



## Full Review

Tamiya

British Valentine Mk.II/IV Infantry Tank Mk.III

1:35 scale

by

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Kit ref: 35352



Here are a couple of photos (above and below) of my completed build up front so you can see how it all went together - a very enjoyable project and nice kit!







## Introduction/Background...

*From Wikipedia:*

The Infantry Tank, Mk.III, Valentine was produced by Vickers-Armstrong during WW2. It entered service in July 1941 and was extensively used in the North African campaign, earning a reputation as a reliable and well protected vehicle, which replaced the Matilda Tank.

The tank first served in Operation Crusader in the North African desert with the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment. The Valentine was better armed and faster than the Cruiser Mk.II.

British and Canadian production totalled 8275, making the Valentine the most produced British tank design of the war.

**The Kit...**

This is the all new tooled kit from Tamiya, ref. 35352, and looks very nice indeed. Being Tamiya, it builds up very easily into an impressive vehicle straight from the box.

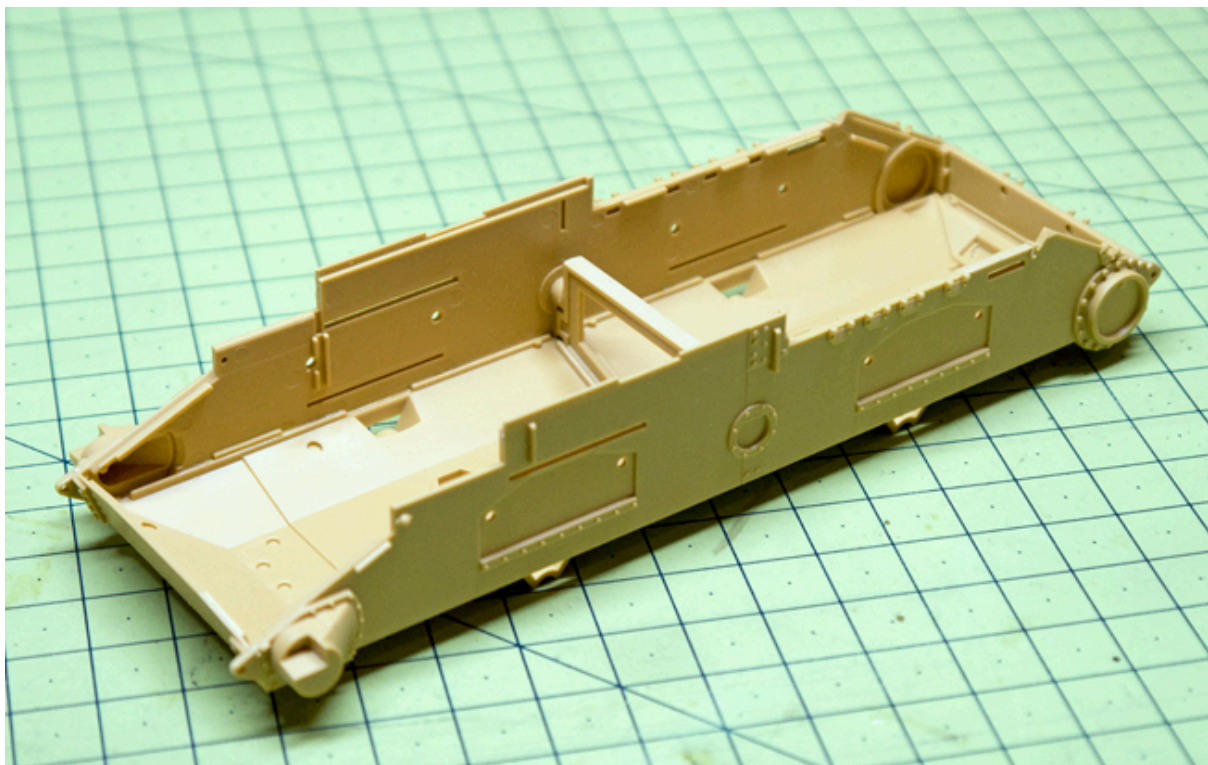
There are 3 variants to choose from, 2 Soviet schemes and 1 British scheme from the African Campaign. It's the British variant that I chose to build here.

Tamiya have chosen to do away with the horrible 'rubber band' tracks and have moulded the tracks in plastic, both in sections and individual links. Nice touch!

