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**BT-7**

**Model 1935**

**Russia 1942**



# Step-by-Step Captured Tanks Under the German Flag

**By Glenn Bartolotti**

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

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Painting and Finishing Armor Models



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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 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.*

# BT-7 MODEL 1935

The BT tanks (Russian: Быстроходный танк (БТ), *Bystrokhodny tank*, lit. "fast tank" or "high-speed tank" were a series of Soviet cavalry tanks produced in large numbers between 1932 and 1941. They were lightly armoured, but reasonably well-armed for their time, and had the best mobility of all contemporary tanks of the world. The BT tanks were known by the nickname *Betka* from the acronym, or its diminutive *Betushka*.<sup>[2]</sup>

The direct successor of the BT tanks would be the famous T-34 medium tank, introduced in 1940, which would replace all of the Soviet

fast tanks, infantry tanks, and medium tanks in service.

During the Second World War, BT-5 and BT-7 tanks were used in the 1939 Soviet invasion of Poland, and in large numbers in the battles of 1941 - during which thousands were

abandoned or destroyed. A few remained in use in 1942, but were rare after that time. The Red Army planned to replace the BT tank series with the T-34, and had just begun doing so when the German invasion (Operation Barbarossa) took place. During the final weeks of World War II, a significant number of BT-7 tanks took part in the invasion of Japanese-occupied Manchuria, in August 1945. This was the last combat action for the BT tanks.

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



1



The figure is from the DML set 6655



1. The **kit** used is 1/35 Military Miniature Series Item No-35309 Russian Tank BT-7 Model 1935

#### About the Model

1/35 scale plastic assembly kit model of the Russian BT-7. Length: 161mm, Width: 65mm. - The unique wedge-shaped frontal area and large road wheels have been accurately reproduced. - Hull side features the same double-wall structure as the actual tank. - Mechanically complicated suspension features superb details as well as ease of assembly. - Assembly type tracks included. - 5 types of markings also included. - Photo reference leaflet (B5 size) is included in initial production lot kits.



2



2. The completed model is given a **primer coat** to cover and protect the photo etch parts and 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 the steps much easier because you get a smooth coat of color to allow you to see all the areas that will be needed to be painted in the steps used to shade and high light the model.

3



**Burnt Umber**

Available as:

→ Burnt Umber Acryl (F)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4605 Price: USD\$ 3.69



3. The first step in the painting process is the **pre-shade**. This is the darkest shadow color. Burnt Umber 4605 is used. What you are trying to achieve in this is to make sure any areas that your light source cannot hit is painted. You are for the most part adding artificial shadows. All the recesses, corners, tracks, and under objects that stand off the tank. It is also best achieved in some areas by painting the areas from under the tank as to just paint under the objects.

4



**Sandgelb RLM 79**

Available as:

→ Sandgelb RLM 79 Acryl (SG)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4789 Price: USD\$ 3.69



4. Next step in the painting process is the **base coat** this is the main color. Testors 4789 Sandgelb is used in this step.

Cover the main parts of the BT-7. Let some Shadow show though.

5



**Flat White**

Available as:  
→ Flat White FS37875 Acryl - 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4789 Price: USDS 3.69



**Sandgelb RLM 79**

Available as:  
→ Sandgelb RLM 79 Acryl (SG)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4788 Price: USDS 3.69

5. Next step in the painting process is the **high-light**. This is Testors 4789 Sandgelb Mixed with Testors 4769 Flat White. 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 your BT-7 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!

6



6. 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 a old Tamiya set but this marking can also be found in German aircraft kits. 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.



7. Next step in the painting process are the **tools and equipment**. I paint all tools and equipment on the tank 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 metal items are painted in shades of black, they will be treated with a metallic and rust finish later.

7

The muffler and spare tracks are also painted using Burnt Umber 4605 thinned to almost a wash.



**Burnt Umber**

Available as:

→ Burnt Umber Acryl (F)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4605 Price: USD\$ 3.69





8

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

First I brush the area of the BT-7 that will receive the wash 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 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...be subtle.



Once the body of the BT-7 wash has dried it is turned on its side and the road wheels are given a wash.



**NOTE: Always use clean turpentine!**



9. Next step is the **effects**. I use 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.

I paint the area with clean turpentine as before. I put a dab of 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. Blend well and be very subtle. Other earth shade oil colors can be used in this step to add other transparent glaze weathering effects.



Olivgrun RLM 80

Available as:

→ Olivgrun RLM 80 Acryl (SG)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4790 Price: US\$ 3.69

10



10. Next step in the weathering process are the dark **paint chips & scratches**. Remember this tank was green before the Germans repainted it. I add chipped paint with Testors 4790 Olivgrun acrylic paint and a small no. 3 brush. The key to chips are make them small and without any pattern, keeping them on the most abused edges and damaged areas. Use common sense and remember that less is more with chipped/worn areas, and think very small!



