HUNTING TIGER

ITEM 35058





After their invasion of Poland which led to World War II, the Germans successfully took possession of the greater part of Europe by carrying everything before them. Late in 1942, however, their advance came to be gradually retarded and they often found difficulty in fighting against the Allied Forces which were being reorganized. German tank forces, which had been referred to as the flower of the blitzkrieg tactics and proud of their absolute authority, gradually lost their advantage and



often had to assume the defensive after excellent Allied tanks including the Russian T-34/76 and U.S. M4 Sherman were thrown into the battlefield and used in a way suitable for their features. It was a variety of anti-tank self-propelled guns and tank destroyers such as the Jagdpanther which developed from them that were used in large quantities in anti-tank warfare to support friendly tanks under these circumstances. The German tank destroyers



were built on the basis of a regular tank body and equipped with a fixed fighting compartment instead of the revolving turret. These features facilitated development and production, reduced the cost of production and made it possible to mount a larger and more powerful gun on the body. The fighting compartment of the fixed type and the gun limited in traverse did not put the tank destroyers at a great disadvantage in defensive action where they concealed themselves in ambush to shoot at enemy tanks.

Late in 1942, the Germans made improvements in the Pzkpfw III and IV tanks, which had served as the main strength of their tank forces since the beginning of World War II. and started manufacturing the Panther equipped with the long-barrelled 75 mm gun - a successor to the Pzkpfw III and N — and the Tiger I armed with the well-known 88 mm gun. The Germans sent these tanks to the battlefield in baste to cope with Russian tanks including the T-34/76. On the other hand, the Russians made repeated improvements in the T-34/76 and produced the T-34 /85 equipped with the powerful 85 mm gun. Thus the Germans lost the advantage in tanks over the Russians again and had to develop stronger tanks in a hurry.

The keen competition in tank developement gave birth to the King Tiger heavy tank which was said to be stronger than any other tank in the world. It weighed nearly 70 tons and carried the 88 mm tank gun model 43 of 71 length calibre which was an improved and more powerful version of the Tiger I's 88 mm gun. The tank was heavily armoured frontal armour, for instance, being as thick as 150 mm.

The maximum speed was 42 km/h. The vehicle with much sloping armour had a polished silhouette in the wake of the masterpiece medium tank Panther. The King Tiger was the highest reach of German tank development. It was the Hunting Tiger, the final version of German tank destroyers, that was developed on the basis of the King Tiger's body. It mounted the 128 mm anti-tank gun model 44 in the fixed fighting compartment. With armour-piercing projectile, the gun was powerful



enough to penetrate 202 mm armour plate at an angle of arrival of 60° from a distance of 1,000 m. The armour with a maximum thickness of 200 mm was much heavier than that of the King Tiger. The Hunting Tiger reached 71 tons in weight, which means that it was the heaviest of all German vehicles. engine was the Maybach HL-230-P-30 offering 700 hp and the maximum speed on road was 42 km/h.

The Hunting Tiger was put to production in Henschel in February 1944. It first saw action early in 1945. With the terrible destructive power of the main gun and the huge body comparable to a moving tochka, the Hunting Tiger tried to confront the advancing Allied Forces. But it was too late now. The production totalled only 79, made up as follows: 48 manufactured by Henschel; 29 by Porsche different mainly in running gear from the Henschel vehicles); and 2 experimental vehicles. Many of them had no opportunity of taking part in actual fighting. Thus the Hunting Tiger could not exercise its power to the full until the end of the war.



- ★Study the instructions and photographs before commencing assembly.
- ★You will need a sharp knife, a pair of tweezers, a file, and a pair of pliers.
- ★Do not break parts away from sprue, but cut off carefully with a pair of pliers. ★Before finally cementing each part together, be sure that parts fit correctly together. And that you are aware of the
- ★Use glue sparingly. Use only enough to make a good bond. Apply cement to both parts to be joined.

next sequence to be followed.

This mark shows the colour this part should be painted. Other parts should be painted in colours for tank overall. Refer to "Painting" and paint overall after the whole assembly.

(Construction of Wheels)

Construct two Drive Sprockets, two Idler Wheels. Be careful not to apply cement to Poly Caps (D1, D4) which are put between wheels. The cement here will obstruct rotation and installation of tracks.

(Installation of Wheels Inside)

