



Mouse Armour

1/35 scale kit MA131
M3 Buna Stuart (for Academy
No.1399)

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Background

The Australian Army during World War II was supplied with a range of Lend Lease armoured vehicles including the Stuart Light tank M3 and M3A1. The Australian Army also followed the add-ons and improvements to the M3 Stuart as developed by the British. So, whilst this conversion set makes an Australian Stuart as used on the attack on the Japanese held Buna airfield, these modifications were also used on British Stuarts in the North African desert and later in Burma.

Parts

Left and right rear tool boxes	2 water cans with frames
Left and right blanked off machine gun sponsons	2 Pyrene fire extinguishers
Front storage box	Folded machine gun mount
Turret ring shield	2 grouser racks with grousers
2 piece exhaust armour	

Tools

Handy tools would include a sharp model knife and wet and dry sandpaper.

Safety

This is a resin product so keep it away from extreme heat and naked flames. When sanding do it in a well-ventilated area and do not inhale the resin dust – wear a mask. Use wet sanding methods to reduce the dust.

Construction

General

For use with Academy kit No.1399, M3 Stuart "Honey"

1. Build kit as per instructions for steps 1 to 4.
2. At step 5, replace parts B1/B10 and B54/B10 with the new front hull panels.
3. Don't add the track guards. Replace part B26 with the new front angled storage bin.
4. Replace part B48 with the new two-part air intake cover, by placing the intake base in the kit hole with the "V" pointing rearward, then positioning the intake cover over the base so that it's "V" underside mates with the base.
5. At step 6, place parts B49/B38 slightly more rearward so as to clear the new air intake cover. Use the new rear storage boxes to replace "H" and "J", aligning them flush with the hull rear plate. Attach a POL can in a bracket to the rear of each bin, 1mm in from the outside edge, and with half the can hanging below the lower edge of the bin. Attach a fire extinguisher to each rear bin so that it's top is above the taillight and it angles out and down at about 45 degrees. Don't use B25.
6. At step 7, glue part A23 to the turret base, then before adding any other kit parts, attach the new turret ring shield to A23 so that it sits flush around the bottom of the turret. Finally, add the track grouser, or spud, racks to each hull side, so that they sit slightly above hull level, and square with the forward hull corner.



Reference: Military Modelling Vol 29 No.7 1999 – Desert Honey 2 by Phil Dyer