

Vol. 35

SPECIAL ISSUE

Sd.Kfz. 263

Funkspahwagen

1. Panzer Division,

France 1940

Step-by-Step Finishing German Armor

By Glenn Bartolotti



1/72 scale

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

Vol. 35

Sd.Kfz. 263

Funkspahwagen

1. Panzer Division,
France 1940



Step-by-Step Finishing German Armor

By Glenn Bartolotti

1/72 scale

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



Bladerunner8u Production, © 2013
glennbart@verizon.net

Copyright © 2013 by Glenn L. Bartolotti
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or
transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or by
mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information
storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the author.
Printing is allowed by the purchaser only as reference and not mass production.

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 step 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 showing the same results can be achieved with enamel or acrylic paints!



I use a basic single action airbrush. Nothing special.

Sd.Kfz. 263 Funkspahwagen



The term *Schwerer Panzerspähwagen* (Heavy armored reconnaissance vehicle), covers the 6 and 8 wheeled armored cars Germany used during the Second World War. In the German Army, armored cars were intended for the traditional cavalry missions of reconnaissance and screening. They scouted ahead of mechanized units to assess enemy strength and location. Their primary role was to observe rather than fight enemy units, although they were expected to fight enemy reconnaissance elements when required.

Sd.Kfz. 263
A radio vehicle “Funkspähwagen” equipped with extra long-range radio equipment and an additional radio operator. To support the additional equipment, the turret was omitted, the superstructure was raised, and only a single ball-mounted machinegun was mounted. Note that there is also an 8 wheeled Sd.Kfz. 263.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



1

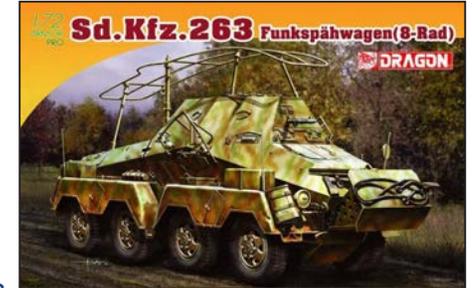


1. The **kit** used is DML7444 1:72 Dragon Sd.Kfz.263 Funkspahwagen (8-Rad) - Armor Pro Series

About the Model

The Sd.Kfz. 263 Funkspahwagen (8-rad) is part of Dragon's 1/72 "Armor Pro" series. You get 91 medium gray hard plastic parts on five sprue trees with minimal flash.

The instructions are very well illustrated with six sequences of assembly and painting guides for 5 marking options. The detail is exceptional and is consistent with other armor kits in this range. The decals are in perfect register and allow you to customize the license plates numbers but can be very tricky to apply!



I left the extended front shield off because it was not on the early 1940 version Panzer Grey scheme I wanted to model.

2



2. To aid in handling the model during painting I drilled a small hole in the chassis and inserted a metal rod.

3



3. **Primer coat - Base coat**

Since the model is in 1/72 scale I did not use primer as I do in most of my Step-By-Step process. This time I painted the entire model with a base coat of Testors 4768 Flat Black. This was done since the scale is smaller and with very fine detail so I did not want to put too many coats of paint on and build up paint on the model.



Flat Black

Available as:

→ Flat Black FS37038 Acryl - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 4768 Price: USDS 3.69



4



4. Next step in the painting process is the **high-light**. This is Testors 4754 Dark Gray. What you are trying to achieve is to make sure any areas of your light source can hit is painted. This step will bring out the models details. Paint all the high spots, centers of any panels and the tops of objects that stand off the tank. Once again contrast is important!



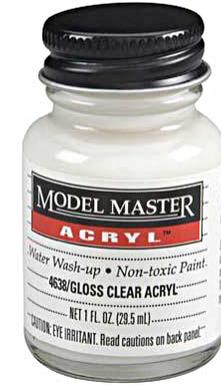
Dark Gray (F-15)

Available as:

→ Dark Gray F-15 FS36176 Acryl (F)- 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 4754 Price: USDS 3.69



5. The model is now given a Testors clear gloss coat only in the areas that the **decals** will be applied. Micro Sol was used to flatten the decals down. I used the decals from 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.



