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YAK ATTACK

ICM's 1:32 Yak 9t
Normandie-Niemen
FULL-BUILD

**ISSUE
354**

April 2025

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TAMIYA



Model MAGAZINE

INTERNATIONAL



PARLES-VOUS FRANÇAIS?

Tamiya's all-new 1:35 WW2
H39 French Light Tank
FIRST LOOK



ONE FOR THE
ROAD
Converting Tamiya's 1:24
Mercedes-Benz SLR
McLaren 722 Edition

INSIDE

Nunu 1:24 Porsche 911 2018, Tamiya/Asuka Sherman Firefly - Airfix 1:48 Lysander, Alpha
Model Mercedes C63 AMG previewed- plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

DOOLITTLE
MEDIA



PORSCHE 911 GT3 RS

(992)



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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.

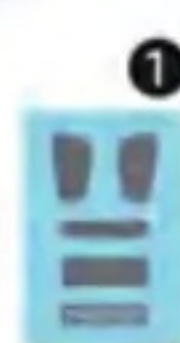


Decals recreate door panel, dashboard and seat surface details in the "Weissach package" interior.



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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Tamiya's new 1:35 H39 French Light Tank, first look



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Tamiya's 1:24 Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren 722 Edition



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ICM's 1:32 Yak 9t Normandie-Niemen full-build

Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

Issue 354 April 2025

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IN BRIEF...



TAMIYA

- 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 II GTI 16V (MB-01)
- 1:10 RC Audi R8 LMS 2008 (TT-02)
- 1:10 RC Mini Cooper Racing (MB-01)
- 1:10 RC M-08R Chassis Kit
- 1:10 RC M-07R Chassis Kit
- 1:24 Mercedes-Benz 500 SEC
- 1:24 Honda Prelude XX

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



AIRFIX

- 1:144 SLS Artemis
- airfix.com and good retailers worldwide

ARMA HOBBY

- 1:72 Me262
 - 1:72 P-51D Mustang
- armahobby.com and good retailers worldwide



EDUARD

- 1:35 2cm Flak38 PE set for ICM
 - 1:350 USS Wasp LHD-1 PE set for Trumpeter
 - 1:72 Bf109G-10 WNF/Diana ProfiPACK
 - 1:72 Fw190A-3 Weekend Edition
- eduard.com creativemodels.co.uk and good retailers worldwide



GECKO MODELS

- 1:16 PaK40
- tankmuseumshop.org and good retailers worldwide



ICM

- 1:48 Hampden TB Mk.I
- icm.com.ua.com hobbyco.net and good retailers worldwide



MINIART

- Stuart Mk.I Honey
- miniart-models.com creativemodels.co.uk

REVELL

- 1:72 M109A2
- revell.de and from good retailers worldwide



RYE FIELD MODEL

- 1:35 M551 Sheridan Light Tank Vietnam War
- From good retailers worldwide



COMING SOON FROM TAMIYA

1:10 RC Porsche 911 Carrera RSR 2.8

This stunning classic Porsche RSR is coming soon to Tamiya's 1:10 radio control range. Check out those cool wheels!

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



COMING BACK SOON FROM TAMIYA

1:24 Porsche 962 Jägermeister

Another fantastic Tamiya Porsche kit is returning, this time in 1:24.

The gorgeous Jägermeister scheme on the swoopy 962 looks amazing and it's a must-have for all model motorsports fanatics.



COMING BACK SOON FROM TAMIYA

1:10 RC Mini Cooper Racing MB-01 chassis

With a renewed BMW license, Tamiya is bringing back the brilliant 1:10 RC Mini Cooper, which looks so good in RC model-form.

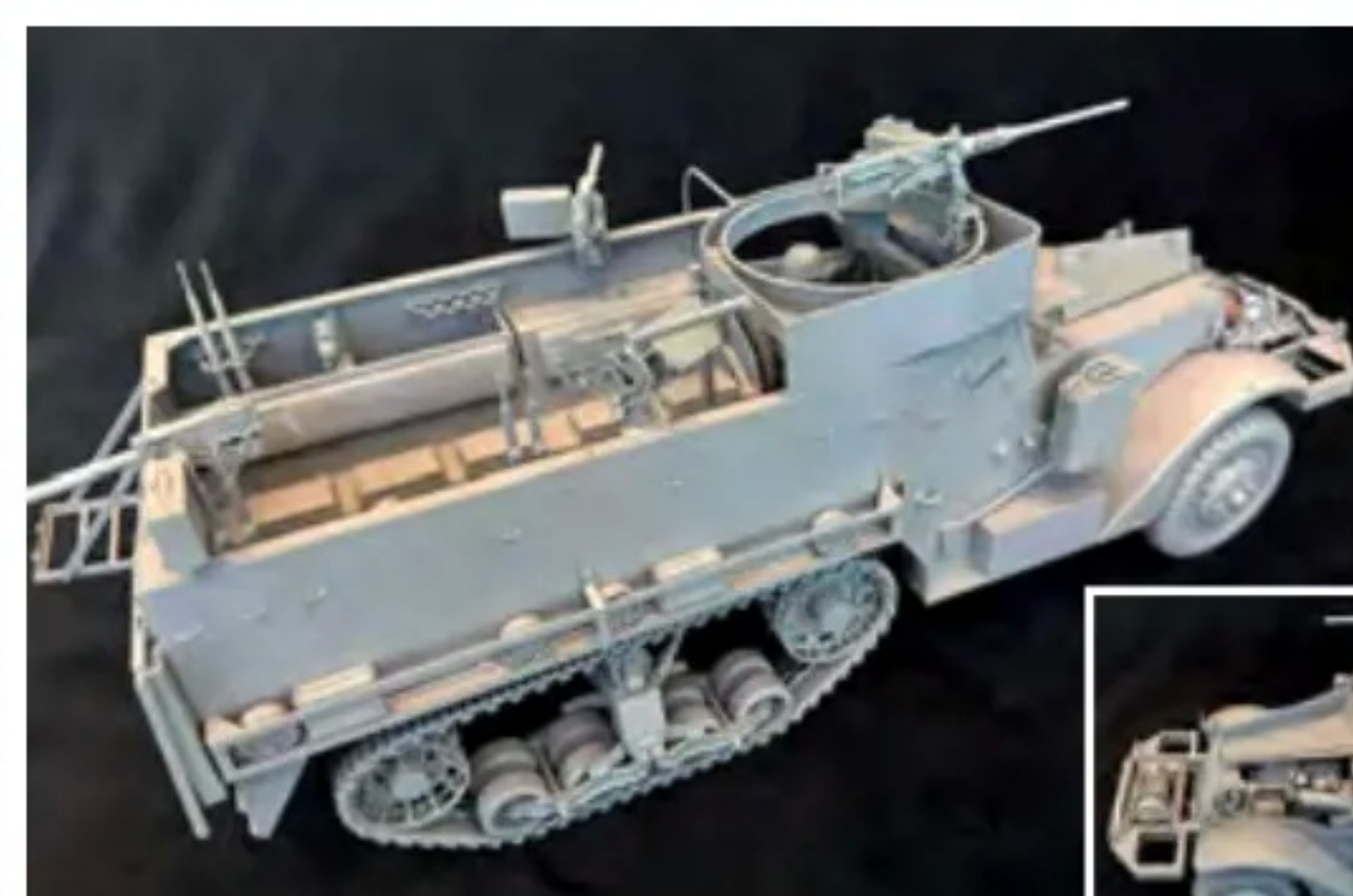
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide



NEW FROM ARMA HOBBY

1:72 Curtiss H-75 A1/A2

Arma Hobby continue to expand their range of fantastic aircraft kits in 1:72 and 1:48. In the former scale, we have the handsome Curtiss H-75 in French airforce colours on its way. www.armahobby.com and from good retailers worldwide



COMING SOON FROM ANDY'S HOBBY HEADQUARTERS

1:16 M3/M3A1 US halftrack

The next big – in both size and impact – 1:16 kit to be created by AHQ is the iconic US WW2 M3 halftrack, surely one of the best-looking military vehicles of the Second World War.

www.andyshhq.com www.modellbau-koenig.de and from good retailers worldwide



ALL NEW FROM AIRFIX - 1:72 Westland Wessex HC.2

This is an all-new kit for 2025 and from the digital imagery, it looks fantastic.

More news soon in TMMI. www.airfix.com and from good retailers worldwide



COMING SOON FROM DAS WERK 1:32 Messerschmitt P.1101

The P.1101 was an experimental design that was an influence on numerous post-war early jet fighters. Das Werk's kit will be packed with detail and in 1:32, a good size too.

www.modellbau-koenig.de and from good retailers worldwide

COMING SOON FROM GECKO MODELS 1:16 German Pz.Kpfw II (Sd.Kfz.121) Ausf. A/B/C light tank

The Pz.II Ausf.A/B/C is on its way from Gecko and in 1:16, it will be a nice size to work on. Expect masses of detail!

www.tankmuseumshop.org and good retailers worldwide



ALL-NEW FROM ICM 1:48 Handley Page HP.52 Hampden

In fantastic news from our friends at ICM, at least two 1:48 kits of the WW2 British Handley Page Hampden bomber – the 'B Mk.I and TB Mk.I – are to be released.

www.icm.com.ua.com www.hobbyco.net
and from good retailers worldwide

ICM AT THE HOBBY COMPANY!

TMMI was delighted when ICM announced that their new UK importer/distributor will be none other than Tamiya's British partners, The Hobby Company. We are happy to know they are in good hands and their wonderful kits ranges will be readily available across the UK.

www.icm.com.ua.com www.hobbyco.net
and from good retailers worldwide

COMING SOON FROM REVELL 1:32 Mercedes-Benz SSKL

Revell is relaunching this classic Matchbox car to new audiences and it is sure to provide popular.

1:32 Porsche 917-10

Another ex-Matchbox kit in 1:32 is this stunning Porsche, which will build into a lovely little replica.

www.revell.de and from good retailers worldwide



COMING SOON FROM ICM 1:35 Monty's Caravan

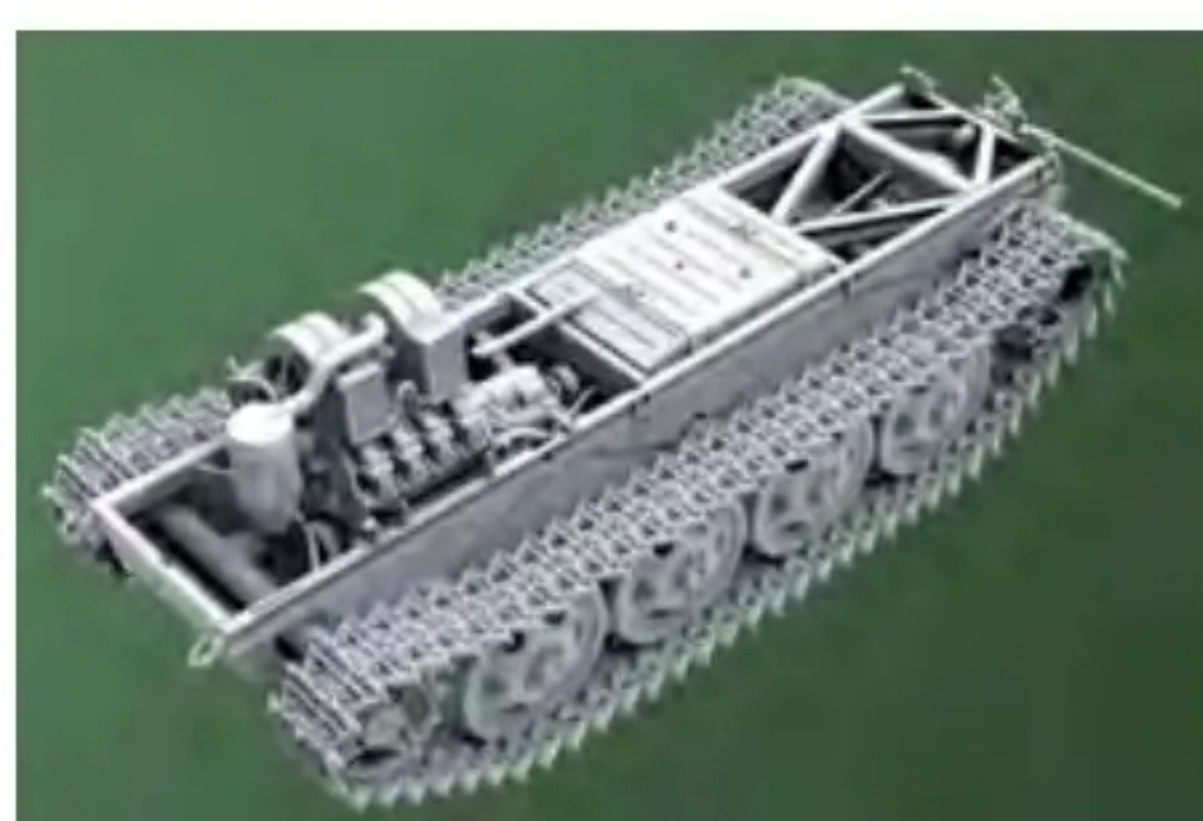
Field Marshall Montgomery's 'Caravan' is one of the most famous Allied vehicles of WW2 and is on its way soon, from ICM in 1:35.

www.icm.com.ua.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide

ALL-NEW FROM MINIART - 1:35 Raupenschlepper Ost

An all-new tool for 2025, the WW2 German RSO (Raupenschlepper Ost, or 'tracked tractor, east') is a popular modelling subject. MiniArt's kits of the early-production, mid-production and 7.5cm Pak 40/4 Selbstfahrlafette (self-propelled carriage) look highly detailed.

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



COMING SOON FROM REVELL

- 1:16 BMW Isetta 250 70th Exclusive Edition
- 1:87 Model Set Express Loco BR 18 505 with Tender 2'3' T38
- 1:35 Model Set WOT. 8 BM-13-16 Katyusha-Cargo
- 1:76 Model Set M19 Tank Transporter
- 1:72 Model Set Challenger 1
- 1:72 Model Set Arado Ar E.555 P-Series
- 1:72 Model Set Ki-21-1a 'Sally'

revell.de and from good retailers worldwide



New Arrivals

A quick round-up of new and recent arrivals at Tamiya Model Magazine. Thank you to the manufacturers and suppliers for the review samples!



ARMA HOBBY

1:72 Nakajima Ki-43 II Hayabusa (70078) new tool

This is an all-new model for 2024 and as with previous 1:72 releases from this manufacturer, it is a little gem of a kit. It arrives on two sprues of grey, injection-moulded polystyrene, plus a third in clear for the canopy, gunsight and leading-edge light, decals to complete one of three aircraft and a sheet of pre-cut canopy and wheel masks. The detail is eye-poppingly sharp, the fourteen-cylinder, double-bank Nakajima Ha-115 radial engine being a particular highlight. www.armahobby.com www.hannants.co.uk and good retailers everywhere

**EDUARD**

1:72 Turbolet L-410UVP Heavy Retro (2148) new version

The Aircraft Industries Turbolet L-410 is a Czech-made, high-wing twin-turboprop aircraft operated by twenty-five+ countries. This kit started life with Gavia in 1997, passing through the catalogues of a couple of other manufacturers until Eduard scooped it up for their 'Heavy Retro' series. In this latest form, it comes with a bag of 'Brassin' goodies, photo-etched brass and decals for six aircraft, all very attractively liveried. A very nice way of bringing an older but still decent kit back to life. ***www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk and good retailers everywhere***



FINE MOLDS

1:48 IJN A6M5 Carrier Fighter Zero Model 52 Nakajima Production (FZ02) new tool

We will be taking a much more detailed look at this extraordinary, all-new kit from Fine Molds, but for now, let's have a brief examination of the box contents. There have been many kits of the famous Zero but this new one incorporates some very nice touches, such as one-piece mouldings for the forward and rear fuselage, individual parts for the cockpit walls and, wait for it, separately formed canopy frames and clear parts. This entails some seriously thin mouldings but they look amazing. ***www.finemolds.co.jp and good retailers everywhere***



GECKO MODEL

1:35 Korean War British Fv18801 Mk.I 80in 4x4 Utility Vehicle (Early

Production/10-CWT Bantam Trailer - You know when a new kit from Gecko Model arrives, there will be no skimping on detail and that is definitely the case with their new 1:35 replica of the FV18001 (Land Rover) Mk.I. No less than fifteen grey sprues of varying sizes carry the parts for this kit (with full engine), plus a sixteenth for the windows, headlight lenses and wing mirrors, giving an immediate clue as to the mouthwatering complexity of this model, supported by a good-sized photo-etched brass fret crammed with yet more fittings. www.iadlamracingmodels.com

**ICM**

1:72 Fw189C/V-6 German Attack Aircraft (72290) new version

The Focke-Wulf Fw189 'Uhu' was known for its distinctive 'greenhouse' canopy which made an ideal platform for reconnaissance. It could withstand significant damage which lead to the bizarre-looking ground-attack 'C version with its armoured central 'fuselage', home to two crew members in a back-to-back layout. ICM have used the parts from their excellent, 2016 kit of the 'A variant which is a highly detailed model. Very interesting and unusual. www.icm.com.ua www.hobbyco.net and good retailers everywhere

**ICM**

1:24 Model A Standard Phaeton 1930s American Passenger Car (24051) new version

Arriving on one clear and seven grey sprues of polystyrene, this is beautifully detailed model of the 'blue oval' badged 'Model A' from the 1930s. It comes with a full ladder chassis, a nice replica of the straight-four petrol engine and transverse leaf-spring suspension with some appealing detail present on the back faces of the brakes too, for which actuator rods are provided. The bodywork is equally well done.

www.icm.com.ua www.hobbyco.net -and good retailers everywhere



ICM

1:35 Sd.Kfz.3b with Flak 38 Truppenluftschutzwagen (35455) new version

Using parts from their family of Ford V3000-chassis'd military trucks and Maultier halftracks, ICM has now created the 'Truppenluftschutzwagen' (infantry air-defence vehicle), fitted with the newly tooled Flak 38 anti-aircraft gun. No less than eleven sprues (including the Flak 38) go into the model and it is packed with detail, from the 'wooden' cabin to the complex Horstmann/Carden-Lloyd suspension. The tracks are link-and-length and will need careful assembly. www.icm.com.ua www.hobbyco.net and good retailers everywhere



ICM

1:35 Studebaker US6-U3 German Service (35493) new version

ICM's 1:35 kit of the US Studebaker US6 truck is an incredibly comprehensive model of this handsome WW2 US Army hauler and any version of it in 1:35 kit-form is welcome. In this release, ICM have created new box-art and decals for a vehicle in WW2 German service, offering three schemes; two for 'beute' trucks and one for a 'trophy' machine still with its American markings, handy for anyone suffering buyer's remorse from having bought an Allied vehicle in enemy colours. www.icm.com.ua www.hobbyco.net and good retailers everywhere



MINIART

1:35 Flugabwehr-MG 151/20 Drilling (35438) new tool

The German word 'drilling' translates into English as 'triplet', highly appropriate for this triple-arrangement of MG-151/20 aircraft guns, re-purposed for use in trucks and halftracks in a ground-defence and anti-aircraft roles. Knowing MiniArt, we are certain to see this weapons system showing up in Sd.Kfz.234 armoured cars and on the back of trucks soon, but for now it stands as an excellent miniature of this deadly device. www.creativemodels.co.uk www.miniart-models.com and good retailers everywhere



TAKOM

1:350 Floating Bridge Pier (9015) new tool

This is an esoteric and interesting release depicts a Russian Navy floating bridge-pier and would make a very unusual and eye-catching diorama. The structure itself is quite simple, comprising four sections of deck with side-guards, a crane and some trucks, but with the eight naval vessels that come in the box, it really comes to life. Lots of photo-etched parts and excellent moulded detail; it just need a complement of ten or twenty figures as the icing on the cake. www.bachmann.co.uk and good retailers everywhere



TAKOM

1:35 Sd.Kfz.250/3 'Greif' Rommel's Command Half-track (2194) new version

Takom's 1:35 Sd.Kfz.250/1 was launched in 2024 and it is a superb production that's packed with detail inside and out, coming with impressive depictions of the torsion bar suspension, engine, gearbox and drivetrain along with an extensive interior. In this second release we are treated to the Sd.Kfz.250/3 'leichter Funkpanzerwagen' command variant 'bedstead' radio antenna and the radio sets for the fighting compartment. The Rommel figure is a nice bonus. www.bachmann.co.uk and good retailers everywhere



TAKOM

1:35 Tiger I Sd.Kfz.181 Pz.Kpfw.VI Ausf.E Experimental Project 3-in-1 (2192) new version

According to the instruction booklet, this latest Tiger I kit from Takom represents a machine that was captured and modified by the Soviet army with a 100mm D-10T gun, as carried by the SU-100 tank destroyer. It certainly looks odd without a muzzle-brake, finished in 4BO Green and with red stars on its turret sides. Two other versions are offered, a Czech T-25-gunned machine and a long-barrelled German KwK43-armed Tiger. A stunning kit however you build it. www.bachmann.co.uk and good retailers everywhere

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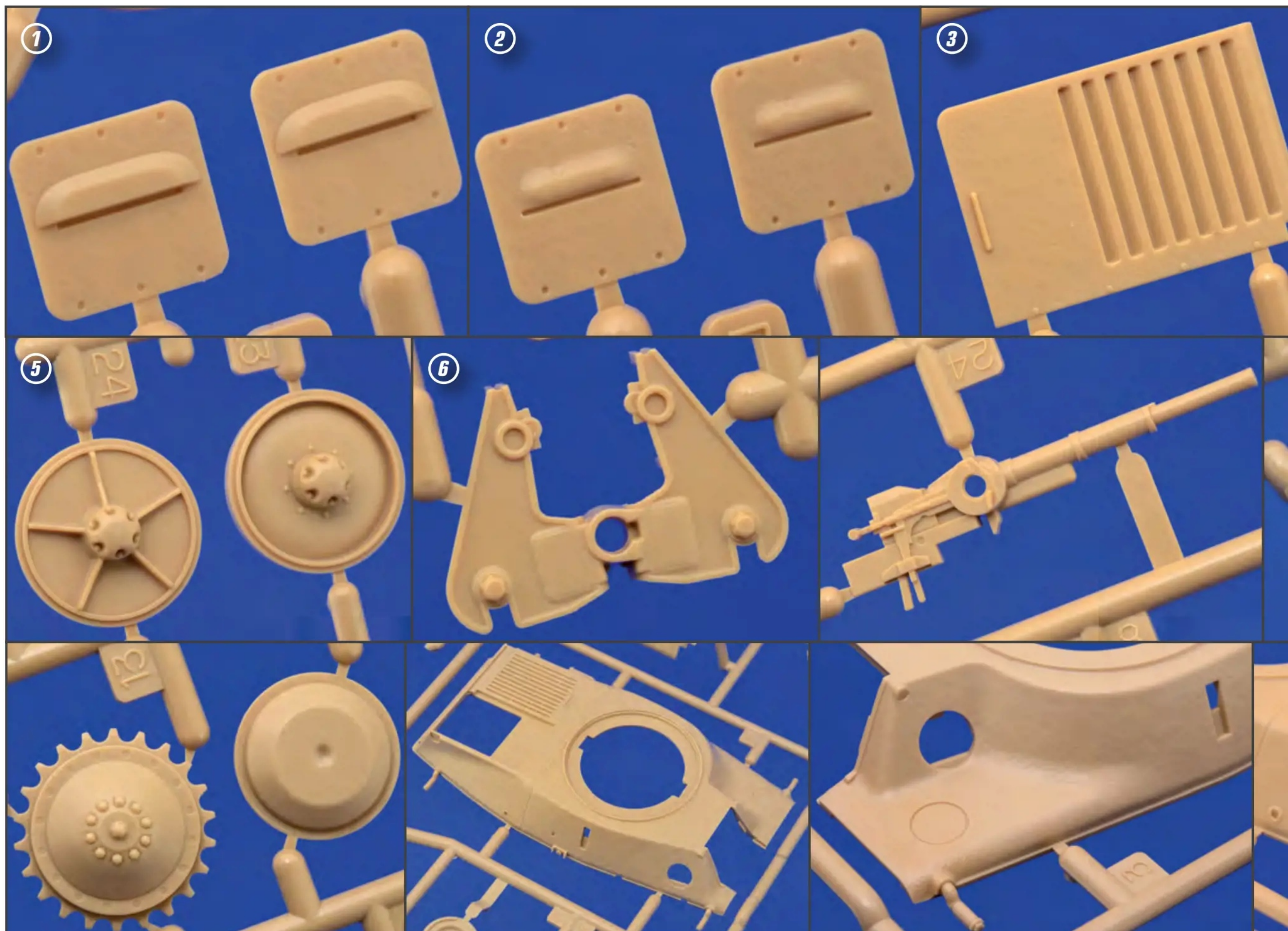
KIT PREVIEW

TAMIYA 1:35 FRENCH LIGHT TANK H39 • KIT NO.35389



ALLONS ENFANTS DE LA PATRIE, LE JOUR DE GLOIRE EST ARRIVÉ!

Joining the Char BI bis, Somua S35 and R35 tanks, **Tamiya's** all-new H39 Light Tank is the latest addition to the French armour line-up in the 1:35 Military Miniatures Series



Before the Second World War, the French Army developed the H35 for the cavalry; in 1939, the H39 appeared as the improved version of the H35. With improved cast structures such as the hull and turret, the H39 featured a 120hp engine and L/33 37mm gun. After the invasion of France in 1940, German forces captured numerous H39s and in their usual pragmatic way, fixed them up and returned them to their own service, as well as converting some into self-propelled howitzers and other variations.

Tamiya's kit is all new and, like the kits mentioned above, is a little marvel of detail and accuracy, while remaining straightforward to build. It comes with link-and-length tracks that are easy to assemble and fit, so there's no need for aftermarket tracks sets. Somewhat unusually for Tamiya, the modeller can build either a French tank or a captured example, pressed into German service. For the latter, a different cupola, vision panels (pics 1, 2), engine grille (pics 3, 4), idlers (pic 5), figures, decals and suspension bogies (pic 6) to

accurately replicate either version. The upper hull and turret parts display a superbly subtle cast steel texture that will respond well to imaginative and creative painting and weathering, although the turret will benefit from a little localised application of thinned putty where there are some moulding lines (pic 7). This kit is ideal for enthusiastic beginners and seasoned experts alike, as it provides the perfect balance of detail, sophistication and buildability that Tamiya is known and loved for.

