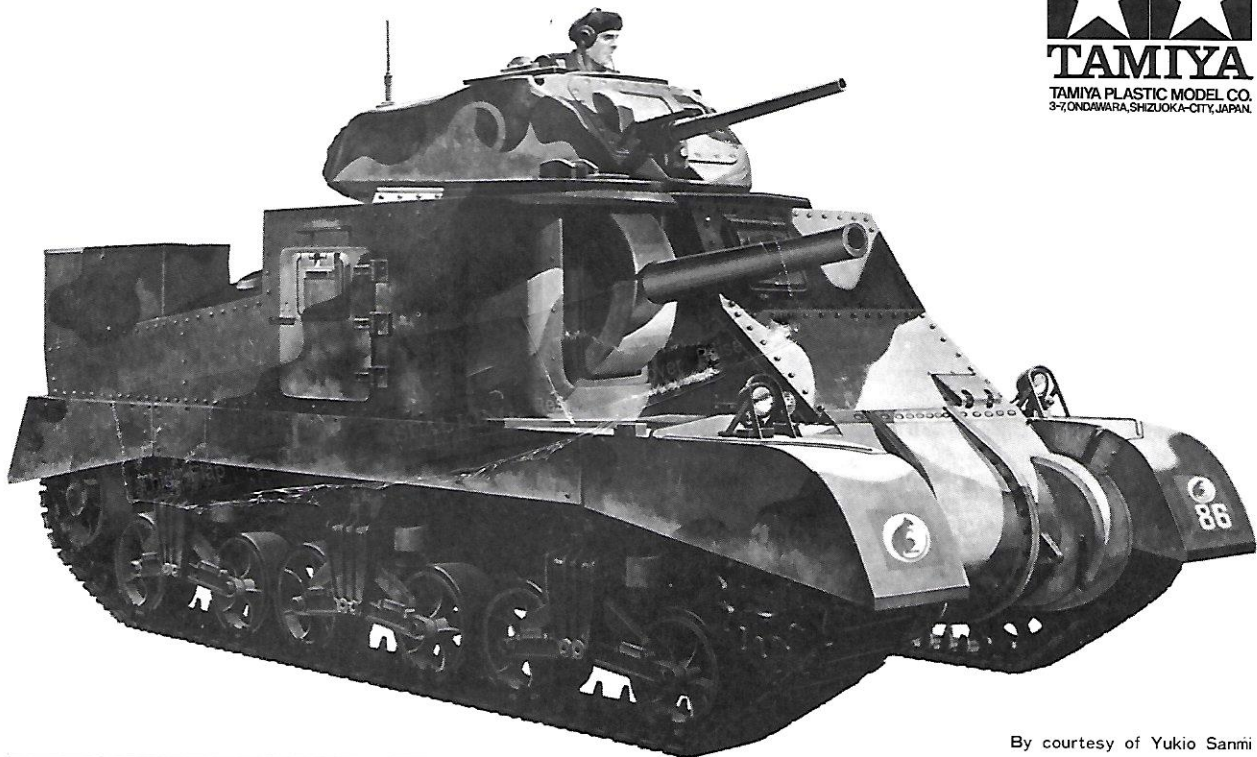


BRITISH ARMY M3 GRANT MK I

MEDIUM TANK

1/35 MILITARY MINIATURE

SERIES



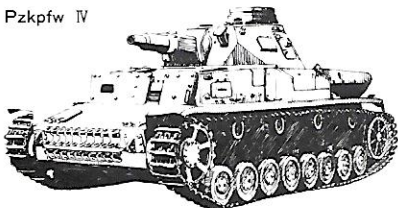
By courtesy of Yukio Sanmi

At 7.30 a.m. on 27th May, 1942, the 4th Armoured Division under the command of Brigadier General A.H. Gatehouse and consisting of the 8th Light Cavalry Regiment, the 3rd Tank Regiment and the 5th Tank Regiment—in the British 7th Armoured Division advanced to a point about 10 km southeast of Bir El Harma on the German 15th Panzer Division's route of advance to the rear of the British Gazala defence line and started a tank-to-tank fighting with the 1st Battalion of the 8th Tank Regiment sent forward by the German 15th Panzer Division.

British tanks of the 8th Light Cavalry Regiment gave direct hits to German Pzkw III tanks equipped with a 50 mm tank gun that were advancing in wedge formation. The British tanks were firing from out of the German tanks' range. The German 15th Panzer Division had never been attacked in such a way in the North African theatre. German tank commanders rubbed their eyes in surprise and looked to the front through their field glasses. They saw unfamiliar tanks of high silhouette with their camouflage nets removed firing at them. These were M3 Medium General Grant Mk I tanks armed with a 75 mm tank gun M2 (31 calibres long) that showed themselves for the first time at the Battle of Gazala.

