STURMGESCHUETZ III Ausf G

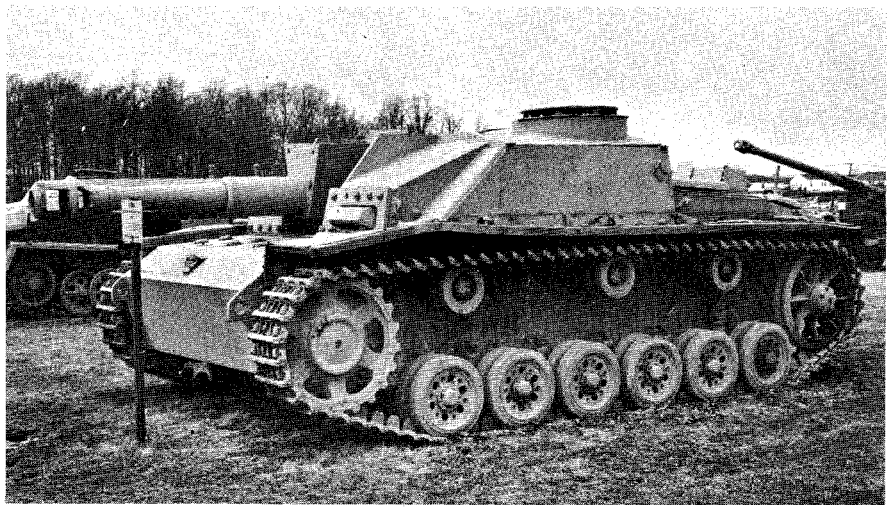
1/35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.14

TAMIYA

About the time when in 1943 the German Army's Ordnance Bureau schemed and started developing an attack tank (Pzkpfw III) and its support tank (Pzkpfw IV) which played a leading part later in the blitzkrieg tactics, another scheme of tanks was being born in the infantry arm. It was less than 20 years since tanks showed themselves for the first time at the Battle of Somme in 1916 during World War I, and therefore poweres differed in evaluation of tanks. Much time was being spent in adjusting the allotment of strategic duty between tanks and other arms such as the infantry, the cavalry and the artillery which had already occupied an undisputed position. Generals who experienced World War I did not appreciate tanks. They thought tanks were vehicles for carrying ammunition and materials or at best infantry support weapon crawling in battlefields only to become targets for artillery's fire. Tanks impressed them as iron monsters mercilessly abandoned in battlefields. On the basis of the scheme of General Heinz Guderian who was later called the father of German tanks units, Germany formed in these circumstances a plan for a mobile unit to manoeuvre tanks as a group by the full use of their manoeuvrability, and steadily promoted the organization of tank divisions. Considering these matters, the infantry arm's scheme of tanks for the purpose of supporting infantry seems very passive and simple like Britain's and France's then tank tactics drawing a line between cruising tanks and infantry tanks. Anyway, the plan was approved by the army's supreme command on 15th June, 1936, and the tanks for supporting infantry were to be developed.

Daimler Benz was assigned to develop the hull of the new tank and Krupp was in charge of the armament. Among some designs proposed, finally adopted one included the running part of the Pzkpfw III and the 75 mm main gun type 37 of 24 length calibre to be mounted on the Pzkpfw IV then under development. The overall style of the new tank, having monoblock superstructure with no turret, was unconventional and the overall posture was reduced in height. The simple construction made manufacturing cost lower and mass production easier. The design thus completed was excellent. In 1937—1939, 30 of trial manufacture type were made, six of which took part in the war against France in May of 1940. This was the first campaign of the Sturmgeschuetz III. In February 1940, the production of the type A, the first mass production type, was initiated. Its weight was 19.6 tons. The armour was 50 mm thick at front and 30 mm at sides. The engine mounted was the Maybach HL 120 TR of 230 hp. The type A was followwed by the types B, C, D and E, the total production reaching 734 in number.

On 22nd June, 1941, "Operation Barbarossa" was started. German tank units invading the Soviet Union encountered powerful tanks such as the T34 and the KV1 that the Soviet Union was proud of. This had a great repurcussion in the Reichswehr, offering a chance to develop new tanks as well as forcing the army to improve immediately on its existing tanks. On 28th September, 1941, Fuehrer Hitler ordered to strengthen also the armament of the Sturmgeschuetz III, and the type F armed with a long-barrel 75 mm gun appeared. The 75 mm gun, remodelled version of the type 40 gun of 43 length calibre that was just developed for use on the Pzkpfw IV, was much superior to the existing type 37 gun particulary in armour-piercing ability and effective range. The gun of 43 length calibre was remodelled into a more powerful 75 mm gun of 48 length calibre to be mounted on the 120th one just in the production line and later ones of the type F. The Sturmgeschuetz III, which showed activity till then in attacks of fortifications and tochkas in support of infantry, thus changed its character into an anti-tank weapon to protect infantry from enemy tank attacks. It was further developed into destroyer tanks, the Yagd Panther and the Hunting Tiger. Although the Sturmgeschuetz III was not so magnificient as the destroyer tanks, it was much relied upon by German soldiers especially infantrymen because of stable running with no fault, rare trouble and easy repair. The Sturmgeschuetz III was first incorporated into independent assault gun brigades, tank divisions and assault gun battalions of tank grenadier divisions; but late in 1944 it even constituted the second battalion of a tank regiment in a tank division and also formed a tank regiment for the defensive war. This shows that the Sturmgeschuetz was a really effective weapon for the defensive war. Since Germany had to take the defensive everywhere in the latter half of World War II, such defensive weapons made remarkable progress in this country The Sturmgeschuetz III would be one of the best weapons of the German army in view of produc-



PARTS

A Parts

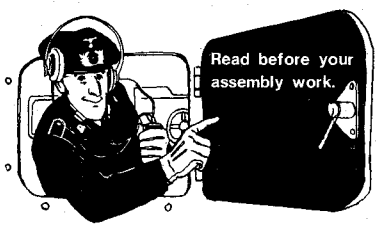
1. Antenna Base A
2. Tail Light
3. Exhaust Pipe A
4. Exhaust Pipe B
5. Antenna Base B
6. Upper Hull Part
7. Crank
8. Hook
9. Spare Caterpillar Holder
10. Tool Box
11. Muffler A
12. Muffler B
13. Unnecessary Parts
14. Head Light
15. Machine Gun Shield
16. Exhaust Cover
17. Upper Hull Parts
18. Commander's Hatch
19. Cupola B
20. Cupola A
21. Periscope
22. Ventilator
23. Hammer
24. Fire Extinguisher
25. Wire Cutter
26. Hull Parts
27. Hatch Knob
28. Muzzle Brake
29. Jack
30. Frontal Armour Plate A
31. Frontal Armour Plate B
32. Machine Gun Holder
33. Shovel
34. Machine Gun
35. Upper Hull Parts
36. Spare Caterpillar Holder
37. Hook
38. Smoke Discharger Base A
40. Smoke Discharger Base B
41. Hook
42. Barrel Base B
43. Barrel Base A
44. Barrel Base C
45. Unnecessary Parts
46. Gunner's Hatch B
47. Gunner's Hatch A
48. Barrel A
49. Barrel B

