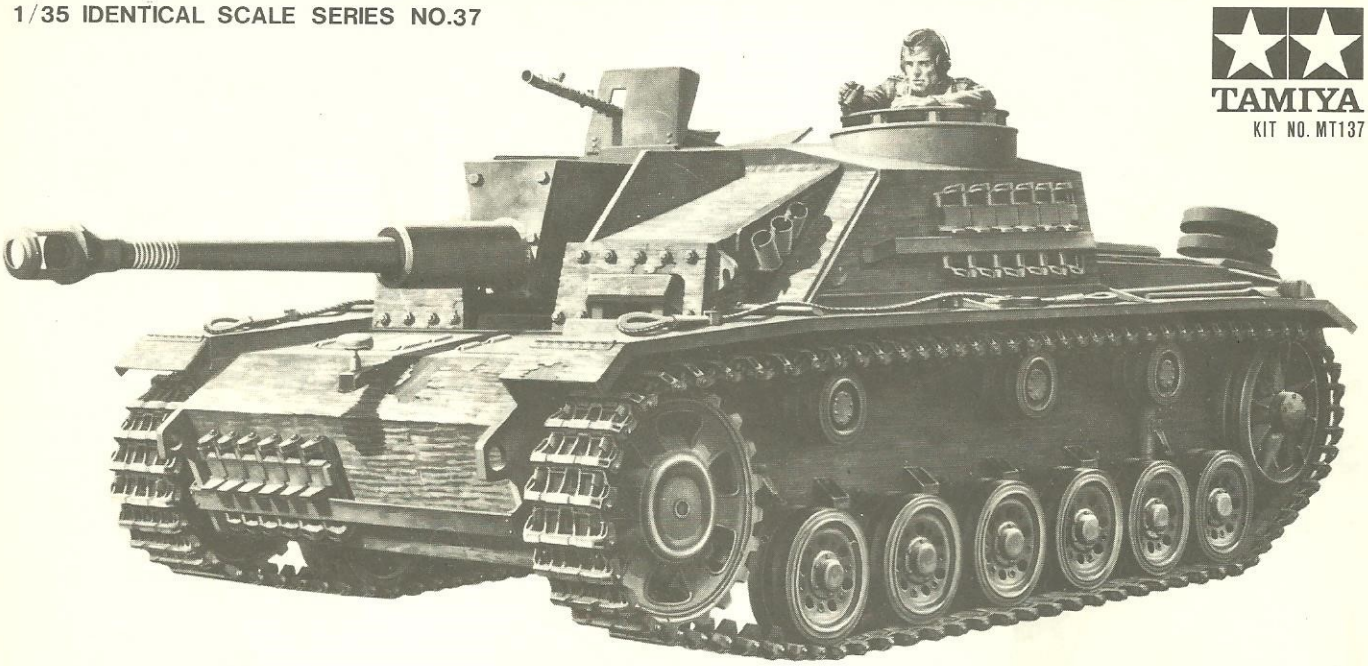
STURMGESCHUETZ III Ausf G

1/35 IDENTICAL SCALE SERIES NO.37

TAMIYA

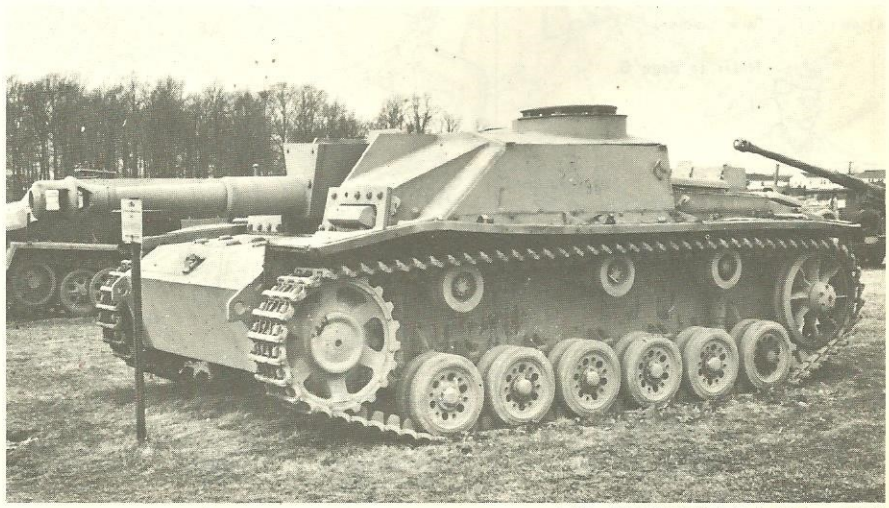
KIT NO. MT137



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, "Öperation 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-



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.

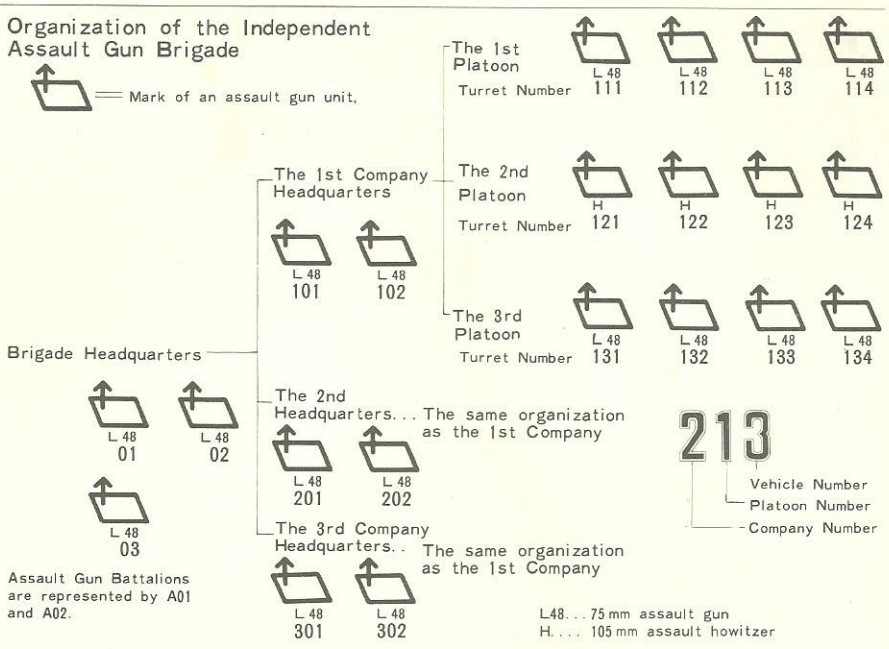
It may be a matter of course that with the progress of the Sturmgeschuetz III as an anti-tank weapon its original purpose of infantry support was gradually lost. As a result, the assault howitzer tank III was born for supporting infantry. This originated in the 105 mm field howitzer type 18 mounted on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