11. Next the **tires/road wheels** are given a very thin wash of black oil paint thinned with turpentine. The wash works well because stark black rubber is not realistic. Let wash flow all around the road wheels in the same manner. It is impossible to add the wash behind the road wheels but if you can't see it no one will see it is not painted there.

11



12. 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 sold as sticks 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 BT-7's tracks and wheels get a light earth color thinned heavily with turpentine. You want this wash to be so thin you barely see the color in it. Add more washes for heavy weathered look. Apply a very thin mixture in random areas on the BT-7's body to show where soil and dust has accumulated. Be very subtle.



**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!**

12



The muffer pipes get 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, blend it at the edges. When the wash dries it is quite convincing giving a good representation of weathered iron. Add this same mixtures to the metal areas of the tools.





13



13. Next step are **metal accents**  
 I use a no. 2 graphite pencil to add the metal accents to the raised parts of the tracks. I also add this to the areas you can see on the drive sprocket teeth.

13. The pencil is also used on the **metal tools**. Just highlight the edges of the tools and not the entire metal area.



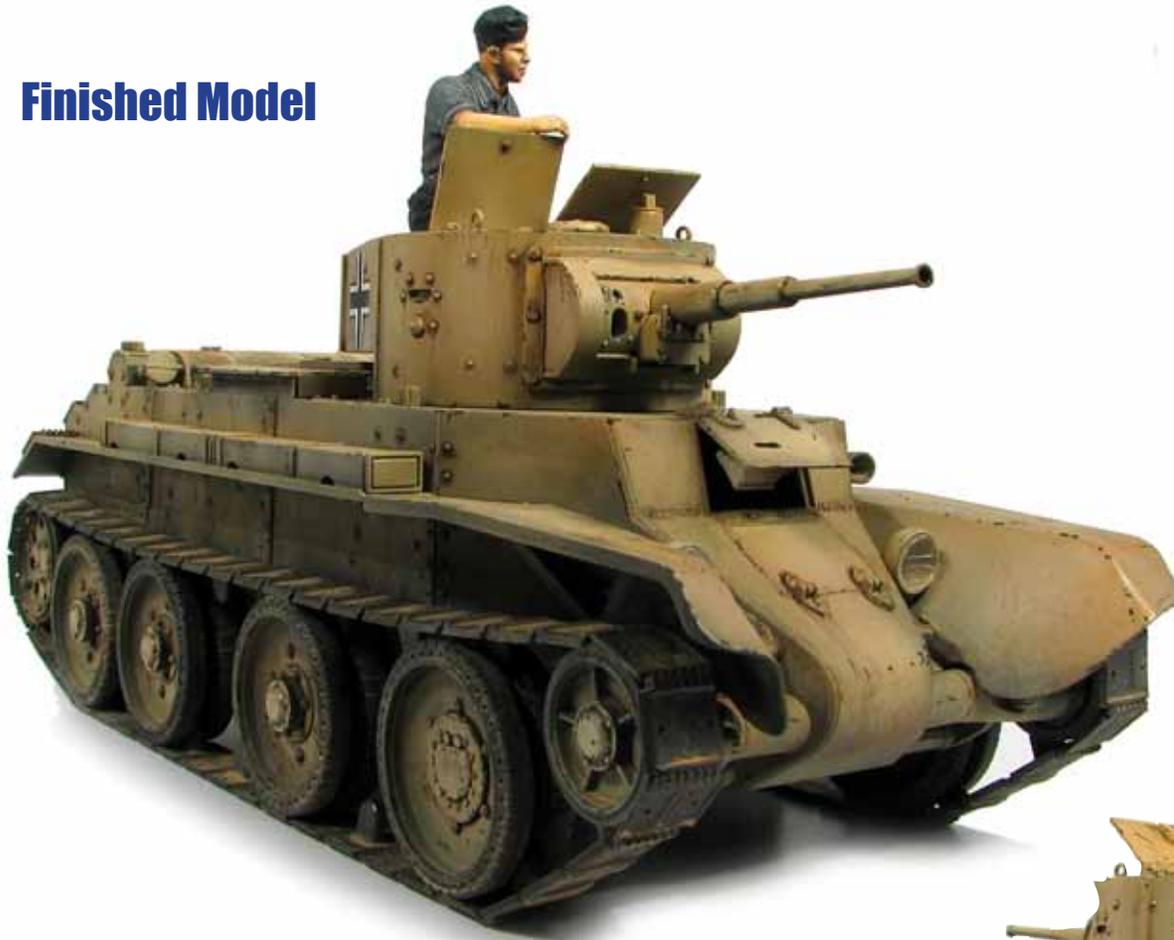
The figure is built stock from the DML set 6655.

It was painted using Model Color acrylic paint.

The colors used are shown in the photo. The painting technique used is applying thin coats of color to create tones and shadows.



**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**



**Learn more armor finishing techniques from all the SBS volumes!**



**Be on the look out for more  
Step-by-Step Armor Finishing!**

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**Armor Models**  
by Glenn Bartolotti

