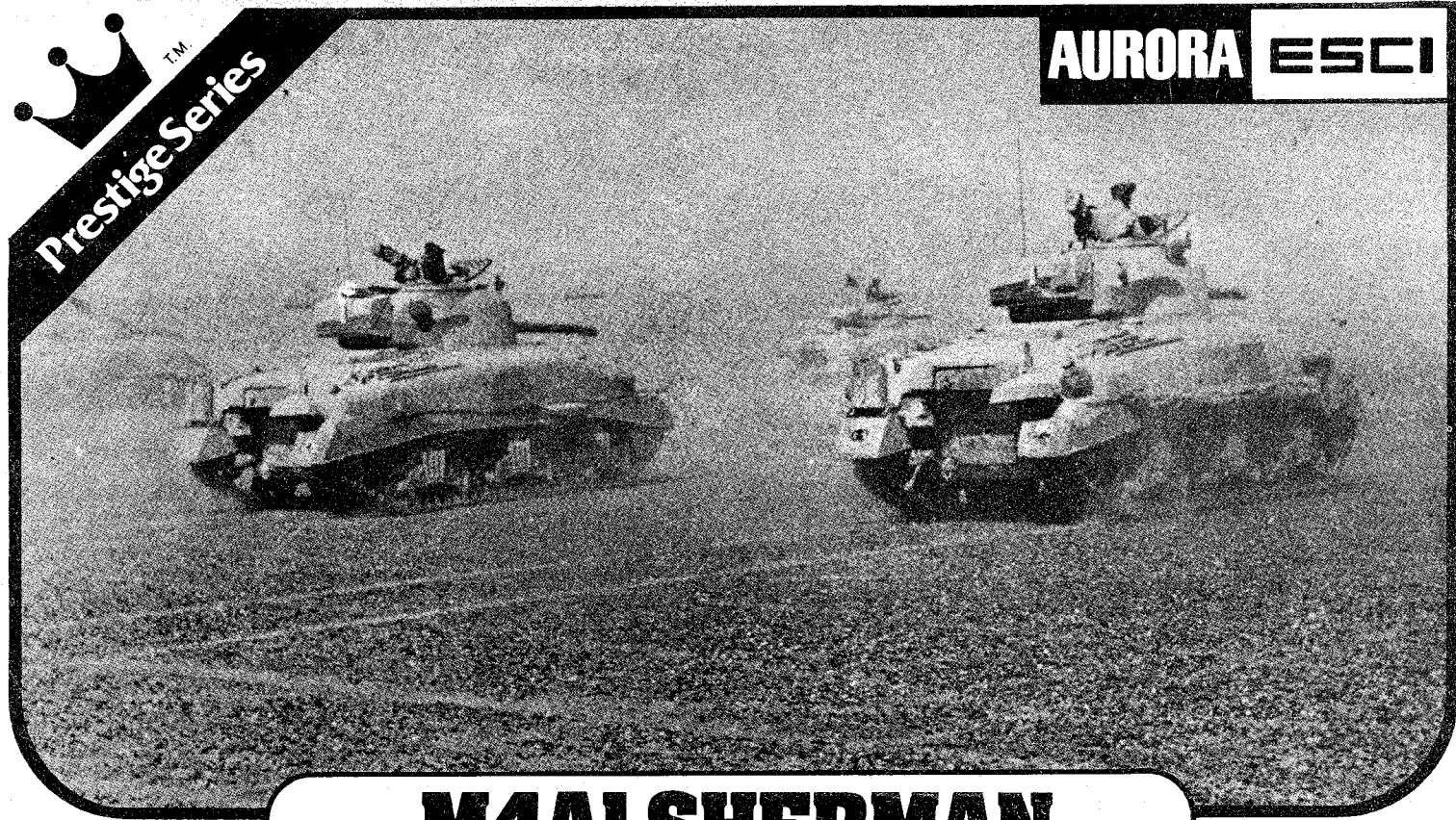


 TM.
Prestige Series

AURORA ESCI



M4A1 SHERMAN

KIT NO. 6205

1/72 SCALE

No. 6205-140

The famous SHERMAN tank is a paradox in the history of the armored fighting vehicle. Overshadowed in quality and innovation by many other designs, relatively easy to knock out, almost easy opposition for German PANTHERS and TIGERS, the SHERMAN tank was the most important tank of World War II. Over 48,000 of these simple weapons were built by American industry, after starting immediately following Pearl Harbor in 1941 with the conversion to wartime production. Contrast this with the total of 23,487 German tanks produced from 1939 through 1945 and the German military planning from the early 1930's. The M4 became the standard NATO main battle tank of the immediate Post-War years; it was used against the Russian T-34 in Korea; and, again in 1967, it was used very successfully against Egyptian-manned Russian tanks by the Israelis. The Israeli "Super-Sherman" is still in use today.

America was considered to be the "Arsenal of Freedom" during the war. Producing fighter and bomber aircraft, warships, Kaiser's famous "Liberty Ships", and the Sherman tanks behind the relative safety of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, American industry overwhelmed the German War Machine. The SHERMAN is probably the best example of this capability. Standardized in October, 1941, as the M4, this simple medium tank was nicknamed the "General Sherman" by British troops, with whom it first went into action. It was a major part of Montgomery's victory over Rommel's Afrika Korps at El Alamein in its first combat action in November, 1942. Based on the earlier Lee-Grant series, the M3, the M4 was rushed

into production to give the British a better vehicle than their own Matildas, Crusaders, Valentines and Churchills, and the old M3. The SHERMAN definitely succeeded in bettering these other designs, but combat requirements dictated that it remain in full production. As conversion to a newer tank design would have halted production, the SHERMAN became a major part of the offensive power of a dozen armies, including the U.S., British, Free French, Free Polish and Russian Forces.

The M4A1 was one of the most distinctive variants of the SHERMAN. Built by the Lima Locomotive Works, Pacific Car and Foundry and Pressed Steel Car Company, the M4A1 was the only SHERMAN to use the cast hull construction, as opposed to the welded construction of all other series. Being slightly simpler to produce when casting facilities are available, and having an overall rounded shape to deflect shells and present less opportunity for a direct hit on flat surfaces, the A1 had certain advantages over other types. It carried the same standard 75mm gun as other SHERMAN types.

