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Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

Model
MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE
353

March 2025

£5.99

ALL WHITE ON THE NIGHT

Alpha Model's 1:24 Aston
Martin Vantage full build

HURRICANE SEASON

Arma Hobby's stunning 1:48
Hurricane Mk.IIc in detail

STUART: LITTLE

Tamiya's 1:48 M5A1 Stuart light tank **FULL BUILD**

INSIDE

Nuremberg Toy Fair 2025, Gecko Model 1:35 M76 Otter and ICM 1:48 MH-60L
Black Hawk previewed, plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

DOOLITTLE
MEDIA



PORSCHE 911 GT3 RS

(992)



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on www.hobbyco.net



PORSCHE

A Seriously Racy Car

1/24
SCALE

1/24 Sports Car Series **Porsche 911 GT3 RS (992)** (Item 24370)

The Porsche 911 is a true sports car icon, and its RS models are a special breed of 911. 2022 saw the latest RS release, in the form of the Porsche 911 GT3 RS (992), a breathtaking road car with plenty of circuit-oriented design and equipment. Now, it appears in the Tamiya 1/24 Sports Car Series: enjoy depictions of aerodynamic features such as the body and hood air vents and the huge, DRS-equipped rear wing, as well as faithful renderings of the underside, plus the suspension with its rear 4WS actuator. Decals in the box include markings for use on three different body colors, and four different colors of side and wing logo. This modern-day masterpiece of a car is just waiting to join your 1/24 car model collection!

The rear wing even has depictions of hydraulic pistons.

Hood and roof carbon fiber patterns are decals.



Decals recreate door panel, dashboard and seat surface details in the "Weissach package" interior.



Underside details such as the diffuser will delight.

Metal transfers ▶



★Length: 190mm, width: 85mm,
height: 55mm

①Metal transfers and masking stickers are included. ②Body parts are molded separately for different color sections.



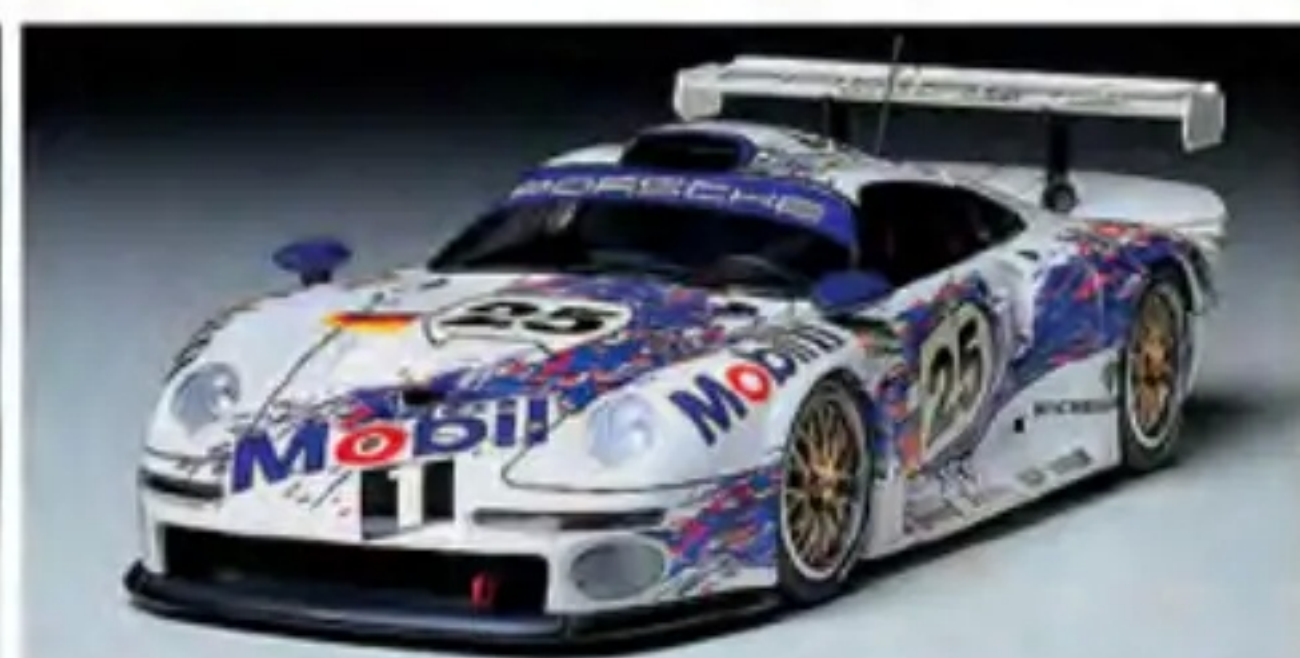
1/24 Porsche 911 Turbo '88
(Item 24279)



1/24 Porsche 911 GT2 Road Version Club Sport (Item 24247)



1/24 Porsche 911 GT3 (Item 24229)



1/24 Porsche 911 GT1 (Item 24186)

Follow the evolution of the Porsche 911 through the Turbo, GT2, GT3 and even the racing GT1 models, all of which are available in the Tamiya 1/24 Sports Car Series.

Check Tamiya's homepage for the latest releases! [www.tamiya.com]

★Images show assembled and painted kit. ★Product may vary from images shown.

TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

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Alpha Model 1:24 Aston Martin Vantage in detail

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Building Arma Hobby's superb 1:48 Hurricane Mk.IIc



28 STUART: LITTLE!

Tamiya's new 1:48 M5A1 Stuart, full build



TAMIYA Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

Issue 353 March 2025

EDITOR Marcus Nicholls
editor@tamiyamodelmagazine.com

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IN BRIEF...



TAMIYA

- 1:32 Spike Tyre & Wheel Set (for EZ Chassis)
 - 1:32 Fun-Vroom (EZ)
 - 1:10 RC Audi 90 Quattro Racing Body Parts Set
 - 1:10 RC Porsche 911 GT3 R (992) Body Parts Set
 - 1:10 RC Peugeot 306 Maxi Body Parts Set
 - 1:10 RC DT-04 B Parts (Uprights)
 - 1:10 RC DT-04 C Parts (Cowlings)
 - 1:10 RC DT-04 F Parts (Frame)
 - 1:10 RC TRF104 Chassis Kit
 - 1:10 Scale Audi R8 LMS 2008 Body Parts Set
 - 1:14 RC Scania 770S 4x2
 - 1:10 RC Porsche 911 GT3 R (992) (TT-02)
 - 2025 Tamiya Catalogue
- tamiya.com hobbyco.net

AIRFIX

- 1:76 British 105mm Light Field Gun
 - 1:72 Sopwith Pup
 - 1:72 Fokker E.II Eindecker
 - 1:72 Focke-Wulf Fw190 F-8 A-8
 - 1:72 Hawker Hurricane MkI
 - 1:72 Lockheed Hudson
 - 1:72 SEPECAT Jaguar GR1
 - 1:72 Bristol Blenheim Mk.IF
 - 1:72 Messerschmitt Me410A-1
 - 1:72 Boeing 314 Clipper
 - 1:72 Vosper MTB
 - 1:72 RAF Rescue Launch
 - 1:72 Heinkel He111H-6
 - 1:72 Boeing B-17G Fortress Mk.III
 - 1:72 German E-Boat
 - 1:72 Handley Page Victor K2 SR2
 - 1:72 Battle of Britain
 - 1:48 WWII RAF Ground Crew
 - 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire PR
 - 1:48 Folland Gnat T1
 - 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire MkI
 - 1:48 Boulton Paul Defiant NF1
 - 1:48 Westland Lynx AH-7
- airfix.com



ARMA HOBBY

- 1:72 P-51D Mustang
 - 1:72 Curtiss H-75 A1/A2
 - 1:72 Me262A (not shown)
- armahobby.com



GECKO MODELS

- 1:35 Mini Shop in US Military Base (Vietnam War era)
- tankmuseumshop.org



REVELL

- 1:72 MS Messerschmitt Me 262 A1a
 - 1:72 Model Set Lockheed Martin F-22A Raptor
 - 1:72 MS Avro Lancaster B.III Dambusters
 - 1:72 Model Set Avro Lancaster Mk.I-III
 - 1:48 Model Set Beechcraft Model 18
 - 1:48 Model Set Dassault Mirage 2000C
 - 1:35 Model Set Lkw gl leicht Wolf AA
 - 1:32 MS Messerschmitt Bf109G-2/4
 - 1:32 MS Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXc
 - 1:32 Model Set Vought F4U-1A Corsair
- revell.de



NEWS FROM NUREMBERG!

Tamiya 1:35 French Light Tank H39/Pz.Kpfw.38H(f)

Tamiya's latest 1:35 World War Two tank release takes the form of the French H39 (Hotchkiss) Light Tank. It's 100% new and can be built as either the original French army machine or, with the included optional parts and decals, as a captured 'beute' tank in German service. It looks superb and there will, of course, be a full-build feature in TMMI soon. www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide



NEWS FROM NUREMBERG!

Tamiya 1:16 RC German Main Battle Tank Leopard 2A7V Full-Option Kit

Tamiya's next 1:16 radio control tank will be the mighty Leopard 2A7V, the same version released in 1:35 exactly one year ago. This makes sense as Tamiya has a mountain of references for this tank. It looks and sounds magnificent in the flesh!

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide

NEWS FROM NUREMBERG!

Tamiya 1:24 Toyota GR Supra Custom

New components have been added to this stunning kit from Tamiya, launched in its original form in 2019. New aerodynamic parts plus boot spoiler and nineteen-inch aluminium wheels by Toyota Racing Development (TRD) are included, along with new decals with TRD logos for the wheels' centre hubs.

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide



NEWS FROM NUREMBERG! Tamiya 1:24 automobile re-releases

1:24 Mercedes-Benz 500 SEC
1:24 Honda Prelude XX
1:24 Porsche 962C Jägermeister
1:24 Renault 5 Turbo Rally
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net
and from good retailers worldwide



NEWS FROM NUREMBERG! Tamiya radio control models

1:10 RC TRF104 Chassis Kit
1:10 RC Fighter NXGEN (DT-04)
1:10 RC Audi 90 Quattro Racing (TT-02)
1:10 RC Peugeot 306 Maxi (BT-01)
1:10 RC Volkswagen Golf Mk. II GTi 16V (MB-01)
1:10 RC Audi R8 LMS 2008 (TT-02)
1:10 RC Mini Cooper Racing (MB-01)
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net
and from good retailers worldwide



NEWS FROM NUREMBERG! Tamiya 1:14 RC Scania 770S 4X2

The Scania 770S 4X2 is the newest addition to the large-scale, radio control truck range and it has a new load to pull too, in the form of the '40-Foot Container three-Axle Semi-Trailer for Tamiya Tractor Truck'. www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net
and from good retailers worldwide

ON THE WAY SOON FROM AIRFIX

- 1:72 Boeing Chinook HC.1 (Late)
- 1:72 Consolidated B-24D Liberator
- 1:48 Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXe
- 1:48 Fairey Gannet COD.4
- 1:48 SEPECAT Jaguar GR1/GR1A
- 1:35 Alvis Stalwart Mk.2
- 1:35 Ferret Scout Car Mk.1

www.airfix.com and from good retailers worldwide



1:72 BOEING CHINOOK HC.1 (LATE)



1:72 CONSOLIDATED B-24D LIBERATOR



1:48 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXe



1:48 FAIREY GANNET COD.4



1:48 SEPECAT JAGUAR GR.1/GR.1A



1:35 ALVIS FV622 STALWART MK.2



1:35 FERRET SCOUT CAR Mk.1

TOY FAIR 2025!

Tamiya Model Magazine reports from the biggest toy fair in the world, the 'Nuremberg Spielwarenmesse'

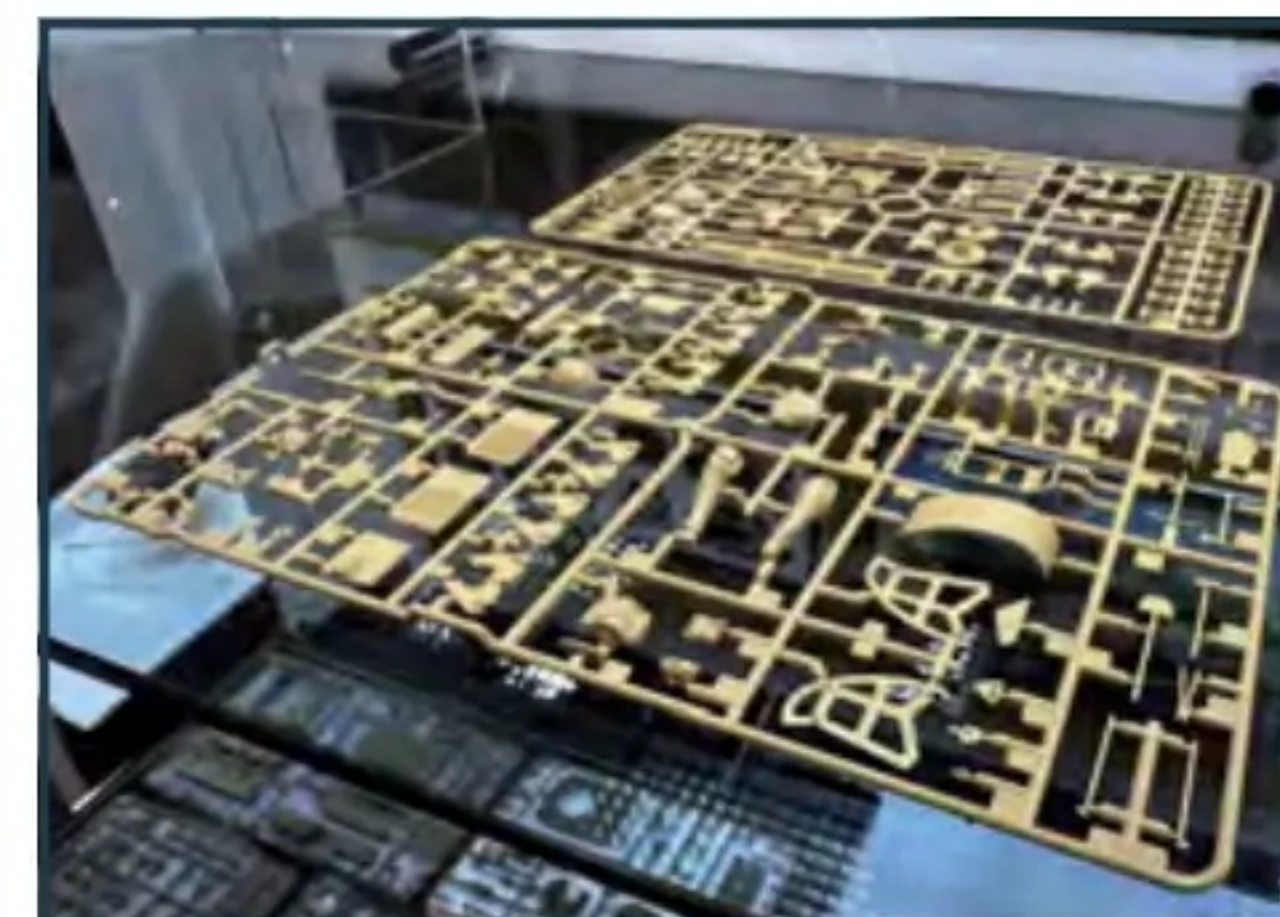


TAMIYA

www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net

The big news this year for modellers of 1:35 World War Two armour subjects was Tamiya's announcement of an all-new (Hotchkiss) H39 French Light Tank. It looked great and, unusually for Tamiya, comes as a 'two in one' release with parts for both French and German-service tanks, the latter known as the 'Pz.Kpfw.38H(f)'. New in Tamiya's 1:16 RC tank series is the Leopard 2A7V Full Option Kit with full radio control motion, rotating turret, elevating gun barrel and lighting, plus engine and gun sounds.

Also on show, in 1:24: Toyota GR Supra Custom (new version), Renault 5 Turbo Rally (re-issue), Mercedes-Benz 500 SEC (re-issue), Honda Prelude XX (re-issue), Porsche 962C Jägermeister (re-issue), Audi Quattro (re-issue), Porsche 911 GT3 RS (new tool), Honda City Turbo (re-issue). In 1:10 RC: VW Golf GTi, Audi R8 LMS 2008, Fighter Nxgen Off Road Racer and in 1:14 RC: Scania 770S4X2 truck with 40-foot Container 3-Axle Semi-Trailer. And we mustn't forget the Walking Tyrannosaurus and Walking Triceratops!





AIRFIX

www.airfix.com

Airfix didn't have their usual large stand this year, so all that was on show was their stunning new 1:48 Westland Lysander Mk.I/III (Kit Preview next issue) plus some other goodies. More news on Airfix's extensive new releases for 2025 in coming issues of TMMI.



ALBION ALLOYS

www.albionhobbies.com

This British distributor and manufacturer is well known for its superb line of extruded metal sections, ideal for scratchbuilders, but they also distribute some top-end model kits in the UK, including Das Werk, Border Model, Thunder Model, Dora Wings, Mr Hobby, SMS (paints), VMS (varnishes) and others. Thanks for the cup of tea!



CLEAR PROP!

www.clearpropmodels.com

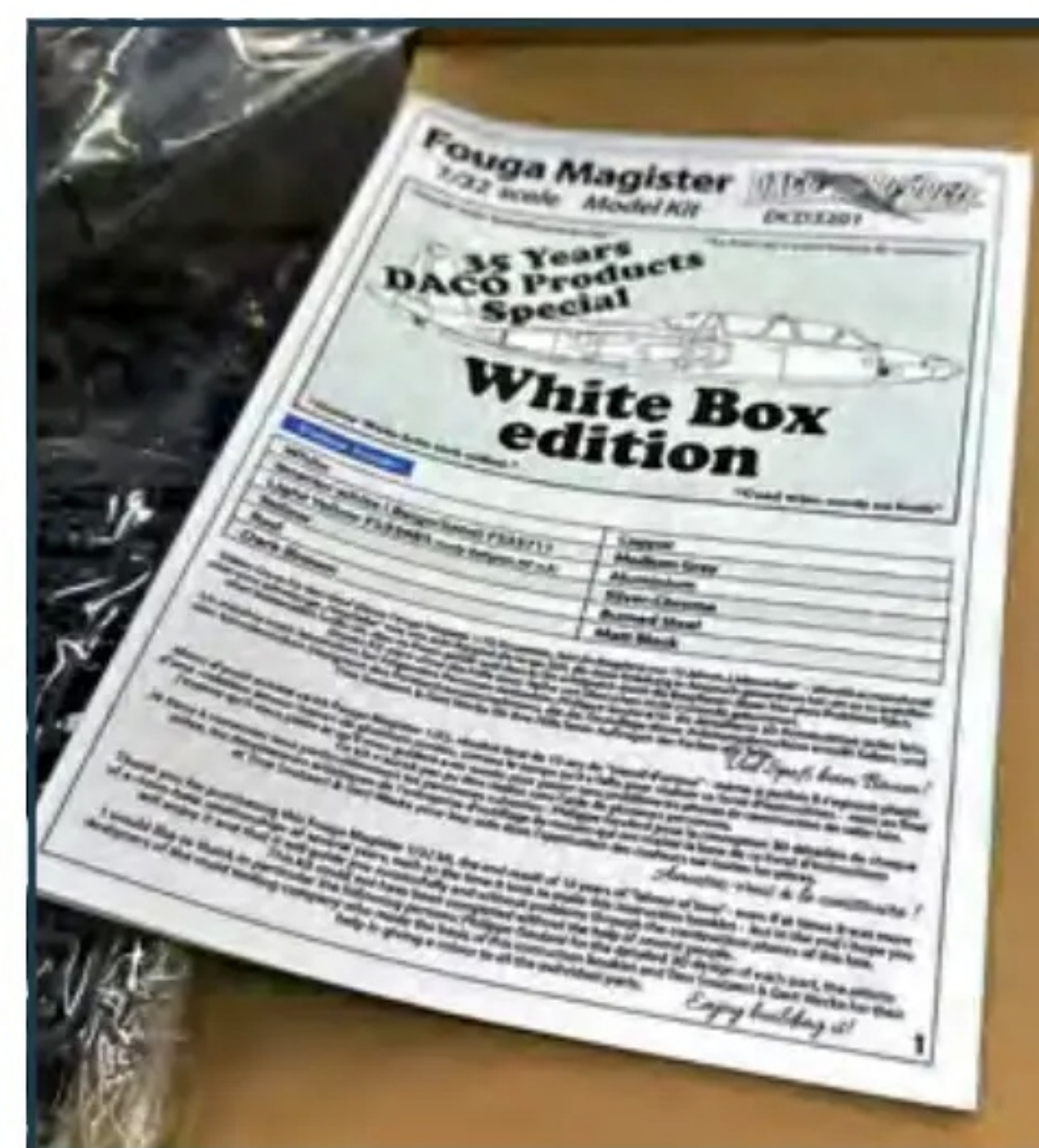
The highlight of Clear Prop's stand was their new 1:48 Gloster E28/39 Pioneer and F-86A Sabre jets, along with other superb kits in their line-up such as the DH.88 Comet and all-new MiG-19PM in 1:72.



DACO PRODUCTS

www.dacoproducts.com

DACO are well known for their decals and setting solutions, but their latest endeavour takes the form of an all new 1:32 model of the Fouga Magister jet and from a look at the kit parts showed to us by proprietor Danny Coremans, it looks stunning. More news on this model as we get it.



DORA WINGS

www.dorawings.com

Dora Wings showed off their 1:48 L-20A/U-6A Beaver and it looked fantastic!



EDUARD

www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

Eduard's new-tool P-40E in 1:48 is the hottest news currently and in person it looked superb. There's a full-build feature coming soon to TMMI, so keep reading!



INTERNATIONAL HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobby-exporter.com www.salvinosjrmodels.com

International Hobbycraft is a USA-based export/trading company who bring American kits and modelling products into Europe and beyond. The many manufacturers they represent include AMT, Moebius, plus one we'd not heard of before, Salvinos JR Models. They mostly make 1:24 Nascar kits and also IndyCars in 1:20 and we were impressed by their Josef Newgarden 2024 Indy 500 Winner, seen here in red and orange below.



LEVEL 3
★★★★★



03791 BAe 146-200 "AirUK", 1:144

LEVEL 4
★★★★★



03805, Westland Lynx Mk.88, 1:72

LEVEL 4
★★★★★



07729, '70 Shelby® GT500™, 1:25
Inc. parts for boxtop "Street" or modified "Custom" version

LEVEL 4
★★★★★



05242, KFK (Kriegsfischkutter), 1:144

LEVEL 5
★★★★★



05180, German Sub Type IX C (U-505 Late), 1:72
Includes decals for Kriegsmarine & captured (US Navy) versions

Available from all good model stockists and online from

hobbycraft

hobbycraft.co.uk/brand/revell

ITALERI

www.italeri.com www.hobbyco.net

The next high-profile release from this much-loved Italian manufacturer is the Macchi C.200 fighter in 1:32, the aircraft from which sprang the MC.202 and MC.205 fighters. Also on show was the new 1:12 Lancia Stratos and their amazing line-up of 1:24 truck kits.



MINIART

www.miniart-models.com
www.creativemodels.co.uk

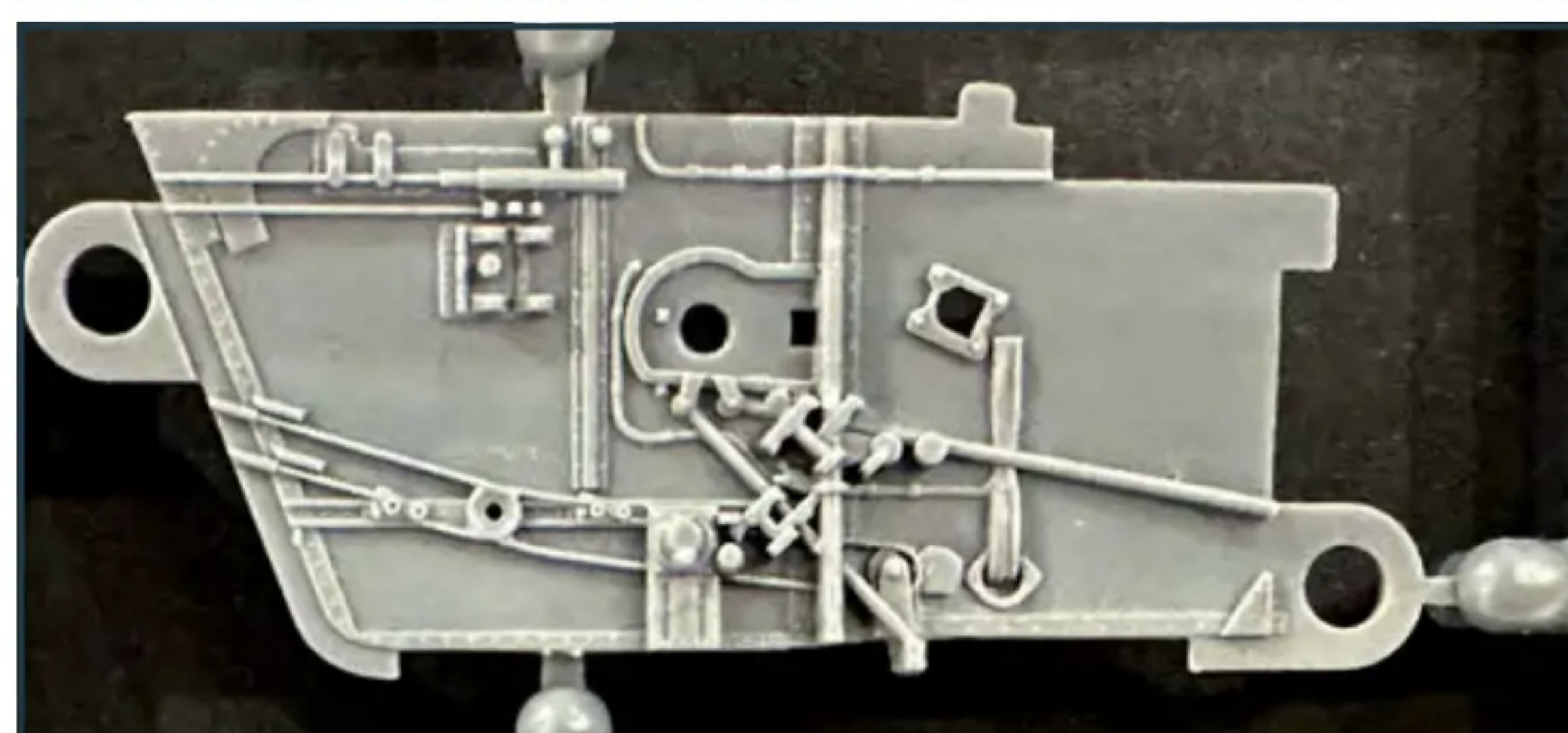
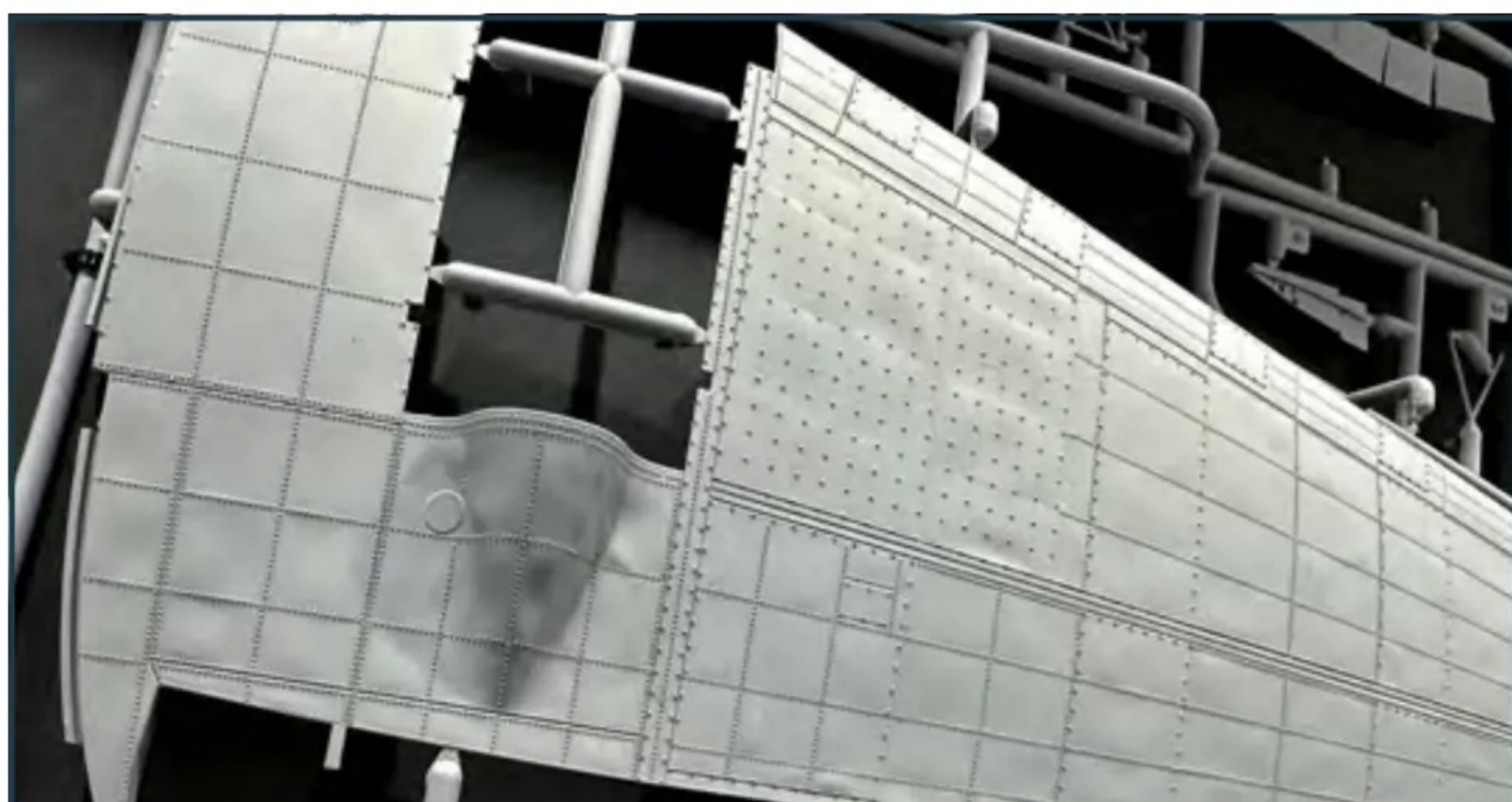
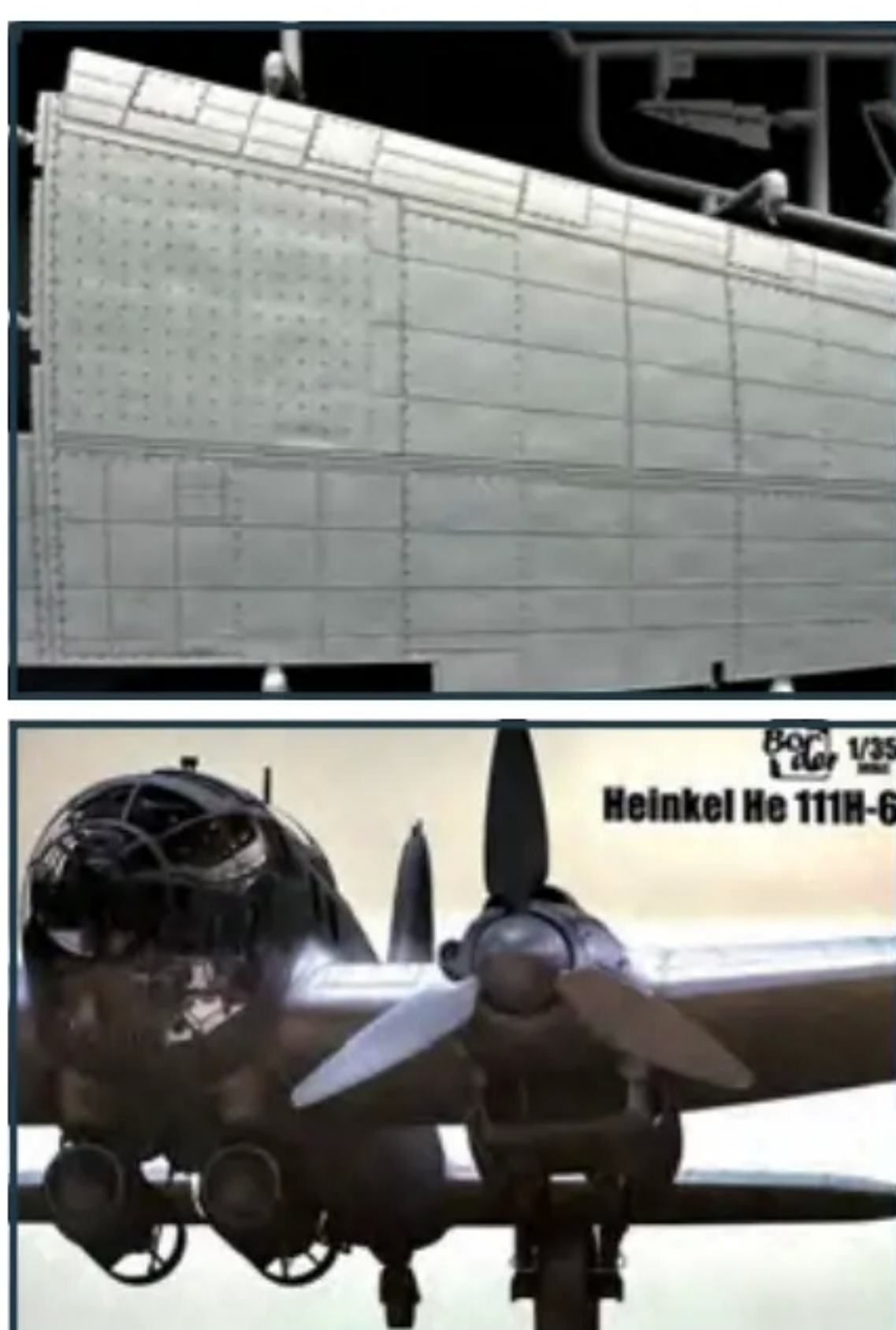
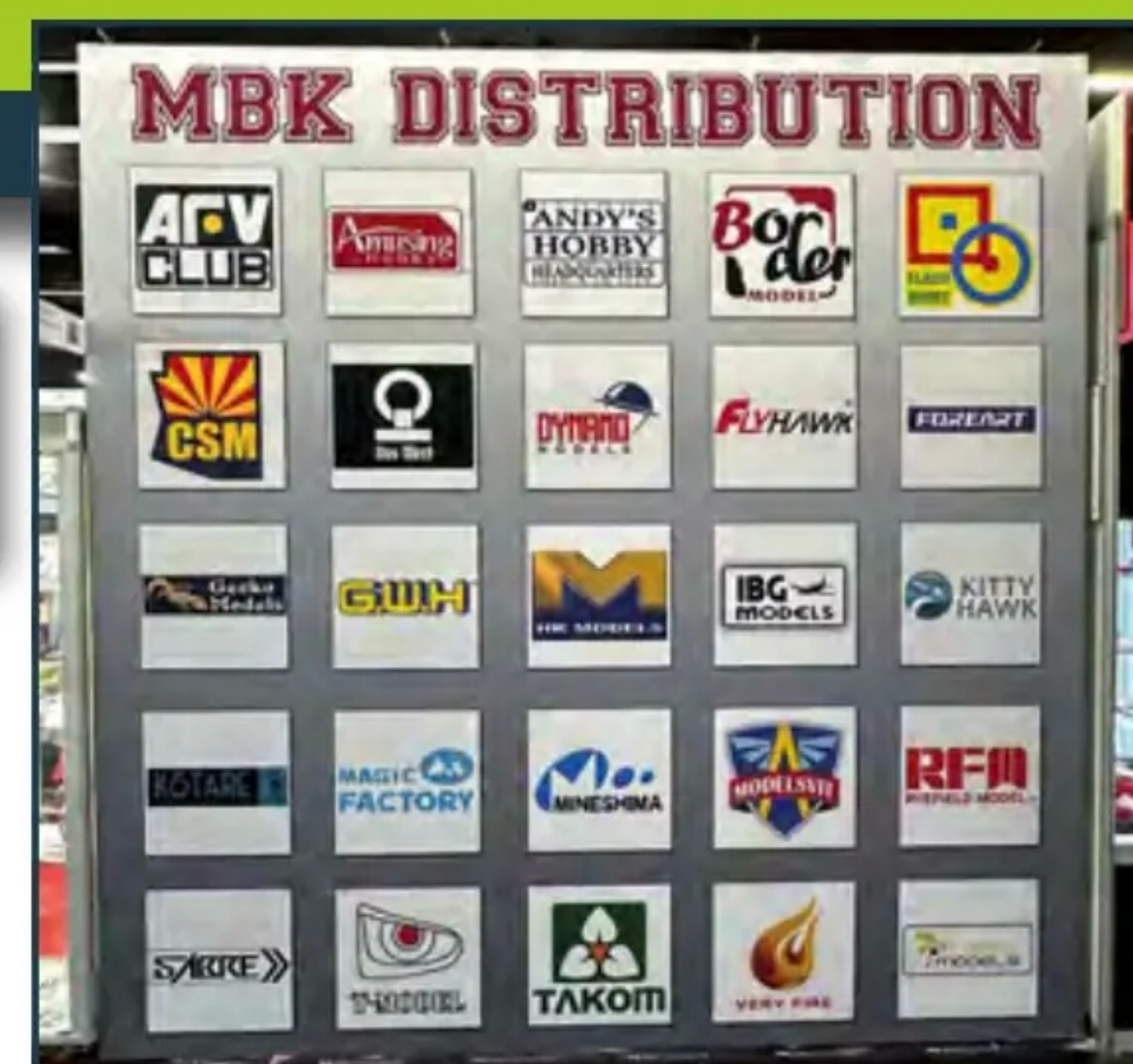
The big news from MiniArt is the creation of an all-new 1:35 Raupenschlepper Ost (RSO) in a couple of versions and the built-ups on show looked excellent. They also have the 'Razorback' version of the P-47 Thunderbolt coming in 1:48, plus their all-new Focke-Wulf Fw190D-9 'Dora'. MiniArt also showed off their line of phenomenal Sd.Kfz.234 variants in 1:35.