Once again, Tamiya have created a superb kit of an important military subject from the Second World War that is certain to be built by the thousand by modellers worldwide. ●

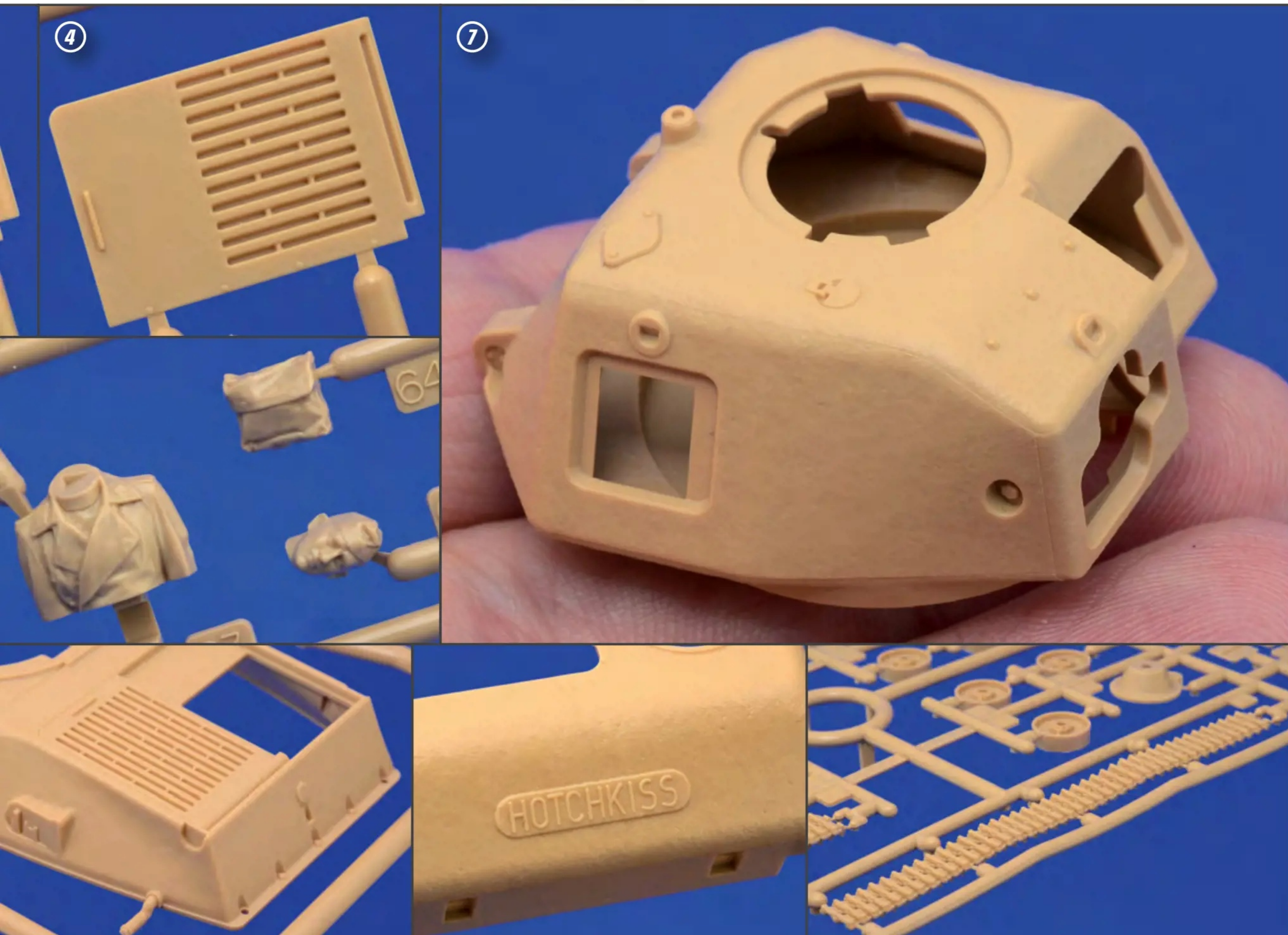


Kit specs

- Length: 138mm, width: 56mm
- The structures and details of the French Light Tank H39 are accurately captured based on extensive research of the actual tank
- The complex turret is realistically depicted and features ease of assembly facilitated by slide moulding
- Link-and-length type tracks have one-piece straight sections and realistic upper 'sag'
- Features a realistic depiction of the trench-skid used to overcome trenches
- Choose between French or German Army specification
- Includes variant-specific cupola, visors, engine grille, idler wheels, suspension bogies and antenna base
- Comes with one full figure (standing French tank crew) and one torso (German tank crew scanning ahead from cupola)
- Metal chain is included for the recreation of French Army tank
- Comes with a choice of markings for a French Army tank in 1940 and a German Army tank in 1945
- A full-colour painting guide is useful for camouflage painting.

Availability;

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



KIT PREVIEW

TAMIYA 1:24 TOYOTA GR SUPRA CUSTOM • KIT NO.24371



THE CAR IN FRONT IS...

To follow the 2020 release of the 'standard' Toyota GR Supra, **Tamiya** has added a new sprue to bring the car bang up to date



The new Supra emerged in 2019 and as Tamiya have an excellent working relationship with Toyota, a 1:24 model of it followed, presented with familiar flair a year later. Tamiya's new version comes with a whole new parts-sprue that carries four new wheels depicting Toyota Racing Development's stunning nineteen-inch, twenty-spoke forged alloys, new side skirts, body-side inserts, front splitter, rear valance and rear wing. The bodyshell, chassis, suspension and cabin interior remain the same, although a few of the interior decal numbers have changed because the decal sheet is newly designed.

The modeller can choose to build the model in righthand-drive (Japan, UK, Australia) or lefthand-drive (Europe, Canada, USA) spec, with the appropriately handed dashboard, transmission-tunnel centre-console, foot-pedal locations, windscreen wipers and windscreen cowling included. A sheet of self-adhesive, photo-etched metal parts is provided, carrying and rear-view and wing-mirror faces, plus exterior badges. To top off the package, a sheet

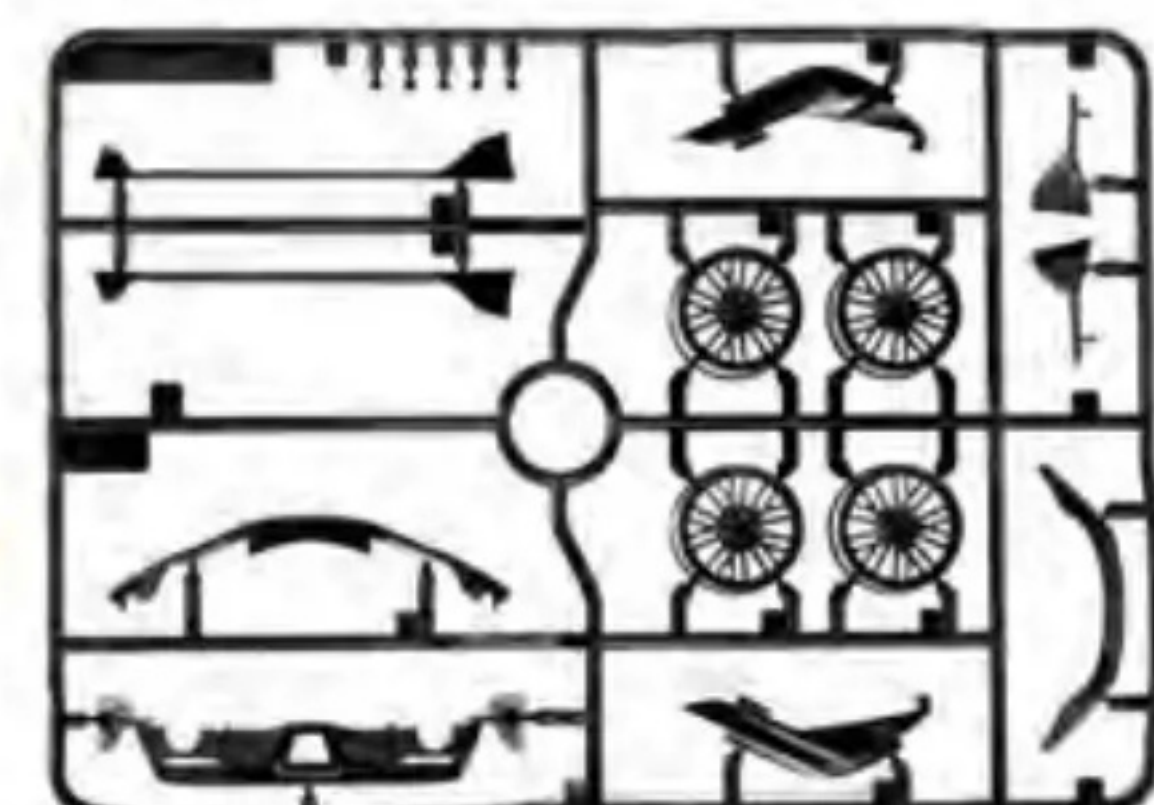
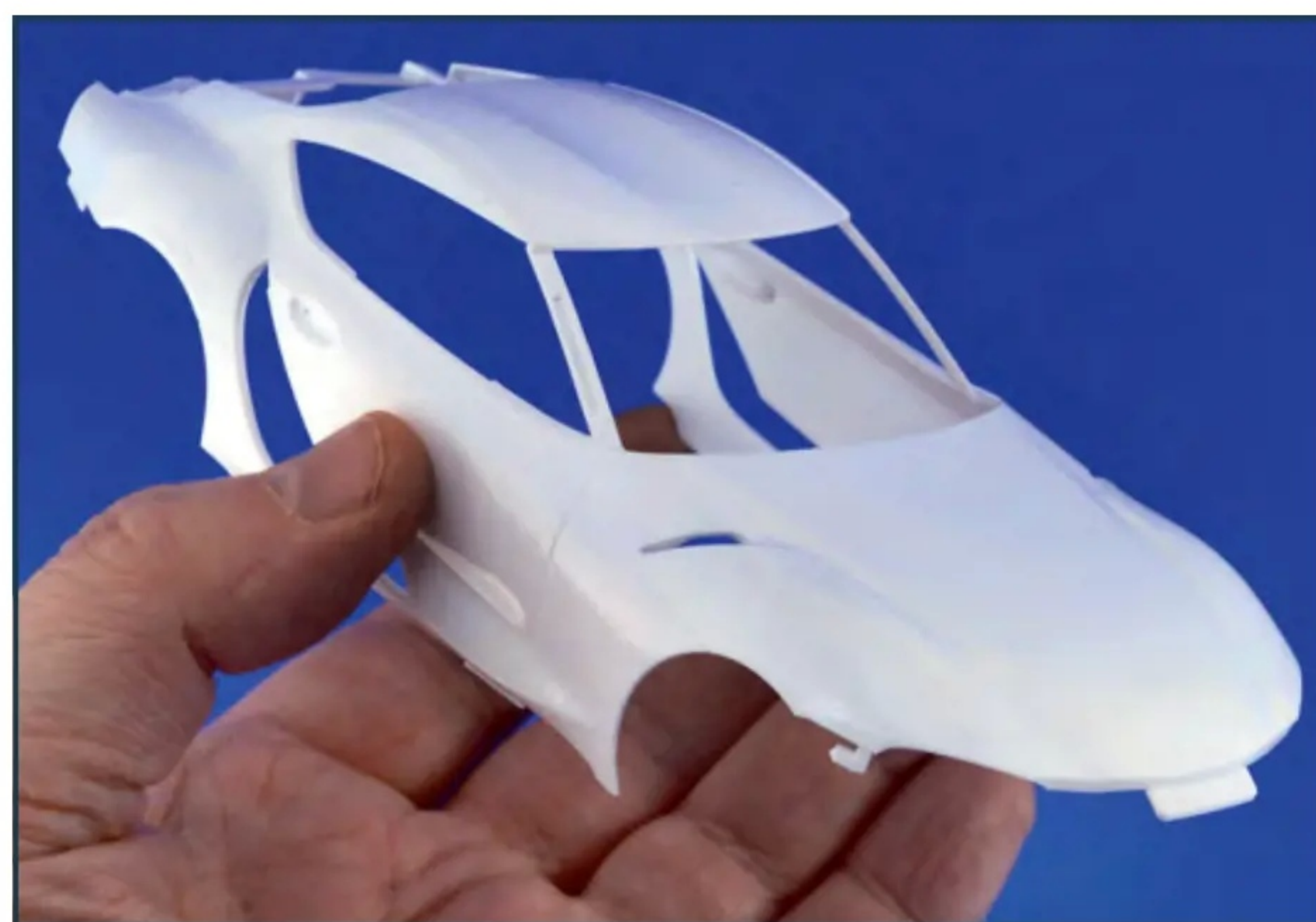
of the all-important pre-cut window masks will also be found into the box, making this usually tricky and potentially model-ruining procedure a walk in the park. The release of this kit is a excellent way of refreshing Toyota's already stunning Supra in miniature form, giving it a stylish extra touch of street-racer coolness. ●

Model spec

- Length: 183mm, width: 85mm, height: 54mm
- New F sprue carries new aerodynamic parts, boot spoiler and wheels
- Nineteen-inch aluminium wheels by Toyota Racing Development (TRD) are depicted
- New decals have realistic replicas of TRD logos for centre hubs
- Choose from Japan/UK, US and European versions
- Metal transfers and pre-cut masks are included

Availability;

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



Tamiya 1:24 Toyota GR Supra

Robert Riley's stunning build of the first release of the Tamiya GR Supra appeared in TMMI Issue 294 April 2020. Back issues are still available here: www.doolittlemedia.com



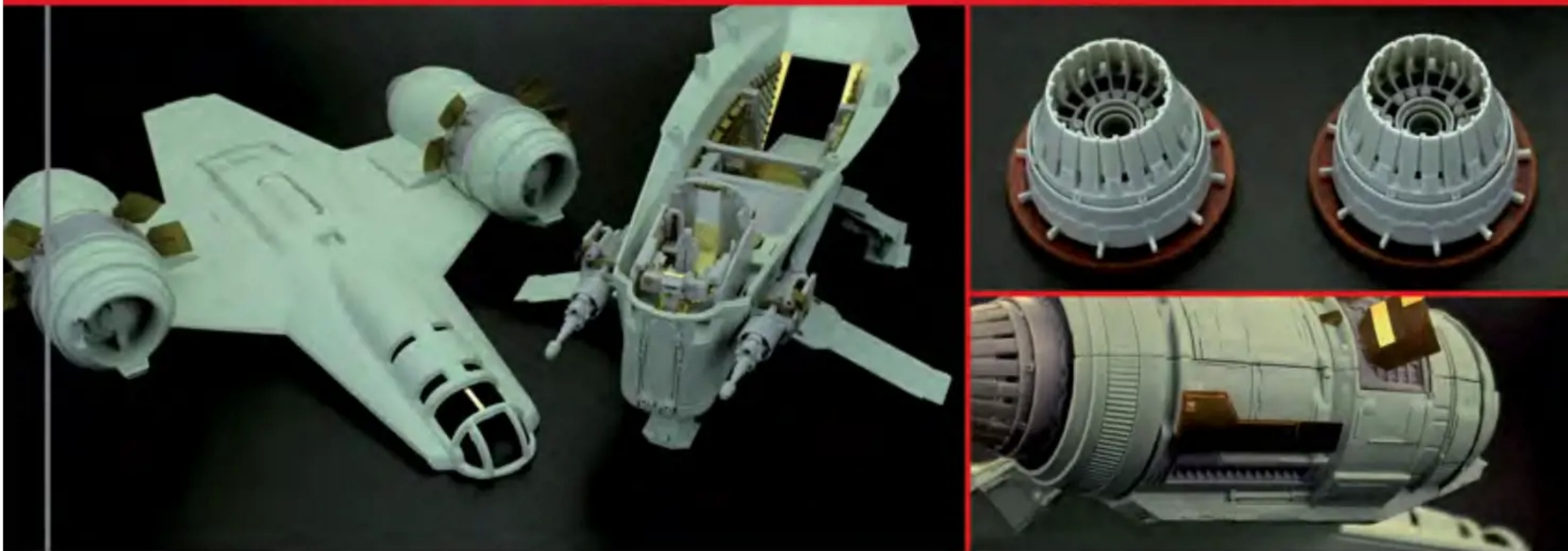


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1/72

TIGER TANKS' NEMESIS

Antonio Martín Tello builds the stunning 1:35 Tamiya/Asuka Sherman Firefly tank destroyer in Kiwi service



The story of the Sherman Firefly is one of a somewhat unexpected success. The idea of matching the powerful British 17-pounder anti-tank gun with the US-made Sherman medium tank was envisaged by some officers of the British Army as a stopgap to field a tank that could deal with German Tigers and, mainly, Panthers as quickly as possible.

The Fireflies were produced in three 'flavours'

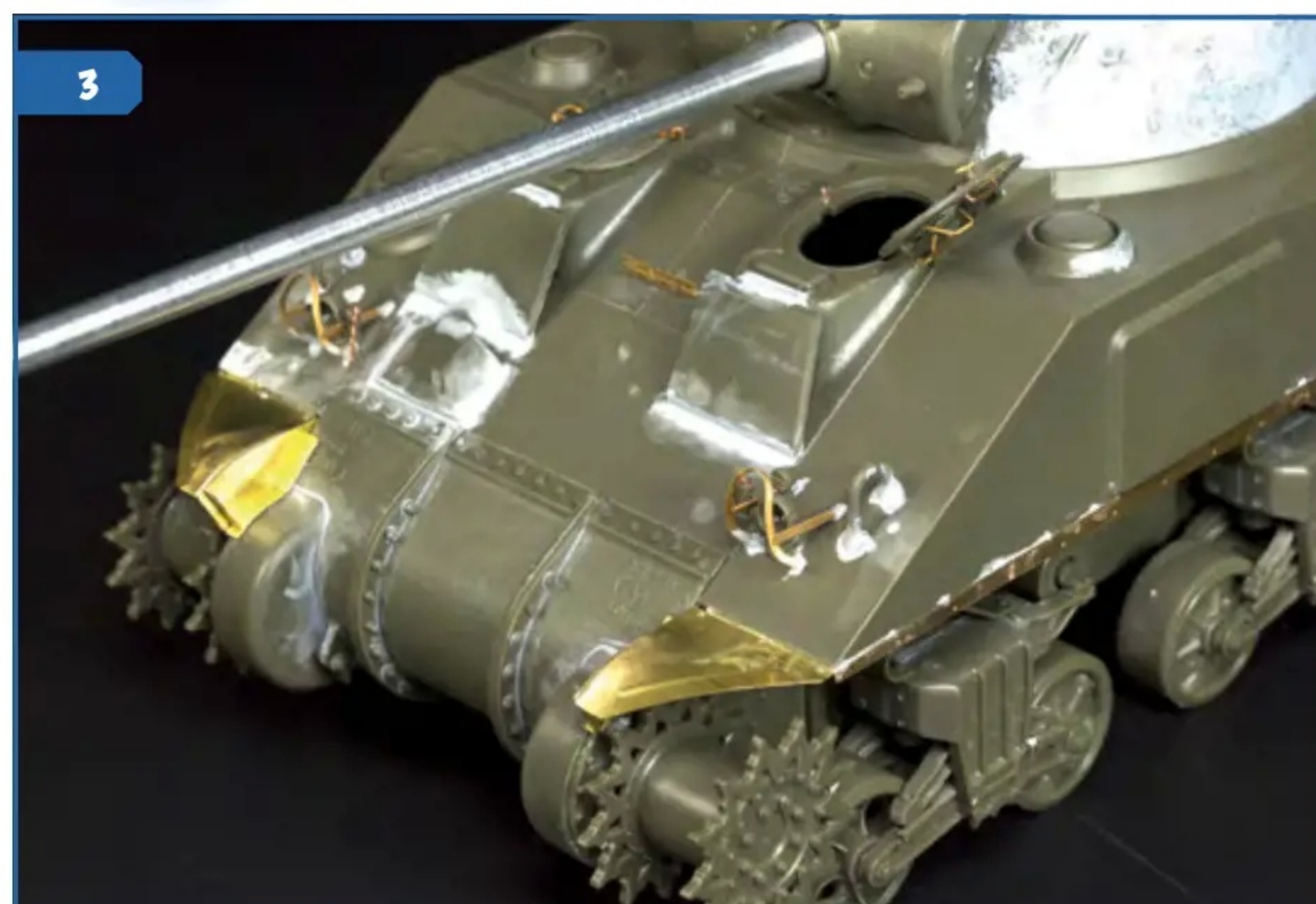
depending on the mark of Sherman used as the base for the transformation, but only had two different denominations. The IC was built on M4 or M4 hybrids (both 'Sherman' I in British nomenclature), the latter being distinguishable for the rounded, cast version of the forward hull. On the other hand, the majority of the Fireflies were VC, built on the M4A4 chassis ('Sherman V' in the British nomenclature). Since in

the M4A4 the hull was longer than in the other Sherman types, the Firefly VC can be distinguished for this feature. In all cases the 'C' letter denotes a tank equipped with the 17-pounder anti-tank gun. Finally, the development of the Firefly proved to be a good decision, since its competitors were a sort of fiasco (75mm Cromwell, Challenger) or arrived too late to the front (Comet).

Fireflies were distributed

at a rate of one per troop and became a precious possession for the British tankers, as well as a priority target for their German antagonists. As the war progressed, more Fireflies became available and by October 1944 the first ones were distributed to the units fighting on the Italian front. Just over 2,000 units were built until the spring of 1945, being replaced in the production lines by the more modern Comet. ▶





BUILDING THE FIREFLY

The kit represents a typical Sherman VC Firefly. It is the re-boxing that Tamiya did in 2014 (25174) of an Asuka/Tasca release (35-028). Tamiya also included five British soldiers figures and I remember that when I bought the kit, it was cheaper than the original Asuka/Tasca one. The quality of the model is exceptional, without problems of assembly and with abundant detail. You can still find it on internet auction websites.

It includes a nice photo-etched sheet that solves most of the needs for a Sherman. The tracks are made of four parts in vinyl, glue-able with ordinary styrene cement and have excellent detail, representing the T62 type. Some people dislike this medium, but if we want keep things simple,

I think they are perfectly valid for a Sherman, taking into account that they should not have any sagging. I also used parts from a dedicated photo-etched set

by Eduard (36300), mostly because I already had it, plus an aluminium barrel from RB models (35B07). Assembly was basically out of the box, using the

elements I just mentioned. The only noteworthy additions were the small tie-downs for the tool straps, which were made with thin wire (PICS 1, 2, 3).





STOWAGE

A fairly large amount of stowage is almost compulsory on any Sherman. I used some boxes, tarpaulins, bedrolls and the like, found in my spares box (I think most of this stuff came from the Black Dog brand), and tried to distribute them on the engine deck and glacis in a convincing way (**PIC 4**). I also made some additional basic tarps with two component putty. I used these tarps to complement the other commercial elements and to integrate them better into the model.

To make these tarps I used two-component epoxy putty of which there are many brands. At that time I only had a very old one at home of which I don't even remember the make. In any case, they all work similarly. They consist of two parts, in this case yellow and blue, that separately remain mouldable (**PIC 5**) but when they are mixed and kneaded, they gradually harden (**PIC 6**).

The time the mixed putty remains mouldable varies according to the brand and type and it is usually sticky, so it is best to coat



it, as well as the fingers and the working surface, with talcum powder. The putty was flattened as much as possible with the fingers and then it was rolled out with a spray can used as a rolling pin (also covered with talcum powder). The more we flatten the putty the better (**PIC 7**). Then, I cut the thin sheet of putty with a long blade to create

rectangular pieces that can be folded or rolled to simulate fabric.

To avoid dirtying the model, the area was covered with plastic film which was also coated with talcum powder to prevent the putty from sticking. Then, the sheets of putty were placed on the model, adapting them to the shape of its surface and after that the

commercial stowage items were added, pressing onto them to make the putty tarpaulins also adapt to their shape (**PIC 8**). In this way we get a better fit of the resin piece on the model, avoiding gaps and achieving a more natural look. Similarly, I added some other tarps in other areas (**PIC 9, 10**). A Sherman can never carry too much junk! ▶



PAINTING

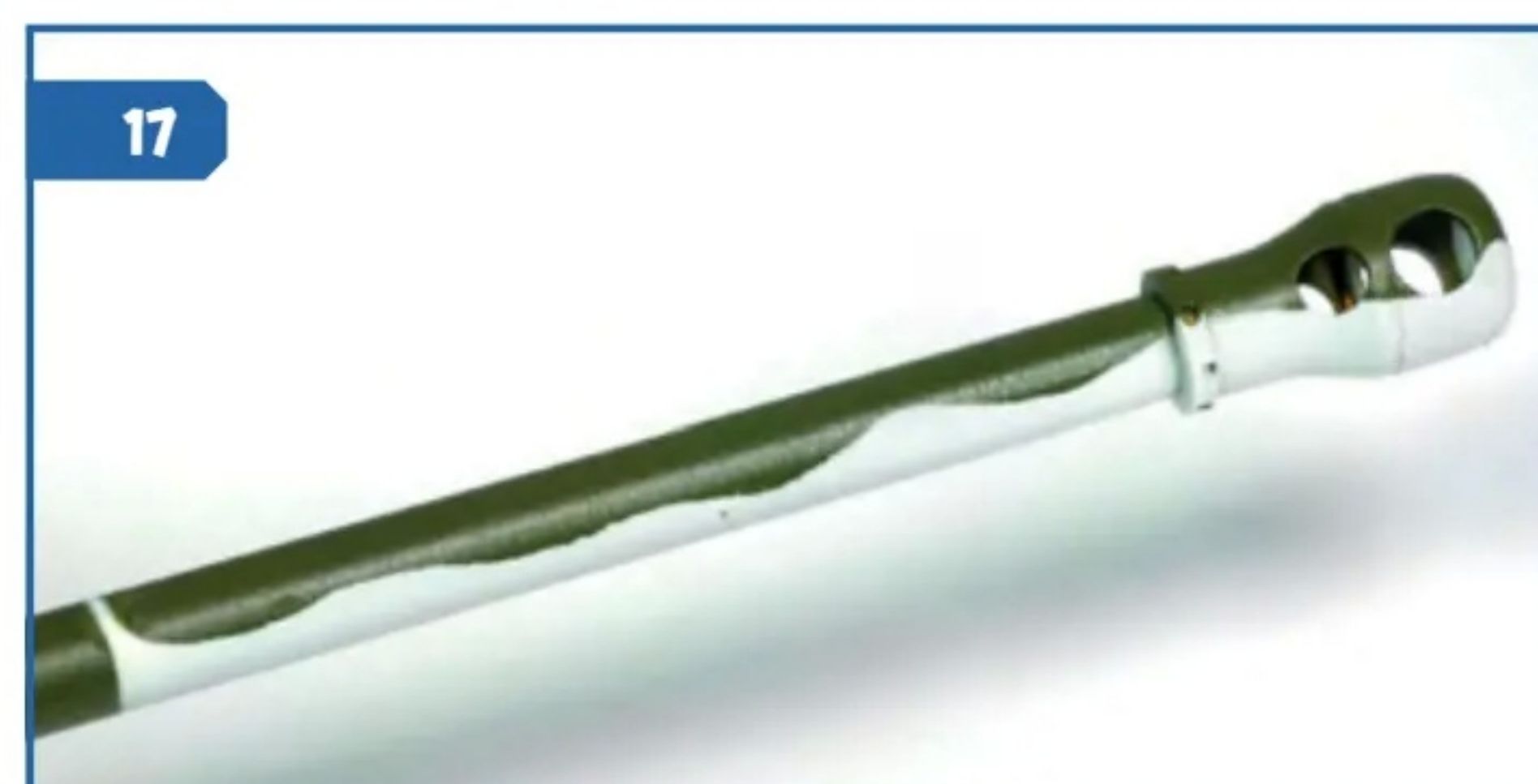
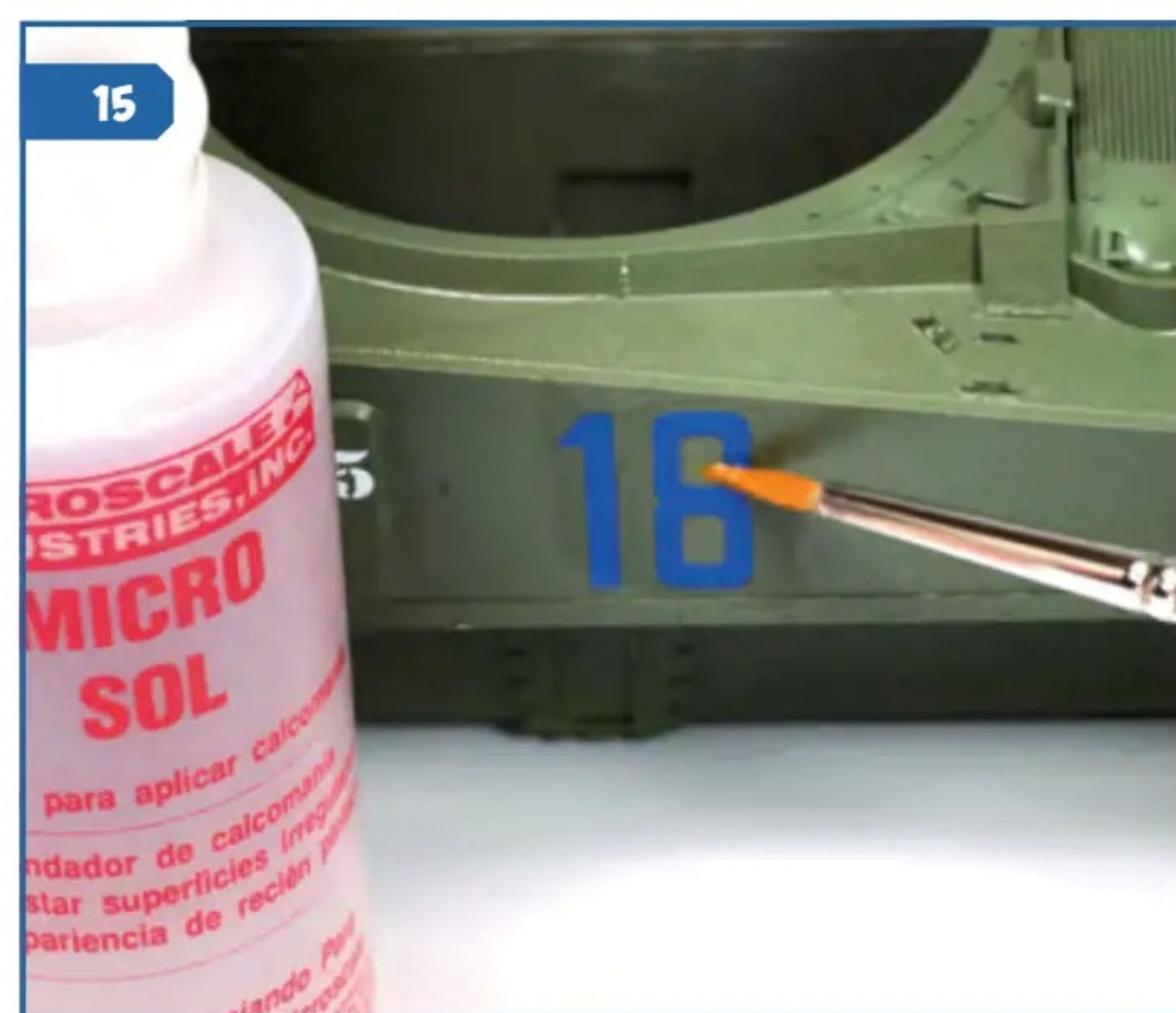
The base colour was SCC15, made by mixing Tamiya acrylics according to a recipe proposed by Mike Starmer: five parts XF-81 RAF Dark Green 2, one part XF-58 Olive Green and one part XF-71 Cockpit Green (IJN). A generous portion of X-22 Clear was added to this mixture to obtain a non-matt result (PIC 11). Highlights were applied by progressively lightening the base mixture with the lighter colour, XF-71. Finally, another general coat of X-22 Clear was applied.