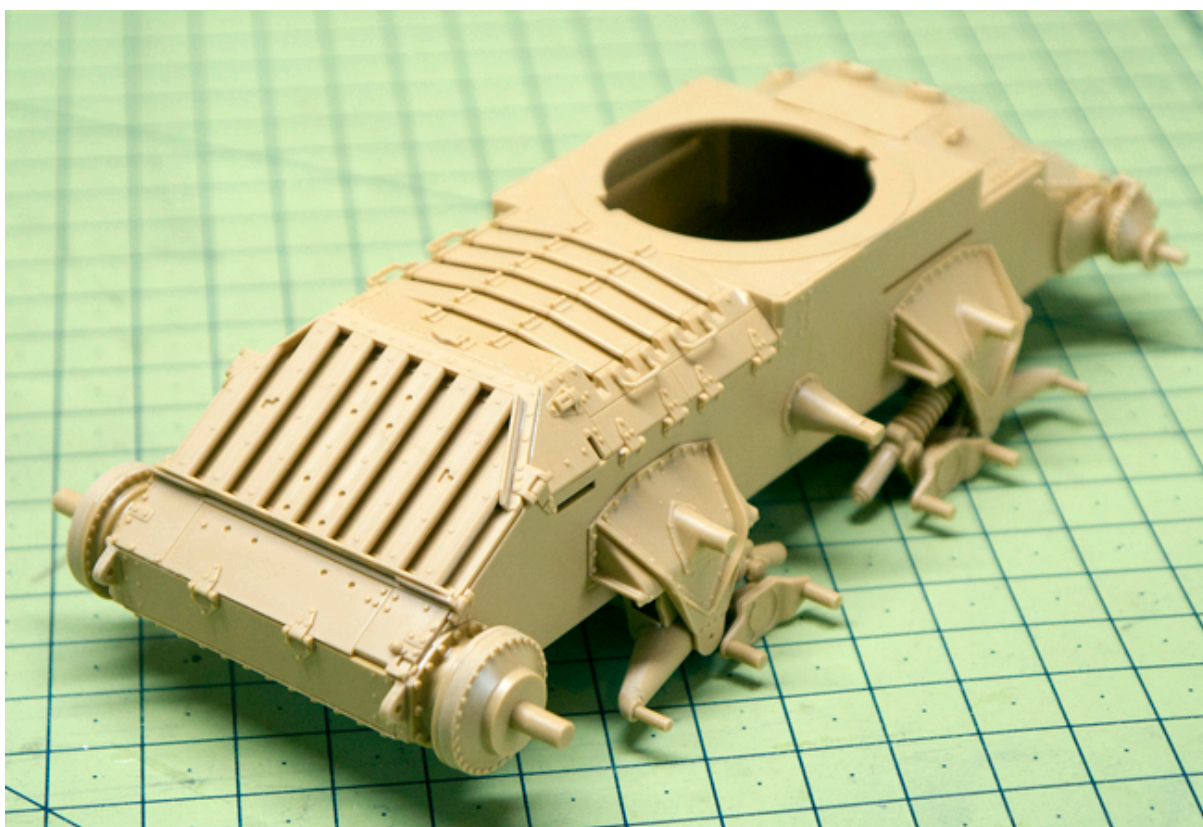
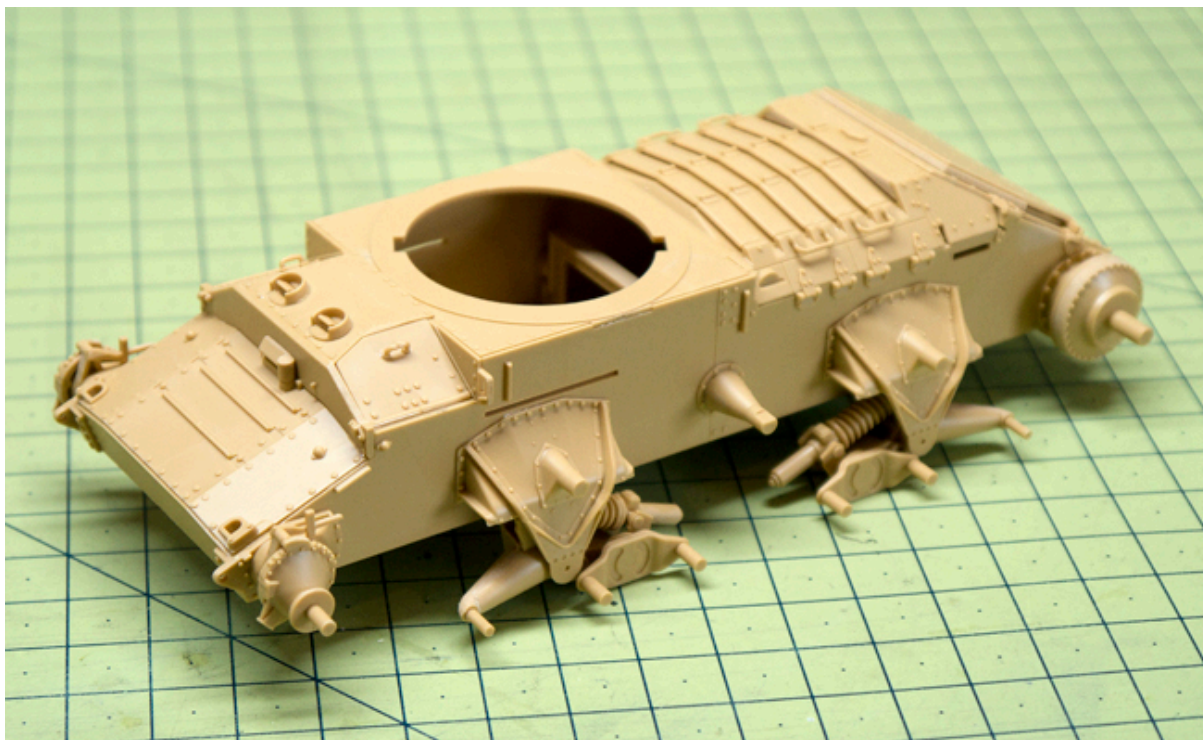
### **Construction...**

