Abrams M1 A1 - Iraq 2003 - 1/35 scale

25/06/2012 — Advanced Techniques



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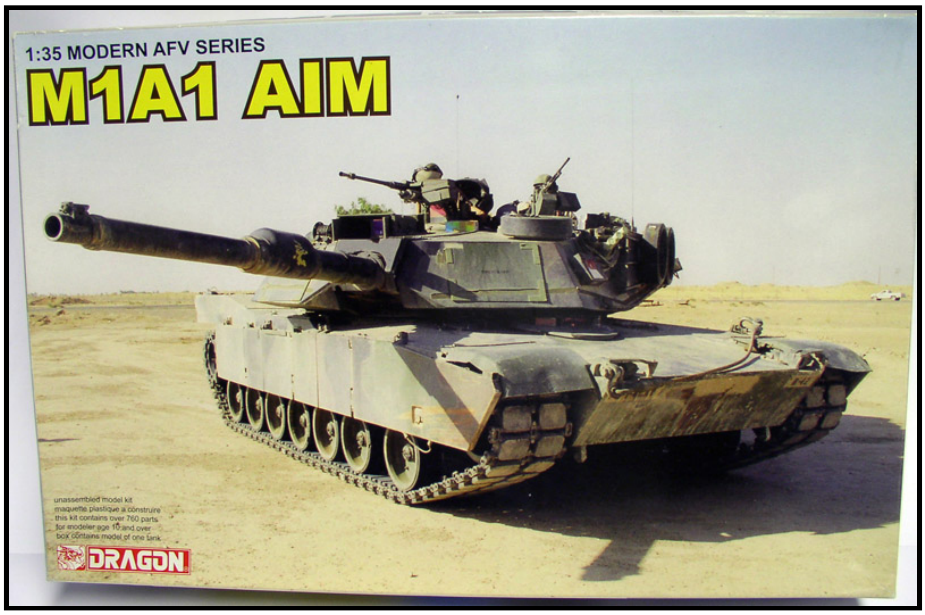
Fer de lance des deux guerres du Golfe, le M1A1 Abrams méritait un diorama qui le mette en valeur. La photo ci-dessus donne une idée de la puissance et la masse du véhicule et devint une bonne source d'inspiration pour une scénette La maquette Dragon étant actuellement la meilleure sur le marché ...





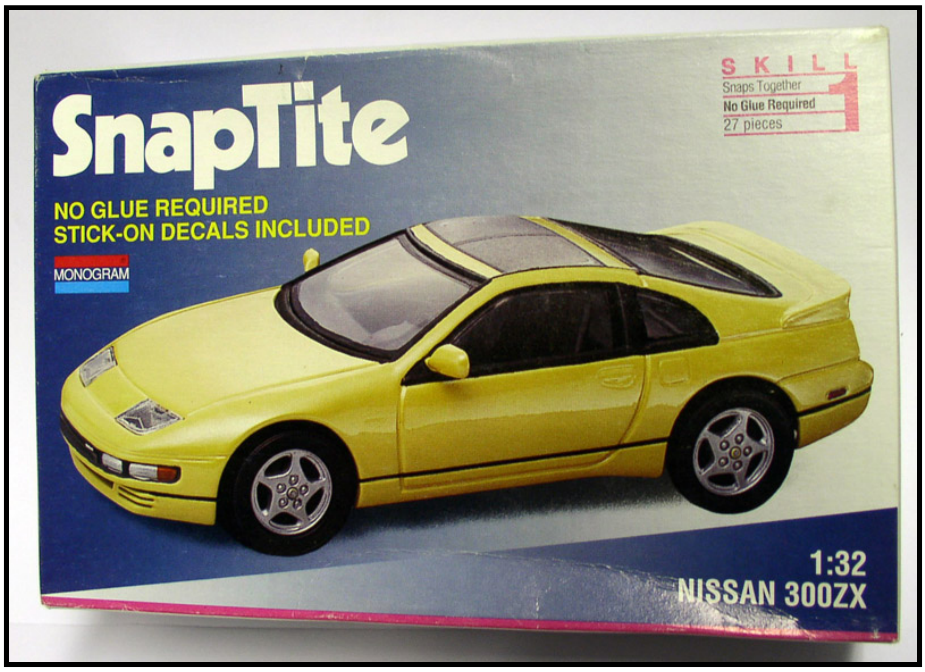


As the spearhead of both Gulf Wars, the M1 A1 Abrams deserved a diorama that would showcase it. The photo above gives a sense of the vehicle’s power and size and served as a great source of inspiration for a diorama...

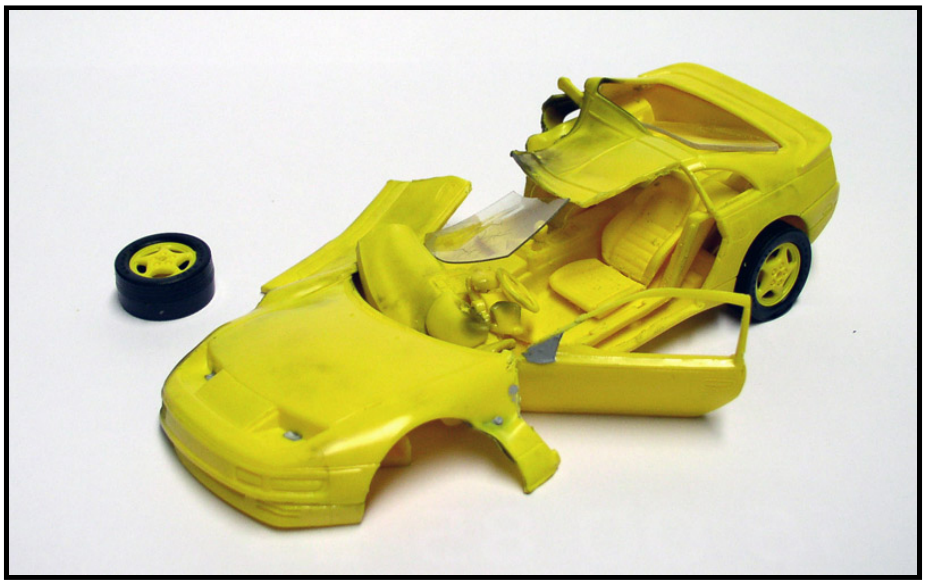


Since the Dragon model kit is currently the best on the market*, interior detail isn't a priority here... It features exquisite craftsmanship, includes photo-etched parts, a white metal cannon, and numerous accessories... *(Date of the tutorial: 2012)

