



# DETAILING AND CORRECTING TAMIYA 1/35 LECLERC SERIES 2 KIT # 35279

## *Tweaks List V 1.2*



by  
**Olivier CARNEAU**

*with the assistance of*  
*Rodolphe UGUEN-LAITHIER*



## **DETAILING AND CORRECTING TAMIYA 1/35 LECLERC SERIES 2 KIT # 35279**

Text by Olivier Carneau  
Model by Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier

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### **Photos credits**

Pictures of the model by Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier  
Pictures of the real vehicle by Olivier Carneau (O.C) and Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier (R.U-L)

## Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2

by Olivier Carneau & Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier

### Foreword

Designed with the help of the 6-12 Régiment de Cuirassiers in Olivet, the 1/35 scale **Tamiya kit #35279** is without any doubt the best game in town at present.

Molded in top quality dark green plastic, the kit's parts have outstanding details in general and both the casting and fit are excellent. For the first time in their 1/35 line of Modern Vehicles, the Tamiya designers have also depicted the anti-slip coating on the hull and turret tops where they should be, although one may find this attempt a little too restrained as it is a lot rougher on the actual Leclerc tanks.

However, as with any plastic kit, details were either omitted or simplified, when they are not incorrect, but these are minor shortcomings and they do not challenge the overall kit quality since they can easily be fixed.

This list documents most of the major corrections that can be made to enhance the kit yet it does not mean to be exhaustive. Readers are always welcome to submit further corrections or additions they feel should be included here.

This list is first and foremost designed for those who wish to reasonably detail and correct Tamiya's model. However, most of the modifications remain applicable to other 1/35 existing kits.

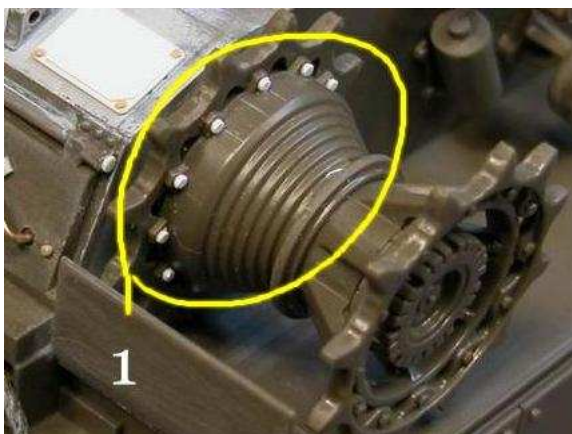
Construction is split under 2 major sub-assemblies: the chassis and the turret. These 2 are in turn split into further sub-assemblies. The text is complemented by pictures either of the finished model or photos of the real vehicle whenever necessary. The picture size should be large enough to spot details. However, in order to help modelers get more reference material, a list of websites featuring close-up shots of actual vehicles is provided at the end of this document.

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## 1- Hull

### 1-1 Lower hull sides and running gear

1. The sprockets hub heat sinks are simplified. The recesses on the circumference are missing on the Tamiya part. The bravest will use Voyager Models PE set which includes them. The inner ring sprocket faces lack one bolt head between each tooth.



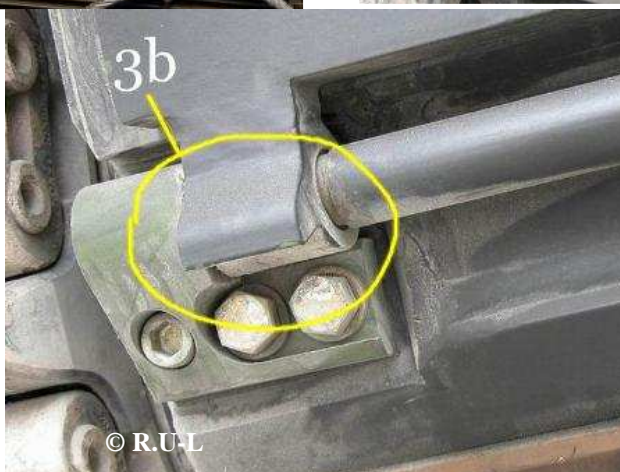
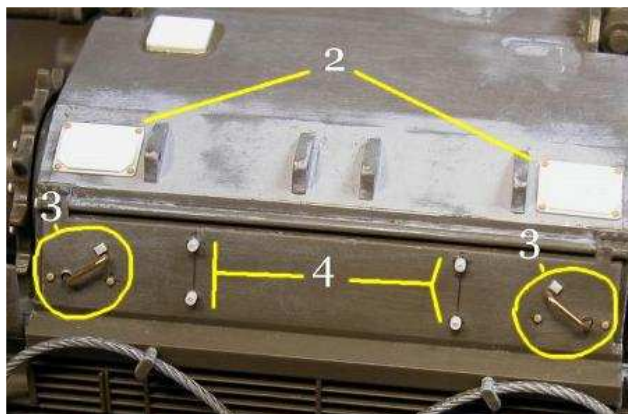


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One can notice that the track guide horns are hollow.

