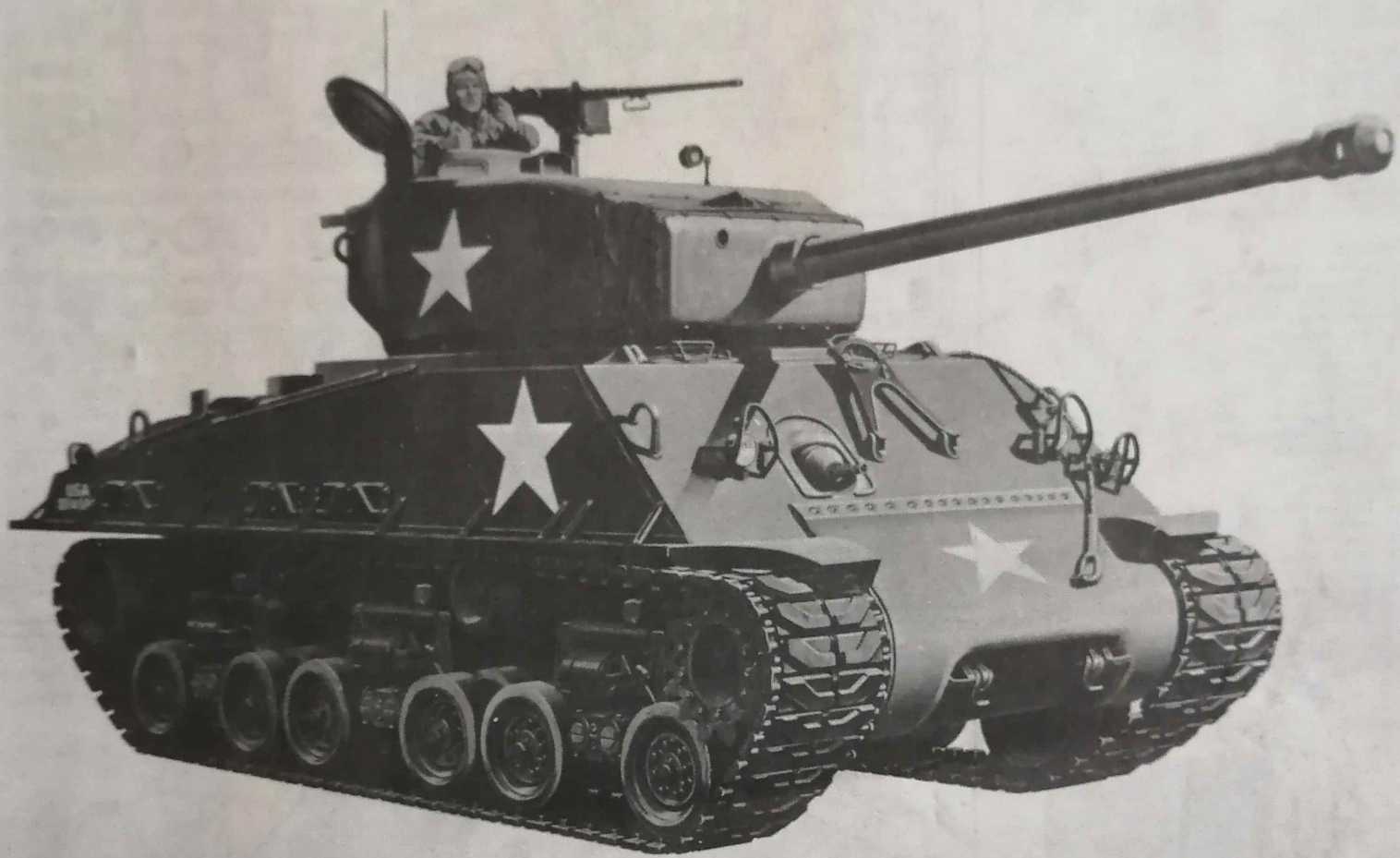
M4A3E8 SHERMAN

1/35 IDENTICAL SCALE SERIES NO.18
★FULLY MOTORIZED ★EASY TO ASSEMBLE

TAMIYA



Since Normandy landing, the U.S. forces marched forward to Germany, carrying away all Germans before them until in December, 1944, they suffered a crushing defeat at the Ardennes region in France under the fierce counterattack by the enemy ("Battle of the Bulge"). The U.S. 101th Airborne Division and the 10th Armoured Corps were critically surrounded at Bastogne by the German forces when they got out of danger with the aid of the 3rd Army which rushed to the scene when informed of their critical situation.

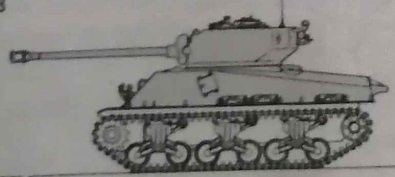
With the success of this rescue operation, the U.S. forces were able to have a chance to restore their falling fortunes.