The Car



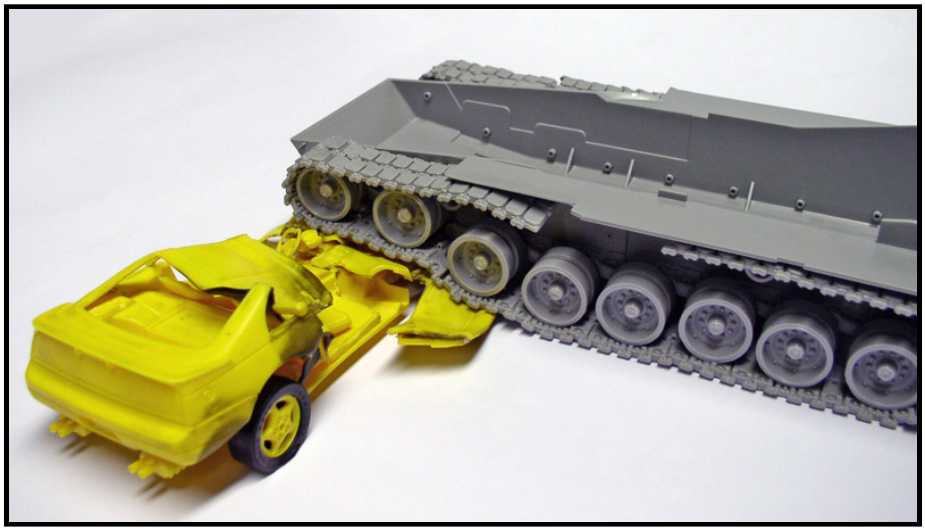
Since I couldn't find a four-door sedan at the time of assembly, a 1/32-scale Nissan will be sacrificed to serve as a wreck...



Start of the “construction” (actually, destruction!). Here again, looking at photographs of wrecked vehicles is invaluable for getting an idea of the shapes to create in order to match the real models. We heat the metal with a flame to deform it, then sand it down to remove excess material and restore it to actual scale...



The tank, whose suspension and left track have been modified, and the vehicle must "fit together" seamlessly and become one...



Another view...

Paint/Car



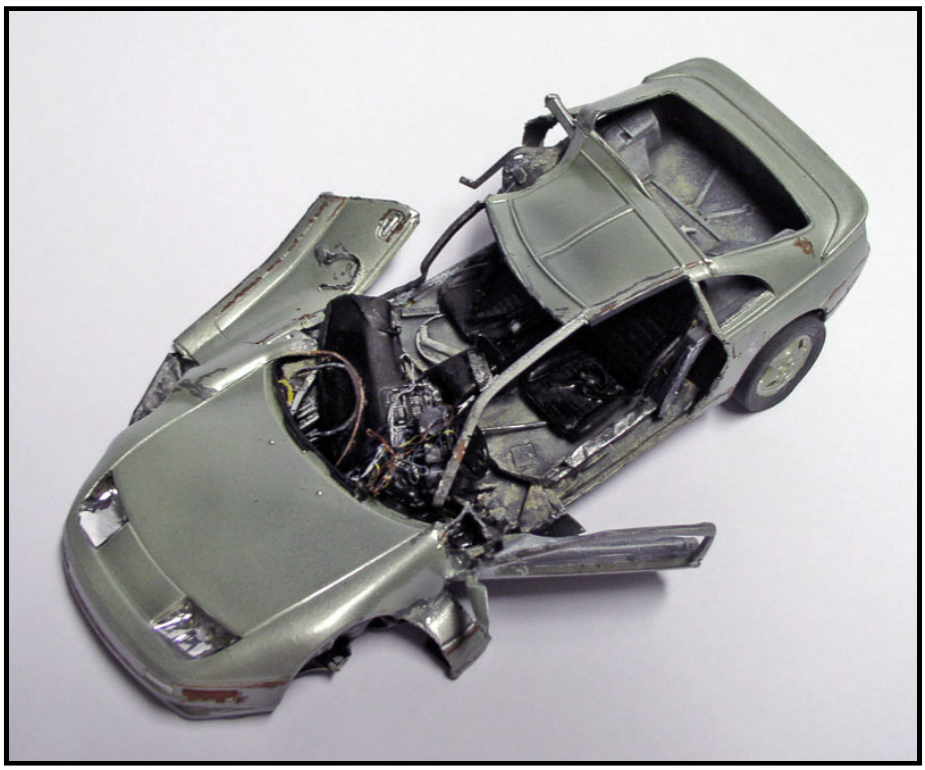
Once the shape has been defined, we add the details: wiring, straps, stamped sheet metal made from lead foil...