Organization of the Independent Assault Gun Brigade

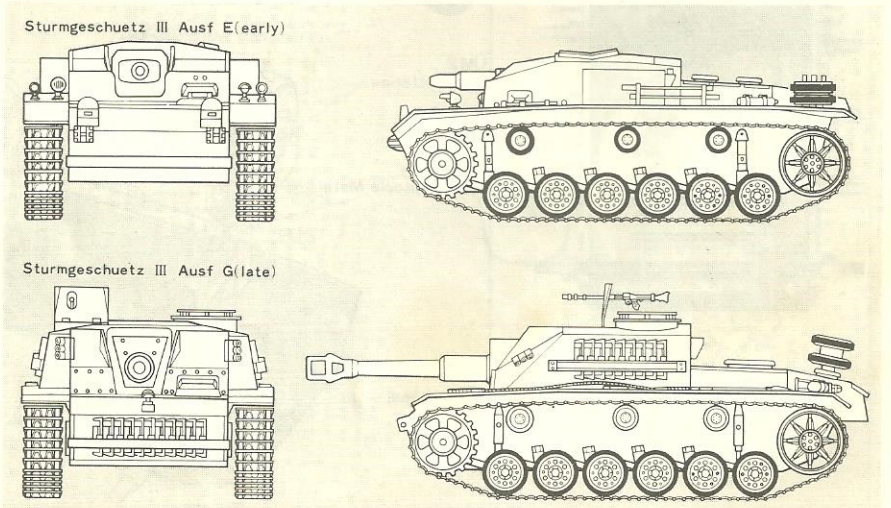


weapons distinguished themselves and a large number of Russian-tank killers appeared in succession. It is reported that German assault gun units achieved brilliant war results of destroying as many as twenty thousand Russian tanks since the beginning of the war. Not a few assault gun crew were transferred 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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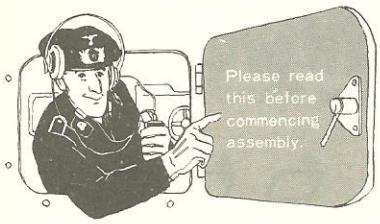


〈Please read this before your assembly〉

★This kit is an alternative kit. Either the long-barrelled 75 mm gun or the short-barrelled 105mm gun can be fixed on your STRUMGESCHUETZ III kit.

★Cut each part from a runner with a knife or a pair of nippers with care. Follow the instructions in the order of the figure numbers.

★For overall painting of your model, refer to page 7, for the figure painting, follow the paint instruction of the figure on page 6.

★You can apply the Zimmerit Coating to your model. See page 7, and apply the coating to the kit before the whole construction.

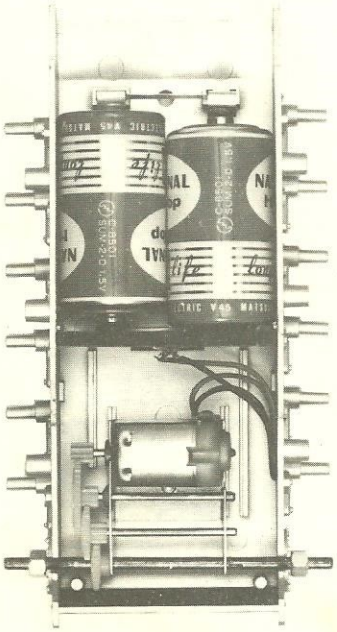
★Apply decals after the paint of your model has dried up, with the extra transparent parts of decals removed.

❶〈Fixing of Pinion Gear〉
Drive Pinion Gear into the motor shaft gently.

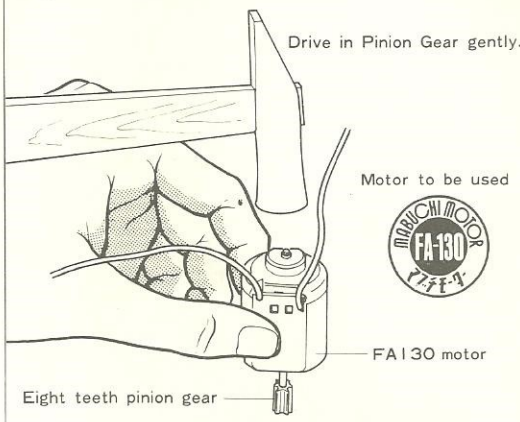
❷〈Fixing of Motor and Connecting Cords to Reversing Switch〉
Fix Motor in the gear box to set the small end of Motor to the small hole of the gear box. Try the mesh of gears. Both cords of Motor can be connected to either one of connecting metals of Reversing Switch.

❹〈Construction of Wheels〉
Fix the inside pin of Drive Sprocket Half B17 and other half B18.
Poly Caps are not needed to Spare Wheels.

