ITEM 35024

# INFANTRY TANK MkII MATILDA

1/35 MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES

TAMIYA

TAMIYA PLASTIC MODEL CO.
3-2, ONDAWARA, SHIZUOKA-CITY, JAPAN.





Mk.I Matilda I (A-11)

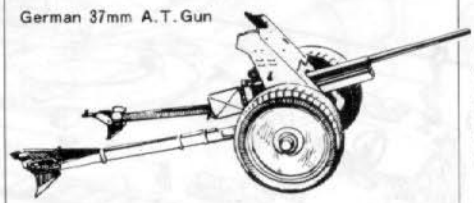
The A-12 Infantry Tank was a further development of the earlier A-11 (the original Matilda, or Infantry Tank Mk I) with improved armour arrangement and suspension, and having the machine-gun armament complemented by an anti-tank gun. These improvements were made under the assumption that the vehicle would be called upon to defend itself against enemy tanks.

The A-12 was a Woolwich Arsenal design evolved under the direction of Col. Hudson of the War Mechanization Board, and based on the experimental A-7E3 model and built to a specification for a tank which combined the armament and general layout of the A-10 Cruiser with even thicker armour. The tank was the first diesel-engined model to enter service.

In November 1936 Vulcan Foundry was given the task of preparing drawings of the A-12 tank. The final pilot model was not completed for 18 months and consequently production could not begin until 1939. The first pilot, A-12E1, was built during 1937–38 and was a 24-ton experimental infantry tank with 70mm armour. This was followed in 1938 by the A-12E2 which became the final pilot model for the Infantry Tank Mk II, Matilda. Both vehicles had the Vickers Japanese type of suspension system and the only visual difference between the A-12E2 and production models was in the number of mudchutes along the track guards.

The first order for 65 Matilda tanks was placed with Vulcan Foundry in December 1937. This was subsequently increased to 165, and prior to the beginning of the war, orders for a further 80 were issued. Other firms which took part in Matilda production were the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Co., Ruston and Hornsby, J. Fowler and Co., Harland and Wolff, and finally North British Locomotive. A total of 2987 machines of all types were produced until production ceased in August 1943.

German 37mm A.T. Gun

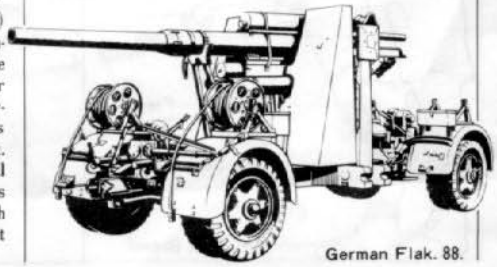


Up until 1941 this tank was the most heavily armoured vehicle in service anywhere (with the exception of the Soviet KV tank), but its general effectiveness was limited by its low mobility and its main armament of only a 2 pdr (40mm) gun, which fired solid shot only, while its immunity proved to be temporary. Matildas were used by the BEF during the actions just prior to the Dunkirk evacuation. The Arras counter-attack of 21st, May 1940, was one of the actions in which the Matilda played an important part. Matildas were completely immune to the normal 37mm anti-tank shell then used by the Germans as well as to field guns, a state of affairs which remained until the 88mm Flak gun was first used as an anti-tank weapon in mid-1941.

It was the North-African Desert that saw the maximum use of the Matilda, where it took part in most of the major actions. Just prior to Alamein, the Matilda was withdrawn from service completely, except for about 30 Baron flail-tank conversions. Further Matildas (Mks II and V) were converted to Canal Defence Lights (CDL), carrying armoured searchlights to illuminate night actions, or blind enemy positions. A further mine-clearing vehicle, the Matilda Scorpion I, was developed in the Middle East, and some Matildas were fitted with the AMRA (Anti-Mine Roller Attachment). These latter could also carry the Carrot demolition device.

The Australians developed a flame-throwing device for their Matilda tanks, called the Frog. This was used in New Guinea. They were also working on a further model, the Murry flame-thrower, when the war ended. Another Australian device was the Matilda dozer tank which had a box-shaped blade that could be raised and lowered from the vehicle turret.

To aid in crossing obstacles, the Matilda was fitted with the huge Inglis bridge which, mounted on a carrier chassis, could be pushed forward by the tank. There was also an experimental Matilda with a trench-crossing device to



German Flak. 88.



## READ BEFORE YOUR ASSEMBLY

- THIS KIT CAN BE ASSEMBLED INTO EITHER MK I OR MK II. SELECT THE VERSION WHERE TWO TYPES ARE SHOWN.
- Follow the instruction in order. Cut each parts from the sprue when needed with a knife or a pair of nippers.
- Practice the assembly before fixing parts with adhesive.
- To paint the kit overall, Air-Spray Painting would be convenient at the end of the whole kit construction with the tracks removed. Paint the details with a brush. See "APPLYING DECALS & PAINTING" and Painting of the Figure.
- Apply decals after the paint on the body are completely dry. Cut extra transparent parts of decals.
- Read the instruction on the left side of each page carefully. Refer to the parts shape in the figures.

❶ 〈Construction of Wheels〉

Road Wheel (Small) ..... 20 pairs
Idler Wheel ..... 2 pairs
Road Wheel (Big) ..... 2 pairs
Sprocket Wheel ..... 2 pairs

★Assemble each pair of wheels. Be careful not to apply glue onto the end of Road Wheel (Small) Shaft nor to the parts which is to be fixed between Idler Wheels and Sprocket Wheels.

❷ 〈Fixing of Inside Parts for Upper Hull〉

★These parts receive force after they have been glued. Apply adhesive sufficiently.

★Insert Driver's Hatch C42 after the glue of C45 has dried up. Assemble other parts to the step of Fig. 7 first, and then insert C42 into Upper Hull.