MODELLBAU KOENIG

www.modellbau-koenig.de

Modellbau Koenig is a German import/distribution company and they have some extremely important product lines in their catalogue. Das Werk is one, and dominating their stand was the all-new 1:16 Leopard 2A7V static kit, which looked incredible. Also coming from Das Werk in 1:16 is the 2cm Flak30 and in 1:32, the Messerschmitt P.1101 jet fighter. Also on MBK's stand was Border Model's 1:35 Heinkel He.111H-6 and Kotare's 1:32 Bf109K-4. Amazing stuff.



www.creativemodels.co.uk

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

Get Creative!

CREATIVE MODELS LIMITED

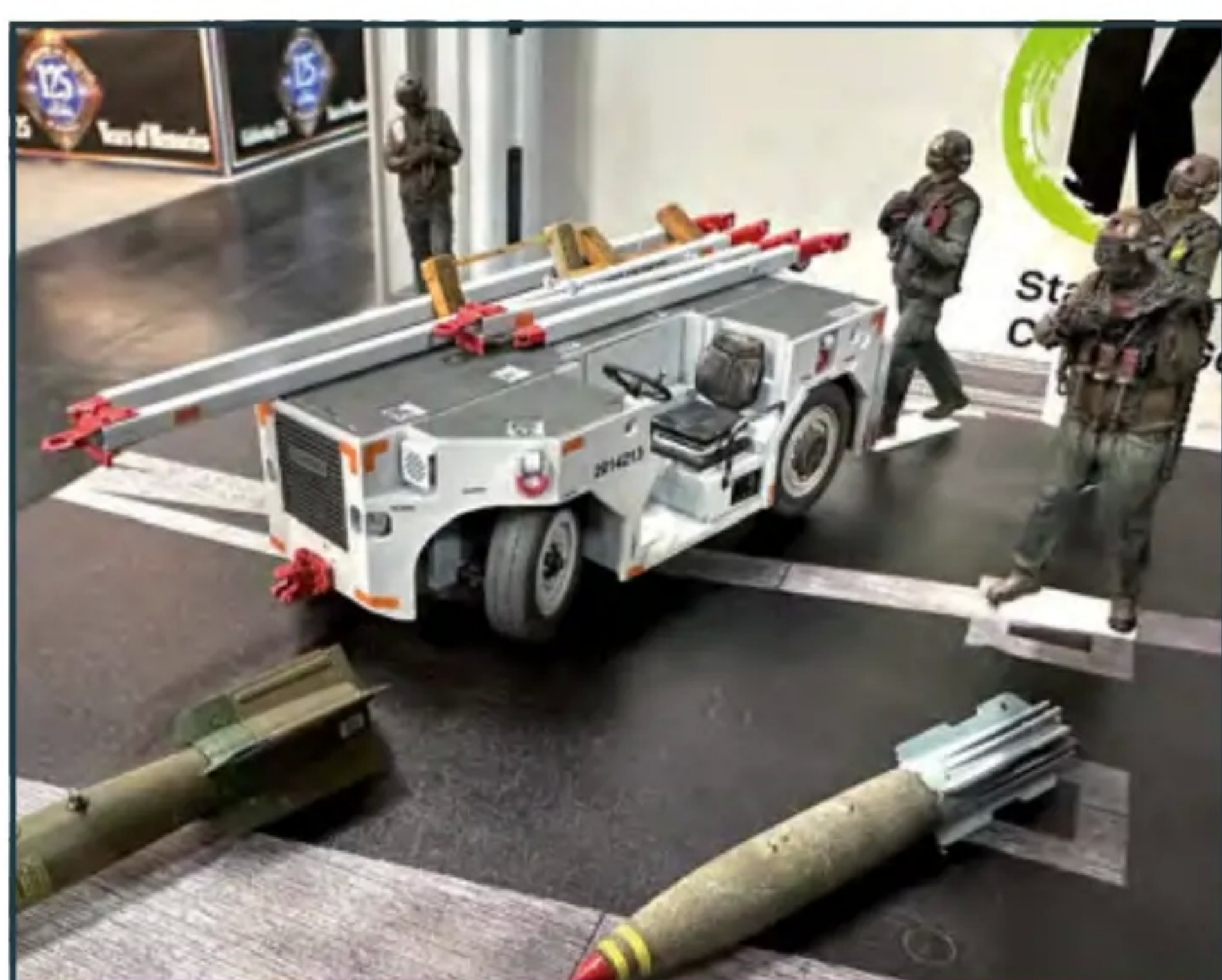
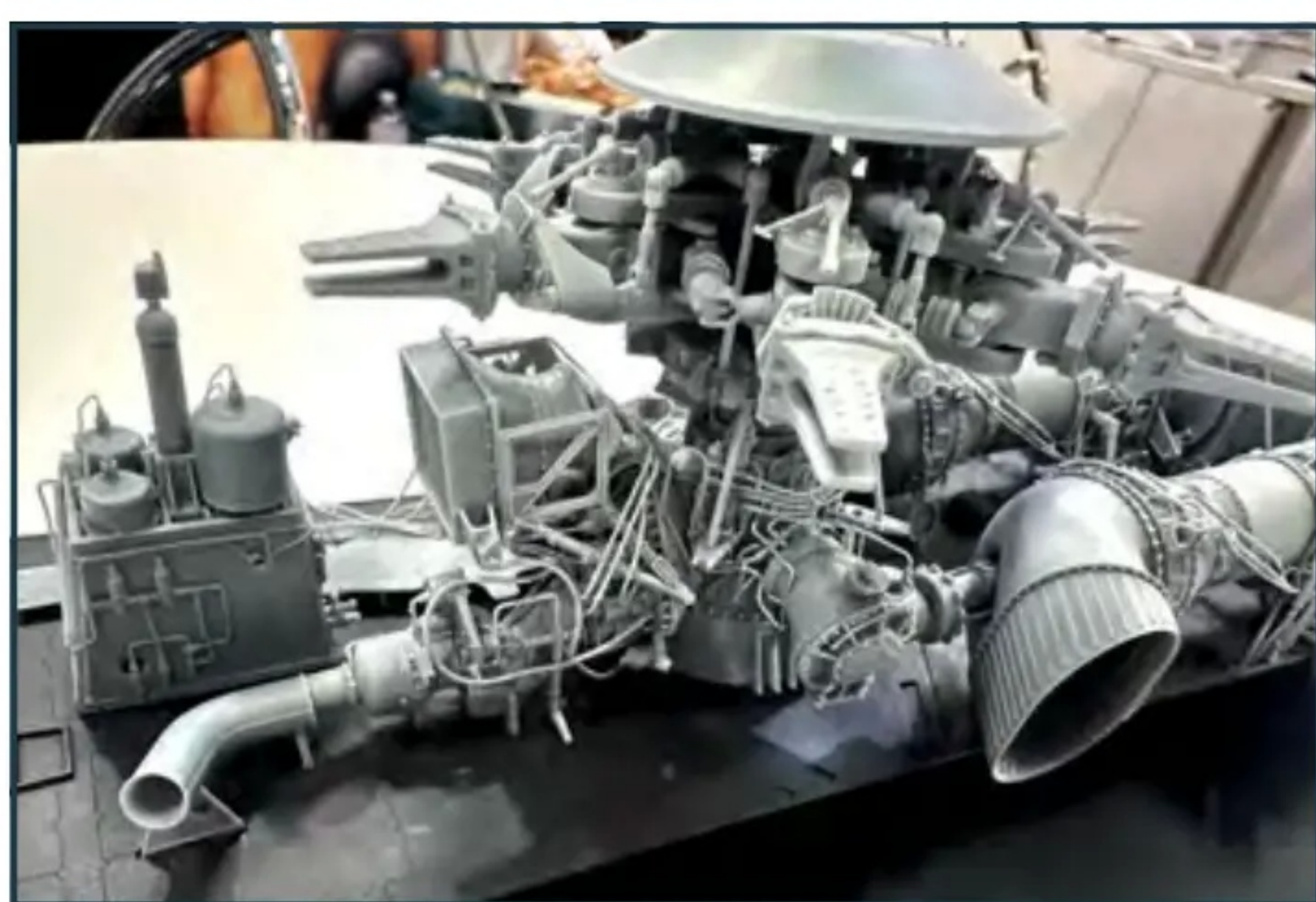
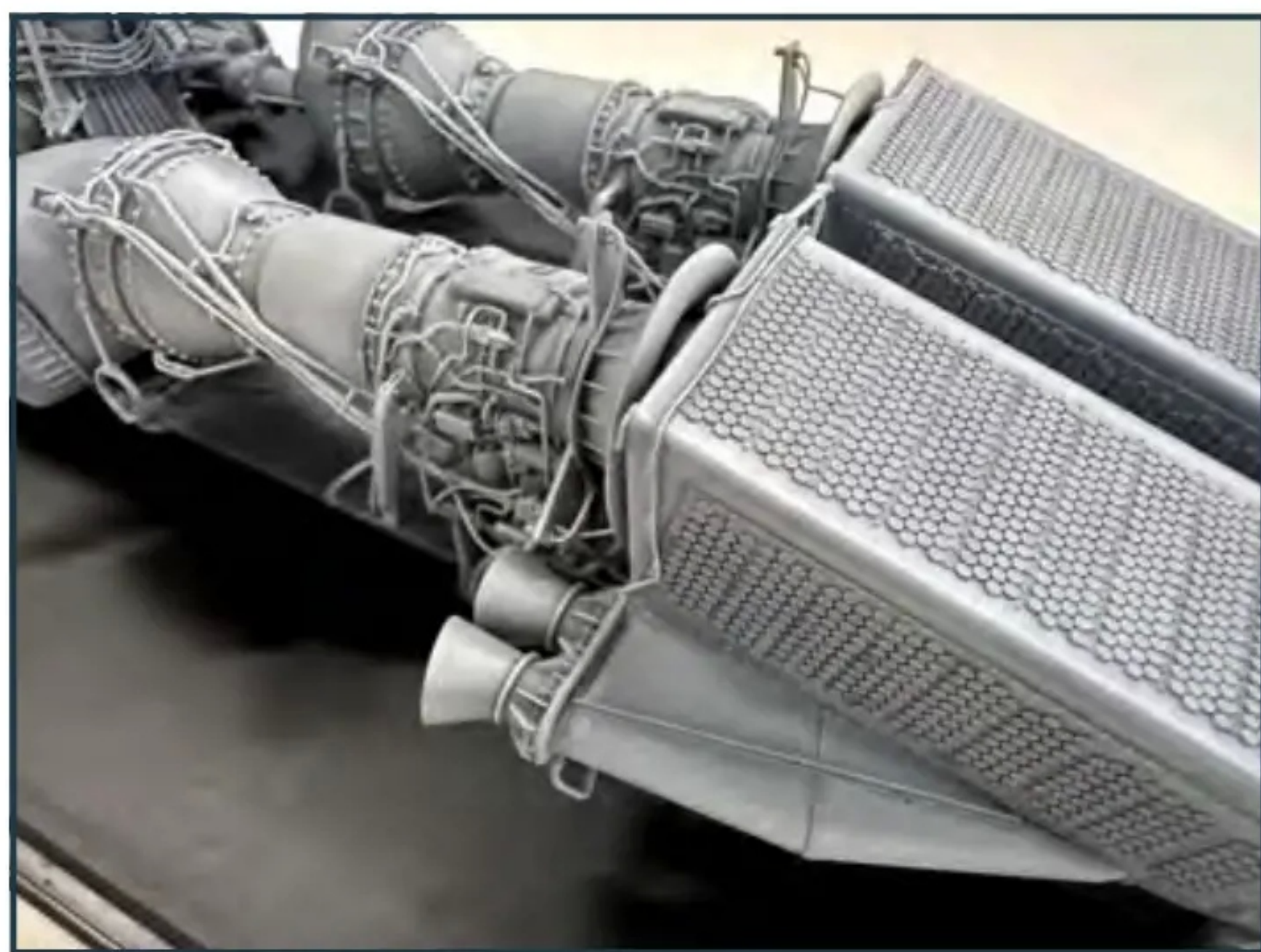
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RESKIT

www.revell.de

You'll have seen ResKit's extraordinary 3D print sets for ICM's 1:35 CH-54A Tarhe featured in TMMI over past months, and it was a treat to see the engines and gearboxes assembled and on show. Also, anyone need a kangaroo in 1:48?

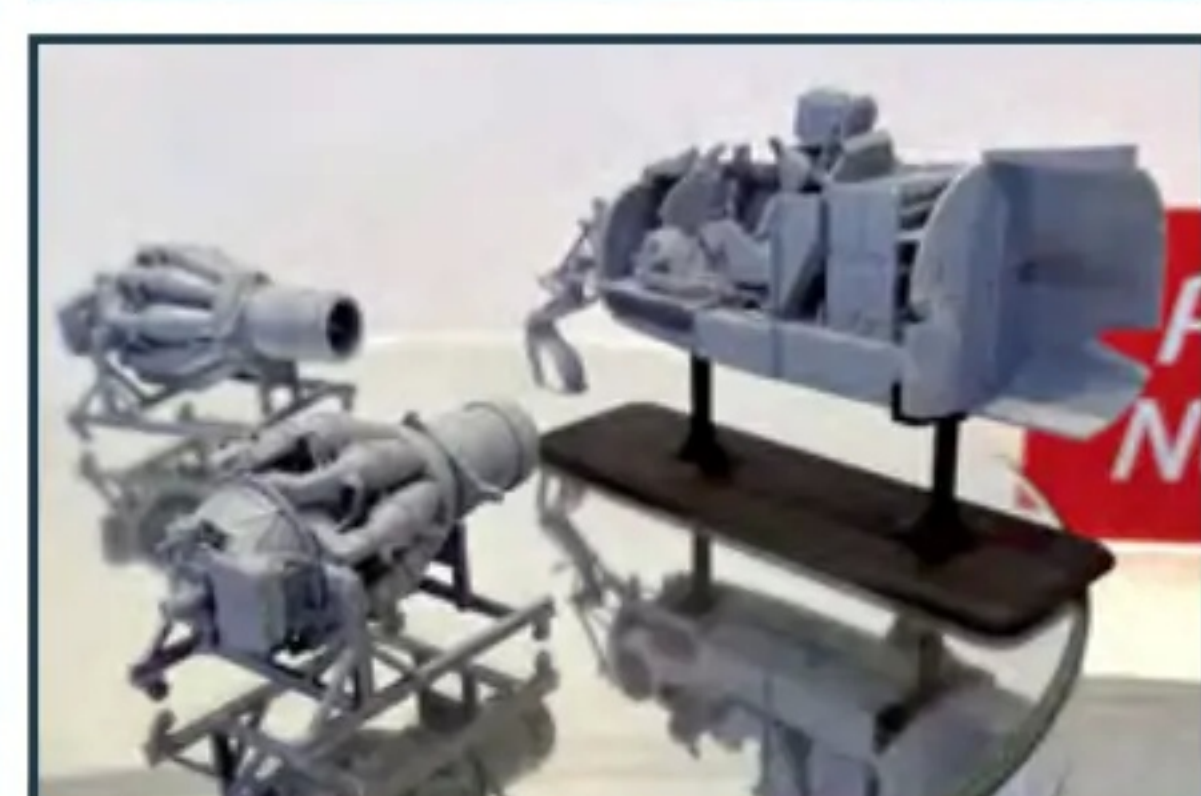


REVELL

www.revell.de

As always, Revell had a host of new items on show, the most eye-catching (for us) being the Fendt 728 Vario tractor in their 'Click-system' line. We were staggered to see it is 1:24 because it is huge! Also announced was a 1:24 McLaren F1 car (spring 2026), a new 1974 Porsche 911 Turbo in 1:24, an all-new car from TV show Stranger Things, 1:32 Hawker Sea Hurricane, 1:72 F-15C Eagle plus ex-Matchbox 1:32 Porsche 917/10 and Surtees TS16/03. Lots more of course, and we'll bring you news from Revell in the next issues of TMMI.





SPECIAL HOBBY

www.specialhobby.eu

Special Hobby have taken the leap into 3D print and offer superb wheel sets in 1:35 for Tamiya's new KS600 motorcycle and sidecar, plus the older DKW NZ350 WW2 German bike. Both sets improve the look of these kits immeasurably. For ICM's 1:48 B-26B/C Marauder, there's a replacement nose and dorsal guns in 3D, plus wheels/tyres, propellers, waist guns and feeds, plus a tail-gun shell-case collector.



TRUMPETER & HOBBYBOSS

www.trumpeter-china.com

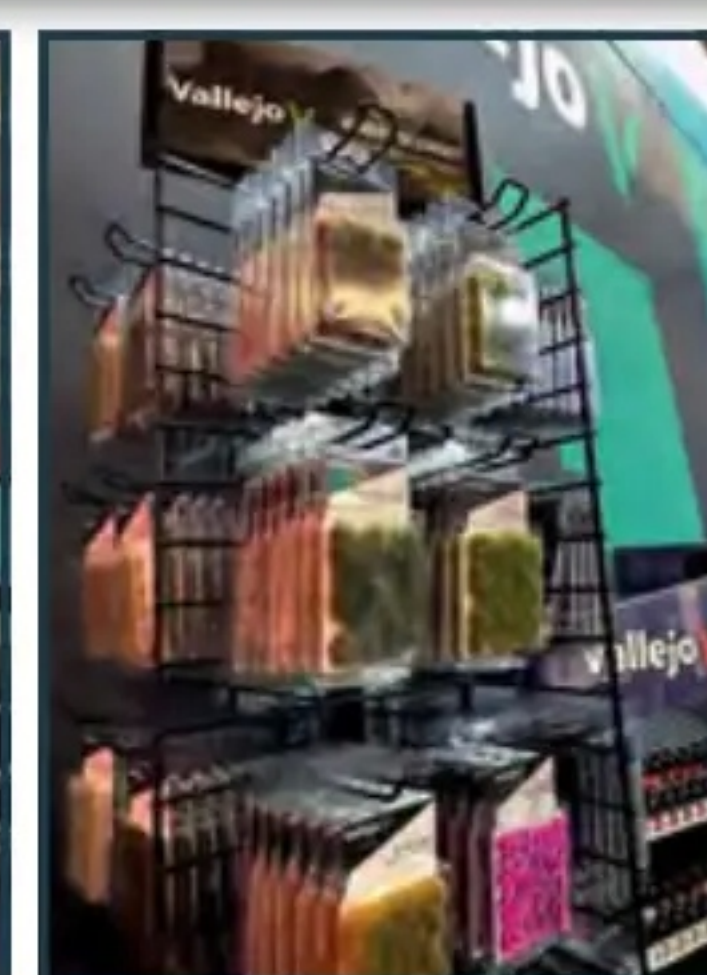
The highlights of the Trumpeter and Hobbyboss stand were the 1:16 Sd.Kfz. 164 Nashorn, Sd.Kfz. 165 Hummel and Pz.III Ausf.N, along with some of Trumpeter's incredible ship kits; the 1:200 USS Fletcher was a stand-out. Their all-new 1:35 UH-1B Huey and Challenger 1 MBT were also on show. Over on the Hobbyboss side of the stand were the 1:48 Challenger 2 MBT and 1:35 Wisent 2 AEV armoured support vehicle.



VALLEJO

www.acrylicosvallejo.com

Alex Vallejo was on his stand, showing this Spanish manufacturer's incredible range of acrylic paints, with colours for every conceivable scale modelling and gaming application!



And that's all FOR NOW folks!

It was a busy show with lots of new models and we apologise for not having the space to show them all here... See you again next year!





**NEW
MOULD**

1:48

Westland Lysander Mk.I/Mk.III

A07116



One of the more unusual aircraft to see action during the Second World War, the Lysander was designed to provide the British Army with a modern aircraft for reconnaissance, observation and artillery spotting. Possessing exceptional short take-off and landing capabilities, the Lysander was just what the Army were looking for.

- Newly sculpted pilot and gunner figures, with single and twin gun mounts.
- Open or closed canopy option.
- Detailed internal fuselage structure.
- Option for open or closed leading edge slats and dropped flaps.
- Covered or uncovered wheels, with optional undercarriage bomb racks and full bomb load.
- Metal and fabric airframe skin textures authentically replicated.



WESTLAND LYSANDER Mk.I
No.16 Squadron, Royal Air Force Old Sarum,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, 1938-39.



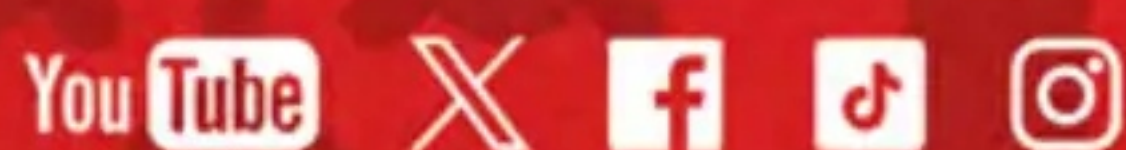
WESTLAND LYSANDER Mk.III
No.309 Polish Fighter-Reconnaissance
Squadron, Royal Air Force Renfrew, Glasgow,
Scotland, 1940.

Length 192mm Width 316mm Pieces 171



Airfix.com

and all good retail stockists



The excitement is building

**HORNEY
HOBBIES**
Official Product



UNFAIR VAN

Deciding on my next model build was an easy one; Alpha Model has the beautiful Aston Martin Vantage in their line-up. It's a wonderful blend of smooth curves and angles, delivering aggressive undertones, showing that this car has more than meets the eye. To represent in model format, Alpha Model offers a full-detail Multimedia resin kit that includes two full sets of wheels, several photo-etch frets, synthetic rubber tyres and the main body, superbly cast (Pics 1, 2). Alpha really has come a long way with these kits, so kudos to them. All I needed to do was drop into the 'world wide web' to do some research and plan for the interior and exterior colour plan. A dry fit of all parts, including the photo-etch, showed great promise straight out of the box. It's not out of character for these types of resin kits to display over moulding, joint issues, and so forth, but this kit didn't really have much of that.

Yes, some areas needed attention with sanding, shaping and so on but working with resin can be a very easy and pleasant experience. As part of my general methods of working with Alpha kits, I tend to re-scribe all the exterior shut lines as sometimes they can be shallow or partial, so it's worth paying attention to them.

The patient work now, as always, pays for itself to obtain higher quality of finish later on. A good sanding all over, followed by a deep soapy bath showed this kit and its parts were all ready for the primer stage. Mr Color 1500 Grey was airbrushed all over at first; this neutral colour is perfect for showing any imperfections at this early stage of the process, giving us a chance to correct now rather than later (pic 3).

Once I was happy, Mr Color 1500 White Primer was airbrushed; as the colour of choice is going to be

white overall, a good bright base was important (pic 4). Mr Color GX1 white was my route of choice, and boy, did it lay down nicely. Very bright and as pure white as you can get (pic 5). Parts like the undertray with the large rear diffuser, wing mirrors, rear bumper section and front bumper section were all painted in black. ▶





VANTAGE

Robert Riley readies for resin as he builds the stunning 1:24 Aston Martin Vantage from Alpha Model



3



4



5



CARBON WORK

As an extra, you could have spec'd your Vantage with various carbon components. So I chose to replicate that option here. Using Scale Motorsports CF, the roof panel was first, which was a fairly straightforward job (*pics 6, 7, 8*), as were the side skirts. But the front and rear bumpers proved not so much. Lots of complex curves, angles and shapes needed to be worked around. I had to make many templates, which

helped, but the task was still tricky. Still, though, it's worth the challenge relying on the decal softener and heat technique to prevail. The same carbon method was applied to the undertray's lower diffuser (*also pic 5*)

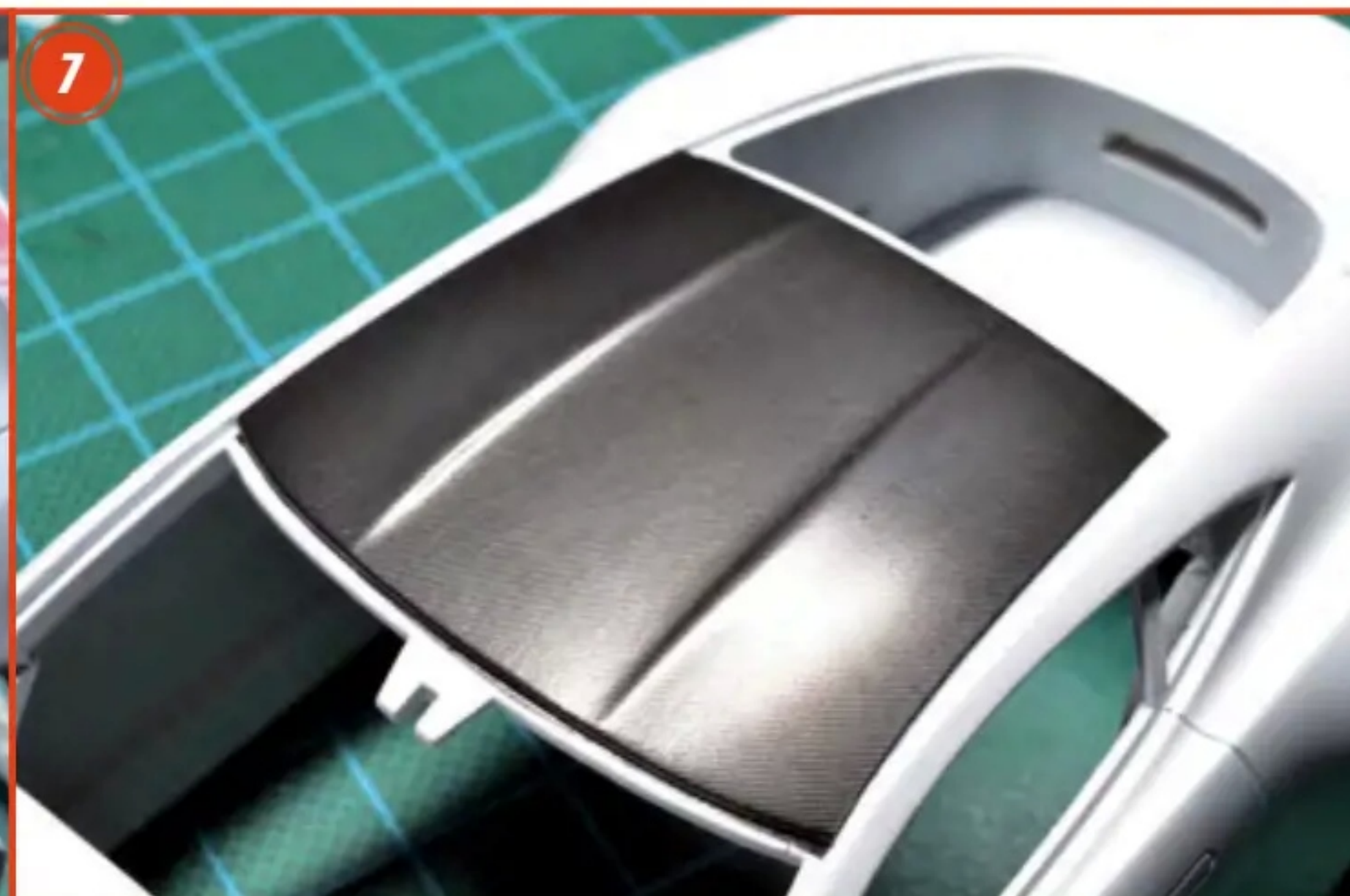
Included on the decal sheet are various bright, lime-green accents and it's up to you if you want to use them. I thought they'd add some colour to the darker areas, adding sporty tones, so they were applied to the inner mouth

of the front bumper and the lower diffuser fins. They laid down really nicely without much trouble - Alpha Model/Hobby Design decals tend to conform very well, so in most cases, you'll be okay to rely on them (*pics 9, 10, 11, 12*). Once all was ready, Zero Paints 2K Clearcoat Diamond Gloss was airbrushed following the required steps to obtain a superb finish. All parts were set aside to cure whilst my attention was turned to the interior. ▶

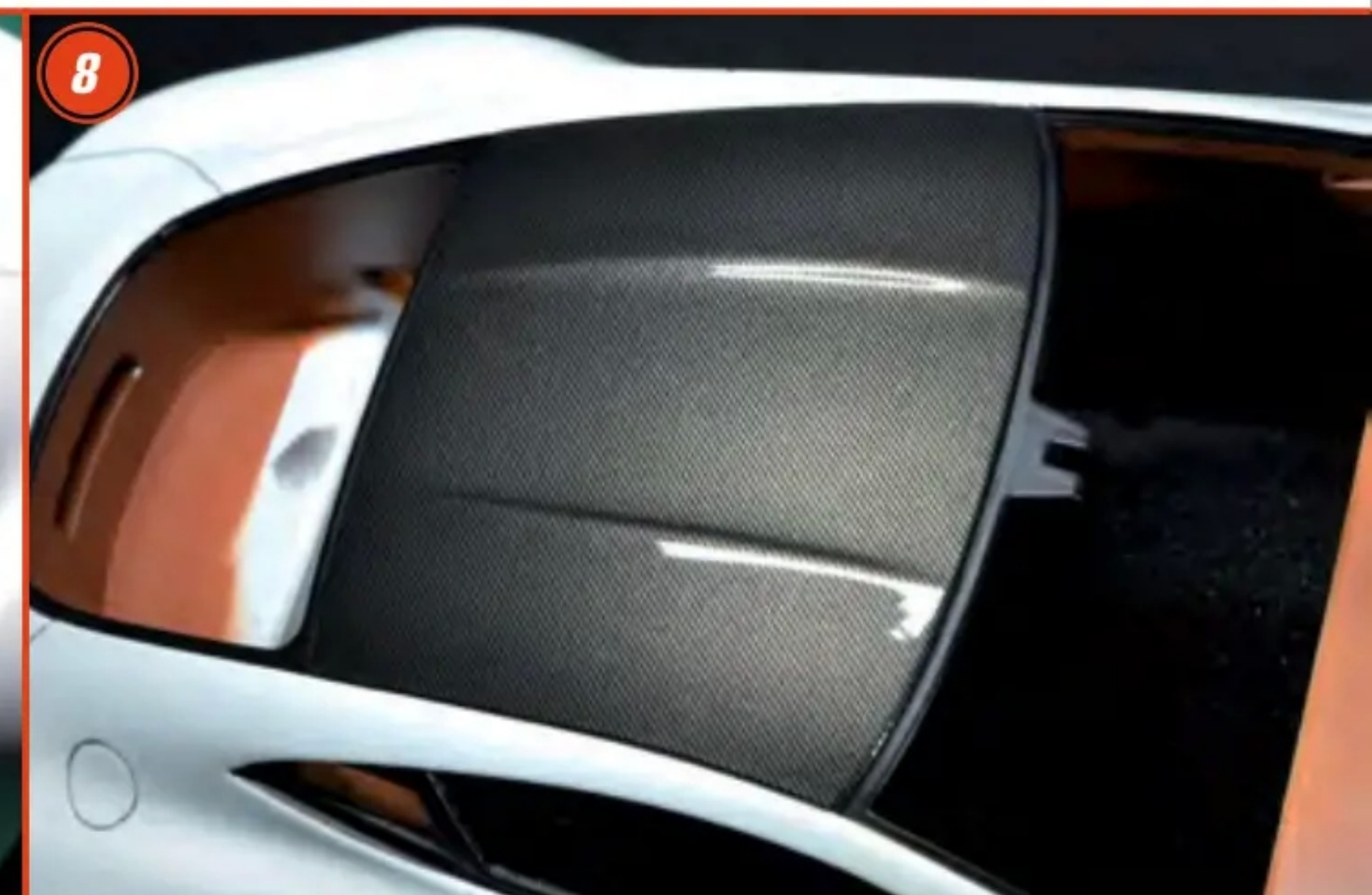
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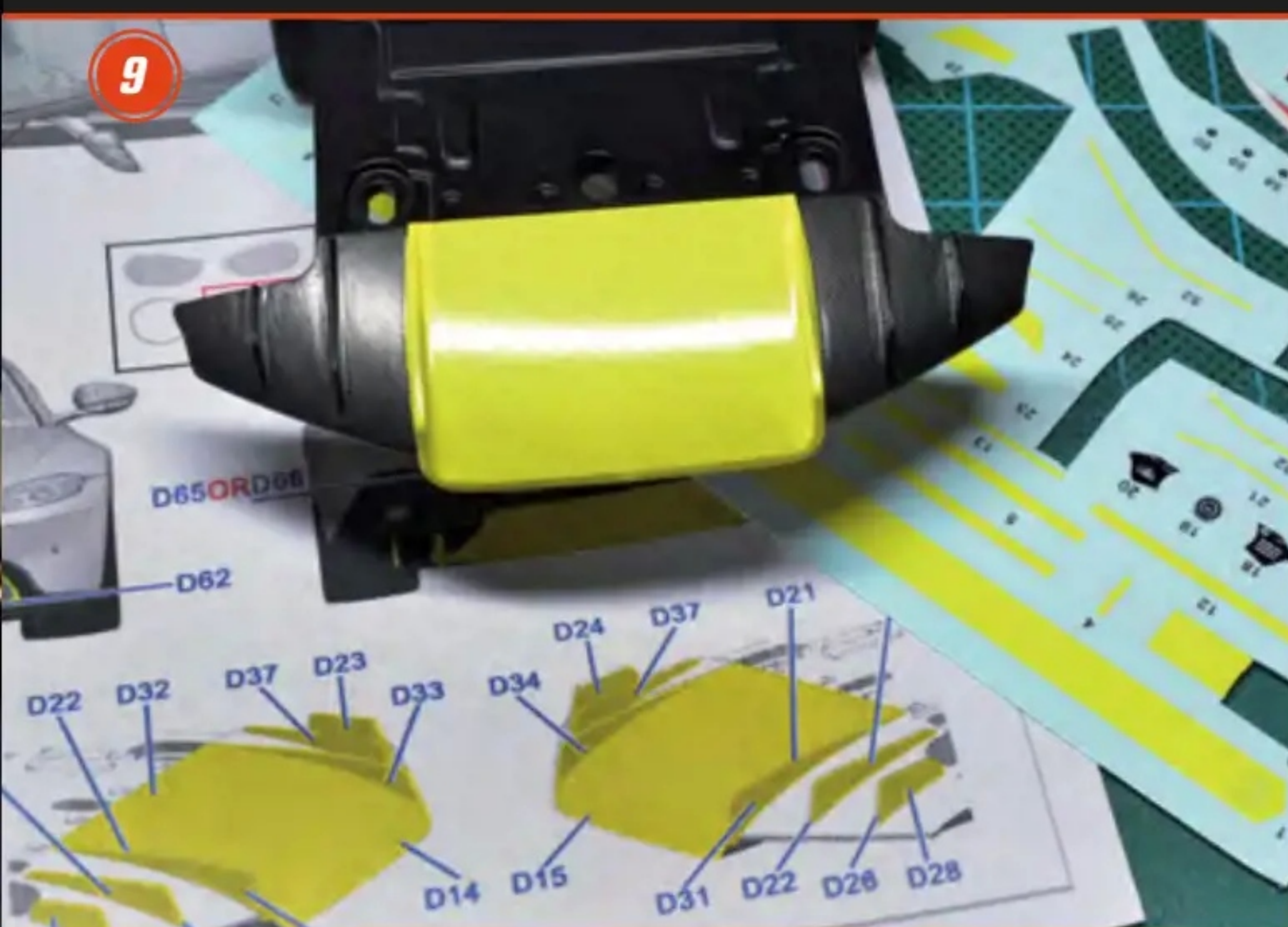


7



8





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COCKPIT WORK

For inside the car, I felt a brighter colour option would suit better than all black to complement the external colour whilst not hiding away the detail in there.

