

**Vol. 39**

**\$1.95 USA**

# **Italian M13/40**

**Captured by the 6th Australian Division**

**Libya, March 1941**

# **Step-by-Step Captured Tanks Under the Allied Flag**

**By Glenn Bartolotti**



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

Vol. 39

# Italian M13/40

Captured by the 6th Australian Division

Libya, March 1941

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

By Glenn Bartolotti



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.*

# Italian M13/40

Captured by the 6th Australian Division



*An Italian M13/40 tank captured by the 6th Australian Division in Libya, 4 March 1941. The kangaroos painted on the side were to prevent 'friendly fire' incidents, a common problem in a campaign where supply shortages caused both sides to use captured equipment. The multinational Allied forces in the Western Desert included at various times troops from France, Greece, India, New Zealand, Poland, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa.*

1



The tracks were sagged using thin wire since this is the old kit with the older tracks.



1. The **kit** used is: Classic 1970's Tamiya M13/40

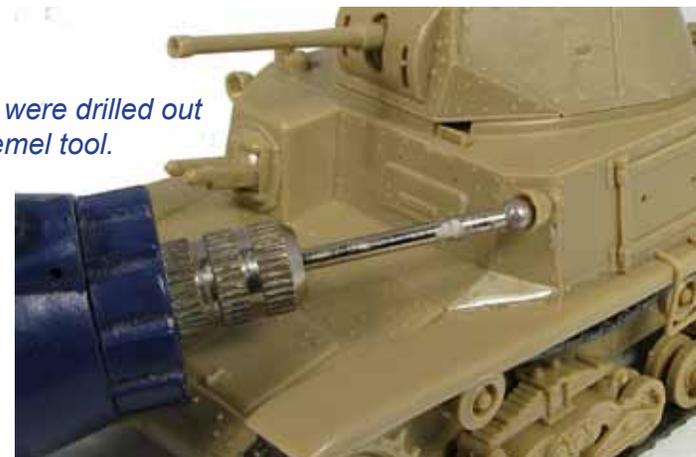


### Reissued kit

This is Tamiya's veteran kit of the Italian M13/40 light tank, now beefed up with a metal gun barrel, photo-etched metal detail parts, excellent injection-molded link-and-length tracks, and new plastic parts for the drive sprockets, suspension parts, tools, and other details. Also includes two figures and markings for three vehicles. Nice to see this old-but-great kit is freshened up with some new parts. The new tracks and suspension parts in particular really bring this old veteran up to date.



Both lights were drilled out using a dremel tool.



2



2. The completed model is given a **primer coat** to cover 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. White or grey primer is fine.

3



**Burnt Umber**

Available as:

→ Burnt Umber Acryl (F)- 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4605 Price: US\$ 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 did on this model was concentrate on the tracks and running gear being that the tank was going to be sun bleached.

4



**Medium Green**

Available as:  
→ Medium Green FS34102 Acryl (F)- 1/2  
oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4734 Price: USD\$ 3.69



4. Next step in the painting process is the **base coat** this is the main color. Testors 4734 Medium Green is used in this step. The tanks sent to North Africa were painted in a green shade.

Cover the main parts of the tank, but let some white primer show though.

5



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 Italian plate marking decals from the kit.

6



**Radome Tan**

Available as:

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



6. 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 models details. Paint all the high spots, centers of any panels and the tops of objects that stand off the tank. This color helps represent the desert sand and fading from the sun. Let a fair amount of green show through.



7 The Kangaroo decals are from 2 kits. I had made this kit years ago and had the extra set. I think it would have been better to paint on some of the kangaroo markings so they would not look all alike. Gloss coat area first.



When dry, spray the model with Testors clear flat and allow to dry for about 2 days.

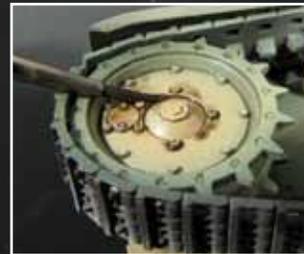


The inside of the light is painted silver. When dry I put a drop of 2-part clear epoxy for the lens.

8



8. Next step in the painting process are the **tools** I paint all tools 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. The metal items are painted in shades of black and drak brown, they will be treated with a metallic finish later.



9



Excess oil paint is blended into the surrounding surface with clean turpentine.

