MAXX-PRO

By Iain Hamilton

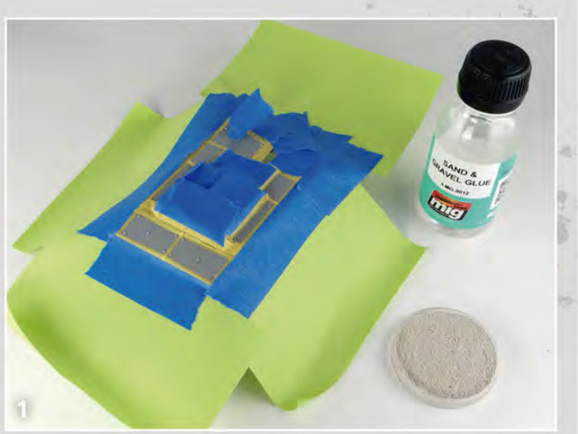
In November of 2011, the armored vehicles of the Czech Army were deployed to Afghanistan. This example is the Navistar MaxxPro MRAP from Kinetic. The Czech Army operated in Eastern Afghanistan's - Logar province, with the Provincial Reconstruction Team. These US made vehicles provided maximum available protection to soldiers and civilians of Czech PRT while implementing 248 projects in Eastern Afghanistan. The Maxx-Pro's tall boxy stance, rugged design, and typically monotone base colors make the Maxx-Pro an ideal subject to employ both the Modulation & Light Techniques along with a good dose of Desert Weathering.

ASSEMBLY

1 Good references are important when taking on any model, and in this case I used photo references to determine which areas of the vehicle that I needed to add anti-skid surfacing. I began by masking off the surrounding areas and then airbrushed a light layer of AMMO Sand and Gravel Glue, followed by a light application of fine grit sand.

2 Adding anti-skid texture to modern vehicles gives us texture to work with when painting and weathering. These textured surfaces will tend to hold the fine dust that AFVs accumulate while on service in the harsh desert environment - and it provides me with a good opportunity to really show-off some desert weathering.

3 Two prominent features of this vehicle are the tires and the glass. Vehicles operating in a desert environment show unique and interesting weathering effects on both of these areas of a vehicle. Careful masking, the addition of resin wheels from Celticwerks, and the addition of small details are added before primer.



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PAINTING

4 Because this vehicle's base color is monotone, using Modulation and Light Techniques with primer enables me to greatly enhance an otherwise boring base color. A Grey Scale range was mixed from A.MIG-2005 Acrylic Black Primer and A.MIG-2004 Acrylic White Primer and used to build light and shadow into the base color, as well as begin to hint at the Grey tones that will be used for weathering this desert vehicle.
As usual, the airbrushing is done in thin transparent layers in order to achieve the soft transitions in tone. Although it may look a bit harsh now, I know that the base color and layers of color to follow will subdue the effect.



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5 I enhanced some of the surface details using acrylic paints and a fine point brush. Because Desert environments create dramatic light and shadow effects, the use of blacks and whites is critical to building this contrast into the base color.



All necessary products to develop this technique are now available in our new set A.MIG-7128 Black&White Technique Set.



6 With my Black and White foundation in place, I now add the base color using A.MIG-029 Desert Sand. The paint is thinned using Ammo Acrylic Thinner and applied in translucent layers, always trying to be conscious on how the B&W technique will affect the base color, highlights and shadows



7 Used simple masking techniques to define and enhance panel lines and create contrast between adjacent panels. When using fast and simple masking techniques like this, be sure to avoid any overspray on neighboring features of the vehicle.
I then mixed variations of the base color (A.MIG-029) to pick out the small details such as bolt heads, raised details, and the edges of panels. The tires were painted a base color using A.MIG-033, and then a few drops of A.MIG-046 Matt Black was added to darken the contact surface of the treads.



8 At this point I added Czech national markings from Decal Maniacs, Kit provided stenciling, and crew related items are added. Simple touches borrowed from reference images such as motor pool markings, barbed wire, and the M2 Browning .50 Caliber Machine Gun from Live Resin help add both realism and visual interest to the Maxx-Pro.

