4070300007 A12 Matilda II booklet.qxp 03/09/2021 12:22 Page 1

World War II Wargame
BOLT ACTION
www.boltaction.com

A12 MATILDA II INFANTRY TANK

ASSEMBLY AND PAINTING GUIDE



The A12 Matilda II Infantry Tank was affectionately nicknamed the 'Queen of the Desert' by her crews in the Western Desert. Its role as an infantry support tank precluded it from charging around the battlefield at the same speeds as the cruiser tanks – it needed to move at the same pace as the humble infantryman allowing for mutual support.

In the wide open expanses of the Western Desert the relatively slow speed of the Matilda would normally make it easy prey to enemy anti-tank capability but the Matilda II boasted much thicker armour than contemporary tanks from the first half of the war, making it largely invulnerable to enemy firepower. Indeed there are many accounts of Matildas riddled with scores of impact marks at the end of actions and not a single penetrating hit!

Equipped somewhat differently to the BEF version that fought in France, the Western Desert variant didn't have the unditching device designed to help cross trenches. It also had a reconfigured exhaust system to deal with the high temperatures and the suspension was lowered in addition to several cosmetic changes.

No. produced:	2,987
Crew:	4
Powerplant:	2× diesel 6-cylinder 7 litre engines
Top speed:	16 mph (26 km/h)
Range:	160 miles (250 km)
Armament:	2-pdr anti-tank gun 7.92 mm Besa machine gun
Armour:	20–78 mm
Weight:	25 tonnes

WARLORD GAMES
warlordgames.com

ASSEMBLY GUIDE KEY

A Assembly stage	Do Not Glue.	22 Part number
A Previous assembly stage	Special assembly instructions	3 Decal number
Optional assembly	Drill part	987 Paint number (Vallejo)

Follow this simple guide to building your A12 Matilda II infantry tank.

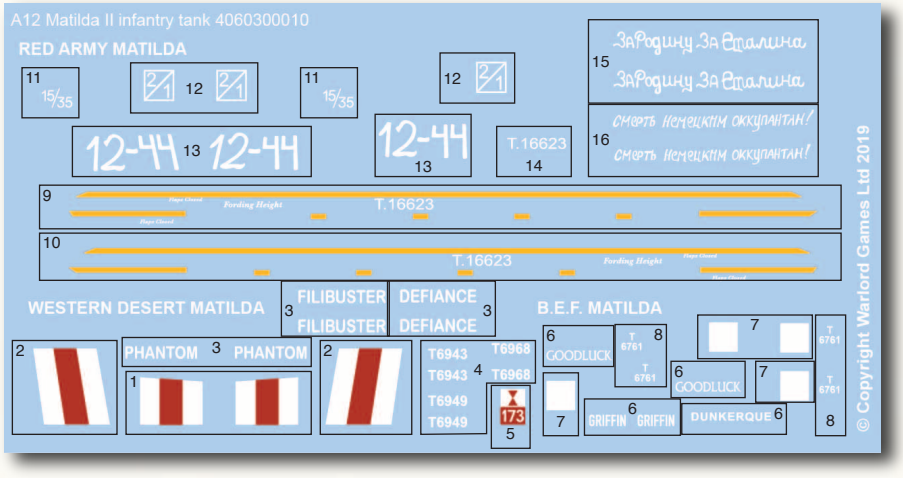
Carefully remove each component from the frame with clippers or a craft knife. Trim off excess plastic before assembling. Test fit all parts before applying glue.

