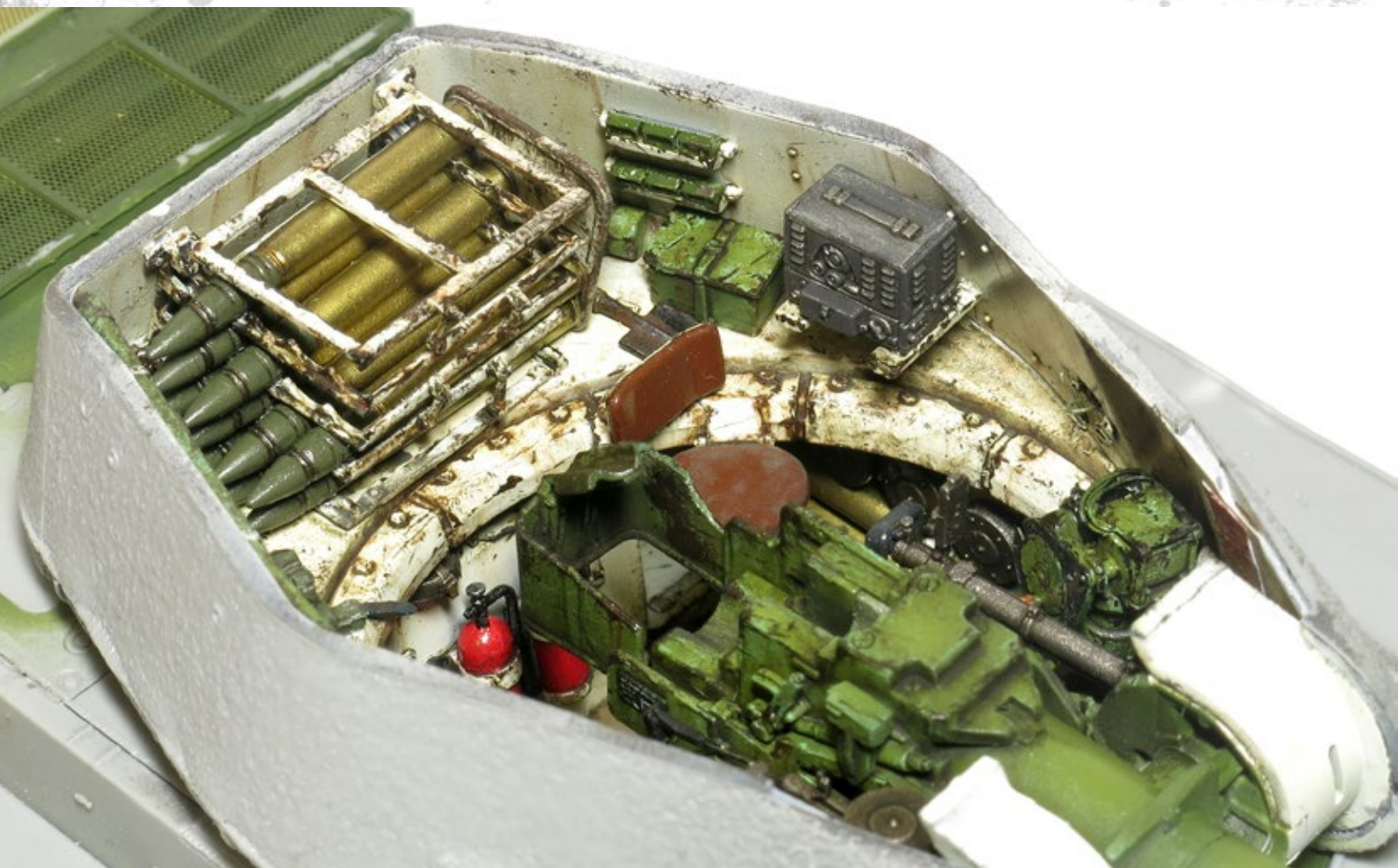


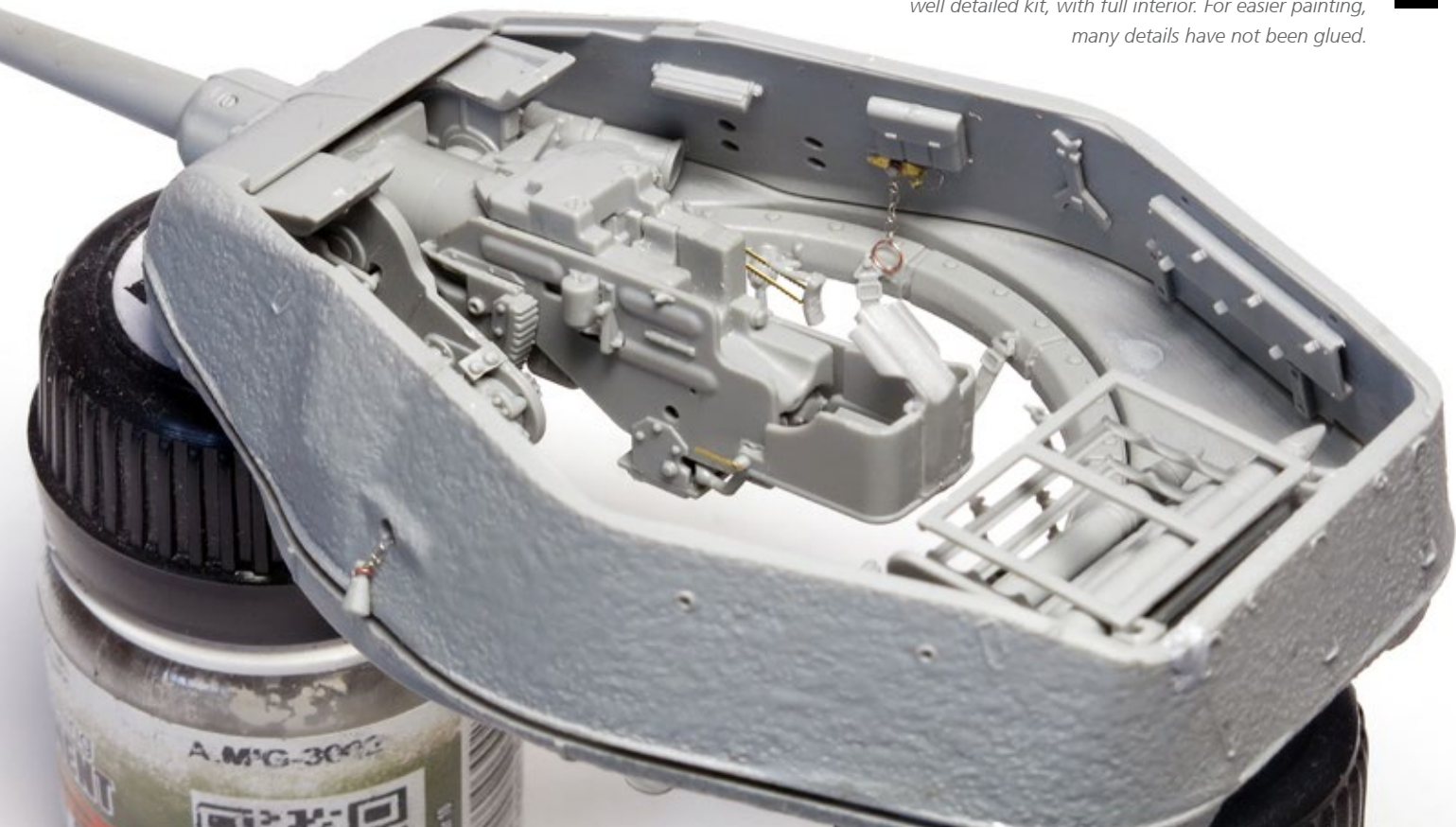


INSIDE THE CAPTURED T-44

After the Battle of Kursk, the Soviet army faced the immediate need to contend with new German tanks – Pz.Kpfw. V and Pz.Kpfw. VI. Installing the new 85-mm gun onto the T-34 tank had become a temporary measure, and there was a need for something completely new. T-44 became the tank of a “new generation” and was superior to T-34 in many ways, but it didn’t get a chance to take part in the Second World War. T-44 always seemed to be a very charismatic tank to me, and I always wanted to assemble one. Then one day I found the great kit by MiniArt (35193) – of the T-44 Soviet medium tank, which features an excellent interior. I’ve always liked to paint and assemble AFV kits with an interior, making the model more alive and detailed. The biggest letdown is that nobody will actually see anything after gluing body parts and turret. But that does not make painting and weathering process any less interesting.

