



One of the most important tanks used by Germany in World War II was the Panzerkampfwagen IV, (Also known as Pzkpf IV, or Panzer IV.) The Panzer IV was proposed as the heavy support tank for the fourth company of the tank battalion. The first three battalions were equipped with the Panzer III. The new machine was actually classified as a medium tank, weighing in at about 17.5 tons.

The Panzer IV was originally developed in 1936, a design so sound and well concieved, it ultimately became the main tank of the German Panzer force. It remained in production until the end of the war, with some 8,500 units of various models delivered.

The Panzer IV was based on the Panzer III format, which consisted of an angular hull with a box-like turret. The Panzer IV's tracks rolled on eight road wheels and had four upper return rollers. This was a distinctive feature and led to quick recognition of the Panzer IV series. The power from a huge V-

## PANZER IV H4

## 1/35 Scale

12 Maybach engine was delivered to the wheels via a five-speed gearbox, later upgraded to six speeds. The engine was located in the rear of the hull with the drive shaft going to the forward wheels. During the tanks development, Germany's plans included the invasion of England, so a snorkle device was provided to allow for underwater missions.

The first production models were not well received by the troops, who complained about poor performance and inadequate armor protection. These conditions were corrected in the second, or Ausführung B version which was fitted with a more powerful 300 hp Maybach HL 120 TR engine, thicker armor and minor improvements.

The effectiveness and versatility of the Panzer IV was displayed during the Polish campaign and it was soon accepted as the standard German combat tank. Initially, the Panzer IV was armed with a short-barreled 75mm cannon, but by the Ausf F model, this was replaced by a longer barrel version of the gun. This was due in part to the fact that the shorter gun was ineffective on the Russian T-34 tank unless the Soviet vehicle could be attacked from the rear.

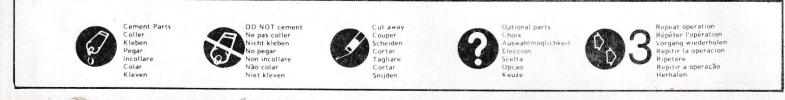
The Panzer IV Ausf H model, depicted by this model, was introduced in April, of 1943. It carried a thicker armor (3.1 Inches), and a new transmission. It was also equipped with an antiaircraft gun, 3,774 examples of this machine were constructed by July of 1944.

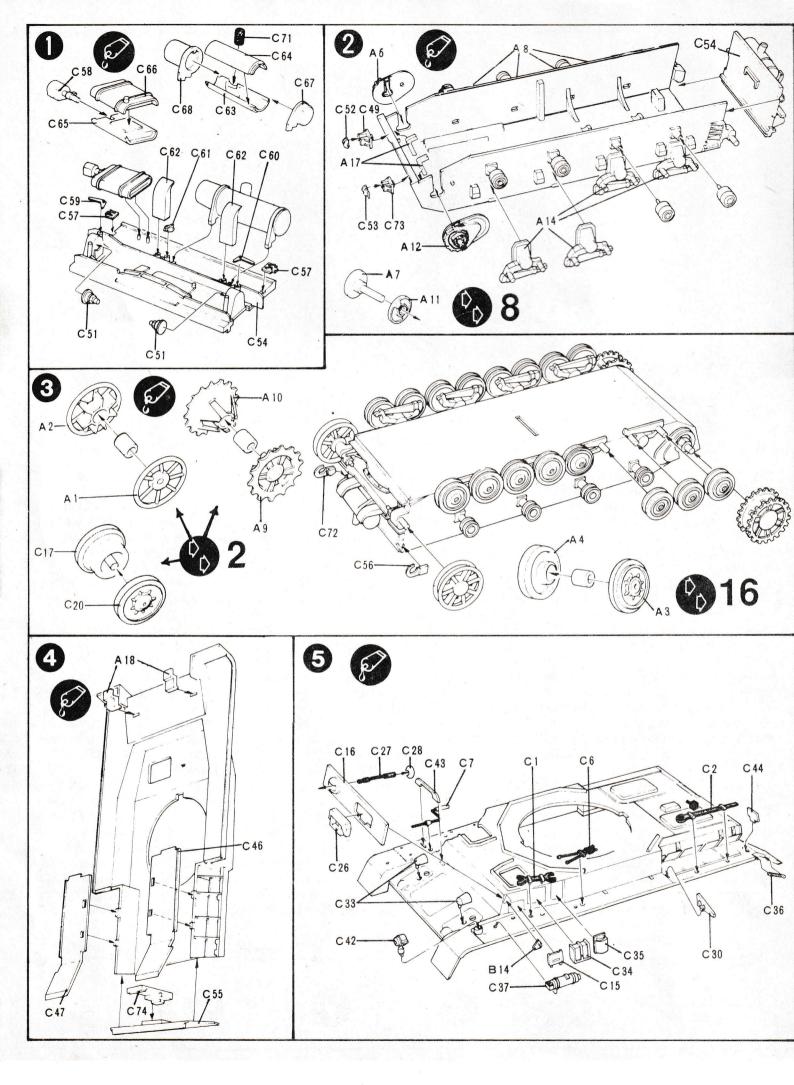
The Panzer IV series had a top speed of 25 mph with a range of about 125 miles. It was operated by a crew of five.

