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Autoblinda AB 43

Pz.Sp.Wg.AB 43

203(i)

Italy 1944



Step-by-Step Finishing Italian/ German Armor

By Glenn Bartolotti

A complete Step-by-Step guide to Painting and Finishing Armor Models

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Pz.Sp.Wg.AB 43
203(i) Italy 1944

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Materials Used

The materials I use are very easy to obtain and simple to use. Most are inexpensive and found in most all art supply stores. Over the years I have learned to use these basic materials to obtain finishes that look very realistic. **Consistency** is very important and following each steps is also very important to obtain the desired finish.

You will notice that in none of the steps will you see the method of dry-brushing. I do not like to use this method as some armor modelers do. I prefer a more subtle look in which I feel represents the look of a full scale armor vehicle.



Materials used for painting and weathering. In this Step-by-Step. Acrylic paints are used to paint the model, the same results can be achieved with enamel or acrylic paints!

Autoblinda AB 43 Pz.Sp.Wg.AB 43 203(i)

Possessing a medium caliber rifled armor piercing gun, and a MG42 machine gun, the Autoblinda 43 was meant to replace the Autoblinda 40 as a heavy recon vehicle, but was later turned into an anti-infantry battle 'tank'.

a new lower and wider turret and revised exhaust system and provision for 7 jerry cans on external racks and was still armed with a 20mm main gun and two 8mm machine guns as well as having four wheel drive and steering. It was planned to

upgrade the AB 43 with a 47 mm anti-tank gun, but those plans were disrupted by the Italian surrender in September 1943. The AB43s were used during World War II in North Africa, Italy, Hungary, and on the Eastern Front.

After the Italian surrender, The AB 43 armored car was used by German units under the German designation – Panzerspähwagen AB43 203(i).

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

History

The Autoblinda AB 43 was basically an upgraded AB 41 with more powerful engine,

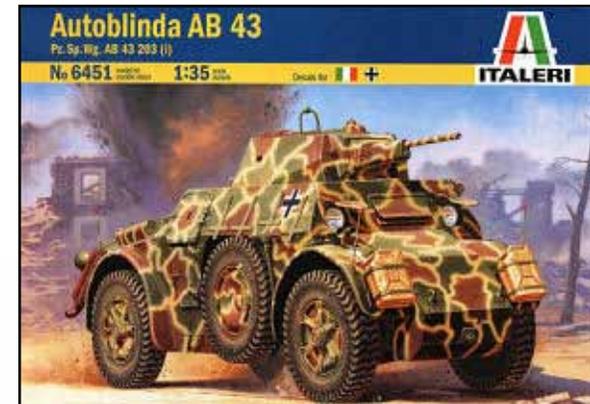


Autoblinda 40 Libya, 1941

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Autoblinda 40.*



1. The **kit** used is Italeri Kit No. 6451 - 1-35 Scale. Highly detailed kit with decals for Italy and Germany, painting guide and instructions.



The kit was built with the only change to it a metal wire for the antenna and a gun barrel made of plastic tube.

3



3. The model is given a **primer coat** to give the model a good base to start the paint process. I use a basic spray can primer that can be purchased at the local home store. This primer coat makes painting much easier for the acrylic paints to cover the model and adhere properly.



I use a basic single action airbrush. Nothing special.

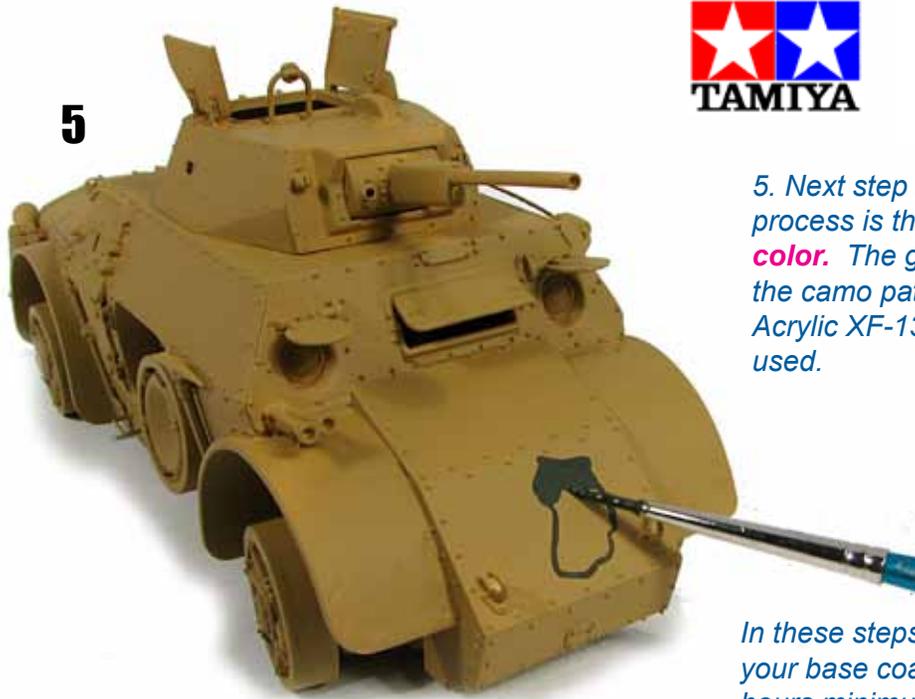
4



4. Next step in the painting process is the **base coat**. This is the main color. The model is completely air-brushed this color.