Right at this critical juncture, the M4A3 E8 Sherman tank, the newest type of the M4 medium tank, made a gallant appearance at the spearhead of the 3rd Army under the command of Lieutenant General Patton, who was said to be the most gifted with a superhuman skill in fighting battles of armoured forces among All the U.S. Army Commanders.

There are more than 30 different types of the M4 Sherman medium tank including the T-6 manufactured for trial, the M4 officially adopted in October, 1941 and the M4A3 adopted in 1942. The M4A3E8 especially which crowned its first campaign with success and gave a chance for the surrounded U.S. forces to gain victory, differed gretly from a series of the former Shermans in its reinforced equipments. It was equipped with a large revolving gun turret, a 76mm gun of high initial speed and a new level suspension device. It was, in fact, the last type of the M4 tank series.

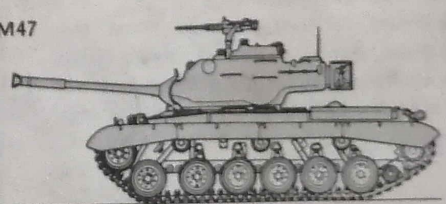
The number of the M4A3E8 produced at the Chrysler's tank plant in Detroit, which had also been called "Easy Eight", amounted to 1445 during the period from September, 1944, to January, 1945. Besides, most of 1,925 M4A3s each equipped with a 76mm gun had been remodelled into the M4A3E8 type during the Korean war, replacing their narrow-gauged caterpillars and vertical suspension devices with wide-gauged and level ones respectively. It is also said that at about the same time,

M4A3



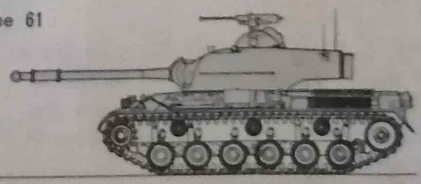
M4A3E8

M47



M48

Type 61



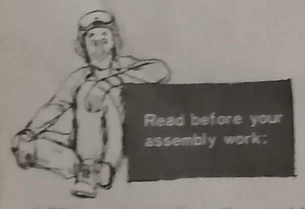
PARTS

Parts, A
1 Tail Light
2 Small Front Light
3 Fire Extinguisher (A)
4 Fire Extinguisher (B)
5 Light Cover (A)
6 Light Cover (B)
7 Searchlight
8 Large Front Light
9 Gun Barrel Stopper
10 Travel Rack (C)
11 Travel Rack (A)
12 Travel Rack (B)
13 Gun Barrel
14 Rear Hook
15 Gun Turret Hook
16 Hull Front Hook
17 Antenna Base
18 Commander's Hatch
19 Rotary Ring
20 Gun Barrel Support
21 Front Armour
22 7.7mm Machine Gun
23 Bullet Case
24 Machine Gun Holder
25 Ventilator
26 Machine Gun
27 Machine Gun Support
28 Gunner's Hatch (A)
29 Gunner's Hatch (B)
30 Gun Shield

Parts, B
1 Switch Lever
2 Tool Box
3 Exhaust Pipe
4 Rear Fender (A)
5 Rear Fender (B)
6 Suspension (A)
7 Suspension (B)
8 Battery Stopper
9 Battery Receptacle Plate
10 Auxiliary Rear Panel
11 Rear Wheel
12 Exhaust Deflector
13 Rear Hook
14 Gear Stopper
15 Hauling Hook
16 Suspension Parts

Parts, C
1 Sprocket Wheel (A)
2 Sprocket Wheel (B)
3 Road Wheel (A)
4 Road Wheel (B)
5 Rear Wheel (A)
6 Rear Wheel (B)
7 Idle Wheel (A)
8 Idle Wheel (B)
9 Idle Wheel (C)
10 Idle Wheel Shaft (A)
11 Idle Wheel Shaft (B)
12 Switch Parts

