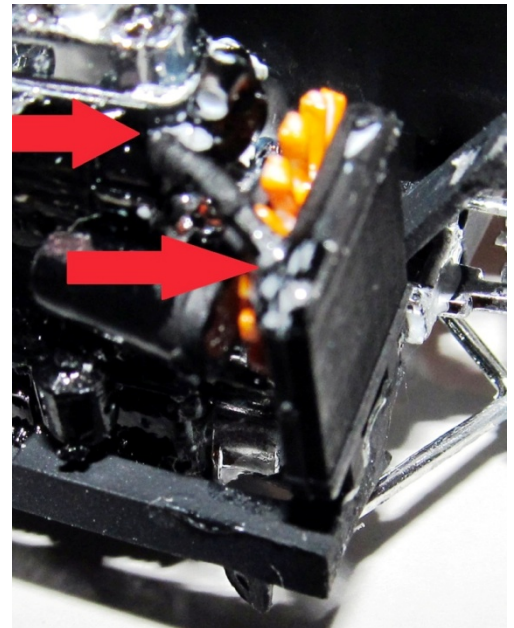
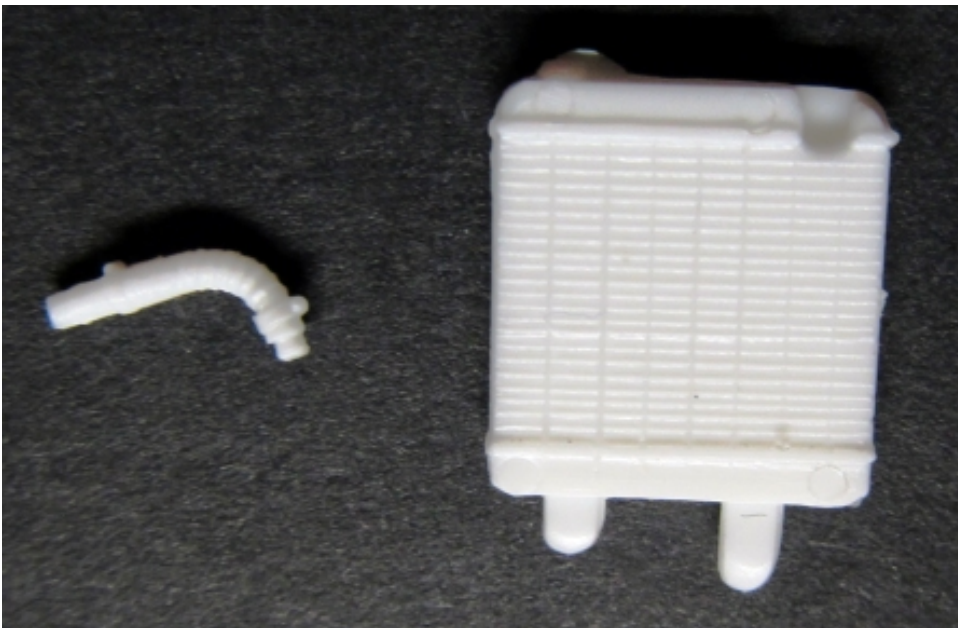


PIC 14 On the rear add the shock to the upper mount. Install the trailing arm. Insert the pin into the hub and install that on the trailing arm. (DO BOTH SIDES). On the front add the upper control arm and lower control arm. The spindle is installed in those. Add the shock into place. (DO BOTH SIDES). Assemble the interior tub into the frame. Now add the steering arms through the frame into the steering knuckle and the spindle.

PIC 15
Install the motor into the frame.
Add the shifter into the interior and attach the transaxle.
Install the exhaust.