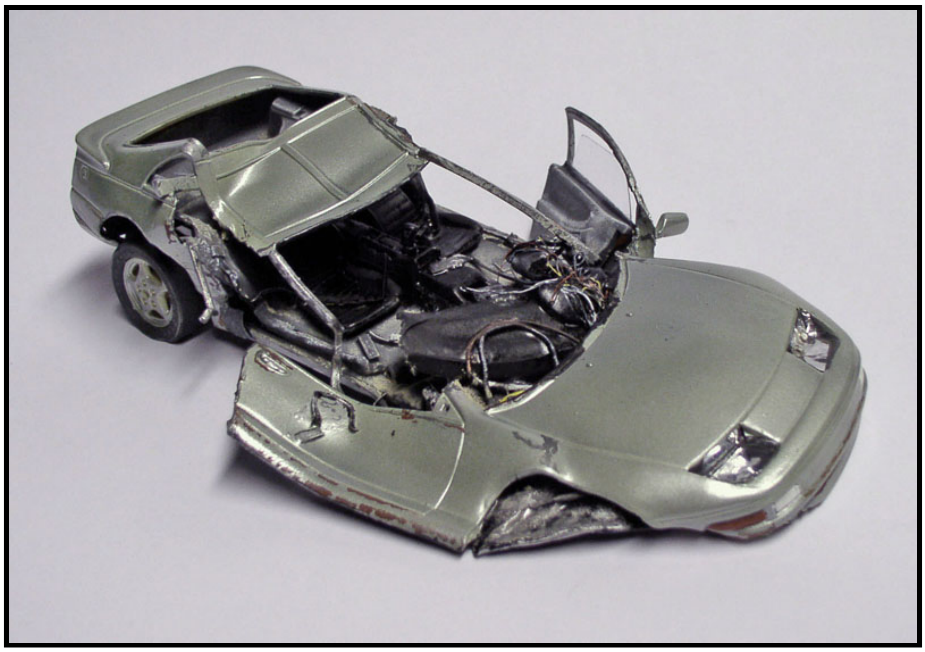
... Then the body is painted with a coat of Model Master Testors paint made from silver-blue metallic and German metallic silver...



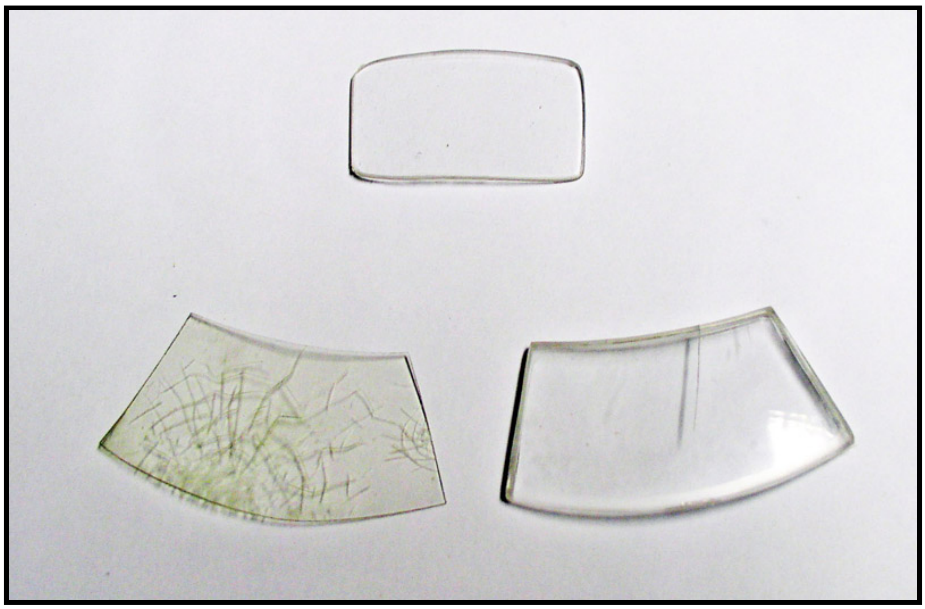
The interior paint job is refined. A silver sticker is applied to the headlights, covering the bulb and the glass. The exterior mirror is also covered with silver foil. The door window, made of transparent plastic film, is attached...



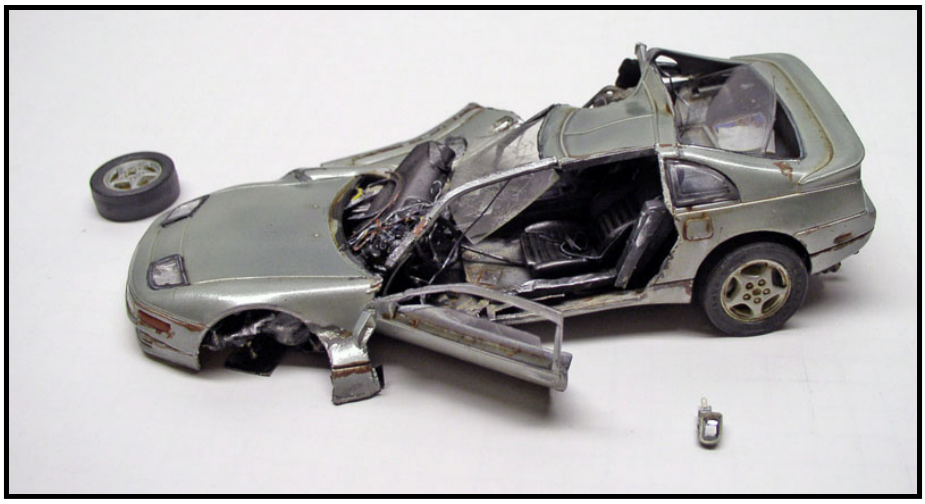
The painting is almost finished...



Another view...