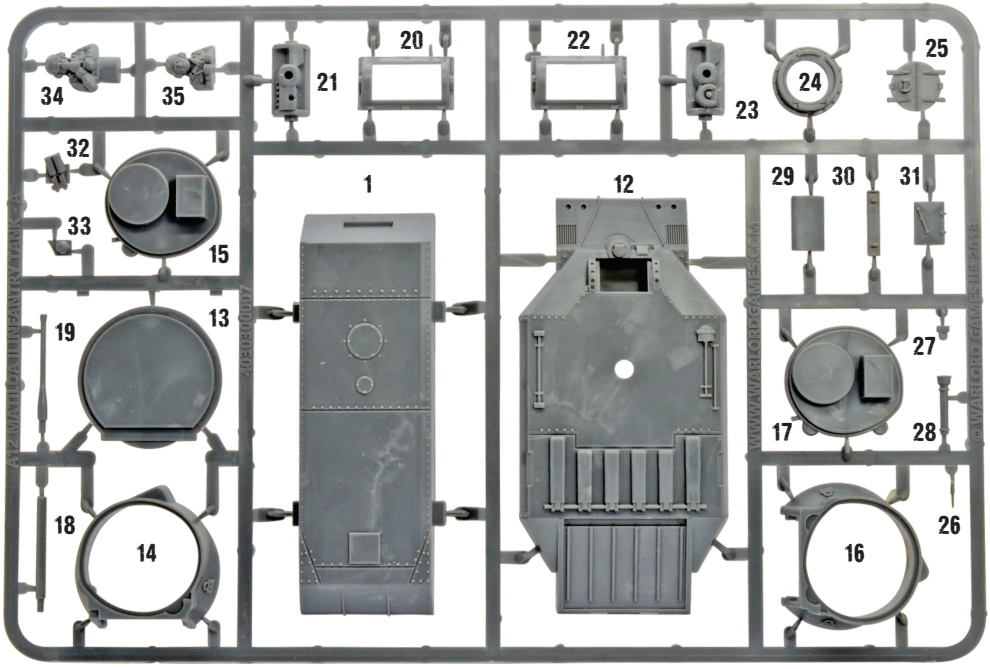
We recommend using polystyrene cement to assemble the kit, and to use this in a well-ventilated area.

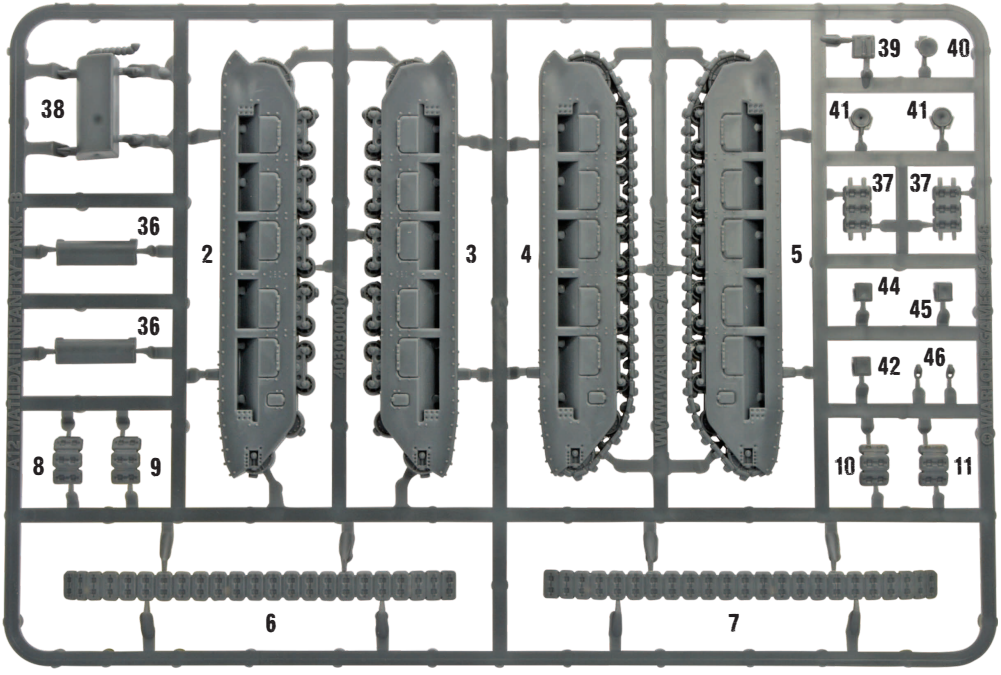
Keep tools, glues, paints and small components away from children. Warlord Games recommend this kit for ages 14 and over.