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

First I brush the area of the Sdkfz 10 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 were 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: Always use clean turpentine!**

10

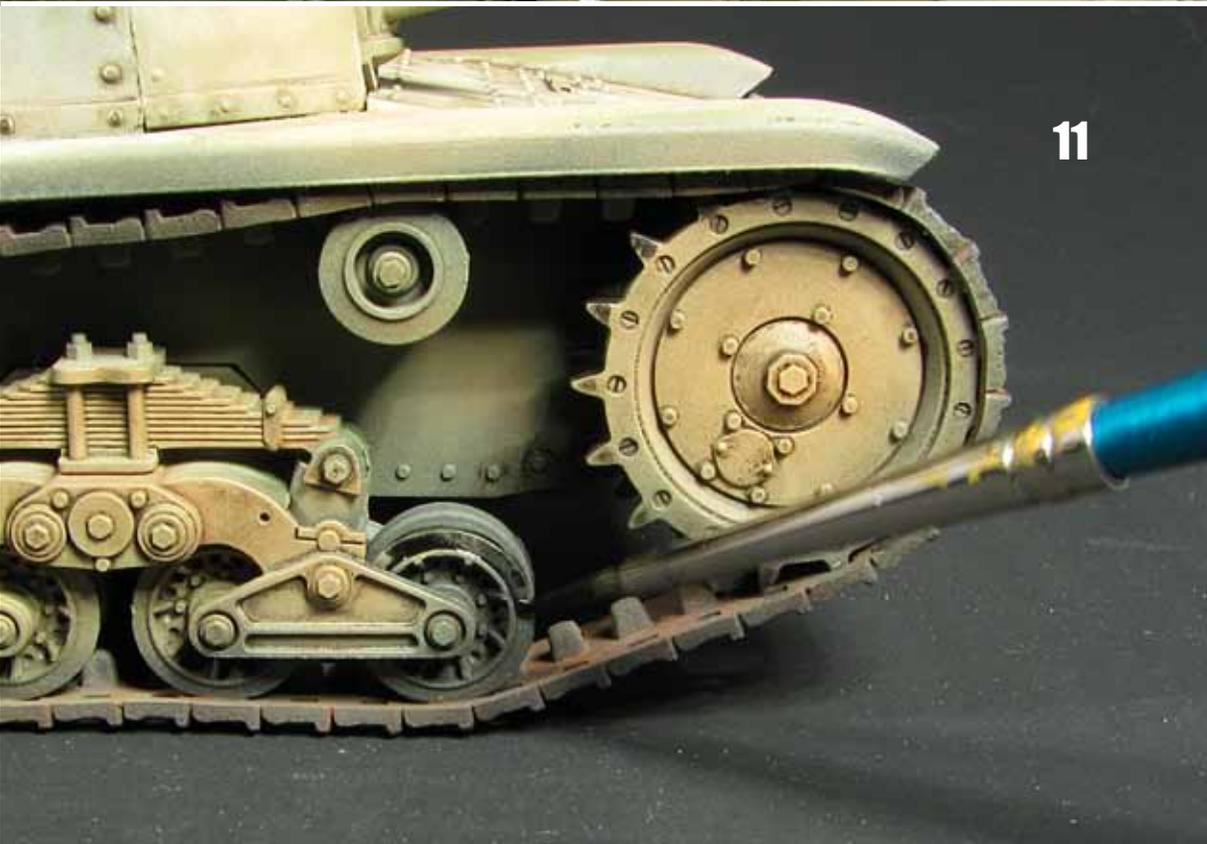


10. Next step in the weathering process is the **paint chips & scratches**. I add chipped paint with raw umber oil paint and a small brush. The key to chips are make them small and without any pattern, keeping them on the most abused edges and damaged areas. On older damaged areas first paint the chip 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 very many chips as the photos I used as reference did not show much wear on the tank as far as chipped paint.