It was not easy for the Pzkw III with a 50 mm tank gun 39 (42 calibres long) or the

Pzkw IV



Pzkw IV series with a short-barrelled 75 mm tank gun 36 (24 calibres long) then used by the German Afrika Korps in the North African theatre to defeat the British new tank. Through the effective use of the Grant Mk I's 75 mm gun M2, the 8th Light Cavalry Regiment in the British 4th Armoured Brigade fired away at the fire support positions of the German 33rd Mechanized Artillery Regiment, the 15th Panzer Division to separate them from their tank forces and inflicted serious damage on the main tanks of the 1st Battalion in the German 8th Tank Regiment. In addition, the 1st Battalion was brought to the brink of annihilation by the British 3rd Tank Regiment's participation in the battle. Owing to the activity of the German 2nd Battalion, however, the British 8th Light Cavalry Regiment was beaten and the 3rd Tank Regiment was forced to abandon its 16 Grant Mk I tanks in the battlefield. This was the first round of the Battle of Gazala. The tank-to-tank fighting in the Battle of Gazala was called "Battle of Night Bridge", where fierce fighting continued for about 22 days between the British forces consisting of the 2nd, 4th and 22nd Armoured Brigades and the German forces including the 8th Tank Regiment in the 15th Panzer Division and the 5th Tank Regiment in the 21st Panzer Division. At first the German Afrika Korps was considerably damaged by the attack of the Grant Mk I, but in the end it overwhelmed the British armoured forces. This was because the Germans were well experienced and effectively used the famous 88 mm anti-aircraft gun while the British commanders had no experience in mobile warfare and their men were not well trained. The British forces lost Tobruk and their Gazala defence line was broken through. Thus the British withdrew to the 8th Army's El Alamein defence line in

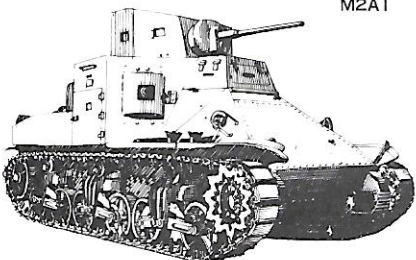
Egypt. General Erwin Rommel said in the battle, "I have underestimated the fighting power of the British armoured force. In the attack on the British Gazala defence line, our fighting capacity has been considerably reduced by the appearance of the powerful new weapon, Grant medium tank. All of us are now forced to fight desperately against the overpowering enemy. I am afraid fighting in future will be no easy matter for us". As in seen from his statement, the British armoured forces would have won the tank-to-tank fighting of the Night Bridge if they had used their Grant Mk I medium tanks concentrically.

Birth of the Grant Mk I

To add armoured troops to the Expeditionary Army in France under Earl Lord Gort, Full General, the British Army sent D.A. Tratt's 1st Tank Brigade (the 4th and 7th Tank Regiments) under the direct command of the Expeditionary Army and Major General R. Evans's 1st Armoured Division (the 2nd and 3rd Armoured Brigades) to the French front in June 1940. However, they were defeated by the overpowering German tank troops and withdrew through Dunkerque and Cherbourg to England with their tanks left in France. With the expansion of World War II, the British Army had to reinforce its armoured troops and make up for the loss of tanks in France. The British Army sent a Tank Mission to America to obtain American tanks. Learning lessons from the European war, the Americans started in those days to reorganize the Army and form new armoured units. The U.S. Army Arsenal entrusted private manufacturers with the task of producing light and medium tanks for the new armoured units, thus the production setup of tanks being established. Under the National Munitions Program, William S. Knudsen, President of General Motors, became a member of the

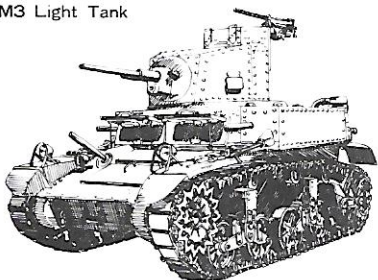
National Defence Advisory Commission formed for controlling defence industries, and American heavy industries were mobilized into production. Light tanks were in charge of American Car & Foundry. Medium tanks were in charge of Chrysler's Detroit Arsenal, A-

M2A1

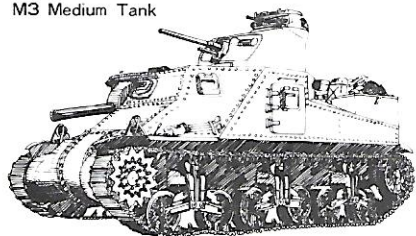


merican Locomotive Co. and Baldwin Locomotive Co.

M3 Light Tank



M3 Medium Tank



According to the original National Munitions Program, the M2A4 light tank and the M2A1 medium tank were to be manufactured, but

the Program was changed thereafter and the M3 medium and light tanks with more powerful armament were to be produced instead. Members of the British Tank Mission then in America unofficially joined the U.S. Army Armor Commission conferences on the development of tanks, particularly on the design and development of the M3 medium tank, and submitted detailed proposals regarding improvements in tanks based on lessons learned from the European war.

In October 1940, the British Tank Mission placed orders for medium tanks with Baldwin Locomotive Co., which had previously received contract from the British Army for tanks, Lima Locomotive Works, Pressed Steel Car Co. and Pullman-Standard Car Co. under the condition that they should deliver the Tanks by the end of December 1941 to British armoured troops which lost about 2/3 of their tanks in France. The British Tank Mission required that the medium tank should be the same as the pilot model of the M3 medium tank trial-manufactured by Chrysler's Detroit Arsenal on 11th April 1941 except that its turret should be replaced by a larger cast revolving turret with commander's hatch designed in Britain.

