

MENG



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modeller



C2

CANADIAN LONG-TAILED LEOPARD

THE SUPPORTING ROLE IS ALSO WONDERFUL

1/35
SCALE



MENG



There are rich details on commander's cupola; 7.62mm MG and commander sighting system are realistically realized on the model.



Detailed and eye-catching turret smoke grenade launchers, periscopes, panoramic sight.

Brand new tooling low-light TV camera



Crew steps are represented by PE parts.



The additional front fenders and side-skirts are the great difference between AMX-30B and AMX-30B2.



The NBC system on the rear of the turret is precisely reproduced.



✓ Protection grilles are realistically presented by PE parts.



✓ Various parts are orderly on the rear of AMX-30B2.



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Meng AFV Modeller is published Bimonthly by
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ISSN 1747-4183



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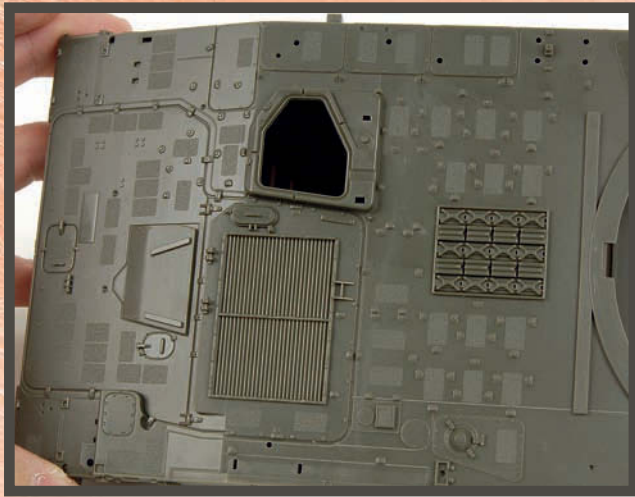
Haubitze Time

Meng's new 1:35 Panzerhaubitze 2000 modelled by **David Parker**



That's right, it's Haubitze time and with its massive gun and purposeful stance the Panzer Haubitze 2000 is an undeniably impressive vehicle and another interesting choice by the Meng design team. The vehicle itself is used by German, Dutch, Greek and Italian forces and has seen action in Afghanistan with both the German and Dutch ISAF forces so there is plenty to inspire you. The kit provides the variations to allow you to model a choice of German, Dutch and Greek vehicles with markings for a choice of three German vehicles with one Dutch and one Greek scheme. The kit comes with a turned aluminium gun barrel and stunning individual link tracks as well as a choice secondary MG armament and a choice of muzzle or protective cover. Two photoetched frets are provided for the various grilles and a clear sprue with all the periscopes, light clusters and warning beacon. Its all ready to go and so we dived straight in!

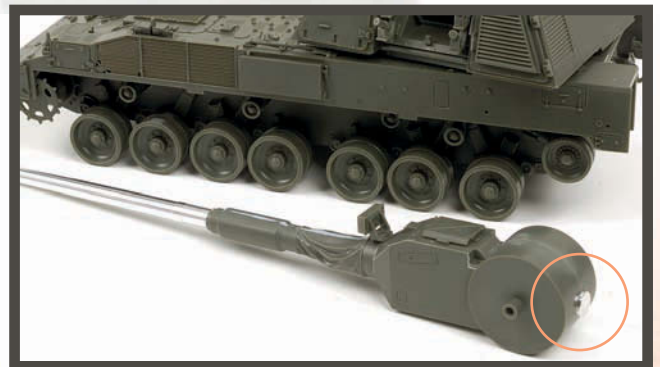




As soon as you rip open the plastic bags that hold the kit parts you cannot help but be impressed by the quality of the mouldings and the fine surface detail. The anti-slip panels across the hull and the turret roof are beautifully rendered and the main hull and turret components can quickly be dry assembled to give a sense of the impressive size of the model. The details on the lower hull are quickly assembled and the kit features working torsion bar suspension. All the wheels except the return rollers have poly caps so they can easily be removed for painting, expect for the sprocket which is tucked in behind the front mudflaps.



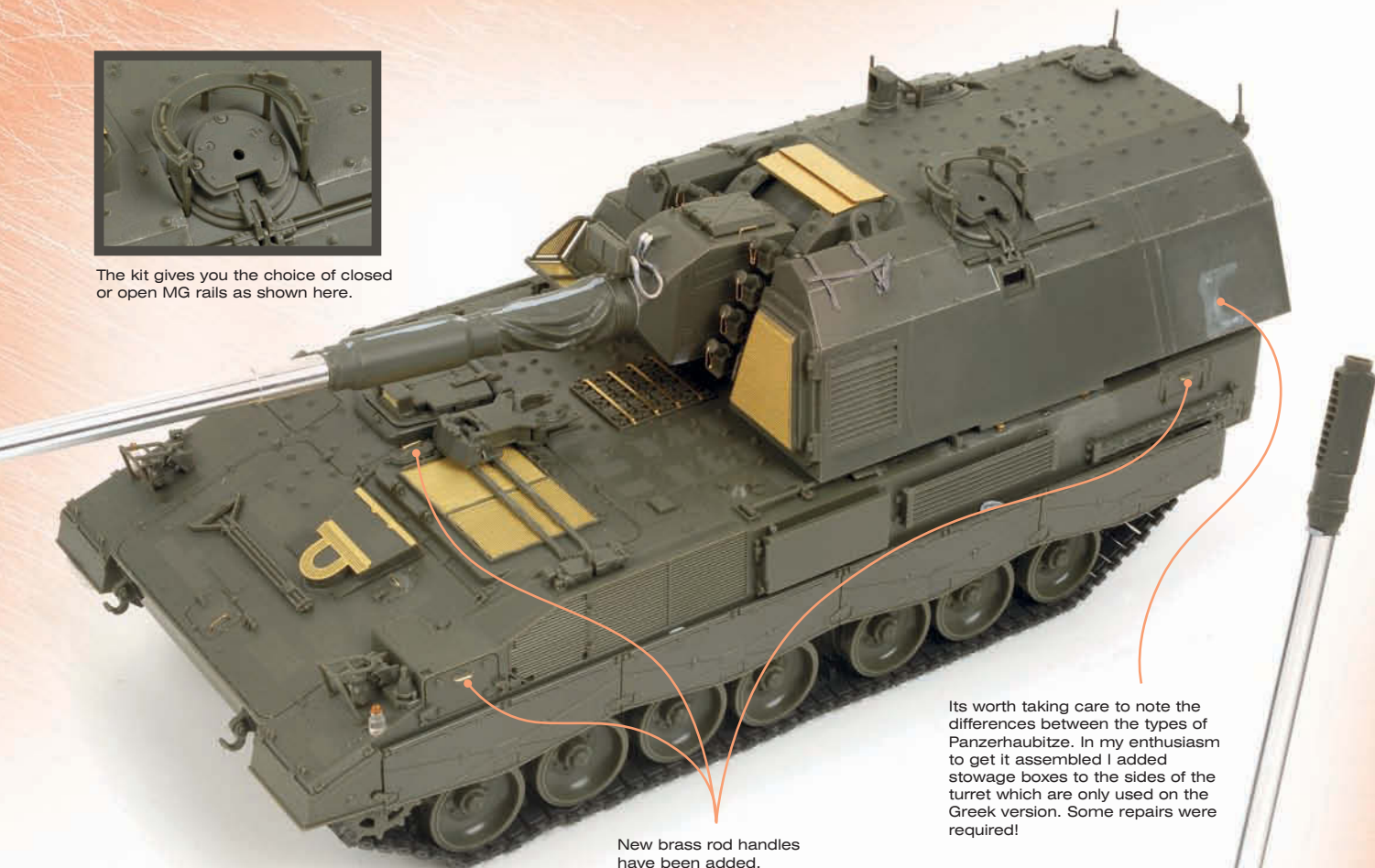
This has to be one of the fastest builds that I have undertaken mainly due to it having the main shapes moulded as one and it reminded me of a Tamiya kit in terms of the design approach and moulding quality. The main gun has notches machined into it so that the plastic parts locate perfectly with the barrel running the full length of the plastic sections and extending out of the base for added strength. The sagged fabric gun sleeve is really well handled and the gun is mounted with poly caps to allow it to be adjustable. I would recommend leaving the gun separate to ease the painting.



On the back doors the handle is moulded solid so I decided to replace it with a new version made from brass strip.



The kit gives you the choice of closed or open MG rails as shown here.

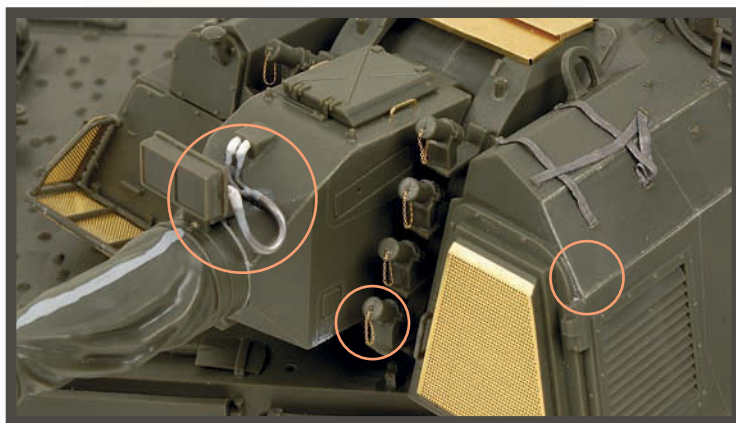


New brass rod handles have been added.

Its worth taking care to note the differences between the types of Panzerhaubitze. In my enthusiasm to get it assembled I added stowage boxes to the sides of the turret which are only used on the Greek version. Some repairs were required!

The kit has a few solid moulded handles on the lockers down the side of the hull and the engine deck so I shaved these off and replaced them with new ones made from brass rod. I also added stowage straps on the top of the turret and the stowage basket using lead foil and the electrical cabling on top of the gun which was made from lead wire with plastic rod connector plugs. My only other additions were to add the chains on the smoke grenades using Hauler fine

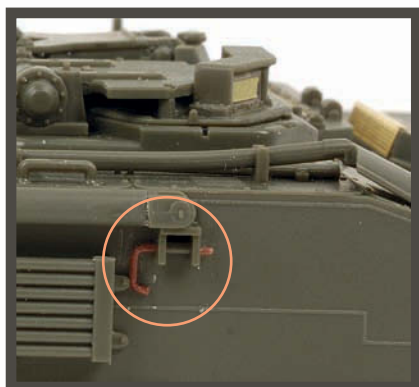
chain and the replace the moulded pins on the towbar mounting brackets with plastic rod versions. The tracks are a three part design with upper and lower halves sandwiching around twin pin connectors. Initially I found it quite frustrating to dry assemble the upper section and track pin / connectors on the jig before dropping on the track pads, but once you assemble one eight link section you get the hang of it and I managed to assembly what I needed quite quickly.



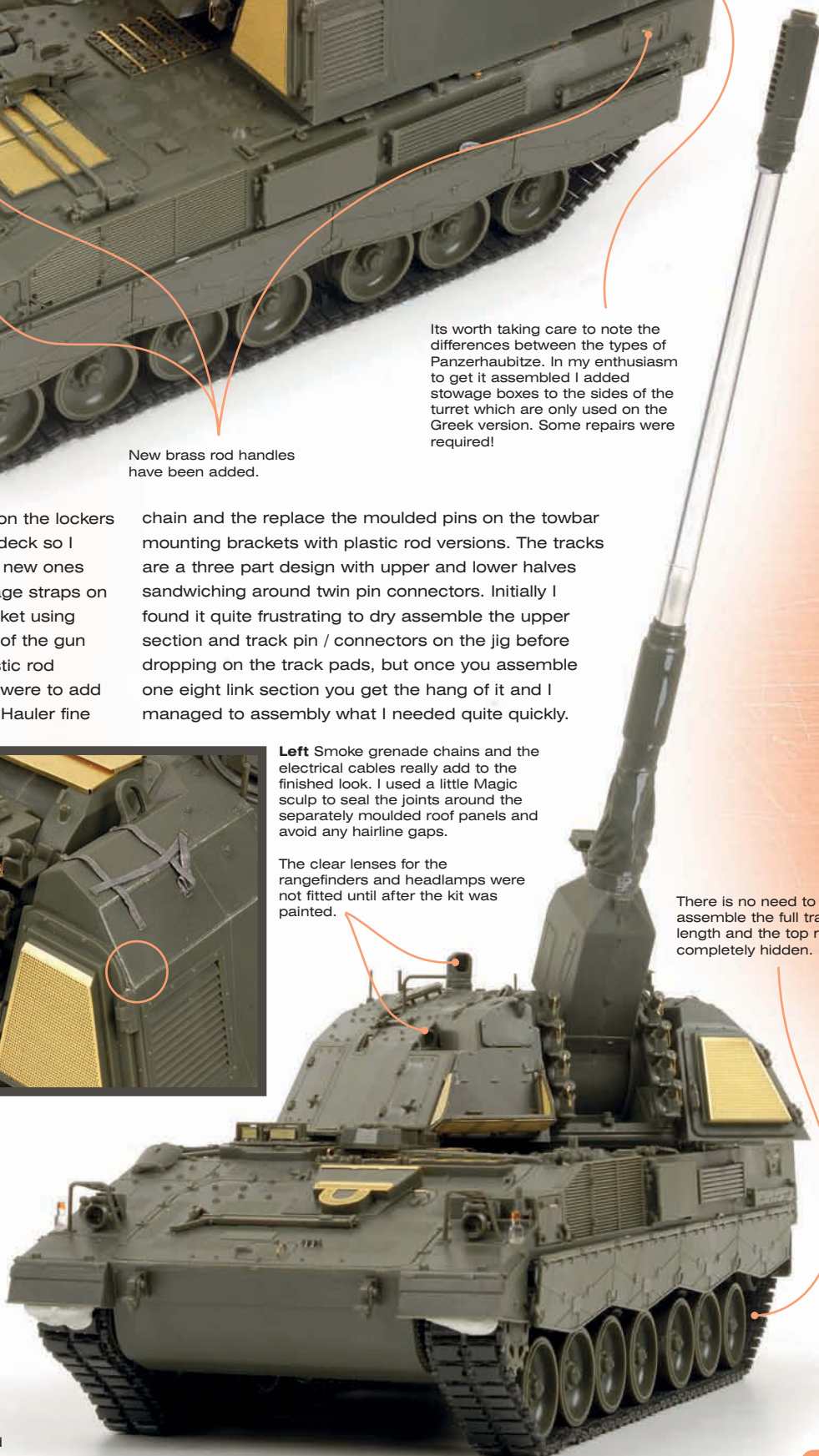
Left Smoke grenade chains and the electrical cables really add to the finished look. I used a little Magic sculp to seal the joints around the separately moulded roof panels and avoid any hairline gaps.

The clear lenses for the rangefinders and headlamps were not fitted until after the kit was painted.

There is no need to assemble the full track length and the top run is completely hidden.



Pins on the tow bar bracket were shaved off and replaced with plastic rod versions.

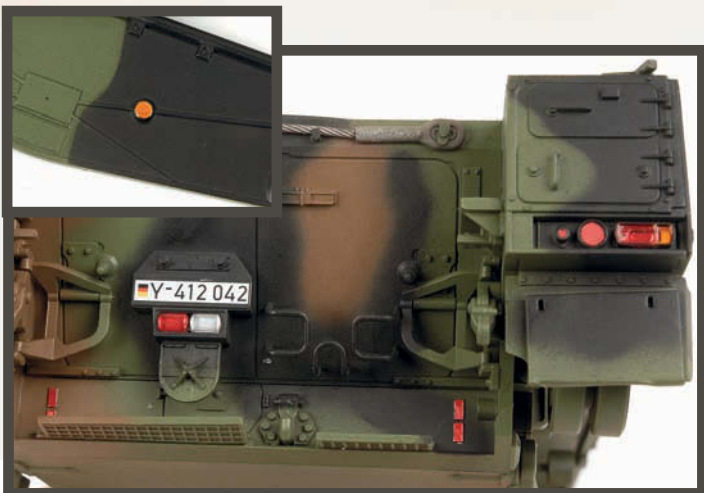




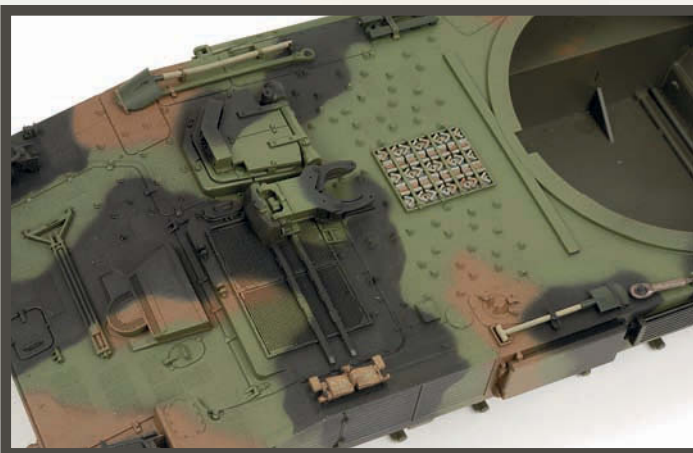
Painting began with some Mr Surfacer 500 sprayed over the gun barrel as a primer followed by an overall coat of green using a mix of 80% Gunze H422 with roughly 20% H73 as I tried to match the colour from photographs.



The black camouflage was mixed from Lifecolor black with a touch of UA 201 to lighten it and the brown was applied using Vallejo Air 035. A mix of cardboard masks and freehand spraying was used for the camouflage and I was plagued by malfunctioning airbrushes but eventually I had the camouflage complete. The model was sealed with satin varnish and the decals applied which worked perfectly.



