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**Italy 1944**

# Step-by-Step Finishing German Armor

**By Glenn Bartolotti**



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

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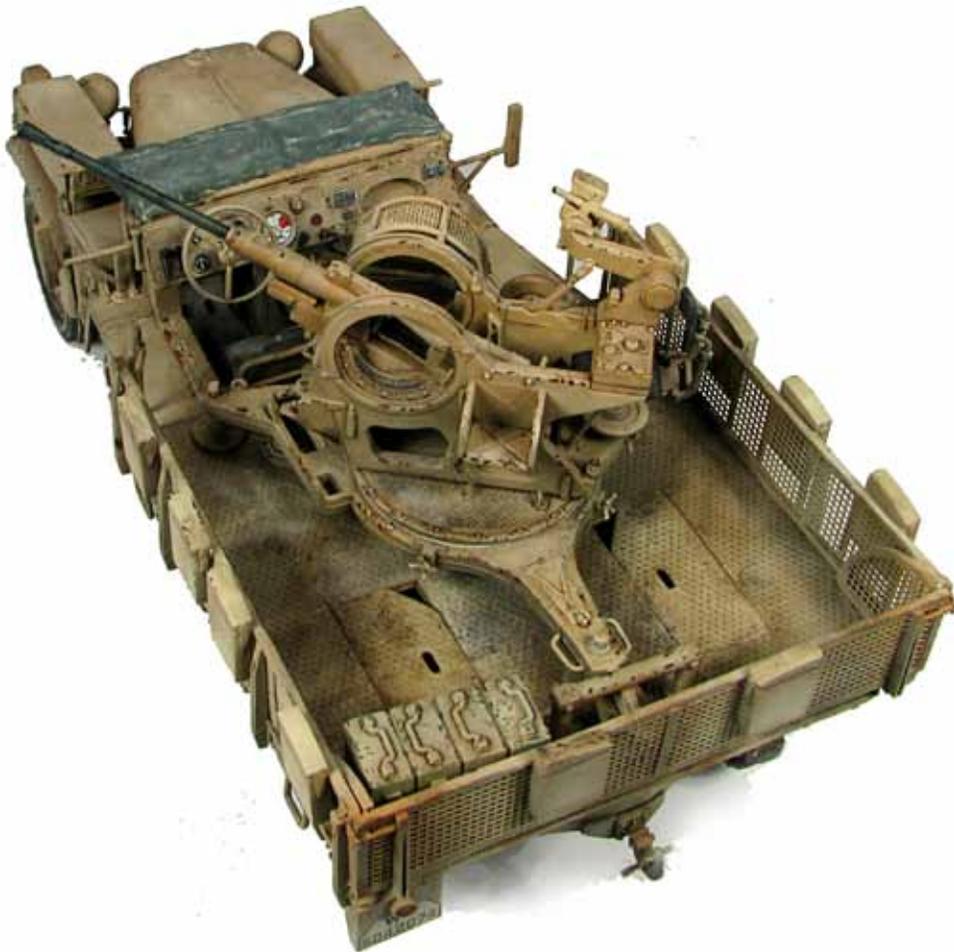
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# Materials Used

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.*

# Sd.Kfz.10/5 fur 2cm FlaK 38

*The Sd.Kfz. 10/5 carried the 2 cm FlaK 38 whose mount was wider, and lighter, than that of the Flak 30, and the platform was enlarged to accommodate it from 1942. Vehicle width increased to 2.156 metres (7.07 ft), but the height returned to that of the normal vehicle.*

*Initially, vehicles modified with the wider platform for the Flak 38 did not have a special designation, but they were given one sometime in 1943. The earliest known use is 1 September 1943, but the older name lingered until 1 December 1944. The Luftwaffe ordered 293 sets of armor plate (Behelfspanzerung) for its vehicles in 1943. These plates covered the radiator, windshield and both sides of the driver's compartment and were fitted to both versions.*

*Production began in 1939 for deliveries to the Army and Luftwaffe, although the exact numbers will never be known as they were often not broken out separately in the production reports. At any rate Adler built 1054 between 1939 and February 1943, although some*

*of these were completed as 10/5s beginning in 1942. MWC was awarded two contracts for 975 10/5s to be delivered in 1943–44, but 13 of these were delivered as ordinary Sd.Kfz. 10s in 1944.*

*From Wikipedia,  
the free encyclopedia*



1



I found the spent shell screen reservoir photo etched parts in the kit to be difficult to shape so I used the mesh screen that comes with some of the Tamiya kits as a replacement. I used the Photo etched parts as templates to cut the new screen parts.