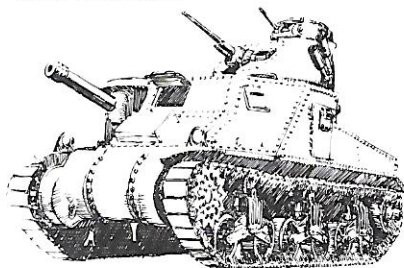
While the M3 medium tank of American design which had a cast revolving turret with a 37 mm tank gun M5 was called "General Lee Mk 1" after General Robert Edward Lee, the medium tank with a 75 mm tank gun M2 produced by the four manufacturers was nicknamed "General Grant Mk 1" after General Ulysses Simpson Grant—He was commander in chief of the Federal army in the Civil War and obtained the victory. Later he became 18th president of the United States.—Early in 1942, a total of 242 General Grant Mk 1 tanks were supplied to the British forces in the Middle East and 167 of them were used by armoured troops in the Gazala area. They were depended upon and called "The Last Hope in Egypt" by officers and men of the armoured troops.

The body of the Grant Mk1 was of riveted construction. A 75 mm tank gun M2 (31 calibres long) was mounted on the limited traverse mount M1 of the right sponson. On the left offset part of the body was a large cast revolving turret for a 37 mm tank gun M5. Unlike the Lee Mk 1, the Grant Mk 1

had no machine-gun turret on the revolving turret for the 37 mm gun. The secondary armament consisted of three calibre 0.30 (7.62 mm) Browning M1919A4 machine guns on the front mount and the combination mount.

The number of crew was six. The Grant Mk I used a Wright Whirlwind R-975-EC2 9-cylinder air-cooled radial gasoline engine offering 400 hp and a synchromesh-type transmission for five forward and one reverse speeds. Also, the Grant Mk I employed, like the Lee Mk I, tracks of surface glossier rubber and vertical

M3A5 Grant Mk II



colute spring suspension system

The M3A5 medium tank with three turrets of the American type manufactured by Baldwin was named General Grant Mk II. This type had smoke dischargers on the sides of the revolving turret and was used mainly in Burma in 1945.

(Main Specifications)

Hull length : 5.639 m Overall width : 2.670 m

Overall height : 3.124 m

Weight (equipped) : 28.233t (empty) : 27.017 t

Armament:

One 75 mm tank gun M2 (31 calibres)

One 37 mm tank gun M5 (53.5 calibres)

Three Browning M1919A4 machine guns

Engine: Wright Whirlwind R-975-EC2 radial air-cooled (gasoline)

Maximum output : 400 HP/2,400 rpm

Maximum speed : 35 km/h

Maximum grade ability : 36.5°

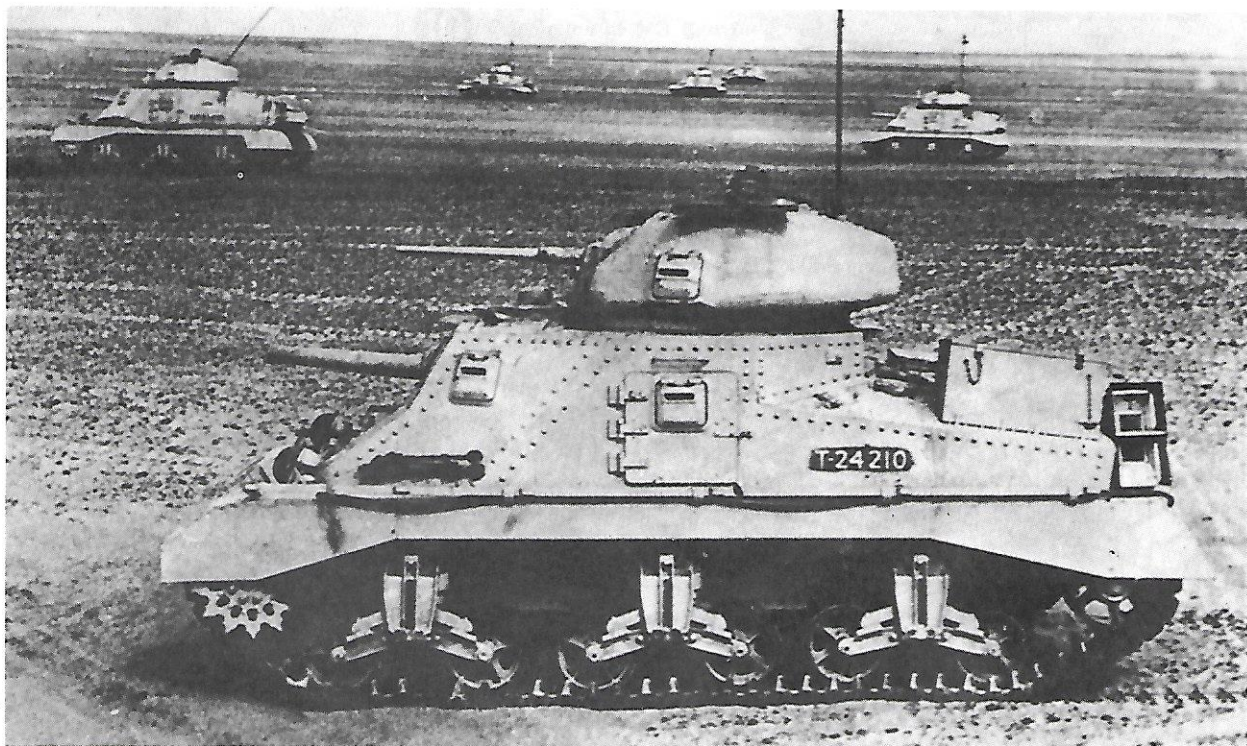
Crusing range : 192 to 234 km

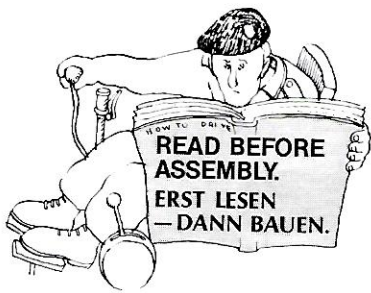
Ammunition, stowage: 75 mm 41 rounds

37 mm 179 rounds

7.62 mm 8,000 rounds

Number of Crew : 6





★Study the instructions and photographs before commencing assembly.

