

Lights, camera, inaction

The Scion Fuse concept reveals a brighter future for custom cars

The wheels light up to show where you're turning

NEONS ARE SUCH A NINETIES CUSTOM car modification. But the dim blue glow beneath a Citroen Saxo as it farts its way through the Burger King car park is soon to become a vision of the past. Over to Toyota's US-based, youth-focused division Scion to – cough – light the way ahead.

The Fuse concept features a number of bedazzling innovations. Like a world's first appearance of indicator signal lights built into the spokes of the wheels. Or headlamps and foglamps that the driver

can switch the colour of from inside the car. Or even the large badge on the bonnet with a screen set behind it through which downloadable jpegs or video clips can be displayed.

Flick open the butterfly doors and the electronic entertainments continue. The steering wheel has PlayStation-style controllers to allow it to be hooked up to a games console, playing through double 10.5-inch monitors in the dash. No need to cruise – just park it up, and enjoy.



Twin monitors in the dash, thumb pads on the wheel

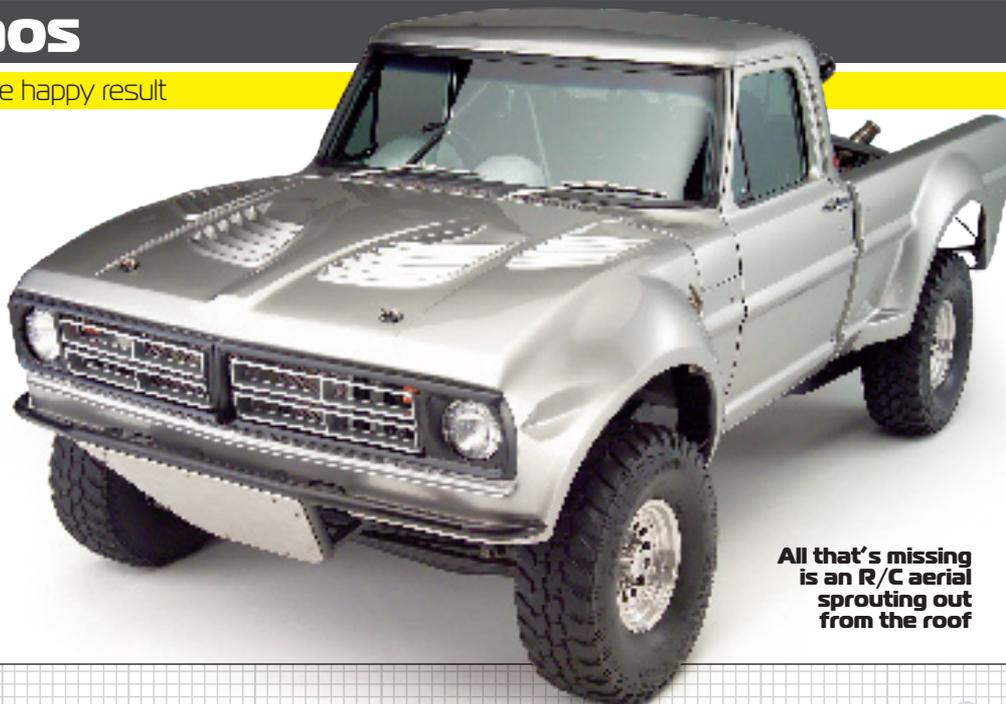
Toying with chaos

If Tamiya made real cars, this would be the happy result

GRAB A COPY OF THE REDNECK SPOTTER'S Guide to Obscure US Pick-Up Trucks and you'll find that a 1969 Ford F100 lurks at the heart of this creation. Only the YLab Racing Development F2000 has diverged more than a little from the original's design brief.

Power comes from a 464 cubic inch (or 7.6-litre) Ford-derived V8, complete with alloy heads and twin turbos to give... 900bhp. In fact, if you can find the right race fuel, a dial on the dashboard then allows you to up the boost pressure to give 1,000bhp. As if 900bhp could be considered lacking in any sense.

The front and rear clamshells are now made from lightweight glass-fibre, while the unique long-travel suspension is said to allow the F2000 to assault four-foot jumps (whoop-deos, as they're known in the Baja desert) at 100mph. Insane. See www.fordf2000.com.



All that's missing is an R/C aerial sprouting out from the roof