

Miniatures

MILITARY

★ ★ ★ I N R E V I E W ★ ★ ★

Snowbound Dumvee

US Special Forces Ground Mobility Vehicle



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Czech Please!

Tristar's Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) Ausf. E/F

La storia dell'auto-blindata piccola: A little bit of resin and a whole lotta love from Historica

Objectives: A Sturmgeschütz IV, custom-made...

Czech mate: Pimping the CMK 35(t) to the max!

"But Sarge, all these Russian roads look alike!" 1/48 Sturmgeschütz III B

Crusader Air: Catch a flight with the new Italeri kit

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No. 41

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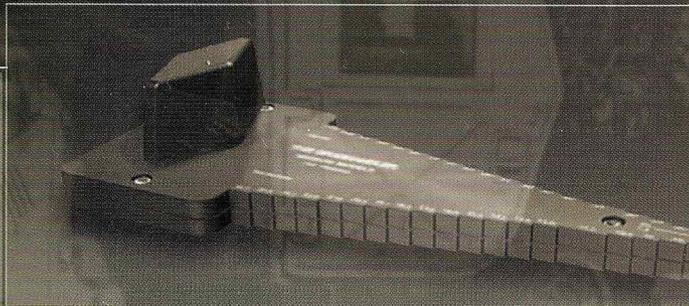
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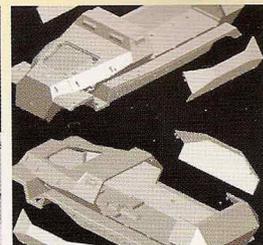
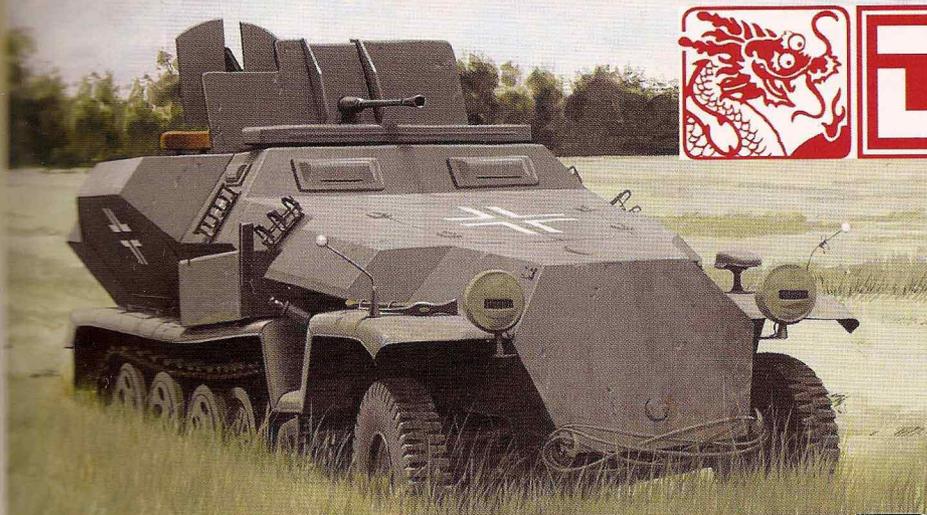
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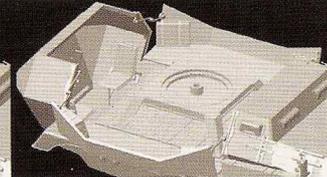
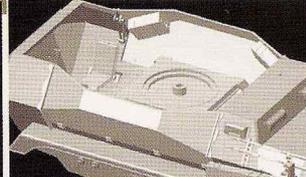
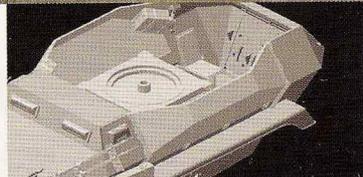
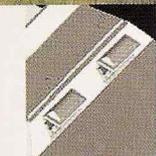


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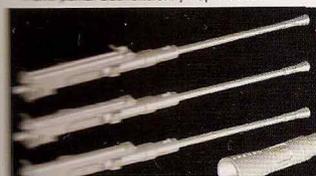


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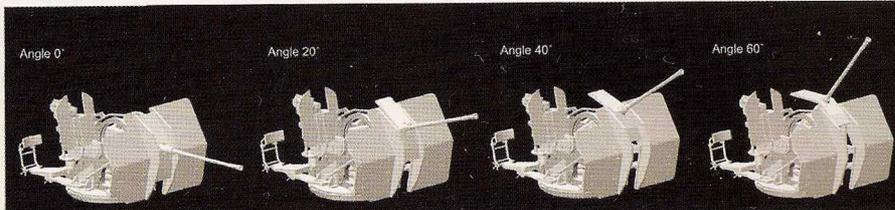
- Clear vision blocks can be shown in open or close position

- Fighting compartment newly reproduced

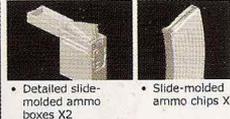
- Drop sides can be modeled in travel or combat mode



- Three types of barrel (standard model, late model and Schwebelafette version) can be assembled
- Slide-molded gun barrel w/hollow muzzle warning



- Cannon can be elevated in any one of four positions according to modelers' intentions



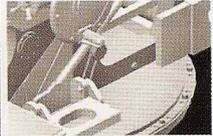
- Detailed slide-molded ammo boxes X2
- Slide-molded ammo chips X4
- Slide-molded spare barrel case (even with spare barrel molded inside)



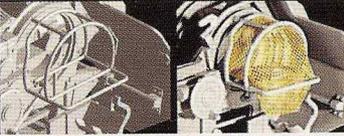
- Gun cradle offers great definition of detail-even weld seams are present



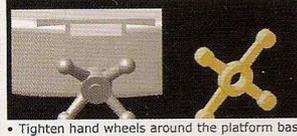
- Gun shield is molded to correct scale thickness



- Round base plate with authentic details



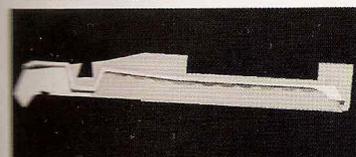
- Spent shell case frame and photo-etched net included
- Spent shell case made from performed photo-etched parts



- Tighten hand wheels around the platform base have sharp detail
- Tighten hand wheels have option of bonus photo-etched parts



- Bonus driver
- Brass width indicator rod



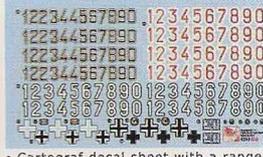
- Details-up both side of lower hull w/photo-etched parts



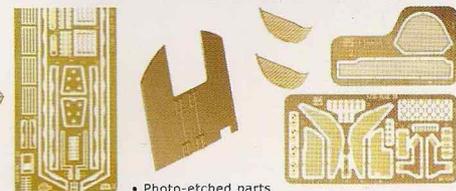
- Front seats w/details, photo-etched seat back spring



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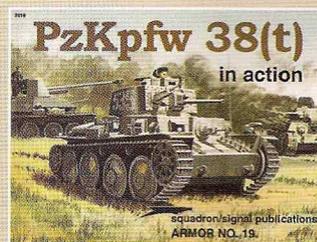


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MILITARY Miniatures

★ ★ ★ IN REVIEW ★ ★ ★

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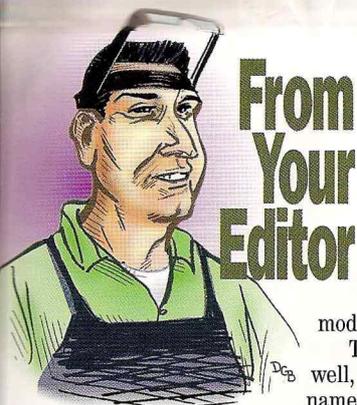


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Tristar's Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) Ausf. E/F.

ON THE COVER:

What's Dumb and heavily armed? It's the DUMVEE, of course. The "D" stands for Desert in this case and it's a Special Forces HUMVEE outfitted for long-range action. It's got extra weapons, extra ammo and extra tech for taking the fight to the back yards of the bad guys. Hugo Luyten takes the new Pro Art Model conversion kit and makes it sing with a fantastic snow base, tons of on-board accessories and a figure, too. Look for the full story starting on page 5





From Your Editor

I received quite few responses to my request for my information regarding my childhood romps around the back forty of the Henry Ford Museum. If you recall, when I was eleven-years old, my friends and I discovered what I believe to have been a Saurer RR7 (or what was left of one) in rural Dearborn, Michigan. The theory that I put forth in my last editorial was that the remains of this vehicle are, in fact, the remains of a vehicle used by Czech man to escape the iron curtain. My theory is based on the somewhat flimsy premise that the deteriorated condition of the superstructure is the result of the modifications made to make the vehicle look more "Soviet."

The dates match pretty well, too. The man, whose name was Vaclav Uhlík, conducted his escape on July 25, 1953. Some of the original information that I received stated that the vehicle was a modified British armored car, but the photos displayed here clearly show that it was a Saurer. The accompanying newspaper clipping (at right) is from a French newspaper of the period and the caption, translated, tells the story: "Here is the armored vehicle in which eight Czechs crossed the Iron Curtain to take refuge in Western Germany. A mechanic had built the "tank" and it took the communist border guards by surprise. The guards, thinking that they were in the presence of a Czech army vehicle, let it approach a barbed wire checkpoint and then allowed it pass though. Six of the vehicle's occupants are shown here. The mechanic and builder helps to hand down a young girl to his companion. His own daughter, wife of an American soldier who had not been able to follow her husband to the United States, is in the foreground."



VOICI LE VEHICULE BLINDE à bord duquel huit Tchèques ont franchi le rideau de fer pour se réfugier en Allemagne occidentale. Le "tank" a été construit par un garage et il fut les gardes communistes par surprise. En effet, ceux-ci pensant se trouver en présence d'un engin de l'armée le laissent approcher des barbelés qui furent renversés par le véhicule. Voici six des occupants du tank. Le garage aide à faire descendre la fillette de son compagnon. Sa propre fille, épouse d'un soldat américain qui n'avait pas pu suivre son mari aux États-Unis, est à l'avant-plan.



Filling in some of the details; Mr. Uhlík and his party departed from Pilsen and traveled to the border, crossing over near the German town of Waldmünchen about 5:00 am on the morning of the 25th. Mr. Uhlík modified the superstructure using scrap steel. Although I have no concrete evidence other than the photos here, it appears that the vehicle had some propaganda value and was shipped back to the U.S. for this express purpose. Given the prevailing political climate of the early fifties, this must have been a gold mine. Other photos, not shown here, indicate that it may have even gone on tour, appearing in multiple cities.

I still have no absolute and official confirmation of its presence at the Henry Ford Museum and I'm hoping that a letter to the curator will help to close the gaps in this fascinating story.

Model Who?

I am happy to announce that I am playing a small part in a brand new modeling publication. It's called

MODELx and it is a completely new approach to the multi-subject format. I was approached by a group of investors last summer to lend my expertise (such as it is) to the development of a new magazine. They had an editor with a vision (Jeff Herne), but needed some nuts and bolts knowledge to make that vision into a reality. I volunteered to take on a supervisory role and guide the concept into print. Lest anyone think that this will divert me from the battered MMiR schedule, Jeff does all the real work, coordinating and acquiring new material, editing (and then editing

some more) and, of course,

building, writing and photographing his own models. Jeff has quite a bit of experience in this area, as he was once an editor for another modeling magazine, whose name I can't recall at the moment. This work is accomplished in conjunction with the final hard working member of our team, Mike Rinaldi. Mike is the Design Coordinator of MODELx and he is responsible for the overall look of the magazine and all of its related content. This is a fairly big job, as it includes most of the layout work and photo editing. Mike, like Jeff, is also a voracious modeler and MODELx contributor. Mike will also contribute his talents to the pages of MMiR. In fact, in future months the many new resources installed for MODELx will blend their talents for the production of all Ampersand products. This will, no doubt, make a huge difference in our ability to make and keep deadlines! For more information on the MODELx project, see www.modelx.com

—Pat Stansell

MILITARY Miniatures

All his fault

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Wishes he could quit you

TONY BONITATIBUS

Military Miniatures in Review, Number 41, March 2007.

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Created in the U.S.A.



The Mail Sack



The mystery Colt

I had a chance to see the film *Letters from Iwo Jima* recently. In the film, the island's commander, General Kuribayashi, is shown to have an Ivory-handled M1911 Colt .45 caliber pistol, a gift he received after attending the Cavalry School at Fort Bliss in the 1920's. The film implies that the pistol was found and kept by a Marine after the general's death. Has the pistol ever surfaced? Is there any more that the gurus at Ampersand can dig up?

—Tony Smith

An excellent question, Mr. Smith. We wish we had an excellent answer. This question has intrigued us since we first saw the film and although we've poked around quite a bit, we've been unable to find any additional information on the pistol.

To those have you have not seen the film. It recounts the experiences of the defenders of Iwo Jima and is based on a cache of letters found on the island in recent years. These were retained and hidden on the island by the Japanese military due either to attempted censorship, or lack of transportation. Members of the garrison wrote the letters and several are attributable to Lt. General Kuribayashi himself.

*Most of events in the film are factual, including the discovery of the letters, although American researchers discovered them, not Japanese. It was shot on Iwo Jima, which is fairly impressive, as the island is regarded as an enormous shrine by the Japanese, due to the large number of dead bodies that still lie within its soil. Interestingly, the Japanese did NOT approve the filming of the companion film, *Flags of our Fathers*, on the island.*

One thing we hadn't realized, even after seeing the film, was that it was Kuribayashi, not his predecessor that was responsible for the devastating

raids on U.S. bases on Saipan that eventually prompted the invasion. He took command of the island in May of 1944 and his harassment of Saipan prompted the first U.S. air raid in August. Raids continued until December when a bit of a duel began, with Kuribayashi's planes again making bold moves on Saipan. The U.S. Navy even got in on the action that month with a substantial raid by Cruiser Division 5. These raids were to continue right up until the invasion on February 16th.

*We did dig up a fascinating story while researching the fate of the Colt. This is the story of Don Marshall, an amphibious tractor driver from the 5th Amphibious Tractor Battalion. Don's track was knocked out shortly after landing on Yellow 2 beach (as were about 30% of the other tractors of the battalion) and he spent the remainder of the battle as a fill-in infantryman. His experiences on Iwo were recounted to the editors of *After the Battle Magazine* in 1993 and can be found in issue 32. A very small part of his story was that he recovered a pair of Smith & Wesson .44 caliber pistols and a holster during his exploits. Apparently, a correspondence developed between Don and Smith & Wesson and they subsequently apologized for the Japanese having used their products against him! Smith & Wesson further stated that the pistols in question had been sold via mail order to Japan in 1903. If only those pistols could talk, huh?*

✉

Photo fun

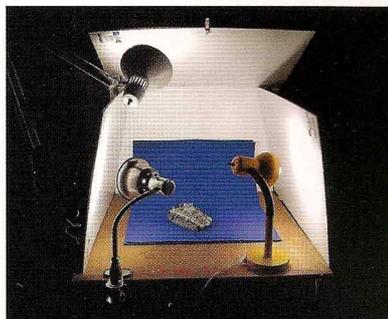
As an armor magazine collector (or "freak" as my wife refers to me!) I just wanted to personally thank you for your work. The text you provide with your articles and publications is direct and always tinged with a little humor. I would like to know how you take such great photographs, as mine are always inconsistent!

—Rob Liles

Mediocre Modelleuré Extraordinaire

In any type of miniature photography, there are two really important things to remember. The first is depth of field. You want your miniature subject to be entirely in focus. So, for a conventional camera, this means adjusting the lens to at least f/22, if not a bit more. This can also include the use of a "macro" lens, one that is specifically designed to allow a very small focus area. The second is adequate, diffused lighting. By adequate, we

mean at least two 100+ watt bulbs on each side, set at a forty-five degree angle to the subject. Diffusing the lighting means soft shadows and even illumination over the surface of the model. There are several ways to accomplish this, including simply taping drafting vellum (a semi-opaque paper) in a large loop across the front of your lamps. There are even more complex solutions to this, including bouncing the light off of several different surfaces (see photo), or using a diffusing tent. This is a large portable



structure made from semi-transparent cloth. There's a nifty kit available from www.light-tent.com that a couple of our contributors are using. Also check www.ezcube.com

More specific information depends on the type of equipment that you are using. Although most of the contributors to MMiR have switched

over to the more complex digital SLRs, we still have and use a fixed lens digital here in the office. It is the Nikon Coolpix 5000. This little camera is excellent for miniature photography and is very forgiving. It is fixed lens, which means you can't change it. Although in this case, you can purchase optics that will alter the image. For instance, there is a wide-angle attachment that sort of acts as "glasses" for the lens. The lens on the 5000 is actually a diopter, which means that it uses a combination of optical and digital elements to render the image. In using the 5000, we set it to "aperture priority" which means that the f-stop is predetermined by the user and then the camera selects the appropriate shutter speed for the lighting conditions. The limit on this camera is f/8, but this is really more like f/22 or f/28 on an SLR camera and results in a very nice image. The camera has a built-in macro feature that can focus on an area as small as 2cm. The great part about digital is that if you don't like the results, you can immediately shoot it again.

The Coolpix 5000 was state-of-art about four years ago and originally sold for \$1,000.00. Given the speed of electronics obsolescence, it's practically an antique now and can be found for as low as \$200.00. All its related accessories are also reasonability priced. A good place to look for quality used camera equipment of any type is www.keh.com. We have bought and sold to them for years and they offer excellent grading whether buying, or selling. Googling "Nikon Coolpix 5000" can also give solid results.

✉

Tiger Tales

I just wanted to let you know that in Issue 39 you stated the number of the new tiger kit from Dragon to be 6262. I ordered this from my local hobby shop and received the new Marder kit, instead. I think the correct number is 6252. It is no big deal; they are going to get me the right kit.

—Peter Miller

Oh crap! You're right! Sorry about that. FYI, while frantically thumbing through the 2006 and 2007 Dragon catalogs to verify this, we noticed that both the initial and late Tiger Is are no longer listed. But, the as of yet unreleased early production Tiger I (6269) still is. Hmmm...

✉

If you would like in on any of the dialog in MMiR, drop us a brief letter written on a fifty dollar bill, or better yet, inscribe it on the back of a chrome-plated, diamond encrusted 1/35th-scale Elco PT boat and send it to: Mail Sack, Ampersand Publishing Co., Inc. 235 NE 6th Ave., Delray Beach FL 33483 or mmir-pat@aol.com. Letters are sometimes edited for brevity, obscenity, national security, or just to make you sound smarter than you really are.

We sincerely regret that we rarely, if ever, are able to personally enter into correspondence with our readers.



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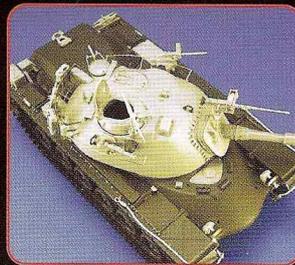
www.ww-legend.co.kr



LF1134, Magach 3 BALTAN Conversion (TA)



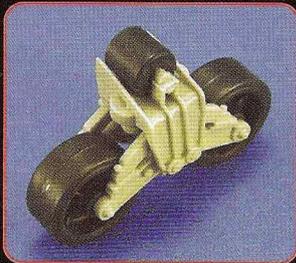
LF1132, M3 ALCO Turret & Stowage Bin (AC)



LF1131, IDF Magach 3 Conversion set (TA)



LF1130, M60 Conversion set (TA)



LF1129, M3/Early Sherman Suspension set

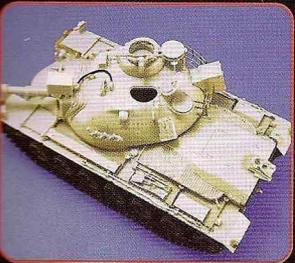


LF1128, IDF Tank Cal.50 set II (2ea)



LF1133, M3 Lee Detailing set (AC)

Including ASF/Continental Turret. Entirely newly tooled upper hull with accurate armor angle and shape, number and shapes of the bolts.



LF1127, M48A2GA2 Conversion set (TA)



LF1125, M48A2/A2C/A2CG Conversion Set



LF1122, M48A1 Conversion (TA)



LF1117, Sherman M4A3 Sandbag #2



LF1112, Magach 6B Gal Batash Conversion



LF1111, Magach 6B Gal Conversion Set



LF1106, Merkava Mk II D Conversion



LF1105, Sherman ARV Mk I Conversion



LF1103, IDF Namer APC Full Kit



LF1087, Merkava Mk IIIC w/Turret

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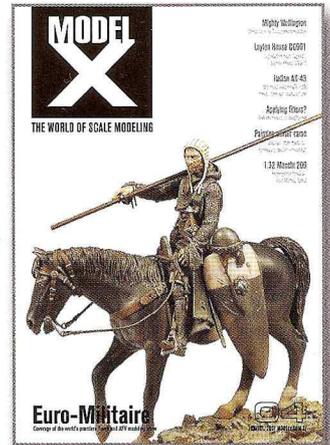
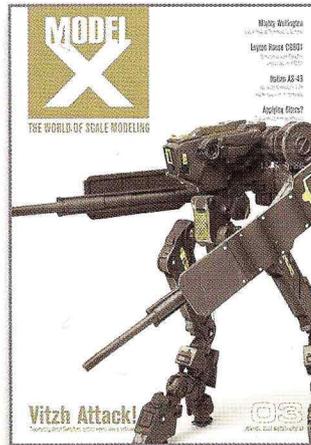
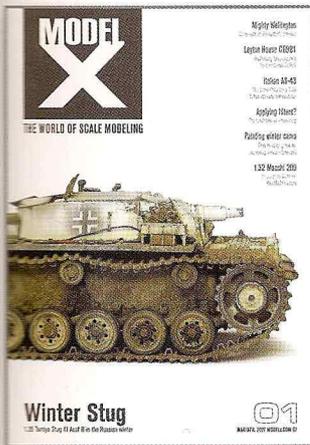
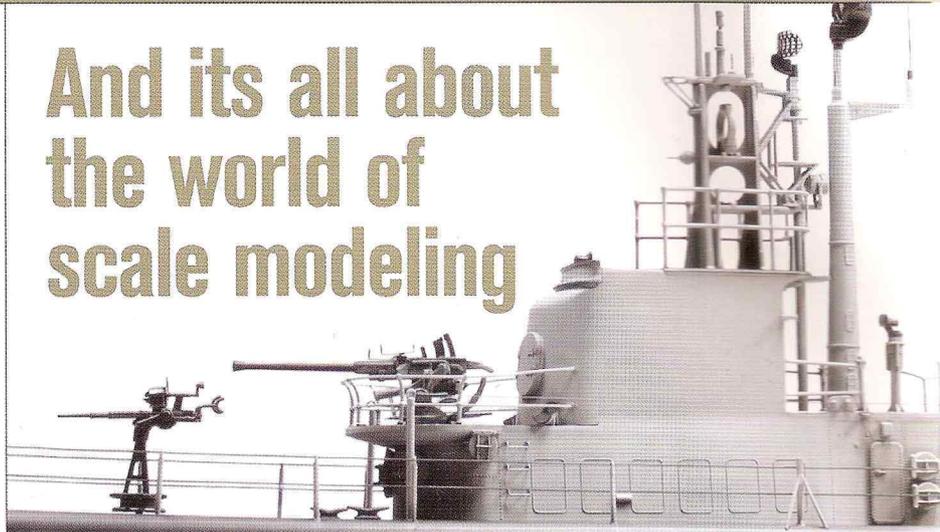
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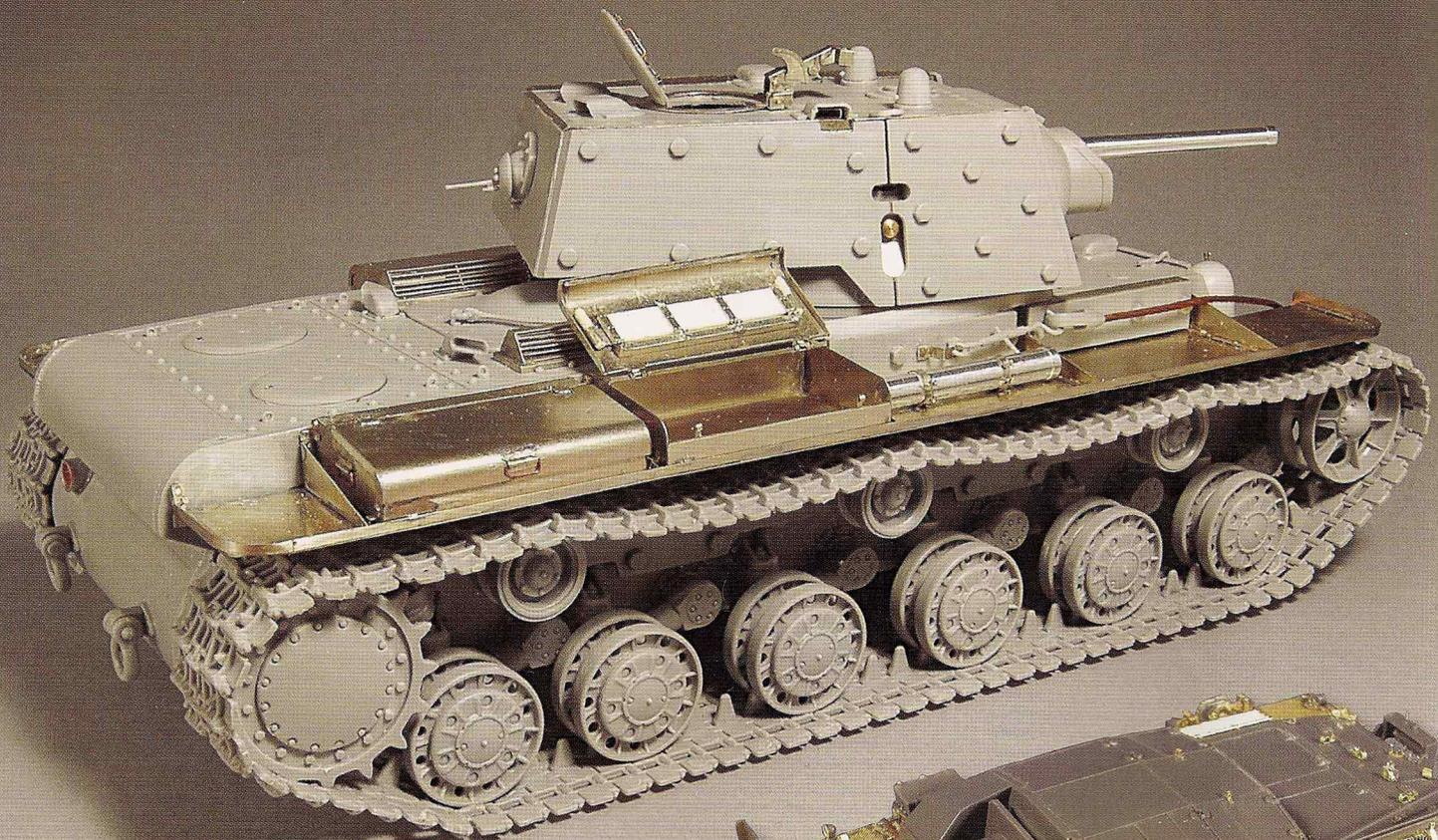
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The Year in Preview



Not listed in the text, but still very handsome is 35K03 KV1, Finnish Modifications.



12.8cm

K.40 Sturer

Emil, \$15.95.

Accessories look like this. 35A108, Cross Type Screw Heads, \$9.95; 35A109, Pz.Kpfw. 38(t), Stowage Boxes, TBA and 35A110, German Medium Tank Front fenders for Panther Ausf. A/D, TBA.

A fair list of barrels with 34L43, Russian tank barrel 76,2 mm F-32 for KV-I early model, \$9.95; 35L44, Russian 152,4 mm M-10S tank barrel for KV-1, \$9.95; 35L45, German 75 mm Barrel for PaK 40 - Middle model, \$18.95; 35L46, German 75 mm Barrel for KwK 40 L/48 with early model muzzle

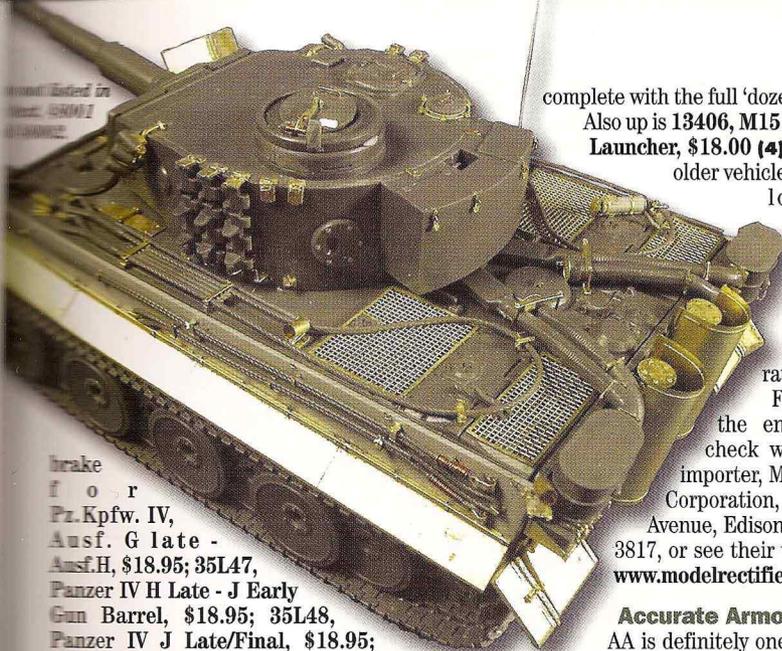
Aber

It's a long list this time around. You all realize, of course, that they are completely insane, right? First up is a bit more 1/25th scale stuff. It looks like this. 25002, German tool holders - late used from 1943, \$15.95; 25003, Grilles for Sd.Kfz.171 Panther, Ausf. G Late model German Medium Tank (Academy), \$14.95; 25004, Pz.Kpfw. V Ausf. A/D "Panther" (Sd.Kfz.171) Grilles 1/25th scale update (Tamiya/Academy), \$15.95 and 25005, German Tank Destroyer Grilles for Sd.Kfz.173 Jagdpanther, \$14.95. We haven't seen this stuff used yet. Who's going to take the plunge?

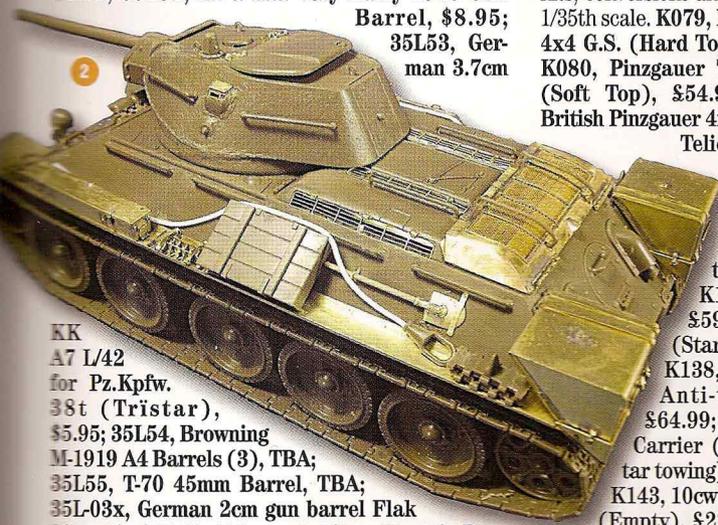
In regular, garden-variety 1/35th scale the list is thus. 35193, Soviet Heavy Tank Vol.3 - Fenders-late model KV-1 (Trumpeter), \$22.95; 35194, Soviet Heavy Tank Vol. 4-Tool Boxes early type for early fenders KV-1 or KV-2 (Trumpeter), \$16.95; 35195, Soviet Heavy Tank KV-1 or KV-2 Vol.5 - Tool boxes late type for early fenders (Trumpeter), \$14.95;

35196, Soviet Heavy Tank Vol.6 - box-type lubricant tanks KV-1 (Trumpeter), \$13.95; 35197, Sturmgeschütz III, Ausf.B (Sd.Kfz. 142) Vol.1 - basic set (Tamiya), \$16.95; 35198, Sturmgeschütz III, Ausf.B (Sd.Kfz. 142) Vol.2 - Additional set Fenders (Tamiya), \$19.95 (1); 35199 Sturmgeschütz III, Ausf.B (Sd.Kfz. 142) Vol.3 - Interior (Tamiya), TBA; 35200, Pz.Kpfw.38(t) E/F/G, Basic Set (Tristar) TBA; 35201, Pz.Kpfw. 38 (t) E/F/G, Fenders (Tristar)TBA; 35203, Sd.Kfz.251/1 Vol. 1 Basic set (AFV Club), \$19.95; 35204, Sd.Kfz. 251/1D Fenders (AFV Club) TBA and 35205, Armoured Personnel Carrier Sd.Kfz. 251/1 Ausf. D Vol.3 - Additional set stowage bins (AFV Club), TBA.

Just a single ammo item in this list and it's in 1/35th scale. 35P06, German Ammunition set for



brake
f o r
Pz.Kpfw. IV,
Ausf. G late -
Ausf.H, \$18.95; 35L47,
Panzer IV H Late - J Early
Gun Barrel, \$18.95; 35L48,
Panzer IV J Late/Final, \$18.95;
35L49, Soviet 76.2mm Zis-5/F-34 Barrel
for KV-1 Early, \$8.95; 35L50, KV-1 Gun Barrel,
\$8.95; 35L51, KV-1 L11 Very Early 1940 Gun
Barrel, \$8.95;
35L53, Ger-
man 3.7cm



KK
A7 L/42
for Pz.Kpfw.
38t (Tristar),
\$5.95; 35L54, Browning
M-1919 A4 Barrels (3), TBA;
35L55, T-70 45mm Barrel, TBA;
35L-03x, German 2cm gun barrel Flak
38, TBA; 35D12, Telegraph Pillar Electric Box,
TBA and 35A65, Turret for Panzer IA (Tristar and
others), TBA.

Like many others, Aber is keeping up its 1/48th scale offerings. 48008, Soviet Medium Tank Vol.1 - basic set T-34/76 model 1941, \$9.95 (2); 48009, Soviet Medium Tank Vol.2 - Grill cover set T-34/76 model 1941, \$9.95; 48010, Soviet Medium Tank T-34/76 model 1941 Vol.3 - Fenders, \$9.95; 48011, Panther Ausf. G (Tamiya), \$15.95; 48012, Jagdpanther, TBA; 48013, Side Skirts For Panther Ausf. G and Jagdpanther (Tamiya), \$8.95; 48014, Kubelwagen Type 82 (Tamiya), \$7.95; 48015, Schwimmwagen, TBA; 48016, Panzer Ausf. III L, TBA; 48A11, Panzer III Turret Stowage Bin, TBA; 48A10, Rear Boxes for Panther and Jagdpanther (All Models), \$7.95; 48A09, Hand Tools, \$7.95; 48L02, Panzer III Ausf. B 75mm Barrel, TBA and 48L07, Panzer III 50mm Barrel, TBA.

Much of what you need to know on the line can be gleaned from their North American importer, Air Connection at www.airconnection.on.ca. PDF's and other useful images can be found at Aber's home site: www.aber.net.pl

Academy

In keeping with their fleet of Sherman-based vehicles, Academy has released 13207, M4A3 HVSS Sherman 105mm Howitzer & M1 Dozer Blade, \$41.95 (3). This ambitious kit is

complete with the full 'dozer' blade. Also up is 13406, M151A2 TOW Missile Launcher, \$18.00 (4). This is an older vehicle that is no longer in U.S. service, but the Israelis still put it to good issue and even have a separate ammo vehicle. Cool.

For more information on the entire Academy line, check with their U.S. importer, Model Rectifier Corporation, 80 Newfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837-3817, or see their website at www.modelrectifier.com

Accurate Armour

AA is definitely one of the most prolific of all the world's resin manufacturers. Here's proof in the form of full kits, conversions and accessories in 1/35th scale. K079, Pinzgauer TUM 4x4 G.S. (Hard Top), \$54.99 (5); K080, Pinzgauer TUM 4x4 G.S. (Soft Top), \$54.99 (6); K081, British Pinzgauer 4x4 TUM GS 'Op-Telic Patrol' version, \$54.99; K087, British Shielder VLSMS Anti-tank Mine System, \$79.99 (7); K136, Loyd Carrier (Personnel), \$59.98; K137, Loyd carrier (Starting & Charging), \$67.49; K138, Loyd Carrier (6 Pr. Anti-tank towing), \$64.99; K139, Loyd Carrier (4.2" Mortar towing), \$64.99; K143, 10cwt GS Trailer (Empty), \$22.99; G006, 4.2" Mortar & ammunition, \$19.95; G007, 4.2" Mortar + Trailer & Ammunition, \$34.94; LR006, Land Rover XD TUN WMIK GPMG Version, \$59.99; LR007, Land Rover WMIK MILAN-2, \$64.99 and LR008, British Land Rover WOLF 4x4 TUM GS 'Op-Telic Patrol' version, \$54.99.

In 1:35th scale accessories, conversions, updates and figures is, A089, WARRIOR Section vehicle interior (2005-Bowman radio & BGTI sights For Tamiya Kit) A092, Vehicle Batteries (16), \$7.50; A093, Modern UK Boiling vessels, \$7.50; A094, Carbon Fiber Aerials (all scales), \$4.95; A096, Traffic Cones (small), \$7.50; A097, Traffic Cones (large with beacons), \$7.50; A098, Modern Fire Extinguishers (Red Type), \$8.50; A101, Commercial Modern Beer Tins, \$7.50; A104, Crusader AA



Update Set (For Italeri Kit); A105, Comet General Update & Correction Set (For Bronco Kit), \$17.50; A106, COMET Mantlet/Turret front & 17 Pr. (For Bronco Kit), \$10.00; A107, COMET Wheel Set (For Bronco Kit), \$13.99 A108, Pinzgauer Winter/Wading Set, \$7.50; A109, Jersey Road Barriers (Small),



\$10.00; A110, Jersey Road Barriers (Large), \$10.00; A111, Bastion Cage Barriers, \$10.00; C067, Chieftain ARV Mk-5 conversion (For Tamiya Kit); C084, 'ENIGMA' IRAQ OIF and T72, Comet Track (for Bronco), \$10.50; FS10, Milan-2 + Ammunition & 2 man crew, \$26.95 and D42,



Stainless Steel Razor Wire, \$10.50.

AA's line of 1/48 scale kits and conversions is growing with K48005, Standard 12hp Light Utility (Tilly), \$24.99; K48006, David Brown Tractor (WW2 type), \$19.99; C48001, Cromwell Vauxhall Hatch, \$4.99; C48002, Cromwell 75mm wading set, \$10.00; C48003, Cromwell 95mm wading set, \$10.00 (8); C48004, Cromwell D&F Deck/hatch set, \$10.00; C48005, Cromwell Welded Up Armour Set, \$15.00 (9) and C48006 Cromwell Late



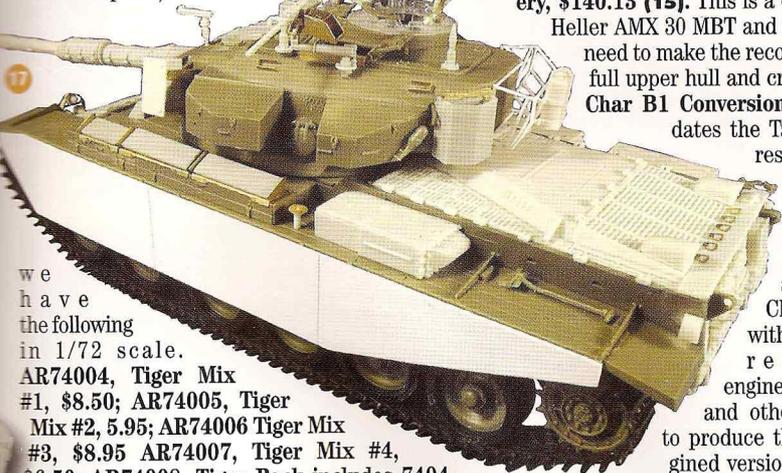
pork chop. Here are the latest choice cuts in 1/35th scale. AR35222, M2 Halftracks in North Africa, \$7.95; AR35223, USMC M4A2 Shermans in Tarawa, \$12.95; AR35224, M2/M3 Halftrack Stars in white and yellow, \$11.95; AR35225W, M2/M3 Halftrack Stars in White, \$6.95; AR35225Y, M2/M3 Halftrack Stars in Yellow, \$6.95; AR35226, M2/M3 Halftrack Registration Codes, \$10.95 and AR35227, U.S. soft skin "gas paint" stars, \$11.95.

Lagging not far behind in 1/48 scale is AR49008B, German WWII Turret Numbers Black w/white outline, \$9.95; AR49008BL, German WWII Turret Numbers Blue w/white outline, \$9.95; AR49008BLY, German WWII



Turret Numbers Blue w/yellow outline, \$9.95; AR49008R, German WWII Turret Numbers Red w/white outline, \$9.95; AR49009Y D-Day Shipping Stencils Yellow for Shermans, \$5.50; AR49009W, D-Day Shipping Stencils White for Shermans, \$5.50; AR49010B German Afrika Korps Insignia Black, \$3.95; AR49010W German Afrika Korps Insignia White, \$3.95; AR49011, German WWII Balkenkreuz #1 Generic Black and White, \$8.95; AR49012, 9th Lancers, 1st AD in North Africa, \$9.95; AR49013, M-10 Tank Destroyer, \$10.95; AR49014, HJ Panther G #2, \$5.50; AR49015, LAH Panther Ausf. G, Ardennes 1944, \$4.95 and AR49016, M4A2 Tarawa, \$7.95.

Not to ignore the really small stuff and all those great little pieces out there from Dragon and Trumpeter,



we have the following in 1/72 scale. AR74004, Tiger Mix #1, \$8.50; AR74005, Tiger Mix #2, 5.95; AR74006 Tiger Mix #3, \$8.95 AR74007, Tiger Mix #4, \$6.50; AR74008, Tiger Pack includes 7404-74008, TBA; and AR74009, U.S. softskin "gas paint" stars, \$7.95.

See the Archer website at www.archertransfers.com and you'll find one of the better armor sites out there for showcasing new products.

Armoured Brigade Models

ABM has sparked up again with several Sherman

and Lee related items. What are they? Oh, right, here you go: ABM007, Early Production, High Bustle 75mm Sherman Turret; ABM008, Late Production, High Bustle 17-Pdr. Firefly Turret; ABM009, Early Production, Reinforced, Low Bustle 75mm Sherman Turret; ABM010, Late Production, Reinforced, Low Bustle 75mm Sherman Turret; ABM011, U.S. Early M3 Lee Deluxe Update Set; ABM012, U.S. Early M3 Lee Basic Update Set and ABM013, U.S. Early M3 Lee Suspension Update Set.

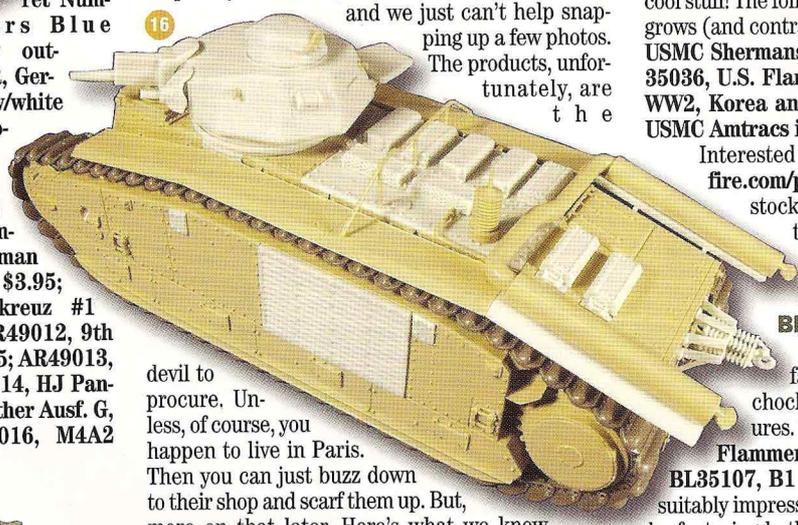
These items are rarely found at the retail level, although ABM does attend the bigger U.S. shows for face-to-face sales. You can try your own luck via Sid Arnold, Armoured Brigade Models, Ottawa, Canada. sidneya@sympatico.ca

Azimut

We are always enchanted by Azimut. They have an extensive and extensively cool product line and many of their subjects are quite compelling. We frequently find their products on display in Europe and we just can't help snapping up a few photos. The products, unfortunately, are t h e

devil to procure. Unless, of course, you happen to live in Paris. Then you can just buzz down to their shop and scarf them up. But, more on that later. Here's what we know about at the moment. AZI35193, AMX 30 D Recovery, \$140.13 (15). This is a conversion for the old Heller AMX 30 MBT and it includes everything need to make the recovery version, such as a full upper hull and crane boom. AZI35194, Char B1 Conversion, \$27.16 (16), backdates the Tamiya kit with a new resin turret, center deck and other parts. AZI35195 Centurion SHOT KAL 1982, \$48.88 (17), makes short work of the AFV Club Centurion with a new resin engine deck and other parts to produce the re-engined version in Israeli use. Char D2 (18), for some reason, has no item number, but it is a complete kit of the WW2 French tank in resin and photo-etch. This is a fairly neat choice for a kit, as it's only been done once before in 1/35th scale. Look for this to be reviewed in a future issue of MMiR.

For photos and additional information see www.azimutproductions.com. Also look under the



label "Best Value Models." This site can be used to order in the EU, but U.S. customers can have better luck at www.greatmodels.com, which is the source of our dollar prices.

Atelier Infinite

Atelier Infinite is a super small, Japanese company that offers some fairly off the hook resin kits and accessories. These are the latest items to be offered. 35-0015, KV-1 movable suspension kit (For Trumpeter Kit); 35-0016, KV-2 movable suspension kit (For Trumpeter Kit); 35-0017, KV-1 and 2 Workable Track (For Trumpeter Kit); 35-0018, Sturer Emil Workable Track (For Trumpeter Kit) and 35-0019, Tiger II movable suspension kit.

The primary reason that we mention the line here is that it is now stocked in its entirety at HobbyLink Japan. This means dollar pricing (or its equivalent), English descriptions and reliable service. Check with them at www.hlj.com. To view elaborate photo coverage and demonstrations of the entire line, see the Atelier Infinite home page at www.jttk.zaq.ne.jp/a-if/index.htm. Beware that it is entirely in Japanese.

Bison Decals

Bison is known for their very large range of waterslide decals. It's large, because they release a lot of cool stuff! The following are sort of new, but the range grows (and contracts) on a weekly basis. BD-35035, USMC Shermans in WW2 and Korea, \$9.00; BD-35036, U.S. Flame Tanks. 'From Satan to Zippo,' WW2, Korea and Vietnam, \$9.00 and BD-35037, USMC Amtracs in WW2, \$9.00.

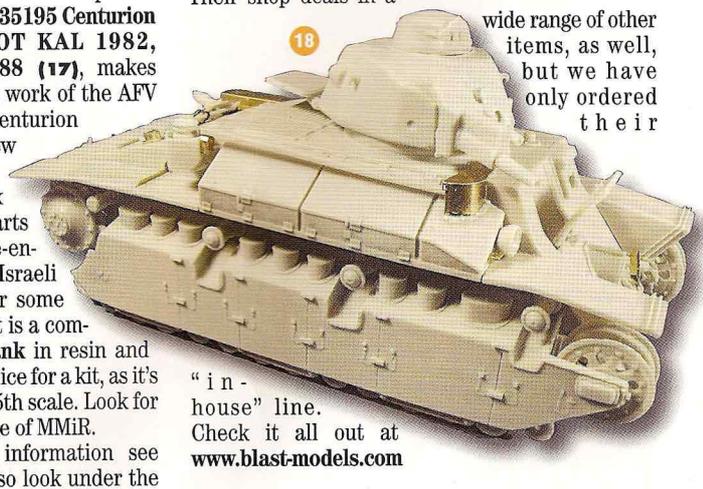
Interested parties should see www.angel-fire.com/pro/bison/ often for the very latest stock list. One will quickly discern that the sheets represent terrific value for the money. They take Paypal, too!

Blast Models

Blast is the "other" resin manufacturer from Paris and their line is chock full of handy resin items and figures. We recently saw BL35110K, B1 Bis Flammenwerfer Conversion, 23.41€ and BL35107, B1 Bis Update Set, 16.72€ and were suitably impressed. So much so, in fact, that we will be featuring both in our extensive Char B article in issue 43.

