

GECKO HEAVY INDUSTRIES DODGE RADDNINGSBIL RTGB 922



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SCALE: 1/72

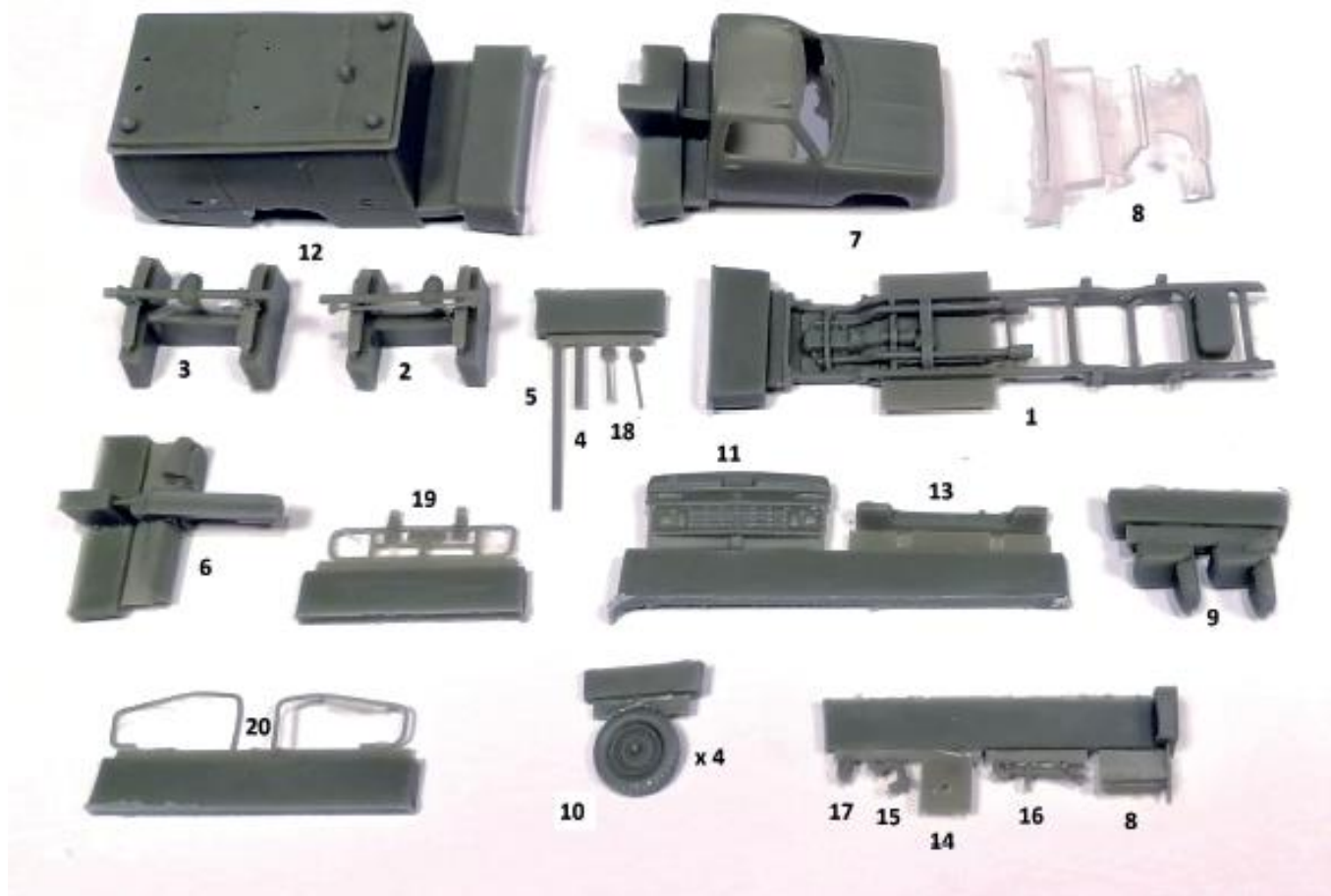


History

The Dodge RtgB 922 served at the fire stations of Swedish airfields during the 1980s and 1990s at the height of the AJ37 Viggen era. The Dodge Power Wagon, in its various incarnations, had a long military and civilian history in the US. Flygvapnet, the Swedish Air Force, needed a replacement for various older model small airfield fire engines like the Dodge WC51 accumulated since the mid-1940s. About two dozen 1980 model year long wheel base chassis with a competition tuned V8 gasoline engine were purchased from Dodge in the US. In Sweden, the vehicles received a locally made rear utility compartment, "skåp" in Swedish, that contained a 500 liter water tank and a pump, as well as a water cannon above the crew cabin and new bull bars. The prototype with pennant number 300 (license plate 34739) had a utility compartment with rounded top edges and unfortunately cannot be made from this kit. The Dodges remained in service with Flygvapnet and to a smaller extent Armen (army Aviation) until 1999, with some surviving in museums and with private collectors.

Model Instructions

See parts layout overleaf. Sand off any remaining casting blocks. Attach front (2) and rear (3) axles to the bottom of the chassis (1). Fit the front drive shaft (4) between rear of differential and the front of the transmission on the chassis and the rear drive shaft (5) between the rear of the transmission and the front of the rear differential. Paint inside of cabin (7) olive drab. Instrument panel (6), seats (9) and door panels were black. Carefully glue windshield (8) to top of cabin with white glue to prevent misting. Cement seats (9) to chassis platform. There was a black handle bar below the roof to control the water cannon which is not in the kit parts. When all details are properly painted, accented and dry, place instrument panel (6) between top of cabin (7) and chassis (1) and cement in place. Cement utility compartment (12) and rear bumper (13) on rear chassis. Then glue the water cannon mounting plate (14) on the roof of the cab and loudspeaker (17) at the front of the protrusion in the middle of the utility compartment. Now mask the windshield and side of cab and airbrush entire vehicle olive drab while accenting