AMPS Central Virginia 2011-2012 Club Project

Tamiya M-8 Armored Car

The Schedule:

23 February – Steps 12-15, Turret construction and detailing

22 March – Project wrap-up

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 Regenberg
- 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
- TM U.S. WWII M8 Light Armored Car, M20 Armored Utility Car, Tankograd Technical Manual Series, No 6021, Michael Franz
- War Wheels, http://www.warwheels.net/m8greyhoundINDEX.html, Patrick Keenan
- Toadman's Tank Pictures, http://www.toadmanstankpictures.com/m8.htm, Chris "Toadman" Hughes

23 February 2012

General – In this session, we'll assemble and detail the turret. For the most part this portion of the build will focus on Steps 12-15 in the kit instructions. To complete detailing of the turret I'll be using detail parts from the Verlinden Productions (VP1453) M8 Interior/Exterior Detail Set, Aber (35072) M8 Greyhound PE Detail Set, Eduard (35200) M8 Greyhound PE Set and Archer Fine Transfers casting symbols and foundry marks (AR88007).

Step 12 Turret Assembly: If you are building the turret without replacing the 37mm ammunition storage racks then you should be following the kit instructions in this step. Before I started work on the interior of the turret, I removed the 20 stowage tie downs from the outside of the turret. I plan to replace these with PE stowage tie downs from the Aber PE set (part 2). I elected to replace the kit ammunition storage

racks with those found in the Eduard PE set. There are two channels cut in the right turret side (part D15) which align the kit ammunition storage racks (parts D13 and D20). These channels need to be filled with putty to smooth out the turret wall to accept the PE ammunition storage rack. Each Eduard PE ammunition storage rack consists of a rack assembly (part 45), lower plate (part 44) and eight ammunition clips (part 27). These clips are the spawn of the devil. Using the trusty Fold-n-Hold I bent various parts for the rack assembly. I then soldered the lower plate into this assembly and glued the assembly to the right side of the turret. I bent the legs of the ammunition clip at 90-degree angles and then formed the legs around a kit-provided 37mm round. Using CA glue, I glued each clip in-place. What a pain!!!

I replaced the binocular holder (part D45) with one from the Verlinden M8 Interior/Exterior Detail set (part 38). I also added the cover for the ammunition storage rack from the kit (part D14). After the experience with the first ammunition storage rack, I decided to build the second one including the clips outside the turret. I had a much better experience this time around. I glued the turret halves (parts D15 and D16) together and filled the front and rear seams with Mr. Dissolved Putty. Be careful sanding out these seams as you'll need to preserve the turret ring details. I then added the rear hatch to the turret and filled the seams on the outside and inside of the turret. After everything was dry, I added the rear ammunition storage rack.

Finally, I added 22 PE stowage tie downs to the exterior of the turret along with the stowage mounting rails (part D44). I used Archer Fine Transfers casting letters to replicate the casting and part numbers on the turret and mantlet. Note: I've decided to leave off the front turret roof (part D24) until after the interior is painted (Figures 1-4).