The build was started with the main hull. The tan coloured plastic goes together with no issues at all. The main tub was assembled and the top deck added. There are four suspension units to build, each carrying three road wheels each.

No problems here, everything went together beautifully well.





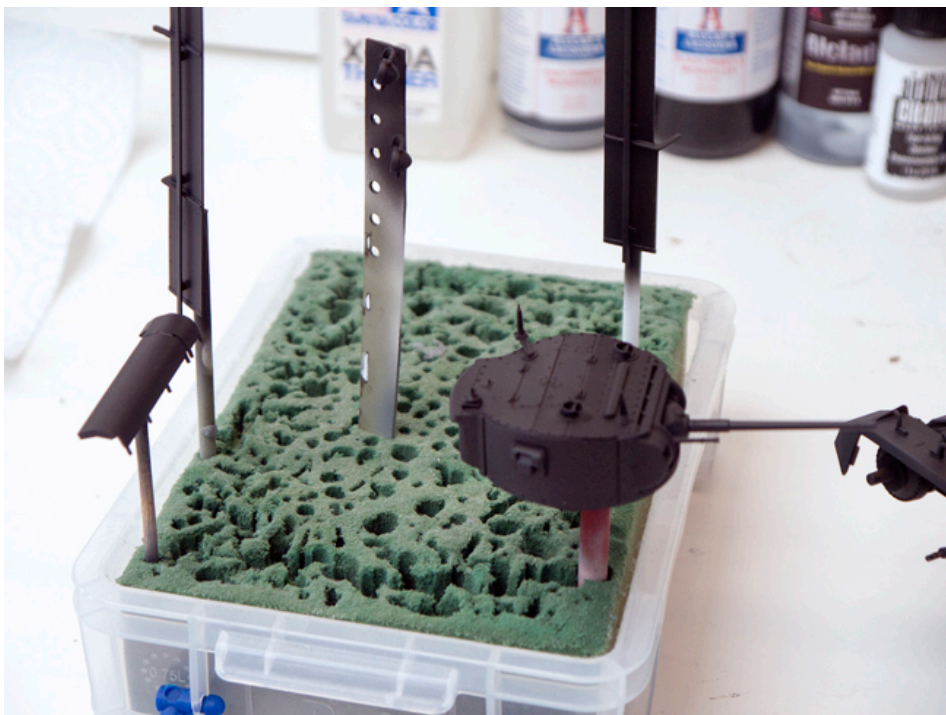


With no aftermarket parts to worry about, construction was pretty swift. I also assembled the turret at this point ready for the next stage - paint.