★You will need a sharp knife, a screwdriver, a pair of tweezers, a file, and a pair of pliers.


★Before finally cementing each part together, be sure that parts fit correctly together. And that you are of the next sequence to be followed

★Use glue sparingly. Use only enough to make a good bond. Apply cement to both parts to be joined.

★Painting Your Model

As well as improving the reality of your completed model, painting will give you greater satisfaction to make your own model. Moreover, paint coat ensures a good application of decals.

★Small parts and internal parts should be painted while still on the sprue.

 This mark shows a recommended colour name.

1 (Construction of Wheels)

Assemble six(6) pairs of Suspensions. Parts C1 & C7 should revolve freely. Put them between parts C9 & C10. Apply cement only to the tip of shafts. Make two (2) pairs of Drive Sprocket & Idler Wheels respectively. Parts C4 & C5 forms a part of revolving shafts. Do not place cement onto them.

2 (Construction of Rear Panel)

Parts A6 & A7 are similar in shape. See the figure and assemble with care. It makes the job easier to assemble parts A5, A14, & A19 first.

(Construction of Fender)

Lights B17 & B18 look alike. Make sure of their numbers, and assemble.

3 (Construction of 75 mm Gun)

Part B24 is a stopper of part B32. Use sufficient cement to make a strong bond.

4 (Construction of Lower Hull)

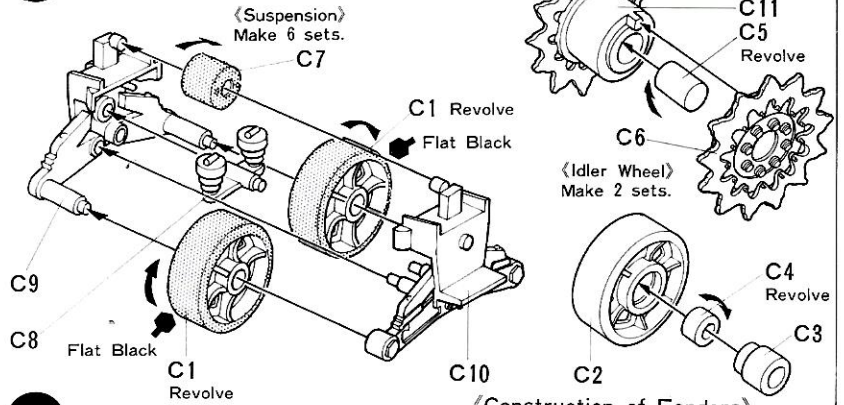
Suspension, Drive Sprocket & Idler Wheels should be fixed same parts to right and left. And Idler Wheels and Drive Sprocket should revolve. Apply only a small amount of cement to the tips of the shafts molded on Lower Hull and cement. Do not place cement on Wheels.

Fix Rear Panel to Lower Hull pushing from upside with both walls stretched a little right and left.

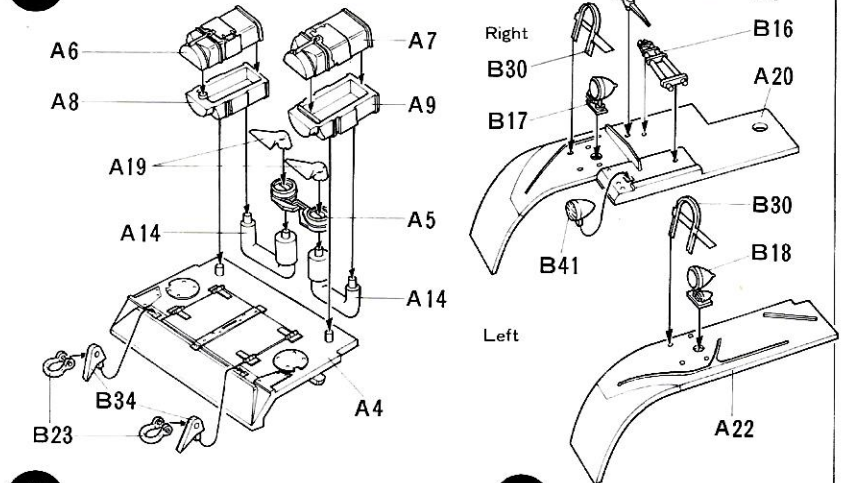
TAMIYA FARBKATALOG IN DEUTSCHER SPRACHE

Letzte Neuheiten von Autos, Booten, Tanks und Schiffen. Im Tamiya-Katalog in deutscher Sprache sind alle Modelle, ob Motorisierte, Ferngesteuerte oder Museum-Qualitates-Modelle, farbig Abgebildet

