

# FUJIMI

## Toyota Vitz U

Scale 1/24



<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Fujimi
<b>Model:</b>	Toyota Vitz U
<b>Colour:</b>	Plastikote white primer, Toyota 8K8 Dark Blue Mica, 2K clear
<b>Modifications:</b>	Original front grill cut out and used Tamiya mesh instead
	Tamiya Skyline 17-inch rims and tires
	Tamiya Skyline front and rear brakes
	Crazy Modeler Brembo decals on front brake callipers
	Crazy Modeler photo-etched rotors on front and rear brakes
	Resin radiator mounted behind front bumper mesh
	Scratch-built front spoiler and side-skirts made from body filler
	Tamiya 350Z boot spoiler modified to fit the Vitz
	Seat belt fasteners made from plastic
	Detail Master medium grey flocking

**Made by Karl Briffa**

## Description of the Build

Since the Toyota Vitz is one of the most popular Japan imports in Malta, I decided to build my own miniature version of this popular car. First thing to do was to order a Toyota Vitz U kit made by Fujimi.

This is the Fujimi box art



All the pieces included inside the box



The only problem encountered was related to the Fujimi version of the Vitz as it is the basic standard edition and I was looking to build a slightly modified Vitz with aftermarket spoilers and wheels. A research for a modified Toyota Vitz was required to find the ideal reference for this project. The result of this research were these two photos below which clearly show how an aftermarket front spoiler, side-skirts, top rear spoiler and bigger diameter wheels look on a real life Toyota Vitz.



The first step in this project was to cut open the standard Fujimi grill on the front since this was moulded as an entire piece with the rest of the body and looked unrealistic. Instead, I used Tamiya mesh to cover these openings.

The original Fujimi grill



Cut open to use the Tamiya mesh instead



The following task was to choose a set of wheels. The first Vitz in the reference pictures has a set of 17-inch five spoke rims. This nice combination encouraged me to start searching for similar wheels. The final choice was a set of Tamiya Skyline 17-inch rims and tires that are very similar to the wheels on the reference car. A set of Tamiya Skyline disc brakes were added to mount these new wheels onto.

The original Fujimi wheels and brakes on the left and the Tamiya Skyline wheels and brakes on the right



The next step involved cutting off the Fujimi wheel mounting hubs and replace them with the new Tamiya brakes that were attached directly to the chassis. This gave me the possibility to adjust the ride height in any desired position while having all four wheels still rotating and the front ones still steerable.

The Skyline brakes glued to the Fujimi chassis



With all the necessary modifications done, it was time to start spraying the chassis and all of its components. This was done by first spraying the Plastikote white primer, followed by airbrushing the Toyota 8K8 Blue together with the 2K clear. Finally, all the remaining pieces were painted as instructed on the Fujimi manual before the chassis was fully assembled.

The front section of the finished chassis



The rear section of the finished chassis



The Skyline brakes were painted in their original colours, which are gold callipers with Brembo lettering and a black centre. For the Brembo decals, Crazy Modeler tuner decals were used. A set of Crazy Modeler photo-etched brakes were added to allow the rotor part to be more realistic. The suspension springs were painted green since the Vitz was going to have a lowered stance when finished and so I chose to replicate a set of aftermarket springs made by a company named Tein, the ones seen below.

The original colours of the Skyline brakes



A set of Tein Toyota Vitz springs



When all the chassis components were ready, it was time to start working on the body. After examining carefully the reference photos, a scratch-built front spoiler and side skirts from automotive body filler (hard-metal) were made. Once these looked smooth enough, it was time to start constructing the top rear spoiler. For this, a Tamiya 350Z boot spoiler was used after modifying it accordingly to fit the Vitz rear section. These modifications made the spoiler look more similar to the one in the reference photo.

The front spoiler and side-skirts



The modified Tamiya 350Z rear spoiler



After all body modifications were finished, the next step was to apply the primer where Plastikote white primer was used. The finishing spray colour used was Toyota 8K8 Dark Blue Mica, a popular colour in Malta found mostly on Vitz imports. The final step was the application of several 2K clear layers, which were later polished using Autoglym polishes. This concluded the exterior built up of the Toyota.

Undercoated in Plastikote white primer



Airbrushed in Toyota 8K8 blue and 2K clear



The original standard colours listed in the assembly manual were followed for the interior. The only difference was that Tamiya paints were used instead. Every colour was airbrushed and this involved complex masking procedures. However this helped in achieving a very smooth overall finish.

Dark grey applied and masked for the light grey



Spraying the final colour, the flat blue



Detail Master medium grey flocking was used for the interior floor and parcel shelf; this provided a replication of the real interior of a typical Vitz. Finally, two seat belt fasteners attached between the front seats were made (as can be seen in red). Below are two images showing the all finished interior.



After finishing the interior, the final step was to spray the rims in grey metallic, attach a set of Racing decals and finally spray a coat of Plastikote clear. The last thing left to collate all tasks and produce the final result of the model was the final assembly! After attaching all the last accessories such as wipers, side mirrors, lenses..etc, the Vitz was finished and a picture of the outcome is displayed below. Here, the Vitz is shown onto a garage diorama, which I built for this purpose.

The finished wheels



The Vitz finished and pictured onto a diorama