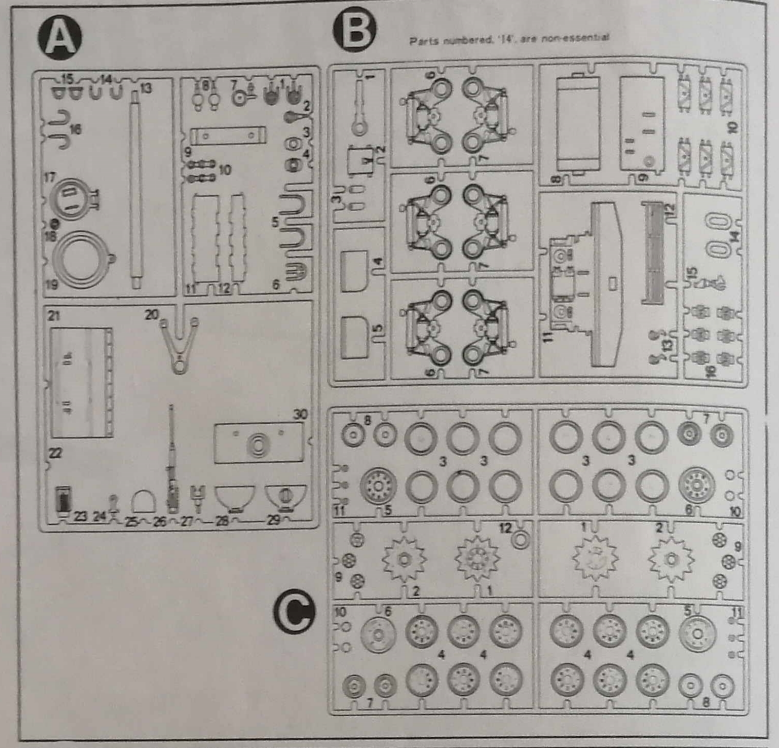
Parts, M
1 Battery Receptacle Metal (A)
2 Battery Receptacle Metal (B)
3 Switch Metal
4 Motor Stopper Vis
5 Switch Vis
6 Gear Stopper Vis
7 8-Blade Pinion



★When constructing the model, don't do your assembly work in a hurry but be sure to read its instructions and see the particular cut well beforehand.
★When removing parts from the runner, don't wrest it away with your hand but be sure to cut it off carefully with a knife, a pair of nippers, or the like.
★When painting, do the easier job and paint the smaller parts while they are still on the runner.
★Have a knife, a small driver, a pincette, Scotch tapes, etc. ready.

Fig. 1 Fixing of Pinion Gear
★Drive RE26 Motor Shaft into Pinion Gear with a 2mm gap in between.

Fig. 3 Connection of Cord to Metal
★When connecting Cord to Metal, peel the vinyl casing off from the tip-end of Cord by about 1.5cm in length.



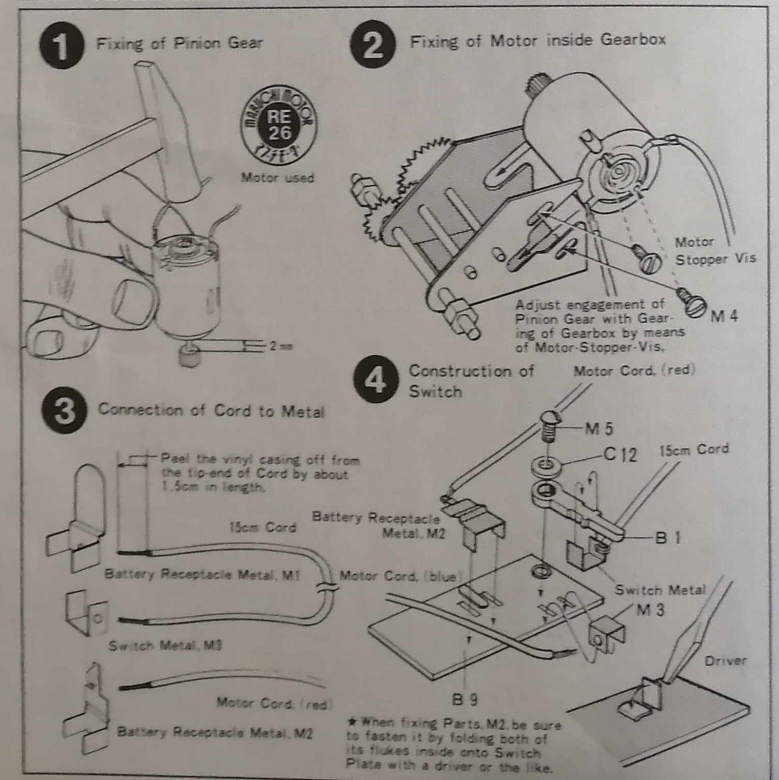


Fig. 5 Construction of Wheel & Rear Panel
★In constructing Road Wheel, glue Parts, B16, onto Parts, B6 and B7, first. Then, glue Road Wheels, C3 and C4, together.

Note: In so doing, be sure not to let adhesives flow inside the holes of Parts, B6 and B7.

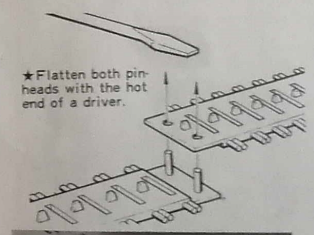
Fig. 6 Fixing of Gearbox
★When fixing Rear Panel, fix it while spreading both walls of Lower Hull out in the arrowed directions as shown in the figure.