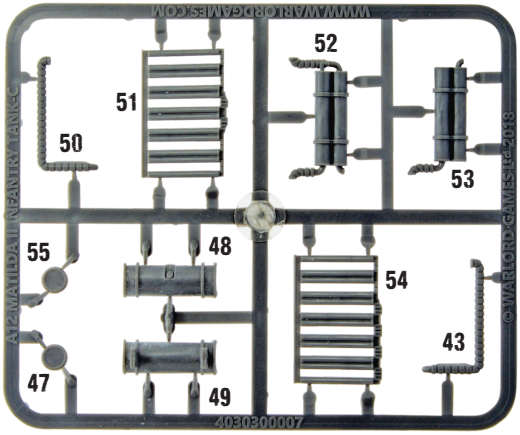
DECAL APPLICATION GUIDE

- See the painting guides at the end of this booklet for placement of decals.
- Apply a coat of gloss varnish to the areas that will receive the decal and allow this to dry fully.
- Cut out a decal from the sheet and soak it in luke warm water for 2-3 minutes.
- Once the design has started to separate from the backing paper, use tweezers or a wet paintbrush to slide the design into place on the model.
- Use a tissue to dab away any excess water from the model, and allow to dry.
- Apply a coat of matt varnish to seal the decal in place.




34
35
21
20
22
23
24
25
32
33
15
1
12
29
30
31
19
13
27
17
28
18
14
16
26

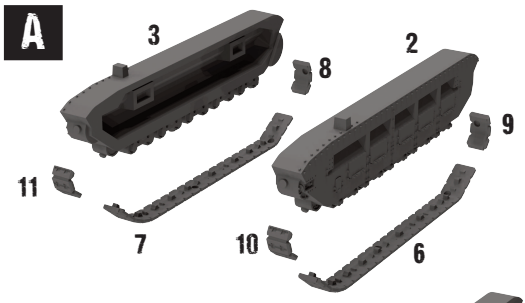

38
36
36
2
3
4
5
39
40
41
41
37
37
44
45
42
46
8
9
10
11
6
7



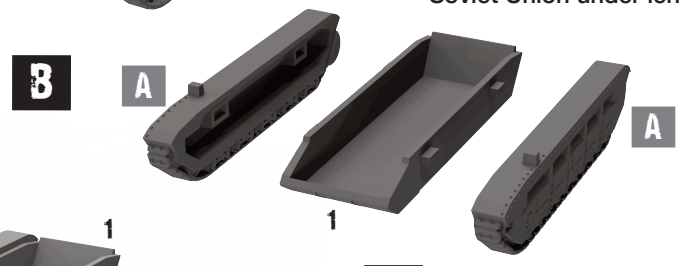
This A12 Matilda II Infantry Tank kit is supplied with the parts and decals to be built as a number of versions:

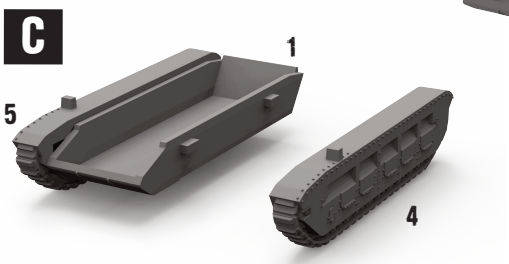
- A12 in the Western Desert
- A12 with the BEF in France 1940
- Lend lease A12 in Soviet service

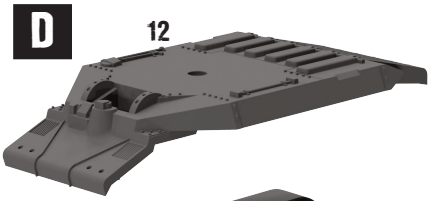
In addition to the above versions each can be armed with either the 2-pdr anti-tank gun or a 3" howitzer as the main gun.

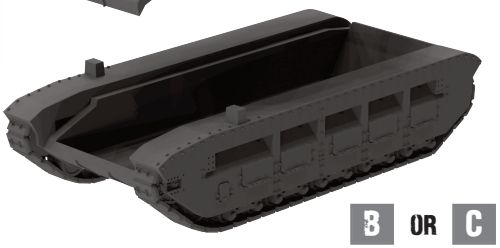


There are two options for the Matilda's running gear - raised or lowered. Use the lowered option (steps A & B) for tanks serving with the BEF in 1940 whilst the raised suspension (step C) is best suited to vehicles fighting in the Western Desert, Far East and with the Soviet Union under lend lease.