engine, transmission, suspension and drive shafts in gun metal and rust. Use gloss coat on top surfaces. Also accent grill gaps with gun metal and headlights in silver. Taillights were dark red, red and white. With that done, you can mount pre-painted bull bars (19) to front bumper and water cannon (15-16) to cab roof mounting plate. If making a splinter camouflage vehicle, adjust accordingly. The rear ladder frames (20) are very fragile. Make steps from stretched sprue. If you have problems with the ladder frames, use a paper clip bent and cut to same shape. There are 2 holes in the utility compartment roof for antennae. Use strands cut off from a duster to make the antennae. There were small extensions to the mufflers bent slightly outwards. Use stretched sprue or cut off paper clip bits for this.



Decaling

The Dodge license plates were 5 digits long starting with 359xx consisting of yellow letters on a black back-ground. These went on the front bumper and the top left rear of the utility compartment. The known olive green Flygvapnet vehicles largely had pennant numbers 301 to 320, the last 2 license plate digits usually being 3 ahead of the pennant number. There were 2 styles of pennant numbers with large or small last 2 numbers. The 4 splinter camo vehicles were 304 (35906), 311 (35914), 321 (35924) and 322 (35925). The Flygvapnet lettering goes on the side of the utility compartment and the pennant numbers, in 2 styles on the doors, the top of the utility compartment in the middle of the service hatch facing forward and on the rear bulkhead. The known Armen vehicle had number 308 (35911). There were numerous yellow stencils all over the truck.

References & Credits

There is a selection of photos of both vehicles under:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1599052557035228/>

This is the IPMS Swedish and Finnish SIG Facebook Group.

There is no guarantee that this website or Facebook group will be available in the long term.

Special thanks to Andreas Samuelsson of the Flygvapnets Fordon Facebook Group for providing much information, photos and advice without which these models would not have been possible.

Diagrams courtesy of Försvarets Materielverk instruction Manuals.

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. This goes for common plastic injected parts as well. 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.

