



History

The Swedish army became interested in the Czechoslovakian TNH tank, also known as the Panzerkampfwagen 38(t) from 1937 onward. In March 1940, some 90 tanks were ordered from the ČKD company. They were never delivered as Germany, which had occupied Czechoslovakia in 1938, commandeered them for its own use. After negotiations with the German authorities, Scania-Vabis received a license to build their own tanks, as compensation for the seized TNH tanks.

In June 1941, 116 Stridsvagn m/41 SI were ordered. These were delivered from December 1942 to August 1943. The Stridsvagn m/41 was of riveted construction which made for easy manufacture. As with the preceding Strv m/38-Strv m/40, it was armed with a 37 mm Bofors m/38 gun, and the first batch had the same engine as the Strv m/40L, the Scania-Vabis type 1664. Compared to the 38(t), the m/41 had a flat glacis and other modifications. The tanks also carried spare wheels on brackets located on either side of the engine deck. The exhaust system was also modified.

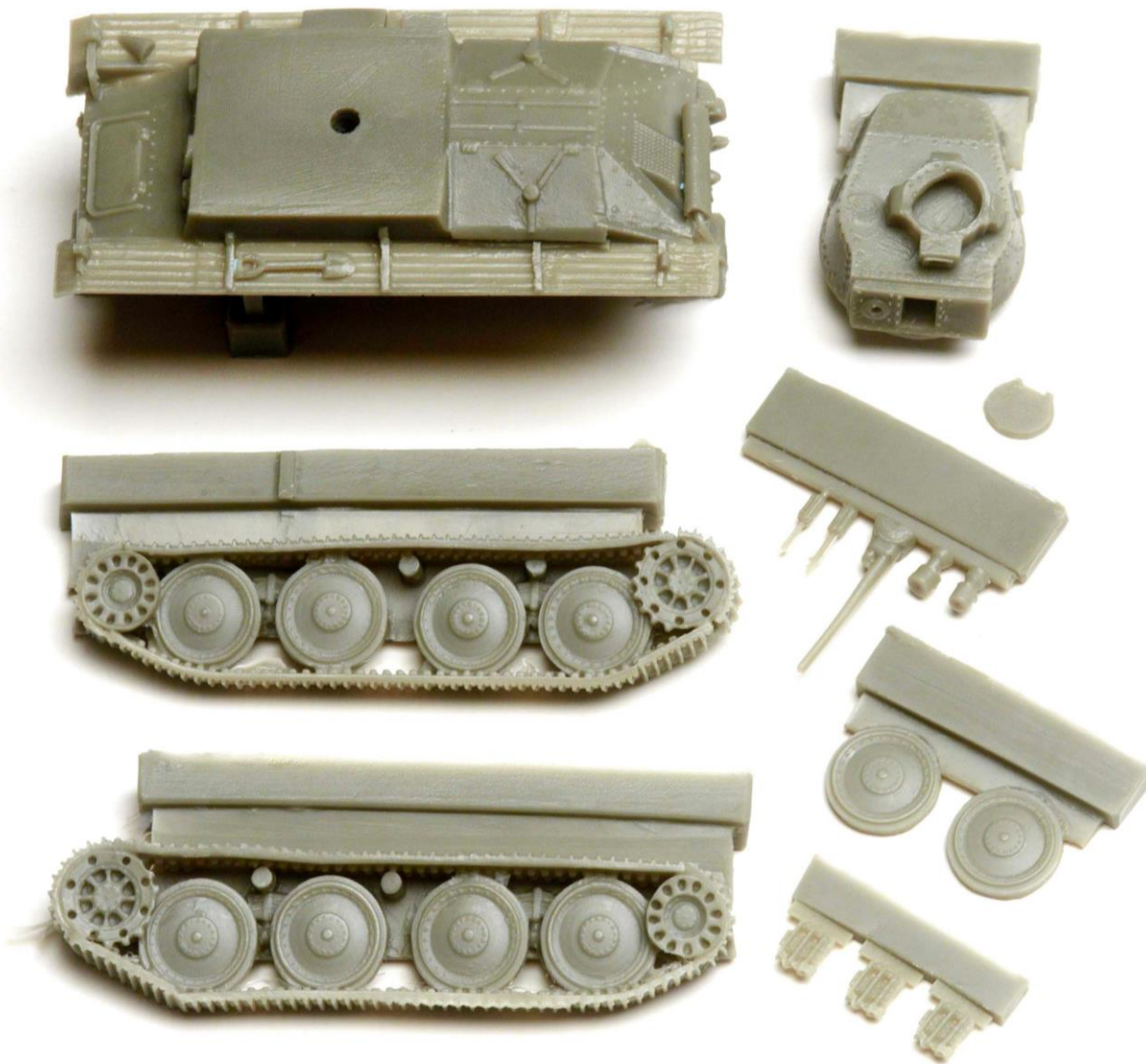
In June 1942, a further 122 Stridsvagn m/41 were ordered under the designation Strv m/41 SII. These had thicker frontal armor and Scania's new type L 603 engine which required the hull to be stretched in the middle. The exhaust system was also modified compared to the SI on account of the different engine. The first SII vehicles were delivered in October 1943. The last 18 of the 122 ordered were rebuilt as Stormartillerivagn or assault guns (Sav m/43) [GEC72002] and production of SII ceased in March 1944 after 104 vehicles had been delivered.

