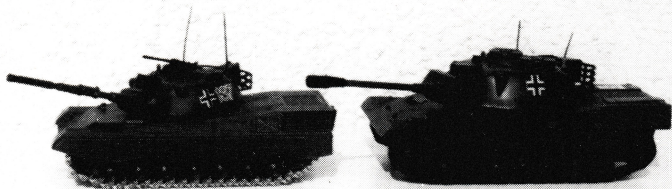


1



SOLIDO left; Gama right. Solido is 1:50 scale. Gama perhaps 1:46 to 1:48?



GAMA 714 and 7142 boxes.

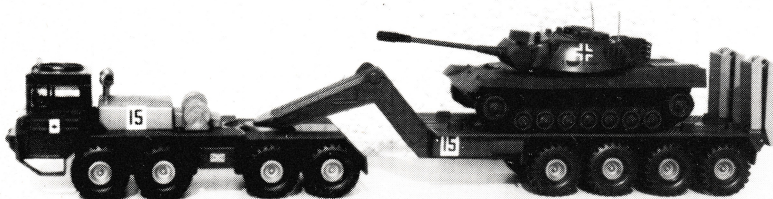
EDITOR'S NOTE:

This article on the German Leopard tanks comes from an unexpected source, as Robin Godwin is not a tankie, but actually a fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Maybe he just feels sorry for the inhabitants of the 'landships' as he sails through the skies.

LEOPARD TANKS IN METAL

by Robin Godwin

2



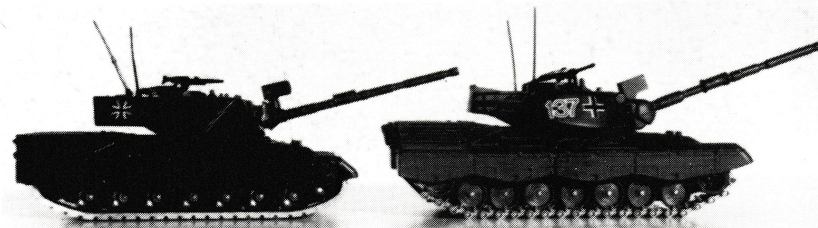
GAMA 714 Leopard on GAMA 9507 'Elefant' Tank Transporter.

GAMA 'Scissors' bridge actuation. Good play value, but incorrect.

3

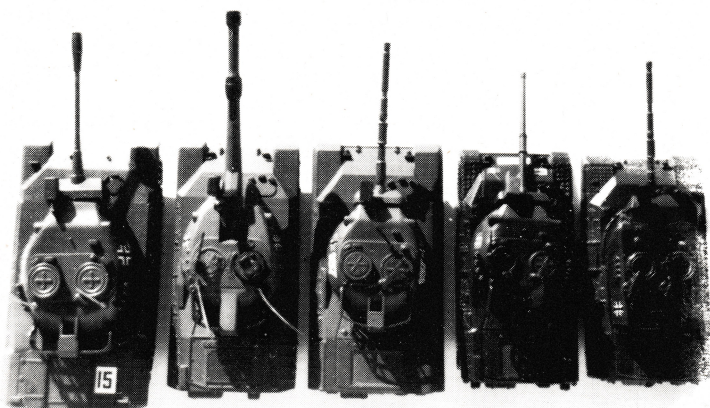


5



SIKU 2190 Leopard 1 A3, left. Solido on the right.

Scale comparison. From left; Gama 1:46?, Dinky 1:50, Solido 1:50, Mebetoys 1:55, Siku 1:55.



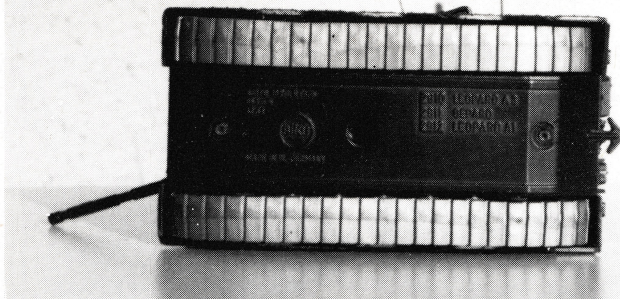
The Leopard tank has been built in two major variations, the Leopard 1 and 2. The Leopard 1 was first, obviously, and spawned several variations. Tank variations are usually easy to define in general terms, but when different countries order a particular tank, they tend to add or delete features to suit their own military specifications/requirements, and/or support their own national armaments industries. Additionally, an early variation may be upgraded thereby creating a new 'sub-variation'. I'll try to keep this simple, if only for my own sake. The usual 'non-expert' disclaimer applies... there are, doubtless, those amongst the MAR readership better versed in both tanks and models.