B Parts

1. Spare Wheel Holder
2. Rear Wheel Bearing
3. Spare Wheel Carrier
4. Idler Wheel
5. Tank Crew's Left Hand
6. Lower Half of Tank Crew's Body
7. Tank Crew's Right Hand
8. Upper Half of Tank Crew's Body
9. Ventilator
10. Hull Fastening Parts
11. Spare Wheel
12. Road Wheel B
13. Pistol
14. Road Wheel A
15. Rear Wheel B
16. Rear Wheel A
17. Sprocket Wheel B
18. Sprocket Wheel A
19. Cap
20. Spare Caterpillar
21. Rear Panel
22. Shock Absorber
23. Upper Hull Parts
24. Upper Hull Parts
25. Upper Hull Parts
26. Unnecessary Parts
27. Binocular
28. Spare Caterpillar Holder
29. Idler Wheel Shaft

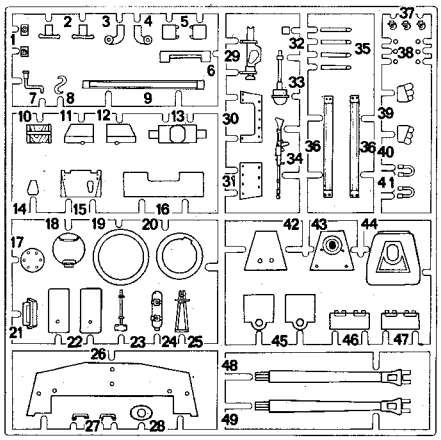
C Parts

1. Tug Rope
2. Armor Plate Holder A
3. Loading Section Carrier A
4. Loading Section Carrier B
5. Rear Wheel Shaft
6. Loading Section Parts
7. Barrel C
8. 105 mm Barrel A
9. 105 mm Barrel B
10. Loading Section Carrier Holder
11. Spare Caterpillar
12. Loading Section A
13. Loading Section A
14. Floor
15. Loading Section Parts
16. Front Wheel Shaft
17. Bucket
18. Bucket Handle
19. 75 mm Projectile
20. Armor Plate A
21. Armor Plate B
22. 105 mm Projectile
23. Armor Plate Holder B
24. Projectile Carrier
25. Spare Tank A
26. Spare Tank B
27. Armor Plate Holder C

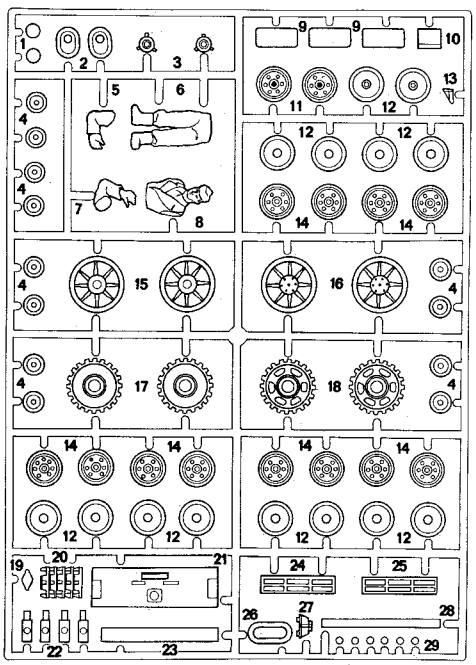


★Be sure to read instructions before you start each construction work.
★Get a knife, a driver, a pair of nippers, a file and the like ready for use.
★Parts should be cut off the runner carefully with either a pair of nippers or a knife. Do not pluck them away with your hand.
★Too much adhesive won't do. Instead apply just a little onto both parts to be glued together.

〈Painting Instructions〉
Tank should be painted after it has been completely constructed.

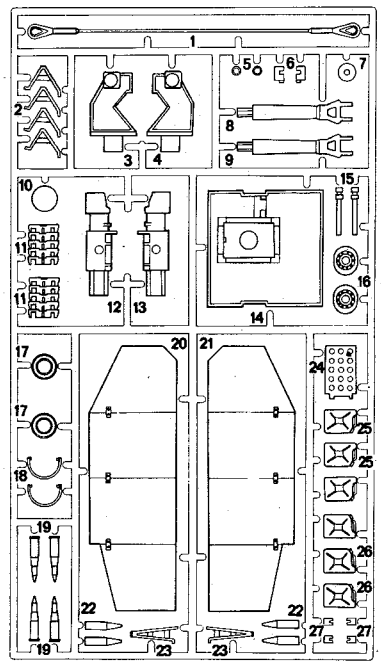


A Parts

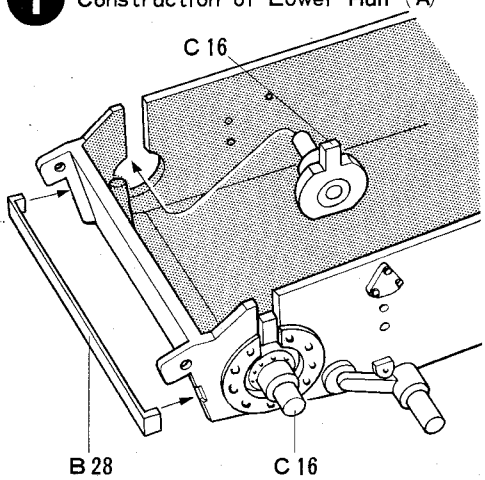


B Parts

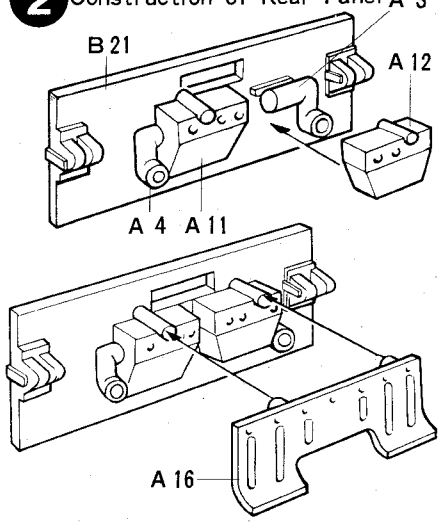
C Parts



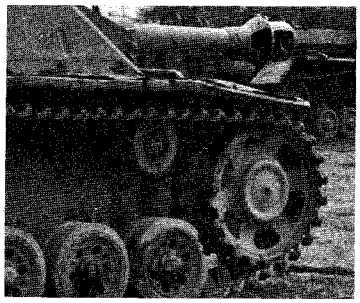
1 Construction of Lower Hull (A)



2 Construction of Rear Panel A 3



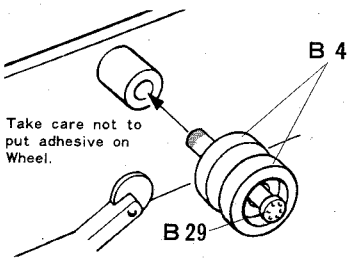
3 B19 Cap should be properly fit into Drive Sprocket B18



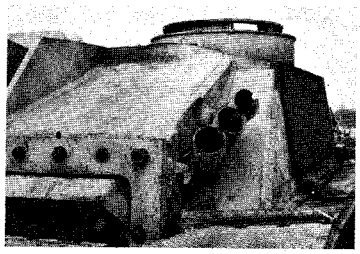
4 Drive Sprocket should be fixed while holding C16 with your fingers after Poly Cap has been put in.