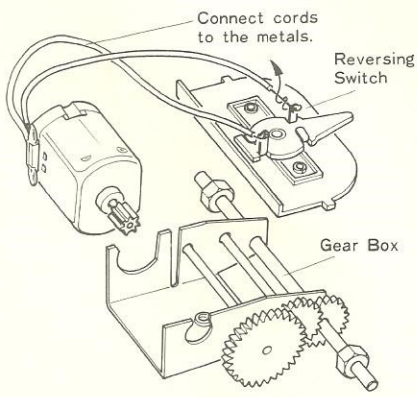
❺〈Fixing of Gear Box〉
Fix Gear Box to Lower Hull with a Gear Stopper Screw from the bottom side of Lower Hull.
Push down Reversing Switch carefully along with in the gutters of inside Lower Hull, widen the side walls of Lower Hull a little and let the side tips of Switch fit in the holes of Lower Hull.
Use UM2 Batteries. Try to run the Motor examining Reversing Switch.



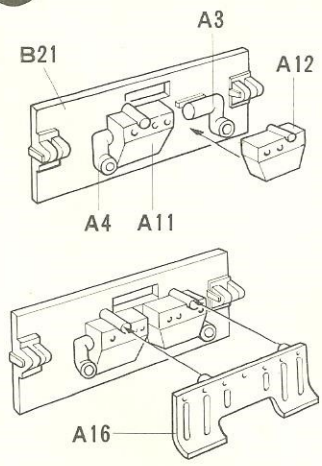
1 Fixing of Pinion Gear



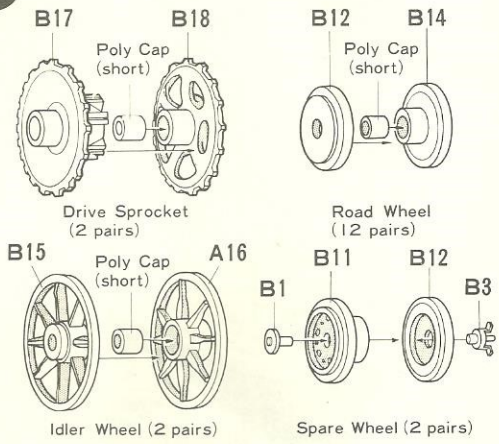
2 Fixing of Motor and Connecting Cords to Reversing Switch



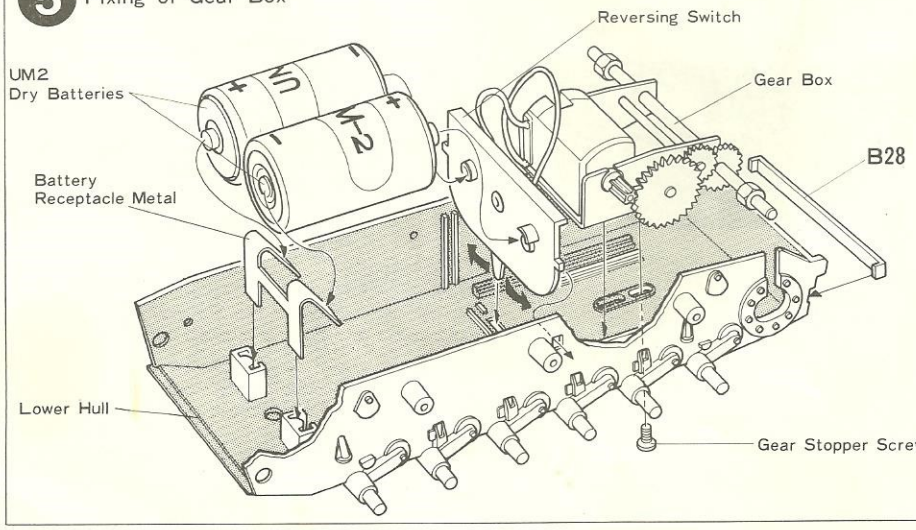
3 Construction of Rear Panel



4 Construction of Wheels

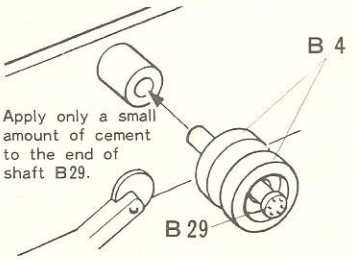


5 Fixing of Gear Box

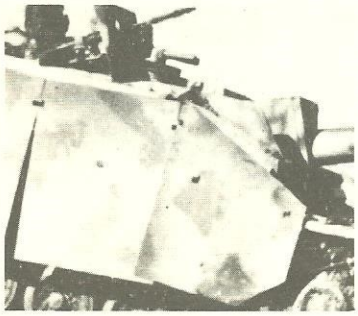


❻《Installation of Wheels》
Support Roller B4 can be rotated. Do not apply cement in between Shaft B29 and B4.

《When You Fix Support Rollers to the Hull》

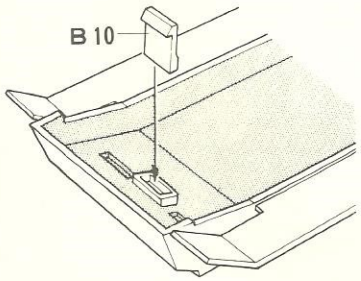


❼《Construction of Armour Plates》

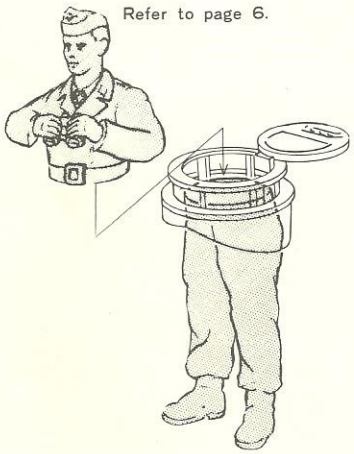


❽《Construction of Upper Hull (A)》
You can select either to let the Hatches open or closed. Cement them in the way you prefer.