The Leopard is a (West) German design (France was in early on, during the specifications stage but developed and purchased the AMX 30... modelled by Solido) with most construction carried out by Krauss-Maffei and Krupp MaK, although some 720 Leopard 1s were built under licence by OTO Melara in Italy, which may account for the interest in Leopards shown by Mebetoys/Mattel and Polistil.

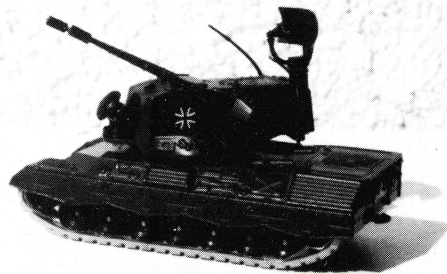
Leopard 1 delivery to the Federal German Army began in September 1965. In 1970, Italy ordered 800 Leopard 1s, of which the first 200 were supplied by West Germany. The first Italian licence-built Leopard was completed in 1974. An additional order of 120 was completed in 1982. The Leopard has been sold to many NATO countries and Australia.

The main armament is a 105mm rifled bore Rhein-Metall gun. Leopard 1 identification features include; seven roadwheels, distinctive side exhaust vents at the rear, uniquely shaped reinforced rubber track skirts, and a 'postage stamp' shaped intake grill on top at the rear. The Leopard 1 chassis was used for other applications; Gepard/Cheetah 35mm Anti-Aircraft gun, a bridgelay, and a recovery vehicle. These have all been modelled (some incorrectly), other variations have not. Toy companies of the time produced models of the early Leopard 1 variants. To my knowledge, only Roco and Roskopf have produced Leopard 2 versions. These companies are both really serious about accuracy with many versions of the Leopard 1 available. Of note are the Bridgelayers, Roco no 427, and Roskopf no 26, both of which feature correct bridge actuation (more on this later). The full colour 1990 Roco catalogue illustrates all their models beautifully. Having said this, I don't collect plastic, but I will acknowledge their technical accuracy.

Back to larger, metal models. To my knowledge, all but one of the diecast models are Leopard 1 A1 or A2 variants. These all feature a smooth, rounded, cast turret. Siku of Germany made a Leopard 1 A3 variant, with extra welded armour plates on the turret giving a larger, boxier effect.



SIKU common chassis.



SIKU 2911 Gepard anti aircraft artillery gun.
Note waxed paper between wheels and rubber tracks to eliminate melting problem.

SOLIDO

When collectors think of tanks, Solido always comes to mind. Introduced as model no 243 in 1975 (actually the base has cast 'no 243, 12-1974'), the Solido Leopard was deleted from the range in 1980. It resurfaced recently as no 6055 in the 'new' Militaires Collection 2 relatively unchanged (same old number on the base). Solido usually builds nice tanks and this is no exception. It looks like the right profile and the casting includes the distinctive track skirts. Also cast is the infra red/white searchlight box to the left and above the gun. In plastic are two antennae and a 7.62mm machine gun. The road wheels are quite accurate, but while Solido makes nice metal tracks, they are not always terribly representative of the real thing, and they often oxidize over time.

Unfortunately, Solido chose not to cast any other add-on detail such as mirrors or smoke dischargers. The decals are German Army and the scale is the standard 1:50. My model suffers from a poor 'fill' of the mould giving many surface imperfections.

With the takeover of Solido by Majorette and the subsequent rationalisation of the military range, we have seen a lot of variations on existing models and new combinations of parts, such as the AMX10 anti-tank version and various VAB models. Since the Leopard model is still in production, I suggest that Solido could economically introduce two major variants; the Gepard anti-aircraft gun, and a bridgelayer. Curiously, bridgelayers have been ignored entirely in the past...how about it Solido?