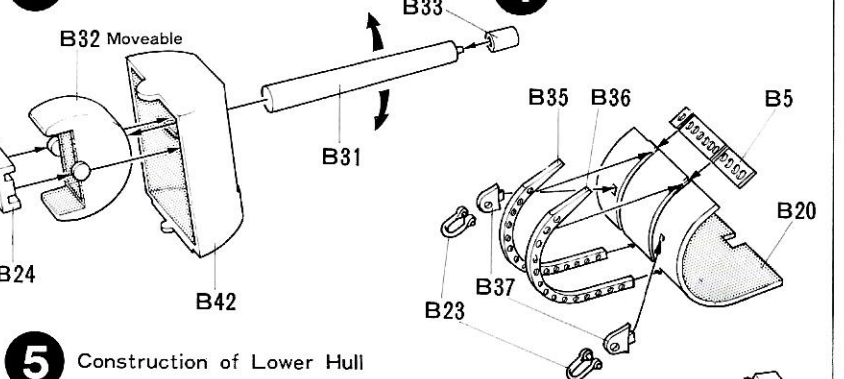
1 Construction of Wheels



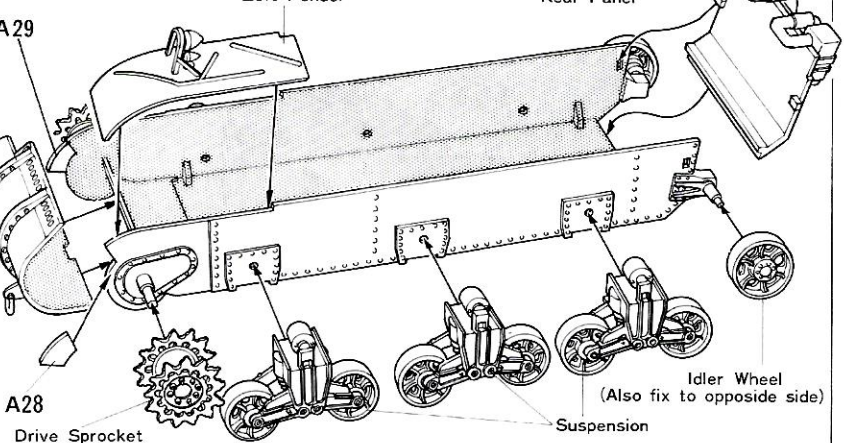
2 Construction of Rear Panel



3 Construction of 75 mm Gun



5 Construction of Lower Hull



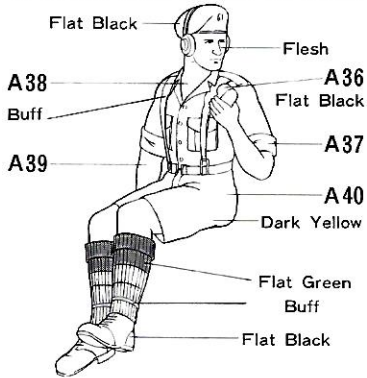
6 (Construction of Upper Hull 1)

Make sure of each part number and cement. When you cement 75mm Gun, first cement B19 to Upper Hull to keep Gun in position, and then fix Right Fender using cement.

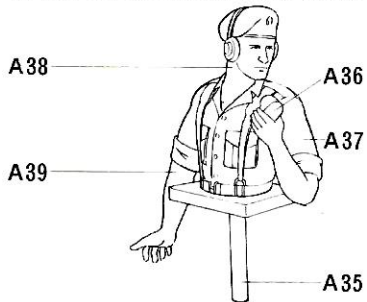
(Construction of Figure)

Figure included in this kit can be fixed in two position, either sitting on the cupola or mounting on the turret. Select one of two you prefer. When mounting on turret, cement Base A35 to the figure upside and to A34 at the stage of 9

(In case of sitting figure on the cupola)

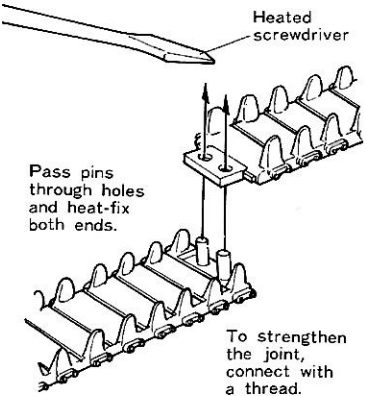


(In case of placing figure on the turret)

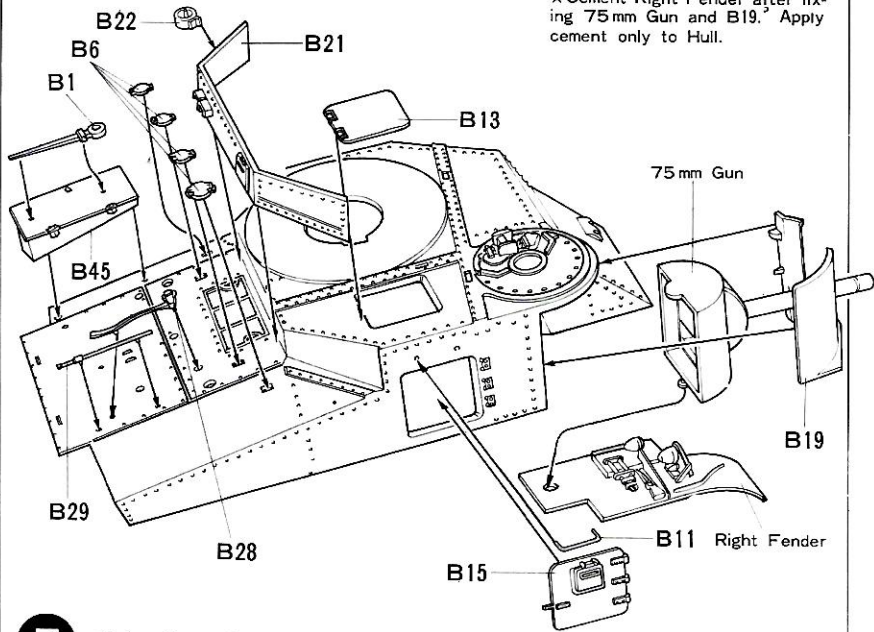


★Do not cement A35 here.