The array of model parts is superbly cast with lots of intricate detail to work with; I've been really impressed with this kit and so far, it's been a joy to work with. Opting for Zero Paints Ferrari leather colour 'Cuoio' (don't tell Ferrari), all parts were airbrushed in primer first (pic 13) and then given several build coats of the 'Cuoio'. Then, it was all sealed in with Mr Colour's Semi-gloss clear. The final result seemed an ideal colour combination to compliment the exterior work, so I was happy with the choice (pic 14).

Using accurate references for carpet work, I masked off various points (pic 15), applied heavy coats of Tamiya's Semi-Gloss Black as a fixer via the airbrush and liberally poured Scale Productions black flocking powder down (pic 16). This material is very fine and comes in a good selection of colours. The final effect looks the part and is worth the work for sure (pic 17). As for the rest of the interior, there are photo-etch parts to apply plus decals and lots of small parts to work with. So, taking my time, various modelling techniques were used, along with some creative painting, to attain the final result. The dashboard was a fun area to work on, with lots of colour changes, masking and detailing to get stuck into (pics 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).



21



22



BACK TO THE OUTSIDE

Now all the clear-coat had cured, some sanding to smoothen various points of the paint was called out for. Not lots mind, but this one area I enjoy doing even if it wasn't necessary as this part of my process. Once I was happy with the sanding work, I generally polish up by hand using various machine compounds and also via mini sponge heads using the Dremel. As always, a good dose of Autoglym's Super Resin was applied to finish up.

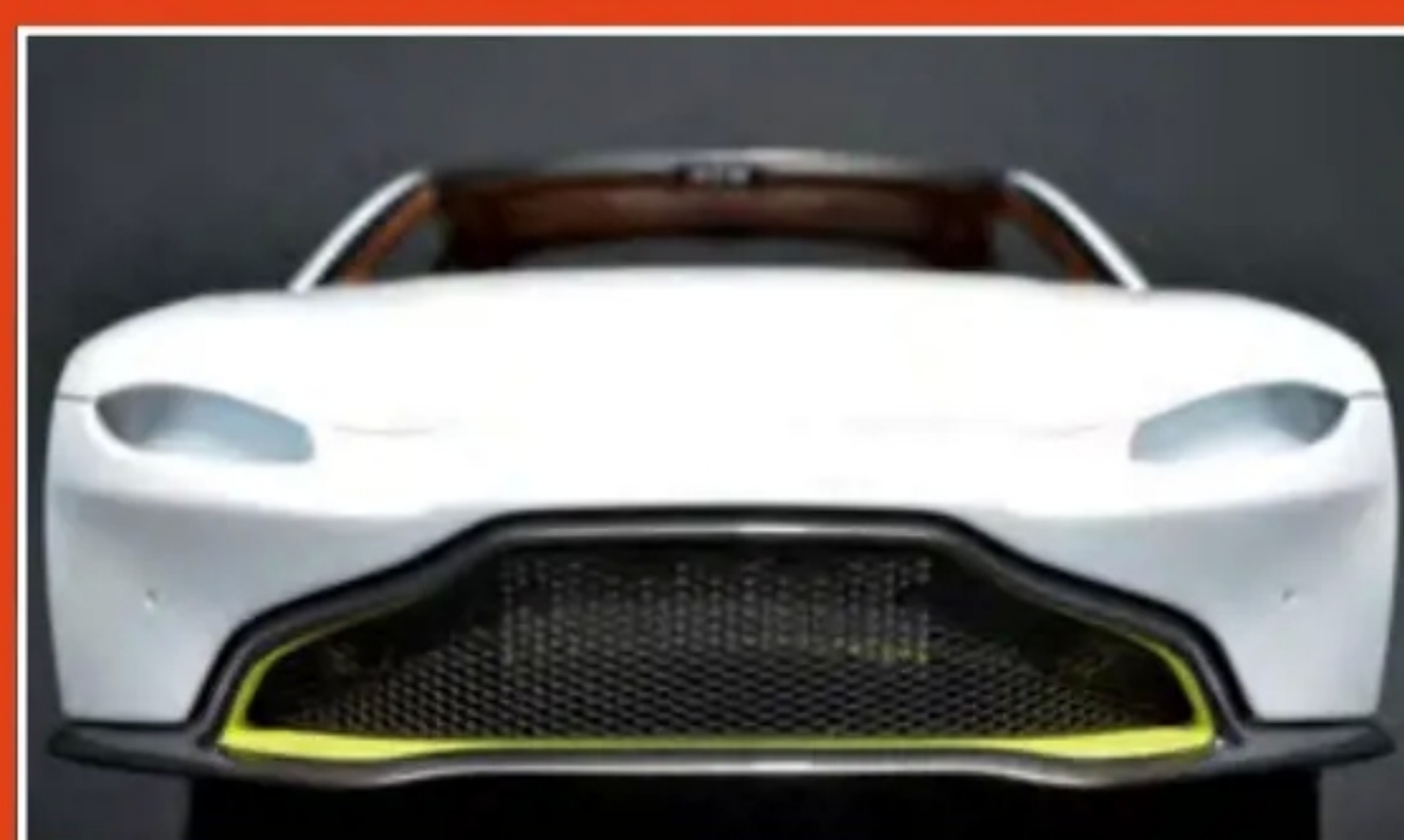
Now all that was done, it was time to start masking the exterior panels so I could airbrush the internal area with the Ferrari leather colour 'Cuoio'. Mask all that off, then steadily airbrush

Tamiya's Semi-Gloss Black to the side window rubber areas, rear window, front window, lower scuttle panel and wheel arches. It's important not to go too heavy and to apply several light coats instead; this will help avoid any colour bleed with the masking.

I don't know about you, but the de-masking stage, especially on body panels, can often make me anxious and apprehensive – did I mask it right? Will the colour bleed? Did I rub it down properly and seal it all away correctly? So, as you peel it off and see that you did all that prep work right, it's a relief and rewarding process. Thankfully, all went as planned here, and the results look fabulous.

RADIATOR AND EXHAUST GRILLES

The kit comes with photo-etched metal parts for the radiator and rear grilles and they offer a superb scale-like effect. Handle them carefully and bend them to shape so they fit snugly, then spray them black and install, even more carefully!



Tamiya's Black Panel Line Accent Color was dropped into the door-shuts around the vehicle, the front and rear bumper components were located, and various other details were added, followed by the window parts. Take note when working with those Alpha Model window parts, as the thick acetate can be fairly stiff and doesn't always comply easily. Take your time and dry fit them first to ensure they fit as they should and also so you get a feel for how they handle.

I fixed them down with Bob Smith Industries Super Gold Plus (blacktop) CA as it is strong, odourless and doesn't fog up the clear parts. Now all the interior could be mounted and

sealed in with the undertray.

All that was left was to build up the brake system using a mixture of photo-etch and resin, colour them up (pics 23, 24) paint my choice of wheels with Tamiya's Titanium Silver and gloss clear-coat them, slide them into the superbly detailed included rubber tyres (pics 25, 26) and build it all up to finish.

FINAL THOUGHTS

After making several Alpha Model kits along my hobby journey, I can undoubtedly say they are well-established and worth the investment. Yes, they are a little costly, but in my opinion, if you can pick one up, it will be a worthy purchase. If you can find one of these Aston Martin Vantage kits whilst on your journey, I can thoroughly recommend it. ●

TECHSPEC...

ALPHA MODEL 1:24 ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE KIT NO.AM02-0019

Materials:

Resin, synthetic rubber tyres, photo-etch, acetate, metal screws, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Various Tamiya lacquer paints solid and metallic, Tamiya Panel Line Accent Colours
- Mr Hobby: Super Metallic 2 range, solid colours and clear-coats, Mr Finishing Surfacer 1500 white, grey and black
- Zero Paints: Ferrari leather colour Cuoio 30ml ZP-1007/30, 2-pack clear-coat system Diamond Finish

Accessories and materials used:

- Scale Motorsport: 1:24 carbon Fibre Decals Twill Weave Black/Pewter #1024
- Scale Production: Schwarz/Black flocking powder

Availability:

Alpha Model: www.alphamodelkit.com www.hiroboy.com





STUART: *LITTLE*

Spencer Pollard adds to his growing collection of 1:48 armour kits, with Tamiya's M5A1 Stuart crossing his busy workbench this month...

As I've got older my focus has turned more and more from larger more involved kits, to those that are smaller in stature easier to build and far more accommodating when it comes to display. Amongst my favourite kits to build are those from Tamiya's range of 1:48 vehicles. These kits offer the simplicity that I crave, but are a perfect canvass should I wish to improve their appearance with additional details, stowage and figures.

The latest kit to appear on the model shop shelves is then M5A1 Stuart. Heavily based on their previously-released M8 HMC that we looked at last year, this diminutive model not only looks great once completed from the box, with those additional details mentioned earlier, it can be a fully engaging project that you can dive into.

The kit has already been previewed in detail within issue 351 (January 2025) so I will simply refer you back to that edition of TMMI rather than repeating Marcus' work in this article. For this build we decided that it would be fun to push the model as far as we could. That involved not only the use of plenty of Hauler details from their earlier M8 sets (many of which work well with this newly-released M5) but also, some scratchbuilt items and then final items of stowage from Tamiya's very useful accessory sets. Throughout the next few pages you will find plenty of information on those additional parts, as well as a step-by-step guide to painting and weathering, all of which should be well-within the reach of modellers with only a modicum of experience under their belts. This then is Tamiya's brand-new M5A1 Stuart and what we did to get the best from what was offered in the box. We hope that you like it! ●





FULL-BUILD SECOND WORLD WAR LIGHT TANK

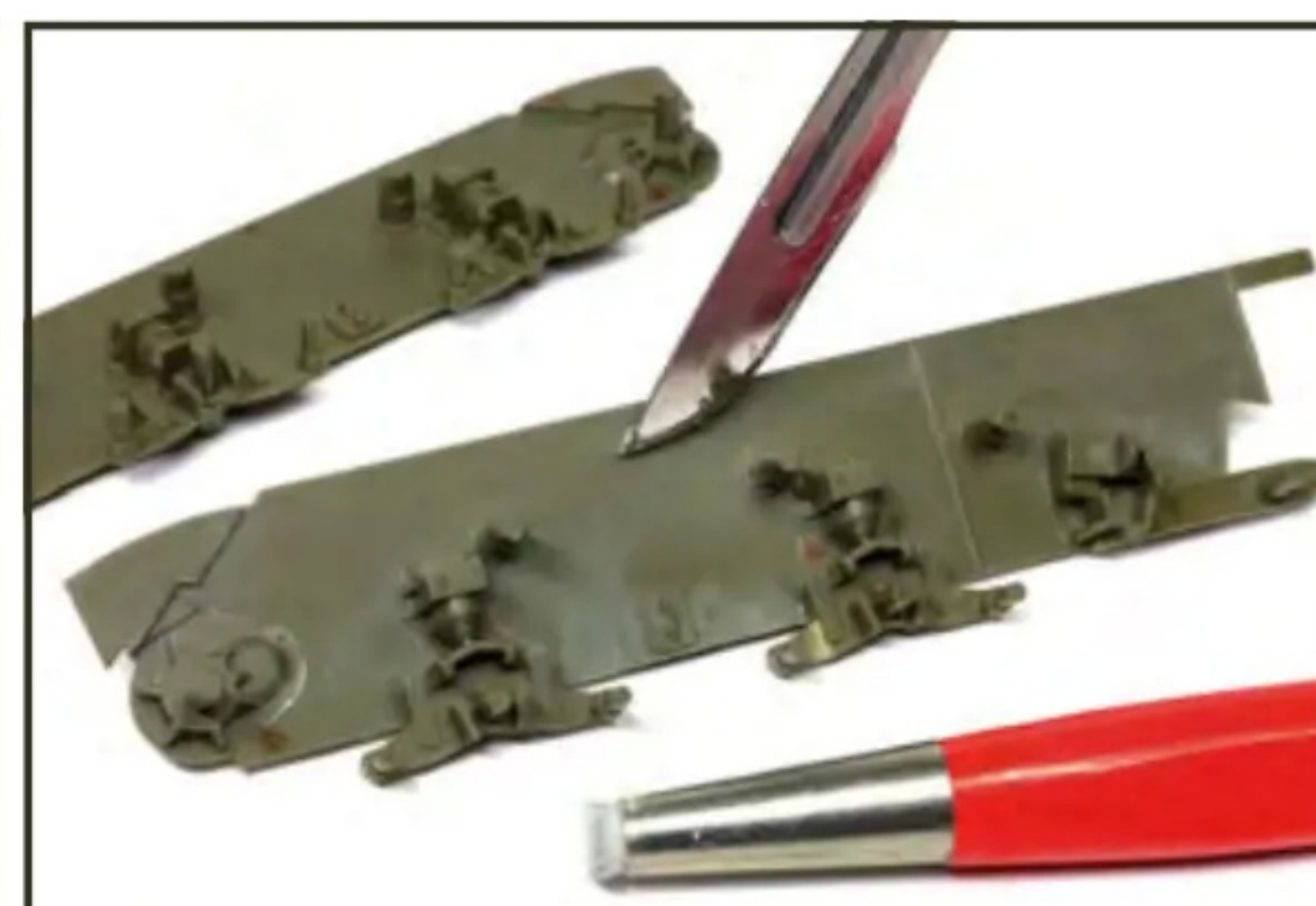
TAMIYA 1:48 M5A1 STUART - KIT NO. 32606



Construction began with the lower hull. Weights add a little heft inside this very small model



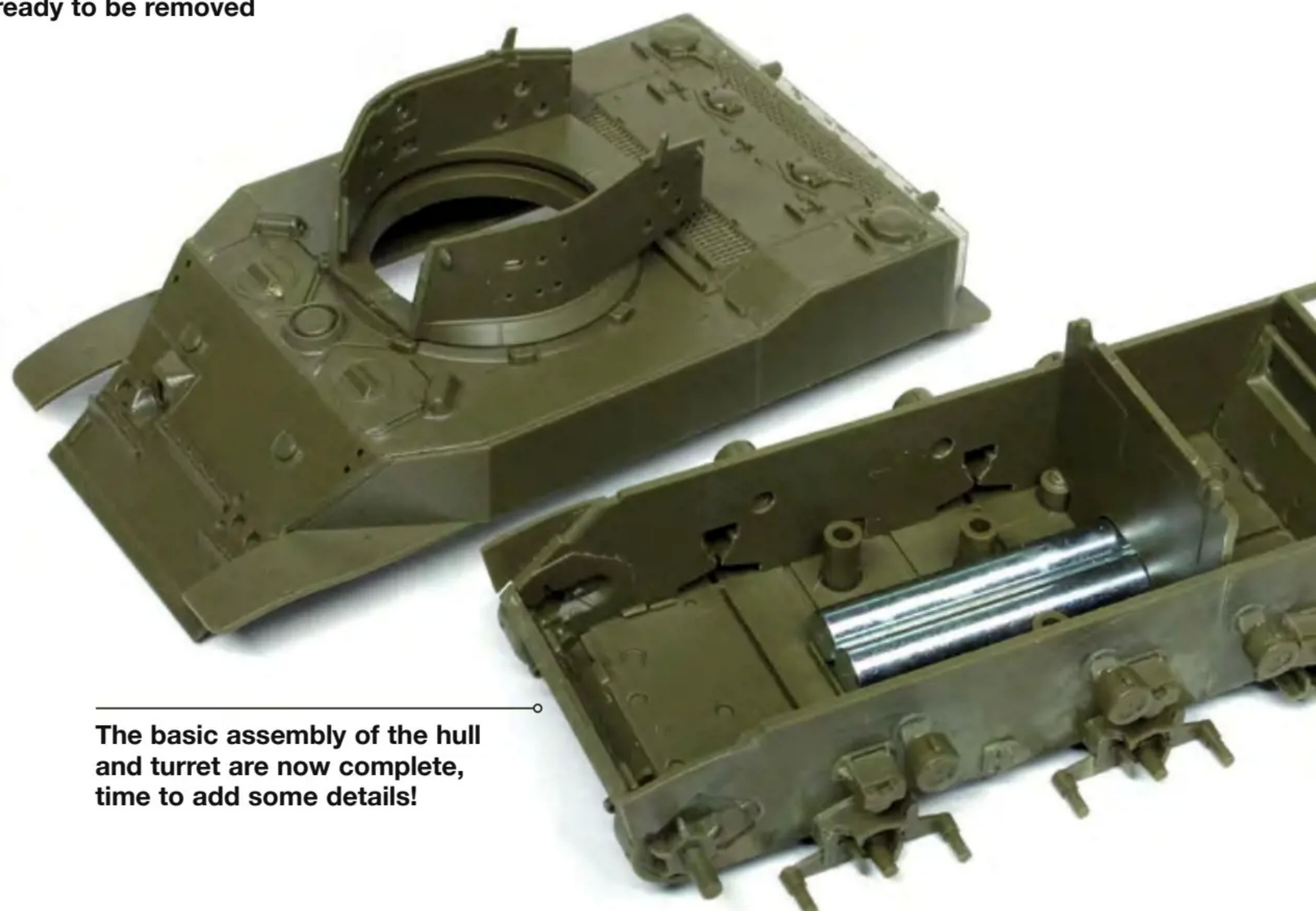
There are some annoying ejector pin marks on the outer faces of the lower hull sides. These were marked out with a highlighter pen ready to be removed



A rounded scalpel blade and a fibreglass pen were used to remove those pesky ejector pin marks



As with many of Tamiya's armour kits in this scale, this one is built up from smaller parts that combine to create the hull and turret. Fit is as you might imagine, superb



The basic assembly of the hull and turret are now complete, time to add some details!

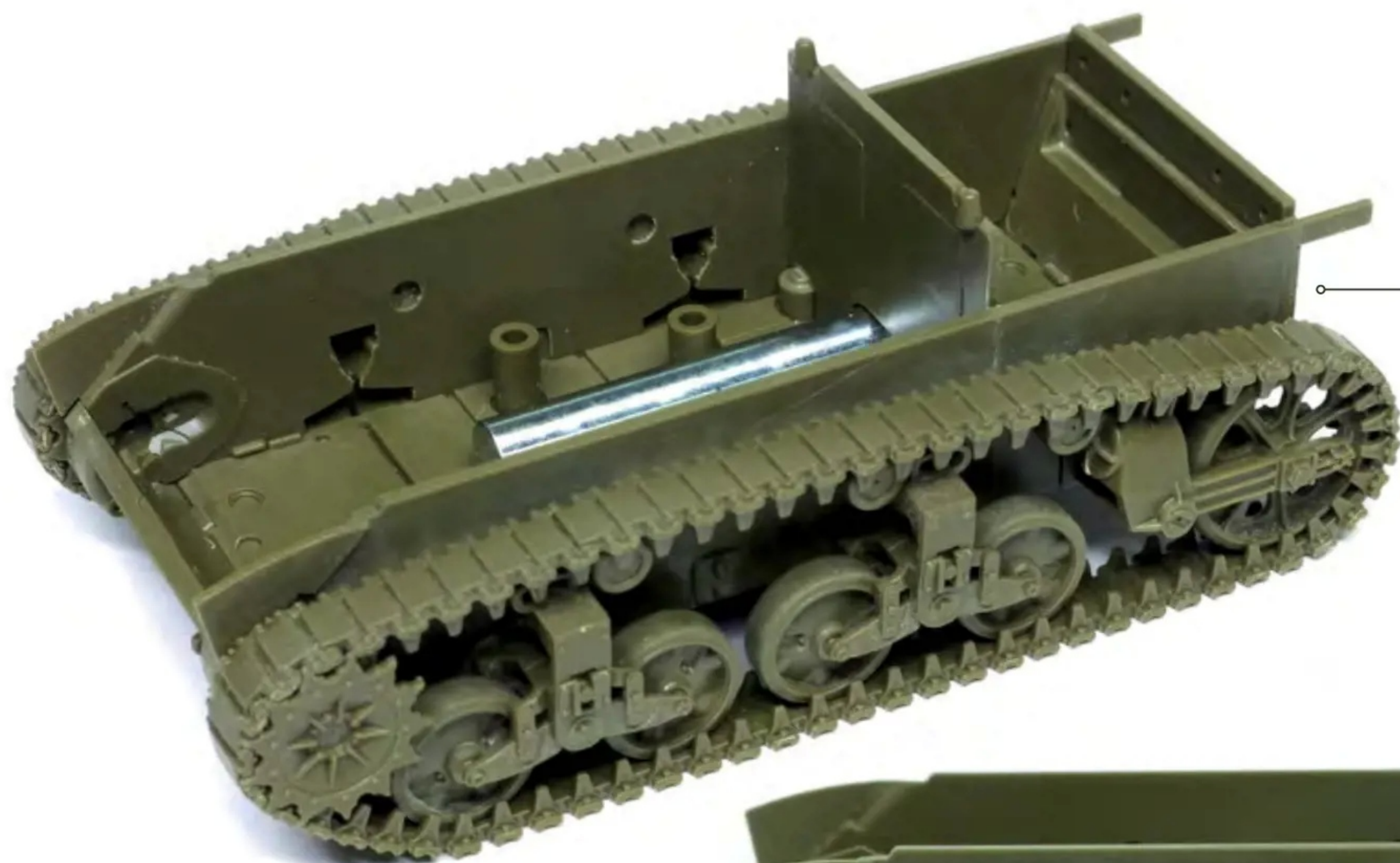


The wheels and tracks part-way through assembly. The tracks are assembled using a 'link & length' system that combines longer sections with individual links. Though tiny and construction fiddly, fit is superb and detail very pleasing

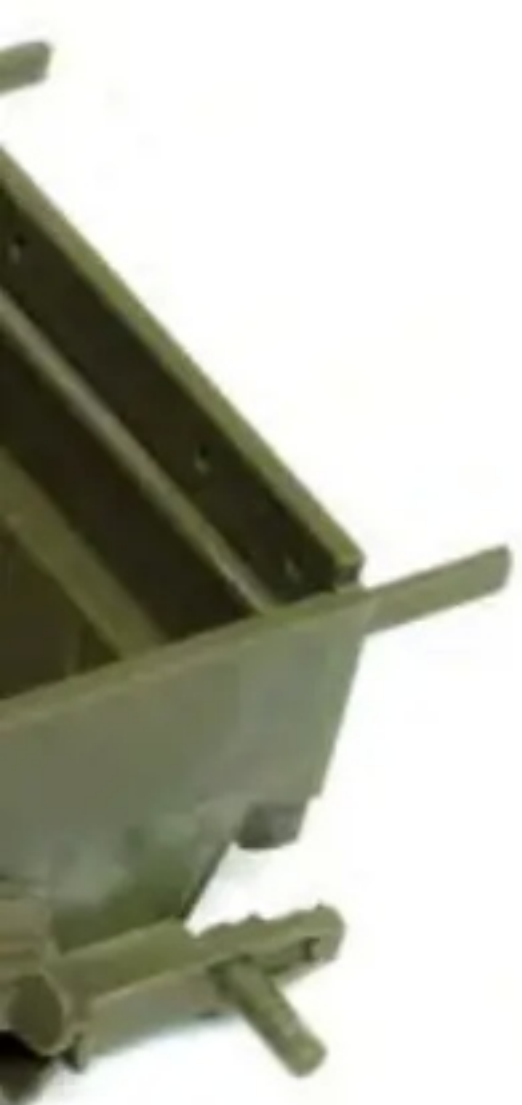
All assembly was carried out using Tamiya's superb Extra Thin Cement. Here it is being used to keep the rear idler wheels in place



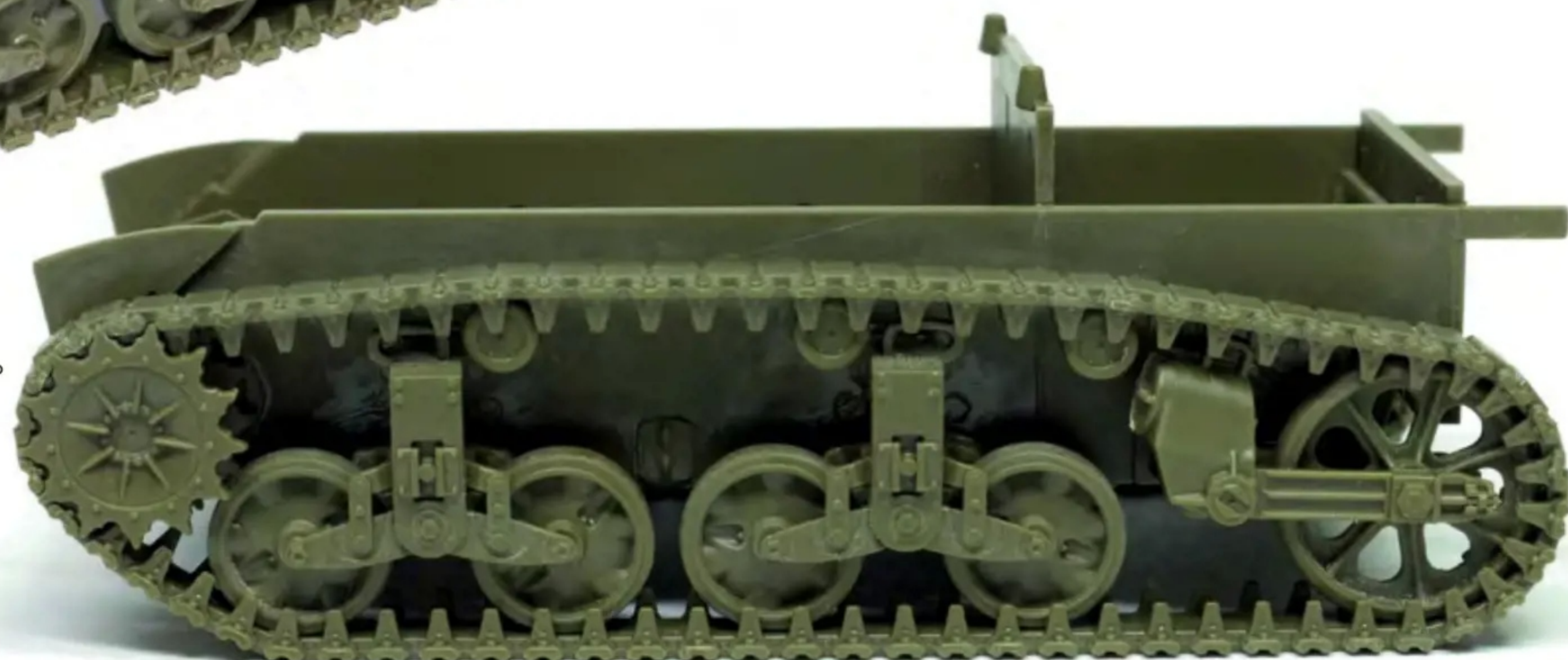
Once again, Tamiya's Extra Thin Cement was used to join the delicate kit parts. In order to 'simplify' assembly and subsequent painting, everything, including the tracks and running gear, was assembled to create large sub-assemblies rather than smaller details that would need to be painted separately



The lower hull is complete with all suspension wheels and tracks, firmly glued in place



Viewed from the side, the natural sit of the 'link & length' tracks is easy to see



Basic construction is now complete. From here on in it's all about the addition of some finer details that Tamiya missed and then all of that lovely stowage



Given the simplicity of this kit, basic assembly needs little in the way of complex tools and materials: some glue, a sharp knife, some tweezers and a few abrasives. That's it!

FULL-BUILD SECOND WORLD WAR LIGHT TANK

TAMIYA 1:48 M5A1 STUART • KIT NO. 32606



I needed to create some very fine rivets. This was done using a set of beading tools, a small piece of lead foil and a rubber. After choosing an appropriately sized tool, this was pushed through the lead foil to release some very fine rivets that could be 'glued' to the sides of the hull



Johnson's Klear was used to fix those tiny rivets in place, any excess being removed using a cotton bud moistened with a little Mr Color Thinner. Here are those rivets in place under the engine deck



A set of Hauler's vents were used to dress up the rear of the vehicle. These parts are also designed to replace the vents on the engine deck but I left them alone, feeling that the work needed to use them, wouldn't offer enough of a visual improvement to make it worthwhile



The most complex area of the model was the glacis plate. Here, I used a period Second World War image to guide the application of these sandbags and those distinctive wooden beams. The bags were made from small squares of Green Stuff, sculpted once in place; the beams and other retaining structures from lengths of sprue textured with a fine razor saw; and finally Evergreen rod and strip for everything else. Note how the wooden beam has been 'tied' in place with lengths of 0.2mm lead wire. The Cullin hedgerow cutter is another Hauler product, assembled with superglue and then fixed in place between the sprocket wheels



More stowage was fixed to the rear of the vehicle. This came from various Tamiya accessory sets, each part being fixed in place with 'sprue goo' (lengths of sprue, dissolved in liquid cement) that not only held the parts in place, but also filled any unwanted gaps between the various items. Another wooden beam sits across the engine deck. Note also the two jerry cans, these resin and photo-etched accessories being once again from the Hauler range. A final noteworthy inclusion are the straps. These were cut from paper and then glued in place with superglue, thin superglue then being used to stiffen each strap once in place



The turret looked a little naked without some of its own stowage, so this was added using a few parts from my collection of Tamiya accessories. Note the retaining wire on the turret side. This has been threaded through some metal hoops that replaced the solid kit items moulded in situ, on the turret sides



Another wartime image showed a jerrycan strapped to the side of the turret between the gun mount and the rear cleat stowage. This was added using another Hauler jerry can, a small kit bag nonchalantly hanging from one of the brackets, completing the picture.