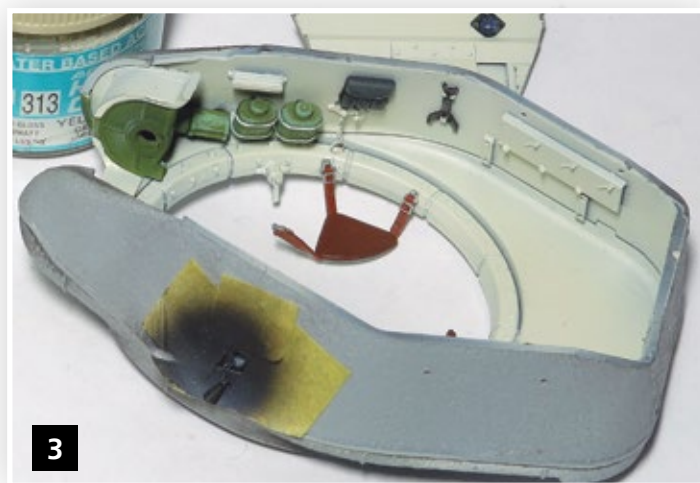
Unpainted turret. The MiniArt model is an excellent and well detailed kit, with full interior. For easier painting, many details have not been glued.

1



2

I started priming the model with AMMO black primer using airbrush with 1,5 atmospheres pressure. Black primer also acts as pre-shading that would give a subsequent shadow effect.



3

I used a mix of Tamiya XF-2 and Mr.Hobby H313 paints for a basic interior color.



4

The gun breach and other green elements of the tank turret have been painted with a mixture of Tamiya XF-26 and Mr. Hobby H313.



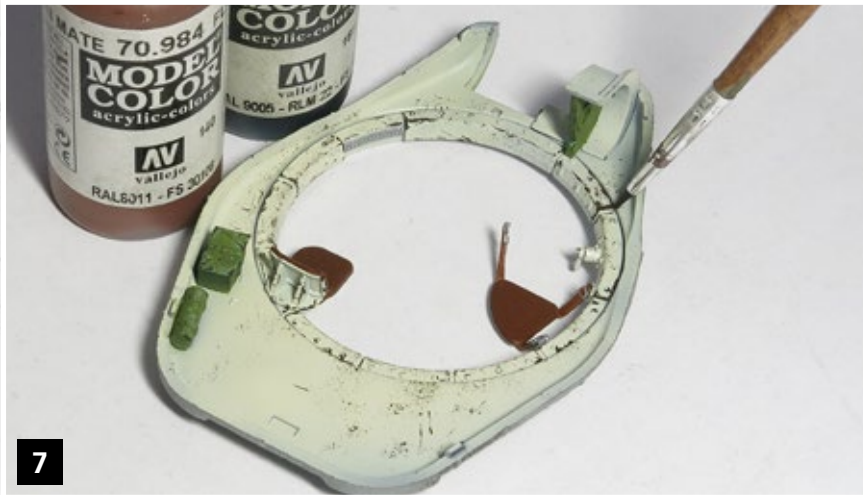
5

I began to apply the first layer of chips with a fine brush using Vallejo acrylics (70.986 and 70.922). The color of these chips should be lighter than the base coat.



6

The smallest chips are applied with a piece of sponge.



7 There's no need to make the lighter chips for the ivory color, that's why I proceeded directly to rust and metallic chips using a mix of Vallejo paints (70.984 and 70.950).