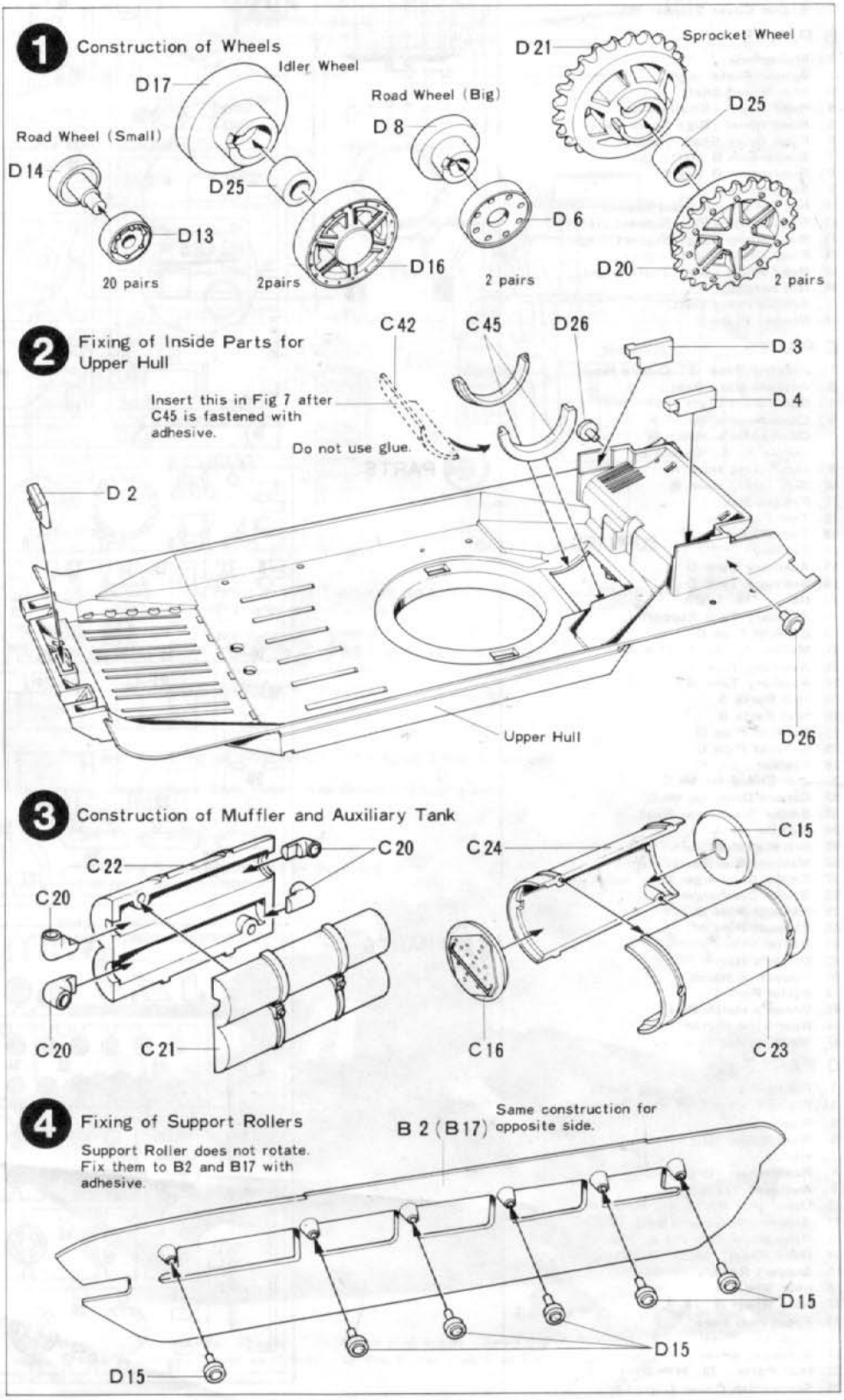
❸ 〈Construction of Muffler and Auxiliary Tank〉

★Be sure of the direction of C20 when fixing them to Muffler.

★Take care not to glue Auxiliary Tank C15 and C16 in the wrong direction. Before glueing C15 and C16 to Auxiliary Tank, study the figures and practise their assembly.

❹ 〈Fixing of Support Rollers〉

★Fix Support Rollers to Armour Plates B2 and B17. The Support Rollers do not rotate and should be fixed with adhesive.



❺ 〈Construction of Gun Turret〉

★This kit includes the parts which can be made into two different gun shields, for Mk I and for Mk II. Before attacking C34, select the version you prefer.

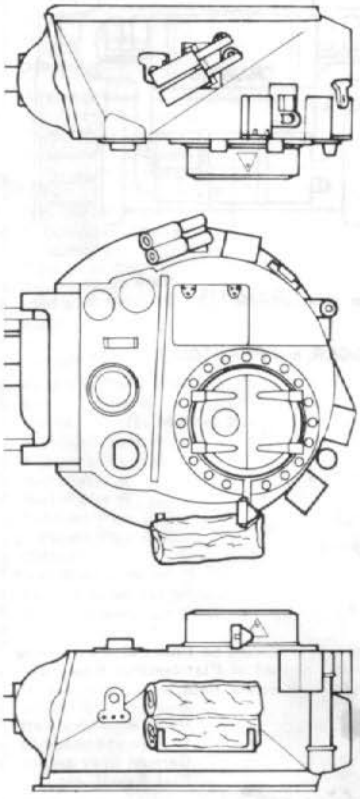
★Cupola C8 can be rotated. Do not glue C7 to C8 when fixing them onto Gun Turret together.

★Also choose either open or closed condition of Hatch C17, C5, and C6.