The clear plastic light clusters were painted with Mr Metal Color Aluminium on their reverse sides and clear red and orange was applied to the front surfaces. The reflector strips were base coated with Aluminium and then top coated with clear red. The side reflector discs were handled the same way but top coated with clear orange.



The fixtures and fittings were painted prior to weathering with particular care taken to not overdo the rusty effects on the spare track link.



This was my first attempt at the three colour NATO scheme and I could see that the tight edges of the sprayed scheme would present a challenge. Working from the full colour marking schemes in the kit instructions I cut a selection of cardboard masks to assist me in spraying the pattern. Note that there is an error in the camouflage drawings showing the engine deck / front mudflap area. There should be an area of red brown camo inboard of the mudflap running up behind the light cluster but it is shown as black on the diagram. Having the gun and side skirts separate at this stage was a big help in applying the camouflage.

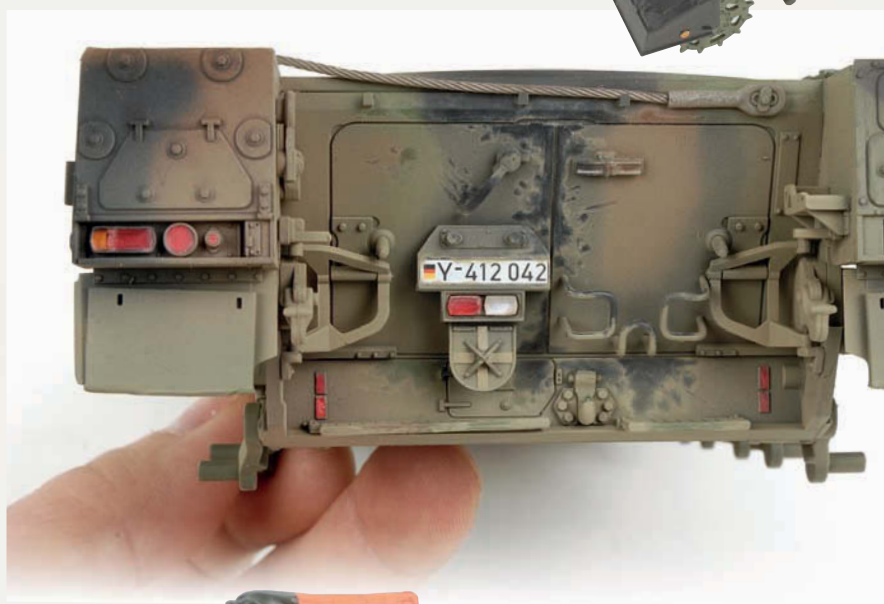
A quick Google search revealed several images of a dirty German PZH 2000 with mud thrown up all along the side skirts and heavy black exhaust stains down the left side of the hull so I decided to base my finish on these images.

Weathering began with an overall dark pin wash around all that lovely detail. My next step was to airbrush a coat of Humbrol 72 over the lower surfaces and the running gear. I then used a brush with white spirit to work into this and lift off the enamel to expose clean areas of the paint. This worked especially well around the rear hull doors.



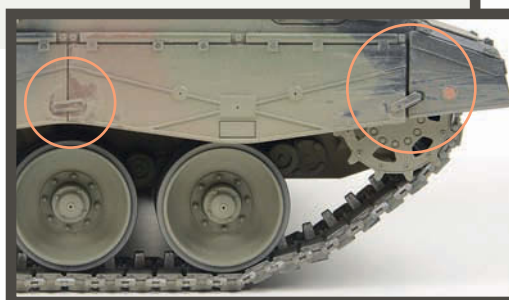
The yellow tape around the cables add a welcome touch of colour interest to the model.

Right the model seen here after the dark pin wash had been applied making all that detail pop!



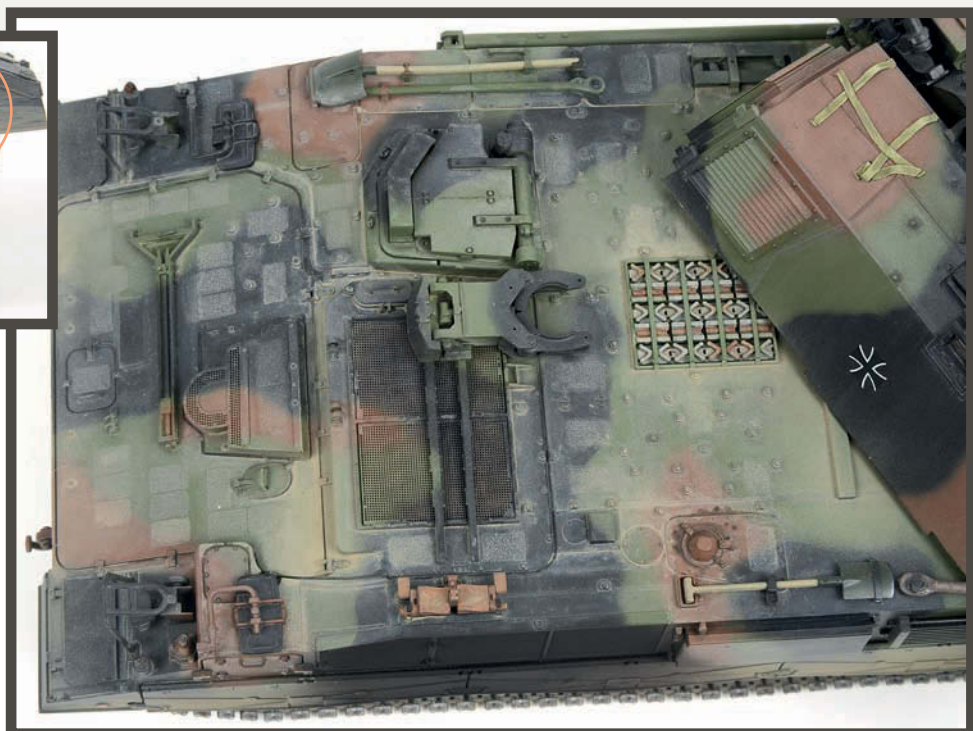
Its always good to have some reference to work from and this picture of the rear of a Dutch Panzerhaubitze 2000 shows just how much muck has been thrown up onto the vehicle and how the movement of the crew has cleaned it away in places.

Left My attempt to replicate this effect on the rear of the model by lifting off the enamels before they harden using different sized brushes with thinners. I also cleaned up the number plate, reflectors and lights as seen on the Dutch vehicle.



Above The same technique of lifting off the enamels was used to create scuff marks along the side skirts and to create clean marks where the side skirt clasps have been rotated.

Washes of dilute enamel and oil colours were applied to the deck successively to build up the areas of accumulated grime. Once this was complete I repeated the process using similar acrylic tones. The anti-slip panels are a trap for dirt so the colour was allowed to pool in these. These effects were toned down as I worked up the vehicle with the finish on the turret being much cleaner than the hull.





The heavy exhaust stains were airbrushed with a black mixed with a touch of brown and some black pigments were used to feather the smudges across the corner of the tool box.

The orange beacon on the back of the turret was modified but cutting off the clear top section and drilling a rebate up the middle which was painted silver. The exterior was finished in clear orange.



The tracks were given an overall coat of Humbrol 77 and allowed to dry completely. The areas where the tyres run, track teeth and where the sprockets contact were then painted with Mr Metal Color Stainless which was polished when dry. I went over these areas again with Uschi van der Rosten Steel Metal Polishing Powder. The rubber track pads were drybrushed with a dark grey and the tracks were glued into place and the side skirts secured.



Above I could not decide which muzzle to fit so I finished both. The Dayglo cover was primed with white before being oversprayed with Lifecolor LC23 leaving some faded pale areas on the top surfaces. The reflective strips were painted a very pale grey and then strips were painted with Mr Metal Color Aluminium.



Final touches were fitting the machine gun ring mount, fitting the range finder lenses and adding two new antenna mounts using fine brass tube because I had managed to snap

off the kit ones in a moment of clumsiness.

This proved to be one of those kits where assembly is unusually quick that you almost wonder if you have made a mistake. It leaves you free to focus on painting to bring out all the great detail. What's not to like?





Panzerhaubitze 2000

IN DETAIL

Photos by Jan-Willem de Boer











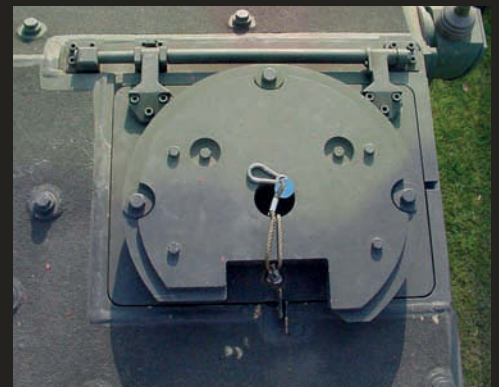
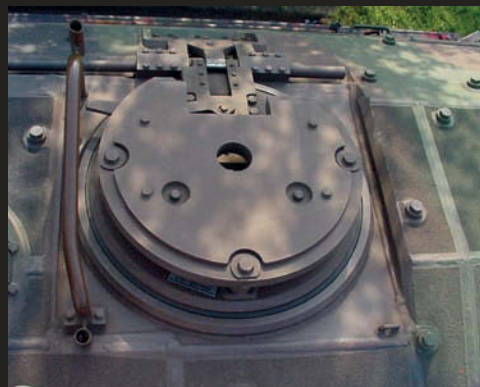






Photo courtesy Patrick Winnepenninckx



Photo courtesy Patrick Winnepenninckx



Photo courtesy Patrick Winnepenninckx





GAZ or Gorkovsky Avtomobilny Zavod, started in 1932 as NAZ, a deal between Ford and the Soviet Union where over five years the Russians would purchase \$13 million worth of vehicles and parts, while Ford agreed to give technical assistance until 1938 to construct a manufacturing plant at Nizhny Novgorod.

Based directly on the Ford 'AA' design, this Russian copy, the Gaz AA was developed with double rear axle too, the Gaz AAA, had several commercial versions built (bus, fuel tank, ambulance etc). In the course of the war, several changes were made to make the assembly process faster and cheaper with wooden cabs, single headlamp and sheet metal wings.

The engine produced a maximum of just forty horsepower at 2,200 rpm, and the truck was based on a chassis that was similar in design to the Model A Ford, but was substantially larger and heavier to accommodate the work this truck was designed for, providing the Soviet Union with a dependable and adaptable work-horse throughout the war and beyond with vast numbers produced.



GAZ AAA

**Chema
Cabrero**

ADDS SOME SPANISH STYLE TO
AN OLD SOVIET WAR HORSE

Miniart Gaz AAA

Resin wheels by
Komplet Zip

P.E. Set by Hauler

Resicast Maxim
Quad AA



1:35

Until recently the only available kits of the GAZ were by Togo/Eastern Express or Zvezda and all shared the same moulds. The new arrival of the state of the art Miniart kits is very welcome: construction is like a replica of the real truck. This means lots of details, accurate chassis, suspension system, minute parts, engine, wood texture on cargo bed, wheels with the "sandwich" system for depicting the tyre tread, and photoetch included...a true challenge for an inexperienced modeller! Much of the detail is hidden as the model

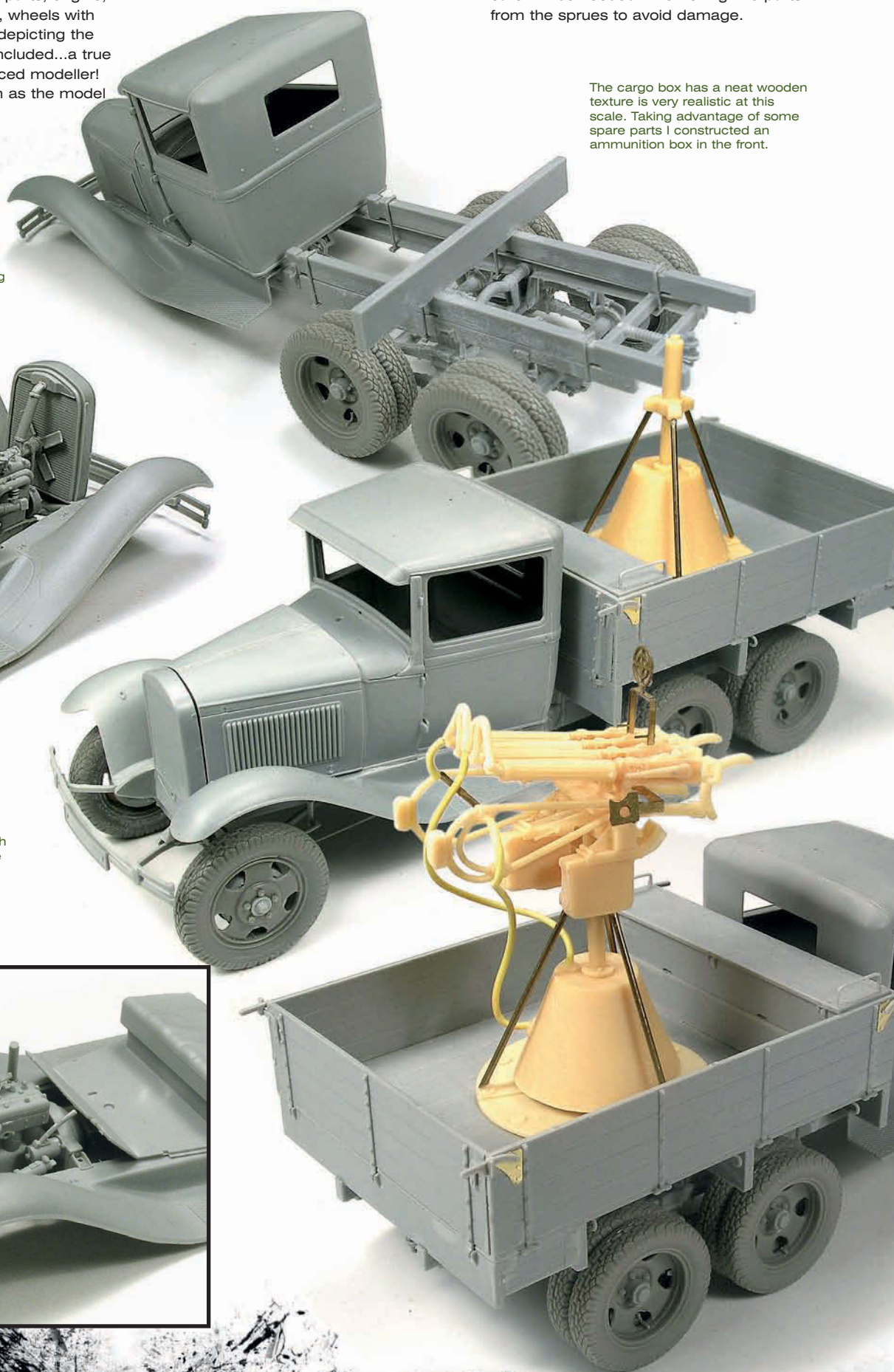
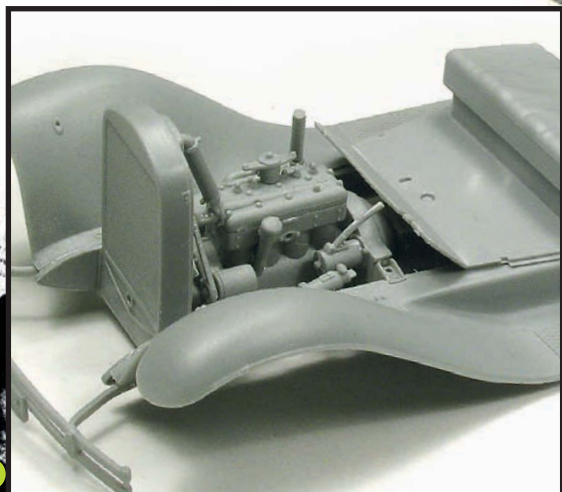
progresses but there is an option to leave the bonnet and doors open. Miniart have made a great job of this much-used truck, Russian Army, in captured German service or used in the Spanish Civil war, the modeller has many finishing options.

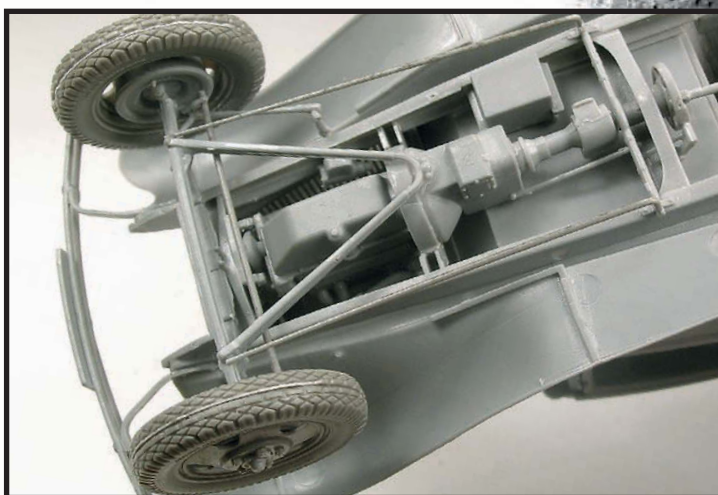
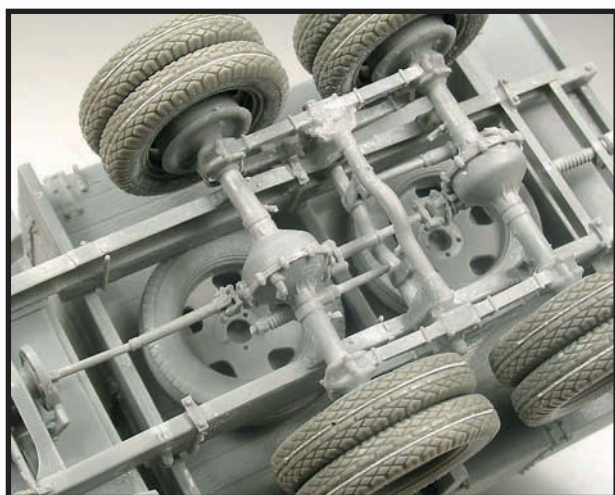
I must say the kit's fit does not allow for any mistakes! With the extraordinary precision of all the parts minor errors will be evident when you try to join the sub-assemblies. Because of the painting process it's better to work with sub-assemblies well planned out and some care will be needed in removing fine parts from the sprues to avoid damage.