2



1. The **kit** used is: Sd.Kfz.10/5 für 2cm FlaK 38  
DML 1:35 Scale Smart Kit No. 6676

#### About the Model

This represents a 1942 production le.Zgkw.1t Typ D7 (Sd. Kfz.10) vehicle with strengthened hull and widened rear platform for the initial production 2cm FlaK 38 with the Flakvisier 40 sight included in the kit, later 1943, 1944 production vehicles were fitted with the later production 2cm FlaK 38 with the Schwebekreisvisier 30/38 sight as well as having the turn signals eliminated. The kit consists of 445 parts in light grey plastic, 4 in clear plastic, 109 etched parts, 96 individual "Magic Track" links plus the decal and instruction sheets.



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. Model Master 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 model 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. Model Master Acrylic RLM 79 Sandgelb is used.

Cover the main parts of the Model. Let some Shadow show though.

5



### Radome Tan

Available as:

→ Radome Tan FS33613 Acryl (F)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
 SKU# 4722 Price: USD\$ 3.69



5. Next step in the painting process is the **high-light**. This is 4722 Radome Tan. 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 model's 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!

The Italian front was dusty so I went heavy on this step to make the SdKfz 10 look like it had been in lots of dust and sun faded.



The barrel was painted Testors Gunmetal Acrylic TES 4681

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 model with Testors clear flat and allow to dry for about 2 days. A flat finish is very important to my Step-by-Step finishing.





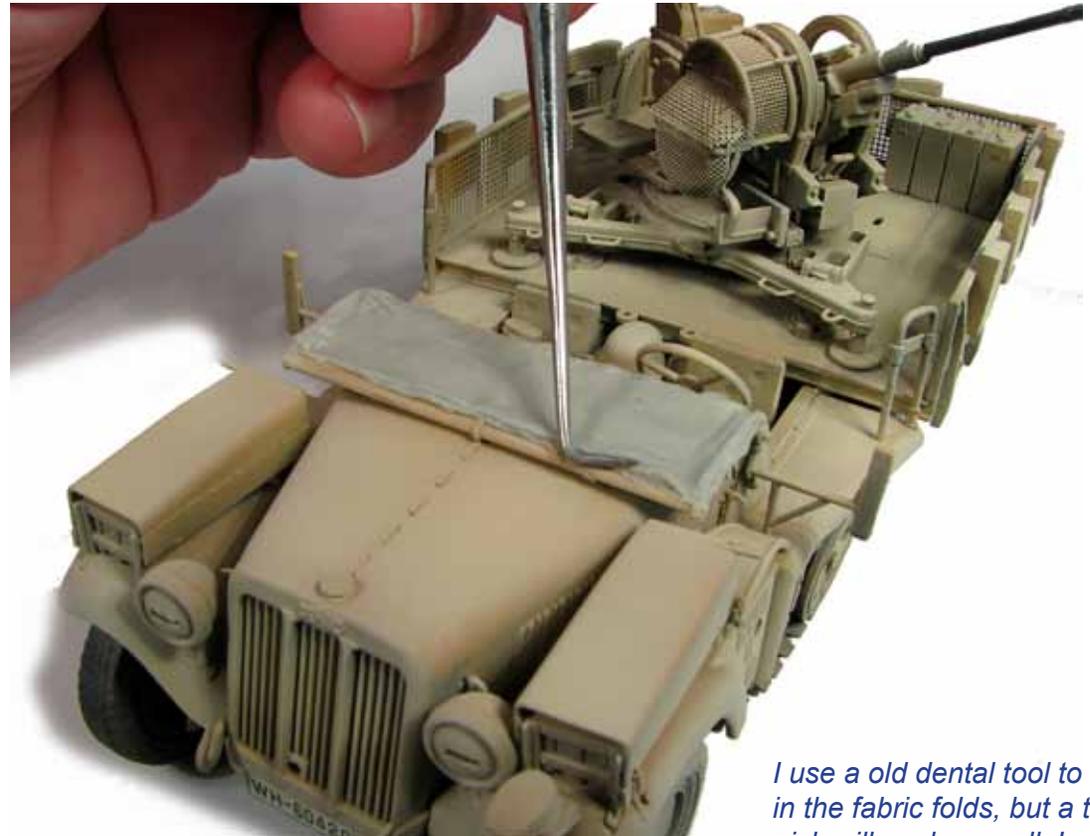
*Spread the putty out in a thin layer about 1/16" thick just using my fingers. It is applied over the windshield to create the canvas cover.*