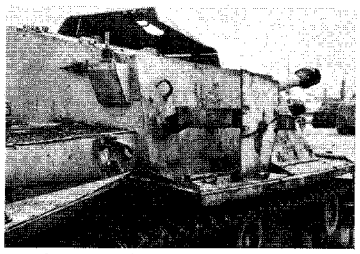
★Before fixing Idler Wheel B4 and B29, apply adhesive onto Lower Hull, to which fix B29. Take care not to put adhesive on B4.

Gluing of Idler Wheels



5 Loading Section has movable parts and care should be taken in application of adhesive. Fix 105 mm Projectile C22 if you are to construct 105 mm Gun (Short Barrel) or 75 mm Projectile C19 if 75 mm Gun (Long Barrel) to Projectile Carrier C24.

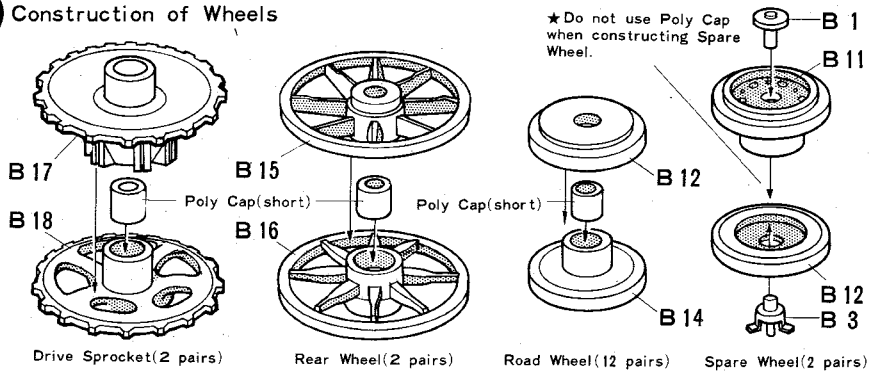




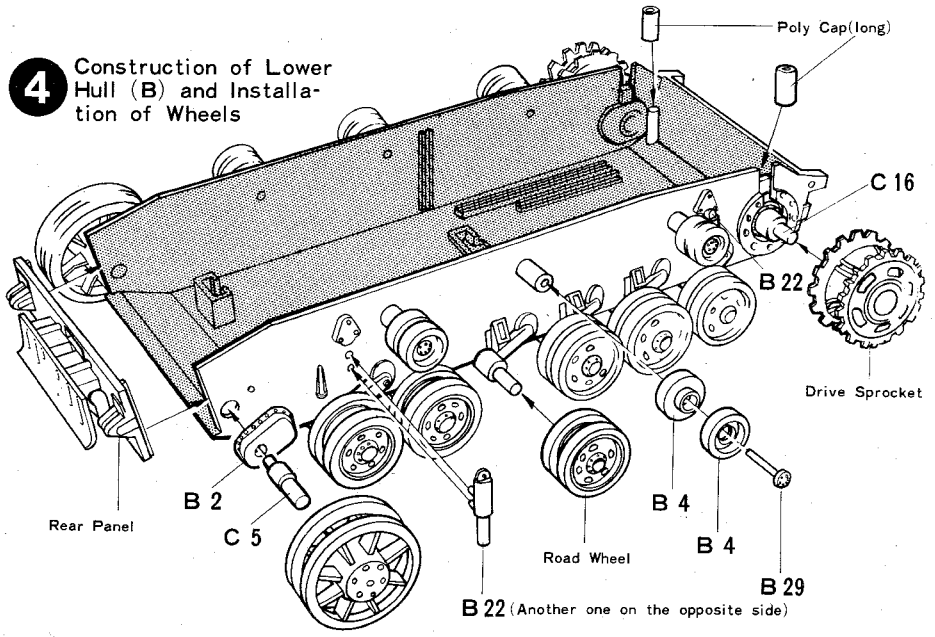
Instructions for Use of Adhesive

★Do not use adhesive for purposes other than the construction and gluing of plastic models.
★Do not use it near fire.
★Keep it beyond small children's reach. Do not allow them to play with it.
★It contains organic solution and is harmful. Do not put it in your eyes or mouth.
★Never inhale or drink it intentionally, which will be injurious to health.
★Change of air is needed when and for some time after the use of adhesive.

