



HANNOVER HOT HATCH

Rallying's all-conquering
VW Polo R WRC is put through its paces with
Ian Granger's build of Belkits' comprehensive 1/24 scale kit

Volkswagen Motorsport began competition in what is now the World Rally Championship (WRC) in 1978, employing different versions of the Golf until the company's withdrawal in 1990.

With the acquisition of the Skoda marque, VW returned in the late 2000s with the Skoda

Fabia in S2000 guise. In recent years, Belgian rally kit specialist Belkits had released a 1/24 kit of this car, so it was no surprise it would continue the partnership with its latest offering, VW's Polo R WRC. The real vehicle has dominated the sport since its full introduction in 2013, winning a record number of rallies and three

consecutive constructors' titles and drivers' championships for Frenchman Sébastien Ogier. This trend continued during the 2016 season, with a fourth 'double' on the horizon!

The people's choice

With its world-beating record, it would have been a travesty

had a kit of this notable vehicle not been released. Replicas of the cars driven by another well-known driver named Séb (Loeb) were produced by Heller (Citroën Xsara, C4 and DS3) during his decade of dominance, so this was a 'must have'.

When AMW's sample arrived, the builder was amazed at the quality on offer. A comprehensive haul of 133 parts, with crisp, flash-free modern mouldings filled the large (and deep) box. The body shell was supplied in its own separate mini-box, to avoid crushing of the delicate roof pillars. A further seven bags contained a runner each; five in white, one clear for the glazing, and another chrome-plated item for the headlamp inserts. There was a bag containing vinyl items, five tyres and two under-body protection flaps, to simulate 'kaylan' stone guards. Two small photo-etched (PE) metal frets provided various grilles, seatbelt hardware and the brake disc rotor faces.

Comprehensive decals for the 2013 Rallye De France (Alsace) included options for all three competitors (Ogier, Latvala and Mikkelsen). A 20-page full-colour instruction booklet supplied photographs of the real car(s) during the rally in question. The final items came in a Ziploc bag, with scale metal aerials and supports for the night-stage lamps, plus self-adhesive VW emblems and mirror glass...what a fantastic effort!

However, during construction it was realised a was bag missing from the review sample. This should have contained black fabric for the seat belts and



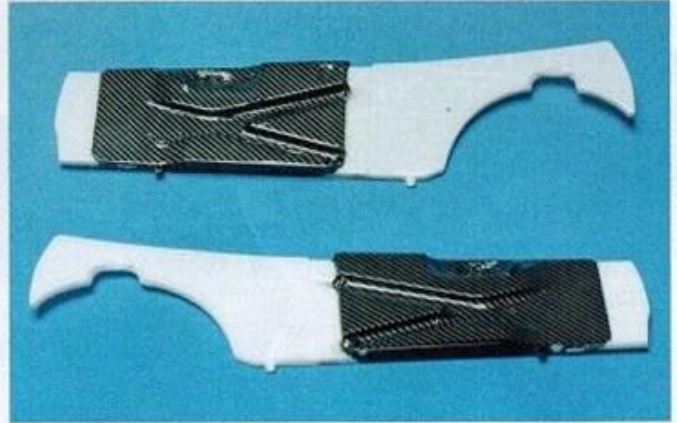
▲ The body was suspended on a Tamiya Spray Works Painting Stand for the application of Vallejo's 73.600 White Primer, airbrushed at 15psi (1.03 bar).



▲ Holes for the damper reservoirs and rear anti-roll bars were drilled in the wheel arches, despite the unhelpful lack of locating marks on the mouldings.



▲ Rather than use a spray can, or decanted paint, Tamiya's standard X-2 White acrylic was selected for the main body shell top coat.



▲ Tuner Model Factory Twill Gradients Carbon Fiber Decal Black/Silver (Small size), simulated the door card coverings.



▲ The front 'grille' and rear venturi panel (shrouding the exhaust) were also treated with carbon-fibre decals, on this occasion from Pit Wall.



▲ Scale Motorsport's Carbon Fiber Plain Weave Black (SKU 1424), adhered well to the complex shapes of the double-wicker wing, which dominated the rear of the car.

white (paper-style) self-adhesive masks for the glazed items, but this didn't detract from the build, as they were replaced easily from the spares box.

Shakedown

Locating holes for the aerial mounts required careful drilling in the roof of the body, but thankfully, Belkits provided moulded dimples as a guide. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of the locating

points for the hydraulic damper reservoirs and anti-roll bars in the chassis/wheel arches. The instructions gave 'precise' measurements but actually, a degree of estimation was required. The easiest method was to mark the approximate locations, by painting the part 'pins' in black, touching the areas to be drilled with

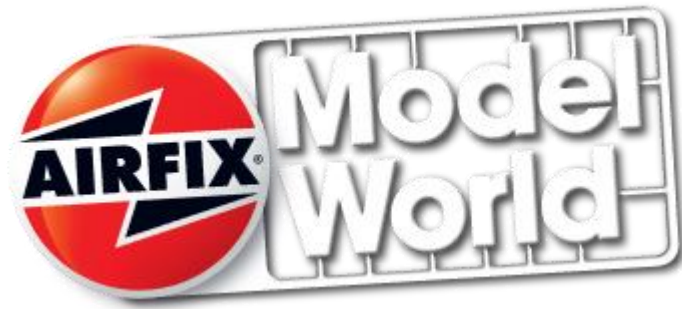
the paint still wet and then re-measuring. This was felt to be an unnecessary process, especially when considering the attention to detail on the rest of the kit's components. It was decided early in the build not to fit the rally pod lights, so the holes in the bonnet were not drilled. In a further deviation from the instructions, the

external roof vent was attached to the main body moulding, before primer application. The body was mounted on a Tamiya Spray Works Painting Stand, for application of Vallejo's 73.600 White Primer, which highlighted any areas of imperfection, such as mould lines or sink marks

Despite being moulded in white styrene, components on

MODEL SPEC	VW Polo R WRC - 2013 WRC Champion (Rally de France)	
	By:	Belkits
	Stock Code:	BEL-005
	Scale:	1/24
	Price:	£39.99
Available from: The Hobby Company, www.hobbyco.net		





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