We should also add that we frequently order from Blast and we have found their online service to be excellent and by that we mean FAST. It's account-based, so you just sign-in and all your information pops up. Airmail postage costs are fair and the order usually ships out within a day or two. We usually receive our order here on the east coast of the U.S. within a week. Their shop deals in a

wide range of other items, as well, but we have only ordered their "in-house" line. Check it all out at www.blast-models.com



Bronco Models

Let's have developments in the Bronco camp. After the dust has settled from the release of the Comet, here's what we see: **CB35003, German Befehlpanzer (Armored command vehicle), \$41.35; CB35004, German 7.5cm PaK40 Auf GW H38/39,**



\$42.95; CB35005, German 10.5cm LeFH18(sf) Howitzer H38/39, \$42.95; CB35009 Humber Scout Car (19); CB35011 British Staghound Armored Car Late Production (20); CB35012 Bailey Bridge and CB35014, Piper Cub L4H (0-59) "Grasshopper," \$44.95.

Check with their U.S. importer, VLS (mod elmecca.com) for the latest, or see the rudimentary www.bronco-model.com

Concord

Here is what's new in Concord's Armor At War Series: **7057, Panzers in the Gunsight (2), German AFVs and Artillery in the ETO 1944-45 in U.S. Army Photos (21); 7060, Panzer Vor! 3: German Armor at War 1939-45; 7061, Panzer Vor! 4: German Armor at War 1939-45 and 7062, British Sherman Tanks.**

New in the Warrior Series is: **6517, March to the West - The German Invasion of France & the Low Countries (22).**

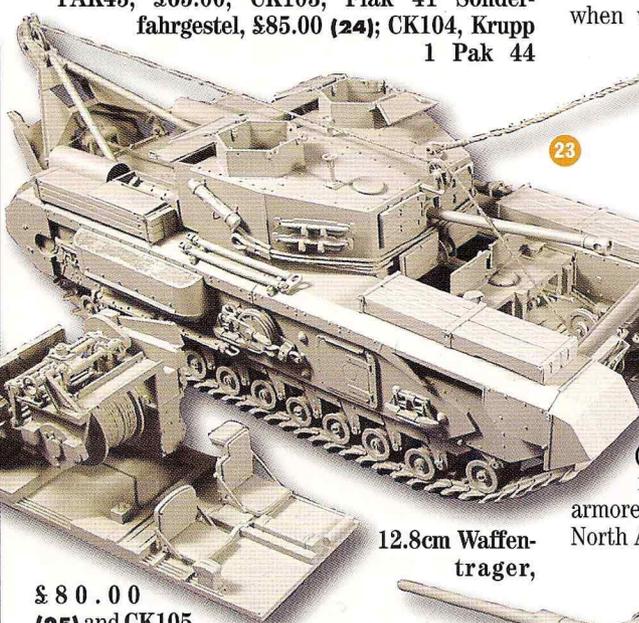
For release dates and pricing information see www.concord-publications.com

Cromwell Models

Cromwell, purveyors of ultra-fine resin kits,

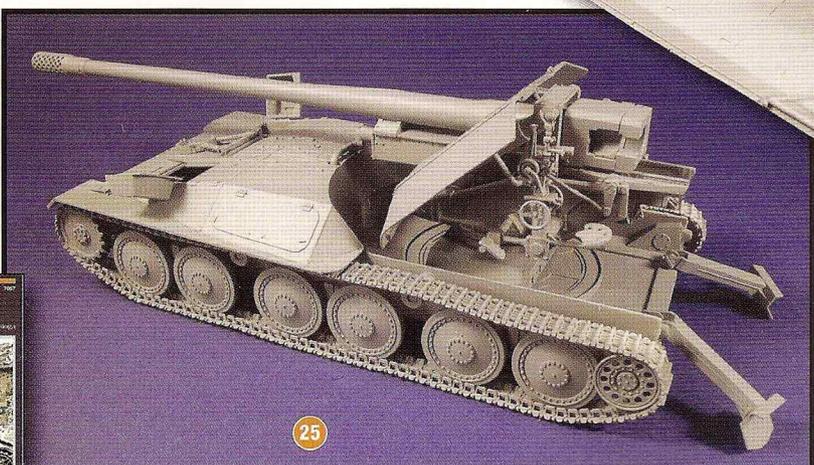
expand their large line of 1/35th scale Churchill kits with a **Churchill ARV MkII (23)**. Precise details are still to be announced, but one can see from the photos that it will be quite an elaborate kit.

Further newbies in the 1/35th scale are **CK102, PAK43, \$65.00; CK103, Flak 41 Sonderfahrgestel, \$85.00 (24); CK104, Krupp 1 Pak 44**



\$ 8 0 . 0 0 (25) and CK105, 8.8 cm Waffentrager, \$80.00.

In the Combat Ready range of 1/76th scale goodies, we have **A32, M4 High Speed Tractor, \$10.50; G83, Land Wasser Schlepper tracked amphibious tractor, \$14.50; G85, Sdkfz. 251 Ausf. D (late) Flamethrower Half-Track, \$9.00; R22, Komintern Artillery Tractor, \$9.50 and R23, ISU 122 SPG, \$9.50.**



To be really up-to-date, see Cromwell's website at <http://www.xs4all.nl/~cromwell/>

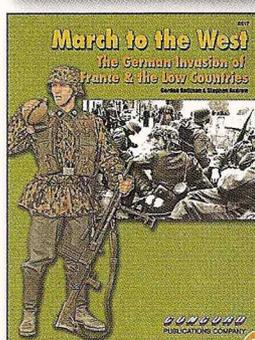
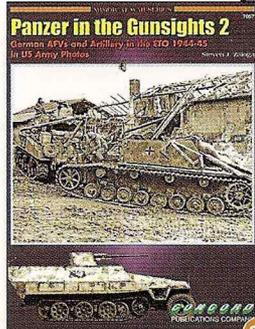
DES Kits

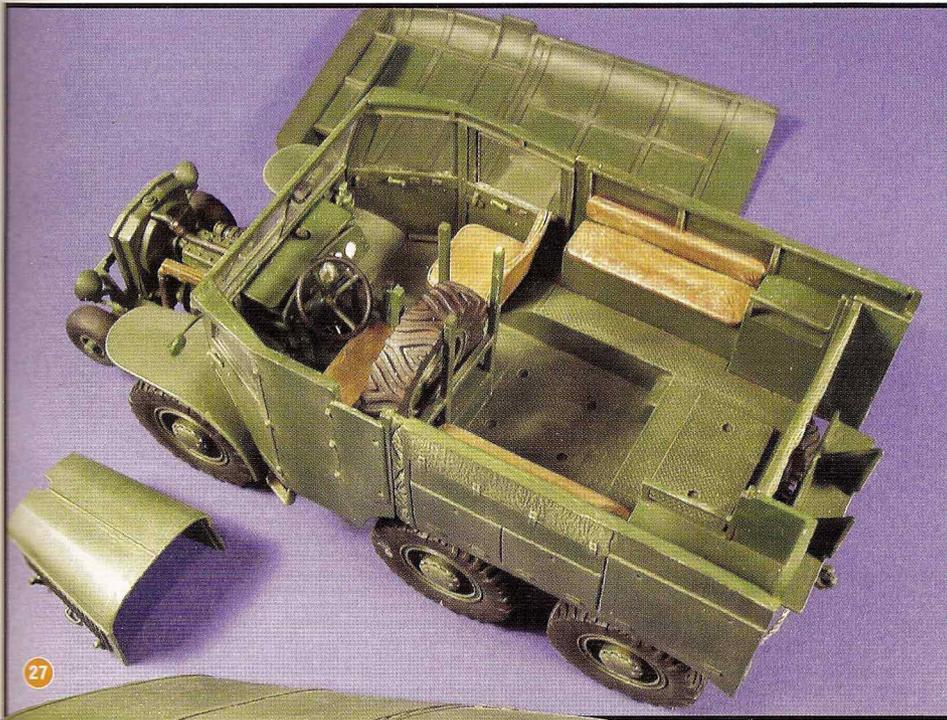
We don't get much from DES, but when we

do, it's always something special. The fine fellows at

DES have turned their attention toward French WW2 subjects. New is **35114, Laffly S35 Artillery Tractor (1937/45), 101.00€ (27)**. This is the big six-wheel bastard that pulled the 155mm GPF gun. The kit is all resin and features a complete engine and interior. Likewise new is **35115, Laffly-Vincennes AMD 80 Armored Car (1934/43), 83.00€ (28)**. This is a beautifully rendered version of the early war French armored car. Quite a few of these were deployed in North Africa and this conjures visions of the Vichy French "conversion" and the appearance of U.S. troops.

New in their line of 120mm figures and busts is **12007, French Tanker (1940) (30); 12010, Tiger Commander s.SS.Pz.Abt 101; 12011, 12th SS Division Sturmgeschütz Officer Bust (1944) (31); 12012, FJGR3 Fallschirmjäger, Carentan Bust (1944) (32) and 12013, U.S.**





27



Ranger,
Pointe du
Hoc (29).

DES is stocked in the U.S. by both Mission Models (www.missionmodels.com) and The Red Lancers (www.redlancers.com). Those elsewhere can check with <http://deskit.online.fr/>, or www.blast-models.com

Dragon Models Ltd.

The onslaught continues! Consider the following lists to be only a passing record of the "Dragon Express" as it zooms by our offices. In 1/35th vehicles we have 6083, M4A1 (76mm)W Operation Cobra, \$43.95; 6256, Sd.Kfz.234/2 PUMA, \$45.50; 6265, Panzer IV Ausf. D, \$44.50; 6266, T-34/85 with Bed-spring Armor, Premium, \$42.95; 6268, Sd.Kfz.171 Panther G Late Production, Smart Kit, \$41.50; 6289,

Pz.Kpfw. I Ausf. A Early Production Smart Kit, \$22.95 (33); 6294, Aufklarungspanzer 38(t) mit 2cm Kw.K.38, \$39.95; 6298, Sd.Kfz.234/1 Schwere Panzerspahwagen (2cm),

\$44.95;
6299, Sd.Kfz.171 Panther D, Premium \$40.50; 6313, Sherman III, \$41.50; 6314, Sd.Kfz.164 Nashorn Premium, \$39.95 (34); 6317, Sd.Kfz.184 Ferdinand Premium, \$42.95; 6319, T-34/85 Mod.1944 Premium, \$41.50 (35); 6320, StuG. III Ausf. G Early Production Smart Kit, \$39.95; 6329, M2A1 Half Track, \$44.95; 6331, Marder IIIH, \$43.95; 6354, M4A3 Sherman 105mm HVSS, \$43.95; 6358, Sd.Kfz.171 Panther A Late Production Premium, \$39.95; 6353, 3cm Flak 38/103 Jaboschreck w/trailer (36) and 3535, M1A1 AIM, \$45.50.

1/35th scale figures looks something like this. 6192, Sturmgeschutze Crew Reloading Russia 1941, \$9.95; 6216, German 1st Cavalry Division Russia 1941 Gen2, \$11.95; 6274, 1st Luftwaffe Field

28

ARCHER

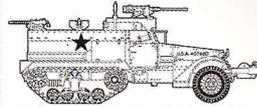
DRY TRANSFERS

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M2 HALFTACK MANIA

M2A1, 10th AD

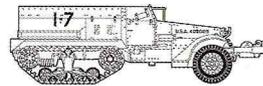
AR35232 \$4.95



Sheet contains builds one M2A1 Halftrack from the 10th Armored Division, 61st Armored Infantry Battalion, Co. C, Germany, spring 1945.

M2, 2nd AD

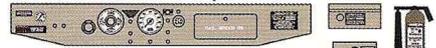
AR35231 \$6.95



Sheet contains builds one M2 Halftrack from the 2nd Armored Division, 41st Armored Infantry Division, Operation Cobra, July 1944. Includes illustrated placement instructions and paint color.

M2 Instruments & placards

AR35230 \$8.95



Sheet contains enough transfers to complete 4 vehicles. Designed specifically for the Dragon kit and comes with illustrated placement instructions.

US Softskin "gas paint" stars

AR35227 \$11.95



During the D-Day invasion of Europe U.S. softskins had a special chemical paint applied to the void areas of the national insignia on the hood. For: GMC CCKW, Diamond T wreckers, Willys MB, Ford GP, WC51/52, WC54, WC56/57, WC62/63, halftracks, M2/M3 Halftracks, M2 Scout Car, 6-ton trucks. Includes instructions.

US Halftrack Registration Codes

AR35226 \$10.95

U.S.A. W-403610 Includes known registration codes for M2, M3, T19, M4, T30 and M13 variants. Includes instructions.
U.S.A. 4015367
U.S.A. 4015367

M2/M3 National Insignias



WHITE AR35225W \$6.95
YELLOW AR35225W \$6.95

Enough for three vehicles in three styles. Includes instructions.

US Halftrack Registration Codes

AR35224 \$11.95



Enough for three vehicles in three styles. Includes instructions.

M2 Halftracks in North Africa



AR35222 \$15.95

Builds one complete vehicle with extra stars and flags in different sizes for other US vehicles in North Africa. Includes instructions.

1/35 UNIFORM PATCHES

Archer offers 68 different sheets of 1/35 uniform patches including all combat German SS and Heer patches, shoulder boards and helmet insignias, all US Infantry Divisions, and 5 different British divisions.

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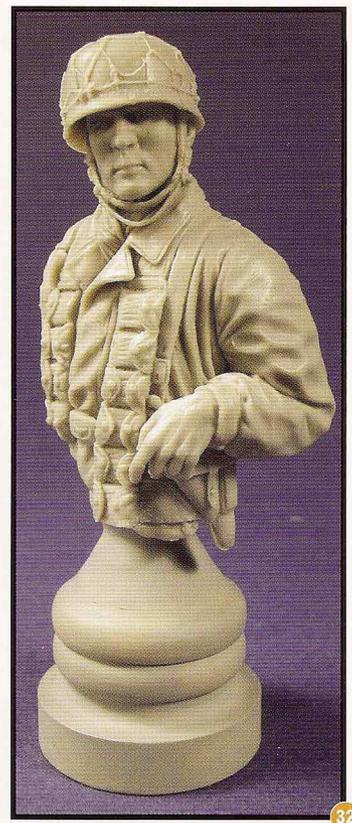
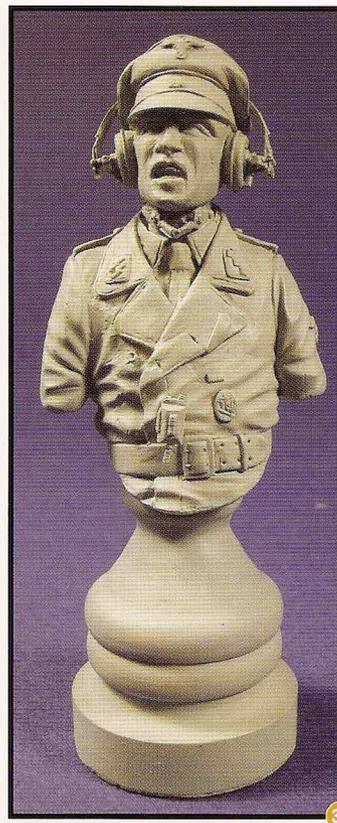
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Division Novgorod 1944 Gen2, \$15.50; 6276, 1st Fallschirmjager Division Holland 1940 Gen2, \$15.50; 6277, Georgian Legion Normandy 1944, \$9.50; 6279, Eastern Front Tank Hunters Gen 2, \$15.50; 6308, Panzergrenadiers, Arnhem 1944,

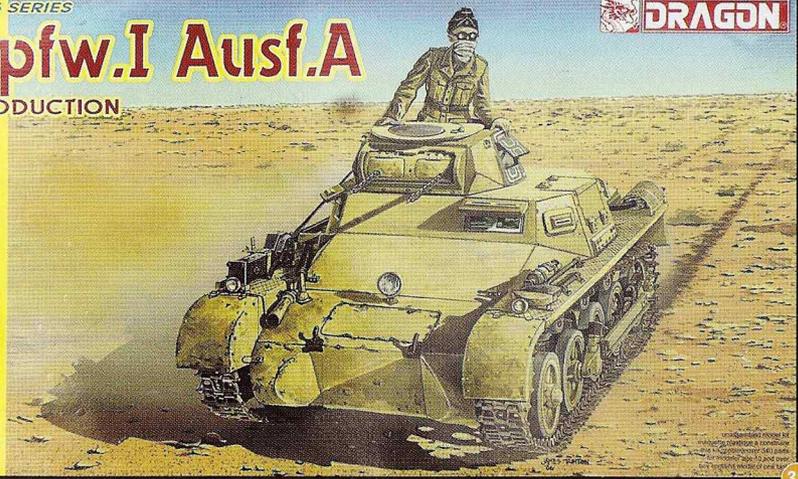
\$11.95; 6333, Ambush! Eastern Front 1944, \$15.95; 6343, Stalingrad Inferno; Premium Edition; 6344, 28th Infantry Division Poland 1939, \$9.95; 6345, Gebirgsjager 1940-1941, \$9.95; and 6347, Blitzkrieg in the West, \$10.95.

In 1/72nd scale, we have 7209, Sd.Kfz.181 Panzer Kampfwagen VI (P), \$13.95; 7233, AAVP7A1 RAM/RS w/EAAK, \$13.95; 7268, T-34/76

Mod.1943 German Army, \$13.95; 7270, T-34/85 Mod. 1944 Late Production, \$13.95; 7271, M4A3 (76) W VVSS Sherman, \$13.95; 7273, M4A1 Sherman Normandy, \$13.95; 7274, M4A3 105mm, \$14.95; 7298, M2A2 w/ERA, \$13.95; 7301, Sd.Kfz.165 HUMMEL Late Version, \$13.95; 7303, Firefly Vc, \$13.95; 7308, Sd.Kfz.251/2 Ausf. C Riveted Version mit Granatwerfer, \$13.95 (37); 7309, HMMWV Cargo and Troop Carrier, \$13.95; 7311, M4A4 Sherman, \$13.95; 7307, Jagdpanzer IV L/70 Early Production, \$13.95 and 7306, Sd.Kfz.251/2 Ausf.C mit Wurfrahmen 40, \$13.95.

Keeping up with the Dragon release schedule can be a full-time job. You can be ably assisted in this endeavor by checking with www.dragon-models.com on a regular basis.

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.A
EARLY PRODUCTION



33

Sd.Kfz.251/2 Ausf.C Riveted Version 37
1/72 ADVANCE PRO



37

34 **Sd.Kfz.164 NASHORN** Premium Edition



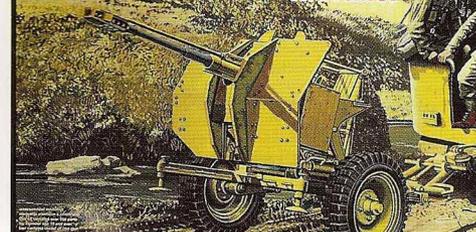
34

T-34/85 Mod.1944 Premium Edition



35

35 **3cm Flak 38/103 Jaboschreck w/Trailer**



36

Echelon Fine Details

We know Echelon for their wonderful line of waterslide decals. In keeping with a recent trend toward French subjects, their new releases are: ALT352004, 37ème BCC B1BIS tanks, \$14.50 (38); ALT352009, 7.SS, s.Pz.Kp. 223, Pz.Abt. 213, Pz.Jg.Abt 657, 13ème Dragons & FFI B1BIS tanks, \$14.50;



T35021, LECLERC Series 2 RT5s & T6s, \$14.50 and T35022, Humvees in OIF & OEF, \$14.50.

See their oddly named website at: <http://pachome1.pacific.net.sg/%7Ekriegsketten/> and don't forget to also check out their cool new line of custom-shaped vehicle mirrors, while you're at it.

Eduard

Boy, you'd think these guys did this for a living, or something! Here's what's new in the Eduard line of 1/35th AFV photo-etched sets. 35893, StuG IV Ausf. G late, \$22.95; 35895, KV-1 German Pz. Kpfw., \$19.95; 35905, Pz IV Ausf. B, \$14.95; 35906, M-548 Gun Truck/Cargo, \$24.95; 35907, JgdPz.IV A-0, \$19.95; 35908, Zimmerit JgdPz.IV A-0, \$10.95; 35910, Sd.Kfz.234/4, \$22.95 (39); 35914, Pz.38(t) interior, \$22.95; 35915, Pz.38(t) Ausf. E/F exterior, \$19.95; 35919, A-34 Comet, \$19.95 (40); 35920, M-2A2 Bradley OIF, \$24.95 (41); 35922, JgdPz.IV L/48, \$22.95; 35925, Centurion Mk.5/1 Australian, \$24.95; 35932, Centurion Mk.5 tool boxes, \$22.95; 35938, KV-2 German Pz.Kpfw., \$19.95; 35940, Floor plate US 1939-1951, \$14.95; 35941, Floor plate US 1990-2006, \$14.95; 35942, Centurion Mk.5/1 Australian grills, \$22.95; 35943, Centurion

Mk.5/1 Australian Ammo Boxes, \$14.95; 35945, A-34 Comet tool boxes, \$14.95; 35947, Floor plate US 1939-1951 diagonal, \$14.95; 35948, Zimmerit StuG IV Ausf. G late, \$10.95 and 35949, Zimmerit JgdPz.IV L/48, \$10.95.

In the ZOOM AFV, 1/35th color range: TP521, German Artillery Ranks WWII, \$7.95; TP519, German Infantry Ranks WWII, \$7.95 and TP520, German Panzer Ranks WWII, \$7.95.

Plain 'ol non-colored 1/35th ZOOM AFV is: TP091, Panther Ausf. G self adhesive, \$7.95; TP092, King Tiger self adhesive, \$7.95 and TP093, M-113 self adhesive, \$7.95.

1/35th Eduard mask AFV has a single item this time: XT136, Panther Ausf.G wheel masks, \$12.95. Don't forget your 1/35th aircraft in this line: JX061, UH-60A Black Hawk 1/35, \$7.95.



1/48th AFVs takes the following form: 28048, King Tiger Mid. Production, \$22.95 (42); 28051, KV-1, \$19.95; 28054, LCM-3 Landing Craft, \$19.95; 28055, M4A3 Sherman, \$22.95; 28056, M4 Sherman, \$22.95; 28058, Zimmerit King Tiger

Mid. Production, \$14.95; 28059, King Tiger fenders, \$19.95; 28060, M4A3 Sherman sandbag hull protection, \$22.95 and 28062, M4A3 Sherman (76mm) W, \$24.95.

Meet our pal, Big Ed. These are deluxe sets for AFVs in 1/48th scale. BIG2802, HETZER, \$26.95; BIG2803, Pz.IV Ausf. J, \$49.95 and BIG2804, M4 SHERMAN, \$36.95.

1/48th scale tanks need masking, too, right? FX013, Krupp Protze 6x4 wheel masks, \$6.95; FX017, M4A3E8 Sherman wheel masks, \$7.95; FX014, Sherman Firefly IC wheel masks, \$7.95; FX016, T-34/76 1942 wheel masks, \$7.95; FX018, T-34/76 1943 wheel masks, \$6.95; FX020, M4 Sherman wheel mask, \$6.95 and FX019, M4A3 Sherman

wheel mask, \$6.95.

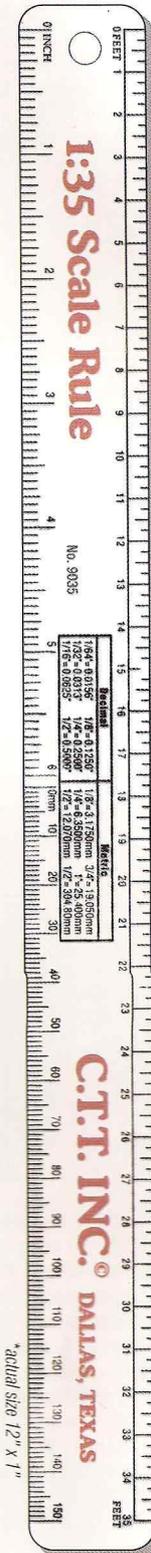
And don't forget the wee tanks! New for 1/72nd scale is 22119, M4 Sherman Mid. Production \$19.95 and 22118, T-72M-1, \$19.95.

For the secrets to the universe and other pertinent information, go immediately to www.eduard.cz

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love the big stiff, too.

3564, Menck Crawler Excavator M60, 96.50€ (43), is one of only two models of this type in 1/35th-scale. The model consists of 111 parts, some of which are implemented in white metal. When assembled, it's 23.3 cm high!

There are two versions of the



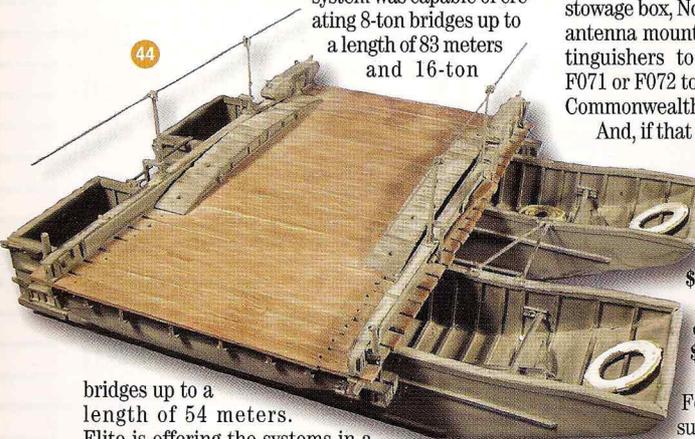
43

big
Faun
tractor on
line. **3569,
Faun 912/21 Muni-
tions Transporter, 87.75€.**

This is the first generation 10-ton, six-wheel truck of the German Federal Armed Forces, in this case outfitted to tote artillery ammo. Next is **3570, Faun 912/21 Tractor, 89.50€**. This version is the artillery tractor for the 155mm M59, or the 203mm M115. Can you say: "diorama"?

Don't forget the Wehrmacht! Check THIS out. Here's an entire German bridge! This is the "**Bridge Material B**" (44) type and it was one of the most common systems seen in the first part of the war. This system was capable of creating 8-ton bridges up to a length of 83 meters and 16-ton

44



bridges up to a length of 54 meters.

Elite is offering the systems in a rather clever way. Each section comes with its specific trailer, which remained present at the bridge site.

Numerically speaking there's **3565, Pontoon Wagon PF 11, B-Brückengerät, 83.50€**, for carrying a single pontoon section. **3566, Trestle Wagon PF 10, 68.50€**, is the trailer with the equipment for the lateral support structures. **3567, Ramp wagon, PF 12, 69.25€**, is the trailer for the equipment to build the transition ramps. **3568, Uferbalkenwagen PF 10, B-Brückengerät, 69.75€**, is the trailer for carrying the roadbed structures.

For more information contact them at Militärmodellbau Hubert Mörs, Eichgasse 13, 52393 Hürtgenwald, Tel: 49 2429 2086, Fax: 49 2429 2086. Website www.elitemodell.de. E-Mail: mmb.moers@t-online.de

Formations

Sure you love them, we love them, too. It's OK. Please delight in the following teeny bits. **F063,**



45

British No.19 Radio Set, \$15.00; F064, Early Low Bustle Sherman Firefly Turret, \$20.00; F065, HVSS Sherman (Easy 8) Fenders, \$12.00; F067 Direct Vision M4A4 Upper and Lower Hull, \$45.00; F068, M3 Lee Solid Stamped Roadwheels w/Idlers and Spare, \$11.00; F069, Quick Fix Suspension Set for Academy's M3 Lee, \$17.00 and F070, M3 Lee Style Suspension Set, \$30.00.

Getting more elaborate is **F071, M4 105 Conversion, \$70.00 (45, 46)**. This is a complete upper hull and turret to convert DML's M4A1 (76), or any Italeri kit to an M4 105mm howitzer tank. It also includes the normal complete upper hull and turret details and a late trans/final drive cover.

You know you want

F071B, British Parts for M4 105, \$15.00. This is a stowage box, No.19 radio set, antenna mounts, and fire extinguishers to be used with F071 or F072 to build a British or Commonwealth 105mm Sherman.

And, if that wasn't enough there is **F072, 105mm Sherman Turret, \$30.00; F073, Late Sherman Vision Cupola, \$8.00; F074, Detail Set for AFV Club HVSS Suspension, \$12.00 (47); F075, U.S. Water Cans, \$12.00; F076, Sherman Fender Assortment, \$10.00 and F077, Update Set for Tamiya M4A3 (75), \$45.00 (48).**

Go ahead and get acquainted with Formations. You won't regret it. We sure haven't. All is revealed at www.formationsmodels.com

Great North Roads

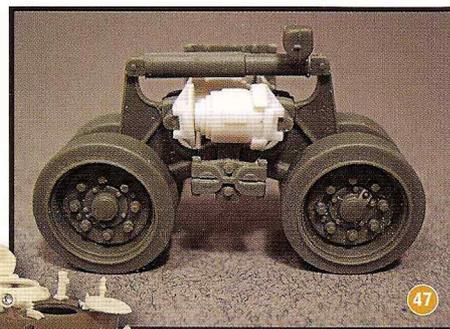
Great North Roads' claim to fame is their big plaster bunkers. Well, it's not plaster, but it is BIG. **GNR 067, Horsa Glider, \$180.00 (49)**, is a complete resin and brass kit in 1/35th scale. The model measures two feet from nose to tail, has a wingspan of thirty inches and comes complete with interior seating.

If this is a bit much for your taste, there's always **GNR 073, Horsa tail section with decals, \$45.00.**

We know of no other source than the manufacturer, so see www.greatnorthroads.co.uk, or write to svfarrugia@yahoo.co.uk for additional information.



46



47



48

Hauler CZ

Keeping pace with all the larger manufacturers, Hauler turns out exclusively 1/48th scale photo-etched brass and resin accessories. They really crank out the volume and their knowledge of new releases borders on pre-cognition! Go ahead, dive right in: **HLX48127,**

VW Type 82E Kafer

(Tamiya), \$12.95;

HLX48128, VW Type

82E Kafer Grid

(Tamiya),

\$9.95;

HLX48129,

Sherman IC

Firefly (Tamiya),

\$19.95 (50); HLX48130,

Sherman Accessories, \$9.95;

HLX48131, Krupp Protze (Tamiya),

\$17.95 (51); HLX48132, Wooden Boxes, \$8.95;

HLX48133, KV-1 (Tamiya), \$17.95 (52);

HLX48134, KV-1 Grills

(Tamiya), \$9.95; **HLX48135,**

KV-1 Fenders (Tamiya),

\$24.95; HLX48137, KV-1/KV-2

Storage Boxes (Tamiya),

\$16.95; HLX48138, Pz.VI Ausf.

B King Tiger (Tamiya), \$24.95;

HLX48139, King Tiger Grills

(Tamiya), \$11.95; **HLX48140,**

King Tiger Fenders (Tamiya),

\$28.95; HLX48141, KV-2

(Tamiya), \$22.95; **HLX48142, Pz.Kpfw KV-1 753**

(r) (Tamiya, Hobbyboss), \$18.95; **HLX48143,**

Panzerjäger Bren 731(e),

\$20.95; HLX48144, KV-2

gun barrel (Tamiya,

Hobbyboss), \$4.95;

HLX48145, Panz-

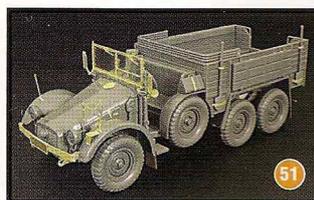
erschreck, \$8.95;

HLX48146,

Panzerfaust,

\$6.95;

HLX48147,



51



49



Pz.Kpflw KV-II 754 (r) (Tamiya, Hobbyboss), \$26.95; HLX48148, T-34 grills (Hobbyboss), TBA; HLX48149, KV-1/KV-2 engine (Tamiya, Hobbyboss), TBA;

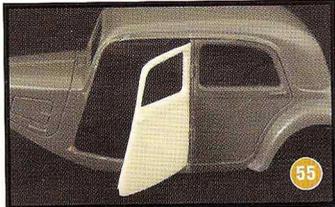
HLX48150, U.S. Kitbags Track Sacks, \$8.95; HLX48151, T-34/85 1944 Flattened Turret (Hobbyboss), TBA; HLX48152, T-34/85 Smoke Fenders, TBA; HLX48153, T-34/85 1944 Angle-Jointed Turret (Hobbyboss), TBA;



HLX48154, T-34/85 Fenders (Hobbyboss), TBA; HLX48155, T-34/76 1943 Factory No.112 (Hobbyboss), TBA (53); HLX48156, T-34/76 Fenders (Hobbyboss), TBA;



HLX48157, T-34/76 1942 (Hobbyboss), TBA; HLX48158, Door for Volkswagen Type 82E (Tamiya), \$5.95 (54) and HLX48159, Door for Citroen CV 11 (Tamiya), \$5.95 (55).



The land of VLS (modelmecca.com) is where you'll find Hauler in the states. Lavish photo coverage of the entire line is to be found at www.hauler.cz

Hobby Boss

Plenty of rumor and innuendo revolving around Hobby Boss, but here's the solid information that we know: 81001 Sturer Emil Track Links, \$17.95; 81002 Kingtiger Late Production Track Links, \$17.95; 81003 Hotchkiss H-39 Track Links, \$17.95; 81004 Cromwell Track Links, \$17.95; 81005 Sd.Kfz. 251 Track Links, \$17.95 and 81006 Sd.Kfz. 184 Elefant Track Links, \$17.95.

Not exactly timely, but verifiable in 1/48th scale is: 84801, U.S. M4A1 76(W) Sherman, \$26.95; 84802, U.S. M4 Sherman, \$26.95; 84803, U.S. M4A3 Sherman, \$26.95; 84804, U.S. M4A3 E8 Sherman, \$26.95; 84805, U.S. M4A3 (76W) Sherman, \$26.95; 84806, Russian T-34/76 (1942 No. 112), \$26.95; 84807, Russian T-34/85 (Flattened Turret), \$26.95; 84808, Russian T-34/76 (1943 No.112), \$26.95; 4809, Russian T-34/85 (Angle-Jointed Turret), \$26.95 and 84817, U.S. LCM-3, \$49.95.

We still have no word on a U.S. importer for the line, but we do remain hopeful. For the time being see www.hobbyboss.com for more information.

Hobby Fan

Hobby Fan, the resin subsidiary of the AFV Club world empire, offers up two new 1/35th scale sets for your consideration. HF573, RAAC Centurion Tank Crew and Infantry set, \$39.95 and HF574, Sd.Kfz.251 Crew set (driver & 7.5mm gunner), \$15.95.

Both sets have obvious tie-ins to plastic items released by "The Club" and isn't that why we love them? Hobby Fan stuff is to be found all over the globe at both shops and mail order houses. If you desire more information in the U.S., contact their importer via www.merit-intl.com

Hussar

Hussar perpetuates its line of 1/35th scale resin replacement wheel sets. We swear, there's a computer involved in there somewhere...

HSR 35043, Soviet Regimental Gun Wheels, \$3.99; HSR 35044, M30/D-1 152mm Howitzer Wheels, TBA; HSR 35045, Sd.Kfz.234 Tires Type 1, TBA; HSR 35046, Sd.Kfz.234 Tires Type 2, TBA and HSR 35047, Sd.Kfz.234 Tires Type 3, TBA, make up the most recent releases.

The fountain from which all this springs can be discerned at www.airconnection.on.ca/

Italeri

You know all about this, right? Italeri is going big in a BIG way. What comes after the L C M - 3 ? Why a 1/35th scale PT boat, of course! To be exact, it's

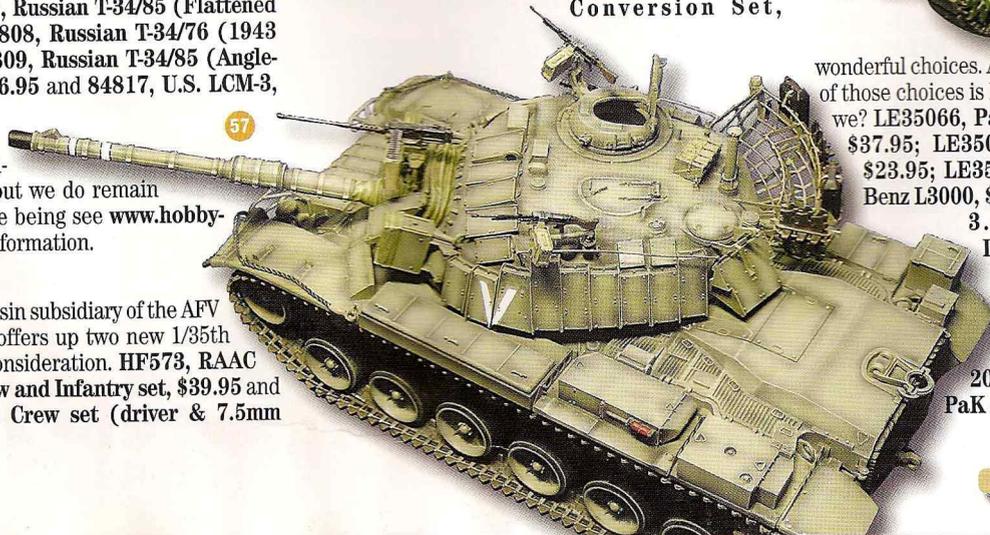


56 80' Torpedo Boat PT-596, \$149.95 (56). It's on the streets now and it's complete with 40mm Bofors, and a "boatload" (GET IT?) of other heavy ordnance. Look for a complete rundown on this boat in our sister publication

MODELx. www.italeri.com

Legends

This Korean resin manufacturer has been impressing the heck out of us lately. The quality is simply superb. Great resin casting, photo-etch and color instructions. The subject matter is pretty compelling, too. Need we say that the listed items are all in 1/35th scale? LF1124, Merkava Mk. IV Wheel Set, \$26.95; LF1125, M48A2/A2C/A2CG Conversion, \$92.95; LF1126, IDF Humvee Ambulance Conversion, \$9.95; LF1127, M48A2GA2 Conversion, \$92.95; LF1128, IDF Tank Cal .50 Set II, \$11.95; LF1129, M3/Early Sherman Suspension Set, \$17.95; LF1130, M60 Conversion Set,



\$53.95; LF1131, IDF Magach 3 Conversion Set, \$68.95; LF1132, M3 Lee Turret Stowage Set, \$19.95; LF1133, M3 Lee Detailing set (Academy), \$68.95; LF1134, IDF Magach3 w/Blazer Armor Conversion, \$92.95 (57); LF1135, M31 ARV Conversion set (For Tamiya/Academy M3 Lee), \$83.95 (58); LF1136, IDF Magach6/MEM conversion set, \$98.95; LF1137, Comet Detailing set (For Bronco Comet), TBA; LF1138, M39 Conversion set (For AFV Club M-18), TBA and LF1139, Sherman Crab Conversion set (For Dragon's M4A4 Series), also TBA.

All of the conversion sets contain enormous swaths of resin and bury the donor kit. We are working feverishly to complete a number of the above and we hope to bring you them to you soon. Their website (www.www-legend.co.kr) contains excellent photo coverage, enough to give you a great idea of what you're buying.

LionMarc Model Designs

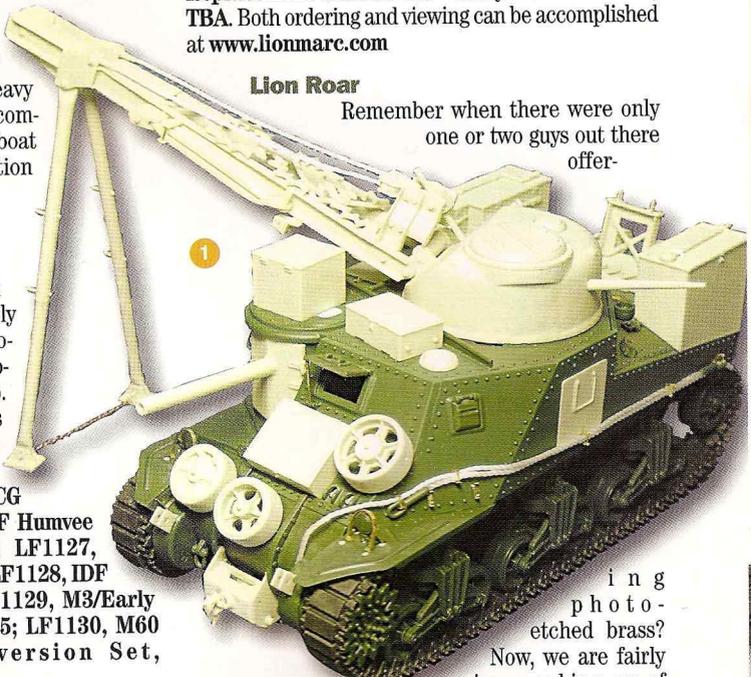
Always the odd bit and/or bob from the folks at LionMarc. This Chinese manufacturer has grown quite a line of 1/35th and 1/48th scale items over the last few years. The stuff



listed here is all in 1/35th scale. LM10007, Replacement Barrel for Tristar 38(t), TBA; LM10008, Replacement Barrel for DML Firefly, TBA (59) and LM10009, Replacement Barrels for Tamiya Char B1 bis, TBA. Both ordering and viewing can be accomplished at www.lionmarc.com

Lion Roar

Remember when there were only one or two guys out there offer-



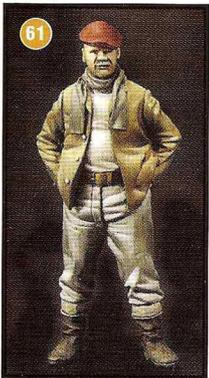
ing photo-etched brass? Now, we are fairly immersed in a sea of wonderful choices. And, here to supply you with more of those choices is Lion Roar. Let's take a look, shall we? LE35066, Panzerspähwagen Sd.Kfz. 234/4, \$37.95; LE35067, Opel Blitz 3(t) Type S, \$23.95; LE35068, WWII German Mercedes Benz L3000, \$20.95; LE35070, WWII German 3.7cm Pak35/36, \$13.95; LE35071, U.S. Army M1046 Humvee, \$18.95; LE35072, U.S. Army M1025 Humvee, \$18.95; LE35073, U.S. Army Humvee Added Armor Plate (Iraq War 2003), \$13.95; LE35074, 75mm PaK 40 Detail Set, \$19.95; LE35075,

French Battle Tank B1 bis (for Tamiya 35282), \$17.95; LAS35001, Kriegslokomotive BR52 (for Trumpeter 00210), TBA; LAM037, WWII German AFV Smoke Launcher, \$8.95; LAM038, Modern German AFV Smoke Launcher, \$8.95; LAM040, 20mm Flak 30/38 Ammo Box w/ 20mm Ammunition, \$19.95; LAM041, Modern Russian AFV Smoke Launcher, \$8.95 and LAM042, Surface Foundry Number Insignia, \$8.95.

Maybe you didn't know that Lion Roar does all the photo-etch for Dragon. If you did, it should come as no surprise that you can get the latest at www.dragonmodelsusa.com. Lion Roar's homepage is to be found at www.lionroar.net

Mig Productions

Miggy, Miggy, Miggy, can't you see? The way your stuff just captivates me? Or, us, as the case may be... It tends to come in seasons... Here's the current lot. MP 35118, Soviet Tanker At Work, \$17.95 (60); MP 35119, Observing Russian Tanker WWII, \$17.95; MP 35120, WWII Russian Hooligan, \$17.95 (61);



MP 35144, Modern Pick Up Hi-Lux (Dushka version), \$107.95; MP 35145, Toyota Hi-Lux Special Forces, \$116.95; MP 35268, Soviet B-11 Recoilless Gun, \$20.95; MP 35270, Arab Tanker Vol.1, \$17.95; MP 35271, Arab Tanker Vol.2, \$17.95; MP 35273, Civilian Old Russian Man, \$17.95; MP 35274, Dushka and ammo set for technical cars, \$9.95; MP 35275, Concrete Barriers (Jersey type), \$12.95; MP 35276, Large Concrete Barriers (Iraq Military Type), \$18.95; MP 35277, Road Traffic Cones, \$8.95; MP 35278, Arab Tankers Set, \$33.95; MP 35282, PG117 Soviet Fast Boat WWII, \$76.95 and MW 3237, Eastern Front Wehrmacht Markings, \$12.95.

A couple of thoughts: The HI-LUX pick-ups are a logical follow-on to their Landcruisers, while that Soviet fast boat is a smaller craft that would find a home with their bigger Bronekater BK 1125.

In other news, MIG has decided to branch out further into the finishing business with a new line of oil paints. This is very cool when you think about it. Oils are highly useful, but are generally a mystery to the average modeling Joe. The

line is called 502 Abteilung Oils (62) and consists of around 15 different colors, with more being added weekly. They offer a basic thinner; Odorless Turpentine, \$7.95 and the following colors: A B T 0 0 1, Snow White;



ABT010, Luftwaffe Yellow; ABT020, Faded Dark Yellow; ABT030, Faded Navy Blue; ABT040, Faded Green; ABT050, Olive Green; ABT060, Light Rust Brown; ABT070, Dark Rust; ABT080, Wash Brown; ABT090, Industrial Earth; ABT092, German Ochre; ABT093, Basic Earth; ABT094, Green Grass; ABT100, Faded Grey and ABT110, Black. Each tube of color has a list price of \$5.95.

VLS is the importer in the U.S. (www.modelmecca.com), but the place to go for eye candy is the lavishly illustrated MIG website at www.migproductions.com

Milicast

Hey, it's only once a year, but let us make that annual drip in the 1/76th scale pool with the following. UK106, Sherman Mk.V DD with screen in lowered position, \$19.95 (63); UK108, Valentine Mk.I, \$12.95 (64); US37, M16 GMC, \$13.25; US92, Sherman M4A3 (VVSS) 75mm, \$13.95; US93, Sherman M4A3 (VVSS) 76mm, \$13.95; US111, Sherman M4A3E8 (HVSS) 76mm (Early), \$14.95; US112, Sherman M4A3E8 (HVSS) 105mm, \$14.95; US113, M36B1 90mm Tank Destroyer, \$14.95; BA30, Radio/Recce Jeep, \$5.75; BA33, M18 Hellcat, \$10.50; BA34, M18 Hellcat (w/Track Guards), \$10.95; US37, M16 GMC, \$13.25; BG110, Panzer IV Ausf. D, \$9.95; BG118, Panzer IV Ausf. J (Final Production), \$9.95; BG124, Tiger I (Mid-Prod), \$11.50; BG125, Tiger I (Late), \$11.50; G155, Bergepanzer IV, \$13.25; J13, Japanese Type 94 TK Tankette, \$6.95 (65) and BJ08, Ka-Mi, \$14.95.

That's just what we could scribble down as we attempted not to eat all those beautiful little models. As usual more can be seen at www.milicast.com

Miniarm

Miniarm's got it all right. Super clean resin castings and a penchant for Soviet subjects. B35028, T-34 Pressed Road Wheels w/perforated tires and rim, \$22.99, is 20 pieces of resin offering another option for your next Dragon kit. B35029, T-72B Turret "Super Dolly Parton," \$65.99 (67), is a most awesome turret conversion for the Tamiya T72. It includes high detailed resin turret, an extensive set of reactive armor bricks for the turret hatches, a complete Tucha smoke discharger system and metal gun barrel.

B35030, T-72B Conversion set, \$55.99, is the entire forward section of the upper hull and a similar set of reactive armor bricks for placement on the front a sides.

Our U.S. pricing was gleaned from Mission



Models (www.missionmodels.com), but Chesapeake Model Designs (www.chesapeake-models.com) and Model Point US (www.modelpoint.us) are also known to stock the line. Miniarm's homepage is located at www.miniarm.com

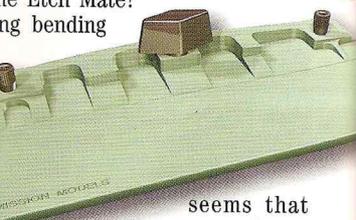
Miniature Alliance

The release of more excellent 90 mm figures from MA is, unfortunately, another merely annual event.

This time we get WC90/10, British Paratrooper, WWII (66) and WC90/11, German Stormtrooper WWI. Even more unfortunate is that we have no U.S. pricing. The wise individual will seek minially.com, or www.modelpoint.us for answers.

Mission Models

Remember the Etch Mate? That slick looking bending tool in anodized OD? Yeah, that's the one. Well, it



seems that they have gone and done another one, this time constructed entirely of a rigid, composite material. Talk about slick! The down and dirty specs are M10-21, Etch Mate 3C Precision Photo-Etch Bending Tool, \$59.99 (68). The new tool features a new three-clamp system for additional gripping pressure, a newly shaped upper folding head with outboard adjustable clamp knobs and a 360-degree

reversible spring-loaded folding head. Like the older

tool, this one also features their exclusive folding channel, a non-reflective surface, a 6 1/2" x 3 1/2" unobstructed work surface and comes pre-assembled, with its own folding blade and instructions—plus a lifetime guarantee against manufacturing defects!

To purchase any of the Mission Model tools, or to find out more about products see www.missionmodels.com. Mission Models tool are also available through Micro Mark at www.micromark.com

MR Models

No, no, silly... It's not "mister" models, its "em-are" models, as in Matthias Roth, the guy who runs the joint. Herr Roth has been a very busy boy this season and has created loads and loads of kits, conversion kits and detailing sets. Let's start with the 1/35th-scale stuff.