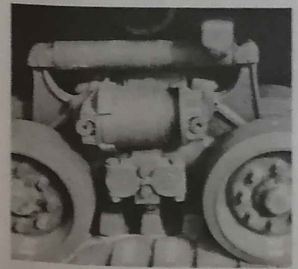
Fig. 7 Fixing of Wheels
★When fixing Front-Hull-Parts, A21, be sure not to use adhesives but fasten it onto Lower Hull with Gear-Stopper-Vis.

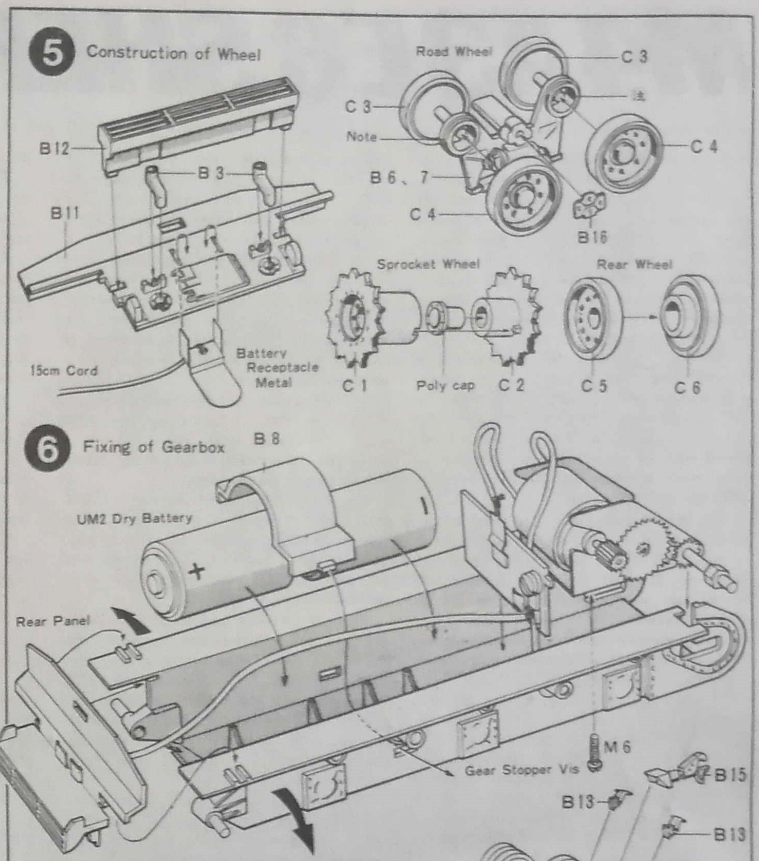
★When gluing Wheels onto Lower Hull, be sure not to let adhesives flow into the gap between Shaft and wheel.

★The best way is to oil the movable parts.
★In so doing, use either machine oil or grease for Gear box.
★Use vegetable oil, which won't harm plastics, for those plastic movable parts such as Wheels.

Construction of Caterpillars







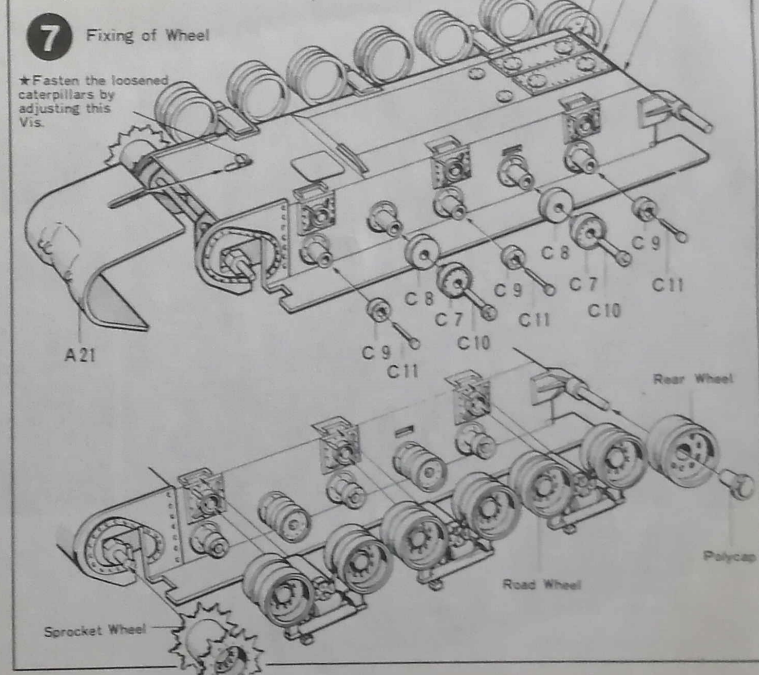
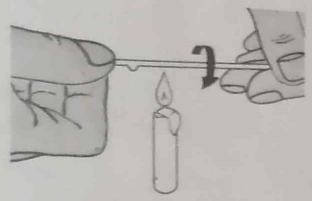