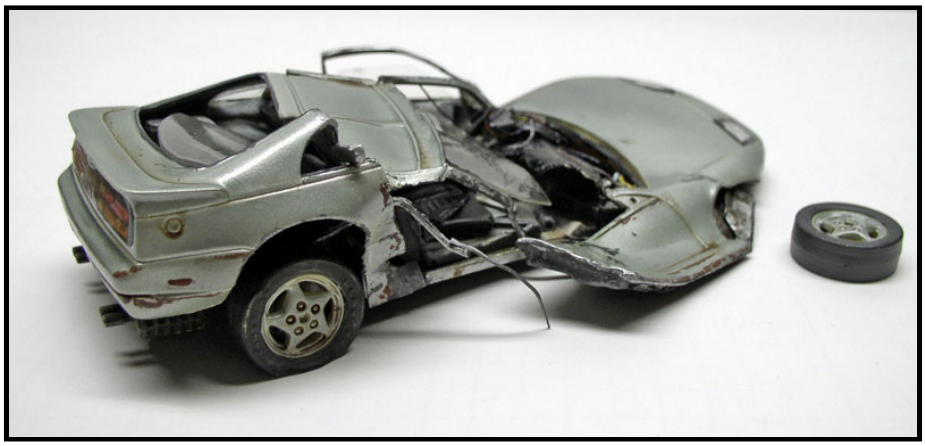


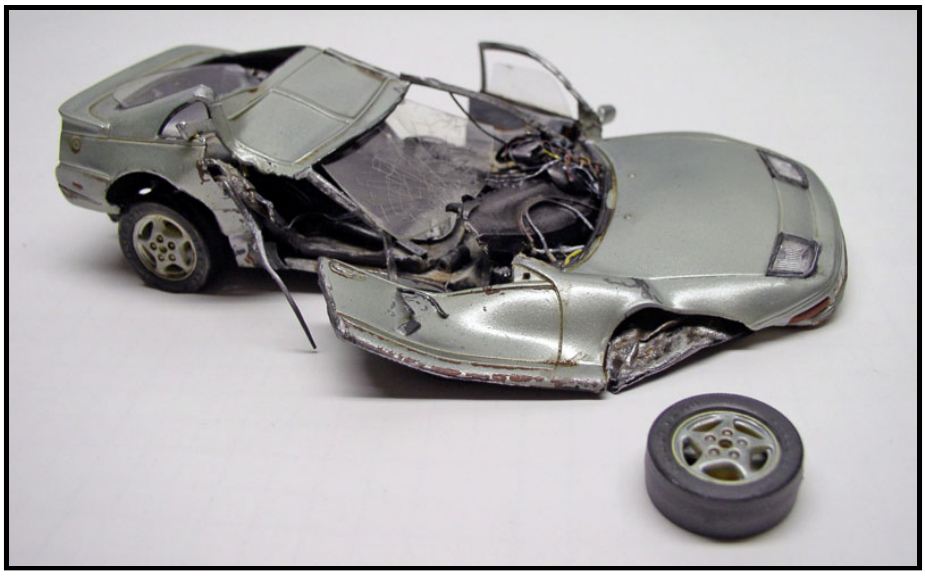
The windshield is replaced with a piece of plastic sheet that has been heated and scored with a utility knife. We keep the rear window by trimming it down...

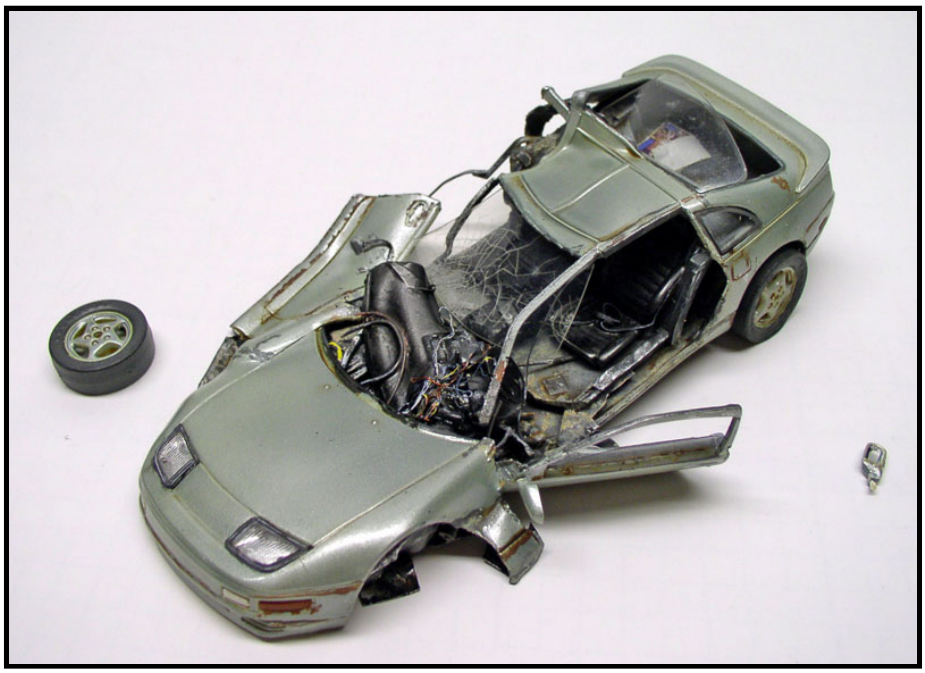




Installing the windshield and side windows...