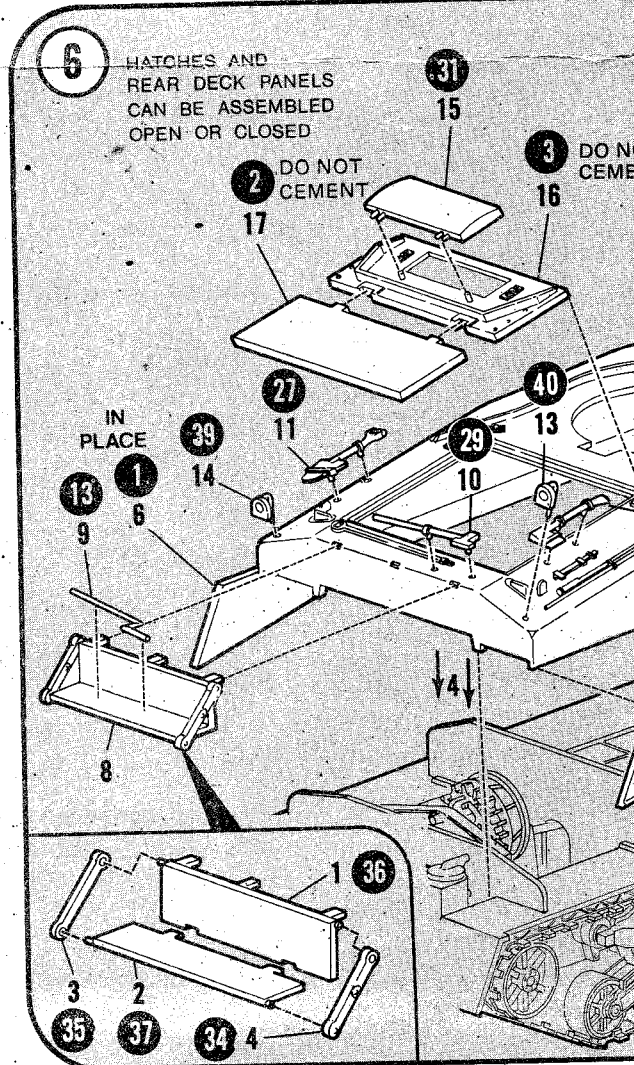
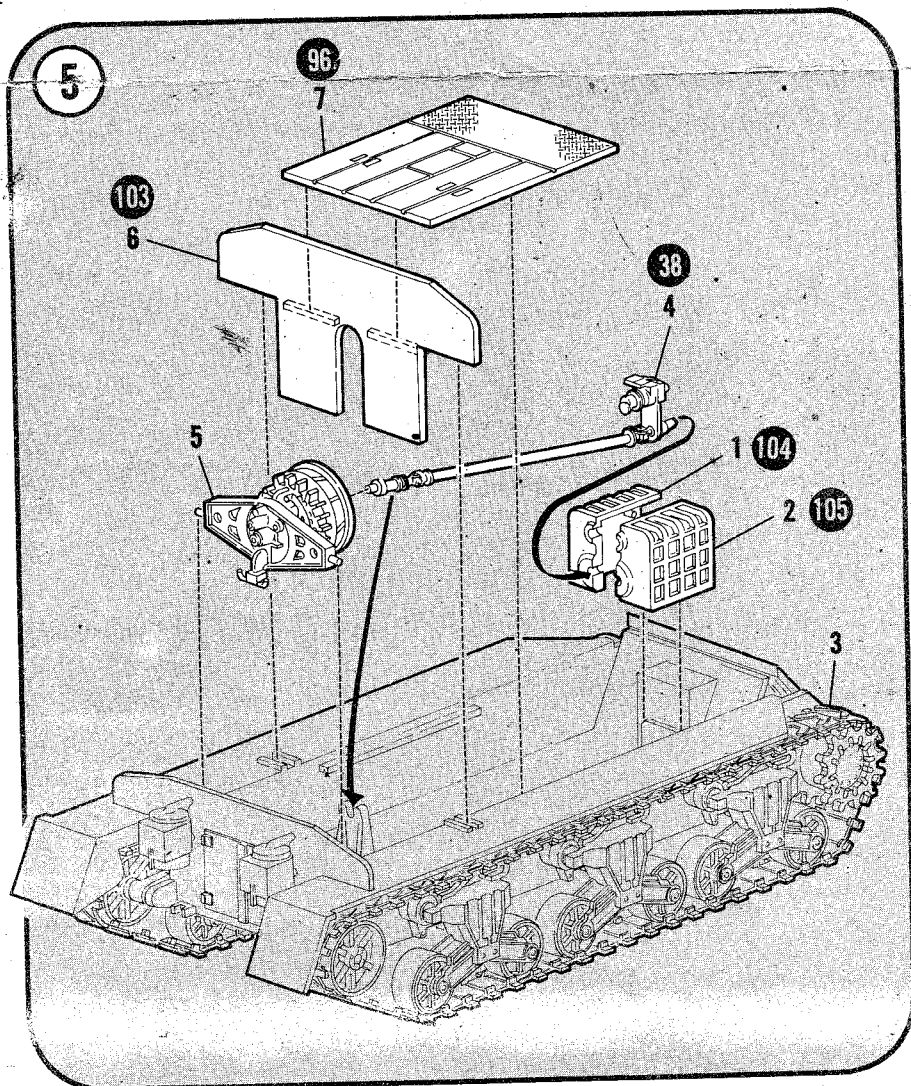
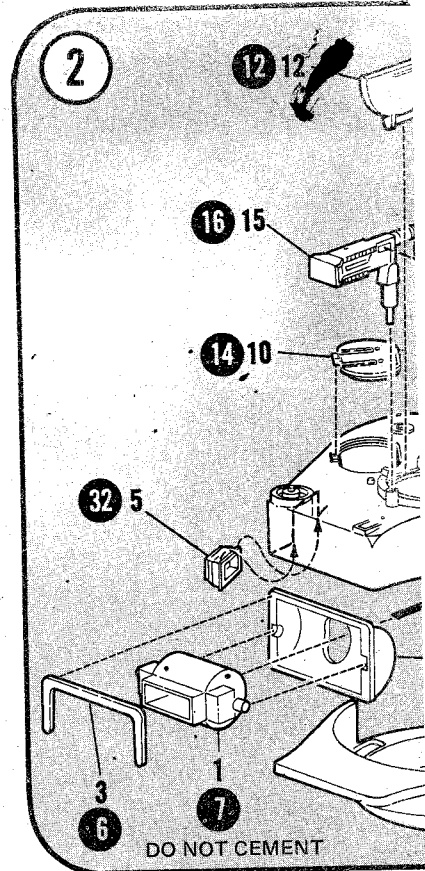
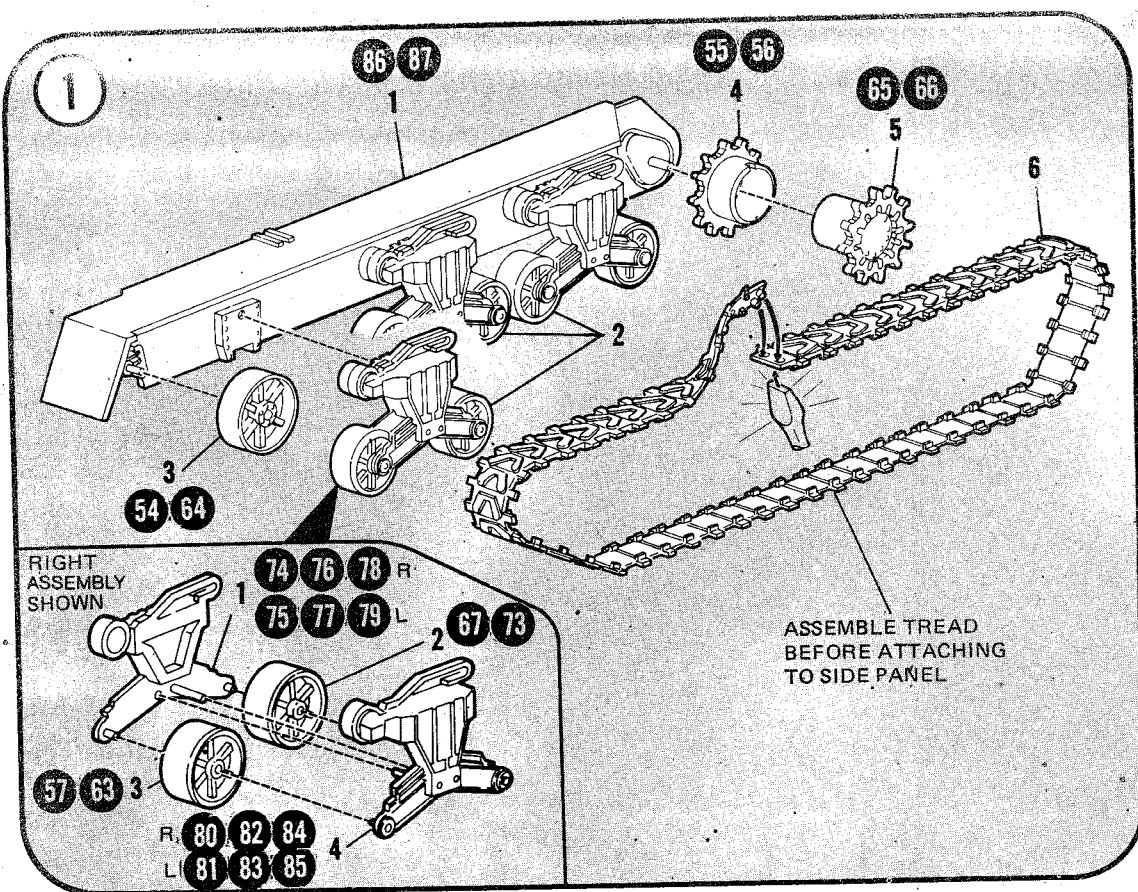
The SHERMAN did have advantages. It proved to have faster hitting capabilities than superior German tanks. This factor allowed the allies to reverse the Germans' own "Blitzkrieg" tactics very successfully. The major strength of the SHERMAN was reliability. The basic engineering and simple fast production characteristics allowed the SHERMAN to remain in action a higher percentage of the time than any other tank of the War.