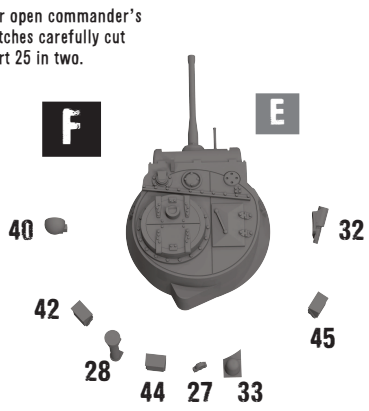


You will now need to decide on the version of the A12 you are trying to build. We have included waterslide decals for A12s serving in France 1940, the Western Desert campaign and in Soviet service on the Eastern Front. Matildas also served well with the British 14th Army in Burma and with the Australian Army in the Far East.

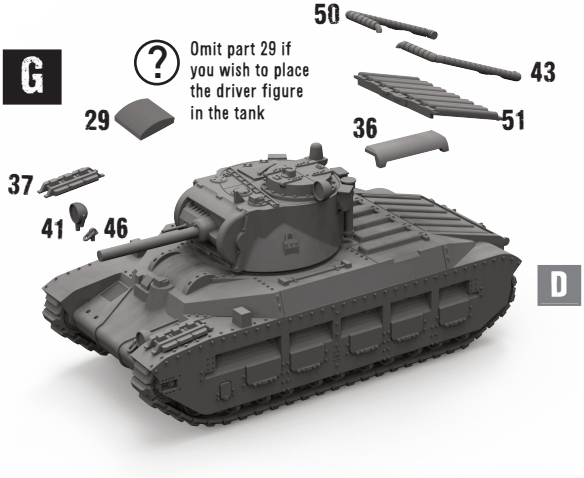
4070300007 A12 Matilda II booklet.qxp 03/09/2021 12:22 Page 5