to

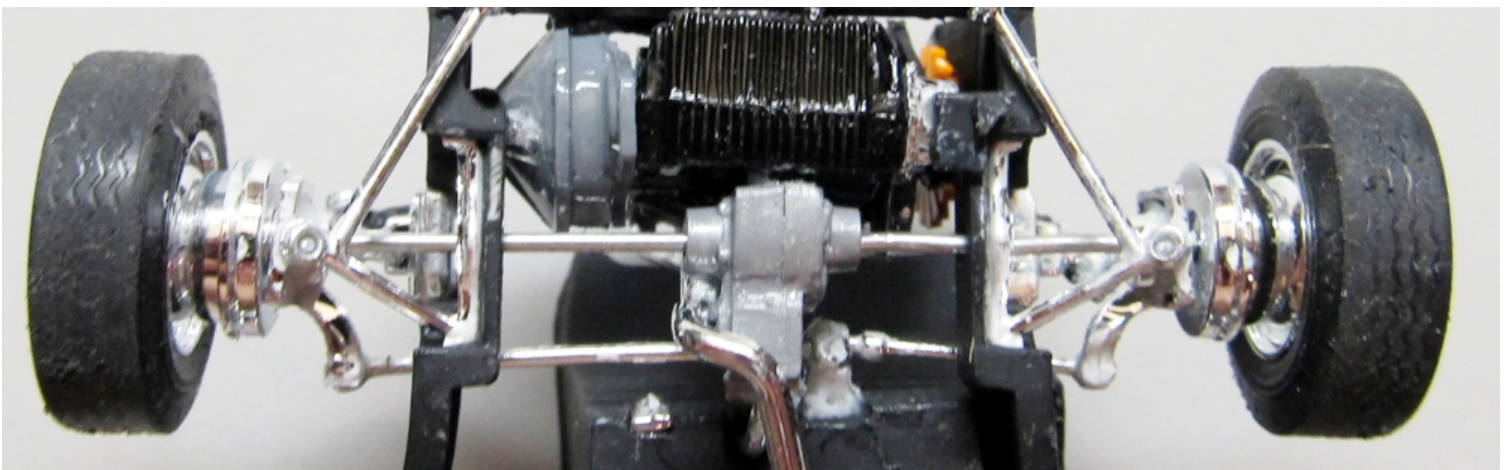
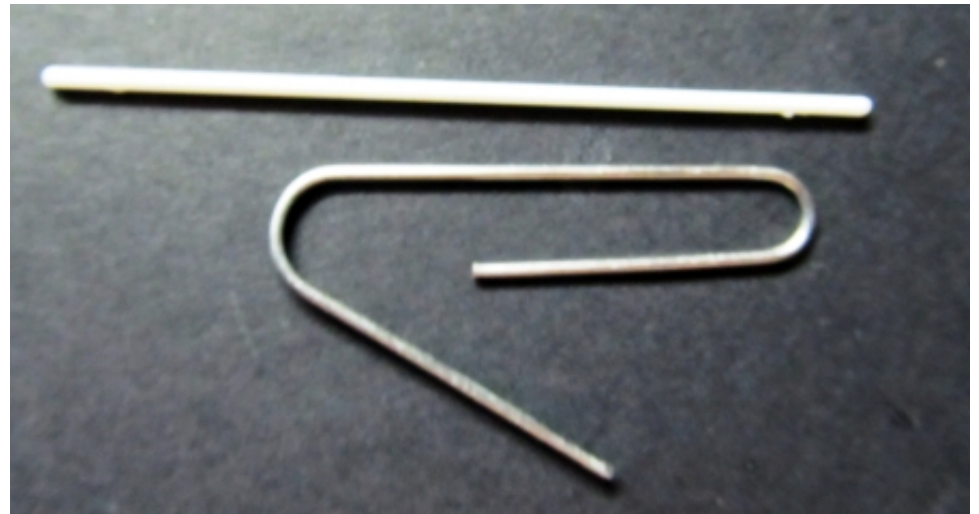


PIC 16 PIC 17 Paint the radiator and hose Flat Black and install the radiator on the frame and the hose from the radiator to the motor.