(Construction of Tracks)

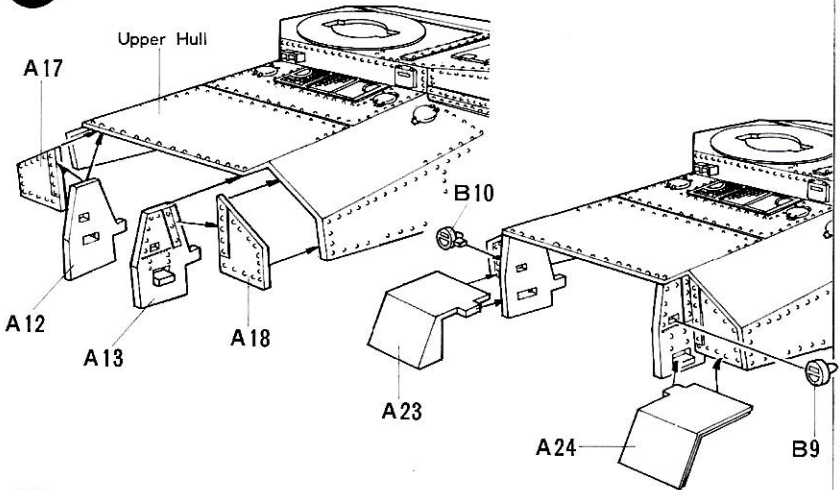


6 Construction of Upper Hull (1)

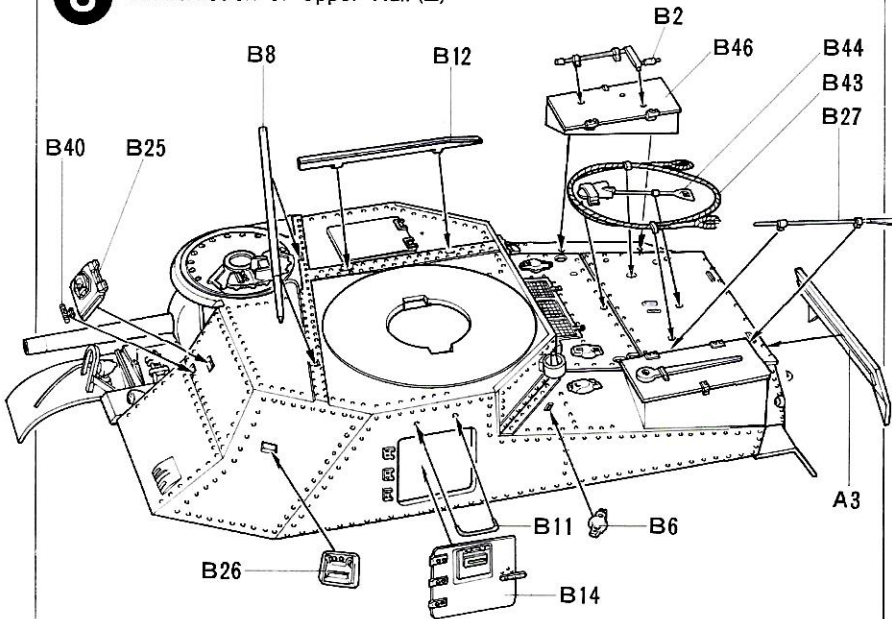


★75mm Gun is moveable. Keep in place with B19.
★Cement Right Fender after fixing 75mm Gun and B19. Apply cement only to Hull.

7 Fixing Rear Parts



8 Construction of Upper Hull (2)

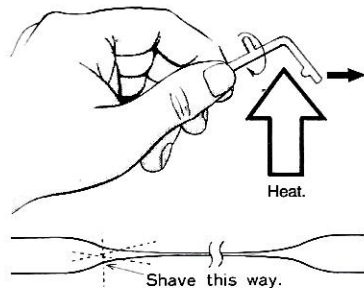


⑨ Construction of Turret

Part A26 is moveable. Keep in position by cementing parts A31 & A32 to part A25. When you fix Cupola A15 & A16 to part A33, make sure that no cement touches A16.

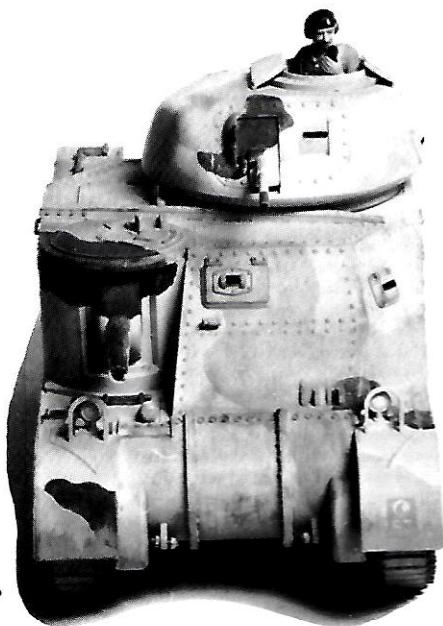
Part A35 is a base for a figure. Place only upper half of the figure. And Hatches A10 & A11 should be fixed in an open position in case you mount the figure on Turret.