MRA35200, VK 16.02 turret for Gefechtsaufklärer Panzer II/L Luchs, 23.50€ (70); MRA35217, Sandwheels Autoblinda AB 41 (Italeri), 14.50€; MRA35218, Conversion Autoblinda AB 40 (Italeri), 19.00€; MRA35219, Imperial Japanese Army Light Tank Type 3 Ke-Ri, 19.00€ (69); MRA35221, Conversion Char B1 bis Flammpanzer B2(f), 20.50€ (71); MRA35222, Update set Char B1 bis German Wehrmacht, 14.00€; MRA35223, Trailer for Type 94 Tankette IJA (Fine Molds), 23.50€ and MRA-35224, Stowage for Japanese Type 95 Ha-Go, Type 97 Chi-Ha, 15.00€.

But wait! There's more! Just about equaling the 1/35th scale list are the following 1/48th scale items. MR-4803, Tiger I detail set with gun barrel, 18.00€ (72); MR-4811, Pre-production Hetzer Conversion w/Oakleaf mantlet; MR-4812, Tiger I H2 experimental turret with 7.5cm L/70, 21.50€ (73); MR-4813, Vorpanzer Tiger I V1 (stand off armor for hull front), 12.00€; MR-4814, Achilles Tank Destroyer Conversion, TBA; MR-4815, M10 TD Update, 12.00€; MR-4816, Hetzer May '44 Production Features Conversion, 10.00€; MR-4817, Citroen Traction 11CV Update Set, 17.00€; MR-4818, Tiger I Crew (two complete figures, two half figures), 16.00€; MR-4819, Sherman M4A2 Early Prod. Conversion, TBA; MR-4820, 12.8cm Flak 40 with Sd.Anh.220 (full kit), TBA; MR-4821, Mercedes 170 VK Kübelwagen open type (full kit), 35.00€; MR-4822, Mercedes 170 Sedan closed (full kit) TBA and MR-4823, Henschel double-cab fire fighting truck LW (full kit), TBA.

All in all, a pretty cool line-up. We're not exactly sure who carries the line in the U.S. right now. We have seen the items on the Mission Models website and we also know that

Accurate Armour carries the whole line on their site, as well. The MR site is very complete and it contains dealer information, too: www.mrmodellbau.de

Nemrod

Saw this, thought it was kinda neat: **NEM35061, German Military Carriage June 44, around \$30.00 (74)**. We don't have a lot of additional information to give you, however it is listed on the Azimut website and Historex Agents sells the entire line, as well.

Great Models may also stock it eventually. Sorry.

New Connection

New Connection has always liked the weird stuff. And this may be one of the reasons we like them so much. Does that make us weird, too? Among many reasons, no doubt, but HEY! Look what we have here. It's a 35257, **Minenräumpanzer III (75, 76)**. This is a huge affair that not only comes with all the gear to jack up the tank, but it also includes the full mine roller array. Unlike some of the other German oddities that NC offers, this one was actually produced. You will require a Tamiya StuG III B as a donor kit, but it does include a complete extra-long set of Friulmodellismo

tracks. The price of all this love is 159.00€.

Production can be limited and therefore availability can be spotty. There is no official U.S. importer, but we do know that Historex Agents in the UK gets stock and their service is super-reliable. Ordering direct is also possible at www.new-connection.de

Panzer Shop CZ

For Panzer Shop, bigger is ALWAYS better. Nothing scares these guys—the bigger, the better. There's nothing like the Russians for big military equipment. Check out **PS35C129, 2S7 PION, self-propelled howitzer, \$330.00**. This is a complete resin kit of the Russian self-propelled howitzer on a tracked chassis. The kit contains 450 resin parts, 138 photo-etch parts, decals, a metal barrel and clear foil for the windows and dashboard. To guide you, a CD is provided with detail instructions, plus 303 detail photos of the real vehicle. Markings are provided for the Czech Army, Czechoslovak People Army, Soviet and Russian Army.



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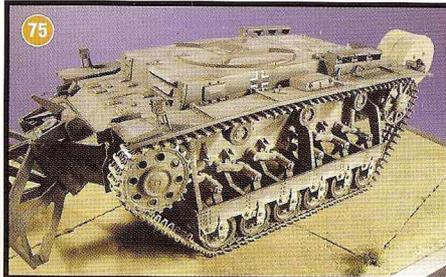
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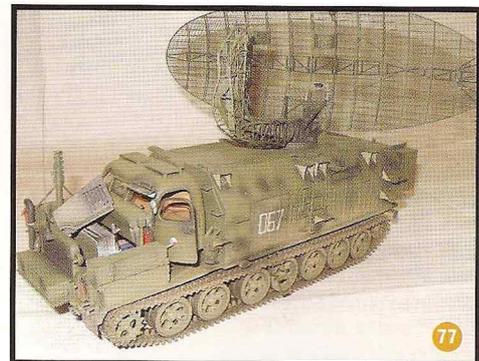


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The DANA's back! Panzer Shop's popular kit of the 8-wheel self-propelled howitzer is back in production as **PS35C133, 152mm ShKv vz.77 DANA, \$250.00**.



77

Everything you need to know can be found at www.panzershop.cz

Perfect Scale Modellblau

PSM, who brought you that fabulous Hotchkiss APC is issue 40, has cranked out two more versions. They are **35002, Hotchkiss AIFV kurz, \$130.87 (78)** and **35003, Hotchkiss observation vehicle kurz, \$110.29 (79)**.

Thrown in for good measure is a cool looking **35005, Leopard 2 powerpack for \$63.23 (81)**.

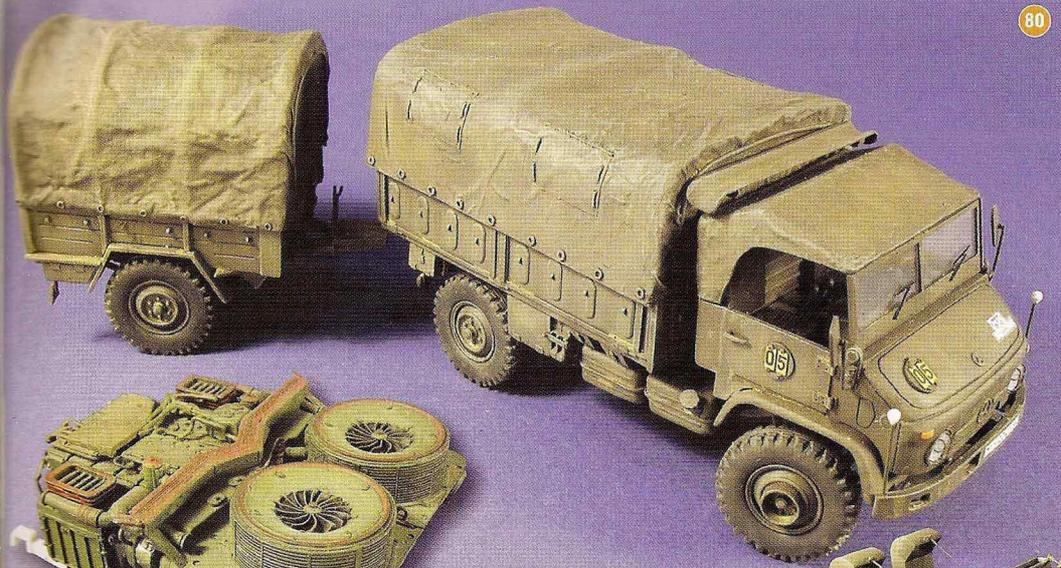
The really big news is their **35009, Unimog S404, 1.5ton Truck, \$144.11**. This is also packaged together with a NATO trailer as **35010, Unimog S404 & 1to. NATO trailer, \$179.40 (80)**. You can also purchase the trailer separately as **35011, 1-ton NATO trailer, \$35.29**.



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A new figure is also available. **F1003, Bundeswehr Sergeant "Günter Schmiedek"** 120mm and it retails for \$61.03.

The dollar pricing is courtesy of PSM's website. Their complete specs are as follows: Perfect Scale Modellblau, Lärchenstr. 1, 89356 Haldenwang/Hafenhofen, Germany. Tel./Fax: 49 (0) 8222-413 790. E-Mail: info@perfect-scale.de and website www.perfect-scale.com

Plus Model

Plus? Plus what? You, plus these kits, equals hobby nirvana? Sounds good to us. A few full kits, a few accessories, there's a whole lotta love in this list. 205, Kfz.2 Stöewer Radio Car, \$100.20 (82); 208, German light car Kfz.1, \$97.90; 210, City lamp diorama, \$15.90; 211, Park lamps, \$15.90; 243, Patton's Jeep conversion, \$15.40 (83); 247, Gaz 61-417 Gun Tractor, \$90.90; 249, German radio set with Enigma, \$13.10; 256, German trailer Sd.Ah.54, \$21.70; 260, Wooden boxes I accessories, \$6.50; 261, Wooden boxes II accessories, \$6.50; 4036, Chapel with a cross, \$11.70; 204, Wooden barrels, \$16.80 and 223, Loudspeakers, \$15.90. See it all at www.plusmodel.cz



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Pro Art Models

We are great admirers of Pro Art, as you can see by the cover of this magazine. They tend to range towards the modern and have been responsible for some very nice items over the years. These are the makers of the fabulous resin detail set for the Italeri HEMTTs.

Here's what they've been up to lately. **PAU35012, Sandbag Armored Wall 01, 14.00€; PAU35013, Sandbag Armored Wall 02, 14.00€; PAU35014, Sandbag Armored Wall 03, 14.00€; PAU35015, Sandbag Armored Wall 04, 14.00€; PAU35016, Sandbag Armored Wall 05, 14.00€; PAU35017, Sandbag Armored Wall 06, 14.00€; PAU35018, Leopard 2a6 Side Skirts, 12.00€; PAU35019, Super Swamper wheels (Dumvee and up-armored Humvee M1114), 12.50€ and PAU-35022, U.S.**

Special Forces DUMVEE, 40.50€.

Go take a look at www.proartmodels.be

Resicast

Among the many excellent exports from the country of Belgium are the delicious resin delicacies of Resicast. They have always had an Allied "thing" and that is a happy place to be. They really like to do the unusual and that means filling in some pretty wide gaps. And, the envelope please. 35.133, Sherman CRAB Mk I conversion; 35.187, 75mm Pack howitzer (84); 35.191, Sherman CRAB Mk I complete kit; 35.592, 6-pounder infantry crew; 35.593, Pack Howitzer Para crew; 35.594, Para n°18 set radio operator and 35.595, Soldier kneeling fully equipped.

The Crab conversion is designed for either the Dragon or the Resicast M4A4 and the Pack Howitzer crew is British. There is also one additional item out and about: Sherman ARV Mk I "D-Day." (85) This is part of Resicast's "Limited Edition" line and should be considered scarce.

Questions? Answers: www.resicast.com



85



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Royal Model

The latest onslaught from Royal includes 478, Autoblinda AB 41 Turret, \$25.99; 481, Sturer Emil Part 1, \$72.99; 482, Sturer Emil Part 2 (TZ), \$55.99; 483, SS Machine Gunner (WWII), \$17.99; 484, Lybia Wheels AB 41, \$20.99; 485, Italian Tanker #1 (WWII), \$12.99; 486, Italian Tanker #2 (WWII), \$17.99 (88); 487, Sicilian House Ruin, \$57.99 and 491, Artiglio Wheels AB 41, \$20.99 (89). How's that grab ya?

Our USD prices are supplied by VLS (www.modelmecca.com), but for great photo fun see www.royalmodel.com

Tamiya

Tamiya's 1/48th scale army marches on! 32524, Panzerkampfwagen III Ausf. L., \$27.00; 32525, Sturmgeschutz III Ausf. G, \$27.00; 32526, WWII British Infantry Set (European Campaign), \$13.50; 32527, Russian Tank Destroyer SU-122, \$27.00; 32528, British Cromwell Tank, \$25.00; 32529, Tiger I Initial Prod. (Africa Corps), \$30.00; 32530, WWII Infantry on Maneuvers, \$13.00; 32531, Volkswagen Type 82E Staff Car, \$15.00; 32532, Sherman IC Firefly, \$24.00; 32533, Kettenkraftrad with Aircraft Power Supply, \$17.00; 32534, 6x4 Truck Krupp Protze L2H 143, \$26.00; 32535, KV-1 Heavy Tank, \$29.00; 32536, King Tiger (Production Turret), \$29.00; 32537, U.S. Medium M26 Pershing, \$30.00 (90); 32538, Russian KV-2 Heavy Tank, \$30.00 (91); 32539, King Tiger "Porsche Turret", \$30.00 (92) and 32540, Sturmgeschutz III Ausf. G Early Version, \$30.00 (92).



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Just one, sad item in 1/35th scale this time around. This is a re-tread of the venerable old "Eighty-Eight" The official nomenclature is 35283, German 88mm FLAK 36, \$39.00 (93). What you get is the old kit with a completely new figure grouping that puts all into a desert setting. Admittedly, the figures are pretty cool...

The Weathering Stick lines expands with 87086, Sand, \$4.40 and 87087, Light Earth, \$4.40.

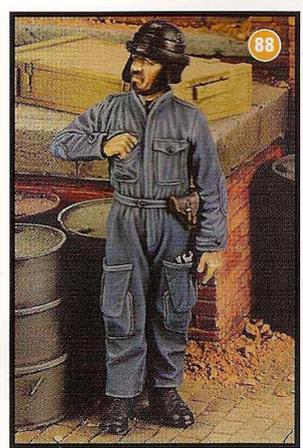
A little bit of action in the 1/16th-scale line with 36312, 1/16 Japanese Pilot WWII, \$20.50.

Access to the U.S., Japanese and European branches of Tamiya can be found at www.tamiya.com

Tank

We love them and we hate them. We love them because they keep doing the most fantastic stuff. Great subjects, great sculpting and great castings. We hate them because we can't seem to find the bloomin' things anywhere. The manufacturer ignores us and photography remains elusive. It's an odd relationship. But, that's just us.

Here's the current crop. T-35073, Red Army scouts #2. Summer 1943-45, \$28.00 (94); T-35074, Soviet Snipers. Nikolay Ilin (494 kills) and Peter Goncharov (380 kills), Stalingrad, summer 1942, \$28.00; T-35075, Soviet Snipers. Vasilii Zaitsev (242 kills). Autumn-winter



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1942-43, \$28.00 (95); T-35076, Barbarossa German officer and infantryman. Summer 1941, \$28.00; T-35077, Barbarossa #2. German machine gunner and infantryman. Summer 1941, \$28.00; T-35078, Barbarossa #3. German machine gunner and infantryman #2, \$28.00; T-35079, Barbarossa #4. German infantryman with 96k and MP-38, \$28.00 and T-35080, Barbarossa #5. German infantryman with radio Torn.Fu.d.2, Summer 1941, \$42.00.

See cool pictures at www.tank-model.ru, see small pictures and lots of "out of stock" notations at www.modelpoint.us. More reliable and less stressful results can generally be found at www.colorado-miniatures.com

Tankograd

Tankograd, a German publisher, is committed to bringing you (us) a wide range of military vehicle themed publications. We recently learned from their new website that all their books are organized by number, with the prefix each representing a different series.

New in the "2000" series of Soviet themed publications are 2003, KV-1 - The Soviet Heavy Tank of WWII - Late Variants and 2002, KV-1 - The Soviet Heavy Tank of WWII - Early Variants.

Do check out their excellent "6000" series of tech manual books. These are beautifully reproduced compilation works on U.S. subjects. New in this range is 6008, U.S. Army Gun, Heavy, Motorized, 280mm M65 Atomic Annie (96) and 6007, U.S. WWII 105mm Howitzer Motor Carriage M7 & M7B1 Priest.

Labeled simply as "Books," their hard cover line now includes IDF Armoured Vehicles, Tracked Armour of the Modern Israeli Army (IDF) (97). This is a 160 page, full-color book illustrated with 298 color photographs.

The new website will not let you down. See it at www.tankograd.com

Tasca

The long awaited Tasca Firefly in the streets right now (watch out!). You know, this is the first all-new styrene Sherman kit since the first Dragon



M4A3? When you go, look for 35009, British Sherman VC Firefly, \$68.95 (98).



Some VERY sweet looking accessory sets on the way in the form of 35-L7, WWII German Vehicle Light Set; 35-L8, Browning M2 Heavy Machine Gun Set A with tripod (99); 35-L9, Browning M2 Heavy Machine Gun Set B with cradle (100) and 35-L10, German Star Antenna Set w/Adlers Nest Brass Antenna.

Unfortunately, pricing and availability are still TBA on everything but the Firefly. However, Dragon USA is the importer here, so information should be forthcoming. Check www.dragonmodels.usa.com often for the latest. Photos and development information is seen at www.tasca-modellismo.com

Tiger Models Designs

A little something different from TMD in the form of 0911, 9/11 Fireman FDNY, \$145.00 (101). This 1/9 scale figure of a firefighter has been officially sanctioned by the FDNY and is intended to be a five-year commemorative tribute to the brave men who gave their lives helping others on that fateful day. It consists of over gray 65 resin pieces, one clear resin mask for the Scott air pack, lead foil, lead solder, plastic rod/strip, a complete base and waterslide decals. The kit has been designed to allow



several poses and comes with two complete sets of arms to allow variation in how the figure is posed.

The figure was sculpted by Alan Ball, the equipment and base was rendered by Andy Meyers, with the molds and castings by TMD. This item is to be released under the Special Ops label.

Back to 1/35th scale armor. New are 3516200, Tiger II Replacement Exhaust Assembly, \$7.50; 3516201, Tiger II Armored Exhaust Covers, \$5.00; 3516203, Tiger II Replacement Mantle, \$5.00; 3516204, Tiger II Replacement Suspension Set, \$5.00; 3515800, Panther G (Late) Reinforced Chin Gun Mantlet, \$7.50; 3515801, Panther G (Late) Rear Turret Panel, \$3.00 and 3515802, Panther G (Late) Driver & RO Hatches, \$3.00. www.tigermodels.com

Trakx

Trakx, part of the nebulous VLS empire is up to some sneaky stuff lately. First, the run down and then some comments. TX0124, M-3 Lee Turret (MB, TA), \$14.98; TX 0125, M-3 Lee "Burma" Detail Set (for British use), \$19.98; TX 0126, Char bis B1 French Battle Tank Detail Set, \$12.98; TX 0127, M2/M3 DCSR Halftrack Wheels (3 Wheels), \$12.98; TX 0128, M2/M3 DCCR Halftrack Wheels (3 Wheels), \$12.98 and TX 0129, M2/M3 Halftrack Wheels (2 Each, Govt-Desig-NDMSCR), \$12.98.

The development gurus at Trakx are taking full advantage of the latest "3D-printing" to render their masters for exquisite detail and accuracy. This process involves the precise rendering of scale objects based on three-dimensional computer drawings. Keep on eye on these guys. For up-to-date information, see www.modelmecca.com. If this type of thing interests you, also see www.hardcorpsmodels.com where they are really taking this technique to the max!

Tristar

Tristar is now being imported into the U.S. by MRC, who is also now the importer for Italeri. Pricing and other information is now flowing much more freely and



German Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf D / TAUCH

023

ドイツ IV号 D型 / 潜水戦車

German Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf D (Normal Version / Tauchpanzer Version)



Scale 1/35 Series 023

Special Thanks for Mr. Thomas Jentz and Mr. Yoshikatsu Tomioka
Project Supervised by C.H. Pat

Illustrated by M31 ASANO

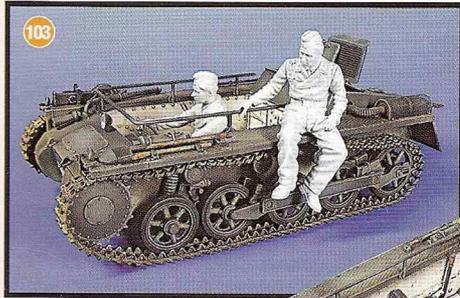
©2007 トリスターモデル

www.squadron.com for ordering.

Voyager Models

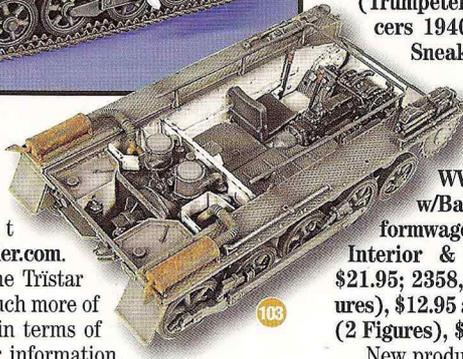
Voyager doesn't just offer photo-etched "brass." Oh no, monkey boy, these guys deal in complete detailing SETS. They are almost starting to seem like the Royal of Asia, with a little less resin. Check it out (we made a few notes in brackets for clarification). 35097, Steifrahmentender smoke/drive sprocket wheels for BR52 (for TRU00210), \$23.95 [the smoke stack shields]; 35098, BR52 Basic Set Part 1 (for TRU00210), \$38.95; 35099, BR52 Basic Set Part 2 (for TRU00210), \$38.95; 35100, BR52 Interior (for TRU00210), \$57.95; 35101, TRAM of BR52 (for TRU00210), \$21.95 [this is for the engine tender]; 35102, Pz.KPfw. IV Ausf. D (for DML6265), \$29.95; 35103, Sd.Kfz 234/4 8Rad for DML 6221), \$32.95; 35104, Char B1-bis with wide fenders (for Tamiya 35282), \$25.95; 35105, Char B1-bis with narrow fenders (for Tamiya 35282),

here's the run down. 35023, Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.D/Tauch, \$55.00 (102); 35024, German the 6th Army "Mamaev Hill," \$14.50; 35025, Panzerkampfwagen I Ausf.A ohne Aufbau, \$45.00 (103); 35026, German Panzer Kpffw 38(t) Ausf.B, \$42.00; 35027, German Infantry "The Barrage Wall", \$15.00; 35028, Panzer IA (Early/Late Version Combination kit), \$45.00 and 35029, 2cm Flak38



late version with Sd.Ah.51 trailer, \$28.00.

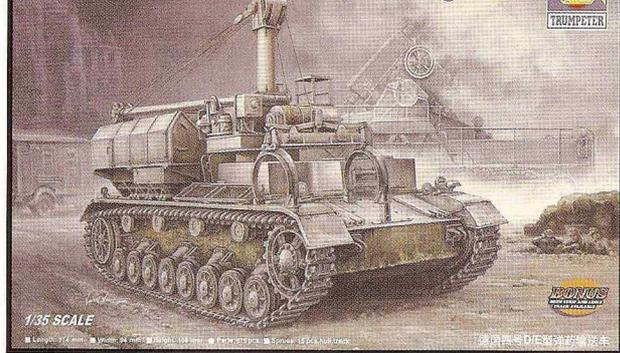
See MRC's website at www.modelrectifier.com. Also note that the Tristar website is now much more of what we expect in terms of photos and other information. See that at www.tristarmodel.com



Treadway Bridge System, \$34.95; 2340, 1:48 Park Wall With Gate (Resin & Photo-etch), \$14.95; 2341, 1:48 88mm Ammo PAK 43, King Tiger - Jagdpanther, \$9.95; 2342, 1:35 Wounded Marines Iraq, \$12.95; 2343, 1:5 British Redcoat Bust, \$32.95; 2344, 1:35 Wounded German Tanker, \$7.95; 2345, 1:48 Panther Turret Pillbox (Tamiya), \$12.95; 2346, 1:48 Coelian Turret (for Tamiya Panther), \$19.95; 2347, 1:35 European Housefront, \$21.95; 2348, 1:48 Panzer Plattformwagen Heavy, \$36.95; 2349, 1:32 Hind Cockpits & Cargo Compartment (Trumpeter), \$28.95; 2350, 1:35 French Officers 1940 (3 Figures), \$16.95; 2351, 1:35 Sneak Attack (2 Figures), \$12.95; 2352, 1:35 French Tankers 1940 Surrender (2 Figures), \$12.95; 2353, 1:48 Plattformwagen, \$36.95; 2354, 1:48 British AFV Stowage WWII, \$5.95; 2355, 1:72, Rail Sections w/Ballast, \$12.95; 2356, 1:72 Plattformwagen, \$29.95; 2357, 1:35 Pz.38(T) E/F Interior & Engine Compartment (Tristar), \$21.95; 2358, 1:35 Russian Winter WWII (2 Figures), \$12.95 and 2359, 1:35 Kicking in Doors Iraq (2 Figures), \$12.95.

New product information can also be found at www.verlinden-productions.com, but go to

German Pz.Kpffw IV Ausf D/E Fahrgestell



\$25.95; 35106, Pz.kPfw. IV Ausf. D Additional Armor (for DML 6265), \$27.95; 35107, Pz.kPfw. IV Ausf. B/C (for DML 6297), \$24.95; 35108, Pz.kPfw. IV Ausf. B/C Fenders (for DML 6297), \$17.95; 35110, Centurion MK 5/1 basic (for AFV 35100), \$35.95; 35111, 20mm Flak 38 (for DML 6288), \$20.95; 35112, Pz.kpffw 38t Ausf. E/F (for Tristar 020), \$28.95; 35114, DKW NZ350 Motorcycle (for Tamiya 35241), \$14.95; 35116, Sd.Kfz. 234/4 8 Rad Suspension (for DML Sd.Kfz. 234 Series), \$35.95; 35119, Storage box for Sd.Kfz. 234 8 Rad early version (for DML Sd.Kfz. 234 Series), \$17.95; 35120, Storage box for Sd.Kfz 234 8 Rad late version (for DML Sd.Kfz. 234 Series), \$17.95; 35131, Marder II (for DML 6260), \$47.95; 35132, Fenders for Panzer II early version/Marder II, \$17.95; 35133, Sd.Kfz. 234/1 8 Rad for DML 6289), \$35.95; 35134, Pz.kpffw 38t Ausf. G, \$32.95;

Trumpeter

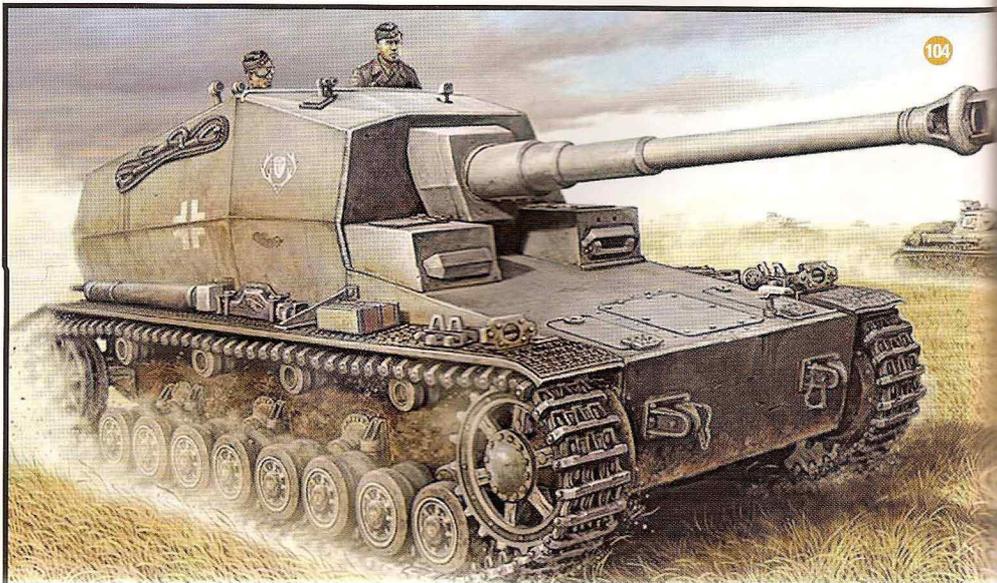
Lots of rumblings at the Trumpeter camp. There are a few new items here and more on the way. TSM348, German Tank Sfl. IV a Dicker Max, \$42.95 (104); TSM362, German PzKpffw. IV D/E Fahrgestell, \$64.95; TSM363, German Panzer IV Ausf. F Chassis Munitions Carrier Expert Series, \$64.95 (105); M1126 Stryker ICV, \$39.95.

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P items. 2337,
339, 1:35 T-72
95; 2342, 1:35
, \$12.95; 2344,
7.95; 2338, 1:48



35136, Sturmtiger (for AFV 35103), \$40.95;
 35137, Pzkwfkw KV-1 756(r) (for TRU00366),
 \$23.95 and 35138, Pzkwfkw KV-2 754(r) (for
 TRU00367), \$28.95.

We believe that VLS has the exclusive here in the states. Others can see www.voyagermodel.com for clever insights.

Yosci

We have noticed that many of the excellent 1/35th scale Hirano Yosci figures have been reappearing under his own label and that of Pegaso. This seems to be especially true of those originally offered through Gunze Sangyo. This is good news, because those are the ones that were hardest to find. The following information was provided by Miniature Park, a very efficient Japanese mail-order company.

HY35-G24, SS tank crew/StuG crew 1,700¥;
 HY35-G25, SS Panzer rider No.1 Officer, 1,700¥;
 HY35-G26, SS Panzer rider No.2 MG gunner, 1,700¥;
 HY35-G27, SS Panzer rider No.3, 1,700¥;
 HY35-G28, SS Panzer rider No.4, 1,700¥; HY35-G29, German heads set winter #1 1,300¥ and HY35-G30, German heads set winter #2, 1,300¥.

The Yen is generally about 100 to the dollar, so just move that decimal back to get a rough idea of the price. We have ordered from them several times and they are quite reliable. Online ordering is functional at www.miniature-park.com

Book Reviews

Armor Photogallery #10
 Assault Gun Stug, III Ausf. D Sdkfz 142
 by Wojciech J. Gawrych
 Model Centrum Progres
 Soft Cover, 64 pages B&W with color
 ISBN 83-920254-2-3



THE SUBJECT OF THIS BOOK IS quite unique, in that it is about the only surviving example of a WW2 Ausf. D Sturmgeschütz III. The author has done a credible job of documenting and photographing this sole surviving example. It was produced in 1941 by Alkett AG Germany as part of a batch of 150 Ausf. Ds. It saw active service with the German Army and was acquired by Sweden shortly after WW2. Currently it is preserved inside the Pansarmuseum in Axvall, Sweden. Except for some minor exterior fittings, it is all original and has been well maintained over the years.

What this means, of course, is that the 161 color photographs of the vehicle are nothing less than first rate. They cover every inch of the exterior and interior of the fighting compartment leaving nothing uncovered. The Maybach powerplant is mounted on a stand on static display and there are no less than nine photos of it by itself. There is a clear and informative caption with each picture and any fittings not original are pointed out, as are any wartime modifications.

To give you a perspective on the appearance of the wartime StuG IIIs, 36 wartime photos are included in a separate section. This title is a winner in every respect and a "must have" for anyone interested in German self-propelled guns.

Panzerwrecks
 Published by:
 William Auerbach, Panzerwrecks
 P.O. Box 2332
 Monroe, NY 10949-2332
<http://www.panzerwrecks.com>

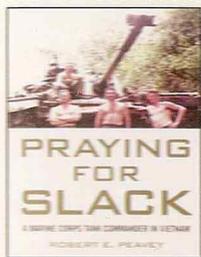


OF ALL THE BOOKS WE have in our collection, one of our favorites has to be *Last of the Panzers* by William Auerbach from the "Tanks Illustrated" series. It featured great photographs of knocked out, captured, or abandoned German tanks and vehicles. Sadly, "Tanks Illustrated" has gone the way of our "Police-Synchronicity World Tour" T-shirts; however William Auerbach has teamed up with Lee Archer to create a new series called "Panzerwrecks." Many of the photographs come from private collections and are quite unique with only a few being previously published before.

Just a few of the treats contained within are a series of pictures of Panthers in Italy with spaced armor on the turret roof and special covers for the engine grill. Some other examples are very early Panzer II's with the "C" channel suspension surviving all the way to 1945 to serve as Munitionspanzer II's; a French FT-17 is used as a tractor; giant Jagdtigers serving as immobile monoliths; children playing on a steel-wheeled late model Panther G; refugees using an abandoned Sd.Kfz. 251 as their new home and two GI's expending considerable effort to repair a StuG III, presumably to operate it.

The authors defer from speculating in the captions anything other than the facts known in the photographs, leaving the reader to ponder some of the mysteries posed by this fascinating book.

Praying for Slack
 by Robert E. Peavey
 Zenith Press
 Hardcover
 ISBN 0-7603-2050-0



IN 1968; SHORTLY AFTER THE TET offensive, Corporal Peavey was a young M48A3 Patton tank gunner sitting in an NCO training school at Camp Pendleton, listing to a boring lecture, when a Sergeant Major burst in to the room calling out names of students to report back to their units immediately. Within 48 hours he would find himself boarding an LCM bound for Viet Nam. As it turned out he was one of the lucky ones; in a move that made logic only to senior officers of the USMC, many-experienced M48 crewman were yanked off their tanks to become infantryman and replaced by inexperienced Amtrack crewmembers! So starts the exploits of Corporal Robert E. Peavey as a gunner and later a Tank Commander in Viet Nam. This is a fast-paced account by the author of operating an M48 in "The Nam" as the veterans called it. The Army did not consider Viet Nam tank country and they were slow to bring in their M48s in country. The Marine Corps did not share this philosophy and gained valuable experience in tank operations. The M48 was well liked by the tank crewmembers, offering a "Cadillac" like ride and reliability. Its only weakness in Viet Nam was its vulnerability to RPG's (common to all tanks of that era), since they could cut through twelve inches of steel with ease. The author shares many interesting anecdotes about operating the M48 in combat.

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September Storm- the German Invasion of Poland
 by Gordon Rottaman
 Concord Publications Company
 Soft Cover , 52 pages B&W with color plates
 ISBN 962-261-080-7



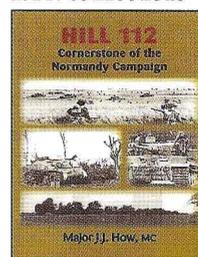
THE DEFINING MOMENT THAT began the most far-reaching and profound event of the past century, World War II, is covered by this title, from the final August 1939 planning for the German attack on Poland, then for each day of the fighting up to October 5, 1939.

There is a concise, well-written two-page introduction and 143 photos with detailed captions, some of which are several paragraphs long. Also included are four pages of color illustrations of German soldiers with detailed descriptions of uniforms, insignia, weapons and equipment. Most of the photographs were taken during actual combat, yet they are all sharp and clear images that accurately portray the intensity of the fighting.

Many of the captions complement the photos with good insight and the author dispels several of the misconceptions concerning the battle. A good example is the actual German losses of both men and equipment (which were higher than admitted), as well as the length of the campaign itself. He also sheds new light on the shortages of modern equipment, weapons and vehicles despite "propaganda news releases" depicting the German Army lavishly equipped with new and superior weapons at all levels. While undisputedly Germany's first combat victory of the WW2, the book puts into focus the fact it was at a higher cost and longer length of time than originally believed.

All in all this is a fresh look both through photos and text of the first major battle of the war.

Hill 112 - Cornerstone of the Normandy Campaign
 by Major J.J. How, MC
 J.J.Fedorowicz Publishing Inc.
 Hard Cover, 204 pages, B&W
 ISBN 0921991819



A KEY TERRAIN FEATURE INVOLVED in the capture of the important road junction town of Caen in the 1944 Normandy France battles was known as Hill 112. It was bitterly fought over for almost two months. During that time span it changed hands several times and became in essence a battle of attrition before its final capture by British forces on August 3rd, 1944.

The author was personally involved in the fighting at Hill 112, but the book is based on much more than only his personal experiences there.

It is a well-balanced account of the entire battle from both the German and Allied perspectives. This was accomplished by interviews with large numbers of both combat soldiers and commanders of the opposing sides. Official after-action reports and personal perspectives looking back on the events are blended into the account. The result is a complete in-depth story of the battle from not only the 300-yard view, but also over all command decisions. This includes the various other factors and pressures that influenced the events, as well.

Included are 70 black and white wartime photos and 15 maps that give continuity to the account. The essence of the book centers not only on the equipment used, but also on the experiences of soldiers and commanders alike, while at the same time giving you a continuous account of the entire battle.

THE HISTORICAL MINIATURE FIGURE SOCIETY OF COLORADO meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 PM. to 8:30 PM. at the Aurora Central Public Library, 14949 East Alameda Drive, Aurora, CO 80012. For more info contact, HMFSC, P.O. Box 461562, Aurora, CO. 80046 (303) 693-7924

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL MODELERS ASSOCIATION: meets the second Friday of each month (except holidays) in the Provident Bank community room, 1690 East Florida Avenue, Hemet, California at 7:00 p.m. CAHMA welcomes modelers interested in historical scale modeling, including armor/ordnance, aircraft, car/vehicle, historical figures, ship/boat, space/sci-fi, railroad, diorama and vignette. For more information, call 909-652-0556

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY MINIATURES scale model building club the "Black Buzzards" meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Bourne Veterans Community Center, Main St., Buzzards Bay, MA. From 7 to 9pm. All ages, all skill levels, all building mediums are welcome. We are a construction and finishing techniques teaching oriented club. For further information call at 508-759-5722.

THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL MODELERS SOCIETY: meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 7pm. We are one of the oldest chapters in IPMS/USA. For more information contact David Kimbrell at ivandak@aol.com or Rick Jackson at rjackson@socket.net

IN SEARCH OF PENPALS AND MODELERS to exchange with. Can offer all models of Zvesda Plastic Model Co., ICE Co., Alan Hobbies/VM Co., AER, Start Model, models which are of a high class, and some books and magazines on modern military equipment and that of WW2. My interests include weapons of WW2 produced by Tamiya, DML, Italeri and ESCI in 1/35 scale. Also interested in books and magazines on techniques AFV and model catalogues. Write to: Alexandr A. Rijazanov, ul. Kronshadstskaja, d. 75, kv. 19, Makeeva-14, Ukraine - 339014.

MODELER FROM THE UKRAINE who would like to get in touch with other modelers to exchange models. I am looking for contacts with North American modelers. I will answer all letters sent to me. Andrey Kozlov, Zvenigorodska, 12 kw. 43, Zaporozhye - 93, 330093, Ukraine.

WANTED: Looking for a boxed UBER modeling knife set. The company that made them has gone out of business. If anyone has one for sale or has information on how to get one please let me know. Write or call: Larry McHam 1148 Simpson Dr. Hurst, TX 76053, 817-268-3167. Email is cynthiam@airmail.net.

WANTED: Concord Publication books: T64 & T90, T54/55/62 and Arsenal of Aggression. I am willing to pay a reasonable amount for these books in good condition. Please send information on these books and prices to John Wiley, 3120 Mountain Pass Road, Troutville, VA 24175. **WANTED:** Tamiya photo album gallery books titled "Pachi" Vols. 55 to current issue. Please send info to: David Dees, 8125 Jeanie Lane, Knoxville, TN 37938, 423-922-2891 evenings.

FOR SALE: Built 1/35 scale armor kits. Nicely done with some external detailing. Please advise us of your particular needs or wants. Will consider requests to build. Currently, over 100 finished. GOOD99 -New list of civilian /political /military/historical related pin, brochures, books, magazines, videos and other items. Mostly WWII to present. Send Two Dollars for GOOD99. Thank You. Bill Whitley, 311 Bundy Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760-3201 IPMS#20788. (607) 748-7922. bill0637@aol.com.

WANTED: DML/Dragon Red Devils Paratroopers figure kit or resin figures in similar poses. Will pay any reasonable price. E-mail to simon@openstore.com

WANTED: Looking for ESCI 1/9th scale Kübelwagen. Must be unbuild and all pieces attached. Please e-mail me selling price and cost of shipping to: Ironputts@yahoo.com

WANTED: Pro Models resin 120mm (1/15 scale) Sdkfz 234/2 PUMA eight wheeled armored car Unbuild, built, any condition. Contact : Robert McGuire, 482 W. San Ysidro Blvd. PMB 842 San Ysidro, CA, 92173 USA Phone: (619) 671-5400 (619)662-1420. Email: ignacio@biospherical.com or carellano@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Roskopf HO Scale Military Vehicles. German, Russian, NATO. Write for list: Christopher Gill, 580 W. Lewiston, Ferndale, MI 48220-1204.

WANTED: The Show Modelling upgrade #044, for the Italeri German motorcycle and sidecar. Reply to: simon@openstore.com

WANTED: Model Art Co. book, (German Super Heavy Tank Maus) by A. Sergeev, I. Geltov, M.Pavlov and I. Pavlov. I am willing to pay a reasonable price for this book. Contact: Greg Nichols 428 Arrowhead Rd. Selma, AL 36703, phone: 334-875-5164.

WANTED: MB Models APX-4 Turret for the Heller Somua S-35. Alan Denton, 17 Clinton St., Everett, MA 02149. (617) 381-0371. Email: privateer1812@yahoo.com

IF YOU LIKE PIÑA COLADAS, getting caught in the rain, if you're not

into healthfood, if you have half a brain, if you like making love at midnight in the dunes of the cape, you're the lady I've looked for, come with me and escape.

FOR SALE: Ten well painted and assembled resin, late World War Two German figures. All are in appropriate splinter, oak leaf or dot pattern camo. Figures are mix of Verlinden, Warriors or Dragon. Asking price is sixty dollars. E-mail Matunk@aol.com.

WANTED: Firepower: A History of the American Heavy Tank by R.P. Hunnicutt, Kirin, catalog, Kirin 150mm figures—Vietnam and Desert Storm. Ed Barber, 5511 Waxhaw Hwy., Monroe, NC 28112. (704) 243-1154.

WANTED: 1/72, 1/76 scale and smaller armor, equipment and figures. Conversion kits and photo-etch kits for small armor vehicles. Books, magazine articles and information on the German army and Italian armies in Africa. Also collecting military and police patches. Please contact Peter Reckemmer, 2223 Sidewinder, Los Lunas NM 87031.

WANTED: WW2 book Tigers in the Mud by Otto Carius, Publisher is J.J. Fedorowicz I will pay any reasonable price. Can e-mail me www.orion-pete@aol.com

WANTED: Raids Magazine-Hors Series #5, #8, #10, 11. Panzer Magazine- The Iran-Iraq War, Tank Magazine - any issue, Tank Magazine Special Centurion. Tank Magazine IDF ARMOR Units and IDF Warfare Lebanon. AEF Designs - any conversion kit (Israeli, Soviet, Iraqi, American) Azimut/ADV-PLO figure, Russian Tankers, French Tankers (Modern), Born in Battle Magazine-any issue, Military Enthusiast- any issue, War Data - any issue, RAIDS Magazine - any issue, Friulmodellismo Figures-Iraqi Tankers Yugoslav Troops, Civilian Photographer, Chesapeake Model Designs - T-54 turret, T-62 (early turret) Kirin- ZSU-23 interior. Contact Joseph Chiaramonte, 871126 Ave,

Brooklyn NY 11214.

AMPS EAST 2007, 8th Annual Armor Modeling Extravaganza. Saturday, September 29th. Sheraton Danbury Hotel, Danbury, CT. For more info contact: John Gazzola, 188 Laurel Point Road, Dayville, CT 06241-1522, (860) 617-1413, JGazzola12@aol.com.

WANTED: Politically incorrect, but so much fun! I'm looking for several of the old 1/24 scale Rommel's Rod kits by Monogram at reasonable prices. Want as builders, so any issue is fine. Contact Ken Mross, RR 1, Box 1029, Bartonsville, PA 18321. (570) 629-0297 evenings. mrossken@cavalier.net

WANTED: assembled or unassembled motorized or static armored vehicles. Contact Bruce W. Smith at gbeske@mn.rr.com or send your list with prices to 5808 Arbour Ave. Edina, MN, 55436.

WANTED: Model pen pals to correspond with. Share ideas, reference and talk shop. I do science fiction and military kits, robots, mecha, figurines. Scales mostly are 120MM and 1/35th-1/32nd scales, this varies depending on the subjects. I can ONLY respond to those in the U.S. and by mail ONLY, as I do not own a computer nor have access to one at this present time. I HOPE this does not keep you fellow modelers from answering my ad. To respond write to: RONALD BAUGHMAN, DS-0988, 1 KELLEY DRIVE, COAL TOWNSHIP, PA 17866

WANTED: MMIR back issues 1 through 19 in perfect condition. Top dollar paid! PAULO TERRA, Caixa Postal 214, Santos, S. Paulo 11001-970, Brasil. FAX: 011-55-13-3222-5248.

FOR SALE: Verlinden Productions Magazines - 26 issues total, all mint condition. All color great articles, ref. photos, models, dioramas, etc. No longer published. Vol. 1-no.4; Vol. 2-no.2; Vol. 3-no. 2, 3; Vol. 4-no.1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 5-no. 1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 6-no. 1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 7-no.1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 8-no. 1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. 9-no. 1, 2. Becoming harder to find in this quantity and condition. I will entertain any reasonable offers. Don't miss this opportunity! Contact Edward @ 330-677-5513 anytime or e-mail me, Vintill@aol.com

WANTED: Two Revell of Germany Henschel Jagdtigers. Not the DML release. Also, the back issue of MMIR with the DML Jagdtiger on it. I am unsure of the issue number. Mike Barnes (352) 687-2206. Leave message.

WANTED: No time limit. Please include phone number and price/condition first letter. Armour Modelling #5. Gizmology #1. MMiR V1 #2, V2 #1 and any issues prior to #22. Steelmasters #2 and #32. AFV News and TANKETTE 1993 through present. US and foreign IPMS publications. Dio Bldg. and etc.: Deauville's #110 'The Bridge,' #112 Russian Log Cabin. Kurton #007 3-story 3-sided ruined bldg. Magus Program Design/Stevens Architectural 1/35 French Corner Cafe, Russian Wood House, Small Wood Barn and/or any of their blueprints. Delta and Remi 1/35 vacuum bldg. facades. Kits/Figs./Etc.: AMT-Palmer-Pyro 1/32 1940 Ford Tudor sedan. All 3 are different molds. Perry vacuum conversion for 1/32 Matchbox Legere. Still need 87 and 88 DML/Dragon catalogs. Need several 1/48 Bandai #8274 Fences and #8252 Bridge Girders. Thanks to all who helped with previous wants. Mike Overstreet, 5257 Luwana Drive S W. Roanoke, VA 24018-3323. 540-774-7244 7PM-10PM Eastern.

WANTED: Gunze Sangyo 1/35th GS790 Afrika Korps Tank Crew (Pzkfz. III) figure set. Let me know your asking price or interests for a trade. Rich Nicoletti. (310) 539-9161. richni@mindspring.com

WANTED: Chronos Videos 006 Tiger and Kingtiger, 010 Leichte Panzer 1 & 2. Also wanted Mini Art Studios Heuschrecke "Grasshopper." I have lots of AFV's for trade. Mike Evans, mikeevan@hpn.com

WANTED: I am looking for the following DML/Dragon kits: 6051, Jagdtiger Porsche production type. 6052, JS-1 Russian Tank. 9015, StuG III Ausf F/8. 9040, Panzer III Ausf E. If you can help please contact me with the price. Frank Van 1815 West Libby St., Phoenix, AZ 85023-2584.

WANTED: Star antenmas for German armor, need at least 3, or does someone know of metal ones? Also need the following items: periscope guards for Sherman-need 12 (not metal), dog bone for M1A1 Mine Plow. 1-piece tracks for M113, part #B29 mud scraper for the DML JS1M and last but not least, I have a T-72 that I need Iraqi decals for. Robert Marshall, 43 Brookfield Court, Toms River, NJ 08757. (732) 341-7487 up to 10pm EDT.

