

MENG



AFV 105

modeller

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Graeme Newman's
Panzer III G rolls Eastwards

BARBAROSSA UNLEASHED

KAWASAKI

///崎“NINJA”H2”R

Ninja

H2R

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1/9
SCALE



BRITISH R-R ARMORED CAR

Pattern 1914/1920

英国R-R装甲车PATTERN 1914/1920

1/35
SCALE



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1:35



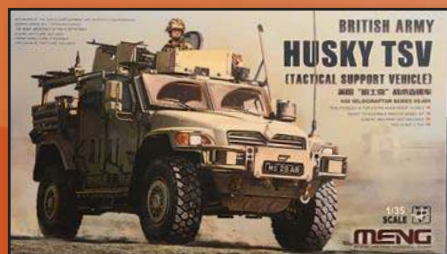
At last, one of the British Protected Mobility (PM) fleet in plastic! I have to say that when Meng announced the British Husky TSV in 1:35 scale I was over the moon! I hadn't heard any rumblings of this announcement in the pipeline and Meng must have had this model nearly ready to ship, as it seemed like a very short period before it was in production and appearing on-line model shops in Japan and China. I believe that UK model shops now have ample supplies; and from what I've seen they'll need them as this model is proving to be very popular with all standards of modeller.

The Operational Utility Vehicle System (OUVS) programme, launched in 2003 was instigated to replace the ageing fleet of support vehicles such as the Renault-Boughton RB44 and

Pinzgauers. Following the convention of naming our PM vehicles after dogs; the British Army Husky is a slightly modified variant of the International/Navistar Defence MXT-MVA; as part of a \$180M contract initially for 262 vehicles in 2009 and a further 89 vehicles in 2010. Initially three variants were to be supplied: utility with a flat bed at the rear; ambulance and command posts were both to have enclosed cabs at the rear, but these never materialised. The British variant can be fitted with two types of turret: the 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) mounting and the .50 (12.7mm) Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) turret: the Meng model comes with the 'standard' 7.62mm GPMG turret, but I've already heard rumours of an after-market manufacturer planning a .50 Cal version.

BRITISH ARMY TACTICAL SUPPORT VEHICLE

HUSKY



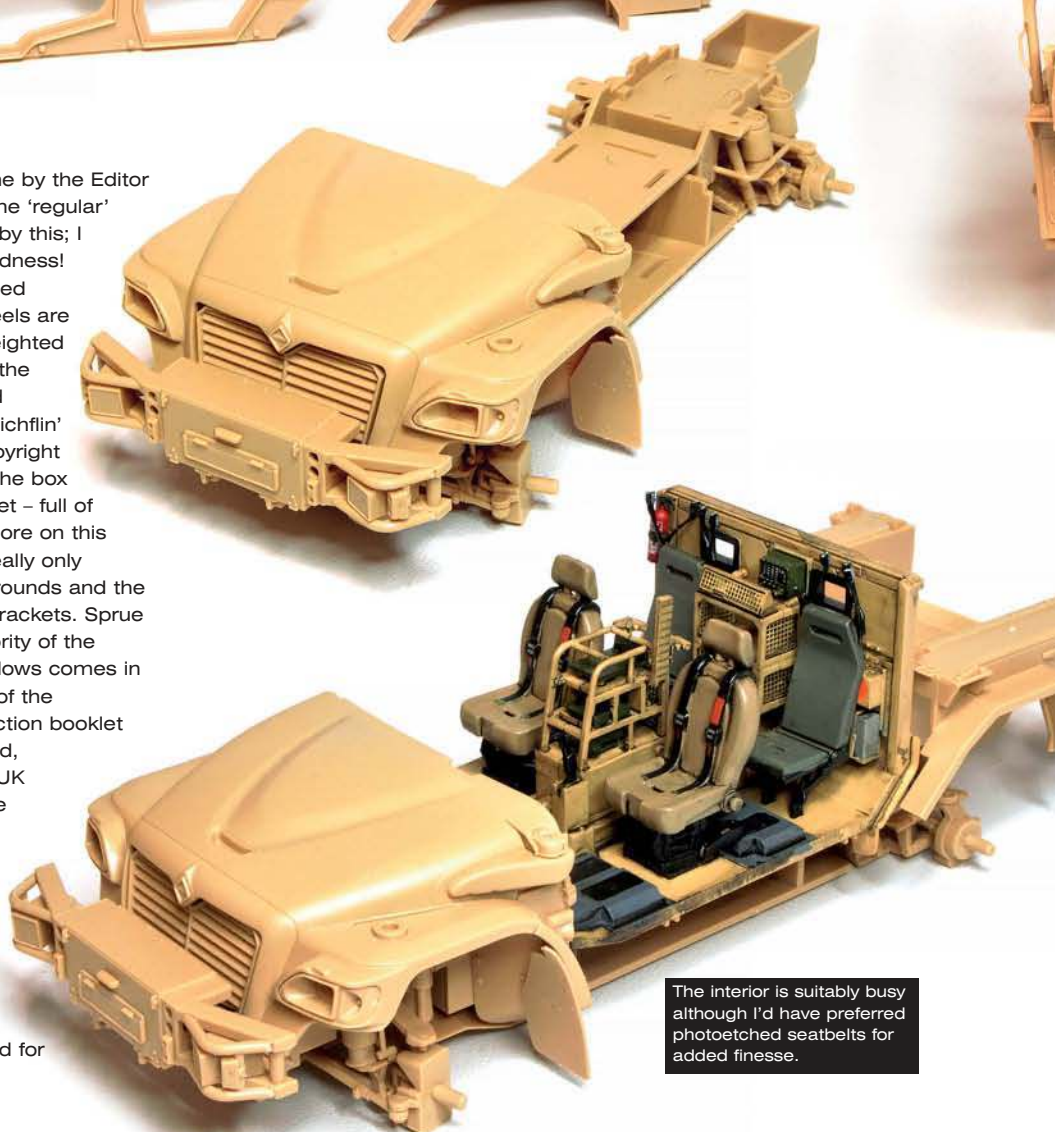
IAN BARRACLOUGH

**GETS HIS HANDS ON MENG'S
BRAND NEW PUPPY**



My review model was kindly supplied to me by the Editor and arrived in a slightly smaller box than the 'regular' size of AFV model box – do not be put off by this; I assure you it's chock-full of modelling goodness! The vehicle bonnet (hood), cab and load bed are provided as individual mouldings. The wheels are of the rubber variety but Meng do offer weighted resin versions as a separate item. I found the rubber versions to be totally adequate and fantastically detailed, even down to the 'Michflin' lettering. I'm sure this typo is down to copyright issues, but it looks fine! The other bits in the box are the etched brass sheet and decal sheet – full of health and safety warning stickers – but more on this later on. The etched sheet is small, but really only contains the parts for the door handle surrounds and the radio/Electronic Counter Measure (ECM) brackets. Sprue E is the clear sprue and contains the majority of the lights and window parts. Each of the windows comes in two parts to replicate the scale thickness of the armoured glass. A black and white instruction booklet and colour painting guide are also provided, although the AK paint colour depicted for UK modern sand is more representative of the US shade than the UK one.

The build starts with the lower chassis, being built up from four sides to form a box frame; onto which the axle, suspension and workable steering components are glued. I noticed that the fit of the parts was fantastic, with many of the parts holding together without the need for glue – I did add a dab just in case!



The interior is suitably busy although I'd have preferred photoetched seatbelts for added finesse.



There's no engine provided in the kit but step 4 includes parts that depict the lower engine housing and gearbox. These areas are visible behind the front suspension and look suitably busy and crammed. Step 5 continues with the lower chassis – parts D16 and D17 are the rubber shrouds behind the rear wheels. I did find these difficult to paint flat black later on so I would suggest painting them at this stage and masking them. I left off the clear parts in step 6 but painted the rear of the indicators Tamiya clear orange whilst still connected to the sprue. As above, I would suggest that in step 8 also pre-paint the rubber shrouds behind the front wheels, not forgetting that the brackets are sand-coloured.



Steps 10 through to 16 see you building the very detailed interior. I also jumped forwards to steps 20 and 21 here so I could paint the cabin door interiors at the same time as the rest of the interior. Meng do not provide any of the parts for the radios or ECM boxes. I can understand this as these defensively sensitive equipments were probably not provided for measurement or photographs.

I have no doubt that these will materialise from after-market providers in due course.

Front suspension can be assembled 'workable' and posed as you like.

The interior looks great regardless; although I would have liked to see the seatbelts provided for the front seats as etched brass parts, and not moulded onto the seats. It wouldn't be a big task to scrape these off and add lead foil belts if you wished to depict more detail. Meng also seemed to have missed the rear seatbelts completely, although do provide the holes for them. Take caution with parts A48 and A47 in step 12; in both the samples I've built these parts snapped on the sprue. Prior to moving onto step 17 I painted the interior with Mission Models MMP-039 British Sand Yellow Modern and touched in the detail colours using Tamiya acrylics. The dashboard looks great with all the decals added; and I can tell you from experience that all the dials and switches are there – as well as those health and safety stickers! The whole interior was given a pin-wash of heavily thinned dark brown oil

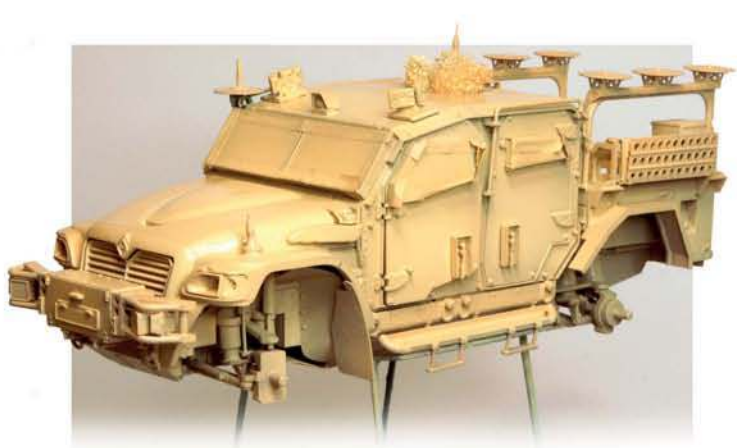
paint and finalised with a wash of Lifecolor liquid pigment Road Dust.

After adding the cab top in step 17 (I didn't glue it at this stage as I wanted to be able to do any clean-up following the oil washes later on) the front windows are fixed into place. For me the armoured windows were definitely the fiddliest part of the build. Each window is made up of two parts which glue together with a hollow interior to give a depiction of a single thick armoured glass block. The potential problem is that if you get a fingerprint or dust on the inside of one of the parts – it's in there forever! I took extra care, leaving the clear parts in the plastic wrapping until needed. I then used Crystal Clear glue to fit the two parts together; before masking the central 'window' with liquid mask and fitting into place; again, with Crystal Clear glue.



I found the kit vinyl tires just fine although Meng have produced some resin weighted versions as a separate set.

Throughout the rest of the steps I left off all the clear parts and painted them on the sprue; as well as some of the more delicate fittings, including the wire cutter – which is just begging to be snapped off by a clumsy hand. Strangely Meng provide US style fuel cans although UK style water cans. I left off the jerry cans and may replace them later on with aftermarket UK ones.



I'm afraid there's not many options when it comes to painting these vehicles: Meng depict a sand vehicle in their painting guide, although an internet search also shows some vehicles have recently been painted in British green for operations in more temperate climates. Having already masked the windows earlier on, I airbrushed the window surrounds with Tamiya flat black before then using masking tape to mask these surrounds as well. I started the main body painting by priming the model with Vallejo white primer. For the sand colour, I again used Mission Models MMP-039 British Sand Yellow Modern; adding a touch of dark brown to the first coat; before misting over a coat of the 'basic' sand and then adding a touch of white to the basic colour; and highlighting the upper surfaces and panel centres. All of this was done with my trusty Badger 360 airbrush and took no more than 30 mins from start to finish. I hand painted the majority of the body fixtures, including the door handles and number plate surrounds with Tamiya black rubber. I find this colour is less harsh than a straight flat black and generally looks more 'used'. I also hand painted the light housings and mirrors with chrome silver decanted from a Molotow silver marker pen, before adding the clear light parts, again using Crystal Clear glue.

I sealed everything in with an airbrushed coat of Klear floor polish. After allowing to dry for a day, I mixed up an oil paint pin wash and applied across the model using a fine paint brush. Again, I allowed the model to dry for a day, before cleaning any excess with cotton buds and soft tissue. I omitted adding streaks and stains; even with heavy use, in hot climates these vehicles remain relatively clean. I did add a thinned coat of Tamiya buff around the wheel wells and lower chassis; as well as adding some dust to the lower hull using the aforementioned Lifecolor Road Dust. I also used this liquid pigment on the wheels and tyres, before rubbing the tires with some Mig soot pigment on the end of my finger.



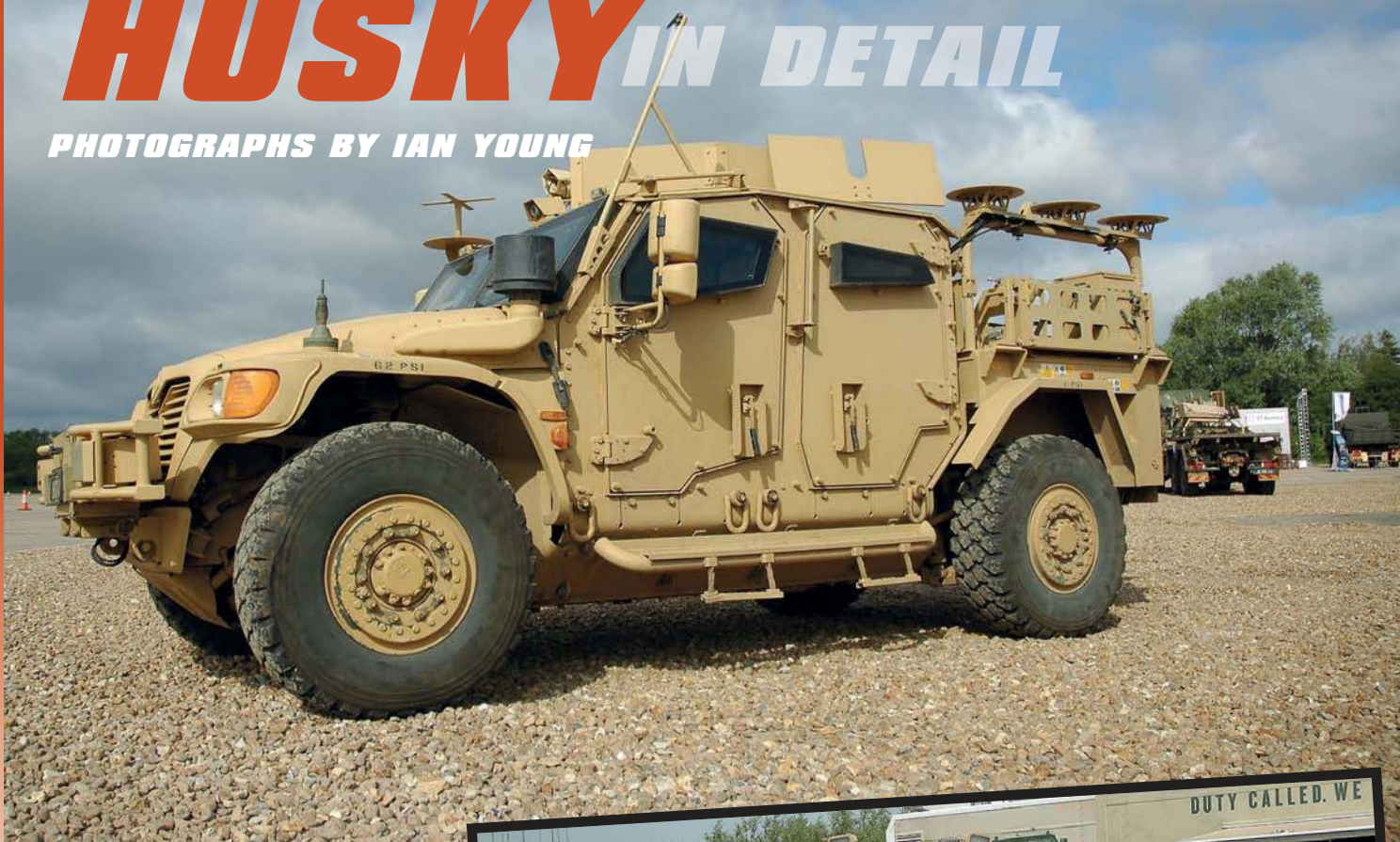
To finish off I added the wheels and turret, before airbrushing a coat of Windsor and Newton acrylic flat matt varnish. I then removed the window masks and masked in some window wiper marks using heavily thinned Tamiya buff through an airbrush.

So, my final thoughts on what I hope will be the first of many modern British subjects from Meng on this surprise package: FANTASTIC! The bottom line is that it looks and feels like a Husky. The build is easy and the parts fit is exquisite; there are some missing detail parts and I feel that in some areas the production does seem rushed (seat belts, lifting hooks) but again, this doesn't detract from what is a brilliant model. This certainly won't be my last...



HUSKY IN DETAIL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN YOUNG



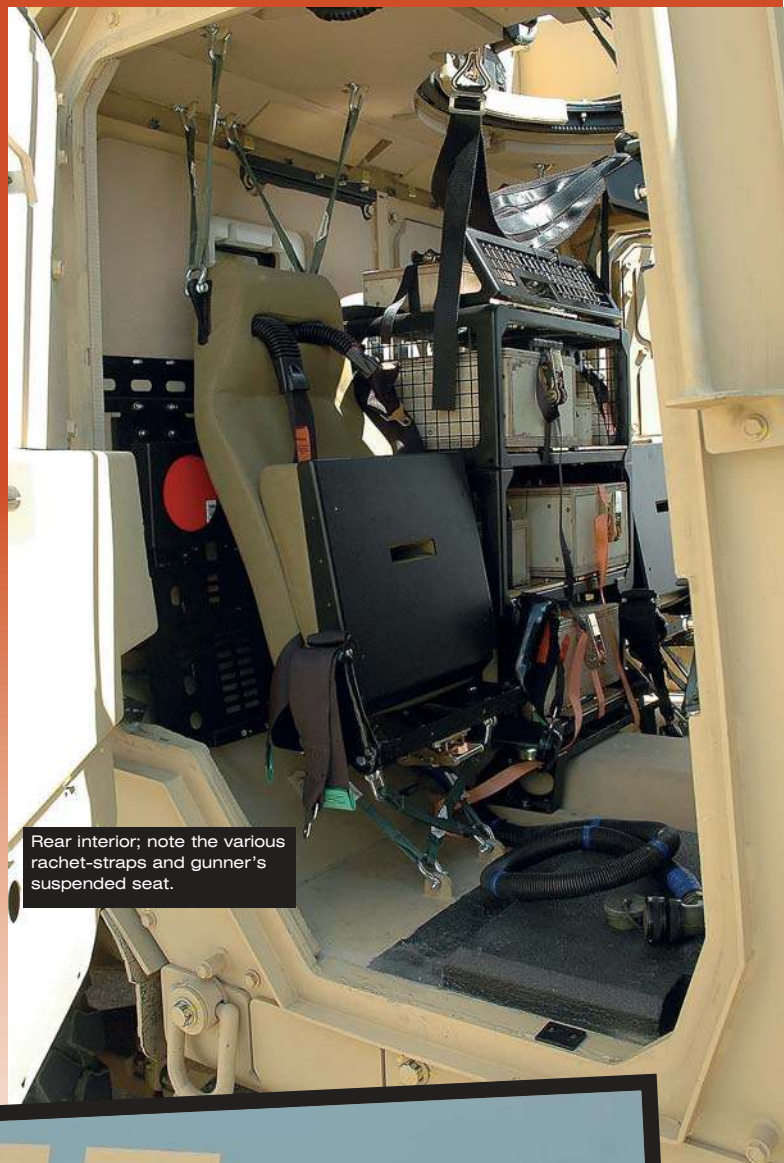
The Husky TSV, in common with many modern British and American vehicles, has a recovery winch integrated into the front bumper of the vehicle to aid with self-recovery or aiding other vehicles.



A range of electronic devices are mounted on the rear framework to help detect and jam IEDs, but most are still on the top secret list and details are few and far between.



Front interior; note the armoured floor sections and heavy wiring conduit.



Rear interior; note the various ratchet-straps and gunner's suspended seat.





The pre-filter and snorkel to feed air to the 6L V8 engine. Note wiring to the rear view mirrors.



The fuel filler for the 200L diesel tank. Note the numerous warning decals.



The Protected Weapon Station is the lighter PWS (H) version supplied with the kit featuring the GPMG mount. A heavier Support Weapon version is also fielded using a different style of turret. The armour panels can be removed along with the ring mount leaving only the hatch which can then fold flat.



Here we can see the armoured glass panels to the rear of the cab and various electrical cables for the different IED detection devices mounted in the rear of the vehicle.