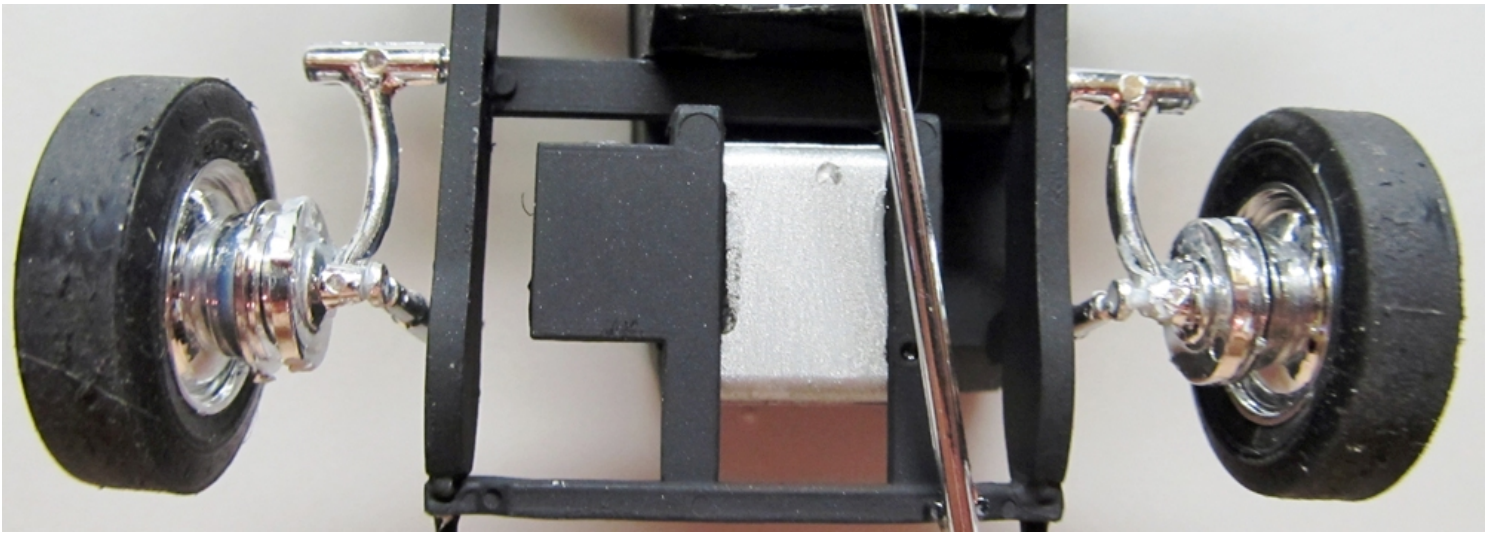


PIC 18 PIC 19 The tires need to be assembled. Take note the SMALLER tires are in the front of the car. To give the tires a road used look roll and press the tread on 220 grit sandpaper. Install the spinner onto the hub center. Insert the rim into the tire. Add the trim ring. Do all four tires this way. On the FRONT add the brake drum and inner wheel. On the REARS only add a brake drum.

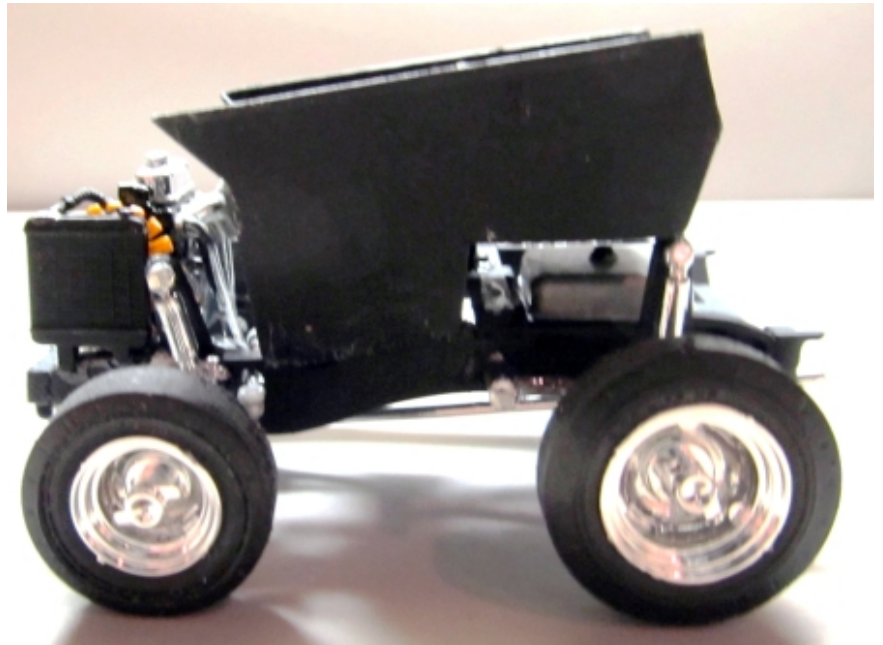
PIC 20 I replaced the fragile plastic axle with a PAPERCLIP that was very close in size, straighten and cut to the proper length.