FOR SALE: Discontinued WWII 1/35 scale new armor kits-both plastic and resin. Also 30-year collection of magazines and books on armor and figures. For price lists contact dtisoncik@ameritech.net. Dan Tisoncik, 110 Verne Circle, Barrington, IL 60010

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1:6001 Panzer Officer Großdeutschland



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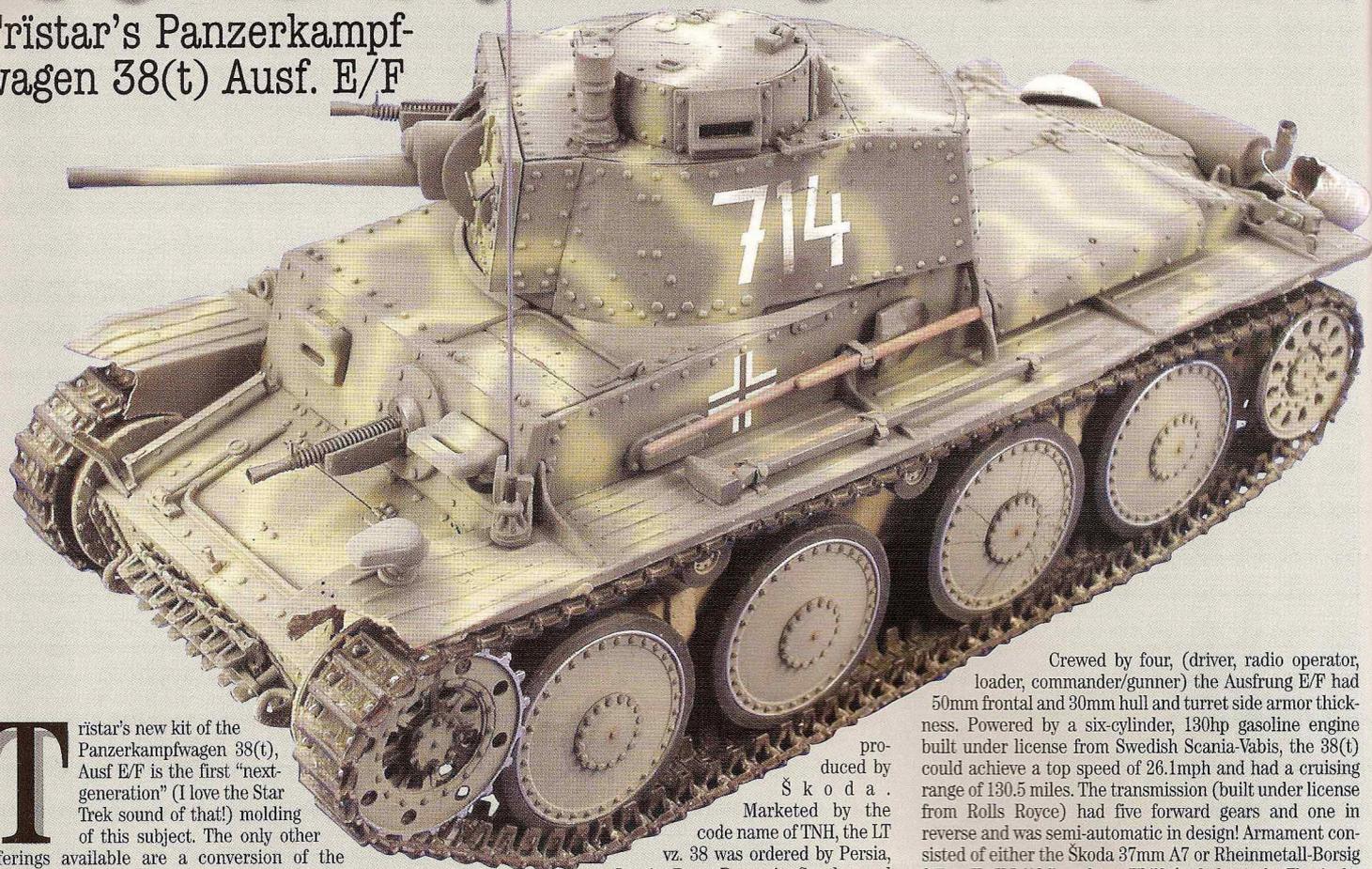
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Tristar's Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) Ausf. E/F



Tristar's new kit of the Panzerkampfwagen 38(t), Ausf. E/F is the first "next-generation" (I love the Star Trek sound of that!) molding of this subject. The only other offerings available are a conversion of the Tamiya Marder III Kit from MIG, the original offering from Italeri, and a release from Maquette/Alan. Italeri's kit is over 20 years old and suffers from a mish-mash of issues and Ausfrungs. The Maquette kit, while newer, presents its own challenges. And the MIG set, while it looks good, was just too late on the scene. The cost of the set and a Tamiya donor kit simply price it out of the market. To put it bluntly, the Tristar kit is light years ahead of the other plastic kits available in quality of molding, finesse of detail and ease of building. Only Dragon's recently announced Ausf. G version could rival the Tristar kit, but is yet to be seen.

Knowing a good thing when you see it

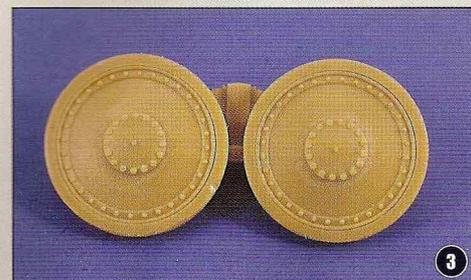
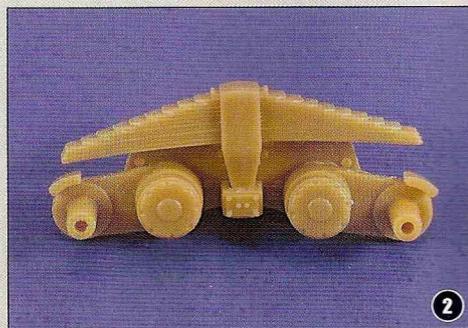
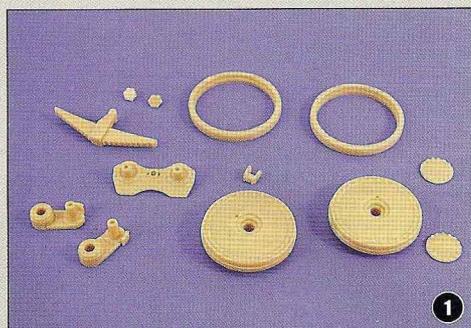
Designed by CKD or Ceskomoravská Kolben-Danck, a large industrial conglomerate founded in 1871, the LT vz. 38 (Lehk (light) Tank vzor (model) 1938) was intended for export only, as the Czech army was using the LT vz. 35

produced by Š k o d a . Marketed by the code name of TNH, the LT vz. 38 was ordered by Persia, Latvia, Peru, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland. With the unrest in the German speaking Sudetenland, the Czech Army decided to upgrade from the LT vz. 35 in preparation for possible conflict with Germany. Two contenders were considered, an upgraded version of the LT vz. 35 and the TNH-S (an improved version of the TNH with a larger, two man turret and a more powerful engine). Since the Škoda tank still suffered many mechanical problems, the contract was awarded to KD. It seems Murphy and his law had a part to play in this story as the Czech Army never received its tanks. The units ready for delivery were taken instead by the Wehrmacht. It seems while the Czech Army was busy playing with tank designs, Germany had annexed the entire nation! Thus, the LT vz. 38 became the Panzer-kampfwagen 38(t) Ausf. A, and KD became BMM or the Böhmischo-Morawische Maschinenfabrik.

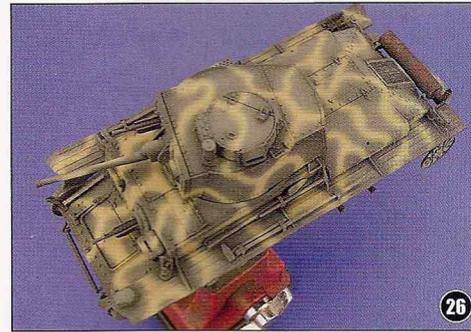
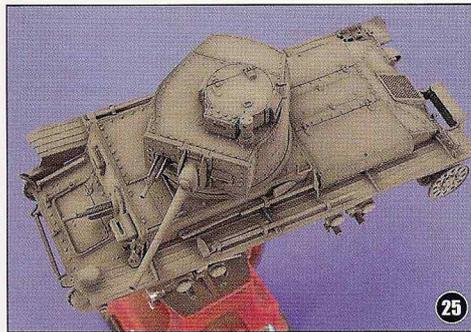
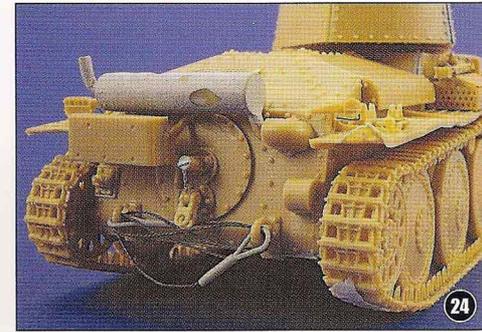
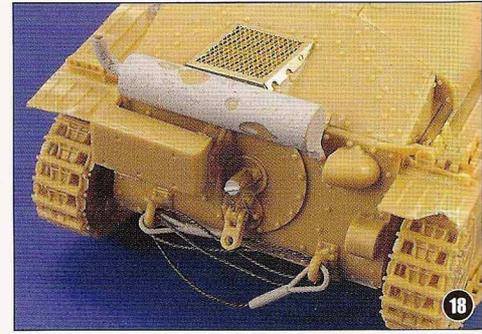
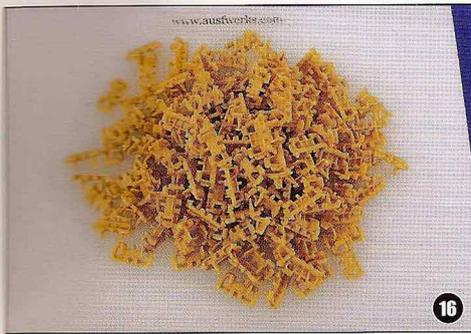
Crewed by four, (driver, radio operator, loader, commander/gunner) the Ausfrung E/F had 50mm frontal and 30mm hull and turret side armor thickness. Powered by a six-cylinder, 130hp gasoline engine built under license from Swedish Scania-Vabis, the 38(t) could achieve a top speed of 26.1mph and had a cruising range of 130.5 miles. The transmission (built under license from Rolls Royce) had five forward gears and one in reverse and was semi-automatic in design! Armament consisted of either the Škoda 37mm A7 or Rheinmetall-Borsig 3.7cm KwK L/46.5, and two ZB53 (eskolovenska Zbrojovka Brno) vz. 37 machine guns chambered for 7.62mm ammunition (also known as the MG 37(t)). It is interesting to note that the ZB vz. 37 was also used on British tanks (known as the Besa) throughout the war and fired 7.62mm ammunition instead of the typical .303 caliber. Total units constructed were 1,396; 525 of those were Ausf. E/F.

The Kit

The Tristar kit consists of 460 parts cast in a light tan styrene, with 220 dedicated to the individual track links. Ninety-three links are needed for each track run, so you get 34 "spares." The kit also includes a sprue of clear periscope parts, and a small, but super, photo-etch part fret. The decal sheet, printed by Cartograf, includes



1. All of the bogie parts laid out. Pretty complex stuff. 2. Here is a completed bogie spring assembly. If you wish, it'll work. 3. An assembled bogie unit, complete with roadwheels.



16. Nothing magic about these tracks, while they look nice, they were a royal pain in the tuchas! **17.** Assembled track sections and other suspension parts. **18.** While the muffer is from the kit—with some enhancements, the tow cable and ends are from the DML Panzer IV E kit, as Tristar kinda overlooked the necessity of this little detail. Oh my! **19.** The kit fit is good, but some Mr. Surfacer was needed in a couple of places. **20.** I laid down the driver's gun site and beat up the front fenders a bit to give the model a more used look. **21.** Make sure to anneal the PE, as it won't bend like this right off the fret. **22-24.** Overall views of the finished build. **25.** Dunkelgrey applied and post shaded. **26.** Dunkelgelb camouflage was applied and post shaded with an Ivata CM-SB. **27.** The lower hull gunked up with a combination of earth colored pigments, flat base and acrylic matt media.

created where the parts meet. This should be filled so it looks like an "L" bracket. I used Gunze's Mr. Dissolved Putty, and also filled the small gap between the front tow hooks (parts D-16 and D-17) and the hook base molded on the front plate.

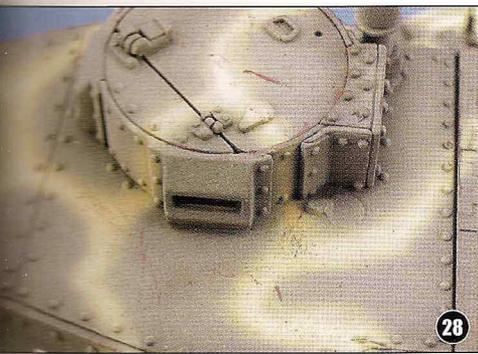
Step three is a quickie, all you have to do is glue on the bogie units return rollers and bump stops. The instructions indicate gluing the drive sprockets and idler wheels at this point. I chose instead to only attach the bogie units, sans wheels, the bump stops, and return roller, sans tires, at this point. While we're on the subject of sprockets, the drive sprockets are incredible. They are so finely cast that when held up to the light they are translucent!

Step four is where the fun really starts, since the majority of the "grunt" work (except the tracks) is done. In this step, I added the fenders—they fit perfectly and are nicely detailed on the topsides. There is no detail on the undersides, but for the most part it's not visible. I carefully added the front fender supports, parts D-7 and D-8, because the fit is a bit tricky. In this step, I also got to detail out the front plate of the upper hull. I had the option of positioning the driver's and radio operator's vision flaps open or closed. All the internal goodies and vision blocks are included for each visor. I also installed one of the 7.92mm vz.37 (ZB53) machine guns. The receiver end of the MG is fairly basic, but does come with a separate tele-

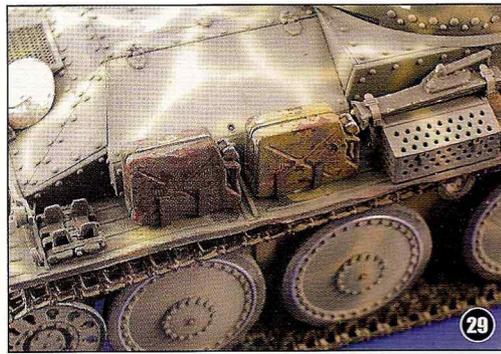
scopic sight. The barrel end is better detailed, but there is a faint seam line down the cooling fins. This would be a bear to remove without damaging the barrel or armored cover, so I replaced them with the excellent turned brass barrels from Model Point. I did need to add the front sight to the MP barrels, as these are not included.

Step five entails placement of the tools. Many builders choose to add these last, but I like to get them in place and paint them later. It really isn't that difficult a task and I have less worry about them coming off. The shovel, pickaxe, sledgehammer, jack and pry bar are all held in place on the actual vehicle with leather straps. Tristar represents these with photo-etched parts. Make sure to fully anneal the PE as it is very stiff and doesn't bend easily. Overall, I am very happy with the kit's PE although the one thing that wasn't included, that I thought should be, was a PE version of the perforated toolbox on the right fender. Even with super-fine molding, the plastic toolbox is just too thick. The jack on the other hand, is a beautiful little sub-assembly consisting of five parts. No need to build an Aber jack for this kit!

Steps six and seven are the completion of the upper hull and details. I have no idea what D-49 is, but Part D-48 is the



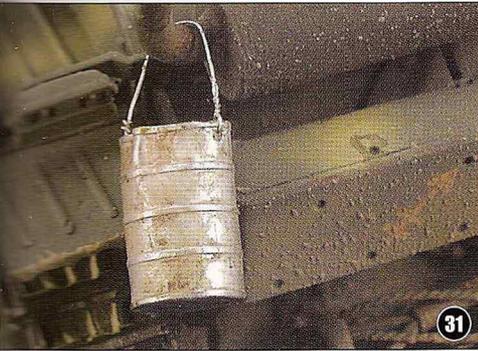
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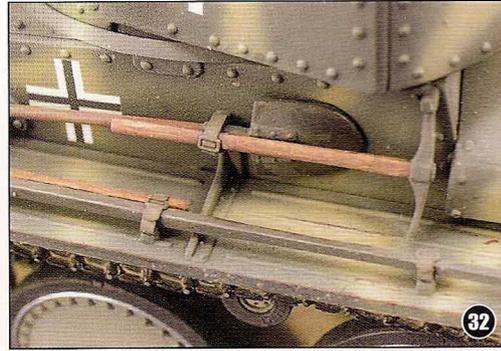
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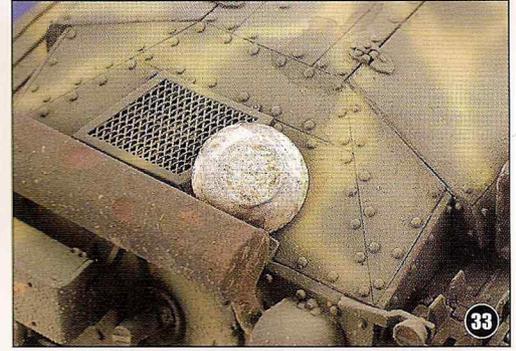
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32



33

Scratches were added with a piece of stretched sprue dipped in red oxide colored paint. 29. The DML early style Jerry cans were added as most E/F's carried them. 30. The tool clamps come molded on, but with separate PE handles. 31. I soldered together

a Plus Models bucket so I could dent it up. 32. Wood grain was done with oils over an acrylic base coat. 33. The wash basin is cast in acrylic resin from an RTV smush mold of the one from the Tamiya 221 kit.

driver's machine gun sight. Both the turret and hull machine guns could be set into fixed positions. The turret machine gun would move vertically with the main gun, while the hull machine gun was totally fixed and the driver would use this external ring sight to aim the weapon. On most of the combat pictures, this sight is missing or in the lowered position, so I repositioned mine into the lowered position.

The engine deck has separate, large side-opening hatches that have the correct two rows of rivets on the angled sides. (Can you say Plus Models 38(t) engine!) They are made up in a subassembly step that includes some vent screens (not visible when completed, but at least you know they are there!) and two end plates, parts A-7 through and A-10. To get these parts to fit correctly you have to trim the hatch main parts, B-29 and B-30. Test fitting here is essential. Once the subassembly is completed the hatch-fit to the superstructure is pretty good, and a minor adjustment with a sanding stick made it perfect.

Parts E-34 and E-33 can be used interchangeably, even though the instructions fail to point this out. E-33 is the muffler adjusting assembly, while E-34 is a removable cover for part E-33. Part C-5, the cover to the engine crank access port, can also be left off. Many period photos show it missing, exposing a simple opening or a small cap secured with a chain. I chose to leave the part off, but decided to make a small cap to cover the opening, since one is not included with the kit. The chain is PE from the parts box.

The muffler is made up of four parts and represents the actual part nicely. The exhaust pipe has a slide-molded hole, but is not deep enough or large enough. There is more of a locating

hole for you to drill it out further. Parts C-22 and C-23 are the mounting points for the muffler. The connecting "rib" that mates with the muffler should be almost completely trimmed off for a good fit with the muffler. To finish off the muffler, I added some texture with Mr. Surfacer 500.

Step eight is the construction of the turret. Like the lower hull, the turret is made up of a series of flat plates, as is the commander's cupola. The cupola's four vision blocks are cast in bubble-free clear styrene. I chose to paint them with Tamiya clear green at this point, and then applied a layer of Mr. Masking Sol to protect the lenses. The commander's hatch is nicely detailed and can be positioned open or closed. If you choose open, you will have to deal with some of the kit's only knockout-pin marks. The guts of the turret include gun breach with positionable block, elevation wheel, gunner's shoulder support, moveable gun sight that elevates and

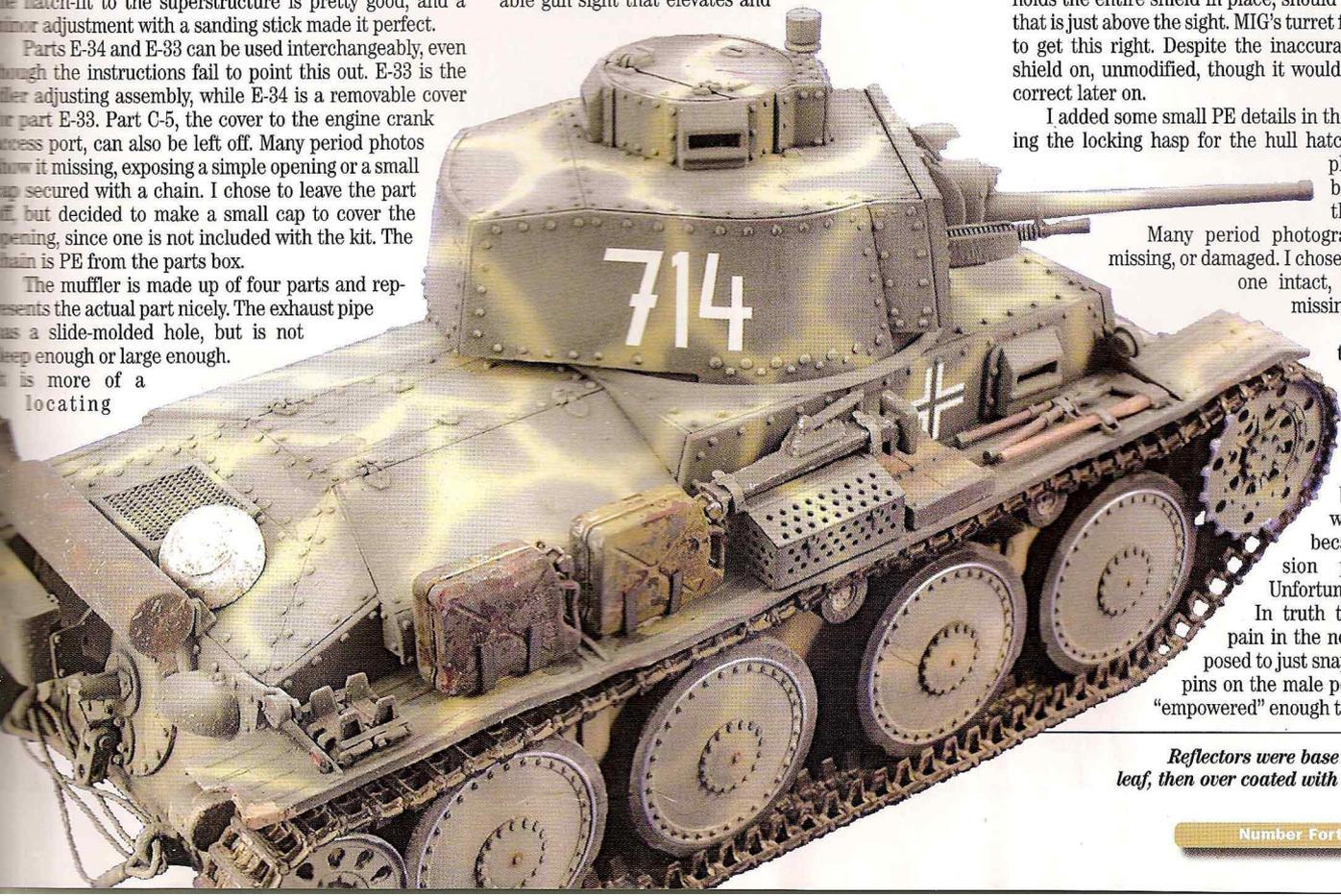
depresses with the main gun, spent shell bag, and gunner's and commander's seats, all of which would be hidden if you placed a figure in the cupola! What isn't included, and should be, is a connection between the co-axial ZB vz.35 machine gun and main gun. As I mentioned earlier, it could be slaved to the movement of the main gun, or function freely. There is nothing really complex in this step, although the fit here was not as nice as the rest of the kit and did require some Mr. Dissolved Putty. There are two photo-etched cover plates, PE-19, that fit underneath the front plate and require some adjustment to fit. I chose to replace the kit's barrel with one from Model Point since the fit of the kit's barrel in its sleeve is sloppy and I just prefer metal barrels. There is a really nice PE sun-shield for the gunner's sight. Unfortunately, the turret front detail for its use is incorrect. A triangular part of the shield, that holds the entire shield in place, should be below the rivet that is just above the sight. MIG's turret front is the only kit to get this right. Despite the inaccuracy, I put the rain shield on, unmodified, though it wouldn't be too hard to correct later on.

I added some small PE details in the last step, including the locking hasp for the hull hatch, and some nice photo-etched track brackets that fit on the glacis plate.

Many period photographs show these missing, or damaged. I chose to model the right one intact, and the left one missing most of its parts.

The tracks in this kit are problematic. They are really beautiful slide-molded goodies. They are supposed to be workable, which is great because the suspension parts are, too. Unfortunately, they aren't.

In truth they were a royal pain in the neck. They are supposed to just snap together, but the pins on the male portion are just not "empowered" enough to do the job. When



Reflectors were base coated with silver leaf, then over coated with Tamiya clear red.

my discard pile became bigger than my working pile, I knew I was in trouble! So, if you really want workable tracks, you'll have to opt for an aftermarket set. In the end, I had to glue the tracks. I made each side in an upper and lower section that could be assembled after painting was complete. Mr. Editor, are you listening? If I build another of these beauties it IS getting a set of Fruils!

With the build complete and sitting on my workbench, I stared at it with my mental gears a-turning. Hmmmm. Let's do the cool two-tone vehicle from the 22nd Panzer Division in the Crimea, I thought. I love those transitional camouflage jobs. But it needs something more. I know, a bit of wear and tear! If this tank survived to the summer of 1942, it cannot be totally unscathed! Most photos show the muffler dented and the fenders bent; but very few show much more physical wear and tear. To beat up the muffler I took some chunks out of it with my X-acto knife. To do the fenders, I taped some 0.020" sheet plastic to the jaws of my parallel pliers and went at them! I twisted and turned the parts until they looked sufficiently abused. I tore the left front fender completely through, and cut the right one. I also damaged the front fender supports. To finish off the abuse, I drilled out the left fender where the support rivets would have been torn out. Ok, I feel better. Now I was ready for my favorite part—painting and weathering!

Making it pretty

Following my usual habits, I broke the kit down into sub-assemblies and applied a Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black pre-shade/primer. I applied a 1:1 mix of XF-63, German Grey and Tamiya Thinner over the black primer. I concentrated more on the center of each panel, allowing some of the black to show through at the edges. My goal here was to be subtle—no stark contrasts, but a blending of light to dark. On the next step I added 50% XF-57, Buff, to my mixture and diluted it another 50%. This was applied in the same manner as the previous coat, but I stayed even farther from the edges this time. The next step (yes, and probably a couple more after that, too) was another 50% buff and 50% dilution—in each step the paint is getting thinner and thinner. This is done on purpose to give the model a ghost affect. I repeated the dilutions for the final coat. This coat is gray-tinted buff and goes on the wheels and lower hull fairly heavily. This is the beginning of the "dust" layer. Finally, the entire model gets a dusting with this mixture from two to three feet away, spraying top down. The goal is to hit only the horizontal surfaces of the model. I applied the camouflage using Tamiya XF-60, Dark Yellow, and diluted 2:1 thinner to paint. I post-shaded this with a 1:1 mix of Buff and Dark Yellow, which was then diluted 4:1, thinner to paint. To get the faded, dusty-paint look, it's all about building up layers of diluted paint. Just remember, tanks are like onions and ogres—they have layers!

The next step is the muffler. Remember—mufflers are fun! As you may recall, the I stippled a coat of Mr. Surfacer 500 on the muffler earlier in the assembly. This provided a bit more texture than what was supplied in the kit. For the base coat, I brushed on Vallejo 995, German Grey. When this was dry, I applied a layer of turpenoid, and started dabbing on burnt umber and raw sienna oil paints. I added more turpenoid, then some black oil paint—kind of letting it do its own thing. When this was dry, I took some Polly Scale rust (a very orange acrylic) and with an old splayed brush, just dabbed it about. This was followed with a burnt umber wash. Finally, I hit the dents with a raw sienna pin wash, and presto—a muffler your mother would be proud of!

Next step tools: As you remember, I glued most of my tools on during construction. To wood tone and paint them in-position, I cut some Post-it-Notes and slid them under

the tools to protect the underlying paint. Then, using Vallejo 955 Flat Flesh, I painted the wooden parts. Using burnt umber oil paint with the excess linseed oil soaked up on a piece of cardboard, I applied this heavily to the wooden areas of the tools and let it set for 20 minutes. Then, with a flat brush just

moist with Turpenoid, I stroked the wood parts along the grain. I then cleaned the brush and



The machine guns and ball mounts were painted flat black and then rubbed with HB graphite.

repeated the procedure about four or five times. When I do this, I don't wipe the part completely clean and I make sure to clean and dry the brush between each pass. The model was then left to set overnight.

In preparation for application of decals, I spot-applied Future floor wax, since I'm not adding any rain streaks or any washes on this trip. I applied the decals using Micro Sol/Set, spot-coated again with the Future, and then applied a final flat coat. If this is done properly, you end up with decals that look like paint.

Rode hard, put away wet

To begin the weathering and to start to dirtying things up a bit, I added a mixture of earth color pigments mixed with some flat base and acrylic matt medium under the fenders and around the suspension units. I also added some with a toothbrush to give it that splattered, "I need a bath," look.

Over the top of this and on the road wheels, I sprayed a fairly thick layer of XF-57 Buff to get it dusty. This was a 2:1 thinner to paint dilution, since I wanted it pretty opaque. The tires received a gray dry-brushing to bring out the damage and the wheel hubs. With the tires off, I painted the edges of the rims with a bright silver paint pen, since the track teeth contact the rims here. The backsides of the road wheels were also weathered. They received a coat of Tamiya XF-9, Hull Red, then the buff dust, and finally an application of the silver paint pen. Just to make things interesting, I have also simulated a couple of blown axle seals. I applied some water-soluble black oil paint to the wheels while spinning them in the motor-tool. I applied this to some of the wheels before the buff coat, then went over some again, using India ink instead of the oil paint. This

replicates some of the seals appearing repaired but stains remain, and others are leaking again since the accumulation of dust.

Devil in the details

The kit's tracks were base-coated in Delta brand burnt umber acrylic paint, followed by a black oil wash and an application of dust-colored pigments. To finish them off, they received a buffing with graphite. They were then attached to the kit with PVA glue and touched up where necessary.

I wanted to add a couple of things to make the tank more personal. I chose a Plus Model bucket (my favorite!), two early-war style jerry cans and the washbasin from the Tamiya SdKfz.

221 kit (I duped it in resin, so I would still have it for my 221, or other kits). The

bucket was soldered together per the instructions, but I did replace the PE handle with a piece of 0.070" wire. I chose to show one of the jerry cans beat up a bit, so I went at it with a new X-acto blade and a pair of needle nose pliers. The washbasin and bucket received a coat of silver leaf with a product called Paintable Leaf made by Amaco. It is available in better art supply stores.

The washbasin then had a

random pattern of Mr. Masking Sol applied with a green scrub pad and then painted with Tamiya XF-2, Flat White. After the paint dried, I removed the masking. The bucket and basin then received a burnt umber oil wash, followed by a yellow-gray oil wash. They were attached to the kit with PVA glue. The jerry cans were given a coat of XF-9, Hull Red, mixed with XF-57, Buff, then masked similarly to the washbasin. They were then sprayed with XF-63, German Gray. One of the cans had another layer of masking applied and then sprayed with a 1:1 mix of Tamiya XF-60, Dark Yellow and XF-73, Dark Green. This was to represent a can that had been "obtained" by the Russians, repainted, then "re-obtained" by the Germans! The masking was removed from the cans and some silver chips applied with a piece of stretched sprue. They, too, received a wash of the burnt umber oil followed by the yellow-gray. They were attached to the kit with brackets fashioned from left over PE fret.

To finish things off, I added some scuffs and scratches with Vallejo 859, Black Red, and XF-63, German Gray, applied with stretched sprue. A final, diluted, overspray with XF-57, Buff, was used to unify all the elements, and the periscopes and vision blocks had their masking removed.

Conclusions

Wow! What a great kit! If it weren't for the fiddly tracks I would give it a perfect 10. The fit overall was super, the level of detail second to none, the subject tip-top. In fact, if this kit was a girl and I was single, I would marry it! I cannot wait to get my hands on the G, and hopefully an A or B—come on Tristar!

—Dr. John Steinman

MMiR RECCE

Tristar German Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) Ausf. E/F. Kit number 35020. Suggested retail price \$42.00. Kit graciously provided by the manufacturer.

Model Point 7.92mm vz.37 (ZB53) Machine Gun Barrel, #35106 Model Point Pz.38(t) 3.7 cm KwK A7 Gun Barrel. Kit number 3538.

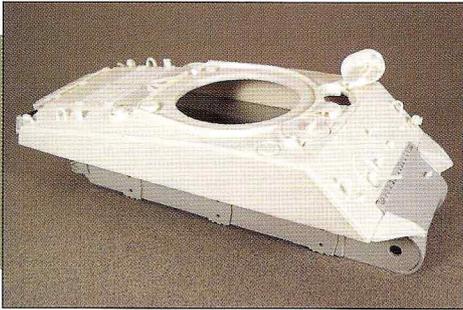
Plus Model Metal Buckets and Cans. Kit number 152

References

Allied-Axis Issue 13, Ampersand Publishing Company, Inc.
Panzerkampfwagen 38(t), Terry J. Gander, Ian Allen Publishing.

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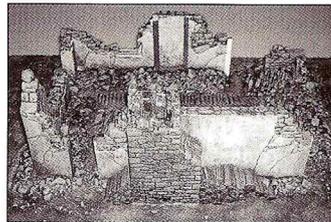
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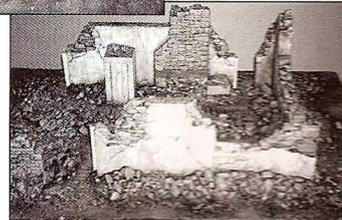
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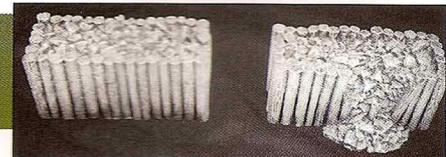
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La storia dell'auto- blindata piccola.*



**A little bit of resin and
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**The story of the
little armored car.*

Italian armored cars are some of the more rare subjects found in 1/35th scale armor models. Fortunately, the Italian resin companies produce many of them and Historica does a great job with this nice obscure vehicle. Developed late in the war, the AS-43 was a small two-man armored car used mostly by the Italian Polizei. However, there is literally no information readily available and the simple description of how this vehicle came about is by saying the Italians basically took their TL-37 Protetto armored personal carrier, (itself a development of the TL-37 line), and added the turret and armament from the L-6 light tank to create the AS-43. That more or less sums up its description.

The Historica kit is well cast with the added advantage of being a very simple build. It is a good kit to choose for your first full resin kit if you are looking to make the jump from plastic to resin. If you already have resin experience then you will find that this kit goes together as it should with minimal hassle. Nearly free from air bubbles with no warping to speak of, most of the rivets are whole and complete. The wheels had some minor issues that required a few rivets to be rebuilt, but otherwise this is a very sound resin kit.

Construction is broken down into basic sub-assemblies. The lower chassis is built using the supplied suspension and exhaust pieces with copper

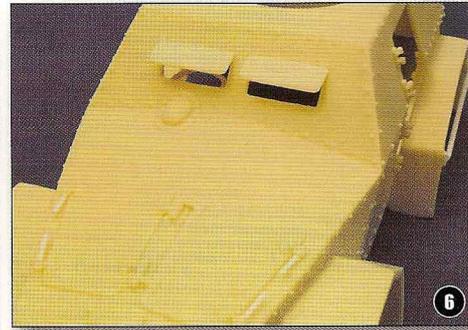
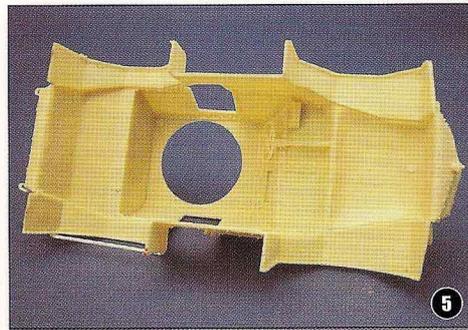
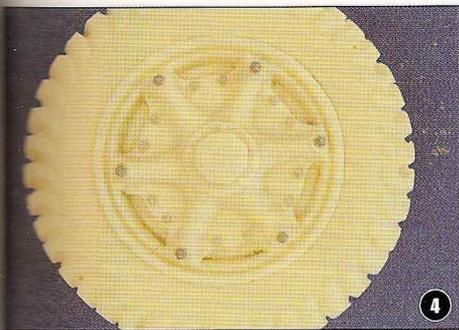
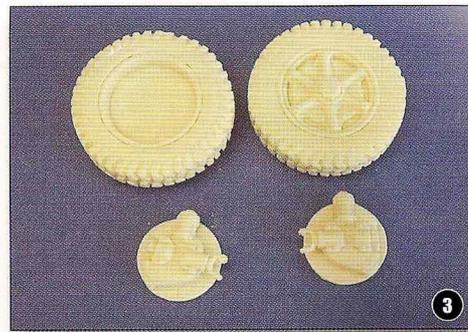
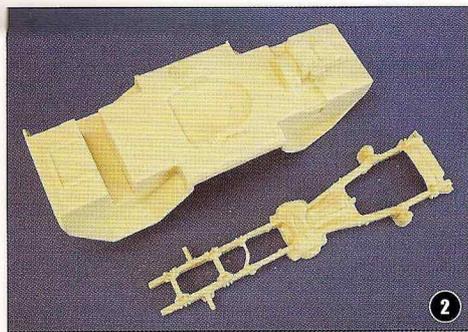
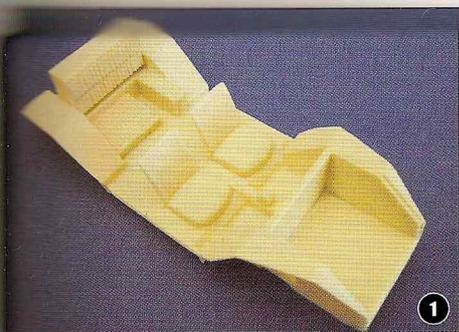
wire and brass rod being used for the exhaust plumbing, plus the leading and trailing arms of the suspension according to the instructions. The simple interior is assembled with the seats, controls, and ammo racks. The turret was completed with the gun assembly and commander's sight. Small handles were made for each of the many hatches from styrene rod, quite a few actually if you count them. Before gluing all of the subassemblies together the interiors were first given a paintjob with some simple weathering. Using Lifecolor acrylics, an excellent line of paint from Italy, the main fighting compartment was painted white with the seats painted leather brown and then given some oil paint washes of dark brown and black. The stowage box was painted interior green and the ammunition containers detailed with dark grey and black oil washes. The floor and walls were given some washes and filters with various brown, greens and yellow oil paints.

After the interior was completed, it was time to assemble the various components and prep them for the camouflage. Inspiration for the 3-tone pattern came from the TL-37 Protetto side view color profile found in Squadron's "Italian Armored Vehicles of WWII" offering (a great overall reference for Italian armor). Beforehand the exterior was primed with Tamiya's Fine Surface Primer and set aside to dry completely. It is critical to remember that the weathering process ALWAYS will darken a paintjob,

so to end up with the right colors it is essential to begin with a lighter tone in the first place. This is an often overlooked idea and is one of the main reasons I do not adhere to stringent color standards for scale models. I sprayed everything freehand not using any masks and thinned the paints to 60-40 thinner-to-paint ratio and use around 15-18psi from the compressor. I spray in light applications of paint to maintain surface detail.

To begin, the model was sprayed with an overall coat of French Sand-Grey, an excellent color to start with for base desert sand. After this the tires were painted black with the wheel centers also given a coat of French Sand-Grey. Being that these are acrylics they dry almost instantly so I could easily move onto the next color. The first camo color added was Italian Olive Green 2 for the dark green areas and I then followed this with German Tank Brown to complete the camouflage. The tools on the rear deck were given their due attention with wood and metal colors for their respective parts. With everything base coated, I glued the wheels on and lightly sanded the bottom of the tires to flat spot them being careful to check that the model sat level.

Now I can start the weathering. Because the model is in a 3-tone camo I decided to post-shade the model with a very thin mixture of brown/black paint. This thin mixture was sprayed between the colors and in every joint and corner of the model. The wheels were also given a light post-shading as

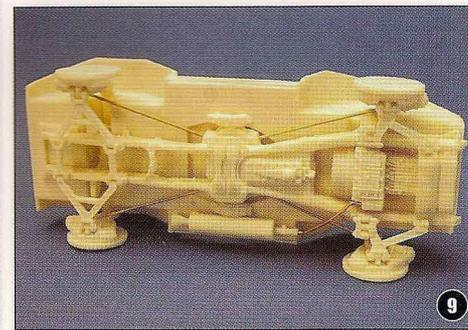
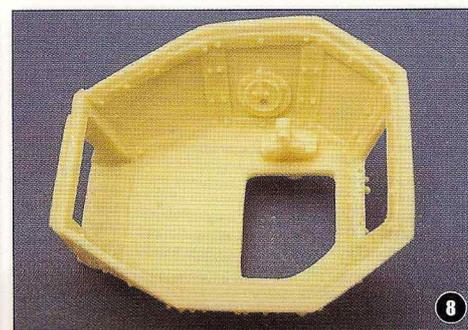
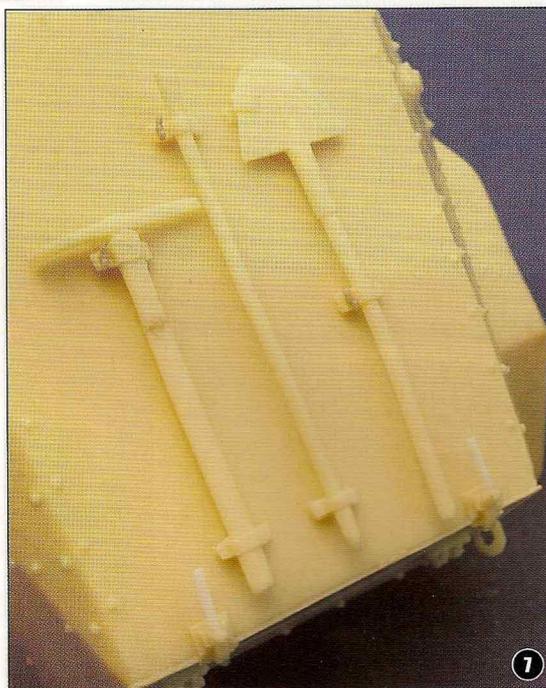


well. A few streaks and stains were then added for good measure. I find it easier to do this on multi-colored camo patterns, rather than pre-shading the entire model in a dark color first, which is almost always entirely lost once the final color is applied.

The second step in the weathering process is to apply a filter. This technique comes down to the contrast between the three colors and visually ties them in creating a uniform look to the model. For this paint scheme, I used a highly thinned mixture of Humbrol's Midstone. (About 5% paint is all you want in the filter mixture, it should look like dirty water). I like to airbrush this on, but you can also brush it on evenly as well. You want to tint the paint only, nothing more. Think of it like a filter for a camera lens, or a glaze on a painting if you have a formal art background.

With the basic weathering started and the airbrushing almost complete, I sprayed the model with Vallejo's Satin Varnish (everything except the tires). This preps the surface for the more severe weathering to follow, plus it seals the paint and also recreates the correct metallic sheen that is a very desirable attribute to the final look. It is this sheen that gives the proper contrast to the matt pigments applied later.

The next step in the process is when I add the paint chips and scratches. For this I like to use a small piece from a kitchen scrubbing-pad dipped in Tamiya's NATO Black. I dab it on a paper towel first to remove most of the paint prior to applying the chips to the model and then I just lightly touch the surface where I want them to go, working my way around the model from top to bottom. I concentrated more chips around the engine area since Italian engines are not the most reliable and would likely see a fair bit of maintenance (Alfa owner, I know). This is a very fast and efficient way to add chips and scratches, but be cautious, as it is very easy to over do it. Next I go back in with a fine brush and outline the larger ones with the base yellow color and even a primer color in between on some of them to show the various layers of paint that



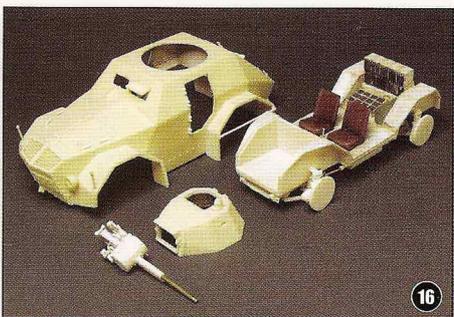
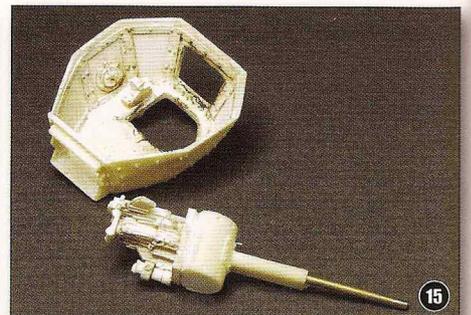
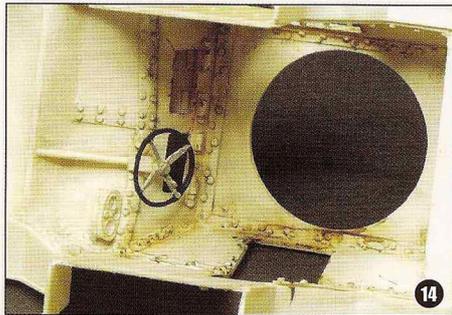
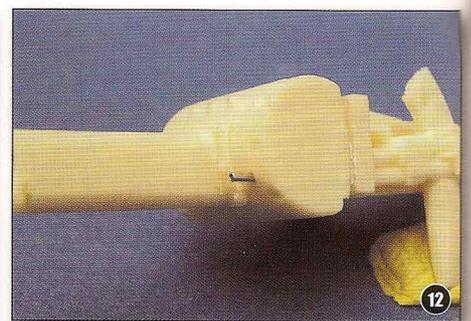
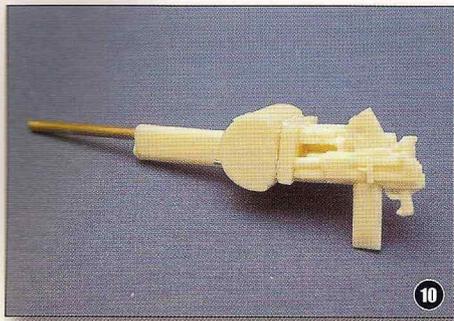
1. The basic interior platform is well cast in one piece. 2. Underneath, the frame is mounted to the lower shell. 3. Wheels and brakes. 4. Minor imperfections required a little rebuilding. 5. The inside of the main body. 6. Front details on the main body. Note the scratchbuilt handles. 7. Tools are stowed on the rear deck. 8. Inside the one-man turret. 9. The lower chassis complete with added trailing arms and exhaust.

appear in paint chips. I like to be random here and not do every chip the same, as this keeps the paintjob from looking too static.

The model is starting to show signs of life and use, but it is now time to open the oil paints and really bring the best out of the paintjob. I like to use Winsor Newton oils with Humbrol thinner. I have found this combination to give extremely pleasing results, without the graininess found when using less expensive solvents. I also use a wide range of colors, regardless of the paint scheme, but the trick is to know what colors to use where and how much. Again, like the chips, control is what you are after and the goal is to achieve subtle, I say again—subtle, variations in tone and hue for each area of the model. On this model I use a few different yellows,

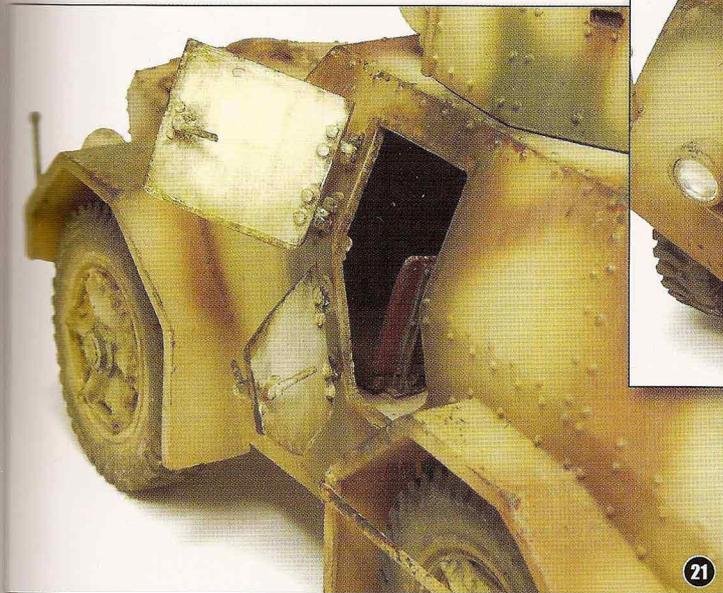
greens, burnt umber, raw sienna and black. I rarely use white, as it tends to leave an unrealistic chalky, milky look that can get you into trouble. Another good point to remember is that a little goes a long way. OK, enough of me blowing smoke up you know what, let me describe the method.

To begin I have a series of small fine tip brushes (#00 thru 0000), and one clean small flat brush (#2) for the blending. Each oil color gets its own brush and starting with a small section at a time, I first wet the surface with the clean flat brush dipped in thinner – damp, not soaking wet and have a paper towel handy to dab the brush onto. Then I take the oil paint and place a very small dot (1-2mm in diameter) on the upper edge of the section and with the THIN edge of the flat brush I blend the oil paint in a

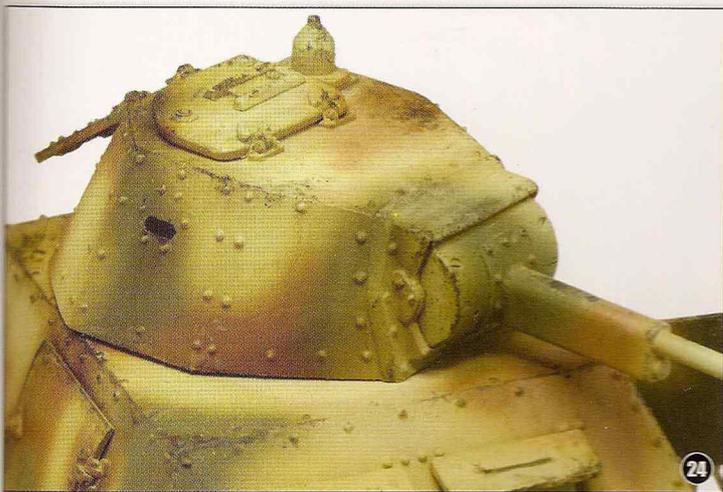


10-12. Close-up detail photos of the main gun with replacement brass barrels. 13-15. Interior was painted white with seats in leather, ammo racks in black and locker in green. Washes of dark brown and black were applied for weathering. 16-17. With the interior completed and the main components ready for final assembly. Fit is very good overall. 18. A filter of Humbrol 84 Midstone was sprayed on and then the paint job was post-shaded with a thin brown/black mix. 19-20. The three-tone paint job is sprayed on and the painted wheels mounted.