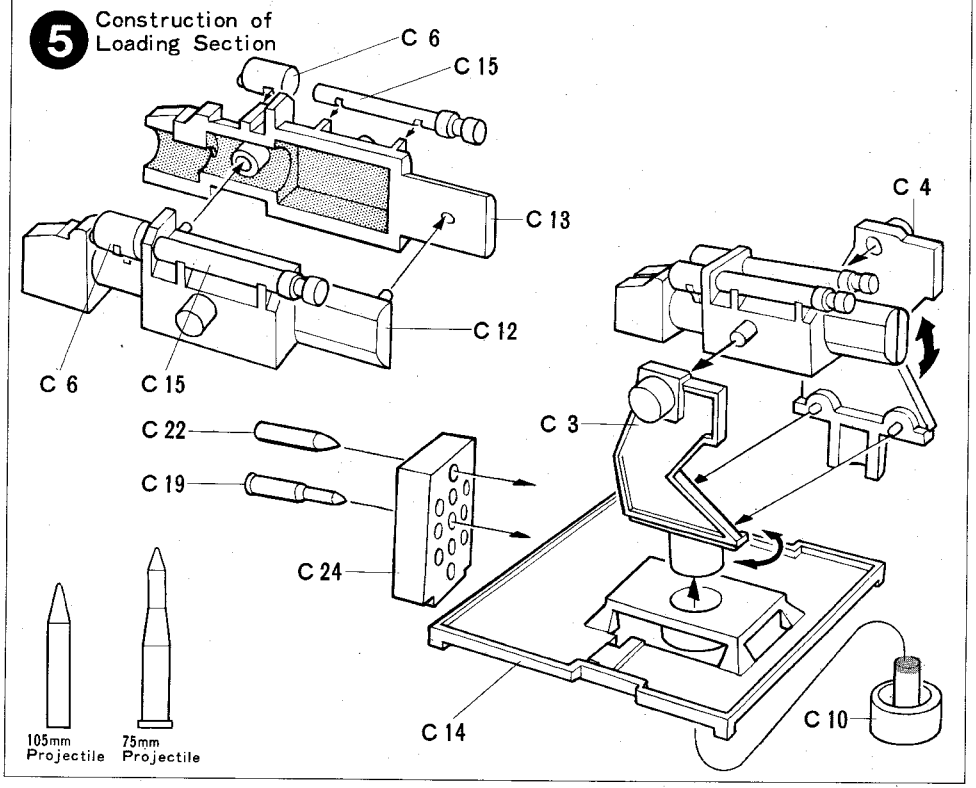
3 Construction of Wheels



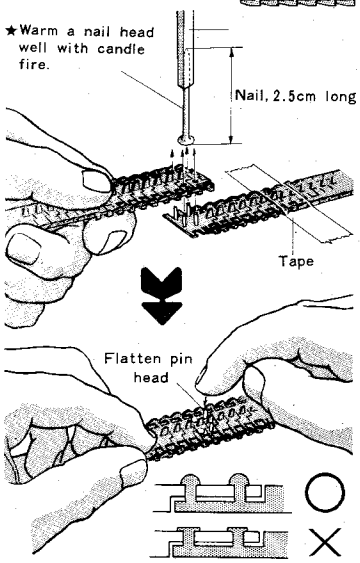
4 Construction of Lower Hull (B) and Installation of Wheels



5 Construction of Loading Section

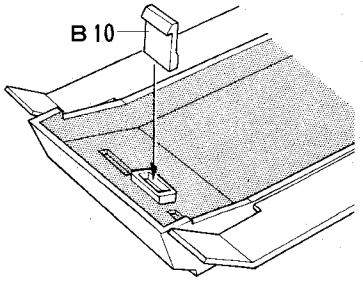


6 ★Firmly fix one end of Caterpillar onto a desk or the like with tape and insert pins into respective holes. Then, lightly warm the pin heads with either a nail head or a screw driver's end that has been previously heated by candle fire or the like.
★Flatten the pin heads immediately with your finger to connect Caterpillar.
★If Caterpillar is cut or the connecting portion is too weak, you can reinforce it with a black thread or a stapler as shown in the figure.



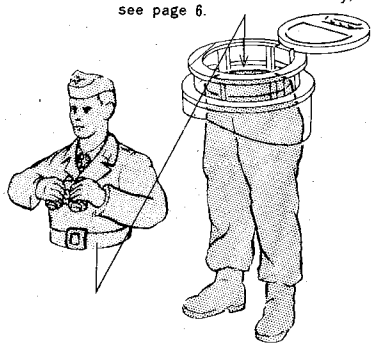
8 Commander's Hatch A-18 and Gunner's Hatch A46 & A47 can be constructed either in an open or a closed state.

《Rear View of Upper Hull》

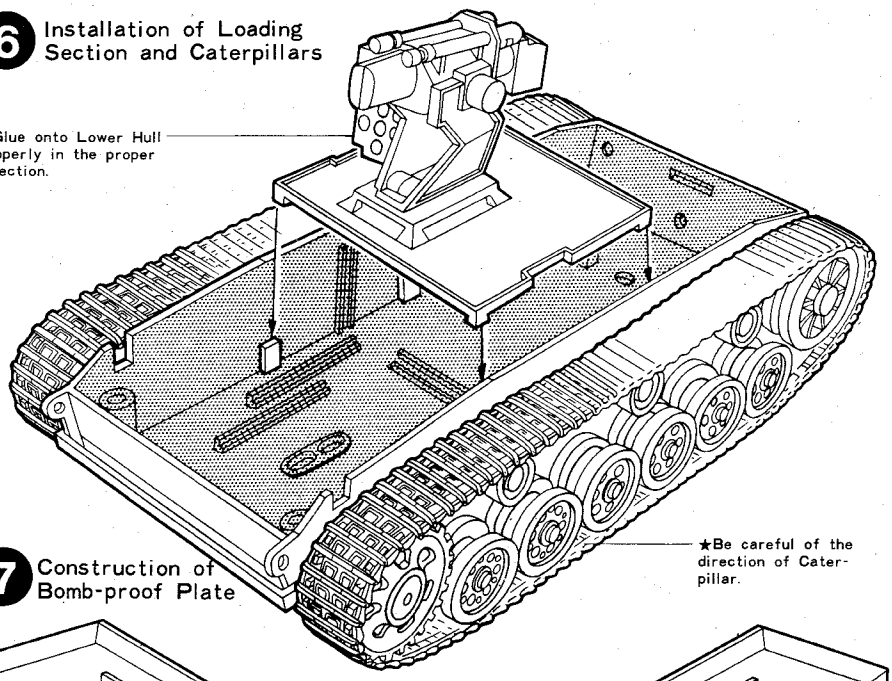


《Mounting of Tank Crew》

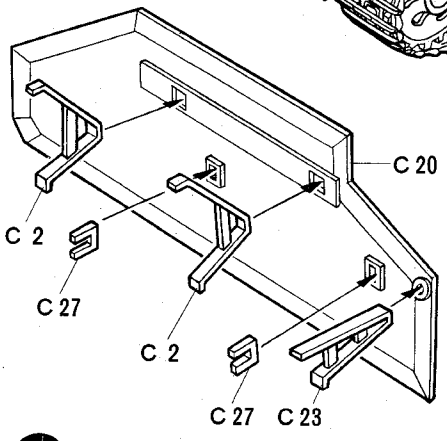
★For construction of Dummy, see page 6.