MARKINGS

And now, let's decal! This was going to be a Firefly from the C Squadron (circle), 20th Armoured Regiment (blue and 52 in the 'flash of service'), belonging to the 4th Armoured Brigade (fern leaf on black background) operating in Italy during 1944-45. This vehicle is a markings-option on the decal sheet provided by Tamiya. There are some few photos of this vehicle (4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade in Italy, by Jeffrey Plowman and Malcolm Thomas. Kiwi Armour No.1, ISBN 0-473-06534-7) in which the serial number and the 'flash of service' are not visible, and the '18' painted in the hull sides seem to have a different font type from the one in the decal sheet, but, I went on.

The decals were good quality and responded perfectly to my usual routine: with a new blade, I cut around the decal motif, removing most of the carrier film. It was immersed in water until the decal slid over the paper, then the decal was 'caught' with a brush and most of the water was removed. The decal was placed on the surface of the model previously wetted with Microset, and then it was wetted with more Microset.

After a few seconds, the excess of Microset was removed with tissue paper. Once dry, the decals were moistened with Microsol and they become now very fragile, they may even wrinkle. It is better not to touch them anymore and to be patient. Finally, when everything was well





dried, the decals were varnished with gloss again to protect them from further treatments and to unify the glossy surface throughout the model (PICS 12, 13, 14, 15).

Before I started the weathering process, I painted the white countershading on the lower portion of the gun barrel's end. This was done on some Fireflies to disguise the length of the gun from distance. I masked the upper portion with masking putty leaving a wavy pattern and airbrushed the lower portion with white (PICS 16, 17).

DIRTYING UP THE FIREFLY

The weathering process itself started with a couple of overall 'filters' of very



diluted ochre oil paint in enamel thinner. When these had dried, I started the chipping process which was made with a fine brush and Vallejo Model Color 'German

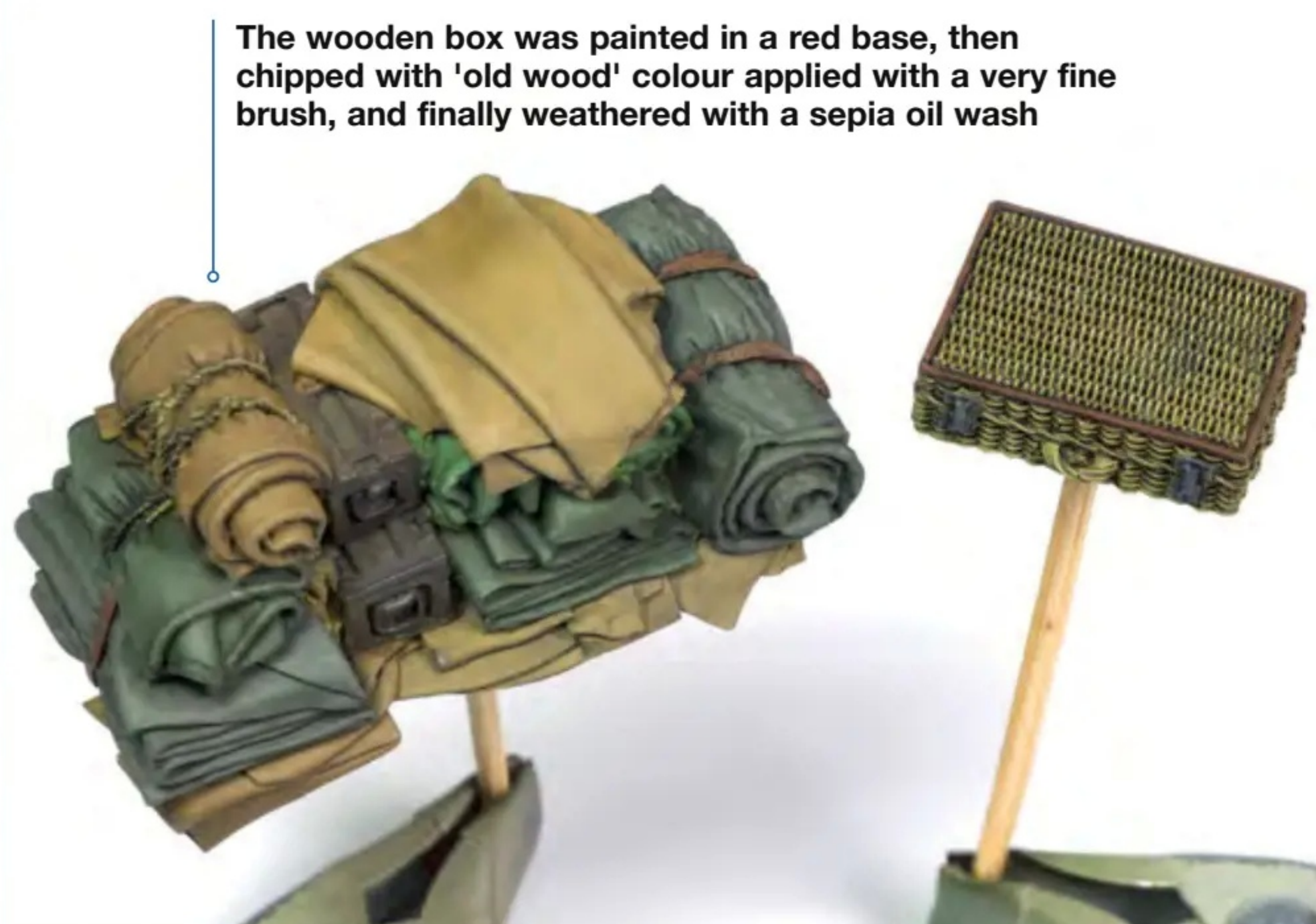


Camouflage Black Brown' (822). Your mantra for the chipping must be 'keep the chips and scratches small and subtle and in sensible areas', that is, along the edges, in

the rims of hatches or access ports or were the rubbing of the crew or the environment (branches, buildings, other vehicles) could cause them (PICS 18, 19, 20). ▶



The bogies, which were treated with pigments off the model and then glued into place on the hull sides



The wooden box was painted in a red base, then chipped with 'old wood' colour applied with a very fine brush, and finally weathered with a sepia oil wash

21



22



23



TANK CREW

The crew is a classic white metal Hornet item, (BH06) which unfortunately is out of production. This is a pity because I consider the Hornet range of figures and heads among the best ever produced; you might be able to find them online.

After a priming, the figures were again painted with Vallejo Model Color acrylics; the basic colour

being English Uniform (70.921), mixed with Sunny Skin Tone (70.845) for the highlights and Black (70.950) for the shadows. A preliminary application of these highlights and shadows with an airbrush (as if you 'paint the light', from above or from below, respectively) helps a lot the subsequent brush job, in which the painting is refined (pics 21, 22, 23)

24



25



THE DIORAMA BASE

The base for the diorama is a Styrofoam block with an IKEA 'Ribba' frame. Some basic shapes were added with more Styrofoam chunks and then the ground was formed with modelling clay. Then the ground was covered with a uniform layer of fine sand fixed with diluted white glue, some fine stones being added later. The

half-demolished stone wall was built with pieces of school chalk (PIC 24). The more diverse vegetation, the better; dry leaves, Mediterranean tapeweed, railway modelling grass and others were used. Some of this stuff is too bright used from the box so I attenuated their colours a little with diluted washes of drab greens and ochres from Vallejo (PIC 25). ▶



A British Sherman Firefly guards a street corner in Namur, Belgium

FINAL STEPS, AND WE'RE DONE!

With the ground finished, all that was left was to arrange the elements of the scene. The angle of the tank is on the classic diagonal and the cows fill the space in front of the tank and under the long gun barrel. While the Italian cowherd does not seem to grasp the urgency and anger of the tankmen, the herd seems quite indifferent to the vehicle! ●



Availability;

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

Editor's note

This article was originally published in full in Military Illustrated Modeller magazine. We chose to reproduce it here to bring the model to a new audience who may have missed it the first time round.





**NEW
PARTS**

1:24

Supermarine Spitfire Mk.VIII

A17002



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.VIII

Sqn Ldr Bruce Watson, No. 457 'Grey Nurse'
Squadron, Royal Australian Air force, Morotai, 1945.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.VIII

No. 152 (Hyderabad) Squadron, Sinthe, Burma, 1945.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE MK.VIII

307th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, USAAF, Italy 1944.

Length 402mm Width 469mm Pieces 452

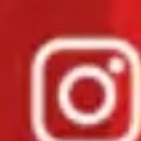
Powered by the latest variants of Merlin engine, the Mk.VIII featured a strengthened fuselage, retractable tail wheel and the adoption of a new broad-chord rudder, with versions optimised for high, medium and low altitude operations. The Mk.VIII was at an advanced stage of development, however, actual production was still one of the hybrid Mk.IX, an aircraft which fortunately proved to be something of a revelation and more than a match for the Focke Wulf.

- Short span ailerons
- Retractable tail wheel section
- Revised instrument panel
- Revised Upper & Lower wings for the Mk.VIII
- First Supermarine Spitfire Mk.VIII in 1:24 scale
- Includes 3 schemes, including 'Grey Nurse'.



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KIT PREVIEW

AIRFIX 1:48 WESTLAND LYSANDER MK.I/MK.III • KIT NO.A07116



LOVELY LIZZIE LANDS!

Airfix has released an all-new 1:48 kit of the WW2 British Westland Lysander 'Army co-operation and liaison' aircraft and it's a real stunner

Airfix's decision to create an all-new 1:48 of the Westland Lysander came as wonderful news when it was announced late last year, and now that the kit has arrived at TMMI for review, it looks absolutely superb. In the large box you'll find five sprues in grey and one in clear, the latter carrying the Lysander's extensive canopy-work.

Two markings-options are provided, scheme A for a Westland Lysander Mk.I of No.16 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, 1938-39 and a Westland Lysander Mk.III of No.309 Polish Fighter-Reconnaissance Squadron, Royal Air Force Renfrew, Glasgow, Scotland, 1940. Option A is a pre-war

scheme in Dark Earth/Dark Green with the smaller RAF blue/red roundels, white/black wings undersides and a yellow spinner boss. Option B depicts a wartime machine also in Dark Earth/Dark Green camouflage with the larger yellow/blue/red roundels on the fuselage sides and Sky undersurfaces.

Airfix includes bomb racks for the fuselage and undercarriage 'winglets' and with the wheel access-panels removed, it changes the 'look' of the model a fair amount, giving the aircraft a more pugnacious stance. The wings (316mm span) can be built with open or closed leading-edge slats and 'drooped' flaps.

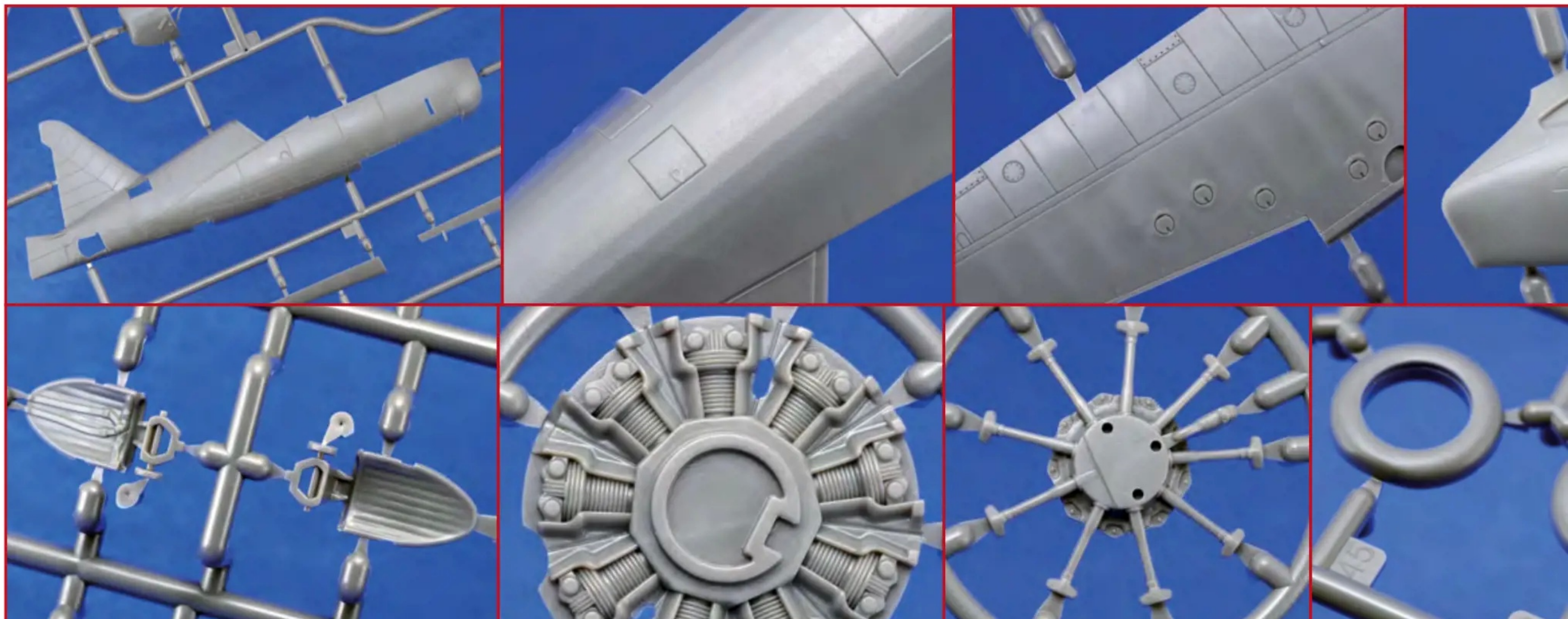
As you can hopefully see from the photos here, the detail in the 171

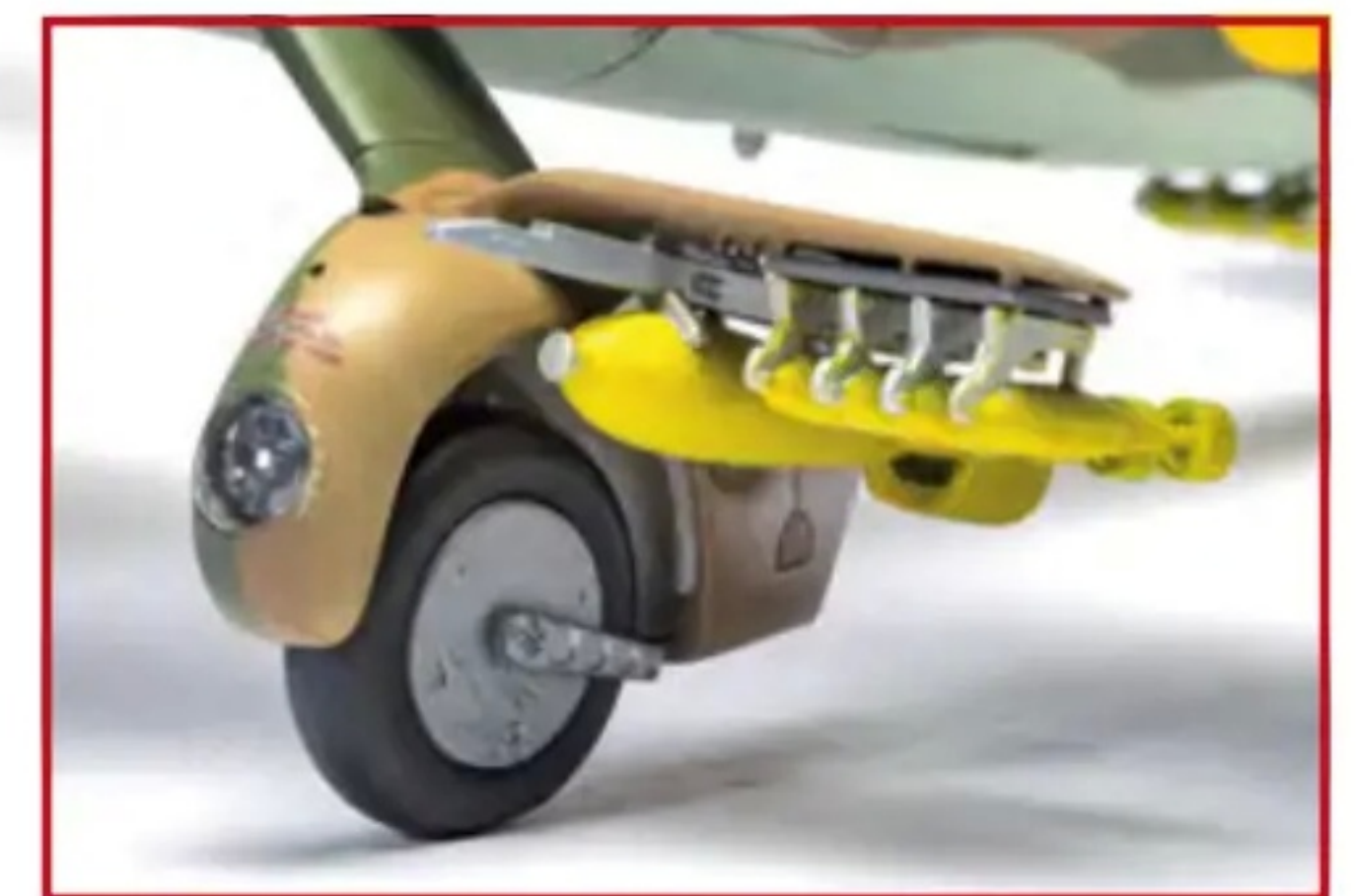
plastic mouldings is fantastic, with the characteristic stringer and rib patterns in the fuselage and wings respectively executed with great subtlety. You will need to either wait for a proprietary masking set for the canopy or make a very accurate one yourself in order to make a clean job of the windows, but that's what modelling is all about!

This is a fantastic release from Airfix and it will make an interesting partner with Tamiya's sublime Fieseler F-156 Storch kit in the same scale. Full-build feature coming soon to TMMI. ●

Availability;

Airfix models and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. www.airfix.com







DOING THE E

Mark Underwood builds Nunu's superb 1:24 Porsche 911 LM 2018 and gives it a new look with markings from SK Decals

Porsche have been competing at Le Mans since 1951 and have won the race outright nineteen times, making them the most successful competitors at the iconic race. The Porsche 911 RSR (991) released in 2017 was designed specifically to compete in the FIA WEC and IMSA classes of endurance racing with improved aero and lightweight carbon fibre bodywork. Porsche departed from their rear mounted engine design for this model and mounted

it more inboard with a newly designed 4-litre, water-cooled, six cylinder, boxer engine mounted mid ship, putting out up to 520bhp, depending on the balance of performance regulations used in this class that fit air restrictors to try to even out the performance of all the different manufacturers and keep the racing close.

This car was one of four entered by the Factory Porsche Team in the 2018 round of the Le Mans 24 hours race. I chose to make this version using

aftermarket decals as I felt the clean design of the livery would make for an appealing subject. Car 93 has a white, black and red colour scheme. The pattern of the livery makes the shape of the Porsche shield badge when viewed from above and was driven by Nick Tandy (GB), a previous Le Mans winner, and multiple race winner Patrick Pilet (FR), a successful driver with many endurance wins and podiums, and Earl Bamber (NZ), two time Le Mans winner and 2017 World Endurance

Champion amongst many other accolades. They ended the race 10th in class, 27th overall.

INTO THE KIT

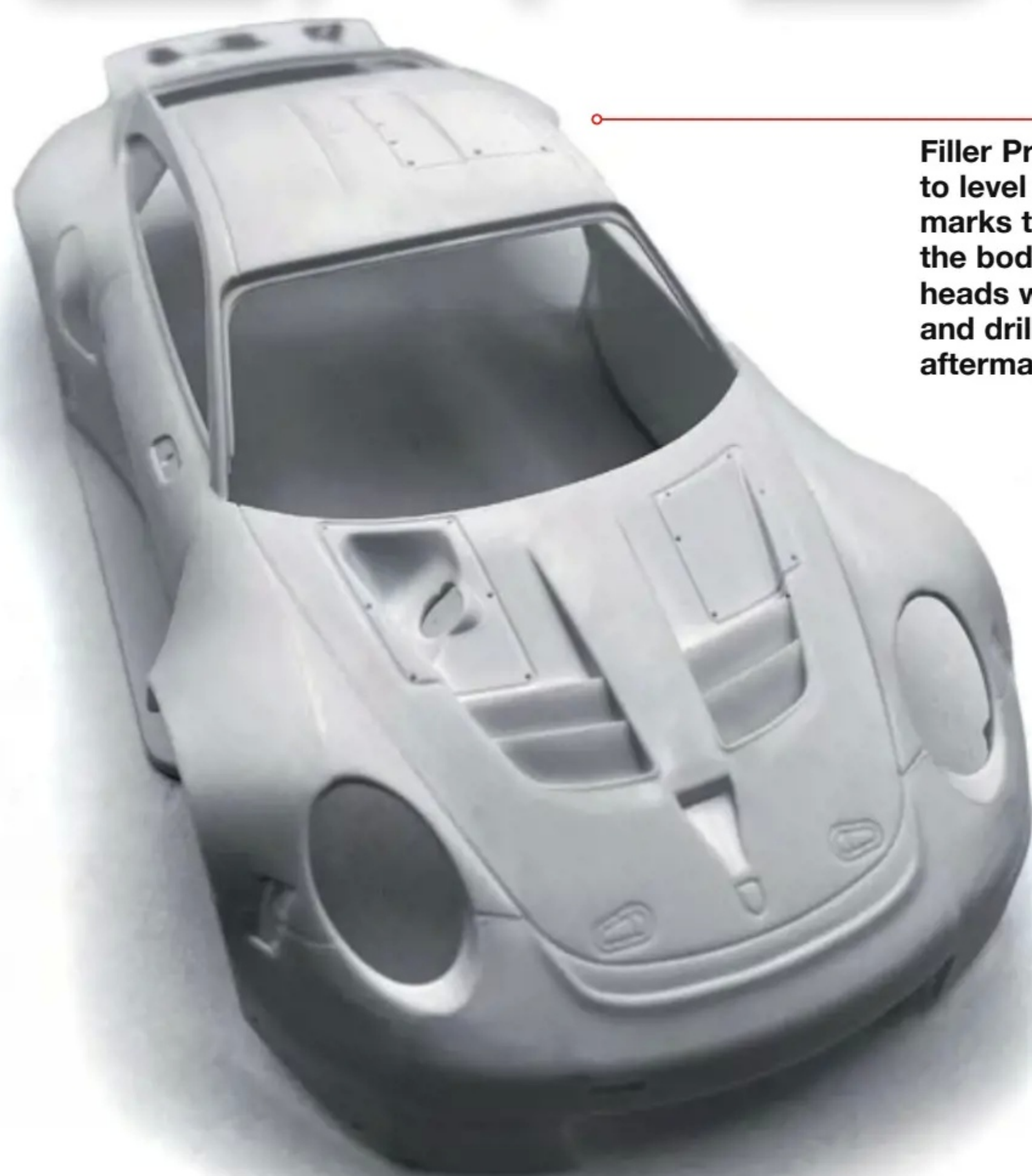
On opening Nunu's kit box you find two sprues in black, one sprue in white, one sprue of clear parts and a small chrome-plated sprue with the headlights and mirror inserts, the bodyshell, wheels, tapered tyres to give the car the correct camber, comprehensive decals, window masks and detailed instruction manual.