PIC 21 Insert the axle from one spindle through the frame into the transaxle then through the other frame and spindle. Add the front tires.



PIC 22 Add the rear tires.



PIC 23 PIC 24 At this point the chassis is completed and can be set aside for now.



PIC 25 PIC 26
The body can be completely assembled prior to any paintwork. Trim any flash and rough edges. Glue the upper half to the lower half. Add the wheel wells and the rear panel. The hood is left loose.





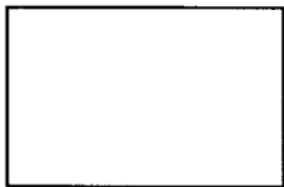
PIC 27 & PIC 28 The car can be wet sanded with 800 grit paper and prepared for the Primer coat. Prime the whole car inside and out. Wet sand the Primer coat with 800 grit paper and prepare for the base color. Paint the body Yellow inside and out.



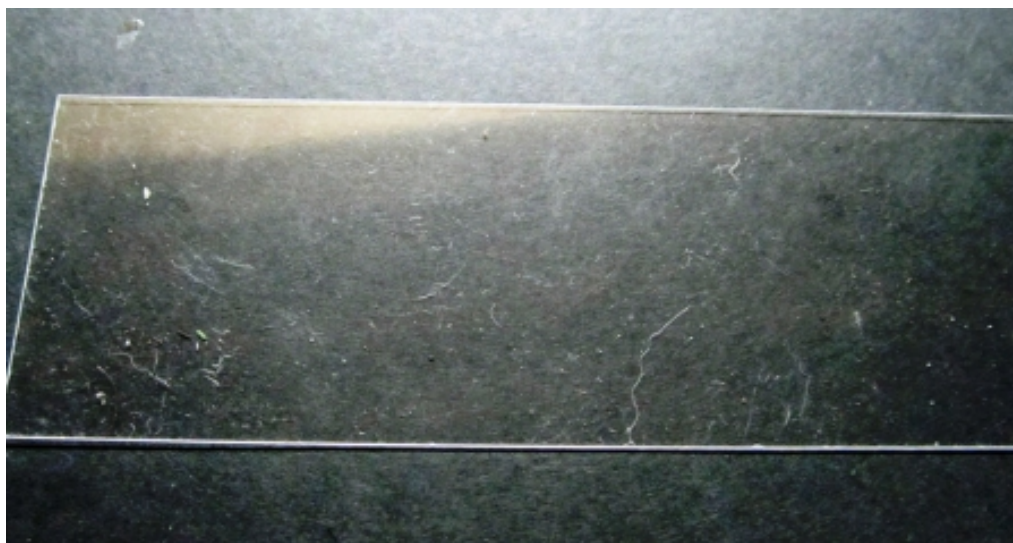
PIC 29 Body Decaling and Finishing: After you have your base coat on the car you are ready to decal it. Remember decals lay better on a GLOSS surface and will not adhere properly on a FLAT surface. If you decal a flat surface you get what is called SILVERING of the decals, or the look that they are not adhered, as air is trapped under the decal. Clean your work area good so no dust or grunge from building and sanding gets under your decals. Pick the decals you want to work with and plan out how the best way to lay them out without handling previously laid decals will be. I try either a Front to Back or Top to Bottom approach doing one side at a time then the front and rear of the car in steps giving the decals time to set and dry in place before handling it again. Once you have a plan of action cut your first decal as close to the edge of the outermost color as possible. Once trimmed

place the decal into warm water and let it get soft until it "Floats" loosely on the carrier paper. Microscale Industries has a product set called Micro-Set and Micro-Sol. The purpose is to soften the decals to help them conform to the contours of the body and lay smooth. To apply Micro Set, use a soft brush and apply Micro Set to the part where you are going to apply the decal. Next apply the decal as normal. Use a small pointed tip synthetic bristle brush and carefully position the decal. Blot the decal carefully with a Q-tip or paper towel so as not to move it and allow it to dry. For a tougher decals apply Micro-Sol with a small flat brush on to the decal. Apply with as few strokes as possible so as not to disturb the decal. As the decal dries slowly work any creases or blemishes in the decal out with a Q-tip or damp paper towel. Work slowly as not to damage the decal. A second coat of Micro-Sol can be added if needed. Now continue this process until all the decals for that area are done, wait for them to set and continue the rest of the car. Let the decals cure at least overnight before applying your clear coat.