21. The model in the final weathering stages. The rain streaks are very evident in this view. The open hatches lend to the unique vehicle appearance. 22. Detail shot of the front fender weathering, note the faded upper paint and layered chips. 23. The right rear fender detail and the worn green paint showing yellow underneath. 24. Turret close-up with dusty faded upper plate. Note the darkened hatch edge from dirty hand prints.



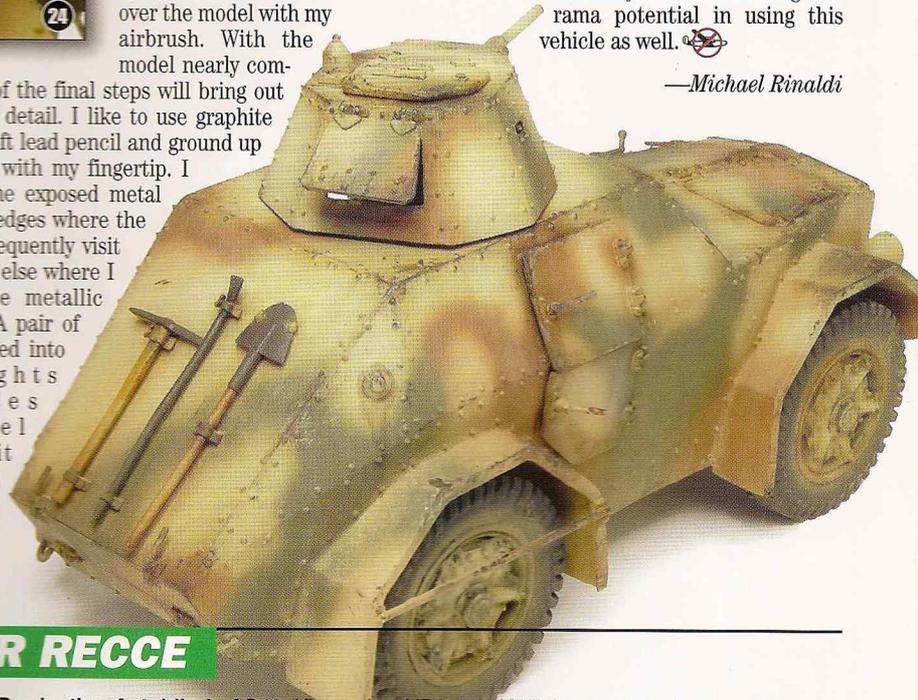
where I want the pigments to go, scrubbing them in a little as I do so. For a quick sealer, I spray Humbrol thinner over the model with my airbrush. With the model nearly com-

pleted, some of the final steps will bring out the last bit of detail. I like to use graphite both from a soft lead pencil and ground up to be applied with my fingertip. I use this on the exposed metal areas, on the edges where the crew would frequently visit and anywhere else where I want a subtle metallic sheen to be. A pair of MV lenses fitted into the headlights completes the model and gives it that final detail to finish it off properly.

—Michael Rinaldi

downward vertical motion until it is almost invisible. For horizontal upper surfaces I use a stippling motion instead to blend it in. On the lighter colors I use more yellows and greens, with the brown and green camo gets oils in the same color range. For rust streaks I use the raw sienna and black/burnt umber is used like a wash to bring out surface detail or enhance a panel line. I move around the entire model, slowly in small sections, until I am satisfied. Some areas get more than one visit as I enhance or fade detail according to what I am after in the final look. For rain streaks or stains I like to drag and blend the colors thru the entire panel, which can give some interesting effects depending on the base color. This technique is relatively new in the US and appears to be referred to as "oil paint fading" with many people confusing them with filters, myself included. I historically have called them "spot filters" (because that is how I think about them), but whatever the appropriate term is, internationally this is a very common technique and one of the most important to a high-quality paintjob.

After this has had a chance to dry for a while, the results will be very evident. The paintjob now has a nice patina to it making it much more interesting to look at. Moving forward, it is on to the pigments, and I like to use Mig Productions exclusively. For this I kept it simple and straight forward using only a light dust color keeping in mind how this model would look during the hot dusty summer in Italy. I use a dry round brush and apply them directly



MMiR RECCE

Historica Production Autoblinda AS43. Kit number HP1020. WWII Armored car based upon AS43 chassis. Kit graciously (and patiently) provided by R&J Enterprises (www.rjproducts.com). Suggested retail price \$99.00.

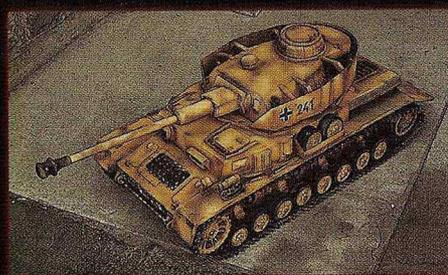
References

There is scant research on this vehicle beyond what is provided in the kit (which isn't bad, really). I found a few things on the web. Among the best was: <http://aermacchi.ifrance.com/photoscopeautoblindaas43.htm/> A single photo, but a real good one, it depicts one of the schemes provided in the kit. The site is in French.

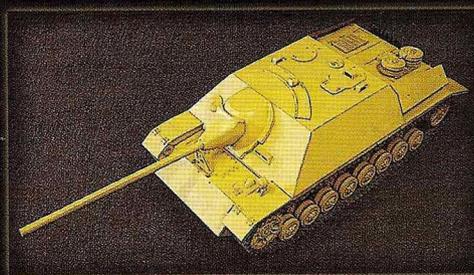
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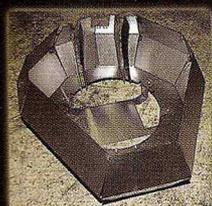
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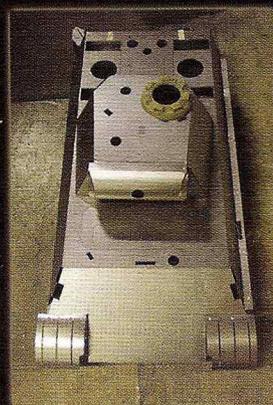
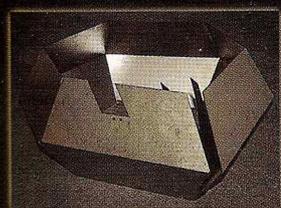
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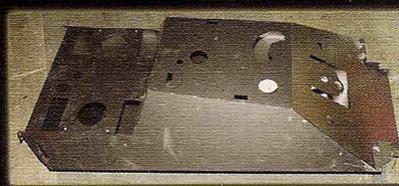
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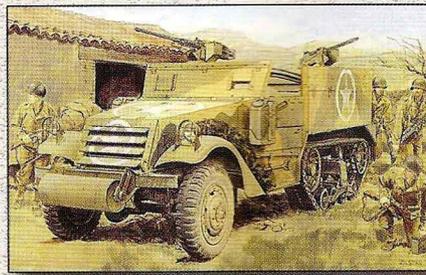


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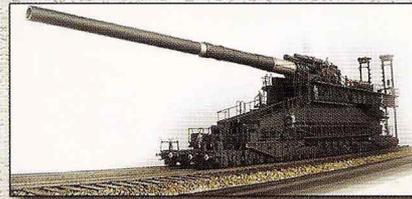
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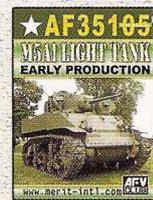


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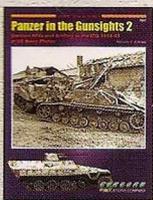
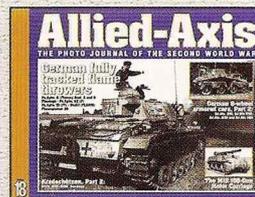
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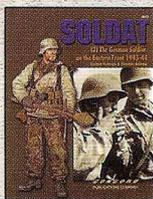


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Objectives...

A STURMGESCHÜTZ IV, CUSTOM-MADE...

Modelers are spoiled these days! The great model manufacturers follow this spirit of the age and supply us with high-end kits and 3-in-1 super sets. Or is it the other way around? Do the manufacturers want to push us

modelers in this direction? What exactly remains for us to do? Where is the creative element, where is one's own initiative? I like to swim against the current and want to introduce my Sturmgeschütz IV. It has few expensive aftermarket items—only plastic and metal sheet. Well, nearly...

Construction of a StuG IV

Really, there are enough kits available. Monogram was the first, Italeri released a pretty good kit in the seventies and Tamiya followed with their still nice goodie, then Academy made a copy. Last but not least, DML released two different versions. For late this year DML announced an upgraded kit—magnificent news!

My model report is based on the old kits and I shall show what is possible. Because of economical

necessities, all StuG IV kits are based on the unchanged hulls of the respective Pz.Kpfw. IV kits. They just took their StuG III casemates from their stocks. But are things so easy?

Well, not really! I wanted to do this kit as realistically as possible. Following the path of Krupp-Gruson's engineers, I wanted to adapt the StuG III casemate on the best Pz.Kpfw. IV kit out there.

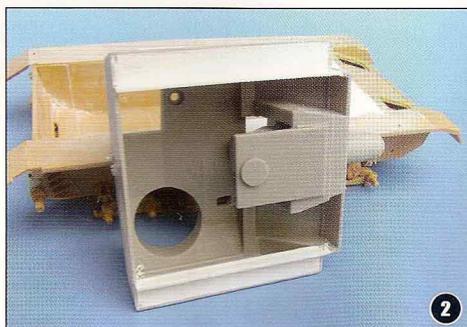
All the available model kits are simplified. Tamiya decided to match the casemate with the complete upper hull part, including the engine cover and track guards. DML simply altered the StuG III part with elongated sidewalls to match the Pz.Kpfw. IV hull. None of these solutions convinced me. So I had to work the old fashioned way—I did it myself!

The objective - a Sturmgeschütz IV of Pz.jg.Kp. 1021 (L)

I did not want anything ordinary. Thus, I was thrilled to find a beautiful wartime photo showing a StuG IV during embarkation in Gotenhaven, 1945. Here, the 21st Luftwaffe field division was involved in heavy defensive fighting. The Pz.Jg.Kp. 1021 (L) was assigned for anti tank support. Although not officially allocated, this air force unit probably had 10 StuG IV. Produced in November or December 1944, they featured the vertical flame suppressors and a remote-controlled MG. Apparently, the unit had time enough to modify the unsuitable brackets of the side skirts. The skirts were hung on simple round rods,

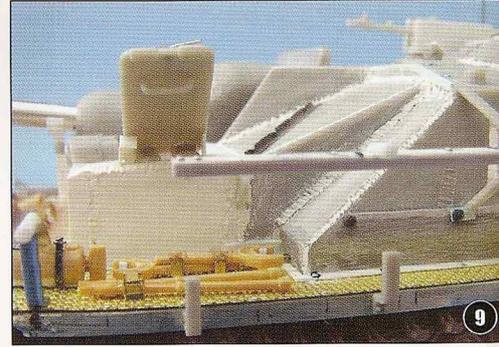
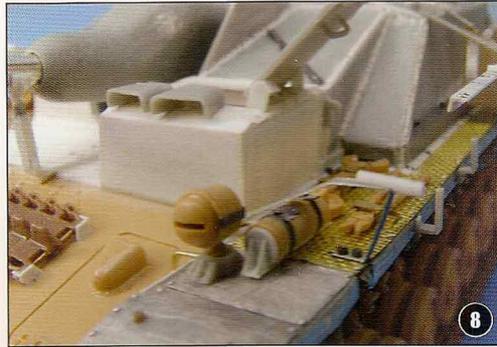
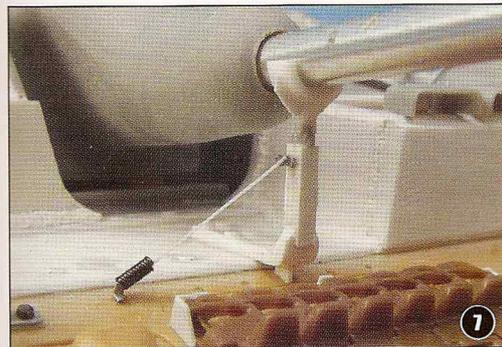
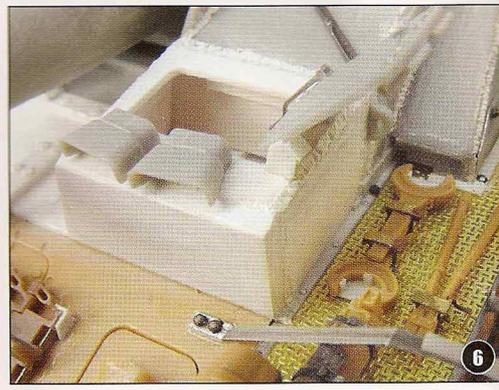
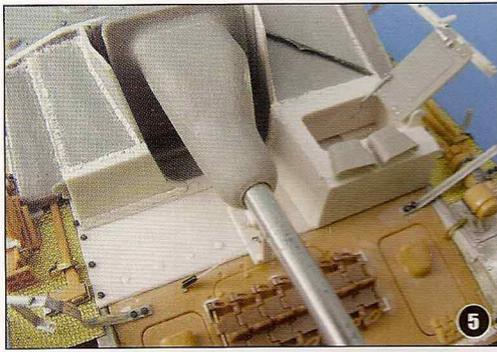
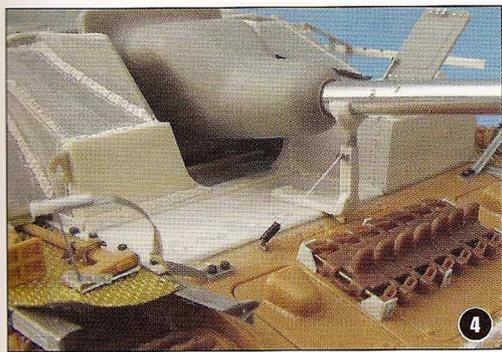


1. I started with the work on the Tamiya hull. Only the track covers and the brake roof plate are used. The knot texture was removed from the fenders and all gaps were filled with plastic. 2.



Here it becomes clear how the DML casemate was matched to the Tamiya Pz.Kpfw. IV. The new track covers and the driver's bay have already been added. All weld seams are reworked. 3.





overlapping and allowing them to swivel gently to the sides, rather than being ripped off when hit by an obstacle. The lower edges were rounded, the upper corners simply cut off. For the forward skirts, new brackets were added, since the angled profiles ranged up to the casemate only. According to an official suggestion for improvement dating from November 1944, a gun travel rest was added to give better sight to the right for the driver.

Due to greater accuracy, I decided to use Tamiya's Pz.Kpfw. IV hull and running gear. I cut off the complete superstructure from Tamiya's kit, leaving only the brake cover and the track covers. This fragile part was glued onto the hull. The gaps in the track covers were filled with plastic sheet, the area behind the brake cover, too. Now the hull's base construction was finished. Since I wanted to rebuild the fenders I removed the knot pattern from the track covers—pretty hard work. Then I cut off 5mm from the width of the fenders, the remnants will serve as

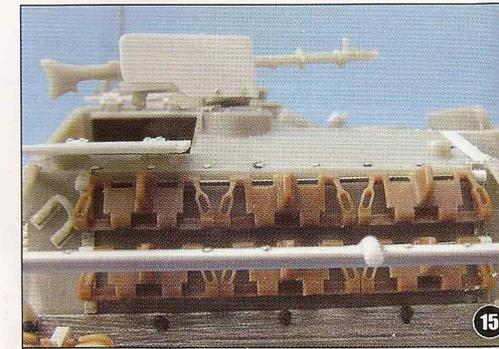
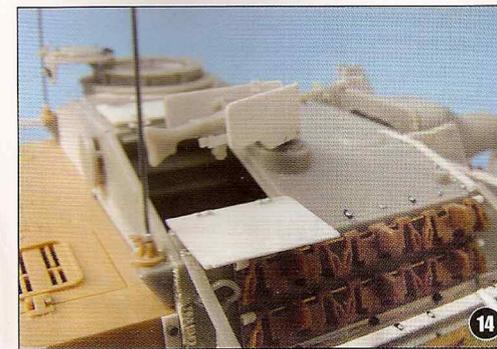
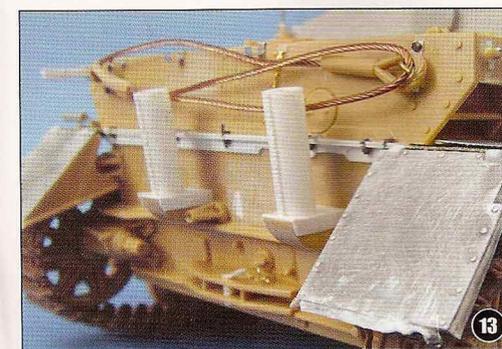
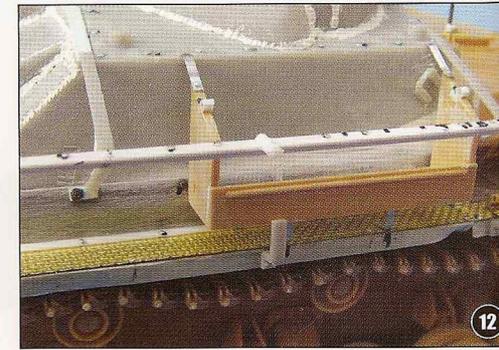
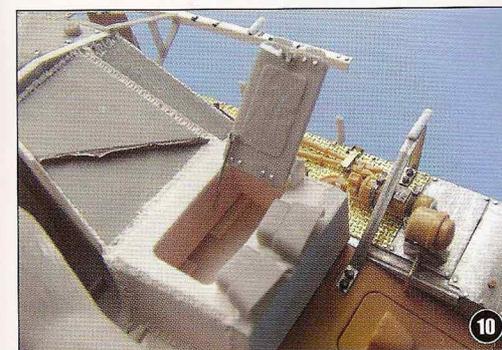
carriers for the new metal parts. The frontal and rear mud flaps were removed, as well.

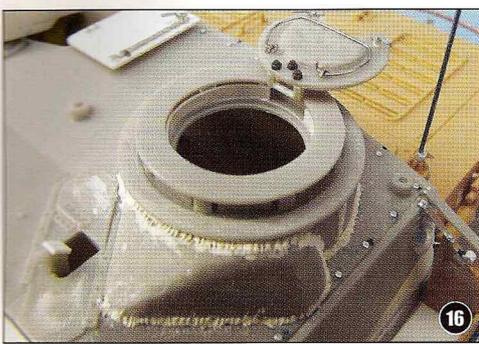
The casemate

The casemate had to be modified to match the Pz.Kpfw. IV hull. I used DML's casemate, since I thought it was the most accurate. After the gun mount was inserted, I sanded off the incorporated sheet at the bottom edge of the casemate. Those parts protruding over the fenders received bottom parts made from 1 mm plastic sheet. When the casemate is placed onto the Pz.Kpfw. IV hull, there remains a gap between the hull sidewalls and the bottom. This gap has to be closed with 1 mm sheet, too. The rear was then matched to the Tamiya engine cover. All this should be test fit several times, a tricky matter.

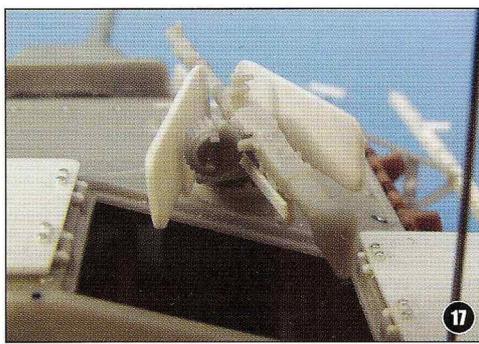
The frontal armor plate of the casemate was made from 2 mm plastic sheet and I used the DML model part as a pattern. I had to make a new driver's bay from 1 mm plastic sheet; the massive 80 mm

4. Despite its age, Tamiya's Pz.Kpfw. IV kit is a fairly good basis for this conversion. With little effort the few flaws can be easily revised. 5. The driver's bay was fitted to the base armor plate and then glued. 6. I made the new track covers from Aber's fine photo-etch parts and all the tools were taken from Tamiya's Pz.Kpfw. IV kit. 7. The gun's travel rest was custom-made. 8. Since I had no hint how the forward skirt brackets looked, I had to guess on these parts. 9. Here the weld seams are visible. 10. A view to the driver's cabin, note the metal rod that allowed the driver to shut his hatch in an emergency under armor protection. 11. I made the rain drain from lead foil. The screw heads on the casemate roof were punched from thin metal sheet. 12. Here the sheet metal covers of the lateral gap are evident. 13. Since Dragon's flame suppressor exhausts are too simple, I made new parts from plastic. The rear mud flaps were substituted with custom-made parts, too. 14. Here further details of the side are visible. The antennas are from Schatton Modellbau. 15. The spare track links were drilled open and hung up with a metal wire. Note the supports for the skirt brackets.





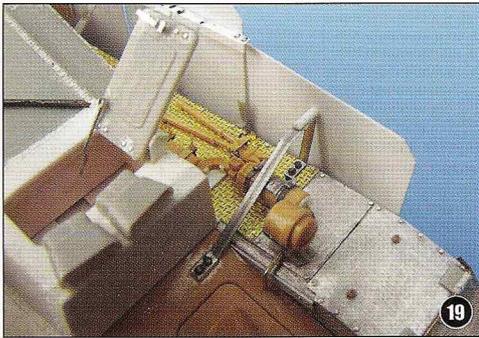
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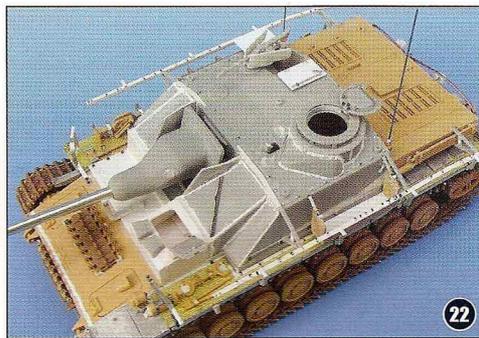


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16. I vastly improved the commander's cupola, in particular the emergency closure bracket. The splinter guard inside the ring was made from plastic sheet. 17. The remote control MG was rebuilt using parts of the Dragon kit. I replaced the split loader's hatches with custom-made parts (0.5 mm plastic sheet). 18. The side skirts were made from plastic sheet. I carefully matched them on a trial basis several times. Numbering was necessary, but never again with black felt tipped pens! 19. The forward-most skirts needed separate brackets. Again, metal strips were used and the small rods were made from plastic. 20. The unpainted model. I used ModelKasten workable track, but DML's single link track is adequate. 21. A view of the front. The multitude of different materials makes the kit look interesting. Actually, it is a shame that everything will soon be covered with paint. 22. The vehicle's construction is clear here. 23. The side skirts were attached very carefully on a trial basis. I marked the plates with a felt tipped pen, which was not a good idea. The marks of the black pen showed through the sand yellow, so I had to spray these parts over and over again.



22



23

frontal armor was again cut from 2 mm plates. These parts were not mitered nor notched; the plates were simply butted up to each other. Joints with 90° angles resulted, just the way the real plates were welded together—quick and effective construction.

The DML kit has only simple weld beads. I improved them by applying thinned putty with an injection needle. When cured, I trimmed the bulge into shape with a milling cutter. The new track covers followed. I used photo-etched parts from Aber. They offer large plates with the typical Pz.Kpfw. IV knot pattern. I cut off segments the same size as the Tamiya parts. These segments were then glued onto the remnants of the original track covers. Those parts showing no texture were reproduced using thin metal sheet. The edges of the track covers were made from metal strips, which were bent over the sharp edge of a metal block. I like this way of modeling, because the metal parts can be damaged in a very realistic way.

The (run)s finished according to the Tamiya construction plan. The DML track can be used without problem. However, I chose the appropriate ModelKasten product.

The detailing...

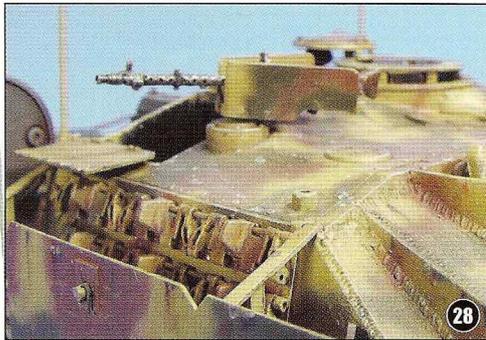
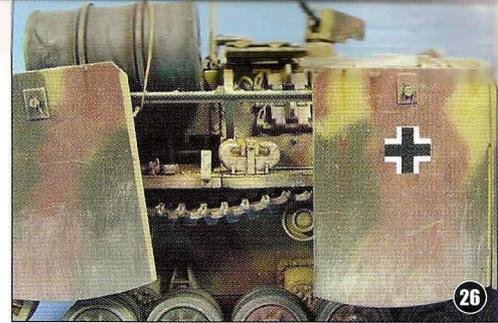
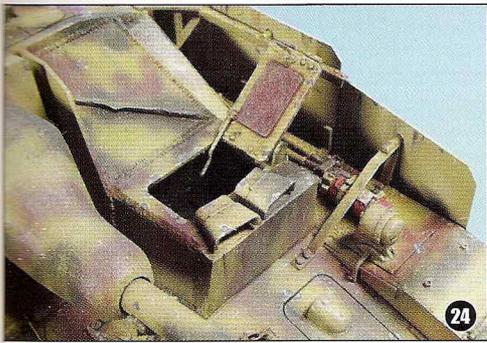
The work on the details took long hours. I had to improve many simplified parts and I tried to pass on expensive aftermarket items. Well, almost...

The casemate's roof was improved with new screw heads of better quality. The commander's cupola had to be refined, the loader's split hatches

were made entirely new from plastic plates. The remote controlled MG was replaced with scratch built one. I only used the DML base part. The gap under the casemate's lateral sides was closed with metal sheet. The metal fenders received hundreds of screw heads, which I made with my punch-and-die set. A time-consuming piece of craftsmanship, but very effective. Then, the frontal and rear mud flaps were created from metal sheets. However, alternatively, the kit parts can be used.

The side skirt rails were made from plastic profiles and I attached them using DML's supports. Since I wanted to reproduce the custom made skirts, I did not add the small triangular attachments. The new side skirts were different regarding shape and size, so I cut them from 0.5 mm plastic plates. The skirts were test fitted onto the railings with tape. This way the locations of the attachment bolts was determined. The forward most skirts could not be hung





onto the railings, so I made new brackets from thin metal straps.

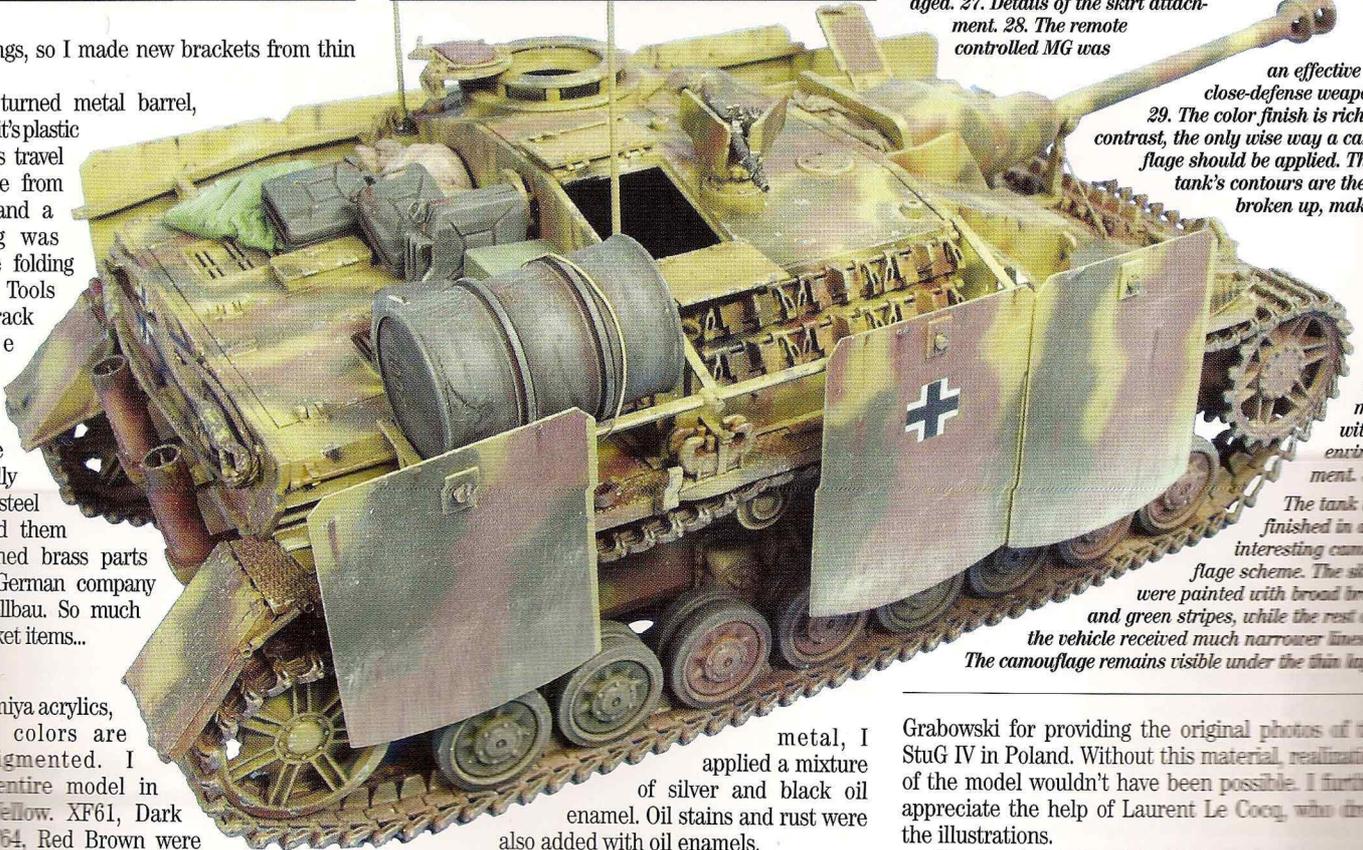
I used a turned metal barrel, instead of the kit's plastic part. The gun's travel rest was made from plastic strip and a small spring was added for the folding mechanism. Tools and spare track links were added now. Both two-meter rod antennas were made initially from 0.6 mm steel rod. I replaced them later with lathed brass parts made by the German company Schatton Modellbau. So much for no aftermarket items...

Painting

I prefer Tamiya acrylics, because the colors are smoothly pigmented. I sprayed the entire model in XF61, Dark Yellow, XF61, Dark Green and XF64, Red Brown were chosen for the camouflage and both colors were brightened slightly. The factory-applied camouflage scheme was typical for late 1944 and had some peculiarities. All rotating parts, like running wheels, were painted single-colored in one of the three colors. The side skirts were painted with larger camouflage blotches, while the rest of the tank received narrow stripes. Not much from the original base color remained.

I then added the decals. I only used German crosses, since vehicles of tank destroyer units did not always show numbers, or other markings.

Effect painting followed, an important step. I simulated chipped paint by a mixture of white and dark yellow first, and then the center of these areas was filled with very little grey color. Scratches on the side skirts were added with crayons and to depict bare



24, 25. Details of the finished driver's cabin. 26. Regarding accuracy, ModelKasten workable track sets are unbeatable. The right hand side track cover was damaged. 27. Details of the skirt attachment. 28. The remote controlled MG was

an effective close-defense weapon. 29. The color finish is rich in contrast, the only wise way a camouflage flag should be applied. The tank's contours are then broken up, making

it merge with its environment. 30.

The tank was finished in a interesting camouflage scheme. The skirts were painted with broad brown and green stripes, while the rest of the vehicle received much narrower lines. The camouflage remains visible under the thin layer.

metal, I applied a mixture of silver and black oil enamel. Oil stains and rust were also added with oil enamels.

After these paints had thoroughly cured, I covered the model with a thin solution of black and turpentine. Thus, a certain depth was achieved, pointing out other details. A semi gloss varnish followed. I wanted to add a thin cover of dust; pastel chalk powder was applied here.

I have to thank Krzysztof Mucha and Robert

Grabowski for providing the original photos of the StuG IV in Poland. Without this material, realization of the model wouldn't have been possible. I further appreciate the help of Laurent Le Cocq, who drew the illustrations.

The idea behind my StuG IV is to show that modeling should be fun—big fun. I think all the alterations and refinements shown are feasible, regardless of one's skill level. The aftermarket items used for my kit; single link tracks, antennas and photo-etch parts push it up a grade, but they are not necessary.

—Thomas Anderson

MMIR RECCE

Tamiya German Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf. J. Kit number 35181. Retail price \$41.00.

The DML StuG III G is now out of production. Their 2005 catalog still showed 9058, StuG III G 10.5cm, but recent activity may change the situation.

ModelKasten Panzer III/IV late model workable tracks. Kit number SK-017. Retail price \$29.95.

Schatton Modellbau 4er Set 2m Stabantenne. Kit number 3528. Retail price 7.50€.

References

Panzer IV and Its Variants. Walter J. Spielberger. Schiffer Publishing.

Recovered in Poland: A StuG IV

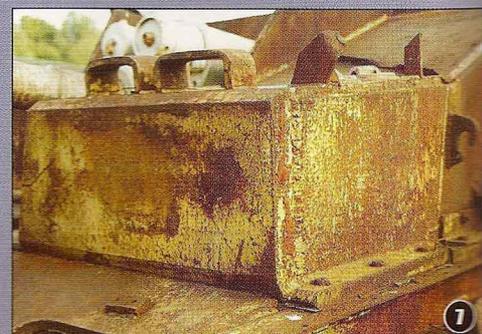
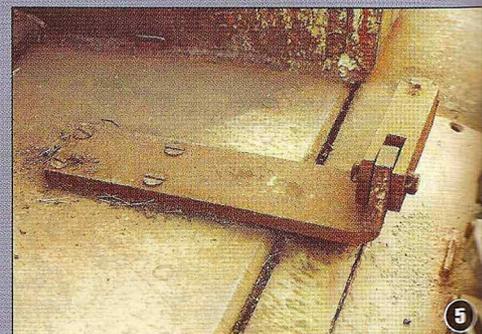
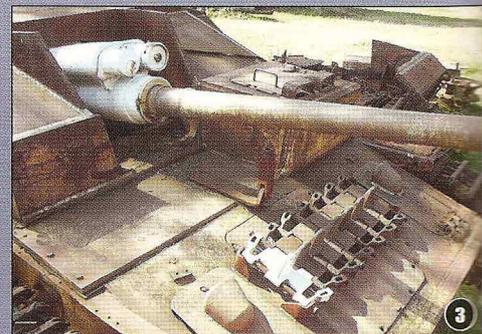
What a stroke of luck! The east of Europe still hides a lot of surprises for the military enthusiast. In Poland, just a few years ago, a Sturmgeschütz IV was found and recovered. Good for me and good for my modeling. Still, there remained the problem of obtaining photos. Again, the Internet proved to be a mighty ally. Within a short time two Polish modelers and historians, Robert Grabowski and Krzysztof Mucha, answered my request. Both helped me get the material and info that I needed.

The fate of the vehicle can be partially retraced. It belonged to the StuG. Brig. 276. Although unusual, it was possible that assault artillery units received StuG IV assault guns. Towards the end of the war, deliveries were allocated at random, or simply commandeered by the retreating German forces (before the question arises, I don't have the chassis number). Our Sturmgeschütz advanced to the village of Komierowo on the 7th of February 1945 trying to negotiate swampy lowland, where it got stuck. Following the general order it, was possibly blown up by its crew (the complete roof is missing). In time, it was forgotten and sank into the mud. In August 1999, it was found and recovered, unveiling a rather good general condition. Only the superstructure's roof and parts of the hull's rear plate were missing. Thanks to the new owner, the tank was carefully restored, leaving many important details of the construction visible. Details I have long waited for.

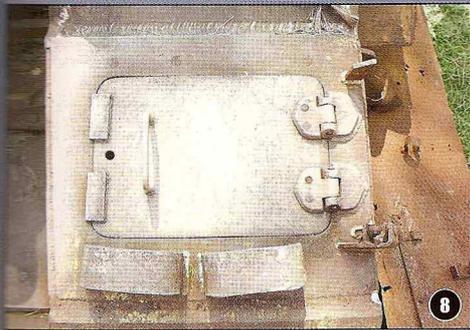
The photos show a lot of interesting details of the StuG IV. Since a complete new development of the casemate was impossible in 1943, this major part had to be adopted almost unchanged from the running StuG III production lines. The basic problem was the geometrical differences between the Pz.Kpfw. III (ZW) and Pz.Kpfw. IV (BW) hulls. The casemate's lateral joints with the Pz.Kpfw. III hull were elongated downwards to match the Pz.Kpfw. IV hull. When fitted to the Pz.Kpfw. IV hull, lateral gaps remained between the casemate bottom and fender, these were covered by thin metal sheet. A small armored bay protected the driver's position and an armor plate also covered the large gap to the right of the driver's bay, above the transmission. The 7.5 cm StuK 40 was adapted without problems.



1. The Sturmgeschütz IV wreck in Poland! The overall state is fairly good, a matter of luck for my report. The chassis number is unknown, so an exact unit assignment is not possible. The museum staff, however, noted that the vehicle was used by StuG. Brig. 276. The vehicle was probably manufactured in November or December 1944. (Photo K. Mucha) 2. The museum used four different track types during the fainthearted reconstruction. It is interesting how many smaller parts, like tool clasps and the front lug and its chain have survived the last sixty years. The left brake hatch shows four screw threads, apparently some unknown parts were attached here. (Photo K. Mucha) 3. A view of the front section. The complete gun mantlet was removed and many interesting details of the weapon can be seen as a result. (Photo R. Grabowski) 4. The gap between the brakes cover plate and the superstructure was closed with a



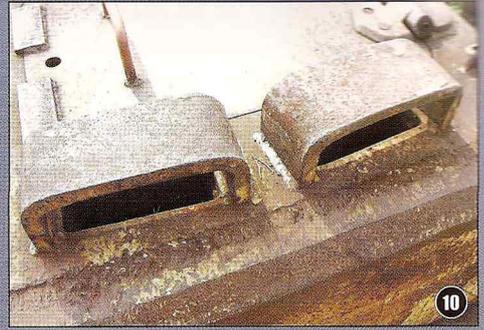
massive steel plate. The joint remains visible. The many bolts, counter-sunk nuts and weld seams are noteworthy. The small rectangular plate seen to the right possibly carried the frontal skirt's attachment—a significant improvement to the standard equipment. (Photo R. Grabowski) 5. In order to provide the driver with better sight to the right, a newly developed travel rest was fitted to hold the barrel at a higher elevation. When the barrel was further elevated, the support swung away to the side. (Photo K. Mucha) 6. The gun travel rest was screwed onto the cover plate. (Photo R. Grabowski) 7. The driver's bay was fixed onto the cover plate. The frontal armour plate, beveled at top and bottom, was 80mm thick. (Photo K. Mucha)



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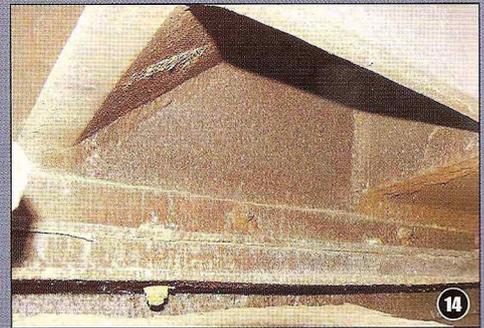


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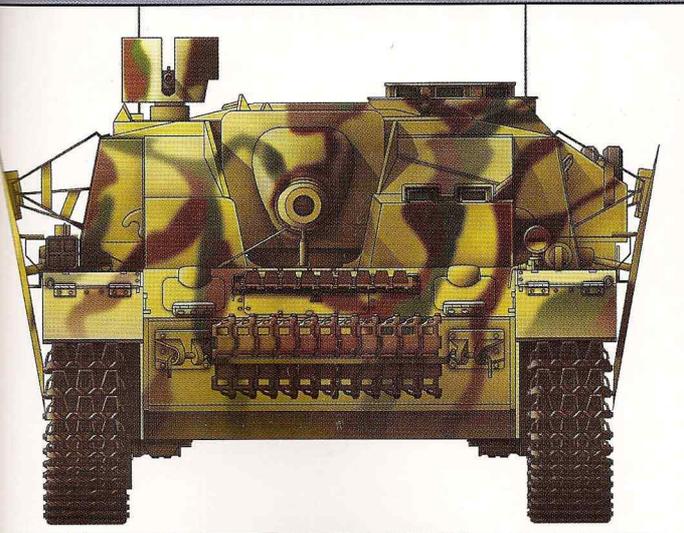
8. This top view shows the late rectangular driver's hatch with end brackets and retainer. The latter prevented the hatch from falling back and injuring the driver. The position of the periscopes and the welding seams is visible here. Even the track cover shows remnants of the tool clasps. (Photo R. Grabowski) 9. This photo shows the construction of the driver's bay. The single armour plates were not interlocked, but simply placed on each other and the new angles then welded. (Photo R.

Grabowski) 10. The periscopes offered good sight to the front, the lateral field of view was rather limited. The hoop guards normally had glare shields, which are missing here. (Photo R. Grabowski) 11.

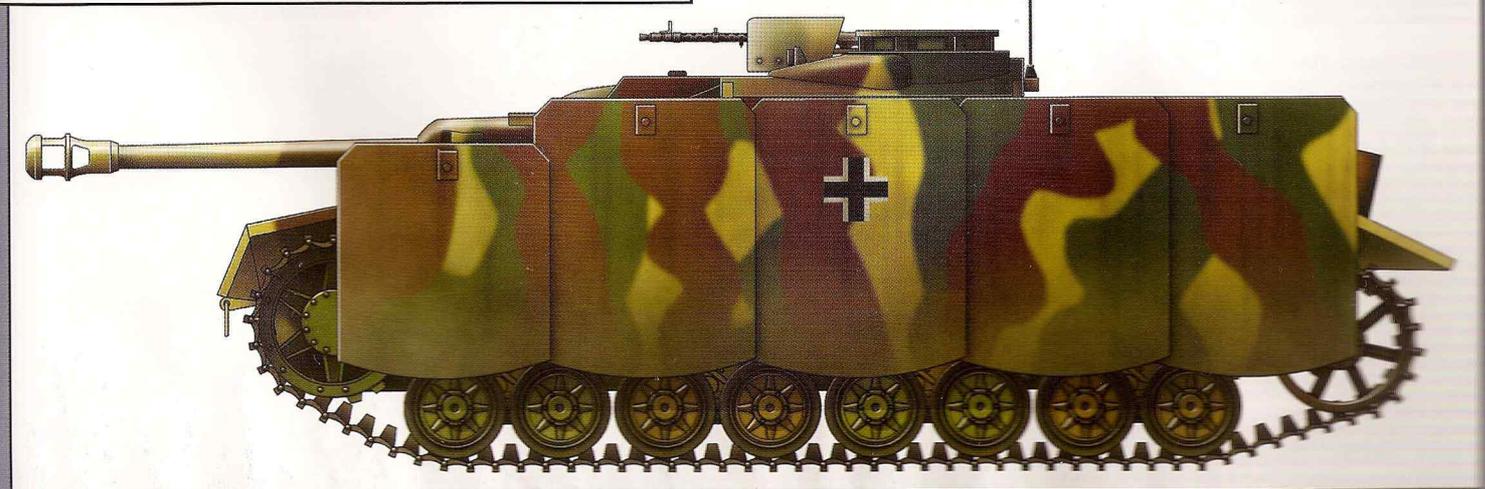
Here, the welding line between the (StuG III) casemate and the (StuG IV) driver's bay is perfectly visible. Above it a rain deflector was fixed. (Photo R. Grabowski) 12. When opened, the hatch was fixed in this retainer. This alteration was retrofitted after falling hatches inflicted several injuries. (Photo R. Grabowski) 13. Here again the construction is visible, note the many welding seams. The track cover does not show the standard square texture, but rather the Pz.Kpfw. III dot texture. (Photo R. Grabowski) 14. This interesting photo unveils that the sloped frontal armor of the StuG III/StuG IV casemate formed a cavity. In the back the casemate's basic frontal plate is visible. The sloped plate was added to improve ballistic protection. (Photo R. Grabowski)



14



Illustrations by Laurent Le Cocq (not to scale).



Im Einsatz

A) The tank I wanted to recreate, a StuG IV of the Pz.Jg.Kp. 1021 (L) being unloaded onto a ferry in Golenhaven, East Prussia. At that time, the unit was to be evacuated. The assault gun sports altered side skirts and a cast idler wheel, which was seldom used. The vehicle has no Zimmerit coating, as it was produced in late 1944. The camouflage is appealing—except for a German cross, no further marking is visible. (Photo Anderson) B) This view shows the casemate's roof plate of a late StuG IV. The close defense weapon is missing, the aperture was closed with a rectangular plate. The remote controlled MG is also lacking, a result of inadequate supplies during production. The rain protective tarp between roof and gun mantlet is apparent. (Photo Kaludow) C) A further tank of 5. Pz.Div. (SS) "Wiking." This StuG shows the Zimmerit coating, too, and camouflage is barely visible. The side skirt's brackets proved to be instable, single plates were lost in action easily. The crews appreciated the value of the skirts against anti tank rifles. As time permitted, the units improved the attachment. (Photo Anderson) D) This late production Sturmgeschütz IV broke down for



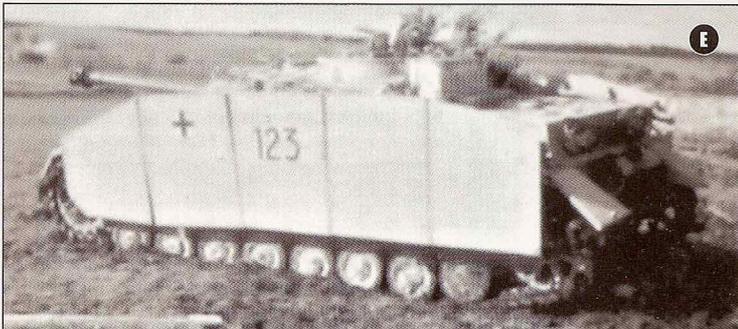
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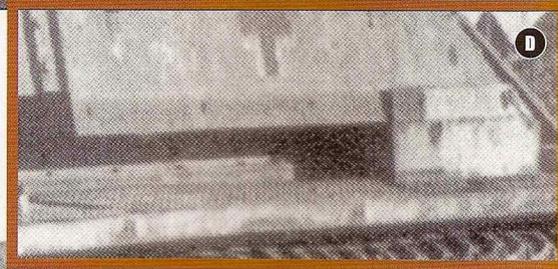
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E



D

unknown reasons. Since neither side skirts nor the lateral plate remained in place, the gap between casemate and track cover is perfectly visible. (Photo Michulec) E) This StuG IV cannot be associated with any unit. Apparently brand new, no camouflage has been applied. A three-digit vehicle number was somewhat unusual for tank destroyer units, as they had only around 10 or 13 vehicles. It is, however, possible that in this way enemy forces could be misled over the unit's strength. (Photo Anderson)



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M2/M2A1 Halftrack



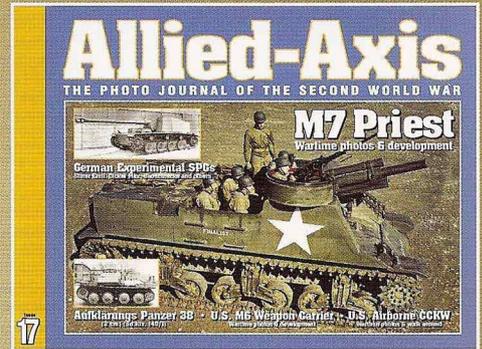
Sd.Kfz.-10 1-ton Halftrack, part 2
Krupp Protze, part 2
Bergepanzer:
Bergepanzer 38 • Bergepanzer III
Bergepanzer Ferdinand • Bergepanther

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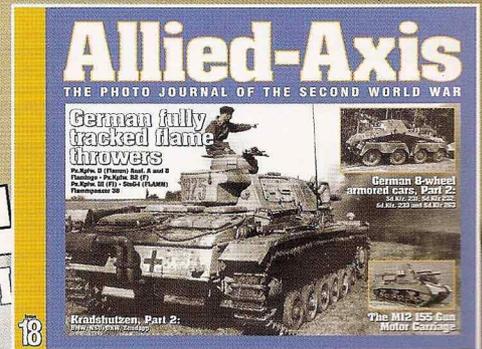
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17



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AA#16: Nashorn Tank Destroyer, 1.5-ton Chevy, 7.5 cm PaK 40 Antitank Gun and Odd DUKW: Modifications and Uses.