For the assembly process I chose to ignore the instructions at times and produce sub-assemblies to enable painting, plenty of checking and dry-fitting avoids fit problems later.

The cargo box has a neat wooden texture is very realistic at this scale. Taking advantage of some spare parts I constructed an ammunition box in the front.

Some pieces are extremely fragile and must be handled with great care, as in the case of the front bumper, almost as thin as photoetch.



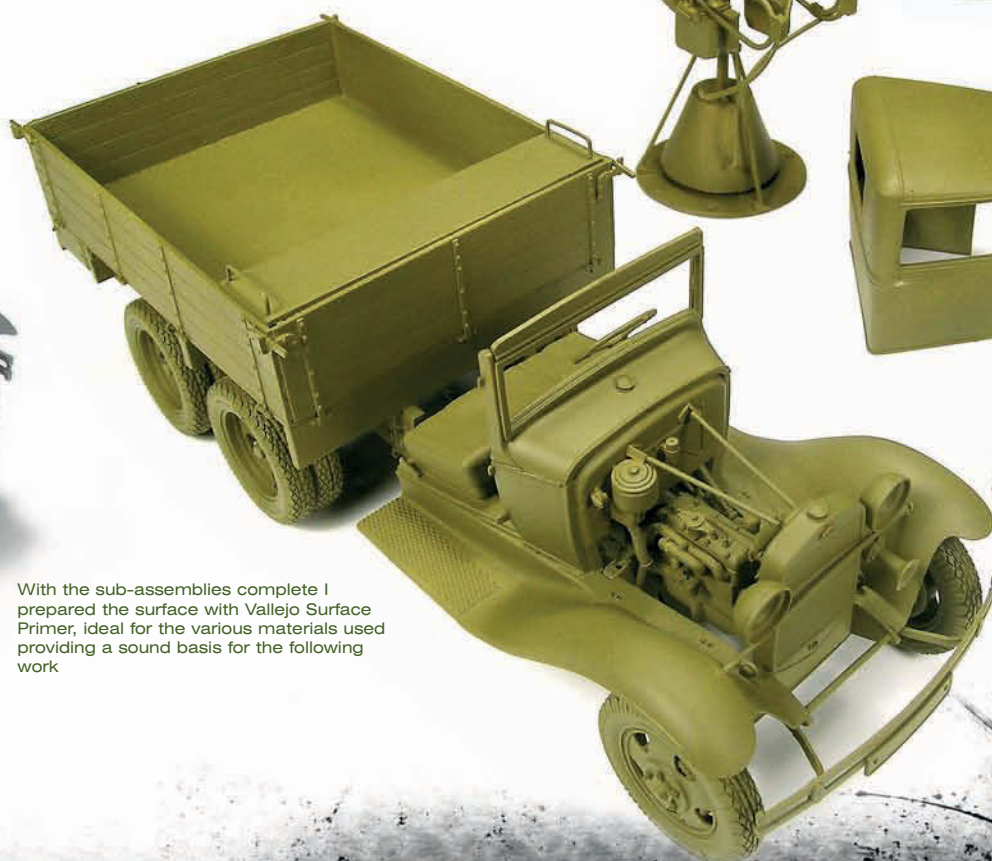


The level of detail on truck transmission is amazing, Miniart has really depicted a real vehicle in kit form, with this level of detail it is somewhat complicated in places, so not recommended for impatient modellers!

I chose to replace the wheels with a set from Komplet Zip, presenting an interesting pattern on their tyres. The wheels supplied by Miniart (both the truck kits and sold separately) look a bit oversized to me? Fitting requires some care to place them on the axles, check and check again that all the wheels are on ground level, the slightest mistake would be very obvious.

Since I've represented one of the best-known Gaz AAA configurations the gun is available from Resicast as a conversion kit, a true model by itself!. I used photographic references to correctly place the pedestal and water cooler tank.

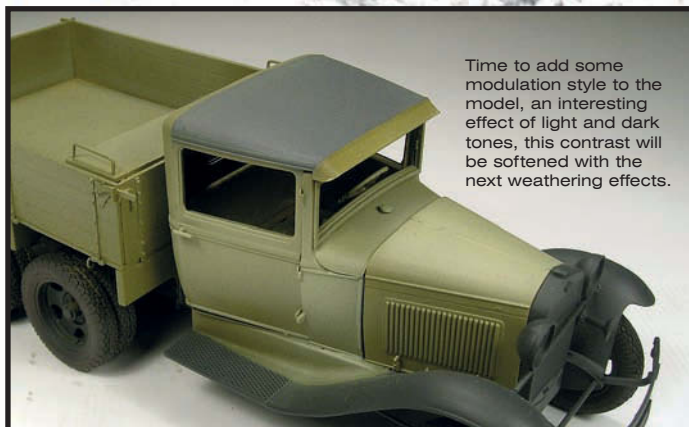
You must to clean all resin parts for a precise fit, not a easy task with this small multimedia kit.



With the sub-assemblies complete I prepared the surface with Vallejo Surface Primer, ideal for the various materials used providing a sound basis for the following work



The base colors for the model are a combination of an interesting "not all green" finishes using vallejo Model Air.



Time to add some modulation style to the model, an interesting effect of light and dark tones, this contrast will be softened with the next weathering effects.



Now it's time to work the wood texture on cargo bed. Weathering for wood is not the same as on a metal surface, with subtle differences in colour, chipping and paint wear. Remember again to use the logical approach...a side of cargo bed won't have the same weathering process and fatigue as the floor or the tail gate.



Vallejo washes were used next to give subtle difference to the steel and wood surfaces and how they weather.



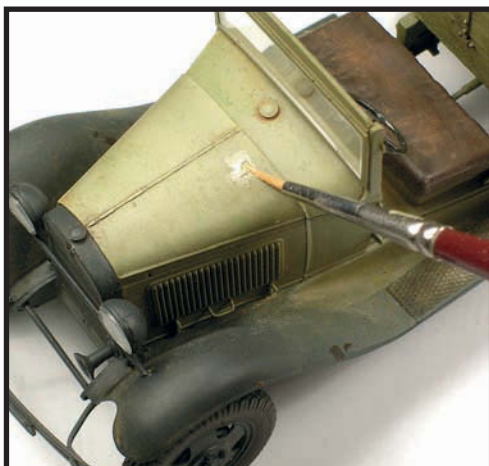
The Maxim was painted and weathered like a separate model, using different shades of green, chipping and faded paint using all of our usual techniques. With the cab removed is very easy to paint interior details like leather seat, pedals and dashboard.



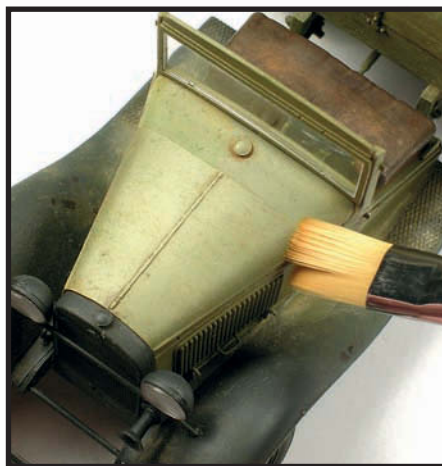
The tyres had been previously painted with a mix of Dark brown and Dark grey Vallejo Model Air by brush, it's time to add a wash using Vallejo Oiled Earth.



Using a selection of Vallejo Washes, we can add more interesting faded effects over the metal surface of the cabin and bonnet. The dark tones like Oiled Earth or Dark Brown are perfect for depicting depth and shadow to all recessed panels or lines.



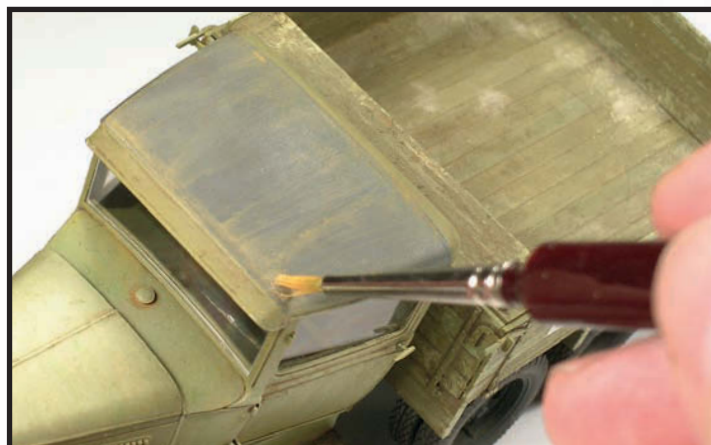
I applied spots of colour over the surface, remember, less is more! The water based washes have a faster drying process than enamel or oil colours.



With a flat brush moistened with clean water you can now blend the colours over the surface.

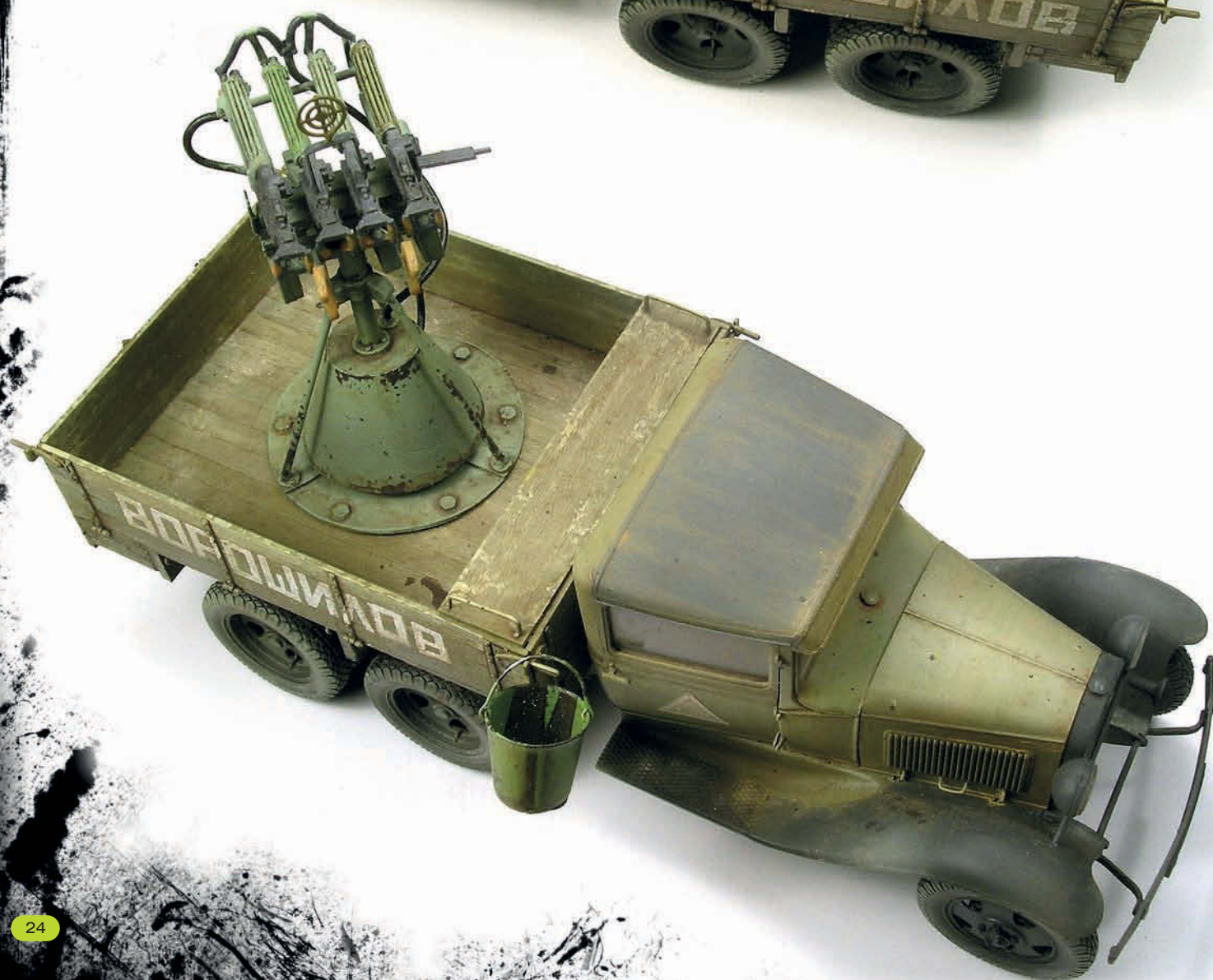


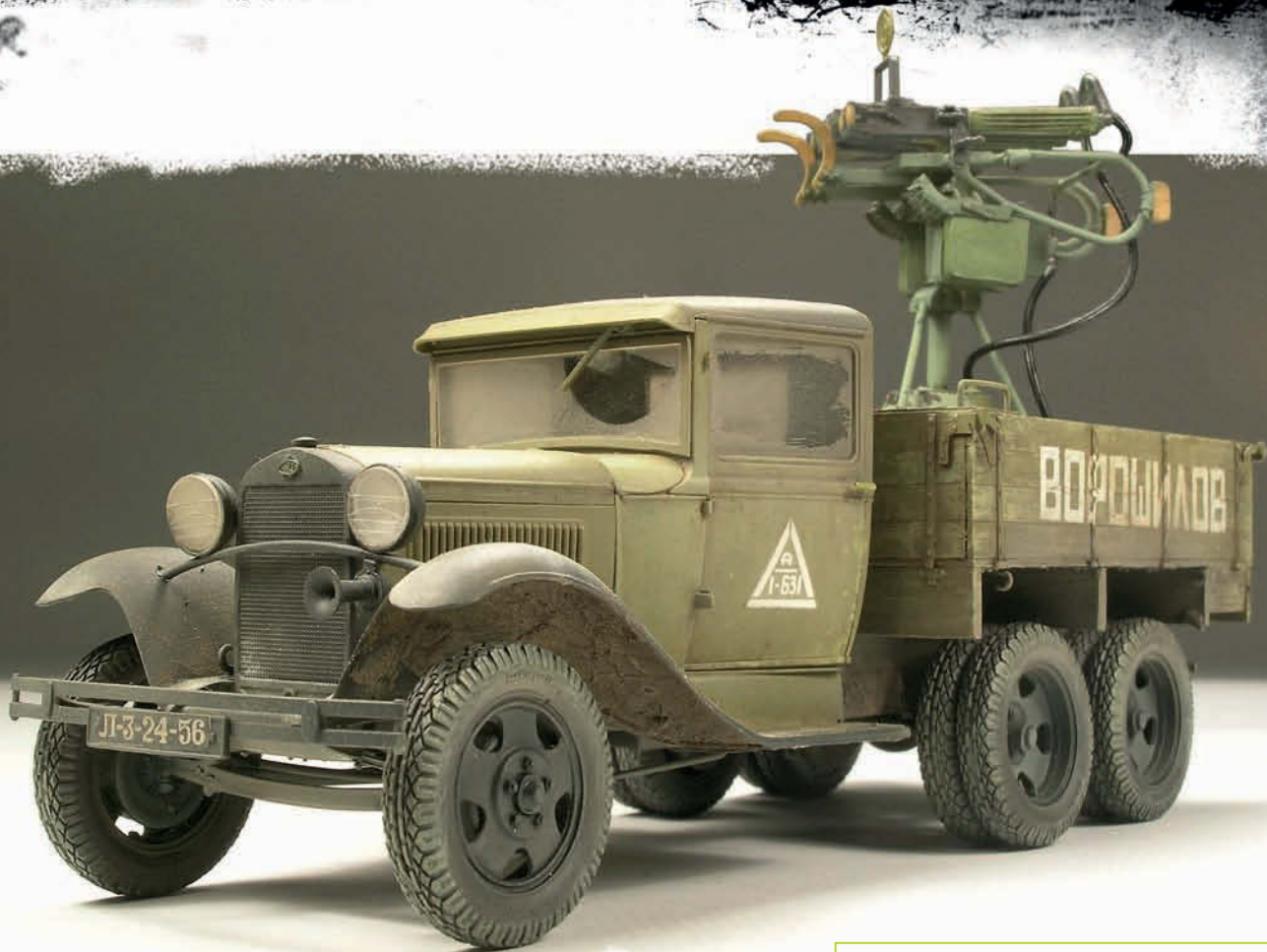
Several green colors can be used again for add interesting shades over the wood, this time the Washes are thinned down with some drops of water for a subtle final effect.



And now it's time to add dust and dirt using Vallejo pigments. I apply a coat of dust by airbrush using several earth tones first. My advice about pigments: using just one colour tends to look very flat, the final look of model will be more interesting with a mix of colours. I'd textured areas of the underside with a hard bristle brush and vallejo Plastic putty, painted with brown and finally a coat of dark brown pigments Remember all these effects must be applied lightly to avoid covering all subtle details, chipped paint and previous effects.