Figure 1, Right turret ammo storage

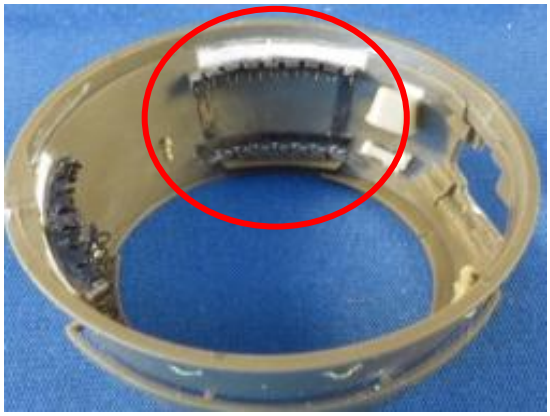

Figure 2, Right turret ammo storage

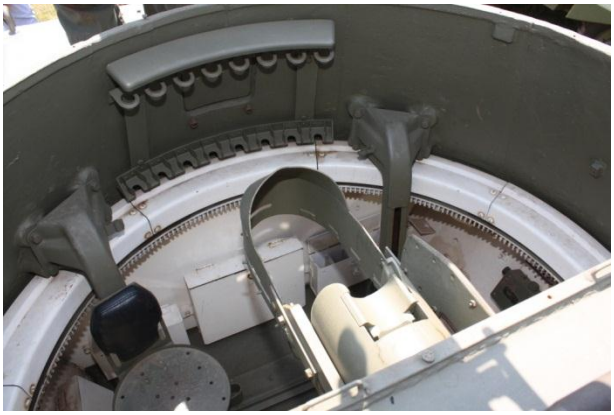

Figure 3, Rear turret ammo storage

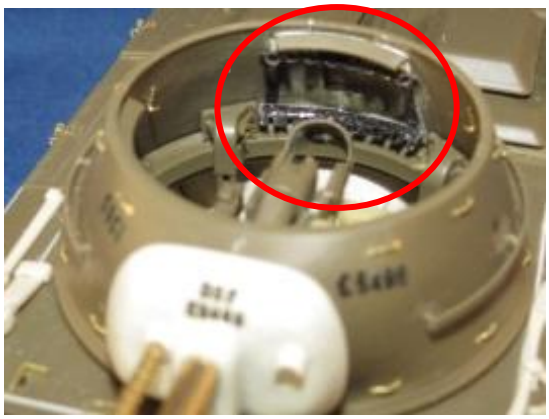

Figure 4, Rear turret ammo storage

Step 13 Main Gun Assembly: The main gun consists of the barrel (part D25), barrel extension and chamber (parts D38-D39), breech (part D8) and breech guard (parts D10-D11).

I'm using the Armorscale 37mm M6 barrel and mantlet to replace the kit parts. I assembled the barrel extension and chamber and cleaned up the seam with Mr. Dissolved Putty. I then cut off the barrel extension and cleaned to joint. The Armorscale barrel fit perfectly into this assembly (Figures 5-6).

Figure 5, Barrel assembly

Figure 6, Barrel assembly

I added the breech and breech guard to the gun assembly. There is a seam on the breech guard that I filled with Mr. Dissolved Putty.

I assembled the gun mount (parts D29-D30) to the main gun taking care to go easy on the glue. I added the elevation wheel (part D27) and an unidentified assembly (part D28) to the gun mount. I replaced the kit gunner's sight (part D1) with one from the Verlinden M8 Interior/Exterior Detail set (part 35). I used the 30 cal. machine gun from the kit, but replaced its barrel with one from RB Models (35B82). I also added a PE strip around the bottom of the breech guard from the Aber PE set (part 81) (Figures 7-8). Note: I'll add the 37mm ammunition (part A18) after painting.

Figure 7, Main gun assembly

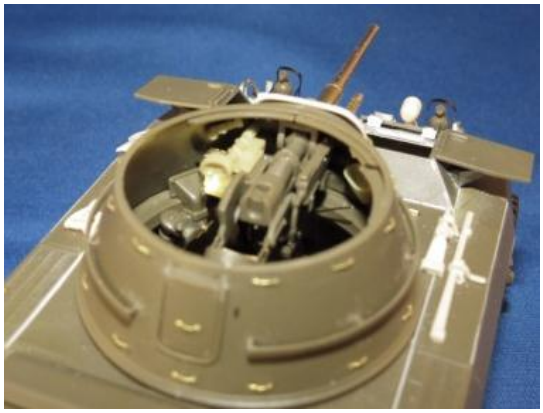

Figure 8, Main gun assembly

Step 14 Turret Basket Assembly: This assembly includes the turret basket (part D7), floor plate (part D2), seats (parts D41 and D42), mounting plates (parts D34 and D35) and traverse mechanism (parts D9 and D12).