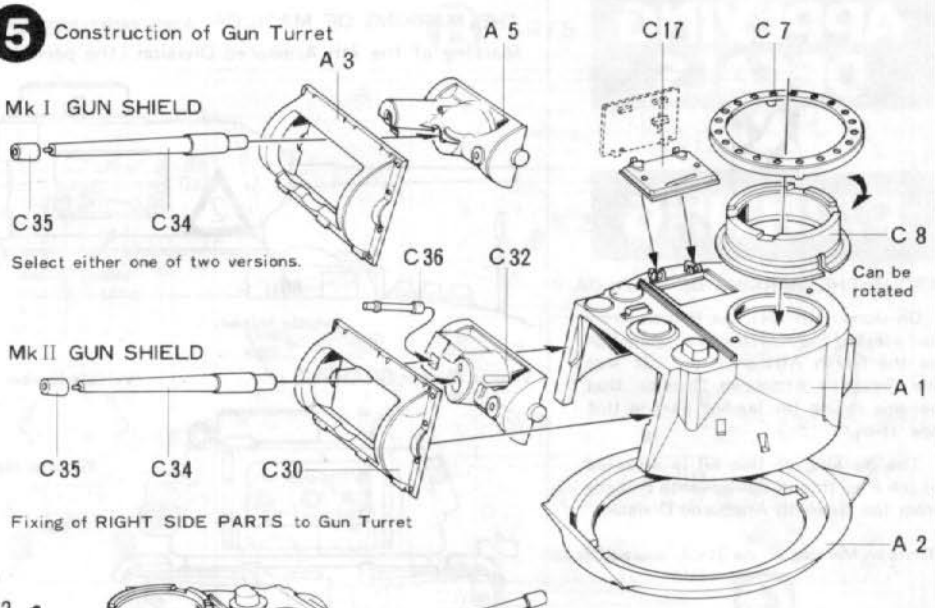
★ABOUT THE SMALL PARTS ON GUN TURRET Refer to the figures below and make sure of their position.

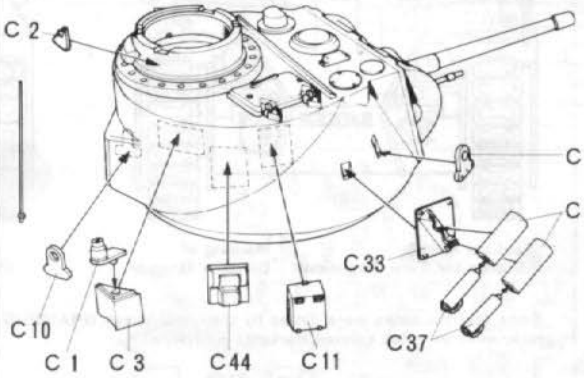
★For antenna, make one by stretching one of sprue runners.

〈THREE SIDES FIGURE OF GUN TURRET〉

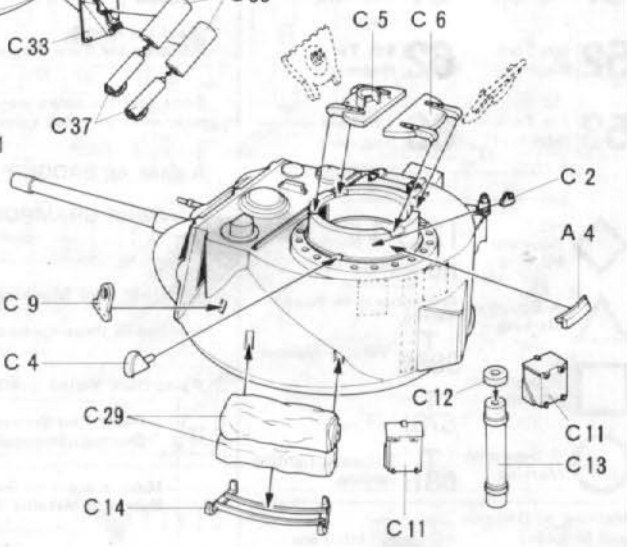


## 5 Construction of Gun Turret




Fixing of LEFT SIDE PARTS to Gun Turret



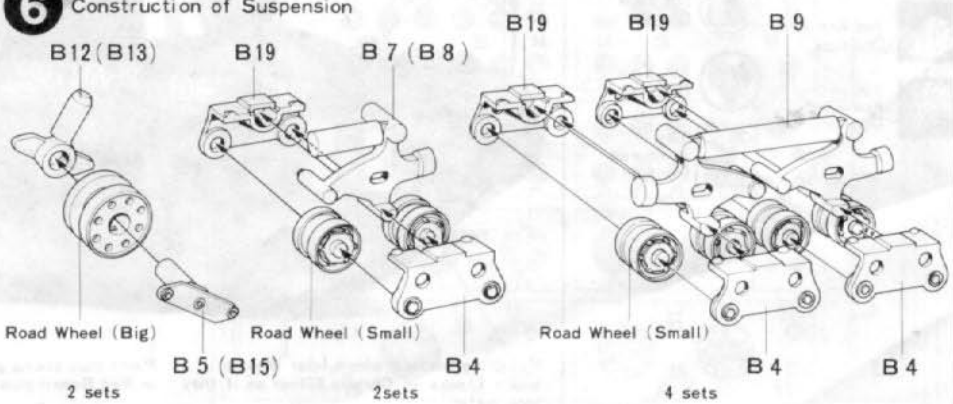

About the fixing position of Gun Turret parts, refer to the left three sides figure.

❻ 〈Construction of Suspension〉

★After adhesive on Wheels constructed in Fig. 1 has been dry, fit Wheels and Parts together and construct Suspension. Road Wheels (Small) and Road Wheels (Big) must be permitted to rotate. Be careful not to apply too much adhesive.