Fig. 9 Construction of Gun Turret, B

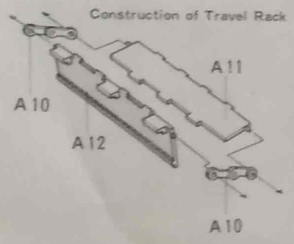
★When fixing Machine Gun, A26, onto MG Holder, A27, be sure just to fix them together without the use of adhesives. Do likewise with Parts, A17.

How to make an Antenna

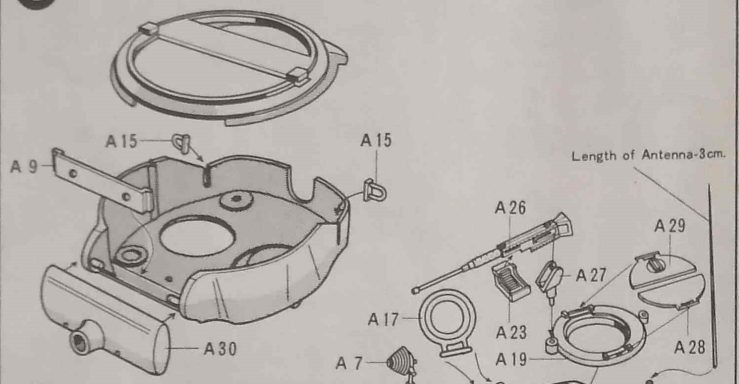


★Use the runner from which the parts have been taken off. First, warm it with a candle fire. When it becomes very soft, stretch it both ways until it becomes very thin. Then, cut it to proper length for use as an antenna.

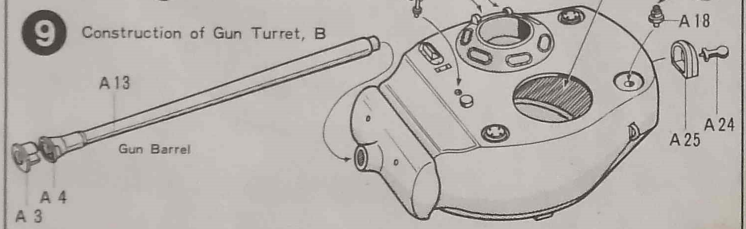
Fig. 11 Construction of Upper Hull, B



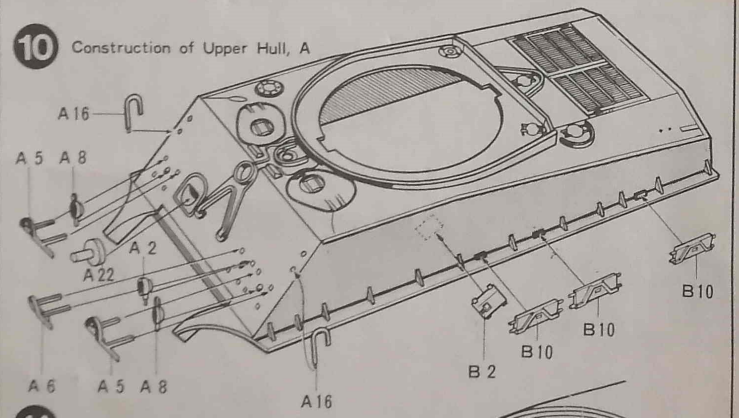
8 Construction of Gun Turret, A



9 Construction of Gun Turret, B



10 Construction of Upper Hull, A



11 Construction of Upper Hull, B

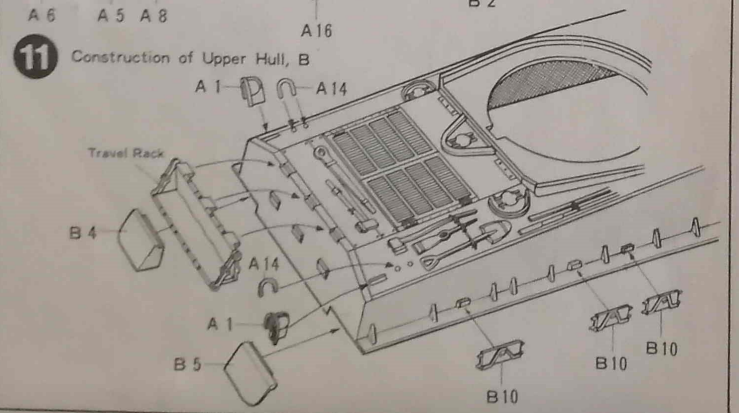


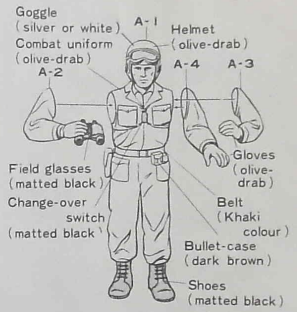
Fig. 11 Completion of Hull

★Firstly, fix Front Upper Hull onto Lower Hull as shown in the figure. Then, fix Rear Upper Hull onto Lower Hull with a snap. When removing Upper Hull from Lower Hull, push the former a little foward to take off its rear portion from the latter. Then unfasten the front portion.