GAZ AAA





A very enjoyable project complete. MiniArt's kit is a very delicate and detailed build, far better than previously available releases in 1:35. Adding the Maxim gives a different dimension with a typically vintage Russian look.

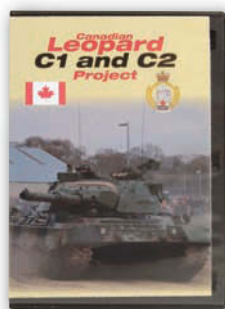


C2

CANADIAN C2 LEOPARD

'Seventy Two'

Sometimes a subject presents itself to you and almost takes you by surprise. Leopards had not held any special interest for me and like any specialist area the assortment of variants and similar nomenclatures seemed confusing. I had always liked the German Leopard A1A5 with the spaced turret armour but when the Canadians modified their vehicles and added a massive stowage bin to the back of the turret the whole look of the tank was changed into something I thought looked superb. German aftermarket company Perfect Scale Modellbau (PSM) released a conversion set to model the C2 which consists of a new turret and appropriate hull fittings and I decided to combine this with the Meng Leopard 1A3/A4 hull. Coincidentally former C2 Commander Anthony Sowards released a DVD of photos of the real vehicle which provided me with the perfect references, including pictures of his former vehicle '072' which I chose to depict.



This and the other Canadian Leopard discs will be available through the Leopard Club website:
<http://leopardclub.ca> email: leopardfibel@gmail.com

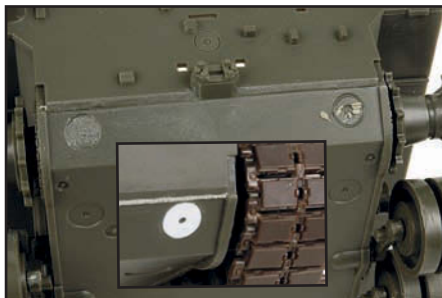




C2 'Seventy Two'



The PSM turret ring is a different size to the Meng hull so I enlarged the ring - here holes have been drilled to help cut away the ring.



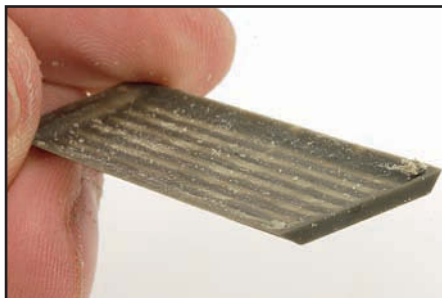
With the basic hull assembled I modified the rear drain ports, removing the covers and adding tighter fitted new ones from discs of plastic.



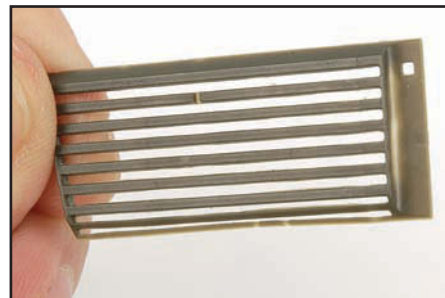
The new PSM turret is assembled and I used black primer to cover all the hidden areas behind the spaced armour.



One of the areas of the Meng kit that I was unhappy with were the exhaust grilles so to enhance these I decided to open them up.



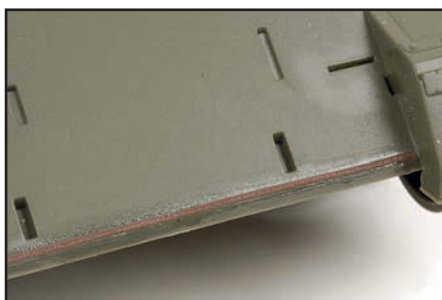
I used a burr in a motor tool to grind away the rear of the panel until the open sections of the grilles becomes ultra-thin.



A new scalpel blade was then used to cut away the remaining film resulting in grilles that look like this.



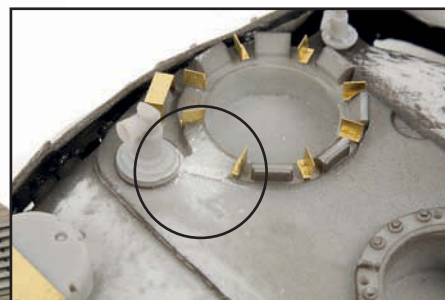
With the grilles fitted I added the weld bead detail where they join the hull using Slaters micro rod which gives a great texture when coated in liquid glue.



I used a double row across the bow where the glacis plates interlock.



I hit a problem in trying to fit the cupola rings and I was unable to centre the Commander's ring as this picture shows.



Eventually I decided reluctantly to fudge the problem and I cut away the front periscope to allow the ring to move forward. With the ring in place the periscope was reattached.



PSM provide flat etched handles for the stowage bin but I replaced these with new ones made from Albion Alloys brass rod.



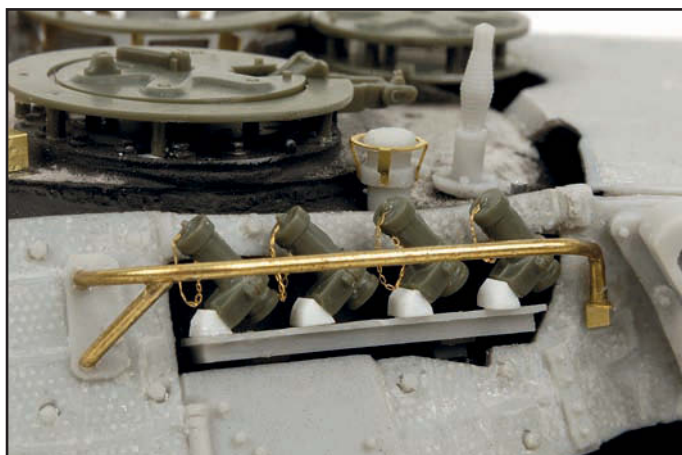
Looking at pictures of the real vehicle I noticed that the textured surface of the spaced armour was quite subtle and almost smooth in some cases. To replicate this I used Magic Sculp to fill in the holes and wiping it away to leave a more subtle pattern.



The turret roof requires anti-slip texture which I applied using AK Interactive sand and gravel glue with Cast-a-Coat grit sprinkled over it. This picture shows the roof before the excess was dusted away.



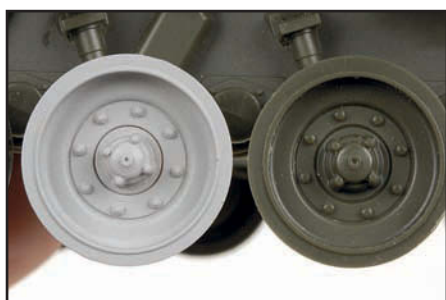
To enhance the look of the vehicle tool storage I used a generic PSM photoetch set for the Leopard 1 and the reworked kit tools. Small discs of plastic were used to give the raised mounting points for the tool racks.



The smoke grenades required new mounting blocks to give the correct angle and Hauler extra fine etched chain was applied to each cover. I replaced the PSM resin rail with a new one made from brass rod.



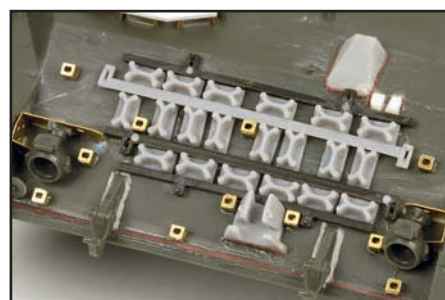
I also replaced the PSM resin stowage racks on the sides of the bustle with new plastic versions and photoetched mesh from the Inside the Armour range. Jerrycans for the racks are from the Real Model C2 Mexas update set.



At this point Meng kindly sent me a set of their retooled road wheels (in grey primer) so I took the opportunity to replace mine with the improved new versions.



There were also some improved exhaust grilles and although I had spent some time working on the original grilles I cut them off and added the new ones.



Canadian Leopards have their own arrangement for the track cleats on the bow. These caused me some problems with spacing but I eventually got them to fit correctly.

72 'Seventy Two'

I replaced the PSM periscope cover as it would not fit and made a new version from plastic card



The power supply cable and conduit for the periscope cleaning system was added using the PSM conduit although it was shortened.

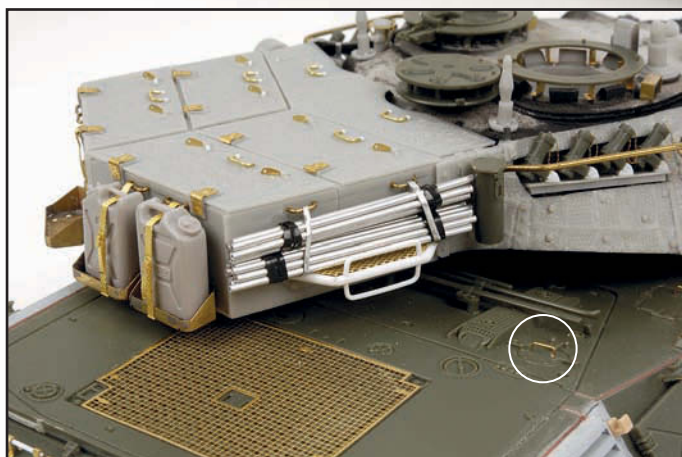
Weld beads were enhanced with Magic Sculp.

PSM provide a very nice MG for the cupola ring but I accidentally snapped the barrel so I had to use a Blast Models replacement.

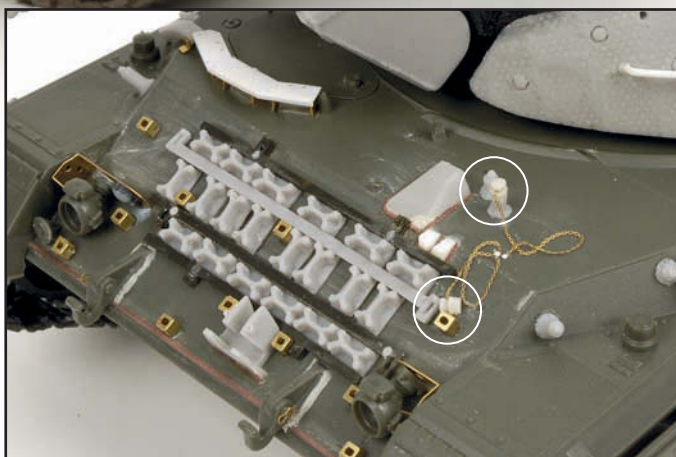
The tracks are a mix of the original Meng kit individual links with the improved Meng individual links SPS-016 used to fit around the sprocket and idler wheels.



Stowed camouflage net was made by texturing some Magic Sculp.



Albion Alloys' aluminium tube was perfect to make the tent pole stowage and easily cut with a scalpel blade. Notice also that the solid filler cap handles have been replaced with brass rod versions



Leopard Workshop mantlet plugs were one of the finishing touches for the bow. I used some more of the Hauler super fine etched chain with them.

The locking lever for the telephone box was replaced and the moulded hoop on the lower hull was replaced with a hollow brass version.



The rear mudflaps were reworked by adding new flaps made from pewter foil with the kit reflector and clips cut out and glued onto the new flaps.



C2 'Seventy Two'



Painting gets underway with an overall coat of Lifecolor UA238 'Dark Olive Var. lightened with a touch of pale blue. The Nato camo on the skirts was applied over a coat of hairspray using Mig Ammo 0-85 for the red brown.



A dark oil pin wash was applied to pick out the detail across the model.



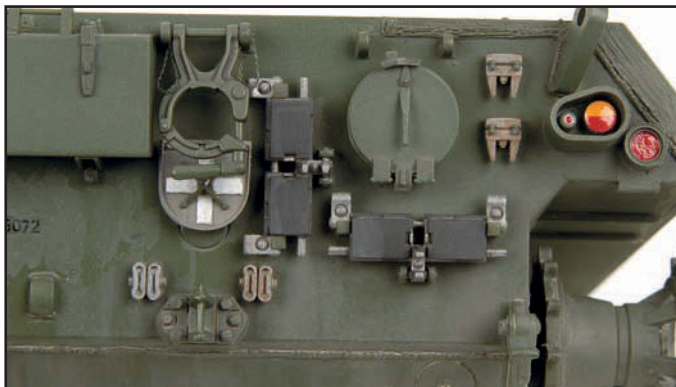
The Maple leaf national markings and vehicle registration number were applied using decals from the Takom Mexas kit and a coat of satin varnish was applied. All the details were then picked out and the side skirts were given a good scrubbing to give a worn finish to the camouflage.



Tracks were painted in Mr Metal Color Stainless and the rubber blocks picked out in a dark grey, a very tedious procedure! A dusty wash was applied to the tracks and the wheels using dilute Humbrol 72.



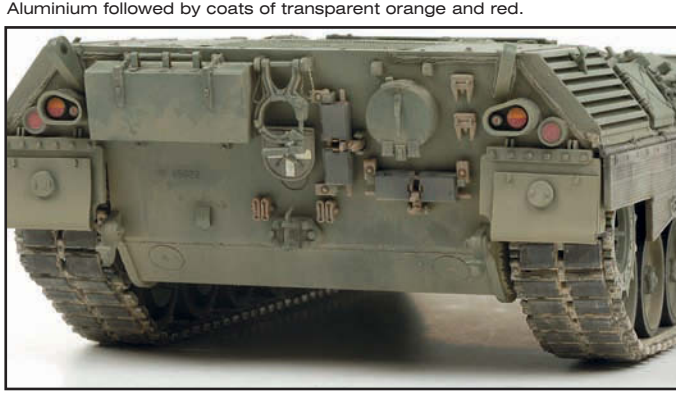
Tracks and wheels were then fitted (don't tell anyone but I did not fit the top run of the tracks). Mr Metal Color Stainless was used to finish the bolts on the sprocket.



The metal fittings on the spare track components were finished in Mr Metal Color Stainless and then toned down with some pale brown washes to give a corroded look. The rear lights were first painted with Mr Metal Color Aluminium followed by coats of transparent orange and red.



A dusty wash was applied using dilute Humbrol 72, letting it accumulate in the recesses.



Humbrol 72 was then airbrushed across the back of the hull. A brush with thinners was then used to lift off the enamel in selective areas like the top of the tool box and around the vehicle serial number.

The same spray on wipe off enamel technique was used on areas of the vehicle covering areas that replicate those in the photos.



Recreating the spray painted numbers on the mudflaps was a challenge. I tried spraying them but the transparent nature of yellow paint meant that it would simply not work successfully. Instead I brush painted the numbers in pure yellow before softening the edges with tones of yellow mixed with the base green.

Tow cables next and I used Karaya copper tow cables with the kit towing eyes. Once they had been shaped the cables were pre-painted before being fitted to the tank.



More dusty areas were enhanced with acrylics washes subtly building up the densities in areas where it would accumulate.

The engine exhausts and the small exhaust port on the hull were masked and then soot stains were sprayed using a brown / black mix.

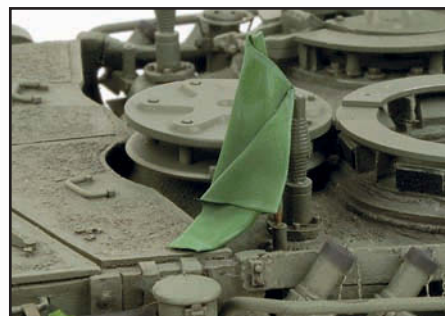
C2 'Seventy Two'



I made a number panel for the back of the turret from plastic card, cut a rough stencil from masking tape and sprayed the black background.



Canadian crews seem to use this rail behind the cupola as a convenient stowage for padlocks so I added some using Aber photo etched padlocks.



The small green flag was made using some metal foil folded around a plastic rod shaft.



To my eye this has to be the best looking Leopard 1 with that extended turret bin giving it a dramatically different look to the standard tank. It was also my first experience with a PSM kit and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I think captured the look of the subject vehicle.



The Commander figure was heavily modified from an old Artisan Mori WWII German tank Commander. New uniform details were added using Magic Sculp and a new Hornet head replaced the one that was moulded in the Real Model helmet.



The figure was painted with acrylics with small dots of paint used to build up the digital camouflage uniform and helmet cover. Gloss varnish was used to finish the lenses of the goggles.



The finishing touch was the addition of the orange eye protectors which proved tricky to make. I tried to shape them from clear plastic sprue but in the end I used part of the protective sleeve from a paintbrush to make them.





C2 maintenance

Jason Bobrowich documents maintenance work on Canadian C2 Leopards





It is easy to see why some maintenance is required when you see the extremely heavy wear on the roadwheel rubber in these two pictures.





A weather beaten C2 awaits its turn outside the facility it has had all its tools removed.



The vehicle tool box has been opened in this shot and it is interesting to see the very pale grey colour of the rubber parts on the rear hull.



One of the Leopard engine decks showing the clamps which used to extract the whole deck which are usually stowed folded on the left side hull.





The heavy wear on the track pads can be seen here especially when compared to the neatly coiled new tracks.



The Leopard power pack sitting on a dedicated servicing trolley



Below With new tracks and roadwheels fitted the power pack is lowered back into the engine bay.





The ARV is used to remove and refit the power packs inside the shed.



In order to open the engine deck the front section of the spaced turret armour has to be removed, exposing the mounting lugs.



A view of the empty engine bay with the two fuel cells mounted on each side of the front of the bay.





Despite the very tarnished condition of these old tracks the areas where the tyres and the sprocket teeth contact are highly polished.