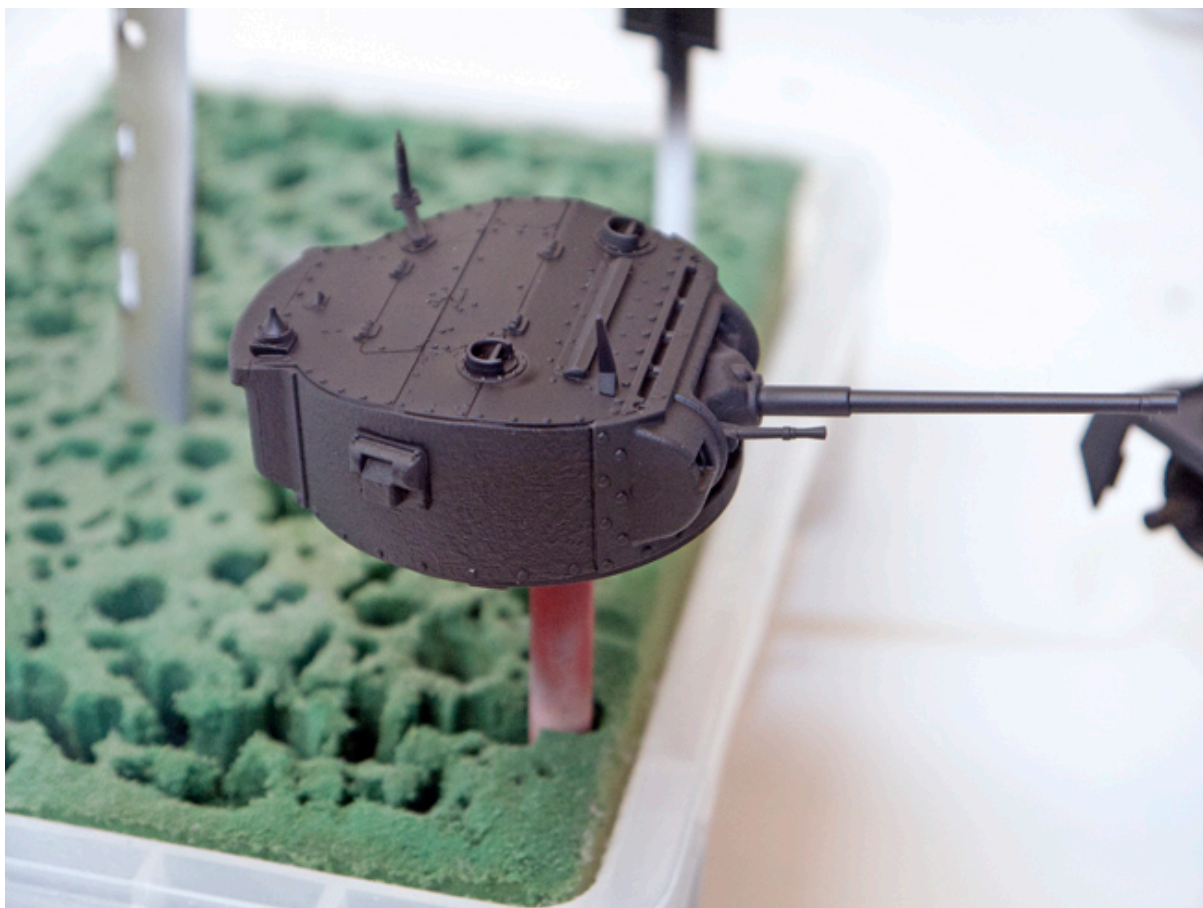
## Painting...

Once the hull/chassis and turret were dry and cleaned up, the paint stage was started. I decided to go with an overall coat of Alclad Black primer. The finish you get with this primer is superb, and gives a good smooth surface for the next stages.

The hull, turret and side skirts were left overnight to fully cure.



