M3 Grant Tank

British Desert Combat Vehicle

The M3 tank was developed at the Rock Island Arsenal. Final design work was completed in March 1941. The contracting firms produced pilot models in April, 1941 and by August of the same year, full-scale production started in three plants, the Detroit Arsenal, Baldwin Locomotive and American Locomotive. Thus the M3 medium tank has the distinction of being the tank with the shortest time elapsed between the design and start of production.

The M3 tank came as a nasty shock to the Axis powers and played a valuable part in reversing the successes of the Axis. The Americans used them during the invasion of French Morocco in November, 1942 and about the same time in the Southwest Pacific.

The British version of the M3 was later called the Grant (after General Grant) and deliveries of these vehicles were rushed to North Africa early in 1942 where they were first in action at the Big Gazala Battle in May, 1942. The Grant’s appearance at this time had a profound effect on Britain’s fortunes in the desert fighting.

For the first time the British tank forces had an accurate high velocity gun of a caliber powerful enough to match the best Axis tank guns.

Later when the M4 replaced the M3 in British service in the western desert the Grant’s and Lee’s were shipped to Australia for use in the campaigns in the Southwest Pacific.

With a less critical need for up-to-date equipment in the far east, the M3’s were used by the British and Australian regiments fighting in Burma and the S.W. Pacific right until the end of the war.
Add cement to hull as shown.
- Slip axle end of idler support 17 into hole and press against cement.
- Slide (do not cement) idler wheel 20 onto axle as shown until it snaps in place. Wheel should revolve freely.
- Cement cover 6 to end of wheel.
- Repeat for other idler support 16, idler wheel 20 and cover 6.

- Cement skirt 97 UNDER fender on left side of hull as shown.
- Cement skirt 96 to right side.

CEMENT:
- sides 56 and 57 into place
- end 68 into position.
- doors 55 onto boxes with hinges and lock as shown.
- two muffler pieces 5 and 30 together, then into hull. Repeat.
- two pads 64 into hull; then slip (do not cement) hooks 26 into holes in pads.
- corners 71 and 72 into place.
- taillights 12 into corners.
- end plate 52 to end.
- wrench 9 to end plate.
3

- Slip (do not cement bushing 23 into drive sprocket 21.
- Carefully cement sprocket half 22 onto drive sprocket. Do not get cement onto end of bushing. Rib on part 21 fits into notch in part 22.
- Apply cement to end of axle.
- Press bushing onto axle.
- Repeat for other side.

CAREFULLY TRIM OFF EXCESS PLASTIC WHERE ATTACHED TO TREES

7

- Slip end of gun through opening in superstructure. (SEE SMALL SKETCH.)
- Place (do not cement) hole in turret over pivot.
- Add cement to HULL and SUPERSTRUCTURE as shown by dashed lines. DO NOT GET CEMENT NEAR OR ON TURRET.
- Place (do not cement) pin on hull into hole in turret and press hull and superstructure together. FRONT EDGE ON HULL AND SUPERSTRUCTURE MUST MATCH.

9

- Cement into place the pieces shown.
4

- First, slip treads over drive sprocket with TEETH between tracks.
- Next, place treads over the return rollers THEN IDLER wheel.
- Finally, twist treads over the bogie assemblies.

ADD CEMENT AS SHOWN BY DASHED LINE

10

- six pieces to top of tenders as shown
- two bars 63 into hull, then slip (do not cement) hooks 26 into holes in pads
- hull ribs 27 and 28 into notches.
PAINTING

The exterior painting details are painted before they are cemented accordingly. You will find it just as from the plastic “trees.”

Use a small pointed brush for the areas. Use the Flat Military paint thoroughly before handling parts be cemented because cement will

BLACK—Tire portion of bogies,

SILVER—Headlight lens (Part 6

GUNMETAL—Gun barrel (Part

RUST—Exhaust pipes (Part 5 and

CAMOUFLAGE—Refer to the (the pattern shown in the views o problems changed as well as the pa factory paint. Refer to the box c patterns.

CAMOUFLAGE
KEY

BRITISH FIGURES

Paint a figure as though dressing first, then the basic uniform, next small delicate details, such as de

improve the appearance of the shades following the clothing for Soldiers are out in the sun a lot brown, NOT PINK OR OFF WHITE; eyes should be like narrow black; exposed areas of flesh.

After the flesh areas, paint the smooth strokes, all in the same of clothing the same shade of color washed. After the basic color, add the arms and areas where light basic color and paint the high light direct light. When adding highlight is complete, paint the belts, straps items stand out, outline them with

Use a very fine brush.

After you have completed the parts you can do to improve it? If the fi
contained on this page. Some of the parts must be removed, so study the assembly steps and plan your work to paint the smaller parts before removing them. Paint the small details and a soft ½-inch brush for larger items, available at hobby counters. Allow paint to dry and remember to scrape paint away from areas to avoid adhesion to the paint.

1) end of gun barrels, cutting edge of axe.
2) three legs on stand (Part 7).
3) cable on rear (Part 54).

CAMOUFLAGE KEY for colors used in painting the tank. Tanks were not alike in painting. Emoting. Crews added their own camouflage over the original colors and to library books for tanks with different uniforms. Working from the skin outward. Paint the flesh of the belts, straps, and various equipment. The very darkest and insignia, are usually saved for last. Figures by painting in additional highlights and shadows. Add highlights and shadows to the face also, so their faces should be a shade of tan or light mottle. Men outdoors squat in the bright light. The slits not white dots. Now paint the hands and other parts of the uniform. Paint the uniform the basic color with direction. For variety, don't paint any two articles color. Color depends on how often the clothing was worn. A darker basic color for the shading in folds, under would not be seen. Now use a lighter shade of the dots, such as the top of clothing folds which get the sun, and shadows, don't be timid. After the uniform parts and various pieces of equipment. To make the black or a very dark shade of color of the item.

Decals
Correct decal locations are indicated on the drawings shown above. For a neat job, carefully follow the application instructions on the back of the decal sheet. Before they are completely dry, decals should be firmly pressed against surface contours. Refer to front page photo and to box cover for additional information for locations.

The pennants furnished on the decal sheet are described in the designation groups under the tank drawings. Apply to antenna as shown on box cover photo. Height of pennants varied.