

Prestige Series

AURORA ESCI

T-34/76

KIT No. 6208

1/72 SCALE

No. 6208-140

The summer of 1941 marked the start of the bloodiest and most savage armed clash in the history of the World. Germany's attack into Russia, Operation "Barbarosa", began with many early successes, but was eventually to blunt itself fighting the vastness of the Russian Steppes, the bitter Russian winter, the hordes of fanatical Russian defenders, and a major new tank, the T-34. While many other factors also contributed to the German defeat, the significance of the T-34 has been emphasized by German military and military historians. General Heinz Guderian went so far as to report in October, 1942, "that the T-34 should simply be copied, since this would be the quickest way of putting to rights the most unhappy situation of the German Panzer Troops."

Derived from the BT Series (Bystrokhodnii Tankov: Fast Moving Tanks), the T-34 was first produced in June, 1940 following stringent acceptance trials. It was initially produced in three plants. The Ukrainian plants at Leningrad and Kharkov were moved to the Chelyabinsk Tractor Factory, east of the Ural Mountains, to avoid capture. The Stalingrad factory, Zvezdinski Tractor Works, remained in operation even during the siege of that city. The exploits of civilian workers, many of them women, driving tanks off the assembly line and straight into action is now legend in the Soviet Union.

The "Thirty-Four", (Tritsats' Chetverka) as it was known by the Russians, was modified to keep pace with improving anti-tank weapons and to correct problems that were discovered. The 1943 model, as represented by this kit, had improved hull and turret armor

over earlier models. A long-barrel 41.2 caliber gun was fitted in a larger turret. A commander's cupola and loaders hatch replaced the heavy one-piece roof hatch.

The excellent ballistic shape of the hull and turret, relatively heavy armor, excellent "Christie" suspension system and effective 76mm gun made the T-34/76 a formidable opponent. Many faults in the basic design resulted in certain tactical defects. The extremely cramped turret resulted in inefficiency for the loader and the commander/gunner. The combination of commander and gunner in one also meant he could not fill either role effectively. Lack of a radio in all but commander's vehicles meant communications were by hand signals with flags during combat. The low turret meant very limited depression of the gun. Primitive transmission and steering systems hampered reliability, and the "Christie" suspension, while excellent for cross-country performance, gave a rolling, unstable gun platform.

The T-34, despite all of its deficiencies, became the most effective tank to see action against German Panzer Armies. Its poor initial tactical application almost resulted in the waste of this fine weapon, but as Russian tank tactics improved, so did appreciation for the T-34. The finest compliment was the German plagiarism of the design to create the PANTHER, almost a direct copy. It also shares the record for longest service run with the U.S. SHERMAN and BRITISH CENTURION, as there are indications that the T-34/85 was not taken out of production until 1964.

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. On styrene parts (all parts except treads) use only cement for styrene. Liquid cement should be used for assembly of small parts.
5. In each step, the unassembled parts are shown in white.
6. 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. Paint overall camouflage after assembly. Smaller detail parts are best painted before assembly.

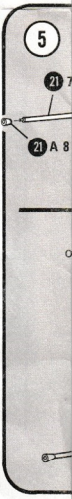
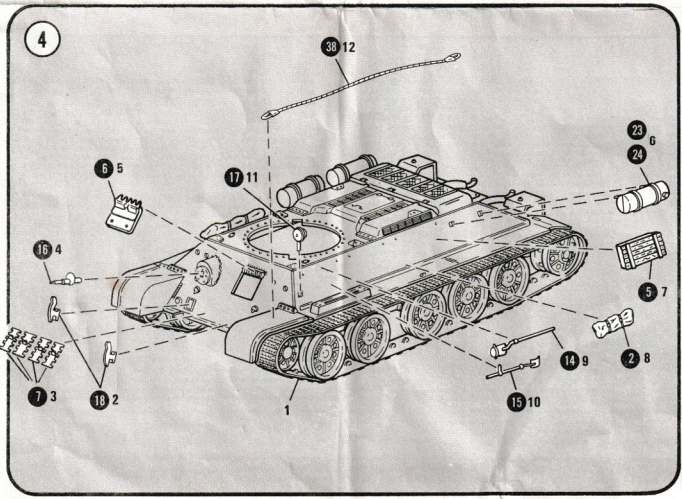
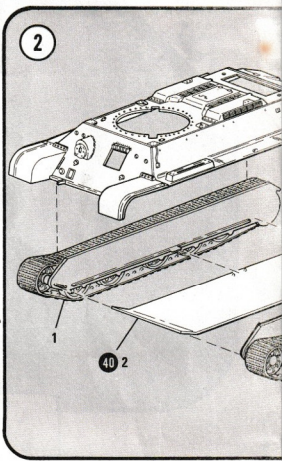
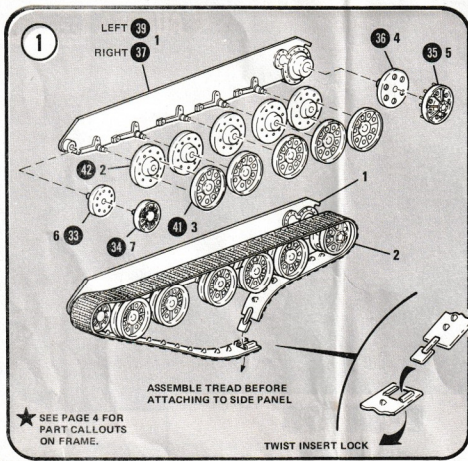
7. Assemble parts in the correct assembly sequence listed in the instructions.