11



**Flat Black**

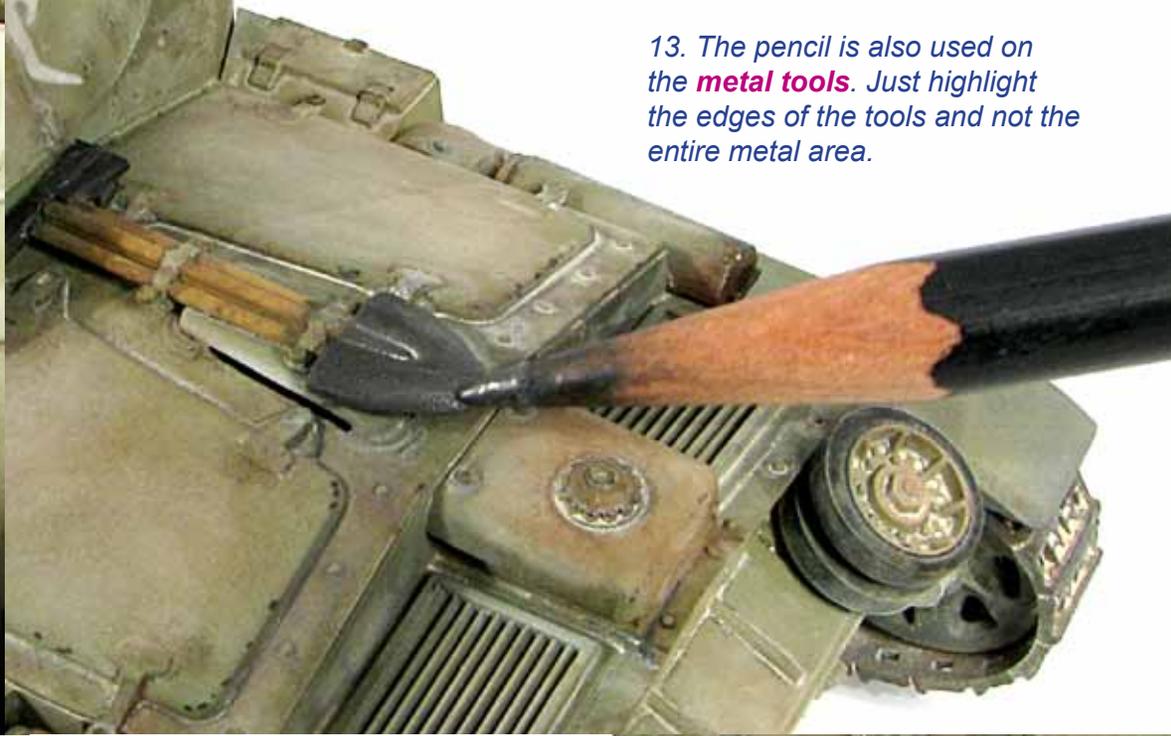
Available as:  
• Flat Black FS37038 Acryl - 1/2 oz. Bottle  
SKU# 4768 Price: USD\$ 3.69



11. Next the **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 rubber wheel but not in the road wheels.

12

Next step is to add a wash with Burnt Sienna Oil paint as in step 8. Just add the wash to the tracks to give a rust effect.



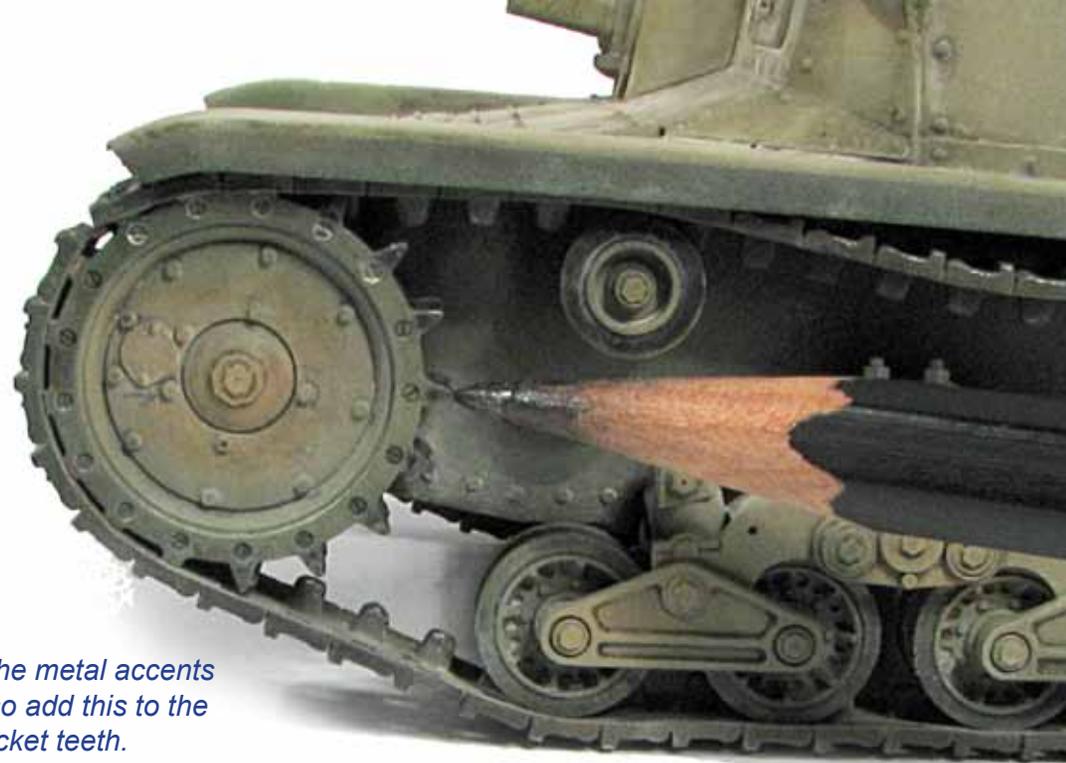
13. The pencil is also used on the **metal tools**. Just highlight the edges of the tools and not the entire metal area.