GAMA

Gama produced a range of various scale military models (mostly adaptations of civilian models) sometime around the mid to late 70s. A leaflet separate from the main catalogue illustrated the production, but not their Leopard models (tank and bridgelayer). My historical knowledge of Gama is lacking, but my guess is that Leopard production predates these other models... As well as postdates them (more on this later). Dr Ed Force omits production dates in his book on German models. The tank is model no 714, with a simple upper and lower casting for the body (common to the bridgelayer) and an elevating, firing gun on the separate cast turret. No machine guns are provided, and there are no opening hatches. It features black rubber tracks and toylike road wheels, but no track skirts or suspension detail. Smoke dischargers are cast into the turret. The exhaust vents are cast vertical slats whereas real vehicles are horizontal. Barrel detail is lacking entirely and features an enlarged press-on black plastic end that accommodates silver plastic bullets. The model is not nearly as nice as some, the turret sits too high and the model looks taller than it should. I have never seen a reference to scale but the model is larger than Solido's effort, somewhere between 1:46 to 1:48. Photo 1 shows comparative sizes. Photo 2 shows the Gama Leopard on their 'Elefant' Tank

Transporter (model no 9507, scale 1:46). I believe these models were reissued exclusively for the Canadian Military market in the early 80's, hence the Canadian flag decal. They were available through 'CANEX', the equivalent of NAAFI (UK) or AAFES (US). Unfortunately I never enquired as to their origin.

Gama produced a bridgelayer based on the Leopard chassis (no 7142, photos 3 and 4). At the time these models were produced, the only bridgelayer version available was the German Biber system, which is not hinged in the centre like the Gama (and Mebetoys) 'scissors' version. (Biber: "...the lower half of the bridge slides forward until its end is lined up with the end of the upper half, the two sections are locked together, extended over the gap..." (Jane's). See Roco or Roskopf models for the correct bridge configuration. A metal bracket fits where the Leopard turret would have been, providing support for the bridge in the transport configuration. A plastic bracket, connected to a metal bracket in turn riveted to the front of the chassis, provides the pivot point for the scissors actuation, and slides in and out of recesses at either end of the heavy duty plastic hinged bridge. These models are very rare today.

SIKU

Three models were available using the same lower and upper castings - only the turrets differed; no 2910, Leopard A3, produced 1976-1979, green colour; no 2911, Gepard, 1976-1979, green; and no 2912, Leopard A1, 1977-1979, green or beige. Matthias Braun, in his Siku book, lists these as rare. Proof, perhaps, is that two of his three illustrated models are missing plastic pieces. Made in 1:55 scale, these models are, in my opinion, the best of the lot. They look right; low profile, thermal sleeve detail on the barrel, crisp detailed casting, and the track skirts which are so distinctive. The models are marred only by fairly coarse silver rubber tracks that are also chemically incompatible with the plastic road wheels causing 'wheel melt' similar to many early Solido military wheeled vehicles. I don't have 2912, but I have seen a chipped example at a swapmeet. It features two opening turret hatches and plastic smoke dischargers, antennae, machine gun, searchlight and stowage basket. The A3 features the distinctive additional welded turret armour, cast-in smoke dischargers, two opening turret hatches, and plastic antennae, machine gun, and IR/white searchlight (photo 5).

The Gepard is simply fantastic, with superb turret and gun barrel detail. The search radar is a stowable three piece plastic assembly. The fire control radar in front is a good two piece plastic representation. An opening turret hatch and two plastic antennae round out the detail. Siku have captured the imposing look of this formidable AAA gun exceptionally well (photo 6). The common chassis features suspension on the road wheels (photo 7).

MEBETOYS/MATTEL

Sometime during the 70s, Mebetoys made a range of five military items in their 'Serie MILITARIA', three in 1:55 scale based on the Leopard I chassis, and two Willys Jeep models in 1:25 scale (photo 8). 7675 was the Leopard, 7676 the Leopard 'Lancia-Missili', and 7677 the Leopard 'Getta-Ponti'. Mattel exercised artistic toymaker's licence on 7676 and 7677. To my knowledge, there has never been a surface-to-surface missile system based on the Leopard chassis, I think this model is entirely fictitious. Similarly, the bridgelayer is made in the scissors style, not the correct Biber style. Additionally, the bridgelayer (as do all the Mebetoys) sports Italian markings when at the time of its manufacture the Italian Army had no Leopard bridgelayers of any sort.