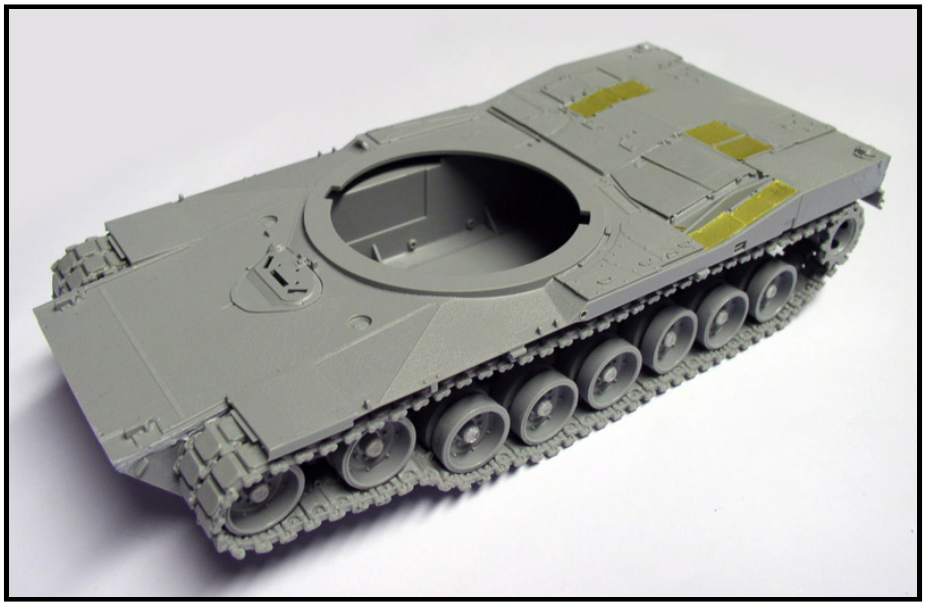




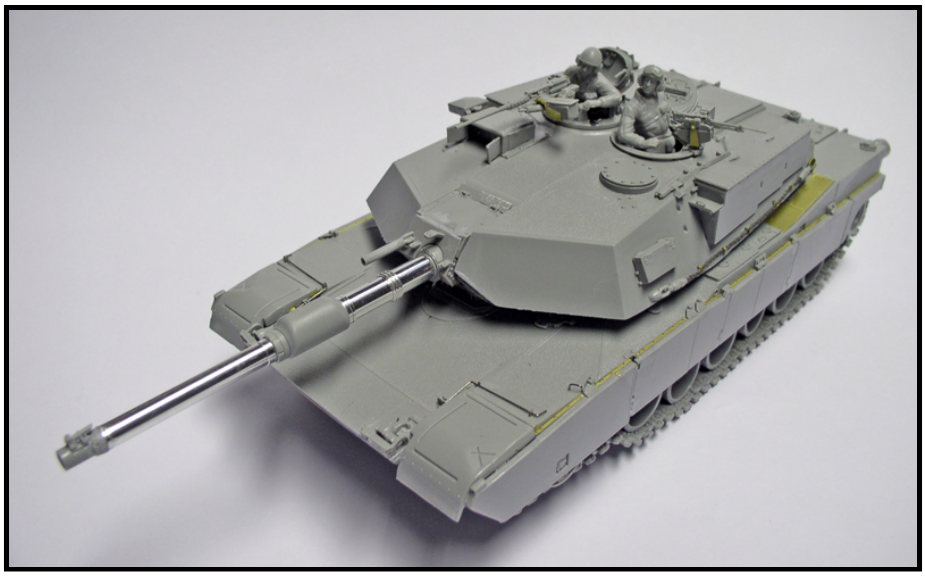


Four views of the finished model...

Assembly/tank



The tank. The tracks—track segment by track segment—as well as the numerous parts of the suspension’s torsion bars did not make the modification easy, but these details enhance the realism. Installation of the photo-etched engine grilles. Note that the entire engine compartment is assembled piece by piece, allowing for the possibility of inserting an engine...



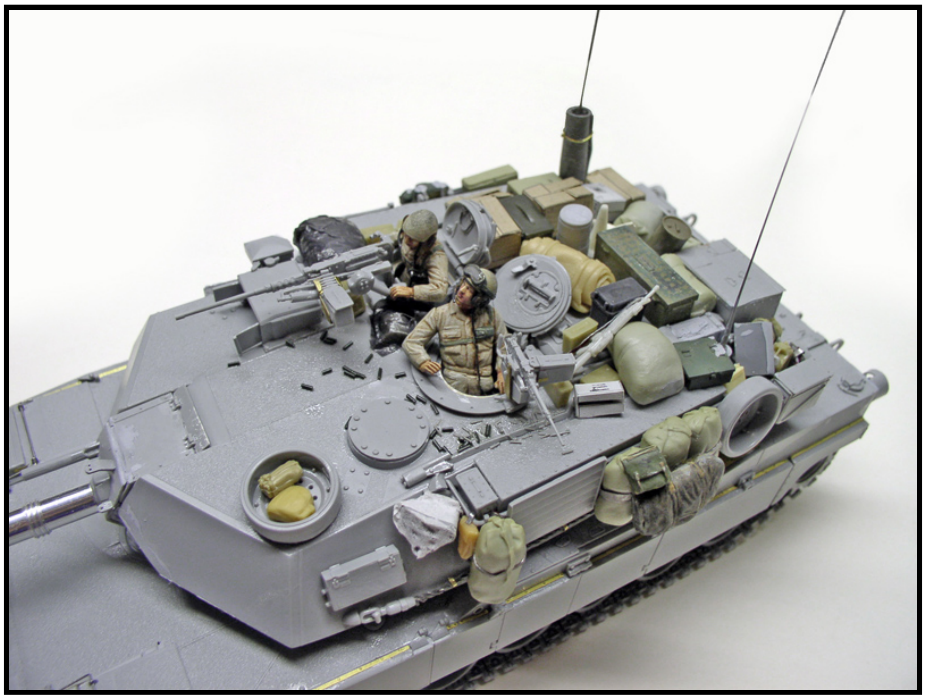
Modified figures complete the tank—just like in the original photo. The aluminum gun enhances the finish.



A side view, with the guards in place...



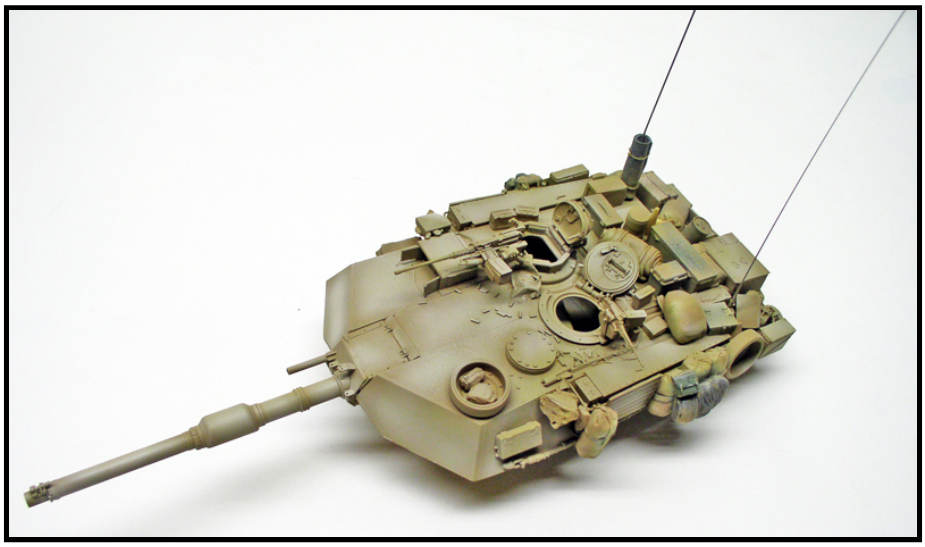
Positioning test...