5



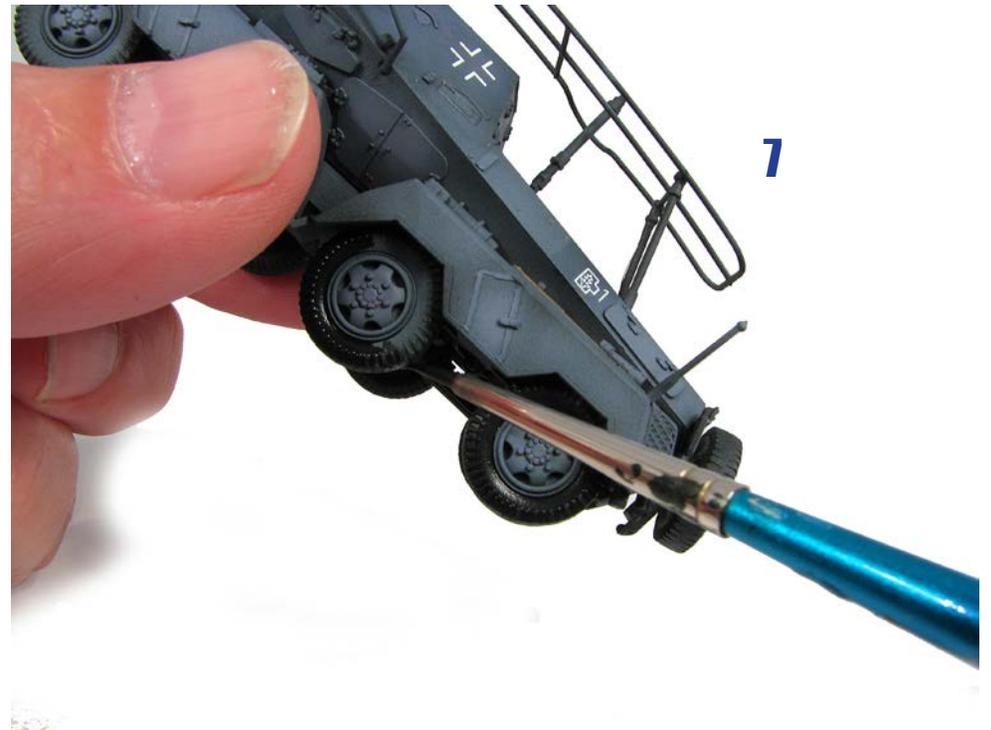
Both the front and rear license plate markings come as separate letters. Care and patients have to be used to apply them.



6. Next step in the painting process are the **tools and details**. I paint all tools and equipment on the model before final weathering. The machine guns are paint Testors Gun metal.



7. Next the **tires** are given a very thin wash of flat black paint thinned with water. The wash works well because stark black rubber is not realistic. Let wash flow all around the tire but not in the wheels.



Flat Black

Available as:

→ Flat Black FS37038 Acryl - 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 4768 Price: USDS 3.69



8



8. Next step is the **wash**.

First I brush the area of the 263 that will receive the wash with clean turpentine. I put a dab of black 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 sometimes 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 before drying. I streak it down the sides like it would naturally in some areas, but care should be taken not to overdo this. Since this model is 1/72 scale the wash must be kept to a minimum and subdued.

Once the top surface wash has dried it is turned on its side and 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 only.



9



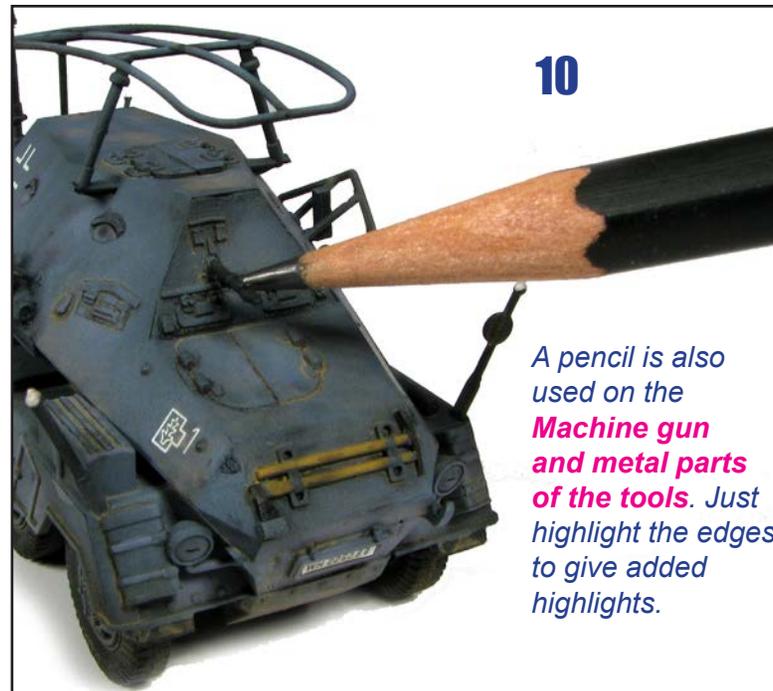
Once the body of the 263's wash has dried it is turned on its side and the wheels are weathered. It is put on its side so the pigment wash stays around the details not allowing the wash to drain down to the bottom of the wheels only. This gives the wheels a even effect all around.



9. Next step is **pastel pigment weathering**. I use pastels in the same way you use pigments, but I make my own powder. The pastels are \$1.00 a stick at the art store and come in a large variety of shades. I use a file to grind them into powder. I mix them with turpentine on a pallet and apply them with a brush. The 263's sides and wheels get a light earth color thinned heavily with turpentine. **Make sure you thin the powder heavily because if not it will dry and cover to much of the area applied, a little goes a long way!**

Apply a very thin mixture on the 263's body to show where soil and dust has accumulated. Be very subtle.

10



A pencil is also used on the **Machine gun and metal parts of the tools**. Just highlight the edges to give added highlights.

I use a file to grind them into powder.

The powder is then thinned heavily with turpentine and then applied to the model with a small brush.

If you mix to much powder with the thinner it will dry and cover to much of the models paint finish. A very thinned amount that can not be seen when applied but when dry shows up.

Finished Model





Finished Model