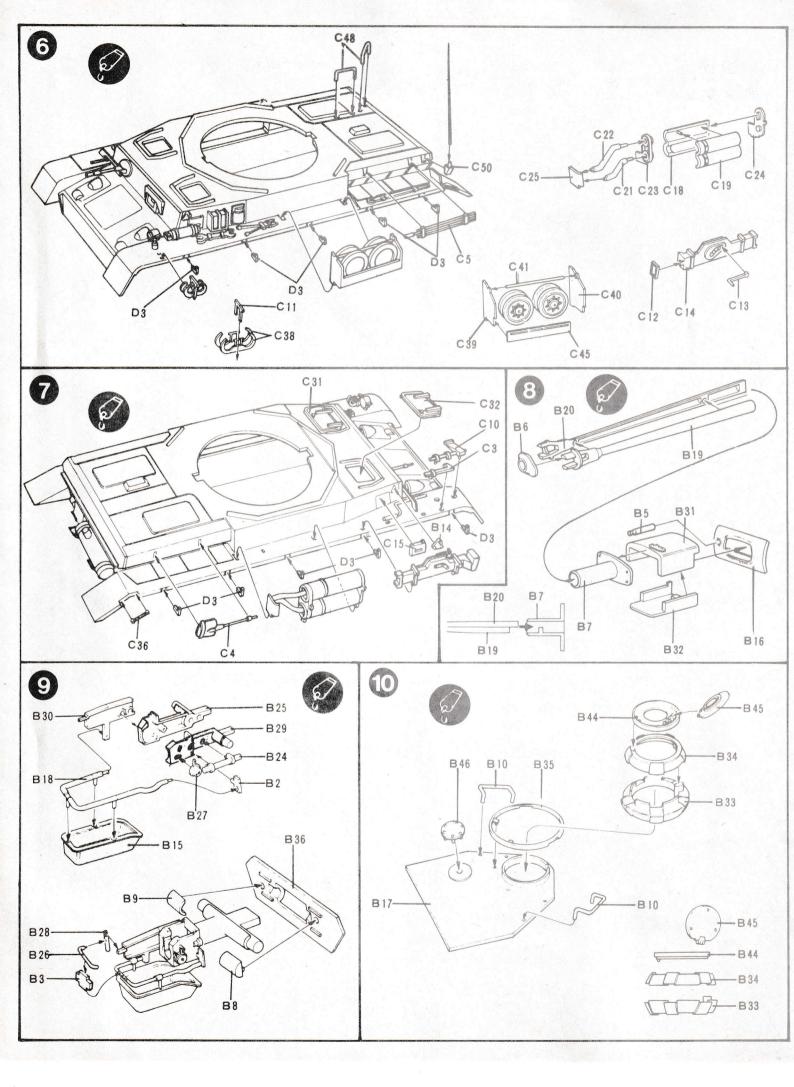
During some operations heavy panels of armor were bolted to the sides of the Panzer IV to protect the turret and driving gear from Allied armor-piercing shells. A set of these unique protective panels is provide with this Minicraft kit of this significant example of military weaponry.

