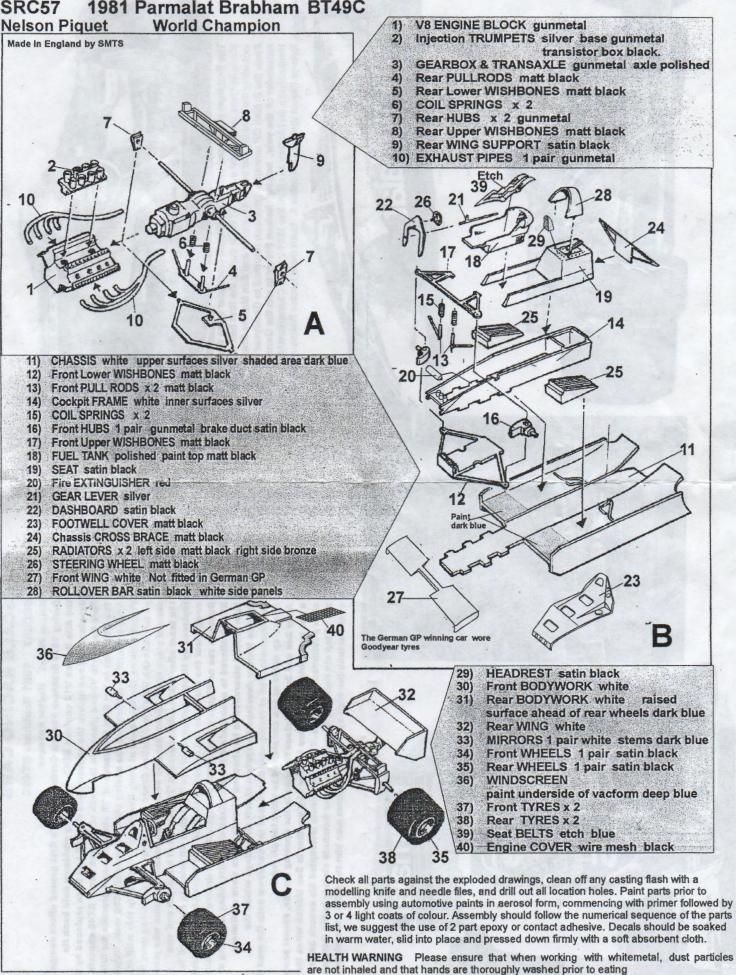
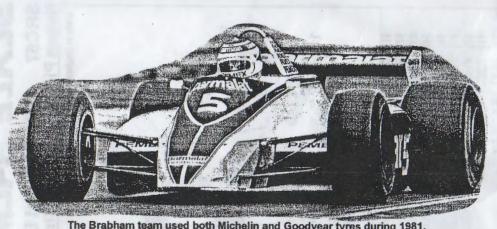
SCALE RACING CARS

1981 Parmalat Brabham BT49C





The Brabham team used both Michelin and Goodyear tyres during 1981.

Michelin tyres were fitted on the BT49Cs during the first half of the season including the winning car in the Argentine and San Marino Grand Prix.

From the British GP onwards Brabham returned to Goodyear for the remainder of the year, helping Nelson Piquet to win the German GP at Hockenheim on his way to claim the 1981 World Championship.

Nelson Piquet drove car number 5. team mate Hector Rebaque number 6.

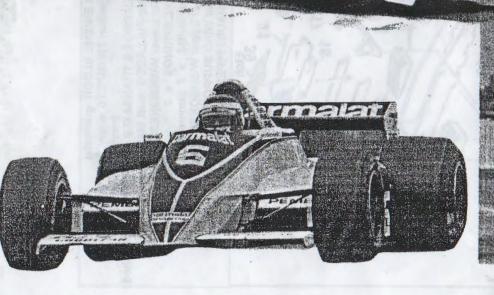
SCALE RACING CARS

SRC057 1981 Brabham BT49C

Nelson Piquet Hector Rebaque

During 1979 Brabham had run Gordon Murray's first ground effect design, the Alfa Romeo V12 engined BT48. Reliability problems held back its development and before the seasons end the V12 had been replaced by the Ford Cosworth V8 and placed in the back of a 'sawn down' BT48 chassis. The BT49 ran in the final two races of '79 showing some promise for future. After a winter of refinement the sliding skirt car started 1980 well, Nelson Piquet winning the 4th round at Long Beach. He followed up this with other victories in the Dutch and Italian Grand Prix. Other top 6 finishes gave him second place in the championship behind Alan Jones. Zunnino who joined the team after Niki Lauda retired in '79 was out of his depth and was replaced by Hector Rebaque for the '80 British GP bringing Pemex oil to co-sponsor the team. He ran higher up the grid and scored a 6th in Canada. Rebaque ran as Piquet's team mate throughout 1981 driving the updated BT49C altered to accomodate the new fixed side skirt ruling requiring a 6cm ground clearance to be checked when the cars were stationary. Gordon Murray developed a system of soft air-springs which the aerodynamic load at racing speeds pressed the car down onto the road only to rise up again as the car slowed to enter the pit road.

After 2nd and 3rd third place finishes in the opening rounds, Piquet scored a run away win in Argentina followed by another in San Marino when the circus returned to Europe. Three accidents interupted his season before a run of top six finishes, including another fortunate victory in the German event around the high speed Hockenhiem won him the 1981 Championship.



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