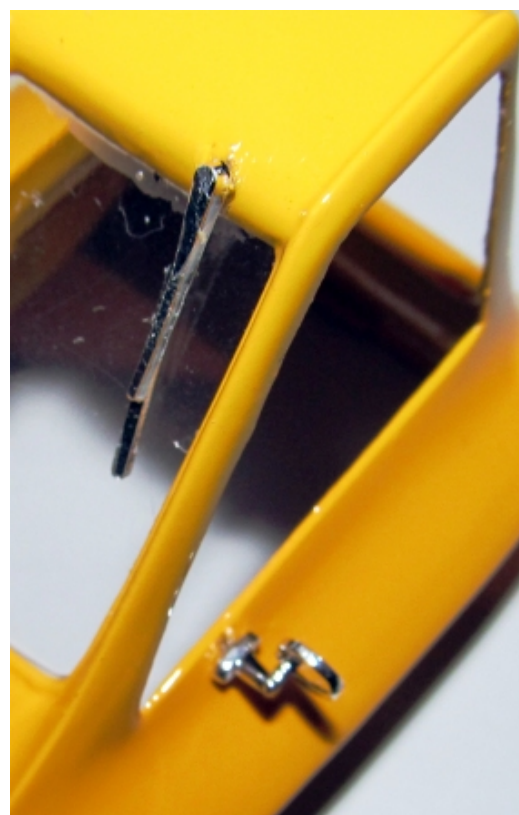
WINDSHIELD PATTERN



NOTE: CAREFULLY CUT OUT WINDSHIELD USING THE 1:1 TEMPLATE SHOWN. GLUE INTO PLACE ON THE INSIDE THE BODY WITH WHITE GLUE.



PIC 30 PIC 31 In the instructions find the template for the windshield. Use the sheet of clear acetate to cut a piece to fit the window and install it inside the body with Elmer's Glue.



PIC 32 PIC 33 Final body parts can be installed on to the car. The wiper is on the front. The mirror on the driver side and the tag surround on the back.



PIC 34 The body is installed on to the chassis now. This completes the car assembly for now.



PIC 35 PIC 36 Here are the finished front and rear photos.



PIC 37 PIC 38 The Tiki Hut is built and painted. The colors are up to you. I did mine in Flat Brown with light and dark washed on highlights. The details are all painted with different color Flat paints to highlight the items. The walls are constructed and then that is assembled to the floor and add the roof. The sign is added last. There are DECALS for the side sign and front sign.



PIC 39 PIC 40 The TV antenna and chimney stack are assembled and installed on the roof.



PIC 41 ***NOTE*** On the DECAL sheet there is a fire pit fire. Cut out the fire and glue it in a circle. Add that to the fire pit if you want to include it.



PIC 42 PIC 43 There are three surfboards. Paint those the colors you choose and add the decals. The larger 2 piece board is inserted into the surfboard groove on the Surfite itself. One of the smaller boards leans against the hut and the third is held by the Ed Roth figure. There are DEACLS for one small board and the large board.



The build is complete and all parts of the kit were used with no excess other than a few decals for the figure's T-shirt variations.

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OVERALL IMPRESSIONS: This kit was fun. Although the chassis can be a slight challenge if you take your time and use Superglue for strength it is a solid build. The motor is multiple parts and small. Take care when assembling to get the parts straight. There are positive location points for the parts which really helps. The body fit is good. Although it should have no panel lines in the rear section as that was a solid piece. Taking some time with putty would easily remedy that. The overall suspension build was not difficult but the parts being all chrome and small does make attachment issues with Testors Glue, so use Superglue there. The Tiki Hut is a basic square build and easy. Detail painting is the most important part of that. To really show the neat design you probably should use a lighter color for the walls to highlight the thatching better. Be creative on it! The pre-painted Ed figure is a nice addition but as earlier noted I did get a broken one. The surfboards do fit in place nicely in both the car and Ed's arm. This is a really neat looking build when finished and would make a great start to a beachfront diorama. Overall fit and finish was good and car went together quite easily. Based on the build quality and finished look I give this kit a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10.

PREMIUM MODEL REVIEWS