〈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 8cm length.

★Caution: Be careful in handling fire.

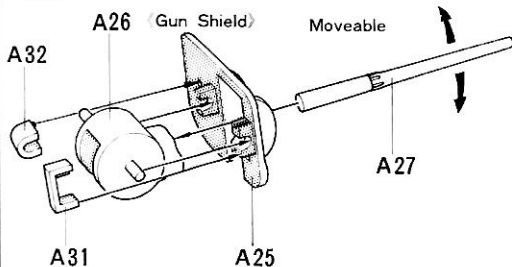


Parts B3 & B4 are unnecessary.

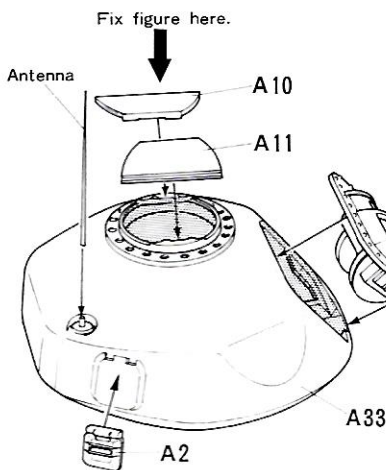
TAMIYA COLOR CATALOGUE

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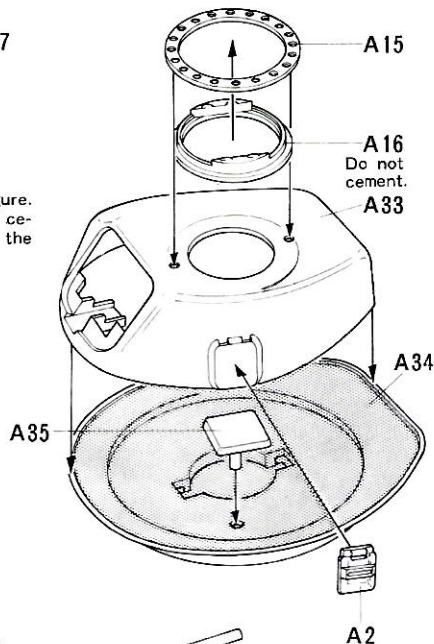
9 Construction of Gun



★A35 is a base for a figure. When you use this base, cement only upper half of the figure to this.

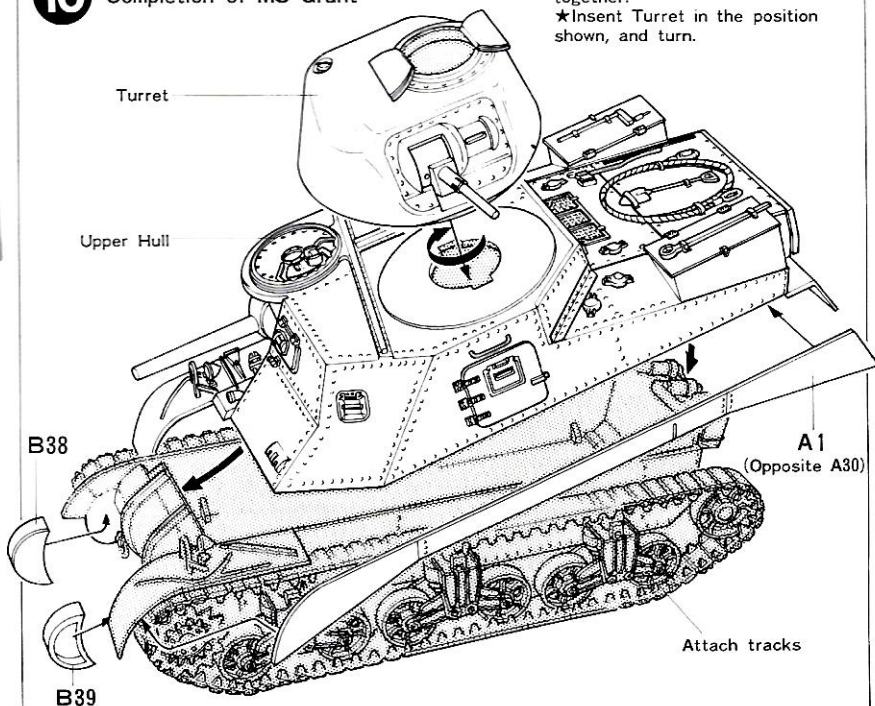


★Allow A16 to rotate. Keep this in position with A15.



★Hatch Halves A10 & A11 can be fixed in either open or closed position. Glue in open position in case you place figure here.

10 Completion of M3 Grant



★Cement Upper & Lower Hull together.

★Insert Turret in the position shown, and turn.

PAINTING



APPLYING DECALS

《Painting of the M3 Grant》

Not only the M3 Grant but also other military vehicles carried a respective camouflage painting which makes the vehicle simulate to the colour of the terrain. So while the vehicles belonged to the British Army at home and in Europe were generally applied a single dark green colour, in the African desert, the tanks and military vehicles were usually painted in dark yellow as a main colour, and some of them were applied the camouflage scheme consisting of dark green, flat white, olive drab, and/or red brown in need. Each colour should have a broad painting area and a distinctive border line, which may be noted in the camouflage pattern of the British tanks. They rarely used a shading-off border or dotting pattern.