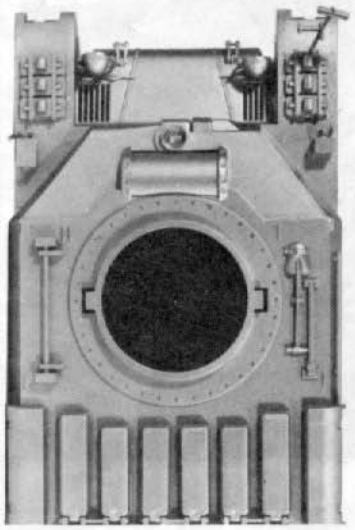
★Suspension Parts are alike in shape. Be careful not to fix the right side left. First, put them together without using adhesive to make sure that they are properly assembled, and then glue them in place.

## 6 Construction of Suspension



❼ 〈Fixing of Upper Hull Parts〉

★Glue each part to Upper Hull making sure of its position in the figure.

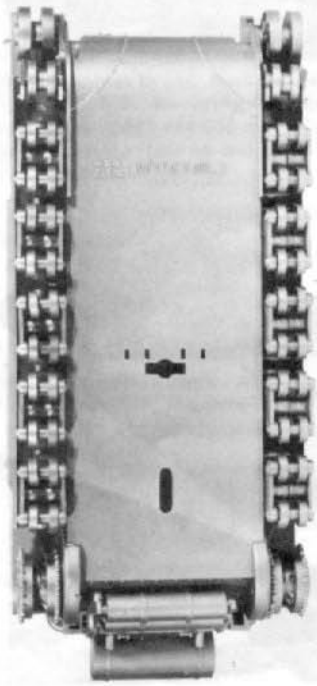


❽ 〈Fixing of Suspension〉

★Fix Suspension to Lower Hull.
★Suspension is bisymmetric, so before fixing it, make sure of part shape.

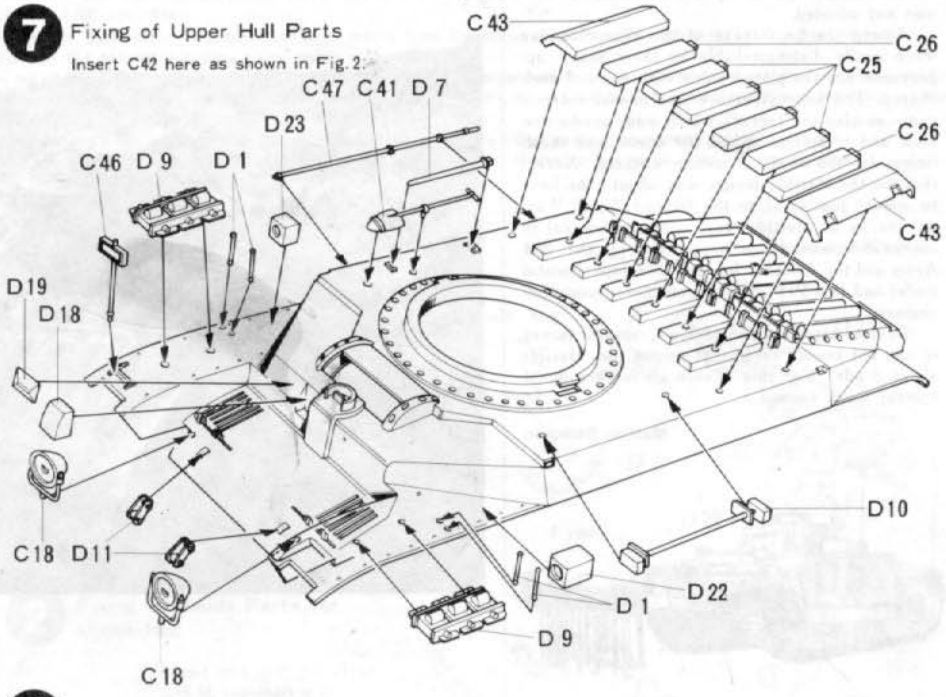
❾ 〈Fixing of Sprocket Wheel and Suspension Cover〉

★First glue Suspension Cover D12 to Lower Hull.
★Support Roller D15 does not rotate and should be fixed with adhesive.



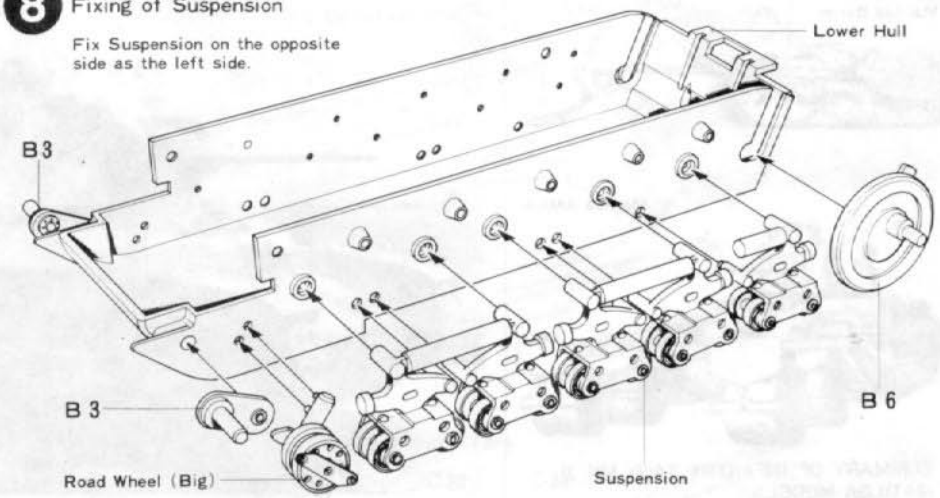
## 7 Fixing of Upper Hull Parts

Insert C42 here as shown in Fig. 2.



