



Nismo R34 GT-R Z-tune

Scale 1/24



Manufacturer:	Tamiya
Model:	Nismo R34 GT-R Z-tune
Colour:	Plastikote white primer, Tamiya TS-17 Aluminium Silver, Tamiya TS-13 clear
Modifications:	Tamiya photo-etched parts set
	Charcoal grey flocking applied on parcel shelf
	Lowered body on wheels by 1mm
	Aoshima Japanese tax disc decals on windscreen
	Aoshima Japanese parking sticker decal on rear screen
	Fujimi Japanese license plates on front and rear

Made by Karl Briffa

Description of the Build

Nissan's own racing team, Nismo, developed 20 special R34 GT-Rs to celebrate their 20th anniversary. These were presented at the 2005 Tokyo Auto Salon and named Z-tune. In the same year, Tamiya released kit number 282, which is 1:24 scale version of this 500hp Skyline.



This is the Tamiya box art



And all the pieces included inside the box

This GT-R model is already amazing out of the box, so no modifications were planned for the body, chassis and interior. The best upgrade available to make this kit more realistic is the photo-etch set released by Tamiya specifically for the Z-tune. It includes a full brakes set, oil cooler, metal meshes, exhaust tip, foot pedals, license plates and an interior carpet set complete with Nismo decals.



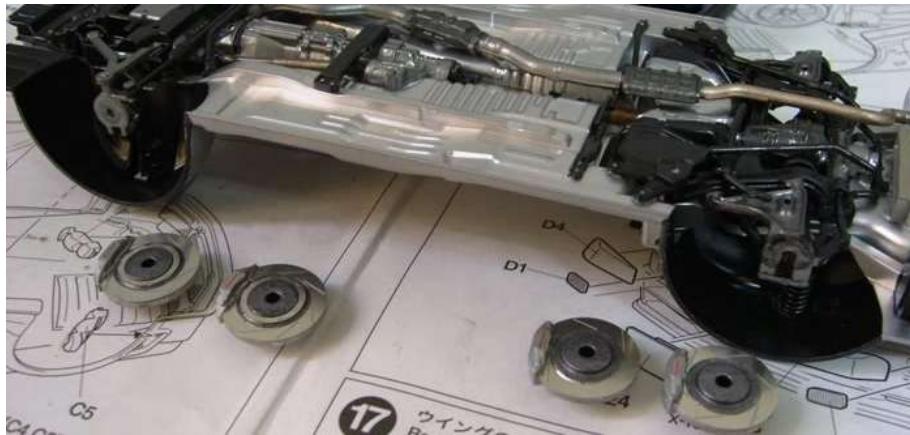
The Tamiya photo-etched parts set

Before starting the kit, a research about the Nismo Z-tune was done and I came across this photo of a lowered example (below). I instantly liked its ride height and decided to lower my scale R34 too.



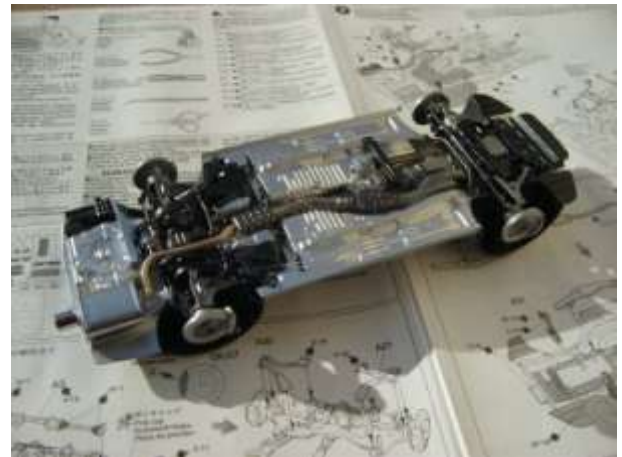
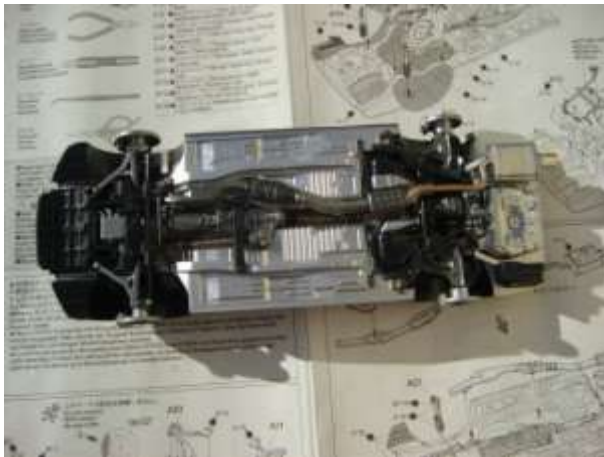
The lowered Z-tune that inspired me to lower my scaled version

This picture was therefore printed for reference and work started on the chassis. It was sprayed and painted as described in the instructions manual. To lower the ride height, the original wheel mounting hubs were sanded down and the disc brakes were attached at a higher position. This made the wheels attach at a position closer to the wheel arches, hence giving the GT-R the desired lowered look. This technique also left all four wheels rotating freely and the front ones steerable.



The modified mounting hubs and the finished brakes ready to be attached

Once satisfied with the new ride height, the chassis was fully assembled (as can be seen in the two pictures below). Other additions from the photo-etched set included: the four brake rotors, differential oil cooler, intercooler mesh and exhaust muffler tip.



Two images showing the all finished chassis

The next step in the process was the interior. Again, this was painted as explained in the instructions manual. Additions included: four black carpets with Nismo decals on the interior floor and metal clutch, brake and gas pedals from the photo-etched set. Finally, charcoal grey flocking was applied on the parcel shelf to make it look more realistic.



Two images showing the all finished interior

Next, the work on the body was started. It was first sprayed in Plastikote white primer, then in Tamiya TS-17 Aluminium Silver and finished in Tamiya TS-13 clear.



The body sprayed in white primer



Then sprayed in Aluminium Silver

After the sprayed clear was left a whole week to fully dry and harden, the body, side mirrors and rear spoiler were polished using Autoglym polishes until the desired shine was achieved. Then, the window trims and front bumper spoiler were masked and painted in Tamiya semi-gloss black.



The shine achieved after polishing the body



Masking window trims and front bumper spoiler

Finally, all the final body accessories were attached and the Z-tune was declared finished. Additions to the body included: six metal meshes behind front bumper from the photo-etched set, Japanese tax discs on windscreen and a typical parking sticker decal on the rear screen from an Aoshima decal sheet and Japanese license plates from a Fujimi decal sheet.



The tax discs and license plate (in red circles)



The all finished Nismo GT-R R34