AA#17: M7 Priest, German Experimental SPGs (Stürer Emil, Dicker Max, Heuschrecke and others), Aufklärungs Panzer 38 (Sd.Kfz. 140/1), M6 Weapon Carrier and Airborne CCKW.

AA#18: German fully tracked flame-throwers, German 8-wheels armored cars-part 2, The M12 155 HMC and Kradschützen-part 2

AA#19: M2/M2A1 Halftrack, Sd.Kfz. 10 1-ton Halftrack-part 2, Krupp Protze-part 2 and Bergepanzer (38, III, Ferdinand, Panther).

Issues 4, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 also in stock!

German Experimental Self-Propelled Gun Geschützwagen IVb für 10.5 cm le.F.H.18/1 (St)



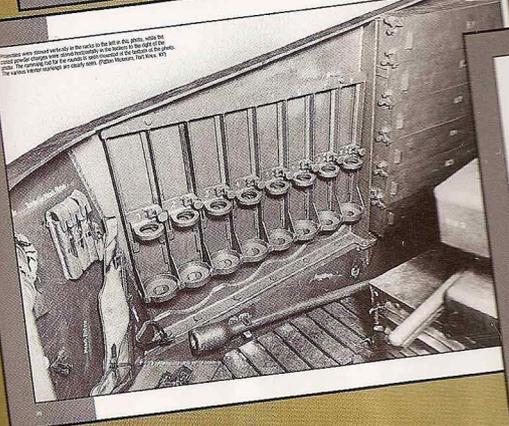
Development of 10.5 cm le.F.H.18/1 (St) self-propelled gun. The vehicle was developed by the German Army in 1942. It was based on the chassis of the Tiger I tank. The gun was a 10.5 cm le.F.H.18/1 (St) gun. The vehicle was used for testing purposes. It was never used in combat.



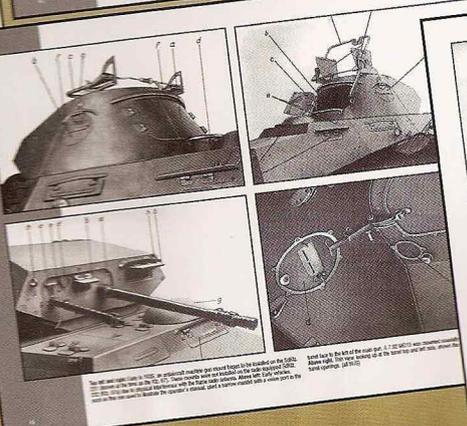
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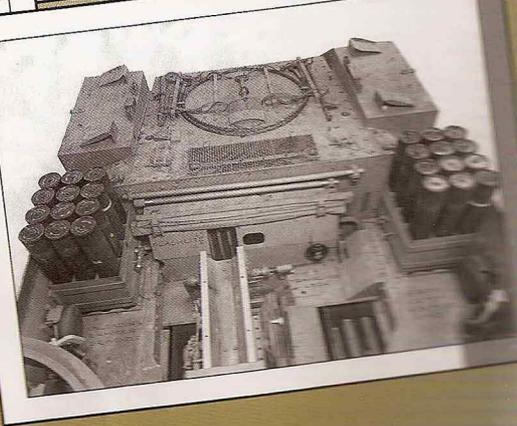
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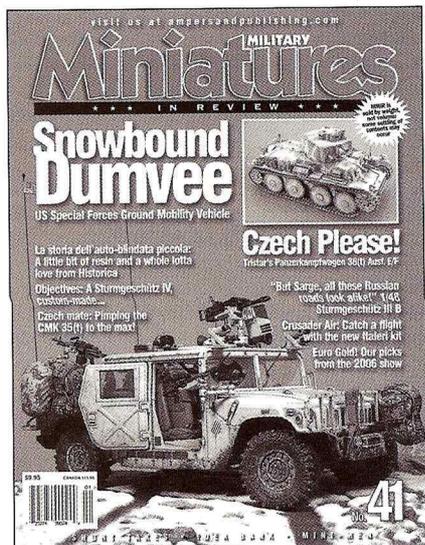


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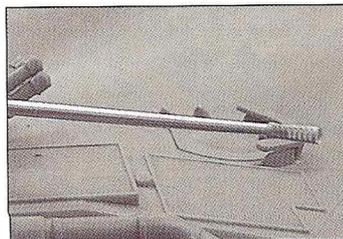
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Czech mate

Pimping the
CMK 35(t)
the ma



When Germany occupied Czechoslovakia in 1938, they inherited a large number of Skoda-built 35(t) and 38(t) light tanks. These were well suited to the German blitzkrieg-style warfare and provided the panzer corps with a reliable, high-speed fighting vehicle. Germany used these Czech-made vehicles during both the eastern and western campaigns. They were used extensively in both Poland and France. Skoda chassis vehicles remained in the German arsenal throughout the war, as Jagdpanzer Marders and Hetzers.

I chose the CMK kit for this project, as it is the only one available. Although not "up to date," this kit can be turned into a beauty straight from the box. Since I wanted something more, I decided to add additional details. Royal Models produces a set with two photo-etched frets and resin bits, and Eduard has a single photo-etched fret. I used both sets in addition to a lovely set of Friulmodellismo tracks, a well-stocked plastic-card box, brass tubing, microstrip, fine wire, and other scratch building materials.

Construction, lower hull

I started construction with the lower hull. The hull sides are molded separately and don't fit well. I removed the locator pins and beveled the edges of the panels to improve the fit. After fitting the firewall to the lower plate, the rest of the assembly was pretty straightforward. I used small amounts of filler on the lower-rear and upper-front joints. After attaching the upper deck, I added a bit more filler to the rear sides.

The towing hooks on the front and rear of the lower hull are the wrong type and require replacement. I substituted them with correct hooks from a Kirin Pz Kw 38(t) Grille. In some cases however, the front hooks were hammered straight and welded shut,

so that standard German tow hooks could be used.

Running gear

The fit was bad and getting the vehicle to sit level proved impossible. I assembled the four bogies first. I shortened the axles so the road wheels would be fairly easy to remove later on. The sprockets and idlers were assembled according to the instructions, but I had to make sure that the axles on the lower hull were straight; otherwise the suspension will be crooked.

I used some Lego blocks to bring the lower hull up to ground-clearance height, then positioned the bogies on the hull, all-the-while taking care to align them with the sprocket and idler wheels. The spacing tabs on the bogies' back need adjusting, as they are too long. Once everything was fully aligned, I super glued the spacer tabs on the bogies to the hull. This, however, led to some huge gaps between the suspension arms and bogies. These were later filled in with styrene strip and smoothed over with Magic Sculpt. A lot of swearing and sweating went into this alignment, but in the end, the result is level road wheels.

The sprockets and idlers accepted the individual-link Friul tracks nicely, but the return rollers didn't. The axles of the return rollers were too thick, so I shaved them off and replaced them with a smaller-diameter plastic tube.

The Friul tracks themselves were a quick build. I used a metal strip about 16 inches long that I covered with double-sided tape. I placed the links onto the double-sided tape, which held them in place.

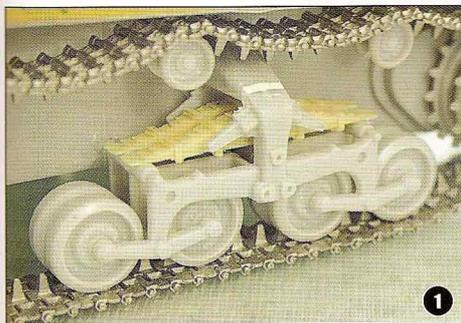
all links were in place, I sprayed the entire length with superglue accelerator and allowed it to dry completely. After the accelerator dried, I inserted each of the wire track pins. I added a drop of superglue to the end of each pin. The glue hardened immediately because of the accelerator, sealing up the entry point and preventing any excess from running onto the shoes. This made the links flexible. I used 108 links per side and clipped the track pins to length.

Fenders

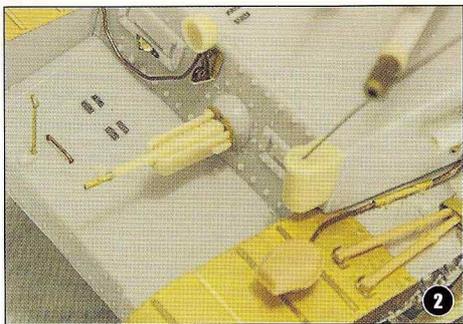
The fenders supplied in the kit are made of thin metal plate with no rounded down edges. I added an aluminum reinforcement strip on the outer bottom edge. The Royal Model fenders look really nice, but are a pain to assemble. I decided to substitute the two pieces of printer's aluminum. I glued the parts onto them and did a little bending here and there to simulate some damage. Since this was a very thin plate, I imagine even stepping on it would distort it. For this, the printer's aluminum is a lot better than the brass pieces.

Upper hull

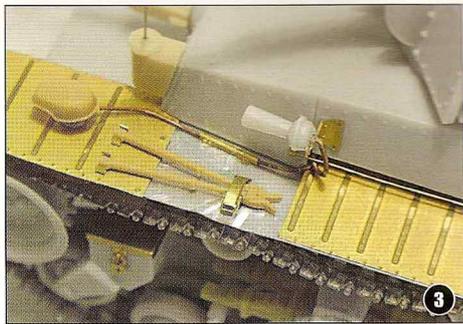
The panel lines for all hatches were done with the aid of an Olfa Cutter. The Notek headlight came from the Tamiya Panzer IV set, along with the rest of the tools. An electrical conduit shield from the Notek, the drilled out horn and the headlight. They go under the superstructure at the front where the louvers go up onto the fenders. I added a small piece of brass tubing on the left fender to support the headlight against the hull, to guide the wire through the Notek. I did the same for the headlight on the right fender. The wire from the headlight, hanging from the curve beneath the drivers hatch, is correct. The headlight aid is a very thin section of brass tubing with



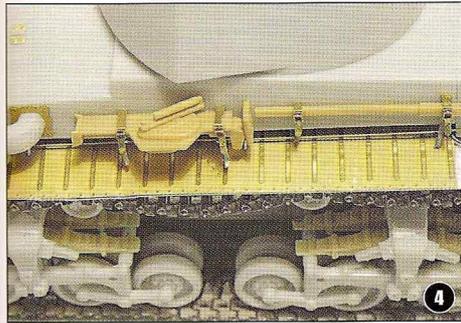
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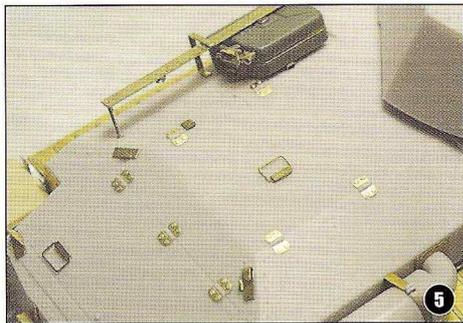
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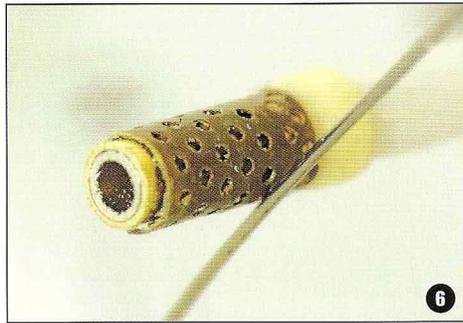
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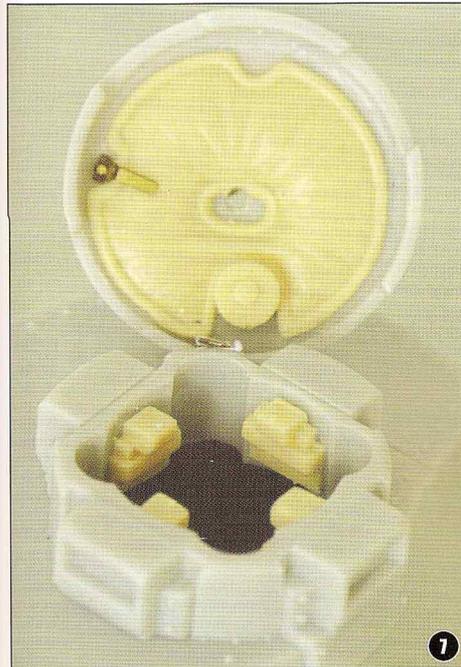
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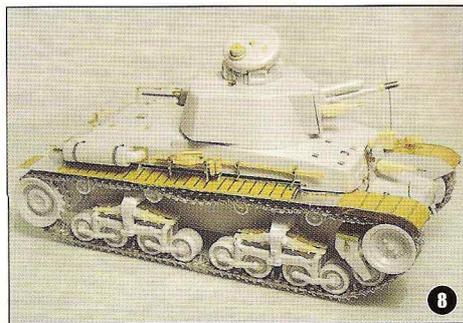
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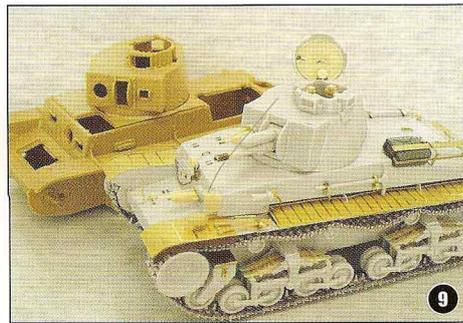
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1. The fit of the running gear was bad! Once everything was fully aligned there were still some huge gaps between the suspension arms and bogies. These were later filled in with styrene strip and smoothed over with Magic Sculpt. A lot of swearing and sweating went into this alignment, but in the end, the result is level road wheels. Royal provides the replacement springs. 2. An electrical conduit should run from the Notek, the drilled out horn and the headlight. The wire from the headlight, hanging in a curve beneath the drivers hatch, is correct. The driving aid is a very thin section of brass tubing with the Royal ring sight on top of it. 3. The Royal Model fenders look really nice, but are a bit of a pain to assemble. I decided to supplement them with two pieces of printer's aluminum. 4. The vehicle jack came from the Tamiya Panzer IV set, along with the rest of the tools. 5. The panel lines for all hatches were deepened with the aid of an Olfa Cutter. 6. The muzzle was made with two sections of telescoping brass tubing. Over this the Eduard photo-etched perforated sheet was added. 7. Royal also provides beautiful episcope for the cupola and a delicately sculpted head pad for the hatch interior. 8. A final view of the finished model. It's fairly buried in accessory parts! Only the gray areas are part of the original CMK kit. 9. This project made me lust for some more of the Czech stuff, so a Pz 38(t) is already sitting on my workbench!

Royal ring sight on top of it. It is much sturdier than just using brass wire. Both Royal and Eduard provide photo-etched parts for the exhaust muffler, but they both neglected the attachment points. I shaved off the kit parts and made them with brass strip.

Despite searching my photo collection, I couldn't find a Wehrmacht vehicle that used the antenna base provided by Royal. The only photo I found was of a 35(t) in Rumanian service. I used the bottom part of the base, but removed the long, straight portion of the part. In its place, I fashioned a small lump of Magic Sculpt to simulate the rubber dust cover installed on the vehicles in the photos.

Turret

The turret fit relatively well, especially after the locator tabs were sanded off and the edges were beveled. I trimmed the front plate along both sides to make it flush with the turret sides. The commander's hatch pivots to the bottom right. This is not so clear in the Royal instructions, but is shown better in

the Eduard set. Royal also provides beautiful episcope for the cupola interior. Fixing a commander figure inside the hatch proved to be a challenge, so I opted for a half-closed hatch, which actually looks very nice on this vehicle. The main gun was sanded smooth, and the muzzle was made with two sections of telescoping brass tubing. Over this the Eduard photo-etched perforated sheet was added. The Royal resin part didn't look the part, if you can pardon the pun.

Finishing up

All of the plastic clamps and other add-ons were replaced with parts from the photo-etched sets. Some came from the Royal set, others from the Eduard set. I used lead foil for the straps and used clamps cut from the photo-etched sets. The two machine guns on the turret and bow came in the Royal set, with complete with resin or photo-etched baskets for them. The muzzle ends of the Royal resin parts were badly distorted, so I substituted the ends

with brass tubing.

All in all, construction went very well, with the exception of the running gear. I actually had more fun facing these challenges. It was, to me, more enjoyable than simply shaking the latest Tristar or Dragon kit together.

Painting, markings and weathering

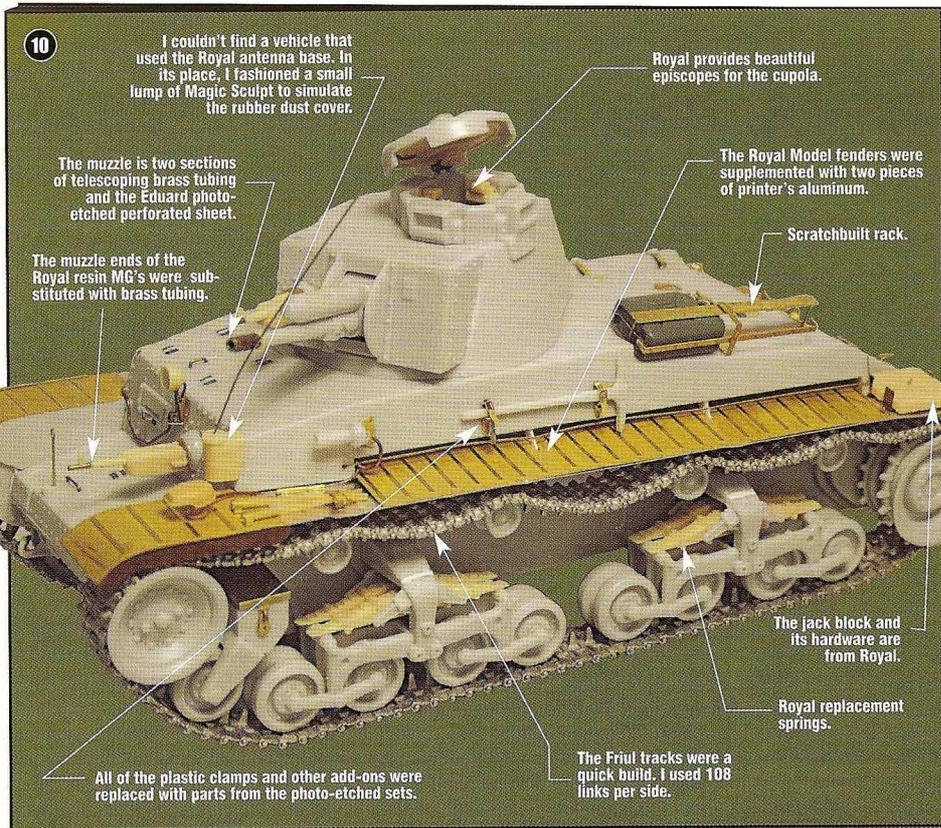
All paints mentioned for airbrushing are Tamiya Acrylics. All paints mentioned for hand brushing are Humbrol enamels. When it comes to choosing a color for a German Pz 35(t) there aren't many options, so Panzer Gray it will have to be! I always use Tamiya acrylics for their ease of use, the number of colors available and the quick drying time. For Panzer Gray schemes, I start with a very light color. It is much easier to darken the base shade than it is to lighten it. I mixed the base color using 20 percent Tamiya XF-1, Flat black, 50 percent XF-19, Sky Grey, 20 percent XF-18, Medium Blue, five percent XF-55 Deck Tan, and five percent XF-2 Flat White. The

percentages are not precise. Normally, I just goof around until I get it right. Everything was sprayed in the base color: turret, upper hull, lower hull and running gear. All of the tools were all glued into place and received this color coating as well.

On all of the horizontal surfaces, I airbrushed a lighter shade of the base color. A bit more flat white was added to the mixture and I left out the Deck Tan. This mix provides a higher contrast. The Deck Tan is actually a "drabbing" color. The outcome of the final color will be determined with filters.

At this stage the Pz 35(t) is way too light, so it is time to use the filters to darken it up. For the first three filters, I used Humbrol 33, Matt Black. The model had a nice dark shade after this, but it wasn't Panzer Gray yet. For the final touch, a filter of Humbrol 14, French Blue, was applied. Since this is a dark blue, the Panzer Gray shade will darken further, plus the blue eliminates the neutral, colorless feeling. The fact that French Blue is a gloss only improves this effect. My final filter was Humbrol 72, Matt Khaki Drill. This was applied lightly and mostly on the horizontal surfaces.

Markings for this beast are simple. White crosses were used from an old Verlinden set and then the centers were hand-painted in with Humbrol 24,

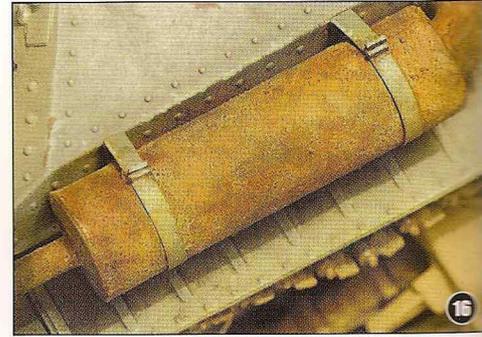
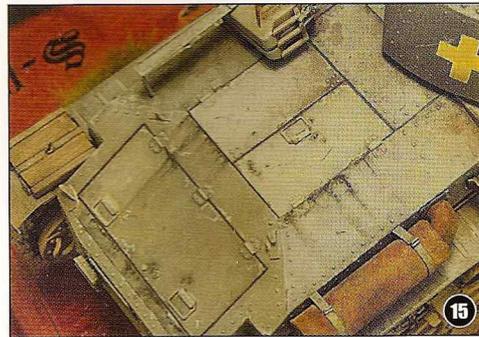
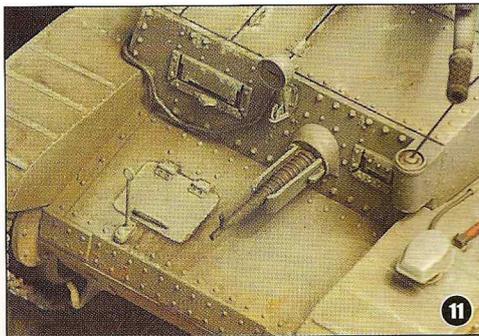


Earth in a 30-70 percent mix, was combined with resin acrylate from MIG Productions and some Cermolin, a ceramic plaster. This goop was spread on the lower hull and running gear. Since I didn't want to obscure the details on the running gear, I used a light application, just enough to suggest that this panzer has run through some heavier, wet terrain. I applied a little splatter to the front glacis plate and a little more at the rear where mud is thrown up by the tracks. The tracks themselves were given a light coat of this mix. After the mud had dried, I used the same 30-70 mix of Tamiya acrylics (without the plaster and resin) and filled in the Panzer Gray areas not covered by the mud. I allowed for a little overspray on the front and even more on the back, but covered the gray just

enough to blend the mud with the paint. I didn't want the tank to be too dirty. enough to blend the mud with the paint. I didn't want the tank to be too dirty.

enough to blend the mud with the paint. I didn't want the tank to be too dirty.

I outlined the model with pure Humbrol 33, Matt Black. Using a brown shade on Panzer Gray gives, in my opinion, too rusty an appearance. This was especially tricky on the engine deck, where the panel lines were almost non-existent. The trick to thinning Humbrol for lining is to thin the paint enough to draw a long line freehand, yet thin enough to correct any mistakes with a clean brush dipped in mineral spirits. If it's done one panel line at a time, some pretty straight lines can be achieved. It is

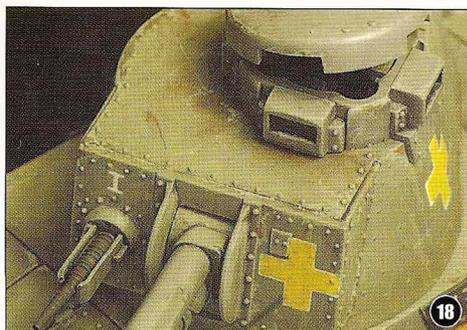


11. The two machine guns on the turret and bow came in the Royal set, with complete with resin or photo-etched baskets for them. The muzzle ends of the Royal resin parts were badly distorted, so I substituted the ends with brass tubing. 12. This rack was made from scrap brass and plastic and contains a Tamiya Jerrycan. 13. The jack block is a Royal item. 14, 15. I outlined all the panel lines on the model with pure Humbrol 33,

Matt Black. This was especially tricky on the engine deck, where the panel lines were almost non-existent. 16. Both Royal and Eduard provide photo-etched parts for the exhaust muffer, but they both neglected the attachment points. I shaved off the kit parts and made them with brass strip.



17. A mixture of Tamiya paint, resin medium from MIG Productions and some Cermolin, a ceramic plaster, created the mud. 18, 19. White crosses were used from an old Verlinden set and then the centers were hand-painted. I found that Humbrol Russian Blue, is a perfect color for chipping Panzer Gray. Consistent paint chips indicate that all the abuse happened at one point in time. Fresh chips and scratches were also added after the weathering was completed to simulate more-recent abuse. 20. The ID rhomboids were painted with Humbrol Matt Black and the number 17 was also hand-painted with Matt White. It didn't need to be perfect and a little deliberate misalignment of the numbers looks fine. Some rust-colored chips were added by applying a mix of Matt Black and Matt Brick Red. Some of the smallest chips were added with pure Matt Black. 21. I made my groundwork with Polyfilla ready-to-use plaster. The tracks of the vehicle were pushed in to ensure that the running gear touched the groundwork everywhere. I painted the plaster with Tamiya Dark Earth. I used wood glue to attach the "wild grass" to the base.



however, time consuming and requires some practice and patience. On this model, only the deepest lines and those that would cast a natural shadow were done this way.

At this stage, I started the paint chipping. Why at this stage, you might ask? The remaining weathering will tone the chips down, as dust, grime and mud would do to a vehicle in real-life. Consistent paint chips indicate that all the abuse happened at one point in time instead of over a period of time. Fresh chips and scratches will also be added after the weathering is completed to simulate more-recent abuse.

I found that Humbrol 115, Russian Blue, is a perfect color for chipping Panzer Gray. I applied chips to the vehicle liberally, keeping in mind that most of them would be nearly invisible over time. Some rust-colored chips were added by applying a mix of 33, Matt Black and 70, Matt Brick Red. Some of the smallest chips were added with pure 33, Matt Black.

The tools and all the other details were painted next. The handles of the wire-cutter are not in wood, but are made from Bakelite. I made sure there was a good color definition between these handles and the wooden ones of the tools.

And finally, my favorite part: the final touches that will alter the overall look and color of the vehicle. Most of the panels received a light filter, taking care that each panel differed slightly in color to the panel next to it. Only five colors were used for all the panels, Humbrol 14, French Blue, 18, Orange, 100, Matt Red Brown, 72, Matt Khaki Drill, and 94, Matt Brown Yellow. These were not heavy filters; just a hint of color was enough to give the final impression. I kept an airbrush ready for blowing air to speed up the drying and preventing the white circles that sometimes appear when using white spirit. Once a filter was applied, it needed to dry a few hours.

Most of the chipping was toned down, or had disappeared altogether by this stage. With the same 115, Russian Blue, I reapplied some "fresh" chips, taking care to let some of the toned-down chips remain.

Oil and dirt stains were added next. A few wide streaks of mildly diluted Humbrol 33, Matt Black, were applied and allowed to set for a minute or two before being refined with a white-spirit loaded brush. Dust staining with 148, Matt Radome Tan, was next. This was mainly done on the vertical surfaces and the sides of the turret. The technique is the same as with the oil-stains. For the horizontal surfaces and turret-top, 148, Matt Radome Tan and 63,

Matt Sand, were applied in dabs. This was also let to cure for a minute or so and then blended out, making sure I took as much of the paint away as possible. It is important to clean the brush often to avoid ugly streaking. On the fenders, I used 84, Matt Mid Stone, instead of 148, Matt Radome Tan.

Only thing left to do was treat the tracks with some metal dry-brushing to finish the job.

Groundwork

Of course, any AFV needs to be shown off in a natural setting. Some people enjoy fancy dioramas or elaborate groundwork. Personally, I believe that "less is more." I am perfectly content with a wood plaque slightly larger than the vehicle and a little piece of groundwork. It may be minimalist, but it gives a little sense of dynamic action, plus a touch of color to the model. I made my groundwork with Polyfilla ready-to-use plaster. The tracks of the vehicle were pushed in to ensure that the running gear touched the groundwork everywhere. I painted the plaster with Tamiya Dark Earth where the grass would be. I used wood glue to attach the "wild grass" to the base and left it to dry overnight.

I didn't sprinkle



the grass on, but dabbed the entire package onto the base. Once it was dry, the excess grass was brushed off, leaving some nice blades sticking here and there. The rest of the groundwork was airbrushed with the same color as the running gear and the grass with various shades of green. The vehicle was then screwed to the base, making for a nice ensemble. Dry transfer lettering was used to spell out the vehicle's name. Since "Panzerkampfwagen 35(t) Skoda" was a bit too long, I chose its alternative name: "S-IIa". Easy choice, eh?

Conclusion

Although this is an aged kit and not up to today's standards, with some elbow grease and a few after-market sets, it can be turned into a beauty. I had a lot of fun with this project and it made me lust for some more of the Czech stuff. So a Pz 38(t) is already sitting on the workbench!

—Pascal Tognon



MMiR RECCE

CMK Pzkwf 35(t)/Skoda LT vz. 35. Kit number 35024. Suggested retail price \$45.00.

Royal Models Pz. Kpfw 35 (t) / Skoda LT vz.35 Micro Detail Set. Kit number 186. Suggested retail price \$42.99.

Eduard Models 35(t) Etched-Set. Kit number 35121. Suggested retail price \$7.95.

Friulmodellismo Czech 35(T) Skoda Track Set. Kit number ATL-31. Suggested retail price \$20.00.

References

Der Panzerkampfwagen 35(t) by Joachim Baschin. Motorbuch Verlag, 2001. ISBN-3-613-21381-7.

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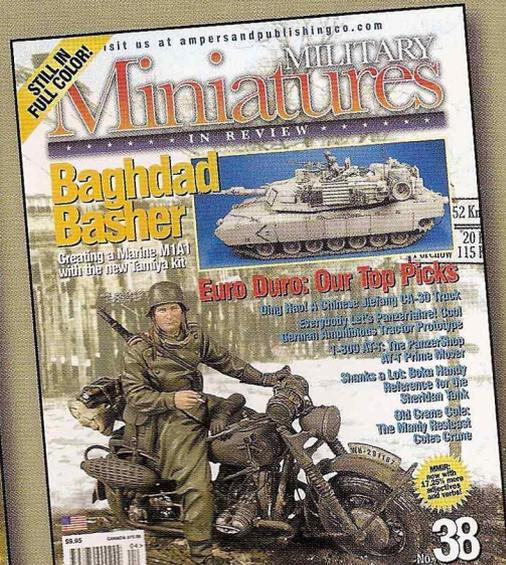
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No. 41

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Snowbound Dumvee

US Special Forces Ground Mobility Vehicle

During the early stages of the war in Afghanistan, the SOCOM (US Special Operations Command) soon experienced the need of a reliable and durable, highly mobile vehicle that had enough cargo bay and load capacity to carry out the tasks of their units. To immediately satisfy the need for this type of vehicle, they first adapted Toyota pickup trucks. But these vehicles proved to be too vulnerable for this type of rough terrain. In the meantime, SOCOM decided to use the HMMWV (High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle), also known as Humvee, because of its mobility and reliability. Also, the huge load capacity suited these vehicles to be adapted for use by the Special Forces. The powerful water cooled, turbo-charged, eight-cylinder, 6.5 Liter Detroit Diesel engine, combined with the robust steel chassis, guaranteed high mobility—even on very rough terrain.

The required specifications contained that the operational teams, mostly consisting of four vehicles each with three soldiers, could

carry as much equipment as needed to operate adequately behind enemy lines for more than 10 days.

The HMMWV's, originally developed by AM General, were adapted for SF use by the Letterkenny Army Depot. They received the majority of parts from Military Systems Group Inc. (Nashville). Adaptations consisted of providing storage for ammo and equipment, several gun mounts, a 360° turning gun station on the roof and a variety of communication systems consisting of SINCGARS and satellite radios, GPS and TACTER.

As the Humvee is not an armored vehicle, it has proven very vulnerable to light infantry weapons and roadside bombs. As a result of this, the crews often improvised extra armor layers to

improve the safety of their Humvees.

The kit

The Belgian company Pro Art Models released the US Special Forces Dumvee conversion set in 2005. The set consists of the interior, roof mounted ring, M249, new side walls for the cargo bay, smoke grenade launchers, winch, roll bar, SINCGARS and antenna mounts, rear bumper with platform, side ammo can bins, wheels and spare wheel, etc. All resin parts are cleanly cast and although some parts contain very few small air bubbles, they can easily be filled with some putty. The set comes with a small, but clear manual in A5-format.

As a base kit, you will need the Tamiya M1025 Humvee, which is an excellent kit. The molding is first class, as we might expect from Tamiya, with almost no clean up needed and pin ejector marks are kept to an absolute minimum. This kit also contains the Mk 19 40mm grenade launcher, which will build into one of the best available.

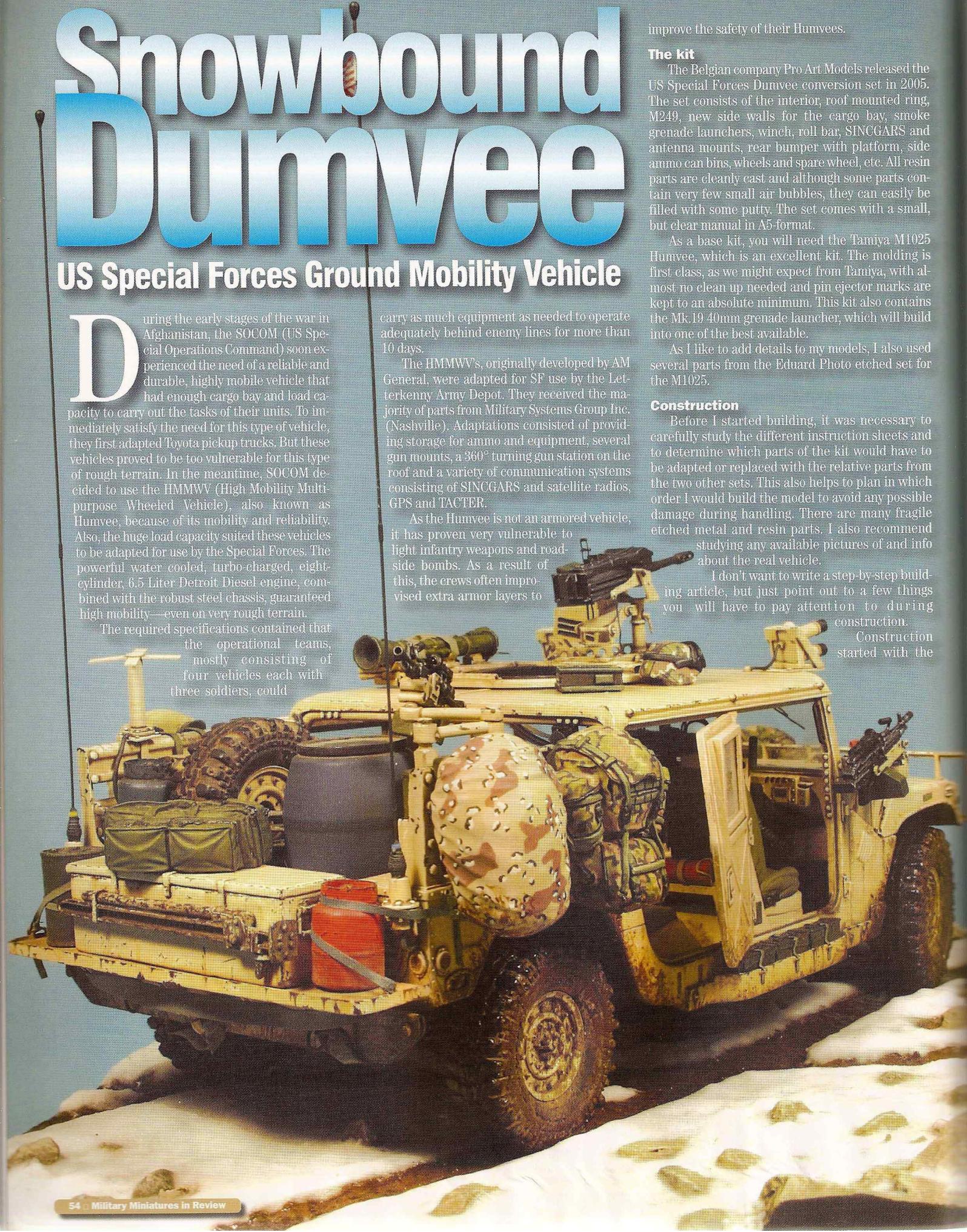
As I like to add details to my models, I also used several parts from the Eduard Photo etched set for the M1025.

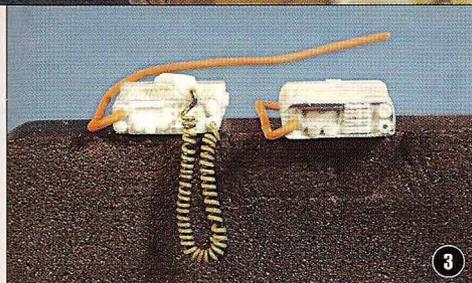
Construction

Before I started building, it was necessary to carefully study the different instruction sheets and to determine which parts of the kit would have to be adapted or replaced with the relative parts from the two other sets. This also helps to plan in which order I would build the model to avoid any possible damage during handling. There are many fragile etched metal and resin parts. I also recommend studying any available pictures of and info about the real vehicle.

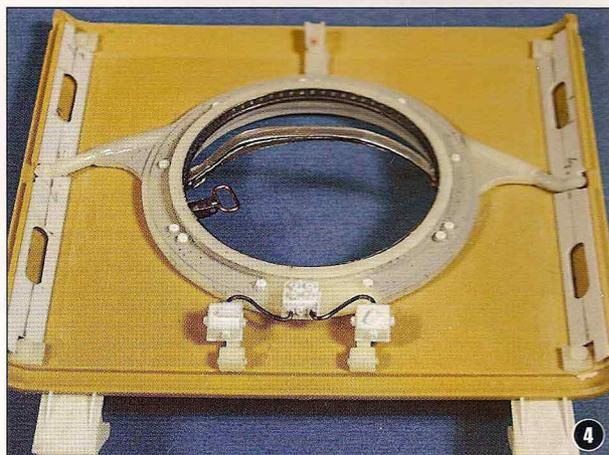
I don't want to write a step-by-step building article, but just point out to a few things you will have to pay attention to during construction.

Construction started with the





1. As you can see, the interior was built up almost completely out of resin and PE. I replaced the radio-mounting box with a new one made of pewter sheet. The Pro Art seats are beautifully sculpted. 2. Instead of using the resin roll bar, I made my own out of brass stock and bent it using the resin roll bar as a guide. I found this material more stable than the resin one. 3. I scratchbuilt my own SINGARS radio



one piece molded chassis and the complete suspension. The interior was built up almost completely out of resin and PE. I replaced the radio-mounting box with a new one made of pewter sheet. I didn't glue both front seats and this makes painting a lot easier. Before construction can start on the rear cargo bay, it is necessary to divide the roof from the rear side-walls. Instead of using the resin roll bar, I made my own out of brass stock and bent it using the resin roll bar as a guide. I found this material more stable than the resin one. Before the roll bar can be glued into its position, it is necessary to dry fit and check the exact angle of it in combination with the roof and the new resin sidewalls. It is important to make sure the space around the rear side doors is correct! I glued the roll bar and the sidewalls into their correct position, but I left the roof separate. Small details were added to the interior and inner side of the roof, using my reference pictures.



set using styrene stock. In case you've ever wondered what SINGARS means, it stands for Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System. 4. I kept the roof section separate to make detailing easier. Here, the large resin reinforcement structure for the roof Mk19-3 mount has been added. I supplemented this with details made from plastic card, rod and copper wire. Notable here are the Arming/Firing Unit (AFU) boxes for the roof mounted LVOSS smoke launchers. 5. A view into the right side door. The Pro Art resin parts are in evidence, as is the GPS unit holder, which is an Eduard item.

Next, I concentrated on the exterior, which gave no problems. The weapons were assembled and kept apart for easy painting. I added some small details, like the mounting bars for the camo nets on both sides of the roof, changed the "truck-style" rear mirror, added lots of bolt heads, rivets and cables and I made the four safety belts using PE and Evergreen plastic. I didn't install the windshield until after painting.

sand. With the pictures of the Dumvees as a reference and after discussing it with my friends at the modeling club, I decided to start with sand from the very nice Vallejo Model Air range as the base color.

I was just about finished with construction when Dirk from Pro Art Models told me he was planning to release the Super Swamper wheels, which I had seen on many pictures of Dumvees in Iraq. He was kind enough to send me a pre-release set, containing four wheels and a spare wheel, which are very well rendered.

Before I start painting, I always clean my models by giving them a bath with some dish soap to remove dust, release agent and possible fingerprints from the surfaces. Then the model was put aside for a two night dry.

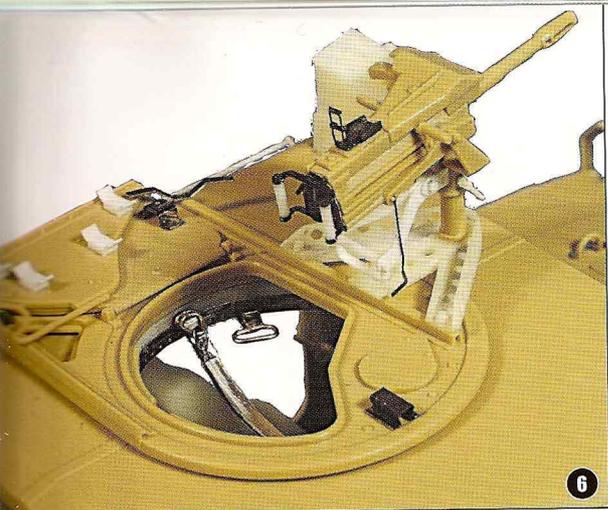
Painting

If one is planning to build a Special Forces Dumvee depicted in Afghanistan or Iraq, there isn't much choice for the color of the vehicle: just a light

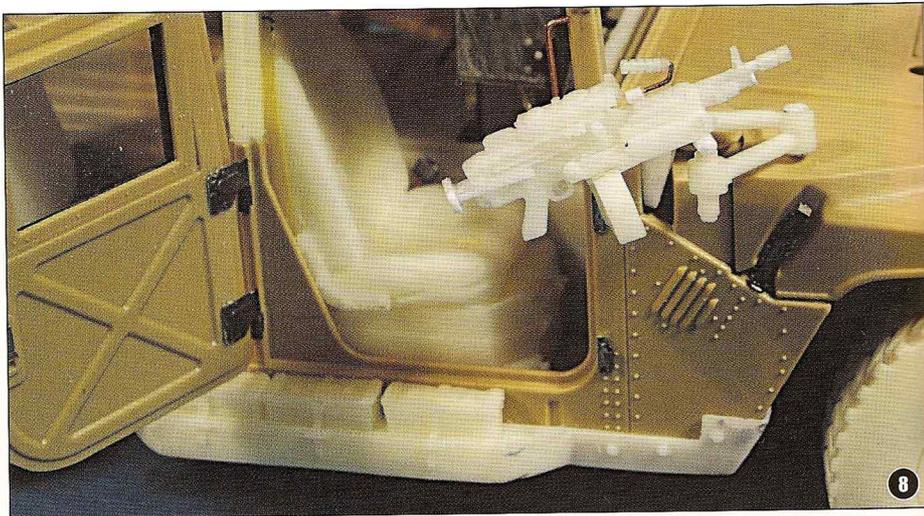
As I like to use filters and washes, I always add some clear varnish (25%) to the paint. This will result in a smooth satin surface of the paint that is ideal for applying filters and washes. With my compressor set at 0.5 Bar (7.25 psi), I spray very thin layers of paint. Spraying four to five thin layers will give a much better result than one heavy layer and the de-

tails will stay sharp. The Vallejo Model Air paint is acrylic based and comes in small plastic bottles. Although it is not really necessary, I prefer to additionally dilute the paint with about 25% of their thinner. Be sure you shake the bottle well before use. I found out that the adhesion of Vallejo paint to plastic and resin is not that good, so my advice is to use a primer first. Another point of attention when using Vallejo in your airbrush is that you check every couple of minutes the needle point and nozzle for any build-up of drying paint. This will definitely cause paint splatters onto your model, or even obstruct your airbrush. To avoid this, just take a small brush moistened with Vallejo Airbrush Cleaner and give the nozzle a quick clean up.

I started with a thin layer of Tamiya Neutral Gray



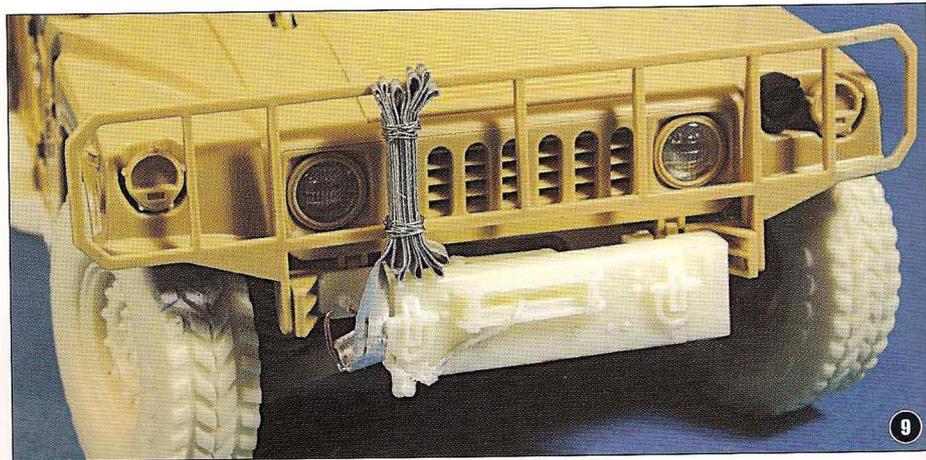
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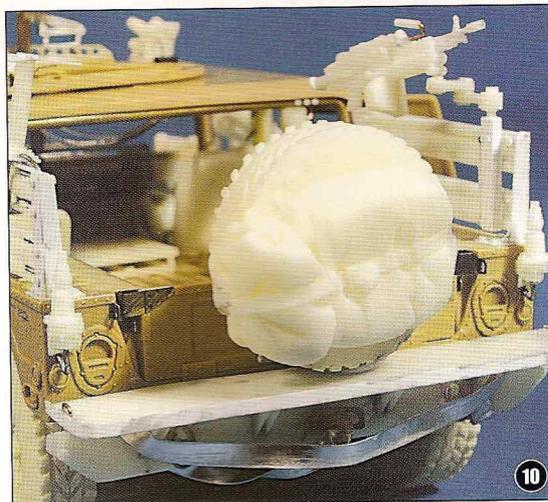


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6, 7. Details added to the Mk19-3 40mm Grenade Machine Gun include a new base and ammo box from Pro Art, etched parts from Eduard and scratchbuilt parts. Photo 7 shows the brackets made from styrene stock for the M136 AT-4 rocket launcher tubes. The straps are Eduard items. 8. A close-up of the side mounted ammo can racks supplied in the Pro Art kit, as well as the side mounted M249 SAW and its swiveling mount. An identical configuration is found in the bed of the truck. 9. The winch module is another Pro Art item. The civilian style recovery strap is made from lead foil. 10. This was the start of my initial stowage scheme. The spare tire shown here is part of the Dumvee conversion. 11, 12. Overall views of the completed model showing all the various resin and etched parts in place.

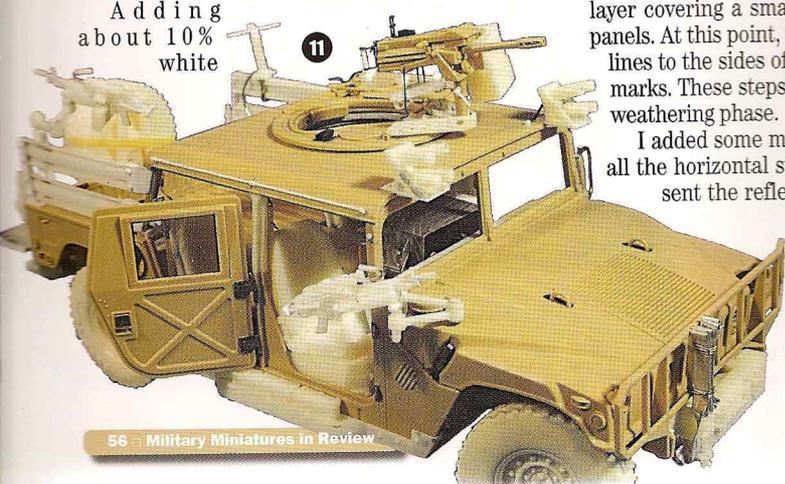


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XF53, thinned at a ratio of 30% paint/70% thinner. This will serve not only as a primer for the Vallejo paint, but also to avoid any differences in color that will shine through due to the different materials used in the model.