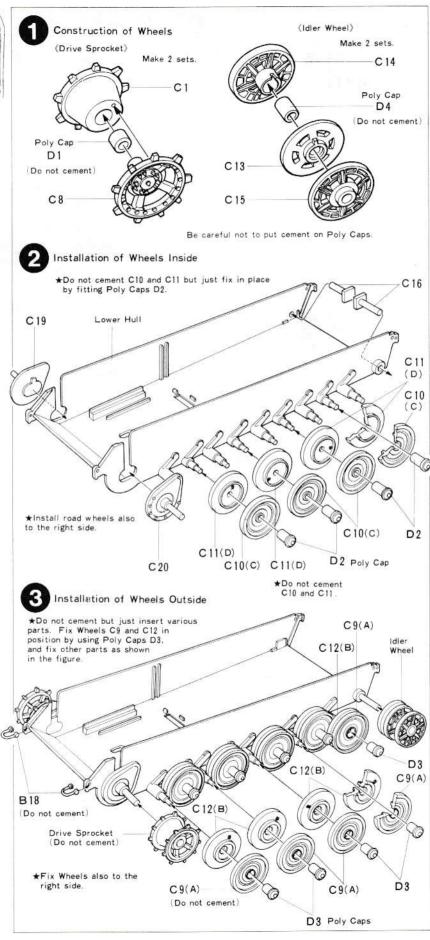
Fit each Road Wheels Inside to Chassis. Do not cement C11(D) and C10(C) but mount onto shafts with Poly Caps D2. Drive Shafts (C19, C20) and Rear Shafts (C16) are mounted with Drive Sprockets and Idler Wheels respectively. Cement these shafts to Chassis securely.

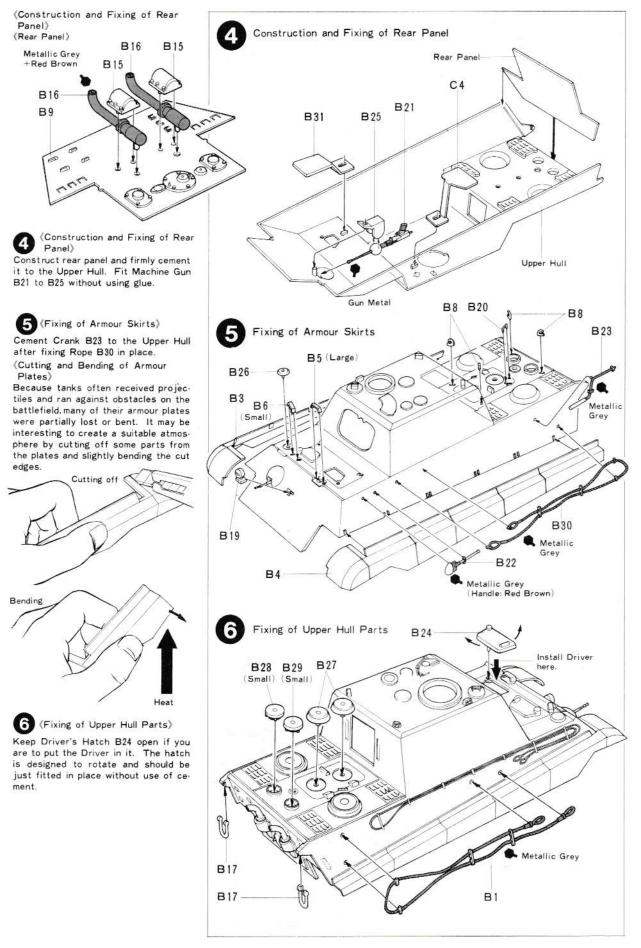
(Installation of Wheels Outside)

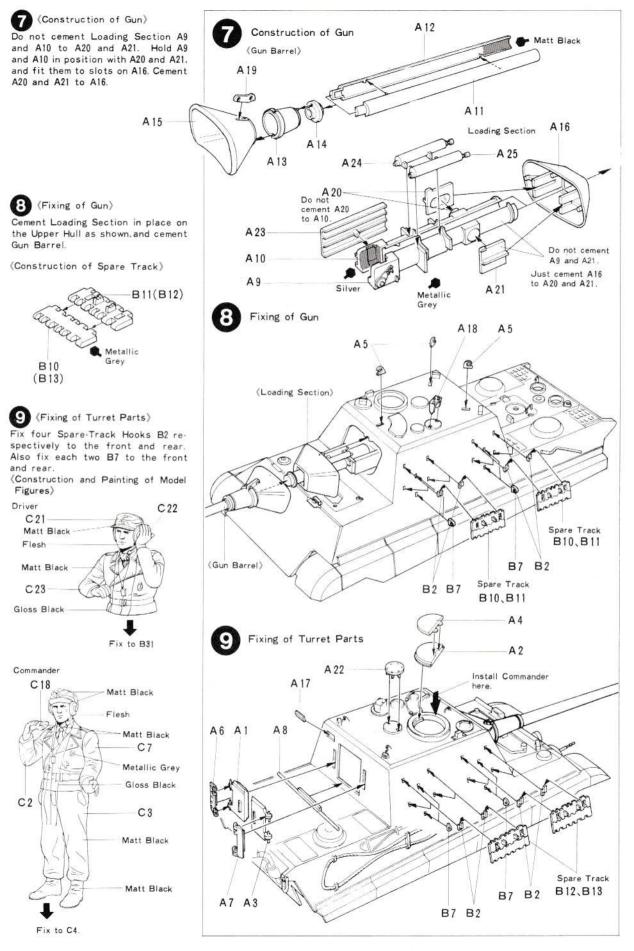
Do not cement but just fit each parts. Fix Wheels $\mathrm{C12}(B)$ and $\mathrm{C9}(A)$ by using Poly Caps D3. Fit other parts to the position as shown. Fit Wheels also to the other side.