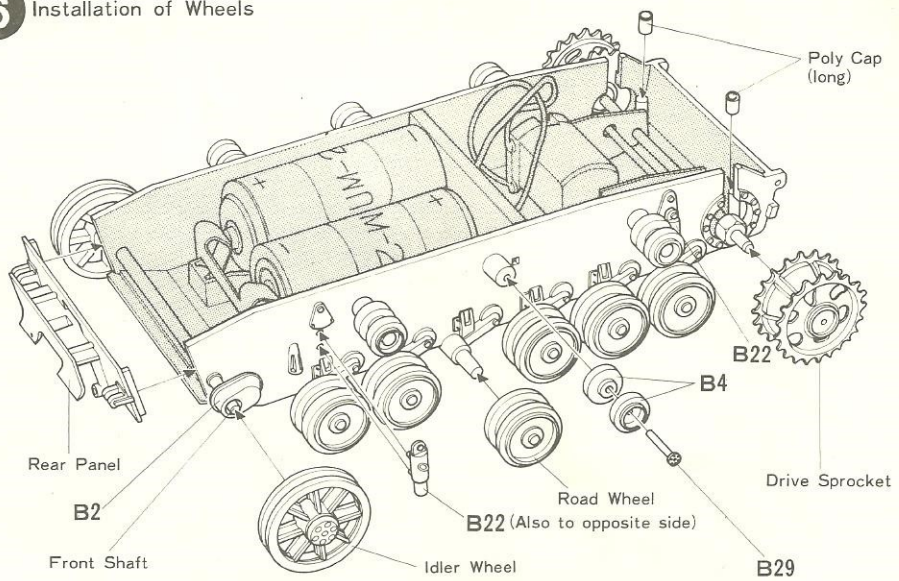
《Inside View of Upper Hull》



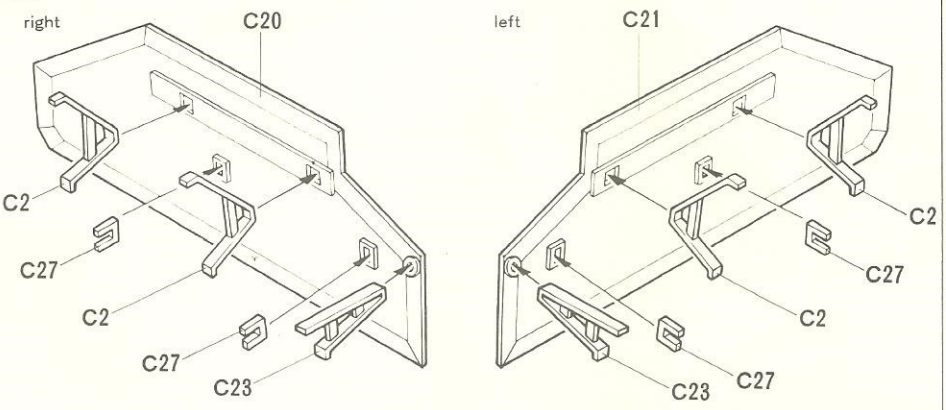
《How to Fix Tank Soldier》



6 Installation of Wheels

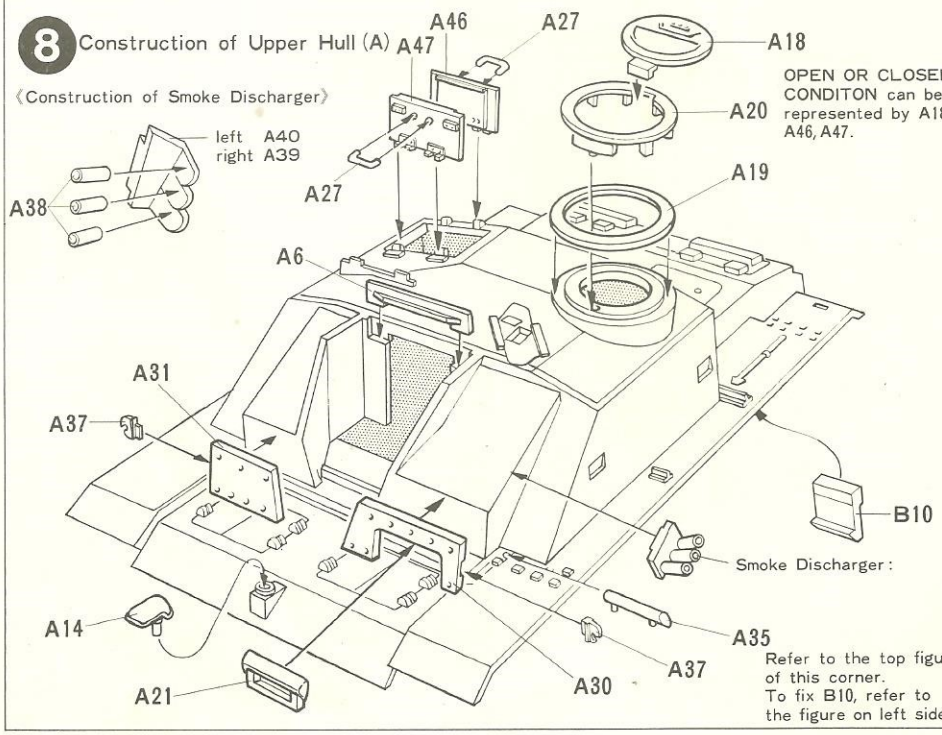


7 Construction of Armour Plate



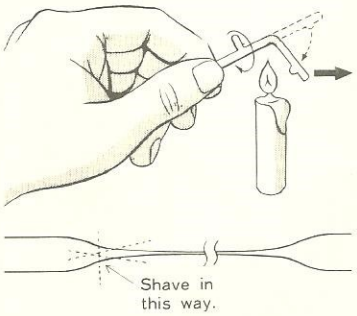
8 Construction of Upper Hull (A)

《Construction of Smoke Discharger》



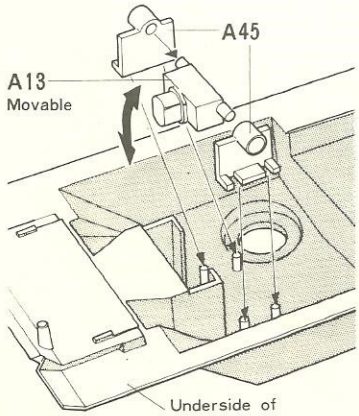
❾《Construction of Upper Hull (B)》
First of all fix parts A26 to Upper Hull with adhesive, next other parts.