Next came several thin layers of Vallejo Sand, 075 covering the entire model and making sure the Gray didn't shine through anymore.

Adding about 10% white



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to the sand, the center of panels, doors and roof were painted. Start in the middle and work towards the outside, making sure that you don't spray the whole panel. I work in very thin layers and each layer covering a smaller area of the centre of the panels. At this point, I started to draw some vertical lines to the sides of the vehicle, representing rain marks. These steps will act as the first part of the weathering phase.

I added some more white to this mix and gave all the horizontal surfaces a quick blast to give it some contrast; the upcoming filters and washes will smooth the demarcation lines in between these color shades.

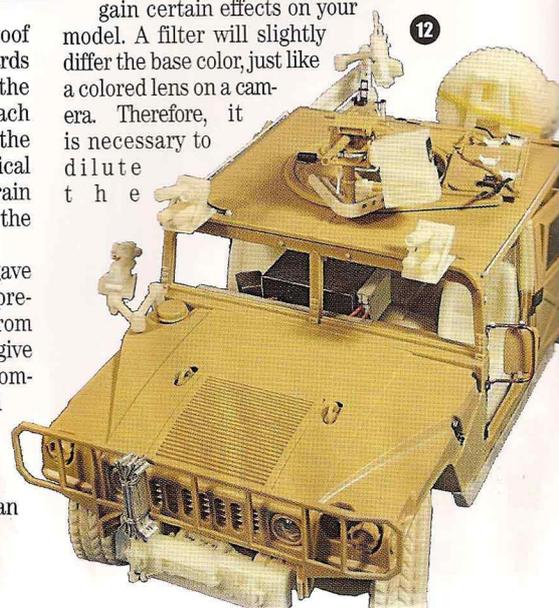
Now is the time to clean

up the airbrush. It's a good idea not to wait for more than five minutes, because the Vallejo paint will otherwise be hard to remove from your expensive tool! My advice is always to use their airbrush cleaner, which will do the job nicely. At the same time, it lubricates the interior of the airbrush without damaging any of the plastic parts.

The nice thing about Vallejo paint is that you don't have to wait until the next painting step, it dries immediately! As I wasn't completely satisfied about the color, I started with a very thin filter using Humbrol Orange (82). This resulted in the color I was looking for.

For those who aren't familiar with the use of filters, here is a brief explanation of the use and how to apply them to your model. As with pin washes and dry brushing, filters are just another form of technique that can be used to gain certain effects on your

model. A filter will slightly differ the base color, just like a colored lens on a camera. Therefore, it is necessary to dilute the

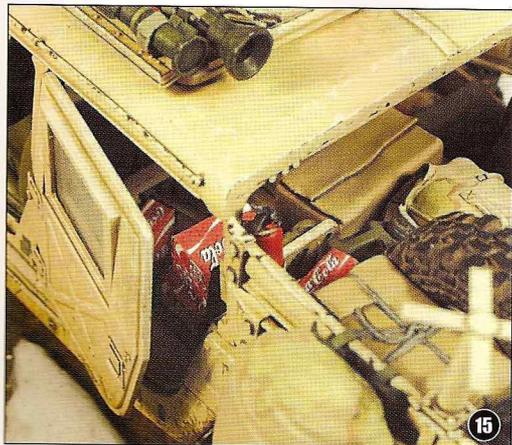


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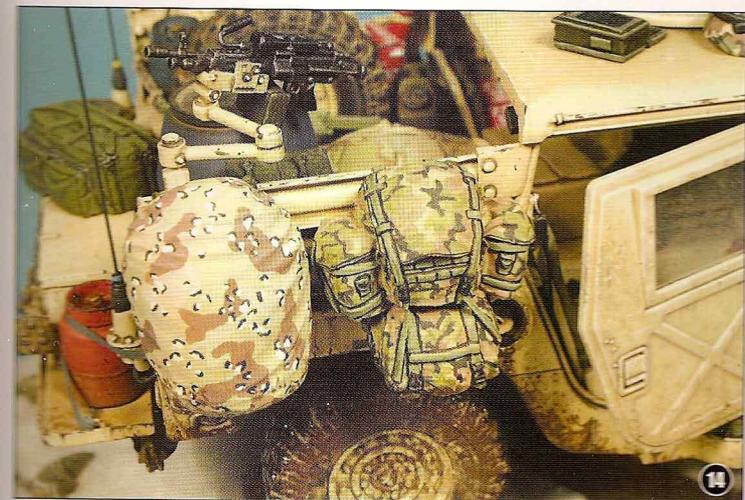


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13, 14. The load consists of Pro Art Models' US Modern Equipment Set #1, backpacks from Hobby Fan, plastic drum from MIG, helmet and ammo pouch from Think One Eighty Studios, a laptop and TACTER (on the left rear corner of the roof). All this gear was painted using Vallejo paints. By the way, that last item is officially known as the TACTER-31 (RHC). The "RHC" stands for Ruggedized Handheld Computer and the unit is a portable mil-spec handheld PC and digital messaging terminal that features an internal GPS receiver. 15. One can't go to war without the "real thing," right? 16. A close-up view of the M7 Light Vehicle Obscuration Smoke System (LVOSS). This is a heavy-duty smoke launcher system that is similar to those installed on tanks. It is already mounted on certain types of HUMVEES and is a real necessity for an SF vehicle. The hollow tubes represent grenades already fired. Also seen to good advantage here is the Mk19-3 40mm Grenade Machine Gun. This bad-boy is a self-powered, air-cooled, belt-fed, blowback-operated weapon designed to deliver some serious firepower. It was conceived to replace the M2 .50 caliber machine guns where extra punch is needed. Just visible at the extreme right are the tubes of the M136 AT-4 rocket launchers, the army's current man-portable anti-tank weapon. 17. The right side of the vehicle shows the completed and painted door-mounted SAW. The plastic shoulder stock normally seen on the SAW is removed in this application. The ammunition box racks below the door are good illustration of how well all the available storage space on the DUMVEE is utilized.



15



14



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paint at a rate of maximum 5% paint to 95% thinner. Taking a wide brush moistened (not soaked, otherwise it will act as a wash) with this colored thinner, I apply it to the model in a quick way. It's not necessary to do this precisely, just treat the whole model in less than a minute, always working downward so that any remaining stripes will act as rain marks. It's possible that the first application won't show any difference; in that case, I apply another filter to the model. It is best to wait for three hours before applying the next filter. Otherwise, the new filter will dissolve the previous one. Filters are also ideal for weathering, e.g. you can give several panels a slightly different appearance by using different colors.

As a first step in the weathering process, I applied several filters to the model, using Humbrol Mid Stone (84) and Khaki Drill (72). Then I put the model aside for one night.

I had to paint the interior first before I could glue the roof in its final place. I started with the decals for all the warning labels, using Micro Set and Sol to assure that they would fit the surface nicely. After this, I painted all the details, seats, safety belts, radios, cables, fire extinguisher, etc. using my reference pictures as a guide. For this I mainly used paint from the Vallejo Model Color range. I added several pin washes to all the details and seams, made of different mixes of Humbrol Black (33) and Brown Bess (170). I prefer to use about 20% paint diluted with 80% thinner, applied to a surface already wet with pure thinner. This way,



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the pin wash will easily flow around the details without leaving any dry marks. Final weathering of the interior was done with some MIG pigments to create all the dust on the floor and corners. After a final check the next day, I glued the roof into its final position.

Weathering

Now it was time to start with the weathering of the exterior, but.... How? Looking at my reference pictures it seems that these vehicles depicted in the

desert were all dull and boring due to the lack of heavy weathering. The upper structure of the Dumvee is made of aluminum, which is covered with a solid layer of paint, so no paint chipping or rust streaks is possible. It would be hard to give my model some life without these techniques. Relief came when a friend of mine sent me some pictures of Dumvees somewhere in Northern Iraq. These fully loaded sand colored vehicles were standing on a rough terrain, which was covered with melting snow. Only a small amount of fresh mud in and around the wheel bays and on the sides of the tires was visible, with the

contact surfaces still black and shiny wet due to the melting snow. That gave me the weathering scheme that I was looking for!

I started adding some light pin washes, varying from dark brown to almost black, to all the details and seams of the exterior. The roof-mounted ring received some heavy chipping, as did the ammo can bins and stiffening profiles on both sides of the vehicle. The bull bar at the front and the rear bumper with platform also shows wear and tear. I made a

mix of Humbrol paint, which was slightly lighter than the base color and started adding some streaks and very light chipping to logical places. I checked my references carefully for this part of weathering. I also used this mix for some very subtle dry brushing, adding more white to the mix with each dry brush session.

I made some masks out of Tamiya tape using the dimensions of the windshield wipers, gave the windshield a quick blast of heavily thinned down Deck Tan and glued it into position.

The guns were painted Matt Black and after drying, they received a dry brush with Humbrol Polished Steel. It's best to take some paint from the bottom of the jar and leave it to dry for a couple of hours on a plastic sheet. I then take an old brush and simply brush over the blob of dried paint. The small amount of graphite in the paint is just ideal for drybrushing. After this was done, I outlined some details on the guns with a Silver Karisma pencil.

Before I could start with the mud on the vehicle, I first had to paint all the gear and put it on the appropriate places. The load consists of Pro Art Models' US Modern Equipment Set #1, backpacks from Hobby Fan, plastic drum from MIG, helmet and ammo pouch from Think One Eighty Studios, and the laptop and Tacter. These last two items will be part of a future release from Pro Art Models. All this gear was painted using Vallejo and mounted on the Dumvee using straps made of Tamiya tape. As in real life, the AT-4's were mounted on the roof.

Now it was time for the last step of weathering. I mixed a nice brown color of different kinds of MIG pigments, using my pictures as a reference guide. To this mix I added a small amount of Vallejo Satin varnish to give the mud a fresh look. Using an old brush, I added this mix to the lower part of the vehicle and to the wheel bays, again following my references. The tires received a thin wash of Tamiya Earth and after drying; the sides of the tires got their splashes of mud

using an old toothbrush.

Finally, the windshield wipers were installed, as well as the American flag, which was made from thin aluminum foil and an Archer decal.

Figure

I always like to put a figure beside the vehicle, not only to give more life, but it's also ideal for scale reference. Just in time a company called Infinity Shape released their US Special Forces Set. It contains two very nice sculpted and highly detailed figures. As this is a winter setting, I added a winter coat to the figure using Magic Sculpt. Head and hands were painted with Humbrol, while Vallejo was used for the rest of the figure.

Base

To give the model a nice presentation, I decided to make a small base. I cut a piece of foam to the appropriate size

and glued it on a wooden base plate. To give it the right atmosphere, I made some rocks using the rubber Rock Molds from Woodland Scenics. The foam was covered with a thin layer of Polyfilla and the rocks were pushed into its surface. The rest of the area was covered with fine sand, small pieces of rock and cat litter to create the rough terrain. Using the old wheels of the Humvee I created the tire markings. When done, the base was put aside to cure. The next day I airbrushed the surface with the appropriate earth colors and drybrushed the rocks. The snow was created using Snow-Coat, which is available from The Small Shop. Just mix some powder with thinned down white glue and attach it to the groundwork using an old brush. I didn't cover the whole surface in order to create the effect of melting snow. The tire

markings were then covered with a thin layer of the previous mix of pigments. I painted the sides of the base in Satin Black and a nice nameplate was put on as the finishing touch.

—Hugo Luyten



The figure is from the US Special Forces Set from Infinity Shape. I added a winter coat to the figure using Magic Sculpt. The head and hands were painted with Humbrol, while Vallejo was used for the rest of the figure. He carries a 5.56mm M4 Carbine.

MMiR RECCE

- Tamiya M1025 Humvee Armament Carrier. Kit number 35263. Retail price \$37.00.
- Pro Art Models US Special Forces Dumvee Conversion. Kit number PAU-35022. Retail price 40.50 euro.
- Pro Art Models US Modern Equipment Set #1. Kit number PAU-35023. Retail price 12.50 euro.
- Pro Art Models Super Swamper Wheels. Kit number PAU-35019. Retail price 12.00 euro
- Eduard photo Etch Set for M1025 Humvee. Kit number 35629. Retail price \$19.95.
- MIG Productions Modern Checkpoint Set. Kit number MP 35-104. Retail price \$39.95.
- Hobby Fan Modern US Military Equipment & Weapons Set. Kit number HF-048. Retail price \$49.00.
- Infinity Shape US Special Forces Set. Kit number ISWU-023. Retail price \$39.98.
- Think One Eighty Studios Modern US Infantryman's Gear. Kit number 35A02. Retail price \$9.98.
- Archer Fine Transfers US Flag. Kit number AR35178. Retail price \$11.95.

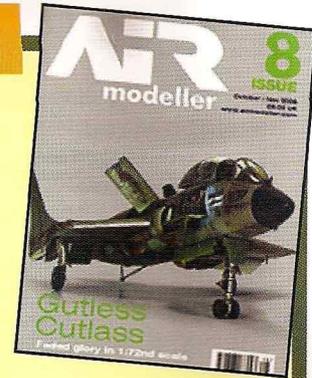
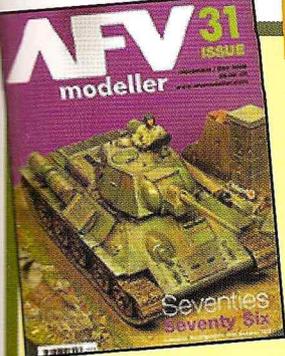
I would like to thank Dirk Vangeel from Pro Art Models for providing the different sets, Pascal Tognon for the plastic drum, Jan Goos and Rudi Meir for helping me with the reference material, and, of course, all the other guys at the KMK-club for the great time we have together enjoying our hobby.

References

M998 HMMWV in detail (Wings & Wheels Publications). ISBN 80-86416-14-3.

Raids Hors-Serie Nr.7: Les Forces Speciales en Afghanistan

The following websites are also helpful: www.waronline.org; www.militaryphotos.net and www.milsysgroup.com



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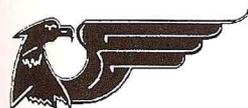
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A peek at what's new
on the figure front!

Mini Men

NO, NO, I
SWEAR, IT WAS
BIGFOOT...



Alpine Miniatures

Ah yes, the Germans... Can't you just smell the Germans? Two more aromatic bad-asses make the scene this time around. First up is **35036, Winter Panzer Officer (1)**. This guy is just sorta hangin', you know, checking out the scene. He's got a pair of high-powered Zeiss binoculars AND a Knight's Cross, so he is a force to be reckoned with. He is wearing the reversible winter trousers and on the box art, this is depicted in Wehrmacht splinter pattern. Up top he wears a custom, unit-made jacket and in this case it's a leather and fur-lined affair that is rendered to a T. To top off his winter ensemble, he sports the felt-lined and topped boots. Like all the other sets, this one provides a choice of two heads, one with a Feldmütze and one the fur-lined version of the M43 cap.

35037, Winter Panzer Crew (2) is the companion piece and he wears the full reversible suit with jacket. He also has a pair of felt-lined boots, but a less impressive pair of binoculars. Interestingly, he is wearing the rarely-rendered issue wool gloves, a must for the well-dressed panzer crew. His choice of heads is either an M43 cap or a Feldmütze.

35038, Winter Panzer Crew Set, gives us the pair of 'em.

Alpine's gone commie with **35039, Russian Tank Commander (3)** and **35040, Russian Tank Crew (4)**. Both wear the standard winter-issue leather jacket and the appropriate trousers. They're a perfect pair to dress up your new Premium Edition T-34/85. As usual, the casting quality is superb. Both come with two heads. You have a choice of the standard Russian tanker helmet or the appropriate soft cap for each. We're really diggin' the officer cap on the Russian Tank Commander. This pair is also available as a set, item 35041.

Hey look! Alpine is doing big scale figgies! First in the line is **16001, Panzer Officer "Großdeutschland" (5)** and it is a pretty spectacular offering. First

of all, they're really 1/16th-scale. As stated on their website, Alpine's 1/16th-scale figures stand approximately at 110-115mm from the top of the head to the bottom of the heel, which brings them into line with some of the more accurate offerings from manufacturers such as S&T. Mr. Großdeutschland was sculpted by well-known figure dude, Mike Good and he is truly decked out (the figure, not Mike). From his delicately rendered shoulder boards right down to the buttons on his reversible winter trousers, this hunk of resin is first rate. The sculpture is firmly linked to Großdeutschland with a gorgeously executed cuff title and the amazing little GD ciphers on his shoulder boards. Our boy also wears, not one, but three tank destruction badges, each of which was awarded for single-handed destruction of a tank. He is depicted on the box art as a StuG officer, with a field gray panzer wrap and red piping on his hat and collar insignia. A guy in this branch strikes us as a more likely candidate for three tank destruction badges, but one never knows what one will do when the ammo runs out!

Check out the latest news at www.alpineminiatures.com.

Blast Models

Need some people for your Leclerc? Get Blasted! Blast is usually known for their great resin accessories. Well guess what? They make some purty durn good figures too. **BL35039F (6)** is striking a pose for the camera. The molded-on headset mike and shoulder holster are nice highlights to this one.

BL35082F, French Tankman No.1, reloading MBT Leclerc (7) and **BL35093F, French Tankman No.2 Reloading MBT Leclerc (8)** are actually doing some real work. All sport modern French tanker uniforms with the correct details. BL35093F even comes with resin detail parts to open up the reloading hatch on your new Tamiya LeClerc. Cool. So, so cool. Blast info is at www.blast-models.com.

Doug's Original

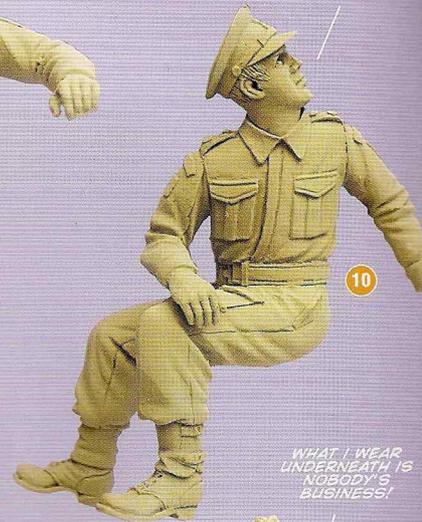
Doug's Original is a new entrant into the figure game. The masters were sculpted by the incomparable Douglas Lee. These figures are simply outstanding. **35002, British Jeep Driver (9)** is wearing the



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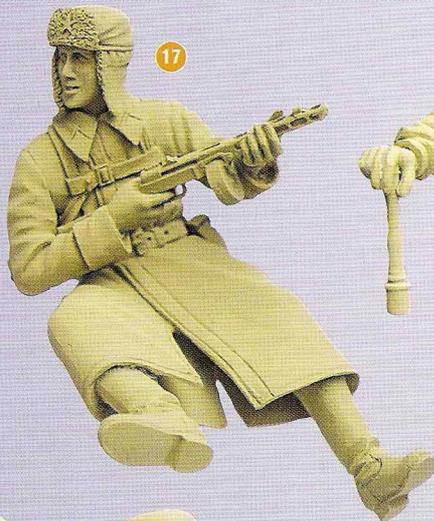


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I SAW THAT PARKING SPACE FIRST!



16



17



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standard British Battle Dress. His headgear is a Tam O'Shanter, a type of beret worn by the Scottish regiments. Switch the head if you like and make a Tommy from any formation.

35003, British Jeep Officer (10) is 35003's boss. He's got on the same uniform as the Jeep driver with the exception of the Officer Cap. Together they're a perfect pair.

35004, British Infantry Walking (11) is a great rendition of a Tommy in late war battle dress. He carries a 1903 Lee-Enfield and all the appropriate web gear.

35005, British Tanker Tropical (12), is straight from the Western Desert. He wears the Royal Armoured corps black beret and British Tropical Khakis. We love this guy. He's even got the proper short puttees over his socks!

35006, Scottish Officer (13) is another little gem. He's got wearing the early-war service dress for the Scottish regiments with the Glengarry Cap, Highlander full dress kilt and Sporrán.

35007, DAK Panzer Officer Standing (14) is a nice rendition of the early tropical pattern uniform with the tropical feldbluse, early-pattern flared trousers and high-laced tropical field boots.

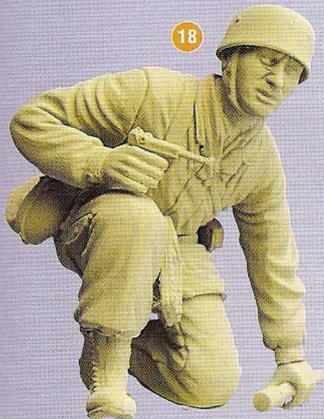
35008, DAK Panzer Crew At Rest (15) is a companion to our officer. He sports the tropical tunic, shorts, ankle boots, and tropical Feldmütze with a great little set of goggles molded on.

35009, T34/76 Commander (16) and **35010, Russian Winter Tank Rider (17)** are two Red Army renditions of Doug's Original magic. 35009, The Tank Commander wears the 1941 pattern shuba sheepskin coat and cloth tanker's helmet. 35010 is a great little ride with the Russian pattern overcoat that dates back to WWI and the grey fur-lined ushanka. We're looking forward to seeing tank riders 2-100 to show up. For the latest, try www.hobbienterprise.com.

Dragon

Another veritable tribe of Germans arrives from Dragon.

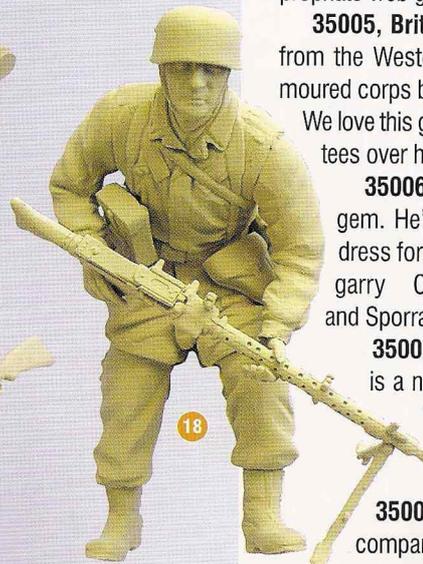
6277, 1st Fallschirmjäger Division Holland 1940 (18) is another delicious dose of Gen2. You get four dudes just moving out from the drop zone and all their associated Gen2 gear, including two Waffenhalter gear



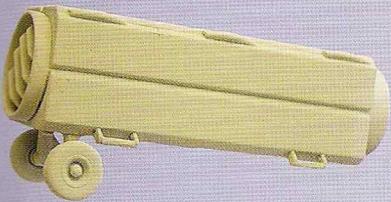
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18



18



WELL, THERE WAS A MAP THERE A MINUTE AGO...



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WHO ARE THOSE TWO GUYS BEHIND YOU?
I HAVE NO IDEA...

canisters. These guys are early war types with the first pattern Luftwaffe smocks and distinctive side-laced jump boots.

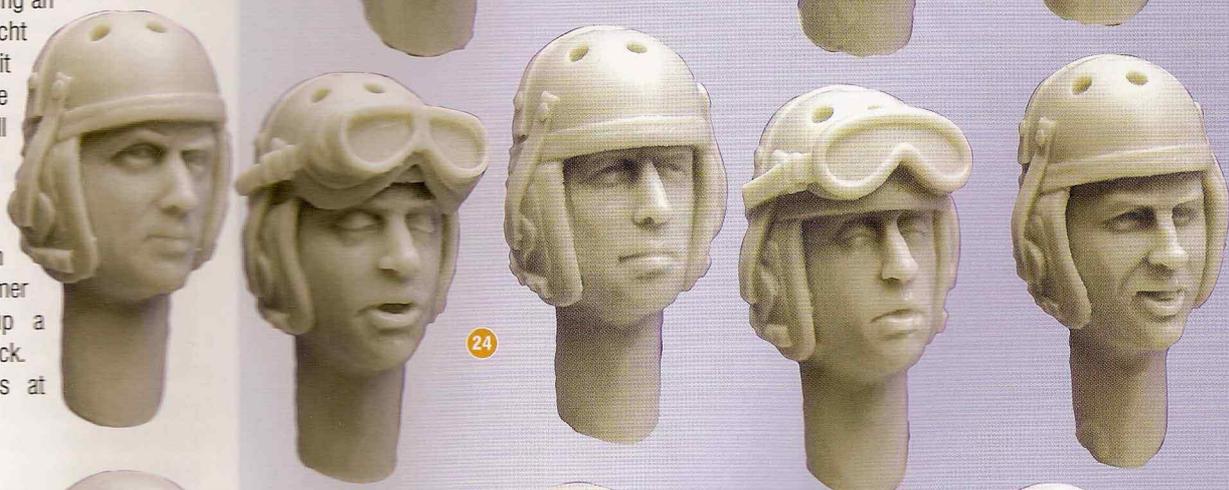
6281, Germania Regiment France 1940 (19) is more Gen 2 madness. You know these guys, right? Germania would later be renamed Wiking. We KNOW you've heard of them. This little gang is sporting 1939-40 SS uniforms with the M35 Stahlhelm, M36 Felbluse with cuff titles, and M36 trousers, and could also pass for LAH guys of the same era. Of interest is the lack of collar rank insignia, which has been seen in photo references either removed or covered for security reasons. Special neat gear includes an MP28 and ammo pouches for the NCO and machine gunner carrying the Czech-built MG26t and wearing MG13 ammo pouches. Also included is a nice set of French road signs.

Our third installment from the big D is **6343, Stalingrad Inferno (20)**. You actually get two matched pairs in this one. These two make us cold just looking at them. The first pair is a cold weather duo of an officer giving an enlisted man a light. The officer is wearing an early pattern of the Wehrmacht two-piece reversible winter suit and felt boots. Check out those earmuffs. The enlisted man is all bundled up in his greatcoat, balaklava, mittens, and felt overboots. The second pair is dressed for warmer times, with a medic in the appropriate summer infantry uniform patching up a Wehrmacht tanker in panzer black.

News from the big D is at www.dragon-models.com.

Hornet

You're a figure builder. You need baldheads with European features. What do you do? WHAT DO YOU DO? Well, you take a little trip down to Hornet town, that's what. The Mayor of Hornet town is none other than Roger Saunders and he continues to bring



I HAVE A
GLANDULAR
PROBLEM...

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us beautiful little 1/35th scale human heads. They are bald, as we might have mentioned, which means you (that's you) come up with the headgear, or perhaps more succinctly, a miniature toupee. New here is **HBH24, more baldheads with European features (22)**. This is five brand new expressions to make over your plastic uglies. How DOES he keep doing that?

The answer to that question can be found in **HBH, 5 more head with varied expressions (23)**. These are more head-scratching wonders and there are a few extra useful types in there, as well. For instance, there is a head tilted back with an opens mouth, as if drinking. There's also one guy kinda crackin' a wink, along with the obligatory bummed out dude.

A new day is dawning! We finally have a replacement headset that features U.S. tanker helmets from the Second World War. Rather aptly named is **HUH08, U.S. tank crew heads in leather helmets (24)** and, as one would expect, they are perfect in every detail. They are so good, in fact, that we immediately want more. Right now. No, seriously.

Hornet news is at www.hornetandwolf.com.

ICM

Russian manufacturer ICM joins the Mini-Men game with two Red Army WWII releases. **35051, Red Army Infantry WWII (1939-1942) (25)** is a three-figure set with an officer in a sheepskin jacket and two enlisted types in quilted uniforms known as telegreika. The officer comes with two options for headgear: either the early peaked gray shelm or a 1940 pattern ushanka fur cap.

35181, Soviet Tank Crew (1939-1942) (26) is a three-figure set with two tankers in standard black helmet and overalls and an officer in the early pattern uniform with the blue trousers derived from the cavalry. Keep an eye out for ICM. They have a number of figure sets out now with some interesting topics to choose from. Look on www.italeri.com for more info.

Platoon

Four great new editions to the Platoon line come our way this issue. First up is **PT-021, Russian Tanker in Spring Dress 1940-42 (27)**. He wears the standard cloth tanker helmet, M1936 gymnastorka tunic and cavalry trousers.

PT-024, Motorrafarer kuriere 1942-45 (28) is a splendid German motorcycle trooper wearing the field

gray M1934 rubberized greatcoat specially designed for the motorcycle troops.

PT-025, soviet tank officer 1940-42 (29) is very fashionably checking out the menu in a chic Moscow bistro in his 1941 sheepskin shuba overcoat and ushanka fur cap.

PT-027, German Heer 1943-45 (30) could be either pimpin' his hoes on the corner or waiting for the prisoner cage in his M43 Wehrmacht field cap, overcoat and late model reversible cold weather trousers. We have to wipe away the tears when we look at his last one. All the latest is at www.pegaso.com.

Tristar

Tristar brings us another nice set this issue with **35016, German Infantry Set Vol. 1 (early) (31)**. You get four little Wehrmacht guys from the early war period waiting to move out. This set is perfect to frame your new early war PzKfw IV. The tank commander is decked out in an early pattern Panzer uniform with the unique Panzerfeldmütze beret. We really like this guy. It's rare to see a figure this well-rendered in styrene. Three infantry types fill out the scene: an NCO checking his watch, a machine gunner and his a-gunner. There is an extra bare head included as an option. The pre-1941 infantry uniforms are accurately depicted and all the appropriate web gear and weapons are included. Very nice. Go to www.tristarmodel.com for more info.

Wolf

Don't know if you know this, but Wolf has done a bang up job at offering up 1/35th-scale figures of a smaller stature. Most of them reside in the realm of the German and this is kinda cool, has we all know that towards the end of the war, recruits got a lot younger. And so we come to **WAW53, Young German Panzerman (32)**. Our boy is decked out in your basic black Panzer wrap, in this case, closed against the cold. The sculpture is subtly smaller, so much so, that you probably wouldn't notice unless you had him next to another, larger figure. We'd guess this is the idea. As we mentioned, there are several others in the line of this size and they would all look great together in a diorama. Perhaps even a crew for your final production Dragon Panther?

WOLF news is at www.hornetandwolf.com.

The respective manufacturers are responsible for the contribution of samples to the Mini-Men section.



29



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31



ISN'T IT TIME FOR ANOTHER MIMIR?



31



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“But Sarge, all these dang Russian roads look alike!”

Tamiya's new 1/48th scale Sturmgeschütz III B is a real surprise. I really didn't know what to expect, but when I opened the box all I could think was FUN! I am a dyed-in-the-wool 1/35 scale kind of guy, so when this kit was recommended to me, I was hesitant.

History

The need for an armed self-propelled vehicle became apparent during the bloody trench battles of the First World War. In 1927, the Reichswehrministerium initiated a program to develop a vehicle that was capable of... [THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN DELETED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS AND BECAUSE IT WAS SLIGHTLY BORING] ...and the Sturmgeschütz was about to make history.

Construction

This was going to be a strict out-of-the-box build for me and I did resist valiantly, but in the end I did add some small details. I followed the kit's instructions to the letter and the kit basically fell together on its own. While I have heard rumblings about the die cast lower hull, I liked it. It adds heft and the added benefit of attaching to the upper hull with two screws. Thus I was able to easily,

securely and temporarily attach the upper and lower hulls together. The downside was that a significant gap was present between the upper and lower portions of the glacis plate met. This was addressed by adding some strip stock textured like a weld to the plastic front upper hull. Other details added to the front area were electrical conduit from plastic rod, headlight guards from a leftover photo-etch fret, and bolt heads punched with a Historex set added to the reciprocator housing. I also added a plastic weld bead to the mantlet, a line of photo-etch screws left over from another project just below the front vertical plate and some small details to the covered headlights and tow pintle from plastic strip and rod. On the top of the crew compartment I closed off the sight opening and added locking brackets to the crew hatches. To the aft area I added air vent screens and holders, engine door latches, a stowage rack, and details to the armored smoke candle holder, all from strip stock. I added handles to the OVE clamps using 0.007" diameter wire and used masking tape and small diameter wire to make the jack-block strap. The handle on the block is from the photo-etch set from the KV-1C set made by PART. The kit does not contain spare road wheels or track, so I had to order an extra "A" sprue from Rainbow 10. I also ordered the 1/48 Jerry can and road sign set at the same time. Can you say DIORAMA?

Period pictures of StuGs show them with a large wooden beam lashed to the side and the engine decks piled with gear. The beam is a lamination of 0.020" x 0.125" strip stock textured with course grain sandpaper and my X-acto knife. The crockery and metal vessels are

duplicates I cast from some old Phoenix miniatures parts I had in my spares box. The Jerry cans, drum and soft stowage are from the aforementioned Tamiya kit, while the pump is scratch built from brass wire and plastic stock. The potatoes, turnips and pumpkins are made from Magic Sculpt, while the boxes are built up from strip stock. I had initially made some apples—but decided the potatoes looked better.

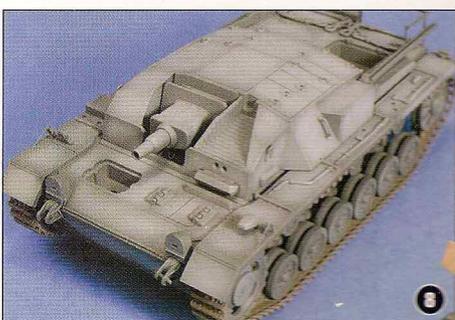
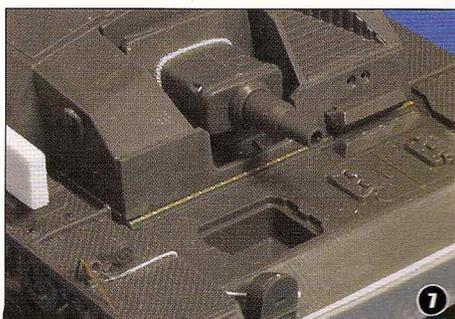
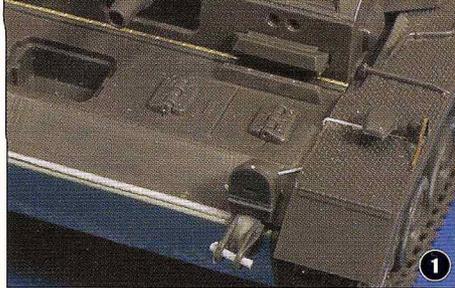
To complete the build I added a coating of acrylic powder mixed with Testors liquid cement to the lower hull to simulate accumulated dirt and grime.

Paint and finishing

Paint, paint, paint. How do I paint thee? Let's see, for September 1941 we have three paint choices, dark gray, dark gray, or you guessed it, dark gray! Guess which one I chose? Dark gray, you say? How did you guess? Seriously, dark gray is one of my favorite monotone schemes to paint; it ranks up there with olive drab! To make my monotone paint scheme really pop (I think I picked up that phrase from HG TV as the wife watches it every night!), I chose to apply a gray primer, followed by a coat of Vallejo Black Gray, 056. This was then post shaded with German Gray, 052. A misting of 50/50 mix of the 052 and 051, Barley Gray was applied. A mixture of Model Master enamels FS96118, Gunship Gray



Sturmgeschütz III
Sd.Kfz. 142, 192
StuG. Abt. Operati
Barbarossa, Ukrain
September 19



and FS30117, Military Brown, were used to basecoat the tracks. The tires on the road wheels, the return rollers and the steel parts of the tools and wire rope were painted Vallejo 950 Black. The jack block and the other wooden handles were given a base coat of Vallejo Flat Flesh, 955.

When dried they were given a wash of raw umber oil paint in Turpenoid, allowed to dry for five minutes and then wiped lengthwise with a clean, Turpenoid dampened flat brush. When this dried, they were dry brushed with the flat

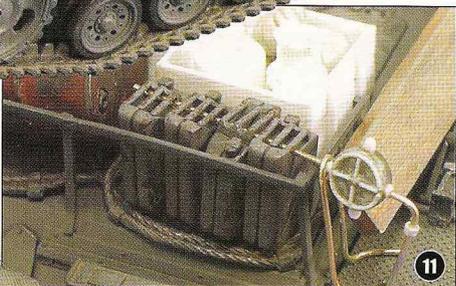
flesh. To simulate the Bakelite, the wire cutter handles were given a base coat of Vallejo 859,



Black-Bed, and then a mixture of 815, Basic Skin Tone, and the black-red was dabbed on. The next step was to apply the decals. To prepare for this, I gave the model a spot coat of Future and left it overnight. The kit decals were applied using the Micro-Sol/Set system and once dry the whole kit was given another coat of Future.

Whether to weather

Now the real fun starts, time to get down and DIRTY! My weathering starts with an application of filters. I used cobalt blue and cadmium yellow oil paints in a Turpenoid base. Over this, rain streaks were added, using white, black and burnt umber oil paints. The kit then received a Model Master acrylic flat coat. The tools that were previously painted



1. Small details added to the front end included; closing the gap between the die cast lower hull and the upper hull, electrical conduit to the fenders, convoy light guards and tow pintles. 2. The field added rear luggage rack with some added goodies. 3. The small top doors on the armored smoke candle dispensers are missing, but are easy to make from strip stock. The Box of apples, which were replaced with potatoes, and the other stowage temporarily in place. 4. Overall front left view of the completed build. 5. Left rear completed build view. 6. Right rear completed build view. 7. A weld bead around the recycler housing and some bolt heads are all that is needed to detail the main gun. 8. Base coat and first post shade applied. 9. Future and decals applied. 10. The drive sprocket hubcaps are aluminum, thus I used Tamiya, XF-11 to chip them. 11. The scratch built fuel pump. 12. The chipped paint on the fuel drum was achieved with Gunze Mr. Masking Sol. 13. The painted accessories!

black were rubbed with a paper cone that had been treated with powdered graphite and the drive-sprocket's hubcaps were chipped with Tamiya Flat Aluminum. To simulate an accumulation of dust the kit was given a wash of 50/50 cadmium yellow and raw umber oil paint. The lower hull areas also



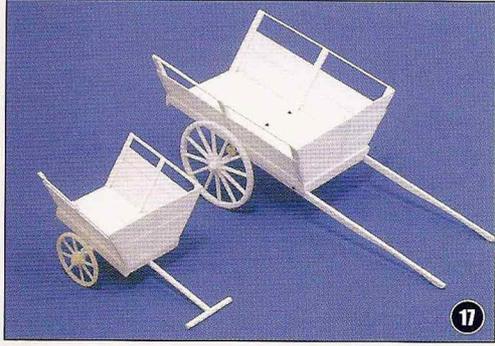
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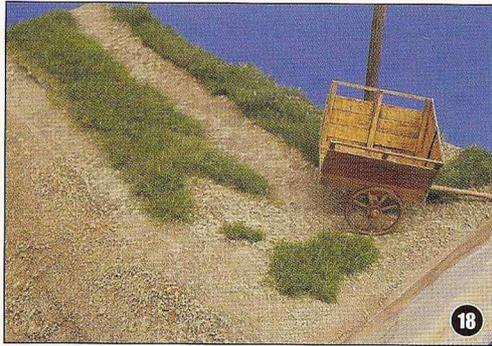
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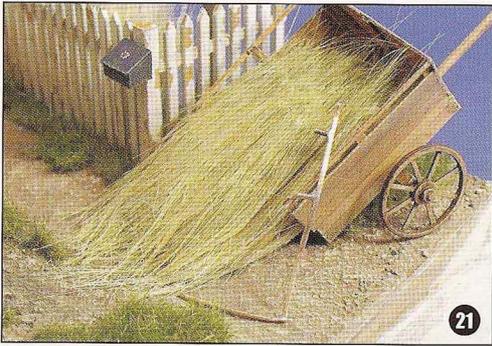
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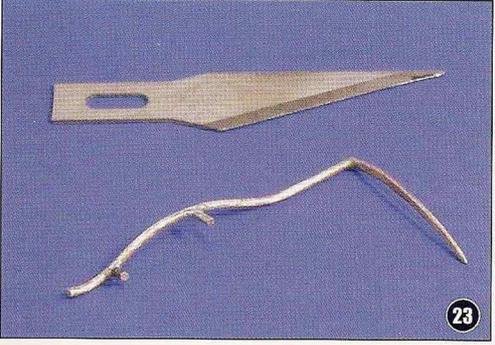
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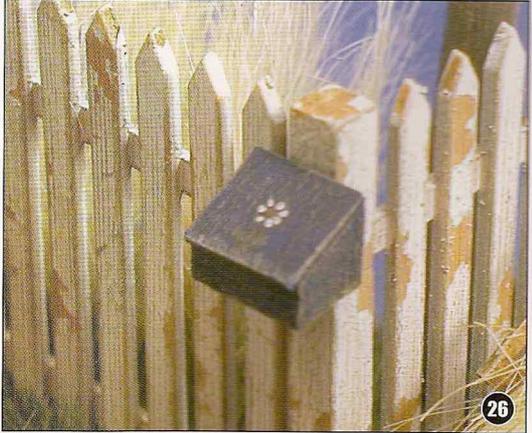


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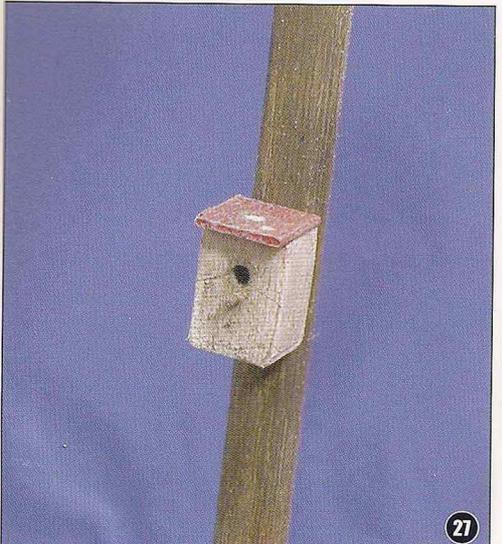


25

14. The farmer's cart was scratch-built from styrene strip and painted with artist's oils and acrylics. 15. The basic layout of the major diorama components. 16. The wheels for the farm cart were made up from sheet styrene and then resin cast in RIV moulds. 17. The finished farm carts before application of paint and weathering 18. Silflor 4mm grass has been added over an earth tone acrylic paint. 19. The dry ditch has been filled with differing heights and colors of Silflor to give it a "natural" look. 20. "Craft Store" flowers and Woodland Scenics tall grass have been added, creating more of a wild, unattended to feel. 21. Woodland Scenics tall grass was also used to fill the farmer's cart. The sickle before painting is leaning against the cart. 22. Tamiya's 1/48 road sign set includes a sectional fence system, similar to their 1/35 scale set. Here it is pictured in its raw wood finish. 23. The sickle is made from brass rod, bent and hammered to shape and then the components soldered together. 24. The water is Woodland Scenic Realistic water; built up in very thin layers. 25. The acrylic based water holds it shape very well while drying, allowing rushing water effects to be easily portrayed. 26. The small message box with a pretty hand painted flower adds a little more color to the scene. 27. A small birdhouse—with oil paint guano, adorns the telegraph pole.



26



27



28. The fully stowed Sturmgeschütz! The un-ditching beam is secured with ship riggers thread from Model Expo. The spare tracks and road wheels do not come with the kit, but from an extra sprue obtained from Rainbow 10. 29. Pumpkin Pie anyone? 30. The spilled fuel from the pump is oil paint with a drop of linseed oil added for a wet look.

received a coating of weathering pigments suspended in Tamiya acrylic thinner. To achieve a worn look in the dust coating, Vallejo, 052 was drybrushed over the exposed edges and dabbed on flat areas that would normally receive a lot of traffic. The oil and grease stains that adorn the engine deck were achieved with black oil paint mixed with Turpenoid and linseed oil. The fuel stains at the business end of the pump were done the same way except burnt umber oil paint was used instead of black. The mufflers were given my usual treatment of base-coating with a mixture of equal parts of Vallejo 814, Burnt Cadmium Red; 955, Flat Flesh; 928, Light Flesh, and 805, German Orange. Burnt Cadmium Red was dabbed over the basecoat to represent a diffused-heat rust appearance. I gave them a dusting with rust-colored weathering pigments. The tracks were given a wet coating of weathering pigments in Tamiya acrylic thinner, and then areas of wear rubbed with graphite powder.



Accessorizing

The 200-liter drum was given a base coat of Vallejo 056 Black-Gray, then when set, random areas were masked with Gunze Mr. Masking Sol and left to dry. A topcoat of Delta brand acrylic 2490, Barn Red, was applied. Once set a, cotton ball dipped in Masking Sol was rubbed over the barrel to remove the mask, revealing the gray below. This was weathered with a black oil wash. I used burnt umber in linseed oil to simulate spilled fuel. The edges of the drum were rubbed with graphite. The jerry cans were base coated in 814, Burnt Cadmium Red, dabbed with Mr. Masking Sol and then sprayed with 052, German Scale Gray. When dry the masking was removed and the cans weathered with oil paints and powdered graphite. The crockery was given a base coat of Vallejo 912, Tan, and then dabbed with Model Master, FS36134 and FS36118, then dry-brushed with the 912, Tan. The milk tin was painted silver with a paint marker from Wal-Mart. The pumpkins were base coated with a 50/50 mix of Folkart 437, Red, and Vallejo 011, Lemon Yellow. They then received a wash of 1/3 each of Folkart 437, Red, Vallejo 011, Lemon Yellow, and Vallejo 871, Leather Brown. This was followed with a dry brushing of 1/3 each of the Folkart 437, Vallejo 011, Lemon

Yellow and Vallejo 011 Flat Flesh. The potatoes were base coated in Vallejo 912, Tan, given a burnt-umber oil wash, then dappled with Model Master Radome Tan FS33613. The pumpkins, jugs and potatoes were placed into the wooden boxes that I had painted in the same ways as the jack block and ditching beam and added to the rear of the StuG. The soft stowage was given a buff base coat and then the shadows and highlights were added as if painting a figure. Tying the stowage down with ship rigging thread soaked in white glue completed the build.

The diorama

As there really aren't a lot of good 1/48th scale figures available, so I decided on a less action packed storyline so I could use as many stock figures as possible. Here is the story:

It is summer 1941. StuG's of the 192nd StuG Abt. are on a road march towards Gomel in the Ukraine, during the opening operations of Barbarossa. The driver has stopped and the crew dismounted to take a break and check their location. The commander, a decorated Feldwebel, is slightly annoyed with his driver, as he and the driver disagree about if they should turn left at this crossing, or the next one. In his defense the driver explains to the Feldwebel, in frustration, that all these dang Russian roads look the same. An infantry sergeant from the 131st Infantry division and the loader look on trying to figure out if the driver or the Feldwebel is correct.

The diorama base is a piece of oak hardwood with the edge beveled with a router. The raised areas were built up with insulation foam sided in sheet styrene. This was given three coats of Krylon "Make It Stone" textured paint, then sealed with

Krylon "Make It Last" sealer. The groundwork is Durham's water putty. It is a plaster-like powder that is mixed with water to a cream cheese consistency. It was applied to the base with a plaster knife. Before it set, powdered water putty, straight from the container, was sprinkled over the base. This was left to set overnight. The next evening the excess powder was shaken off. What remained was sealed to the base with a spray of 50/50 PVA and water—again left to set fully. I sprayed the base with Delta Brand 2402 Sandstone, and then washed it with raw umber oils in Turpenoid. Finally, I dry-brushed the 2402 Sandstone mixed with varying amounts of Delta's 2488, Mudstone. The grass is Silflor, about five different shades and heights, put down randomly with PVA glue.

The rural life

Since I wanted to show the rural nature of the Ukraine, I felt a farm cart would look great abandoned by the side of the road, it's owners having fled the German onslaught. I couldn't find what I wanted in 1/48th-scale—most of the O-gauge model railroad stuff I could find looked too toyish to me, so I decided to scratchbuild one for myself. While I was at it, I needed another one for another project I am working on, so I made them together. Each cart was built up from Plastruct strip stock following examples in an old book on period farming that I found at the local library. The wheels from the larger cart come from the Tamiya 1/48th-scale road sign set; those for the smaller cart are scratchbuilt. The wheels on the smaller cart were actually easy to fabricate. I first cut out a circle the diameter that I wanted the wheel, then found the center and punched a hole the same size as the chuck of my lab drill. I mounted the disk and turned the lab drill on at its lowest speed. Then with an X-acto knife I scribed a smaller circle in the spinning disk. This forms the outer wheel. I then measured the resulting inner diameter and cut strip stock to this length and glued it in. I then took the inner diameter measurement divided by two and made six more spokes at that length. I cut two 45-degree angles into one end of these and glued them into the wheel, then punched three smaller disks to form the hubs. The wheel was boxed and a mold made from RTV. I poured four wheels and took the best two. I added the backside of the hub to these from punched disks and tube stock. I also decided to add the picket fence and telephone pole from the Tamiya 1/48th-scale road sign set. The construction of the fence

was straightforward; I simply needed to adjust the length. The telephone pole was modified according to the kit's direction to represent one found in the Ukraine. Filling in the notches for the cross members with CA and sanding them smooth started the process. Four insulators were trimmed from the cross members and 0.020" holes drilled in their bases. Inserted into these holes were four supports bent from 0.020" stainless steel wire. Then four holes were drilled near the top of the pole and the insulator assemblies cemented into the pole with CA. The bottom of each fence post and the telephone pole were drilled and pinned to make attaching them to the base easier.