1:35



Fehrmann THIRTEEN

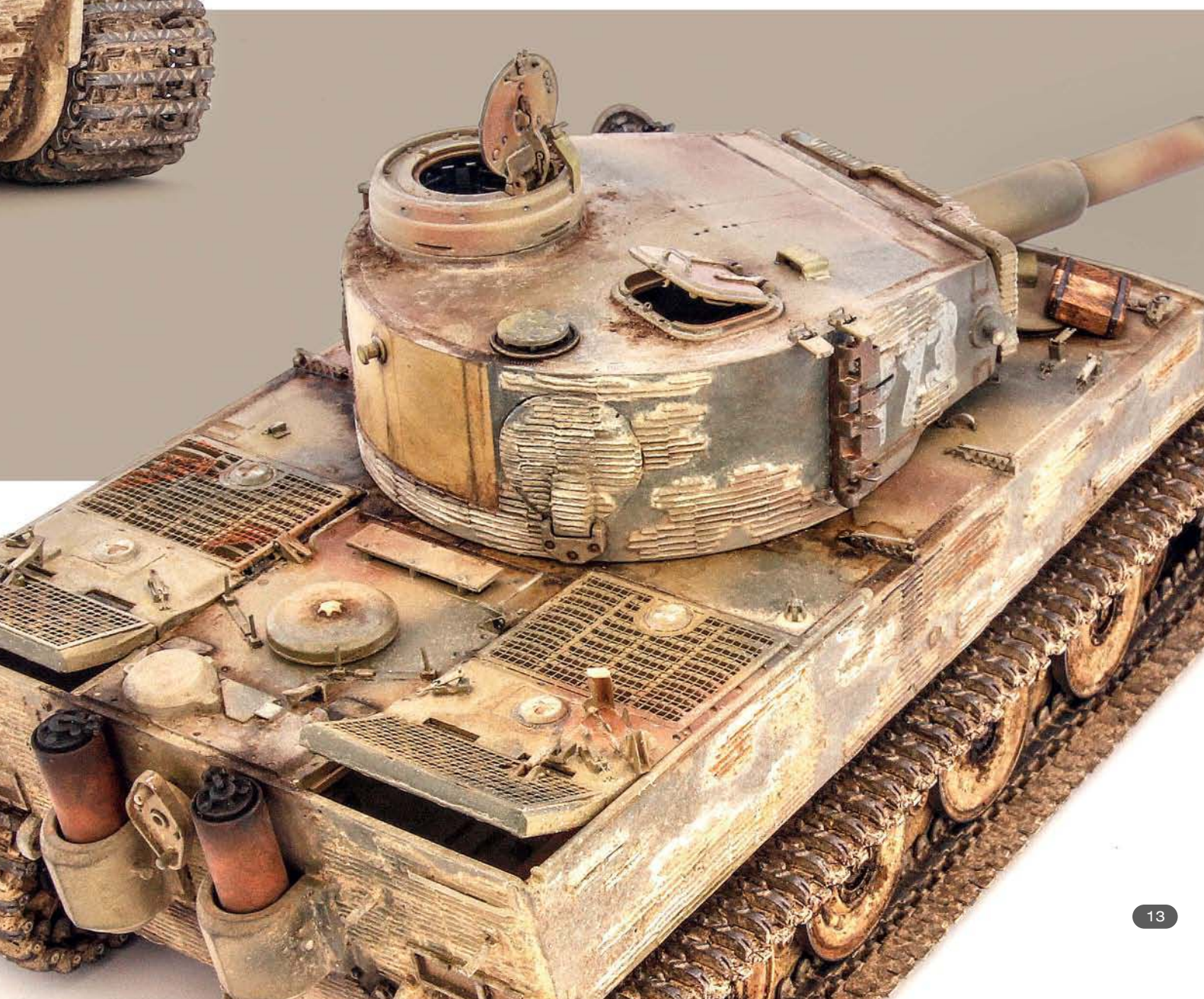
In early 1945, Kampfgruppe Schulze and Oberleutnant Fehrmann formed a division of six Tiger I and five Panthers with the intention of going to engage the enemy into the Ruhr area in the east of the Rhine River. The Tigers were commanded by Oberleutnant Fehrmann and were marked with the letter 'F' to indicate their group affiliation, F01 and F13 are the only Tigers commonly seen in period photographs. The six Tigers were all hybrids featuring both early and late (steel wheels and late tracks) features making for an interesting model for Tiger fans. All tanks were knocked out by the Allies in a few days in April. When I saw the photo of Feldwebel Bellof's Tiger F13, I was immediately fascinated. There are a few photos of F13 mainly, grainy and underexposed.

The crux of this project was to decide what type and colour of camouflage to reproduce and what colour to apply on areas where it was not still coated with Zimmerit. Reading many forums and books revealed a range- of opinions on this topic with most opinions logical in their own ways. My version is a dark yellow (shade as the mid-period of the war) applied in the area under the fenders and behind the removed turret bin. For the rest of the tank, a camouflage representing the late-war colours was decided upon. Areas without Zimmerit, were painted in dunkelgrau (panzer grey). As a final step, I applied a thin layer of Rasedagrun over the whole model, as if it had been hastily repainted before leaving for it's last battle.





Rye Field's Tiger I Modelled by Fabrizio Pincelli



BATTERED BIG CAT

The numbers on the turret were hand-painted with a light blue tint. As for the condition of the tank I decided to replicate one of the original photos with missing road wheels and particular stance. I changed all of the positions of the suspension arms on the right side following the reference images. The final look of F13 required some heavy weathering. The overall appearance of the model was represented with a thick layer of dust and dried mud residues

accumulated in logical places. The bottom of the tank has a full coverage of dry mud and oil and grease stains are present around the lubrication areas and in the holes of the missing suspension arms. The overall effect is one of a veteran Tiger, repeatedly repaired to face one last battle giving the modeller a great opportunity to go a little wild with the weathering!

RYE FIELD'S KIT

One of the Tiger I kits released by Rye Field is a state of the art version of the 'Fehrmann' tiger, kit RM-5005. I was instantly impressed by the quality of the plastic, moulding and detail. The precise instructions guide you step-by-step through an easy construction and the amount of plastic parts and photoetched parts produce a very detailed model from the box. The fit is accurate and I never had issues of having to dry-fit the parts to make amendments. Inside the box there are also individual track links, "workable" with pins to be inserted from each side. Detailing the model even further, I used the Voyager photo etched set and the Atak set for the Zimmerit in resin. I must admit that I was sceptical about the tracks but they are really excellent and very detailed saving the expense of a Friulmodel or other aftermarket set.



Before any assembly I removed any items which would be replaced by photoetch. Good sprue cutters are the best tool to start with.



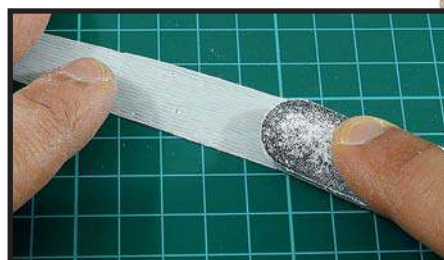
It's easiest to work with these parts before anything is glued together and any damage is avoided. Flexible sanding sticks of various grades were used.



All unnecessary holes are sealed with Tamiya putty applied with a small spatula and finished with fine sanding.



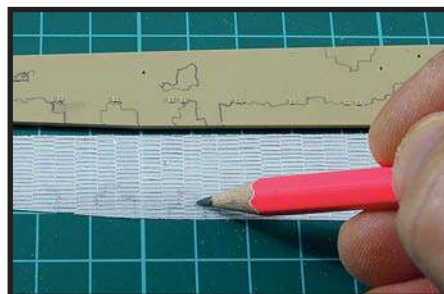
The resin parts that make up the Atak set are separated from the resin sheet and trimmed to suit.



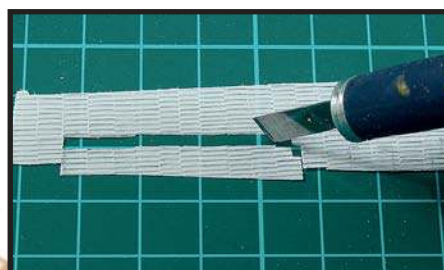
On the reverse of the Zimmerit sections I carried out some careful sanding to thin the sheet even further with gentle strokes across the longest length.



Using the original photo as a starting point I pencilled the areas on the kit parts where Zimmerit paste remained still attached.



Shapes were mirrored onto the Atak resin parts, again with a sharp pencil.



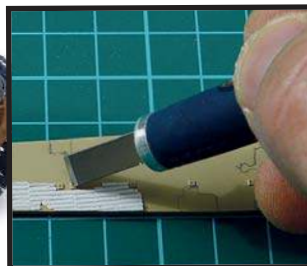
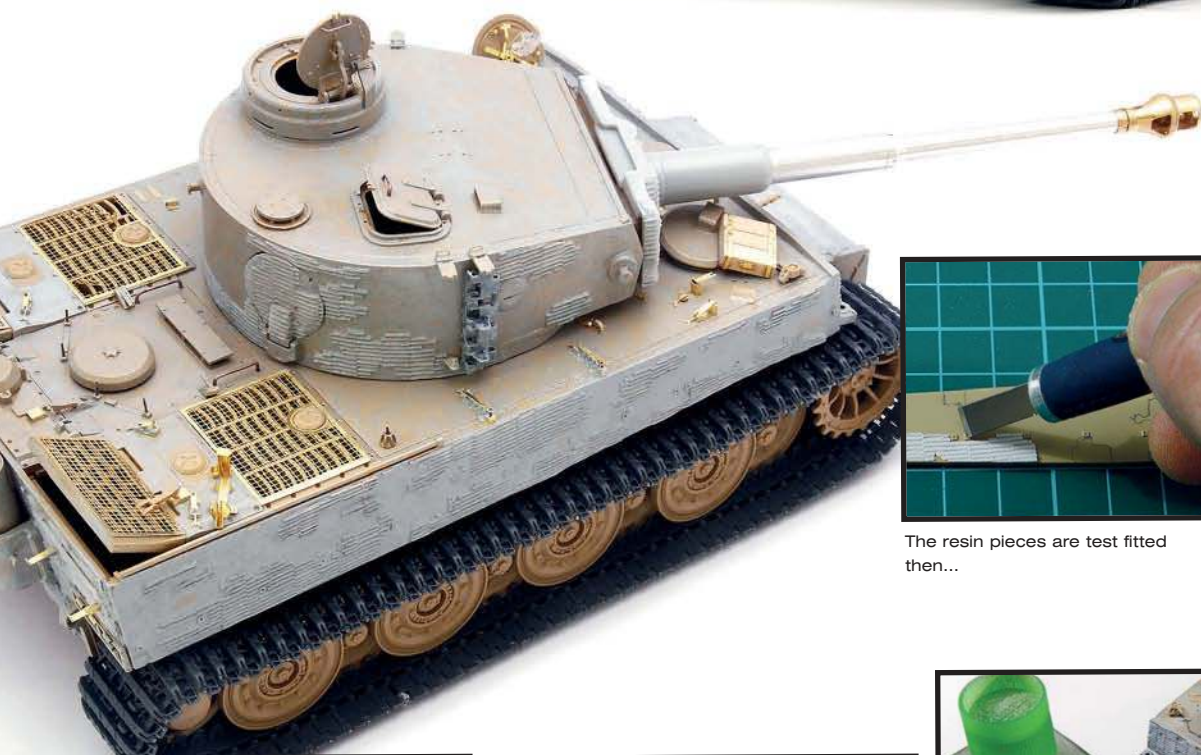
Now the time-consuming work of cutting the tiny Zimmerit sections. Looking at the reference is important to give the accurate 'chipped' effect.



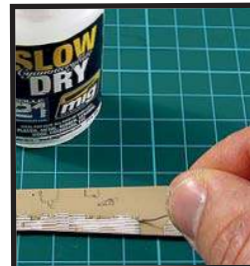


The beautiful barrel and muzzle brake are from the superb Aber range.

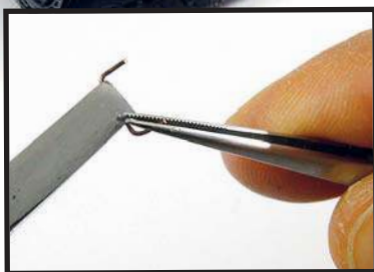
The finished F13 ready for paint. We can see the extensive use of the Voyager photoetch and the damaged Zimmerit. Note also the low stance due to the removed road wheels and quality of the kit tracks.



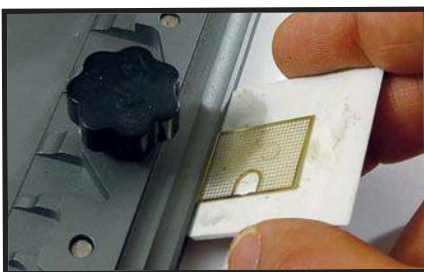
The resin pieces are test fitted then...



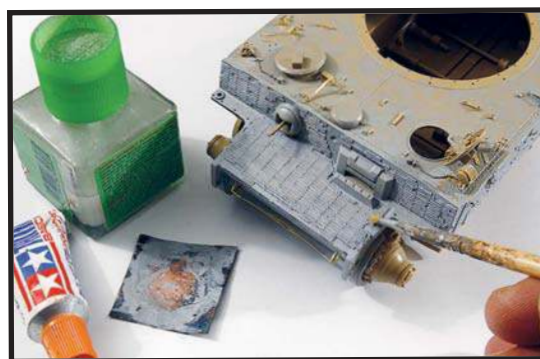
using a thin copper wire, cyano glue was applied to the edges of the Zimmerit thus ensuring a solid and lasting adhesion.



All the handles on the model are made with copper wire bent with flat tweezers and narrow pliers.



A folding tool is the best way to ensure consistent, fine folds.



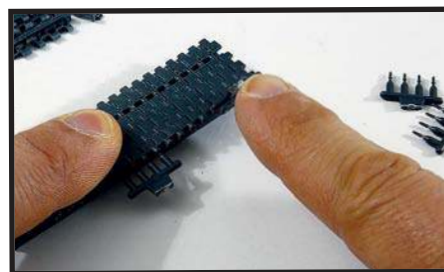
After finishing the construction, the next step is to increase the surface texture using the Tamiya putty diluted with 'Green Cap' glue and an old paintbrush.



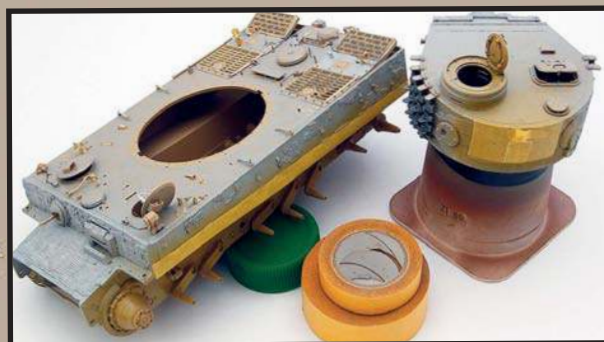
The Workable tracks are great but require a little attention with their assembly. After placing them on the base plate, I push in the pins still attached to their sprue.



I applied a drop of adhesive to keep them in position. Careful not to overdo it with the glue otherwise you may also bond the links together.



When the adhesive is dry a 'wiggle' back and forth of the piece of sprue holding the pins quickly detaches it and the ends of the pins are easily cleaned with a sanding stick.



After a thorough cleaning with alcohol applied with an airbrush, I apply the Gunze primer on any resin and metal parts directly from the can. Having applied the texture I avoid the primer on these areas and step directly to the paint. First the dark yellow on the imaginary line under the fenders and under the turret bin. These areas are masked ready for the next coats of colour.

LOGICAL LAYERS



The whole model was shot with a layer of late dunkelgelb, this tone was used towards the end of WWII.



Olivegrau and Rotbraun were diluted by 50% and with a pressure of 0.5 bar on the compressor the camo areas were gradually built-up. There was no "spitting" of colour with this combination with the edges well defined.



Dunkelgrau was applied in areas without Zimmerit by brush.



The links on the turret were painted in 'Rust Track' applied by brush. Acrylic colour from Ammo is best left to stand on the palette for two minutes in order to have a full-bodied texture and coverage.



The spindles of the suspension arms are painted with the excellent 'Steel' colour from Ammo.



There is debate about the colour of the crudely applied F13 turret number. I used matt white with a touch of Crystal Blue and brush painted following my reference.



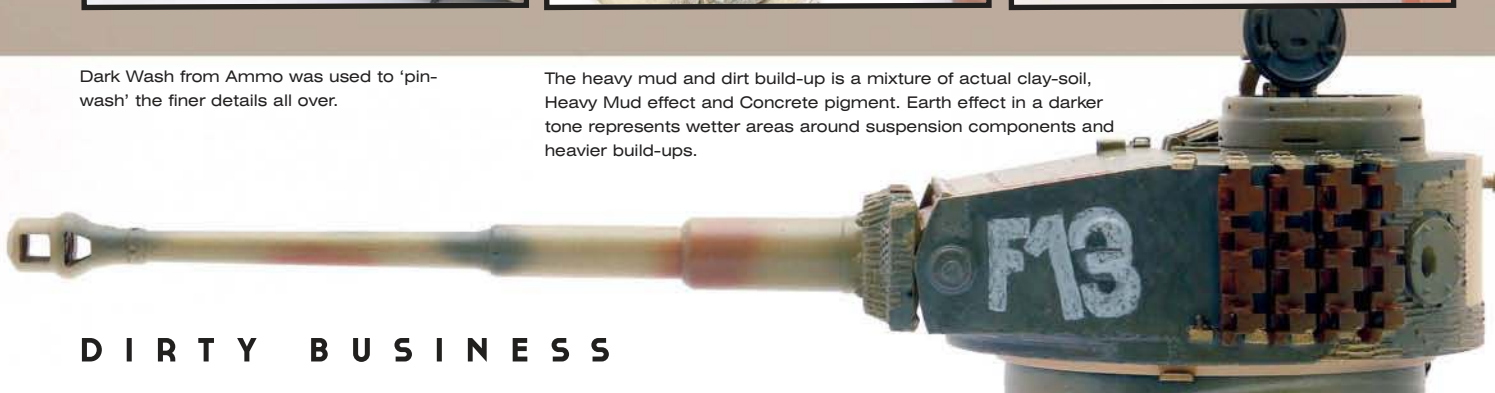
With 'Light Dust' and 'Concrete' pigment I detailed the edges of the Zimmerit paste throughout.



Dark Wash from Ammo was used to 'pin-wash' the finer details all over.



The heavy mud and dirt build-up is a mixture of actual clay-soil, Heavy Mud effect and Concrete pigment. Earth effect in a darker tone represents wetter areas around suspension components and heavier build-ups.



DIRTY BUSINESS



Adding black pigment to Fresh Engine Oil effects creates heavier grease stains in the areas around the arms and lubricated components.



A layer of dry mud and dust deposits was the next layer created by diluting pigments with white spirit. Heavier coats were applied around the rear of the Tiger.



With the Earth effect I changed the tone of the layer of mud and dust previously applied in certain areas.



Fresh Engine Oil simulates the grease and oil spill in the area around the ring of the turret, all of these details add to the appearance of an old warrior.



Black pigment applied with a brush simulates the soot deposits from the exhaust outlets.



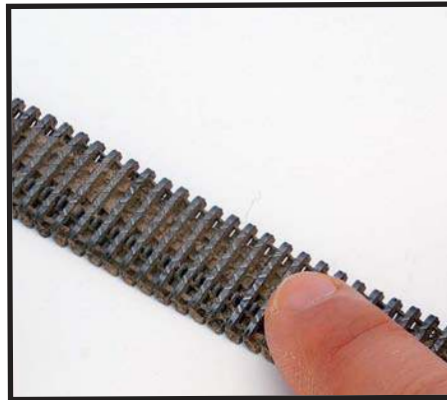
A solid foundation is required for the heavy weathering of the tracks.



The base colour of the tracks is 'Dark Tracks' applied by airbrush.



My lower hull mixture was used again diluted with white spirit and applied by brush over the entire surface.



The raised areas of the track (outside) and wheel contact areas (inside) were rubbed with Gun Metal pigment which can be polished to a sheen and looks very realistic.



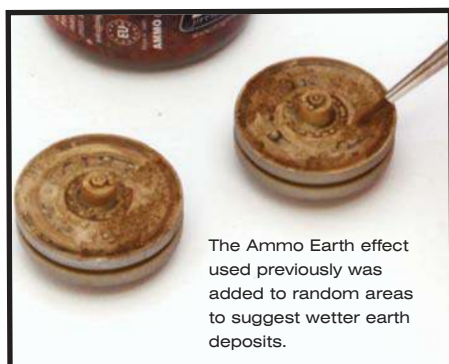
The basic wheel colour is the late WWII dark yellow. Ammo Dark Wash and burnt umber oil colour (diluted 60% with white spirit) was used to bring out the details.



To simulate the dry mud on the wheels I used the same mixture prepared previously for the tracks applied with a brush over the whole surface.



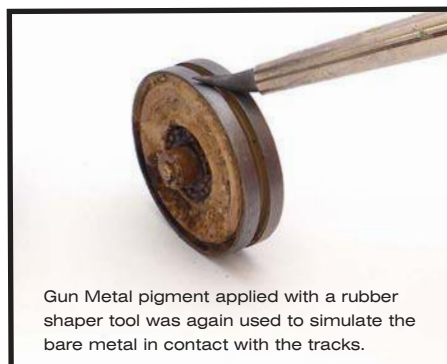
The Ammo acrylic colour 'Steel' was applied and polished by brush to areas which would make contact with the tracks.



