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Bantam 40

Libya, March 1941

Step-by-Step Finishing British Armor

By Glenn Bartolotti



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



I use a basic single action airbrush. Nothing special.

Bantam 40 BRC British Staff Car

History of the Bantam Jeep

The American Bantam Car Company invented, developed and produced one of the most famous vehicles in the world – the jeep. It all happened here in Butler, Pa. Don't miss seeing the exhibit about the history of the Bantam jeep which will be on display at the Fairgrounds along with five of the six vehicles produced in Butler. Make sure you stop by the World War II encampment and see more than 20 original jeeps presented by the First Frontier Mechanized Cavalry.

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The **kit** used is Miniart British Bantam BRC 40 British Staff Car with Crew - Bantam BRC 40, kit no 35050

About the Model

The kit comes in the relatively standard medium sized box with lid. Inside are three sprues moulded in light grey with a smaller fourth clear sprue. Two of the three grey sprues are for the Bantam, the third is for the crew. There is also a small sheet of decals and a set of instructions.

I think this is a very nice detailed kit and would recommend it highly!

I found the color scheme represented on the box cover quite amazing. I assumed it is suppose to represent the camo used on a SAS jeep but I could find nothing quite that gaudy!



The Bantam 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 Bantam.



Burnt Umber

Available as:

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



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. Since this Jeep was going to be a very light color I only shade the underside.

I modified the airbrush bottle syphon to fit Testors Model Master paint jars and Tamiya jars so I can spray the paint directly from the bottle without having to mix in a new bottle.



Tan

Available as:

→ Tan FS20400 Acryl (SG)- 1/2 oz. Bottle
SKU# 4697 Price: USD\$ 3.69



Next step in the painting process is the **base coat** this is the main color. Testors 4697 Tan is used in this step. Cover the main parts of the Bantam. As you can see you don't have to worry about being perfect just make sure you cover most of the model.



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, but the "67" is from my spares box. . When dry, spray the tank with Testors clear flat and allow to dry for about 2 days.



Radome Tan

Available as:

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



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 Bantam's details. I used this step as a means to add the look of a desert dusty look. NOTE the paint is allowed to cover the marking just slightly to give the effect of dust over the markings.



I now add the clear parts: windshield and head lights with white glue. Tweezers are used to apply the parts.



*Next step in the painting process are the **interior**. I paint the interior with acrylic paints. Most important don't paint items just one color or shade.*

Kit decals for the instrument panels are shown here.





Next the all 5 **tires** are given a wash of black acrylic 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.



NOTE: Always use clean turpentine!



Next step is the **wash**. First I brush the area of the Bantam 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. Care should be taken not to overdo this...be subtle.





Next step in the weathering process is the **paint chips & scratches**. I add chipped paint with raw umber oil paint and a small brush. The key to 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! I did not add many chips to this model.



I used pastel powder I made by sanding a pastel art stick into 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.

A final dusting of sand colored pastels that I ground into powder are brushed into the parts of the Bantam to simulate the desert sand dust. **Apply the pastels dry.**

Do not over due the pastel dust start with very little until you get the desired amount!

Commercially sold pigments can also be used as well.



Finished Model



Finished Model



Finished Model



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