The wood-tone finishing on the cart and fence was easy to accomplish. I roughed the surface with sand paper then lightly polished it with steel wool. The next step was to basecoat the wood with a flesh-tone acrylic paint—IT MUST BE ACRYLIC. Once this is dry, burnt umber oil paint—AND IT MUST BE OIL PAINT—that has had the excess linseed oil drained on a piece of cardboard (5-10 minutes), was applied to completely cover the surface. I let this sit for 10-20 minutes. Using a flat brush dipped in Turpenoid, and then blotted on paper towel to remove most of the dampness, I removed the oil paint using long single-direction brush strokes. I made sure I cleaned the brush in turpenoid between strokes. It is a time consuming process, but the results are worth it. The last step was a dry brushing with the flesh-colored acrylic paint. To make the telephone pole appear to have been treated with creosote, a tar-based rot inhibitor, I used the same system, but base-coated the pole with raw umber acrylic paint and used a dark gray oil paint for the stain. A flat flesh was still used as the final dry-brush. To make the fence appear in need of a repaint, I used a green abrasive kitchen pad and dabbed Gunze Mr. Masking Sol all over both the inside and outside of the fence. When this was set, I sprayed it with Delta Eggshell, 2539 White acrylic paint, and dry-brushed it with Delta Sandstone, 2402 and Mudstone, 2488. When this had set, I removed the Mask as above and the end result is a peeled paint effect.

On the corner post, I attached a small message box that I had constructed a from strip plastic stock and painted with Delta 2089, Navy Blue, and hand-painted a flower using the 2490, Barn Red and 2010, Forest Green. It was given a black oil wash, then dry-brushed with 2402, Sandstone and 2488, Mudstone. I also added a birdhouse to the telephone pole. It was constructed in a similar method as the message box, but the inside was painted in a black oil paint before the roof was added so when I drilled the bird hole, the insides would be dark. It was painted with Delta 2539, Eggshell and 2490, Barn Red, and weathered with 2402, Sandstone and 2488, Mudstone.

With the fence and pole glued into position, some taller grass and wild flowers were added. I found these while browsing the dried-flower section of my local arts and crafts store.

I added Woodland Scenics tall grass to the farm cart and glued it into position. To stay in sync with the farming feel I fabricated a scythe from brass wire. I first bent the staff, then shaped and sanded some of the wire to form the blade. The small handles and the blade were attached to the shaft with low-melt tin solder. It was painted in a similar fashion as the telephone pole and glued into position.

Bovine heaven

In many period photos there is always the ubiquitous dead farm animal. It's almost the moniker of mobile warfare on the Eastern Front! So in keeping with my farming theme and paying homage to the



symbolization, I needed a deceased beast of burden. Enter Pegasus to the rescue, sort of. Pegasus makes a line of 1/48th scale soft vinyl figures that includes a set of farm animals. It is well sculpted, but made from vinyl, thus fairly difficult to reposition. In the end I used my hot knife to "surgically" correct the cow's pose so it could be lying with its head and feet in contact with the streambed. The painting of the cow was achieved by giving it a basecoat of Vallejo 001, White. When the white dried, the black spots were sprayed on with Vallejo 057, Black. The inner parts of the ears received a coat of 50/50 Vallejo 928, Light Flesh and 944, Old Rose, while the iris of the visible eye was painted with Vallejo 916, Sand Yellow and then given a "haze" with Tamiya X-21 Flat Base. The cow was attached to the base with PVA glue and once set; the edges of the stream were blocked off with strip styrene. The water in the stream is "water effects" from Woodland Scenics. It goes down as a thick white paste, and when fully set will be clear. I built up the water in thin layers, letting each dry before adding the next. Between layers Tamiya clear tints were added to help give depth to the stream and to also show that the water is less-than-clean. The final two layers of the water were made with Future floor polish to give it a super high shine. To finish off the scenic base, I decided that I needed some water type vegetation along the stream's edge, so I added more of the craft-store vegetation, but also added some cattails. I made these by coating the tip of some of the craft-store vegetation with PVA glue, then dipping it into play sand. Once set, the tops were painted with Burnt Umber oil paint and the stalks glued to the base.

Go figure

When I was ready to add figures to the scene, high-quality 1/48th scale figures were not overly abundant, so I had to make do with what was

available since I really didn't have any desire to sculpt figures in this scale. The kneeling figure is from Nimix and required the most work to clean up. He was, unfortunately, full of bubbles and hole that took a couple of evenings to repair. The leaning figure is from Taisho and was the best of the figures used. Just a quick clean up and he was ready for paint. The Feldwebel is from the Tamiya kit, and needed some re-sculpting of the hands and face, but otherwise a nice figure. The last figure is a conversion from the Tamiya set. He received one of the heads from a Navaho set and had his arms repositioned. All the figures were painted with the same acrylic technique. Each figure, except the kneeling one's pants, received a varied base coat of Vallejo 920, German Uniform, and Vallejo 815, Flesh Tone. Shadows were achieved by adding Vallejo 980, Black Green and highlights by adding Vallejo 955, Flat Flesh. The kneeling figure's pants received a base coat of Vallejo 862, Black Gray. I mixed Vallejo 950, Black, to the 862 Black Gray to create shadows, while Vallejo 990, Light Gray, was used for highlights. Once all the figures were complete they were then permanently attached to the base with a brass pin and PVA glue.

Closing remarks

What started out as a quick build to clear my head and to give the new generation of 1/48th scale kits a try turned into a major project! It was the first diorama I have completed in more than 10 years and I am pretty happy with the outcome. If I had my druthers, the only thing I would do over again would be to use some of the nifty photo-etch sets now available for this kit. I truly believe that 1/48 scale is here to stay this time, the kits are fun to build, easy to handle and are a great addition to any collection.

—John F. Steinman, DMD

MMIR RECCE

Tamiya Sturmgeschütz III B, kit number 32507; Tamiya German Infantry, kit number 32512; Tamiya Road Signs, kit number 32509 and Tamiya Jerry Cans, kit number 32510 all graciously provided by the manufacturer.
Nimix German tanker, kit number 4814.
Navaho German tankers, kit number H148001.
Pegasus Farm animals, kit number 7006.

References

Achtung Panzer No. 5. Bitoh, Kitamura, Namie and Hards. Koji Ogawa/Dai Kaiga.
Sturmgeschütz and Its Variants. Walter J. Spielberger. Schiffer Military History.

Crusader Air



Catch a flight with the new Italeri kit

The Crusader III Anti-aircraft MkIII was developed in response to German ground attack aircraft. It is the final version on the Crusader chassis and differed from earlier versions by the addition of a coaming at the rear of the turret for crew protection and added space. The radio was also moved to the front hull, next to the driver, which gave the loaders a little more room. The twin 20mm Oerlikon could fire 900 rounds per minute and would certainly ruin someone's day. Due to Allied control of the air, the Crusaders were more often used in the ground target role, to winkle out enemy troops and snipers and for convoy guard duty. Due to their unreliable engines, the tanks were slowly disposed of, or handed over to the Royal Artillery for use by Battery commanders as observation/command vehicles. Around August of 1944, the A.A. troops were disbanded and their crews dispersed to other units.

Kit

The kit comes in Italeri's usual style box, with an artist's depiction of the Crusader Anti Aircraft vehicle called Skyraker. There are three large plastic sprues, vinyl tracks and a sheet of decals in the box. The instructions have good illustrations for the twelve-step assembly process and plan views for the decal placement. A short history of the vehicle is given in several languages.

Assembly

The first three steps show the assembly of the Christie suspension. This is nicely done, as the struts are sandwiched between the inner hull side plate and outer side plate. The upper hull is attached to the lower segment after sanding off a small plate with bolts from the hull. The wheels and idlers are

connected next. A hot soldering iron was used to melt the tips of the axles after the small washers were attached. The outer road wheels are added next and secured with the hubs. Lacquer thinner was used for glue throughout the project. A little putty is required on the idler hubs to cover small indentations from the molding process.

In step four the front fenders are cut and adjusted to remove the prominent step. This odd step is easy to remove and when the side fender is replaced after the tracks are fitted, it is just a matter of trimming the fender and replacing a few bolts. The track holder is added to cover the holes in the front plate, or they can be filled. The rear tow hook was added from the spares box and detailed with four hexagonal bolts cut from rod. Italeri suggests that the rear support plates be sanded off in step four, but references show many vehicles with the tow hook in place. Two large injector pin marks show on the brackets so they were sanded off. The hull bins and tools are added next. The details on these bins were adequate, but the pyrene fire extinguishers were replaced with Resicast's methyl bromide extinguishers, as is seen in many pictures of the vehicle.

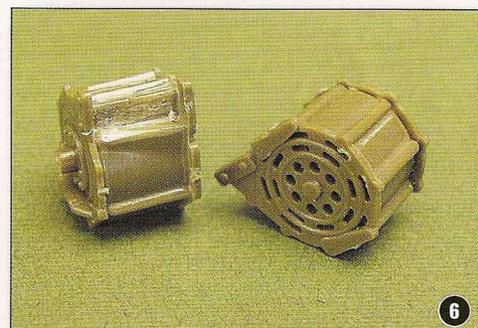
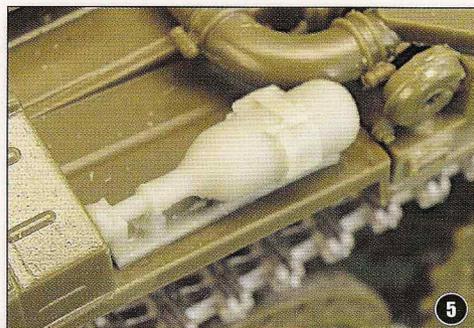
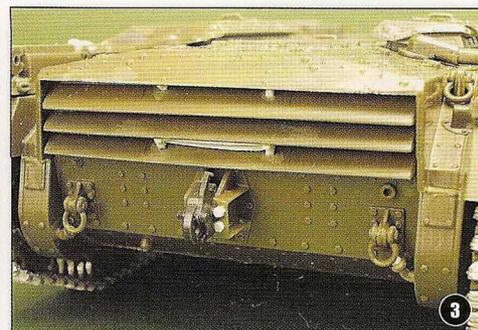
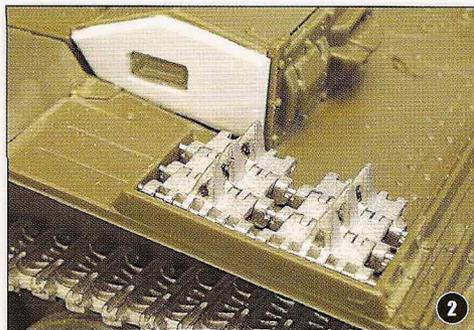
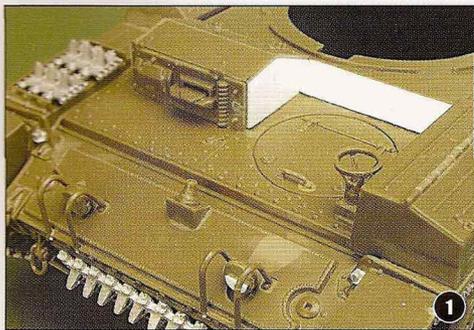
These vehicles carried extra armor plate on the front and Italeri provides two plates for the front glacis and nose plate. Armor is also located over the driver's hatch and on the front hull (part 40A alternative was replaced). Styrene sheet is used to depict these 14mm appliqué armor plates and the edges were sanded with coarse sandpaper to display the rough angled edges. The large box on the front was scribed with a sharp tool to show joints and the long hinge joint along the top. Small running lights were fashioned from styrene rod and were added to the front fender brackets. The two large driving lights were sanded down and a half moon segment of

styrene was added to the port blackout light. References showed different lights than those provided in the kit.

The spare tracks were replaced with metal ones from Friulmodellismo. Three holes were drilled in the holder and plastic rod is used to secure them in place, just like on the real vehicle. The exhaust system is assembled next. The fine joint lines on the circular air cleaner intakes were left in place, as they actually show on the real vehicle and should not be sanded off. The two location steps on the rear louvers were sanded off, as these are for the auxiliary fuel tank, which also is omitted. An exhaust cowl was fashioned from thin styrene sheet and was added between the last two louvers, plastic channel strips supporting each side. Two strengthening angles are added to the top louver. The exhaust and angles can be readily seen on the rear ends of these vehicles together with engine soot. Hexagonal nuts were fashioned from hex rod and attached to the rear final drive oil filler caps.

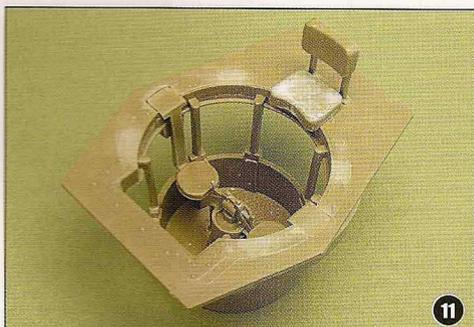
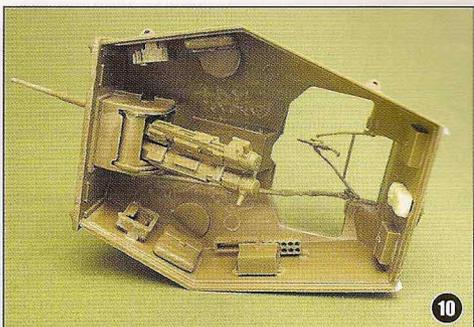
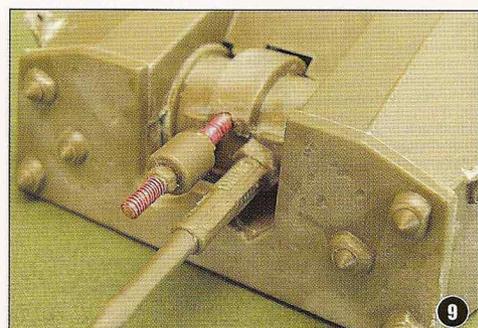
Turret and guns

The parts for the turret are nicely done and entirely new. Two well-detailed 60-round drum magazines are provided. To detail the guns, the bulbous tips were sanded down to match the contour of the tapered barrels. A needle was used to scribe the details of the springs that can be seen in the barrel housing slots. A small styrene shim was carved to match the base of the starboard gun and it was attached. This allows the guns to be staggered, as is seen in the referenced materials. Part number 73c is actually a balance wheel, or counterweight and not a machine gun. It could move forwards or backwards and compensated for the difference in weight of the barrels and the main body of the guns with



1. Extra armor was added to the front crew compartment by laminating styrene sheets. Friulmodellismo metal track was used for the extra tracks on the front and starboard topside of the vehicle. The lights were detailed with styrene parts to represent those seen in references. 2. Laminated styrene sheeting was cut to fit over the vision port and the edges were beveled to represent the torch cut plates. Three rods secured the tracks to the holder. 3. Rear view showing added styrene exhaust cowl and supports from angled strips. The rear towing bracket was kept on the tank and detailed with added bolts. 4. Engine deck area showing intake filters, stowage bins and empty jack block clamp. The details are exactly the same as on the other Italeri Crusader kits. 5. Resicast's well-detailed methyl bromide fire extinguishers were used to replace the early type extinguisher that came with the kit. 6. Italeri provided two very nicely detailed Polsten drum magazines. They can be further super detailed with better handles and bolts but will not be seen once in position on the guns. 7. The turret casting showing the two rear edges that

were replaced with styrene strips and sanded down to match the correct turret contours. 8. The gun sighting mechanism and guns were connected to each other so that both elevated to the same angle when either one was repositioned or elevated. A small rounded dental burr was bounced around the turret to replicate rolled armor plate with dimpling. 9. The gun counterweight threads were fashioned from copper wire. The tolerance between the sloping turret top and exposed gun mount was quite large and would require extensive rework to reduce the space. 10. An underside view of the turret showing stowage, satchel bags, flare boxes, ammo drum holders and the elevating mechanism for sight and guns. The ammo drums attach at the top of the guns and cannot be seen. 11. A few pin ejector marks showed in the turret base and needed some sanding and filling with putty. Bolt heads, control console and tread plate were provided in Italeri's fine kit. 12. Italeri's sight was sanded flat, but would probably look better if it were replaced with a photo-etched sight. After market sets will only enhance this nice kit even more.



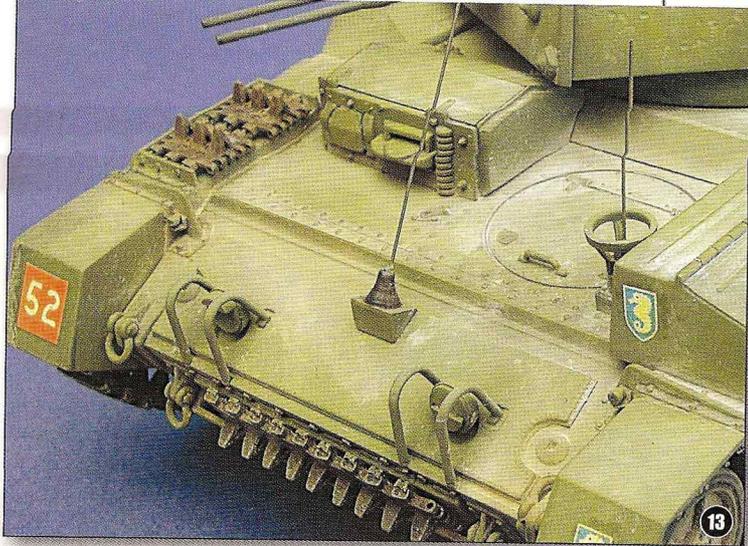
of the magazines. Reference to this part being a small caliber machine gun is bollocks. To depict the screw treads, the long rod was drilled out and replaced with finer styrene rod, which was then spirally wound with fine copper wire and glued.

The turret itself is a large hollow casting with the basket provided as a separate piece to be inserted from below. The angles of the side plates that exit at the rear are incorrect, so they were shaved off and

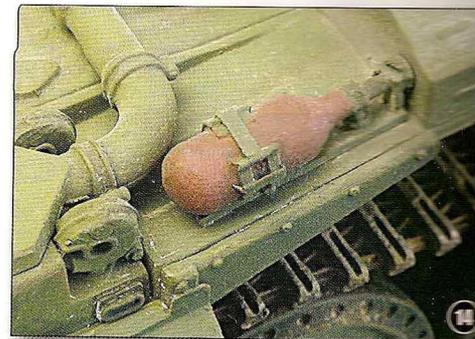
new corrected ones were added from styrene strip. The weld seams for the turret plates are very well done and extend around the periscope and turret coaming. Magazine holders, satchel/signal bags and some other small stowage boxes are provided for the interior of the turret, but in reality there can be a lot more added, including magazine holders, satchel bags, wiring and so on. A large pin ejector hole at the rear was filled with putty and covered with a

satchel/signals bag from the spares bin. Italeri has designed an easy arrangement for the gun sight to elevate and depress in conjunction with the guns. The tubing is quite fine and adequate. The styrene injected gun sight is a little thick and it was sanded down to thin it a bit. It would look best if replaced by a photo-etched gun sight.

The turret base attaches to the gun basket by several struts. These struts were sanded down to



smooth out the surface and leave the dimpling. At this point, the interior was painted in white and the satchel bags picked out in khaki paint. After painting, a wash was added and a little dry brushing was done to highlight the raised parts. The turret base was then attached permanently to the turret. Tools, handles and other small parts are now added to the hull. With good references



of extras come in the set. The required length of wire was measured after insertion into the holes, then marked off against a shallow cup of the same

give a better scale appearance and to remove a little flash deposit. There were two large pin ejector marks that needed to be removed, as they are located on the seat instead of below it. The two loader's seats and the gunner's seat were attached to the turret base. A little putty was applied around the point where the loader's seats attach to the turret base. The turret controls were glued to the center console and two side attachments added. The grip controls for the gunner were attached to the turret floor. The control pedestal appeared to be too low; with better references this may be corrected, if it is indeed incorrect. There was a tread plate pattern on the basket floor and several bolts on the turret base. These can be readily seen when observed through the open turret. Overall, very nice detailing, showing weld seams, plate patterns and good details from Italeri.

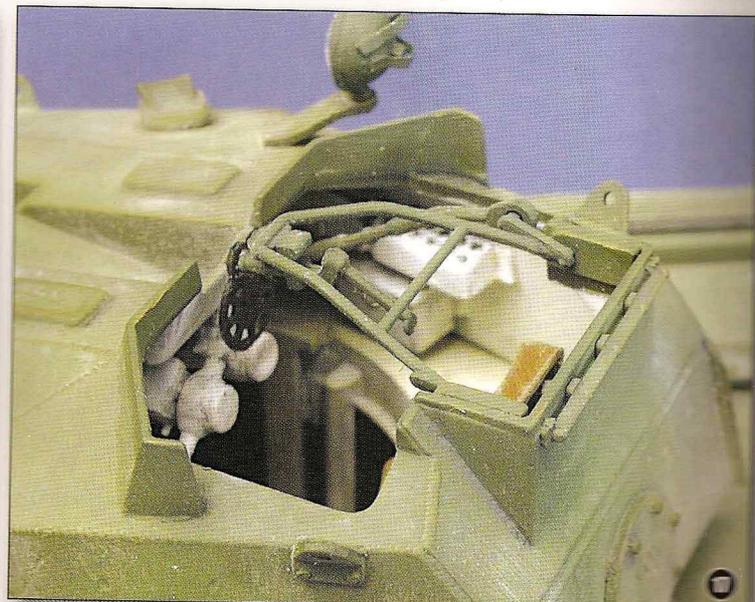
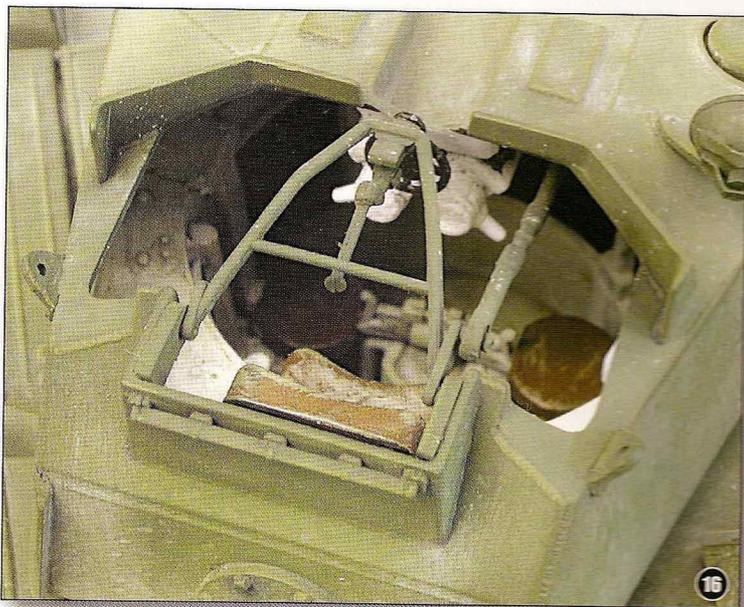
The Oerlikon assembly was then added to the trunnion supports. The front of the turret is nicely detailed with the large bolt heads like those seen on the Cromwell's turret. No periscopes are provided in the kit, only the covers, so periscopes were fashioned from styrene strip and inserted below the covers. References show that some of the rolled steel turrets were pitted, so a power tool and a fine ball bit were bounced over the surface to simulate this. Lacquer thinner was then brushed over the turret to

and photos of the surviving vehicle, the turret and guns could be super detailed with all the other wiring, tubes and attachments found on this vehicle. The spotlight was detailed with two handles fabricated using aluminum strip from a soda can and a base was added for the bulb from styrene rod. The lens area was drilled out, painted silver and a clear plastic lens was added from a railroad parts bin. None of the aftermarket silvered lenses I had would fit.

Tracks

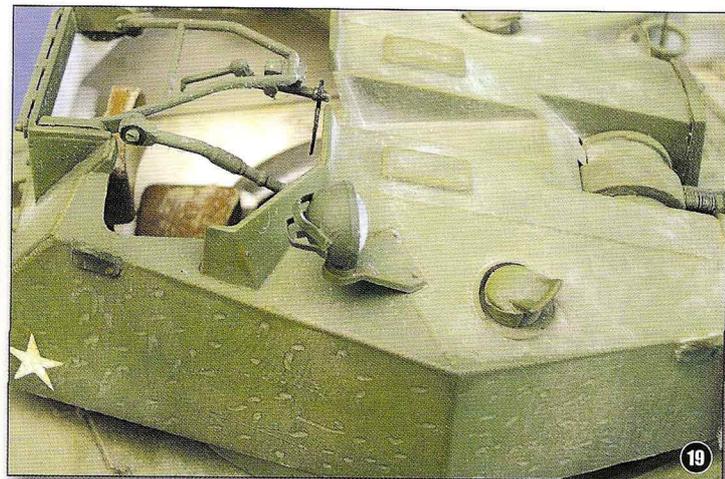
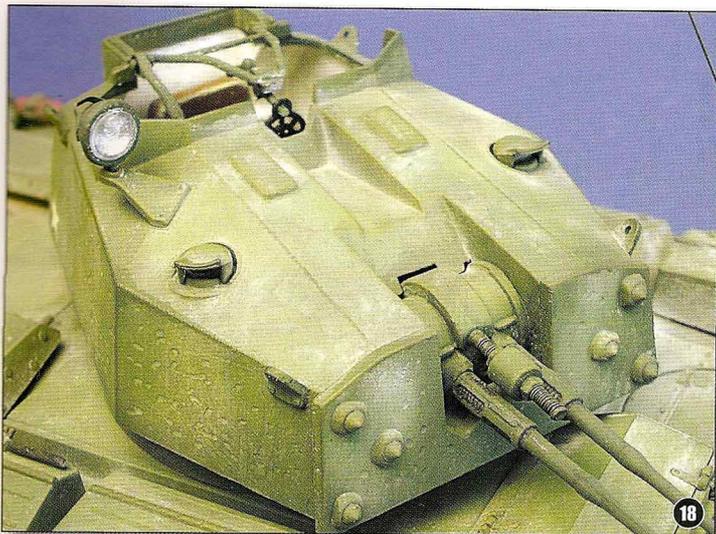
The Friulmodellismo metal tracks come in two bags and the instructions alluded to left and right sets. Unfortunately, both bags have the same side tracks, so after attachment the pins show on one side. These tracks are very easy to assemble and lots

depth. Wire was inserted into the cup and cut off flush at the top, with nippers. This was done faster when the strands were inserted in bundles of three to five. The metal track links were then lined up, three at a time between thumb and forefinger, and two precut wire pins were inserted. A thumb nail

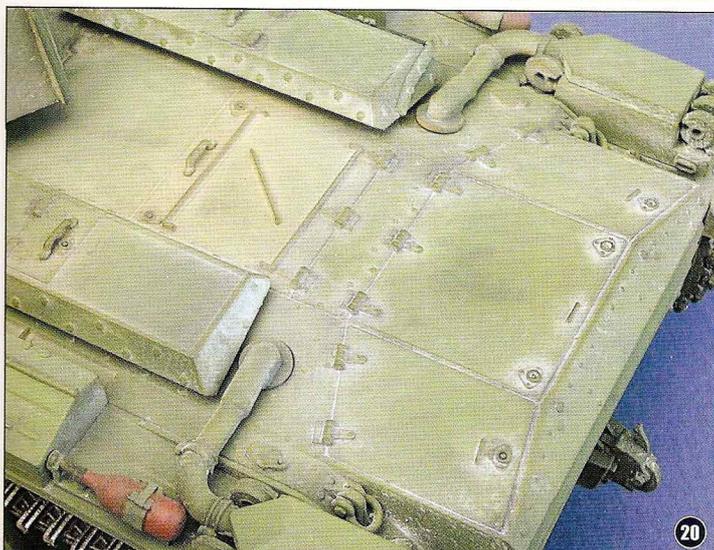


13. The kit was given a base coat of SCC-15 mixed from Humbrol paints. A lightened shade was sprayed on flat areas. Washes of black and brown were applied to all recessed areas. Pigments and pastels completed the dust layers. Aerials were cut from brass wire. 14. Internal fire extinguishers on tanks were red. Red is the first color to disappear with distance so it does not compromise camouflage. Some sources state that the external extinguishers were green and others state black, other sources state they were red and repainted when the vehicle was repainted. My vote goes with the red party until definite proof shows up. 15. Decals came from the parts bin and were of

the rub-on and water slide types. Fenders were only added to the right side of the vehicle. The black exhaust stain can be seen on the lower above the tow hook. 16. The turret interior was painted white and small parts and details were picked out with a small brush. A wash was applied to deepen recesses and dirty up the crew area. Two handles were added to the spotlight from an aluminum soda can. 17. The gunner's sight, attachment rods for the guns and other small turret interior details can be seen. The white interior reflects light very well and there was little or no threat from enemy aircraft.



18. The spotlight was drilled out and a lens, handles and knob were added. The springs on the guns were scribed with a sharp pointed scriber. Periscopes were added from styrene strips. The shim offsetting the barrels can be seen on the starboard gun. 19. A power tool and a fine ball bit were bounced over the surface to simulate pitting. Lacquer thinner was brushed over the turret to smooth out the surface. 21, 22. The pigments and pastels collected around raised areas and settled into recessed areas very well. This added depth to the slightly dusty model and showed up the dimpled patterns on the turret nicely.



was used to force in any stubborn pins. The sets of three were then linked together allowing very fast and simple assembly. The tracks are well detailed with hollow teeth and add some heft to the plastic kit. The tracks were set to bypass the first road wheel but over time with some handling, there was a little more sag than was fixed initially. To return to the correct adjustment, a few links were removed to allow the track to bypass the first road wheel. The vertical sections of the dust guard were added to the starboard side only, for variation. An angled panel was fashioned from soda can aluminum and was added to the guard just below the air filter. The panel was cut with scissors and the edges rounded with a file. Two aerials were added from brass wire. They were cut to be 20.5 scale inches for the 'B' aerial and eight feet for the 'A' aerial.

Painting

The interior was painted white during the previous steps. The seats were painted brown and the small items within the open turret were picked out in various shades of khaki and green enamel colors. A wash was added to depict shadow and offset the stark white color. Aftermarket companies have not yet designed decals, photo-etched parts, turret interior additions or barrels for this kit, but they are probably on their way. SCC15 Olive Drab was mixed from Humbrol colors and applied with an airbrush. It was then lightened with a cloud pattern of green. Washes of black and brown were applied after the base color and cloud coat had dried. The rubber sec-

tions of the road wheels were painted in black. A very liquid solution was used as it allows the paint to follow the contours of the rim. The tracks were painted in a brown color and washed with black and rust colors. A little rubbing with a tissue exposed the white metal. The lower running gear area and hull was then dusted with pastels and pigments.

Decals

Italeri provides two pages of instructions showing placement of decals and painting. Markings are provided for the 7th Armoured Division in Normandy, 43rd Wessex Division, also in Normandy and the 1st Polish Armoured Division in Holland. Some of these markings are suspect, so it would be best to check against good references. The South Alberta Regiment of the Canadian Army also used these anti-aircraft tanks until the end of the N.W. European Campaign, so your own appropriate decals can be used. Decals used were taken from

the parts box and depict a vehicle from British 27th Armoured Brigade, Staffordshire Yeomanry.

Conclusion

This was a very good addition to Italeri's stable of Crusaders. The kit was well molded and used many parts of the original kit. The new parts were finely detailed and well molded. There were a few conflicts with the available references, but all are readily rectified by a modeler with basic skills. Italeri should be congratulated on their efforts to produce another handsome tank and sales should prove another winner in their choice of vehicles. Well-done, Italeri. Please bring out the Crusader Gun Tractor, or the 40mm Bofors from the future ELCO boat next time around and we will build them with hurricane speed! Thank you, Italeri, for an enjoyable build. 

—Carlos D'Arcy

MMiR RECCE

Italeri Crusader Antiaircraft Vehicle. Kit number 6444. Kit graciously provided by the manufacturer. Suggested retail price \$36.00.

Resicast Fire extinguishers (methyl-bromide), SP-01. (infos@resicast.com)

References

Armor Photogallery #6, Crusader, Cruiser Tank Mk. VI – Wojciech J. Gawrych.

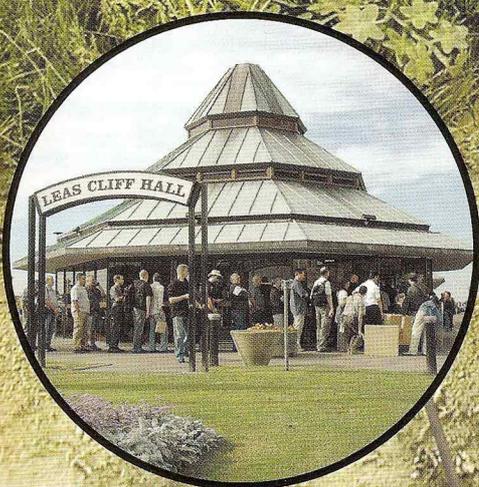
Published by Progres, Warsaw, Poland. ISBN 83-916483-5-4

Crusader and Covenant Cruiser Tanks 1939-45, New Vanguard 14, Osprey Publishing, David Fletcher. ISBN 1 85532 512 8

Military Vehicle Modeller International, Issue #7 Feb/March 2000, page 16 -21.



This fantastic and dramatic diorama is from the talented hands of Bernhard Lustig and the complete story of its construction can be found in AFV Modeller, number 33.



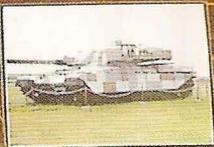
Euro Gold!



Why is this man smiling? Well, it's because his Panzer IV figure vignette took home the 2006 Best of Show. Kudos to Phil Stutcinskas for another BOS in armor!



A stunning rendition of the so-called "Berlin Urban Camouflage." Note how each of the colors has been individually weathered! A tank so configured was on display in front of the Duxford tank museum for many years.



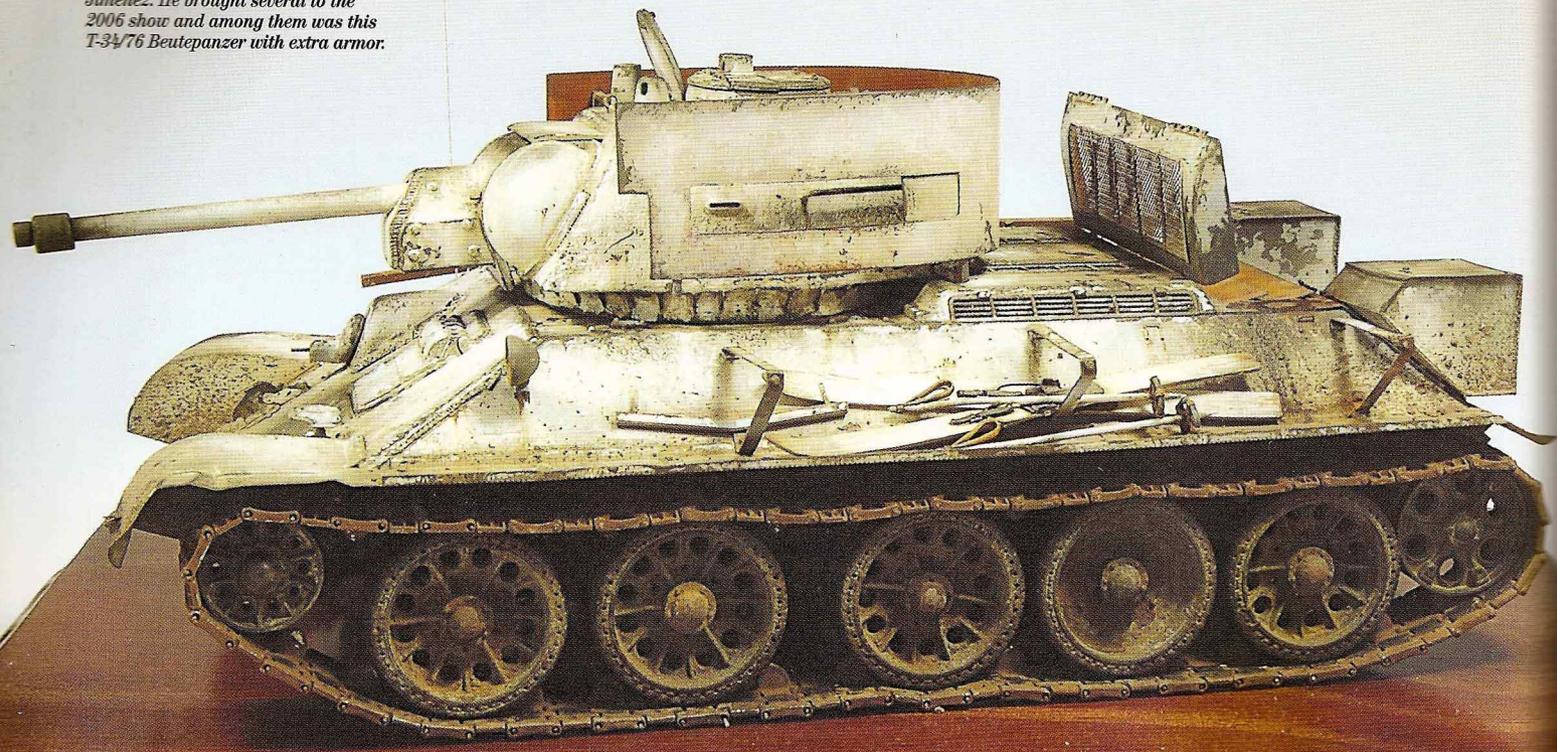
Adam Wilder put the new MIG Front Wheel Loader in an Iraqi scene with a TON of accessories and threw on some additional armor to boot!



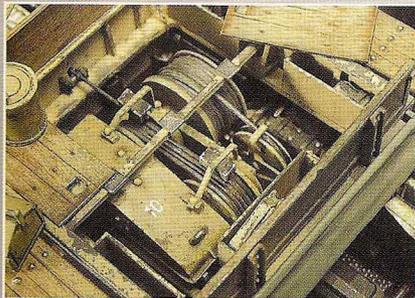
Gary Edmundson knocked us out with this outstanding rendition of a tropical Sturmgeschütz C/D.



It wouldn't be Euro without at least one really cool entry from Mig Jiménez. He brought several to the 2006 show and among them was this T-34/76 Beutepanzer with extra armor.



GERMAN T-34/76
747(r)-3, Western Front, 1944



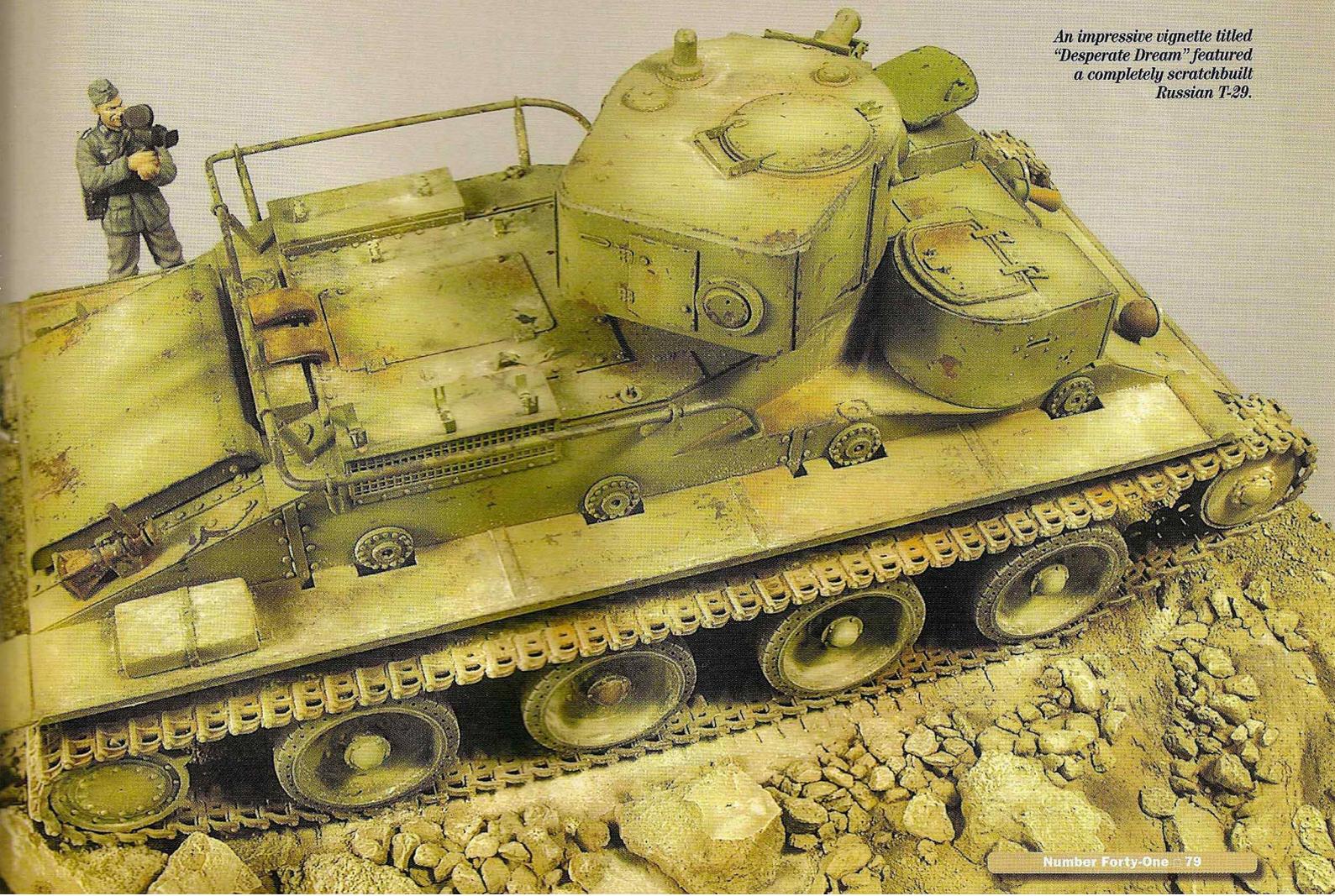
Daniel Jarrett rendered this wonderful little Bergepanther in 1/72nd-scale.



Sutton built this amazing T3 Christie
main tank complete with chain drive!



An impressive vignette titled
"Desperate Dream" featured
a completely scratchbuilt
Russian T-29.





Engineered for modeling enjoyment

Plastic parts with enhanced detail

Unprecedented value

Ready for instant assembly!

Are You Working Hard Or Working Smart?

MORE ABOUT OUR NEW "SMART KIT" SERIES :

The word "Smart" in relation to modern electronic applications (smart ID cards etc.) and even the automotive industry (smart cars), is closely associated with images such as "Advanced", "Convenient" and "High quality of life". Such aspects are closely in tune with Dragon's new specialized series of model kits.

Past trends in model kits have given the priority to detail and accuracy. The typical approach of most kit manufacturers is to break all their assemblies down into dozens of tiny components, regardless of the complexity needed to assemble them. It is also a fact that Dragon's kits are lauded the world over for their amount of detail and their wise application of technology. Yet, with much vigorous debate going on about accuracy and details, some modelers seem to have overlooked the importance of the engineering aspect of model kits. The fact is that cleverly designed kit will not

only reach the same desired level of detail and accuracy, but will also make it a joy to build. A better-looking kit with fewer parts... imagine that!

Dragon's enormous expertise in design and engineering is producing more advanced kits with less individual parts, making them immensely simpler and faster to assemble.

Taking model kit design in a whole new direction, Dragon has developed a specialized line of kit items that focuses on high quality, easy build assembly, and best of all, unprecedented value for the customer. These kits set themselves apart from our regular new items because of the vast amount of development

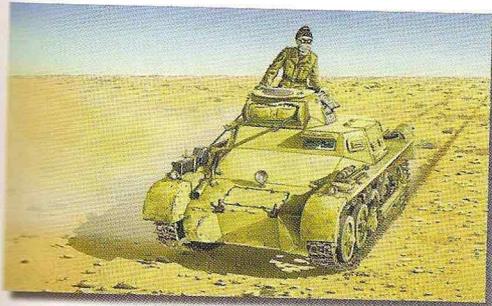
time and engineering effort that is put into them. The end result is a special blend of features for modeling convenience and value.

ENHANCED PLASTIC PARTS : Dragon's engineers have worked hard at producing finely and delicately detailed parts in plastic. In these kits, metal parts are a necessity!

OFFER UNPRECEDENTED VALUE : Kit engineering reflects the wants and needs of modelers, with the research team stepping into the modeler's shoes. Kits cost less because extraneous metal parts are not included - but at the same time they offer "value-added detail" because of their inclusion of high quality parts.

CATER FOR MODELERS WHO LIKE BUILDING OOTB (OUT OF THE BOX) : Countless hours are not going to be wasted working on weld seams or carrying out plastic surgery techniques! These kits are ready to be built as soon as the box lid is opened. Of course, those who love metal parts can still add multi-media parts as they wish.

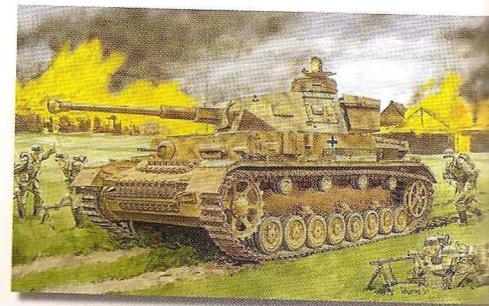
GREATER ENJOYMENT FOR THE MODELER : Smart Kits are designed to satisfy! Engineers have one goal in mind, and that is to design great kits that are a sheer joy to build. Modeling will be straightforward and fast, not because it is a "simple kit", but because it's a Smart Kit!



6289 - 1/35 Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.A Early Production [*A bolt out of the blue!*]



6331 - 1/35 Marder III Ausf.H



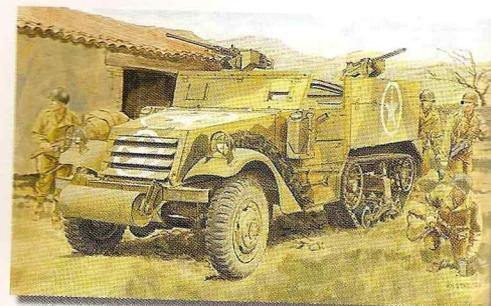
6360 - 1/35 Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.F2(G)



6320 - 1/35 StuG III Ausf.G Early Production [*One hull-of-a-kit!*]



6294 - 1/35 Aufklärungspanzer 38(t) mit 2cm Kw.K.38 [*Detailed from every direction!*]



6329 - 1/35 M2/M2A1 Half-Track, **NEW TOOLING, 2-in-1 Kit** [*A feature-packed half-track!*]

For detailed product information visit <http://www.dragonmodelsusa.com>

To find a retailer near you go to <http://www.dragonmodelsusa.com/shop>

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1/48
MM
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES



CRUSADER Mk.I/II BRITISH CRUISER TANK Mk.VI

NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

1/48 BRITISH CRUSADER TANK & RUSSIAN FIELD CAR GAZ-67B

Item 32541

Simple to assemble, palm-sized 1/48 MM Series models feature amazing detail that compares favorably against larger scale kits. New for 2007 is the British Crusader tank, a 1/48 scale original that is currently unavailable in Tamiya's 1/35 series. The intricately detailed model realistically depicts rivets and overlapping sloped armor plates, while choice of two types of turret front panel allow replication of either Mk.I or Mk.II variant. Like all the tanks in the 1/48 MM series, the Crusader features diecast lower hull for added weight and realism, and assembly type tank treads with straight upper section. Line the Crusader up against early-period German tanks, like the Panzer III, to reproduce fierce battles in North Africa during Operation Battleaxe. The latest offering in the light vehicle class is the Russian GAZ-67B Field Car, which exhibits fully accurate reproduction of the distinctive front grille and other chassis details. The kit includes driver figure and 3 sets of markings. With its long service history in the former Warsaw Pact countries, the GAZ-67B can be used in an almost endless variety of dioramas, displayed either with other armored vehicles or alongside 1/48 scale airplanes.



Russian Field Car GAZ-67B (32542)



REINFORCEMENTS FOR YOUR PANZERCORPS

The 1/48MM Series shows no sign of slowing as it enters its 3rd year with these highly anticipated new releases. The Panzer III Ausf.N (32543) (at left) features Schürzen armor skirts, while the distinctively shaped Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind (32544) (at right) further expands our German armor selection.



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