View of the 2-part clear epoxy for the lens.

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



*Note that it does not look as though there is enough pastel (pigment) being applied but when it dries (below photo) 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.*



13. 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 too much, a little goes a long way!**

## The Figure

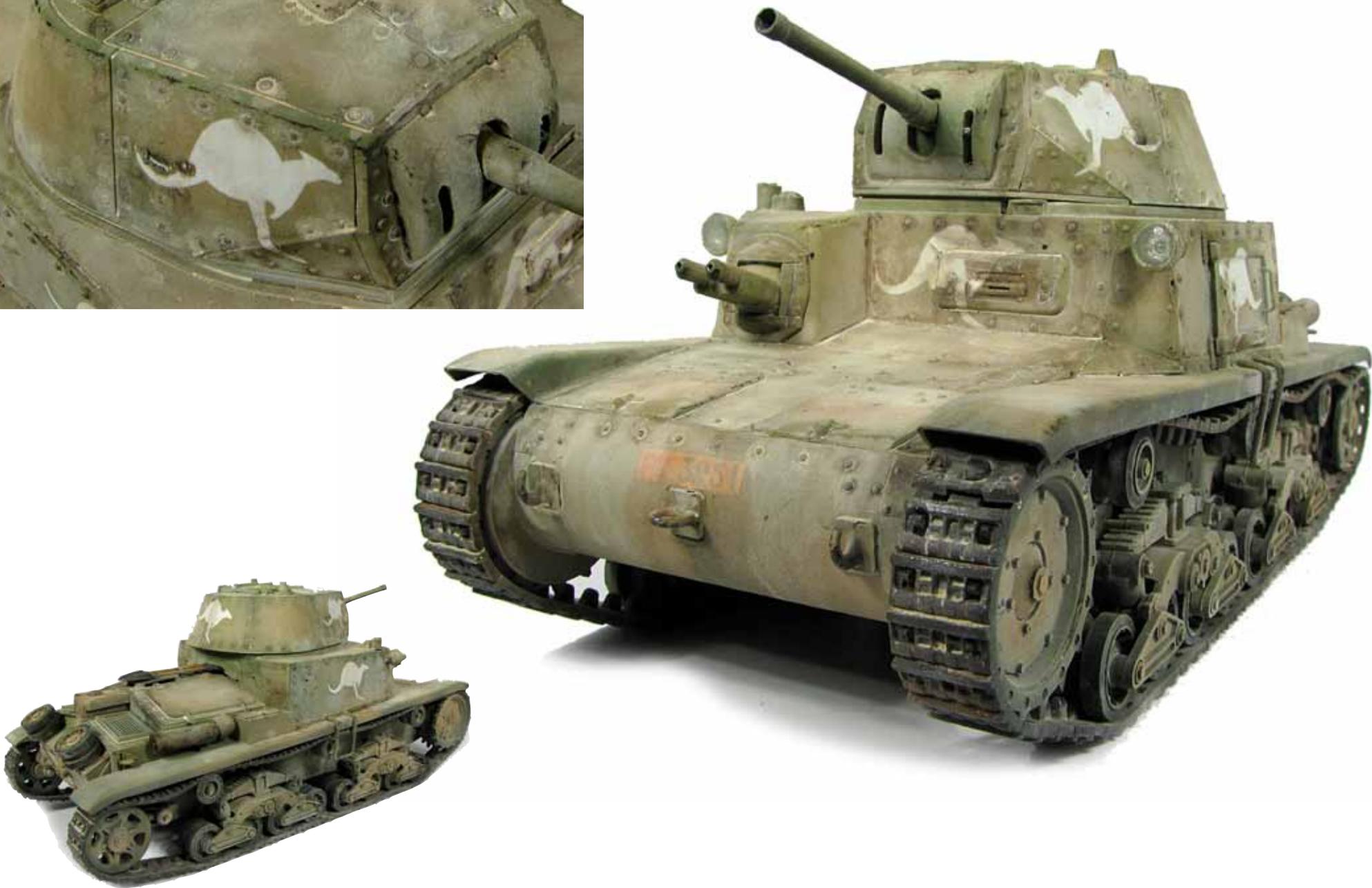


The figure is from the 1:35 Bronco WWII British & Commonwealth War Correspondent Set (6 Figures + Equipment) BNC35140

I used this figure to match the tanker in my reference photo. It was first primed using the same primer as I used on the tank and then painted in water base acrylic paints.



**Finished Model**



**Finished Model**



Visit us on

facebook



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



Armor Models

by Glenn Bartolotti



Bladerunner8u Production, © 2013  
glennbart@verizon.net