

AMPS Central Virginia 2011-2012 Club Project

Tamiya M-8 Armored Car



Introduction:

This is the first AMPS Central Virginia club build project. After much deliberation, and a very close vote our members decided on the Tamiya M8 Armored Car as our project. This build project will be conducted over a period of five months. We'll take time after each of our meetings to go through the build steps for the month. We'll cover the basic build in each step with some added detail to enhance the model. Club members can follow the basic build or enhance their project by adding aftermarket accessories. Along with improving our research and build skills the goal for this project is to have as many participants finish their build in the allotted time.

The Schedule:

- 25 August – Introduction, schedule, vehicle history, the kit, aftermarket accessories, references.
- 27 October – Steps 1-4, Lower hull and suspension
- TBD November – Steps 5-8, Lower hull detailing, basic upper hull construction and wheels
- 26 January – Steps 9-11, Upper hull detailing
- 23 February – Steps 12-15, Turret construction and detailing
- 22 March – Project wrap-up

M8 History:

When World War II erupted in Europe in 1939, the US Army had an almost non-existent Armored Car Program. The closest thing the US Army had was the White M-3 Scout Car.

In July 1941, the Ordnance Department requested a new design for a wheeled Gun Motor Carriage to support the Tank Destroyer Command. The vehicle design was to feature high speed and cross-country mobility, six-wheeled drive, low silhouette, low weight, and armed with a 37mm gun. Both Ford Motor Company and the Fargo Division of Chrysler were given initial design contracts under the designations T22 and T23 respectively. Operational testing indicated the Ford entry provided the best overall design and performance. As a result, the Ford design was selected and became the M8 Armored Car. The new M8 entered US Army service in late 1943 and was extensively used by reconnaissance units in Tank Destroyer Battalions and Cavalry Squadrons.

The Ford built over 8,500 M8s between 1943 and 1945. A number of these vehicles were sent to the British under Lend Lease. The British named the M-8 the "Greyhound", but this name never became popular with the US Army.

The M8 had a welded hull construction with an average frontal and turret armor thickness of 0.75in. A 37mm M6 gun (similar to the one used in the Stuart) was mounted in a central, rotating, two-man turret. It had a crew of four consisting of the driver sitting in the left front with the co-driver/radio operator on the right. The turret had the commander/loader on the right side, while the gunner sat on the left. The M-8 was powered by a six cylinder in-line, JXD Hercules 320 cubic inch, 110hp gasoline engine. This engine had a low 6.5 to 1 compression ratio, which enabled the M8 to run on 70 octane fuels. A 54 gallon fuel tank made for an on road range of approximately 350 miles. The M8 was capable of 55-60 mph on good roads. All three axles were powered through separate drive shafts from the transfer case; the front drive could be disconnected for extended road travel.

In addition to the 37mm main gun, there was one coaxial.30Cal MG and one 50Cal MG for anti-aircraft defense mounted on a pintle mount at the back of the turret. Later vehicles had an improved ring mount for the 50Cal MG. The 37mm main gun could fire HE, AP and canister rounds. M8s tended to carry more HE and canister rounds as the 37mm AP rounds were generally ineffective against most German armor.

Many M-8s survived World War II, to serve during the post war years in a number of countries as well as with the allied forces in Korea. The following is a list of past and present operators of the M8:

-  [Algeria](#)
-  [Austria](#)
-  [Belgium](#)
-  [Benin](#)
-  [Brazil](#)
-  [Burkina Faso](#)
-  [Cambodia](#)
-  [Cameroon](#)
-  [Colombia](#)
-  [Haiti](#)
-  [Iran](#)
-  [Italy](#)
-  [Jamaica](#)
-  [Japan](#)
-  [Laos](#)
-  [Madagascar](#)
-  [Mexico](#)
-  [Morocco](#)
-  [Saudi Arabia](#)
-  [Senegal](#)
-  [South Korea](#)
-  [South Vietnam](#)
-  [Taiwan](#)
-  [Thailand](#)
-  [Togo](#)
-  [Tunisia](#)
-  [Turkey](#)

-  [Cyprus](#)
-  [El Salvador](#)
-  [Ethiopia](#)
-  [France](#)
-  [Germany^{\[nb 1\]}](#)
-  [Greece](#)
-  [Guatemala](#)
-  [North Vietnam](#)
-  [Niger](#)
-  [Norway](#)
-  [Paraguay](#)
-  [Peru](#)
-  [Philippines](#)
-  [Poland](#)
-  [Portugal](#)
-  [United Kingdom](#)
-  [USA](#)
-  [Venezuela](#)
-  [Yugoslavia](#)
-  [Zaire](#)

The Kit:

Tamiya's first M8 Armored Car (Identical Scale Series No. 16) hit the market in the late 60's. This was a motorized kit with real rubber tires. It was cutting edge for its time, but very crude by today's standards.