**7**



*The putty is trimmed to size with a knife blade.*

***Magic-Sculpt 2 part modeling clay** is used to create the stone street. I mix it with a little less hardener so drying time is not as fast, giving me plenty of time to work.*



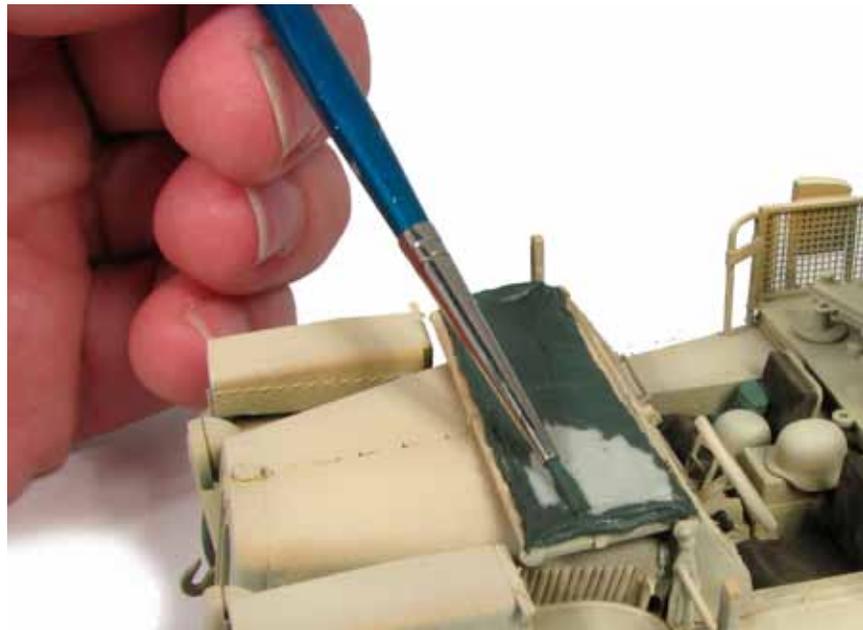
*I use an old dental tool to sculpt in the fabric folds, but a tooth pick will work as well. Let dry when finished.*



*I have added this photo to aid in adding the decals and detailing the instrument panel dash.*

8

8. Next step in the painting process are the **interior and equipment**. I painted the equipment and interior on the model before final weathering. 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 Canvas cover is now painted. I used a German field gray shade paint.*



*Interior after final paint and weathering.*

9. Next step is the **wash**.

First I brush the area of the Sdkfz !0 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.



9



**NOTE: Always use clean turpentine!**

10. 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 to 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 very thin 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!!