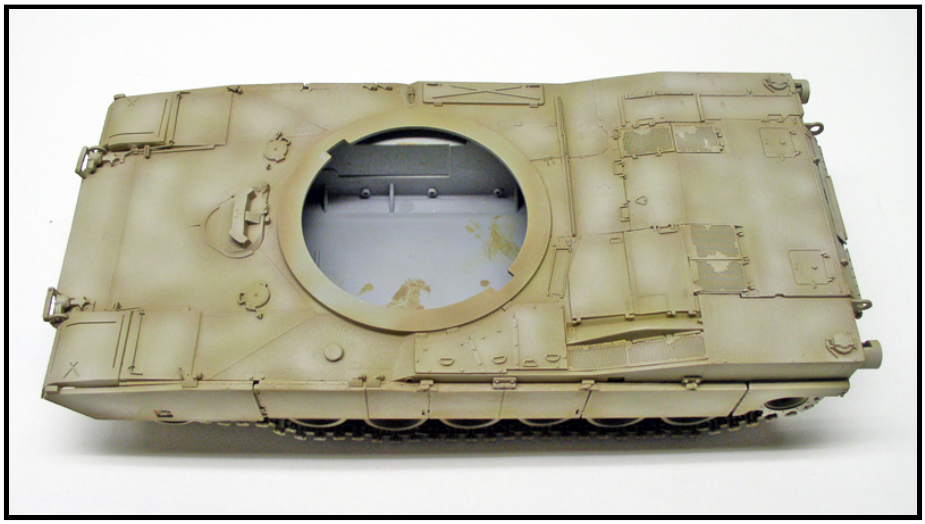




Installing the numerous accessories on the turret. The figures, which were painted separately, are positioned here only for the photo, as are some of the cardboard accessories, which were removed before painting...

Painting/Tank



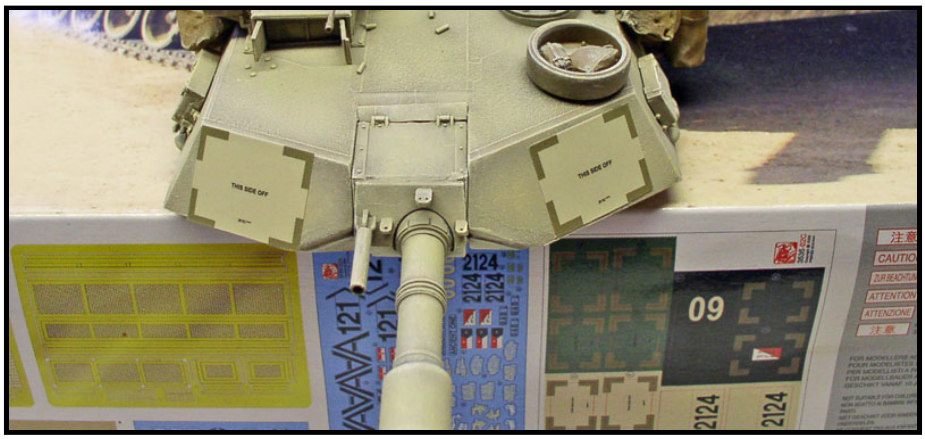


Humbrol Base 119 - 93 - 121 - 148. The last two were applied as highlights with an airbrush; you can clearly see the results in the photo above...

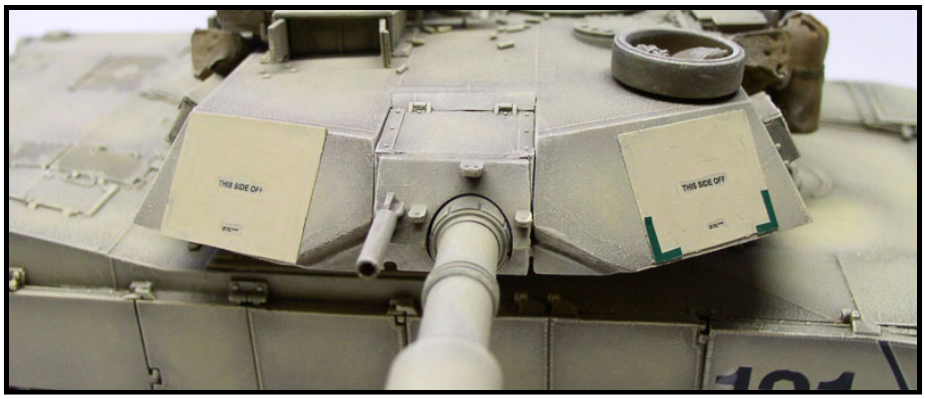


A view after applying the various coats of paint...

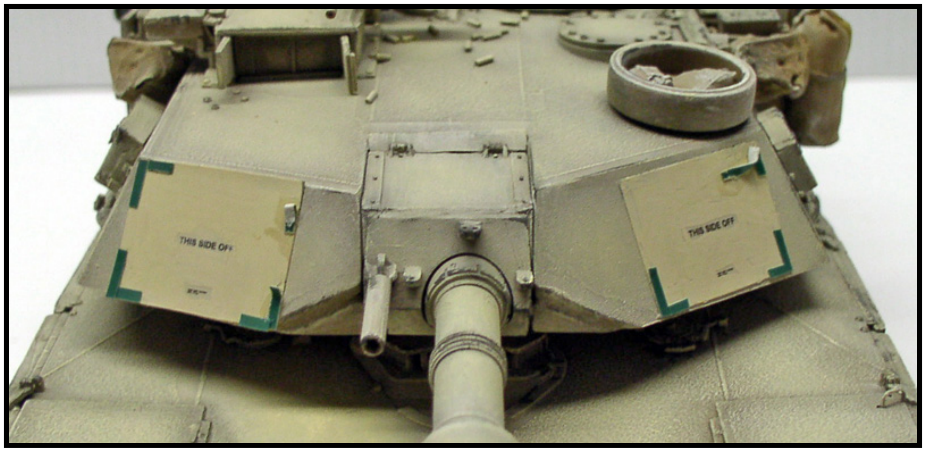
Decals



Placing the markers on the turret...