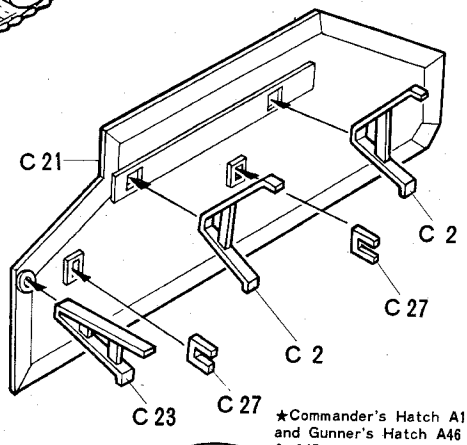


6 Installation of Loading Section and Caterpillars



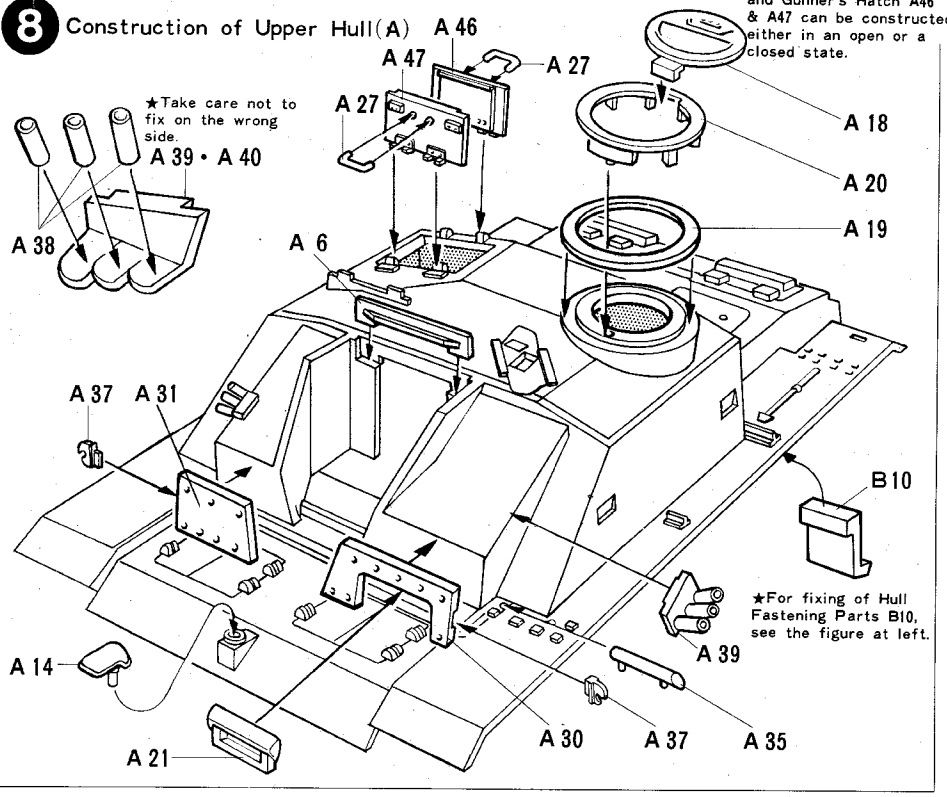
7 Construction of Bomb-proof Plate





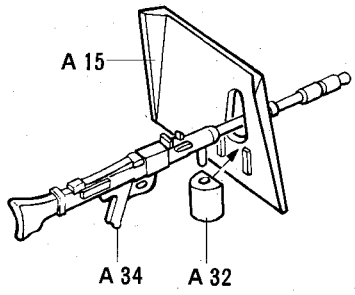
8 Construction of Upper Hull(A)

★Commander's Hatch A18 and Gunner's Hatch A46 & A47 can be constructed either in an open or a closed state.

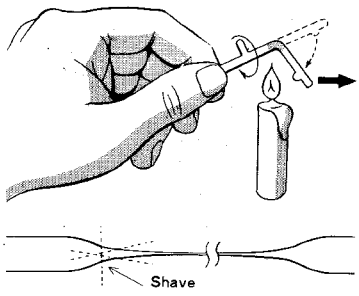


9 First glue Hull Parts A26 to Upper Hull. Then glue other parts.

《Construction of Machine Gun》



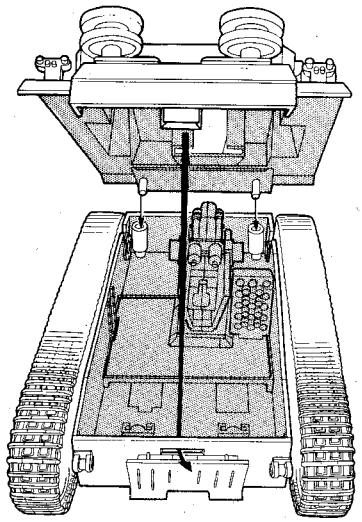
《Construction of Antenna》



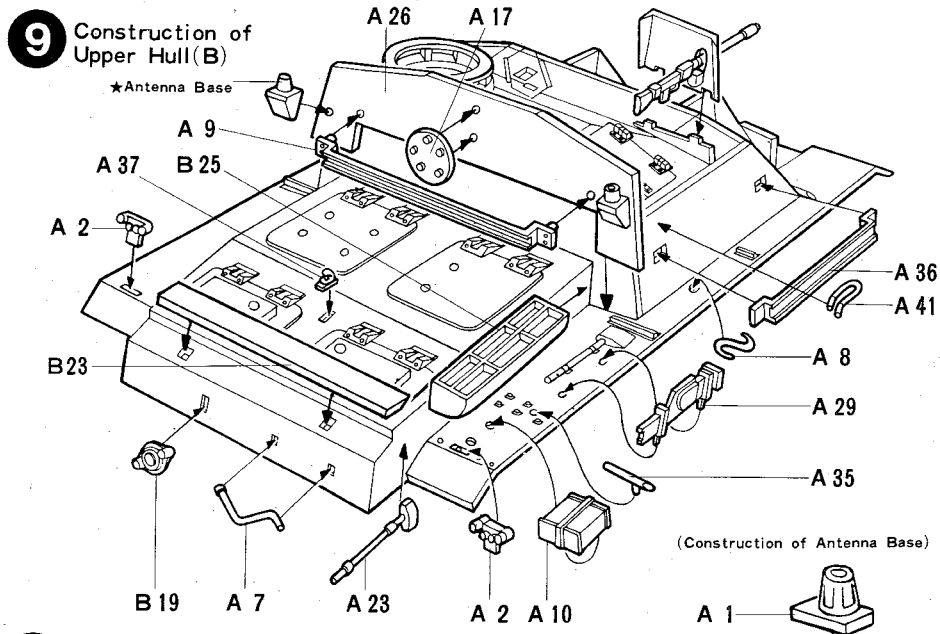
★First, warm the runner by candle fire turning it all the while in the arrowed direction as shown in the figure above. When the runner hang down, take it away from the fire. Then, slowly pull it both ways until it becomes long and slender. Keep it still for about 15 seconds it cool it. Lastely cut it into 6 cm.
★In so doing, take good care of candle fire.

