

# BTR-40 Diecast Model

## Review by Jonathan Aird

A little while ago (October 2015), Rob Morgan posted a short piece to the blog about a range of diecast tanks that were available from The Works (a UK shop dealing mainly in remainder books, hobby craft items and a few toys) for the bargain price of £2 each (around \$3.50). He spoke favourably of them and so, of course, despite regular scouring of several different branches of the shop I hadn't managed to find any of them. Until today. Nestling at the bottom of a display box full of diecast classic cars there were a few military vehicles. I was surprisingly strong willed and didn't buy any of the half-dozen or so examples of the SU-100 self-propelled gun, mainly because it was in winter camouflage and so would need repainting -- which, for me, rather undermines the point of buying ready assembled and painted models. I don't mind a little detailing or weathering, but a complete paint job is a step too far! However, the diminutive BTR-40 was too good to pass up so I now have a couple of these.



The BTR-40 is an open topped armoured car/troop carrier which originated in 1944. In the 1950s, it became ubiquitous in Soviet forces, eventually phased out by the end of the 1980s. It was widely exported across the Warsaw Pact nations as well as the Middle East, South America, East Asia and much of Africa. It is thus an ideal candidate for drafting into an AK-47 type

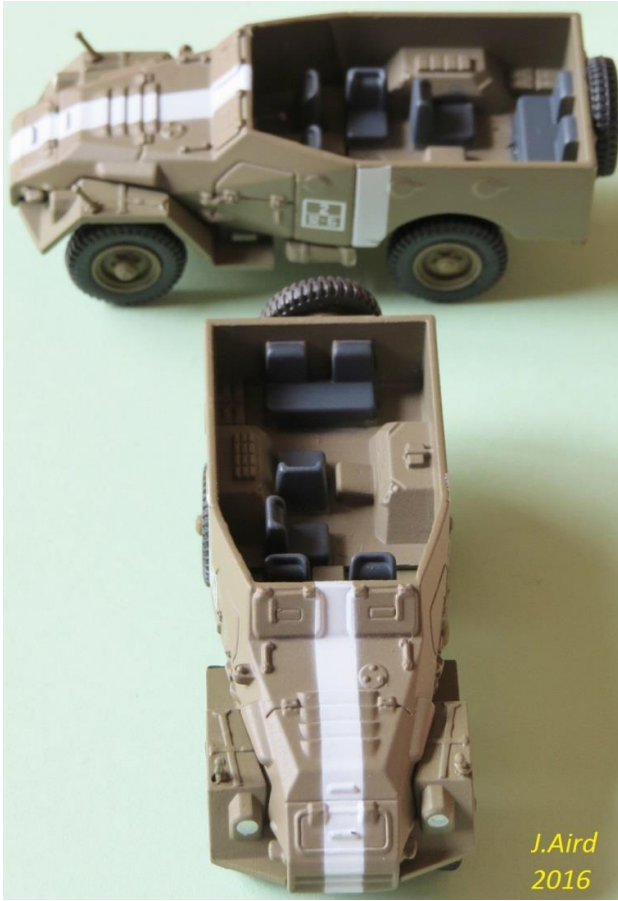
imaginations games, as well as any number of historical situations that it is factually associated with.

The model is presented in packaging reminiscent of a part works collection. The model itself is perfectly scaled at 1/72<sup>nd</sup> and is nicely detailed but with room for individualising with the addition of stores such as jerry cans or some rolls of camouflage netting. The body of the BTR-40 is metal, the underside and the front mudguards are plastic.



The model is depicted with firing ports so making it unsuitable for representing the very earliest production deliveries so although these could be easily disguised if it was felt absolutely necessary! It's a very simple model of a very simple, but characterful, armoured car. It certainly

looks better, without any work, than an equivalent Matchbox or Hot Wheels vehicle would due to the nice matt finish paintwork. So, I can only echo Rob Morgan's earlier recommendation so and I'm going to continue to keep an eye out for further examples from this range.



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2016