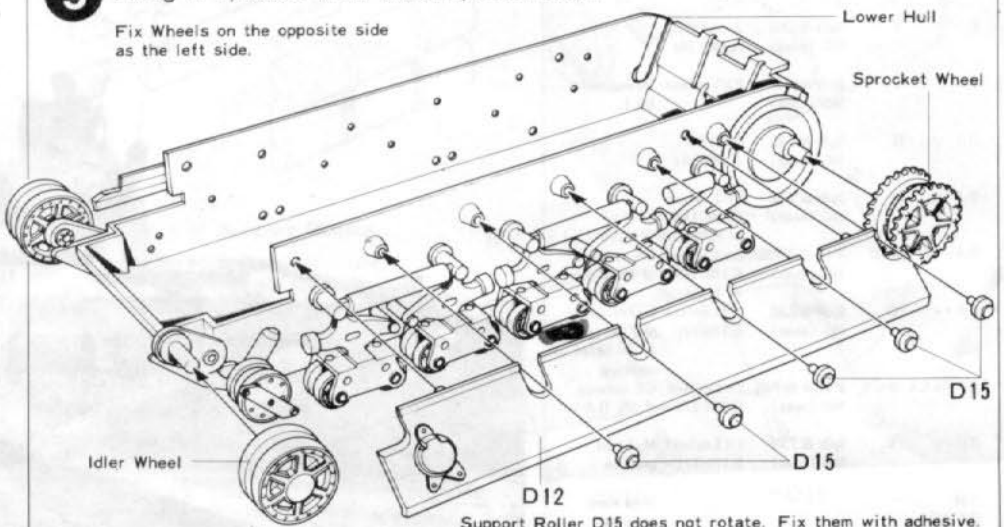

## 8 Fixing of Suspension

Fix Suspension on the opposite side as the left side.




## 9 Fixing of Sprocket Wheel and Suspension Cover

Fix Wheels on the opposite side as the left side.

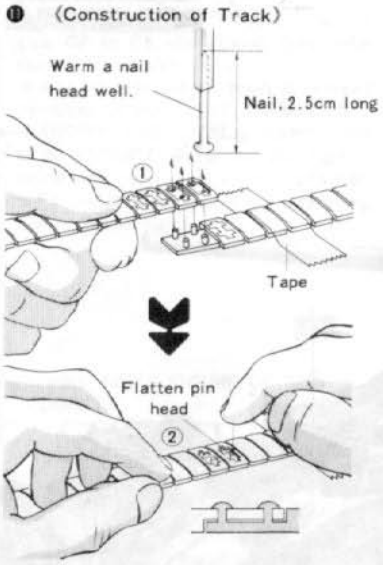



Support Roller D15 does not rotate. Fix them with adhesive.

⑩ (Fixing of Upper and Lower Hull Halves)

★Fix the completed Upper and Lower Hull halves together. First fit the front part of each together, and then fit in rear Hook as shown in the figure.

⑪ (Construction of Track)




★Firmly fix one end of Track onto a desk or the like with tape and insert pins into respective holes. Then,lightly warm the pin heads with either a nail head or a screw driver's end that has been previously heated.

★Flatten the pin heads immediately with your finger to connect Track.

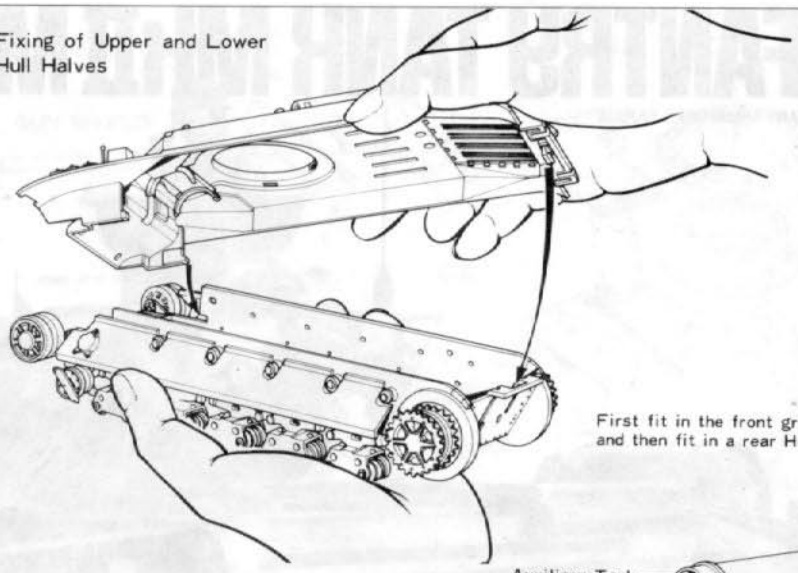
★If Track is cut or the connecting portion is too weak, you can reinforce it with a black thread or a stapler as shown in the figure.