11 Prior to construction, make a choice between Long Barrel(75 mm Gun) and Short Barrel (105mm Gun).

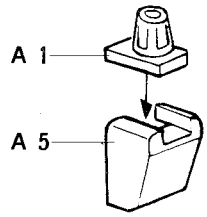
《Construction of Hull》



9 Construction of Upper Hull(B)

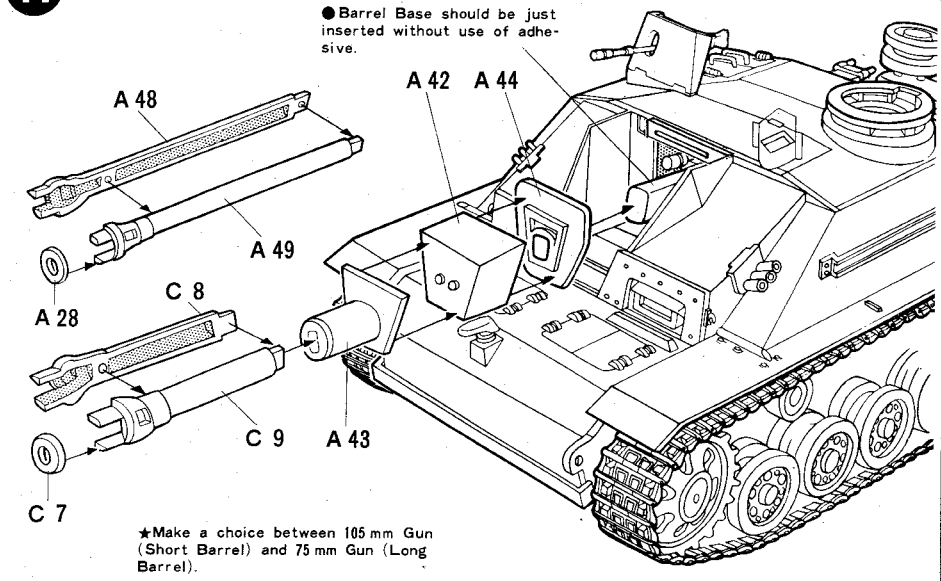


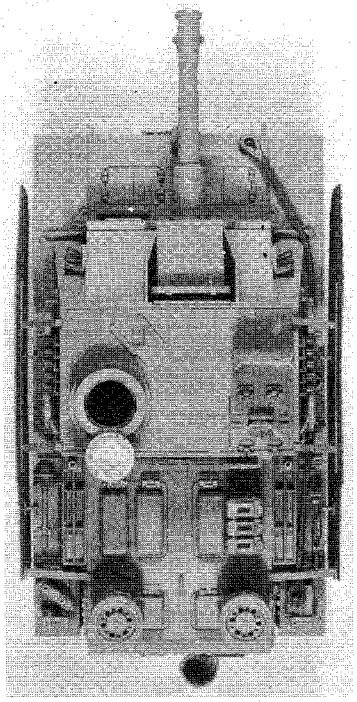
(Construction of Antenna Base)

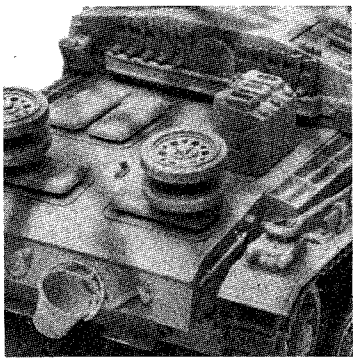


10 Construction of Upper Hull (C)

11 Construction of Turret





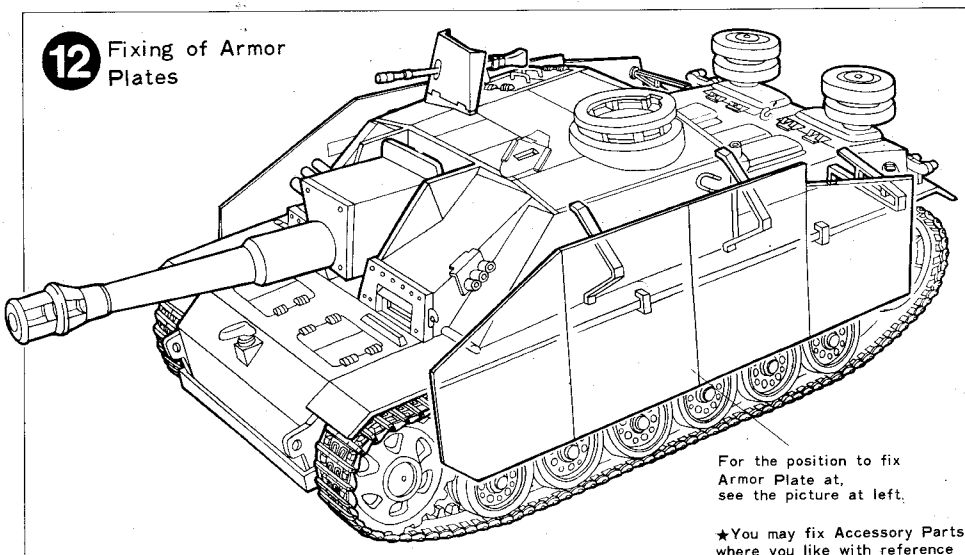


13 Put Tug Rope in hot water for about 10 seconds. Then, take it out of the hot water and bend it along the surface it is to be fixed on. Do not bend it at a breath, or it will break. For fixing of Bucket, Spare Tanks and Spare Caterpillars, see the picture at left.

TAMIYA

TAMIYA PLASTIC MODEL CO.
50-1, OSHIKA, SHIZUOKA-CITY, JAPAN

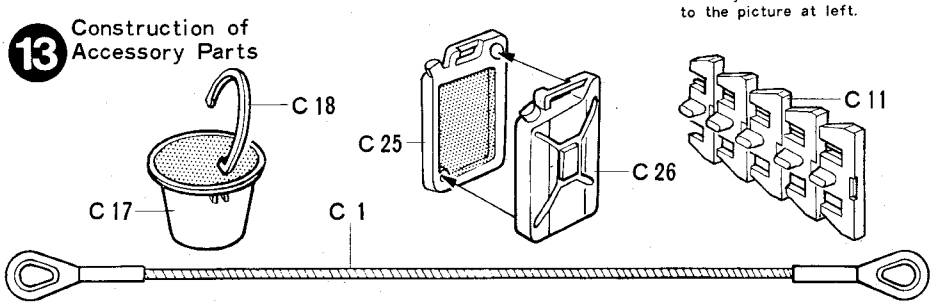
12 Fixing of Armor Plates



For the position to fix Armor Plate at, see the picture at left.

★You may fix Accessory Parts where you like with reference to the picture at left.

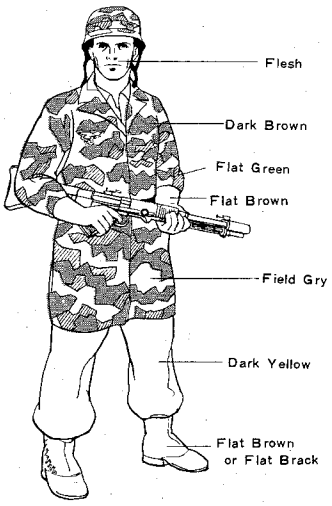
13 Construction of Accessory Parts



14 Construction of Dummy

PAINTING

《Camouflage Painting of Dummy》



《Camouflage Painting of German Tanks》

The camouflage painting of German tanks has three basic colours: dark yellow, dark green and red brown. The combination of these colours varies the camouflage colours and patterns according to when and where the tanks are used.

Camouflage Painting

(Graduation by means of Spray-type Tank Colours)

★Get the following ready:
cotton, aseptic paste and Tank Colours (Dark Yellow and Red Brown)

(1)Paint the tank overall in the basic colour (Red Brown) so lightly that the plastic colour remains visible. After drying it for about 10 minutes, do the work again. Then, allow it to dry for about one hour.

(2)Referring to the figure of camouflage painting at right, cover the basic colour with cotton. The cotton should be previously taken to as small pieces as you can and applied with small amount of paste.