Painting began with a base-coat of Mr Surfacer Mahogany. This provided a nice dark base-coat over which I could add the vehicle's familiar Olive Drab finish

The Olive Drab was applied using Mr Hobby Olive Drab applied neat and then with increasing drops of Wooden Deck Tan to create a pleasingly faded finish



Tamiya Buff, heavily thinned, was airbrushed over the sandbags to help differentiate them from their darker, Olive Drab surroundings

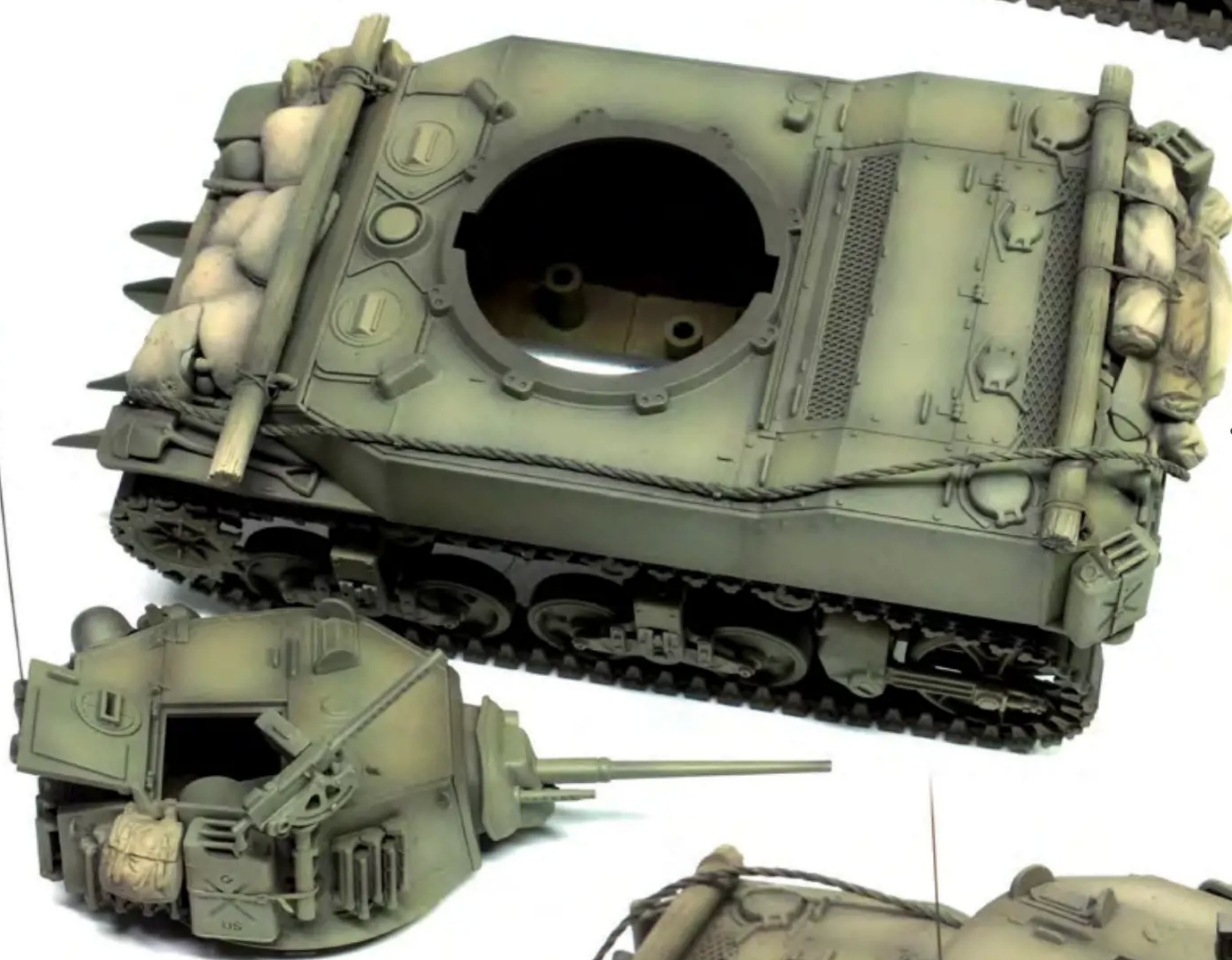
Tamiya Khaki, Lightened with Buff, was used to airbrush the kit bags and tarpaulin rolls. Care was taken to ensure each items looked to be distinct, both in terms of colour and tone



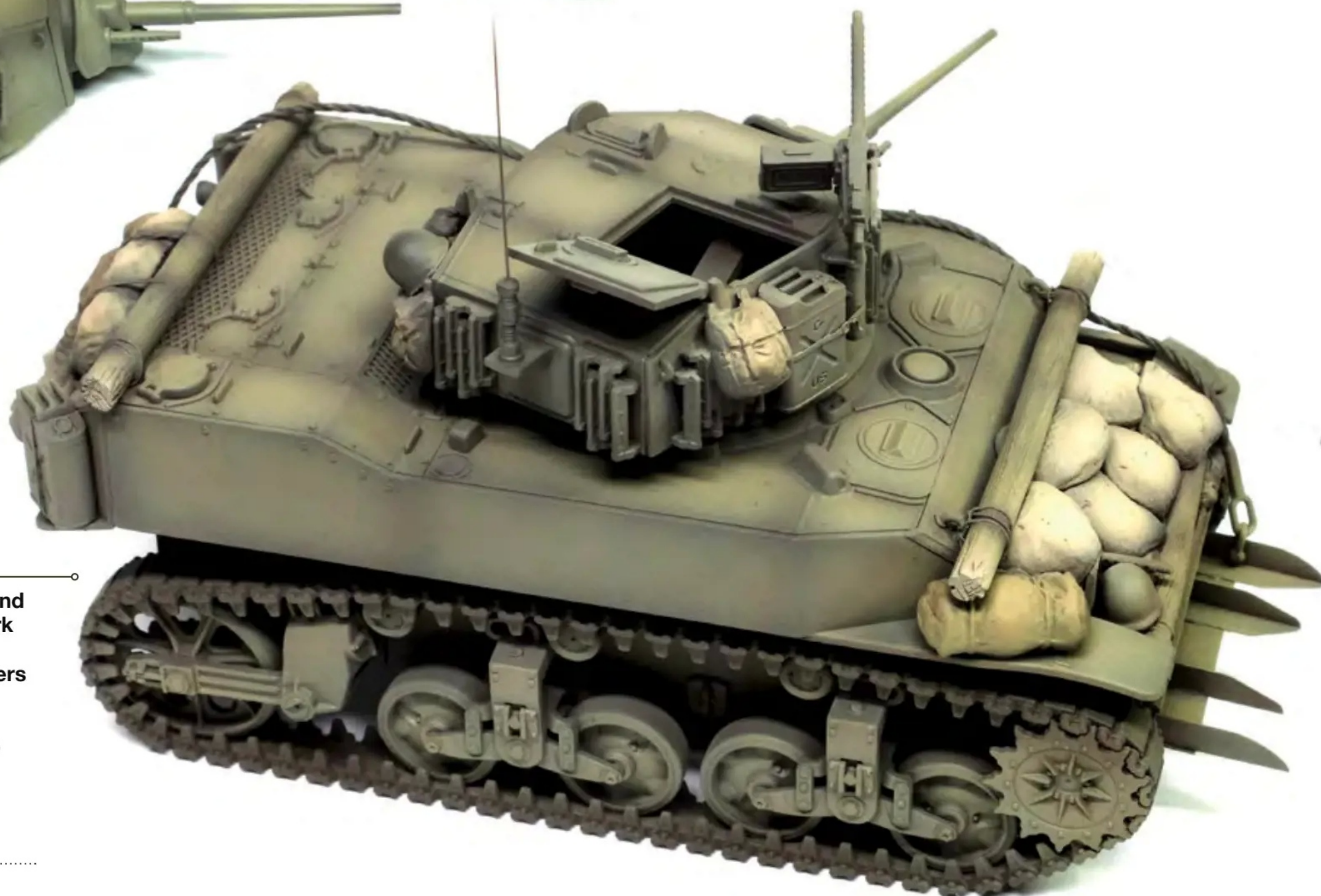
All of the basic airbrushing has now been completed



Here, you can see just how faded the finish looked before it was darkened a little through the application of washes and other weathering steps. Small scale models such as this certainly benefit from being painted in lighter shades so that their shape and detail is not hidden away under an overly-dark finish

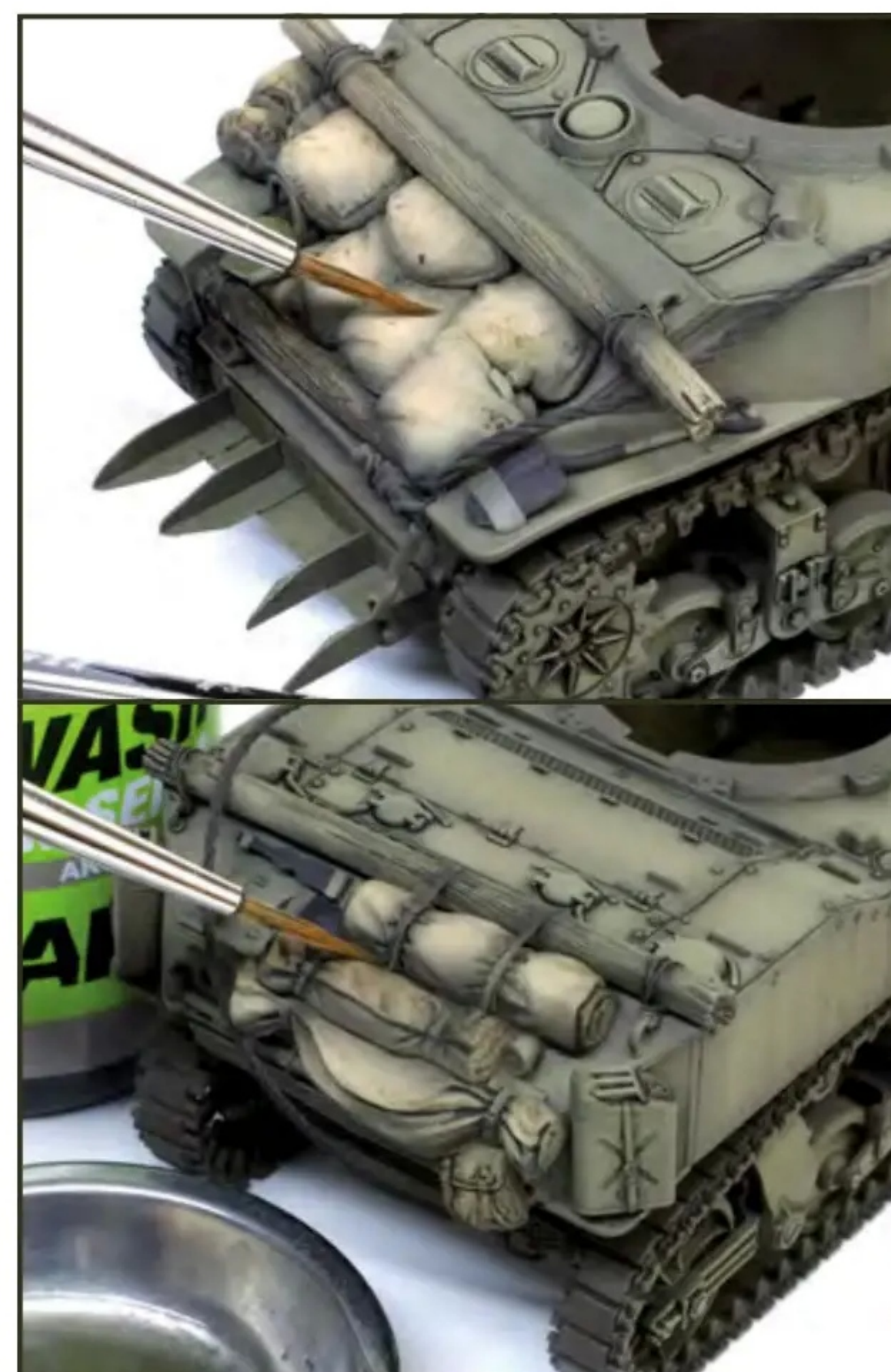


The areas around the wheels and tracks were sprayed with a dark red-brown colour that I hoped would work under the dust layers that I planned to apply. There was still lot of work to do, but this was an acceptable start to proceedings



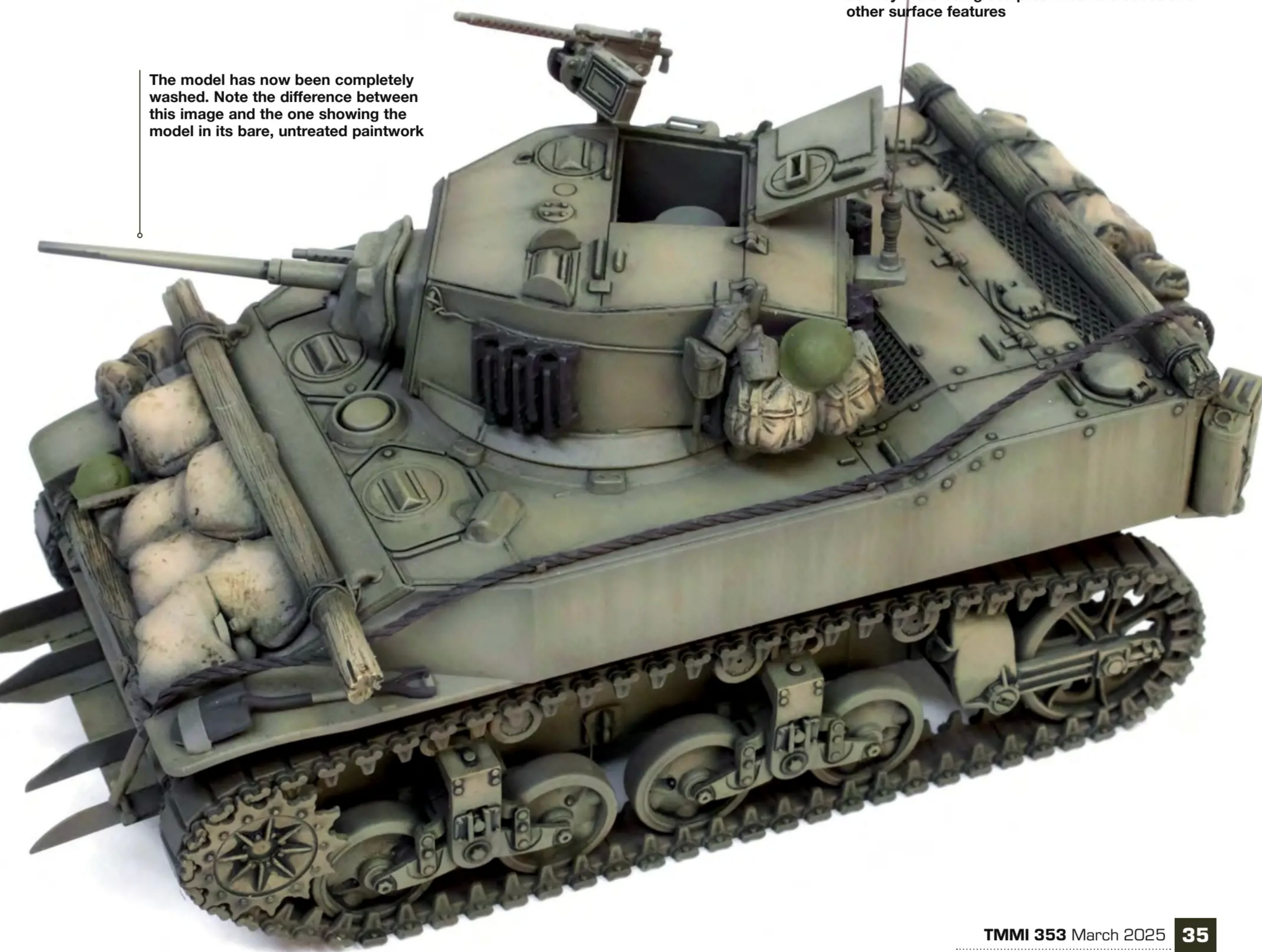


Weathering began with a pin wash that I applied around all of the raised detail. Once touch dry, any excess was removed with a cotton bud and soft flat brushes moistened with a little white spirit



The sandbags were washed with a thin layer of Raw Umber oil paint, blended-in with white spirit. This initial layer of colour helped to bring out the detail that I had added to the surface of each bag as they were being sculpted around creases and other surface features

The model has now been completely washed. Note the difference between this image and the one showing the model in its bare, untreated paintwork



FULL-BUILD SECOND WORLD WAR LIGHT TANK

TAMIYA 1:48 M5A1 STUART • KIT NO. 32606



Streaking was added to the sides of the model using the same Raw Umber wash used earlier. Though not that visible under the dust layers that I added later on, this is an important part of the weathering as it helps to break up those larger panels, increasing interest along the way



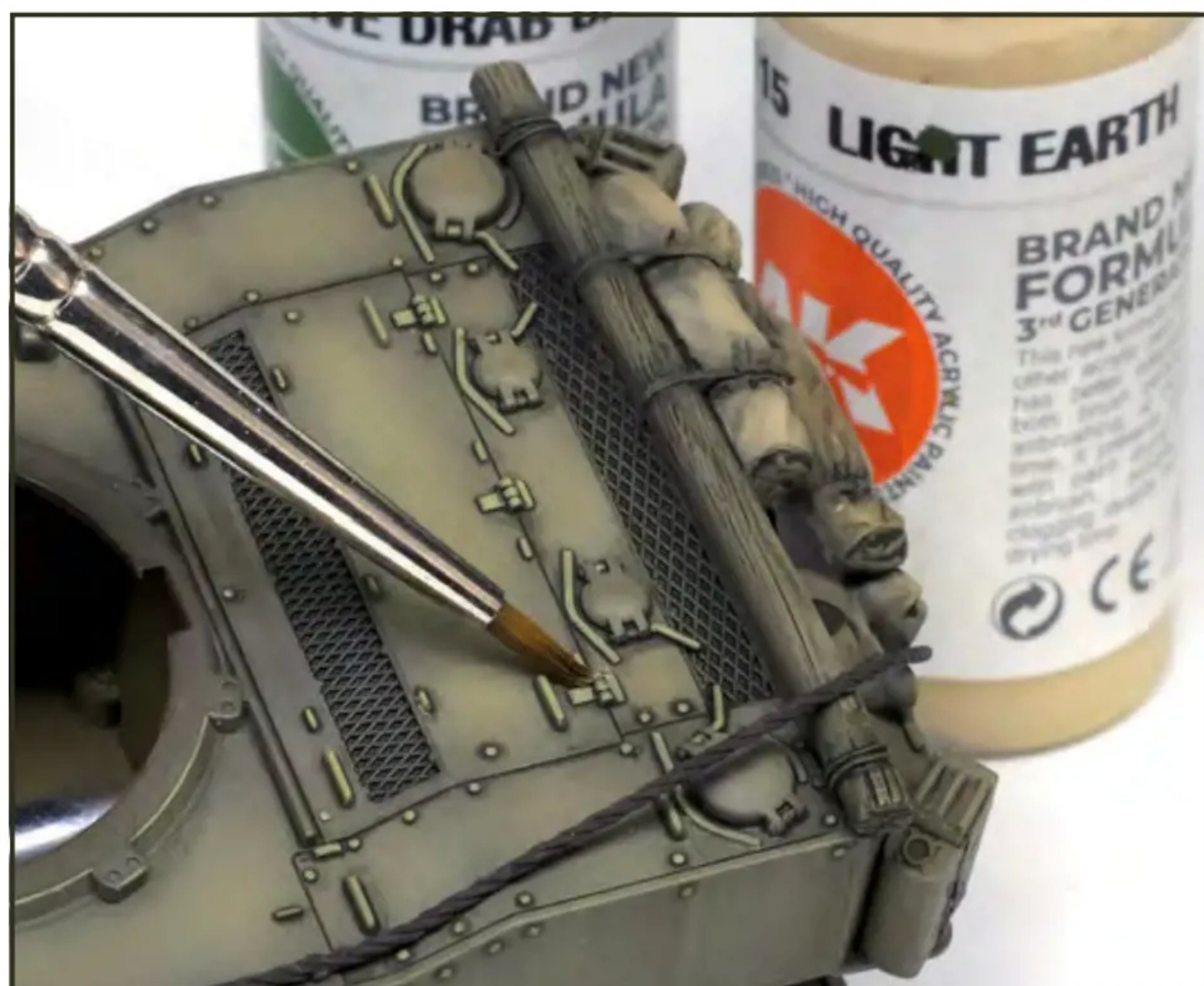
AK's Dust oil paint was thinned with a white spirit and then washed over the running gear. This was done in a controlled manner using a fine paintbrush, any excess being carefully blended away



Tyres and the rubber track pads were picked out using AK 3G Rubber Black. The paint was thinned with tap water and then carefully applied, several coats being needed to ensure a nice opaque finish



The worn metal surfaces around the edges of the road wheels and idler were picked out using Runefang Steel, darkened with a few drops of Rubber Black



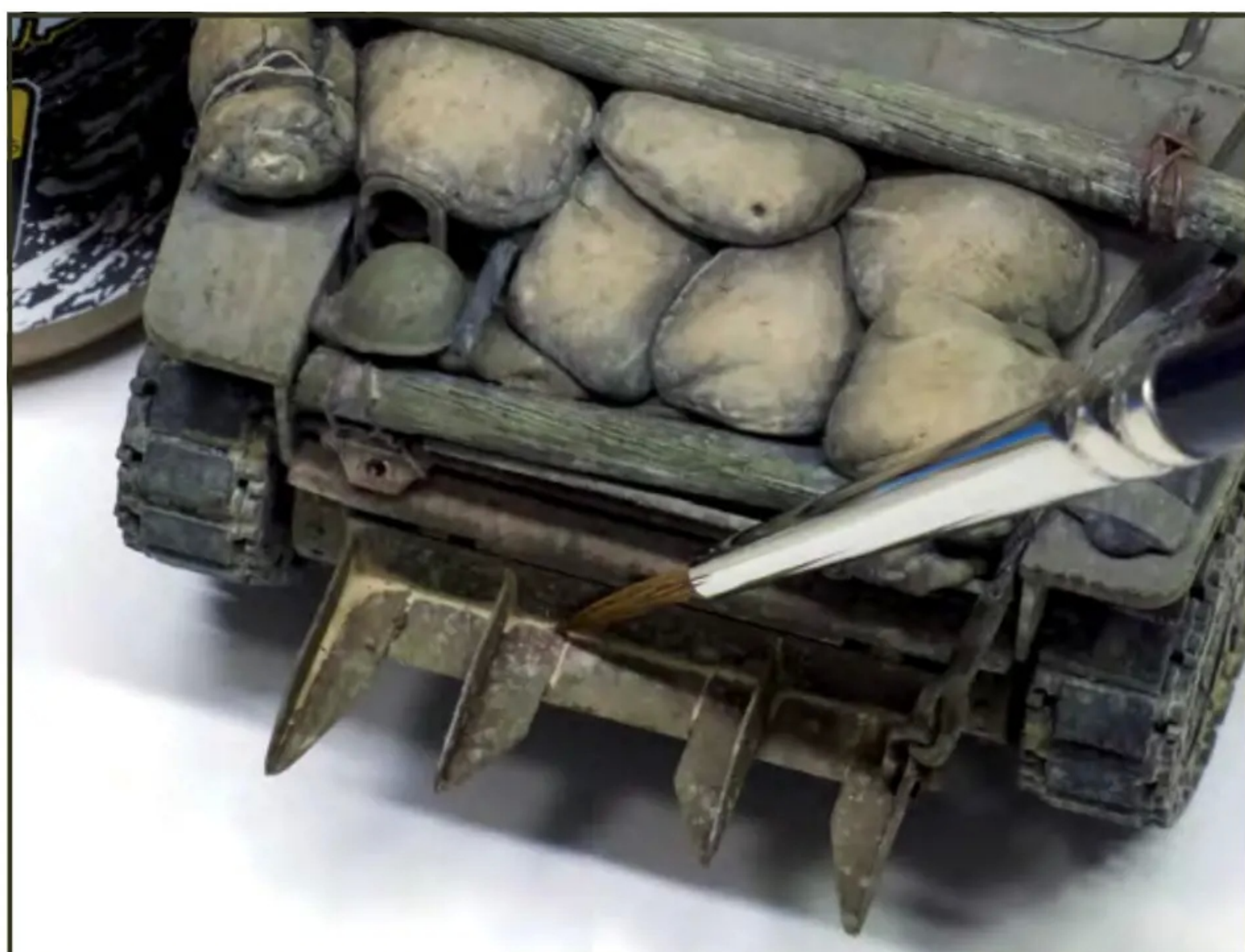
In order to accentuate contrast over the surface of the model, all smaller details were picked out with AK 3G Olive Drab Base, lightened with increasing amounts of Light Earth



The Mud Splashes solution was also flicked over the surface of the model using a soft flat brush rubbed against a cocktail stick. This produces hundreds of tiny dots of colour that though looking far too bright and definite upon first application, can be easily blended into place using another flat brush moistened with tiny amounts of white spirit. In this shot, that effect can be seen on the side of the model. The effect can then be further improved with darker colours such as Raw Umber and Dark Mud, each being applied in the same way to create the illusion of wetter deposits of mud and dirt



Dark Streaking Grime, overpainted with Shafts & Bearings Grease allowed me to recreate dark staining caused by fuel and oil spills over the surface of the model. Here, fuel spills are being added, but you can also see how the Bearings Grease has been used around the road wheels and idler where I wanted a greasy look to be present. Note also in this shot, the tiny paint chips along the edge of the hull and the delicate rust streaking that I added using dark rust oil paint, dragged down the sides of the hull with a fine brush



When it comes to the application of dust deposits, my favourite product is AMMO's Medium Density Mud Splashes. This is simply applied around details and then left to dry out to create the wonderful layers of accumulated dust that you see in this shot



Worn metallic surfaces were further accentuated with a soft graphite stick. Here, that is being used on the edges of the tracks...



...and here, it is being used over the surface of the tow cable. When it came to the painting of items such as the metal tools and that cable, I base-coated everything with Vallejo German Camo Black Brown and then washed the parts with thinned rusty oil paints. Handles were painted Red Brown, highlighted with Leather



Streaking Rust Effects helped to unify the metal wire that I'd used to 'tie' the wooden beams to the hull. I also used Darker washes as well as bright green, to increase the idea that the beams were indeed natural, the later adding the illusion of mossy deposits here and there. The straps holding the stowage in place were painted with a dark leather colour, the superglue that I used earlier to stiffen them up making this a very simple process

Final thoughts on Tamiya's new 1:48 M5A1 Stuart Light Tank

I really enjoyed this kit and love to look at the completed model in my display case. Having built plenty of the kits from this 1:48 series I remain convinced that they are almost a perfect project for those looking for a simple build that allows quick assembly, but enough detail and features to result in a very pleasing little model once complete. This one was certainly no different in that regard. From the box it would have looked very pleasing; with all of that detail in place it's something I am more than proud enough to show off. A lovely kit, then and one that I can wholeheartedly recommend.

TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:48 US HOWITZER MOTOR CARRIAGE M8 KIT NO.32604

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, metal weights, waterslide decals

Paints used:

AK Interactive 3G, Tamiya Acrylics and Lacquers, Vallejo, AMMO Weathering Solutions

Accessories used:

- Tamiya: 1:48 Jerry Can Set
- Hauler: US Howitzer Motor Carriage M8 (HLX48407), US Howitzer Motor Carriage M8 Grilles and basket (HLX48408), US Howitzer M8 Hedgerow cutter (HLX48409)

Availability:

- Tamiya models are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by the Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net
- Hauler: www.hauler.cz



All decals are from the kit, though they were adjusted to allow an anonymous vehicle to be modelled, rather than one of the specific prototypes offered in the box. Each was set in place over a gloss coat using Mr Mark Softer. Once dry, a layer of flat vanish and some carefully applied weathering blended them in to their surroundings

“ Having built plenty of the kits in this series I remain convinced that this is a perfect project for those looking for a simple build that allows quick assembly, but enough detail and features to result in a very pleasing little model once complete. This one was certainly no different in that regard. From the box it would have looked very pleasing; with all of that detail in place it's something I am more than proud enough to show off. A lovely kit, then and one that I can wholeheartedly recommend.”





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 mple build... ”



KIT PREVIEW

GECKO MODELS 1:35 US M76 AMPHIBIOUS CARGO CARRIER 'OTTER' (EARLY PRODUCTION) · NO.35GM0102



A LITTLE OTTER THAN BEFORE...

Gecko Models have created an all-new 1:35 kit of the M76 Otter, a less well known American vehicle from the conflict in South East Asia

The M76 Otter amphibious cargo/troop carrier entered service with the United States Marine Corps in the 1950s, with many seeing action in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. Designed and built by Pontiac Motor Division in the late 1940s the Otter was intended as a replacement for the Studebaker-built M29 Weasel amphibious vehicle. It was made mostly of aluminium, keeping it lightweight – an essential attribute for an amphibious vehicle – although its light alloy

construction offered little in the way of armoured protection for the crew.

The Otter was powered by a Continental air-cooled, four-cylinder engine with a 130bhp output which gave a maximum on-road speed of 30mph (50km/h) and a speed in water of 3.7 to 5.3 knots (7-10km/h). It was designed to carry up to eight troops or an equivalent load of cargo and thanks to its 30-inch-wide tracks giving a ground pressure of just 2.08PSI, it was able to cross rivers, paddy fields

and soft, swampy terrain with ease. Gecko Models have been releasing some incredible 1:35 kits of Vietnam War-era hardware over the last year or so, with their stunning replica of the 'PACV' (Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle) being the highlight so far (previewed in TMMI Issue 349, November 2024). Now, to follow this esoteric riverine machine, Gecko have recently released a new-tool kit of the M76 Otter and it's an incredibly welcome addition to the line-up of models of US military



Gecko Models 1:35 M76 Amphibious Cargo Carrier 'Otter' Late Production (35GM0117)

Following the early-production machine previewed here is the modified late version, which had its fuel cells moved rearwards to counteract the nose-heaviness of the first Otter

vehicles that took part in the South East Asian war.

The kit's parts are distributed across at least twenty-nine sprues (we lost count) of varying sizes, so the parts-tally is moderate to high, but no engine is supplied, which is actually somewhat of a relief as there's more than enough detail inside and outside to keep one busy. The Marines shown on the box-art are not provided sadly, but perhaps they will come as a separate