I like to start on the body



BOXER BEAT

when making 1:24 car kits. It gives you an early indicator of the standard of the kit when dry fitted onto the chassis and offering up the glazing etc. The bodyshell in my kit had a couple of minor sink marks from the moulding process on top of the tail gate and on the rear bumper, so these were duly filled with Mr. Surfacer 1000 primer and sanded down to a smooth finish. There were some moulding seams on the top of the front fenders and on the edges of the roof that were easily cleaned up with sanding sticks. 🛠️



Filler Primer was used to level off minor sink marks to the rear of the body. All bolt/screw heads were shaved off and drilled to accept aftermarket items



The rear wing was pre-assembled utilising the photo-etch parts from the Nunu detail up set

FULL-BUILD LE MANS 24 HOURS CAR

NUNU 1:24 PORSCHE 911 (991) 2018 LM GTE PRO • KIT NO.PN24040



Comparison of the aftermarket and kit wheels with crisper lines afforded by 3D printing and separately moulded centre lock nut, making painting much easier & neater



Body after masking and painting process awaiting decals

❶ The whole body and was then washed and keyed up ready for priming. At this stage, I assembled the wing using the photo-etch parts from the Nunu detail up set and prepared the aftermarket Fat Frog 3D printed wheels for priming also. After the primer had dried, I rubbed the parts down with MicroMesh ready to paint the body with Tamiya Pure White, decanted and applied with my Iwata airbrush. While this was left to cure for a few days, I made a set of masks using the decals as a template and after carefully applying them and masking

the inside of the body to keep it white, I applied Halfords Gloss Black to the body, wing and wheels using my airbrush.

SK DECALS TIME

Once the paint had fully cured I applied the decals. I found the SK Decal set (SK24186) to be really good quality. My concern was if the opacity was too high the black paint would be visible through the decals but that is not an issue with these as they came off the backing paper easily, with only ten seconds soaking in tepid water, and they laid down over all the curves



I drilled out the exhausts to make the walls as thin as I dared then applied metal paints as per my references. I used cigarette packet lining to replicate the heat shield material used on the rear silencers

The headlight wells were coated in carbon fibre effect decal, the chrome plated headlights presented a challenge to replicate the real thing. I scraped the chrome plating from the LED units to leave them white. I then carefully picked out the satin black areas by brush



Body clear-coated and decalled

really well with only weak decal solution and a little heat needed. Once all of the decals were applied to the body, wing and wheels they were washed with warm soapy water and set aside to dry for forty-eight hours. Once fully dried I applied Tamiya Semi Gloss Clear to the body and wing and, for a slightly different finish, Halfords Satin Clear to the wheels.

While these were left to cure I started work on the rest of the kit. I sprayed all the parts that were going to receive carbon fibre effect decal with Halfords Gloss Black and set them aside. I used Zero metal finish Paints and Ammo A-Stand metallic lacquer for all the metal parts using my Komakai walk around book along with extensive internet research as reference. The roll cage was

assembled using the floor pan as a jig and was painted Tamiya Gloss White along with the floor and firewall.

The carbon effect decals were applied, again without issue and were then clear coated with Tamiya Semi Gloss Clear when fully dried. I used assorted Tamiya acrylic and lacquer paints along with Revell acrylic for the finer brush detailing, then I started assembly, initially on the interior and suspension then the mirrors, lights etc., to the body. Assembly of the parts went without major issue: the glazing had to be held in place with a little 6mm masking tape while the Krystal Klear adhesive dried as they didn't want to sit in the apertures well, maybe a little heat persuasion could have helped them conform but otherwise it was a pleasure to assemble. ▶



Rear Diffuser with carbon-fibre-effect decal applied



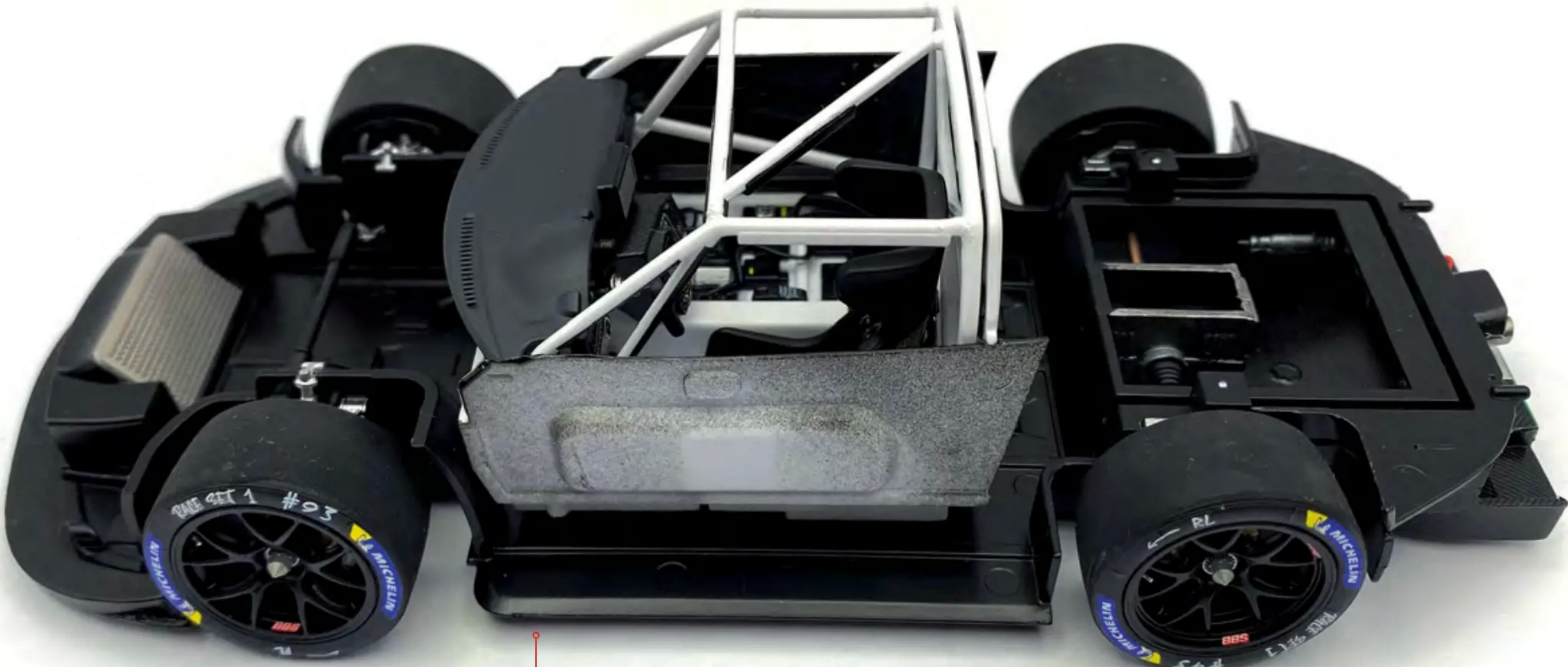
Wheels with tyres and valves fitted and decals applied



Interior with carbon-fibre-effect decal, wiring and sensors



Brake assembly, suspension arms, radiator and carbon-fibre decalled splitter



The rolling chassis awaits its body

FULL-BUILD LE MANS 24 HOURS CAR

NUNU 1:24 PORSCHE 911 (991) 2018 LM GTE PRO · KIT NO.PN24040



FINAL THOUGHTS?

I really enjoyed building this model. The only negative that stands out to me is the scale of the seatbelt set in the Nunu detail up set appears to me to be a bit big, but this is a minor gripe in an otherwise great kit. There is lots of scope for aftermarket manufacturers with the lower half of the gearbox present and the exhausts seemingly designed with an engine in mind.

I look forward to seeing what they come up with. I would really like to see some upgraded headlights and brakes along with some model specific detail sets with antennae and fastenings etc. I plan to build more of these kits, utilising aftermarket parts and decals, as this is one of my favourite racing cars of modern times and the livery options are plentiful. ●

TECHSPEC...

NUNU 1:24 PORSCHE 911 (991) 2018 LM GTE PRO KIT NO.PN24040

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paint used:

- Tamiya: Fine Surface Primer, TS-26 Pure White, TS-79 Semi-Gloss Clear
- Halfords: Gloss Black, Satin Clear
- Zero Paints: metallic finishes
- AMMO: A-Stand metallic lacquers

Aftermarket/upgrade parts:

- Decalca: Assorted 3D-printed screw/bolt heads, tyre sidewall chalk marking decals
- Fat Frog: air intake grilles (DE24006), wheels (FW24013)
- KMP: Antennae
- Nunu: Detail up set (NE24040)
- SK Decals: Porsche 911 RSR Le Mans 24Hr '18 Porsche Team 93 and 94 (SK24186)
- Tamiya: carbon-fibre-effect decal

Availability:

- Nunu models are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net
- SK Decals: www.spotmodel.com

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LEVEL 3
★★★★★



03770 Bf109E & Junkers Ju87B Stuka, 1:144

LEVEL 3
★★★★★



03771 Spitfire Mk.Ia & Hawker Hurricane Mk.I, 1:144

LEVEL 4
★★★★★



03775 Fairey Gannet AS.1/AS.4, 1:72

LEVEL 4
★★★★★

NEW TOOL



07724 Jim Hopper's Chevy® Blazer K5™, 1:25
As seen in Netflix series "Stranger Things"

LEVEL 5
★★★★★



02167 Express Loco BR 18 505 with Tender, 1:87

Available from all good model
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ONE FOR THE *ROADSTER?*

Garry Powell converts Tamiya's 1:24 Mercedes-Benz SLR 722s McLaren into the Roadster version



The Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren, to give it its full long-winded name, was jointly developed by Mercedes-Benz and McLaren Automotive and when launched in 2003 was regarded as the first Hyper GT. The 'SLR' name is an abbreviation for "Sport Leicht Rennsport" (Sport Light Racing) and was a homage to the famous Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR. Initially offered In Coupe form followed by Roadster versions from 2007, with the 722s Roadster being the last almost normal version available to the public in 2009.

The SLR is one of those great automotive sales mysteries, an incredible product that should have had wealthy punters queuing up but it was not the best received at launch, in fact Mercedes announced that production would be limited to 3,500 but when production was stopped at the end of 2010 just over 2,100 had been produced of all versions including the special Stirling Moss Speedster, well short of their targets. They are now becoming highly sought-after and have aged incredibly well in my humble opinion. Interestingly it's McLaren that seem to have adopted this car with Mercedes almost distancing itself from it after production stopped.

THE MODEL

Having built the standard SLR coupe when it was first released by Tamiya back in 2004, I decided it was time to revisit this kit and build it as a Roadster. Having bought the HobbyDesign Roadster conversion set when it was released quite a while ago,

I hauled it out and got cracking. I'd also decided to use the newer SLR 722 kit to build the last 'standard' version of the SLR, the 722s Roadster.

Upon inspection it was evident that most of the resin parts in conversion kit would be of very little use, they had shrunk considerably, rendering most parts 10-12% too small (**pic 1**). I also had the 722s conversion set which was a resin front bumper – not needed if you use the 722 kit – and the bespoke wheels along with a couple of frets of very useful photo-etch. ▶



3



2



❶ First thing to do was remove the roof. McLaren very kindly built the real car with us modellers in mind, by using the same C pillar base profile as the coupe so this was a simple cut. The windscreen header was cut roughly so it could be trimmed more accurately using the resin part and the doors. The conversion provides new resin doors but as they had shrunk it was easier to modify the kit doors by trimming off most of the window frame.

The modified main body and the rest of the body panels were then cleaned up and readied for paint. After a couple of coats of Tamiya primer, the last one was sanded back with some 3,000 grit-sponge and Tamiya TS-64 Dark Mica Blue was decanted and airbrushed on, using the usual four to five coats to build up colour without causing pooling along edges and joins.

The blue was left to dry for about a week, followed by carbon fibre decals on the front spoiler lip and then everything was clear coated with multiple layers of decanted TS-13, each one sanded with 3,000-grit sponges in between. The painted body parts were then put aside to cure. I have learned over the years that TS-13, even when its decanted, continues to gas out, and if its sanded and polished too soon will still lose its finish a few weeks later.

PROJECT ON PAUSE

I usually leave paint to cure for four to five weeks, but other projects happened and seven years later the body was

still curing in its box... Fast forward to 2024 and I was on a bit of a mission to finish some of the projects that had been started a few, sometimes more, years ago it's safe to say the clear was cured by now. After watching a video on the SLR MSO (McLaren Special Operations) program, I was inspired and the SLR body was brought out. It still looked good, so time to finish it, maybe with a tweaked MSO exhaust.

All the bodywork was sanded and polished using the God Hand sanding sheets from 2,000 down to 12,000. I find these excellent as they have a stiff enough backing to sand flat and smooth. Thirty years ago a very wise man showed me the difference between just shiny and smooth. This was followed by Tamiya compounds for polishing which I still find the best. I had now decided that the focus of this build would be a detailed interior as it's a roadster, followed up with detailed wheels and brakes, lights, vents etc. A nicely detailed curbside, and I would be gluing the bonnet closed as I only wanted to see the finished lines of the car, and let's be honest, once a model is finished how often do we look under the bonnet?

Having looked at some references it was clear that the interior wasn't just a roofless coupe and there were some significant changes to the rear bulkhead and of course the roll bars behind the seats. The conversion provides a replacement bulkhead which was chopped up and stretched in both

directions so as to keep the roll bar sections intact but actually fit the kit interior parts. New side panels were crafted for the area just behind and next to the seats, as they are quite visible and were lacking some details.

The kit door panels were used with the pull handle blobs being replaced with a strip of plastic to better represent the handle as they are clearly visible without a roof. The dashboard vents were hollowed out from behind to incorporate photo-etched parts that look a lot more realistic **(pic 2)**.

One of the biggest differences on the interior between a regular SLR and the 722 edition is the use of carbon fibre for some of the panels. Luckily most of the CF areas are separate parts in the kit, making life much easier, these were all painted with LP-5 Semi-Gloss Black ready for decal application and clear coating.

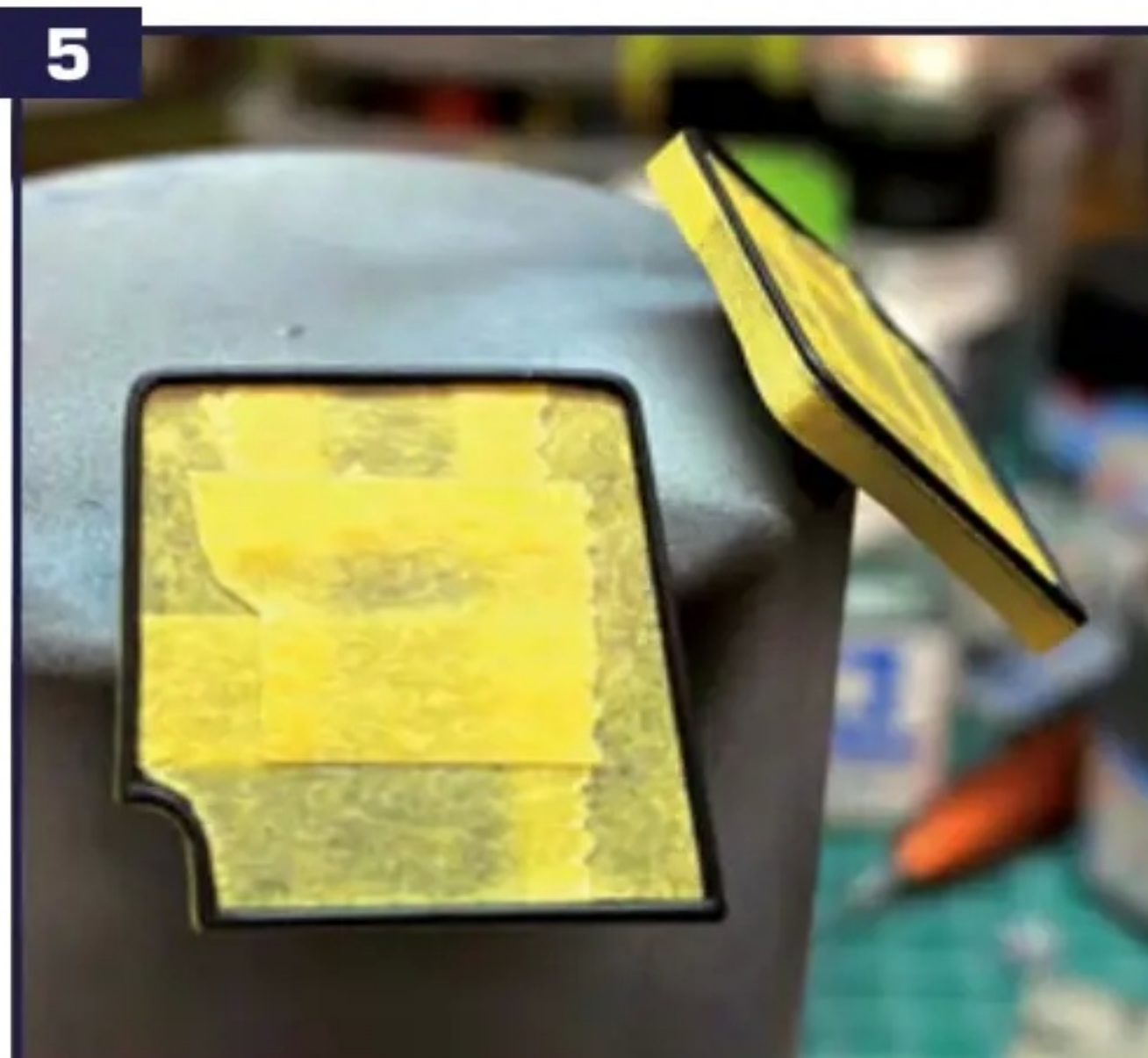
INTO THE INTERIOR

The seats have a fine CF edge to them, this was applied using thin short strips of decal but making sure the weave matched as it went around the seat **(pic 3)**. After mocking up the interior it became apparent that some footwell mats would be required, so these were fabricated from some plastic sheet with 0.5mm rod glued on the edge to represent piping **(pic 4)**. After painting the inner part was carpeted with MFH black carpet material, which is in my opinion much more realistic than flocking **(pics 5, 6, 7, 8)**

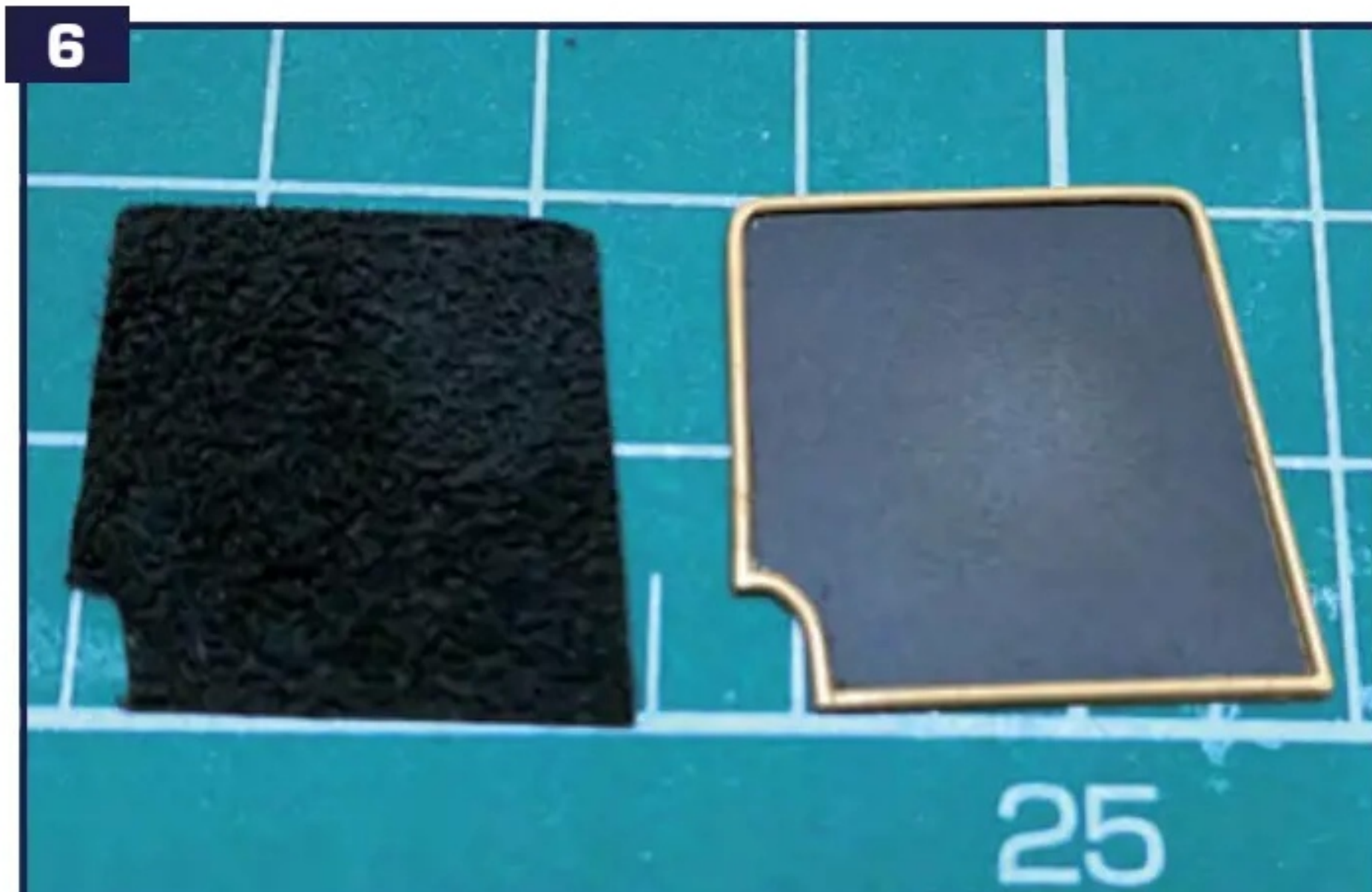
4



5



6





Moving onto the chassis and the suspension was mocked up to check ride height. Initially I was planning to use the Hobby Design resin 722 multi spoke wheels, but they were riddled with air bubbles, with some of the spokes not even being in one piece in places. No amount of work would have got them to a level I would be satisfied with so I settled on a set of suburb Plamoz wheels designed for the AMG GT but still looking the part of the original 722s ones **(pic 9)**. Some modification to the brakes and uprights was required as they were a different rear fitting than the Tamiya original pin into poly cap ones. The kit brake callipers were detailed and painted red to match the originals **(pic 10)**.

Once the interior was finally fitted to the body I had to build a bulkhead around the outside edge of the shelf to prevent see through to the rear wheels



(pic 11). The two resin parts were trimmed and fettled to fit and painted black. The actual canvas roof section was painted with Zero Paint textured black – if sprayed at low pressure in light coats it gives a great 'fluffy' texture, a quick blow over with flat clear and it looked spot on **(pic 12)**.

The rear diffuser was treated so some carbon fibre decal, in the end twenty-eight separate decals were cut to ensure perfect matchup of the CF weave. This was clear-coated with Mr Hobby UV cut clear and sanded and polished the same as any other area of the bodywork **(pic 13)**. 

“ I usually leave paint to cure for four to five weeks, but other projects happened and seven years later the body was still curing in its box... ”





FINAL STEPS

All the sub-assemblies were now brought together and details such as wing mirrors, indicators lenses and tyre valves fitted. The completed model was mounted on a self made base as I prefer not to have to handle a model once its finished.

In the end this project spanned over eight years on and off and took about 150 hours of investment, which is probably way more than it should have, but I have a unique miniature SLR 722s Roadster that is something I haven't seen built before. ●





FULL-BUILD SUPERCAR CONVERSION
TAMIYA 1:24 MERCEDES-BENZ SLR MCLAREN 722 EDITION - KIT NO.24317





TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:24 MERCEDES-BENZ SLR MCLAREN 722 EDITION KIT NO.24317

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints used:

Tamiya: TS-64 Dark Mica Blue

Accessories used:

HobbyDesign: 1:24 SLR Roadster Conversion Kit (HD03-0007).
Out of production, check online auction sites.

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

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KIT PREVIEW

ALPHA MODEL 1:24 MERCEDES-BENZ C63 AMG BLACK SERIES (W204) • KIT NO.AM02-0083



AMAZING MODEL, ***GUARANTEED...***



Alpha Model has created a stunning replica of the Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG Coupe Black Series. **Marcus Nicholls** checks it out...

The Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG (W204) is perhaps best known for its brutal M156 6.2-litre V8 engine, in fact the sound it makes is why most people – myself included – fall in love with these machines in the first place. A few model kits of fast Mercs have been created over the years by Tamiya and others, but so far, the W204 has missed being immortalised as a 1:24 replica. All that changed when Alpha Model launched their resin kit a while back, depicting the Black Series Coupe, arguably the ultimate expression of this generation of the C63 and even now, a rare and highly desirable vehicle. Alpha's model comes in curbside form, in other words it has no engine, suspension or running-gear detail to speak of, with all the work involved in getting the body shape just right. In this respect the model is a triumph, with the muscular profile of the C63 captured beautifully.

The windows, often the

most intimidating part of a specialist car kit, come in the form of pre-cut panels of clear acetate with pre-printed black edges, taking away the worry of cutting these parts out from a larger sheet. Great care will still be needed when fixing them in place without causing glue smears, but a lot of the most trepidatious work has been done for the modeller already. Sheets of photo-etched metal carry disc brake faces, grilles, number plates, badges and more. The headlight lenses (front and rear) are cast in crystal clear resin and the tyres are formed from a flexible, rubber-like material that slip easily over the immaculate ten-spoke alloy (cast resin) wheels.

Whilst there's no engine or suspension, the cabin interior is thoroughly depicted, with sumptuous racing seats, roll cage and detailed dashboard all provided in pale yellow polyurethane resin. A little experience with resin models will help when building this kit, with the



modeller needing to be patient and willing to make multiple test-fits of parts before committing to glue. Cyanoacrylate is the order of the day here, and lacquer paints covered with clear top coats will bring the best out of the model.

If you're a fan of snarling, rumbling, guttural V8s with too much horsepower for their own good, you'll find this kit hard to resist, and I'll guarantee you'll have a YouTube video of the real thing playing as you build your 1:24 miniature... Highly recommended, for

those with a few builds under their belt. ●

- Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG specs
- Engine: 6.2 litre petrol V8
- Power: 451bhp at 6,800rpm
- Torque: 443lb/ft at 5,000rpm
- Power to weight ratio: 265bhp/ton
- 0 to 60mph: 4.2 seconds
- 0 to 100mph: 9.8 sec
- Top speed: 155mph

Availability;

Alpha Model kits are available from good online model shops www.alphamodelkit.com





The Yakovlev Yak-9T was the second Yak-9 fighter aircraft family variant. It was a single-engine, single-seat fighter aircraft used by the Soviet Union and its allies during World War II. It was armed with a 37mm Nudelman-Suranov NS-37 cannon with 30 rounds, firing through the propeller hub. The cockpit was shifted rearwards by 40 cm to compensate for the heavier nose. Recoil and limited ammunition availability necessitated precise aiming

with two- or three-round bursts that could penetrate up to 40mm of armour from 500m and was also effective against enemy aircraft.

