

AMPS Atlanta T-55 Club Project

References:

Inside the Great Tanks, Hans Halberstadt, The Crowood Press, 1997

T-54 and T-55 Main Battle Tanks 1944 – 2004, Steve Zaloga and Hugh Johnson, Osprey New Vanguard, 2004

Modelling the T-55 Main Battle Tank, Nicola Cortese, et. al., Osprey Publishing, 2005

Centurion vs. T-55 - Yom Kippur War 1973, Simon Dunstan, Osprey Publishing, 2009

Toadman's Tank Pictures T-55A CD, by Chris "Toadman" Hughes

Magazines: Military Miniatures in Review Nos. 32, 34; AFV Modeler Nos. 20, 26, 37;
Military Modelcraft International Oct. 2009, April 2010; Military Modelling Feb./Mar. 2003;
Model Military International Mar. 2007

Finishing and Weathering

The T-55 was painted to represent the Syrian 3 color camouflage used on the Golan Heights in 1973. I used Tamiya acrylics through my Iwata HP-CH airbrush. The colors used were straight from the bottle – Field Gray, Buff, and Panzer Gray. Once the basic paint was dry, I applied the vehicle number on the turret side using Archer Dry Transfers.

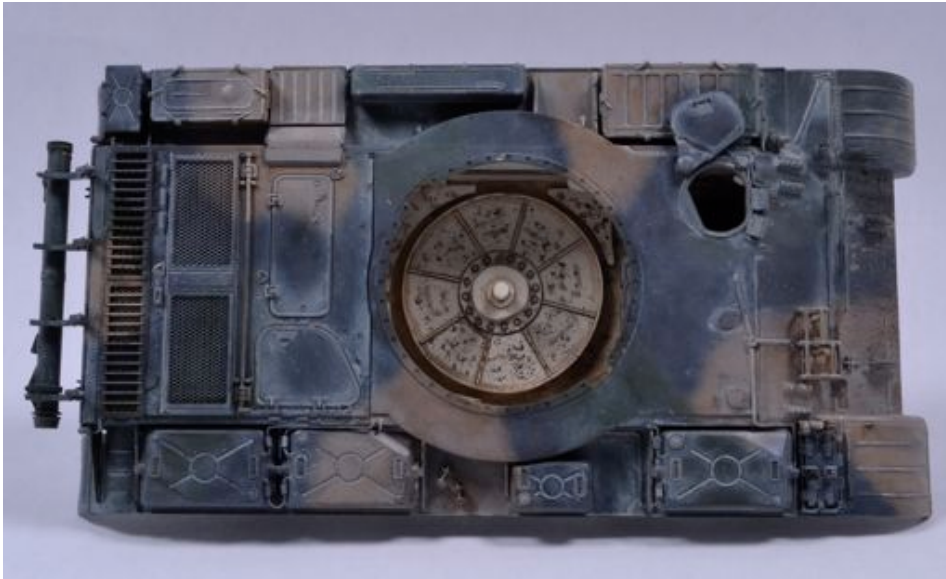


Finishing and Weathering

For this project I chose to use MiG and AK Interactive weathering products. After the base paint was dry, I used the MiG Neutral Wash and Dark Wash as filters to mute the finish of the raw camouflage paint. I came back and used the Dark Wash to highlight all of the raised details.