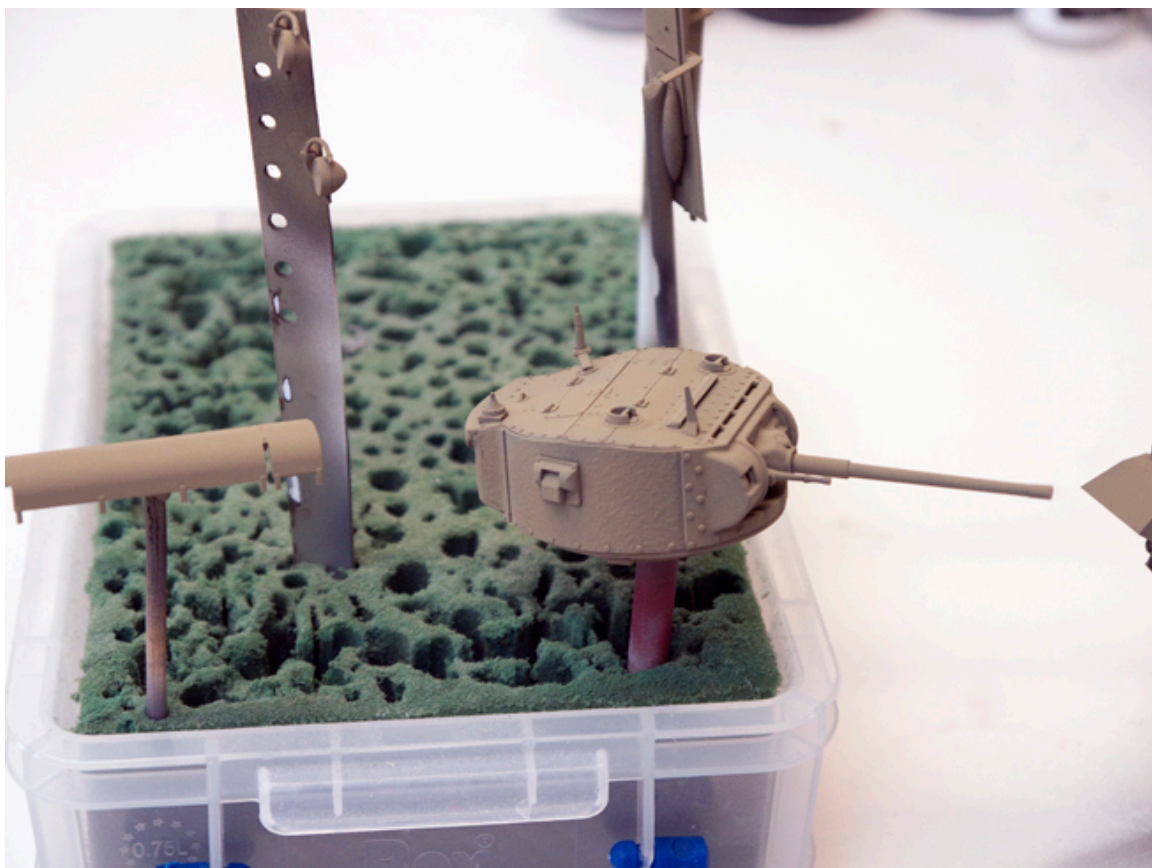
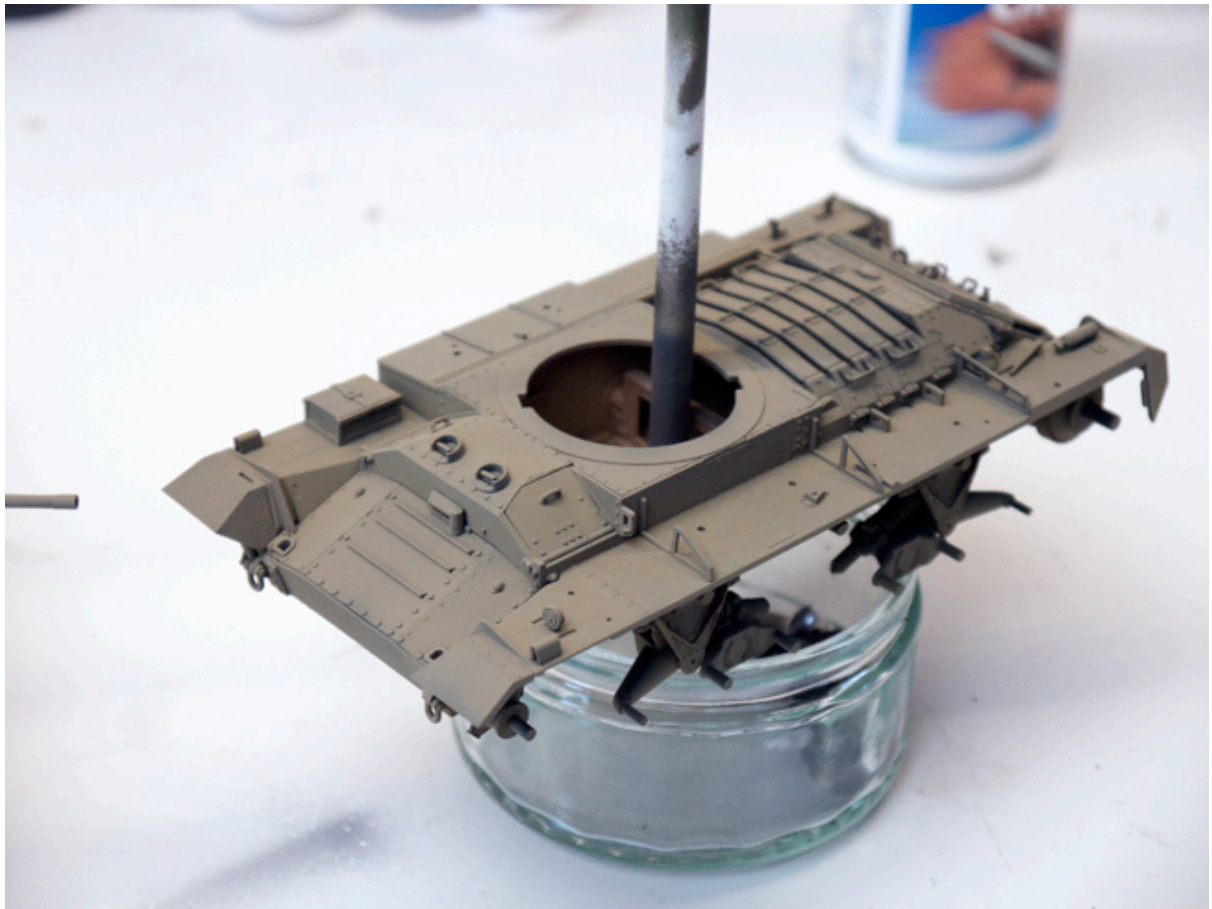