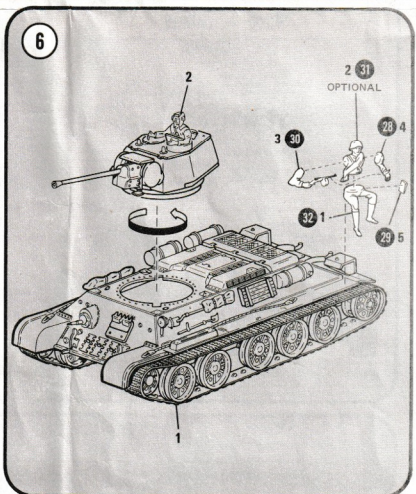
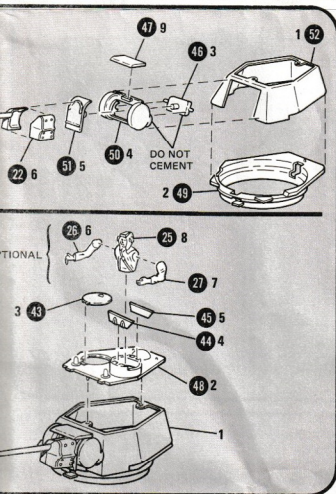
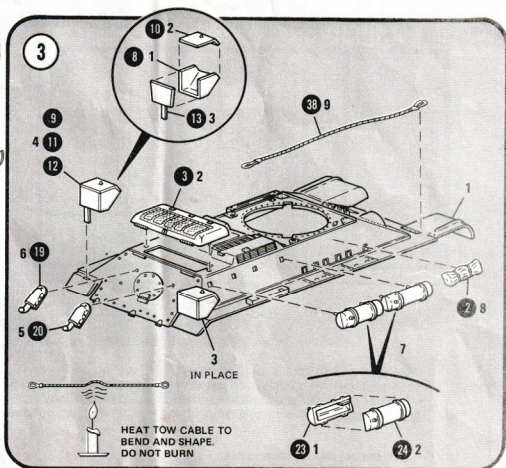
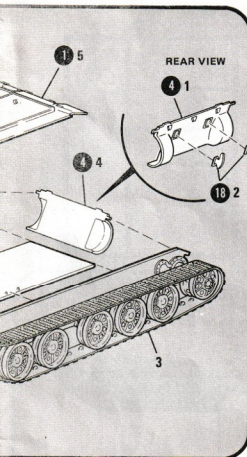
1 = PART NUMBER

7 = ASSEMBLY SEQUENCE NUMBER

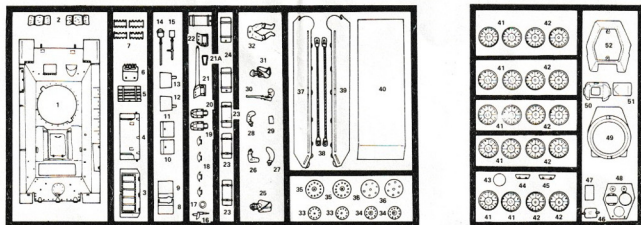
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PART CALLOUT IDENTIFICATION

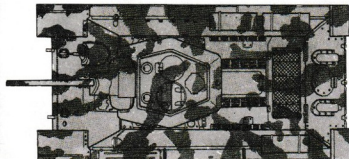
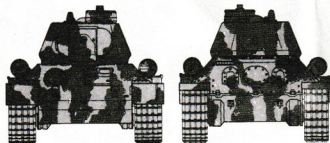
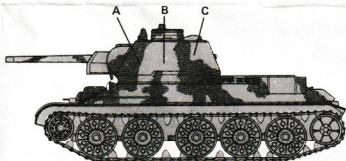


PAINTING AND DECAL PLACEMENT

CAMOUFLAGE DESCRIPTION

Various camouflage patterns for the T-34 are shown on the cover of the box. Standard finish was an overall dark field green as indicated in the upper profile. Brown finish was also used as shown in the center profile. A hand-applied whitewash was used for winter camouflage, as in the lower profile. The 4-view drawing illustrates a typical two-tone summer camouflage.

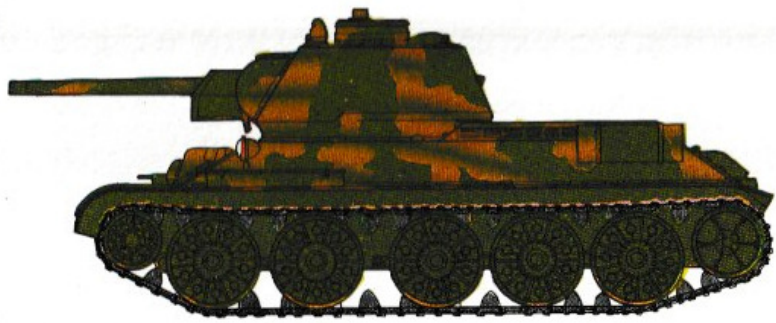
NOTE: CHOOSE ONE OF FOUR DECAL SCHEMES SHOWN BELOW.



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

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