The Ammo Earth effect used previously was added to random areas to suggest wetter earth deposits.



With black pigment and the Fresh Engine Oil effect lubrication leaks were added around the hubs.



Gun Metal pigment applied with a rubber shaper tool was again used to simulate the bare metal in contact with the tracks.



Fehrmann

T H I R T E E N



Rye Field are a relatively new manufacturer but they are really delivering what the modern modeller wants. This kit is available in several versions including full interior options. I hope you agree the kit has allowed me to capture the character of the famous Fehrmann photographs.



DESPAIR

BARBAROSSA UNLEASHED

Probably one of the most significant events of the 20th Century was Operation Barbarossa, the largest land campaign in history was the Third Reich's attempt at creating a racial empire in the east, whilst at the same time destroying its ideological enemy, Bolshevism. Named after the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I 'Redbeard' who according to legend would wake and spiritually lead the German peoples to unity and omnipotence. The legacy of Barbarossa was felt far long after the guns fell silent and has influenced the foreign policy of modern Eastern and central Europe to the present day.

Growing up from the early 1960's I am one of the group of modellers who was heavily influenced by boys comic-book literature that had a heavy focus on WWII as well as the availability of military kits at local hardware stores and newsagents (those days are long gone!) It always amazes me

that many younger people have such little understanding of even basic facts about such topics. As my interest expanded it was evident there were huge gaps in the histories of the war in the East, this was primarily due to the Iron curtain and lack of access to the Soviet Union. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union a huge amount of literature and photos have made our understanding more complete.

One of the enduring images of the war in Russia is the many shattered towns and villages razed to the ground either by German attacks/retreats or by Soviet retreats/attacks, synonymous with these images are the skeletons of chimneys surrounded by the burnt husks of the wooden dwellings. I set out to include this image in my latest vignette as well as the plight of the innocent civilians whose losses are simply staggering! Many photos show civilians salvaging what they could from the

shattered remnants whilst the war continued to destroy what little they had. Life was medieval for many especially in the more rural areas and their suffering has went largely undocumented being treated with indifference at best by the invader and bestial cruelty at worst, then there's Stalin but that's another story...

One of my favourite vehicles of this period is the Panzer III especially the short-barrel 5cm. It served as the main battle tank during this campaign and the latest Dragon releases over the last ten to fifteen years are very good covering almost all Ausfuhrung, recent prices and DS tracks have become a bone of contention amongst many and all I'm prepared to say is I'm glad I bought mine when they offered better value!

Graeme Newman's Panzer III G rolls ever eastwards...





Dragon's kit has many parts and care has to be taken in building many of the sub assemblies which go to make up the cupola and visors which all have separate vision blocks. Rudimentary interior components such as the aforementioned visor details, cupola and gun breech is included and was painted in sub-assemblies before being concealed. The rest of the model was assembled with care as the plastic is very soft and has many small details, the only mods being the tiny lifting hooks on the hull (Elephant etched brass) and a stowage box for the left fender as per my reference (from white plastic card), aluminium foil and brass hinges. Since the running gear was to be positioned on flat ground the wheels were positioned to match, the 'working' torsion bars allow multiple suspension positions. The tracks were glued together using standard liquid plastic cement and allowed to dry for about forty minutes before being draped over the running gear and wound around the drive and idler wheels creating characteristic sag were necessary. The track runs hold together well if you give them time to semi-set and I usually leave about two links short so they can be removed for painting after being allowed to set overnight. Once the running gear and lower hull are painted the tracks can be fitted and joined.

One of the key things in making a vehicle look lived in is the stowage, realistic items and positioning is essential and reference material is priceless here. I have a huge collection of books, one of the few advantages of being as old as I am but this is not as necessary in the internet age, many great images are freely available. It appears that particular divisions followed fairly similar patterns of stowing wheels, jerry cans, fascines etc, many special brackets or boxes being constructed and positioned at particular points on the vehicle. If this is your thing 8Wheels Good do a publication addressing the unique divisional arrangement for Panzer IVs during Barbarossa! Using the Fedorowicz book 10th Pz Div Photo History the stowage typical for that unit was broadly copied, this included the addition of support brackets welded to the rear of the engine deck and the previously mentioned stowage box for the left side fender. The fascines were constructed out of real twigs that resembled the corresponding real life items, tarps were finely rolled duro putty cut and folded, spare 36cm Friul track, boxes were old Verlinden items and the bucket and frying pan were from Plus-Model and Aber positioned as per references. The stowage was dry fitted to see if it all sat right on the vehicle (and with each other) before painting. The kit tow

cables were replaced by Karaya items and little touches like spare track pins (included in the kit) were positioned in the guide horns of the spare track. A spare track bracket was added between the final drive cooling vents, several variations were used but again individual unit's maintenance crews constructed particular designs.

Painting Panzer Grey! It's a difficult colour to work with as it is very dark, not medium grey, and does not lend itself easily to dark washes and corresponding highlighting. It's the covering of dust that makes it appear lighter in photos. I have many colour photos showing the contrast between the dirt and the dark shade. It's so easy to kill the colour by a general dust coating so I approach it by having contrast between areas of dirt and the less dirty areas, that's just my personal approach, it is after all subjective to how people interpret and apply their own techniques. Everyone has there personal favourite paints and I still use enamels for the base colours of my vehicles, Xtra Colour armour colours are a very good starting point, comparing them to the RAL index they are pretty good, I sometimes tweak them lightening or intensifying colours but this is fairly subtle. I use oils for washes and tonal variations. Starting with a primer coat the vehicle is painted with the dark monotone coat, then





subsequent highlighting is built up subtly followed by pin washes. An initial area of mud and dirt is built up on the vehicle and running gear using a combination of white glue - flour, then pigments to finish off. At this point the blending between the lower and upper areas takes place using a range of earth tones, for this I use Humbrol enamels and Tamiya acrylics. An eye on the ground work colours must be considered at this point.

The stowage was painted in sympathetic shades, an air recognition flag was constructed out of workshop 'blue roll' and a hand painted swastika added to the centre, this was fitted over the stowage bin and held in place by the lid as seen in reference photos. Care was taken to drape the flag in a natural fashion as well as muting the red as these tended to fade and get dirty quite quickly.

Putting the vehicle to one side I began to formulate in my head what the scene would entail, sketching out approx positions on paper.





The chimney was to form the composition high point surrounded by the burnt out remnants of a house, this was to be the scene of Russian peasants gathering what was left of their meagre possessions and any food supplies. It is important to understand some guidelines when presenting a scene, such as angle the scene to the base, don't run things parallel to the base sides and create a focus if you can. The chimney was constructed from high density foam board, this can be bought in various sheet thickness and is





highly versatile allowing a multitude of shapes to be created. Using a cocktail stick, the brick design was scribed into the foam along with any damage. Once this was complete the shades for the brickwork were applied by brush using acrylics, do not use solvent based paint as it attacks the foam (I used Lifecolor). Once dried wet polyfilla was worked into the brickwork by brush to create the mortar, this was wiped with a damp kitchen sponge to take the excess off leaving the mortar. Various washes were applied with tonal variations to the brickwork.

At this point the base was covered with Polyfilla. The position of the key features was formed (road, verges, area of the house, the chimney and the remains

of the brickwork were all fixed into position. It is important to place the vehicle in position at this point depressing it into the plaster so it sits in the ground rather than floating unrealistically on top. To facilitate this I sprinkle fine sand where the tracks make contact waiting until the plaster is just beginning to dry then placing it in position and applying light pressure, once dry the vehicle can be released and minimal plaster adheres to the tracks, using a brush any sand can be removed from both vehicle and base.

The ground work was various grades of fine scatter material applied over PVA glue to give texture to the earth. The rubble in the house is gradations of heavier scatter ending up with rubble and bricks, there are now many companies providing these items along with the corrugated iron roofing that you can see in the photos. All areas of were painted and blended harmoniously; I must admit I revisited this process multiple times until I was happy, this included pulling the earth colours onto the vehicle. Details like the stove and cooking utensils were added to create interest, thanks to Miniart for that with their excellent diorama set range.

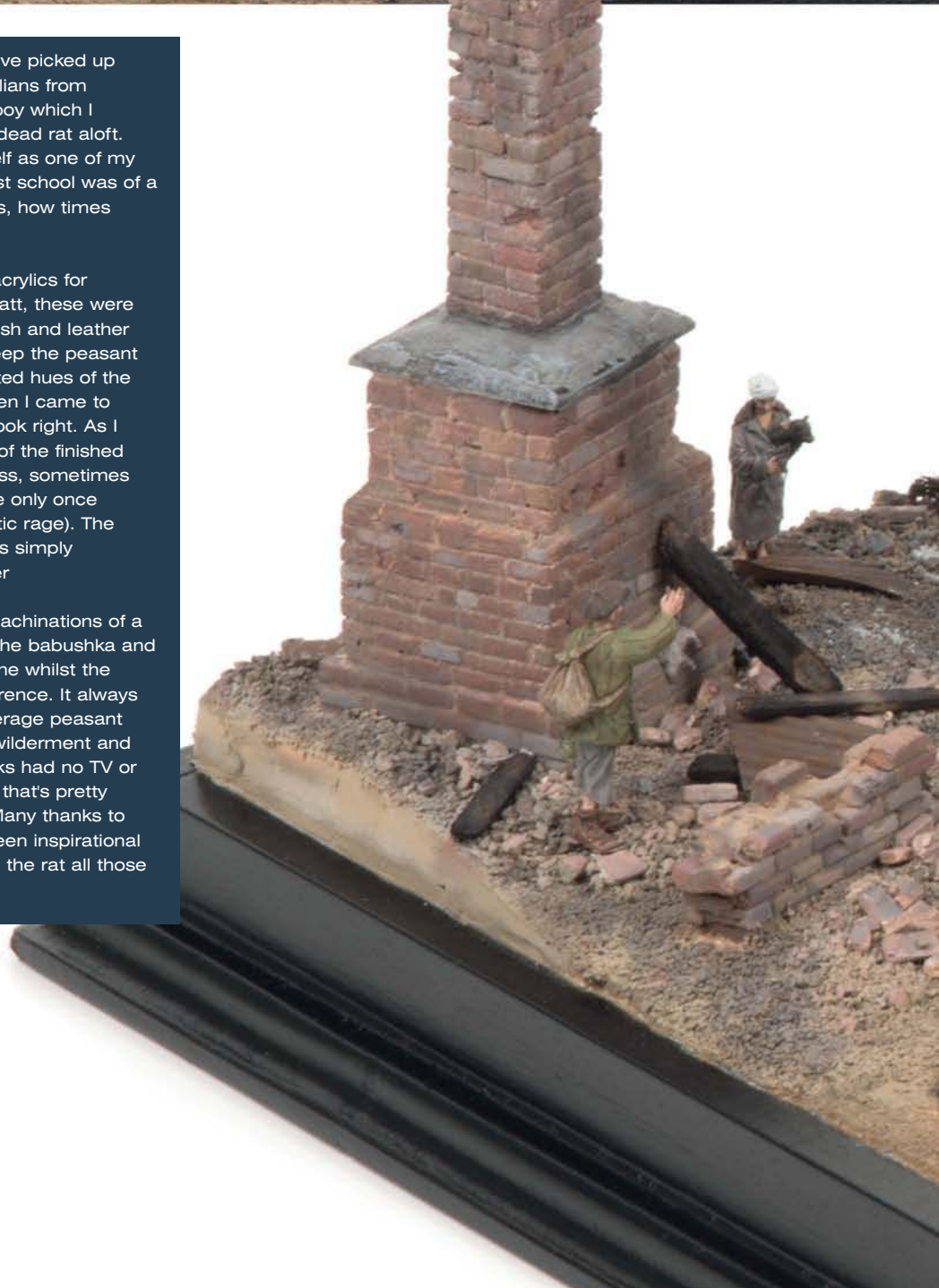




The figures are essentially all stock poses I've picked up over the years (the crew from Tank and civilians from Stalingrad) with a slight adjustment to the boy which I constructed an arm for so he could hold a dead rat aloft. This image has some resonance with myself as one of my enduring memories of my Victorian-built first school was of a curious girl doing just that outside the gates, how times have changed!

I have developed a real liking for Lifecolor acrylics for painting clothing as they always dry very matt, these were used on all the figures along with oils for flesh and leather items. Photo reference was consulted to keep the peasant clothing tones in keeping with the fairly muted hues of the period. I had painted another figure but when I came to placing it decided less was more, it didn't look right. As I mentioned earlier I only have a broad idea of the finished piece and it quite often morphs as I progress, sometimes things work well and sometimes not so (I've only once thrown something in the bin in a petty artistic rage). The fence was added to create a balance and is simply basswood aged and given a bit of character

The scene tries to convey the despairing machinations of a woman whose world has been destroyed, the babushka and children forage in the remnants of their home whilst the crew of a halted Panzer look on with indifference. It always interests me of what understanding the average peasant had of what had enveloped them, utter bewilderment and terror springs to mind, remember these folks had no TV or internet and probably little access to radio, that's pretty difficult to imagine by modern standards. Many thanks to the friends and acquaintances who have been inspirational to my hobby and not forgetting the girl with the rat all those years ago!





Useful historical books:

Barbarossa Unleashed- Craig Luther

War Without Garlands- Robert Kershaw

To the Gates of Moscow with 3rd Pz Division-
Axel Urbanke / Dr Herman Turk
(expensive but don't deny yourself, it's full of colour shots)

Tank Warfare on the Eastern Front '41-'42
Schwerpunkt - Robert Forczyk.



"Despair"
Barbarossa Unleashed



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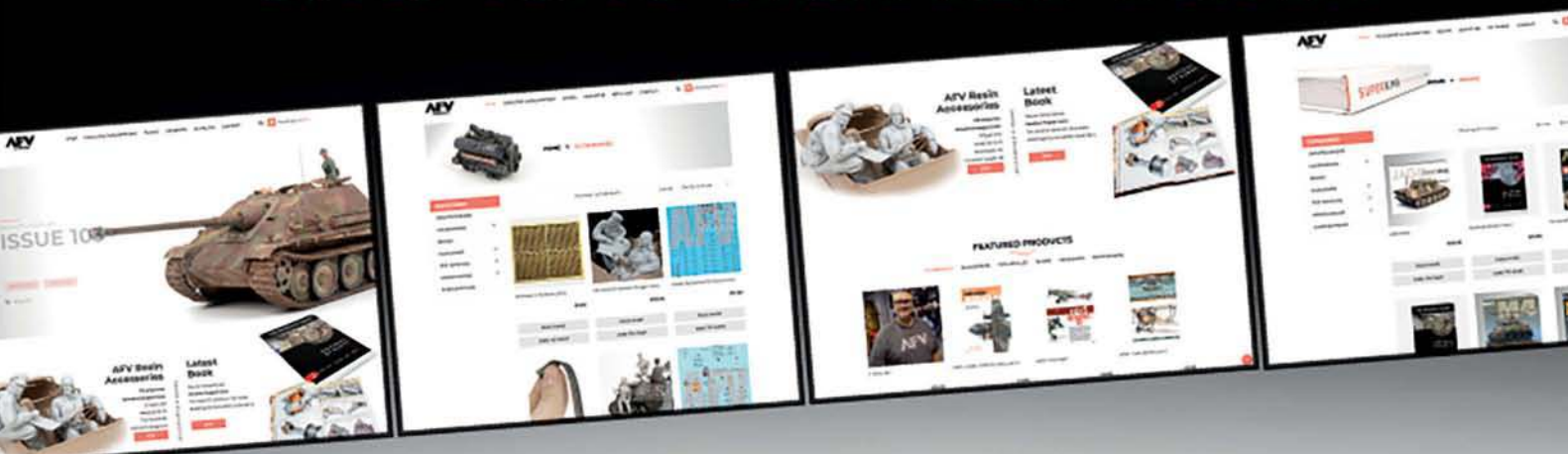


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**COPPERSTATE MODELS SPLENDID FIRST ARMOUR KIT
MODELLED BY MR. CHRISTOPHER MEDDINGS**



Lanchester was one of a wide range of early automobile manufacturers in the UK market. Founded in 1899; it made luxury cars (although arguably all cars were at that time) and by the outbreak of WW1, it was a highly successful concern with a number of models in production.

In 1914 the British Admiralty purchased a number of chassis for the 1914 Sports Tourer and added an armoured body and strengthened drive train, plus a pair of extra rear wheels; the Lanchester Armoured Car 4x2. The car was designed to rescue downed pilots, undertake reconnaissance, and support forward air bases. It had armour of up to 8mm, a .303 Vickers machine gun in a rotating turret and could achieve a top speed of up to 50mph.

Approximately 36 served with the Royal Naval Aviation Service and a further 12 were supplied to the Belgian Army. In 1915 the Lanchesters were offered to the British Army, but they declined preferring the more numerous Rolls Royce Armoured Cars they already had in service. Subsequently 22 refurbished Lanchesters were sent to the Imperial Russian Army where they were modified to take a 37mm light quick firing naval gun in place of the Vickers. When civil war broke out in Russian between White and Red forces, More RNAS Lanchesters were sent to bolster White forces. As the civil war intensified the RNAS withdrew leaving the cars in White forces hands.

THE LANCHESTER

ARMoured HORSELESS MOTOR CARRIAGE



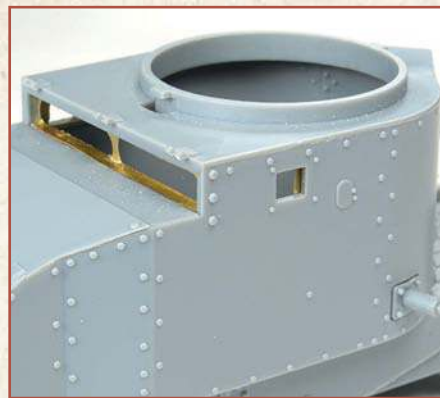
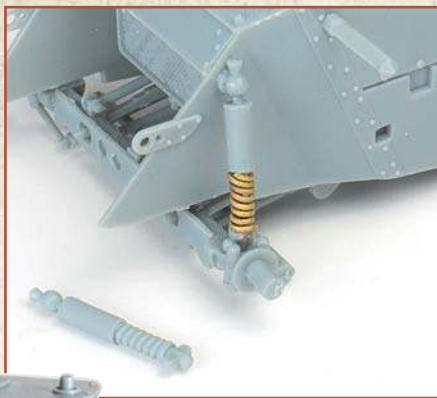
The Lanchester is Copper State's first 1/35 AFV and its pretty good; detail is refined, fit is very good, and engineering is well thought out. It does have a couple of drawbacks; namely the lack of engine and interior, and the fact many hatches are moulded shut, but these are small gripes overall.

I was somewhat surprised at the solution for the chassis, assembly of which includes the sides of the bodywork, but it all when together very easily and sat perfectly square without any need for adjustment. I made a small change to the wooden bed behind the rear doors; which is perfectly smooth in the kit, scratching grain into it by dragging a razor saw across it sideways. The only other modification I made to the basic kit was to replace the front suspension springs with wound brass rod. These were moulded solid in the kit and not overly convincing.

I also used the Copper State PE set for the Lanchester. This is a great set and even includes some very handy etched slot guides

to help you shape parts. I found the armoured visor for the front vision ports a little too thin but otherwise a great set and I put the etched fenders to good use by bashing one up.

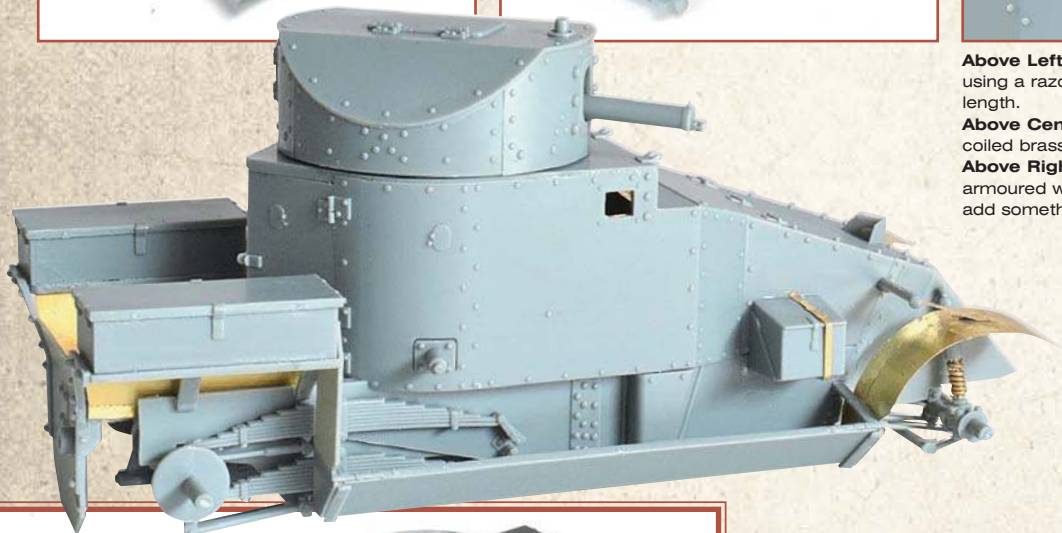
The kit comes with options to build either a British or Belgian Lanchester and you will need to decide which you want to do as not all the features are shared. I was going to build an RNAS car as I liked the grey, but by the time I got to build mine several people had already done the RNAS cars so I decided to go Belgian, using the extended rear mudflaps and side stowage box. When I posted some in progress shots online, my friend Thierry Tish informed me that Belgian cars all carried a grapple hook with a chain and rope attached to the rear to drag barbed wire away to clear a path. I soldered 4 brass rod sections together and bent them to shape sharpening the ends slightly. I used scale chain leftover from a ship model and nylon string from a Tamiya kit for the 'rope'. With that done it was ready to paint.