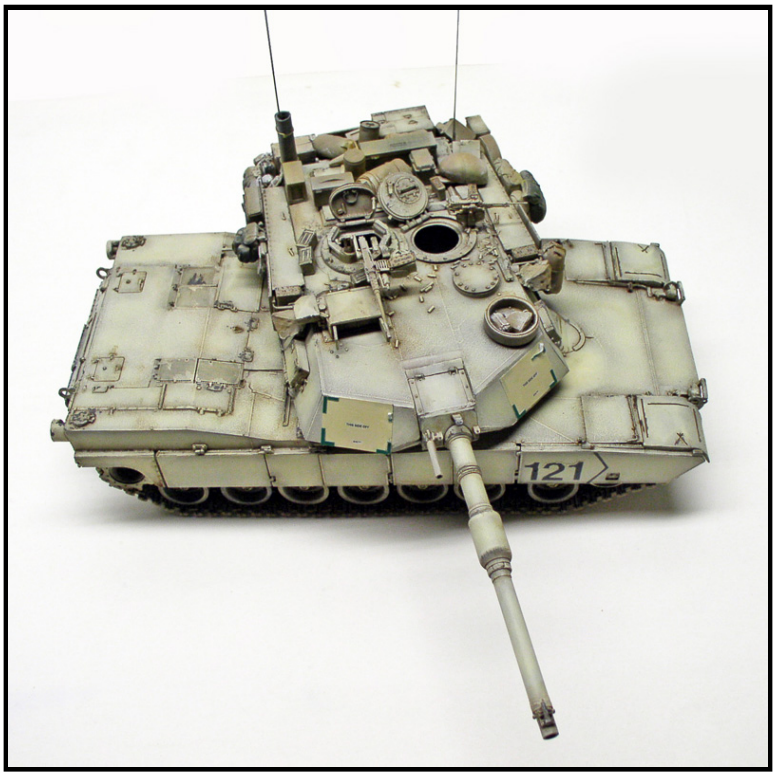
They have been touched up with paint, and the panel fasteners have been redone with architectural adhesive...



The adhesive is perfect for simulating worn-out fasteners...



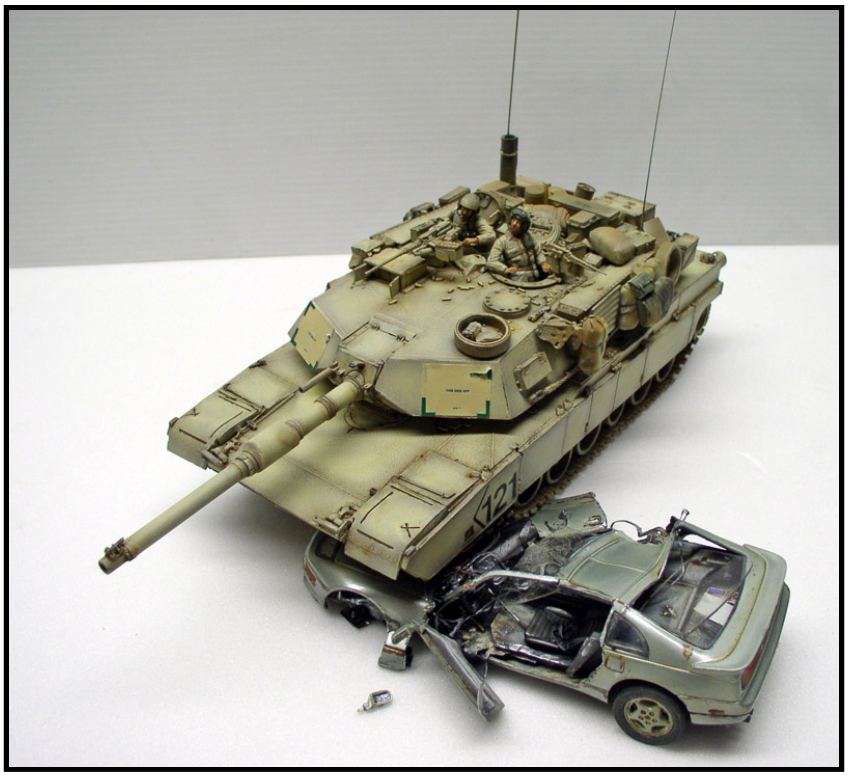
Empty sleeves made of stretched plastic are placed near the turrets...



Gluing on the accessories and painting. The chipping effect is created using a fine brush and washes applied to the entire model to make everything stand out...

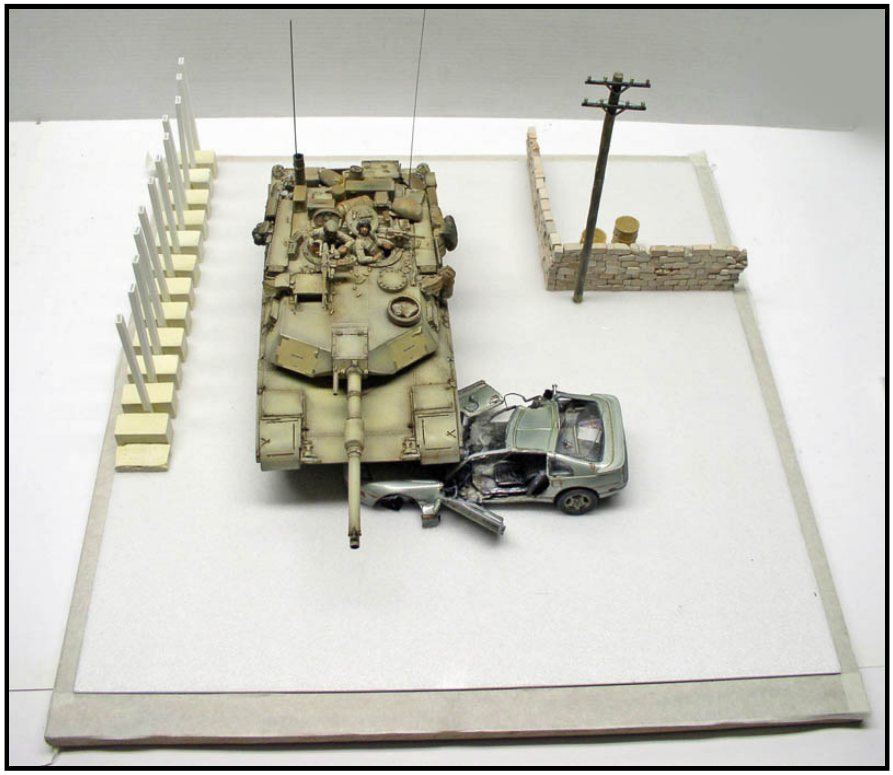


Applying the decals...