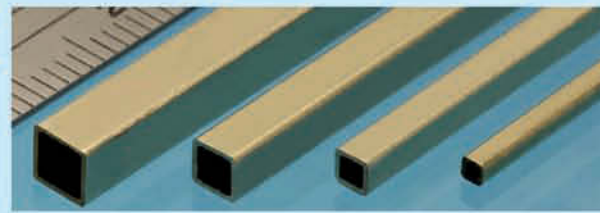
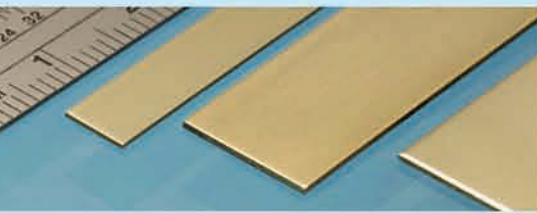
With the turret turned you can see the tight space between it and the engine bay which requires the turret armour to be removed.



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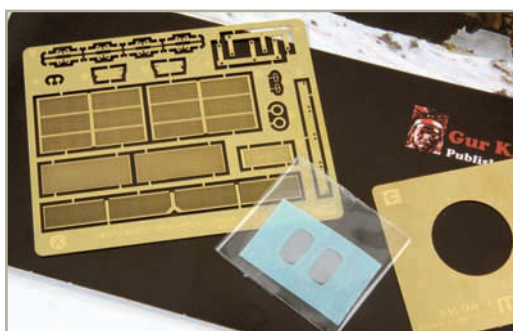
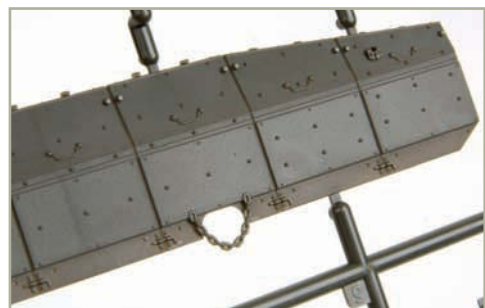
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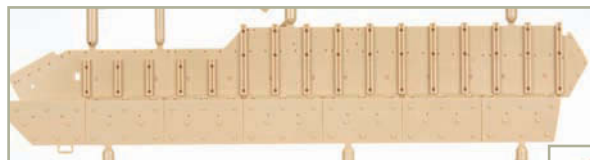
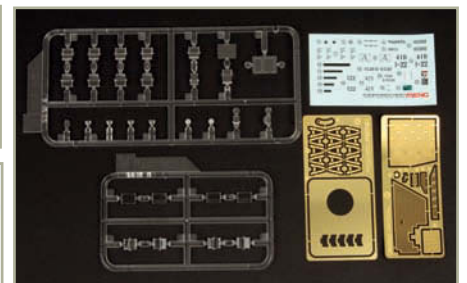
hobbylink.tv



Meng 1:35 Russian BMPT 'Terminator'

Using their well acclaimed T-90 lower hull and running gear, Meng bring the modern modeller more to get excited about with the release of the 'Terminator'. As Arnold Schwarzenegger's movie name-sake, this monster certainly looks to be from the future and would surely frighten any enemy without firing a shot! The Russian requirement for flexible fire support in combat situations has led to this very latest creation complete with the KMT-8 mine cleaning system and the electromagnetic countermine system. Such a complexed vehicle will surely make for a complex kit, and yes, there's no denying this is no weekend build with the double-depth box packed full of sprues, with Meng's usual superb presentation I found myself breaking the ten-minute rule (ponder over a kit for more than ten minutes and the Editor says you have to build it...). So I have the build well under way, you'll have to wait for the next issue for the full story but suffice to say, this is another beauty from

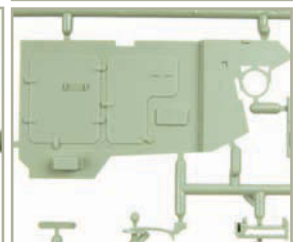
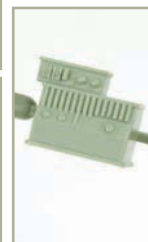
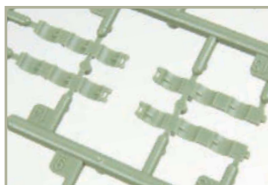
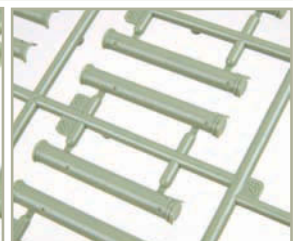
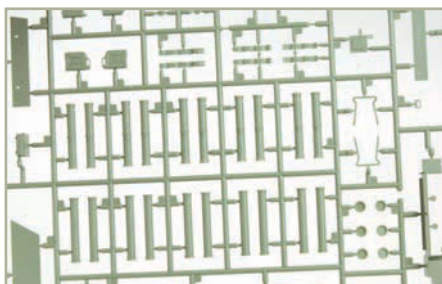
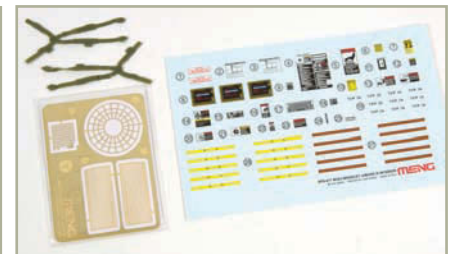
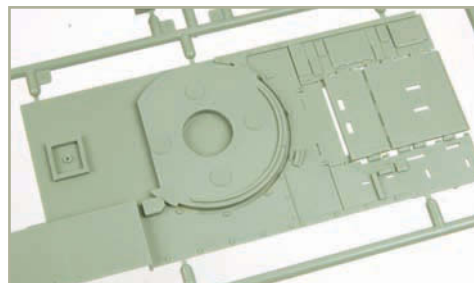
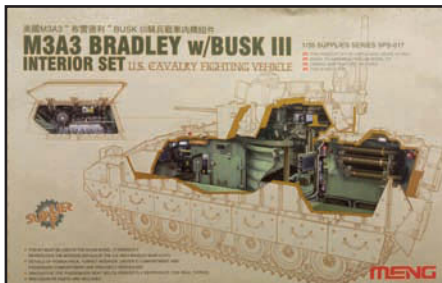
Meng with superb comprehensive detail and stunning moulding design. The T-90 torsion bars and tracks are fully workable with precise little jigs included to aid assembly. The rest of the kit is pretty much new with some beautiful touches like the posable grenade launchers and delicate slat armour with just enough photoetch to raise the levels of detail without becoming too time consuming. The new mine clearing system is finely rendered and can be posed in action or retracted complementing the busy turret very nicely, very much like the Bradley we finished in the previous issue, when you sit back from this model on the workbench it's hard to believe it's built from the box. I'll leave things there for now, look out for a feature in the next issue but in the meantime I would whole-heartedly recommend this kit to any modern Russian armour fan, take your time, study the plans carefully and you're sure of a very satisfying build.



Meng 1:35 M3A3 Bradley with Busk III

Hot on the heels of the M2A3 Bradley comes this M3A3 version and for anyone wondering what the difference between the two is this new kit is of the Cavalry vehicle whereas the first kit was the infantry APC. That means that the vehicle carries additional TOW missile stowage in the back with a different roof hatch from the infantry vehicle. Another obvious difference is the absence of the pair of large air conditioning units on the rear of the hull. The other big difference with this kit is that it arrives without an interior (which is available separately if this is a disappointment). The kit obviously shares many parts with the previous release and comes with the same excellent clip together individual track links and

working suspension. The upper hull calls for some adjustment as the rear periscope mounts have to be cut off with new applique armour panels to go over these parts. As before all the hatches and engine cover can be open if desired. Two photoetched frets are included with the mesh screens and painting masks for the wheels and track pads. Periscopes and rangefinder lenses are all moulded in clear plastic on two sprues. A small decal sheet provides markings for a choice of two vehicles both finished in overall sand. Bradley fans should be delighted with this and the deletion of the interior should also appeal to anyone wanting a budget option Bradley who is not interested in an interior.



Meng 1:35 M3A3 Bradley with Busk III Interior Set

This is the fully detailed interior to fit out your M3A3 and if you want to open up all the hatches and doors this set separate kit is what you need. It is moulded in a pale green plastic that matches closely the interior colour except for the engine parts which are dark grey. Much of this will be familiar if you already have the M2A3 kit with the exception of a new sprue which provides the stowage racks and tubes for the TOW missiles. As we discovered when we built the M2A3 the interior is exceptionally well engineered and fits like a glove into the kit and really adds to the

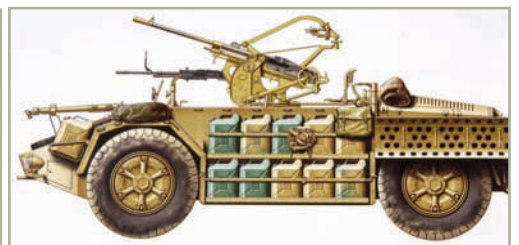
interest with the hatches open. The decal sheet provides all the interior placards and stencils as well as rings for the TOW tubes. Two of the excellent flexible plastic seat belts are also provided and there is a small photoetched fret as well. Some of the feedback we had about the previous Bradley release was the feeling that some modellers did not want to pay for an interior that they would not want to build so this approach of splitting out the interior should answer that and certainly offers maximum flexibility and choice.



D.A.K. profile guide

Published by AK Interactive
Softback format, 108 pages
ISBN 8436535 572712
www.ak-interactive.com

A very nicely presented collection of beautiful quality colour profiles of German Afrika Korps vehicles featuring everything from motorcycles to armour. There's some great modelling inspiration with some D.A.K. favourites like the StuG III Ausf D, s.I.G.33B and some of the field modified gun mounts and captured vehicles. A

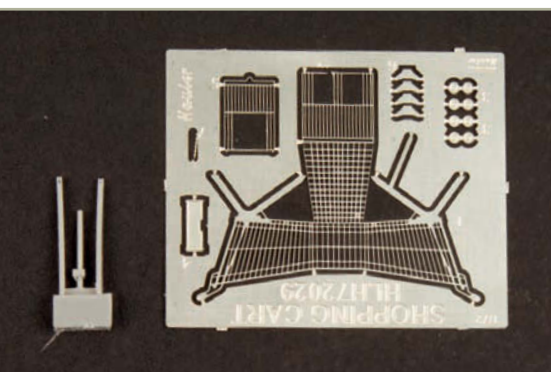


good detailed description of each vehicle gives enough information to accurately portray each subject. A short section on unit markings and colour descriptions along with a spread of period photographs finishes a very high quality visual reference for D.A.K. modellers.



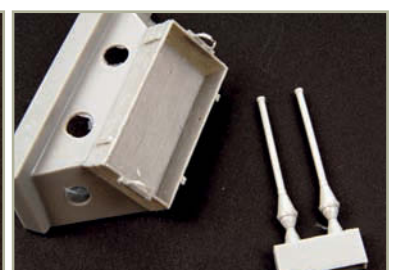
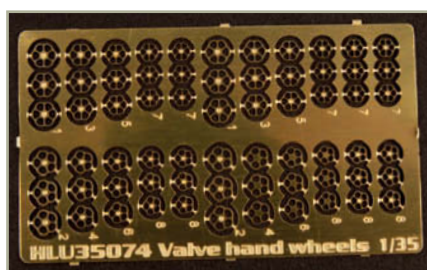
Arsenal Model Signs and Posters

Spanish kit and accessory retailer Arsenal Model have sent us some samples of their Arsenal Model Prints range. These A5 sheets are digitally printed to a high quality standard with a wide range of subjects for diorama builders in 1:35 with other scales being added to the range. Various propaganda and commercial posters, Life magazine covers, modern Iraqi signs and even German zeltbahns! www.arsenalmodel.es.tl has the full range on show.

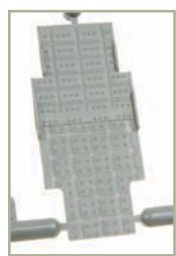
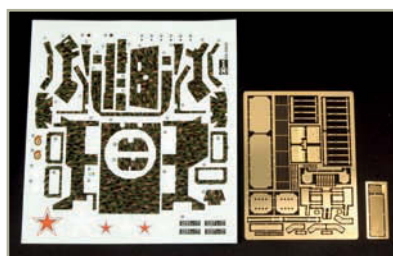
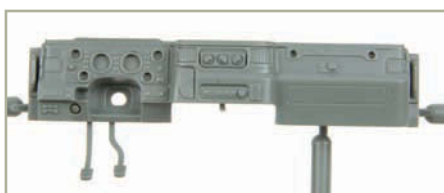
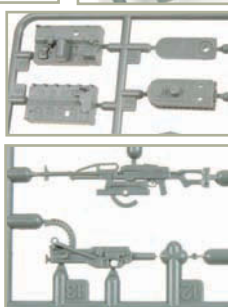
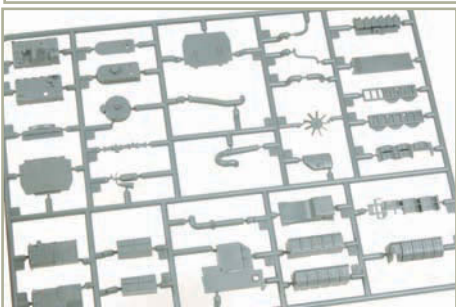
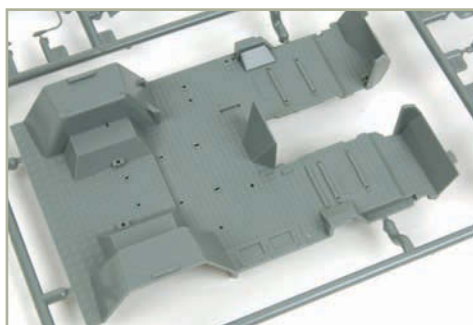
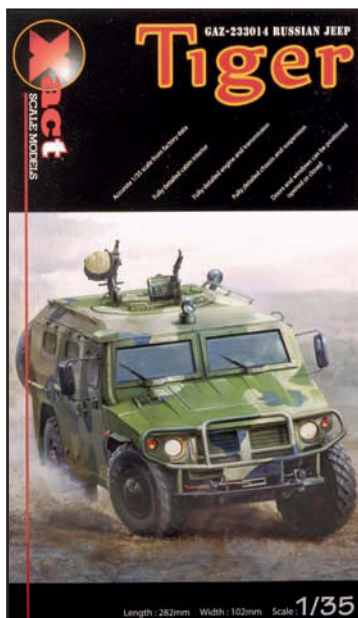


Hauler

New from Hauler in 1:72 is HLH72029, a nice touch to any modern diorama in the form of a shopping cart (a smaller version of their 1:35 version) HLH72028 is a set of generic rear lights and reflectors and in both 1:48 and 1:35 are some delicate valve wheels for plumbing lines, HLX48345 and



HLU35074. Finally in 1:35 is HLU35075, a super-detailed resin and photoetch set depicting a wooden crate of panzerfausts, two complete sets are included along with detailed decals. www.hauler.cz is the place to find out more on their range.



Xact 1:35 GAZ 233014 'Tiger'

A new release from new guys Xact, a very comprehensive kit of the modern Russian off-road 'Tiger' with fully detailed chassis and drive-train, full interior and positional doors. Around a dozen green sprues, an impressive body shell, clear parts, photoetched fret and vinyl tyres all have a very high quality look and feel to them with some very impressive moulding and detail. A full rolling chassis is completed first which will help with the painting process, the amount of detail is very impressive including photoetched floor armoured sections, the kit really looks as if it

assembled as the real vehicle! The floor, dash, seating and inner wings are then assembled as one and dropped onto the chassis and finally the body shell. Unusually the interior is camouflaged but thankfully this is all supplied on the decal sheet. If this kit builds as well as their T80 it will produce a little gem straight out of the box, even if you usually shirk vinyl tyres, these are more than acceptable. Certainly not a kit for the novice but one to please the most discerning modellers. European distributors of Xact are Inside The Armour, our thanks to Xact for our sample.

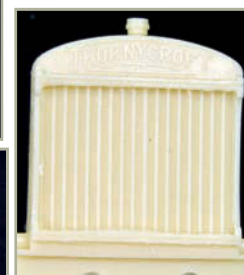
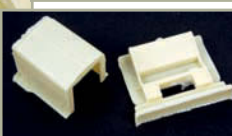
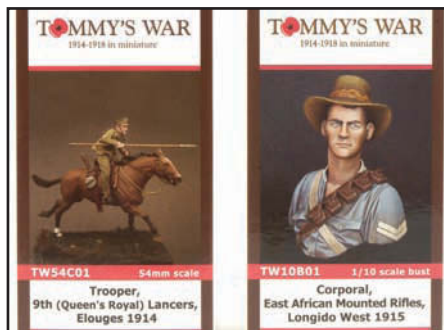


AMMO of Mig Jimenez

More acrylics in the range from AMMO starting with Two new very welcome boxed sets of six 17ml colours, the first to aid the flurry of interest in Great War subjects, AMIG 7111 covers colours of both British and German tanks from 1914 to 1918. AMIG 7110 'French Tank Colours' is another long-neglected area of camouflage and this set purports to offer colours for vehicles from the first to the second world wars. For me this set is disappointing and even allowing for scale lightening of the colours these are not correct, the brown is far too light and also lacks the pale greens, greys and purples that were a feature of French Tank Camouflage.

There are four new three bottle Smart Sets beginning with No.3 D.A.K. 'Smart Set' of three scale effect colours dunkelgrau, sandgrau and gebbraun ready to airbrush with the bottles now supplied containing an agitator ball to aid with mixing when shaken. Set 5 is Modern Syrian Camouflage colours. Set 6 is Vietnam colours which includes APC interior green. Set 7 offers Russian WWII camouflage colours. The range of crystal transparent colours, ideal for those vehicle lights, gets four new additions with orange, green and blue as well as a very dark blue/black.