Above Left: The rear bed boards were textured using a razor saw, dragged sideways along their length.

Above Centre: The springs were replaced with coiled brass wire.

Above Right: The PE set includes parts for the armoured windows. They are a little delicate but add something to the finished piece.



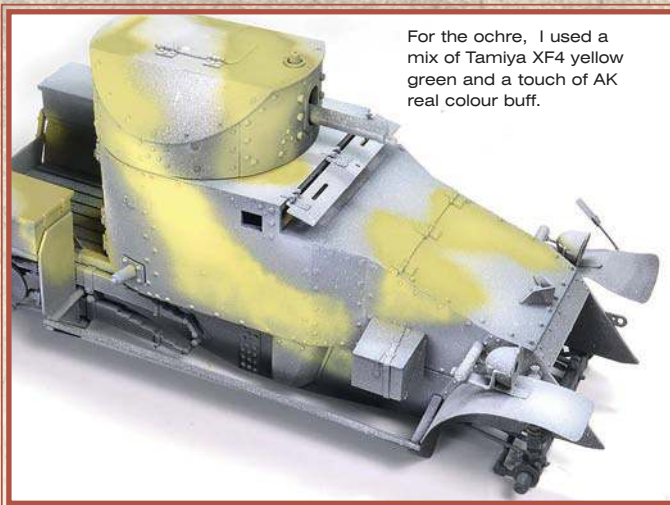
Left: The kit finished (minus wheels) ready for some paint



I first painted the model black...



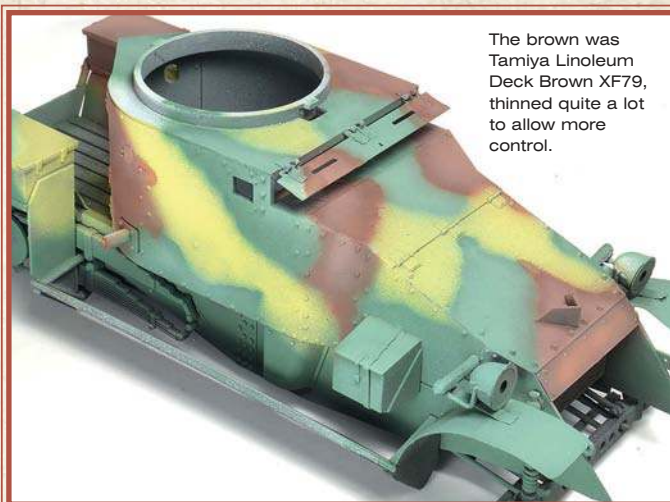
then highlighted with white from above. This gives a 'pre-shading' to the subsequent coats of colour adding dimension.



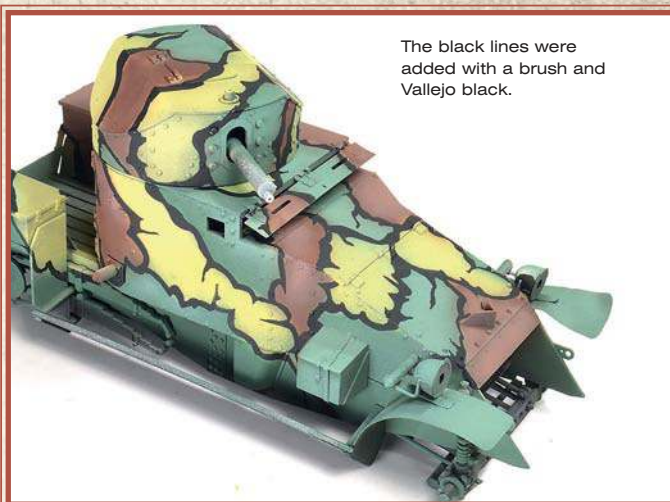
For the ochre, I used a mix of Tamiya XF4 yellow green and a touch of AK real colour buff.



The green was made from Tamiya Nato Green XF67 lightened with a little Yellow XF3. I freehanded it with a fine needle airbrush, largely because I'm too lazy to wait for coats to dry before masking.



The brown was Tamiya Linoleum Deck Brown XF79, thinned quite a lot to allow more control.



The black lines were added with a brush and Vallejo black.

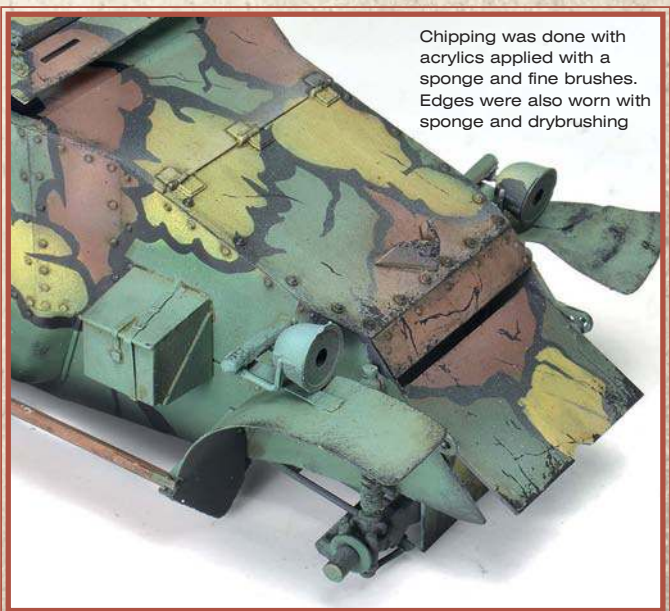
When the preshading was dry I sprayed the ochre. For this I used a mix of Tamiya XF4 yellow green and a touch of AK real colour buff. I started with the lighter colour as its much easier to cover light with dark than vice versa.

Next I sprayed the green. This was Tamiya Nato Green XF67 lightened with a little Yellow XF3. I freehanded it with a fine needle airbrush, largely because I'm too lazy to wait for coats to dry before masking. Thinning the paint 60/40 thinner to paint, and spraying close and at high pressure, but with the trigger only just back allowing a low amount of paint in the mix, avoids overspray. The brown was just Tamiya Linoleum Deck Brown XF79. Again this was thinned quite a lot to allow more control. Spraying this thin gives very transparent layers so you do have to build it up. Finally for the camo colours I hand-brushed the black lines with Vallejo black thinned with good old tap water. I ended up making these a bit too thick on reflection. I should have referred more assiduously to reference.

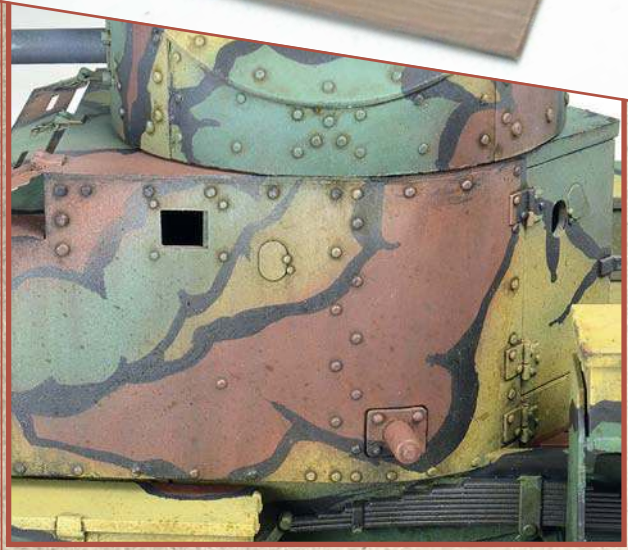
By now it was looking pretty garish, so I started with blending in

and toning down. First I very heavily thinned some buff to about 80/20 thinner to paint and lightly misted it on upper surfaces I added a dark brown oil pinwash, Windsor and Newton raw umber thinned with enamel thinners, and flashed it off with a hairdryer. When it lost its wet sheen I used a clean white soft brush to drag the wash down a little and streak the flat surfaces subtly.

Chipping was added with Vallejo black mixed with white to get a dark grey. It was applied with the sponge method and with a fine brush. I concentrated on areas such as the nose that would most likely be scratched, and the long mudguards. I also drybrushed a very little of the mix on edges to show some metal coming through the paint where it wore more gently than chipping.



Chipping was done with acrylics applied with a sponge and fine brushes. Edges were also worn with sponge and drybrushing



I dipped a brush in oil wash or raw umber, ochre and a little black. I used an empty airbrush to blow it off the brush for small spots and spatters.

The wooden boards on the side were painted wood brown then 'grain' added with several lighter shades and a fine brush. When they were dry I added several brown filters to tone down the contrasts. I started dirtying things up with thin mud spatters. I dipped a brush in oil wash made with raw umber and ochre and a little black. I took most of it off with a tissue then used an empty airbrush to blow it off the brush onto the model in small spots and spatters. Because I used oils to do the first spatters, it inevitably needed some time to dry, especially on top of the previous oils, which although they appeared dry, were still susceptible to thinners as oils take a tremendously long time to truly dry.



I started to build up heavier deposits of dirt in high collection areas with AK Interactive Dust and Dirt Deposits.



I also added dirt to the wheels, trying not to add too much.

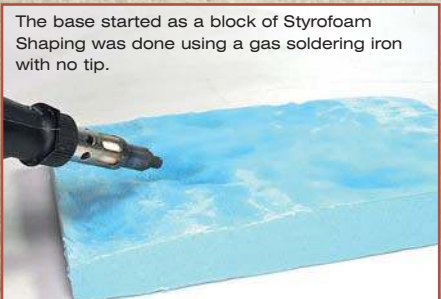


I used the Dust and Dirt deposits to add muddy footprints to the rear bed.

While they were drying I cracked on with the wheels. Quite a few period photos of the Lanchester show light grey tyres. I sprayed the wheels with the green mix then hand painted the tyres mid grey. I added some white to the mix and painted the walls of the tyres lighter, wet-blending it as I went for a smoother transition. When the tyres were dry I added a dark green wash to shade the wheels and darken them a little before adding spatters. Next I started adding the mud build up under the mudguards where most of it would be collected. For this I used a mix of Pinnacle modelling pigments and AK Interactive Dust and Dirt Deposits dust and light earth. I'm not really someone with much of a brand loyalty, I'm not attached to any brand but I do love these dust and dirt deposit products. They let you push and pull the effect around a great deal to put it where you want it, and leave a

pleasingly even soft edge when dried. I kept building it up until I had the effect I wanted then dried it off with the hairdryer again. Enamels dry very quickly this way. It stinks though so make sure you open a window.

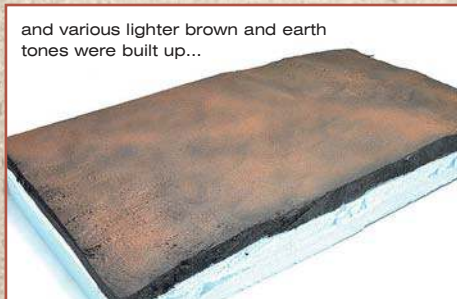
For the final weathering stage I mixed up some pigments with thinners into a slurry and applied it in the same way as the oil spatters blowing it off the brush with the airbrush. I tried to apply it only in the direction it would have spattered if it were real so that areas 'masked' by protrusions and objects would not be spattered, such as just above the running boards and behind the forward mudguards. Some of the splats were a bit big but they were easily reduced with a little enamel thinner.



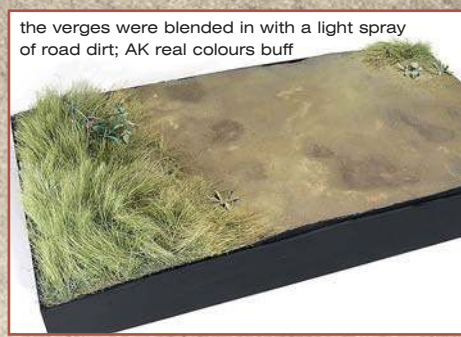
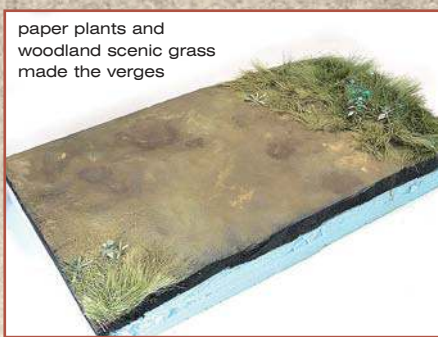
The base started as a block of Styrofoam Shaping was done using a gas soldering iron with no tip.



a base coat of black sealed the surface



and various lighter brown and earth tones were built up...



I finished the model with a simple grass and earth base and the project was completed.

My thanks to Copper State Models for the Lanchester and PE set.



Panzerkampfwagen

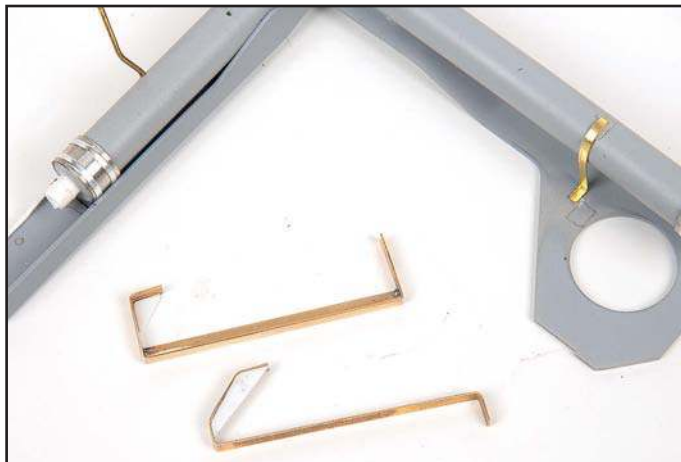
David Parker builds Trumpeter's 1:16 kit

W

Part Twenty Three

This installment is something of a jumble of different bits unfortunately with so many small projects all impacting each other or preventing the advancement of something means there has been quite a bit of jumping about for me. I was working towards finally being able to install the gearbox but this meant considering the drive shaft. Similarly the crossbeam cannot be installed unless the floor mounted ammunition bin is complete. The ammunition

bin cannot be fitted until the throttle control trunking is added along the hull sidewall and in order to do that, I would need to complete the wiring for the Gunner's foot switch and so on! I am always trying to avoid tripping myself up by fitting a piece which then makes a subsequent job far more difficult, when in fact I really am just desperate to see the radio installed and all wired up!



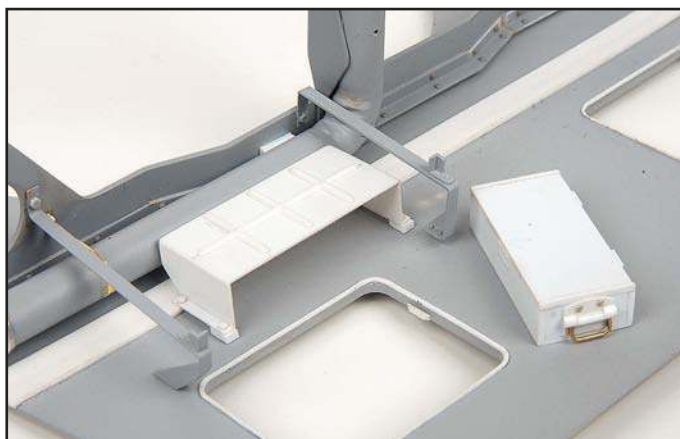
Returning the crossbeam again I needed to make the roof frame behind the Driver's seat. This frame is to hold three of the collapsible 2 round ammunition crates on top of the ammunition bin. With a removable roof I needed these to be strong so I used brass L section and strip to make the frames which are different shapes to allow for the roof hatch.



The frames were primed and glued into position on the crossbeam and you can see how they align with the ammunition bin below them



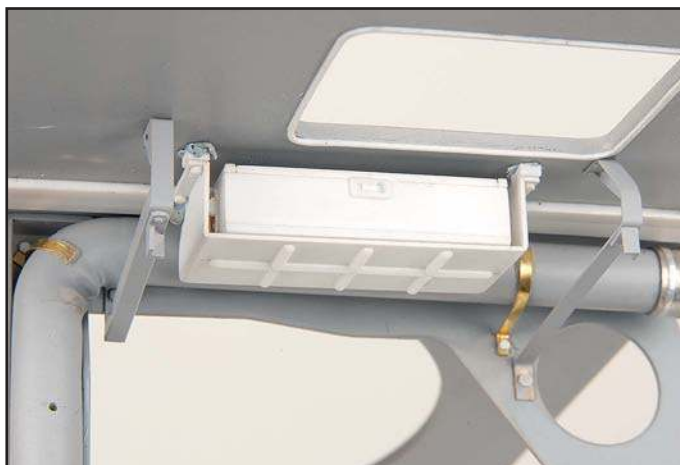
A quick test fit of one of the collapsible ammunition cases shows how they are held in position by the roof frames



Also mounted on the roof between the frames is a tray to hold the vehicle toolbox. Neither of these are contained in the kit so I constructed them myself.



Fortunately Mr Eric George was kind enough to provide me with sizes for the real tool box from his collection so I was able to construct an accurate box and then the tray to carry it.



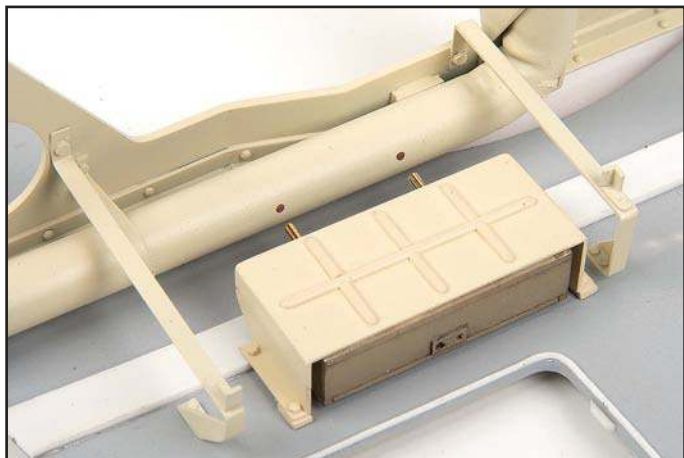
Test fitting the box and tray in position. I planned to securely fix the parts to the vent pipe behind using brass rod pins and there is still a delicate locking bar to fit to the front of the tray.



The crossbeam was painted to match the rest of the interior.



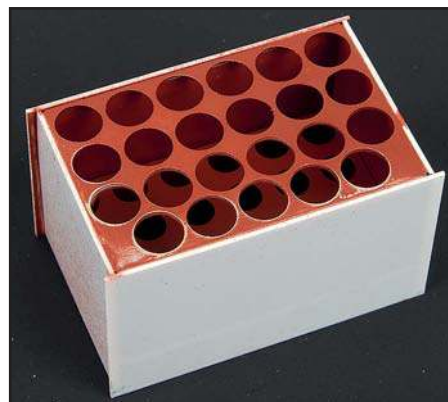
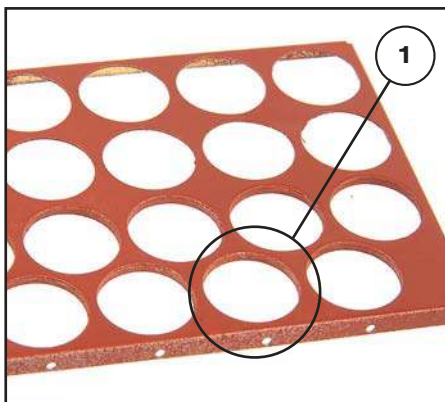
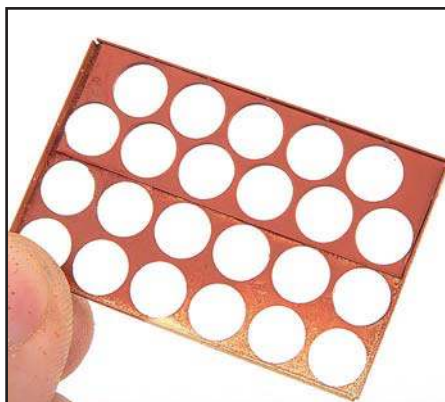
The pre-painted box and tray were glued together and a pair of 1mm brass pins were drilled through the back of the tray into the box and glued into position. Their location on the roof was established.



I applied a touch of paint to the end of each pin before offering up the vent pipe to mark the location point. These marks were then used to drill 1mm holes in the vent pipe to mount the tray.