2. On either side of the bottom rear plate, between the sprockets and the external towing eyes, the shape of the 2 transmission access hatches may be corrected.



3. On the main transmission bay access hatch, the molded on plastic handles may be replaced by copper wire. The tightening stop and the flange on the hinges (**3b**) are done with plastic card.
4. In the center of the panel, the 4 bracket rods are too short. They should be replaced by longer hollow rod bits.
5. On the rear mud flaps, the 7 attaching bolts may be added.

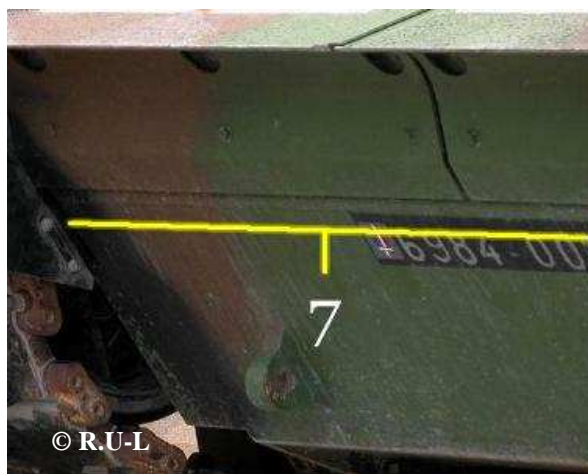




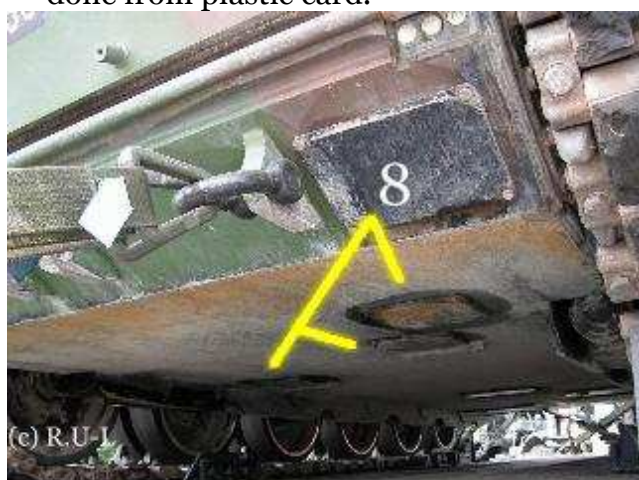
## Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2

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6. On the right side of the engine grille vertical frame, one large bolt securing a moveable hatch is missing.
7. On the front bow, a weld mark running along the hull beneath the mudguard « beak » is missing. The bolts fastening the mudguards to the bow are missing too (7a). Above the rear main transmission access hatch, a similar weld line is missing (7b).