One hit from the Yak-9T cannon could tear apart the opponent's aircraft and have a significant moral impact when facing such an adversary. The 9T was popular among flight crews, owing to its formidable weaponry and excellent flight performance. The aircraft was mass-manufactured from March 1943 to June 1945. A

total of 2,748 aircraft were produced.

Roland Paulze d'Ivoy de la Poype (28th July 1920, 23rd October 2012) was a Second World War French fighter ace. Upon learning that French volunteers were to be sent to the Soviet front, he joined the Normandie fighter group and was part of the first batch of 12 French pilots who, via transfers through Lebanon and Iraq, arrived in Ivanovo in the Soviet Union on 28th November 1942.

He ended the war with

a total tally of sixteen confirmed aerial victories (seven solo and nine shared victories), one (and eleven shared) probable, and one aircraft damaged in almost 200 missions, most of which were achieved while flying with top French ace and Commanding Officer Marcel Albert. De la Poype was one of only four members of the regiment to be awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and a Companions of Liberation at only twenty-seven years old.

YAK ATTACK

Carl Robertshaw builds ICM's 1:32 Yak 9t and adds extra detail from Eduard



ICM'S KIT

The Ukrainian company ICM has been prolific in producing scale model kits of interesting and important subjects over the past few years. While the country is defending itself from the Russian invasion, this kit is not without significant context. It is the fourth in the 1:32 series ICM has produced; surprisingly, the type hasn't been kitted by any other mainstream manufacturer in this scale before.

Our Editor sent me the

Parts are packed in a sturdy box with a glossy lid depicting Roland and his aircraft (minus the red stars of course)

kit to build as soon as he received it at the start of 2023. I made a positive start when it arrived but then had to stop. Over a year passed, dealing with the hospitalisation and then the death of my mother and reconciling her estate. This kit was/is a reminder of a significant year in my life, so this kit has many contexts. I considered shelving it, but I was determined to honour these. ▶





The main fuselage and wings are broken down conventionally and the test fitting the parts shows promise. The engine can be exposed and ICM have allowed for this option in the parts breakdown. A nice option



The simple breakdown of the figure of Roland is straightforward. The sculpt is good but not quite the likeness of his face. Good to have a figure included in the kit



The engine parts and the massive cannon, which fits right through the engine. This is a nice base for the super-detailers to add a heap of detail. If you plan on keeping the cowlings on, the engine still needs to be built

❶ The glossy box top depicts Poype standing next to his aircraft, and after lifting the lid, you have a modest selection of sprues with 160 parts and one beautifully clear sprue for the canopy and wingtip lights. The parts are crisply moulded in mid-grey plastic with finely engraved panel lines on the conventionally broken down parts, with the tubular cockpit frame and subtle stretched fabric surfaces on the rear fuselage halves and

separate control surfaces. The engine and canon are supplied along with the cowling frames and pipework as an option to have them exposed. Wheels are in plastic halves without flat spots. No harness is provided. A separate sprue with six parts is included to depict the standing figure of de la Poype.

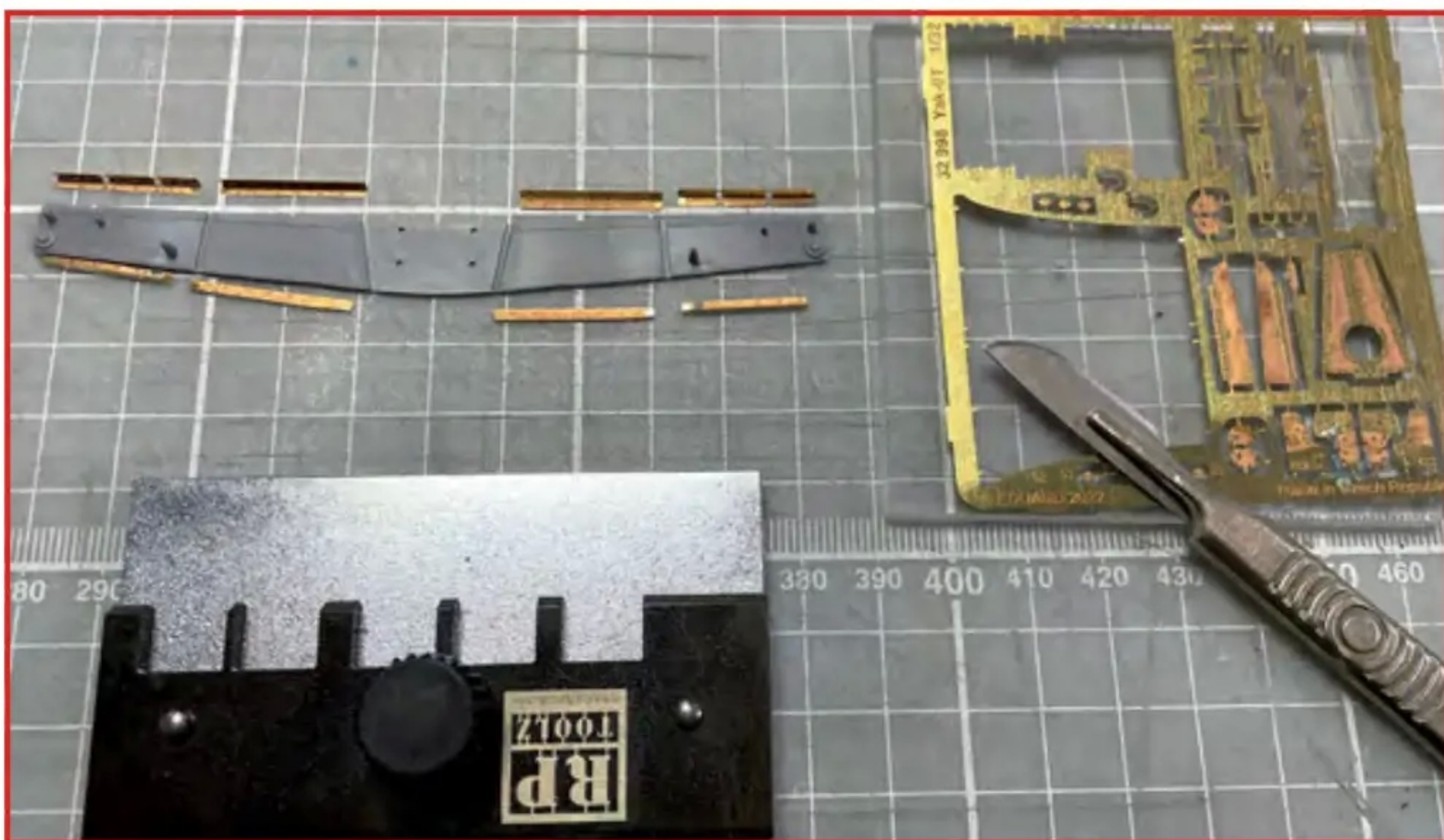
The simple instructions are clear line-drawn illustrations with Tamiya paint callouts that are inaccurate to the real aircraft, so you

must research these. The decal sheet only hosts the necessary markings for this specific aircraft, with the stars separated in halves. These are notoriously delicate and difficult to handle.

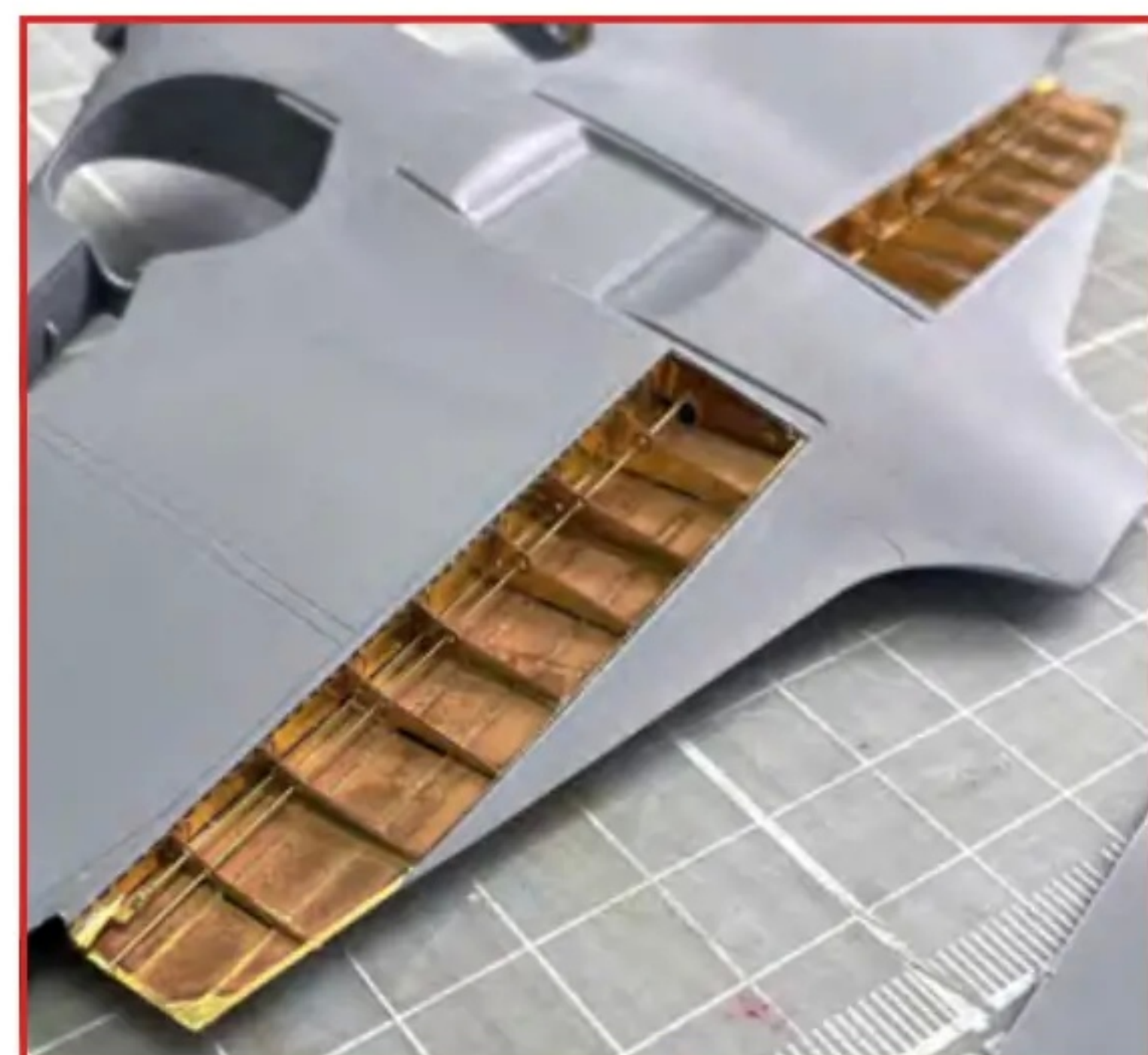
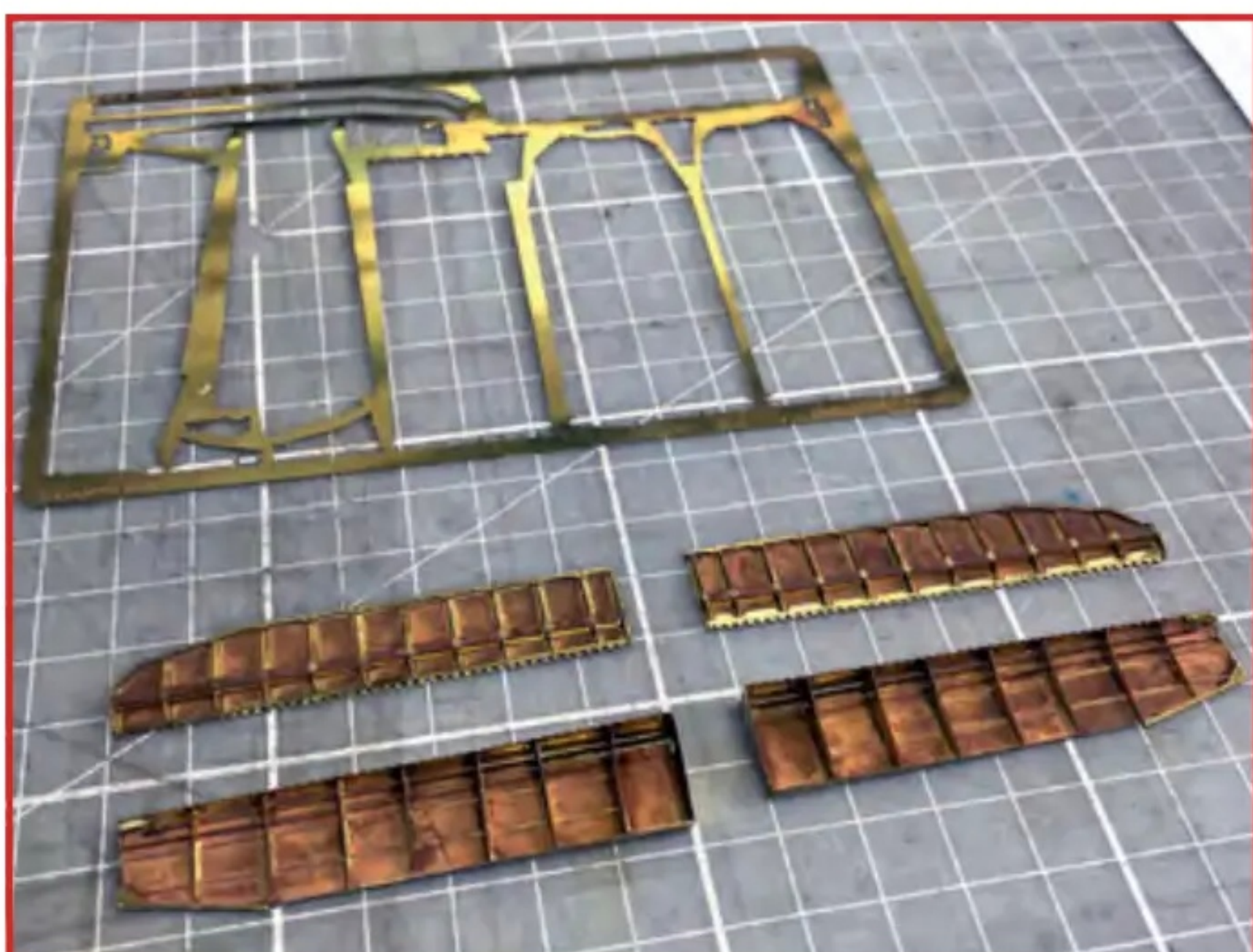
ENTER EDUARD

I complemented this build with the Eduard Big Ed set, which supplies us with a pre-printed harness, dash, and controls. Included are photo-etched flaps, rear

undercarriage doors, and canopy masks, which are a welcome help. This little fighter punches well above its weight. This could be said for ICM, too, especially considering the current conflict in Ukraine. I started this model with the expectation it would be a simple start-to-finish build, but then halfway through, priorities suddenly changed - having to manage family duties; this kit will be a token of that significant experience. ▶



I used Eduard's Big Ed set that includes photo-etched parts. Here the detail can be increased in the simple undercarriage bays.



PE flaps are included in the Eduard set. They are fiddly, and you need to carefully cut the plastic away from the lower wings. Thankfully, the plastic is quite soft. The Yak would not typically have its flaps down while parked, but on a simple model like this I think it adds a nice point of interest so I went with some artistic licence



The interior cockpit framework is fitted to the fuselage halves. Onto this, the controls and small details are mounted. Some ejector pin marks are visible here, but when the fuselage is buttoned up, none of them will be seen. PE panels are glued inside the tail wheel bay, again, this is all but invisible when complete



Before starting to paint, the cockpit dial details were sanded off in preparation for the printed PE detail to be glued on



Resin exhaust stacks are available as an extra for this kit, but it is no big deal to hollow out the kit plastic exhausts. This looks every bit as good as the resin upgrade



Paint time! The interior areas to be painted were first primed with Mr Surfacer 1500 Black. This will help create shadow areas in the next step. A lightened mix of XF-19 Sky Grey was then sprayed on the interior surfaces. This was done in light passes from above, letting the black undercoat create contrasting shadow areas



Mr Color Metallic paint, Super Iron, was sprayed onto the metal areas. This is a lovely fine metallic paint



The surface of the kit has nicely engraved panel lines and subtle fabric textures, but no rivet detail. Using my RB riveter and a set of plans I found on the internet, I set about adding rows of rivets with the pounce wheel



The cockpit is simple and very effective. With a simple oil wash over careful brush-painted details, the textures and detail really pop

The padded seat back is a point of interest when painted with highlights and lowlights, mimicking the wear on the fabric. Printed seat belts are included in the Eduard set. These look better with an oil wash to dirty them down





A clamp is needed to keep pressure on the fuselage halves while the glue cures. The parts are precise and the tolerances are tight around the cockpit dials



Before fitting the engine cowling, I bored out the tip of the machine gun tip. This low-powered USB rechargeable mini drill is ideal because it doesn't melt the plastic



The engine cowling cover needs some coaxing to fit well. There are some fastener details present, and I chose to add more once the glue had cured using the end of a hypodermic needle



I found the wings fitted together well. Some people have noted the upper wing to fuselage join is a little questionable, so test fit and test fit again. It may be better in some cases to glue the upper wings to the fuselage sides before mating the lower wing to the fuselage. The instructions have you gluing the upper wings to the lower, and then bringing the wings up to meet the fuselage. I did it this way and had no issues. The join runs along a panel line so this join was not filled once glued



The cockpit looks good close up and the control column and pedals are fixed to the lower wing, which is inserted from below. Test fitting measures that it comes together with a snug fit. Even the revolver is included by the pilot's left foot!



A cocktail of light blue was mixed by eye for the underside colour. The paint callouts in the instructions are far from reality, so you need good references. I used Mr. Color 307, AK RC291 and XF-18 Medium Blue lightened with white. It can't be too bright or too blue, but not grey either. The underside was given light layers of colour, letting the black base create some ghosting around the panel lines, rivets, and imagined internal framing

Achieving the right colour mix for the top surface was key for me. AK Real Colours gets close to what looks good to my eye but still needs some adjustment. XF-12 JN Grey was the right greenish grey to add to the Real Colours RC318 and RC319 to lighten them and give them a little more greenish tint. Using one colour to tint and lighten both greys means that a super thin (95% thinner) mix can be used to lighten the surface, adding definition and the effect of sun bleaching easily over the two-tone camouflage scheme





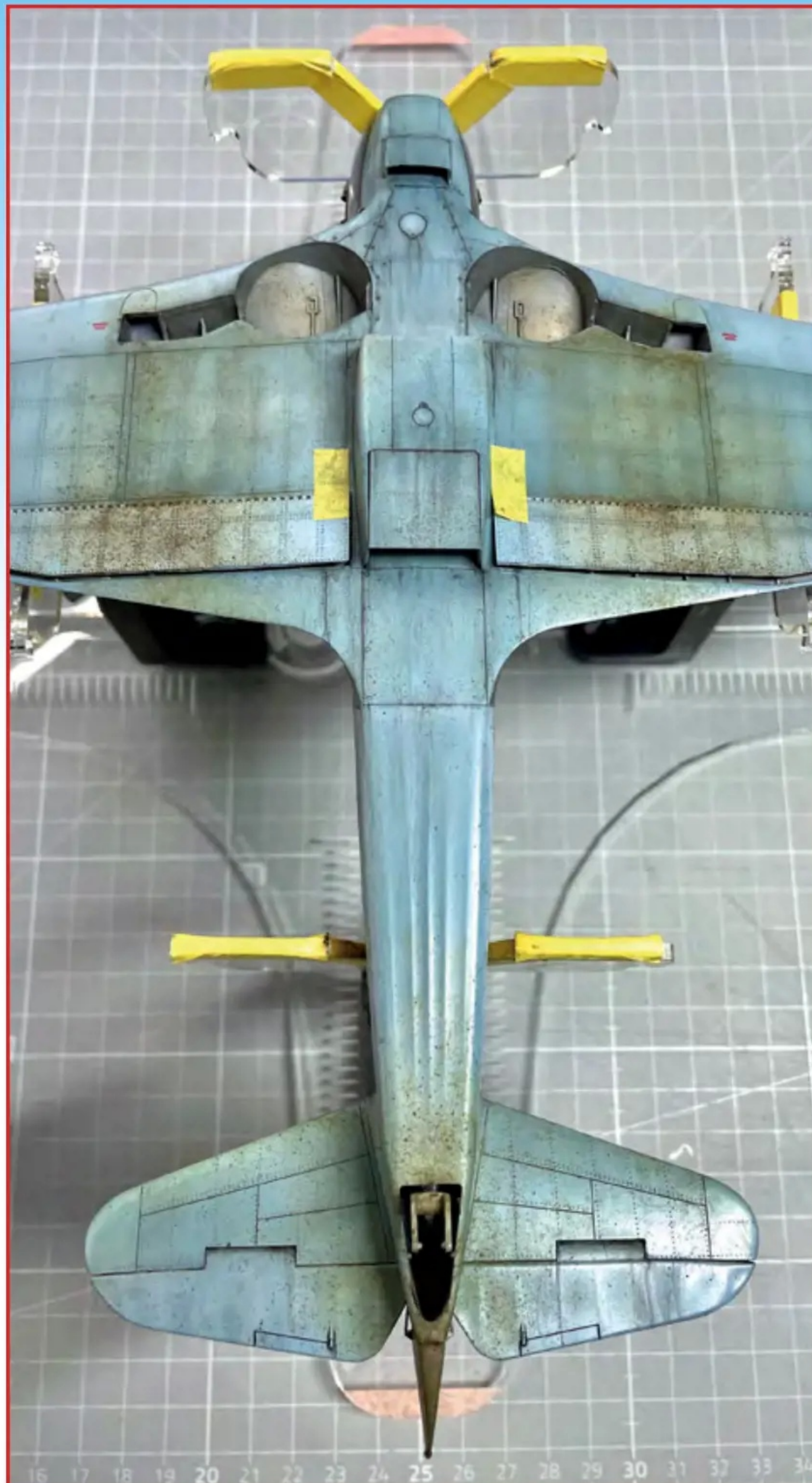
I then went back and worked in more variation onto the underside, creating more highlights on the blue mix. This could be a very boring and monotone aircraft if sprayed in one flat colour, but with subtle and varied differences in the hue and tone of the paint mixes, it is possible to make the single overall colour come to life



Having read the experience Brett had with his decals in Military Illustrated Modeller Issue 143 I was a little apprehensive about the kit decals. The best approach is to use lots of water to let the decals slide on the (previously sprayed glossy) surface. Only use setting solutions once you have the decals in place. Luckily, there are not many of them. The stars are the hardest prices to position because they are split down the middle. I wanted to eliminate the seam join, so I sanded the seams down gently with a micro-mesh cloth (which is forgiving on this type of surface) and respray the centres. After this they were sealed in with another gloss layer using Tamiya X-22 Clear



Enamel Panel Line washes were liberally painted over all the engraved and riveted detail, left to 'go off' for half an hour or so until the paint had almost dried. Then, using an almost dry paper towel that had barely any odourless thinners on it, wiped away the residue. The subtle detail then reveals itself nicely. The key is to choose colours that compliment the paint layers



Enamel Panel Line wash was used to add an extra layer of texture. On the underside, speckles and flecks of the wash was flicked in very fine patterns to depict the dirt kicked up from the airfield. The same wash was dabbed inside the flaps to accentuate the detail. The excess was cleaned, and once it had all dried the model was given several layers of matt varnish



FULL-BUILD WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED AIRCRAFT

ICM 1:32 YAK 9T NORMANDIE-NIEMEN PLANE OF ROLAND DE LA POYPE • KIT NO.32093



TECHSPEC...

ICM 1:32 YAK 9T NORMANDIE-NIEMEN PLANE OF ROLAND DE LA POYPE KIT NO.32093

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Paints:

- Tamiya Acrylics: X-7 Red, X-14 Sky Blue, X-22 Clear, XF-2 Flat White, XF-8 Flat Blue, XF-12 JN Grey, XF-18 Medium Blue, XF-19 Sky Grey, XF-69 Nato Black
- Tamiya: Weathering sets A, B, E, Natural Metal Aircraft, Panel Line Accent Color Black
- Mr Color: Mr Levelling Thinner, Mr Surfacer Black 1500, 203 Super Iron, 307 Gray
- AK Interactive 3rd Gen: Rubber Black, Skin Tone, Basic Skin Tone, Blood Red, Light Rust, Light Flesh, White
- AK Interactive: Odourless Thinners, Weathering Pencils
- AK Interactive Real Colour: RC291 Azure Blue, RC316 Light Blue, RC218 Dark Grey, RC319 A14 Interior Steel Grey
- AMMO: A-stand Transparent Lacquer Blue, Yellow, Red, Oil Brusher Starship Bay Sludge, PLW Storm Grey, Nato Camo Wash
- Adhesives and fillers:
- Tamiya: Extra Thin, Quick setting and White cap cement
- Deluxe Materials: Perfect Plastic Putty, Rocket Hot CA glue
- Mr Cement: SPB

Tools used:

- Infini: Micro sanding sticks, Infini hard sponge sanders 400
- Tamiya: side cutters, tweezers, masking tapes and sanding sponges
- Swann Morton: scalpels
- RB: riveter wheel and PE folding jig
- Masterpiece Models: model stand
- Iwata: Neo airbrush

Reference:

- Military Illustrated Modeller Issue 143

Accessories used:

- Eduard: Big-Ed Yakovlev Yak-9T (EBIG33144)

Availability:

- ICM models are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net
- Iwata: www.airbrushes.com

Having now completed the model it has been a therapeutic and cathartic process. It is simple and not daunting but not dull to build. The lines of this airframe are classic and

timeless and quite elegant; like a classic sports car, its silhouette is attractive, and ICM have captured it superbly. There is scope to enhance the detail, and out of the box, it's an enjoyable

build. This is not just another WW2 fighter kit; it is poignant in more ways than one. It is definitely more than the sum of its parts. Highly recommend. ●



www.creativemodels.co.uk

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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KIT PREVIEW

REVELL 1:25 STRANGER THINGS ARGYLE'S VW T3 SURFER BOY PIZZA VAN • KIT NO.07725



Revell is releasing more neat vehicle kits from the TV series 'Stranger Things' the latest being Argyle's VW T3 Surfer Boy Pizza Van in 1:25



SURF'S UP - GET A PIZZA THE ACTION!