A12 MATILDA II WESTERN DESERT



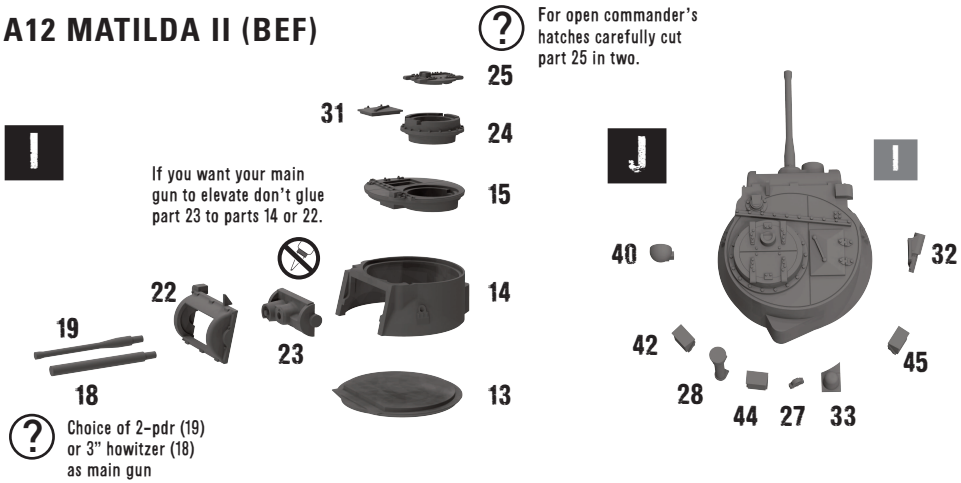




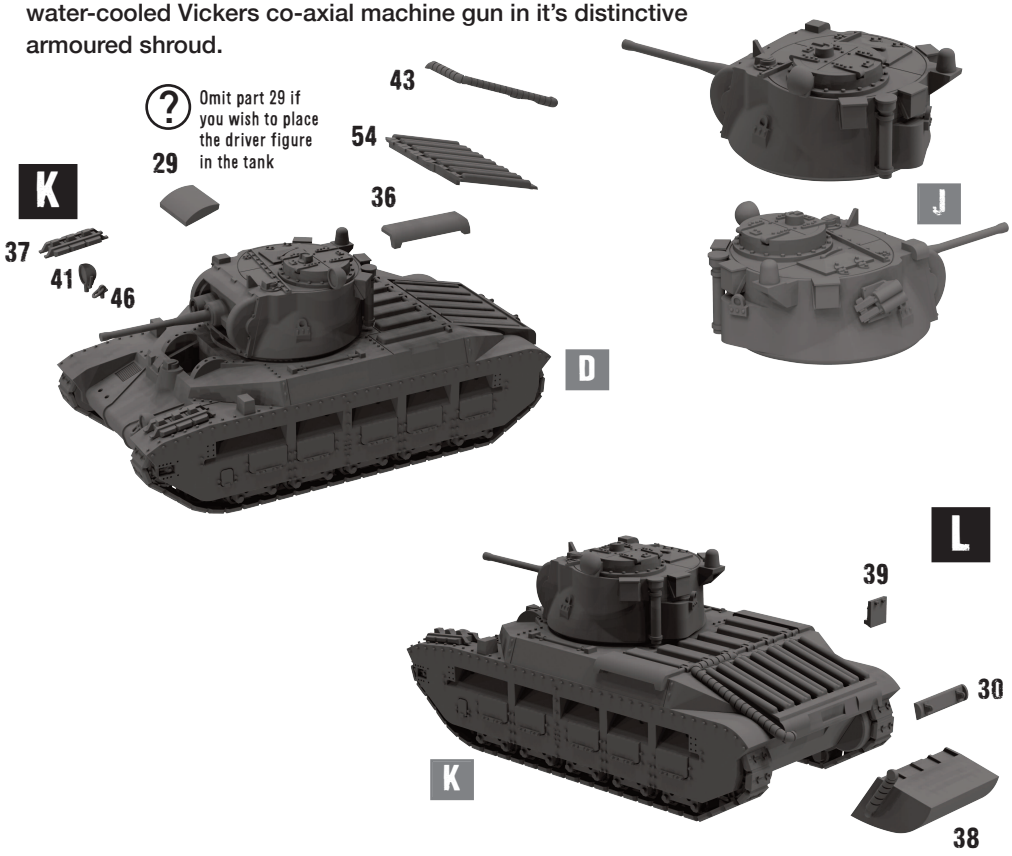




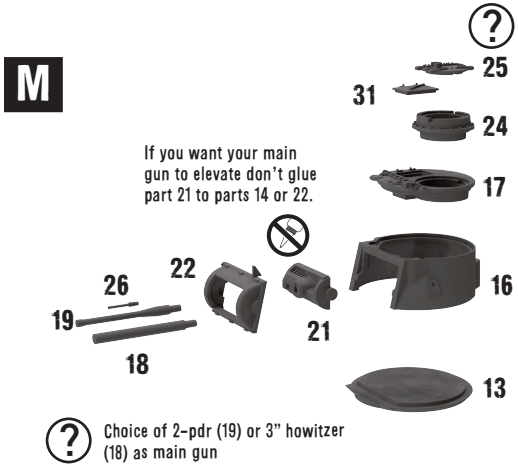
A12 MATILDA II (BEF)