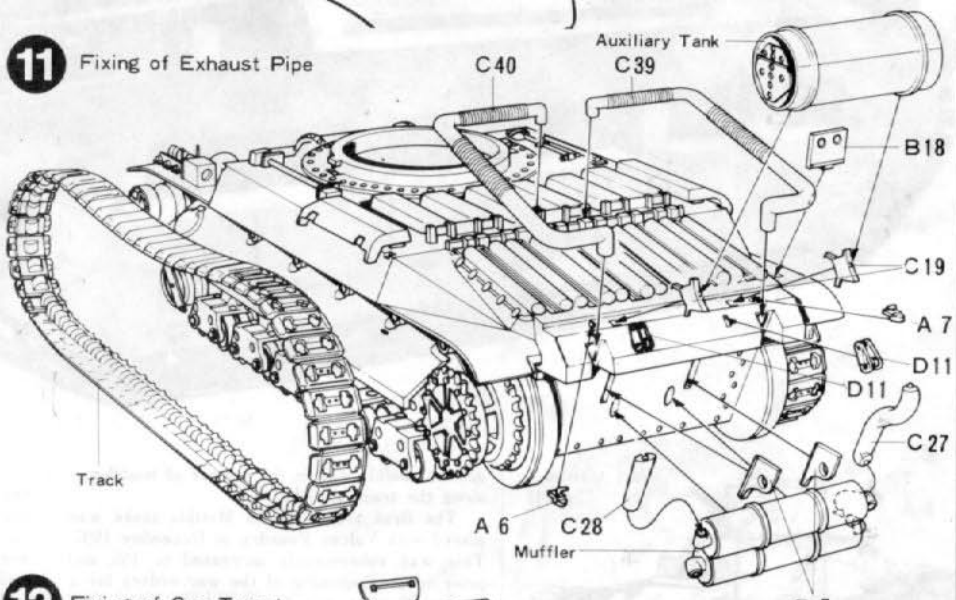
(Construction and Painting of the Figure)



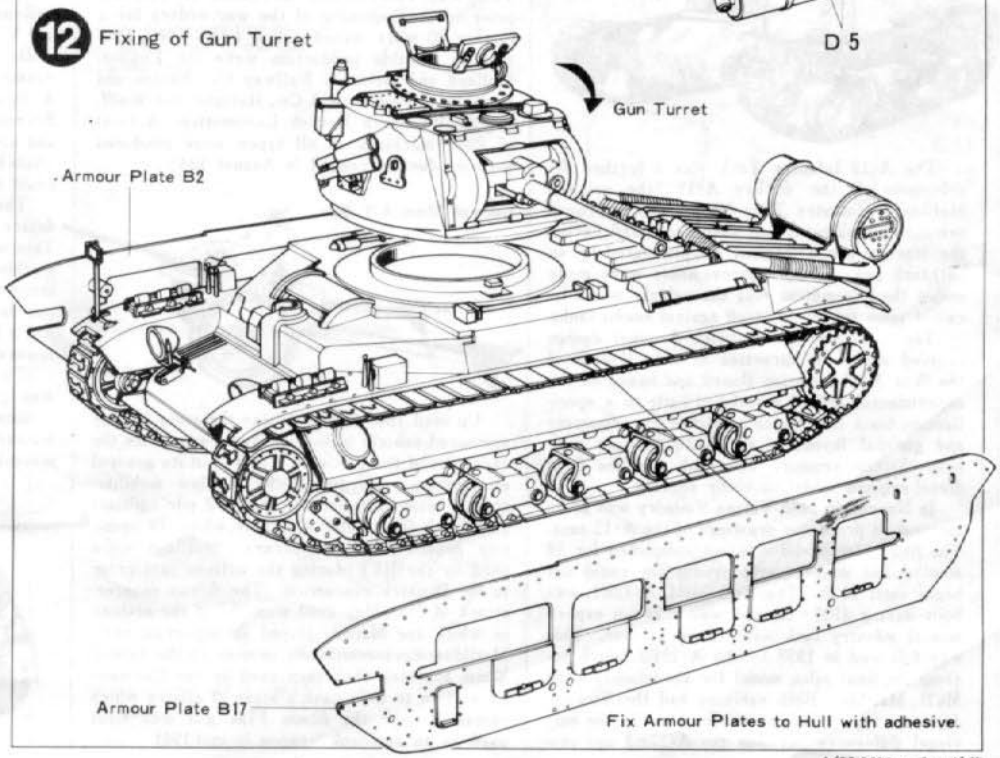

## 10 Fixing of Upper and Lower Hull Halves




## 11 Fixing of Exhaust Pipe




## 12 Fixing of Gun Turret

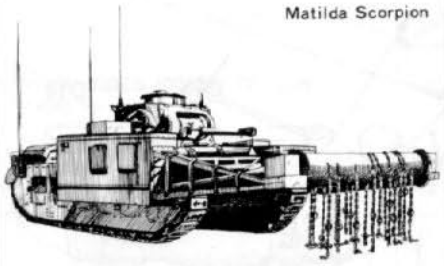


assist the passage of wheeled vehicles, but this was not adopted.

Among the best tanks of the War, Matildas were easily distinguishable by their heavy appearance and the plated sides with rows of mudchutes. The superstructure was almost entirely cast (as also the turret), which made production slow and complicated, and the speed was insufficient for the needs of mobile warfare. Nevertheless, the Matilda design was about the best to appear just prior to the Second World War. All marks of Matilda were almost identical in appearance, and many were used by the Red Army and the ANZAC forces. One experimental model had two Perkins S-6 compression-ignition engines.

Despite attempts to attach a Cromwell turret, it was not found Practical to up-gun the Matilda above 2 pdr. For this reason all further development work ceased.

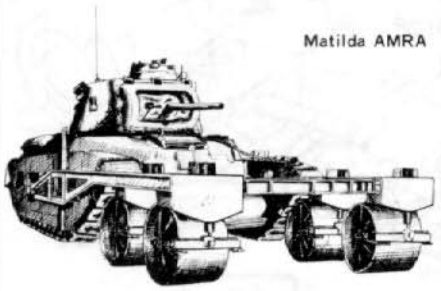
Matilda Scorpion



Matilda Baron



Matilda AMRA



## SUMMARY OF INFANTRY TANK MK II MATILDA MODELS

| Infantry Tank Mark | Matilda Mark | Armament | Engine | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| II | I | 2pdr & .303 MG (coax) | 2×AEC A.183/184 | - |
| II* | I* | 2pdr & .303 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland | Re-engined Mk I. |
| IIA | II | 2pdr & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×AEC A.183/184 | - |
| IIA* | III | 2pdr & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland E.148/149 or E.164/165 | - |
| IIA*CS | IIICS | 3"How & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland E.148/149 or E.164/165 | CS version of Mk IIA* |
| IIA** | IV | 2pdr & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland E.170/171 | Increased fuel capacity & modified steering |
| IIA**CS | IVCS | 3"How & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland E.170/171 | CS version of Mk IIA* |
| IIB* | V | 2pdr & 7.92 MG (coax) | 2×Leyland E.170/171 | Modified gearbox |
| IIM)<br>IIA/M)<br>IIB/M) | - | | | Mild steel training tanks |







# APPLYING DECALS & PAINTING

## ABOUT THE MARKING OF MATILDA

On June 15th 1941, the British Army had started the "Battle Axe" operation on the North African Front. It was the Seventh Armoured Division that became taking the leading part in this operation.