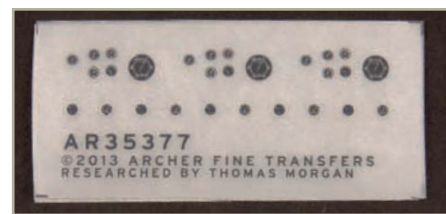
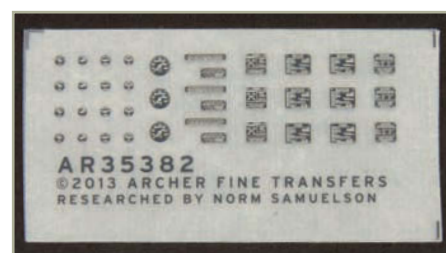
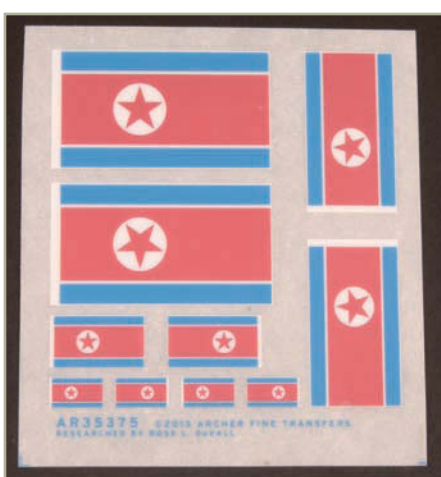
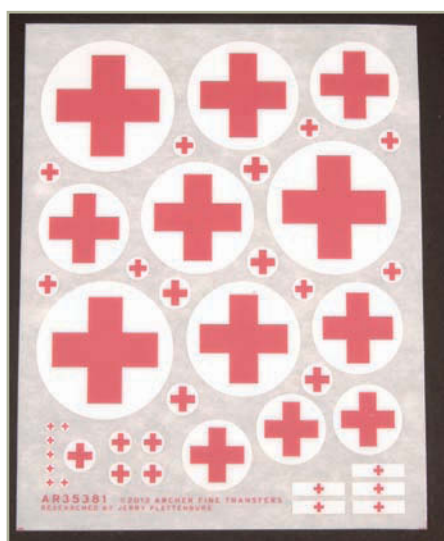
A large 60ml bottle of polymer surface primer adds another colour to this range 'Rust Primer' which will make a good red-oxide base. www.migjimenez.com is the place to check out the expanding ranges.



Tommy's War

We digress a little, but I'm sure as the Great War topic is hot at the moment we'll be forgiven for being such big fans of Tommy's War figures with this mounted trooper of the 9th Lancers at Elouges 1914 absolutely begging to be painted! The sculpting has great motion of both the figure and horse with dramatic facial expression with some very cleaver and clean resin casting. Fine brass tube and excellent instructions are provided to make the lance along with a photoetched pennant. A first for Tommy's is this 1:10 bust depicting a Corporal of the East African Mounted Rifles in 1915, more sharp sculpting and casting and something many armour modellers find a nice break from lengthy projects with a little painting; three parts to assemble and you're off! Tommy's War's most exciting release for us is undoubtedly the Thornycroft Type J lorry, our sample is the cargo version but an anti aircraft version with mounted gun has also been released. This is a well designed resin kit with some impressive moulding, the canvass roof almost see-through it's so fine and the simplistic

antiquated design means most of the work involved remains on show. As with all resin kits a major part of the build is in the clean-up of the parts from their moulding blocks, these all appear to be sensibly positioned and there's little flash to remove. As their first full vehicle kit Tommy's should be commended for not only the quality and subject choice but touches like the superb 'pepper-pot' wheels and the fact that they haven't attempted a wood grain effect on the cargo bed which invariably ends up looking way over-scale. A comprehensive instruction and reference booklet are included along with several photoetched parts. As with all resin kits, some modelling experience is essential but you'll end up with a splendid display piece with superb diorama potential, the only negative some may find is that as the kit is 54mm scale it's a shade bigger than the most common 1:35 if you were hoping to combine some of the other exciting WWI vehicles new to the market. www.tommyswar.co.uk is an excellent website to find out more and make a purchase from the expanding range.



Archer Fine Transfers

A few new sets in 1:35 from Archer to add to their well respected and comprehensive range of dry rub-downs with three sets of dashboard instruments designed to fit the designated kits exactly. AR35376 is for Tamiya's Citroën (five sets), AR35377 is to fit AFV Club's and Tamiya's Simca and Bussing Nag (three sets) and Bronco's JEEP gets enough instruments for four sets with AR35382. A very useful set if you have a German (or any other)

ambulance planned with a great selection of sized red crosses including helmet and armband markings- AR35381. Finally AR 35375 is a set of five sizes of North Korean flags which Archer suggest application to thin foil to allow realistic shaping. All of Archer's products come with very clear and detailed instructions with tutorials also featured on their website www.archertransfers.com.

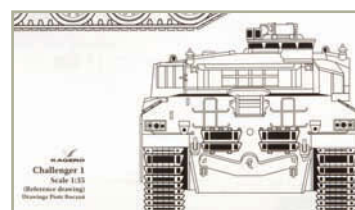
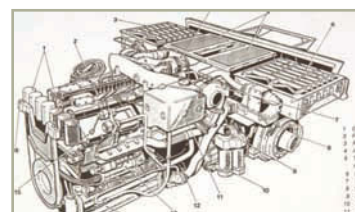
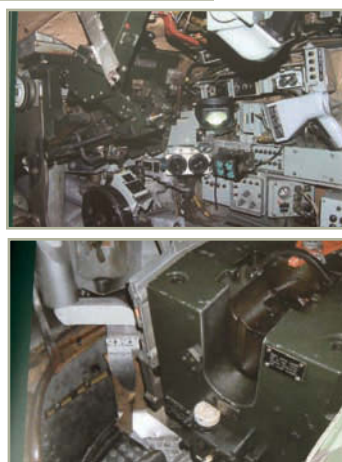
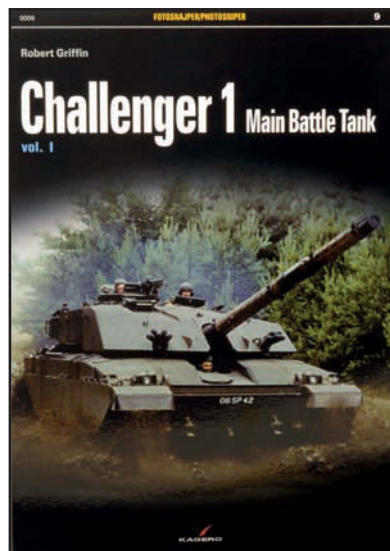


Panzerwrecks 16 'Bulge'

Lee Archer and William Auerbach
softback format, 97 pages
Published by Panzerwrecks
ISBN 978 1908032 089
www.panzerwrecks.com

It's always exciting to receive a new copy of Panzerwrecks and reassuring that the guys show no signs of slowing down with the series, an awful lot of time and commitment must go into unearthing the images, the majority, as always, never seen in print before. The 'Battle of the Bulge' has always held an almost mythical status with the German counter offensive into the Ardennes, having visited the area for the first time last year it really hits home what a difficult terrain this must have been to

operate armour. There's some mouthwatering modelling reference on show once again with some great images of shattered hulks of Pz.IVs, StuGs and Sdkfz. 251 based conversions along with the more unusual appearance from Tiger Is, Wirbelwind and a Somua munitions-zugkraftwagen. Fantastic images, thoroughly researched text and quality production values continue to make this series so well respected with German armour enthusiasts.

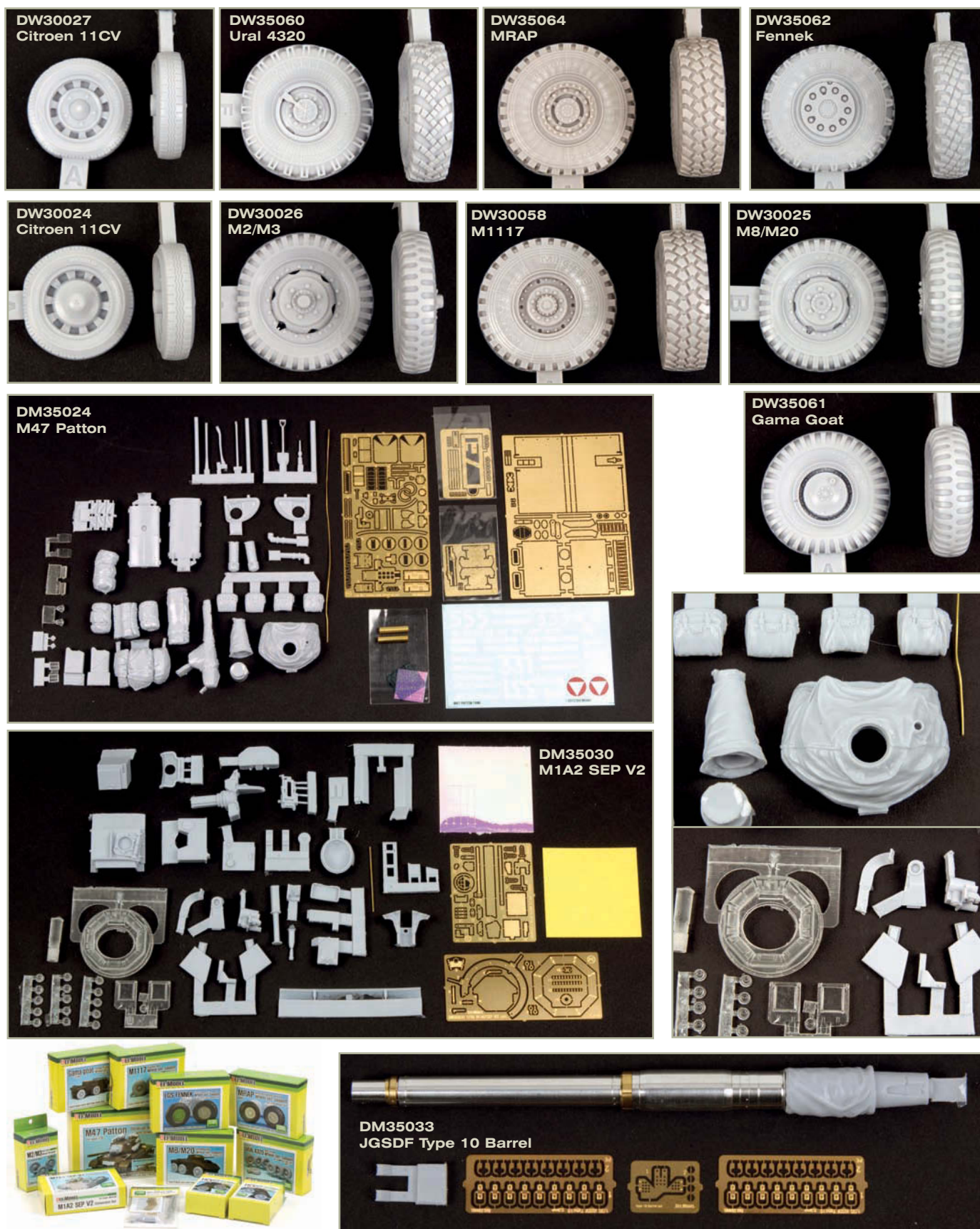


Challenger I Main Battle Tank

Robert Griffin
Published by Kagero
Softback format, 80 pages
ISBN 978 83 62878956
www.casematepublishing.co.uk

This is the first volume of a study of the Chieftain's replacement, the Challenger which was Great Britain's second purpose designed MBT. The bulk of the book provides great modelling reference with a huge selection of close-up and walk around shots including a very comprehensive interior section coupled with factory drawings for a good cross-reference. The development and history of the Challenger is well documented with some

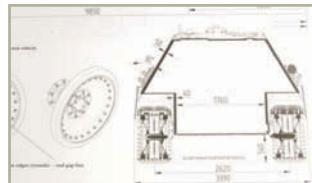
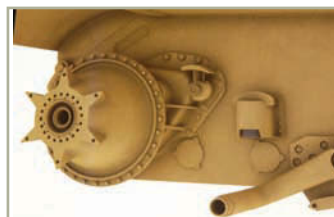
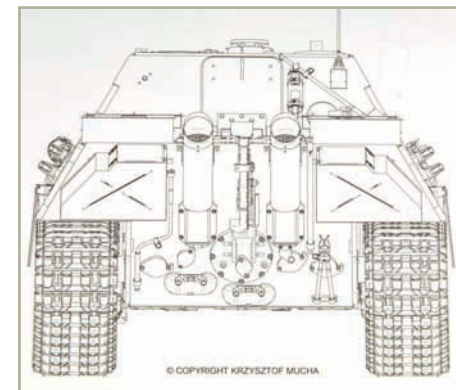
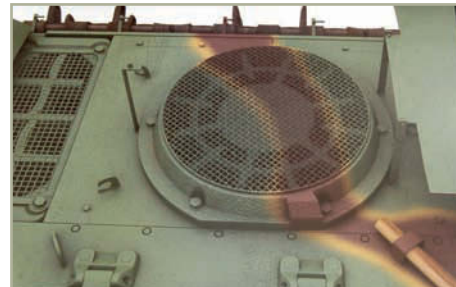
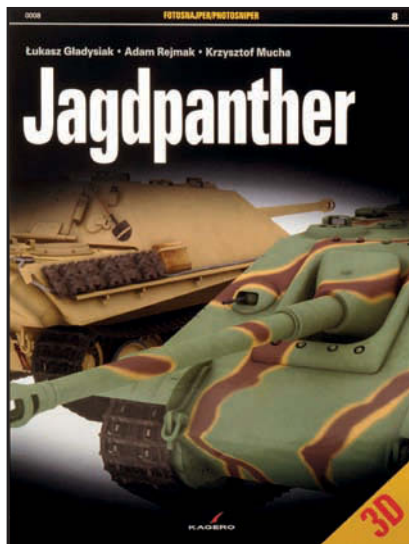
interesting photographs of prototypes and also some good diorama ideas with vehicles used as recovery training. Several pages of plans in 1:48 and 1:35 are a little heavy in the linewidth but provide positional reference and we're limited to two colour profiles of Gulf War vehicles, volume II looks to include service photographs and action shots which will complete a solid reference for a project.



DEF. Model

A great selection of upgrades from DEF. Starting with wheels, these are certainly some of the very best we've seen with superb fine detail and clean casting just impossible to injection mould in styrene. Tread patterns are beautifully sharp and the tyres have a realistic weighted bulge at the base. The wheel sets also come with a pre-cut self adhesive painting mask, what more could you ask for? DW30024 is a set for Tamiya's 11CV with hub cap and DW30027 (set 2) a set without hub caps. Trumpeter's M117 gets new boots with DW35058 and another Trumpeter kit, the Fennek is catered for with DW35062 and still with Trumpeter DW35060 has six wheels and a spare for the URAL 4320. Another modern subject, the MRAP from Kinetic gets a set with DW35064 and Tamiya's unusual Gama Goat with set DW35061. Back to WWII period subjects with DW30025 to suit Tamiya's old M8 / M20 and DW300026 is a pair of front wheels and a spare for Dragon's M2 / M3. DM35030 is a very exciting conversion for Abrams fans, an

M1A2 SEP V2 for Dragon's M1A2 SEP containing 52 resin parts (including clear cast cupola and clear wheel hubs) 2 photoetched frets, brass rod, pre-cut masks and some pre-cut self adhesive iridescent sheet to replicate the finish on the vision optics, quality is first rate with good clear instructions. DM35024 is an excellent upgrade set for the old Italeri M47 Patton which will really bring the kit up to more modern standard with 40 resin parts (including mantlet covers and stowage) brass tube for the exhaust pipes, photoetch frets, decals and periscope optics. Again, attention to detail and quality is superb. Finally, Tamiya's highly acclaimed JGSDF Type 10 is provided with a barrel upgrade with set DM35033 which is a delight and comes with photoetched buckles for the turret basket. Very impressive products, take a look at their complete range at www.defmodel.com, the good news for UK modellers is that Inside The Armour are now distributing DEF's range.



Jagdpanther

Lukasz Gladysiak & Adam Rejmak
Published by Kagero
Softback format, 108 pages
ISBN 978 83 62878 833
www.casematepublishing.co.uk

This 3D Photosniper (volume 8) mixes three dimensional renderings, detailed photographs of several museum vehicles and a plethora of 1:35 plans to give a very detailed one-stop reference on the sleek Jagdpanther. The selection of plans are very detailed with all-round views and an isometric drawings taking you through MIAG variations and MNH produced vehicles allowing accurate dating of a

subject vehicle. The colour shots of preserved vehicles aren't the best quality but do provide useful images for super detailing including interior images. A selection of quality colour profiles along with the CAD renderings (including suspension components, radios etc) all make for a very rounded reference of this popular modelling subject.

