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BT-A Command

Russia 1939

Step-by-Step Finishing Russian Armor

By Glenn Bartolotti



A complete Step-by-Step guide to 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-7A Command

The first prototypes of the BT-7 had a distinctive canted-ellipse shaped turret mounting both the main gun and a coaxial machine-gun. The specification also called for the project to allow for installation without any significant change to the framework of new guns: the 76 mm KT-26 or PS-3 main gun (a short-barreled howitzer) and the 45 mm 20K model 1932/38, a long-barreled, high-velocity gun useful against tanks, but less effective than the 76 mm gun against infantry. In the rear of the turret there was housed a rotating drum-type magazine for 18 76 mm shells or a radio station. The prototype underwent an extensive testing program in the summer and autumn of 1934. As a result of this testing, it was felt that a machine-gun was unnecessary on a tank with a 3-man crew, especially as it made the assembly of the turret more complicated. Therefore, in early 1935, the tank went into production with a simpler design, incorporating the turret from the BT-5. (However, the idea of wheeled/tracked vehicle

with a 76 mm cannon was not abandoned and the plant was commissioned to develop a new BT-7 turret from the turret of the T-26-4.) In the production model, a cylindrical turret housed a 45 mm 20K gun with a DT-model machine-gun. On some of the tanks, a model 71-TC radio with frame antenna was installed.

In 1938, four experimental BT-8 tanks mounted with V-2 diesel engines were produced.

After comparative tests of the BT-7 and BT-8, the diesel tanks were put into production in 1940 (under the designation BT-7M) with the powerplants being produced in a separate plant of the Voroshilovets factory to ensure supply. From December

1939, the BT-7A went into production with some minor modifications - additional bracing for rigidity, a manhole underneath, and a smaller air filter. The diesel tanks showed much-reduced fuel costs, and the petrol tanks were soon placed into reserve.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



1



1. The **kit** used is the 1/35 Tank BT-7A w/76 mm Gun KT-28

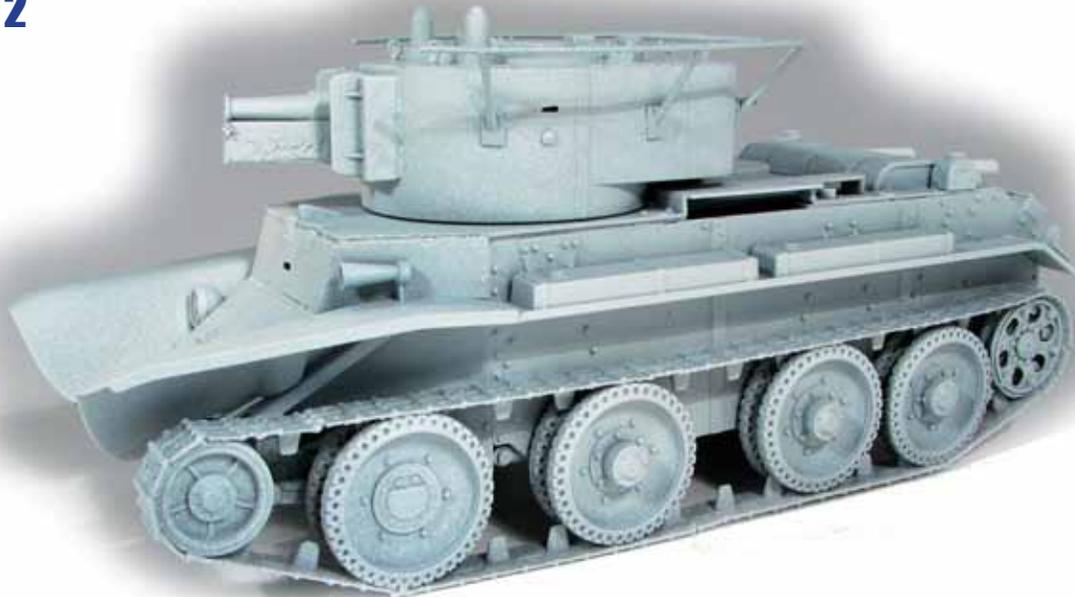
Eastern Express - NO. 35114

About the Model

The kit contains five trees of parts, packaged in three cloudy cello bags. Parts are molded in a medium gray colored plastic. Moldings are pretty detailed, for a kit coming from Moscow, Russia. However, there is quite a bit of flash apparent...especially on the trees that hold the road wheels, around those road wheels. Tracks are link and length. This kit is not for the beginner and a lot of work is needed to build it into a presentable model.

I used parts from the Tamiya BT-T to make the command version and to upgrade some of the kit parts. The Tamiya kit has parts that are duplicates. See my SBS Vol. 35

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



4. Next step in the painting process is the **base coat** this is the main color. Tamiya Acrylic XF-13 JA Green is used. is used in this step.

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



5



5. Next step in the painting process is the **high-light**. This is Tamiya Acrylic XF-13 JA Green Mixed with Tamiya Acrylic XF59 Desert Yellow. 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-7A 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 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.



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.

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

7



Burnt Umber

Available as:

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



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

First I brush the area of the BT-7A 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.

Note the head light lens have been glued in place with white glue which will dry clear.



NOTE: Always use clean turpentine!