The marking of this kit is selected of the Fourth and the Seventh Brigade from the Seventh Armoured Division.

(Division Marking of the 7th Armoured Div.)



4th Brigade

50 Brigade HQ

51 4th Tank Regiment

52 5th Tank Regiment

53 7th Tank Regiment

7th Brigade

60 Brigade HQ

61 2nd Tank Regiment

62 6th Tank Regiment

63 8th Tank Regiment

(in common)

HQ Squadron Marking

A Squadron Marking

B Squadron Marking

C Squadron Marking

1234 Platoon Number

HQ Sign of HQ Squadron

Both written in the Squadron Marking.

T 3868 Vehicle Number

T 6781

T 6811 T means fighting vehicle.

(Marking of Division and Brigade)



1st Armoured Division



2nd Armoured Division



6th Armoured Division



4th Tank Brigade



7th Tank Brigade



8th Tank Brigade

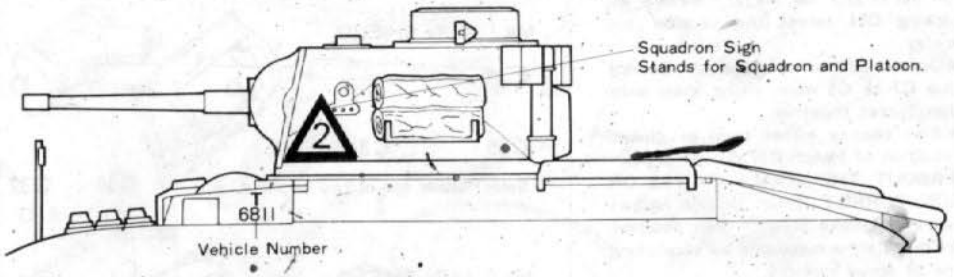


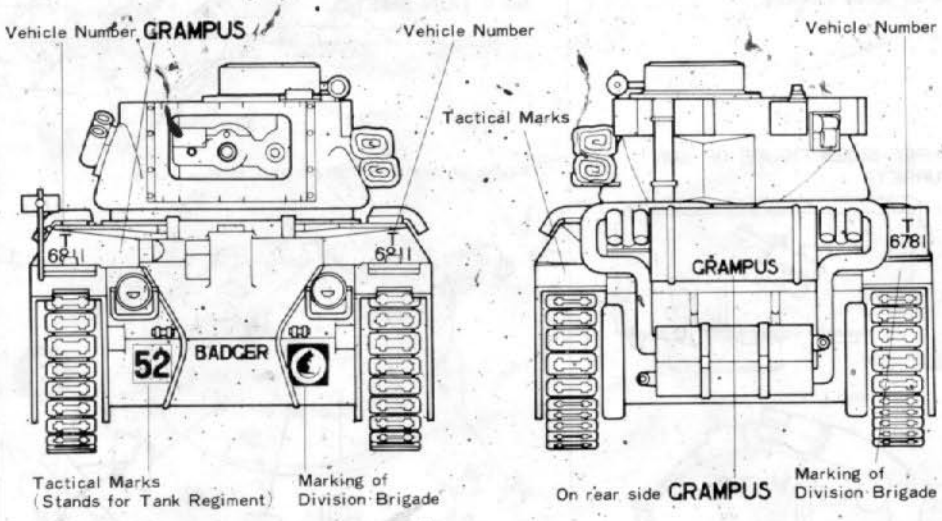
23rd Armoured Division

## THE MARKING OF MATILDA

Apply each marking in position as below.

Marking of the 7th Armoured Division (the period of "Battle Axe", June 1941)




Some Matilda tanks were called by their nicknames, GRAMPUS, BADGER, and PHANTOM etc. These nicknamed vehicles carried markings as follow:

A case of BADGER  53 HQ BADGER T6811

A case of GRAMPUS GRAMPUS T6781

## Painting and Marking of PHANTOM, the 42nd Tank Regiment

Painted in three colours, Dark Yellow, Red Brown, and Light Grey.



# PARTS

## A PARTS

1. Gun Turret
2. Lower Gun Turret
3. Gun Shield for Mk I
4. Periscope Window
5. Cannon Drum for Mk I
6. Engine Cover Stopper A
7. Engine Cover Stopper B