For the main colour, I used a custom mix of Tamiya acrylics. After a bit of research, I found that these tanks were finished in colours called Light Stone No.61 or Portland Stone No.64. I attempted to mix my own colour using Tamiya XF-57 Buff, XF-59 Desert Yellow and XF-49 Khaki. I also added a bit of white and yellow to the mix until I thought I had a good representation.

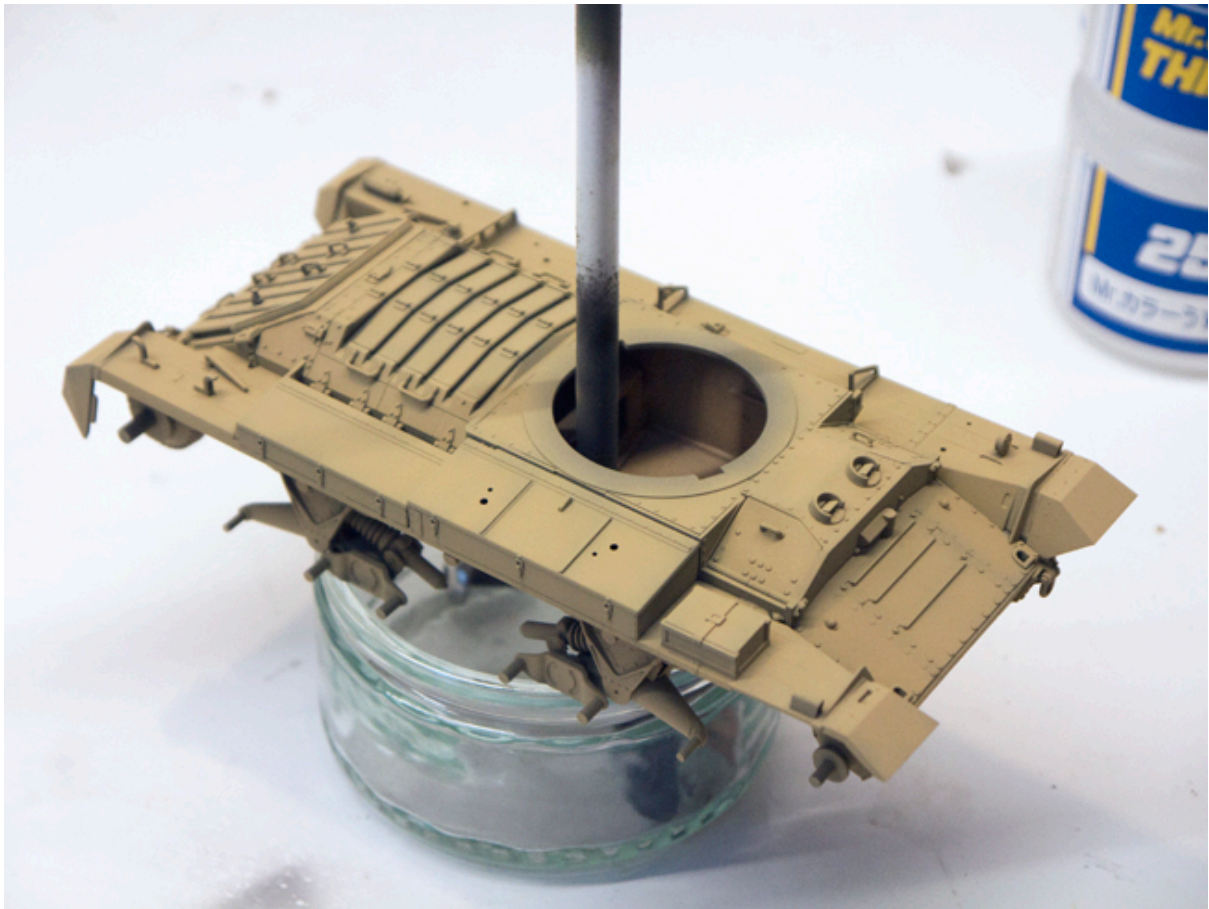