I removed two round parts from the front of the floor plate and glued it to the turret basket. Using a #77 drill bit I drilled a hole on each side of the floor plate for the cabling from the main gun and machine gun foot triggers. I added the Aber PE foot triggers (part 70) to the front of the floor plate and the cable clamp (part 22) to the front support post. I then ran a piece of 0.010 solder from each foot trigger through the floor plate and cable clamps and up the support post. I'll hook these cables into the main gun and machine gun at final assembly. I assembled the seats, mounting plates and traverse mechanism per the instructions. I added the traverse locking mechanism (part 72) from the Aber PE set. I glued the Aber PE set .30 cal ammunition box holder (part 36) into the indentation in the turret ring in front of the traverse mechanism (Figures 9-10).

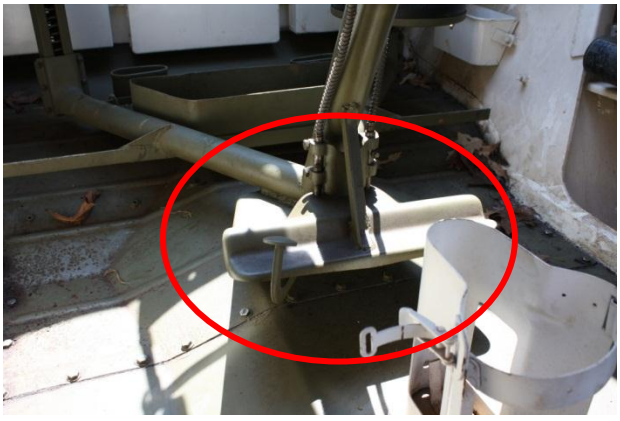

Figure 9, Floor plate trigger assemblies

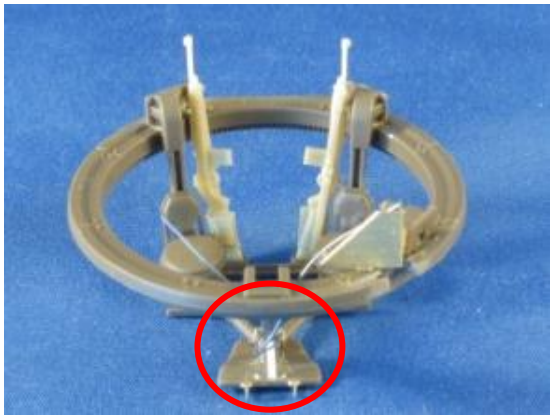

Figure 10, Floor plate trigger assemblies

If you are going to use the ring mount machine gun then you'll need to follow the assembly instructions very closely. There is a diagram in Step 15 that shows how parts D5 and D6 are to be positioned. The ring mount machine gun attachment assembly (parts E1 and E2) has very sparse details. I added the traverse locking

mechanism (parts 57, 58R, 58L and 98) from the Aber PE set. I also added the Aber PE handles (part 88) to this assembly (Figure 11-12). I plan to use a Tasca .50 cal machine gun to cap off the ring mount.

Figure 11, MG traverse mechanism

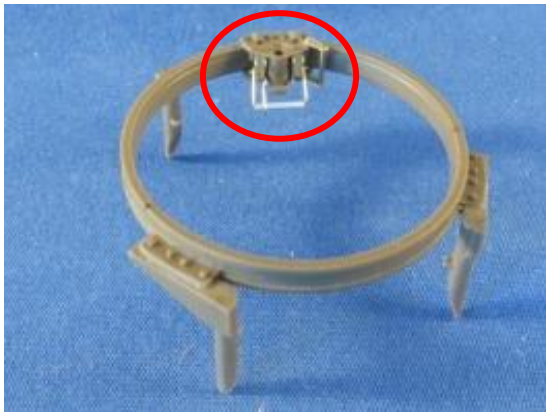

Figure 12, MG traverse mechanism

Final thoughts: At this point, we've covered the basic construction and detailing of the M8. During this next month you should decide your stowage plan (if any) and paint your model so that it is ready for the project wrap-up at our March 2012 meeting.