

Armourfast SdKfz 250/1



Let me start by saying that I like Armourfast stuff for 2 simple reasons.

Firstly, I try to model in 1/72 and the Armourfast models all come up to this scale.

Secondly, you often get 2 models in a box that are simple to make and look the part on the battlefield. I do not need highly detailed models in a game with lots of picking up and prodding about!!

The SdKfz 251/1 is a ubiquitous vehicle that is not out of place in any WW2 era game so I ordered 3 boxes to get 6 vehicles and built them all together. The instructions are a simple exploded diagram on the back of the box and is broadly sufficient to enable a decent model to be made (but see later). The whole vehicle comes on one sprue so you get 2 sprues in the box. There is no recommended order in which to make the kit but logic suggested that I started with the internal seats and then fitted the upper and lower body halves together.

So far so good but then I ran into snags. The tracks and wheels come as one moulded piece. That is OK except that you cannot see through the wheels but personally that is not an issue for me. The tracks fit into lugs on the body sides and that too is OK. Flash is, fortunately, light on these pieces as it would be hard to clean up the many facets of the track parts. The problems come with the track guards.

Firstly these guards are attached to the sprue in about 6 places so when cut free, there is a lot of cleaning up to do. It is easy during this process to snip off the 2 locating lugs that help fit the piece to the vehicle body. As a result of this, their position on the body sides is something of a guess based on the photographs available. The colour illustration on the box is, incidentally, very good and a great help albeit in 2 dimensions.

I thought that I had done well but when I came to fit the front wheels (neatly fixed onto a single front axle piece), the track guards proved to be fitted too low and so the front wheels did not fit. The solution I offer is to fit the front wheels first and then fit the track guards over both the tracks and the wheels.

Front armour plates, weapons and stowage boxes are easy to fit and you end up with a quite pleasing vehicle. On 2 of my sprues, the rear MG mount was broken and so I have left the MGs off these vehicles and will use them as SdKfz 25/2's mounting an 81mm mortar. I have a couple of these over from the Valiant figures set.

Overall I would score this kit **9.5/10** for good value and basic robust models. A suggested construction order might have saved a few blushes and if I build any more I will know!!