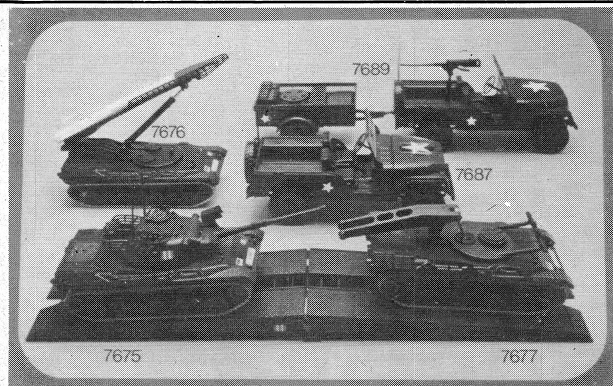
Other than pictures, I've never seen the missile launcher. The bridgelayer I owned at one time but let go, which I now regret. As I recall the plastic bridging unit was built similar to the Gama unit, but in far less durable plastic. The attachment between actuating bracket and bridge is 'pin and hole' requiring the owner to squeeze a plastic bracket to separate the vehicle from bridge. Fragile! It looks more like a Biber unit than the Gama, except of course for its actuation. Also, like the Gama, it lacks the hull-mounted front support blade that would provide the necessary leverage during bridge deployment. (As a possible explanation for the scissors bridge, Jane's indicates that trials were held between two competing designs with the Biber being selected. First production vehicles were completed in 1975. Although I have no indication what the losing design was, perhaps it was a scissors unit, and these two model-companies committed to production prior to the final selection of the Biber. Undoubtedly, a scissors unit would be easier to 'mechanise' from a toymaker's point of view.)

The tank, which I have, is a marvel of detailing. Look at photo 9 to see the accurate suspension details, the four return rollers (the only company to include them), nearly perfect roadwheels (including the right number of wheel retaining nuts and no protruding axle ends), separately cast and very accurate rear drive wheels with the correct number of sprocket teeth (12)! Tracks are of silver vinyl rubber and are the most detailed and accurate of the lot. There are lots of fragile plastic add-ons: two opening turret hatches, two machine guns, two antennae, smoke dischargers, IR/white searchlight and rear stowage basket. The barrel looks 'naked' without the usual thermal sleeve.

With all these superlatives, this could easily be the best model and in many detail respects it is. Yet it just doesn't look as right as the Siku or the Solido, it's missing that low, sleek profile and the lack of track skirts doesn't help.

Turn the turret through 90° and it lifts off its mounting. The remaining hulk is common to

• • • CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE • • •



Mebetoys/Mattel box artwork showing "Serie Militaria".

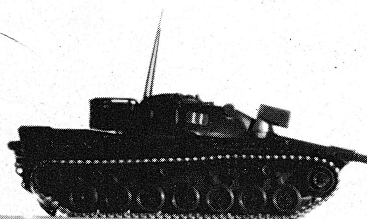
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7676 and 7677 despite the fact that 'Carroarmato Leopard 7675' is cast into the base. These are fragile models and hard to find in any condition, let alone mint.

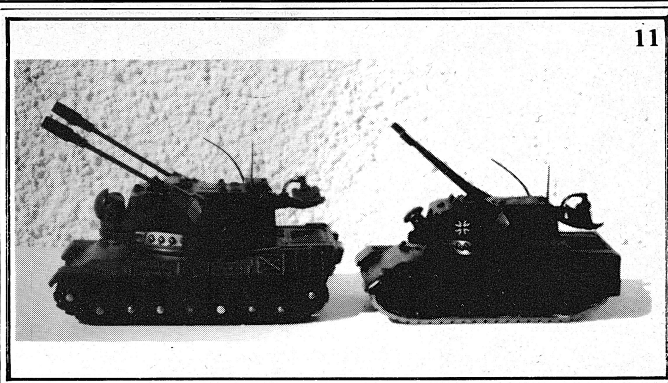
POLISTIL

Polistil made a range of six 1:50 scale tanks plus a group of accessories such as mortars and soldiers (American, British, German and Russian). My Polistil catalogue of 1977 illustrates them all (photo 10). The tanks include: CA101, T-62; CA102 Chieftain Mk3; CA103 Königstiger; CA104 Centurion; CA105 Leopard (1); and CA106 M60. All tanks included two or three of the 1:50 single colour metal accessories or soldiers, whereas article CA10 was a group of 48 of these items (all different according to the catalogue). The models I have in my collection (CA101, 103, 104) are exceptional models, well cast with many add-on accessories in metal and plastic, such as fuel tanks, supply pallets, tow cables/hooks, spare treads, etc. From the photo in the catalogue, the following are apparent on the Leopard: separate driving mirrors on the front, two cables in plastic, smoke dischargers, etc. Two antennae and a machine gun in plastic complete the main model. It lacks track skirts as do all real Italian Leopards I have seen in photos and the gun barrel is like the Mebetoys, ie no thermal sleeve (more typical of the prototype, I believe). From the photo it appears that the model sits somewhat too tall; it doesn't appear as

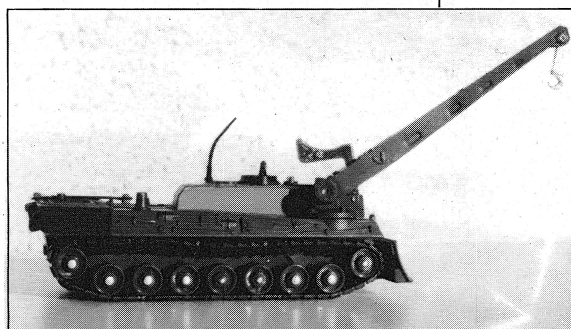
Mebetoys/Mattel 7675 Leopard. Note exceptional detail of running gear.