《How to make Antenna》

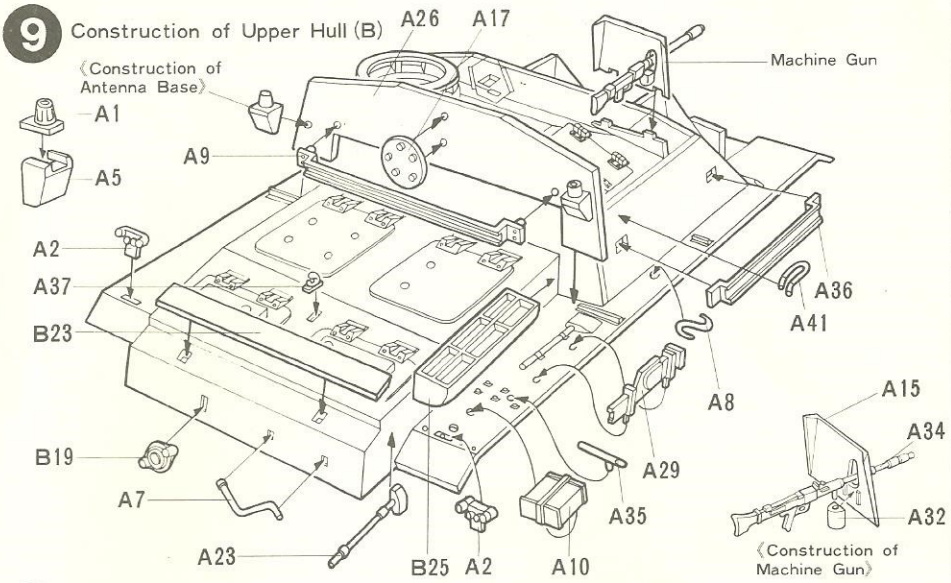


★Heat one of runner gradually turning around with a hand. When the center portion began to melt, stop heating and stretch both ends of the runner slowly to the thinness wanted. Hold it in that position for about 15 seconds to cool, cut it by 6 cm length.
★Caution : Be careful in handling fire.

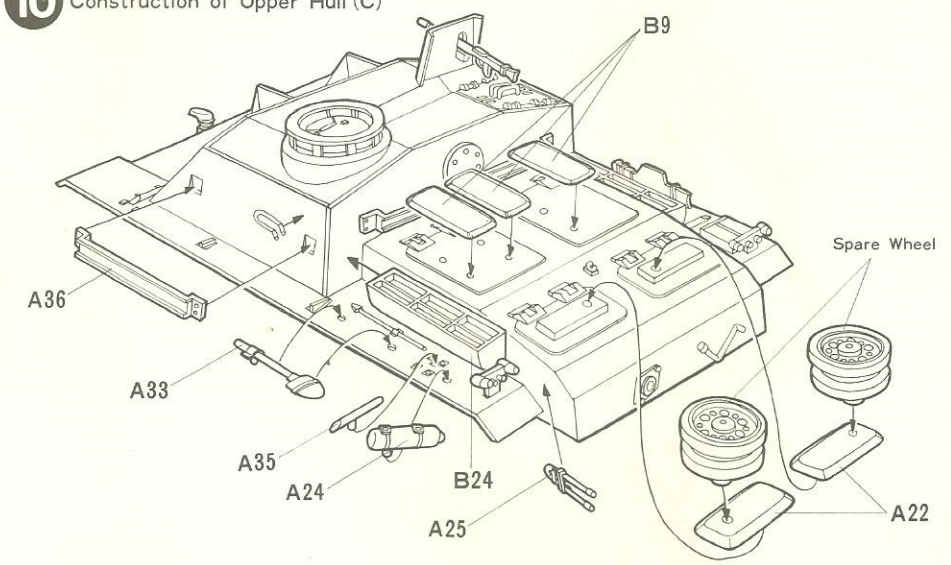
⓫《Fixing of Gun Barrel》
When you construct inside of Upper Hull (A45, A13) use the figure below.



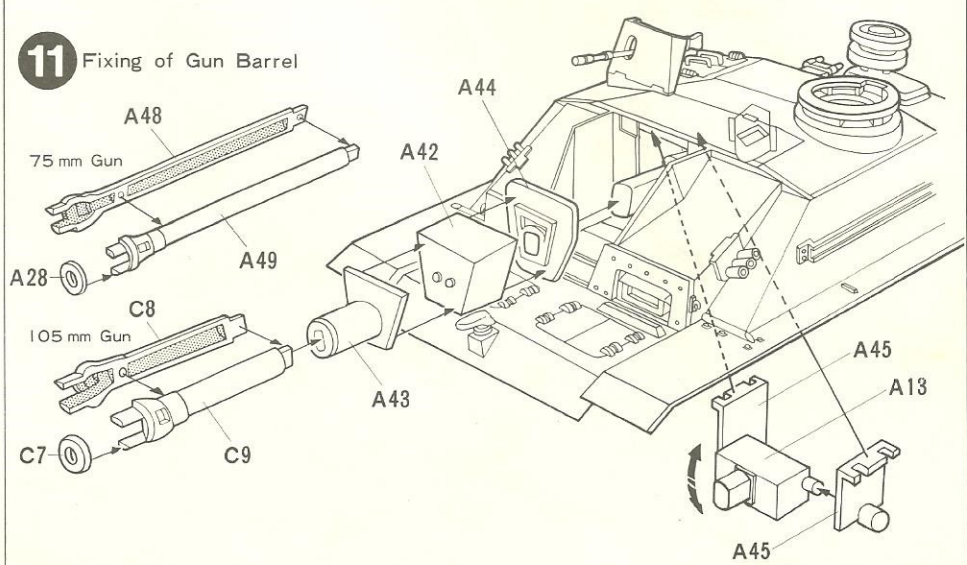
❾ Construction of Upper Hull (B)