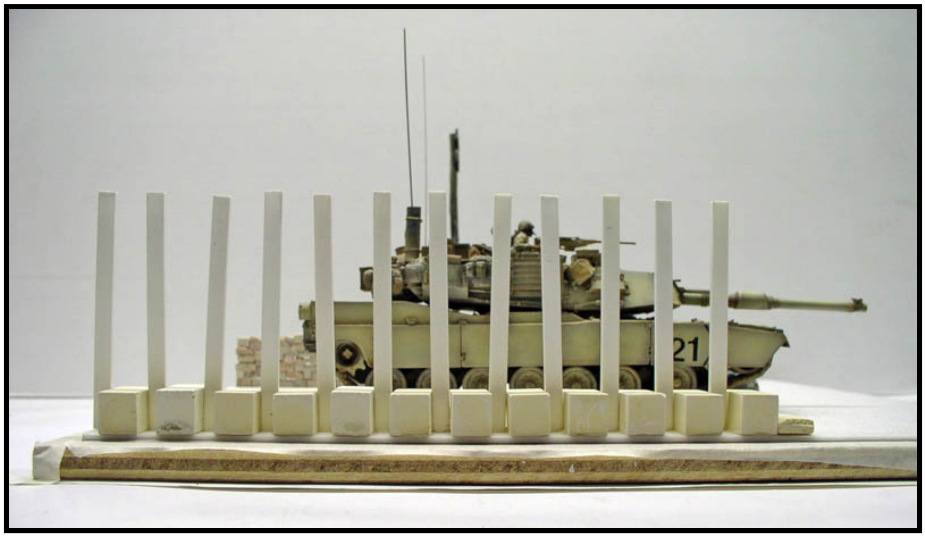


The tank, almost finished, is in position... The figures are glued in place...

The Setting



The base of the set is a piece of 5-mm plywood with a thin sheet of extruded polystyrene glued to it...



The low wall on the left is made from molded plaster blocks and Evergreen strips...



The small wall is made of briquettes glued together with wood glue. The post is from Italeri...



Paint the asphalt surface with acrylic paint (always avoid applying oil-based paint directly to polystyrene)...



The car is glued to the diorama with wood glue...

The Palm Tree



Here, a shrub branch for the trunk, some gauze, and an old ScaleLink kit...

Miniature palm tree in the process of being made, with a trunk wrapped in gauze and palm fronds for a

Wrapping the miniature palm trees for a

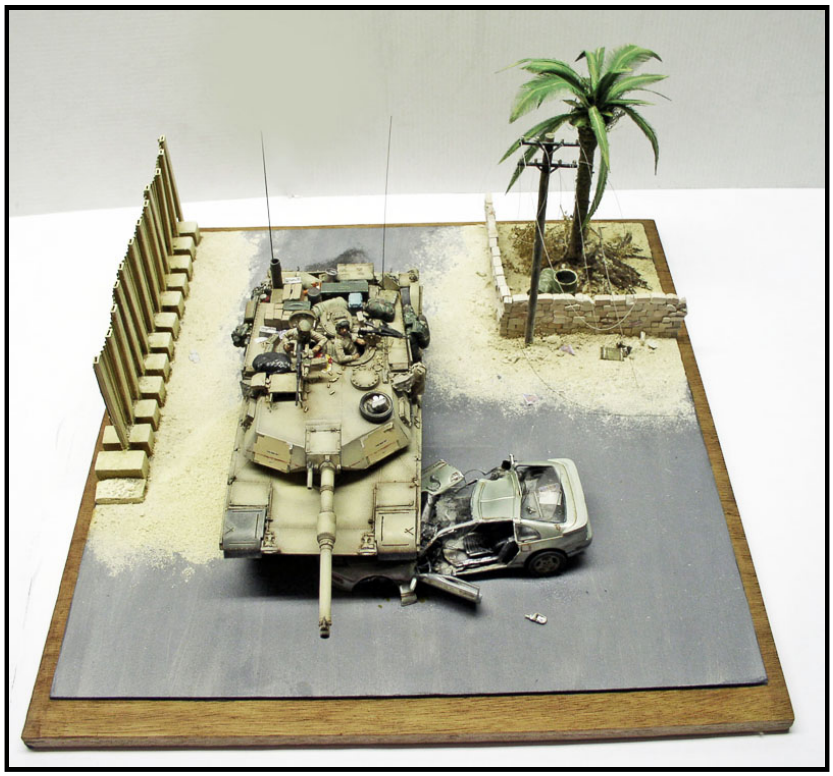
On entoure le tronc d'une bande de gaze trempée dans la colle à bois liquéfiée, en la posant en recouvrant légèrement la bande précédente. On finit sous les feuilles en entourant de la fillasse de plombier qui simuleront les fibres du palmier. Une couche d'apprêt et il n'y a plus qu'à peindre !



Once again, documentation is required...



The palm tree in place; Despite the extremely high cost of this type of photo-etched part, the leaves were not included. This leaves two options: either make and glue them on, or paint them to look like they’re there. The second option was chosen...



The diorama is finished...

Iraqi urban diorama featuring an M1A1 Abrams tank, a wrecked car, a palm tree, and

This diorama will feature not one but two backgrounds painted with acrylics...

Ce diorama aura droit non pas à un mais deux fonds peints à l'acrylique...

Diorama of an M1 A1 Abrams tank on an Iraqi street, featuring a wrecked car and pa

...Side view and background. Note that the background image is a reproduction of the actual photo...

...Latéral et fond. A noter que l'image du fond est une reproduction de la vraie photo...



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