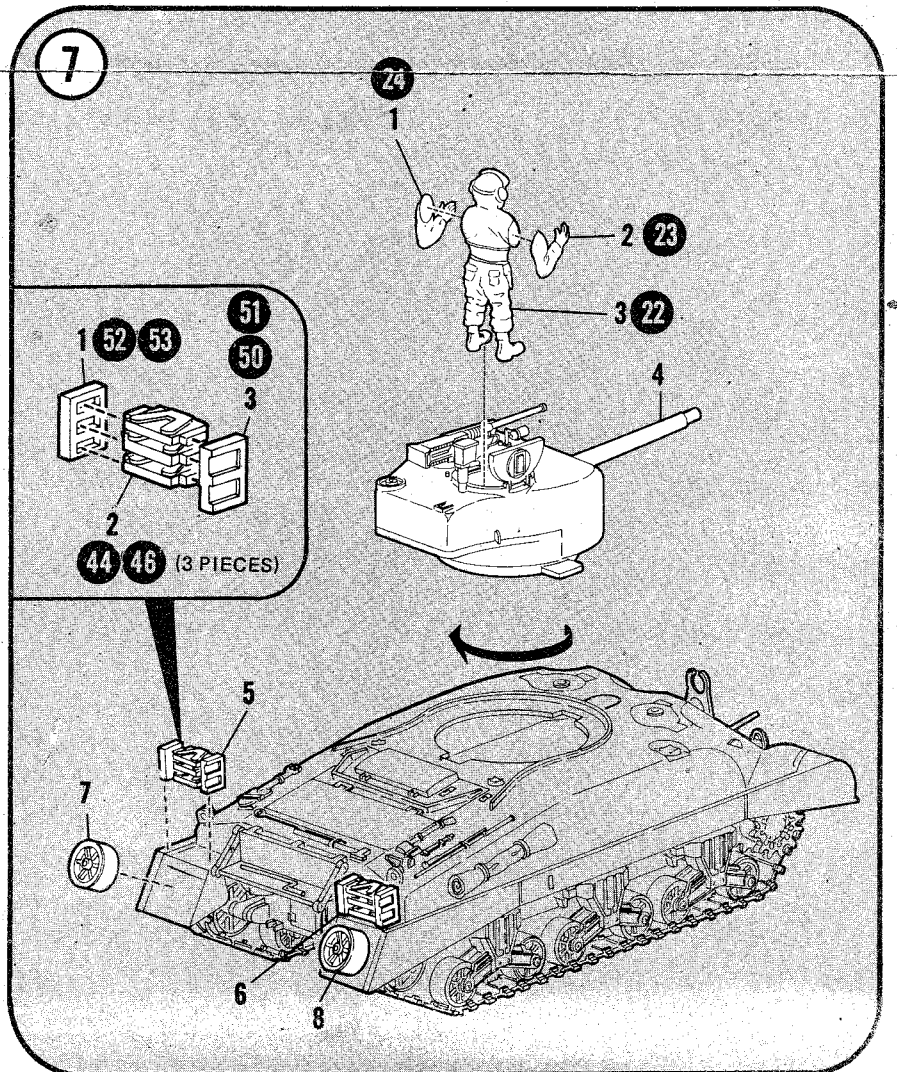
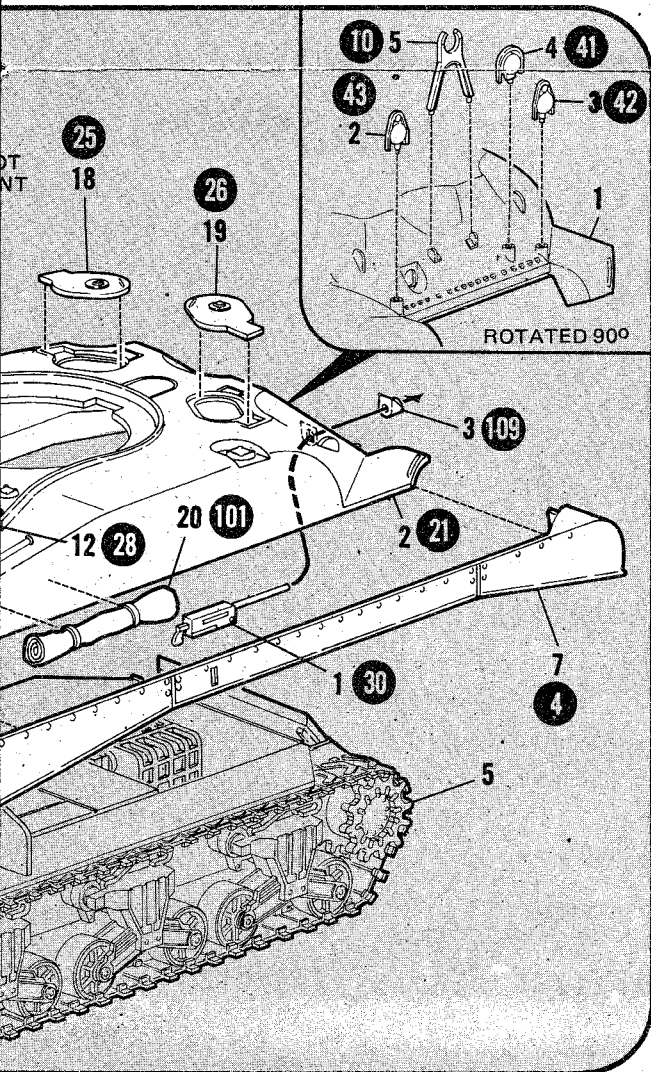
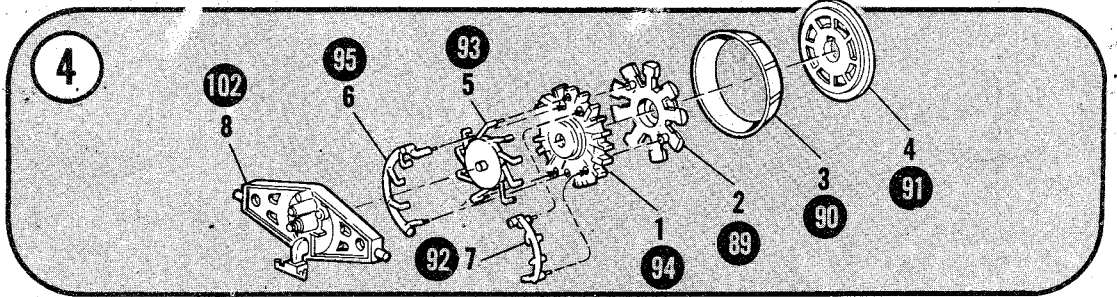