8 More random chips are created using a sponge.

9 After a layer of satin varnish, I started to enhance the contrast using A.MIG-1005 - Dark Brown Wash for Green Vehicles.

10 Streaking Grime A.MIG-1203 is perfect for simulating caked old dirt. After applying the enamel it is necessary to let it dry for 15 minutes.



11 The resulting dirt in the turret.



- 12** This enamel product is also well suited for grime streaks in the fighting compartment. I applied the vertical lines and then blended them with a flat brush.



- 13** A.MIG-045 Gun Metal acrylic paint is perfect for a gun sight base color.



- 14** T-44 turret interior after the previous steps of painting and weathering.



15



16



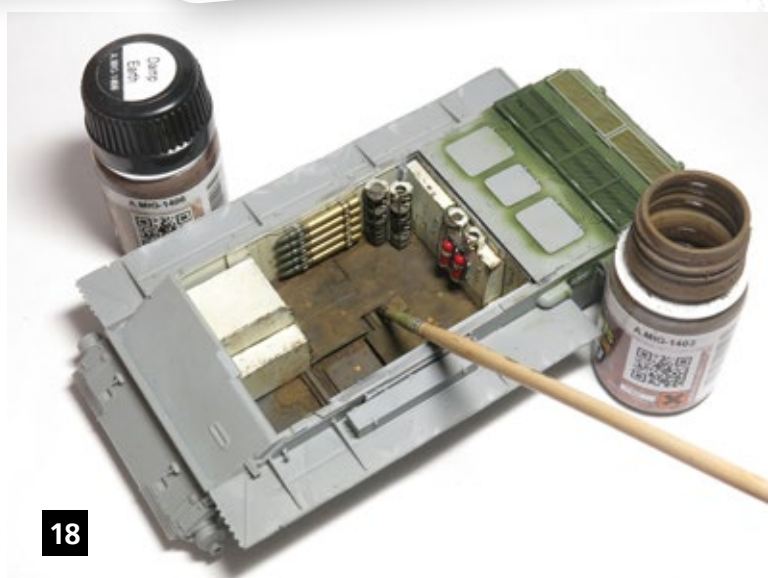
17

15 Due to the fact that weathering must be approached and thought out logically, it is necessary to understand that the tank crew carried dirt from the outside environment into the tank. Dark Earth pigment (A.MIG-3007) had become a great start to simulate this dirt. It was randomly deposited on the floor of the fighting compartment.

16 I decided to make a tank in the winter, so the crew members could easily "bring" autumn leaves on the soles into the tank. I picked leaves by AMMO (A.MIG-8406), they have great quality and size.