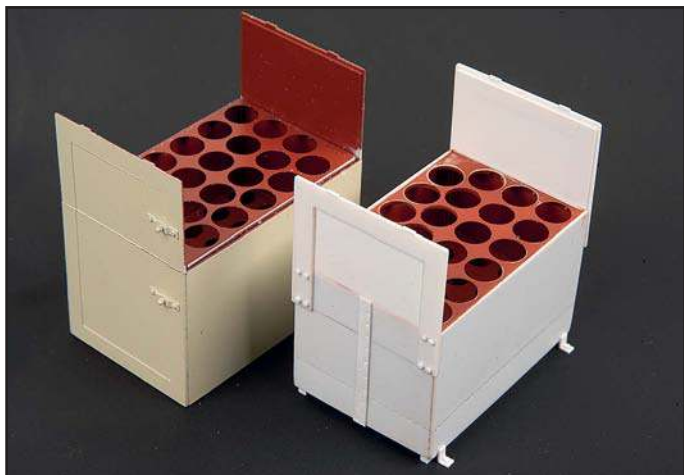


The toolbox is very visible with the roof removed. The lettering on the box was brush painted and the Fahrgestell chassis number was copied from the preserved vehicle I was able to examine in Normandy.

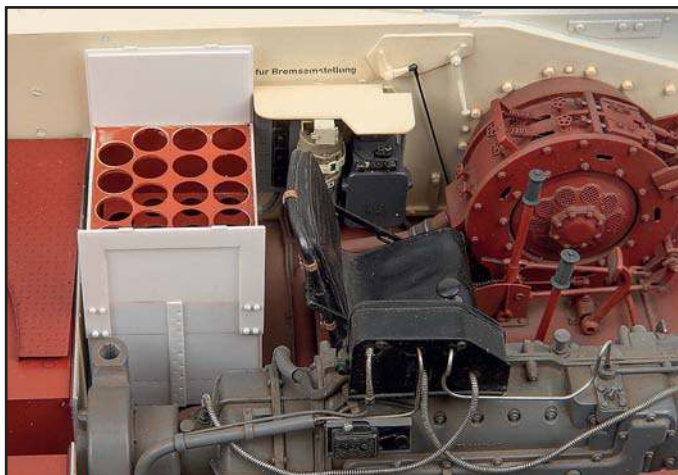


Having quickly assembled the ammunition behind the Driver many months ago I neglected to really examine its accuracy which was a silly mistake. As I applied some Elfenbien paint I realised my mistake in assuming accuracy and decided I would have to build a new bin. To recreate the pressed ring

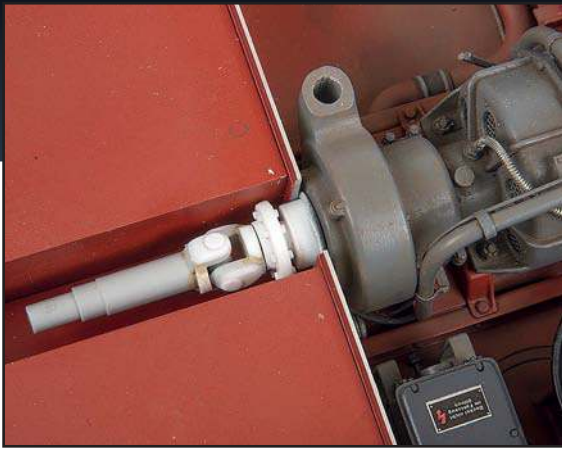
around each hole I backed the kit photoetch with plastic before drilling open the hole on the plastic 1. This gave the correct depth to the openings and would permit me to show a couple of empty spaces in the rack if I wanted. A basic box was constructed around the photoetched parts.



My new bin seen next to the original kit version. Note that the new bin is raised off the floor and has the rounded corners, spot welded overlap and the bolted side support brackets.



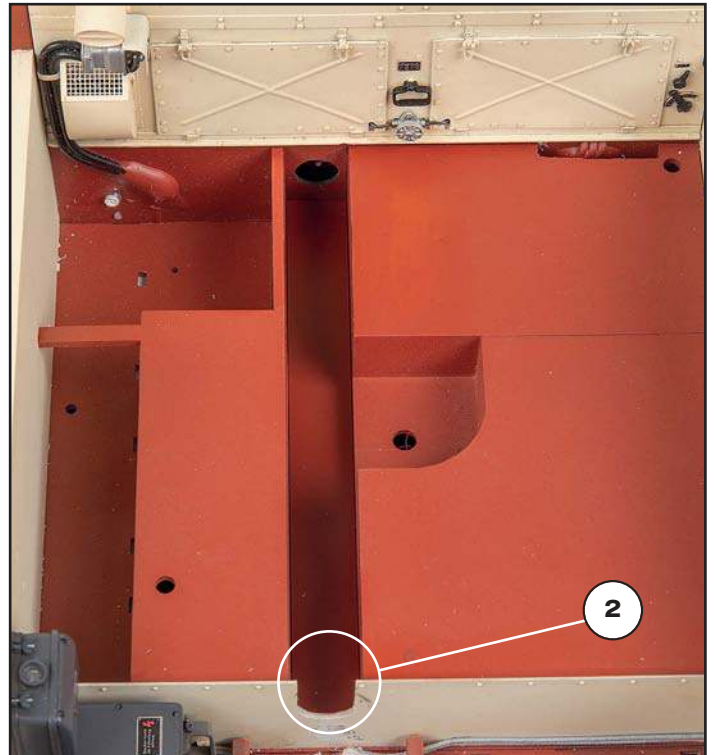
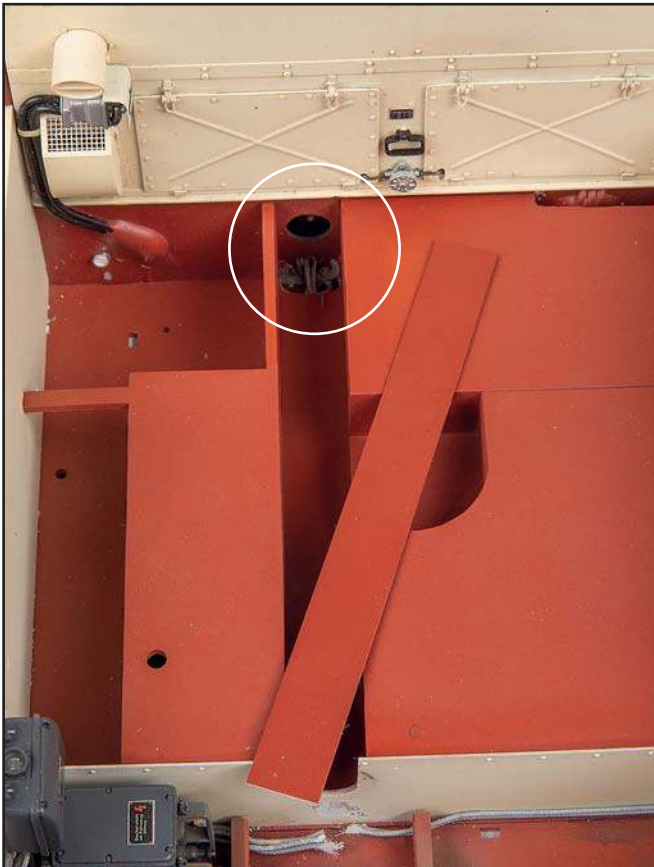
The new bin is dropped into place for a test and already the results make it well worth the effort of constructing my own version.



In the same way, my casual assumption about the accuracy of the driveshaft was misplaced with the entire universal joint assembly behind the fan housing missing. Trumpeter do provide a universal joint but mounted inside



the fan housing. I adapted the kit parts and added the missing connections behind the fan. The differences between the original kit shaft and the corrected version are very evident.



Time to patch up a problem of my own creation, in order to blank off the ugly hole I created to feed in cables from the engine bay I cut a 20 thou strip to blank off the driveshaft tunnel. I had also corrected the shape of the opening 2 in the front panel where the driveshaft passes through.



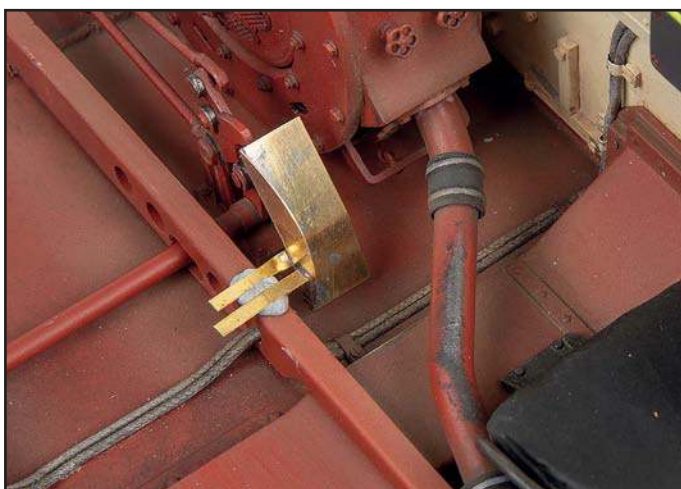
The two fuel filler covers needed to be finalised so that I could complete the other details running along the side of the hull. Mounted on the front cover is the foot switch to activate the auxiliary generator for the turret traverse.



I added weld detail to the covers and they were primed with red oxide along with the replacement floor sections.



Another detail that I needed to add was the Radio Operator's foot rest which prevents him from tangling with the steering controls on the hull floor. The thin sheet metal guard is bolted to the transmission frame and I used brass



sheet which I soldered together to construct it. This kept the thin appearance of the original whilst being quite strong. Here the foot rest is tested in position.



The filler covers and footrest both needed to show some heavy wear. I began by drybrushing a dark grey/brown mix onto the areas of highest wear.



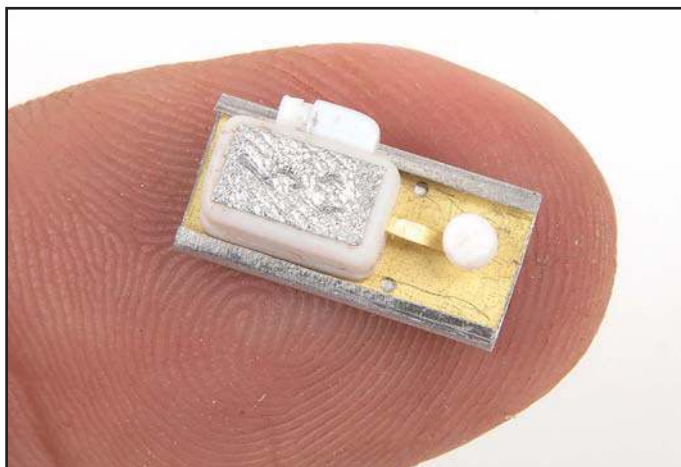
I used Uschi van der Rosten polishing powders to add shine and dust tones were used to match the footrest to the rest of the components.



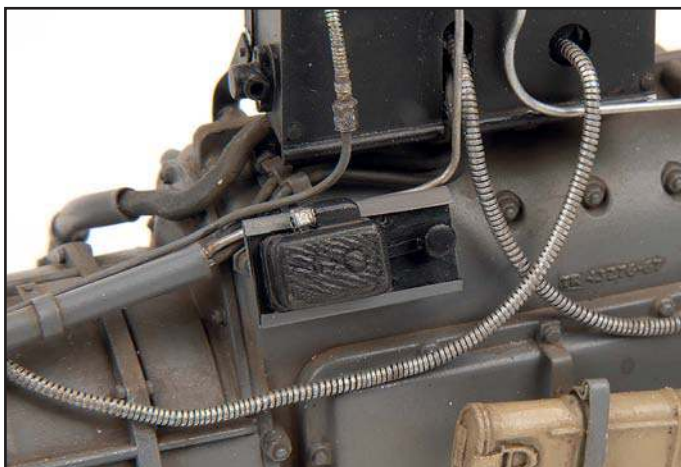
Another view of the completed footrest.



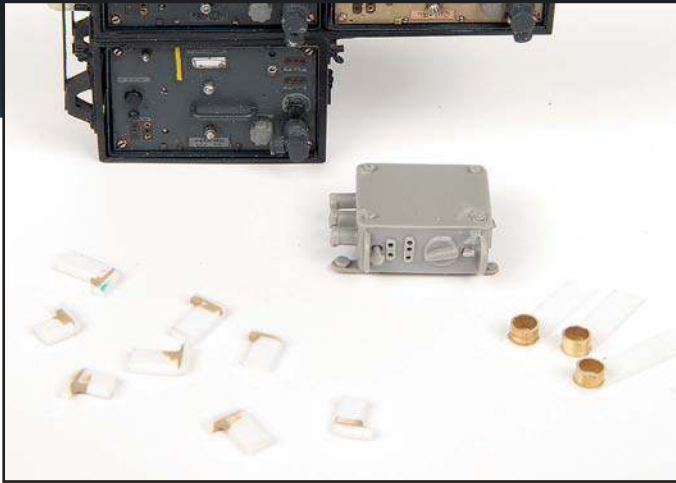
The worn areas around the foot switch.



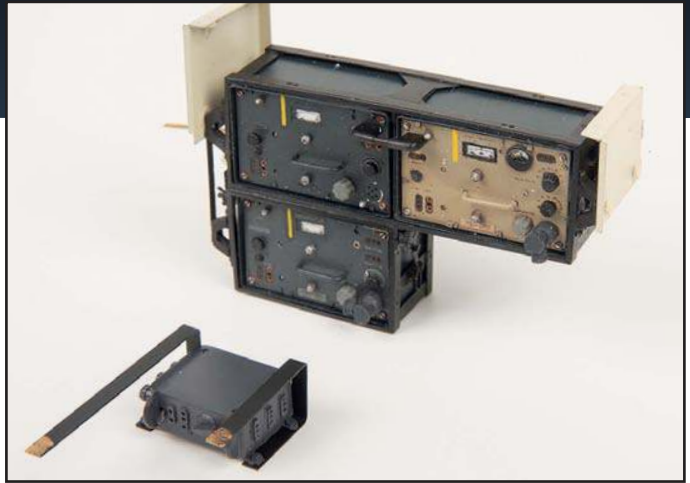
The morse key for the radio sets was scratchbuilt with the tricky bit being the slide in mounting frame for it and it took a couple of attempts to get an even edge.



The painted morse key was fixed into place on the side of the transmission. It will be wired into the radio at a later stage.



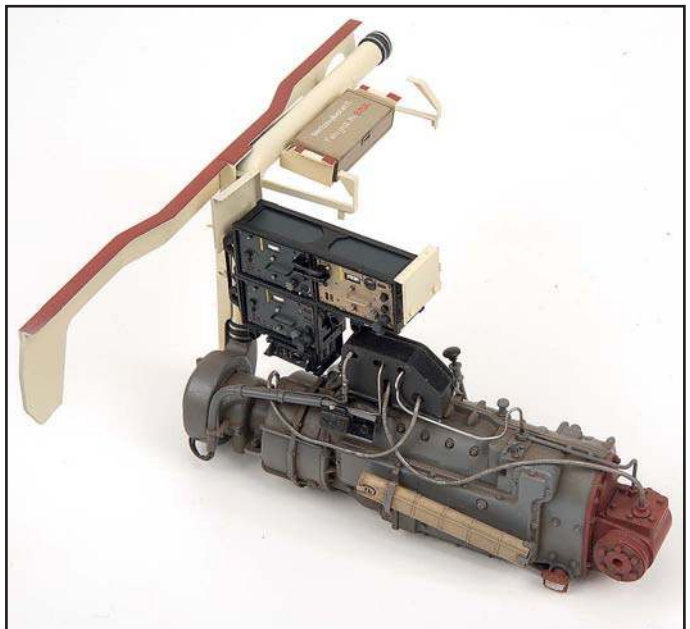
The radio sets were fitted into the racks, they are very tight fitting so I did not glue them in place. I then started to make the connector sockets and power cable stowage sockets using brass tube for these. I also had to consider how the Kasten 20 box was mounted to the racks.



I had an archive image showing the position of the Kasten 20 box and there seemed to be only one plausible way to attach it to the rack in the same position. I used scrap photoetch strip to construct brackets which would be trimmed to size.

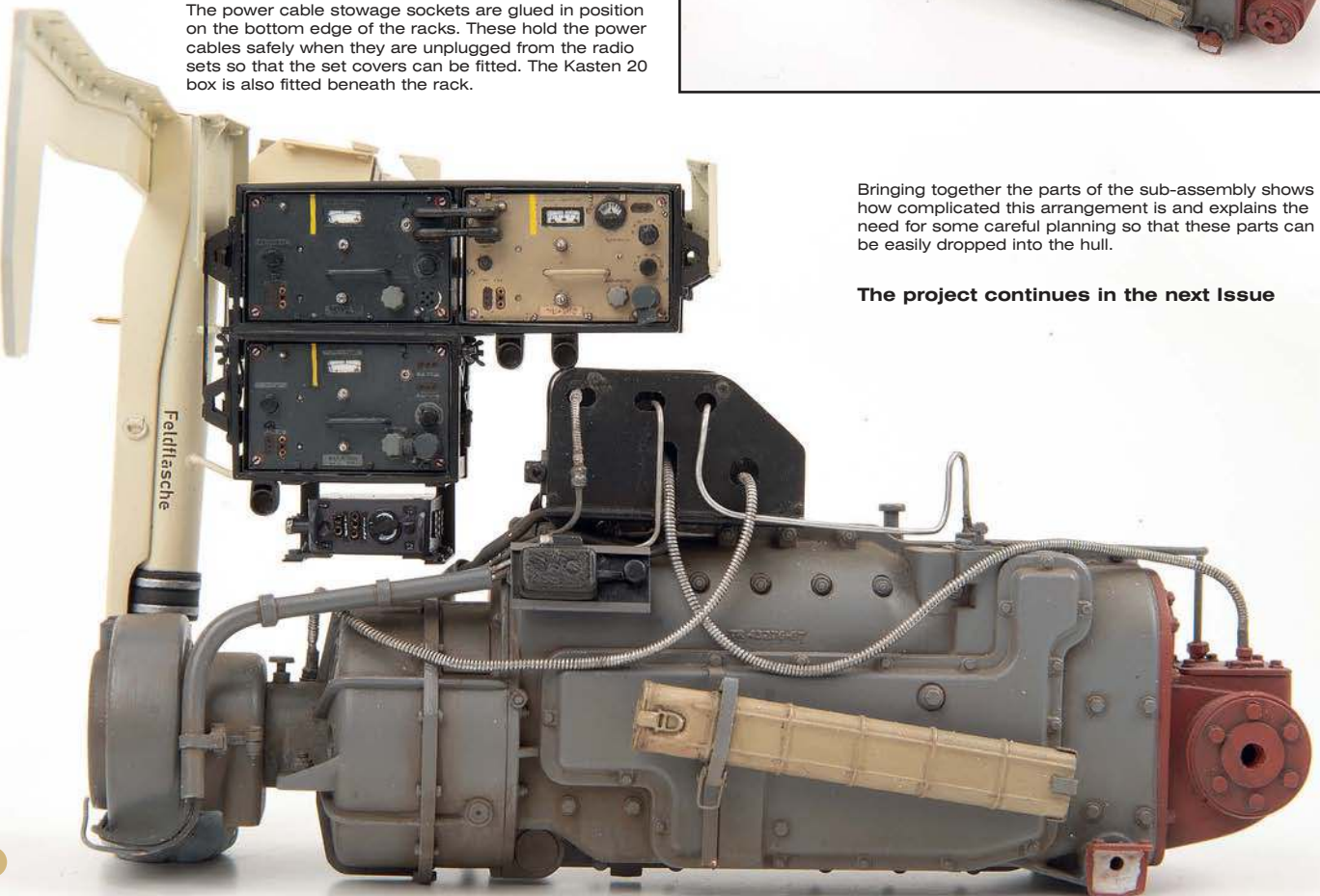


The power cable stowage sockets are glued in position on the bottom edge of the racks. These hold the power cables safely when they are unplugged from the radio sets so that the set covers can be fitted. The Kasten 20 box is also fitted beneath the rack.



Bringing together the parts of the sub-assembly shows how complicated this arrangement is and explains the need for some careful planning so that these parts can be easily dropped into the hull.