Once I had a good colour mix I then split it into 3 separate jars. I darkened one jar with more of the XF-49 Khaki and lightened another jar with a little white. This gave 3 different shades of the base colour. I wanted to do a bit of modulation to break up the surface so as to not make it too 'flat'.

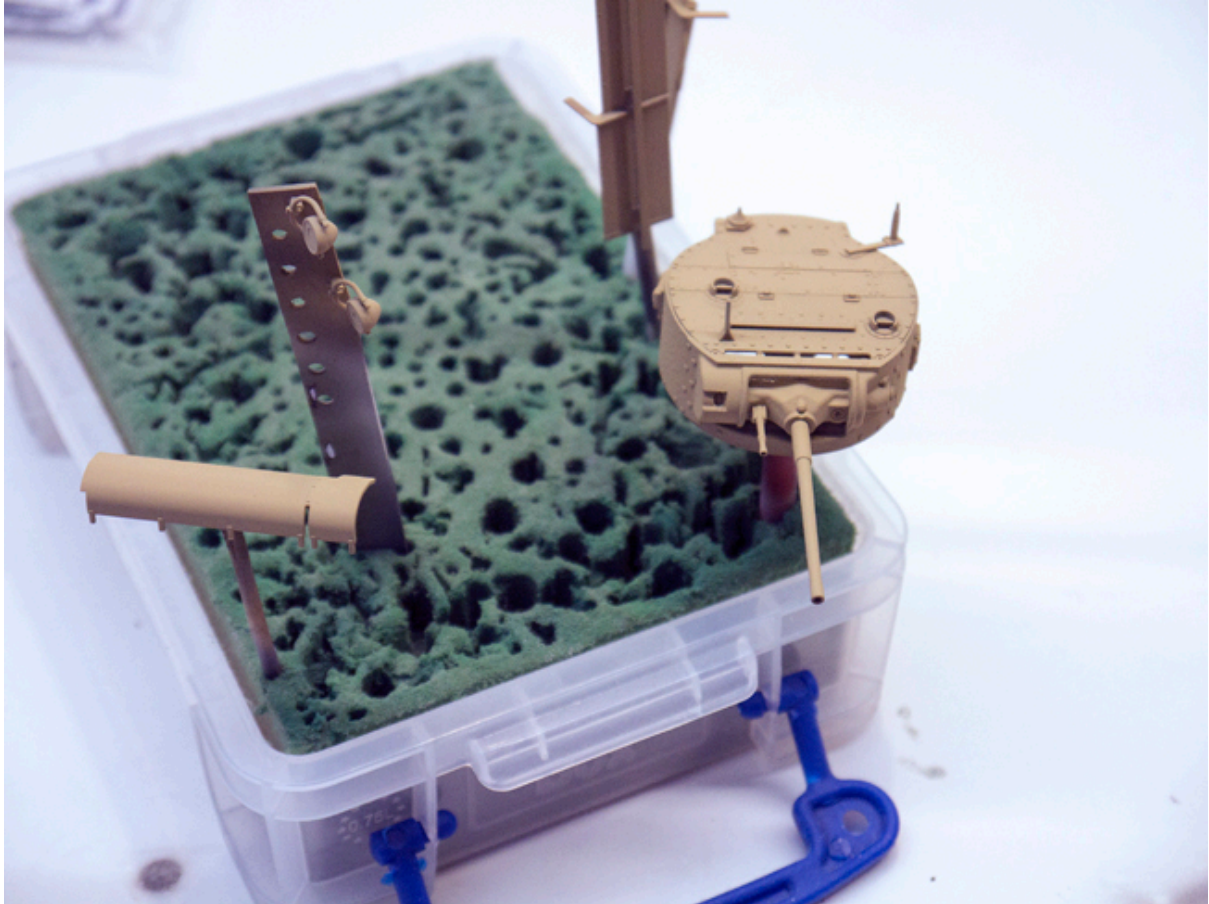
I started with an overall coat of the darkened base colour. I used the black primer coat as a pre-shade layer leaving some of the areas darker.