In order to enjoy painting of your M3 Grant model, follow instructions shown in the right diagram. Select one scheme you prefer.

《Paint to be used》

Use paint only for styrene plastic. It would make your job easier to use spray-gun when you paint the wide areas. Use a brush to paint narrower parts.

Flat Black

Khaki

Metallic Grey

Dark Yellow


Red Brown

Flesh


《Marking of M3 Grant》


The markings provided to the British Army vehicles consist of the markings for brigade and squadron, the tactical mark, the squadron sign, and the vehicle registered number. In addition to this a small number of vehicles carried their nicknames. Apply markings as shown in the right figure.


《Explanation of Markings》

 Marking of the 7th Armoured Division.

Known as the famous "desert rat", the vehicles with this mark showed wide activity on the African Front.

 Marking of the 8th Armoured Brigade. Utilized the fox mark of the 10th Armoured Division, they showed activity in the western Desert and in Tunisia.




 Marking of the 22nd Armoured Brigade. Participated in the Tunisian theatre of operation.

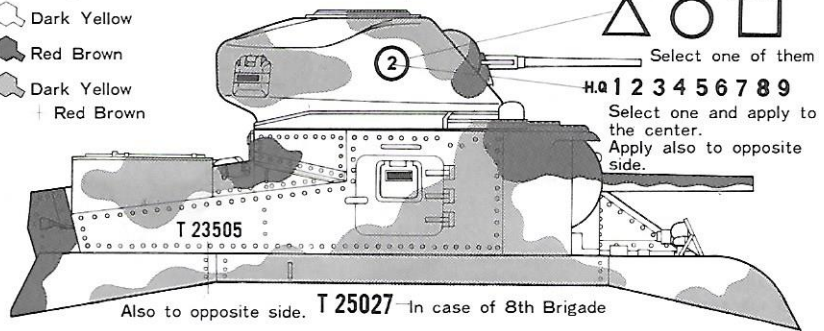
 Tactical mark. This mark stands for a regiment.

The squadron sign and the numerals inside show the company and a vehicle number, and also the vehicle number means a platoon.

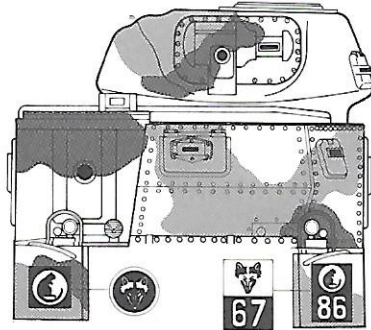
《Markings at the Battle of El Alamein》 7th Division

-  Dark Yellow
-  Red Brown
-  Dark Yellow
-  Red Brown

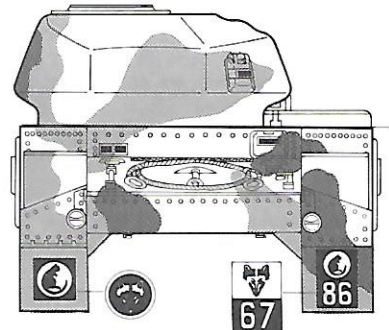
- Squadron sign
  
 Select one of them
 H.a 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



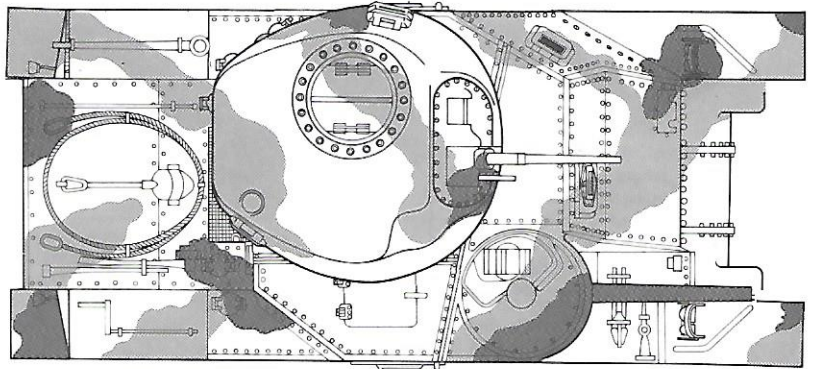
Also to opposite side. T 25027 - In case of 8th Brigade



In case of 8th Brigade



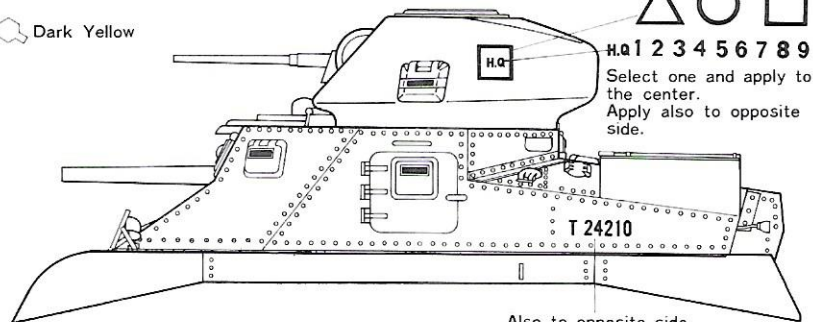
In case of 8th Brigade



《Markings at the Battle of Gazala》 22nd Brigade

-  Dark Yellow

- Squadron sign
  
 Select one and apply to the center.
 Apply also to opposite side.



Also to opposite side.