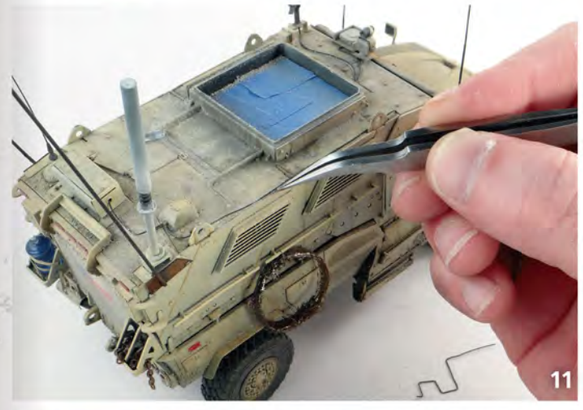
WEATHERING



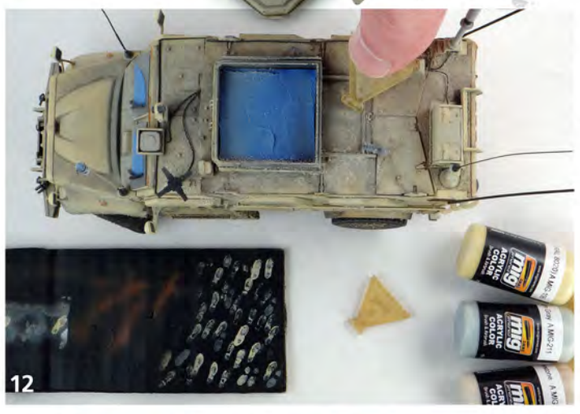
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9 For weathering I use a wide range of AMMO enamel effects, some mixed with different mediums to obtain a nice variety of earth, dirt, and dust effects. I am also not shy about using any variety of cosmetic brushes and paint brushes – just about anything goes in order to achieve the effects that I am looking for.

10 I used A.MIG-1207 Streaking Grime for U.S. Modern Vehicles & A.MIG-1201 Streaking Grime for DAK to accentuate the vehicles surface features and small details. Remember to take your time at this stage, as it's best to build the effects slowly, layer-by-layer – alternating between colors and the types of effects being applied. Adding small touches such as a shop rag, crew water bottles, and crew fingerprints on the stowage bin help to give "lived In" appearance to the model

11 Other added details include using a Dark Annealed .41mm Steel Wire was used to replicate the wiring associated with the electronics package of the Maxx-Pro.

12 Of course a desert vehicle will tend to collect a great deal of dust, and of course the crew would constantly be disturbing the dust as they moved about the vehicle. I used these handy little stamps to print various hand and boot prints about the vehicle – both as positive prints (light dust colors) and negative, or clean prints (darker shades).

13 Small touches can add a great deal of visual interest to our models. Here I use just a small amount of Wet Effects to show the traces of spilled water on the dry desert dust. This, and other effects are layered and adjusted throughout the painting process so as to create these small, but important points of interest around the model

14 I use a mixture of AMMO pigments to create realistic dust deposits. The pigments are placed dry upon the surface and then dissolved with odorless thinner and then spread about as a thick wash. Once dry, I use a variety of brushes to manipulate the pigments for different effects



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15 I used a variety of acrylic colors, as well as NATO Camouflage Wash & Wet Effects to show the effects of dampness on the dusty tires. This is a simple step that adds both realism and visual interest to this prominent feature. A fine point brush is used to show dampness running from the tread pattern into the dusty surface on the sidewall. I used Rubber & Tires & Flat Black to show puddled water carried by gravity and absorbed by the Desert Dust, and Satin Black was used to show areas of greater wetness and heavy water streaking.

16 Once dry, I reinforce the acrylic colors with A.MIG-2015 Wet Effects, NATO Camouflage Wash and Refined Linseed Oil. It is important to concentrate the darkest and wettest areas where water would flow naturally and collect. Be sure to use the same effect on the tread pattern and the visible areas of the backside of each tire for best effect.





If you want to learn new techniques, more effects, and tips and tricks from some of the worlds best modelers, you can't miss The Weathering Magazine 'DESERT' issue.