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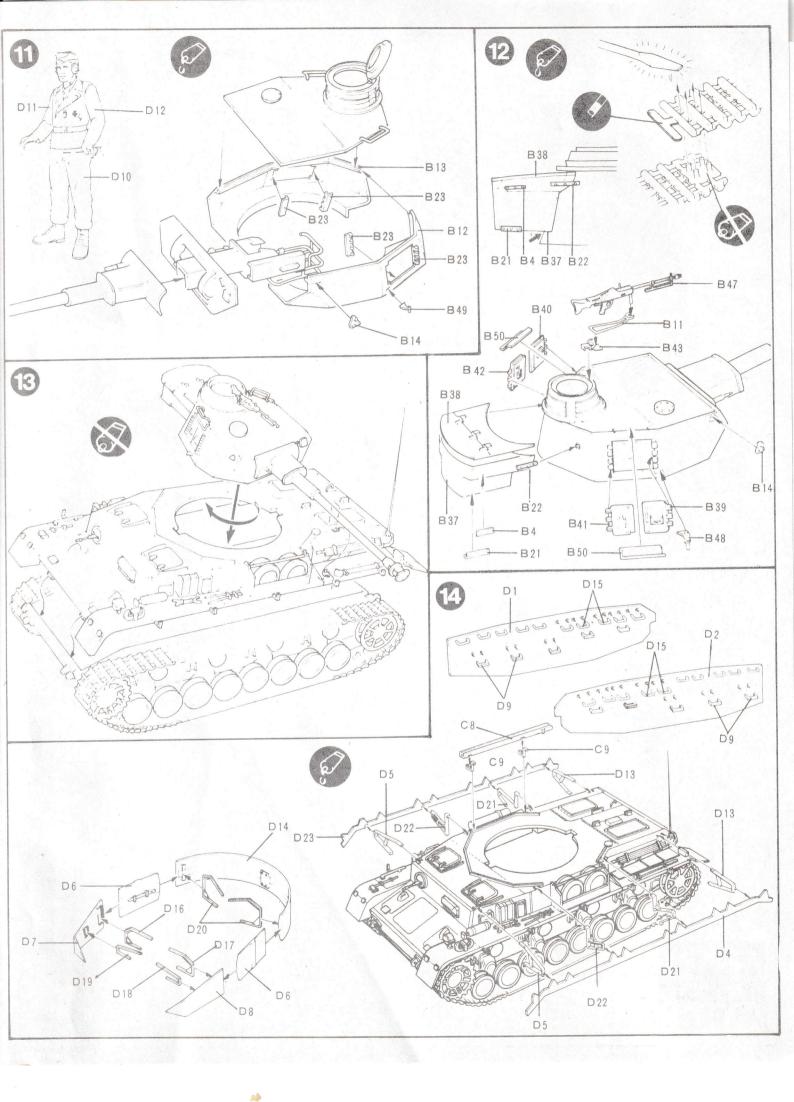
Refer to box top for additional decal and painting information.

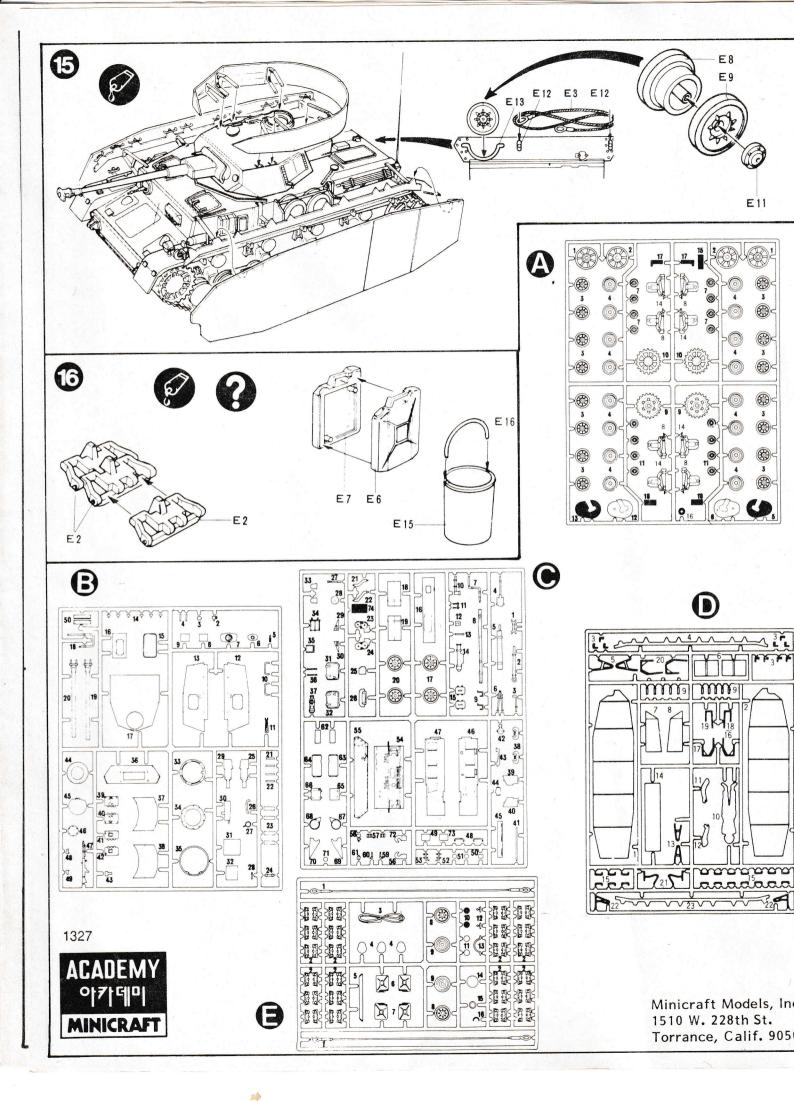






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RAFT

1/35 M-10 TANK DESTROYER 1308



1/35 M48A3 PATTON TANK 1310



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1/35 GERMAN LEOPARD A4 TANK 1312 1/35 CHIEFTAN MK 5 FANK 1313

1/35



1/35 M-36 JACKSON TANK DESTROYER 1309



CENTURION MK3 TANK





1311

ARMOR