As Revell's Stranger Things lines continues to expand, the latest vehicle kit to arrive at Tamiya Model Magazine is the Volkswagen T3 'Surfer Boy Pizza Van' as driven by the character 'Argyle', portrayed in the series by US actor Eduardo Franco. He is a main character in the fourth season of Stranger Things, is

the best friend of Jonathan Byers and is a delivery driver for the aforementioned Surfer Boy Pizza. We're hungry already.. Revell's VW Transporter was originally released way back in 1982 and has undergone numerous releases in different forms over the succeeding decades as ambulances, campers, a UN support truck and plain

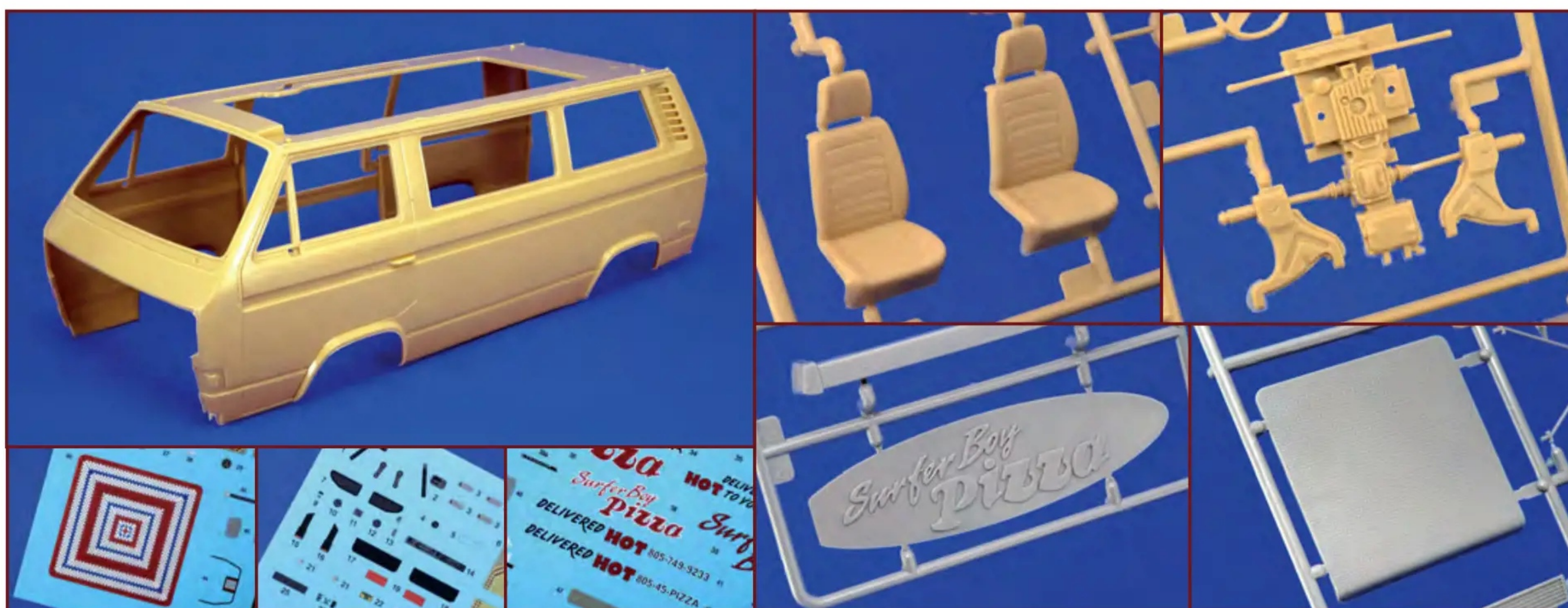
old commercial vehicles. In its latest iteration, it comes with a new sprue for the oval, roof-mounted Surfer Boy Pizza sign, along with an internal rug-base part (with supporting decal) plus a pizza bag. Smart new markings are also supplied of course and these bring the model to life as Argyle's daily driver. The bodyshell looks fresh as

a daisy and while a few parts carry a little easily-removed moulding flash – a sign of the kit's age – it is still a lovely kit of this appealing VW utility machine. ●

Availability;

Revell models are widely available from good model shops and online.

www.revell.de/en



Stranger Things Chevrolets

Revell also offer a 1:25 kit of Jim Hopper's Chevy Blazer (previewed in TMMI 351 January 2025 with a full-build featured coming) plus a 1:24 model of Billy's Chevy Camaro. www.revell.de



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EDUARD

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Airfix's superb, new-tool Chinook HC.1 helicopter gets four very useful photo-etched sets that upgrade the passenger compartment and cockpit.

1:72 photo-etched and decal detail sets

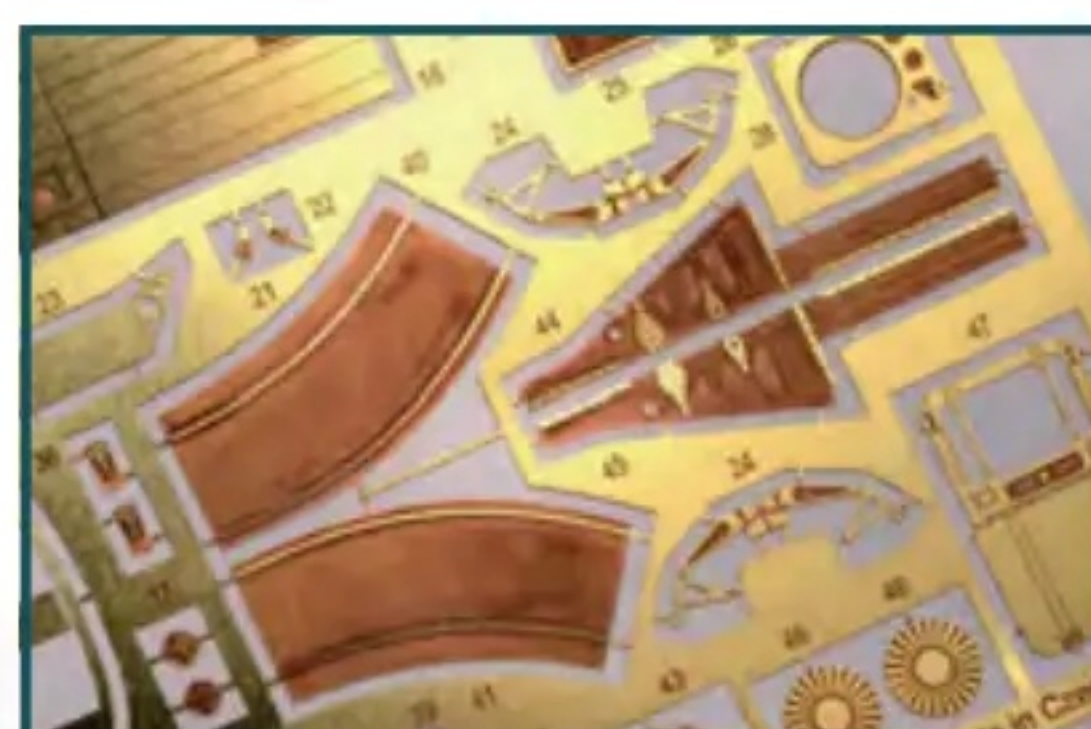
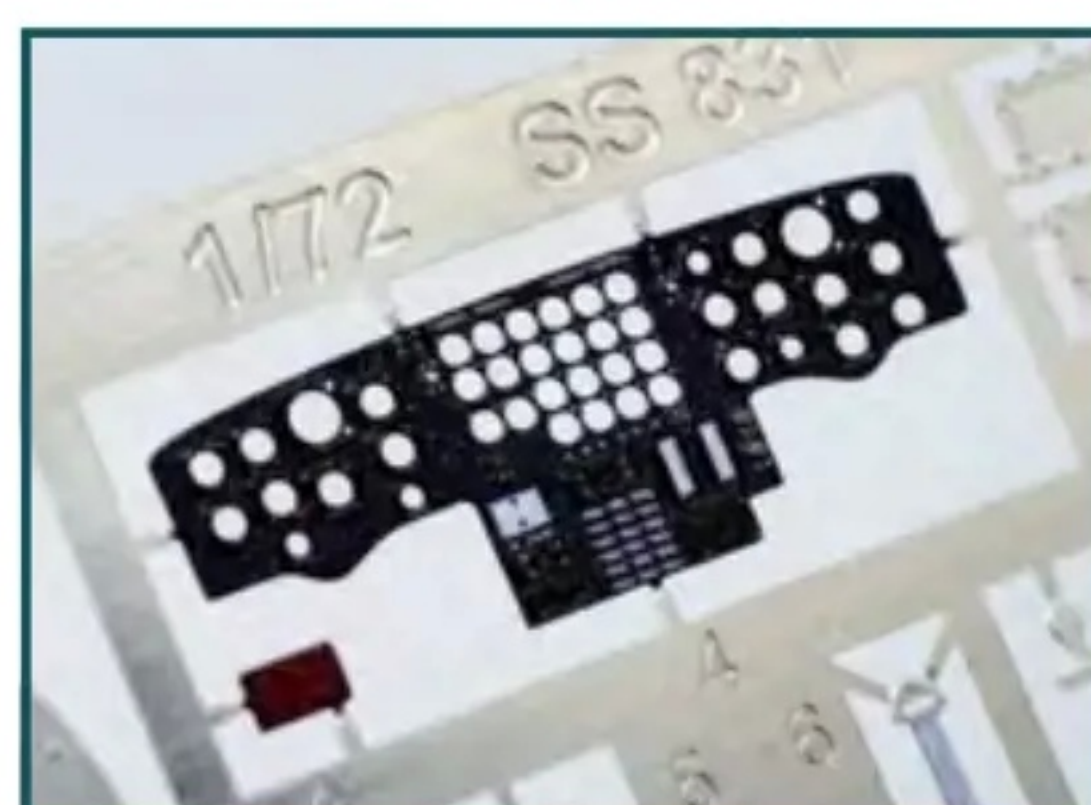
- Chinook HC.1 cargo seatbelts STEEL (73833) for Airfix
- Chinook HC.1 cargo seats (73834) for Airfix
- Chinook HC.1 details (73831) for Airfix
- Chinook HC.1 SPACE (3DL72043) for Airfix

73833



73834

73831



3DL72043



BRENGUN

www.brengun.cz

Recent arrivals from Brengun provide detail upgrades for aircraft from different eras and in different scales. The photo-etched set for Revell's 1:72 Fw190A-8/R-11 is particularly neat and comes with acetate instrument panel backing sheet.

1:72 detail sets

- 150 gal fuel droptanks USN/USMC WWII/ Korea (BRL72282)
- MiG-29A radome & closed upper jet intakes (BRL72278) for Italeri
- Hurricane Mk.IIc (BRL72279)
- Fw190A-8/R-11 (BRL72281) for Revell
- US GP 100lb AN-M30A1 bombs (BRL72246)

1:72 detail sets

- German gunsights WWII (BRL48177)
- LAU-115 2X LAU-127 adapters (BRL48175)

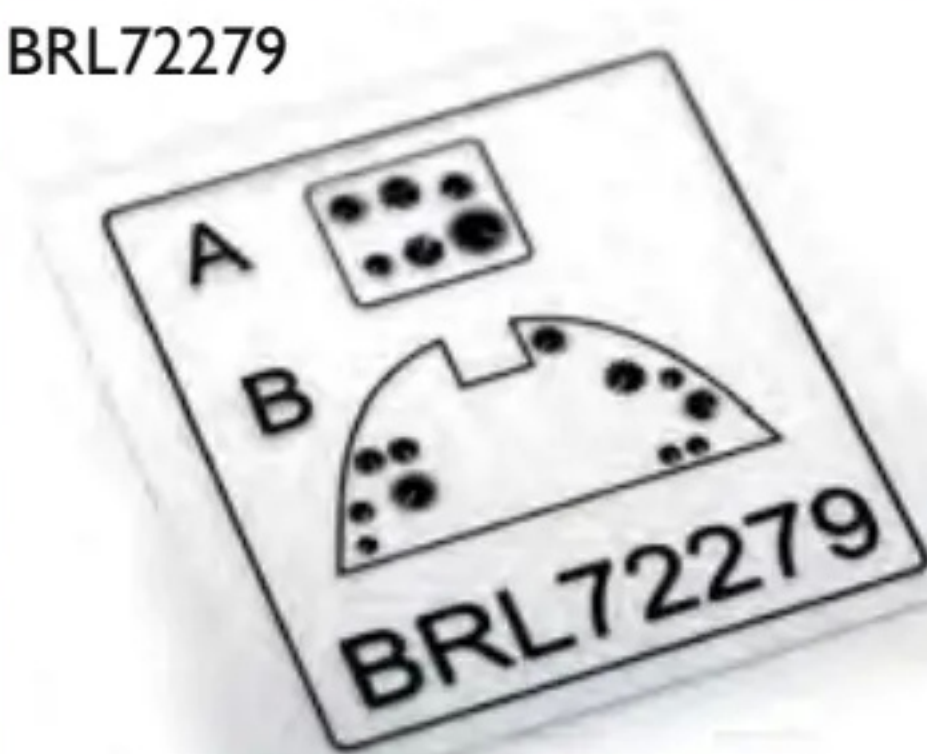
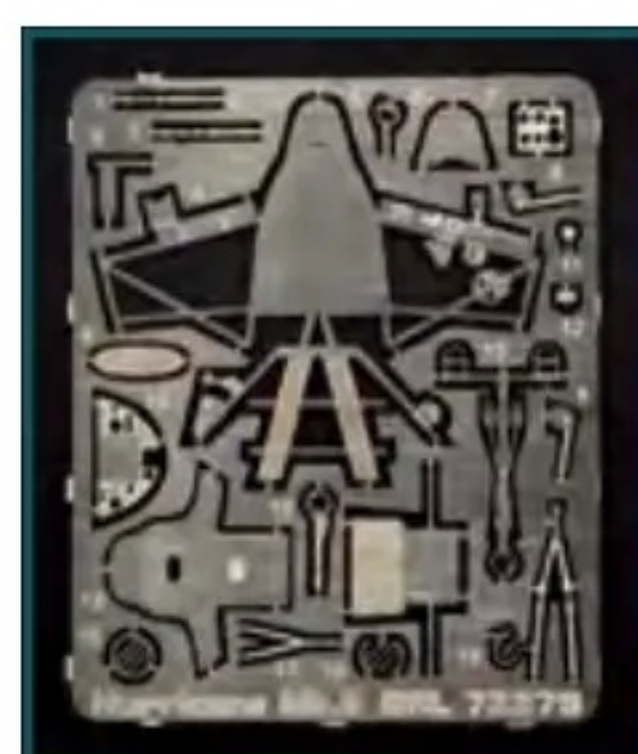
BRL72282



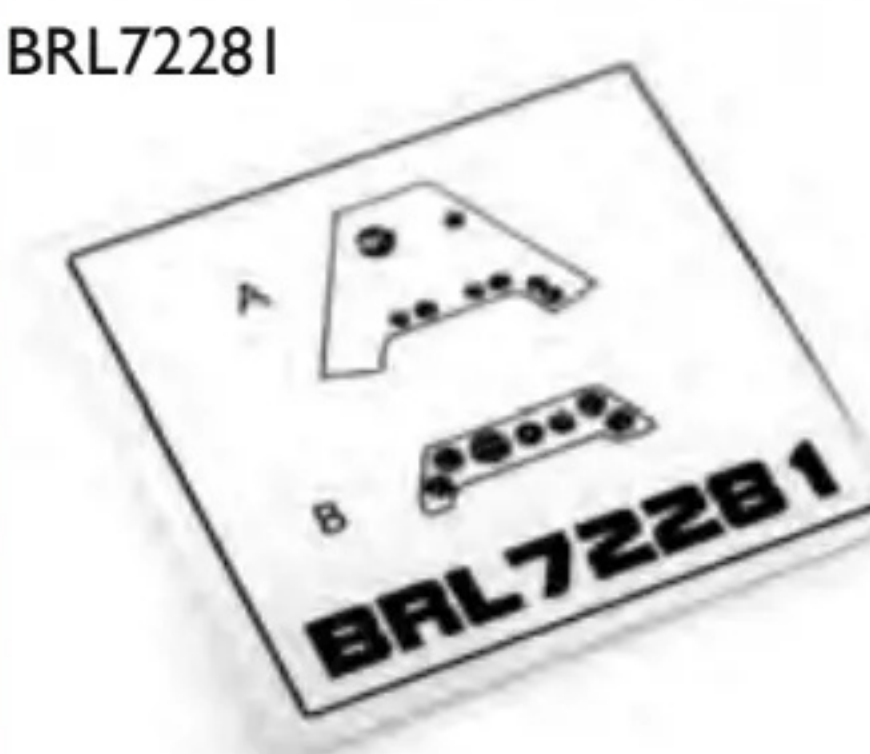
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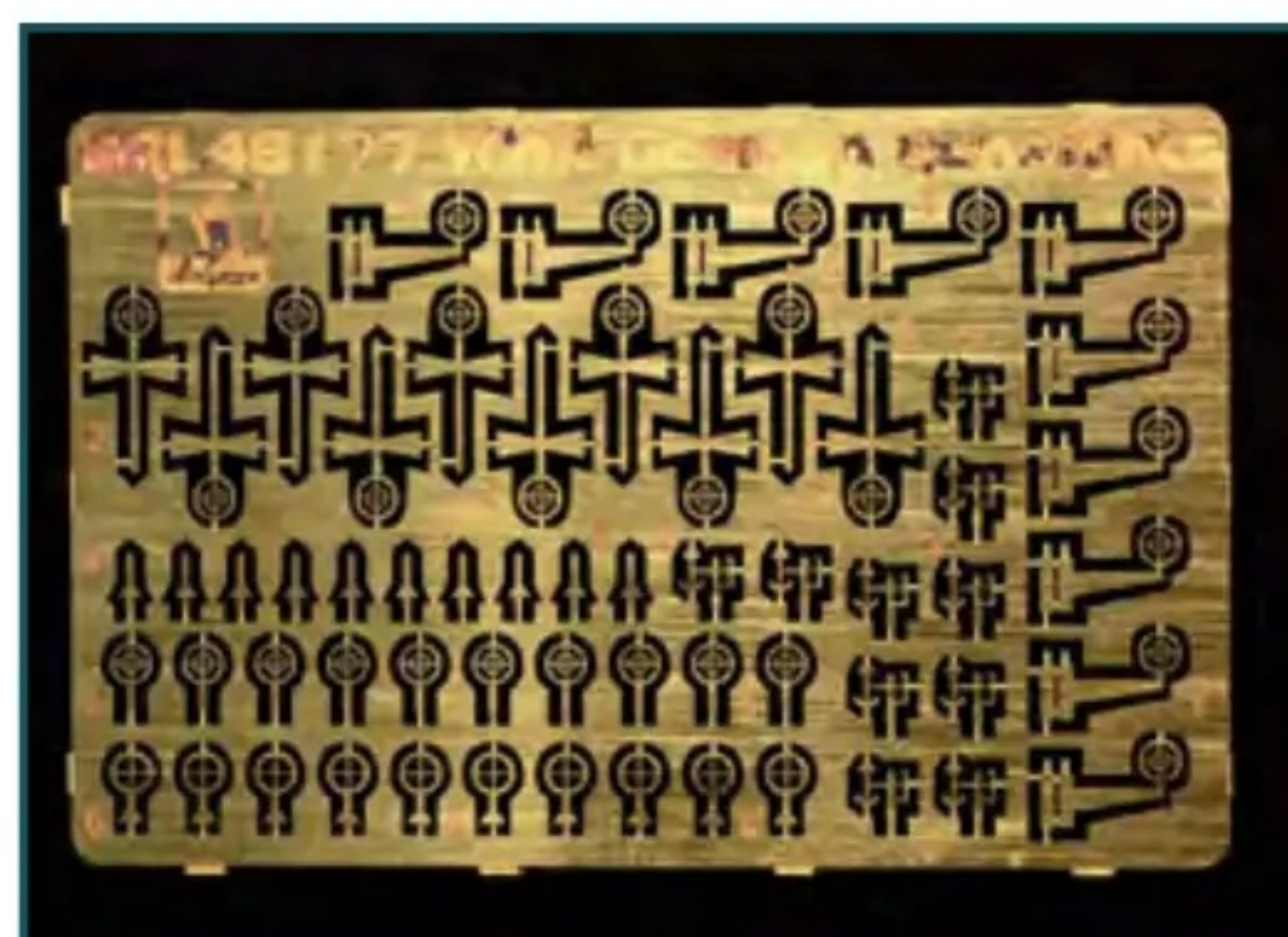
BRL72279



BRL72281



BRL72277



BRL72246



BRL48175





PLUS MODEL

www.plusmodel.cz www.creativemodels.co.uk

The M13 'Director Trailer' was a twin-axle unit of World War Two that took many forms, from carrying electrical generators to mounting the M45 Quad machine gun anti-aircraft system. Plus Model's kit is based around a cast resin tub to which are fitted other resin and 3D-print detail parts and is a highly detailed kit. Some experience with resin and photo-etched brass might be handy, but it shouldn't be too hard to put together and would look great hitched up to a suitable towing vehicle.

1:35 full kit/accessory

- US trailer M13 tandem axle (596)



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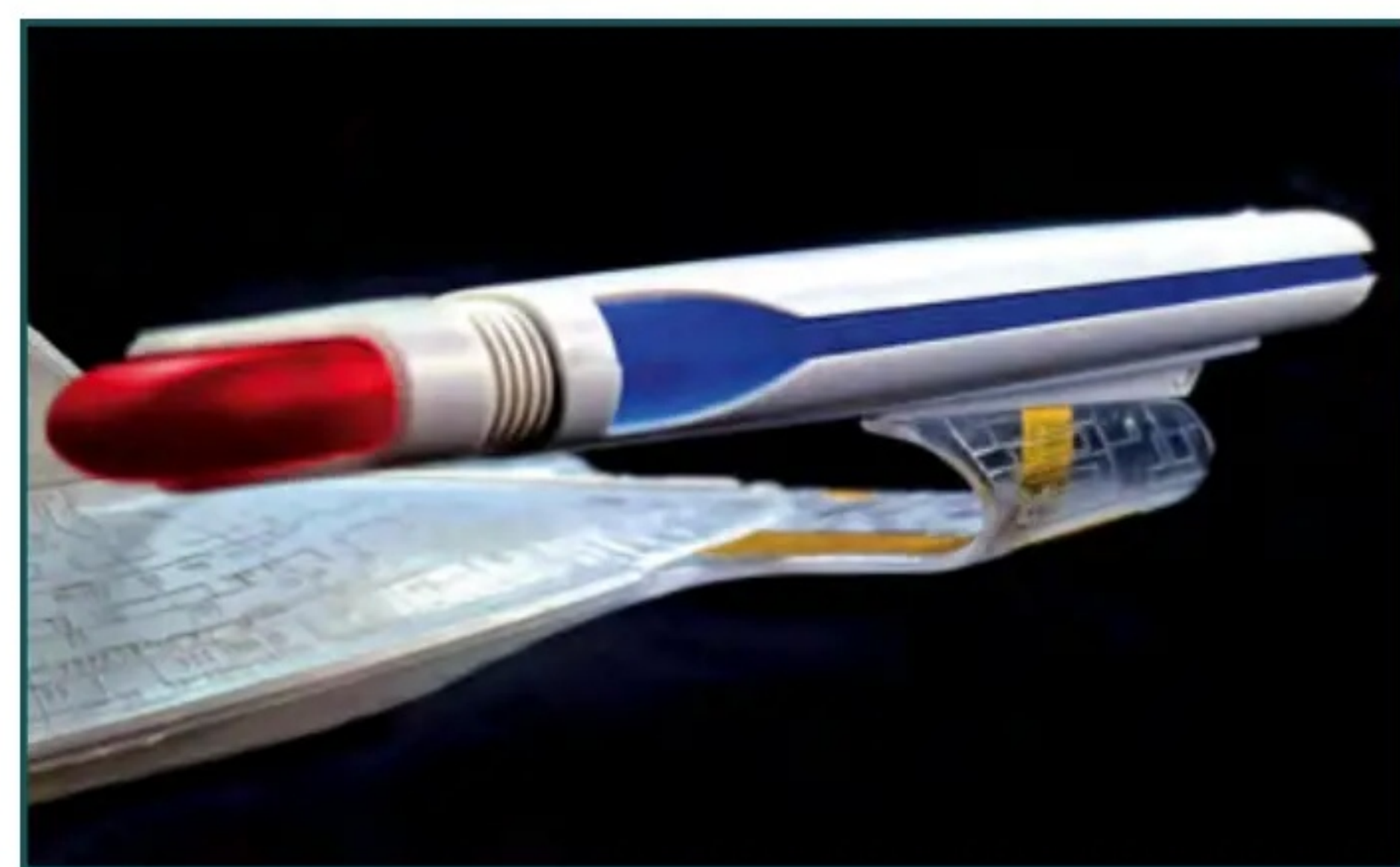
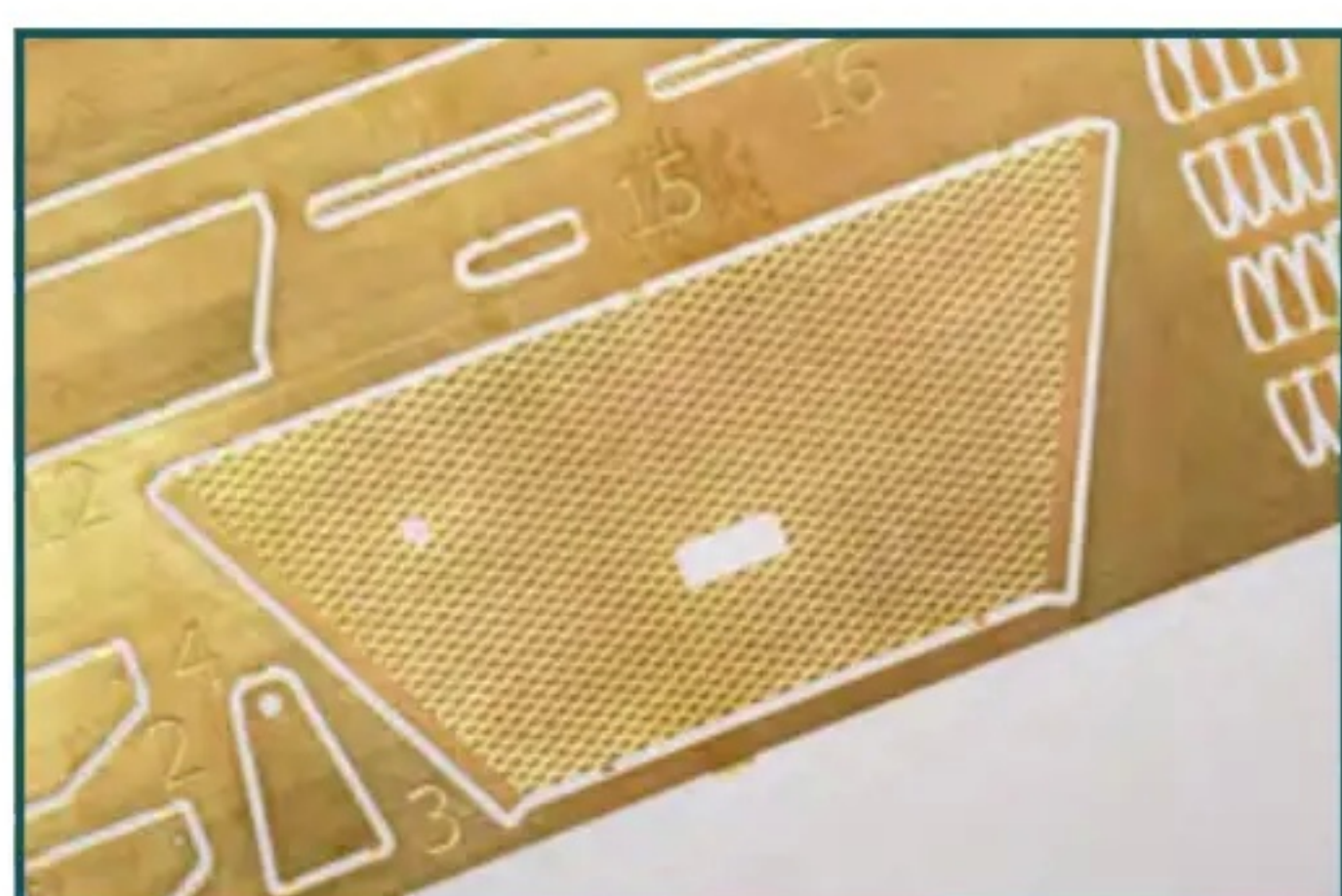
Designed for the AMT 1:1400 kit of Star Trek's USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D (AMT1429), this resin set is ready for lighting-up via the use of LEDs. Two new nacelles are provided in resin, along with clear-cast blue and red inserts and it looks like a fairly easy swap for the kit parts for a dramatic and attractive result. Assemble with cyanoacrylate glue.