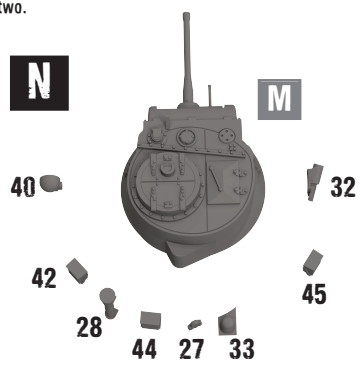


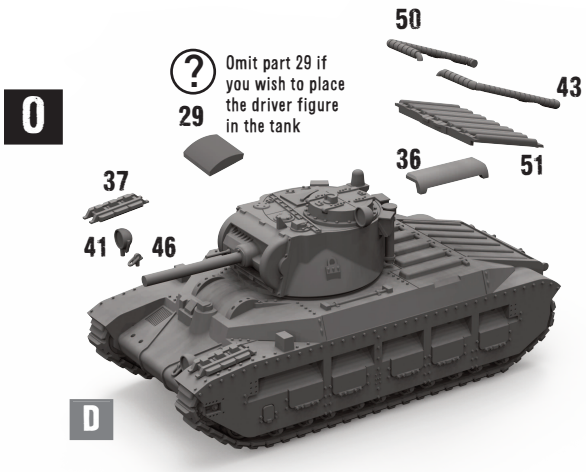
A12 Matildas fighting in France during 1940 as part of the British Expeditionary Force were easily identified by the unditching skid attached the rear hull (designed to help cross trenches) and the water-cooled Vickers co-axial machine gun in it's distinctive armoured shroud.



A12 MATILDA II (SOVIET UNION)



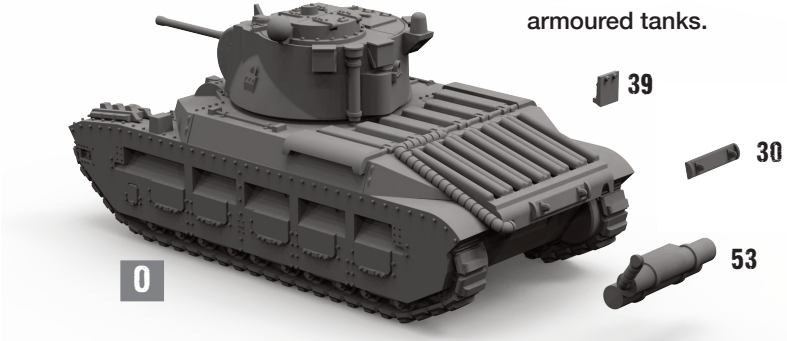






The example we have painted of the lend lease A12 in Soviet service could just as easily be painted for action with the BEF, in the Western Desert, Burma or in Australian service in the Far East.

The assembly instructions on this page will allow you to field one of these slow but heavily-armoured tanks.



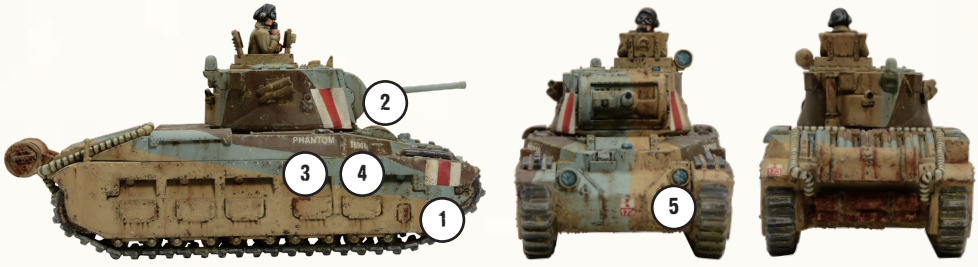
7th Royal Tank Regiment, France 1940



975 Military Green

850 Medium Olive

42nd Royal Tank Regiment, North Africa 1941

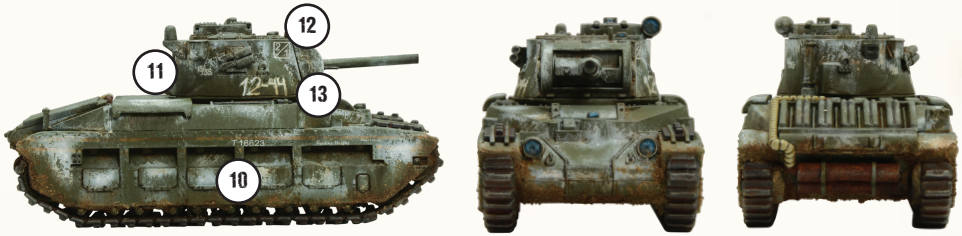


977 Desert Yellow

808 Blue Green

872 Chocolate Brown

38th Tank Brigade, Eastern Front 1942



894 Russian Green

Component code: **4070300007**