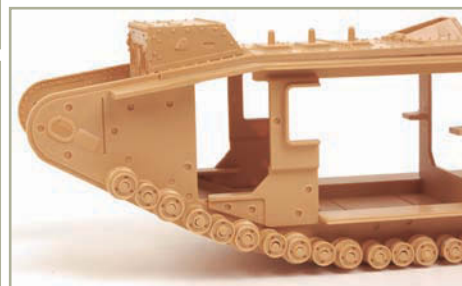
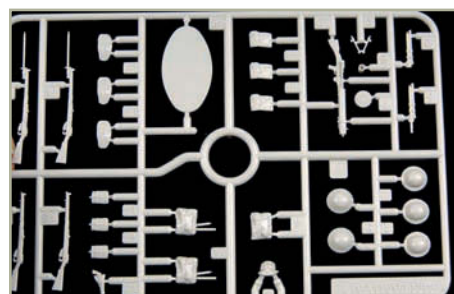
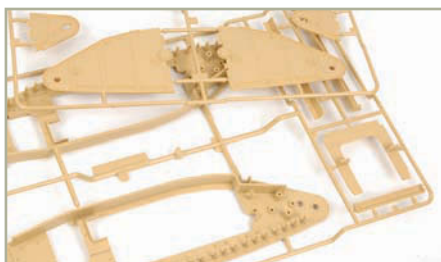


La JEEP dans L'Armée Française Vol. I

Paul Gaujac
Published by Histoire et Collections
Softback format, 144 pages, French text
ISBN 978 2352502 401
www.casematepublishing.co.uk

This new release from H&C traces the loyal service of the lend-lease JEEPs serving with the French forces from 1942-1950 'from Tunisia to Indochina'. Don't be concerned if you're a fan of the JEEP but don't have an understanding of French; this is a feast of great photographs (250 in total) many of excellent quality with some really unusual field modifications on show along with some

frightening images of JEEPs modified around trees! There's a strong feeling of France's fondness of the capabilities of the jeep transporting supplies and the top-brass throughout the World for many years. Some quality colour illustrations, unit insignia and memorabilia complete the volume, highly recommended to JEEP enthusiasts.



Tamiya 1:35 WWI British Tank Mk.IV Male

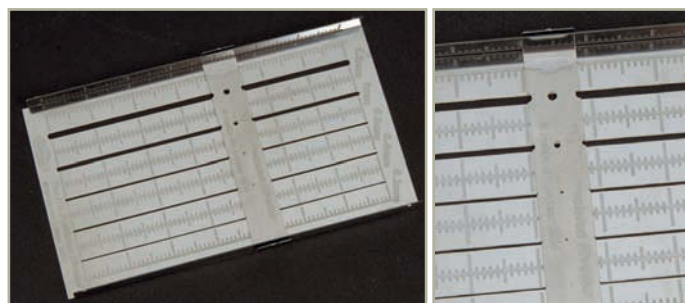
A new Tamiya kit will always get modellers talking and none more so than this recently announced Mk.IV Male, a fitting release in this year of the Great War's centenary and along with releases of WWI subjects from Meng, Takom and Tommy's War it's never been better for enthusiasts of the period. First up, let's get out of the way the subject of motorization! Not of interest to many of us and you can build the kit without the motor and associated gearing. This does however compromise the building in places as the kit is designed to allow access to the interior and the metal sprockets are not accurate. There are correct pattern sprockets are sprued but not mentioned in the instructions and will not fit the motorised axels without modification. The 6 pounder guns are really well detailed despite being hidden inside the vehicle. If you open up the sponson doors to see them you then have the problem of the Lewis gun mount which is closest to the door but has no interior

detail at all. The roadwheels are a bit of a headache with sixty of one pattern and ninety six of the other to clean up. Fortunately the individual track links are click-together and de-sprued and whilst not 100% accurate in terms of pitch they do look convincing. What we do get though to compensate for all the motorised nonsense are a set of very nice figures of British infantry which will please most of us I'm sure. Tamiya have really stepped up their game with these figures, which come with a great weapons set too. Moulding quality across the kit is first rate as we always expect of Tamiya and the detail is sharp. Markings are provided for a choice of three vehicles with a colour information sheet with reference pictures of the real vehicle. A very 'Tamiya' kit which won't disappoint fans of the brand, and a very welcome subject.



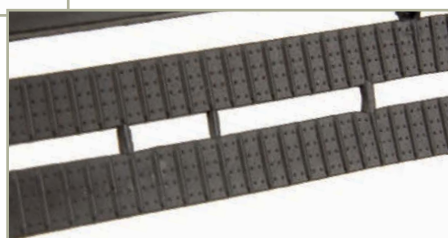
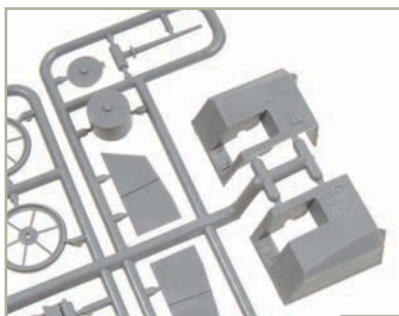
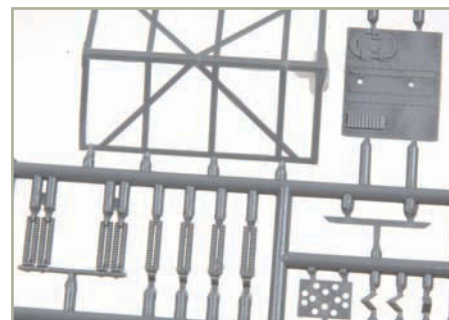
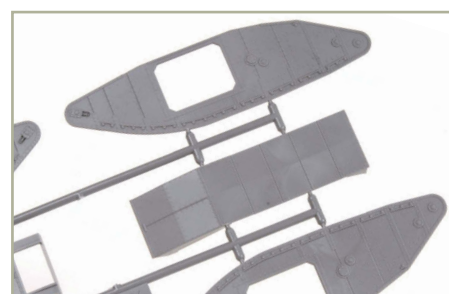
AFV Modeller 1:16 FT-17 Ammunition

If you've got the Takom big 1:16th scale FT-17, like us your going to find that no shells are provided to fill the empty ammunition racks provided in the full interior. Having a bit of a thing for large scale interiors, the Editor decided we should have our own shells CAD rendered and cast in resin to be an exact fit to the kit's racks for his own project. The good news is we can now offer these for sale in our web-shop in sets of ten to add as many live shells as you wish. www.mengafvmodeller and go to the 'shop' page.



Inside the Armour

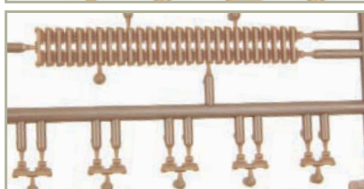
This new tool from ITA is etched in stainless steel for durability and folds ready for use in seconds. Designed for scratch builders and superdetailers it will help to create perfectly straight lines of rivets or fasteners, the slide rule allows you to measure the spacing perfectly and comes with notches and a hole per slot to allow you to accurately line up your marker or drill for perfect placement every time. Slots for lines are: 0.3mm, 0.4mm, 0.5mm, 1mm and 1.5mm and all measurement markings are aligned to make sure you can get your spacing measured as accurately as possible. A handy and inexpensive addition to the workbench available now from www.insidethearmour.com



Masterbox 1:72 Mk.I Male and Female (Gaza Strip)

A couple more small scale WWI British tanks to add to MB's range with this Male and Female, both have modifications for MkI vehicles used in the Gaza Strip, namely the roof mounted girders which come on a separate small sprue, the rest of the kits remain the same containing surplus parts. This is our first look at these kits which are really simple little affairs which should take no more than a few hours to assemble. The detail is nice and moulding

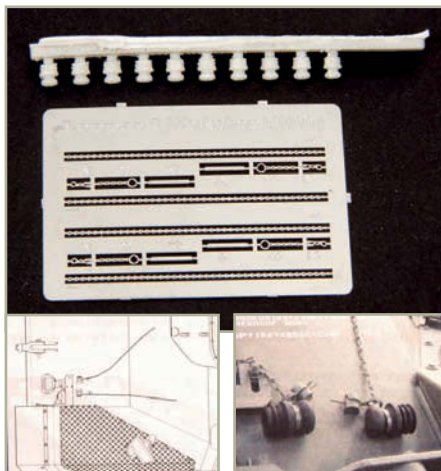
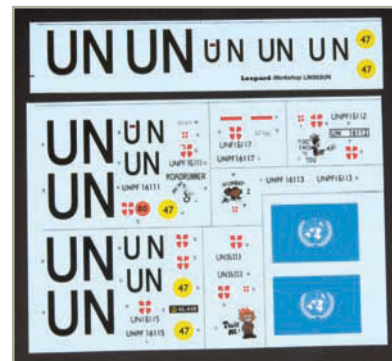
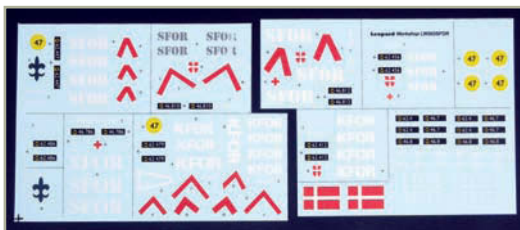
decent with only small amounts of flash on our samples with adequate rubber-band type tracks which should look fine in this scale. A very simple out of the box build with either of these kits if you fancy something WWI related in this centenary year. www.mbltd.info has more details, it would be nice to see these in 1:35 also!



Hobby Boss 1:35 Renault R35

Right near the top of my personal list of long-overdue subject choices is the R35 as the antique Heller kit is well past its sell by date. Fortunately Hobby Boss have stepped up to the challenge and made a very good job of it too. For a tiny tank you certainly get your money's worth here with a fully detailed interior which is skillfully handled but bizarrely is missing the prominent ammunition racks. Inside the turret there is a partial gun breech and welcome turned brass gun barrel but no co-ax MG. Externally the detail is excellent and the multi-part hull assembles flawlessly. The running gear is nicely detailed with the perforated idler rims replicated and a choice of idler with open or blanked off holes. The roadwheel bogies come with photoetched spacers which are

the wrong choice for the job and best replaced with plastic card. The link and length track looks good and not something you would need to upgrade. The turret visors are the early pattern domed type which is restrictive and it would have been simple enough to offer the latter flush type too. Likewise the lack of the distinctive tail skid is also a disappointment and restricts the choice of vehicles for the modeller. This said this is still a very welcome release and perhaps a later version will follow on with these features? There is a choice of just two schemes one of which is in captured German markings. A complex build but one that will repay the effort and it is great to see the tiny Renault available at last. Our thanks to Hobby Boss for the sample.



Leopard Workshop

A new manufacturer which fans of the Leopard will certainly welcome, be assured that the guys of www.leopardclub.info know their stuff! First up are a set of upgrade resin roadwheels and idlers for Leopard 1s to suit kits from Italeri, Revell, Meng or Takom with some excellent instructions regarding fitting to the different kits. The detail is very crisp and unlike the various kit versions these ones feature detailed rear surfaces. Something often absent from Leopard kits and conversions are the small rubber mantlet plugs, LW005 is an easy remedy for this with detailed resin plugs and fine photoetched chains and fittings.

The set comes with scale drawings for positioning and chain lengths. Some exciting finishing options are offered with a couple of detailed decal sheets; LW003UN is designed for the legend 1A5DK conversion of the Meng 1A3/A4 to produce a Danish Leopard serving in Bosnia. LW003SFOR provides markings and comprehensive information to produce the 1A5DK1 with SFOR and KFOR in Bosnia. Decals are good quality waterslides with very detailed colour reference for each scheme. Leopard Club can be found at www.leopardclub.info, www.facebook.com/LeopardFibel or email leopardclub@gmail.com



Vlieland Leopards- End of the Line

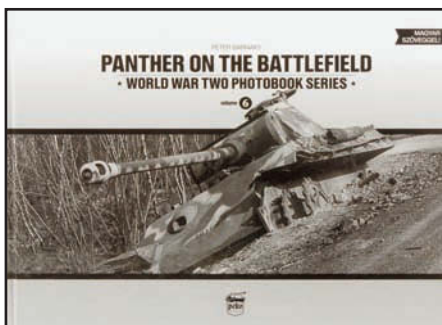
Dirk Bruin

Published by Trackpad
A5 landscape, 65 pages
ISBN 978 0 9928425 1 2
www.leopardclub.info



This quirky little book has very much a picture-postcard feel about it, and what a fantastic photographic study it is of the hard targets used by the Netherlands until 2004. The only homeland live firing range operated by the Dutch was situated on the island of Vlieland. The author is a native of the island and a professional photographer which certainly shows in the quality of the images sure to get any fans of the Leopard hot under the collar! What

excellent modelling projects these would make with some serious weathering and damage on these rather sorry looking hulks. Barnacles and seaweed will be an interesting modelling challenge! Some great images of the targets make this the ideal choice for the Leopard fan looking for something different. Highly recommended.



Panther on the Battlefield World War Two Photobook Series 6

By Péter Barnaky

Published by Peko Publishing

Landscape, 111 pages

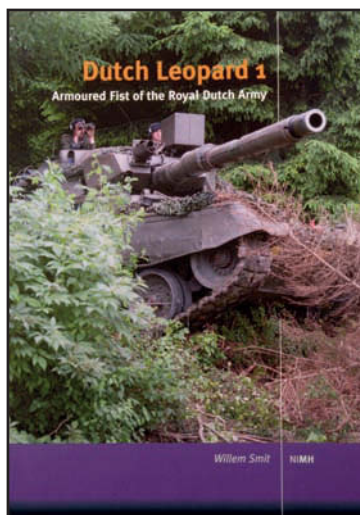
ISBN 978-963-89623-5-5

www.panzerwrecks.com



It is no easy task to come up with a book full of fresh Panther photos across all models of the vehicle but that is exactly what the team at Peko have done. The book follows their usual one image per page format so these pictures are all a comfortable size and the images run in a loose chronological order from the early Ausf D's up to the final productions G's with foliage loops on the turret and no MG rail. There is a mix of the 'Panzerwrecks'

subjects photographed after they have been knocked out as well as vehicles still in service. Plenty to inspire and its hard to think of another book on the Panther which offers such a good choice of images. This is an absolute must have reference for fans of the Panther and with a similar treatment promised for the Tiger in Volume seven, well we cant wait. Superb!



Dutch Leopard 1 Armoured Fist of the Royal Dutch Army

By William Smit

Published by Trackpad

A4 Portrait, 80 pages

ISBN 978 0 9928425 0 5

www.leopardclub.info



More to excite Leopard fans with a very complete reference on the tank's service in the Royal Dutch army. With the guys from Leopard Club and the Netherlands Institute of Military History involved we feel assured that is the most accurate information available on the subject. The whole spectrum is covered from the decision to buy through to deployment and organisation and finally the phasing out. Absolutely Packed with photographs, tables, maps and a good selection of detailed close-up walkaround style

shots, this is good reference for the modeller as well as giving the background and political influences involving the Dutch Army over the years. Fascinatingly these are many of the same vehicles that ended their days on the Vlieland range as recorded in the other Trackpad publication. There are numerous shots of the tank in service to inspire modelling projects The book is packed with useable information and highly recommended to Leopard enthusiasts.

wandering willys

Cesare Serratore creates a long range desert group jeep based on Tamiya's classic kit

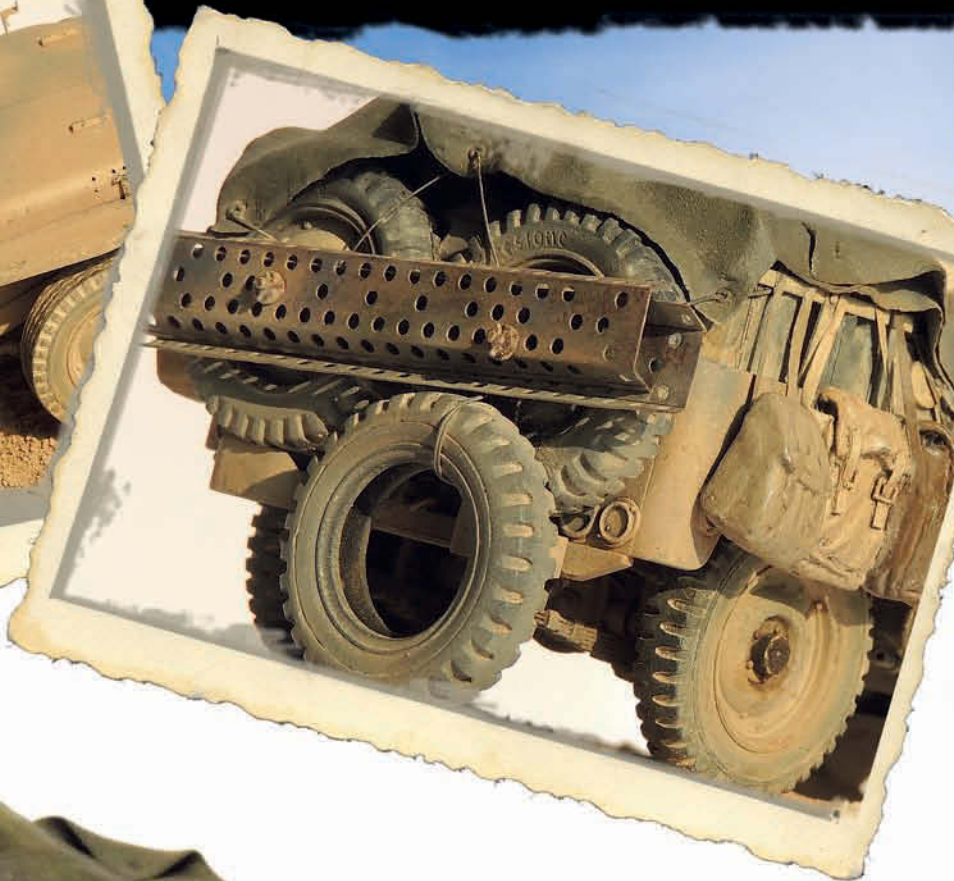


Despite its status of an elite special force that played a key contributory role in the Allied victory in North Africa, it is very hard to find any colour information about the Willys Jeep used by the LRDG during the campaign.