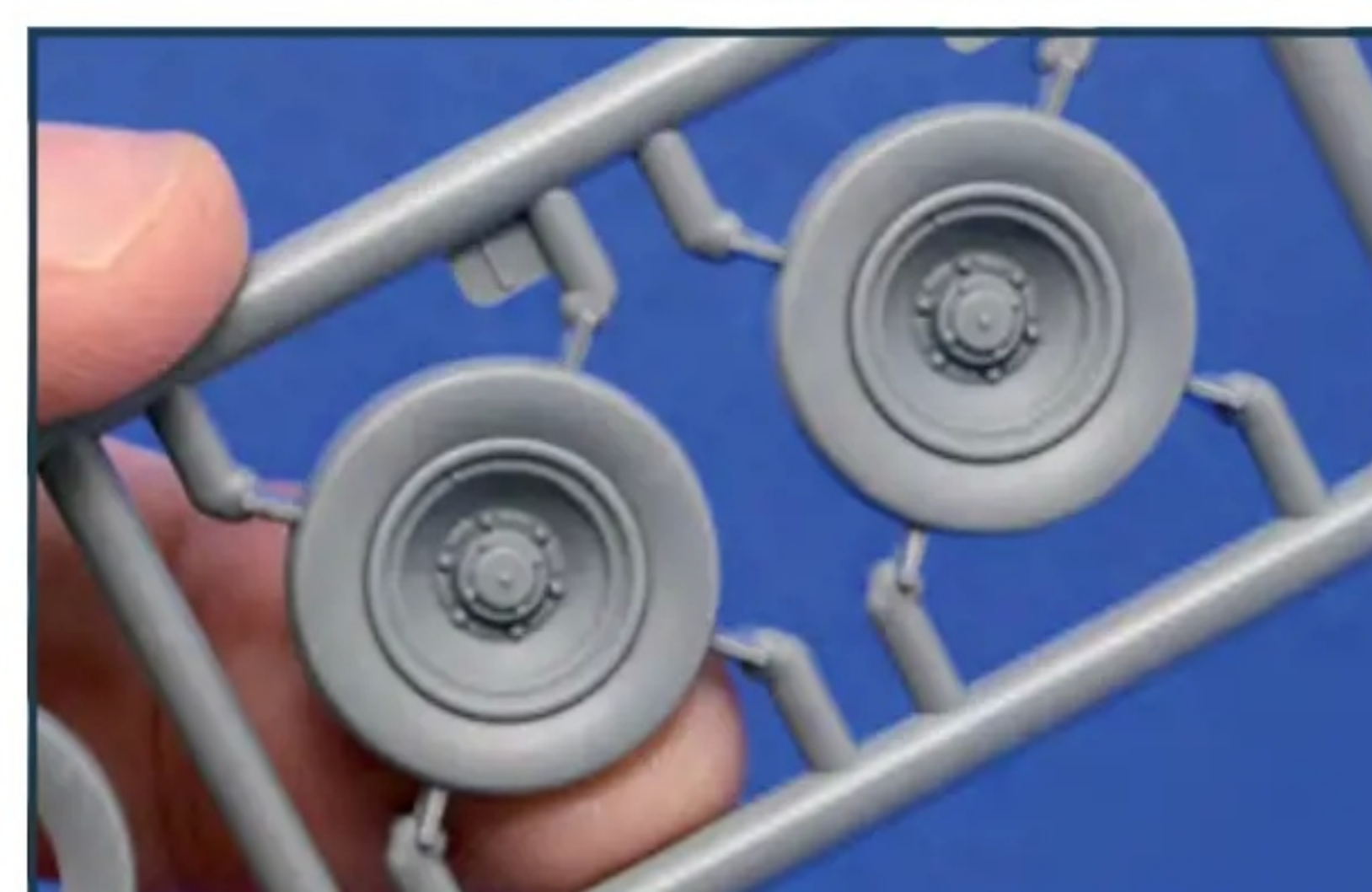
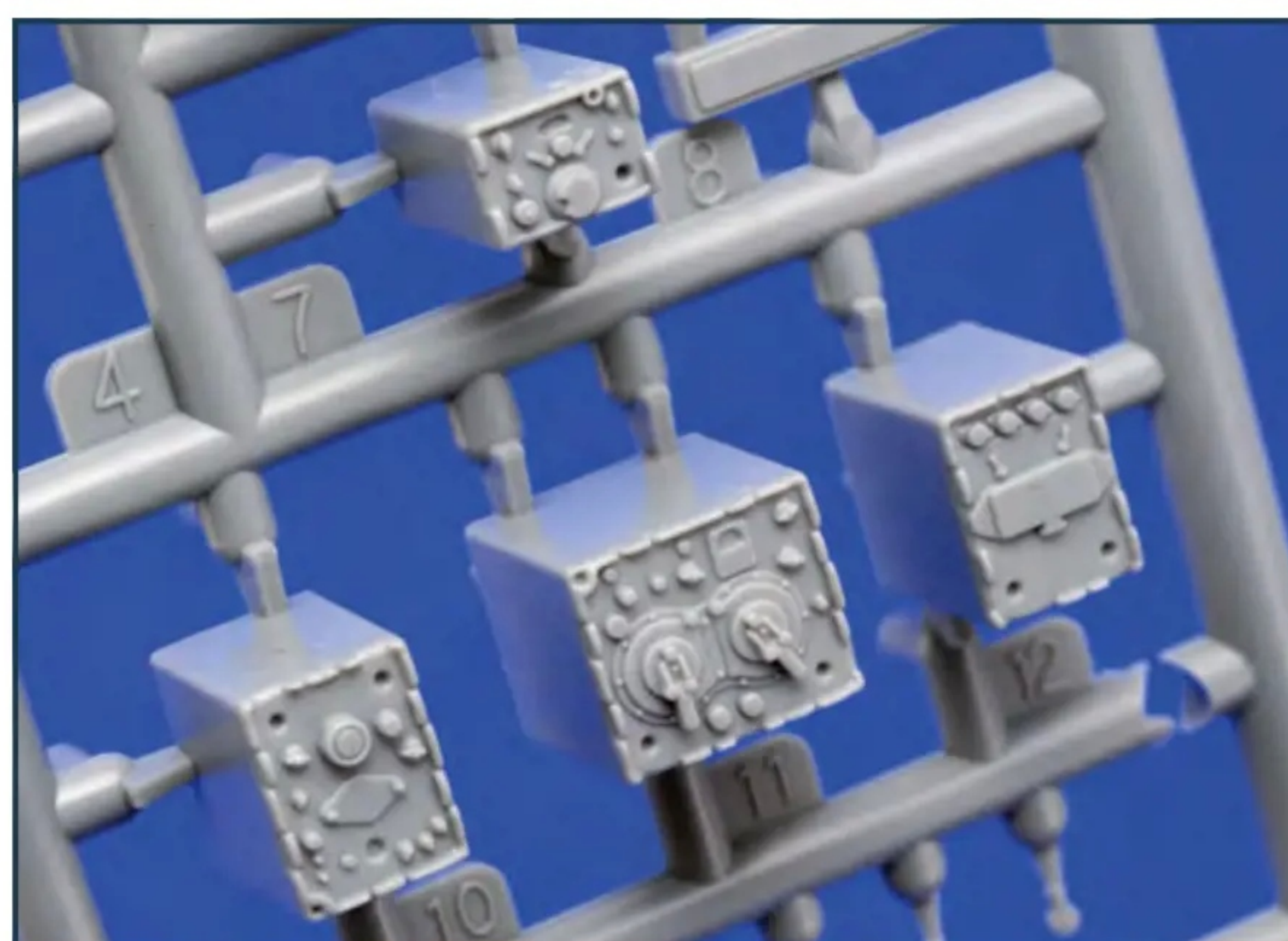
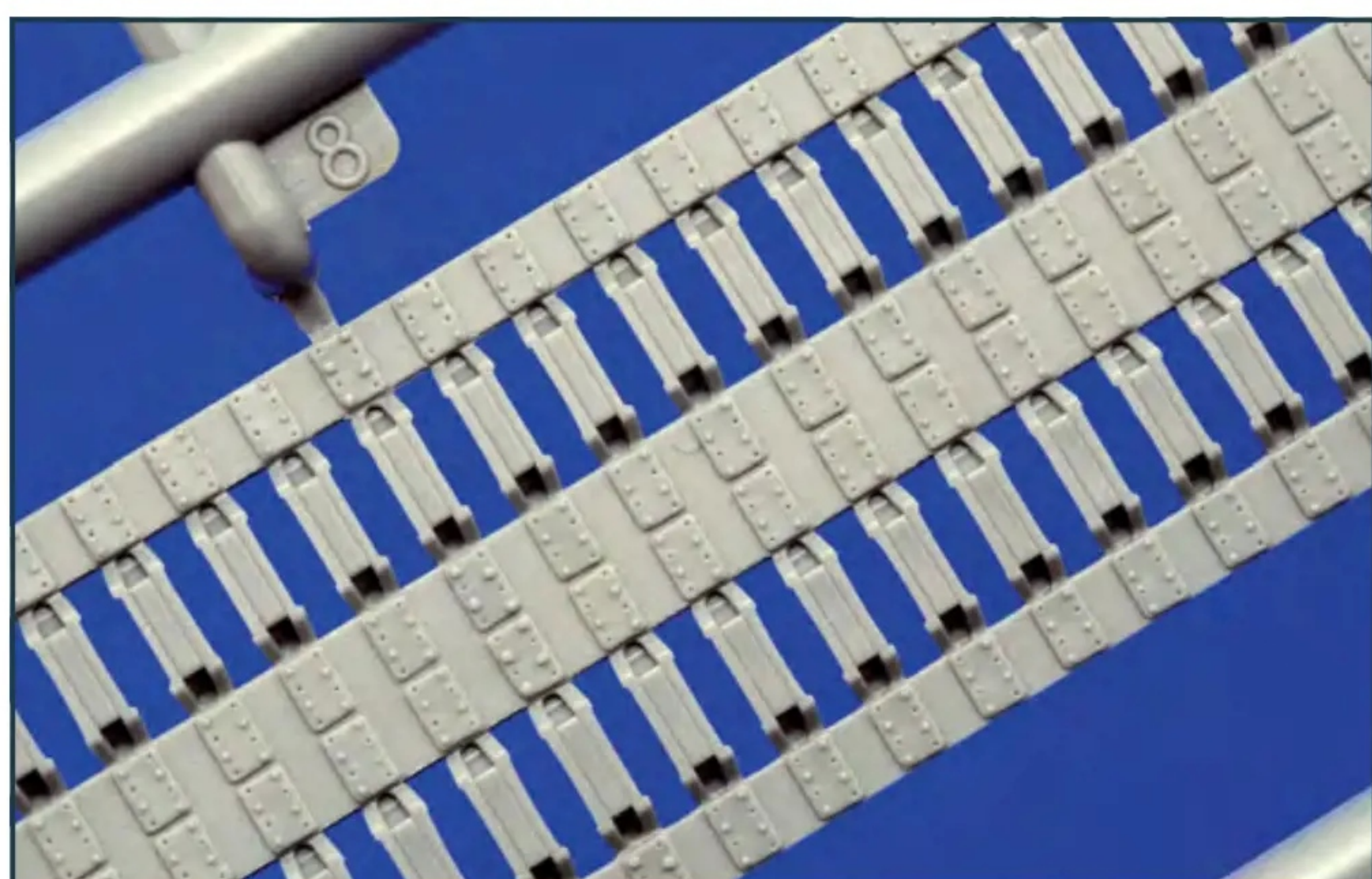
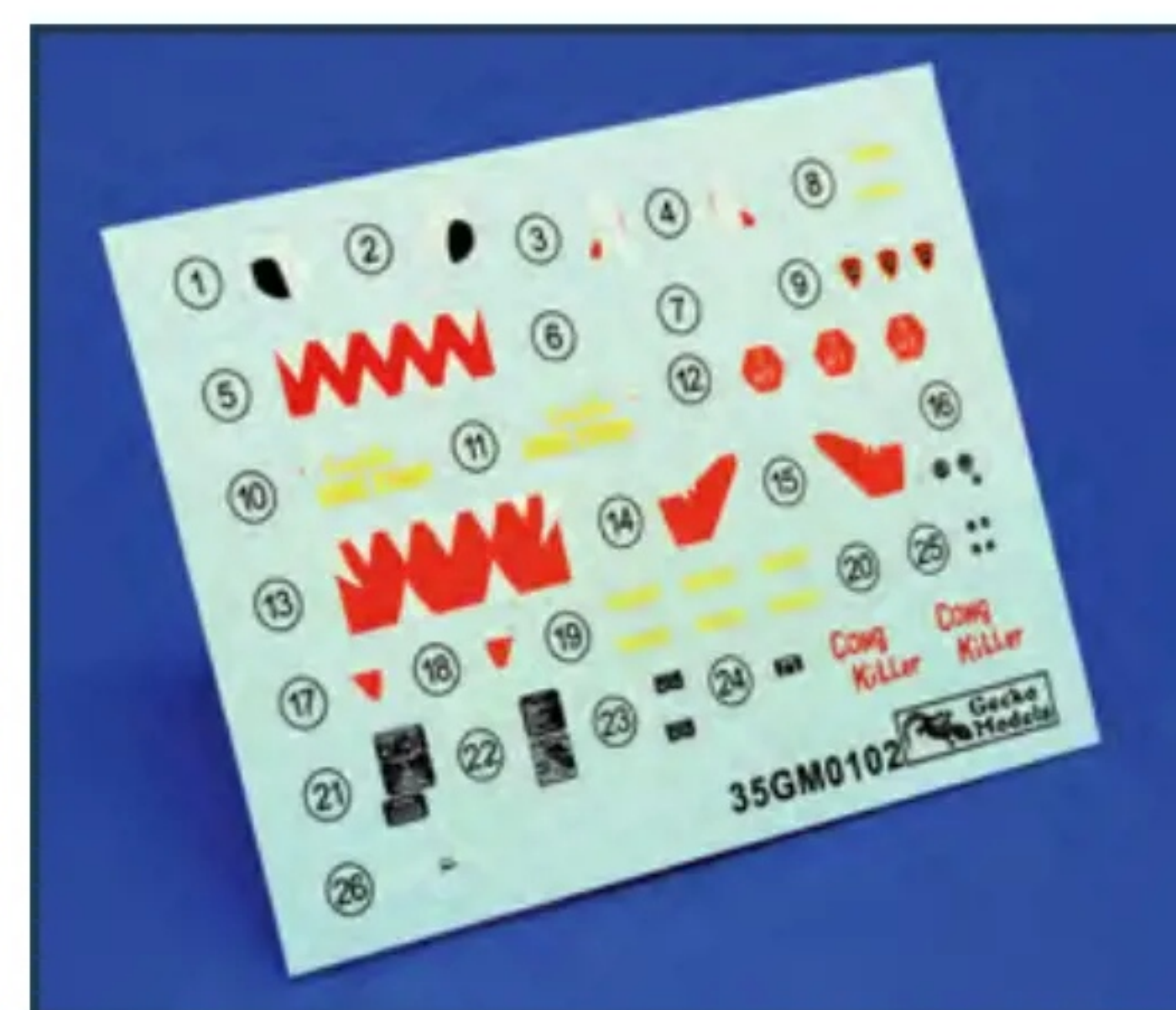
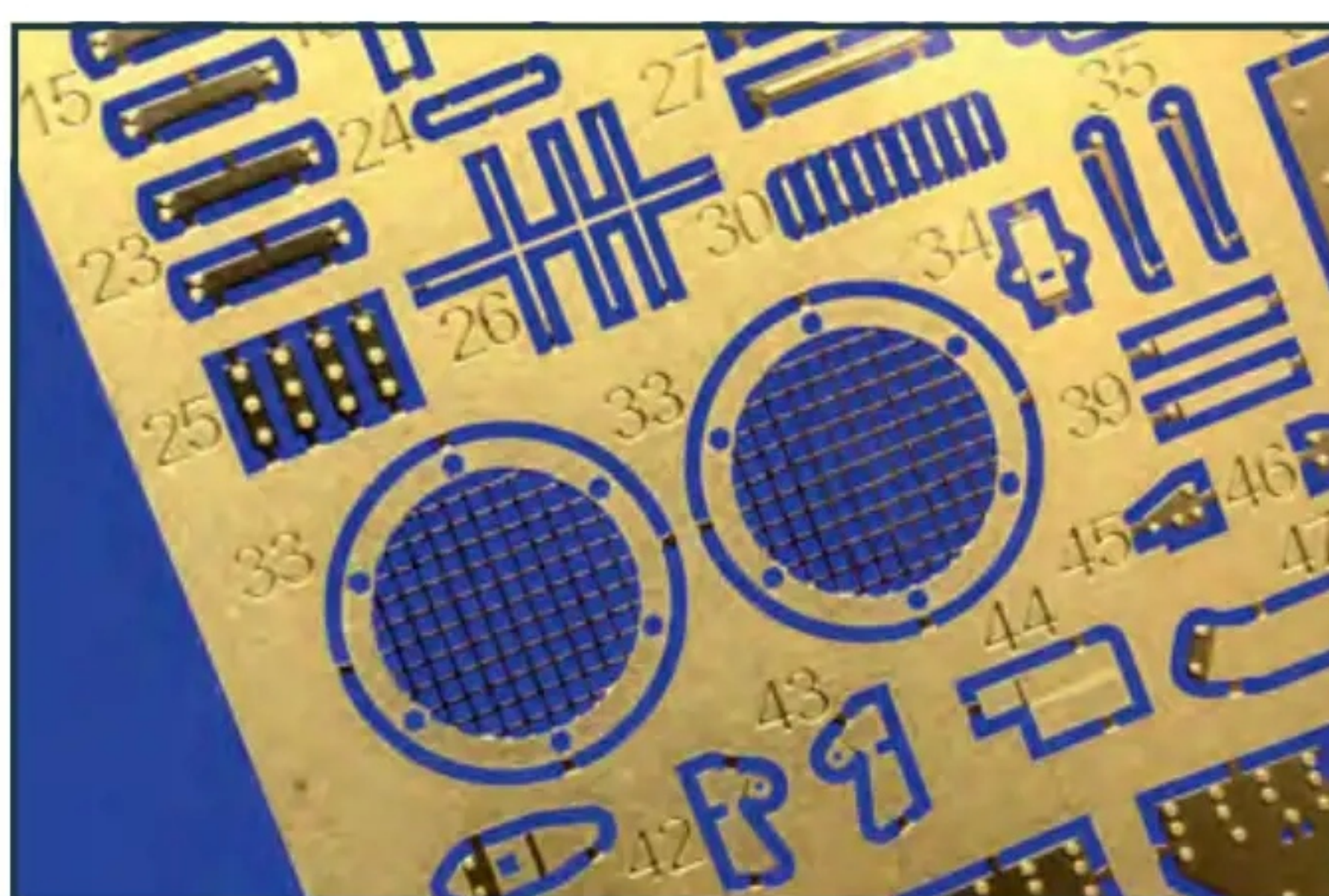
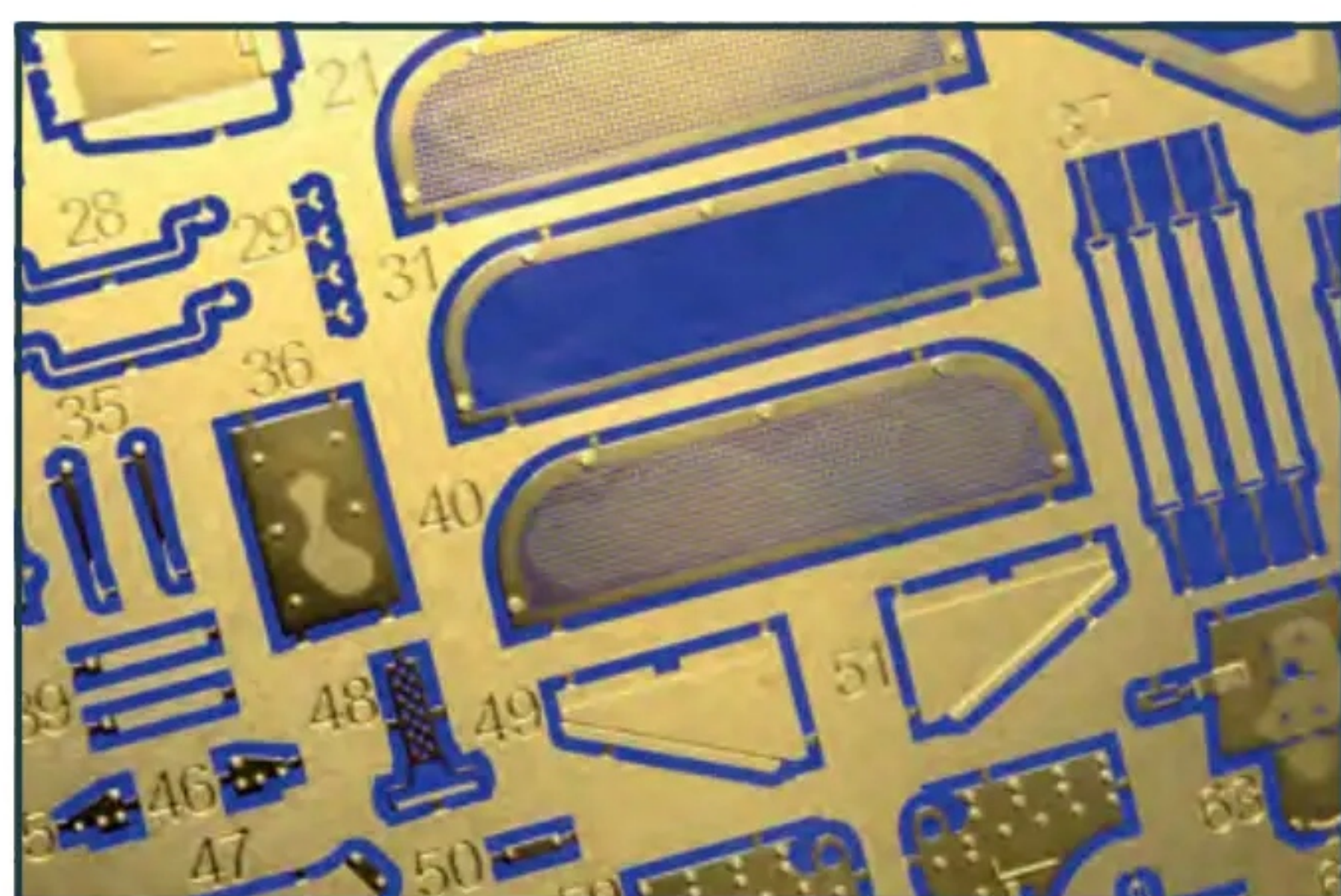
figure set at a later date. Let's hope so.

Having stated there's a lot of parts, the assembly sequence looks entirely sensible and the kit should come together nicely, so long as the instructions are followed and common sense is practiced. The M76's suspension is reasonably uncomplicated and the link-and-length tracks look like they will build up in a straightforward manner once de-sprued and cleaned up, although "the proof of a kit is in the

building"... It's fantastic to have a high grade, 1:35 injection-moulded kit of this chunky little machine available to us and it is sure to show up in paddy field dioramas across the scale modelling world! Bravo Gecko Models. ●

Availability;

Gecko Model: www.gecko-models.com
www.tankmuseumshop.org and good retailers everywhere





HURRICANE SEASON

Jeremy Moore builds, paints and weathers Arma Hobby's remarkable Hurricane Mk.IIc in 1:48



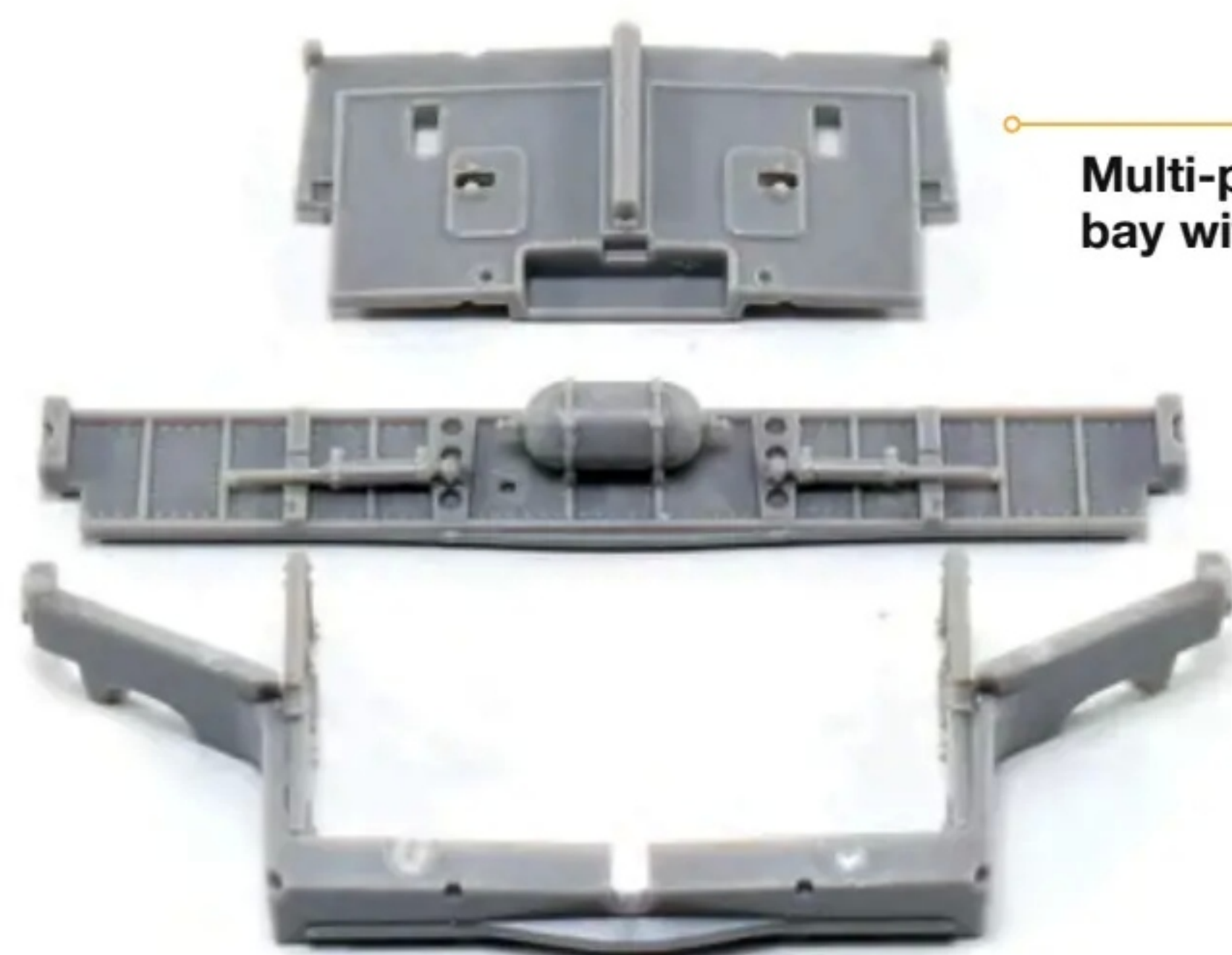
Known for their excellent 1:72 aircraft kits, Arma Hobby expanded their line in 2023 with the addition of a Hawker Hurricane Mk.II series much to the delight of many modellers. While not their first 1:48 kit, the Hurricane has been a welcome addition as there has not been a new model produced of the Mk.II in quite some time. As of this writing, kits of the Mk.IIc, Mk.IIc Trop, Mk.IIb, Mk.IIb Trop, Mk.IIb Recon, and Mk.IIc Sea Hurricane are available in their line.

Continuing with their high standards and excellent reputation earned from

their 1:72 kits, the Hurricane is simply amazing to look at on the sprues. The kit consists of just 120 parts in grey styrene, thirteen in clear styrene with options for open and closed canopies. Decals are included for three aircraft along with a set of canopy masks. The surface detail is excellent to include very sharp, petite, panel lines, fastener heads, recessed rivets, and raised rivets where appropriate.

Some have complained about the size of the sprue gates which are larger than what we're accustomed to seeing on most kits, but in all honestly once

cleaned up, the parts-fit is excellent so their size is quickly forgotten. Parts breakdown is very simple to include single piece upper and lower wing halves, and the fuselage is supplied as left and right halves with the vertical fin and lower rear fuselage as separate parts. The fabric texture of the aft fuselage section is particularly well done. It's difficult to describe the quality of the moulding without using hyperbole; the details are some of the most well executed on any 1:48 aircraft I've seen to date. So, without further delay, let's get started! ▶



Multi-piece landing gear bay with excellent details

Landing gear bay painted up and sandwiched between the wing halves



CONSTRUCTION

Unlike most aircraft kits, construction does not start with the cockpit, but rather with the main landing gear bay. Made up of ten parts, it forms an integral part of the wing construction and a platform on which the cockpit is assembled in future steps. All components fit together very well with minimal cleanup and were airbrushed Mr Color C8 Silver.

The upper and lower wing halves are prepared next and there are options for drop tanks and underwing bomb racks, both of which require holes to be drilled out depending on which marking option you choose. Since I had chosen a night intruder scheme which were often seen with underwing drop tanks, I drilled out the appropriate holes. Landing light lenses are added to the lower wing half at this stage, and I would recommend painting these prior to inserting them to make things easier later.

My kit included an errata sheet indicating the need to remove a little more material on the upper wing half to allow the landing lights to sit properly, and once completed they did, indeed, fit much better. It's nice to see manufacturers make these corrections. The seat, consisting of five parts to include the armoured headrest, is assembled next. Colour callouts in the instructions are very well done and helpful throughout assembly; in this case the headrest was airbrushed MRP-111 RAF Interior Grey-Green and the remaining seat parts Mr Color C8 Silver. For some extra detail, I added aftermarket seatbelts from Fine Molds that were painted with AK 3rd Gen acrylics prior to positioning them on the seat.

UNDERCARRIAGE

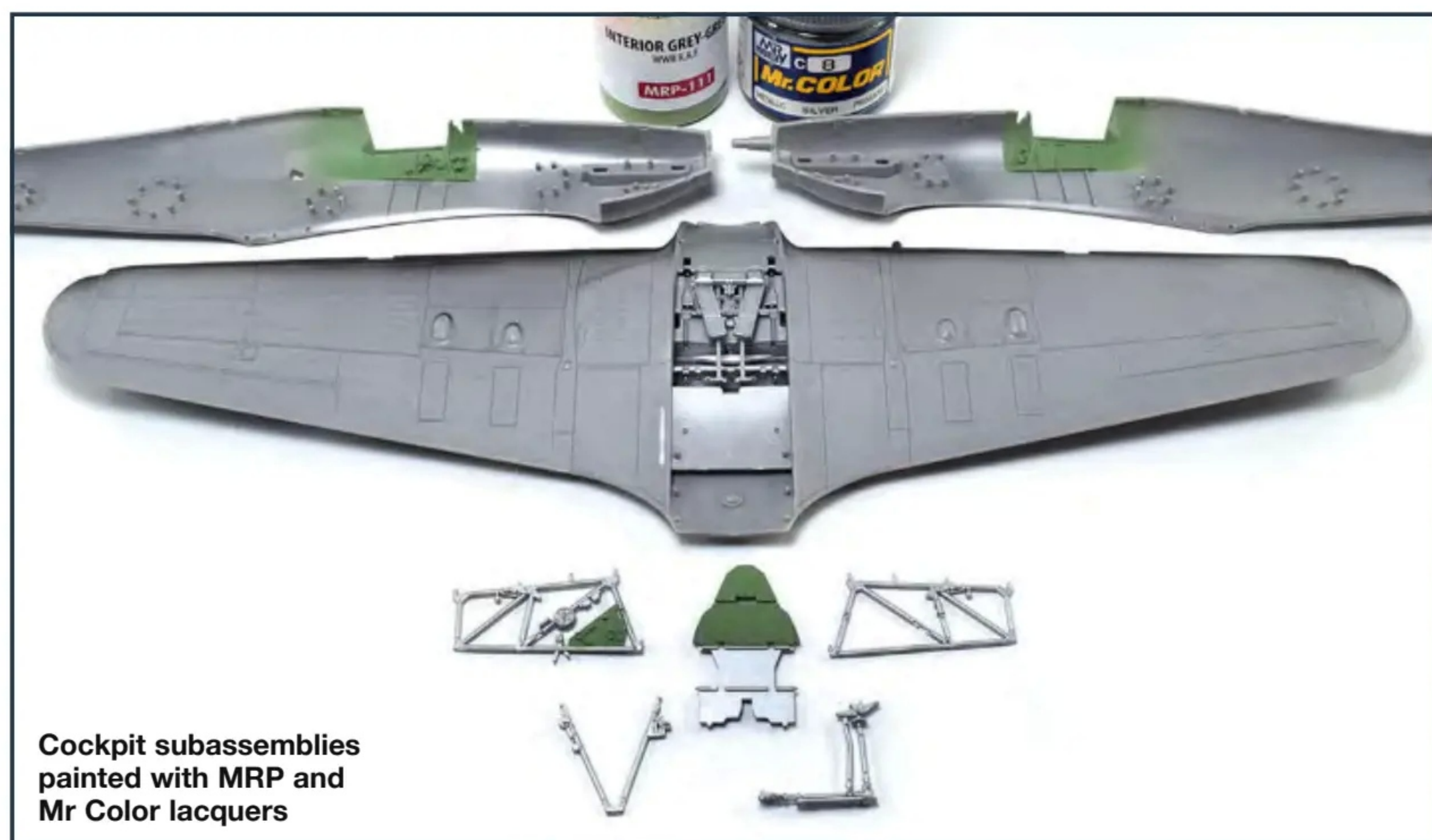
The landing gear bay was then placed in between the upper and lower wing halves which are then cemented together. The fit of the two halves was excellent requiring no filler at all, with the leading edges of the wing in particular being quite remarkable as things like panel lines and the opening for the cannon matched up perfectly. My example did, however, have some very minor mould sink marks in the step area of the left wing root which were filled with Mr Liquid Putty and sanded smooth.



The excellent fit of the upper and lower wing halves



The cockpit floor being built up on top of the wing



Cockpit subassemblies painted with MRP and Mr Color lacquers



Details painted with AK 3rd Gen acrylics

With the wing complete, the cockpit was assembled next on top of the wing assembly. The tubular frame components feature slots and tabs which are very effective in keeping everything aligned; this becomes critical later on during assembly as the fuselage slides down over the cockpit to sit on the wing. The fuselage halves were prepared at the same time, with each half containing cockpit sidewall details that are added to include the throttle quadrant and various switches and controls.

Where possible, I pre-painted the cockpit components prior to assembly with Mr Color C8 Silver and MRP-111 RAF Interior Grey-Green along with AK 3rd Gen acrylics for the various details. Once everything was painted and assembled, weathering was accomplished with a wash made from 502 Abteilung Starship Filth oil paint thinned with white (mineral) spirit. Some chipping and wear was also added with dark brown acrylic and a small brush. The instrument panel decal supplied with the kit was used and performed very well with the aid of some Micro Set and Micro Sol and looks excellent once installed. ▶



Weathering the cockpit with an oil wash and acrylic chipping



The finished cockpit with added Fine Molds seatbelts



The kit supplied instrument panel decal worked very well!



Eduard 3D printed exhausts (top in both sets) for added detail



That marvellous wing to fuselage joint, with a minor sink mark that needed filling at the wing root



The fuselage bottom showing the parts breakdown for the rear insert

❶ MATING THE FUSELAGE HALVES

After allowing the painted areas to dry sufficiently, the fuselage halves are joined together. The instrument panel is the only item sandwiched between the two halves and due to some robust locating pins and slots, the fit is very positive. Once the halves were allowed to cure, the moment of truth arrives when placing the fuselage over the cockpit assembly and on to the wing. As expected, due to the clever engineering and positive locating tabs and slots (they're everywhere), the fit is absolutely perfect. There were no wing to fuselage join gaps at all and the cockpit components did not interfere with the fuselage sides. Simply brilliant.

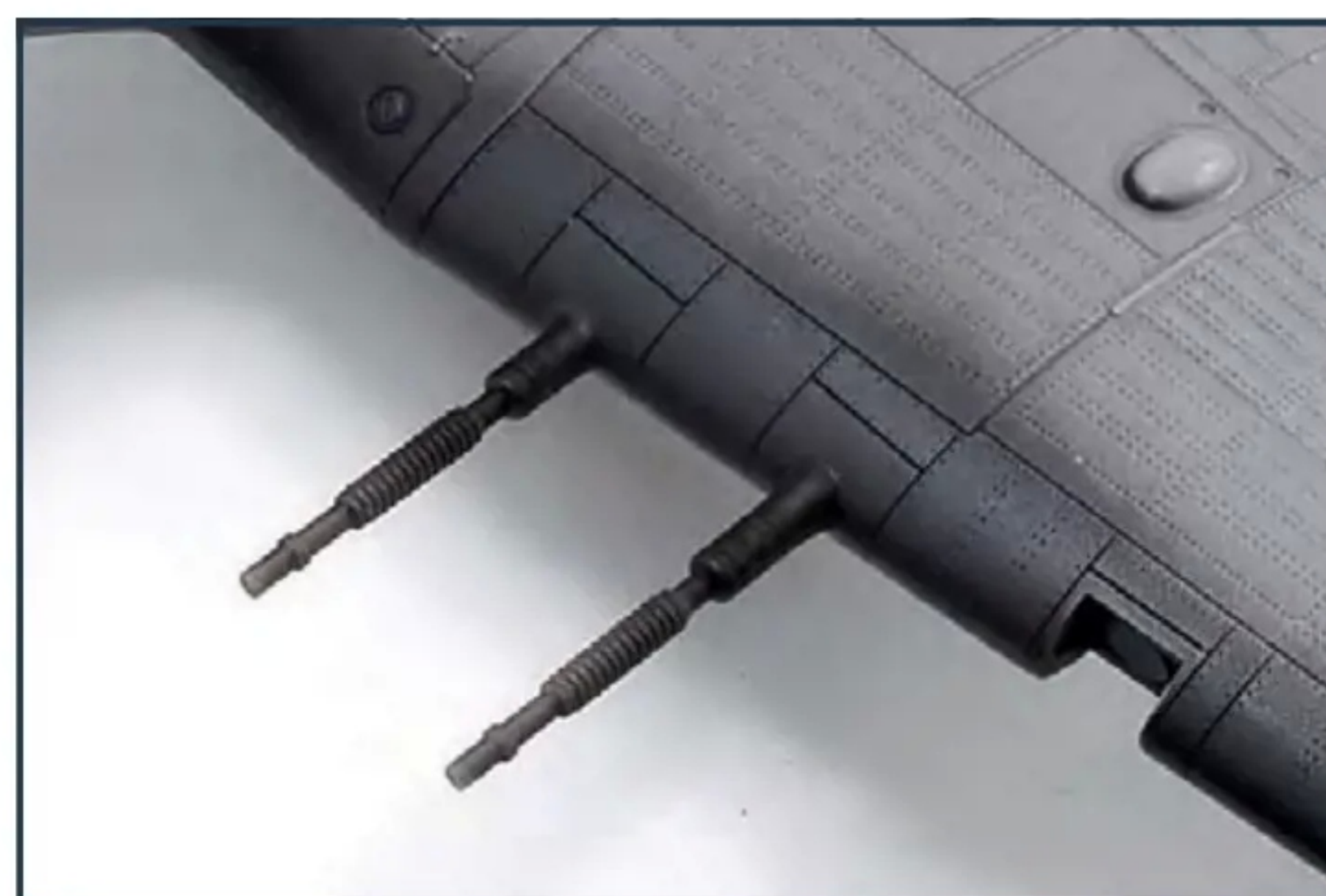
I spot-primed the upper seams to check my work after the cement was allowed to cure for a day or so. The remainder of the assembled airframe was completed with the addition of the tail assembly, oil cooler, and the lower fuselage insert. The tail assembly goes together very well and allows for a pose-able elevator but fixed rudder. The lower fuselage insert fitted equally well with just a very slight gap at the wing join which was easily fixed with some Mr Surfacer 500.

The radiator assembly was painted prior to assembly with Mr Color C8 Silver and given a wash with black enamel paint thinned with mineral spirits to bring out the well moulded surfaces. The radiator and oil cooler scoop went together without any issues and needed just a bead of Mr Surfacer 500 as well where it joined the lower wing. With that, the bulk of construction was complete. Due to the low parts count and simple parts breakdown, the kit goes together very quickly!

If using the open option, the closed canopy makes an excellent mask to protect the cockpit during painting of the exterior. I elected to swap out the kit exhausts and 20mm cannons for 3D printed parts from the Eduard Brassin line. While not completely necessary, the Eduard parts provide some additional detail and also require minimal cleanup prior to painting and weathering. With the exception of the cannons, I chose to leave everything off until final assembly in order to facilitate painting and weathering.

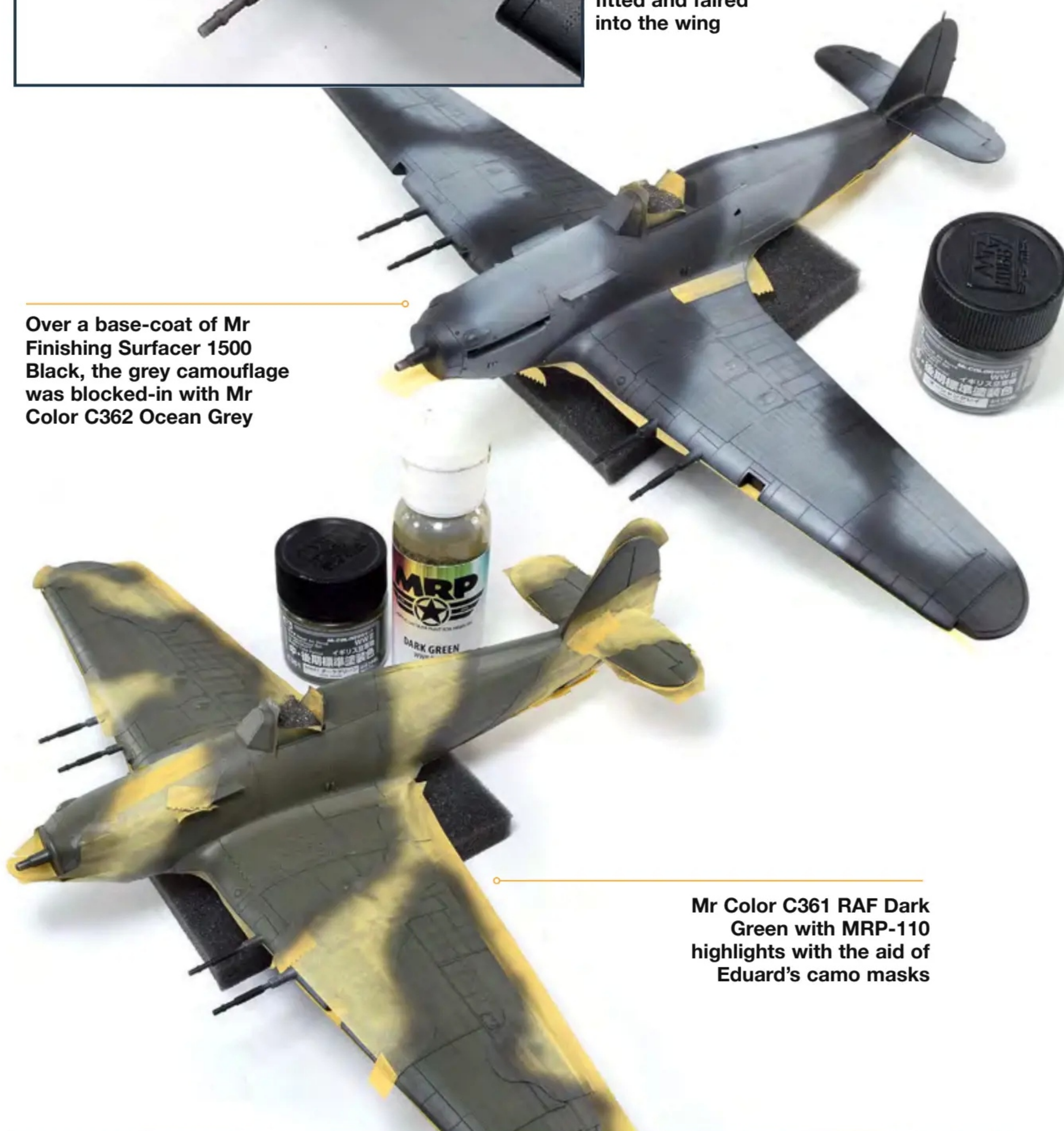
PAINTING AND MARKINGS

Amongst its many duties, the Hurricane was assigned the role of attacking enemy airfields at night while Axis bombers were taking off or returning from missions. Dubbed 'Night Intruders', many of these initial aircraft had hybrid schemes of day fighter (dark green and grey) on the upper surfaces and all black on the lower surfaces to include the drop tanks. I chose markings for a 'Night Intruder' Hurricane from RAF No. 87 Squadron from the Eagle Strike 48-124 'Night Hurricanes Pt. 1', decal sheet. Once decided upon, I could begin the painting process.



Eduard 3D printed cannons fitted and faired into the wing

Over a base-coat of Mr Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black, the grey camouflage was blocked-in with Mr Color C362 Ocean Grey



Mr Color C361 RAF Dark Green with MRP-110 highlights with the aid of Eduard's camo masks



Additional highlights to the dark green with a mix of MRP colours plus grey highlights with a mix of Mr Color lacquers

Since the model has quite a few raised rivets on the wing surfaces, I felt it might be difficult enhance the surface details using traditional methods such as a panel line wash. The 'black basing method' was chosen to finish the upper surfaces and the entire model was airbrushed with black Mr Finishing Surfacer 1500 thinned with Mr Levelling Thinner. This would also serve as the base colour for the black undersurfaces. Using the kit instructions as a guide, the grey surfaces were airbrushed next using Mr Color C362 Ocean Grey, again thinned with Mr Levelling Thinner. This was applied carefully and methodically, allowing some of the black to remain visible to create some contrast and tonal variation.