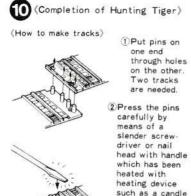
PAINT MARKER

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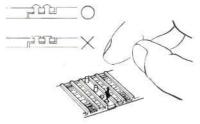






3 Immediately after that, hold them in place with your fingers for a while.

fire



★If the track is cut or its connection is too weak, reinforce it with thread, etc.

PARTS

2 Commander's Hatch A

Commander's Hatch B

20 Loading Section Holder A

Rear Hatch Hinge A

8 Rear Hatch Part

12. Gun Barrel B

18. Turret Part B

24. Recoil Cylinder A

4 . Armour Skirt Left

6 Periscope Cover B

20. Engine Cover Hinge

4 . Base for Commander

8 Upper Hook

16. Muffler

22. Shovel

18. Front Hook

24. Driver's Hatch

26. Ventilator A 28. Ventilator C

30. Wire Rope B

10. Spare Track A

12. Spare Track C 14. Unnecessary

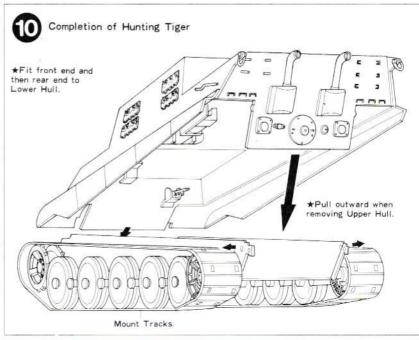
B 22 Ventilator

14 Gun Base A 16. Gun Shield B

10. Loading Section B

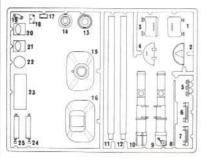
A PARTS

- 1 . Rear Hatch A Rear Hatch B
- Turret Hook Rear Hatch Hinge R
- Loading Section A
- 11. Gun Barrel A
- 18 Gun Base B
- 15. Gun Shield A 17. Turret Part A
- 19 Gun Base Part
- 21 Loading Section Holder 23 Protection Plate
- 25. Recoil Cylinder B
- B PARTS 2 . Turret Hook A
- 1 . Wire Rope A Armour Skirt Right
- 5 . Periscope Cover A Turret Hook B
- Rear Panel
- 11. Spare Track B 13. Spare Track D
- 15. Muffler Cover
- 17 Rear Hook
- 19 Light
- 21. Machine Gun
- 23. Crank
- 25 Machine Gun Rack
- 27. Ventilator B
- 29. Ventilator D
- 31 Driver's Base
- C PARTS
- Drive Sprocket A
- .Commander's Right Arm
- 3 . Commander's Body Linnecessary
- Unnecessary
- . Commander's Left Arm 8 Drive Sprocket B
- Road Wheel A (Inside)
- 10. Road Wheel B (Inside)
- 11. Road Wheel B (Outside 12 Road Wheel A (Outside)
- 13. Idler Wheel A 15 Idler Wheel B
- 17. Unnecessary 19. Drive Shaft Right
- 21. Driver's Upper Half 22. Driver's Left Arm
- 14. Idler Wheel C 16. Idler Shaft
- 18. Binoculars
- 20 Drive Shaft Left
- 23. Driver's Right Arm



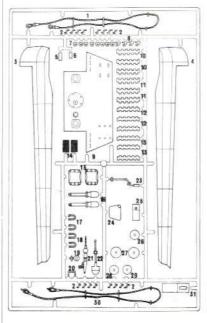


PARTS

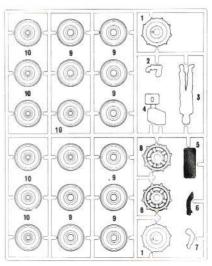


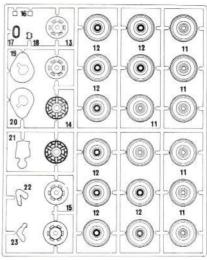


PARTS









PAINTING APPLYING DECALS

(Painting of the Hunting Tiger) German military vehicles were painted differently according as they were used before or after August 1943. Until then, German military vehicles in Europe had been painted in the basic colour of German grey and those in Africa in that of dark yellow. In August 1943, the German military authorities ordered to use only dark yellow as the basic colour. To camouflage their vehicles, field forces often painted dark-green or reddish-brown pattern on the dark yellow ground. The King Tiger manufactured in 1944-45 was generally painted in dark yellow. Toward the end of the war, however, some tanks of this type were painted in German grey because paint factories in Germany were

destroyed by bombing raids and could

not supply sufficient paint.

(Marking of the Hunting Tiger)
The Hunting Tiger usually wore national marks, divisional marks and turret numbers. In addition to them, crew often painted a "Kill" mark on their tank. This mark showed the number of enemy tanks which they had destroyed. The turret number painted on both sides of the turret consisted of three figures which represented the company, platoon and vehicle

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