Also for AMT's 1:1400 USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D is a set of impulse engines, again designed to be lit up. The Galaxy Class main deflector in resin and photo-etched brass, the latter coming with a pair of resin presses to form the metal into the correct concave shape. Finally, the Enterprise gets an upgraded main hangar entrance as a one-piece resin casting. Superb detail and impeccably produced.

1:1400 detail/upgrade sets

- USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D Galaxy class WARP nacelles (19923-1/1400) for AMT
- Galaxy Class impulse engines (19723-1/1400) for AMT
- Galaxy Class main deflector (19623-1/1400) for AMT
- Galaxy Class main hangar door (19822-1/1400) for AMT

19923-1/1400



19723-1/1400



19623-1/1400



19822-1/1400



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BR572017 SO-1221 Qjinn
BRENGUN 1/72 -accessories
BRL72208 Arado Ar-96 (RS model kit)
BRL72209 Morane-Saulnier MS.225 (Heller/Smer kit)
BRL72210 He-115 (Revell kit)
BRL72211 A-4C conversion (Airfix kit)
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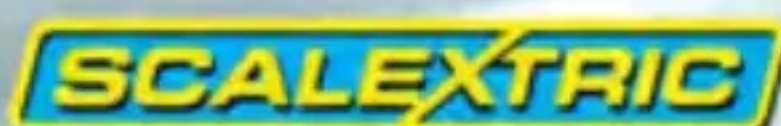
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ICM

ZIL-131 WITH DRIVER

www.icm.com.ua www.hobbyco.net

SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.35019

The Ukrainian company ICM first produced this kit of the ZIL-131 with office body in 2015 and this model has been re-released several times, particularly since the tragic invasion of their country. The initial release of the kit (35517) was supplied with Soviet markings, reflecting its widespread use in many armies since production started in 1966. The latest boxing of the kit represents the vehicle in Ukrainian colours in 2022-24 and the decal sheet provides representations of the digital camouflage pattern, which makes painting the model a thousand times easier. In the box we also get a modern Ukrainian driver, since the vehicle is very much a feature of the current battlefield, although Western and Ukrainian trucks are replacing the elderly ZiS-131 in service. The driver comes with seat cushions to accept his body shape, so that he doesn't look perched on top of his seat. The rear body of the truck has many windows, plus opening rear doors, inviting the modeller to scratchbuild a full interior. As the office body cabin was used for many roles, there are endless options available. The quality of moulding and detail is exceptional, despite the model being ten years old and absolutely nothing is left out. The model comes with a complete engine, allowing the bonnet to be raised and the chunky tyres are excellently moulded in soft vinyl. The base colour can be Soviet-era 4BO Protective Green, or repainted vehicles can be US green, which is more olive coloured. In summary, an outstanding model with interesting digital camouflage, representing a truck defending Ukraine. **CLS**



A superbly moulded kit of a vehicle and crew figure from the current invasion



Even a basic interior for the rear office would fun to see



MINIART

SD.KFZ.234/2 WITH LUCHS TURRET

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

SCALE: 1:35

MATERIALS: IM, EB, WS

ITEM NO.35416

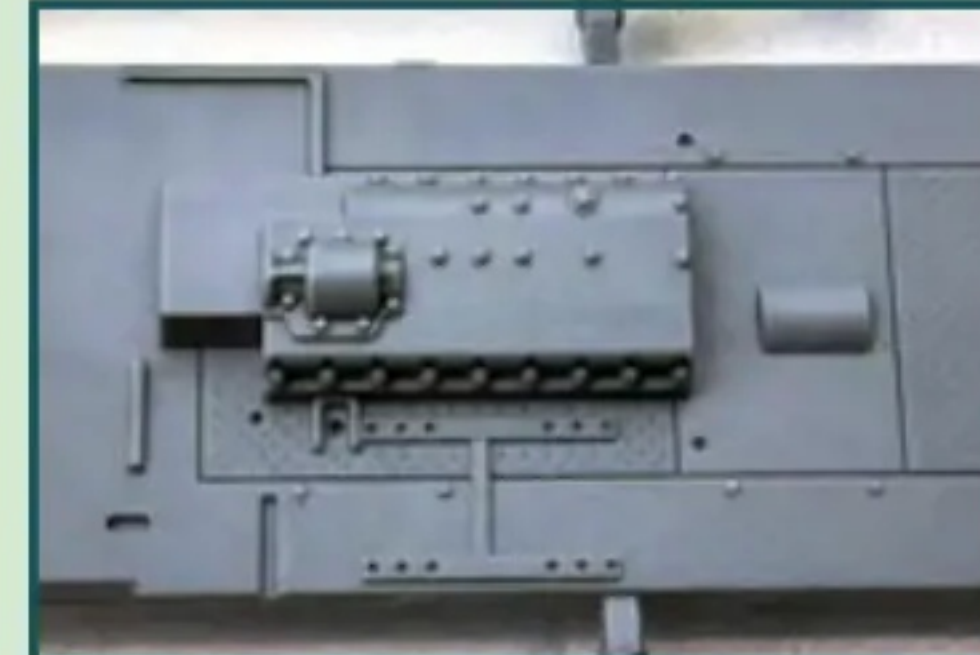
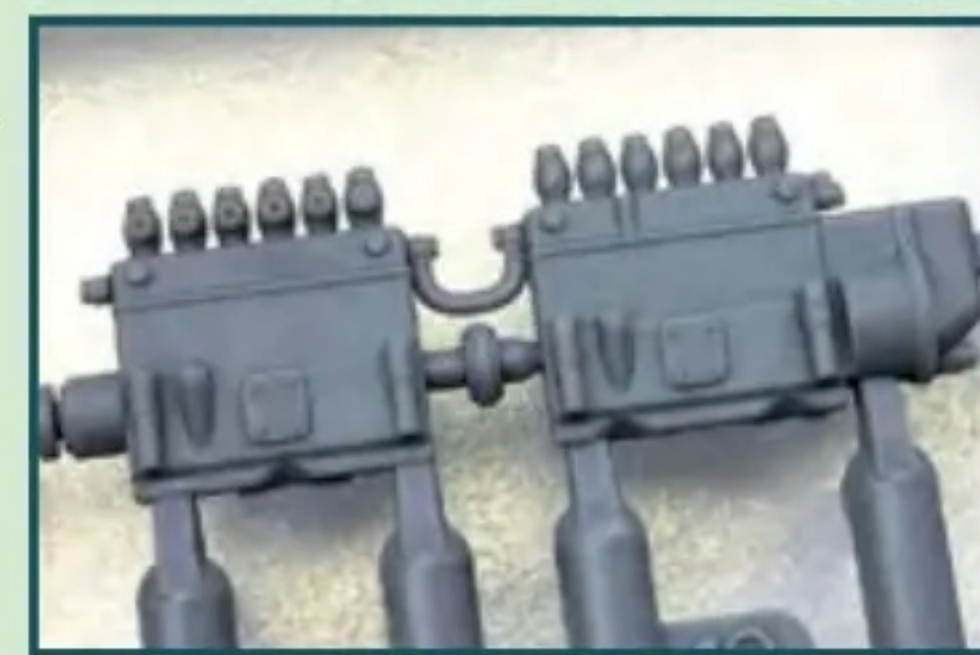
This kit is a Sd.Kfz.234 with the turret of a Panzer II Luchs. Some film footage shows such a vehicle and its unit, part of the 17th Panzer Division, surrendering to US 3rd Army troops in Czechoslovakia. Different sources say that one, two, or five of these combinations were made in the closing stages of WW2. Although the box says Sd.Kfz.234/2, given that the 2cm. ammunition was the same as the Sd.Kfz.234/1, it is equally likely that the latter was used as the base vehicle. Certainly, this version with the Lynx turret on a Puma was a rarity and possibly locally produced. This kit from MiniArt comes with a full interior, including all the ammo racks and other interior parts in the fighting compartment, plus a full engine. Although much of this is potentially hidden, the modeller can open up hatches to display the inner workings of this amazing vehicle. The prominent wheels are slide-moulded to give a good sense of the real tyre tread and the moulding overall is very sharp and precise. The kit accurately provides all of the details – including twin headlights – seen on the footage of this vehicle surrendering. The kit comes with suggested markings for the Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 17, but at this period there was no systematic marking of vehicles, so the modeller is able to use imagination. Possibly a one-off, this kit makes up into a very attractive looking armoured car, a little different to the usual types. **CLS**



An unusual combination, but there is evidence that it existed



Possibly only one was made – but this is a very attractive armoured car



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, SEMBLED 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)



MINIART

M3 STUART DIESEL EARLY PRODUCTION

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

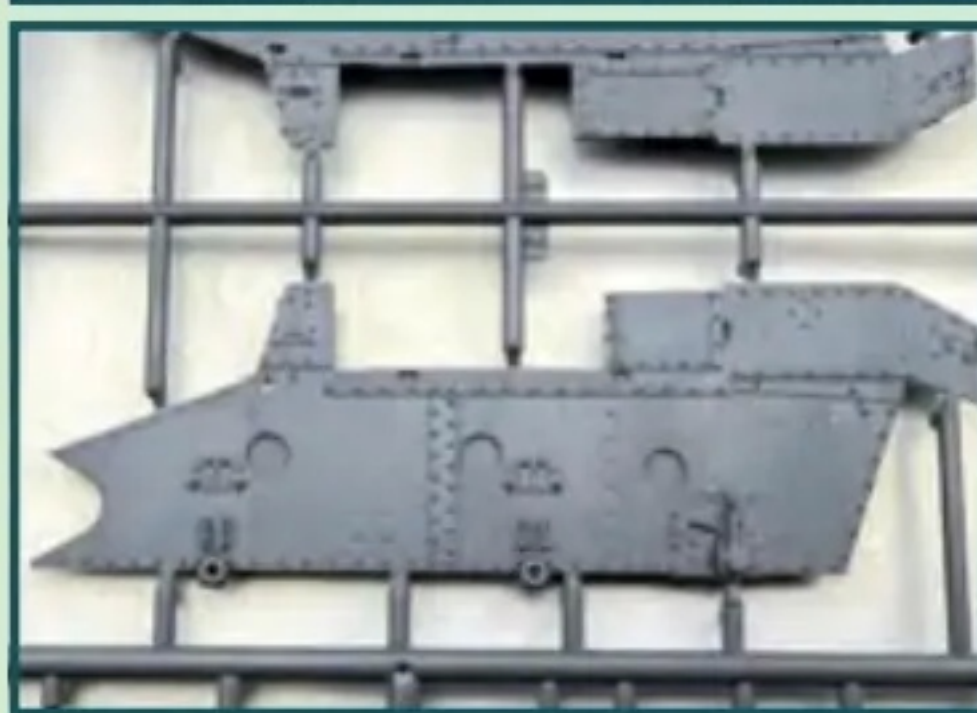
SCALE: 1:35

MATERIALS: IM, EB, WS

ITEM NO.35417

The Stuart M3 Light Tank was used extensively in the early part of WW2, appearing in North Africa and Russia, as well as in other theatres. The early production type featured a welded hexagonal turret, machine guns in the sponsons and a cupola. This type of M3 has been previously released by MiniArt in kits 35412, 35425 and 35404, but this latest release is specifically the diesel version. The Stuart tanks mainly had gasoline engines, but 1500 were built with a diesel, for greater range and reliability. They differed externally in the position where the air filter pipes entered the hull top, but in fact this kit still contains the sprue with the normal hull and pipework, allowing the kit to be completed in either form. The diesel engine version was used for army training within the US and was used by the US Marines on Guadalcanal in 1942, with decal options for these two scenarios. As always, the MiniArt kit is extremely accurate and finely detailed, with appropriate options – for example in the aerial position. The kit does not include the full interior found in some kits, but there is plenty in the turret to allow the hatch to be left open. The link-and-length tracks are highly detailed and provide a very accurate look, although they won't conform to undulating terrain on a base. The etched brass parts are excellent and the fine mesh grilles give a super appearance. Overall a great kit that can be built as both diesel and gasoline versions. **CLS**

-  A fabulous kit of the rarer diesel version, with incredible attention to detail
-  Limited range of possibilities for this version outside training use



TAKOM

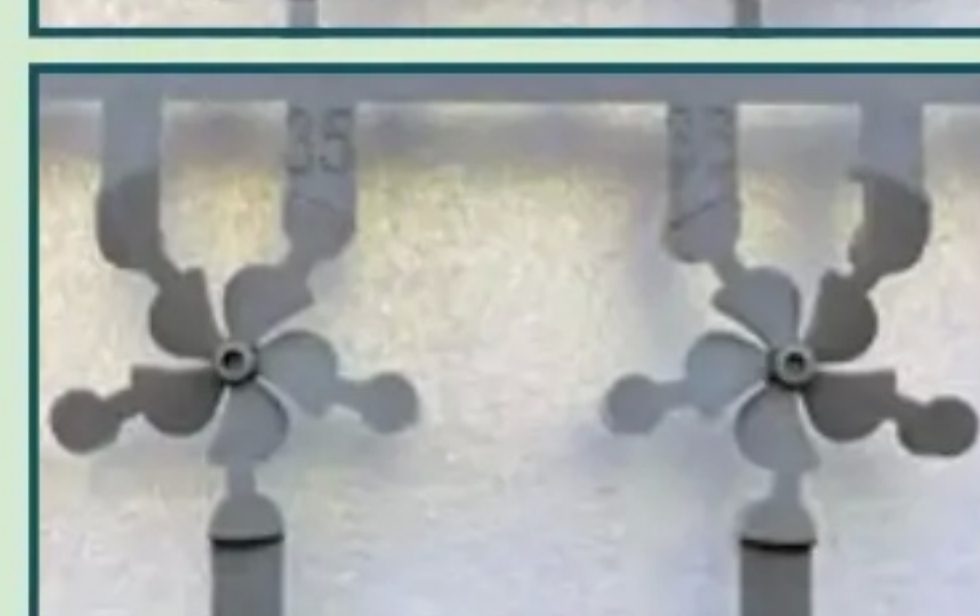
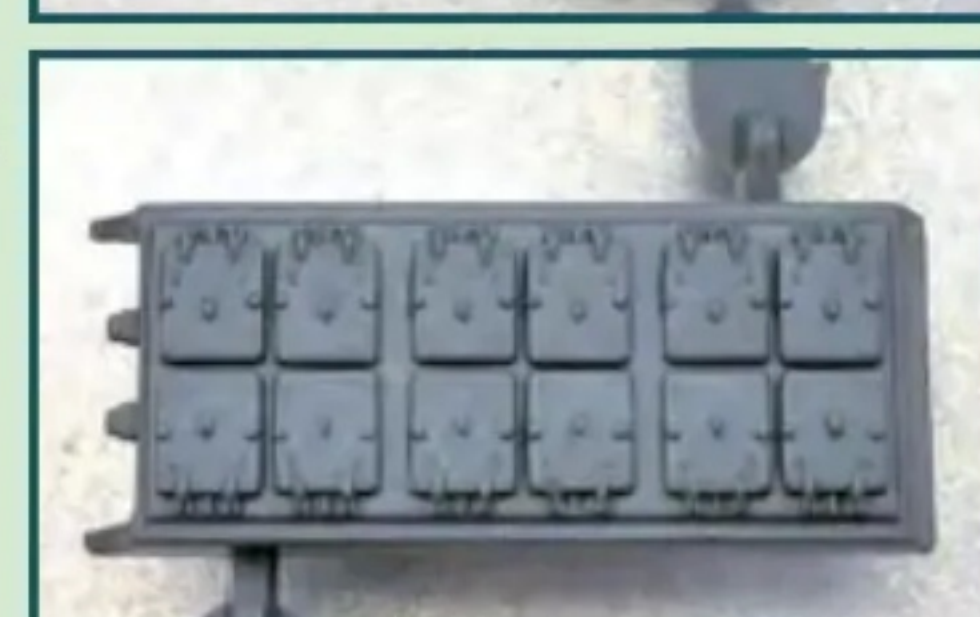
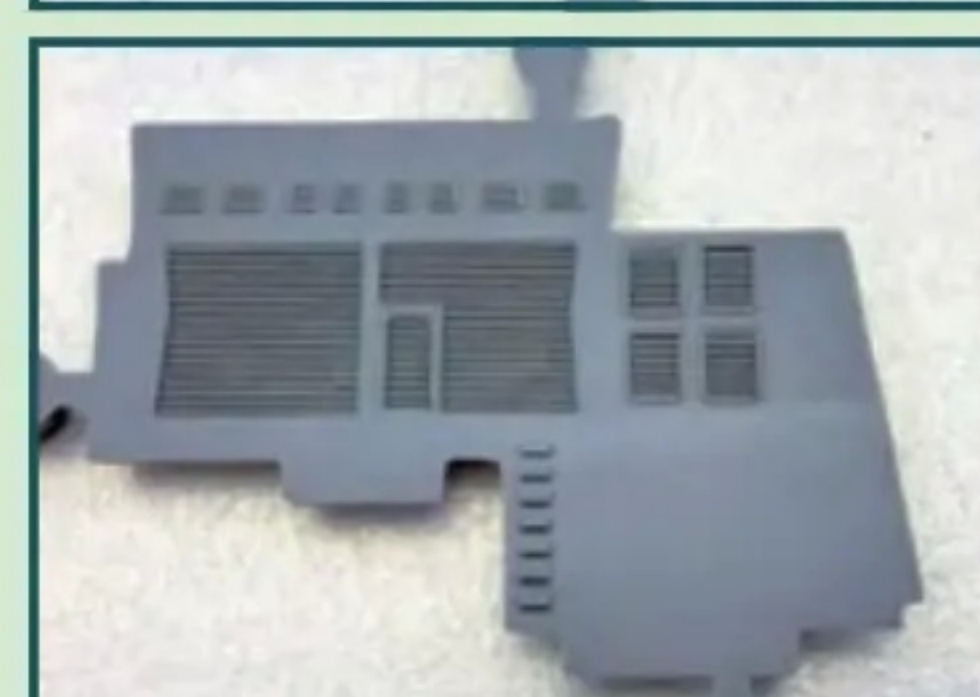
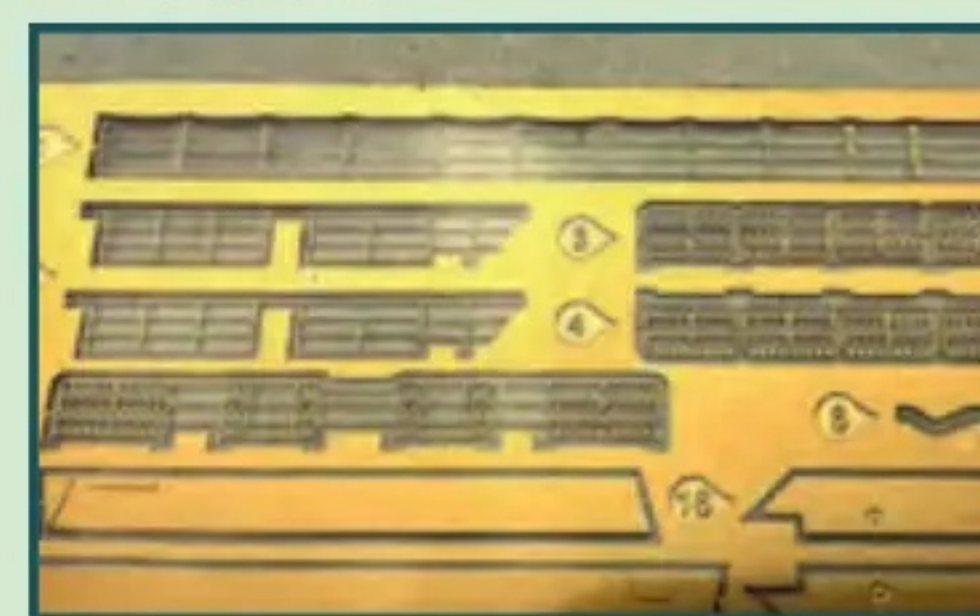
FFG PROJECT 20380 LATE PRODUCTION CORVETTE

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

SCALE: 1:350 • MATERIALS: IM, PE • ITEM NO.6013

The latest generation of Russian corvettes (identified as frigates by NATO) will include 30 of these Steregushchy Class ships, with some going to each of the four main fleets that Russia operates. They employ the latest materials and shapes to reduce radar image and with a crew of 100 that are very capable vessels. Armed with a 100mm cannon, various missile systems and extensive counter-measures, these ships can engage a wide variety of targets. Diesel engines supply a maximum speed of 27 knots and the vessels have a 4,000 mile cruising range. The kit in 1:350 has a divided hull which allows it to be built as a waterline or full hull and display stands are provided. The kit comes with etched brass railings and in fact there are numerous brass parts to make this a very accurate and detailed model. The decals include the number 339 which is for a ship with the grandiose name 'Hero of the Russian Federation Aldar Tsydenzhapov', which is serving in the Pacific Fleet. However, doubtless other numbers can be sourced for different ships. The decals do provide the markings for the helicopter landing pad, plus flags, so the modeller can build this striking ship from the box with no need for additional parts. Even the window glass is provided. These relatively new vessels have quite smooth contours, but Takom have not cut down on any of the details and the end result is a fantastic kit with no need for any extras. **CLS**

-  A superb model of a class of ships that are already in service and more on the way
-  Only one decal option. And it would be cool to have the helicopter for the rear deck





A DUCATI FOR THE *COGNOSCENTI*

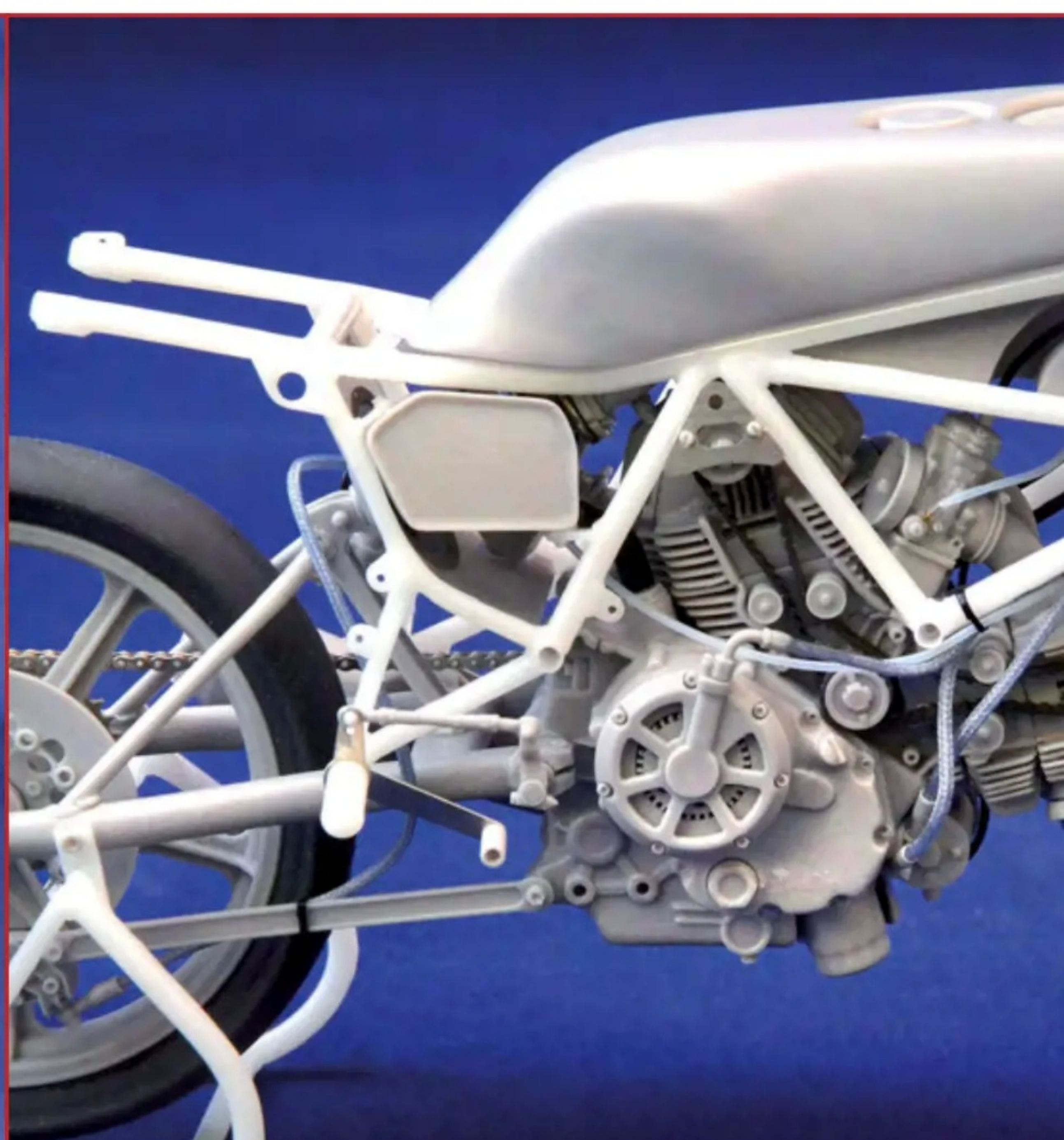
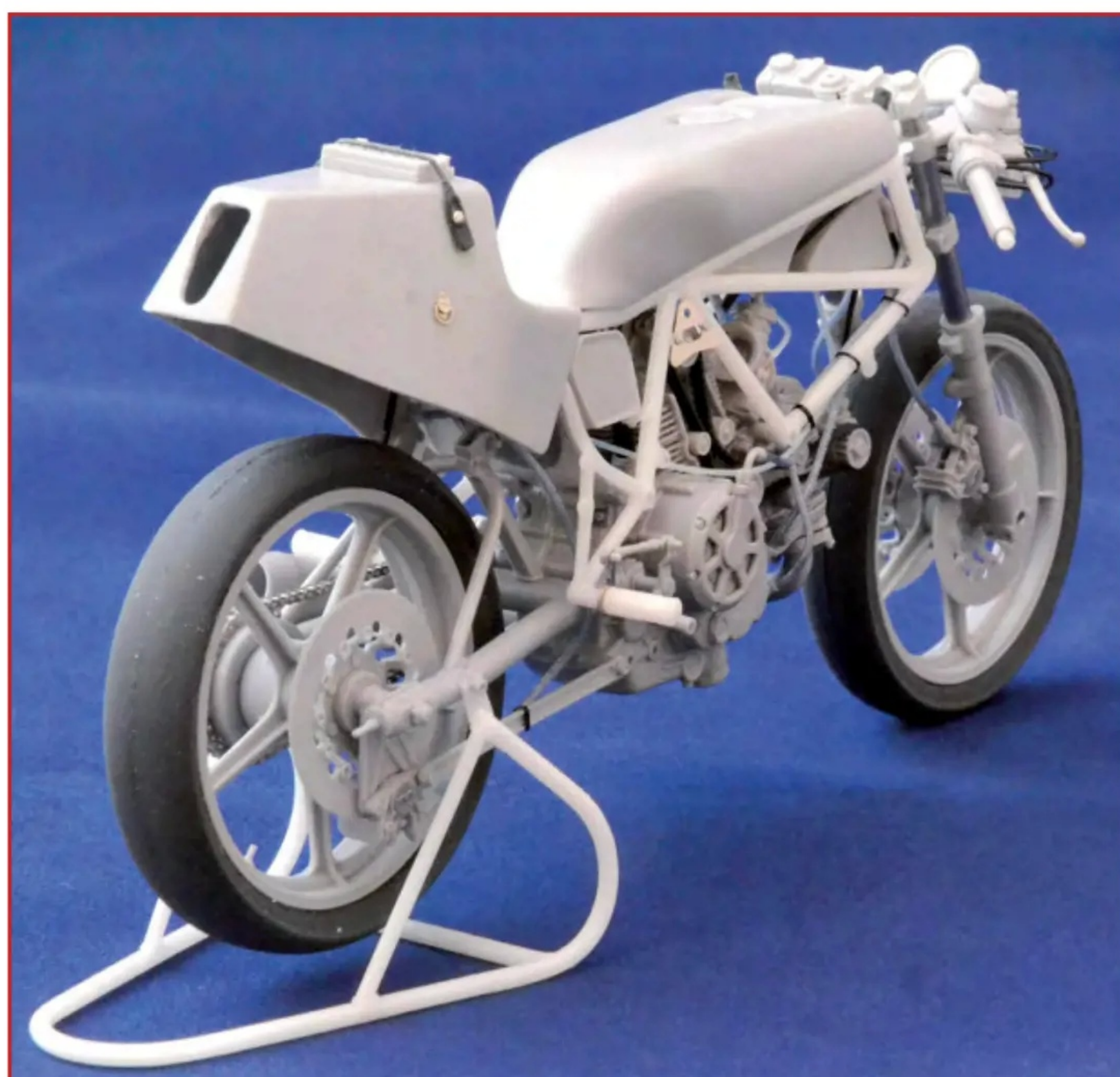
Brach Model has released this amazing 1:12 resin kit of the 1982 Ducati TT2 and it's a stunning project for those with a little experience...

