



Jeremy Dunning

Slot Car Report

Mixing Slot Cars and Radio Control

A look at three classic racecars along with a well-executed motorcycle that is certain to bring in crossover customers.

Something that most retailers get enthusiastic about is a product that has cross-marketing potential and can be still be considered an entry level product. The Bycslot ISS (Interactive Slot System) is just such an item; includes the best features of slot and R/C cars and should appeal to both market segments. The Bycslot ISS comes in a variety of forms. A customer can buy a set with a motorcycle and special controller, a set with two motorcycles and controllers or simply buy a single motorcycle.

Many dealers have had trouble selling slot motorcycles in the past, but this product is totally different. It handles very well and has control for both throttle and attitude, or the direction and amount of lean angle. The driver enters a corner and then leans the cycle over with the wheel on the controller and backs off the trigger throttle control.

It is one of the coolest slot motorcycles I have played with in a long time. The motorcycle is highly detailed and very nicely painted and tampo'd in its Fiat-Yamaha livery. It also comes in two Ducati versions that look just as nice.

I bought the Valentino Rossi cycle, controller set, and a power pack. The controller has a throttle trigger, a trim wheel for the lean angle and two trim tabs for attitude and throttle. The trim tabs set the velocity and angle of the cycle. The attitude was set to vertical and the throttle to a slow velocity so I could back off going into corners without losing momentum. You can also switch mode from the Bycslot Interactive Slot System to traditional slot car format, meaning you can use the controller for other slot cars on the same track. The system works with Scalextric, SCX, or Carrera track systems and has its own power pack. It took less than a minute to set up the system and have it running.



Bycslot is offering a motorcycle that not only looks good but, by controlling lean angle, really works.



Carrera has released two very special digital GT touring racers, the Mercedes Benz SLR and the Nissan GTR.

After about 15 minutes I really began to get the hang of the system and had a ball really pushing the motorcycle around my Scalextric *Top Gear* track. It has incredible play value and is pretty robust and foolproof, especially for a detailed motorcycle. Considering what you get for your money, this is a real bargain. Two motorcycles and controllers cost about what a traditional set with track controllers and cars would cost. The system may also bring in motorcycle aficionados. Bycslot ISS products are available only from Euro Model Imports at www.euromodelimports.com. Check with Michael Ignatovsky for further information.

Carrera

Carrera has released two very special new touring car GT digital racers in the Mercedes Benz SLR and the Nissan GTR. I took the time to look up slot races through retail slot car shop tracks and private club-type programs and found a number that had touring car classes, so clearly this type of car is gaining in popularity. The Mercedes is a McLaren Mercedes in the legendary 722 livery. This is a throwback to the 1955 Mille Miglia

winning Mercedes Benz 300 SLR. Stirling Moss set a record in winning this race using Dennis Jenkinson, a reporter, as his navigator. Jenkinson wrote down every turn and straight in the course of 1,000 miles on a roll of paper and guided Moss though the race with hand signals.

Carrera has really nailed this difficult-to-model car, and the fit and finish are fabulous. The new magnet system combined with the killer Carrera digital system makes both of



Finished in British racing green and Graham livery, the Lotus 49B by Scalextric is simply outstanding.

these cars a lot of fun to drive. The Carrera system allows you to program up to five cars to run autonomously as "ghost cars" while you race another car against them. I usually program two cars and run a third. The Nissan GTR is also beautiful and has a spectacular yellow livery. The Nissan GTR is one of the most commonly raced cars in the world, so it should be popular. The handling of both of these cars is excellent and to my taste. The magnet is strong enough so that a driver can run quick laps but not so strong that it loses the road feel. This is so important to the fun level of a slot car. Too much magnet makes the car unrealistic and too little makes it hard to race. Carrera has it just about perfect. These cars should fly off the shelves.

Scalextric

Last but not least is the new Graham Hill Lotus 49B offered by Scalextric as part of their line of classic racers. In the early

1960's Graham Hill was my hero, as he raced his BRM against Jim Clark's Lotus. Hill won one world championship in 1962 and Clark two, in 1963 and 1965. In 1967 both Clark and Hill were driving for Lotus. In 1968 Clark won the first race in the Formula-One series and then lost his life in a tragic accident.

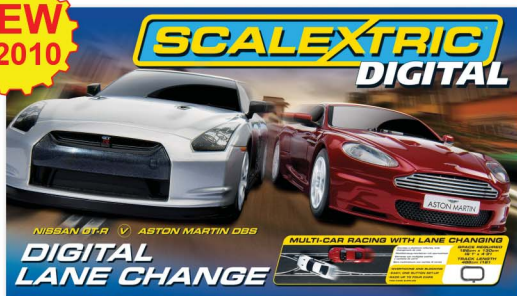
The livery for the Scalextric car is the last of the classic racing color-by-country livery. In the old days each country had its own racing color, with England having British racing green as its assigned color.

This Lotus is a real beauty, with a level of detail almost unheard of in slot cars. It is like a jewel and yet it runs very fast and handles very well. The magnet is just about right for this kind of car, and the paint and tampos is up to Scalextric's usual high standards. I bought two so I could race one and keep the other as a display under a souvenir racing program signed by Graham Hill at Watkins Glen in 1962. This item is perfect for your regular collectors. **HM**



www.scalextric-usa.com

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- C7008 - Out to In, Right hand turn
- C7009 - In to Out, Left hand turn
- C7010 - In to Out, Right hand turn



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