8. Under the engine compartment, Tamiya forgot to represent 3 small access doors that can be done from plastic card.

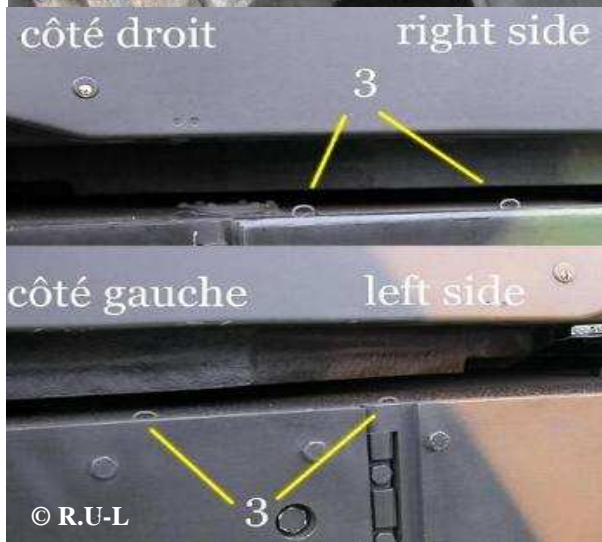
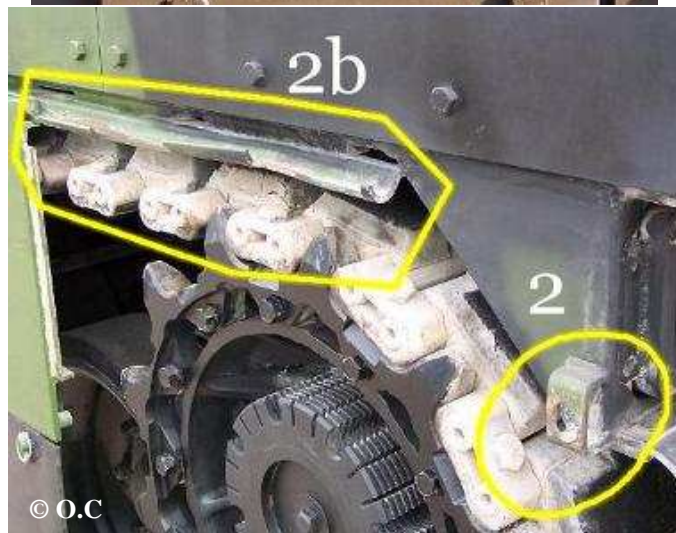
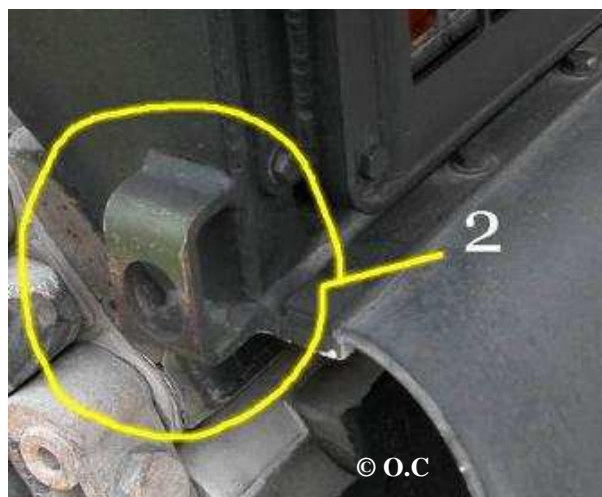


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### 1-2 Hull sides

1. The infantry phone access door handle should be in a recess. Tamiya has molded this part too flat. It must be drilled out and a piece of plastic card will be glued inside the hull and around the inner edge to increase the depth. A new handle must be done. **This should be done before assembling the hull top.**
2. When the aft skirt part is removed, a gutter shaped bracket and a fastener must be added **(2b)**.
3. 2 tie-downs are missing on the hull top about halfway along the hull sides.