Next, I used the original base mix to fill in most of the areas of the dark coat, giving more of a light/shade effect and breaking up the shape a bit more.





The effect here is very subtle, but works quite well. Next, I used the lightened shade to highlight the raised upper surfaces, leaving the lower undersides darker. I then lightened a little of the paint even more and picked out the raised bits. Rivets, bolt heads and the top edges of brackets and handles were brush painted with this extreme lightened colour giving a good contrast with the surrounding areas.

After everything had dried, a coat of AK Interactive acrylic satin varnish was applied to the entire assembly. This finished the main painting stage and the satin coat gave a good base for the weathering stage later on.





Wheels were painted and added and the tracks were assembled in sections (a bit fiddly to be honest!). Trying to fit the sections and individual links around the sprockets and wheels, and then glue them into place without sticking everything to the wheels, was a bit of a chore. It came together with patience, and once dry, the track sections were removed for painting and weathering.

The tracks were primed and sprayed. I used Mr Color Metal, Dark Iron. This is a buffable paint, and once dry can be rubbed with a soft cloth or cotton bud to give a superb metal finish. I then used my usual track weathering method of first applying a matt acrylic varnish and dabbing various pigment powders onto the wet varnish to give a good grubby finish. While the varnish and powders are still wet, I rubbed the surface of the tracks to expose the metal colour underneath.

A panel wash of Mig Afrika Korps Wash was applied to the entire model and once dry the tracks were fitted.









### Weathering...

After the washes were dry, I then carried on with other effects. Streaking was randomly applied and scratches & chipping were added using the AK Interactive Chipping Colour applied with a fine brush. I enhanced the chipping on the edges of panels using a soft pencil rubbed along the edge. This gives a nice shiny bare metal effect.

Dust and pigments were added for the mud. This was randomly applied by mixing various pigments with flat varnish and just slapping it on with an old brush. This makes a hell of a mess of the workbench so lots of kitchen roll was put down first!!

I finished off the weathering with a final layer of AK Interactive Africa Dust Effects and North Africa Dust pigment.







## Finishing...

I assembled the exhaust and all of the tools. The exhaust was first sprayed with Alclad Exhaust Manifold then made to look rusty and corroded using various shades of rust pigments.



The tools and exhaust were fitted to complete the build. It went together very nicely thanks to the way Tamiya do their armour, not too complicated but still retaining a good deal of detail straight from the box. A good little weekend project.

And that's it!

Chris E.





