The SI tanks were located to P3 regiment in Strängnäs, where they equipped the 10th Armored Brigade's light tank companies. The SII tanks were mainly located to the 9th Armored Brigade at P4 regiment in Skövde, while others belonged to the reserve of the P2 and P3 regiments. They were painted in a three-color camouflage.

The Stridsvagn m/41 was used until late 1950s, when they were rebuilt as APCs under the designation Pbv 301, which itself remained in service until the early 1970s. The turrets of these tanks were used on fixed land fortifications. All of the original m/41s were converted to armoured personnel carriers. A Sav m/43, rebuilt as an Strv m/41, is displayed by the "Sveriges Försvarsmuseum Arsenalen" in Strängnäs. It received one of the saved fortification turrets.

Instructions Stridsvagn m/41

Carefully remove parts from casting blocks. Clean all components and sand off any remaining injection gates. Prime all components with Gunze Sangyo Mr. Surfacer, Hallfords Grey or similar automobile primer spray paint in a well-ventilated room. Cement gun to turret using Cyano Acrylate (superglue) or epoxy glue. The turret hatch can be cemented open or closed depending on modeler preference. Cement mushroom shaped ventilation units on front top left and right corner of the turret using internet photos as reference.



Paint or airbrush all remaining components before further assembly. Please refer to paint schemes on internet. When paint is dry, coat hull and turret with gloss varnish. Make own decals of serial number consisting of yellow numbers on black background on the lower front hull, large white numbers at the side of the turret and small Swedish flag and apply in correct locations. When dry, cement tracks to hull. Insert painted machine gun barrels to orifices in turret and glacis front to simulate machine guns. Cement 2 spare track links at the left front of the glacis according to internet photos. Attach spare wheels at attachment points on engine deck. Coat entire tank in mat varnish. Weather to taste. If modeling the Strv m/41 with open hatch, Swedish tank crews wore black leather helmets similar to Soviet tank crews which are available in white metal from wargaming model companies or other kits.

General instructions

Most of the original period photos of the tanks are copyrighted and therefore cannot be included with these instructions. Please refer to the internet using a search engine for help with paint schemes and hatch positions.

Useful Web Sites:

<http://www.achtungpanzer.com/swedish-tnh-variants.htm>

<http://www.sphf.se/Axvall/41.htm>

http://www.ointres.se/strv_m_41.htm

We try to make our details and conversions as easy to fit as possible. However, we expect our customers to have some experience in modelling. We urge you to clean up the parts with soap and water, to remove possible remains of release agents. 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.

NOT RECOMMENDED TO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14.