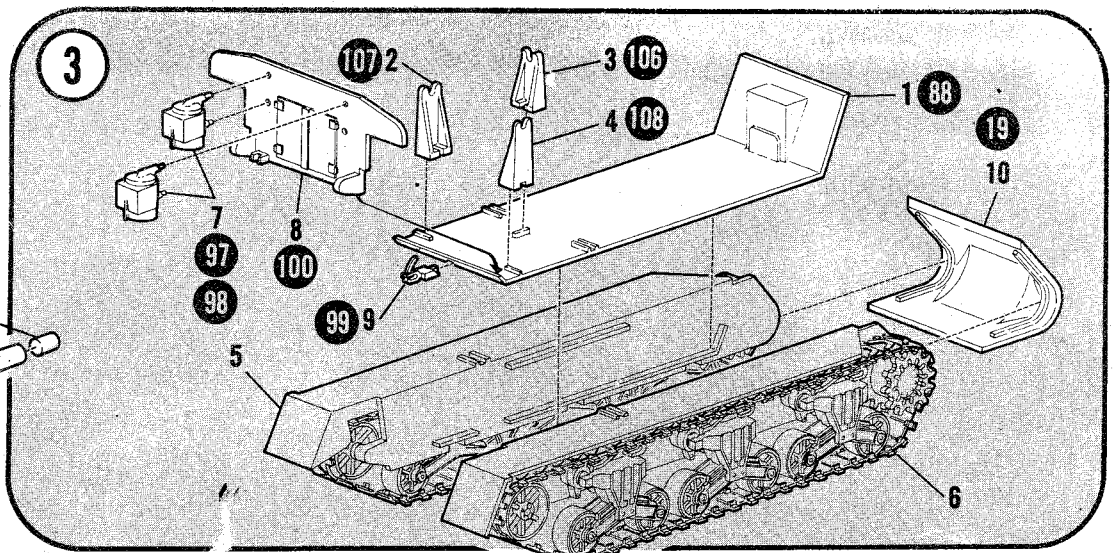
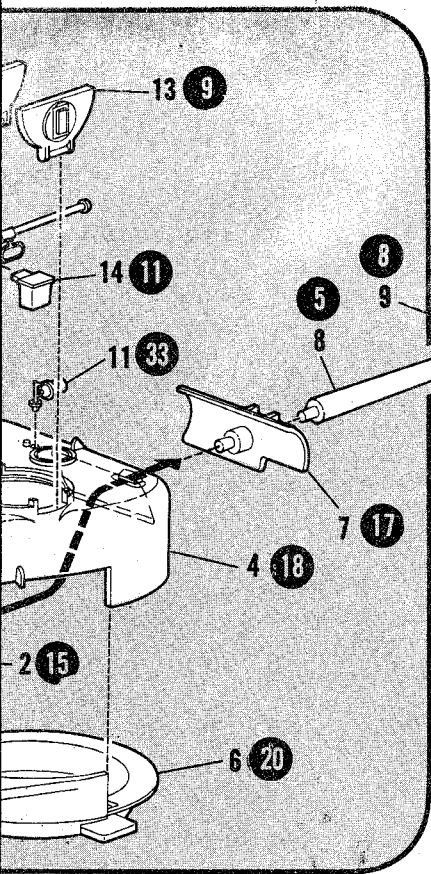
IMPORTANT READ THIS BEFORE STARTING