★When fixing Gun Turret onto Upper Hull, fix the groove at the base of Gun Turret into that at of Upper Hull. Then, move Gun Turret around 90° and the model will be completed.

Construction of A Dummy

★There are two kinds of left arm — A3 and A-4. Left Arm, A-3, is used to represent a tank leader holding a pair of field glasses with both hands, Left Arm, A-4, is used to show his hand touching periphery of Hatch.

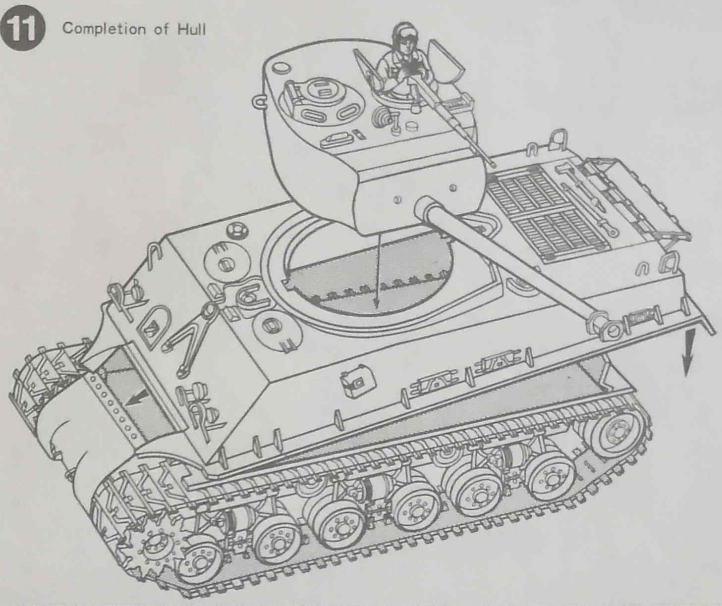


The mark in front of the tank as shown in the picture of the completed model, was used for the tanks which belonged to the B Company of the 45th Tank Battalion.

This battalion was active in support operation of the U.S. 5th Infantry Combat Corps during the Korean war.

As for the B Company, it was dispatched as a single unit from the 6th Mechanized Division then in the U.S. to the Korean front in September, 1950, and actively engaged itself in pursuing the enemy from Pusan Beachhead to Hamhung together with the 1st Cavalry Division already there.

11 Completion of Hull



Picture of the completed model

PAINTING & APPLYING DECALS

Painting of the Tank Model :

The standard painting of the M4 A3 E8 tank is a uni-colour of olive-drab sprayed all over its surface.

Explanation of Various Decals

Marks and Numbar Marks of the Japan Land Self-Defence Force.

Mark of the Land Self-Defence Force

★Each registration number of a vehicle stands for the following :

90-3078

Kind of vehicle | Number of a battalion | Kind of tank

The initial registration number of the Self-Defence Force will vary according to kind of the vehicle involved;

90	Tank	91	Personnl Transport Vehicle
92	SP Gun		

The next numeral following the initial number represents kind of the tank involved:

-0	M24 Tank	-2	M41 Tank
-3	M4 A3 E8 Tank	-6	61-type Tank

078 This is one of serial numbers that begins from 001. " 078', therefore, means that it is the 78th vehicle.

1師戦車-2中 This means that the vehicle belongs the second Company of the 1st Division.

東方教団 This means " the East Training Corps'. "

機甲-2中 This is an abbreviation mark for the 2nd Company of the Mechanized Training Corps.

213 The figure stands for the No.3 tank thet belongs to the 1st Platoon of the 2nd Company.

Explanation of Marks and Number Marks of U. S. Army.