9



Fighter Pilot's nightmare. Dinky left. Siku right.



Leopard Recovery vehicle by Dinky. Note size of actuating lever.

aesthetically pleasing as the Siku or Solido models, but then I haven't seen the real model. Polistil also made metal tracks, but these are tinplate, with individual treads being folded in half and slotted into the adjoining ones. Brightly chromed, they are not terribly accurate, but they roll nicely and squeak and clatter just like real tracks. It looks like Polistil used the same road wheels for the Leopard, M60, and possibly the Centurion, surprising when one looks at the level of unique separately cast details. These models are very hard to find, especially the Leopard and the M60.

12

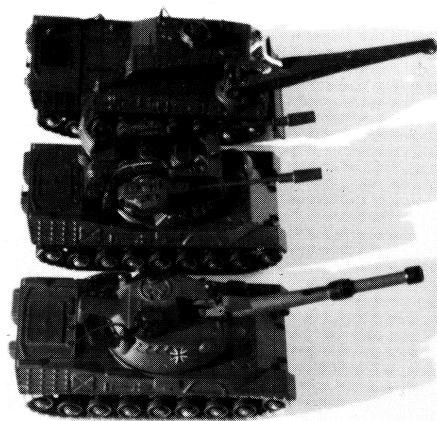


POLISTIL CA105 Leopard. Photographed from catalogue dated 1/77.

DINKY

Dinky produced three vehicles based on the Leopard chassis: 692 Tank, 1974-1980; 696 Leopard Anti-Aircraft Tank (should be Gepard), 1975-1979; and 699 Recovery Tank, 1975-1978. All three shared base castings (black plastic), but the upper castings for the recovery tank are unique (two metal castings as opposed to a single casting on the others). The catalogue claims 1:50 scale. (See photo 11 for a comparison of scales.) All of the Dinkies are spoiled somewhat by the added play value features... firing guns on the tank and Gepard, and unsightly crane actuating lever on the recovery vehicle. (Photo 12).

MODEL	SCALE/DATES	TRACKS	REMARKS (All are 'Army Green')
DINKY			
692 Leopard (1036 kit)	1:50/1974-80	Silver/Black vinyl rubber	German markings, firing gun.
696 Leopard AA Tank	1:50/1975-79	Black vinyl rubber	German markings, firing guns
699 Leopard Recovery Tank	1:50/1975-78	Black vinyl rubber	German markings, operating crane
GAMA			
714 Leopard	1:46/mid 70s reissue early 80s	Black rubber	German markings, firing gun
7142 Leopard Bridgelayar	1:46/mid 70s reissue early 80s	Black rubber	German/Canadian markings
MEBETOYS/MATTEL			
7675 Leopard	1:55/mid 70s	Silver vinyl rubber	Italian markings, 2 x opening hatches
7676 Leopard missile launcher	1:55/mid 70s	Silver vinyl rubber	Italian markings
7677 Leopard Bridgelayar	1:55/mid 70s	Silver vinyl rubber	Italian markings
POLISTIL			
CA105 Leopard	1:50/mid 70s	Tinplate	German markings, opening hatch?
SIKU			
2910 Leopard A3	1:55/1976-79	Silver rubber	German markings, 2 x opening hatches
2911 Gepard	1:55/1976-79	Silver rubber	German markings, opening hatch
2912 Leopard A1	1:55/1977-79	Silver rubber	German markings, 2 x opening hatches Also available in beige.
SOLIDO			
243/6055 Leopard	1:50/Current	Diecast metal	German markings (old and new versions different numbers). Opening hatch.



DINKY Leopard based vehicles. Note play features for 'little fingers'.

While Dinky did a reasonable job of keeping barrel size in check on the Gepard, the tank barrel is horrendous, looking more like a large calibre artillery piece. This is because the firing mechanism spring is internal to the barrel whereas on the Gepard (and the Gama Leopard) the firing mechanism is internal to the turret. Further, the Leopard gun barrel elevates and lowers by a geared mechanism activated by a raised right hand hatch. Notwithstanding the barrel, overall proportions are reasonable, even with the lack of detail in the casting, and the smooth plastic base all the way up to the 'waist' at the rear.