## B PARTS

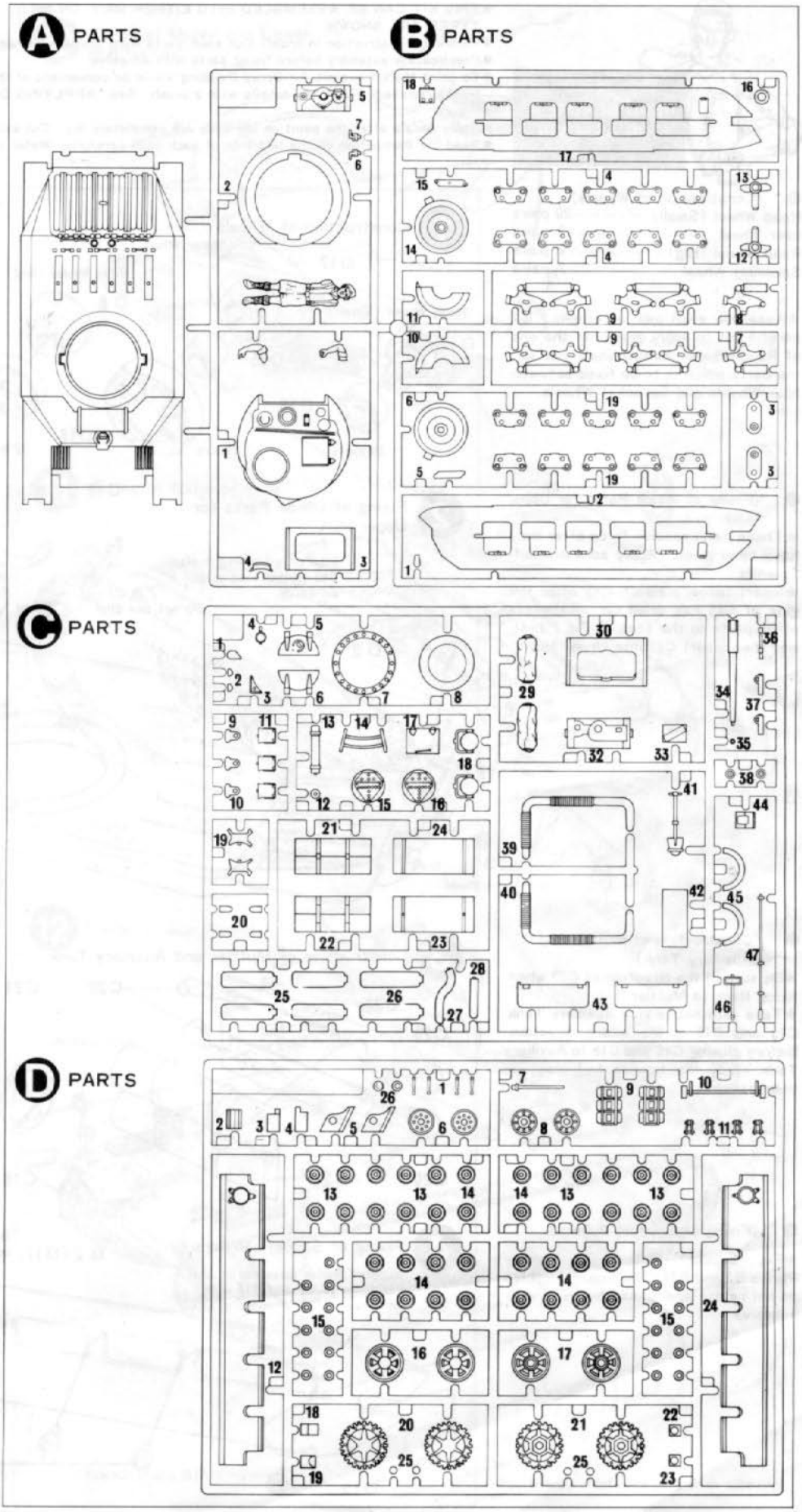
1. Microphone
2. Armour Plate (right)
3. Idler Wheel Shaft
4. Read Wheel (Small) cover
5. Road Wheel (Big) Shaft (left)
6. Final Drive Shaft (left)
7. Suspension B (left)
8. Suspension B (right)
9. Suspension A
10. Not needed 11. Not needed
12. Road Wheel (Big) Support (left)
13. Road Wheel (Big) Support (right)
14. Final Drive Shaft (right)
15. Road Wheel (Big) Shaft (right)
16. Not needed
17. Armour Plate (left)
18. Number Plate

## C PARTS

1. Antenna Base 2. Cupola Hook
3. Antenna Base Rest
4. Gun Turret Light
5. Commander's Hatch A
6. Commander's Hatch B
7. Cupola A 8. Cupola B
9. Gun Turret Hook A
10. Gun Turret Hook B
11. Freight Box
12. Tool Pipe Cap
13. Tool Pipe
14. Carrier
15. Auxiliary Tank C
16. Auxiliary Tank D
17. Hatch 18. Light
18. Auxiliary Tank Support
20. Exhaust Pipe E
21. Muffler A 22. Muffler B
23. Auxiliary Tank A
24. Auxiliary Tank B
25. Hull Parts A
26. Hull Parts B
27. Exhaust Pipe D
28. Exhaust Pipe C
29. Blanket
30. Gun Shield for Mk II
32. Cannon Drum for Mk II
33. Smoke Discharger Rest
34. Gun Barrel A
35. Gun Barrel B
36. Machine Gun Barrel
37. Smoke Discharger B
38. Smoke Discharger A
39. Exhaust Pipe B
40. Exhaust Pipe A
41. Shovel
42. Driver's Hatch
43. Inspection Hatch
44. Pistol Port
45. Driver's Hatch Rail
46. Rear-View Mirror
47. Washing Rod

## D PARTS

1. Fixing Parts 2. Fixing Parts
3. Fixing Parts 4. Fixing Parts
5. Rear Hook
6. Road Wheel (Big) A
7. Handle
8. Road Wheel (Big) B
9. Auxiliary Track
10. Upper Hull Parts 11. Hook
12. Suspension Cover (left)
13. Road Wheel (Small) A
14. Road Wheel (Small) B
15. Support Rollers
16. Idler Wheel A
17. Idler Wheel B 18. Lid
19. Front Hull Part
20. Sprocket Wheel
21. Sprocket Wheel
22. Hull Parts 23. Hull Part
24. Suspension Cover (right)






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