



# HOT, HATCHED!

In a stroke of genius, **Heller** have released an all-new kit of the classic 1980s hot hatch, the Peugeot 205 GTi 1.9!



Peugeot's 205 hatchback is considered to be an icon of the 1980s, even though production ceased in 1998. It was the embodiment of lightweight, efficient design with perfect proportions and an excellent suspension. The latter factor made it an ideal candidate to be a 'hot hatch' and in 1984, that is exactly what happened, with the launch of the 1.6 engined 205 GTi. Two years later, Peugeot released the 1.9-litre engined version and it instantly became a sports car classic and, to the chagrin of VW owners, a slayer of the Golf GTi. The engine was tuned to create 130bhp – not much when compared to today's street racers, but don't forget, the 205 weighed a minuscule 921kg! With an incredible power-to-weight ratio, the 205 was a blast to drive and is much sought-after buy collectors today.

It absolutely had to be a French model manufacturer release a kit of this brilliant little car, and Heller stepped up to the challenge. A sample was delivered recently to TMMI towers for review and the very first thing we looked at was the body profile, because if it wasn't the right shape, it's hard to gather enough enthusiasm to go ahead with the project. We can happily report that Heller have got this aspect just right, with the bodysell capturing the outline to perfection, creating a tingle of excitement for this reviewer!

The kit is moulded entirely in white polystyrene (a pain to photograph for review purposes!) and it comes with a lovely replica of that screaming four-cylinder petrol engine, plus individually-moulded doors. The hatchback is moulded closed, but the

bonnet is separate to show off the engine bay after completion. Detail throughout is incredibly sharp, from the door cards to the open-moulded front grille. The wheel-arch extensions are separate parts, making painting much easier. The interior has received a little more attention than usual, coming with rear cabin liners that incorporate front and rear seatbelts, which look rather good.

There are plenty of other neat touches of detail that make this kit an absolutely must-have for any modeller of classic motoring, particularly if you've driven one, as this reviewer did, back in the day! ●

**Availability:**  
[www.heller.fr](http://www.heller.fr) &  
 good model shops worldwide