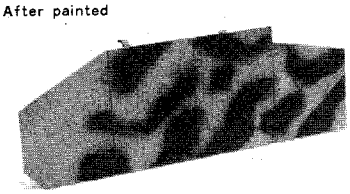
(3)Apply camouflage colours overall in the same way as the basic colour. Do not forget the bottom of the hull. Give three thin coats or so to finish it.

(4)Remove the cotton pieces after about 20 minutes. Allow the Tank Colours to dry (30 minutes) and rinse the paste away.

(Painting of Armor Plate)

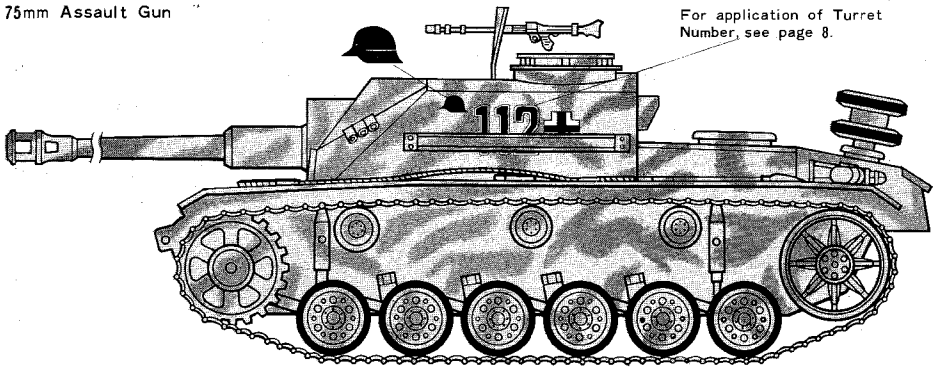
With cotton pieces

After painted



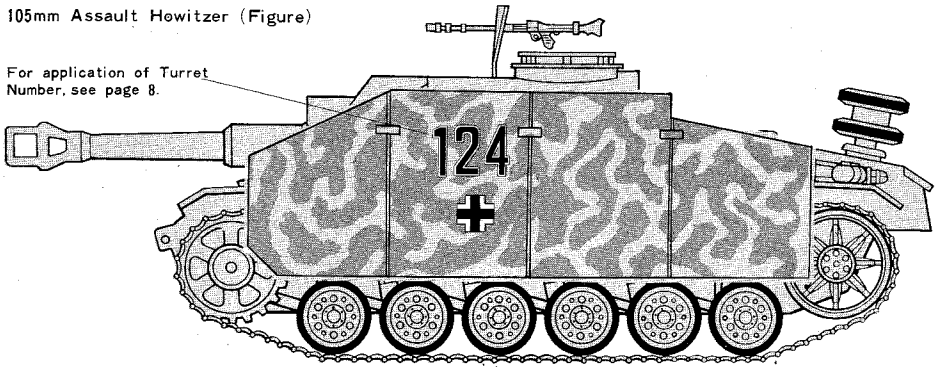
75mm Assault Gun

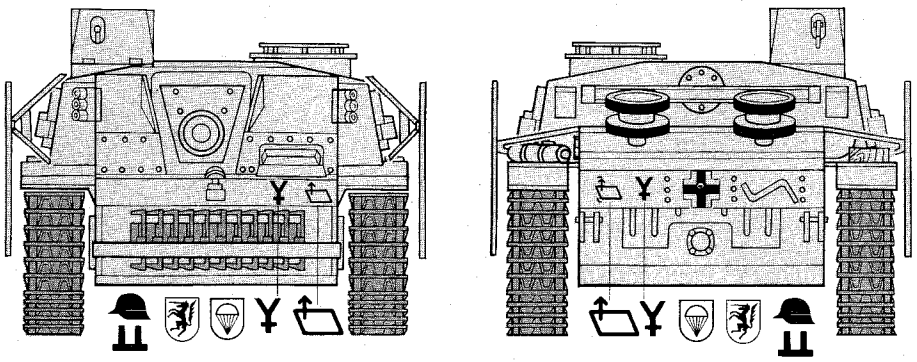
For application of Turret Number, see page 8.



105mm Assault Howitzer (Figure)

For application of Turret Number, see page 8.





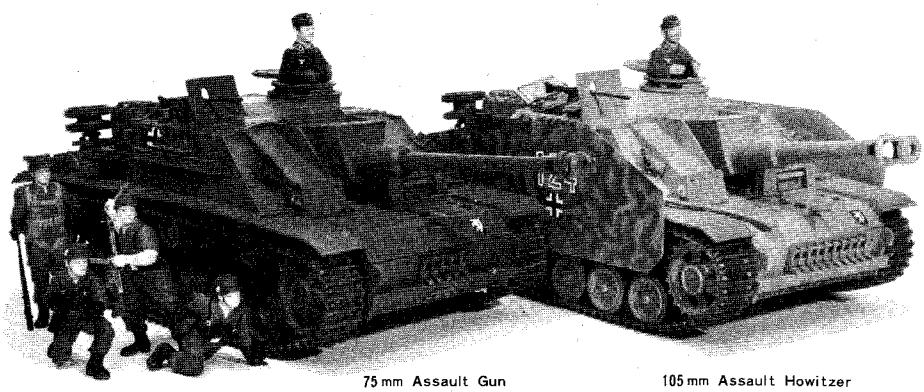
① The 11th Air-borne Assault Gun Brigade under direct control of the 1st Air-borne Corps (Air Force)

② The Tank Grenadier Division "GroBdeutschland"

③ The 16th Tank Division

④ The 2nd ϟϟ Tank Grenadier Division "DasReich"

⑤ The 667th Independent Assault Gun Company, to which Second Lieutenant Hugo Primozic, ace of the Sturmgeschetz III, belonged.