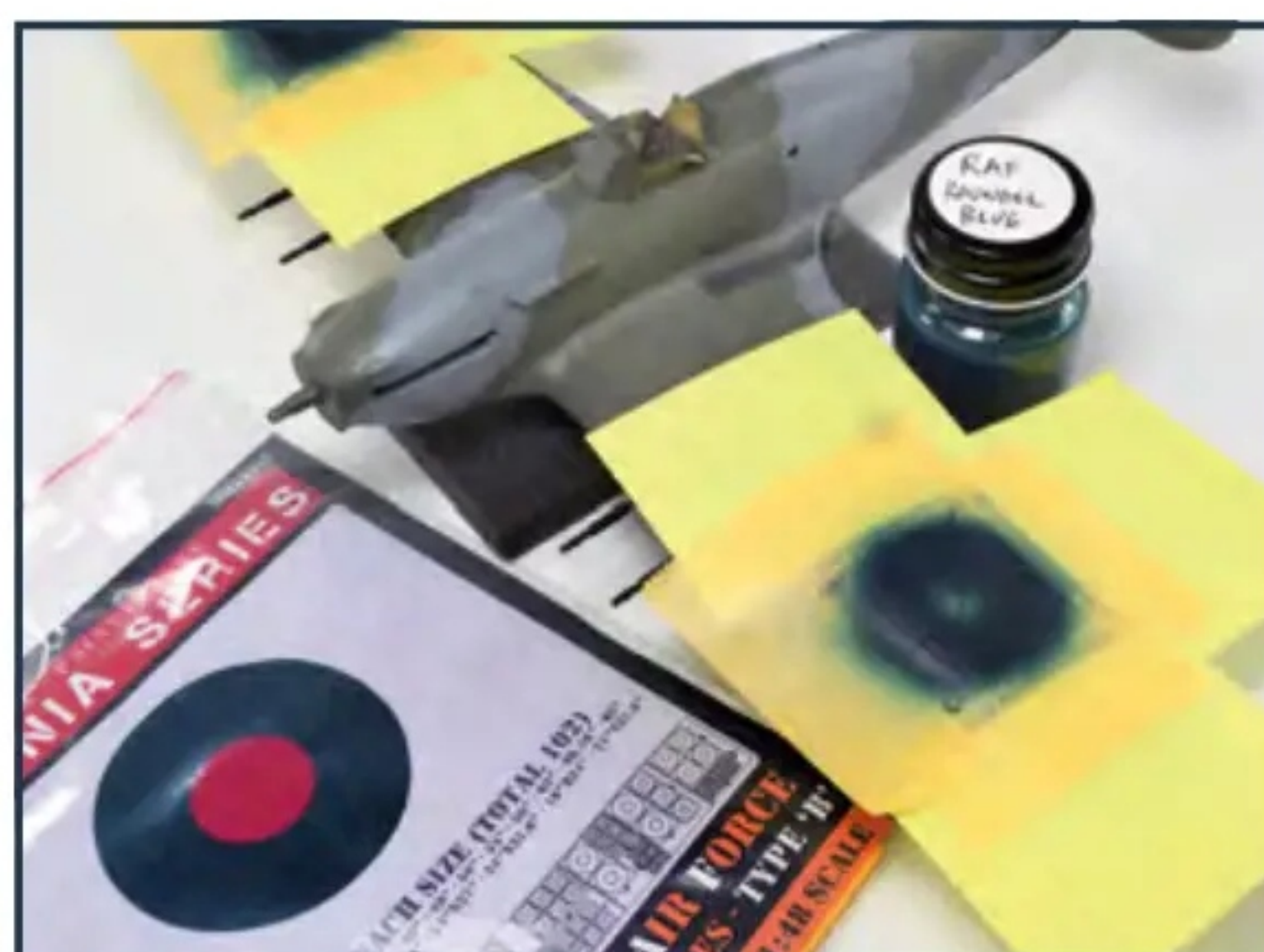
Once dry, the grey areas were masked over with the help of some Eduard pre-cut camouflage pattern masks designed for the Airfix Mk.I kit (which worked equally well for this kit), and the dark green applied using Mr Color C361 RAF Dark Green. Again, some of the black was allowed to show through to provide some variation in the finish.

SHADING AND HIGHLIGHTING

The dark green areas were then highlighted with Mr Paint MRP-110 RAF Green, followed by an additional highlight of the MRP-110 with some MRP-11 RAF Interior Grey-Green added. This heavily thinned mix was airbrushed at very low pressure inside various panels to create even more contrast and variation to the finish. The same process was utilized on the Grey areas using a heavily thinned mix of Mr Color C362 Ocean Grey and Mr Color C315 FS16440 Grey. My attention then turned to the bottom of the aircraft, where I masked off various panels and airbrushed them with Tamiya LP-5 Flay Black and LP-65 Rubber Black to create a more visually interesting finish.

After allowing the model to dry for a couple of days, I began the application of markings. I generally try to paint markings whenever possible, so I started with the upper wing roundels using a set of Maketar pre-cut masks. The outer blue was airbrushed first with a custom mix of Tamiya XF-8 Flat Blue and X-18 Semigloss Black at a 75/25 ratio. The outer areas were then masked off and centres airbrushed with a mix of Tamiya XF-7 Flat Red, X-7 Gloss Red, and XF-64 Red Brown at a 50/25/25 ratio. The squadron codes from the Aeromaster decal sheet were then traced and cut using a Silhouette Cameo craft cutter and Oramask masking material, then airbrushed using Mr Color C368 Sky.

The fuselage roundels were applied using the kit decals as I had difficulty applying masks (and getting them to stick) to the faceted sides of the fuselage representing the stretched fabric areas. I also applied the



Painting roundels with Maketar Masks and a custom mix of Tamiya XF-8 Flat Blue and X-18 Semigloss black



Red portions painted with a mix of Tamiya XF-7 Flat Red, X-7 Gloss Red, and XF-64 Red Brown



Perfect roundels achieved!



Squadron codes painted with custom cut masks and Mr Color C368 Sky



Squadron codes unmasked with a round mask used for spacing. The kit decals would be used for the fuselage roundels



Various panels masked and airbrushed with different shades to break up the overall black finish, then a light Grey panel-line wash was used to highlight the details of the undersurfaces



Exhaust staining was applied with carefully airbrushed layers, working from dark to light



Oil paints were applied to weather the crew access areas



Chipping with a silver Prismacolor pencil

- ❶ “Nightingale” name, aircraft numbers under the horizontal stabilizer, and fin flash decals from the Aeromaster set at this time. Once dry, the decals were sealed with Mr Color GX-100 Super Clear thinned with Mr Levelling Thinner to protect them from subsequent weathering steps.

WEATHERING

To begin the weathering process, I started with a panel line wash on the lower wings using Ammo by Mig Storm Grey enamel wash. This was applied sparingly to areas with recessed panel lines and rivets, being careful to avoid the areas of raised rivets. After allowing it to dry for about 30 minutes, the excess was removed with makeup sponges and cotton buds. The goal was to provide some contrast and break up the otherwise black finish, which I think was achieved. The upper surfaces of the aircraft were not given the same treatment as the black basing method provided sufficient contrast and tonal variation.

Exhaust staining was applied next using a layered process, starting with a base of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. This was followed by

Mr Paint MRP-180 Exhaust Soot, and finally a mix of Tamiya XF-78, XF-2, and XF-19, concentrating the final mix in the centre of the area. Rather than working from forward to aft on the model, I like to work in short vertical strokes with the airbrush which allows more control over the pattern, building up the layers as I go.

FINISHING UP

To wrap things up, the landing gear, wheels, propellor, and exhausts were fitted and given washes of oil and enamel paints. The exhausts and cannons were also burnished with an artist's fibre pencil dipped in graphite powder to achieve a metallic look. The final item added was the aerial antenna and, with that, the model was complete.

Arma has produced an excellent kit of the Hurricane Mk.IIc in 1:48, and it's arguably the best one on the market right now and the best of any Hurricane kit in 1:48. It was honestly one of the most enjoyable builds of a 1:48 kit I've had! For those with a 3D printer, Arma has developed a line of detail items and accessories designed for the Mk.II series available for download directly from their

website. It's nice to see companies embracing this new technology which, in my opinion, is the way the hobby is headed. These accessories have given me a good excuse for building their Mk.IIb and Sea Hurricane, and we can only hope a Mk.I is soon to follow! ●

TECHSPEC...

ARMA HOBBY 1:48 HURRICANE MK.IIC KIT NO.4004

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints and weathering products

- Tamiya Lacquer Paints: LP-5 Semi-Gloss Black, LP-65 Rubber Black
- Tamiya Acrylic Paints: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-7 Flat Red, XF-8 Flat Blue, XF-19 Sky Grey, XF-78 Deck Tan, XF-2 Flat White, XF-64 Red Brown, X-18 Semi-Gloss Black, X-7 Gloss Red
- AK 3rd Gen Acrylics: (various colours)
- Ammo by Mig: A.1609 Storm Grey Panel Line Wash
- Mr Color: C362 Ocean Grey, C361 RAF Dark Green, C315 FS16440 Grey, C368 Sky
- Mr Paint: MRP-111 RAF Interior Grey Green, MRP-110 RAF Dark Green, MRP-180 Exhaust Soot
- Abteilung 502: Starship Filth

Accessories used:

- Eduard: Hurricane Mk.IIc gun barrels (648295), Hurricane Mk.II exhaust fishtail (648916)
- Eagle Strike Decals: 'Night Hurricanes Pt.1' (48-124)

Availability: www.armahobby.com www.hannants.co.uk

Splattering with a very thin mix of Tamiya enamels





“Arma has produced an excellent kit of the Hurricane Mk.IIc in 1:48, and it’s arguably the best one on the market right now...”



KIT PREVIEW

ICM 1:48 MH-60L BLACK HAWK US SPECIAL FORCES HELICOPTER • NO.48360



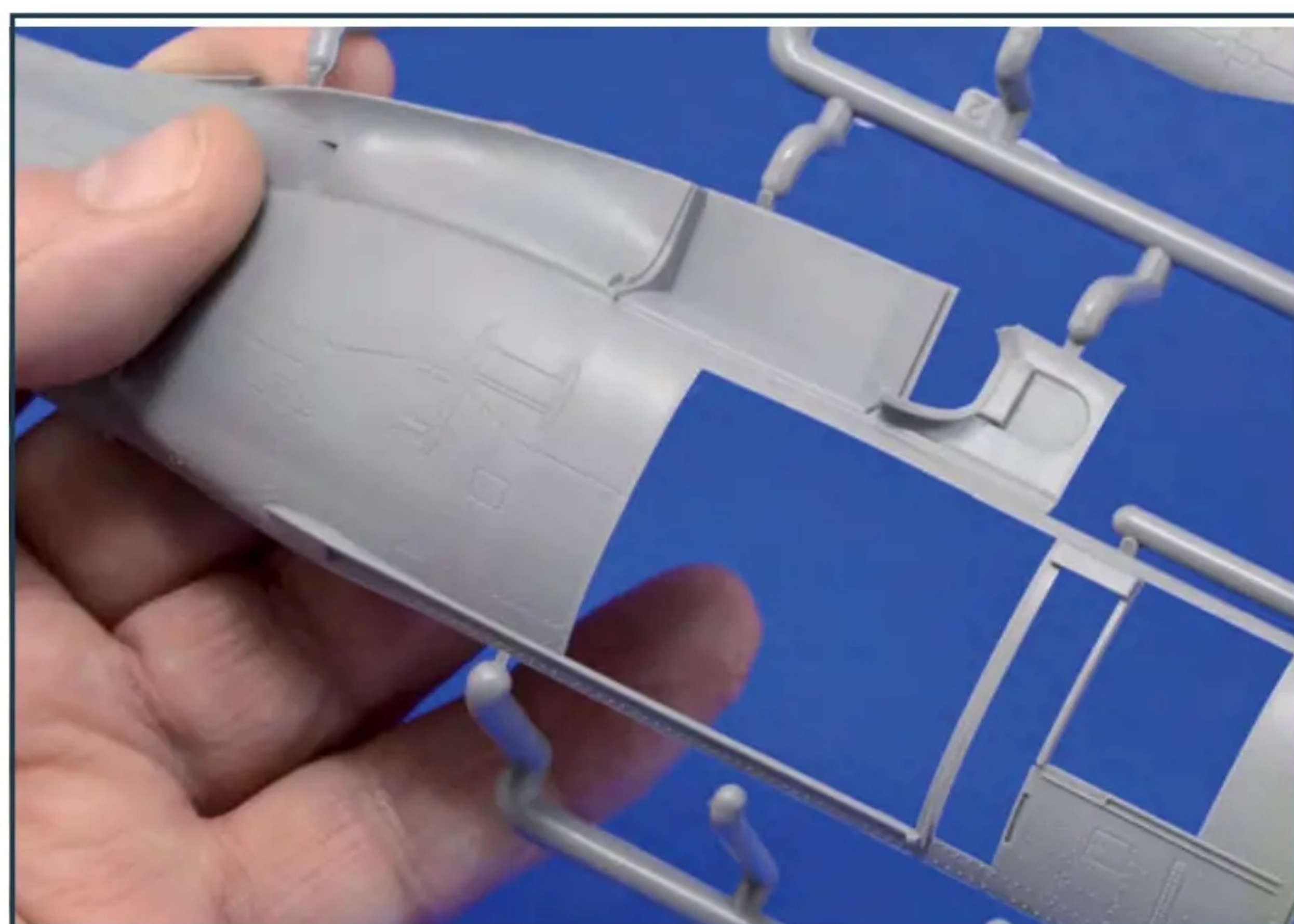
NOBODY ASKS TO BE A HERO - IT JUST SOMETIMES TURNS OUT THAT WAY

ICM's all-new kit of the US Army MH-60L Black Hawk makes an excellent 1:48 tribute to this hard-working war machine

To quote Josh Hartnett's portrayal in the 2001 film 'Black Hawk Down' of First Sergeant Matt Eversmann – a real US Army serviceman of the 3rd Ranger Regiment – “nobody asks to be a hero, it just sometimes turns out that way”. We could say the same of the Sikorsky Black Hawk, designed to be 'just' a utility helicopter but a machine that has found itself repeatedly at the heart of major conflicts since its first deployment with US military around the world.

ICM are the latest model manufacturer to honour the Black Hawk's service with an all-new kit in 1:48 of the MH-60L, a special-operations variant created for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) of the US Army, known as the 'Night Stalkers'. It has specialist all-weather equipment and a refuelling probe, making it arguably the most sinister and cool-looking version to release in kit form, so kudos to ICM for

an excellent choice at the first stage. Seven sprues of grey polystyrene, four individual rotor blades and a tree of clear parts will be found in the large box, making this a thankfully unimposing production that should be quick to put together. Having said this, it's certainly not a simplified model in any respect with all key areas beautifully detailed and buzzing with visual complexity. The airframe exterior is covered with recessed and raised rivets, the latter being just within the tolerance of correct scale effect. Like any surface detail on a kit part, it can look a little exaggerated in raw plastic but once painted and weathered, it will appear far more in-scale. The tailboom stabilisers carry superbly convincing structural ribbing and the rotorhead is a little marvel of fine detail, although aftermarket sets are sure to materialise. Markings are provided to finish one, overall black machine of



the aforementioned 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and whichever one you go for, it will look seriously cool in your display cabinet. ICM have created a fitting tribute in miniature

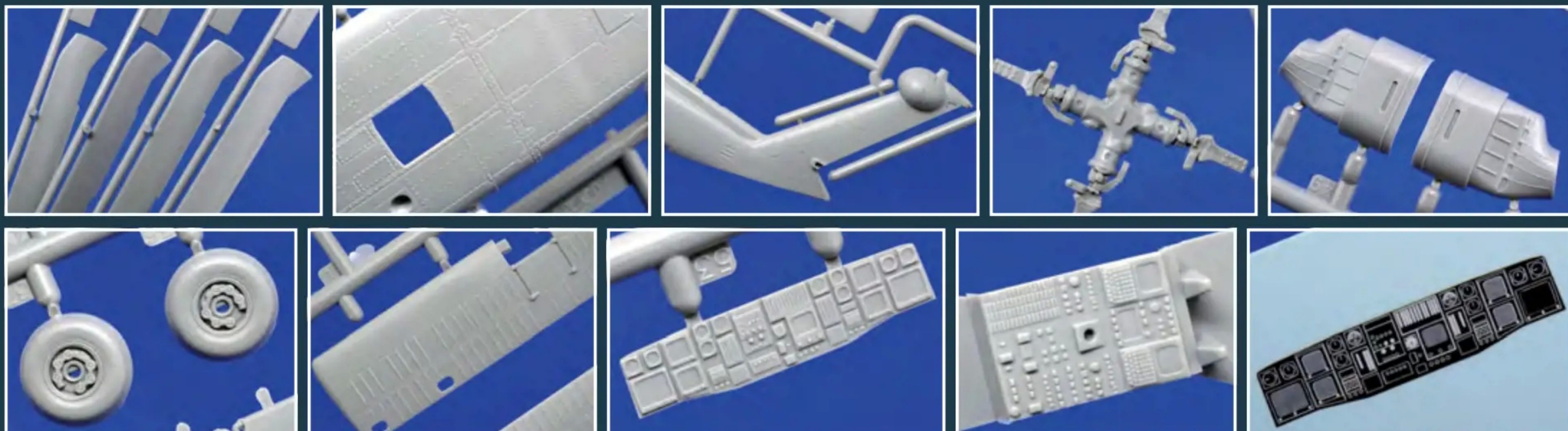
of this tough warhorse and this all new kit comes very highly recommended. ●

Availability;

ICM: www.icm.com.ua.com
www.hannants.co.uk

Markings options:

- MH-60L Black Hawk 90-26290, 160th SOAR (Airborne), Tennessee, 2007
- MH-60L Black Hawk 93-26489, 160th SOAR (Airborne), exercise PANAMAX 2011
- MH-60L Black Hawk 91-26360, 160th SOAR (Airborne), 2012





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MASTERCLUB

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The range of tracks and other accessories from this supplier are available via the Facebook page 'Masterclub' product shop (UK), and modellers do not need to deal with the Russian producers. The items in the range of tracks are very high quality and extremely sharply cast in white metal, with track pins in resin. The tracks remain completely workable provided the pins are inserted with care. There are many advantages in workable tracks, not least that they can be painted separately and added to the model later. The particular ones shown here are for the Russian T-70M and SU-76M, but all of the track sets have the same degree of finesse. The tracks have a realistic sag and follow the terrain due to their weight and flexibility. The metal material gives the modeller the chance to recreate the appearance of bare metal on worn surfaces on both the track face and the guide horns. Inserting the track pins into each side of each track link requires a lot of concentration, but the ultimate result is worth the effort. I found the resin pins too fiddly, and instead used a length of wire to insert through each joint, which was much faster and did not result in lost pins. This particular set, and the others in the range, are definitely worth considering. A terrific improvement to provide accurate and flexible tracks to a vehicle; time-consuming to use resin pins to assemble, but absolutely worth it. **CLS**



1:35 White metal and resin track set
- T-70M/SU-76M tracks (MTL35036)



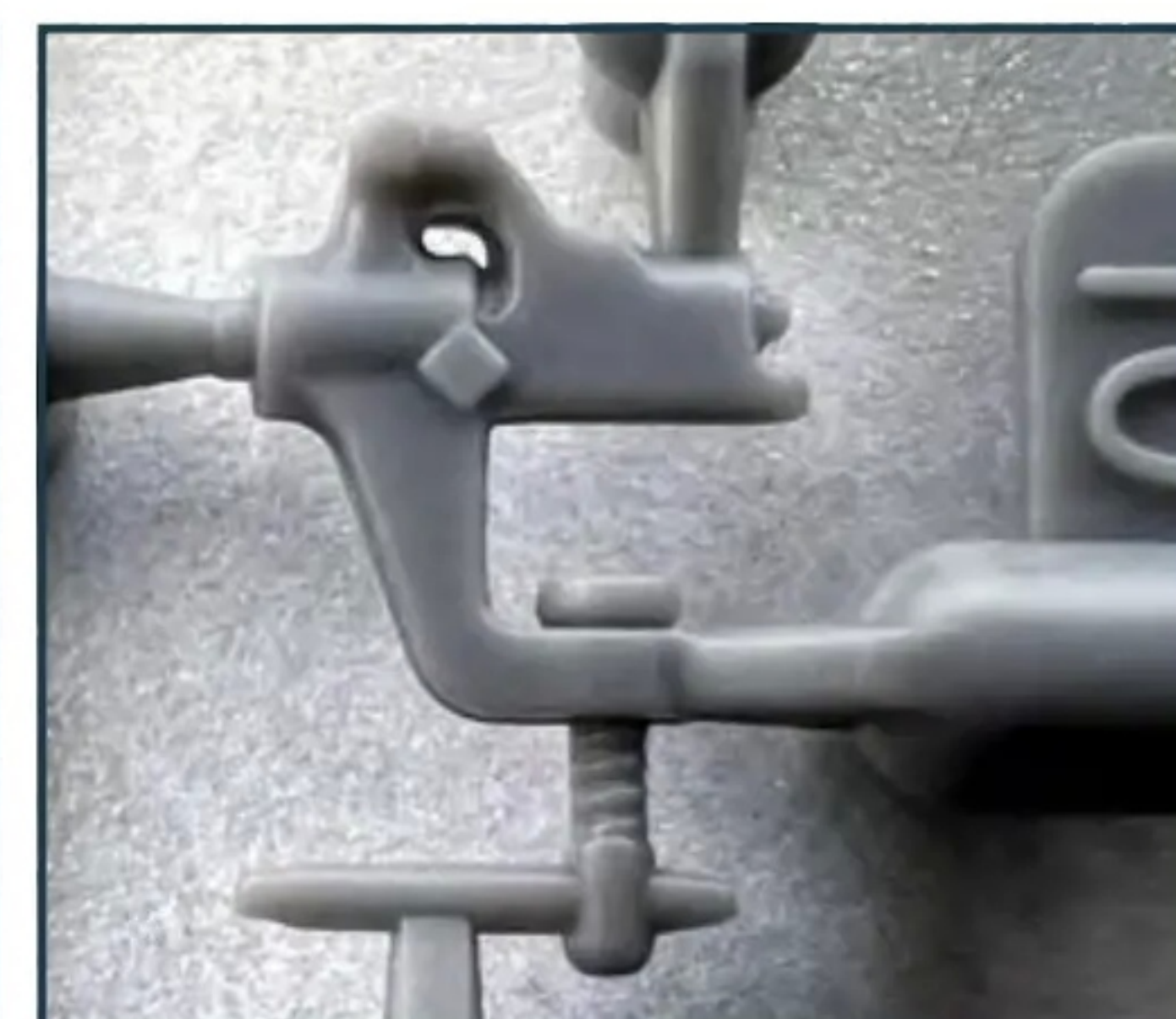
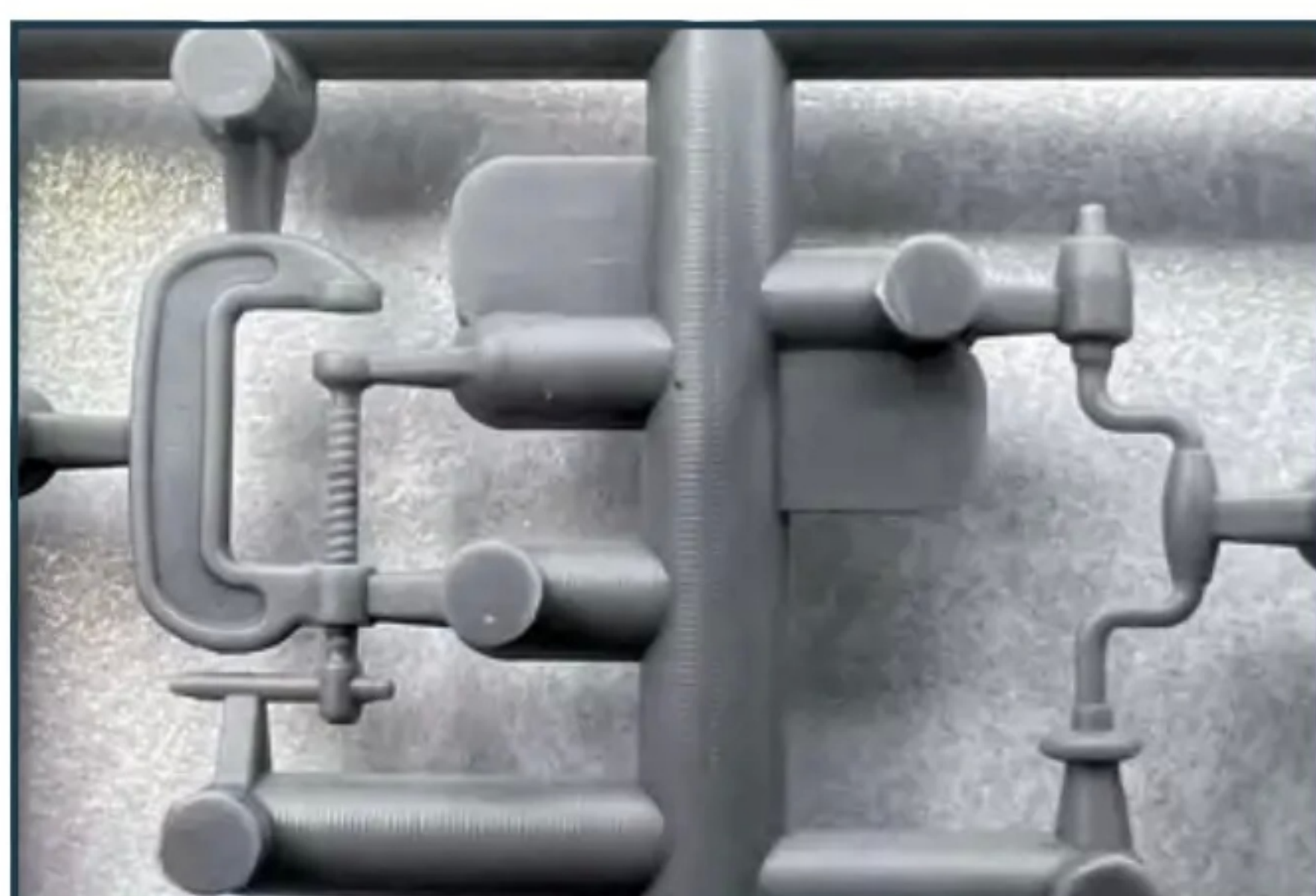
MINIART

www.miniart-models.com

This set of five figures was first released as 35011 back in 2005, and the set is excellent, with the five panzer crew working on a track repair. Two guys are hauling a track into position, one is forcing the links together, and one is hammering the pin into place. The fifth figure is an officer, overseeing the work of his men. The figures are in their shirts, having set aside their jackets for this heavy work. The uniform details, including peaked field caps, tie the figures to post-1943, but aftermarket heads would allow these figures to suit and early-war scenario. The figures are well moulded and have excellent poses, allowing them to be used without any modification. Note that three of the figures need to have their hands drilled out to accept the tools they are using. In a few places, the tip of a sharp blade could be used to enhance detail which is a little soft by modern standards, but this is a set that any modeller will find useful. The new release of this figure set is enhanced with sprues of tools, including an anvil and a toolbox, so that the working figures can look as if other repair activities are going on. The box art needs careful study to help assemble some of the tools. Overall, this is a very valuable set to show a typical five-man crew going through the endless repair and servicing that is needed to keep a tank in action. An adaptable diorama set, with very useful accessories to add detail; the detail is a little soft in places, but easily fixed. **CLS**

1:35 injection-moulded figure set

- German Tank Repair Crew (35319)



T-REX STUDIO

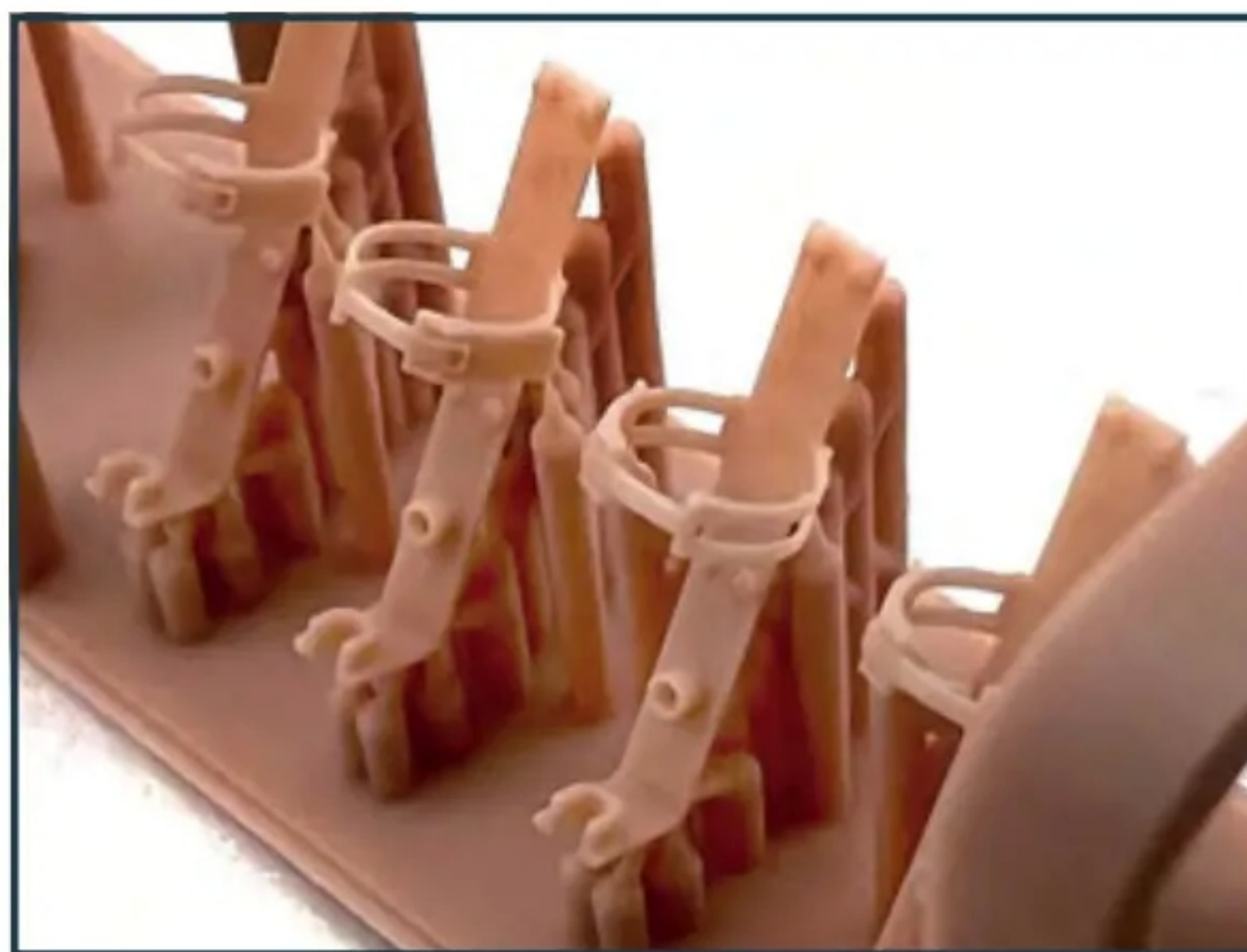
www.t-rex-studio.com

British armoured vehicles are fortunately becoming more common in 1:35 scale, but in many cases the level of detail is slightly simplified in model form. These two sets are aimed at providing extremely high detail by using modern 3D printing methods to produce precision that is simply impossible in plastic. The Fire Extinguisher set (TR35112) is the late-war Methyl Bromide type, which was used long after WW2, and the box provides a lot of options. There are two sets of left and right handed extinguishers in their mounts (differing on which side has the release clip). Similarly there are two sets of two empty brackets, again left and right handed. Finally there are two extinguishers out of their bracket, ready to be used. These extinguishers were typically dark green. The Smoke Discharger set (TR35118) is the style found from mid-war onwards, and contains four units – two with the activator mounted on top, two with the unit separate. These boxes contained two smoke generators which were electrically ignited from inside the tank. Later tanks (eg. Comet) could then drop the smoke candles to the ground by pulling a cable, and the tank could reverse away from danger. It isn't clear whether the smoke candles are present in the model discharger, but it is hard to see in real life! The finesse of 3D printing by T-Rex has allowed a level of detail that is far beyond what we see in plastic kits, and these replacement parts are a definite improvement. For modellers seeking perfection, these products are worth getting.