1. Study illustrations and instructions carefully before you start assembly.
2. We recommend using a hobby knife to cut parts off from runners and to remove excess plastic.
3. Check fit by assembling parts without cement first before cementing in place.
4. Assemble parts in the correct assembly sequence listed in the instructions.
5. On styrene parts (all parts except tread) use only cement for styrene.
6. In each step, the unassembled parts are shown in white.
7. If you wish to paint your model, see the decal placement and painting instructions before assembling. Use only enamel or paint for plastics and allow paint to dry thoroughly before handling. Where necessary, be sure to scrape paint from areas to be cemented. Cement will not work on paint.

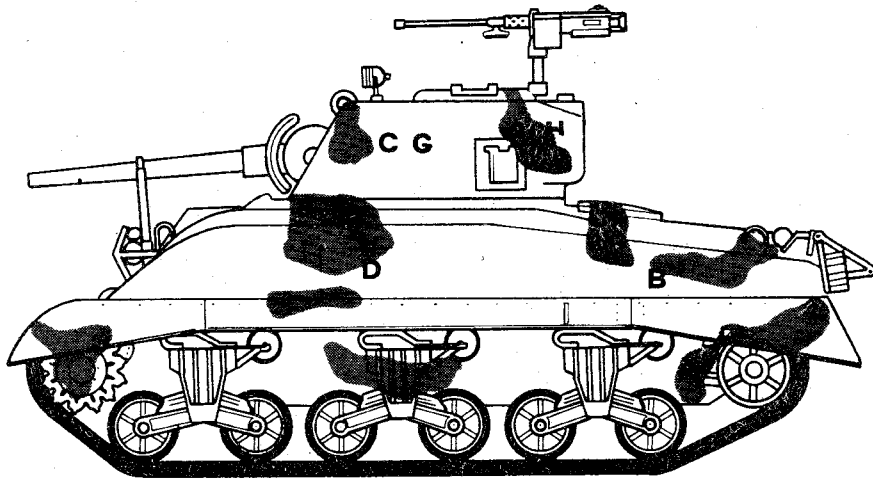
45 = PART NUMBER

7 = ASSEMBLY SEQUENCE NUMBER



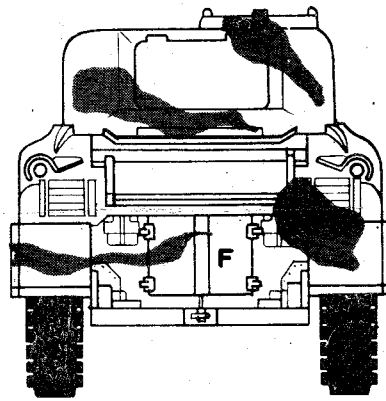
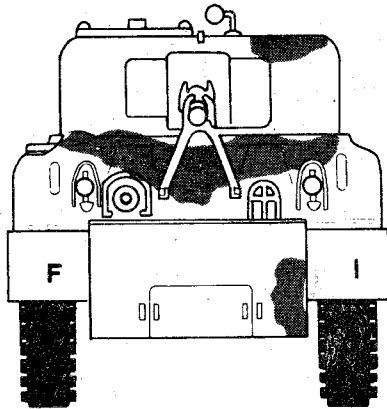


PAINING AND DECAL INSTRUCTIONS

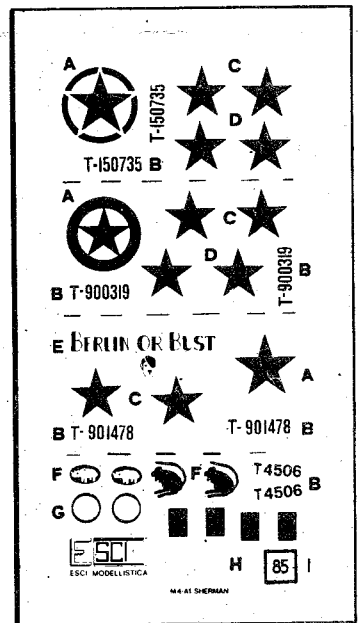
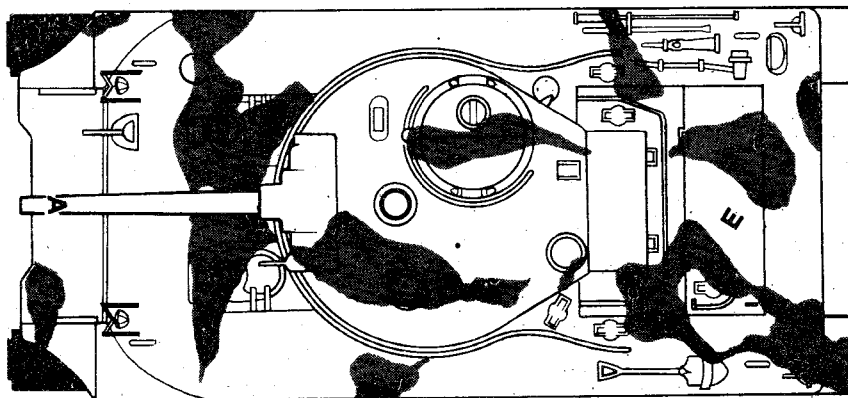


CAMOUFLAGE DESCRIPTION

Various camouflage patterns used on the SHERMAN are illustrated on the cover of the box. Standard factory finish was an overall "olive drab". A modified version of this is shown in the upper right profile, with a winter camouflage of hand-applied white-wash. A standard African Campaign British camouflage is shown in the center profile. The two-toned green of the lower profile was used in the Pacific Campaign.



NOTE: USE ONE OF THE FOUR DECAL SCHEMES SHOWN BELOW



DECAL SHEET

For your copy of the full-color
AURORA Hobby Kit Catalog,
send .50c in stamps or coin to:

AURORA PRODUCTS CORP., DEPT C
275 HARTZ WAY, SECAUCUS, N.J. 07094

When writing please print your name & address plainly