The Gepard is well executed; they have captured the dimensions of the massive turret well. Barrels elevate together to nearly vertical, and the rear metal acquisition/tracking radar can fold back into a stowed travel position (photo 13). The recovery tank is a unique model in this review and is a welcome addition to any Leopard collection. As well as the crane, it features a retractable metal dozer blade and a separate plastic tow cable.

My Leopard has silver vinyl rubber tracks and the other two have black tracks. Both tyres were probably available on all models. Dinky catalogues no 12 and no 13 illustrate the Leopard in a grey colour and Patrick Trench lists grey for the Leopard and Gepard in his Compendium, but I've never seen any. Mine are fairly standard olive green and Mike Richardson lists the colours as 'German Green'. Does anybody have a grey version?

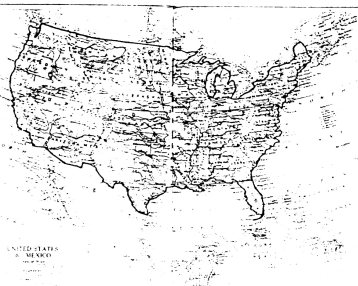
The Leopard was also available as a kit, no 1036, and the recovery tank was scheduled for kit release (no 1039) but never made it. These models seem to be readily available at swapmeets.

SUMMARY

Some decal/markings and perhaps casting variations doubtless exist (Solido old and new decals, for example) but these are beyond my means to catalogue. I welcome other collectors' inputs, particularly manufacture dates where I have been incomplete, or models I may have overlooked.

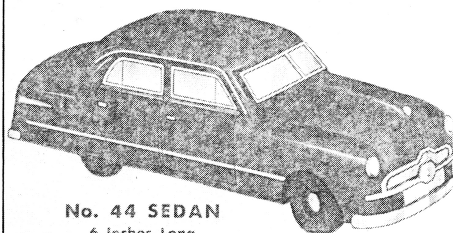
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Janes Main Battle Tanks: Christopher F Foss
Modelauto Katalog Siku: Matthias Braun
Classic Miniature Vehicles Made in Germany: Dr Edward Force.

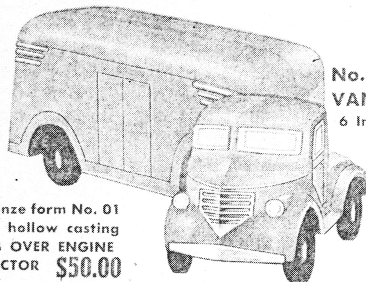


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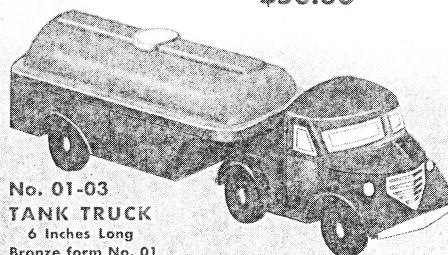


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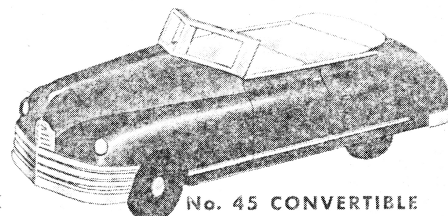
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(See attached price list.)

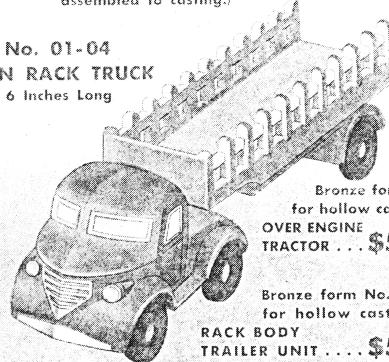
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Castings come from moulds with axle holes and rubber wheels are easily assembled by simply slipping over standard nails. A new exclusive method eliminates need of spreading or crimping axles.
Wheels supplied manufacturers at ~~\$3.30~~ per thousand.

METAL CAST PRODUCTS CO.
1696 BOSTON ROAD
NEW YORK 60, N. Y.

Copyrighted 1949

Via **Bill Lango**, of Vintage Castings fame, and editor of Toy Soldier Review, we have this 1949 advertisement for **Metal Cast Products Co.** of New York.

At first glance it is an advert for yet another simply cast range of toy vehicles, fairly typical of the period. Look again, the company is advertising the bronze moulds from which these vehicles can be cast.