10



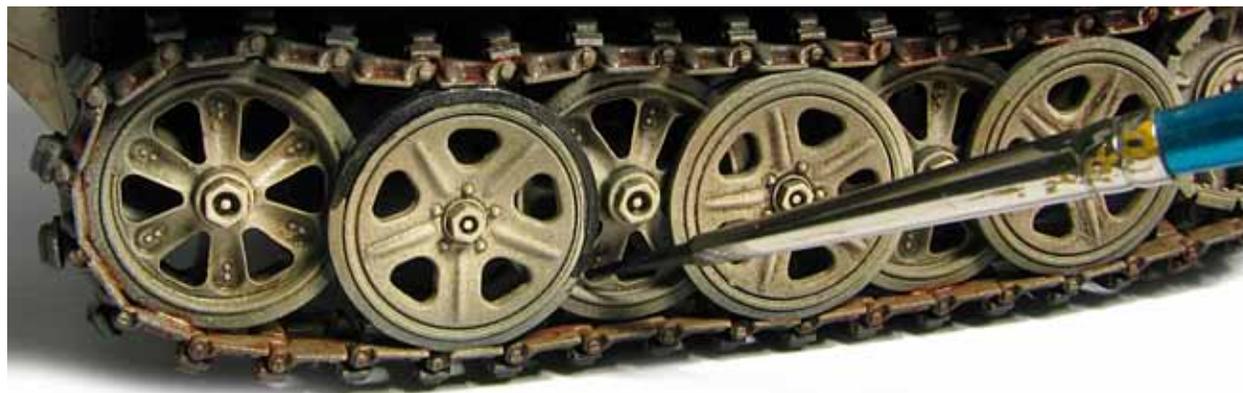
11



Flat Black

Available as:

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

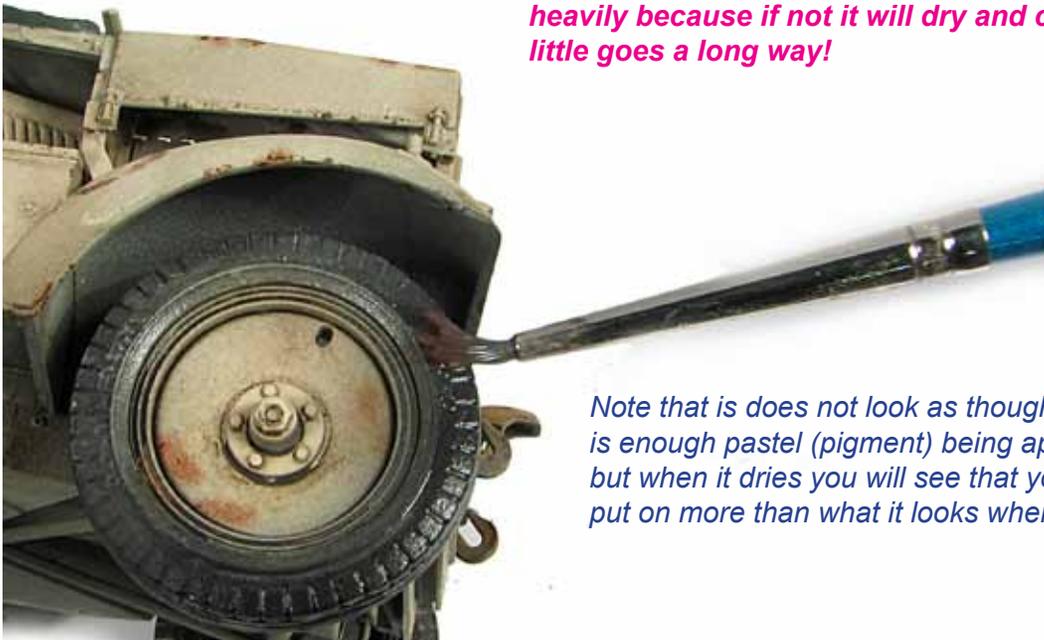


11. Next the **tires and road wheels** are given a very thin wash of flat black paint thinned with water. The wash works well because stark black rubber is not realistic. Let wash flow all around the tire but not in the wheels.

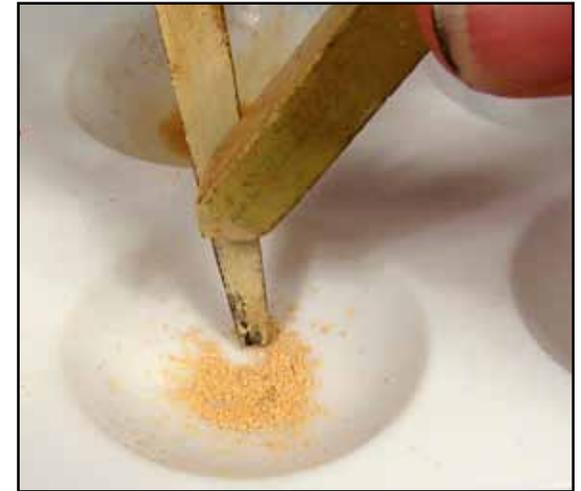


12. Last step is **pastel pigment weathering**. I use pastels in the same way you use (pigment), but I make my own powder. The pastels are found at the art store and come in a large variety of shades. I use a file to grind them into powder. I mix them with turpentine on a pallet or in a small container, then apply them with a brush. **Make sure you thin the powder heavily because if not it will dry and cover to much, a little goes a long way!**