The kit we are using for this project is the Tamiya 1/35 scale M8 Light Armored Car Greyhound (35228). This kit was introduced in 1998 and even though it's 13 years old this kit is up to Tamiya's standard of detail and engineering. This kit consists of 6 olive drab plastic spures, 4 poly-caps, string, decal sheet and instructions. From the box, this kit can be assembled with an early 50Cal MG pintle mount at the back of the turret or the M49C ring mount. The kit decals provide markings for 2 US Army and 1 French Army M8.

Aftermarket Accessories:

The following is a list known aftermarket accessories for the Tamiya M8. Each project participant will need to determine if they will use aftermarket accessories and if so which ones.

Photo-etch sets:

Aber (35072) M8 Greyhound Detail Set
 Aber (35A72) M8/M20 Fenders
 Aber (35A83) M8/M20 Stowage Boxes
 Eduard (35200) M8 Greyhound
 Royal Models (330) M8 Fenders Part 2

Gun barrels:

Jordi Rubio (TG-48) 37mm M6 gun barrel
 Orange Hobby (G35-040) M6 37mm gun barrel
 Armor Scale (B35-023) 37mm M6 USAC M8 Greyhound
 RB Barrel (35B98) 37mm M6/56.6 for M8 Greyhound

Detail sets:

Jaguar (JA63839) M8/M20 Engine Compartment (out of production)
 Masters Productions (35018) M8/M20 Glacis Plate with Winter Wheel Chains

Royal Model (197) US M8 Greyhound Update Set
Resicast (352239) M8/M20 Workable Front Steering Set
MR Model (MR-35264) M8 Greyhound diesel engine Guatemala Army 1995
Verlinden Productions (VP1442) M8/M20 Engine & Compartment
Verlinden Productions VP1453) M8 Interior & Exterior Detail Set
Verlinden Productions (VP1455) M8/M20 Stowage Compartments
Blast Models (BL35062K) M8 Greyhound Stowage
Black Dog (T35047) US M20 Accessory Set

Wheel sets:

Armorscale (R35-080) M8 Greyhound Road Wheels with Chains
Jaguar (JA63833) M8 Wheels with Snow Chains
Tank Workshop (TWS0087) M8 Greyhound Tires with Snow Chains
Verlinden Productions (VP1411) M8/M20 Wheels
Masters Productions (35002) M8/M20 Wheel Set

Decals and markings:

Archer Fine Transfers (AR35312) M8 Light Armored Car Instruments and Placard Set
Decalcomaniacs (DM-029) "M8's Around the World" Markings

References:

American Armored Fighting Vehicles - World War Two AFV Plans, George Bradford
A Photo History of Armoured Cars in Two World Wars, George Forty
Armored Car- A History of American Wheeled Combat Vehicles, R.J. Hunnicutt
Captured Armored Cars and Other Vehicles in Wehrmacht Service in World War 2, Werner Regenber
Encyclopedia of Armoured Cars, Duncan Crow and Robert Icks
Light Armoured Car M8 & Armoured Utility Car M20 (#MV-08: Military Vehicle Workshop Series), Allied Command Productions
Mexican and Central American Armor, Darlington Productions, Julio Montes
"M8 Greyhound" (October 2008 Issue of Military Machines International Magazine), John Blackman
M8 Greyhound Armored Car (1941-1991), Osprey Publications, Steven Zaloga
M8 Greyhound /M20 Utility Vehicle Technical Manual (TM 9-743), CD-ROM Easy 1
U.S. Armoured Cars - AFV Weapons Profile #40, Robert J. Icks
U.S. Armored Cars in Action, Squadron Signal Productions, Jim Mesko,
Allied-Axis The photo Journal of the Second World War, Issue 5, Ampersand Publishing, Pat Stansell
War Wheels, <http://www.warwheels.net/m8greyhoundINDEX.html>, Patrick Keenan
Toadman's Tank Pictures, <http://www.toadmanstankpictures.com/m8.htm>, Chris "Toadman" Hughes

M8 Greyhound Photo Gallery

The following photos were taken from various internet sources. They represent various views of M8s Greyhounds. They are meant to provide some example of what the modeler could do with this project.