The text refers to 'hollow castings', so we assume it to be lead 'slush' moulding. In this process, the lead was poured in, then quickly tipped out again, leaving a hollow layer to cool and set in the mould.

The wheel price has been changed by hand from \$3.30 to \$4.50 per thousand!

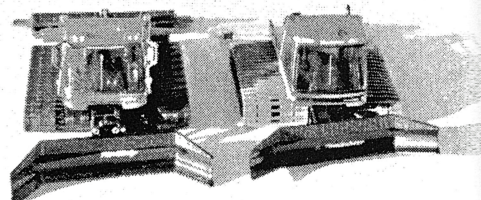
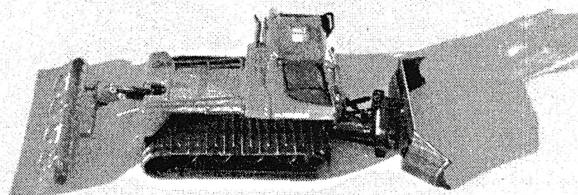
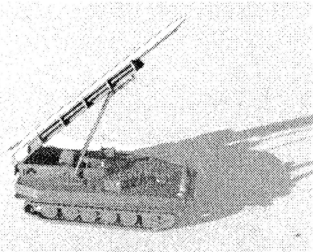
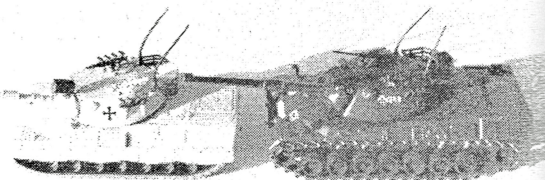
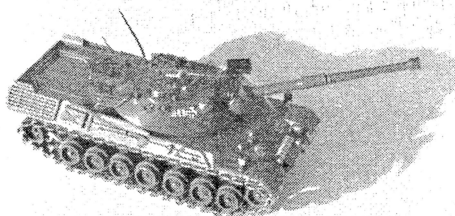
Does anyone have any pictures of the finished results from these moulds? It is hard to say who might have 'made' the lead toys which were produced in this way. Was it Metal Cast Products Co, the mould makers? Or was it the person who purchased the moulds and cast the toys? One can still buy today moulds to make lead soldiers and the like, through such journals as 'Exchange & Mart', but it is only remembered by very few collectors that you could buy 'off the shelf' model vehicle moulds, too. More information from readers welcomed.

LEFT: Polistil Leopard, and...

RIGHT Leopards by Polistil and Siku.

BELOW LEFT: Espewe Frog rocket launcher.

BELOW: Pisten Bully model by Brami.
(Photos Robin Godwin).



CANADIAN UPDATE

Dear Rod

Just some updates to previous articles in MAR. First, going way back to MAR 52 and **LEOPARD TANKS**. I finally acquired the elusive Polistil CA105 at a recent Houten toy show. The photo shows the Polistil alongside the Siku Leopard, in my opinion, still the best overall representation. The Italian model appears to sit a little tall, but has lots of nice add-on detail features as described in the original article. My example is missing a black plastic tow cable that hooks onto both sides behind the turret and drapes over the back of the model (and I know nobody makes a 'spare'). Next reference is to my **TACTICAL NUCLEAR MISSILES** article. Pictured is an Espewe Frog mounted on a PT-76 chassis, virtually the same model as represented by Solido 218. The model, about 1:72-1:76 scale, and has been around for at least ten years. It was pictured in a very early issue of MAR. It is diecast metal (aluminium, perhaps?) with plastic missile and wire launch rail support. The missile differs considerably from the Solido. Several possible reasons for this are:

- 1) Solido were required to comply with Western European toy standards of the time, hence their nice soft rubber nose cone. Espewe, as an East German company, may not have been bound by these regulations;
- 2) The real vehicles would have been stationed in East Germany, hence easier access for Espewe master modellers, and
- 3) the missile itself could carry conventional, nuclear, or chemical warheads, which likely differ in shape and size. The Espewe may simply represent a different warhead. The tracks and wheels are cast representations and do not move, a pity really. But having said this, the actual crispness and fidelity of the diecasting is outstanding. I frequently read comments in the model press which state something to the effect of 'state of the art diecasting' usually in reference to bus models or Minichamps reviews. In my opinion, nobody today is physically diecasting any better than was possible (and often executed) over 30 years ago. What is better today is
- 1) more attention is being paid in the master phase to getting the basic vehicle shape right, since we are now talking about collectors models rather than toys,
- 2) accessory details such as photo-etched wipers, grilles etc (which often highlight how basic the diecast process still is), and
- 3) flush glazing and final finishing, including tampo printing and decals, which is now nothing short of phenomenal.