Formed in December 1940, the LRDG started to use Jeeps only during the summer 1942 as a versatile and efficient replacement for the Chevrolet 1311x3 as

patrol Commanders' pilot cars, and in this role the Willy's Jeep used by the LRDG were not quite as heavily armed as their SAS counterparts and normally mounted just twin Vickers in front of the passenger seat. Jerrycans were not generally carried on the bonnet of LRDG jeeps. Therefore, to build up a LRDG Jeep is quite simple, to paint it is another matter: the choice of camouflage was very much left

to patrol Commanders and considerable variations existed based on availability of paint (some repaints apparently were carried out by local paint shops, so obviously some of these paint jobs did not even use official Army colours) and personal theories about what worked best. Additionally, colours quickly faded in the intense sunlight of the African desert.



1:35



When I started to assemble my LRDG Jeep neither the Dragon kit 6724 depicting a SAS Jeep, nor the Bronco kit CB35106 of the Ford GPW, (identical to the Willis MB but for the grill and other minor differences), were available. Therefore I decided to make the Tamiya Jeep (kit 35219) which is a real gem, beautifully detailed and easy to construct: the only thing missing in the kit is the very distinctive 'T' shaped latches for the hood

and windshield lockdown which I scratchbuilt from stretched sprue (both Dragon and Bronco, using different solutions, have now include these details in their kits). Where the 'T' shaped latches and rear handholds are missing I drilled the corresponding holes with a 0.3 mm drill. Bumper, dashboard and axe holder came from the Aber 35057 photoetch set while water condenser straps, alidade compass (at least what I think is an alidade) on the

left fender, sand channels and the Vickers sights came from Eduard 35797 photoetch set.

Haversacks and the Jeep load came from various kits; Black Dog T35014, old Tamiya kit 35033 SAS Jeep, Great Wall Hobby and Tasca jerrycans and Bronco AB3509 WWII British AFV Equipment set. The twin Vickers came from the Bronco set plus some other parts from my sparebox.

Long range load

To make haversack shoulder straps I used a flat dental floss: you can glue it with any cyanoacrylate adhesive getting metres of very cheap straps for every purpose! The bottom part of chassis has been detailed with some rivets made with a 0.6 mm punch and die tool and, again, leftover pieces from other kits.

A real challenge could be to depict the two front wheels with civilian pattern, but

Legend saved me by producing the resin kit LF1232 SAS Jeep Wheels Set that is perfect for this task. Lots of Jeeps in British service were fitted with odd tyres due to the shortage of spares, so using this resin kit from Legend Productions is a must! The tyre hung to the sand channels came from the old Tamiya SAS jeep kit 35033. The spare wheel of that kit is moulded in two halves that you can mill-out and glue obtaining a tyre.

On the rear load I laid a tarpaulin that I have made using some epoxy putty from Sylmasta Magic Sculp and detailed using some lead rings put in the soft putty. The strap running along the tarpaulin is from stretched sprue. This tarpaulin appears in all the pictures depicting LRDG jeep in action and was used to protect the load and to conceal the jeep to enemy air recognition.



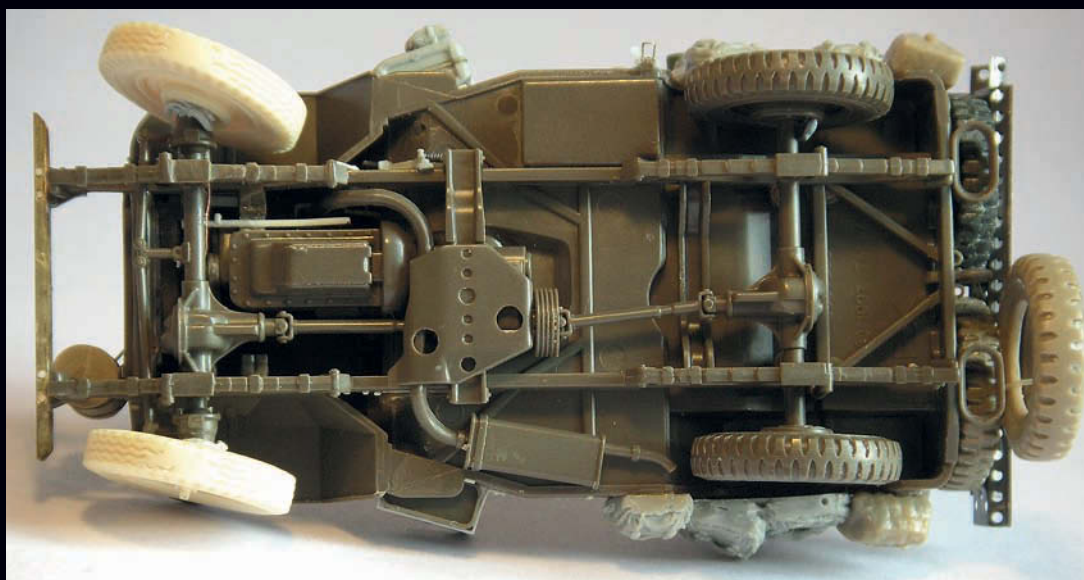
The combination of two pictures gave me the colours, tone and scheme of my LRDG Jeep: the first one is an undated photograph from the Imperial War Museum collection which portrays a "Jeep car of the

Long Range Desert Group in Cyrenaica". It is now in the fantastic book "The wartime jeep in British Service 1941-1945 by Gavin Birch (Jeep Books LTD Publication). This jeep is in overall sand with darker stripes

running along the bumper, the radiator frame, the left front fender, the fuel tank and the left back wheel arch. The pattern of these stripes leads to what I've sprayed on the bonnet.



The second picture is from the classic Osprey Vanguard 36 "The Long Range Desert Group" by Robin Jenner and David List and portrays the 'Y Patrol' resting in the close countryside of Tripolitania. The caption of this picture says that Y Patrol used predominantly grey and sand-coloured schemes that gave me the choice of colour stripes on my Willys.



Colour Combinations

First step was a black aerosol primer from Vallejo (28012). It was very important to make uniform the variety of media used on the model: resin wheels and bags, metal photoetch parts and plastic parts from different kits.

My first intention, (later aborted), was to use the hairspray technique to reveal the original US olive drab under the sand colour (green paint sprayed over US vehicles was a rust inhibitor too) I gave the model a first layer of Tamiya colours following the guide from Chris Mrosko for Allied vehicles published in his manual "Painting and weathering military vehicles - volume one" (Letterman Publication). A highlighting pattern mix of 70% XF 61 Dark Green, 20% XF 60 Dark Yellow and 10% XF 2 Flat White is sprayed over a base of XF 27 Black Green or XF 61 Dark Green.

The overall sand layer is a mix of XF 57 Buff and X 2 White in different percentages according to the Adam P. Wilder's colour modulation style as described in 'Colour Modulation' DVD from MIG productions. Using a lighter

sand tone I have then painted all the details and parts extruding from the model for adding volume and depth.

Over this base I airbrushed the grey stripes using a mix of Tamiya XF 12 J.N. Grey and XF 25 Light Sea Grey.

I made a choice between the better smooth flow of the Tamiya colours, if correctly thinned with their lacquer thinner, and the perfect colour tone of Middle East British Vehicle Camouflage set from Lifecolor (CS-16). Obviously everyone can make his own choice depending on his own preferences.

After sealing the model with Vallejo Satin Varnish 70.522 I made general and detail washes using 502 Abteilung modelling oil colours Abt.080 Wash Brown and Abt.015 Shadow brown thinned with 90% Mig thinner.

Once the washes had dried it is time to start with the chipping process. Using Vallejo paints thinned with tap water and a good three-zero brush, with small and

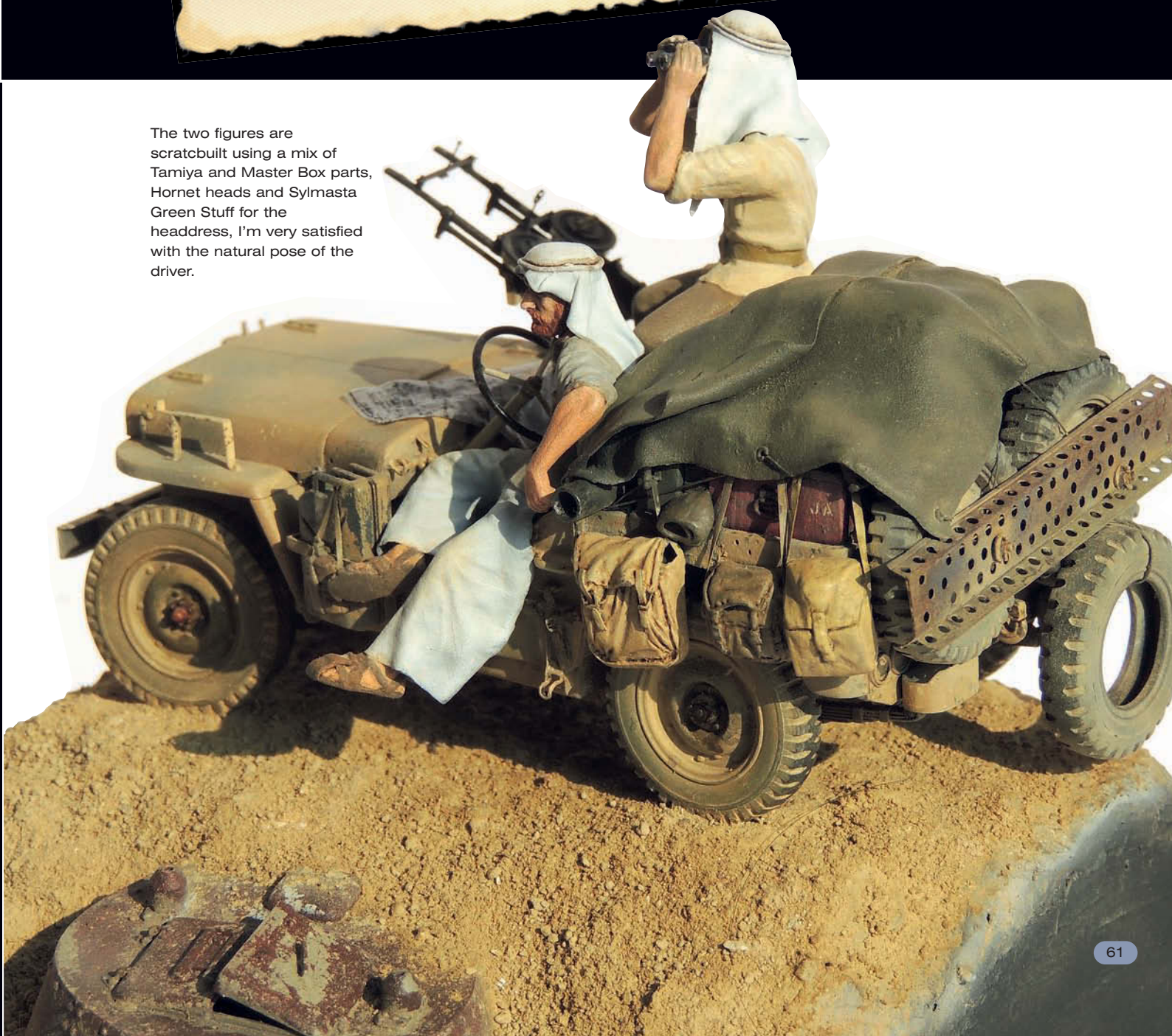
tapping motion I have applied fine chips and scratches of Vallejo 70837 Pale Sand colour all over the model. Over these I have added green chips using Vallejo US Field Drab 873 and US Olive Drab 70889 to represent the factory antirust paint. Some of these chips were later toned down using a clean brush dampened with Tamiya X-20A Acrylic Paint Thinner. I decided not use rusted tones to enhance the difference between the car body and the customized equipment. To paint jerrycan racks, sand channels and the water condenser I used a different approach exploiting the hairspray technique and speckling technique as explained in Adam P. Wilder's exhaustive article in AFV Modeller Magazine September-October 2012 issue.

To finish the weathering process and to merge the Willys with the other elements of the diorama I dusted the model with a mix of Mig pigments Europe Dust P028, Gulf War Sand P037 and Concrete P026.





The two figures are
scratchbuilt using a mix of
Tamiya and Master Box parts,
Hornet heads and Sylmasta
Green Stuff for the
headdress, I'm very satisfied
with the natural pose of the
driver.



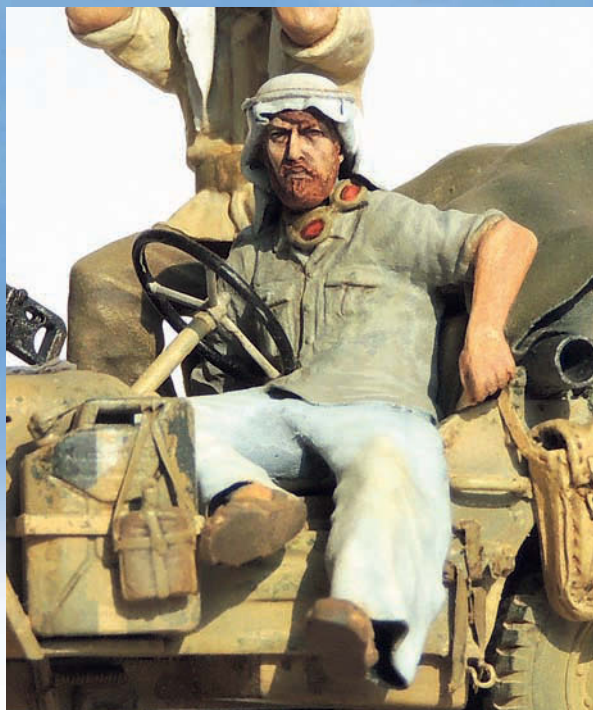
To get a dynamic presentation to the scene, a virtual pyramid was created, its peak is the highest element of it, in this case the figure with the binoculars.

An oblique axis adds dynamism to the scene too; the ideal line between the lizard and the driver's glance carry out this task.

To balance the scene a half-buried Italian M13/40 turret from Italeri's kit 6213, wreckage of previous desert battles.

To realize a diorama or vignette is an achievement land-mark for any modeller that has to master all the techniques to

produce vehicles, figures and groundwork. The best way to this goal is to learn from the lessons of great modellers of today, like Adam P. Wilder, Marijn Van Gils, Calvin Tan and of the past, Francois Verlinden, Sheperd Paine and Bill Horan gave us through their masterpieces.



Bibliography

"The Long Range Desert Group" by Robin Jenner and David List (Osprey Vanguard 36)

"Long Range Desert Group Patrolmen" The Western Desert 1940-1943 by Tim Moreman (Osprey Warrior 148)

"The wartime Jeep in British Service 1941-1945" by Gavin Birch (Jeep Books LTD Publication).





Gama goat Cargo Truck
U.S. M561
Wheel set-sagged
For 1/35 Tamiya Kit



Total 6 Resin parts with Easy mask seal

DEF.MODEL DW35061
For 1/35 Tamiya Kit

Gama goat Cargo Truck
U.S. M561
Wheel set-sagged

M1A2 SEP V2 Conversion Set
For Dragon M1A2 SEP



Total 52 Resin parts, 2 PE Plate,
1 Mask seal, 1 Brass rod and 1 Aurora Seal

DEF.MODEL DW35030
For Dragon M1A2 SEP

M1A2 SEP V2 Conversion Set

Flammpanzer 38t Hetzer Conversion set
For Academy Late ver.
Available for Tamiya



Total 9 Resin Parts
1 PE included

DEF.MODEL DW35023
For Academy Late ver.

Flammpanzer 38t Hetzer Conversion set

LGS FENNEK Wheel set-sagged
Leichter Gepanzerter Schützenwagen
For 1/35 Trumpeter Kit



Total 4 Resin parts with Easy mask seal

DEF.MODEL DW35062
For 1/35 Trumpeter Kit

LGS FENNEK Wheel set-sagged

DEF.MODEL
Definite Detail Resin Cast Kit

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DEF.MODEL



Included Label decal

DEF.MODEL DW35013

M1151 suspension + MT/R tire set
Natural weighted
For ACADEMY M1151 kit



Total 28 parts and 4 natural vulcanized tires
20 parts for Suspension, 8 parts for tires
Cooperates with Windmark models

DEF.MODEL DW35009
Natural weighted
M1151 suspension + MT/R tire set
For ACADEMY M1151 kit

WWII U.S. Willys MB 4x4 wheel set-sagged
For TAMIYA kit (No.219)



Total 5 resin parts with Easy Mask Seal

DEF.MODEL DW30004
WWII U.S. Willys MB 4x4 Wheel set-sagged
For TAMIYA kit (No.219)

U.S. M-ATV 16.00xR20
MRAP
Wheel set-sagged
For PANDA kit (DW35011)



Total 5 resin parts with Easy Mask Seal

DEF.MODEL DW35054
MRAP
U.S. M-ATV 16.00xR20
Wheel set-sagged
For PANDA kit

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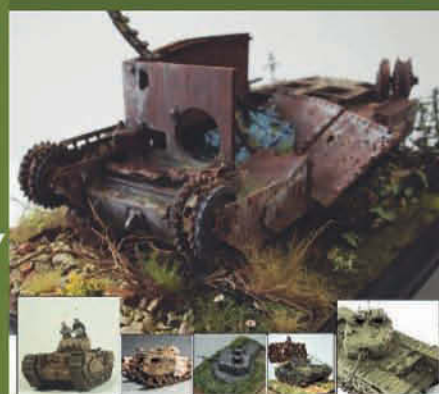
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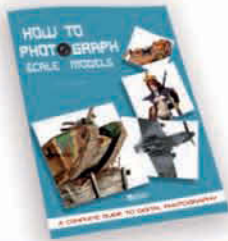
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