

HOW TO PAINT IDF TANK Weathering Guide

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AMMO BY Mig Jimenez Publisher, Spain.

**116 pages, 93 color and w/b pics of real tanks and 263 color pics of scale models.
English language. Euro 19,50.**

The **AMMO** published another indispensable guide to the color and weathering of military vehicles, this time dedicated – long last, let us say – to the Israeli defence Force tracked vehicles.

“Long last” because until now, although it is quite clear to all the modellers fan of the IDF the Israeli camouflage has evolved over time, passing between different shades of yellow sand and gray, the camouflage evolution itself was in the past the subject of several articles in modeling magazines, but until now we really felt the lack of an agile, clear and understandable guide that summarized this evolution, placing it in the right phases and giving to the modeler a useful reference for to paint a realistic reproduction of the Israeli vehicles.

The book opens with a synthetic but impeccable historical overview of the evolution of the armored Israeli corp by two guys who certainly do not need any introduction: Mario Pieri and Daniele Guglielmi, who thanks to an excellent photographic equipment illustrate the various tracked vehicles of the IDF, with particular reference to those currently in service both in the frontline armored units and the reserve of the IDF. The rest of the book is dedicated to the painting of six different models: it starts with the Takom AMX 13/75 in 1/35 built by Mig Jimenez, set in the Six Day War. Large photos of the finished model open and close the chapter, inside it we can find a large series of images illustrating the complete process of color and weathering, with clear and bright photos and very explanatory captions.

The graphic solution chosen by AMMO is undoubtedly dynamic and modern, with the text of the captions that shows in italics the various colors and pigments used from time to time, in order to provide a very clear and comprehensive guide to the modeller, a solution light years away from what we are unfortunately used to seeing in Italian magazines, with a stamp-formed photo and cryptic texts, to the point of suspecting that someone don't not want to reveal some kind of modeling secrets to the unfortunate readers.

Anyway, in this book we find the following chapter about the Centurion Sho't Kal in 1/35 of the AFV of the 1973 war, finished with an excellent degree of wear by Lucas Zaromitidis, another well-known modeller and collaborator of AMMO.

Also in this case we find a complete work in progress pics, and the list of colors and pigments used here also gives every indication necessary to the reader. The Yom Kippur was followed by the 1982 Lebanon War, so Rick Lawler give us in the next chapter an excellent Merkava Mk. Hybrid (the Mk.I version with the chained steel balls on the turret rear, smoke launchers and different side skirts). A magnificent model, this time weathered with a clever use of filters and pigments. It's followed by a Magach 6B, the Israeli version of the Patton M60, in the AFV kit in 1/35. Another excellent build by Zaromitidis, that has not skimped in the use of debris and wehathering to make a tank operating in an urban context.

To the next generation of the APC belongs instead the Nagmachon, the heavilt armoured transport troop derived from the Centurion and built by Michal Dostal, also a well-know known modeller. The kit is from Tiger Models, bristling with antennas and anti-RPG protections and with a high turret that have earned the tank the nickname "Dog House". Now we find an interesting WIP about the treatment of metal tracks with the special product by MIG for a rusting and used appearance, along which the usual detailed WIP about the various coloring steps. The book is closed by two pages of IDF historical photos by Allon Kira, and a parade of other models, including AMX 13/75 (another one,

different from the first), M-51 Super Sherman, M113 Zelda, Magach 6B Gal Batash (the version with increased turret), M109, M-107, M113 in recovery version and a beautiful Tiran 4 Sh. The very interesting thing is that for each model treated there we can find a list of colors, pigments, oils, etc. used for building it, so using the techniques described in the book the modeller can easily adapt them to his favorite model, even if with a different tonality.

So now we have an excellent book at a very low price, a valuable guide for all IDF enthusiasts and a compendium of modeling techniques however very useful to all those who want to devote themselves to reproducing a "desert tank". Absolutely recommended!

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