❿ Construction of Upper Hull (C)



⓫ Fixing of Gun Barrel



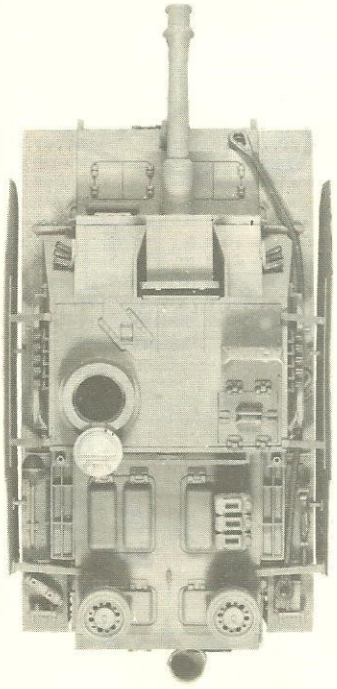
This kit contains parts of 75 mm and 105 mm Gun Barrel. Select either one of two.

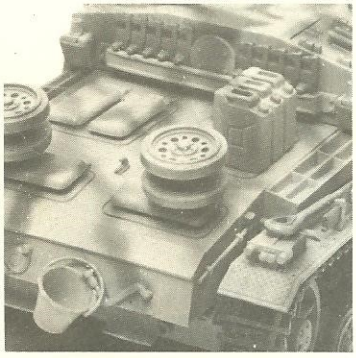
Refer to the left figure in fixing Barrel Base A13, A45.

⑫Construction of Tracks and Fixing of Hull
〈How to Join the Tracks〉
★Prepare a nail with a small wood block or a small screwdriver. Heat a top of a nail or a screwdriver and melt the joining pins of tracks by lightly touching pins with it.
★①First fix one track end on the desk with a tape. Join the both ends of a track. Then heat a nail head or a screw driver, and touch the pin heads lightly with it.
②Flatten the pin head with a finger immediately.

★To strengthen the join of tracks, connect with a thread or staplers as shown in the figure.

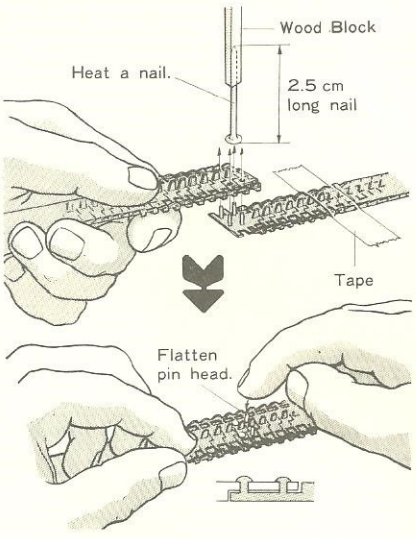
〈Fixing of Armour Plates

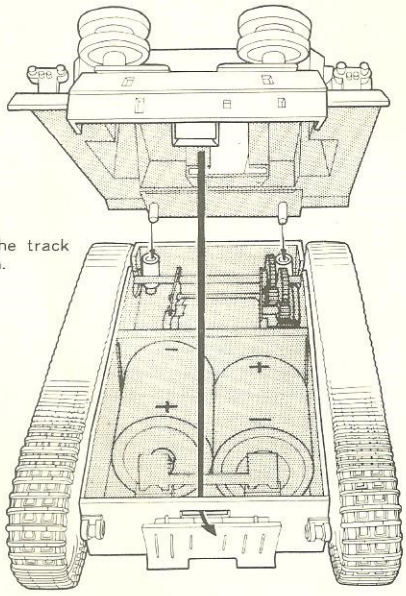




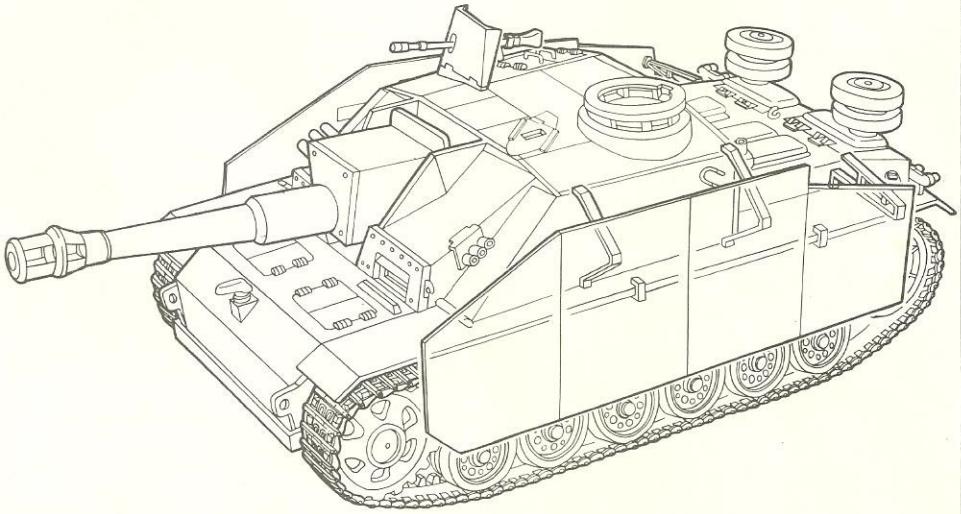
⑮〈Construction of Accessory Parts〉
Tug Rope CI : Dip it in hot water for about ten. seconds, and bend them to the shape of fixing position. Bucket, Spare Tank, Spare Tracks : Refer to the pictures.