The project continues in the next Issue



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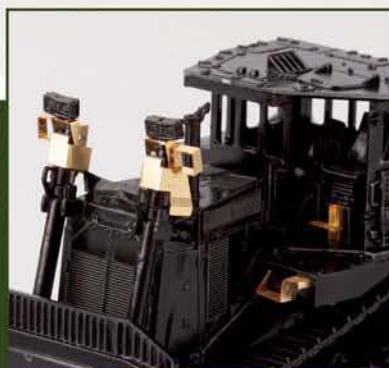
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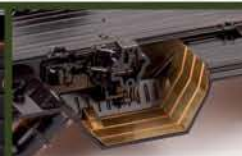
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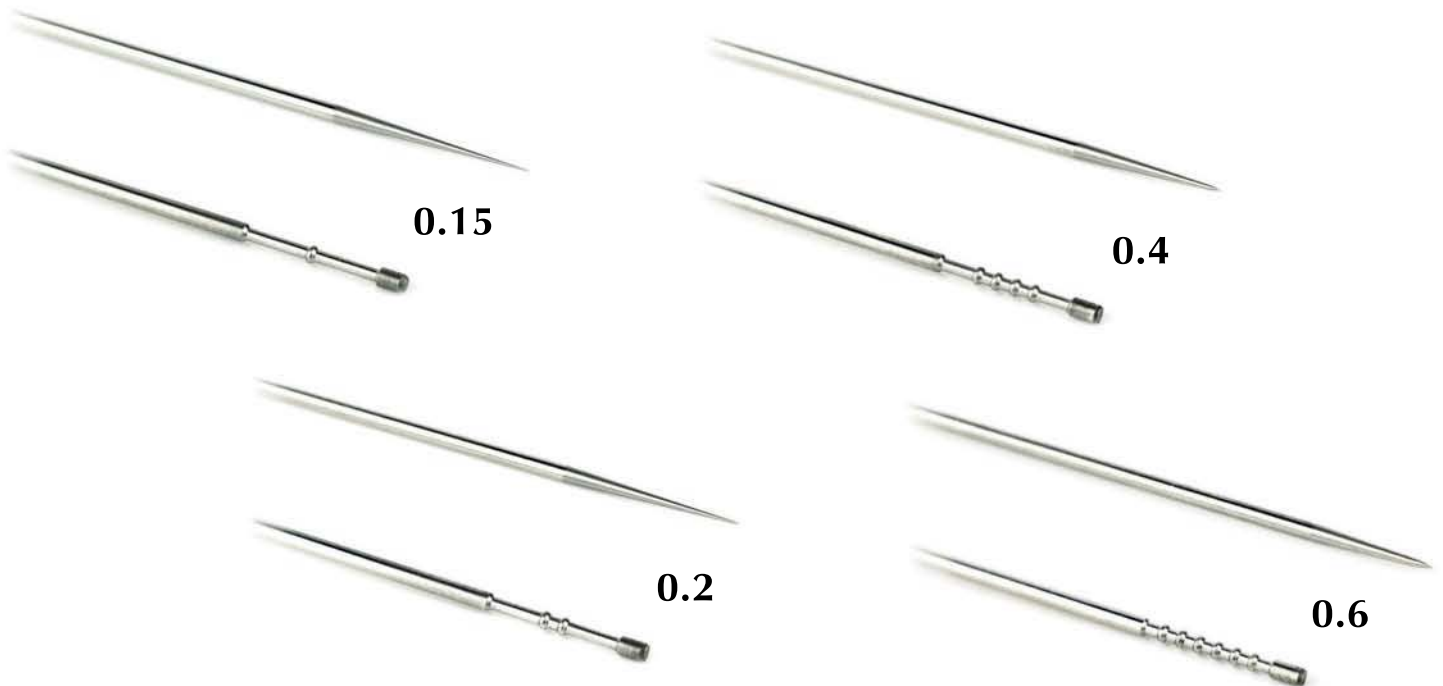
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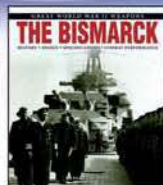
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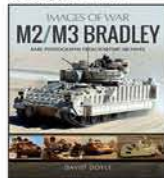
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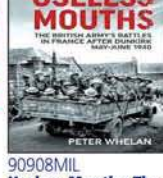
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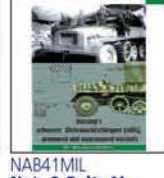
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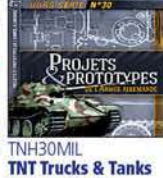
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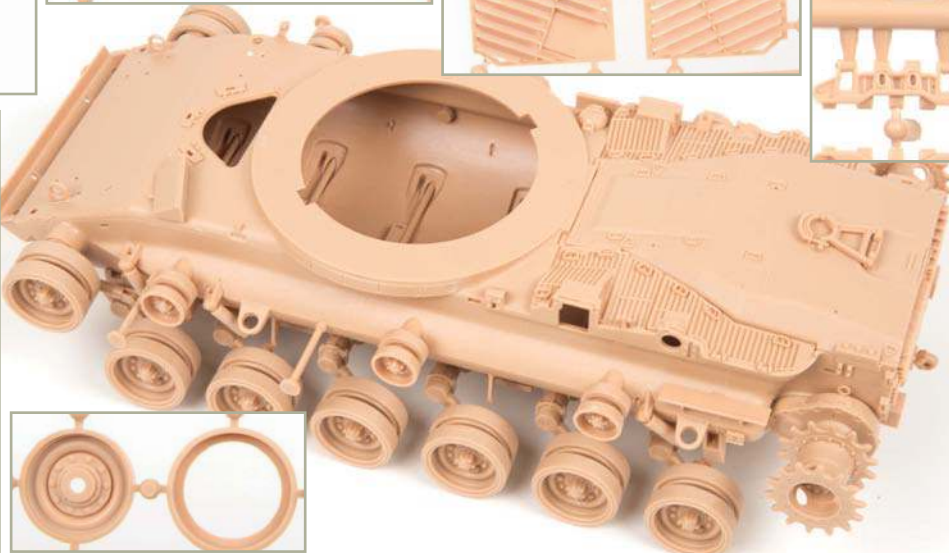
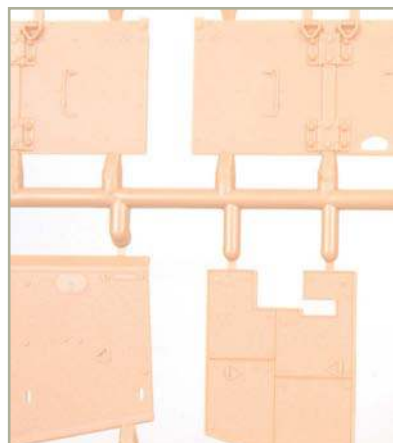
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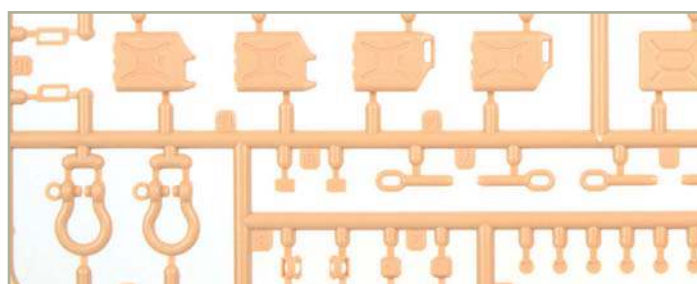
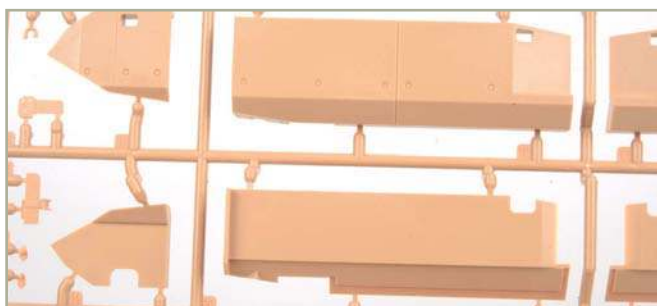
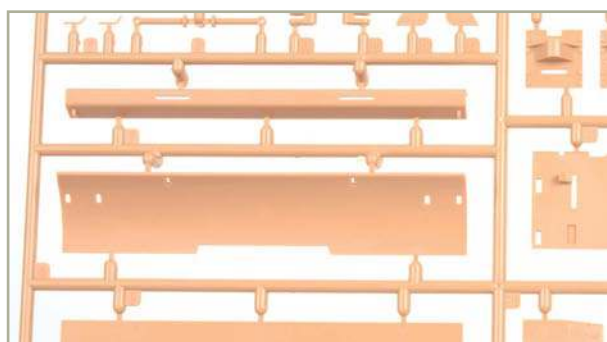
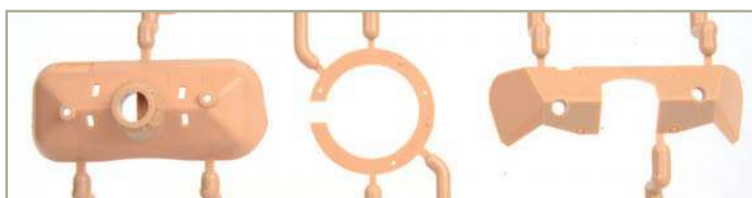
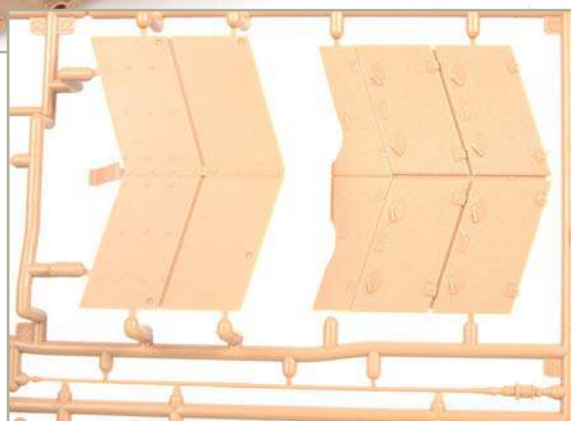
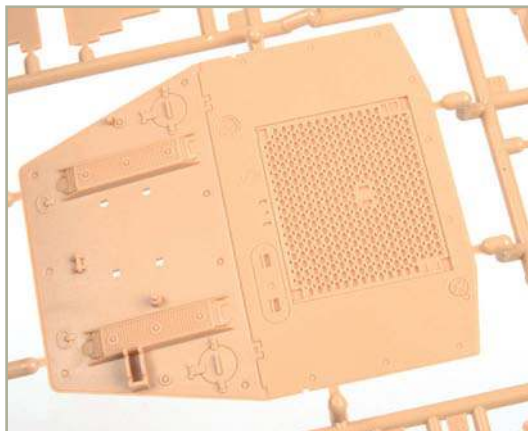
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Meng 1:35 Magach 6B Gal Batash

Barely recognisable as an M60 the IDF upgrade to the veteran MBT gives it an undeniable new aggressive look making it a popular choice to add to Meng's range of IDF subjects. It is a spectacular kit which requires little or no consideration of anything aftermarket. Separately moulded tires allow the stepped rim of the roadwheels to be captured and the working torsion bar suspension assemblies without a problem. Unless you plan to articulate the suspension its worth gluing the shock absorber piston arms in place as they have a tendency to drop out of place otherwise. Its quite a complex system of running gear but I found that assembly comparatively quick and even pleasurable. Moving to the upper hull and as with the turret the modeller needs to drill out selected location holes which hints that other M60 variants

may perhaps be planned? A little care is advised to fit the individual engine deck sections and the separate sections of the rear hull grilles which offer a stunning replica of the real thing once assembled. The mantlet comes with a flexible plastic cover which works and fits extremely well and the huge turret armour add-ons are a delight to assemble such is their precision with big location pins to make mounting them on the turret equally pleasurable. There is a moulded anti-slip texture provided but it is obviously impossible to fully replicate the grit texture of the real thing and some modellers may want to enhance this. With the collaboration of Desert Eagle Publications this kit has pleasurable modelling and accuracy in spades, look out for a full feature soon on this superb kit.



Meng 1:35 Canadian Leopard C2 MEXAS with Dozer Blade

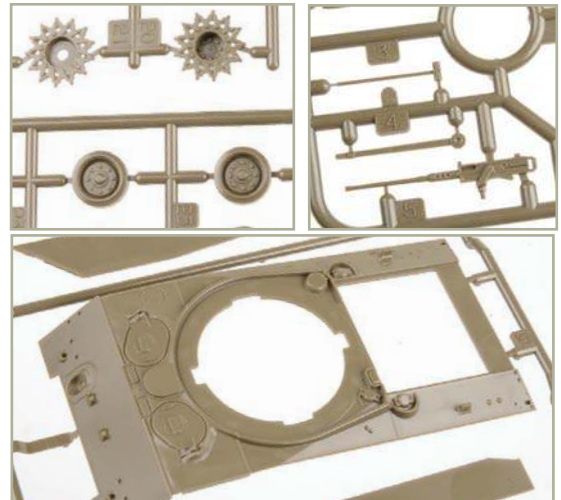
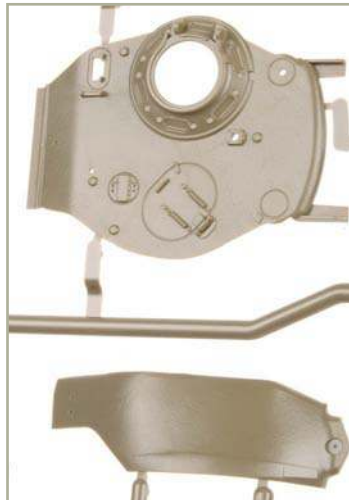
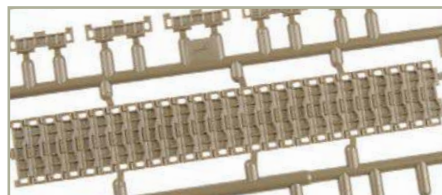
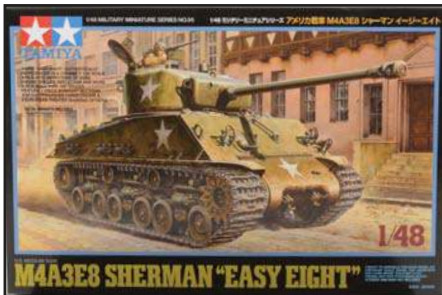
As in reality, Meng have upgraded one of their early Leopards to the the Canadian C2 MEXAS as served in Afghanistan along side the 2A6Ms. Meng have enlisted the help of retired Canadian Leopard commander Mr Anthony Sowards to ensure accuracy of the kit and it's smaller unique details. Looking sharp in their now regular sand-coloured styrene there's some familiar sprues and some brand new ones to provide the moveable dozer blade and appliqué armour which give a much more modern and mean look the Leopard. What looks like the original Leopard 1A5 turret has in fact been modified and has anti-slip texture as does the top of the spectacular turret bustle. Along with the sand spues is a clear set of parts (including a single piece to provide all the cupola vision blocks), poly-caps, single piece soft styrene tracks (to be

honest, what is seen of the track on the finished model these will be adequate for most builders), metal tow cable, some nice photoetched parts and the mandatory decal sheet providing four different vehicles. These Meng Leopards are a pleasure to build and feature 'working' torsion bar suspension and are packed with fine detail throughout, all of the fittings and frames for the armour upgrades are present also if you want to make this a feature of a maintenance scene. The new dozer blade is beautifully done and adds a whole new look to the MBT but if you want to dress-up your MEXAS even further Meng are producing a resin set to add the thermal covers often fitted later in their deployment which look excellent. Keep up to date with Meng's rapid release rate over at www.meng-model.com



Stalingrad

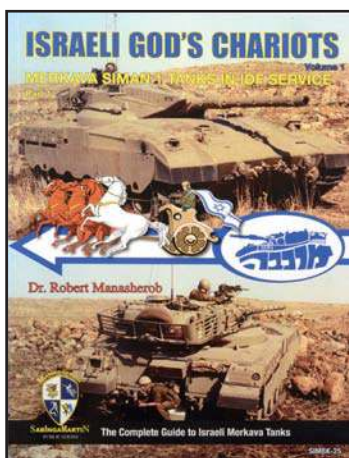
We can't think of a better range of figures than those from Stalingrad, the natural and precise sculpting coupled with expert resin casting make them a pleasure to paint. Many of their figures are based on period images for the ultimate realism. If our Barbarossa article and these guys don't inspire you to get cracking with a Panzer III nothing will! S-3170 is a set of five figures for a superb instant vignette of a resting early-war scene of three crew, an officer and infantryman. All are available individually also. Get over to www.stalingrad-diorama.ru for a closer look. Superb!



Tamiya 1:48 M4A3E8

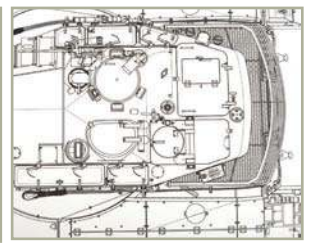
Tamiya's quarter-scale Military Miniature Series hits number 95 with the popular topic of the 'Easy Eight' Sherman. Although simplified for easy assembly these kits still hold some very nice detail with Tamiya's legendary moulding and precise fit making for some pretty laid-back and enjoyable modelling. The hull is built from separate 'plates' giving good detail and the suspension and link and length track look very nice. The transmission cover and

turret have excellent cast textures and a commander figure is included although all other hatches are moulded closed and there is some compromise on details which won't please everyone. Undoubtedly more serious detailers will be adding some photoetched light gaurds, handles and general tweaks but straight from the box this series gives modellers the option of a quick, enjoyable build and are well suited to more novice modellers.



Israeli God's Chariots Merkava Siman1 Tanks in IDF Service Part 1

By Robert Manasherob
Published by Sabingamartin
Publications
Softback format, 80 pages
ISBN978-1-7325489-0-9



This new release from Sabingamartin Publications takes a detailed look at the development of the revolutionary Merkava 1 design from its origins arising from a failed deal to purchase the British Chieftain. Its fascinating to see the design concept unfold through assorted mock-ups and even the partial hull mounted on a jeep chassis in order to test the practicalities of the driver's location in the hull. The testing of the initial production vehicles is discussed which apparently also included

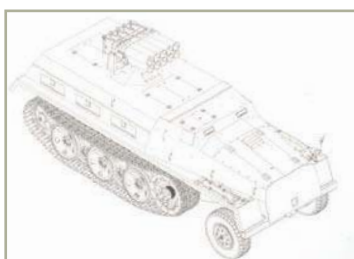
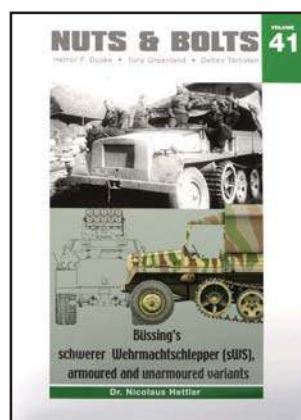
medical assessments of the crew when operating the new tank. Its initial deployment with the 7th Brigade is examined and the book includes a full set of 1:35 plans of the Mark 1. Alongside this there are nine pages of excellent colour profiles to inspire you if you are building one of the new Takom kits of the early Merkavas. With this just the first volume on the Merkava we can only keenly anticipate the further volumes on the Merkava in the series. Highly recommended.



Meng Precision Modelling Tools

There's no denying that the right tools make for more enjoyable hobby time and good quality tools should last a lifetime. Quality is certainly the name of the game with this expanding range from Meng manufactured in conjunction with Dspiae (with the exception of the photoetch pliers) all having a beautiful feel and finish they will enhance any workbench! Starting with the photoetch pliers, the precision machined blades give a perfect straight edge for folding duties and the squared tip acts as a grip to allow steady positioning helped by the sprung handles. The flat tipped tweezers are manufactured from stainless steel with a nice weight to them and ergonomic shape with a superb squared tip which grips

anything up to as fine as decal paper. CA glue applicators? Yes, a bottle top and cocktail stick may suffice but just how neat does this little glue-station look? (and no chance of it sticking to your elbow) The stand is complete with easy-clean 'wells' and stainless steel applicators which are held neatly on the unit when not in use. Very slick. Finally, a beautifully finished pin-vise set with a super-light anodised aluminium grip and smoothly rotating end which sits into your palm. The collared tungsten steel drills come in their own case with sizes from 0.1 - 1.3mm and are quickly changed via the allen-head grip. We'll certainly be putting these all to use as soon as possible, top-quality tools.



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German / English text
www.nuts-bolts.de

The very aptly named Nuts & Bolts series continues with an almost overwhelming amount of reference in this new volume on the sWS. Each volume of this series seems to get even more detailed making these the 'go-to' reference for German armour enthusiasts. The format follows previous volumes with production and manufacture, service and service period images, scale drawings (of all variants!), colour profiles, museum and preserved vehicle and component colour images and a larger than usual modelling section featuring a good selection of the kits on the market. A huge amount of work has gone into this volume and it certainly shows. Surely the ultimate reference guide for these vehicles.



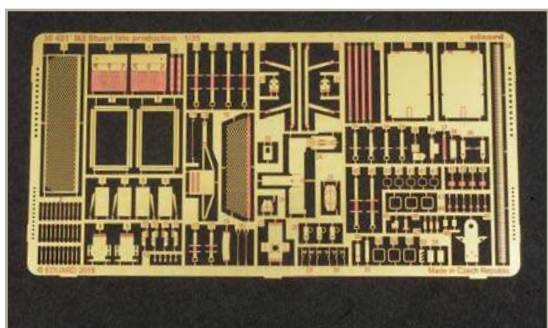
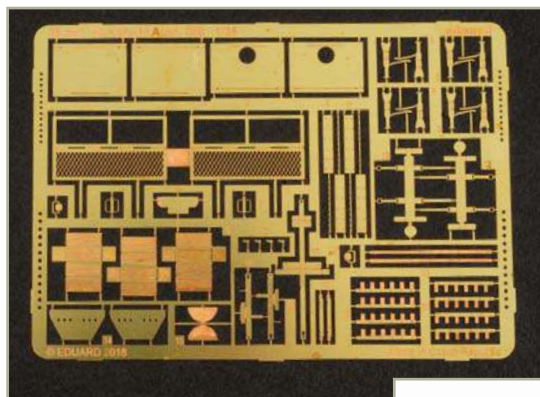
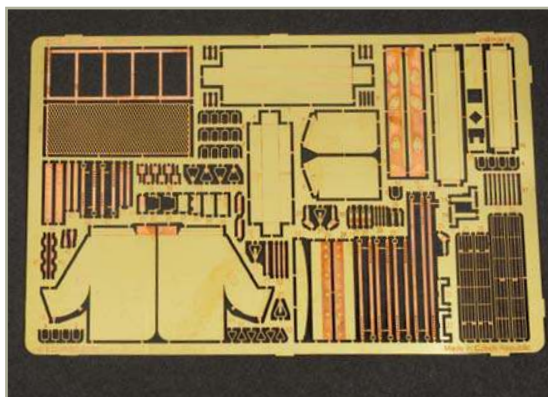
MiniArt 1:35 British Rucksacks, bags and folded canvas, WWII

Unfortunately too late for our M3 Grant featured a few issues ago, we'd have certainly put this excellent set to use. Suitable for any WWII British subjects with sacks (potatoes included!), packs, rolls and folded canvasses all beautifully rendered and moulded.



