

GECKO HEAVY INDUSTRIES

STRIDSVAGN 74



GE72020
SCALE: 1/72

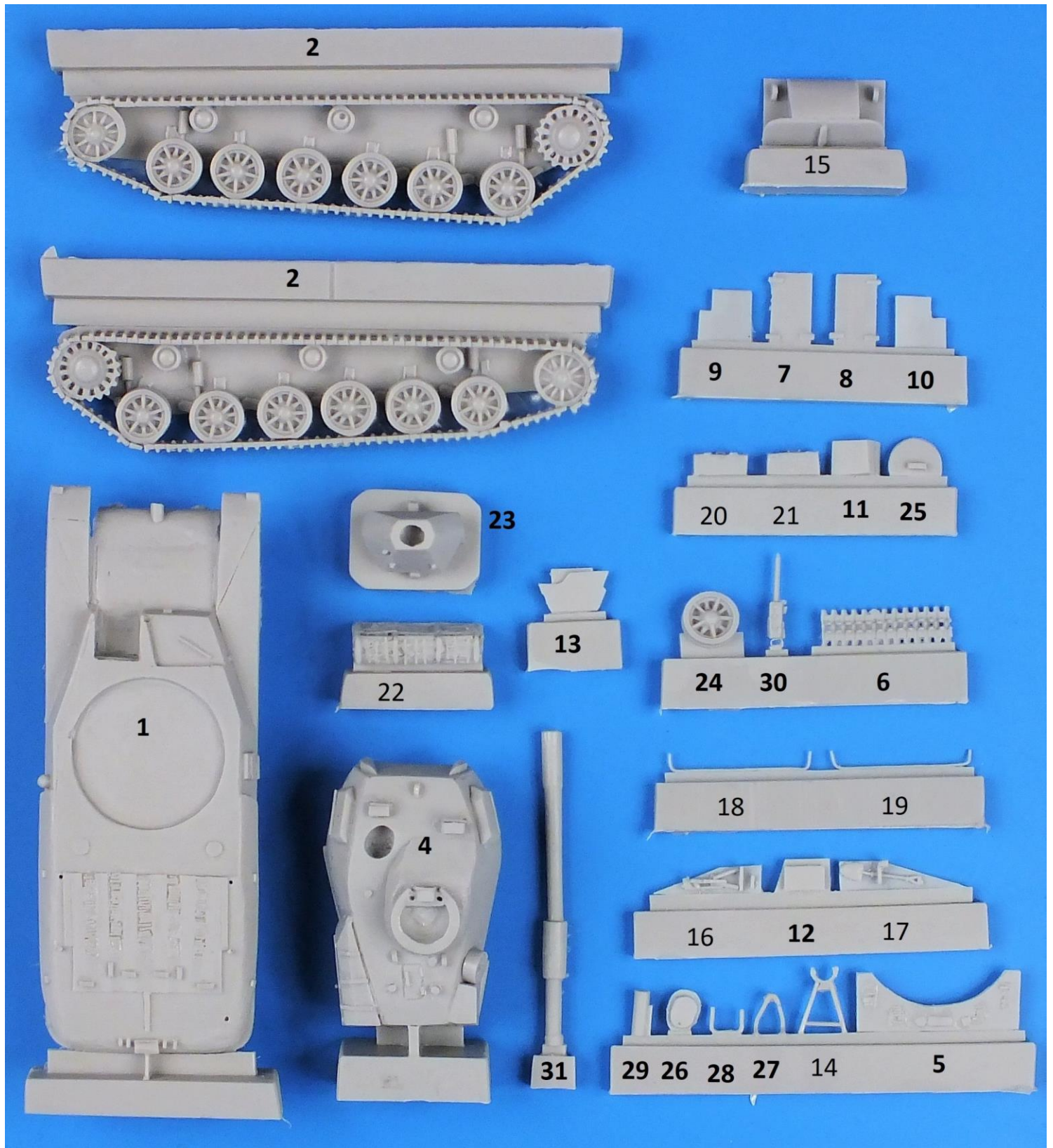


History

The 22,500 kg Stridsvagn 74 with a crew of 4 was a modification of the older Strv m/42 TH or TV chassis and was in use with the Swedish Army armoured brigades from 1958 to 1984 as a light complement to the Centurion Stridsvagn 81 and later MBTs. The turret of the Strv 74 was completely new with a 75 mm high-velocity gun based on a previous anti-aircraft gun and a separate electrical engine for the turret rotation was introduced while retaining the manual control as a backup. It was later further modified with a more sophisticated fire-control type system and an upgrade of the main armament to increase its velocity. It also had 3 x 8 mm Ksp m/39 machine-guns. The Strv 74 was powered by 2 Scania-Vabis 607 (170 hp each) gasoline engines, had a top speed of 45 kilometers per hour and a range of 200 Km. It was later used in independent corps tank companies and even later degraded to the infantry support role in assault gun companies before being phased out of service between 1981 and 1984. Some turrets were retained as static gun pillboxes, which were phased out and demolished in the early 2000s. A good number remain in museums.

Instructions Strv 74

Carefully remove parts from the casting blocks. Clean all components and sand off any remaining injection gates or flash. Sand off round protrusion on left side of hull (1), and two round plates between turret ring and engine deck. Cement auxiliary engine deck (5) at this location and the engine covers (7-8) at the top rear of engine deck. Use own braided copper electrical wire to represent towing cable and to secure extra track links (6) at rear of hull. Cement exhaust unit (15) to the rear of the lower hull. Cement gun rest (14) in between protrusions at the rear of hull. Cement transmission hatches (9-10) on top front hull and tooling (16-17) on either side of the fenders. Cement sloped plate (11) on right side of the front hull ahead of the vertical plate. Cement home-made single light in middle of front hull. The driver hatches (12-13) can be displayed open. Small holes have been left on both sides of the hull for handle bars made from bent wire by the modeler. Cement long thin stowage racks (18-19) into these holes on right side of the rear top hull. They are very delicate but can easily be replace with copper wire or paper clip bent to the correct shape. Cement rectangular stowage boxes (20-21) between 1st and second return roller in the running gear (2-3), then attach running gear to respective sides of the hull (1). Attach the large stowage rack (22) at rear of turret and the mantle (23) at the front. The spare wheel (24) goes on left side of the turret. The commander's (25) and loader's hatch (26) can be displayed open. Insert machine gun mount (27) in commander's cupola and small handle (28) ahead of periscope. Stowage cylinder (29) goes on right of turret ahead of cable roller and gun (31) at front of mantle. Prime all components with Gunze Sangyo Mr. Surfacer, Hallfords Grey or similar automobile primer spray paint in a well-ventilated room. Paint vehicle in Swedish Olive drab with tracks in gun metal with accents of rust. Attach pre painted Machine Gun (30) to mount upon completion. Attach antenna from own dust broom fibers at relevant positions.



Useful Web Sites:

Please refer to the internet using a search engine for help with part position paint schemes as well as:

http://www.ointres.se/strv_74.htm There is no guaranty this web site are still up and running by the time you read this.

General instructions

We try to make our parts as easy to fit as possible but these are kits for relatively experienced modelers. First, we urge you to clean up the parts with soap and water, to remove possible remains of release agents. If parts are warped, dip in very hot water and gently bend back to rights shape. The usual plastic cement does not work on resins and metals. Cyano acrylate glue or epoxy does the job. Resin Parts are preferably sanded wet, to avoid inhaling the dust. The use of Cyano acrylate and epoxies is also to be done under well ventilated conditions. Read the instructions of your adhesive products.

NOT RECOMMENDED TO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14.