12 Construction of Tracks and Fixing of Hull

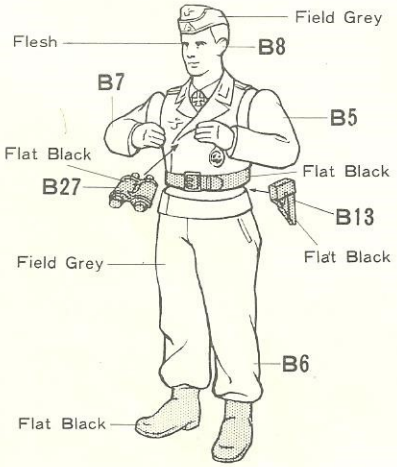




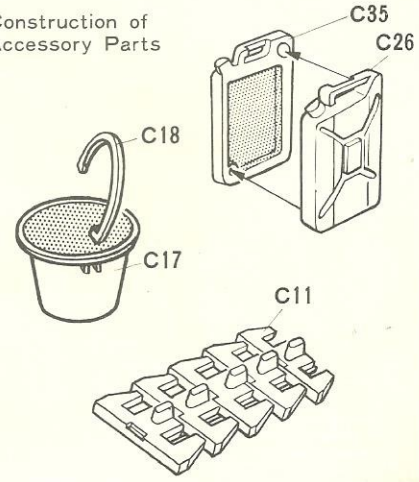
13 Fixing of Armour Plates



14 Construction and Painting of the Figure



15 Construction of Accessory Parts



Fix Accessory Parts referring to the left side picture.

PAINTING

《THE 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.

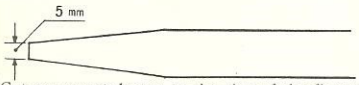
《THE ZIMMERIT COATING》

From the middle stage of WW II, German tanks were applied paste thickly to their side surfaces to provide more effective protection against enemy guns with them. This paste is called the Zimmerit coating.

《How to apply the Zimmerit coating to your model》

①Tools

Plastic paste, a flat brush, a spatula (any kind of blade with about 1.5 cm width), thinner.



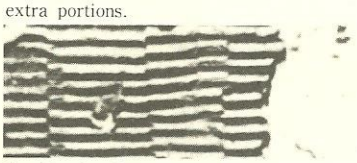
Cut your spatula top to the size of the figure.

②Appling paste

Apply plastic paste to your model to about 1 mm thickness with a spatula. Flatten the surface of Plastic paste with a flat brush using thinner.

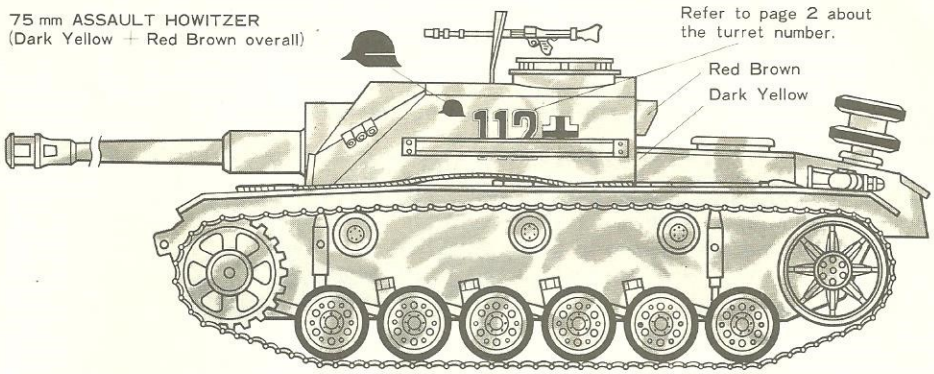
③Making the coating pattern

Make the coating pattern with the 5 mm-width tip of a spatula such a way like pressing on the paste surface. If you have done with overall coating surface, remove extra portions.

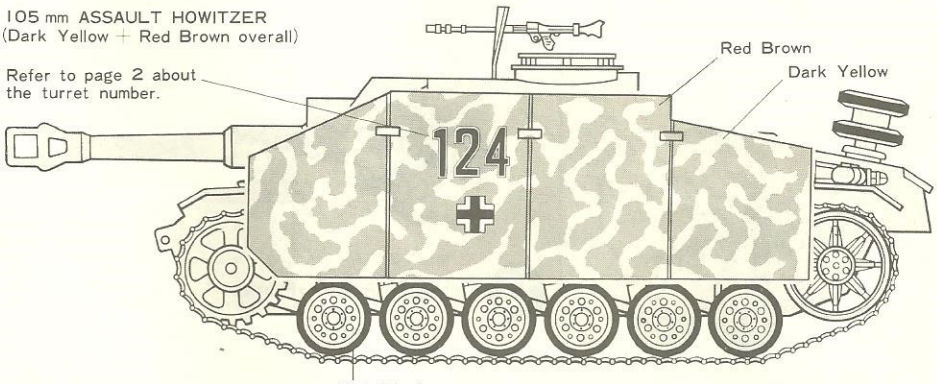


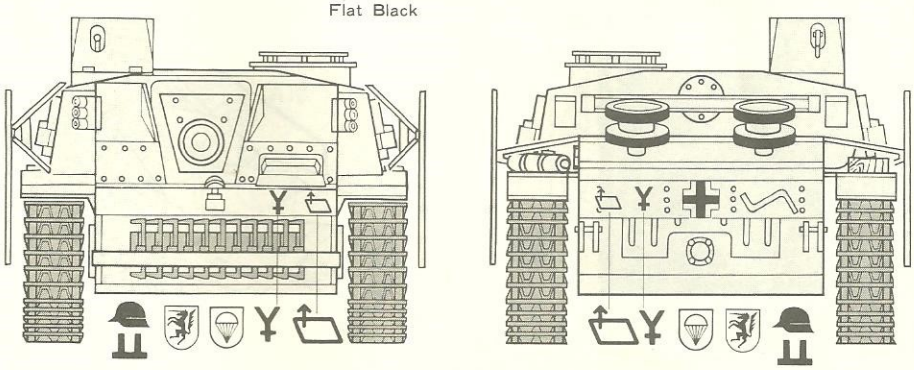
The Coating Pattern

75 mm ASSAULT HOWITZER
(Dark Yellow + Red Brown overall)