But, if you really want to see state of the art diecasting, examine this relatively old model at the next toy show.

PISTEN BULLY MODELS. Conrad issued the definitive model some years ago, but this must be a newer prototype vehicle, the Pisten Bully 300. It is obviously a promotional model, judging by the box, and is made by a company called **Brami Modell**. Both model and box state 'Made in EC'. Can anybody tell me who Brami Modell are and which EC country they are located in? The box language is predominantly German. The model itself is 1:43 scale and is easily on a par with the Conrad in terms of detail and finish. It features a tilt up cab and bed to reveal engine and chassis details. The front blade duplicates all axes of motion of the prototype. Tracks are one piece supple black rubber (but with a joint featuring six pin and hole fasteners). I had read some time ago that the Italian company **Ros** was to make a Pisten Bully, any connection here? Also, there is no longer any reference to Kässbohrer, is Pisten Bully now a separate entity? Readers' help requested. Finally, some trivia: the Kyosho and Lledo Vanguards E Type Jaguars are identical in every respect except the plastic bases are specific to the individual company, reading either Kyosho or Vanguards.

ROBIN GODWIN, TRENTON, ONT, CANADA

Hope you are now settled back in Canada after your sojourn in Europe flying for the Canadian Air Force part of NATO, Robin. No more weekend trips to Houten or other continental swapmeets... You don't read the phrase 'state of the art diecasting' in MAR, thank goodness. Apart from not knowing exactly what that means, I can't see how anyone can measure it. I'm sure what they mean is 'top quality master and finishing'. No doubt someone can tell us if the actual diecasting process has changed in some way, but I'm sure you are correct in thinking that it has always been the design of the tools, the quality of the metal and the care in casting that matters. If the model is more accurate or better finished, then it is not the diecasting that is 'state of the art', but other parts of the manufacturing process. We'll get folk to be more precise in what they say if it kills us!

I don't know who Brami is, but I feel certain it is a German make, judging by 'Modell'. It also looks like a contraction of two names... Any extra information welcomed. Yes, we did know that the 'Vanguards Gold' models are re-packaged and re-based Kyoshos, but that production deal finished, as far as I know, even before the recent announcement that Lledo is for sale.. Ed.

MYTHICAL GORDINI

Dear Rod

In the long list of the latest news of models from Minichamps in MAR 134, I was quite surprised to see a yellow Renault 8 Gordini. As I had the chance to own three Renault 8 Gordinis in the sixties, I can verify that this model is pure fiction for the following reasons: A single model cannot be used for a Renault 8 Gordini from 1964 to 1968, as two types of the Renault 8 Gordini were produced during that period. From 1964 to 1966, the Renault 8 Gordini (type 1134) had two headlamps and from 1967 to 1968 the Renault 8 Gordini (type 1135) had two headlamps and two long beam lights. The 1134 type was available only in blue, and the 1135 was available only in blue with white stripes or in white with blue stripes. The yellow colour was created in 1968 for the R8S, a simplified and less expensive version of the 1135 type. The R8S had no white stripes.

BERTRAND AZEMA, ST NOM LA BRETECHE, FRANCE.

Thank you for your Gordini expertise, Bertrand. See everyone, he is not only an expert on Solido models! Ed.

DELOREAN ENGLISH?

Dear Mr Ed,

For more than twenty years I have been a collector of English and Classic Sports cars in 1:43 scale and to me the Delorean is a real Classic English sports car. Therefore I have a few Delorean models and a few caricatures of a Delorean in my collection. From **Collector's Case Inc**, Rumford, RI, I have two different models in my collection, one with doors closed the other with the doors open. The models are made from pewter and the scale is about 1:40. The model has no windows and, strange but true, the tyres (made of pewter) revolve around the wheels, which don't turn. The back wheels are also bigger than the front wheels. That is correct. In my opinion the models give you a very good idea of the real car. I have seen the car very often in reality. Another model Delorean I have is by **Nostalgic Miniatures**, Miniature Vehicle Manufacturing, Westborough, Maine, made in the USA 1983. The scale is a bit smaller than the model from Collector's Case, about 1:43. The model has real tyres and the wheels are much more realistic than on the Collector's Case. The model is also made of pewter. The base and back window are painted black, but the model is too flat, and to my mind too small. The **BDB** model you mention in your reply on Don Elliott's letter in MAR 134