

King Tiger fell into a funnel from an air bomb. Gdansk (Danzig), 1945

German Heavy Tank King Tiger

In 1942 the German Wehrmacht Army Weapons Agency created tactical and technical specifications for a tank that was intended to replace the existing Tiger. One of the main requirements was the use of the new 88-mm cannon with a L/71 calibre barrel length and excellent armourpiercing characteristics. In the autumn of 1942, design sketches for the new vehicle were started by both the Henschel and Porsche company's. In mid-January 1943, a model of the VK 4503 (H) tank was demonstrated to Adolf Hitler, who voiced his approval. By the end of the year, three pre-production models of the new tank had been assembled. The new vehicle was designated Pz.Kpfw. VI Ausf. B, later changed to Pz.Kpfw. Tiger Ausf. B. The unofficial names, such as Tiger II or King Tiger, were rarely used in the Wehrmacht.

Series production was launched in 1944. Plans included the production of 1237 tanks. However, due to the regular bombings by the British air force against the Henschel factories, only 20 King Tigers had been fully assembled by May 1944. The first 50 tanks were equipped with turrets

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designed by Porsche. The new Henschel turret was defended from the front by a 180-mm armour plate and had a large internal space. As a part of the work on the new turret, which was installed on tanks from the fifty-first production model, some small, but useful changes were added: both to the cannon design and the engine compartment armour were improved and new sights were installed.

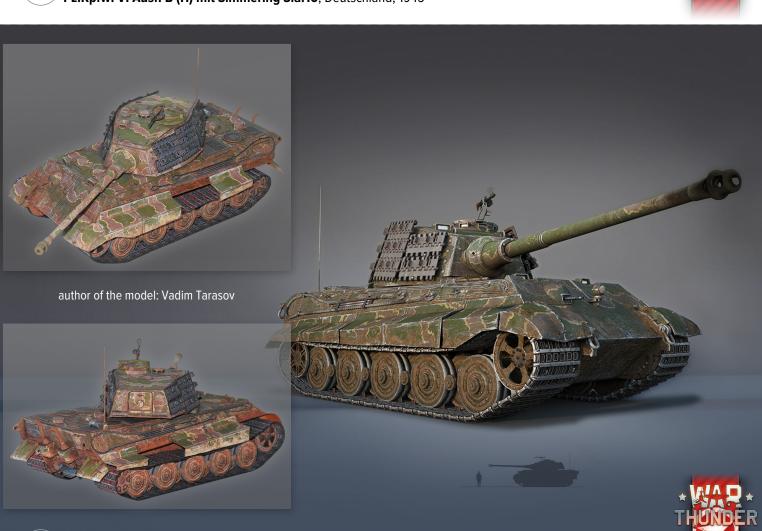
King Tigers were used in heavy tank battalions as «fire fighting crews» at key points in battles from the summer of 1944 until Germany surrendered on May 9, 1945. The King Tigers were a powerful anti-tank solution and one of the most well protected German tanks that either Soviet or allied tankers had to go up against.

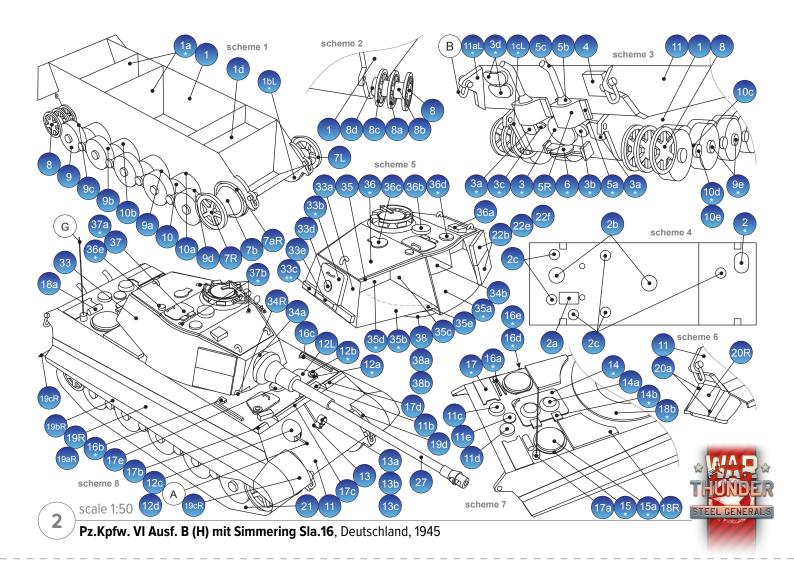
Pz.Kpfw. VI Ausf. B (H) mit Simmering Sla.16 is a heavy tank with an experimental diesel engine. King Tigers were characterized by low mobility and low power reserve. To solve this problem, designers offered new more powerful diesel engine Sla.16, assembled at the company Simmermg-Graz-Pauker AG. In January 1945, one of the King Tigers was converted for engine Sla.16. King Tiger with a diesel engine was built in a single copy.