I used Tamiya Acrylic XF59 Desert Yellow for this. I did this step first so the dark shades would be painted over the light base coat and not over the dark camo colors.

5



5. Next step in the painting process is the **1st camo color**. The green shade of the camo pattern. Tamiya Acrylic XF-13 JA Green is used.



In these steps it is important that your base coat has dried for 24 hours minimum. **Acrylics brush** on very smooth and will dry with a flat finish and for most are much easier to hand paint.

6



6. Next step in the painting process is the **2nd camo color**. Tamiya Acrylic XF-9 Hull Red. I used the kit instructions as my guide.

The JA Green is added in after the Hull Red was finished.



7

7. The model is now painted with the remaining camo scheme.

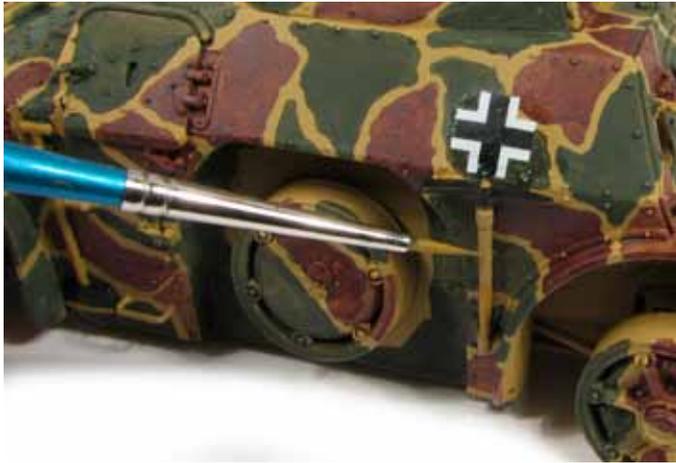


8. The model is now given a Testors clear gloss coat only in the areas that the **decals** will be applied. I used the decals included in the kit. When dry, spray the tank with Testors clear flat and allow to dry for about 2 days. A flat finish is very important to my step-by-step finishing.

8



9



9. Next step in the painting process are the **tools and equipment**. I paint all tools and equipment on the AB 43 before final weathering. In painting these items study the way metal and wood looks in real life and add the colors into your paint to really get a good contrasting look and make sure you use various colors and shade as you can in each item. Most important don't paint items just one color or shade. I use acrylic paint but any paint you are comfortable with will work.



The tires come molded in rubber. Painting rubber sometimes causes problems with paint adhering to them or later cause the rubber to crack. I use a rough cloth like denim to rough up the rubber by buffing them on the cloth. This takes the shine out of the rubber.

10



10. **Fading** helps tie the colors together, tone down the harsh camo scheme and get the AB 43 the look that it has been in the elements. Tamiya Acrylic XF59 Desert Yellow, and Tamiya airbrush thinner are mixed 10/1 for this. Set your airbrush at a high pressure with a wide spray and make passes over the entire model. The more passes you make the more it will fade the paint. This step really ties things together!



11



11. Next step is the **wash**.

First I brush the AB 43 with clean turpentine. I put a dab of raw umber oil paint on a pallet, the oil paint is thinned with turpentine on the pallet and then applied to the model with a small brush. I do not want the wash to coat the entire model, it is controlled just where I want it. This is called a pin wash, apply to all of the surface details to create false shadows around each one, and any excess wash is blended into the surrounding surface once dry. I streak it down the sides like it would naturally, but care should be taken not to overdo this...be subtle.



Once the body wash of the AB 43 has dried it is turned on its side and the wheels are given a wash. It is put on its side so the wash stays around the bolts and details not allowing the wash to drain down to the bottom of the wheels only. This gives the wheels a even effect all around.

12



Blend in with clean turpentine being very subtle as you go over the model. Allow this to drain down the sides as it would in real life.

12. Next step is the **effects**. I use heavily thinned white mixed with naples yellow artist oil paint to give flat areas of the tank a look as though water that has mixed with dust and dried on the surface. In this case it will fade the paint as the sun does very fast in the desert.

I paint the area with clean turpentine as before. I put a dab of oil paint mixture on a pallet, the oil paint is thinned with turpentine on the pallet and then applied to the model with a small brush as dots.

13. Next step in the weathering process is the **worn paint, chips & scratches**. I add worn paint with raw umber oil paint and a small brush. The key to worn/chips are make them small and without any pattern, keeping them on the most abused edges and damaged areas. On older damaged areas first paint the chip with burnt sienna, then add the raw umber inside the chip so the sienna borders the umber. Use common sense and remember that less is more with chipped/worn areas, and think very small!

The front and rear lights are painted gloss white with just a touch of silver paint added.



13

14. **Wet pastels** The muffler gets pastel washes using shades of rust, brown, and olive green pastel powder. Apply the rust shade first and then add blotches of the brown and olive after.

When the wash dries, along with some umber chips, it is quite convincing giving a good representation of weathered rusty metal. Add this same mixtures, but less to the metal areas of the tools and hinges or places that may get rusty. **I mix them with turpentine on a pallet and apply them with a brush.**



I use pastels in the same way you use pigments, but I make my own. The pastels are purchased at the art store and come in a large variety of shades. I use a file to grind them into powder.

14



15



15. Next step is the **dry pastels**. I use pastel powder to simulate dust and sand on the tires. Grinding the sand color pastel into fine powder with sand paper or a file, and then brushing it on the wheels and tires with a old brush.

Finished Model



Finished Model



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