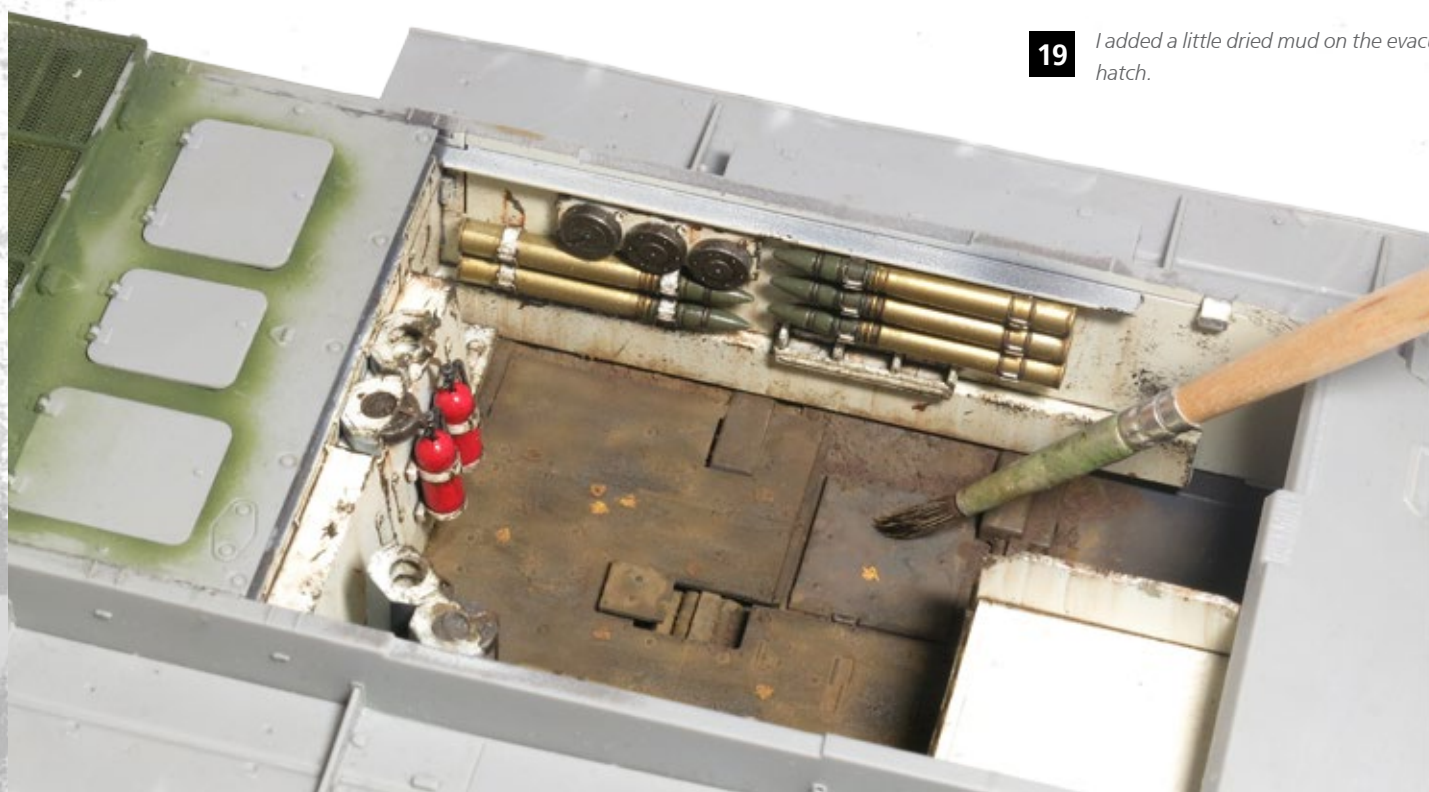
17 To fix the pigment, I used Ammo Pigment Fixer applied with a capillary action from a brush.

18 Dirt is never just one color, it has a variety of different shades. I used Earth Effects enamels, mixing them with a thinner, and added the mixture onto the pigment.



18

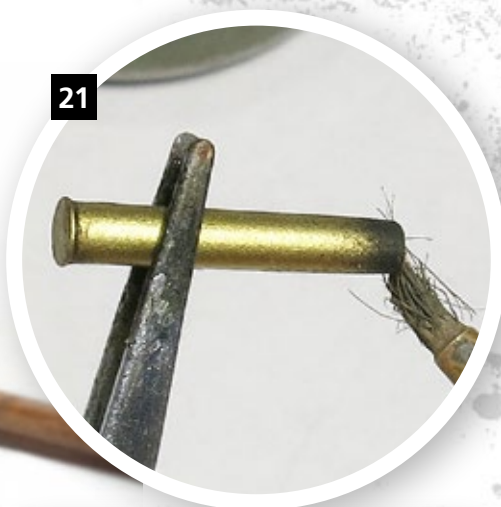
19 I added a little dried mud on the evacuation hatch.



20



21



22



20

To add more contrast in the interior of the turret, I've used enamel Streaking Grime for US Modern Vehicles (A.MIG-1207) which is perfect for shading in the corners.

21

To add a little more interest, I decided to put some empty shells into the tank. I rubbed A.MIG-3001 Black pigment onto the shells after they had been painted in brass color. The result exceeded all expectations.

22

MiniArt gave me the opportunity to make the model in the category «What If ...», so I decided to make a tank captured by the Germans. That's why you can see the German cardboard, canteens, and grenades in the fighting compartment.