A quality of detail and accuracy that simply cannot be achieved in plastic or resin; not stocked widely, so mail order is the best option. **CLS**

1:35 detail set

- Fire extinguishers for British AFVs (TR35112)
- Smoke dischargers for British AFVs (TR35118)



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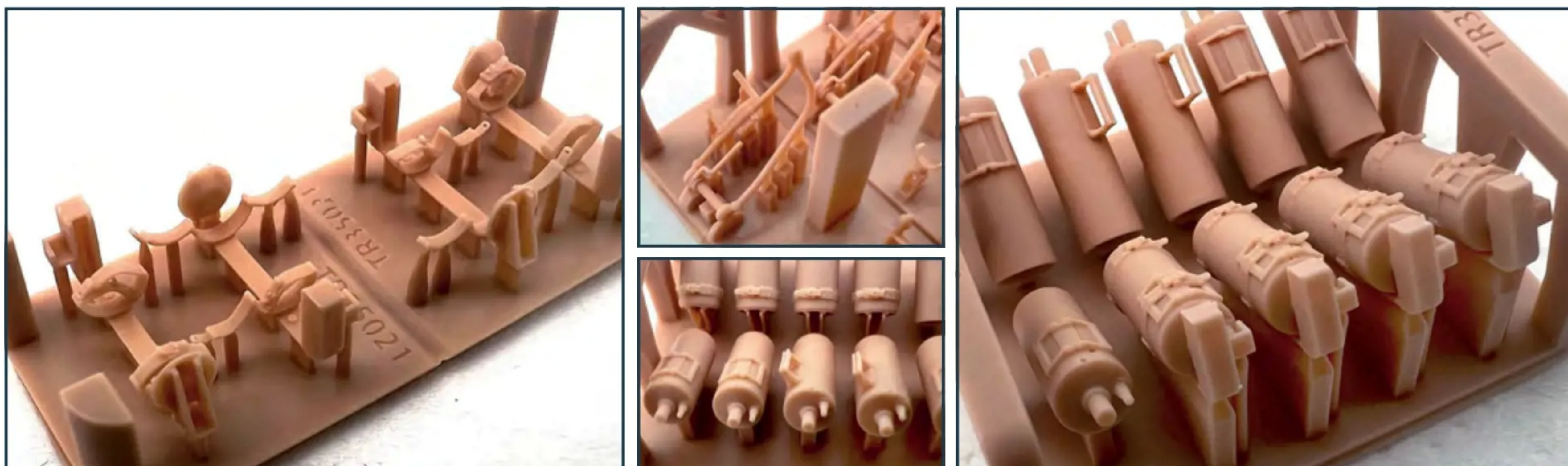
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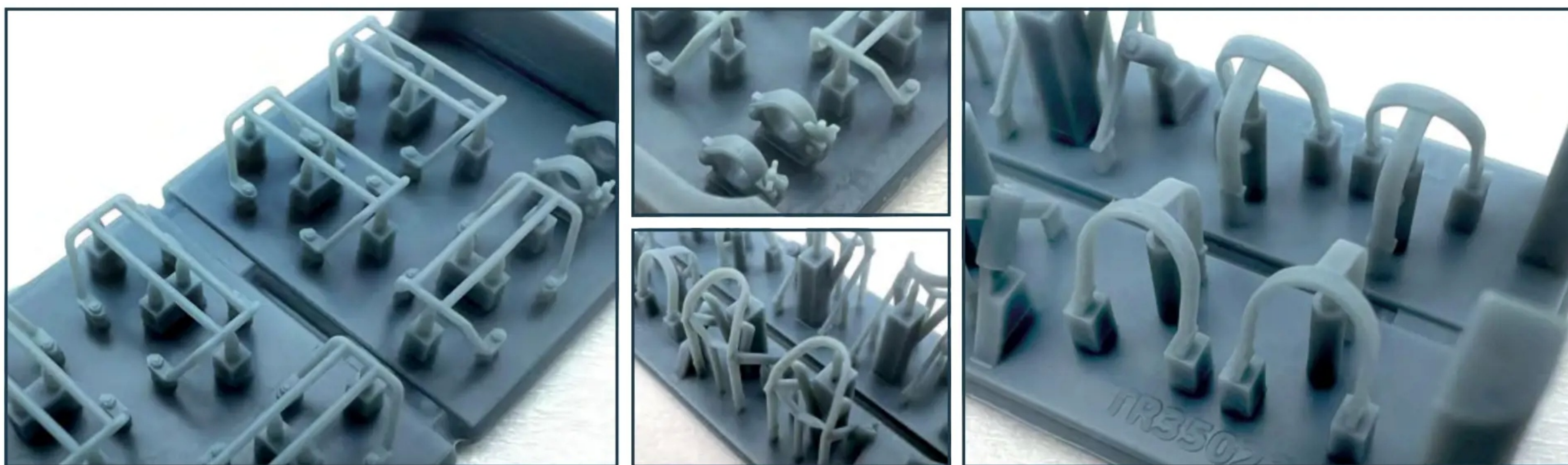
T-REX STUDIO

www.t-rex-studio.com

The fire extinguishers in most plastic kits are rather low in detail because the part is small and complex. The T-Rex set of early type extinguishers is not only detailed, but offers some interesting variations. The set includes four extinguishers clipped in their mounts, four removed, and a further two removed but with their handles up. Added to that, there are four empty brackets, two with the clips closed and two opened out. The modeller has a lot of options for extinguishers on their model! The T-Rex set of cupola MG mounts includes the type commonly found mounted on Tiger and Panther tanks. There are three in the packet, and they include all of the mechanism for releasing the arm and allowing it to slide on the rail. All of these T-Rex parts are incredibly detailed and totally accurate. They are consequently thin and fragile. As with all 3D printing, the parts must be removed using a very sharp blade, and a razor blade is ideal for this. 3D printing produces somewhat brittle item, so care is needed – but the results are without equal. These parts from T-Rex are definitely worth finding, and save both time and money to get the perfect scale effect. A quality of detail and accuracy that simply cannot be achieved in plastic or resin; not stocked widely, so mail order is the best option. **CLS**

1:35 detail set

- German fire extinguishers early type (TR35021)
- Gun mount for tank cupola (TR35030)



T-REX STUDIO

www.t-rex-studio.com

For years, the solution to getting accurate light guards on US armoured vehicles was through thinning down the plastic part or making up the complex shape from etched brass. Neither solution was ideal, but finally 3D printing has come to the rescue. The set from T-Rex entitled Light Guards (35025) contains the style of guard used on several vehicles, such as the M8/M20 armoured cars, for example. The box contains parts for four vehicles, and the guards include the holder for the plug that was used when the light was removed and the socket needed to be filled. The T-Rex set 'M4 Sherman Guards - welded hull' is a comprehensive set that includes guards for headlights, horn, rear lights, periscope protectors and even some tow cable clamps. The box contains all of these parts for two tanks, so that represents very good value. The parts are beautifully produced and show eye-watering detail, so that the modeller can simply remove the items from the support bed and glue the part in place. As with all 3D printing, the parts must be removed using a very sharp blade, and a razor blade is ideal for this. 3D printing produces somewhat brittle item, so care is needed – but the results are without equal. These parts from T-Rex are definitely worth finding, and save both time and money to get the perfect scale effect. A quality of detail and accuracy that simply cannot be achieved in plastic or resin; not stocked widely, so mail order is the best option. **CLS**

1:35 detail set

- Light guards (TR35022)
- M4 Sherman guards (TR35025)

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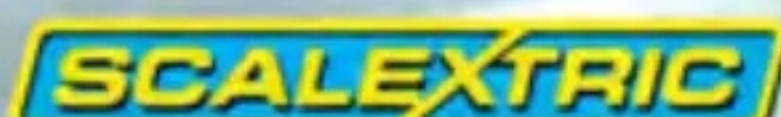
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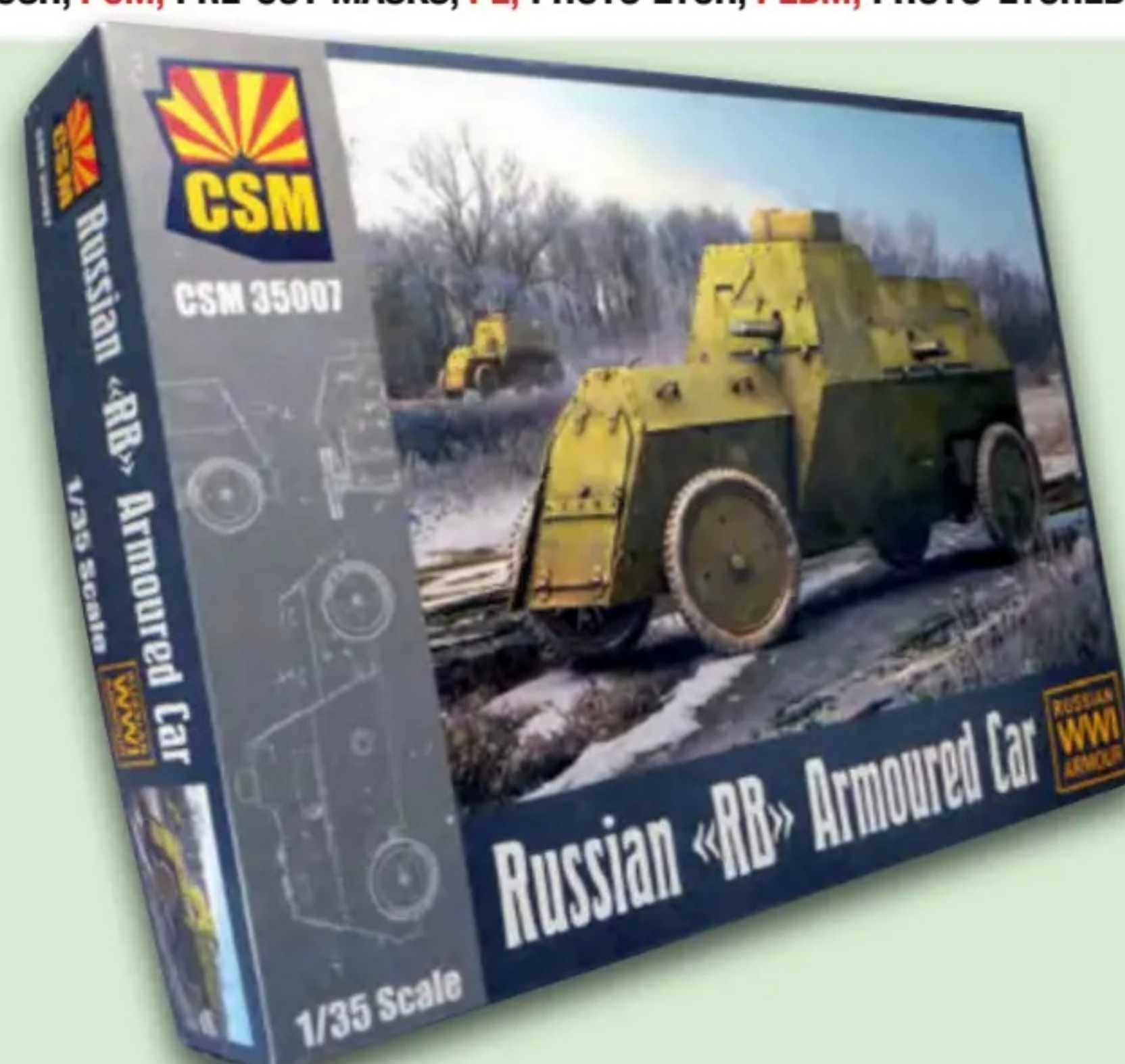
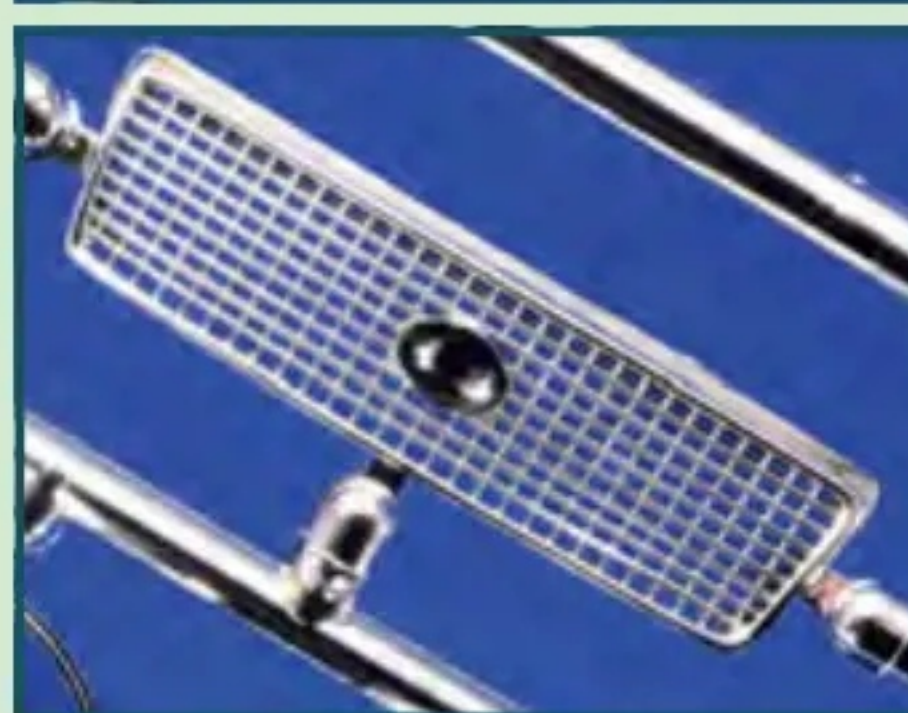
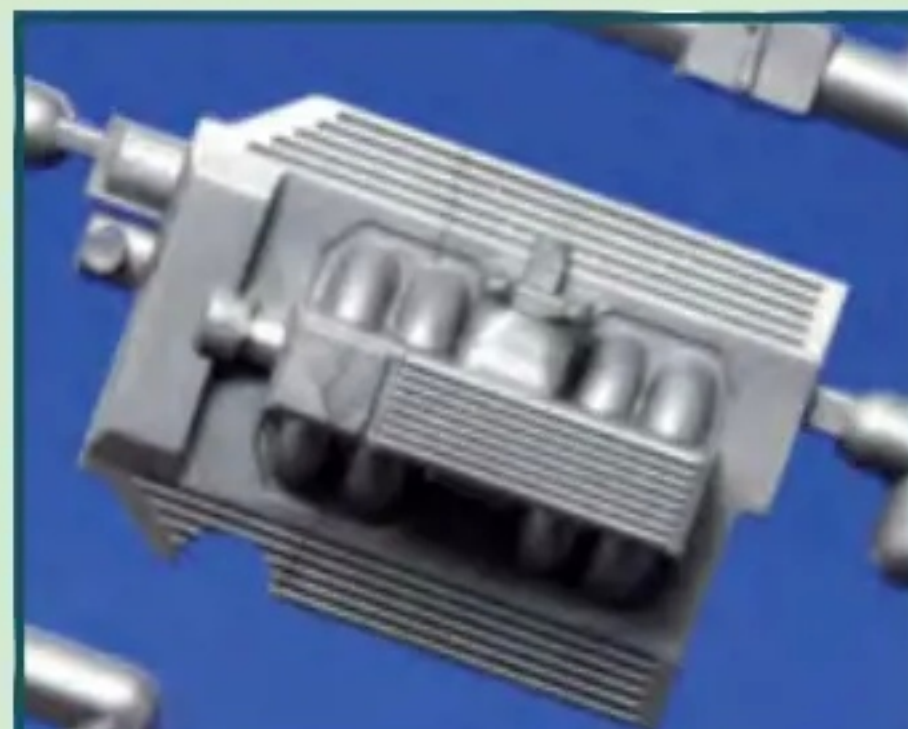
SCALE: 1:24 • MATERIALS: IM, SVT, WS • ITEM NO.24114

As British TV's Alan Partridge would say about the Lexus; "...it's the Japanese Mercedes" and in many ways, they weren't wrong.

The range was created by Toyota as a domestic challenger to the German luxury-car throne and came with a massive list of options, along with a stonking-great four-litre V8 offering 250bhp plus a heap of torque with which to propel the executive barge at autobahn speeds. Tamiya's kit – originally launched in 1992 and re-issued in more recent times – packs in the detail in an elegant and sophisticated manner that honours the refinement of the real vehicle. The model comes on a modest four sprues of injection-moulded plastic (grey, 'champagne', clear and plated) plus bodyshell, synthetic rubber tyres, polycaps, pre-cut window masks, decals and self-adhesive metal badges and provides an excellent depiction of the aforementioned powerplant. As well as the standard opaque moulding, a second bonnet part will be found on the large clear sprue allowing the engine to be seen when it's shut, an interesting novelty and quite useful as both bonnets a 'drop on' parts without hinges. To achieve Roll Royce-like levels of quiet driving, the LS400 came with a multi-stage exhaust system and this element is reflected in the kit by an impressive, one-piece part that will benefit from creative painting and patination. The huge, squashy seats are replicated to perfection as is the vast dashboard, but only a lefthand-drive option is offered, rather odd being a Japanese car, although the original was certainly aimed as the export market, the USA in particular, so perhaps that's why. So, if you fancy having a model of a company CEO's fantasy car in your display case, this is perfect, in fact two models would be even better, because you can never have too many 'Lexi'... Ahaa! **TMMI**

+ Another great model – and a Partridge classic – rejoins Tamiya's 1:24 Sports Car Series collection

- Lefthand-drive dash only



COPPER STATE MODELS RUSSIAN RB ARMOURD CAR (WWI)

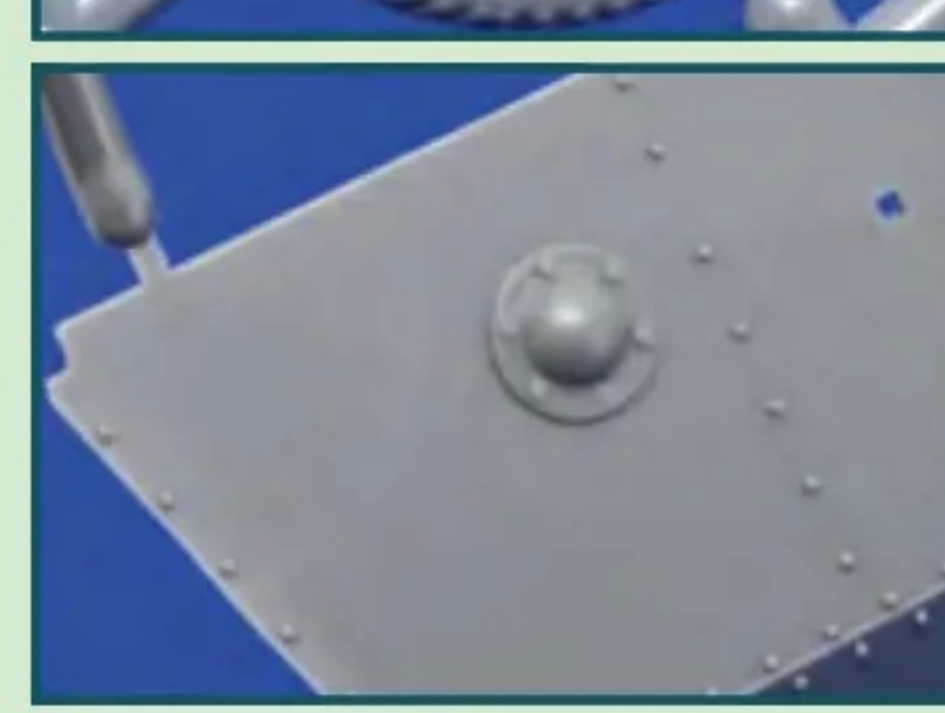
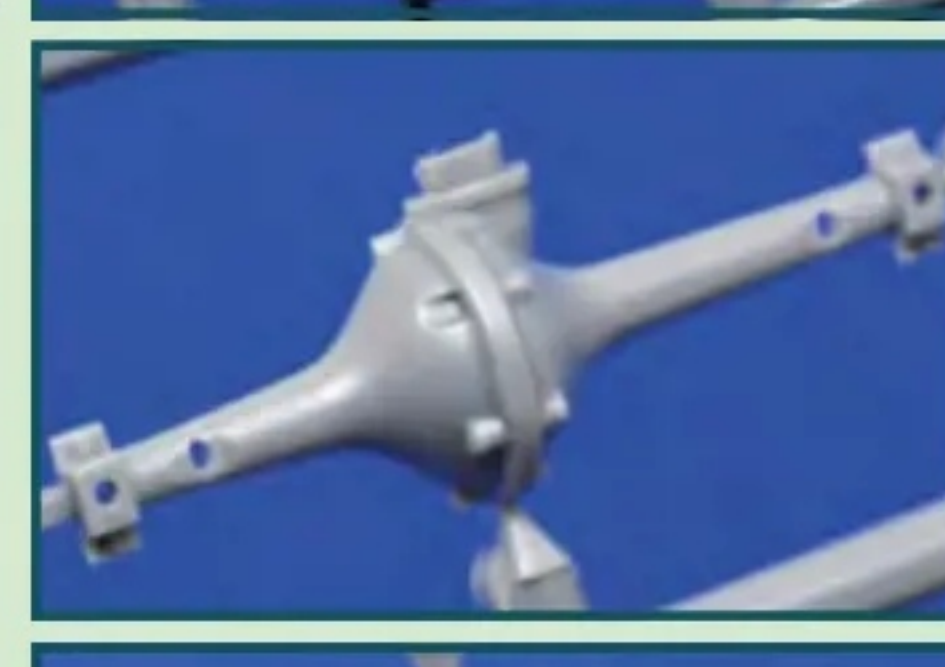
www.copperstatemodels.com

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WD • ITEM NO.CSM35007

The Russo-Balt series of vehicles was the most successful of the early, First World War Russian armoured cars and the most widely used was the Type C. Its mechanical underpinnings were repeatedly upgraded with better suspension, cooling systems and power, with the 4.5-litre four-cylinder engine giving a very decent top speed – for the time – of around 22mph. Armament comprised a trio of 7.62mm Maxim machine guns, two facing sideways and one that could be fitted to fire forwards, rearwards or upwards in a roof opening for aerial defence. Copper State Models offers a range of fantastic 1:35 First World War armoured car kits in their catalogue and the Russo-Balt Type-C is a recent addition; they kindly offered a review sample at last's year's Scale Modelworld event, and a look at the parts reveals it to be a stunningly well executed model. The parts are carried on just four sprues, but the detail present is incredibly fine, with some very small individual parts provided too. It's a very stylish production, with thick, sepia-coloured paper giving the instruction booklet the feel of a technical manual; the assembly illustrations within are very informative and have the look of those found in Wingnut Wings kits. The model's rivet-covered armoured upper body builds up plate-by-plate onto a ladder chassis which is equipped with leaf spring suspension and a live rear axle. No engine is supplied but in a neat touch, the original radiator face of the truck on which the armoured car is based is provided, the frame and manufacturer's logo of which are to be finished in brass which will inject a nice point of contrast to the overall dark green finish. An interior is incorporated and it's rather spartan, just like the real vehicle. Add some figures and this model will look amazing. **TMMI**

+ Fascinating subject, incredibly refined detail

- Some tiny parts, so careful handling will be required



IC MOTOR EPS; EXTRUDED PLASTIC SECTION, F; FABRIC, IM; INJECTION MOULDED (PLASTIC), ITL; INDIVIDUAL TRACK LINKS, LC; LIQUID CEMENT, LCC; LASER CUT CARD, LLT; LINK AND LENGTH TRACKS, MC; METAL CHAIN, ASSEMBLED METAL PARTS), PS; PAPER STRIP, R; RESIN, SVT; SOFT VINYL TYRES (OR TUBING), VF; VINYL FIGURES, VFP; VACUUM FORMED (PLASTIC), WC; WOVEN CORD, WS; WATERSLIDE (DECALS)



ICM

WWII US ARMY KITCHEN TRUCK

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.35587

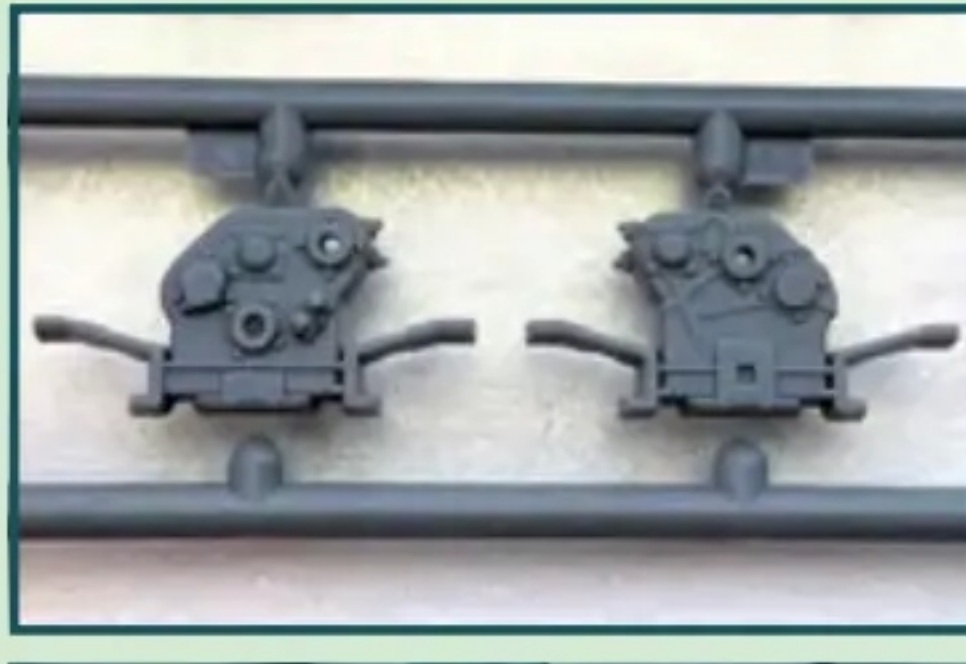
The Dodge 1.5t G7117 truck was used for many special purposes during WW2, although not for moving loads where the 2.5t GMC was much more suitable. The Dodge was a light truck and being 4x4 it could travel with the troops, providing roles where the larger trucks were not ideal. This latest release from ICM combines their Dodge truck with the US army kitchen set that was released separately and consists of three M1937 Field Range petrol stoves, marmite transport containers and a standard workbench. This set-up would serve 150-180 men (a company). Two meals were provided each day, at dawn and dusk. Often these trucks would have a trailer for supplies. The ICM kit is a superb rendering of the Dodge truck, with the higher tilt hoops that were provided on this version to allow the cooks to stand upright. The model could equally be made as a separate truck and the kitchen set up in a building, but from the box we have a mobile kitchen which would normally be driven up to the front line for serving the meals, then driven back for safety. Once again, ICM have provided an excellent model in its own right, with great diorama potential. The colour options are limited, as it was olive drab all the way, with dull aluminium for some of the kitchen equipment. Decals are limited to stars and registration numbers. **CLS**



A very unusual model, as the field kitchens were rarely seen in photos



This kitchen was more commonly fitted in the larger GMC 6x6 trucks



ICM

PANZERWAFFE STEEL CATS

www.icm.com.ua www.hannants.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.Ds3524

Certain tanks fielded by the German Army in WW2 have become icons that are easily recognised and two that are particularly well known are the Panther and the King Tiger. ICM have packaged these two incredible vehicles in one box, giving an instant collection of German armour! The Panther is the Ausf.D version, which was the first version to appear in mid-1943, just in time for the Kursk battles. This type did survive through to later in the war, but decal options are only for 1943. The kit is excellently designed, with exceptional mould quality and detail and ICM have kept the separate parts down to a sensible number without any loss of accuracy. This makes the kit very 'modeller-friendly', particularly as no Zimmerit was fitted to this type. The King Tiger (Tiger II, Königstiger) began to appear in February 1944 and this kit comes with the 'Henschel' production turret. Up until September 1944, the Tigers would have been coated with Zimmerit paste, but if manufactured after this date, the modeller does not have to add this to the model. As with the Panther kit, the King Tiger is accurate and beautifully moulded. There is crisp detail and good consideration of making life easier for the model-maker. The number of parts has been kept down, so that construction is quick and easy. Unlike the individual track links in the Panther kit, the King Tiger has lengths of flexible plastic track, with the joints in hidden locations. Altogether, a great combination of two awesome kits of famous vehicles. **CLS**



Simple construction with absolutely no loss in accuracy and detail



Some modellers will want to use aftermarket mesh on the rear air vents



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MINIART

OIL PRODUCTS DELIVERY CAR, LIEFER PRITSCHENWAGEN TYP 170V

www.miniart-models.com www.creativemodels.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, EB, WS • ITEM NO.38069

The Mercedes Typ 170V car first appeared in the late 1930s and had many modern features that made the vehicle a great commercial success. Production continued until 1943 and resumed after WW2 until the late 1950's. In addition to being used for family cars, the chassis was employed as the basis of many delivery vans and light trucks. MiniArt have produced many of these versions and this particular box contains parts for the delivery car with a flat bed and canvas cover. These were used extensively in the post-war period and in this release from MiniArt they have supplied two fuel drums, plus decals for German, Belgian and Danish vehicles. Typical of this decade after WW2, the liveries are all colourful and the decals are extremely attractive, making this a spectacular model whichever scheme is chosen. The vehicle kit itself is the same as 38060 and 38072, with just the decals and oil drums being special to this release. The moulding is exceptional, with incredible detail in the engine and interior as well as the exterior. The canvas cover is particularly well done and the rear flap can be positioned open or closed. The only tiny glitch is that the fuel drum 'hoops' need a little thinning to fit, but this is explained in the instructions and is an easy fix. Overall, we get an attractive little delivery car that was widely used in the immediate post-war period and the kit is an accurate model, easy and quick to assemble. **CLS**



- + A beautiful 1950's commercial delivery car with eye-catching paintwork
- The driver would have needed a ramp of planks to get the fuel drums in and out



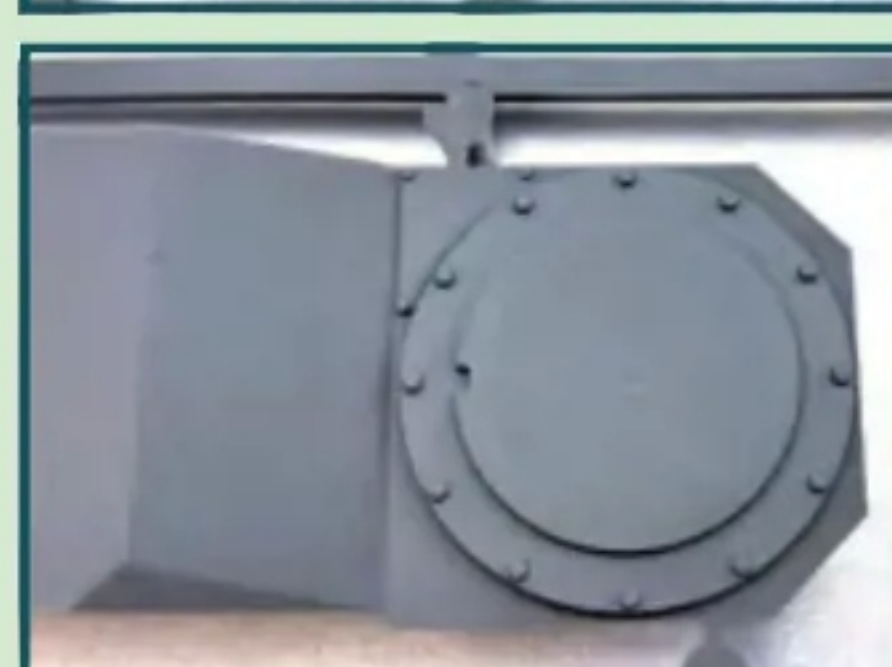
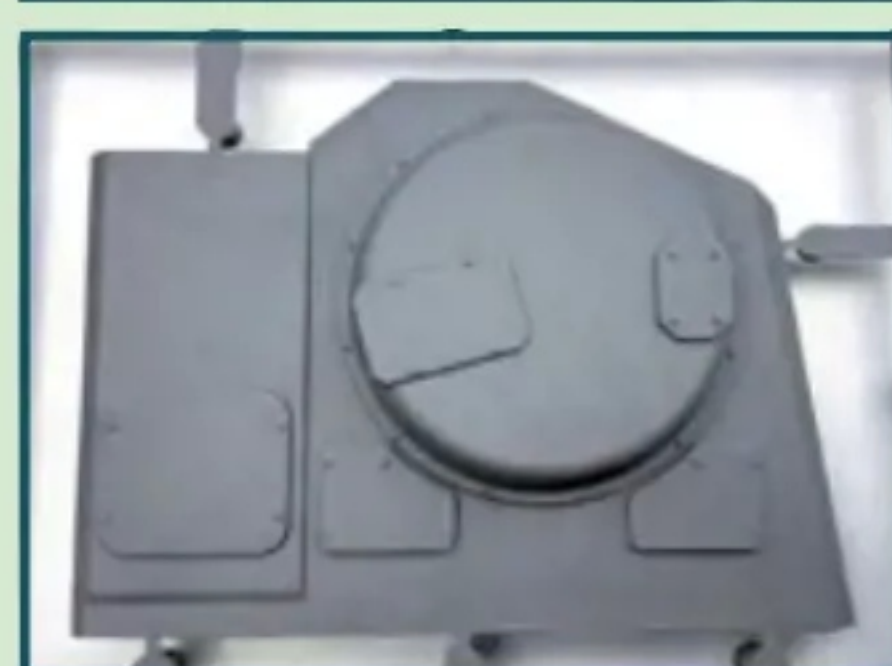
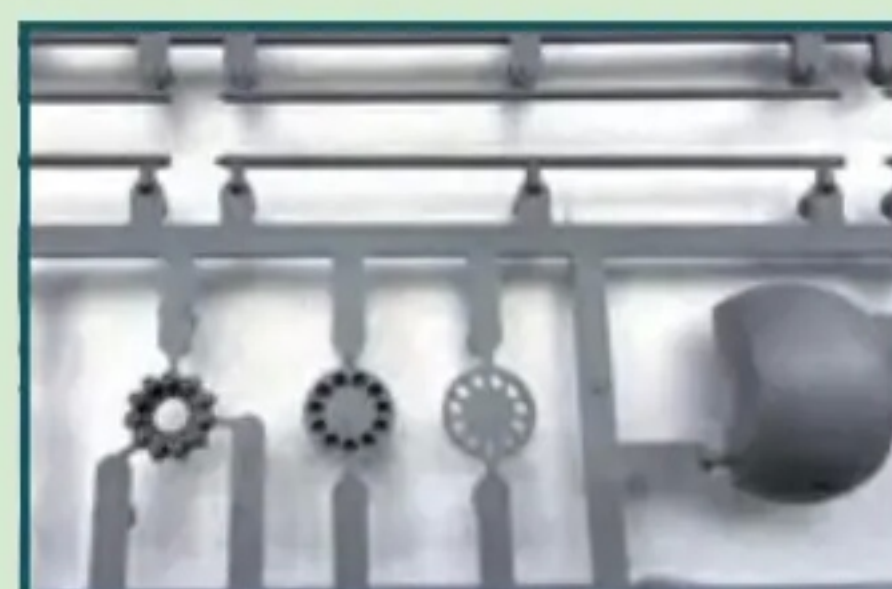
TAKOM

H/PJ11-11-30CIWS - CHINESE NAVY GUN TURRET

www.takom-world.com www.bachmann.co.uk

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE • ITEM NO.2186

The new interest in naval turrets of World War Two as well as modern eras has launched a range of releases from Takom which now include this modern-day anti-missile weapon. This particular turret has an eleven-barrelled rotary cannon, firing hefty 30mm rounds. The rate of fire is 11,000 rounds per minute, so amazingly that is a thousand rounds coming out of each barrel in sixty seconds! Intended for use against anti-ship missiles, the H/PJ-11 can equally be used against aircraft, ships and coastal targets. The radar can pick up targets 8km away and the rotary gun has an effective range of 5km. The kit consists of detailed, injection-moulded polystyrene parts which include a base for the turret and allow the model to be displayed as an impressive item. Some of the finer parts – handles and the chute for spent rounds – are provided in photo-etched brass and overall the kit should build up simply and relatively quickly. This type of ship's turret is currently fitted on a number of different Chinese destroyer and frigate classes and will be a familiar sight into the future. As with most of these 1:35 naval turrets, the colour options are limited to light grey and weathering will be minimal. However, the large surfaces of the model parts offer lots of possibilities for streaking, staining and shading making them fascinating subjects to have in one's model collection, particularly if an appropriately-scaled figure is added, to give a sense of scale. **CLS**



- + A very unusual model of a powerful eleven-barrel naval turret
- Only one colour option, but still a very impressive turret model in 1:35