12



Note that it does not look as though there is enough pastel (pigment) being applied but when it dries you will see that you have put on more than what it looks when wet.



The pastel stick is ground into powder using a small file. A little goes a long way!

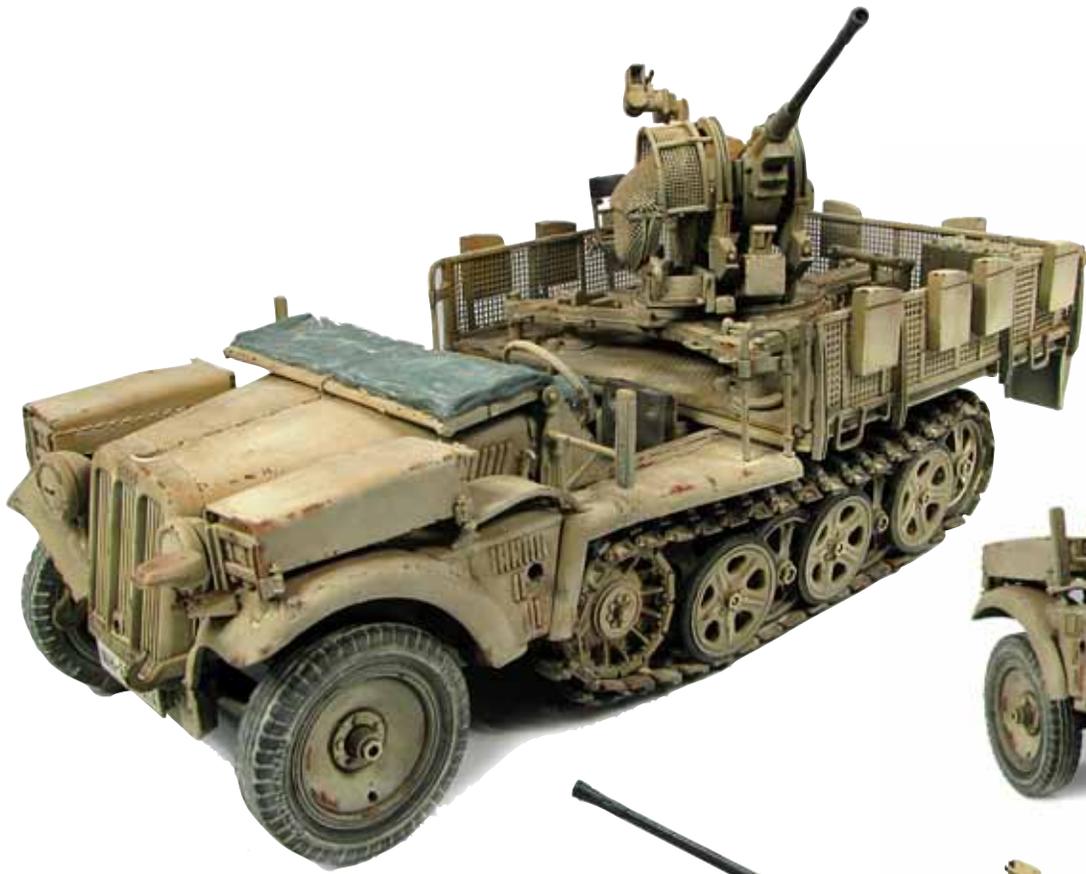


Next the turpentine is added and stirred up. Keep stirring as you work. Remember a little can dry with a heavy looking coat of dirt/dust so use a little at a time let dry and add more if you want too.

**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**





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...and see the SBS for  
this diorama build!



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