Brach Model is perhaps best known for its incredible 1:35 resin kits of tanks and armoured vehicles, but as you may have seen in Tamiya Model Magazine Issue 346 (August 2024) with Rudi Lenaerts's stunning build of Brach's brilliant 1:12 Ossa 250cc Monocasco, they also make some truly amazing multi-media kits of classic racing motorcycles too.

The newest release in this line-up

depicts the Ducati TT2 racer, as ridden by Valter Cussigh and Tony Rutter in 1982. The bike was aimed at competing in Formula TT which was reserved for series-derived motorcycles. It featured a 597cc four-stroke air-cooled V-twin engine, fed by two Dell'Orto carburettors and delivering an output power of 58bhp. To bring it to a stop, its 280mm Brembo discs on the front wheel and 260mm Brembo disc on the

rear provided excellent braking ability. Brach's kit arrives in a rather charming cardboard box, packed to the gills with polythene bags containing hundreds of cast parts, all formed from grey polyurethane resin with great finesse. It must be stressed that this kit is aimed at modellers with some experience in working with resin and photo-etched metal as well as coping with extremely small components. The castings are



some of the best you'll see in such a kit and Brach Model's fit of parts is never less than impressive, but this is a complex model that will require a level head and methodical approach.

The Ducati's tubular frame is cast impeccably in two halves and no warping is discernible. The engine's finned cylinder heads are little marvels of detail and completely free from air bubbles or other flaws, and will look incredible when painted and lightly weathered. There are some lovely touches reflected in the kit, such as the rough fibre-glass texture on the inner faces of the cowlings, the option of solid or perforated brake discs, a steel suspension spring and a highly realistic photo-etched metal drive chain.

It's a stunning production – not cheap at €275 – but it's a hand-made model, produced by a one of the hobby's most passionate experts via a very labour-intensive process. Having said it's a complex project, if you work carefully and slowly, it will prove to be a highly rewarding experience with a very attractive end result. Just 300 kits are being produced of this bike, so if you're a fan of vintage racing motorcycles, get your order in quickly before they sell out! ●

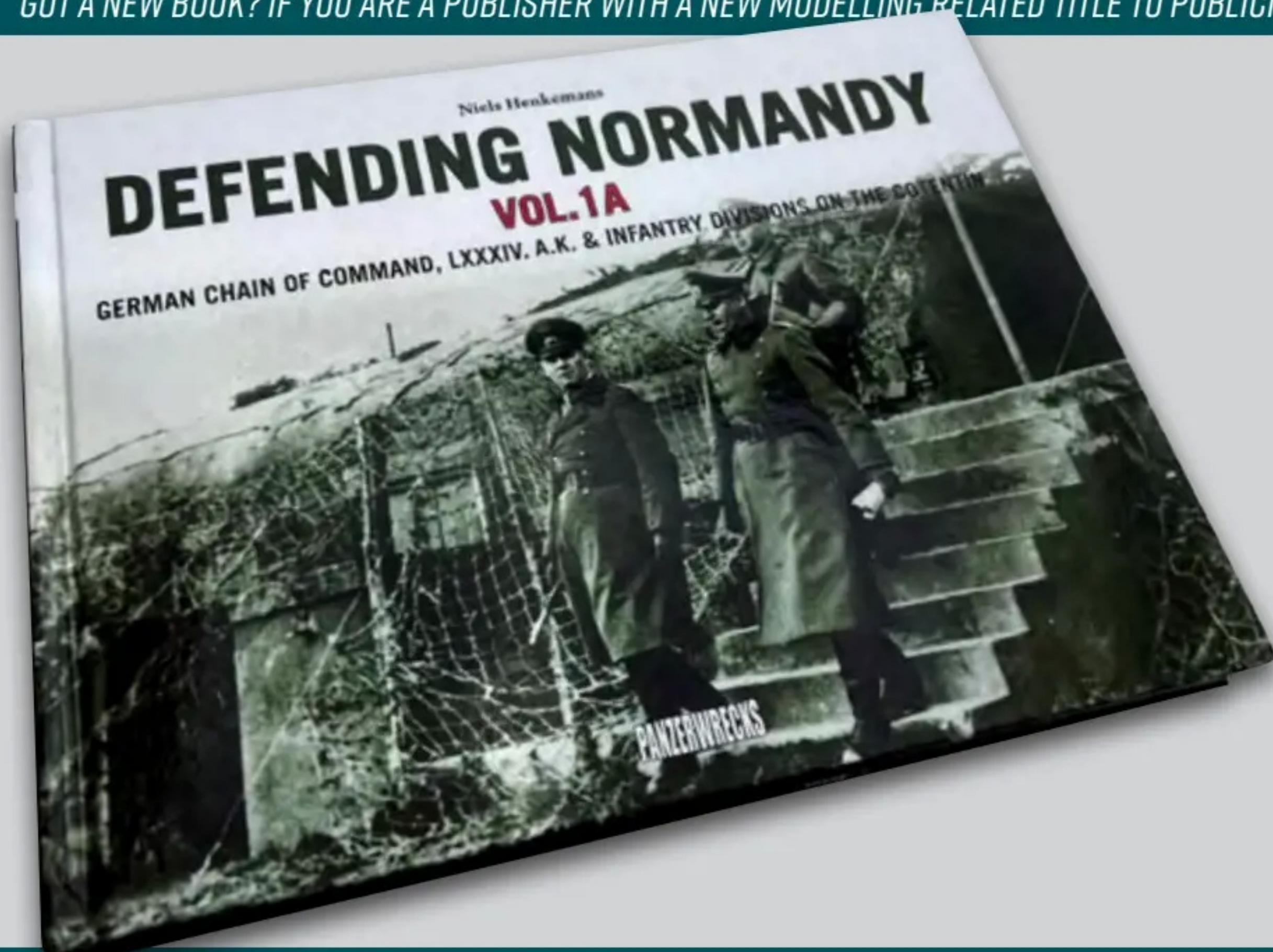
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Brach Model: www.brachmodel.it



BOOK REVIEWS

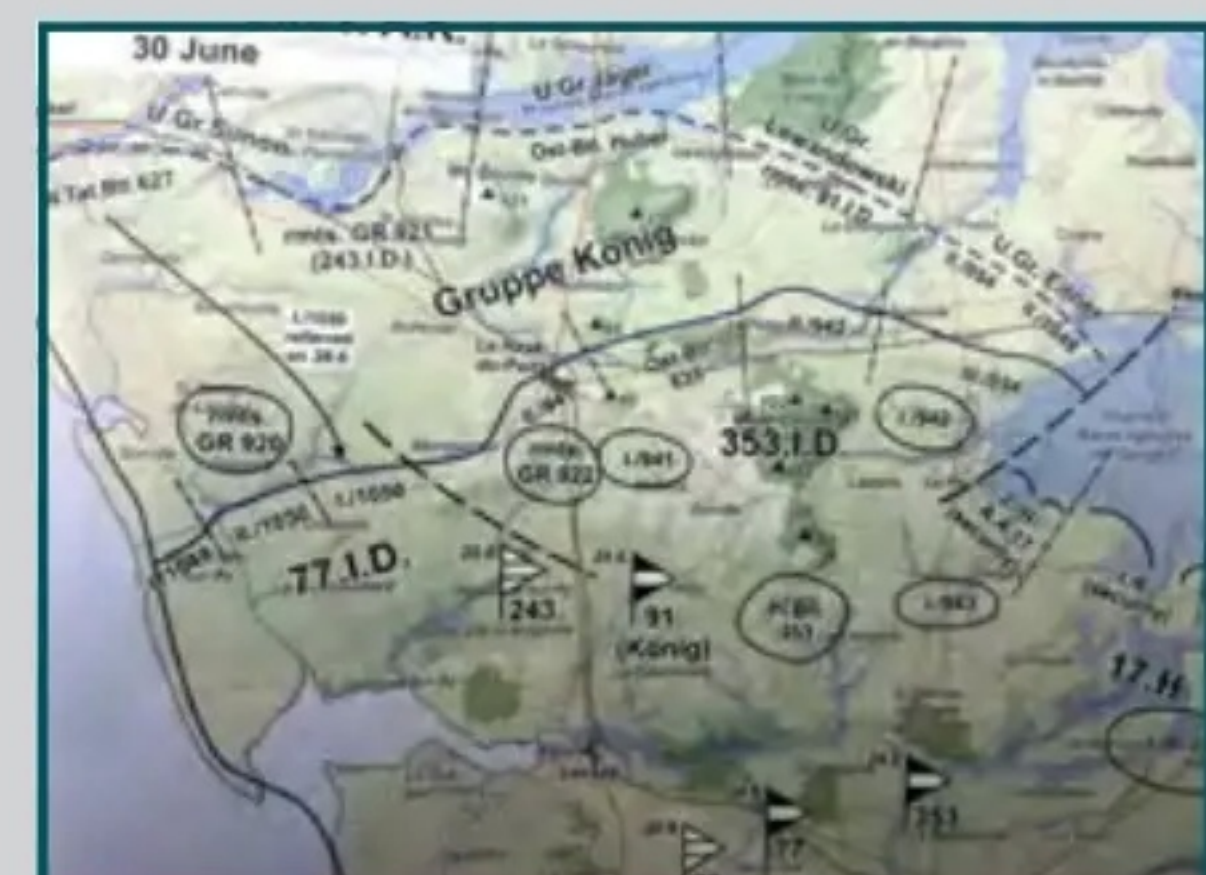
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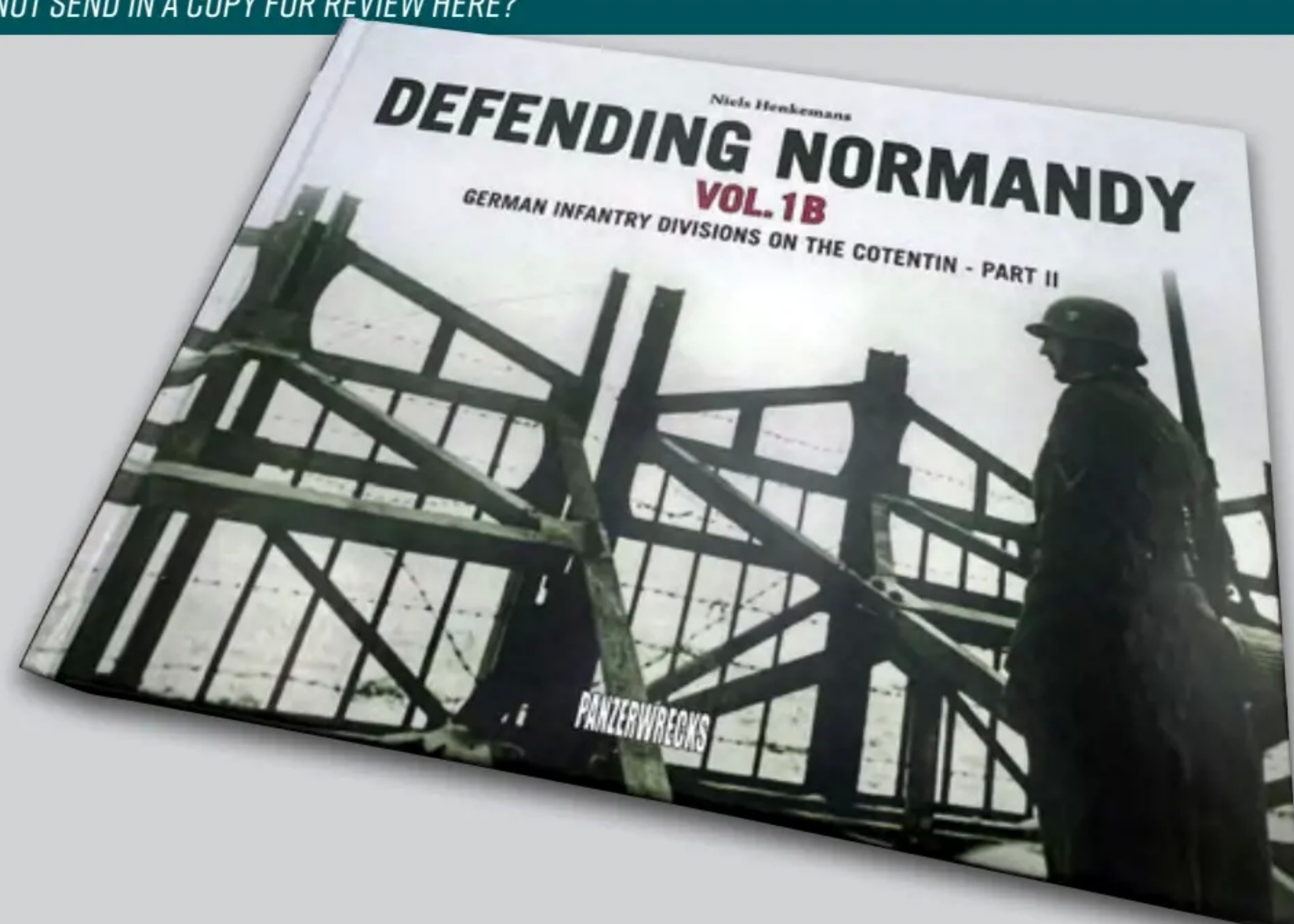
DEFENDING NORMANDY, VOL. 1A

NIELS HENKEMANS (2024), PANZERWRECKS
www.panzerwrecks.com

This is the first of two volumes looking at the defence of the Cotentin Peninsula in northern France, which turned out to be the western flank of the Allied landings in Normandy. The Cotentin was of huge significance, as the Germans prepared for the inevitable invasion, although the exact landing sites were unknown to them. The American forces swung round from Utah and Omaha beaches to take the peninsula and with it the port of Cherbourg, within a month of landing. This first volume looks at the chain of command of LXXXIV Armee-Korps and then looks in detail at the 77th Infantry Division stationed further west of the Cotentin and the 91st Air-landing Infantry Division based in the centre of the peninsula itself. The book is written in a very accessible style, with lots of detail. The author, Henkemans, has been researching this topic for two decades and makes use of newly available photos and records, producing a book that is absolutely stuffed with information to delight anyone studying the German



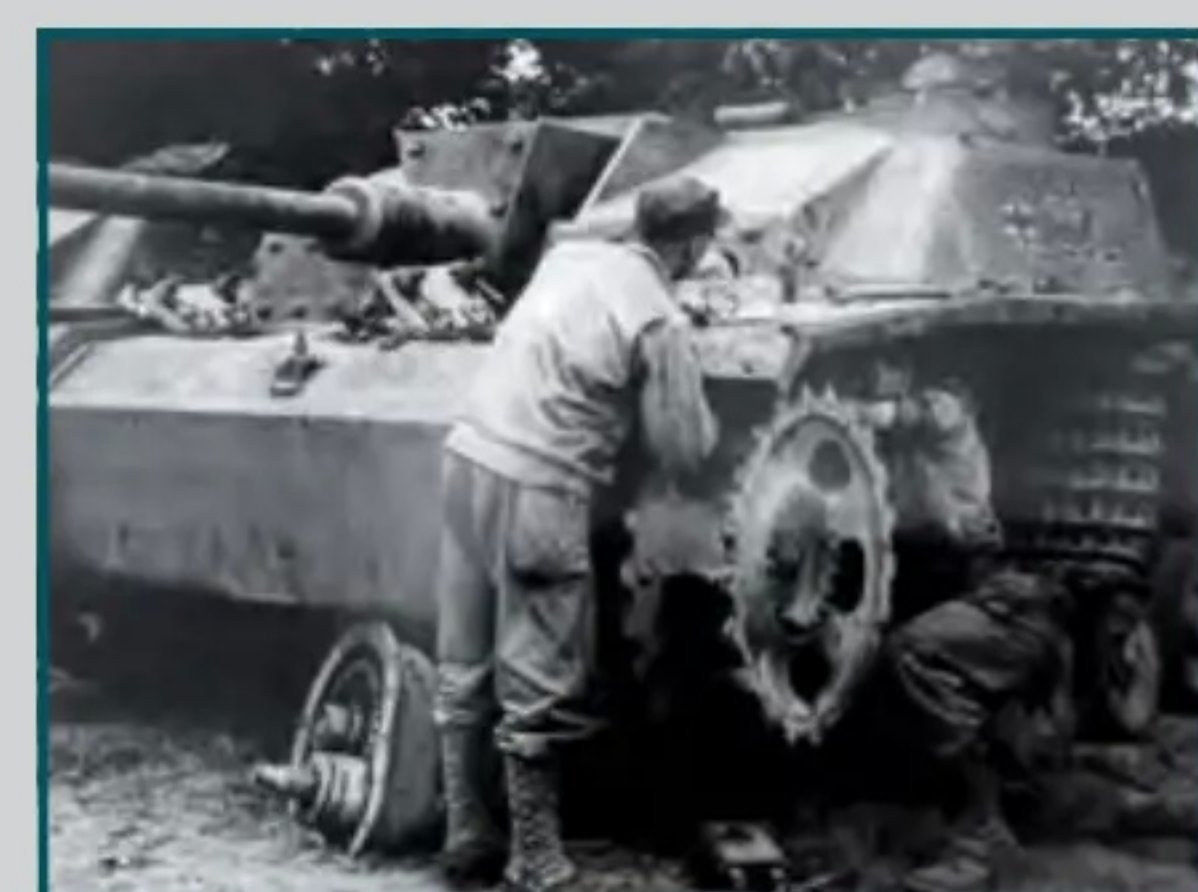
forces in Normandy. There are photos throughout the book, but of particular interest are the numerous maps that show the dispositions of the forces leading up to Overlord and thereafter. For researchers of the German defence of Normandy, this book is invaluable. **CLS**



DEFENDING NORMANDY, VOL. 1B

NIELS HENKEMANS (2024), PANZERWRECKS
www.panzerwrecks.com

In his second volume describing the German forces defending northern France, Henkemans looks at four infantry divisions, namely 243th ID and 709th ID which were on the Cotentin Peninsula at the time of D-Day and 265th ID and 353th ID who were stationed further west near to Brest. The book continues directly from book 1A, with no preamble and readers may want to refer between the two books to get a clear overall picture. The units in this book are described in great detail, with organisation charts, maps and photos to support the text. These units were originally placed to respond to a landing on the peninsula and in particular an attempt to take Cherbourg. In the event, the Normandy landings cut off the Cotentin and the American forces swept up to the port which was taken on the 26th June, by which time the Germans had destroyed the port completely. The book gives a very clear view of the fighting and the exact locations of units involved in the German withdrawal and eventual defeat. The photos are particularly interesting as they are matched to the units and the timeframe, revealing that the German units made use of old French weapons from 1940, as well as German equipment. For serious researchers into the events in Normandy, this book is invaluable, a real goldmine of newly released information. **CLS**



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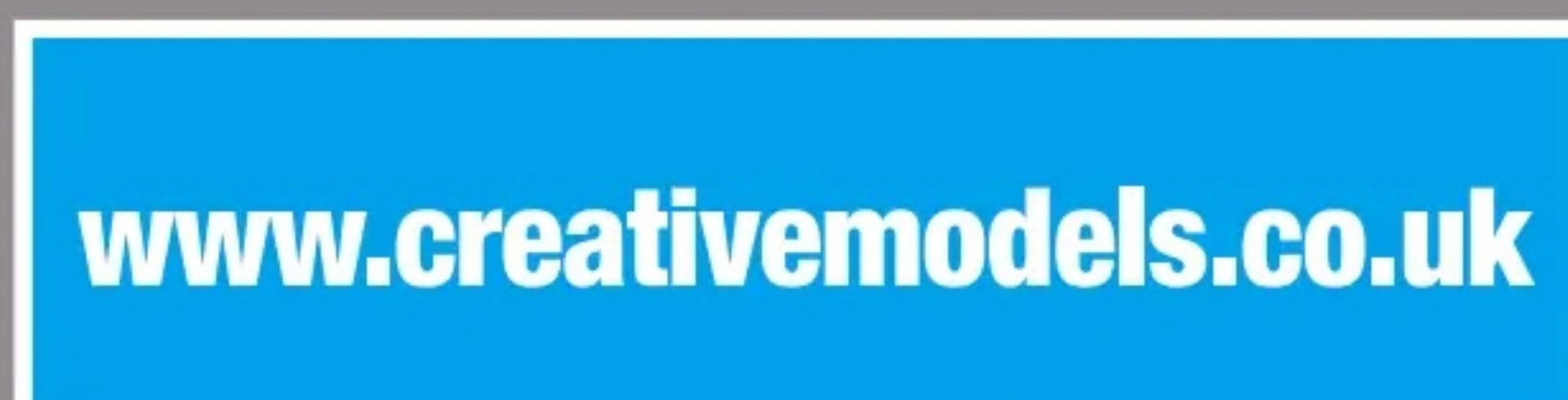
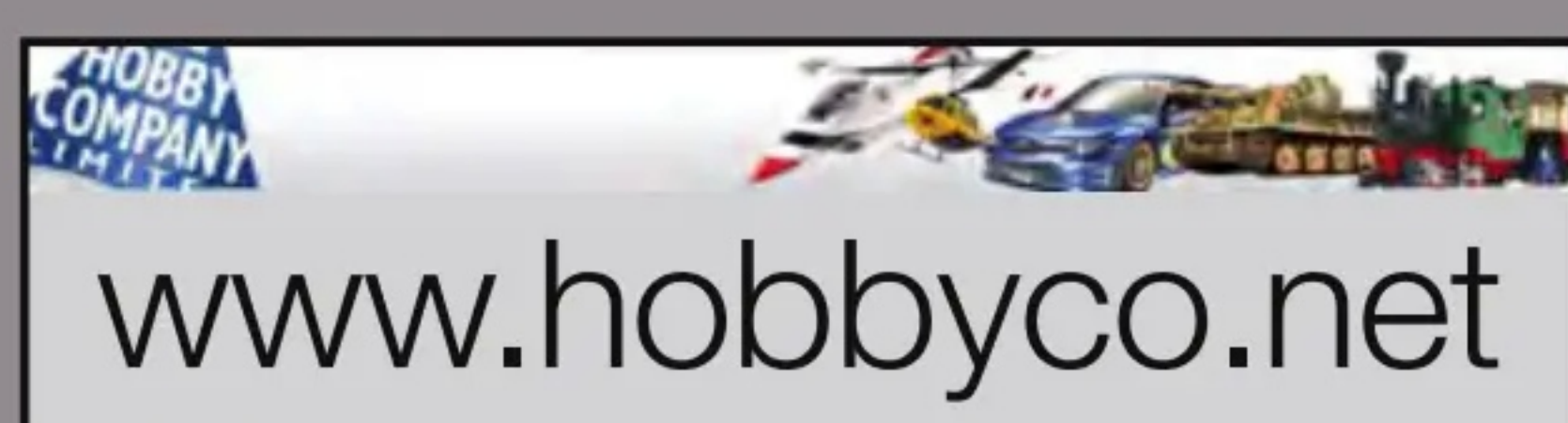


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Arma Hobby's delicious 1:72 P-51C Mustang in detail

...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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'LE CAR' IS BACK!

It's amazing to think that Tamiya's 1:24 Renault 5 Turbo Rally is forty-three years old, released back in 1982 when I was a mere sixteen years old and studying art and design at college. It's one of those iconic Tamiya releases that really makes me smile when it's re-issued, which isn't that often, so I always grab one when I can. What is really cool about Tamiya cars from this era is the frequent inclusion of a driver figure and in this case, a co-driver too, bringing so much more life to the model than an un-piloted version.

We will take a closer look at this kit in the next issue, but for now, here's a few factory photos, plus a terrific image of a real car at a classic rally event, above. ●



EDITOR'S CHOICE

0.35mm solder balls

(check online auction websites)

This unfeasibly small bottle contains 25,000 (well, considerably fewer than that, after taking these photos) 0.35mm diameter solder balls intended for the electronics industry but, as so many things are, potentially useful for modellers! The idea here is to place the balls, one by one, into the recessed rivets on a model aircraft's airframe, to replicate domed rivets where appropriate. I haven't actually tried this yet and I'm not sure how to handle them or quite what adhesive to use, but there's a lot of potential here... I hope!



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



F-35[®] LIGHTNING II[®]

1/48
SCALE



F-35[®]A

61124
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F-35[®]B

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As the final variant, the F-35C kit depicts the distinctive F-35C form with the largest wings and stabilizers among the F-35 variants. This kit allows a choice of deployed or folded wingtip parts and faithfully recreates F-35C characteristics such as the reinforced nose landing gear with dual tires, rigid main landing gear and retractable fuel probe on the right side of the nose. Why not proceed with creating your own Joint Strike Fighter force in 1/48 scale?

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