75mm Assault Gun

105mm Assault Howitzer

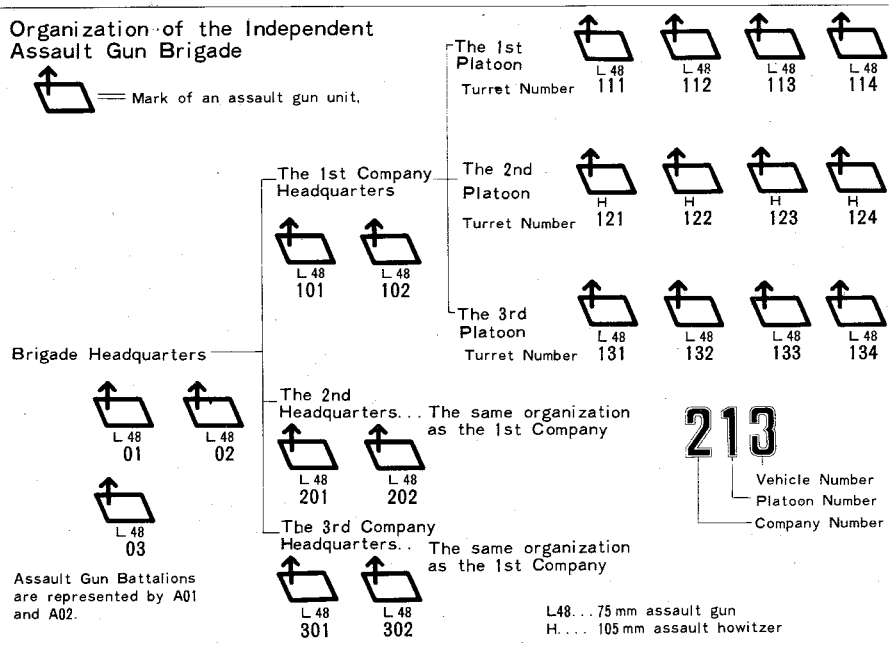
tion, officers and men's strong trust and contribution to the country. In the end of 1942, the type G, the last mass production type, appeared in battlefields. Since the production of the type G was continued for about three years from 1942 to the end of the war, those manufactured earlier look quite different from those produced since 1944. The difference resulted from improvement for easier mass production and lessons of war fully applied. As a result, the later type G became a destroyer tank much refined both in performance and in shape. The earlier type G inherited the 75 mm gun's characteristic square gun mantlet used on the type F, but its hull and superstructure were remodelled and commander's cupola was provided on the center left and a machine gun position with shield, on the right. The armour was 80 mm thick at the front of the hull, and the front part of the driver was reinforced with an additional 30 mm armour plate. The main gun was the 75 mm assault gun type 40 of 48 length calibre which had the same performance as the gun mounted on the Pzkpfw IV of H and later types. With muzzle velocity of 790 metres per second and range of 8,600 metres, it wielded its excellent power. Some of the assault gun tanks manufactured since March of 1943 had bomb-proof plates (schurzen, or apron armour plates) and "Zimmerit" coating as standard equipment. The model of this kit reproduces the type G at this point of time. Early in 1944, the gun mantlet was replaced by a monoblock cast steel cover called "Sau Kopf" having better resistance to bombs. The type G manufactured thereafter is classed into the later type. About the middle of 1944, minor improvements were made to make it better suited for the defensive war. For instance, the machine gun was made remote-controllable from inside. While undergoing such various improvements, the type G was poduced until the end of World War II. The production of the types F and G totalled about 7,900 in number.

It may be a matter of course that with the progress of the Sturmgeschuetz III as an anti-tank weapon its original purpose of infantry support was gradually lost. As a result, the assault howitzer tank III was born for supporting infantry. This originated in the 105 mm field howitzer type 18 mounted on the assault gun tank type F. The

main gun employed on the mass production type was the 105 mm assault howitzer type 42. The assault howitzer tank with the exception of the main gun was the very same as the assault gun tank both in performance and in shape, so that the production line used was also the same. Some manufactured later, however, did not have muzzlebrake. The assault howitzer tanks produced from 1942 to the end of 1944 totalled 1,114.

Aces of the Assault Gun

In the Germany-Soviet war which developed with fierce tank battles as the most important factor, the assault guns progressed as anti-tank

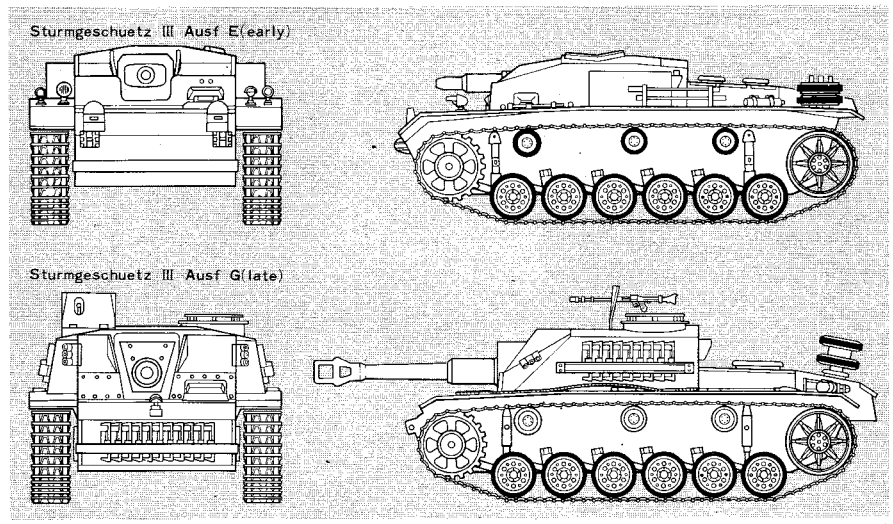


weapons distinguished themselves and a large number of Russian-tank killers appeared in succession. It is reported that German assault gun units achieved brilliant war results of destroying as many as twenty thousand Russian tanks since the beginning of the war. Not a few assault gun crew were transferred to tank divisions and achieved glory as the aces of tank units by making effective use of their experience for tanks. Michael Wittmann, well-known ace of the Tiger heavy tank, was one of them. He rendered distinguished service while fighting in the Balkan war and the Eastern Front from the beginning to the end of 1941.

The most famous ace of the assault gun would be Hugo Primozic. As commander of an assault gun of the 667th Assault Gun Battalion, he went to the Eastern Front in July of 1942 and fought severely with Russian tanks. The official report of the Reichswehr says that the battalion destroyed 83 Russian tanks including the T34 in three days from the end of August to the beginning of September, 1942. The sergeant's assault gun outshined others in the battalion, destroying 24 tanks in a single day of 15th September. He was awarded the Knight Cross on 2th September. His assault gun accurately hit the enemy thereafter and kill marks on his barrel reached 60 on 31st December. Nobody else did destroy as many as 60 tanks in such a short period. On 31st January, 1943, Hitler called him to the fortification of Lasten burg, promoted him to second lieutenant and gave the exceptional Knight Cross with Oak Leaves to the noncommissioned officer with his own hand. On 4th January, 1943, Sergeant Horst Naumann of the 184th Assault gun Brigade also received the Knight Cross in recognition of his brilliant service at the premature age of 21, which was unprecedented. One of the most peculiar aces of the assault gun would be Second Lieutenant E. Deutsch of the air force. As ace of the 11th Airborne Assault Gun Brigade belonging to the 1st Air-borne Corps, he fought in Italy and Normandy and destroyed 44 enemy tanks. He was also decorated with the Knight Cross.

Essential Specifications of the Sturmgeschetz III Ausf G

Overall length: 6.31 m Overall width: 2.92 m
Overall height: 2.15 m Weight: 21.6 tons
Engine: Maybach HL 120 TRM type V cylinder
Maximum power: 300 hp/3,000 rpm
Maximum speed: 40 km/h
Cruising range: 169 km
Armament: one 75 mm gun of 48 length calibre, one assault gun type 40, and one 7.92 mm machine gun
Crew: 4



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