4Δ4Δ73

① ③ ②

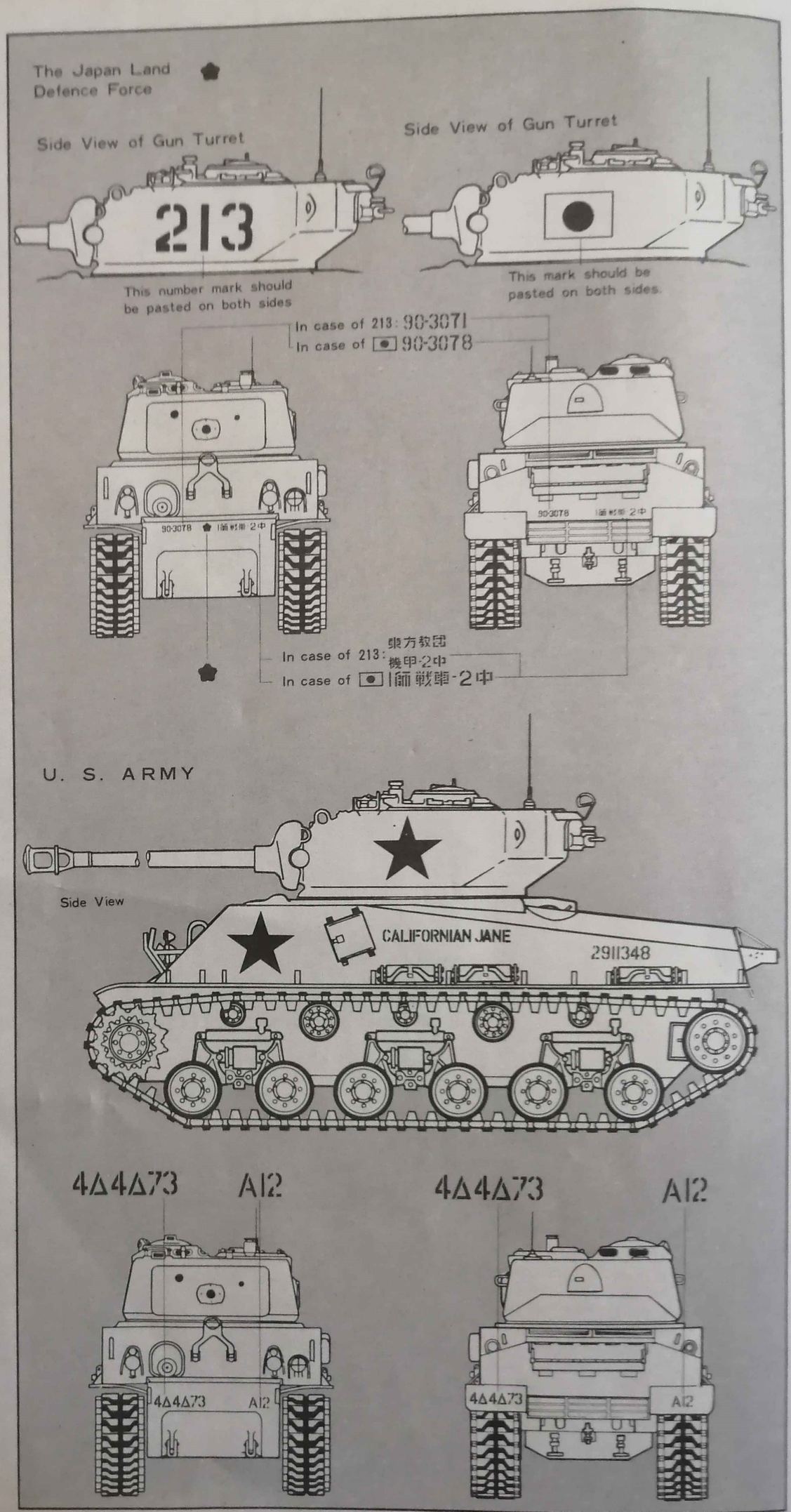
This number mark should be read in the order of ①, ③ and ②, It means the 4th Battalion, the 73th Regiment, the 4th Mechanized Division.

A12 This means the No.2 tank of the 1st Platoon of the A Company.

2911348 This stands for the registration number of the vehicle.

CALIFORNIAN JANE

This is the nickname for the tank.



The 1/35 Identical Tank Series

- M41 WALKER BULLDOG
- T-10 STALIN HEAVY TANK
- M4 SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK
- KIHG TIGER HEAVY TANK
- HUNTING TIGER HEAVY TANK
- PANTHER MEDIUM TANK
- JAGDPANTHER MEDIUM TANK
- LEOPARDO MEDIUM TANK
- TIGER I HEAVY TANK
- M42 DUSTER
- M60A1 MEDIUM TANK
- TYPE 61 MEDIUM TANK
- CENTURION MEDIUM TANK
- M551 SHERIDAN
- PANZER KAMPFWAGEN II
- 8ton SEMI TRACK Sd.Kfz 7
- KV-1 HEAVY TANK
- M36 JACKSON
- PANZER KAMPFWAGEN III
- STURMGESCHUETZ III