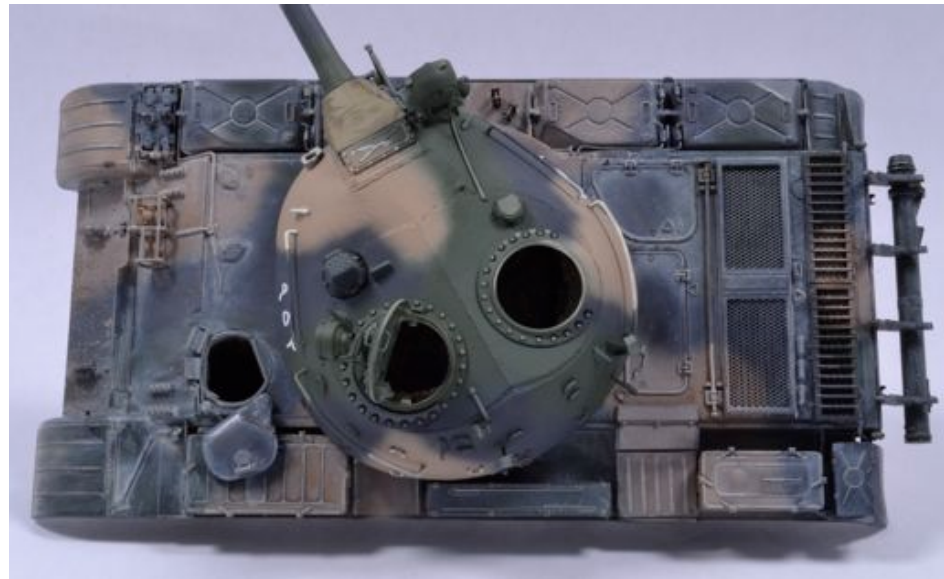


Finishing and Weathering



Filtered and weathered hull.

Un-weathered turret on the weathered hull for comparison of the effect.



Finishing and Weathering

Once the filter layer was dry, I added a very diluted overall wash using AK Interactive's Dust Effects allowing it to build up in the corners and around the raised details where dust would normally accumulate. After that, I would apply the Dust Effects at full strength in those areas where heavy dust would build up. This was done primarily on the hull. After a few minutes, I took a brush with white spirit and gradually feathered out the "dust" showing the heaviest concentrations in the corners, etc.



Finishing and Weathering

I used the same approach on the turret, only with a lighter coating. I also added some vertical streaking with the “dust”. To accomplish this I again applied the enamel at full strength where dust would accumulate and streak downward with rain or other disturbance.



Finishing and Weathering

To obtain the spattered dirt and mud, I used the technique of spraying my airbrush across a paintbrush loaded with the Dust and Earth Effects. It is important to practice this before trying it on a model. You will need to experiment with the consistency of the enamel and the air pressure from the brush. You can also mix small amounts of plaster of Paris to add some texture to the dirt on the lower hull and running gear.



Finishing and Weathering



Mud splatters on lower hull side and running gear.



Mud splatters on lower hull front.



Mud splatters on lower hull rear.

Tracks / Blacken It



Tracks / Blacken It

Preparation is the key if you want to get a good effect with Blacken It. The tracks must be free of mold release, skin oils, etc

1. Assemble your Fruilmodel metal tracks.
2. Pour straight household vinegar into a cup or container large enough to completely submerge your track run.
3. Add a very small drop of liquid soap to help the vinegar flow into all of the crevices in the track.
4. After letting the track run soak for a while, remove it and scrub it with a tooth brush, dipping the tooth brush back in the vinegar to insure that you are getting into all of the crevices, etc.
5. Soak the track once more in the vinegar for a few minutes.
6. Remove the track and rinse it off with tap water (use tweezers or needle nose pliers to handle the cleaned track).
7. Let the track air dry.

Tracks / Blacken It

Do not touch the cleaned track as you do not want to re-introduce and skin oils to the cleaned metal track.

1. Submerge the tracks into a 50/50 solution of Blacken It and water. Be sure the solution covers all of the track surface.
2. Keep the track submerged for 15-20 minutes.
3. You will notice the Blacken It solution will turn quite grungy. This is normal and there will be some sediment created by the process.
4. Once the track has reached your desired color, remove it and rinse it under the tap. Again, I used tweezers to hold the track. Place the track on a paper towel and allow it to air dry.
5. Once the track is thoroughly dry, you can apply any further washes, etc to achieve the final, weathered result.

Voila'