scale 1:50

Pz.Kpfw. VI Ausf. B (H) mit Simmering Sla.16, Deutschland, 1945





Building Instructions

The model is designed for paper weights 170-180 gr/m².

Hull

Glue ribs 1a onto 0.5 mm carton. Glue the lower part of the hull (part 1) with ribs, as shown in scheme No.1. Glue and attach the other parts shown in the scheme. Cut out part 11 (roof of the hull), cut a hole for the turret and glue it as shown in scheme No.8. You can strengthen the hull by gluing a carton circle with a hole to part 11 from the inside. If you want the hull hatches to be open, then cut holes in part 11 (they are coloured black). The location of the hull parts is shown in scheme No.3, 7, and 8. Hatches on the bottom of the tank are shown in scheme No.4.

Suspension

The suspension consists of a drive sprocket (part 7), an idler sprocket (part 8), and roller wheels (parts 9 and 10). Assembly of the drive sprocket and roller wheels is shown in scheme No.1, assembly of the idler sprocket – in scheme No.2. The tracks are created using parts 21 and 21a. Curve the track to a suitable shape, wrap it around the wheels and sprockets, and glue the tracks into a caterpillar. Assemble and attach the fenders as shown on schemes No.6 and 8.

Turret

Glue the bottom parts (35a and 35b) and the ribs (35c and 35d) onto 0.5 mm thick carton. The turret assembly is shown in schemes No.5 and 8. Glue ribs to the untextured side of part 35a, orienting yourself with the grooves in the texture. Glue the rim (part 35e) to part 35a. Attach the rear part of the turret bottom (part 35b.) Attach part 34b to the indicated spot on the rib. Cut out part 33 (turret sidewall) and bend it the correct shape. Using scheme No.5, assemble the turret. If the gunner's hatch is open, then parts 35 and 36 must have holes cut in them in the indicated places. Glue on the turret ring (parts 38), make sure that it fits in the hole on part 11 freely, attach the turret ring from the bottom of the turret to the indicated spot. Glue on parts 34L and 34R as shown in scheme No.8. Cannon assembly is shown in scheme No.9, commander's cupola and anti-air machine gun assembly – scheme No.10.

Final assembly

The location of the entrenching tools (parts 16) is shown by the light lines on part 11 (roof of the hull) and on the brochure cover. The hand crank is attached on the left side. Assemble the jack (parts 6) and glue it to the rear of the tank under the exhaust outlets as shown in scheme No.3. Using template B, create the towing shackles. Using template G, create the radio antenna pin. A surplus of spare track components (parts 22) are provided. They are attached to the turret (see image on the brochure cover). The number of tracks to attach is personal choice. To make the model more realistic, you can glue 22f ridges to the track and a strip of carton on the opposite side. This will create a gap between it and the turret armour.

 $L\R$ - part of the left or right side of the model

★ - glue the part onto 0.5 mm thick carton

 $\bigstar \bigstar$ - glue the part onto 1 mm thick carton

 χ - in the detail it is necessary to make a hole

- the part must be twisted into a roll with a hole

, - the part must be twisted into a tight roll

 $(extstyle{\,}^{ullet}_{})$ - the part must be twisted into a cylinder

 $\ensuremath{\boldsymbol{U}}\xspace$ - the parts must be shaped in the right form