MiniArt 1:35 Polish Tank Crew

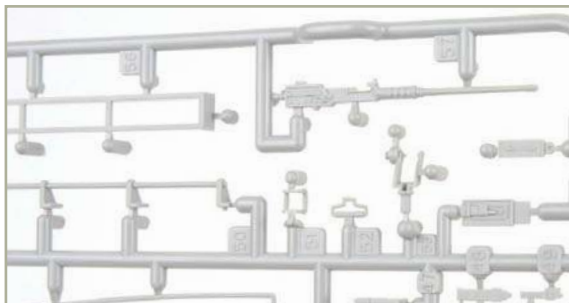
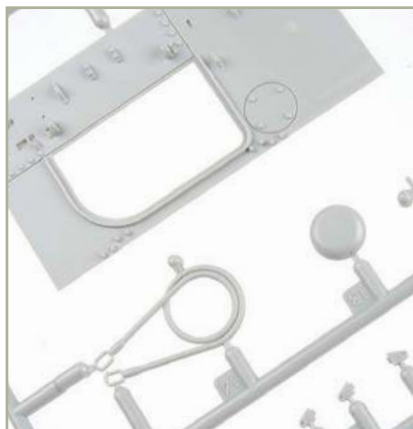
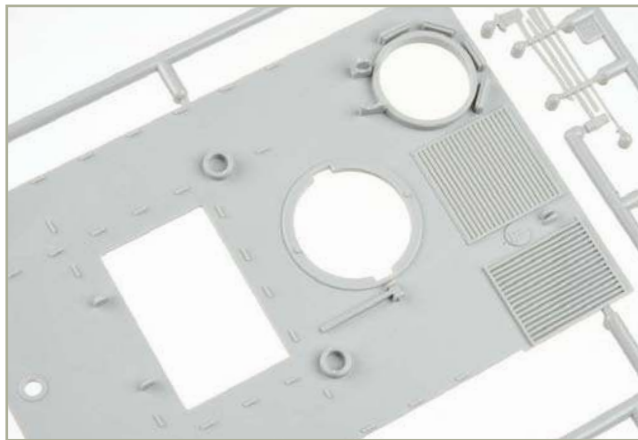
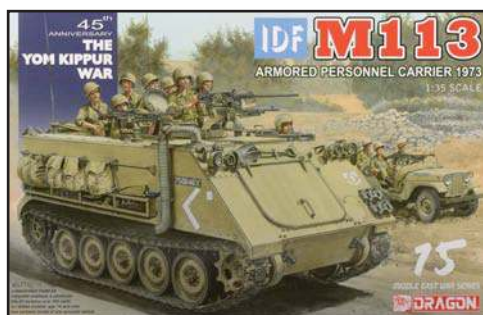
With very little to choose from to crew a Polish armoured vehicle in 1:35 this new set from MiniArt will be warmly welcomed by WWII Allied modellers. With characteristic headgear and generic poses these guys will add a nice touch to any vehicle. Some of the best injection-moulded figures available are in MiniArt's huge range with great sculpting and poses and state-of-the-art moulding. MiniArt have a superb downloadable or printed catalogue for the new year; head over to www.miniart-models.com



Eduard

Eduard produce a phenomenal amount of detail sets, accessories and kits serving the aircraft modeller but they also manage to squeeze in a fair selection of armour subjects too. Here's a selection of some of their recent releases; 36401 is for the new Tamiya M3 Stuart we featured recently, these photoetched parts will take the kit to the next level as will 36397 for Zvezda's T-34/85 with all the parts you'd want including the engine deck air inlet

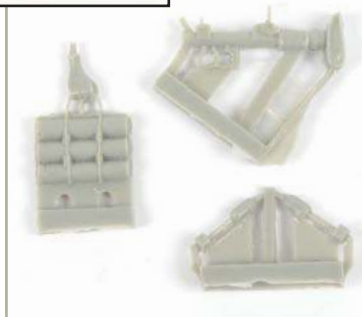
sections. MiniArt's Panzer III Ausf.D/B is already a very detailed kit but set 36402 gives a little more finesse. A really nice set in Eduard's 'Brassin' range are these 1:35 Kar 98k German rifles, 635007. Beautifully cast in resin with pre-coloured photoetched slings these will be a great touch of detail to any figure, vehicle or vignette. Head over to www.eduard.com for more details.



Dragon 1:35 IDF M113

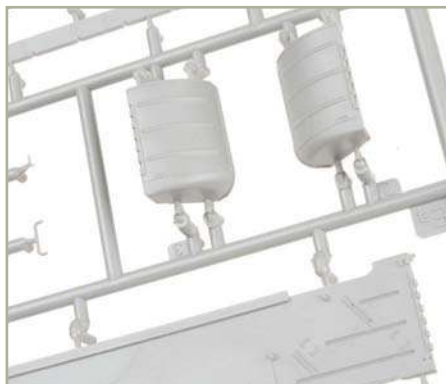
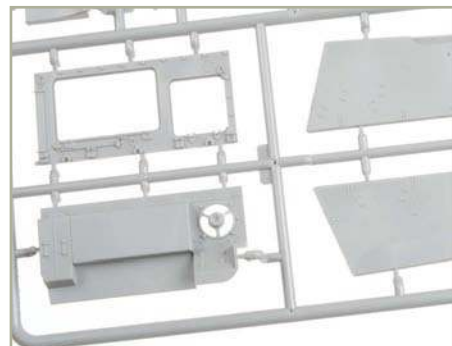
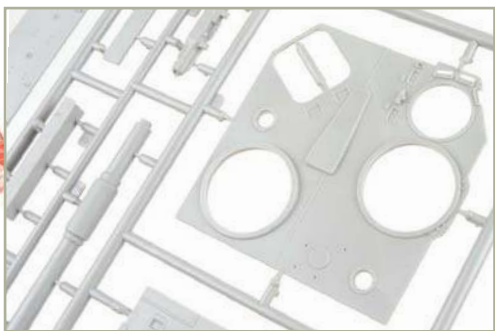
Not the first time the IDF operated M113 has been available in 1:35 as Academy produced a decent series of Israeli M113s in the past but here's an all new tooling (well, mostly) for IDF fans to get excited about. Well, the box-art is exciting but after removing the lid we wished we hadn't. The contents are pretty sparse for a kit of this price; several grey sprues, flexible DS styrene stowage and track pads and a small photoetch fret and decals. The actual moulding is sharp and clean but the detail is poor to say the least, in fact the vintage Tamiya M113 is arguably better with only perhaps Dragon's link and length tracks an improvement. The

track and lower hull (if we're not mistaken) come from DML's M270A1 (MLRS) and the hull tub requires the removing a huge section of thick plastic from the front of the chassis. Not the best start to assembly. This kit struggles to even come close to matching the levels of detail in Tamiya's veteran M113 now some 40 years old. Dragon's IDF kits released lately have come in for a fair amount of criticism and unfortunately this one is sure to generate more of the same, very lazy Dragon, we all know you can do so much better.



Sovereign 2000

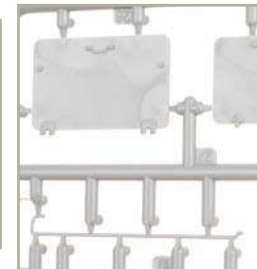
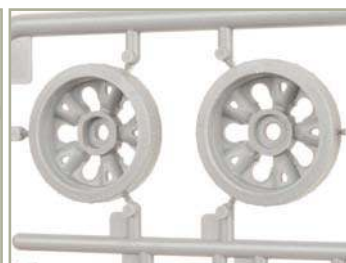
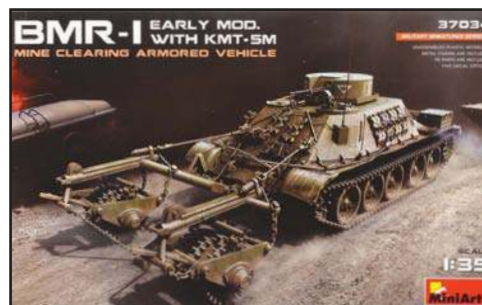
Great to see more classic 'Wolf' figures added to S2K's re-booted range with subjects as diverse as a female Russian sniper and a US recon in Vietnam. Casting is super-sharp and clean in a pleasing mid grey resin with minimal clean-up. Also recently released are some finely detailed figure accessories with a PIAT set (two of everything included) the gripping hand carrying the case will be of particular use. A set of German Mauser C96 side-arms gives a nice option to any officer figure (two of each variants) cast in white metal. A great range of figures, kits and accessories which will be especially of interest to WWII Commonwealth modellers
www.sovereign2000.co.uk



MiniArt 1:35 SU-122-54 Early

It's no surprise that this is the first mainstream kit offered of the SU-122-54, a vehicle that seemed to come and go and barely acknowledged by the west with a short production run between 1955-56 less than one hundred are reported to have been built. Who better than MiniArt to provide a kit of this Russian rarity? drawing heavily on parts from their T-54 kits this is another highly detailed out-of-the-box project as we've come to expect from the Ukrainian manufacturer. You only get detail on this level with time at the workbench; there's a big parts count (even with this 'no interior' release) and some very delicate and intricate detail (just look at the individual-link OMSH tracks complete with casting numbers!) and we've some sensible photoetch additions making these kits a little too demanding for the novice modeller but ultimately satisfying to the more experienced builder. The build

starts as MiniArt's T-54 kits with an option to install 'working' torsion bars into the belly of the hull to which the sides and rear plates are added. The upper hull also is constructed from separate plates which do require multiple holes to be drilled (as do the mudguards presumably due to other versions of the kit?) and some superb weld detail is displayed. The barrel of the 122mm gun is slide-moulded in a single piece and has a nice breech which will be seen should you choose to open the roof hatches. The heavy MG mount and gun have close to 30 parts alone including photoetch and detailed ammo belt; a good indication of the detail levels of this kit (and others from MiniArt). Photos exist of the vehicle involved in the invasion of Czechoslovakia so there is an option to finish the model in an 'action' scenario. Another superb kit added to MiniArt's range.



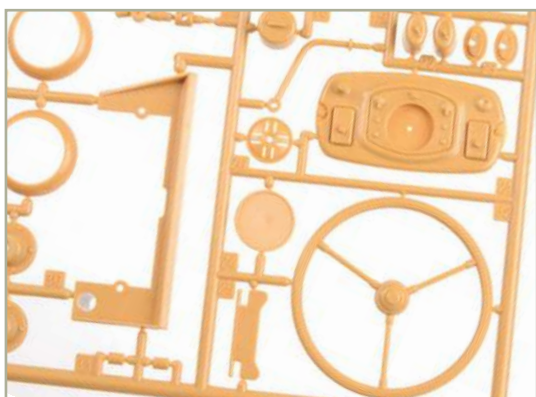
MiniArt 1:35 BMR-1 Early with KMT-5M mine clearer

Based on the SU-122-54 above, various engineer and 'tug' versions were based on the modified assault gun superstructure the subject here being used as a mine-clearing vehicle (seen in Soviet operations in Afghanistan in the 1980s). So not surprisingly MiniArt have utilised sprues with new relevant parts to produce this interesting vehicle. A BTR-60n turret was added with extra

armour and we've some stunning 'workable' RMSH tracks complete with separate pins and excellent 'starfish' wheels (MiniArt have these available as a separate set and also the KMT-5M mine clearer). Some fine chains are supplied along with the photoetch giving us another super-detailed out-of-the-box build which also offers superb value. Thanks MiniArt!



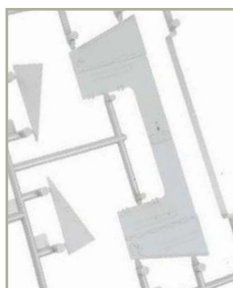
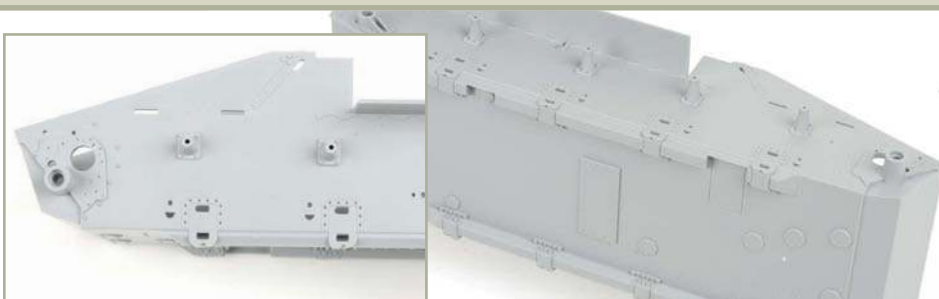
comparison
with 1:35!



Italeri 1:9 Kübelwagen

An old classic returns with the vintage ESCI giant Kübel, getting on for 500mm (1'7")! we're almost into Action Man scale! Although originally from the '70s we're reminded that this kit is surprisingly good for it's age. Moulded now in tan and grey with black soft vinyl seating and tyres, clear glazing, actual soft fabric hood to cut out and various tubes and springs...no wonder I lusted after this kit as a young lad! At this scale the level of detail you could add is endless but from the box this is a pretty complete and accurate (well, without resorting to measuring everything). Assembly is pretty much as the real vehicle with floor-pan and front axle assemblies forming the basis for the body panels to be built around. Unleashing my inner VW geek throws up some

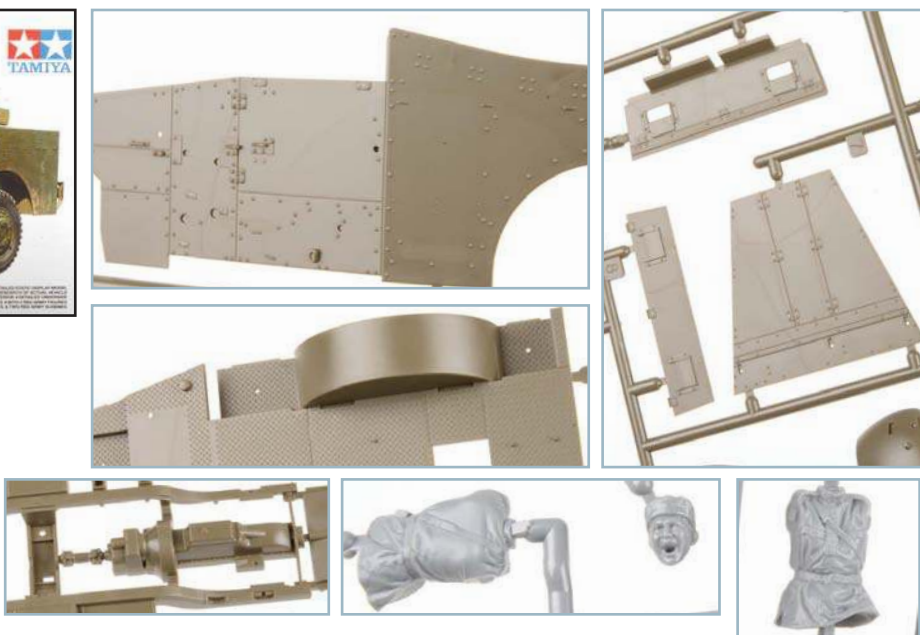
inaccuracies such as the engine block and some mechanical features from later VWs (probably due to the original restored vehicle ESCI based the kit on many moons ago). The hood frame can be made to fold and open with it's fabric frame and there's a nice MG42, helmet and gas mask can supplied to clutter the interior. A good selection of decals give details such as the speedometer and engine component markings and a choice of four colour schemes. If you're prepared for some old-school joint filling and modelling basics this is still a great kit which builds into a very impressive display to sit along-side the other 1:9 reissues from this classic range which are great value. Stock-up on liquid cement and paint for this one!



Dragon 1:35 Sd.Kfz.164 Nashorn 4in1

It's hard to believe Dragon's 'New' generation Nashorn has been around since 2002, available in several boxings surely this is the final release with a '4in1' option to build initial, initial modified, early and command versions. Looking a lot like the '3in1' and 'Premium' releases we're basically offered the best of the best from Dragon's range of Panzer IV based kits. No surprise then that the box is packed-out with superbly moulded sprues showing just how good Dragon are at their best, there's a lot of unused

parts but this is still a kit for the more experienced modeller (as many open-topped vehicles are). There's also a lot of photoetched parts and the superb 'Magic Track' remembering the Nashorn has rather long track be prepared to spend some time here! Superb results with stunning detail straight from the box if you can get your head around the sometimes confusing instructions Dragon seem content with supplying. The ultimate and most comprehensive Nashorn from DML.



Tamiya 1:35 M3A1 Scout Car

Tamiya's timeless approach to their Military Miniatures series means they are still turning out very familiar looking releases which many long-term modellers will hold with great fondness. Many of their recent releases have been re-boots of older kits brought up to modern standards but we don't recall Tamiya ever doing the U.S. M3A1. As we'd expect from a new Tamiya tooling the moulding is super-sharp with some great detail on show while retaining Tamiya buildability. Most of the build concentrates on what will be seen with a simplified chassis and suspension providing enough detail to keep most of us happy, the body is

constructed from separate panels which should aid with painting the detailed interior and there's some beautiful fastener detail. At first glance there's a lot of ejector pin marks but all are hidden when assembly is complete. Options are given for fully 'buttoned-up' armoured panels or open door, radiator and screen covers. A big improvement from Tamiya are their figures; these are excellent depicting a Russian (lend-lease vehicle) crew in action manning the nice .50 Cal and .30 Cal MGs. Two Russian markings are provided on all-over green and one U.S. scheme in tan / olive drab. Typically Tamiya which is never a bad thing.



HD Models

Adding to their superb range of 3D printed and resin diorama accessories for modern and historical subjects, Italy's HD Models have this new set of metal roadwork barriers and cones. The precision of the CAD drawing and state of the art 3D printing methods gives fine and consistent detail. Take a look over at www.hdmodels.it where there's secure shopping of all of their ranges.



Sturmgeschütz III and Sturmhaubitze 42

Vyacheslav Kozitsyn

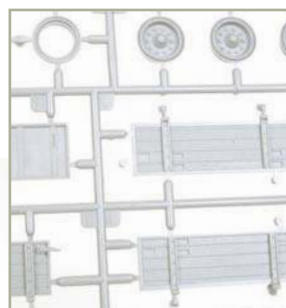
Published by Panzerwrecks

Soft back format, 113 pages

ISBN 9781908032195

www.panzerwrecks.com

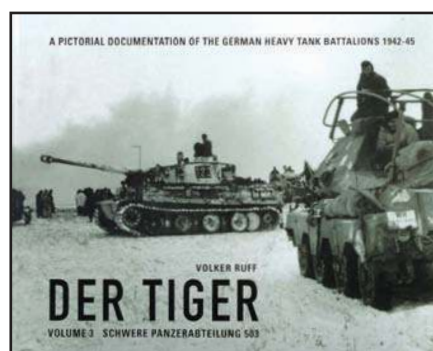
In the tried and tested 'Panzerwrecks' house-style is the start of a new series of photo studies titled 'Ostfront Warfare' packed with superb new images from Russian sources. The images are all presented as large as the quality allows which as always presents modellers with the best reference available, the shots are arranged by production date covering StuG. Ausf.F to Ausf. G with very detailed captions which are invaluable for the ultimate accuracy. There really is page after page of 'must build' subjects with some unique field constructed additional armour on show and clear images of zimmerit, stowage and battle damage. Some extra inspiration comes in the form of Felipe Rodna's beautiful colour illustrations and for the more historically minded many of the images have a QR code which when scanned on a smart-phone or tablet will take you to a Google map of the area in question. Not to be missed by any StuG. fan, highly recommended.



Das Werk 1:35 FAUN L900 D567 and Sonderanhänger 115 (Sd.Ah.115)

There's always something particularly exciting to see a brand new manufacturer entering the kit market to tempt us with their wares! Das Werk are doing just that; powered by the giant German hobby supplier Modellbau König, a team of experts has been assembled and the fruits of their labour are instantly impressive with their choice of subject and quality of the presentation. The packaging and instruction booklets are on a par with the highly regarded Wingnut Wings aircraft kits, beautifully done and packed with cool touches throughout including links to online videos of some of the assembly steps. The grey sprues are moulded very nicely and up to the expectations of what a modern kit should deliver with excellent detail and minimal clean-up. There's a lot of wheels and tyres involved, the tyres are supplied in the usual soft black vinyl with excellent detail to the side-walls and tread. Although what looks like a complex subject, building enjoyment

has been key and designed into the kit, the Editor reports it's going together very nicely indeed and the sheer size is going to make a fantastic display. Some great touches of note are three options of ride height for the truck's rear axles (leaf spring parts, initial release kits don't include a correction to the part numbers of these which appear in the opposite order- visually check the shape) depending on your chosen load and some metal rod and a jig to create the tilt bows. The trailer can be assembled in three configurations (loading and transporting) and it really sends the imagination running wild with suitable loads. Any negatives? nothing of particular note, the rear convoy light is a little lacking in detail and perhaps some modellers would be looking for an engine to be included but this is certainly an excellent first release, very build-able and packed with nice detail and features.