8



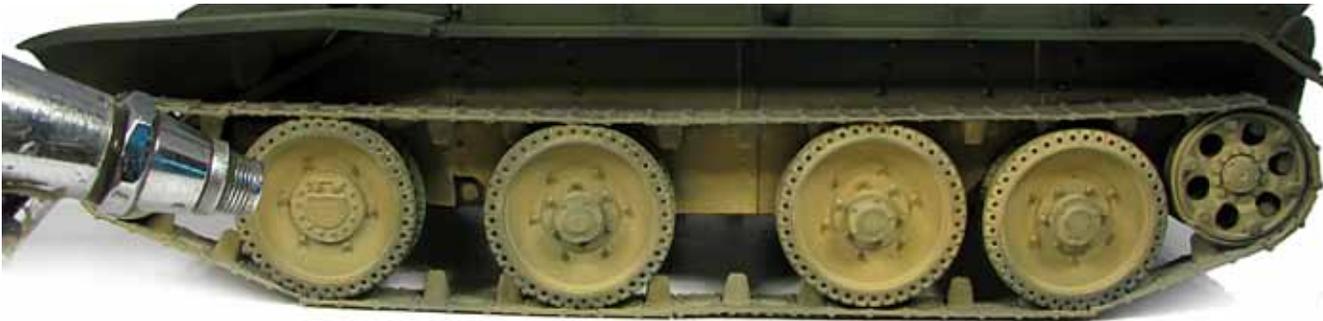
9. Next step is the **effects**. I use artist oil paint to give flat areas of the tank a look as though water that has mixed with dust and dried on the surface.

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.





10

10. Next step is **weathering the running gear**. I first sprayed Sandgelb RLM 79 thinned heavily with Rubbing alcohol. After it dried I sprayed Burnt Umber 4605 heavily thinned with Rubbing alcohol. Rubbing alcohol makes a good thinner for acrylic paint helping it to dry quicker than water.



Sandgelb RLM 79

Available as:

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



Burnt Umber

Available as:

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



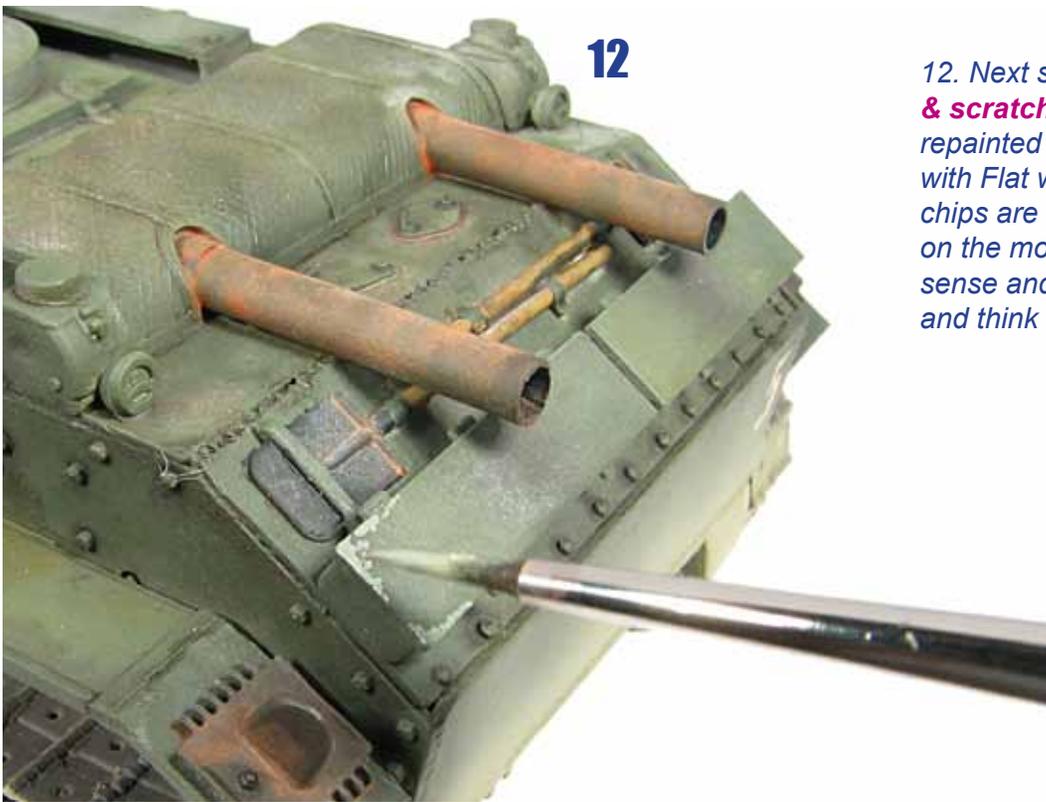
11. Next step is **pastel pigment weathering**. I use pastels in the same way you use pigments, but I make my own powder. The pastels are sold as sticks at the art store and come in a large variety of shades. I use a file to grind them into powder. I mix them with turpentine on a pallet and apply them with a brush.

The 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, but not has much.

11



12



12. 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 Medium Green mixed with Flat white 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!



The figure was made from the figure set that comes with the Tamiya BT-7 kit. The right arm was exchanged with the comanders arm in the set. The head is fom Alpine. It was painted using acrylic paint. See SBS Vol. 35



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

13

Finished Model



Finished Model



Finished Model



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



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Step-by-Step Armor Finishing!**

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