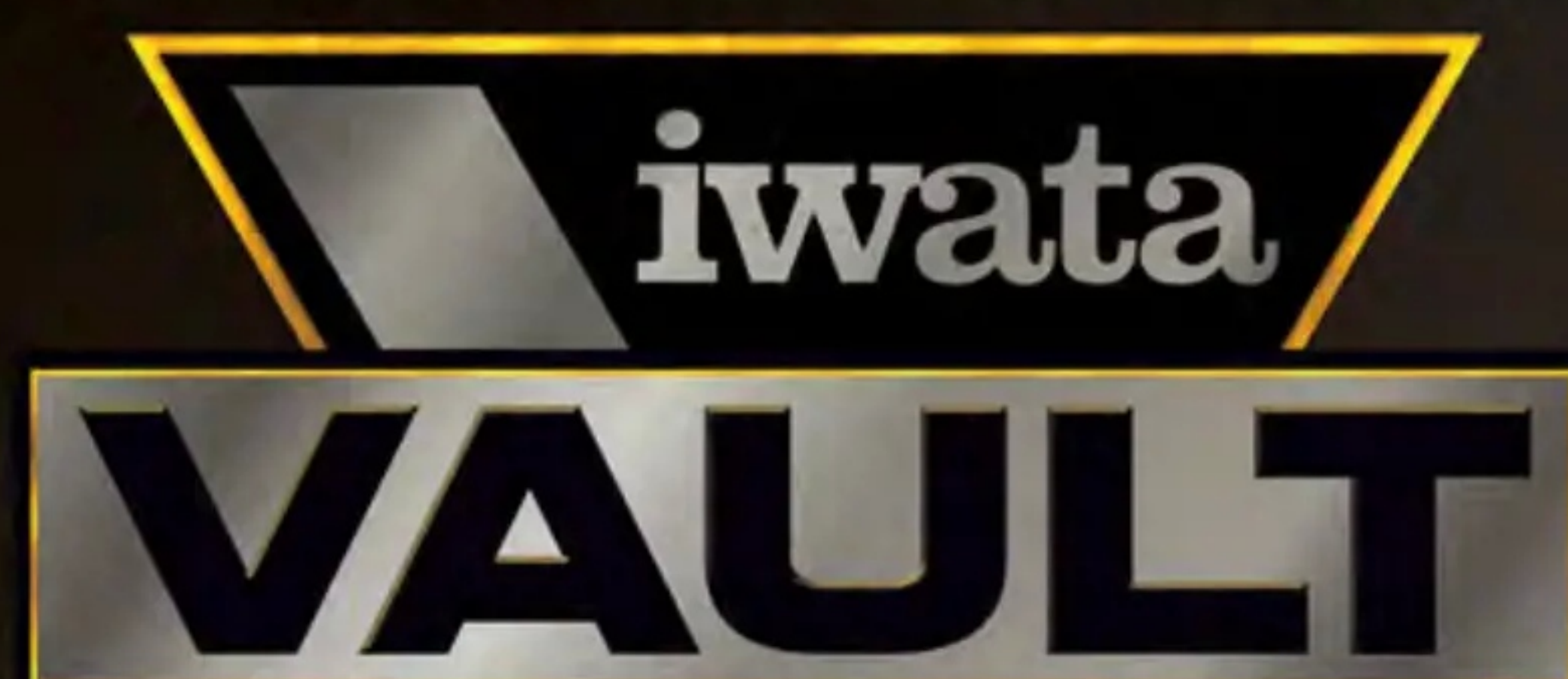
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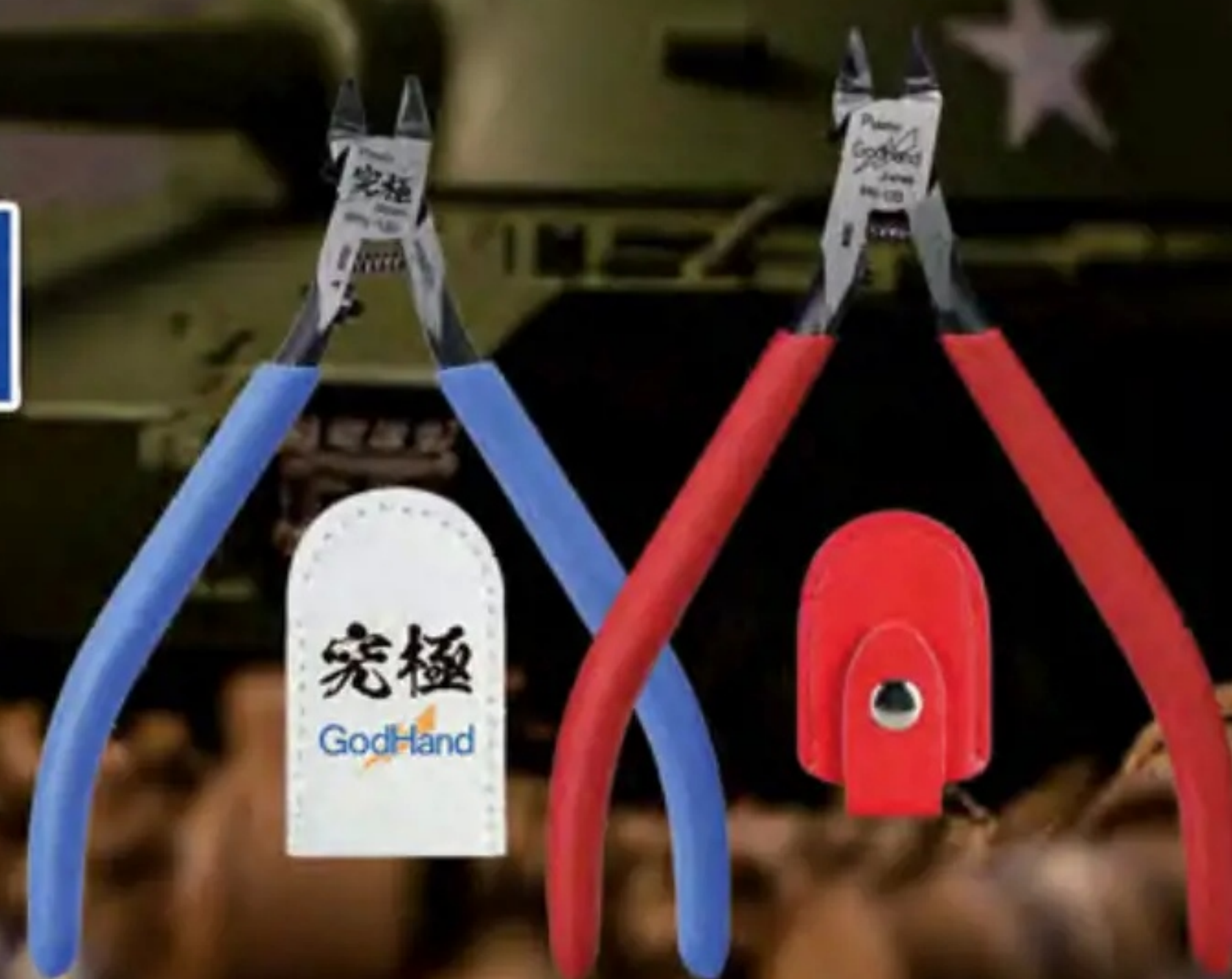
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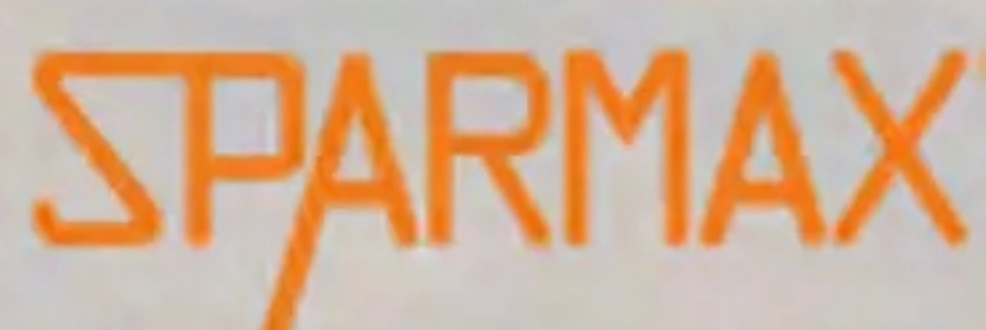
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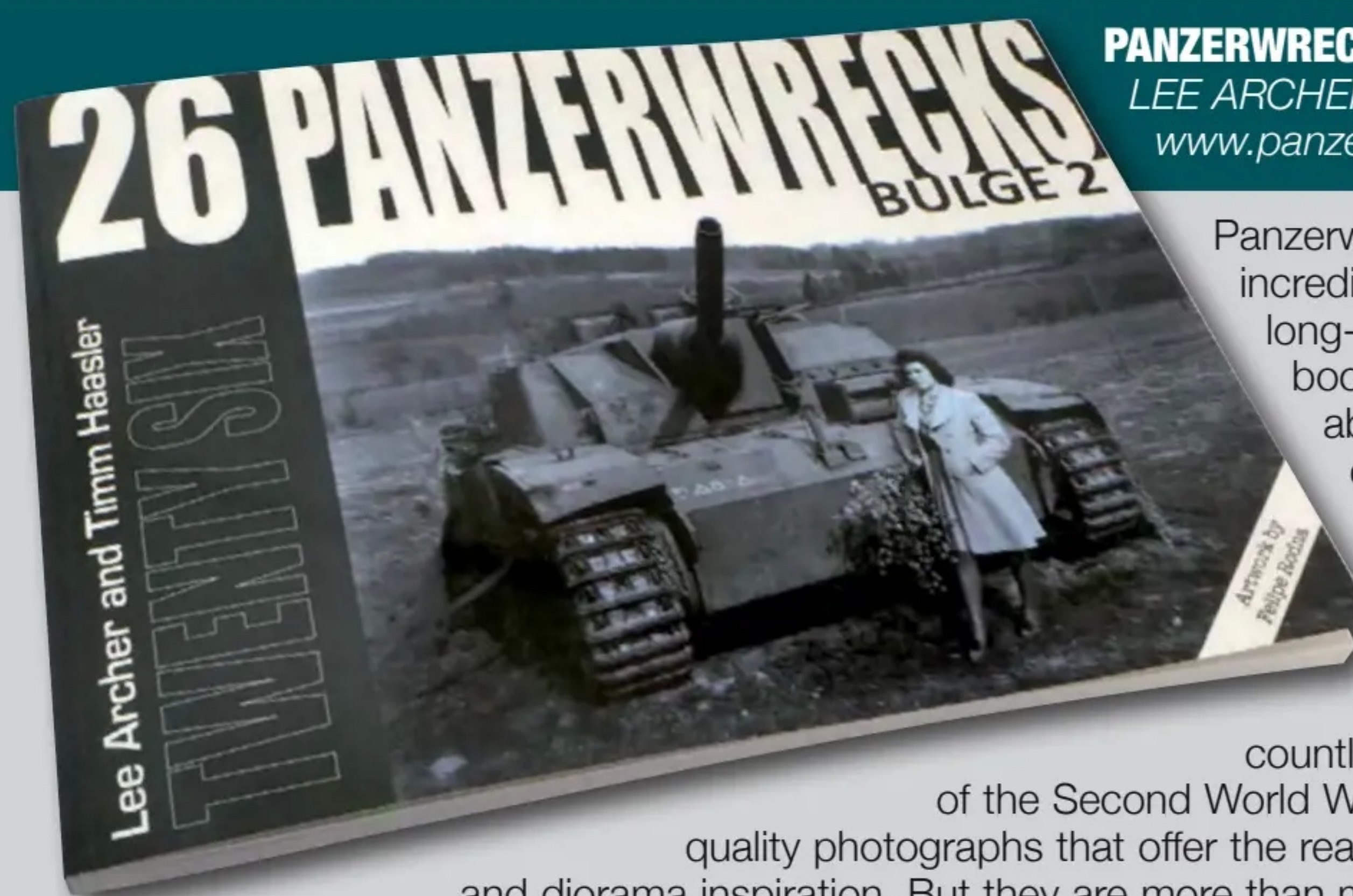


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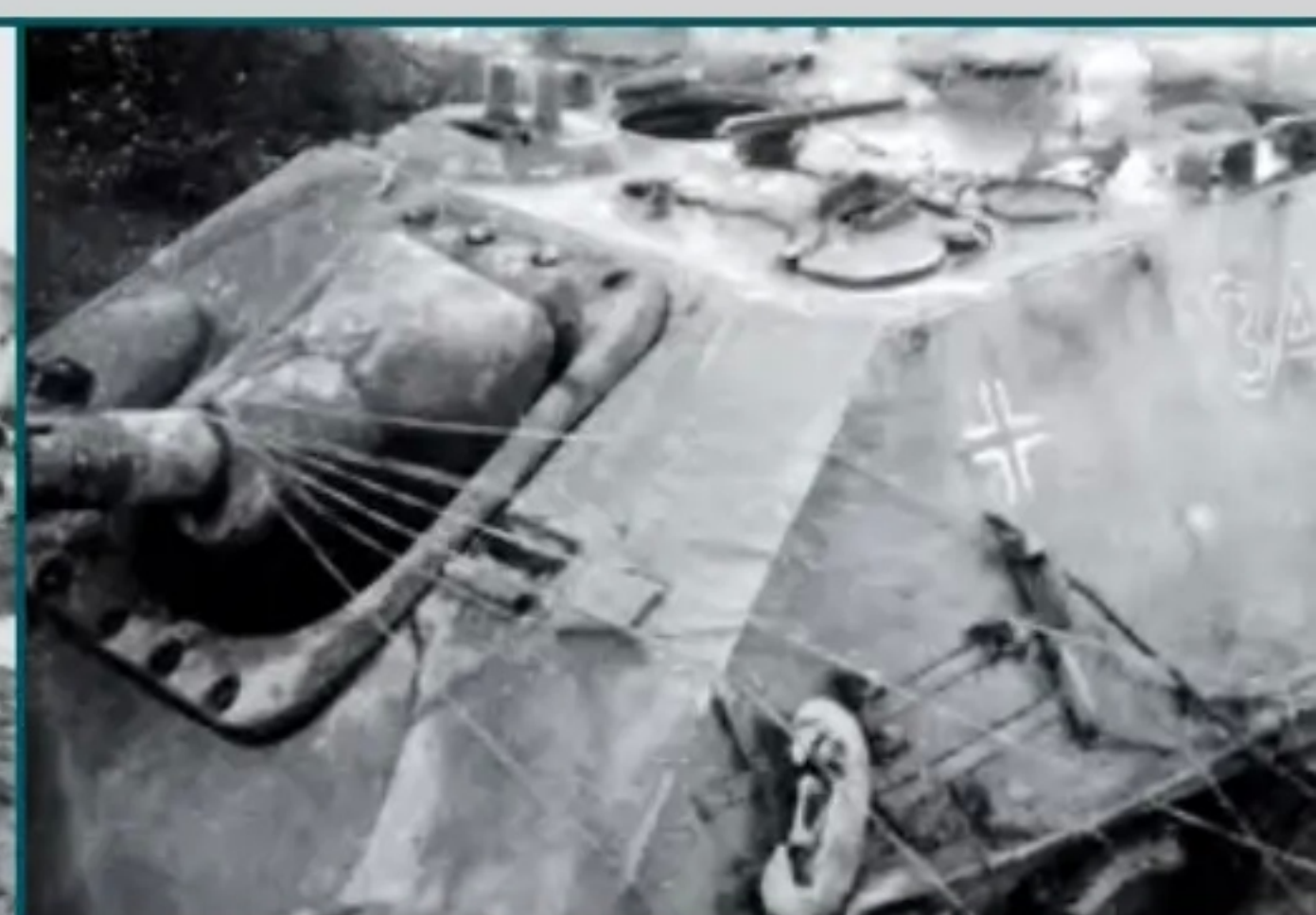


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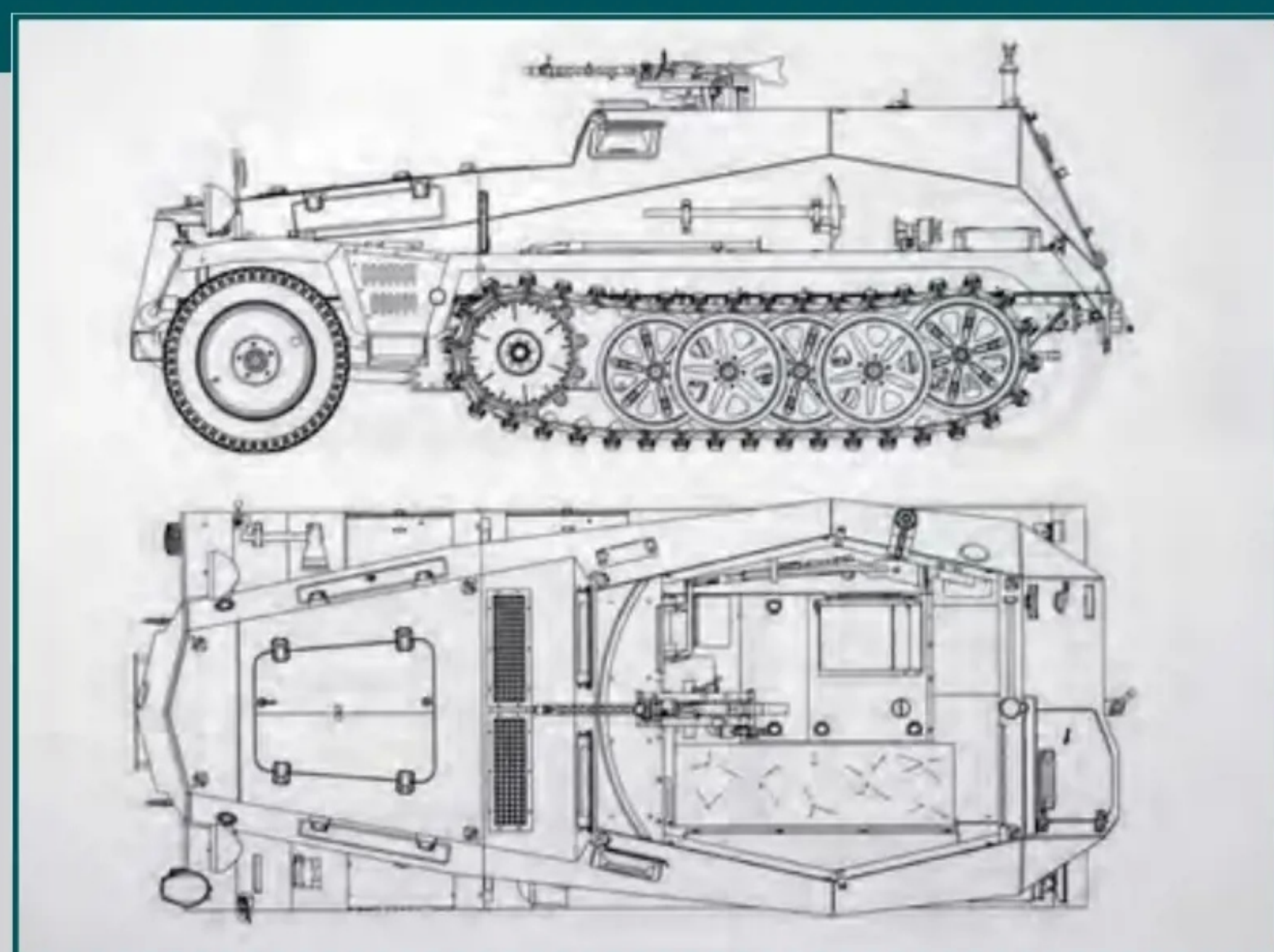


of the Second World War. The books are presented in the ideal format: landscape layout with large, high quality photographs that offer the reader the maximum information for the purposes of armour modelling references and diorama inspiration. But they are more than mere photo albums; here we have highly accurate historical references in which the subject and location of each image has been thoroughly researched by the authors, giving the series an authoritative edge as well as an engaging read. Accompanying the engrossing imagery, examples of the superb artwork of Felipe Rodna are dotted throughout. These are stunning and make excellent references in their own right, so good are they. In Volume 26 we are treated to a 130+ page tour of the Battle of the Bulge's wrecked German hardware, with Tiger II, Panther, Jagdpanther, Sturmgeschütz of various types, Wirbelwind, Möbelwagen, Sd.Kfz.251, Jagdpanzer 38(t) and many other types featured. If you are fascinated by battlefield leftovers, this book will be a great addition to your modelling reference library. **TMMI**



PANZER TRACTS NO.15-1 LEICHTER SCHÜTZENPANZERWAGEN (SD.KFZ.250) AUSF.A & B
HILARY LOUIS DOYLE, THOMAS L JENTZ
www.panzerwrecks.com

With new kits of the World War Two German Sd.Kfz.250 having been released by Takom in 1:35 and by Das Werk in 1:16, plus re-issues of the still-excellent Dragon models, this re-published edition of the vehicle in the Panzer Tracts series will prove utterly invaluable for modellers looking to add even more detail to



their models. This one hundred-page, soft-cover volume from internationally respected authors Hilary Louis Doyle and Thomas L Jentz offers an in-depth and an authoritative one-volume source on the '250, providing a detailed background of its development, specifications, systems and operational history, accompanied by masses of superb reference photographs and scale drawings. The early vehicle with its familiar multi-faceted hull dominates the book, naturally, as it had the most versions of the design, but the later, flat-sided 'neue-Art' machines are also discussed, making this an excellent resource for anyone contemplating a modelling project. **TMMI**



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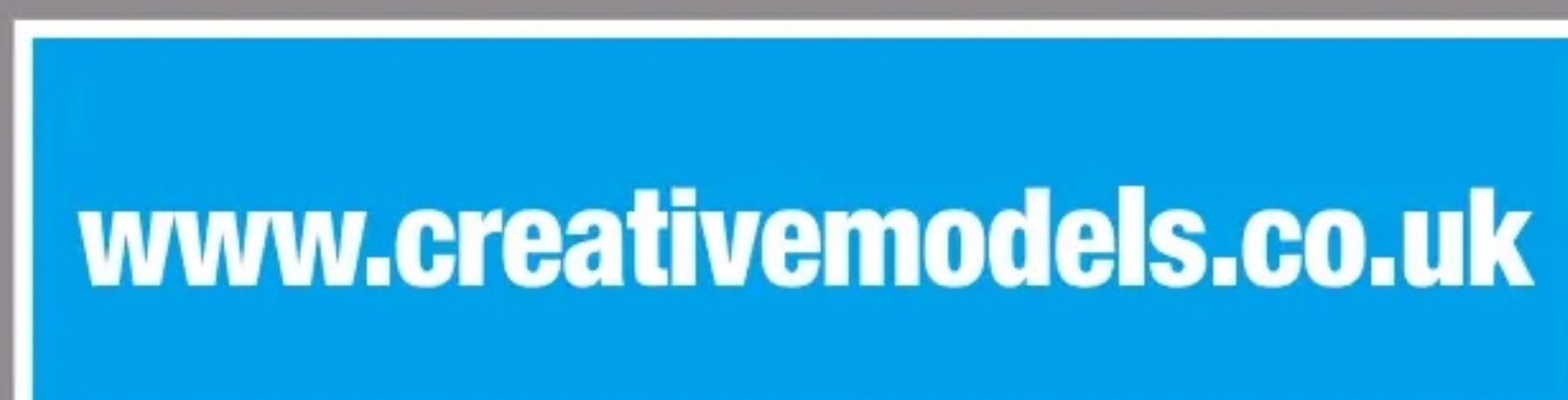
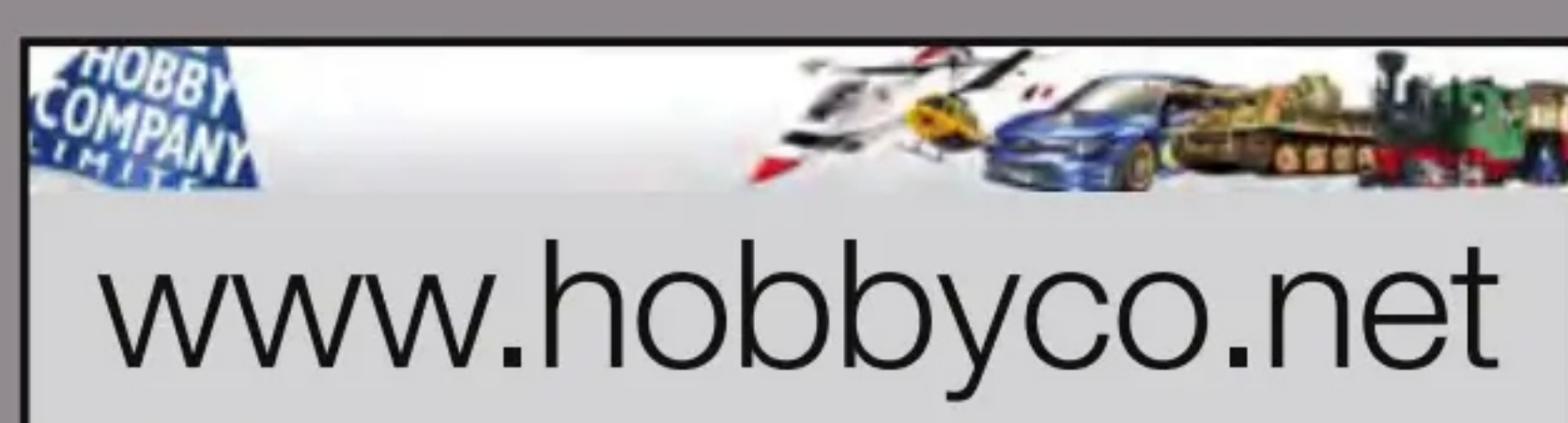


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The next issue of TMMI is April 2025 (No.354),
on sale 20th March



BIG YAK ATTACK!

ICM'S 1:32 Yak 9t
'Normandie-Niemen'

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Tamiya's 1:24 Mercedes-Benz
SLR McLaren 722 'Sport
Leicht Rennsport'



TIGER'S NEMESIS

The stunning Tamiya/Asuka Sherman
Firefly in 1:35

...AND MUCH MORE, OF COURSE!

Due to the numerous factors that can influence the appearance (or non-appearance) of a model feature in TMMI, the articles listed here are shown on a provisional basis only. We do our best to bring them to you, but please be patient if they do not appear! Thank you for your understanding.

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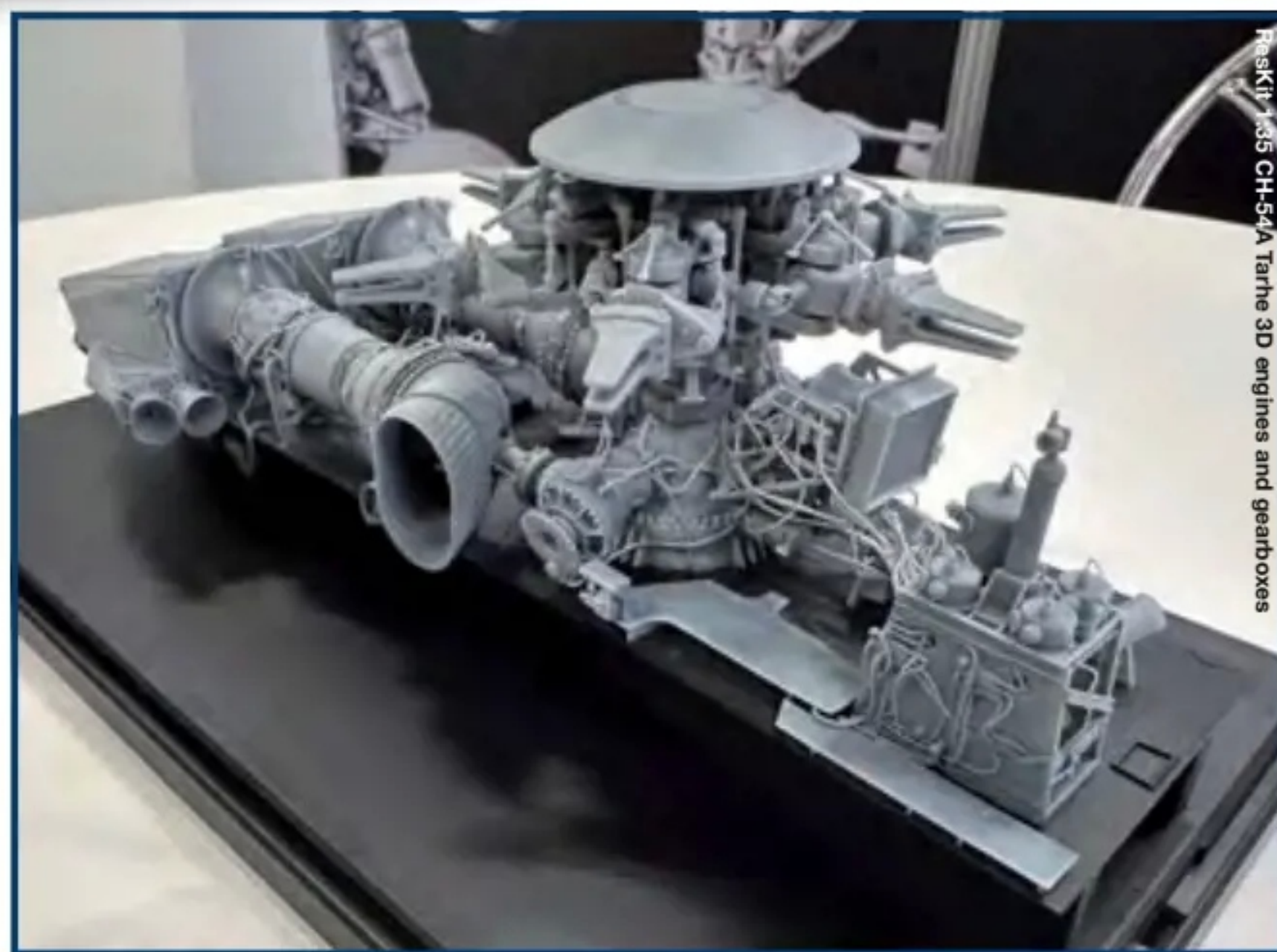
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NUREMBERG DIARIES

Another year has passed and another Nuremberg Toy Fair has come and gone. The scale modelling manufacturers' stands shifted from the bright and airy Hall 7A to plain old Hall 7 with its lower ceilings and lack of daylight, but it didn't matter to me, because I was too engrossed in those models on show! As a final look at the 2025 Toy Fair, here are a few things that caught my eye, plus the usual gratuitous car, cake, coffee and beer photos! ●



SPECIAL FEATURE

TAMIYA 1:72 LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35B LIGHTNING II • KIT NO.60793



TAMIYA'S 1:72 F-35B: A LOVELY LITTLE LIGHTNING!

Tamiya's 1:72 F-35B joins the 'Scale Warbird Collection' of fighting aircraft

The Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II is operated by the Royal Air Force's famous 617 Squadron 'Dambusters', United States Marine Corps, Italian Navy, Italian Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Belgian Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defence Force, and the Republic of Singapore Air Force. The kit encompasses all the astonishing detail and accuracy of its bigger 1:48 cousin, a model that was featured back in Tamiya Model Magazine Issue 339, January 2024.

The new version takes in all the design changes for the B-model, most notably that huge intake door behind the cockpit, the inner face of which is often adorned with the flag of the operating nation. Inside that door, Tamiya have recreated an astonishing amount of detail and the same is true of the '3BSM' (3-Bearing Swivel Module) engine exhaust nozzle that can be positioned in the 'hovering' mode. It is

covered in amazing detail and just needs some creative paint work to bring it to life.

Two modes can be chosen by the modeller: hovering, with open intake door, downward-facing exhaust nozzle, extended undercarriage leg struts and scissor-links, and 'landed' mode, which uses a different set of undercarriage parts in the 'compressed' configuration (with closed scissor-links) to depict the aircraft's weight pressing down on the legs: an important observation by Tamiya's designers. This is another wonderful achievement from Tamiya, and an exquisite replica of this extraordinary fighter and one of the best 1:72 kits ever created. ●

Availability:

Tamiya models, paints, materials and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net

Kit features:

- Wingspan: 148mm
- Fuselage length: 215mm
- Distinctive F-35B design featuring both highly advanced stealth characteristics and STOVL is authentically captured in style, with ergonomic parts breakdown
- The modellers can choose one of two assembly modes: landed or hovering
- Realistic renderings of half-open inner weapon bay doors and interior details such as ribs and pipes
- Lift fan is integrated with nose landing gear bay and the variable vane underneath is recreated in detail
- Shorter than on the F-35A, the engine nozzle is recreated by a single part
- The 3BSM (3-Bearing Swivel Module) is faithfully recreated with a specially designed parts breakdown for this kit
- Y-shaped air intake duct for highly advanced stealth characteristics
- Martin-Baker US16E ejection seat
- RCS (Radar Cross Section) enhancers affixed to top and bottom sections during basic training exercises
- Five marking options from a total of three countries: United States Marine Corps, Royal Air Force, Italian Navy
- Includes painting masks and colour painting guide
- Refined recreation of RAM (Radar Absorbent Material)
- Includes AIM-9X Sidewinder x2, AIM-120C AMRAAM x2



LOCKHEED MARTIN® F-35C LIGHTNING II®



**1/48
SCALE**

Another Elite Presence in the Line-up

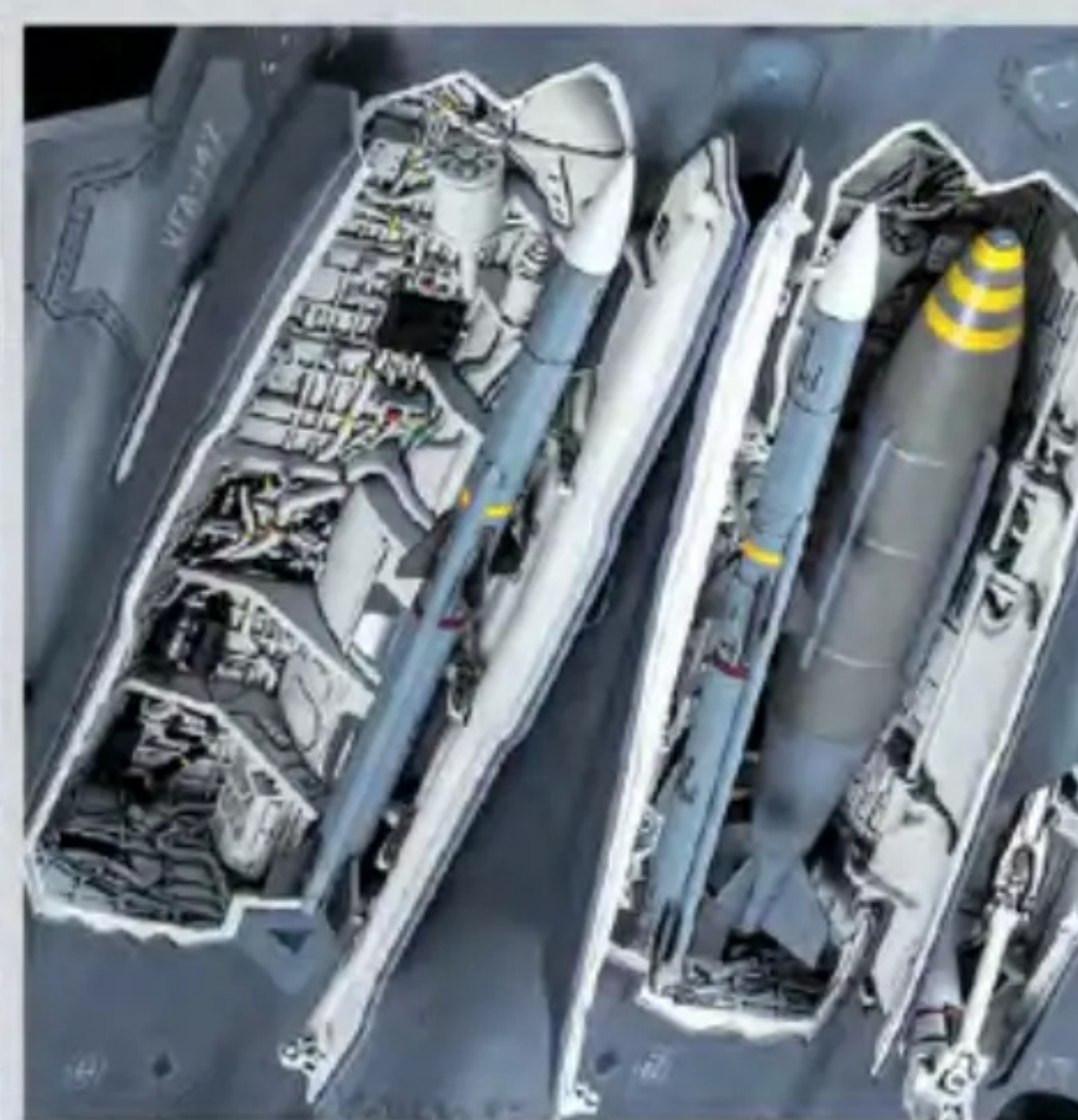
1/48 Aircraft Series Lockheed Martin® F-35®C Lightning II® (Item 61127)

Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II is a single-engine, single seater 5th Generation fighter developed with three distinct variants, each enjoying extremely low observability and excellent connectivity. The F-35C is intended for carrier deployment, and now it joins the legendary Tamiya 1/48 Aircraft Series! Inheriting the ergonomic assembly experiences of our F-35A and F-35B kits, the distinctive form of F-35C with the largest wings and stabilizers among the F-35 variants is authentically captured in style with almost all new parts. Choose between deployed and folded wingtip parts, which can be interchanged after assembly. The kit also faithfully recreates F-35C characteristics such as the reinforced nose landing gear with dual tires, rigid main landing gear and fuel probe on the right side of nose. 6 marking options are included to recreate six active Navy and Marine Corps units which have deployed the F-35C as of 2024. Explore the last, cutting-edge F-35 variant by assembling our kit!



Fuselage length: 327mm,
wingspan: 273mm.

The F-35C has larger wings and stabilizers than other F-35 variants. Almost all new parts are used to capture them.



Choose between open and closed weapons bay doors. They display detailed depictions of various cables and lines.



Separate assemblies of deployed and folded wingtips can be interchanged after assembly.



The optional gun pod is also recreated with accuracy.



Arresting hook doors are depicted open.

《All F-35 variants in the Tamiya line-up!》 1/48 Aircraft Series



Lockheed Martin® F-35®A
Lightning II® (Item 61124)



Lockheed Martin® F-35®B
Lightning II® (Item 61125)



Lockheed Martin® F-35®C
Lightning II® (Item 61127)

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