Der Tiger, Volume 3 Schwere Panzerabteilung 503

Volker Ruff

Published by Volker Ruff

Hard backed format, 128 pages,

English / German text

ISBN 97839811690828

www.panzerwrecks.com

This really nicely presented pictorial study of the heavy tank battalions from 1942-45 continues with the spotlight again on the ever popular Tiger I but also many images of the re-equipment of the 503 with the Tiger II in Autumn of 1944. '503' fought in Russia, France, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia and the images cover the combat in chronological order with images from private sources taken by troops of the abteilung and also the more staged and professional photography of the Propaganda Companies (PK). There's plenty of fresh images to excite Tiger modellers and some superb diorama inspiration of maintenance scenes including heavy work with the 'Frieskran' and recovery by 18t FAMOs. Another great collection of images and well detailed captions to please any fan of the German big-cats.

[432]

FV432 Mk 2/1
MORTAR CARRIER



T O S S I N G
B O M B S

MODELLED BY SEAN LYNCH



The FV432 APC is a rather simple design, essentially a box on tracks often referred to as a battle taxi. In many ways its role is similar the US M113, its counterpart from the same era. The FV432 has served the United Kingdom since the early 1960's and has had its service life extended multiple times in lieu of being replaced by more expensive and complex replacements. The various roles of the FV432 include, but not limited to, personnel carrier, battlefield ambulance and 81mm mortar carrier.

Accurate Armour has offered all resin models of various variants of the FV432 for

a while, with one of those variants being the mortar carrier. In 2017 Takom released its own FV342 Mk. 2/1 (kit #2066) with an almost full interior (an engine is not included). Accurate Armour decided to take advantage of its mortar carrier and modified their moulds for the mortar conversion to fit the Takom release and sell the conversion separately (kit #C113). The instructions for both the Accurate Armour conversion and the Takom instructions are good. Though the instructions are good, I find that working with a conversion plus a model with an interior as many pictures of the real vehicle

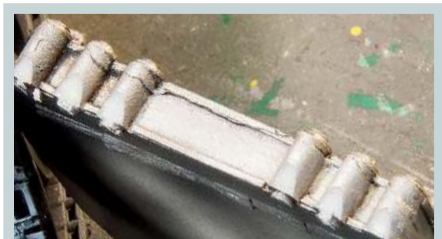
as possible are very helpful. Luckily Tankograd's British Special #9014 provides nice photos of the FV432 and its variants with a section devoted to the mortar carrier. Of course a vehicle that has seen over 50 years of service and crew customizations means that one vehicle may not be exactly like the next. The 81mm mortar and base from Accurate Armour are rendered quite well. However, Accurate Armour uses a harder resin that can tend to have smaller parts break when being removed and cleaned up.



The 81mm mortar and base are well rendered by Accurate Armour. Unfortunately some of the smaller parts were prone to breaking and had to be replaced with scratchbuilt items (white parts) or parts from the spares box (green crank handle).



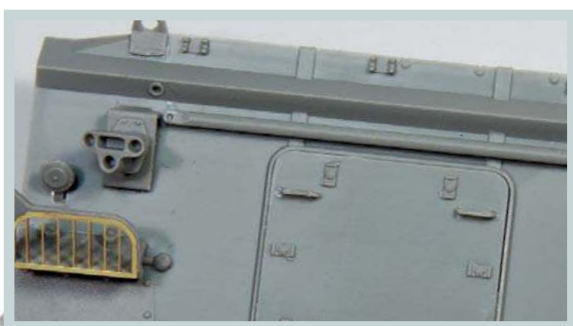
The Accurate Armour conversion also provides the stowage racks for the mortar round containers as well as the containers themselves. Some racks were found to be warped or prone to breakage due to the very delicate nature of the castings. Two racks are carried in the FV432 Mortar Carrier, a larger one toward the rear of the vehicle and a shorter rack on the left sponson. The parts were saved with some plastic card and Evergreen 'U' section channel to keep all of the rounds sitting square and true.



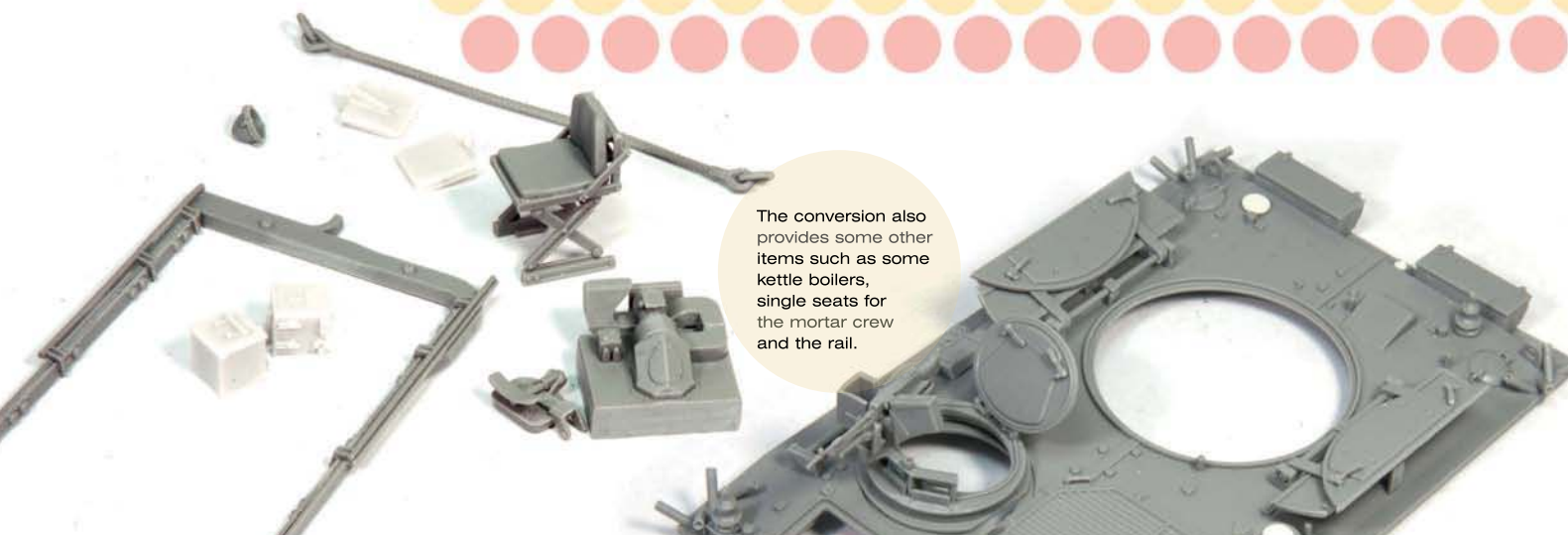
The base plate for the mortar was found to be a bit too wide to fit into the Takom kit due to the interior wall angling inward toward the floor. Fortunately the remedy was to notch each of the bolt tubes on the side of the base plate which allowed enough room for the plate to fit snugly into place.



The 3 tier rack is placed in the back of the hull. I couldn't find clear indication as to how it was secured there. I added some plastic block for it to sit on.



Overall there is nothing to concern us with the Takom 432 kit as the fit and the details are good, just as we expect from modern kits. There was some clean-up of sink marks and ejector pin marks needed and the brackets for the batteries on the troop compartment floor needed to be removed. Some cover plates for unused antennae mounts were also made from plastic card. A small photoetched fret provides some worthwhile details.



The conversion also provides some other items such as some kettle boilers, single seats for the mortar crew and the rail.



An additional 2 sets of mortar tubes are hung on the rear door. A clear picture of the rack is in the Tankograd book The rack was a quick scratchbuild and added to the door.

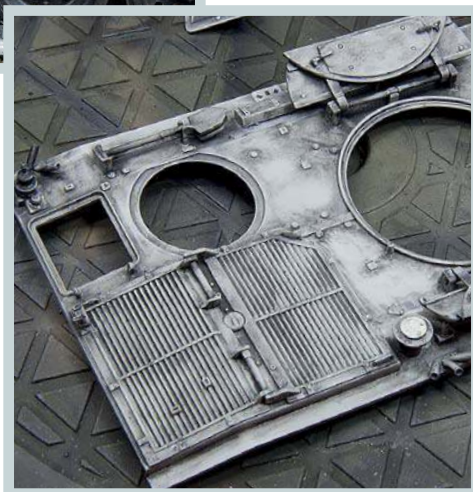


Wheels are well detailed and the suspension is simple. Link and length tracks aren't to everyone's liking but they make for swift assembly. Detail is although the rubber blocks are a little chunky and factory-fresh!



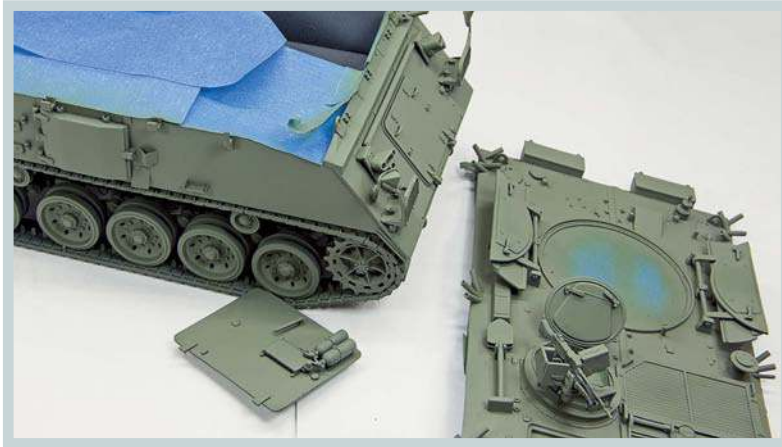
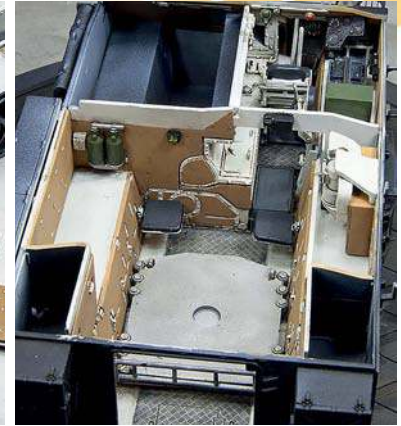
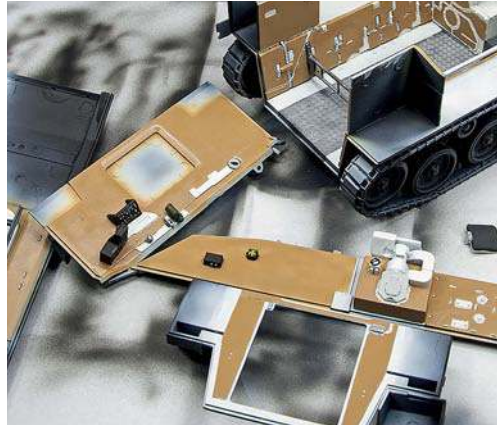
Painting of the FV432 was broken into three pieces, the interior, the exterior and the mortar. This was facilitated by leaving sections of the hull as well as smaller parts unattached until the interior painting was complete.

To make life easier (!) for myself I decided to use a spray can primer to prepare the model for painting. Unfortunately there was a malfunction with the can (i.e. operator!) and the upper hull plate was inundated with paint. This required the paint to be removed. Since it was primer to be removed, a lot of solvent and sanding was involved. Details that were removed from the sanding process were replaced and the model was now ready to be primed (again!) and painted.



The painting of the interior proved to be time consuming. The FV432 has a liner that covers the walls with some of the wall showing through. The walls were painted with Vallejo Off-White (70.820). The liners were painted with Tamiya Desert Sand (XF-59). The floors consist of a metal diamond plate. The floor was painted with Vallejo Dull Aluminium (77.717).

The interior painting was made easier by keeping the model in subsections. After the painting was completed a brown wash was applied. The subsections were then installed. The upper deck was left off as I had intentions of being able to remove it to give full exposure to the interior.



There are of course various options for painting the FV432. These range from all green, black and green, desert schemes or green and tan. I have always been a fan of modern British vehicles in the classic green with black bands. The green can change tone based on the time setting as well as fading and paint batches. I have been trying out the Mission Models paint line. After trying several shades of green, I decided upon their SAC Bomber Green (MMP-098) with a touch of Field Grey (MMP-046). The previously painted interior was covered with painters tape to prevent any accidental overspray of the exterior paint.



Silly putty was used to mask the areas of black, Tamiya NATO Black (XF-69), to be painted in a sharp edge pattern.





Photos in the Tankograd book show a lot of options for call numbers stenciled on the side of the hull. The kit provides some options for this, but I was not happy with the ones provided. I decided to make a mask with painters tape. The dimensions were measured out and the patterns and

numbers were drawn in and then cut out with a razor knife. This was then put on the desired area, based on where they are seen in the Tankograd title. Tamiya Flat Yellow (XF-3) was used for the stencil colour. A black pin wash was added to the exterior



Above: The Takom supplied decals were used for the majority of the decals. There are limitations to the markings provided, so additional decals were sourced from the spares box. These included markings for the fire extinguishers and the matching gun ammunition box.

Right: The finalized interior with the mortar installed. The extra items include helmets and an assault rifle. This gives the feel of a vehicle in use. Most of the mortar tubes are all black, but some are capped in red and yellow for speciality rounds.



Left: The model after the final details have been painted and washes applied. As indicated earlier, I had hoped to have the top deck be removable. As can be seen in these photos the top deck is not sitting flat toward the front. I couldn't find where the mistake was made that caused this to happen. I had to force the deck to match up with the hull and glue the deck in place.





The final touches before adding dirt and grime was to add external stowage. Some of the bedrolls are commercial. However the larger tarps are made from teabag paper that was painted and then rolled into shape. This was an interesting alternative to sculpting the stowage. The camouflage net was made from gauze that was covered with white glue and then the tea leaves from the tea bags sprinkled on.



The Tankograd title on the FV432 shows images of a heavy mud accumulation on the front of the FV432 while the rest of the vehicle is not that muddy which appealed to me.

To start the mud process Vallejo acrylic chipping fluid (76.550) was applied to areas of interest. A mix of Tamiya Flat Earth (XF-52) and Buff (XF-57) was then airbrushed onto the model. The painted mud was then "chipped" off the model.

Another mix of mud, this time a high proportion of buff with a touch of flat earth was lightly airbrushed onto the model in random areas as well showing some drier areas of the previous mud.

Another mix of mud, this time a high proportion of buff with a touch of flat earth was lightly airbrushed onto the model in random areas as well showing some drier areas of the previous mud. Some light mud coloured pigments were applied to the

upper hull. Areas of moisture and wet streaks were then added around the vehicle with AK Interactive's Wet Effects Fluid (AK079) and Earth Effects (AK017). Fuel stains were applied with Vallejo Oiled Earth Wash (76.521). Depth was added to

the mud on the front of the FV432 with Wilder Fine Textured Earth Light Grey Earth (TE07) mixed with the Tamiya Flat Earth. Tamiya Buff was painted on the edges of the heavy mud to simulate dried mud. Some pine branches, made from moss, was added to the various areas of the model to complete the project.





[432]





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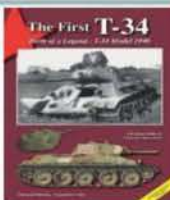
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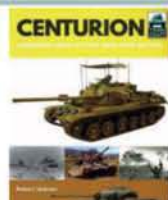
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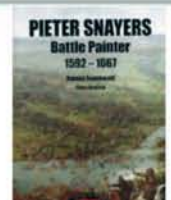
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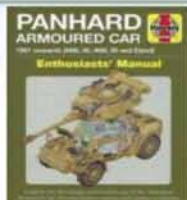
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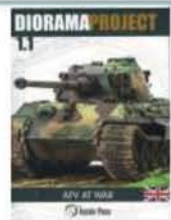
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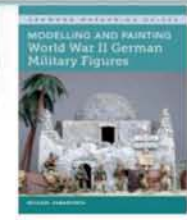
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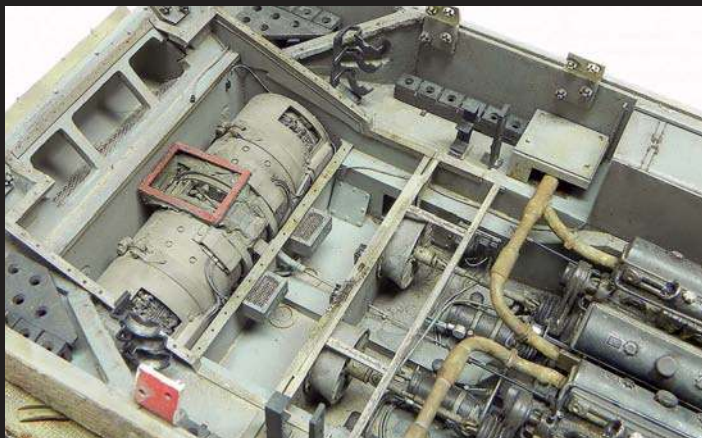
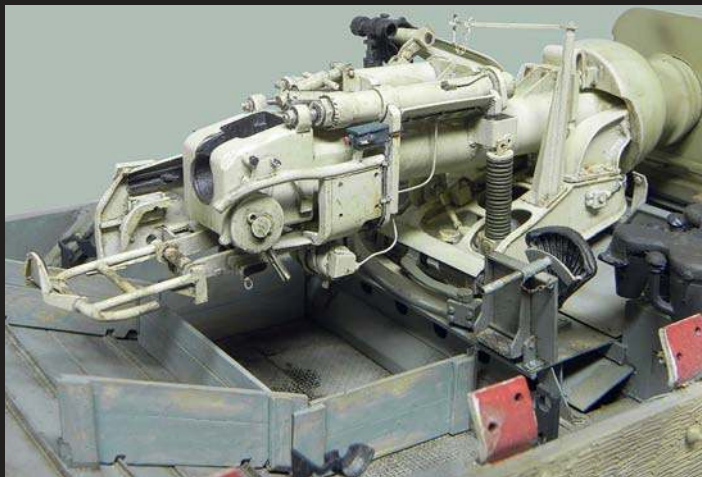
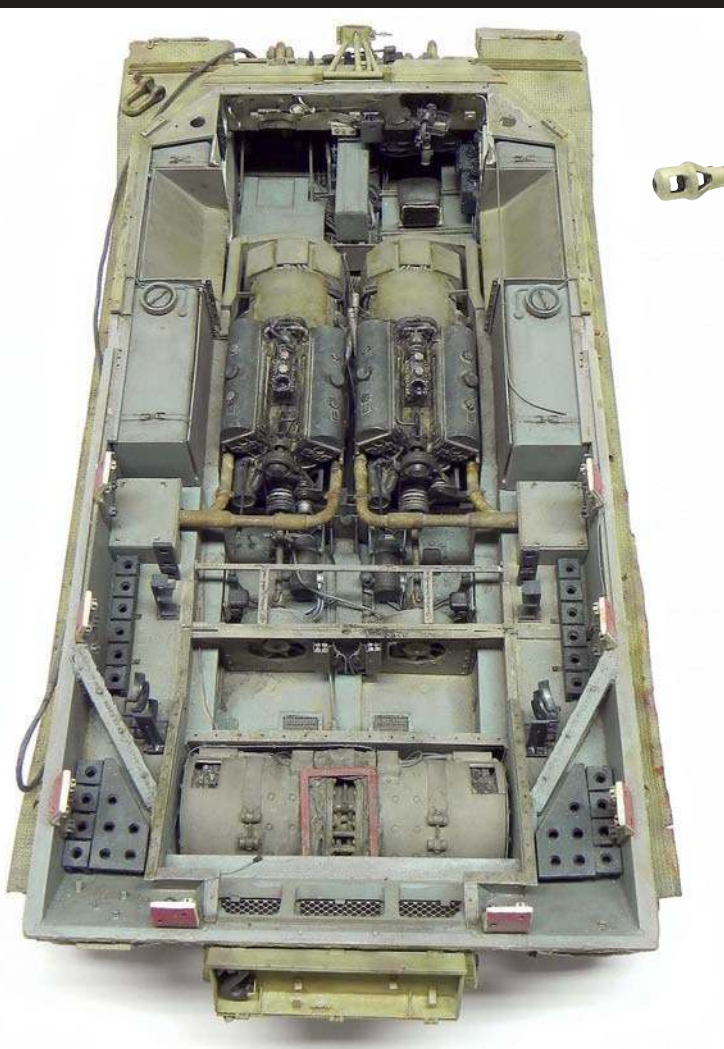
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