105 mm ASSAULT HOWITZER
(Dark Yellow + Red Brown overall)





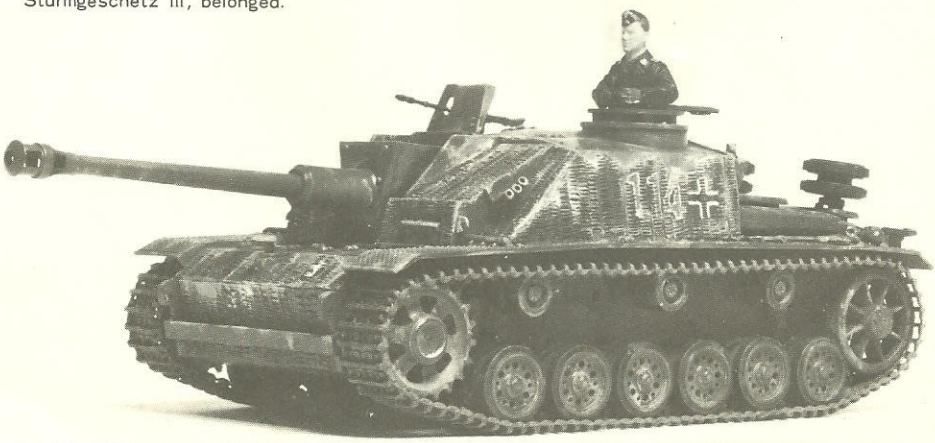
①The 11th Air-borne Assault Gun Brigade under direct Control of the 1st Air-borne Corps (Luftwaffe)

②The Tank Grenadier Division "Gross deutshland"

③The 16th Tank Division

④The 2nd ᛋᛋ Tank Grenadier Division "Das Reich"

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



PARTS

A Parts

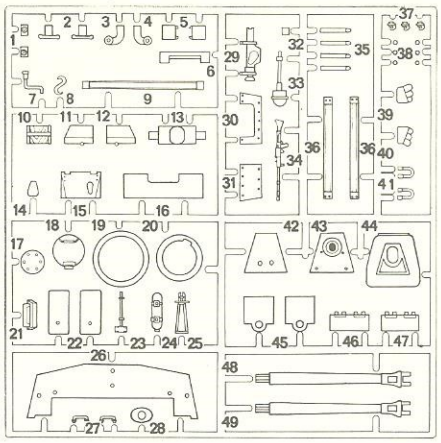
1. Antenna Base A
2. Tail Light
3. Exhaust Pipe A
4. Exhaust Pipe B
5. Antenna Base B
6. Upper Hull Part
7. Crank
8. Hook
9. Spare Caterpillar Holder
10. Tool Box
11. Muffler A
12. Muffler B
13. Unnecessary Parts
14. Head Light
15. Machine Gun Shield
16. Exhaust Cover
17. Upper Hull Parts
18. Commander's 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

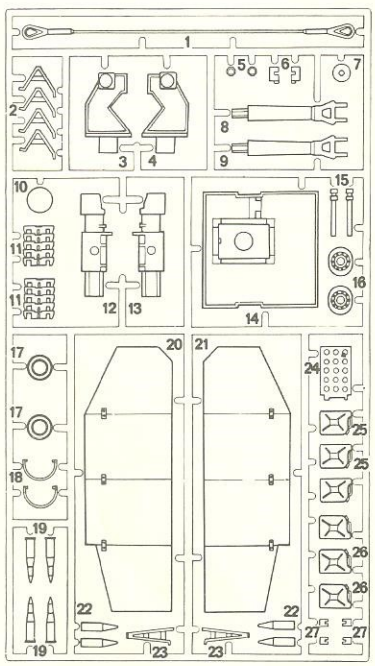
1. Spare Wheel Holder
2. Rear Wheel Bearing
3. Spare Wheel Carrier
4. Idler Wheel
5. Tank Crew's Left Hand
6. Lower Half of Tank Crew's Body
7. Tank Crew's Right Hand
8. Upper Half of Tank Crew's Body
9. Ventilator
10. Hull Fastening Parts
11. Spare Wheel
12. Road Wheel B
13. Pistol
14. Road Wheel A
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

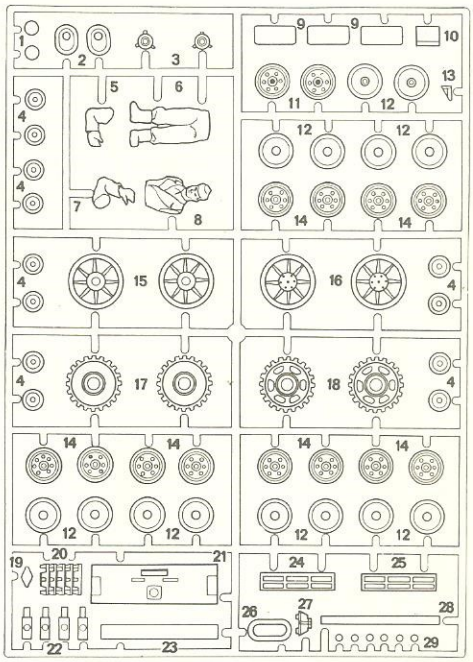
1. Tug Rope
2. Armor Plate Holder A
3. Unnecessary Parts
4. Unnecessary Parts
5. Unnecessary Parts
6. Unnecessary Parts
7. Barrel C
8. 105 mm Barrel A
9. 105 mm Barrel B
10. Unnecessary Parts
11. Spare Caterpillar
12. Unnecessary Parts
13. Unnecessary Parts
14. Unnecessary Parts
15. Unnecessary Parts
16. Unnecessary Parts
17. Bucket
18. Bucket Handle
19. Unnecessary Parts
20. Armor Plate A
21. Armor Plate B
22. Unnecessary Parts
23. Amor Plate Holder B
24. Unnecessary Parts
25. Spare Tank A
26. Spare Tank B
27. Armor Plate Holder C



A Parts



C Parts



B Parts

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