1/25th-scale De Luxe Tank Series

- CHIEFTAIN MEDIUM TANK
- T-34 MEDIUM TANK
- SU-100 TANK DESTROYER
- TIGER I HEAVY TANK
- PANTHER MEDIUM TANK
- JAGDPANTHER TANK DESTROYER
- CENTURION MEDIUM TANK

1/35 SCALE MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES

- No.2 German Army Infantry
- No.3 Schwimmwagen
- No.4 U.S.Army Tank Crew
- No.5 British 6Pounder Anti-Tank Gun
- No.6 Kubelwagen

U.S.ARMY SELF-PROPELLED AA GUN

M-42 DUSTER

M4A3E8 SHERMAN

a part of the M4A3s equipped with 75mm guns had likewise been remodelled into the M4A3E8 type by replacing their gun turret, caterpillars and suspension devices with those of the latter type. The M4A3E8s which had been placed with the mechanized divisions at the fronts since August, 1944, was active as main-strength tanks in various central European fronts during the latter half of the world war and later in the Korean war as well.

However, all these M4 Shermans were dropped from the list of the U.S. Army organizations and equipments in 1956 after the M47 medium tanks (the Patton II type) and the M48s (the Patton III type) began to be placed with all the mechanized divisions on a large scale as their main-stregth tanks in 1955, the preceding year.

The M4 Shermans had also been active outside the U.S. as some of them were granted to the NATO and SEATO forces after the World war II, The Japan Land Self-Defence Force, too, were granted with about 200 of them in October, 1954. They had since been active as main-strength tanks for the Japan Force until the 61-type medium tanks were produced. At present, the Shermans are being replaced with these 61-type medium tanks.

The details of the " Easy Eight " are as follows: Its hull is made of armoured-plates welded together. The front plate has an angle of inclination amounting to 47 degrees. The hull itself is subdivided into three compartments — the pilot chamber in front, the central combat room and the engine compartment at the rear. A crew of five is active inside the hull — a pilot and a front gunner in the pilot chamber while a tank leader, a gunner and a charger in the combat room respectively, A single bulkhead partitions the combat room from the engine compartment to bolster hull structure and also to serve as a fire shield.

At the top of the pilot chamber, there are right and left large hatches, each opening at one side only. Each hatch is equipped with a periscope for outside view. In the combat room itself, a pilot seat is located at the left, while at the right, a front-gunner-and-copilot seat. The charger is situated at the left in the middle combat room, while the tank leader and the gunner, to the right.

The engine compartment contains a liquid-cooled gasoline engine, a fuel tank and an extinguisher. Its upper door is a folding one, while at the bottom of the front gunner seat is fitted an emergency escape hatch when damaged by enemy shots.

The gun turret is casted and extended at the rear. And it differs from that of a 75mm gun type in that fully shot-proof casing covers its whole length. It is also equipped with a folding hatch for the charger and an anti-air 12.7mm (50-inch) machine gun holder, This, however, is an earlier version, the latter one being fitted with a hatch that opens to one side only.

The hatch for a tank leader opens to one side only for both versions, It is equipped with a cupola which has five periscopes for outside view.

The engine is designed and produced by the Ford and is a 60°, V-type, 8-cylinder, GAA II (or GAA III), liquid-cooled gasolins engine with a power of 500/2,000 r.p.m.

The main gun of the "Easy Eight" is a 76mm (52-inch) M1A1C (or M1A2) tank gun with a long gun barrel. It is further improved in that its initial velocity is much increased and made more powerful than the M-3 type, 75mm (40-inch) gun of the former M4 series.

The armour-piercing power of the M1A2 gun when it uses armour-piercing shots reaches 66, 61, 56, and 51 mm at 500, 1,000, 1,500, and 2,000m respectively. Its maximum range is said to reach 14,700m. The total number of shots carried along is 86, while its firing speed is 20 shots per minute.

The main gun and other aiding machine guns can be handled either manually or mechanically with a motor device. The main gun also can change its firing angles from 1° to 25°. The time needed for a complete 360° round of the gun turret is about 15 seconds.

Besides the main gun, the " Easy Eight " is equipped with two 7.62mm (30-inch) Browning M1919A4 machine guns, one in front hull, the other, in front of gun turret, Also, a single 12.7mm (50-inch) Browning M2-type anti-air machine gun is mounted on the upper gun turret.

In short, this M4A3E8 Sherman tank was a masterpiece medinm tank of the high world standard during the latter half of 1940s.

Essential Specification of the M4A3E8

Weight: 33t	Overall height: 3.02m
Number of crew: 5	Distance from the lowest part to the ground: 0.335m
Overall length: 5.88m	Length of ground portion: 3.73m
Overall width: 2.98m	Caterpillar width: 0.61m

TAMIYA
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