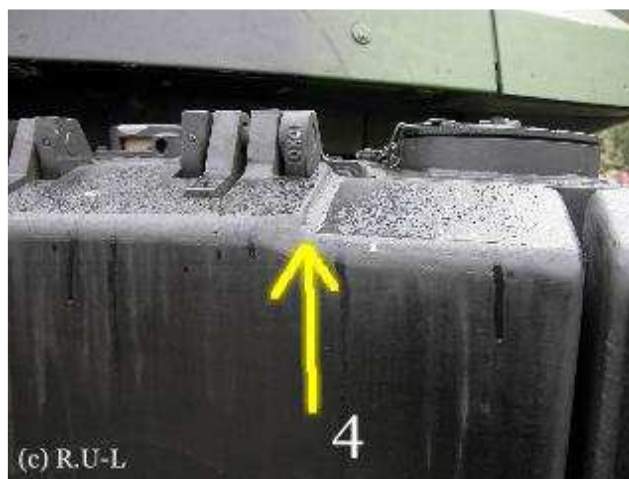


4. On top of the last of the 3 right side hinged skirt elements, there is a step which does not exist on the left side.



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### 1-3 Glacis plate

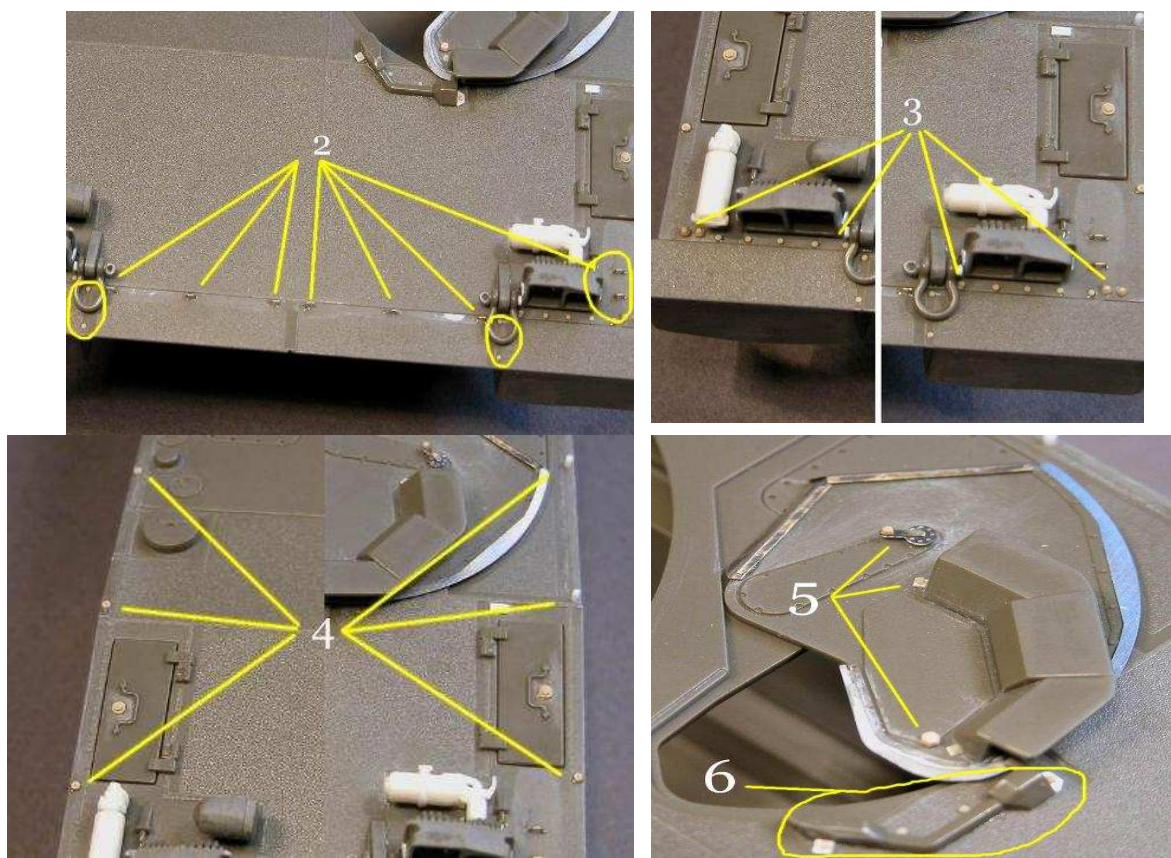
1. The sides of the headlight clusters should be modified. They lack vertical depressions for the fastening bolts. The wiring should be added as well as the horn wiring.



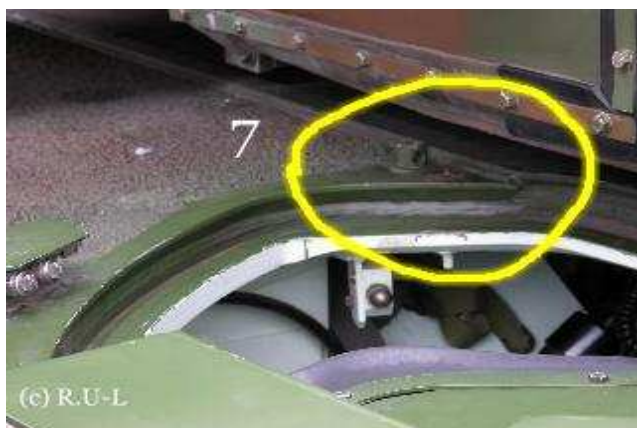
2. On the mudguard « beak », 4 bolts and 6 tie-downs are missing. 2 more tie-downs should be added to the side of each headlight cluster, the right ones being concealed by the decontamination kit.
3. In front of each headlight cluster, 6 bolts are missing. The 2 bolts present on the kit can be replaced by slightly bigger ones made from plastic rod.
4. Abreast of each side skirt hinge, 1 stop (approx 5 cm in scale 1) must be added (3 on each side).
5. On the driver hatch, the vision blocks fasteners, the opening handle and 2 side lips are missing. Noticeably, Tamiya has only issued the **front** lip in their PE set.
6. The fasteners on the protective covers of the vision blocks washers (part D56) can be added.

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7. Right behind the driver hatch right side is welded a small bit of rod.



### 1-4 Engine deck

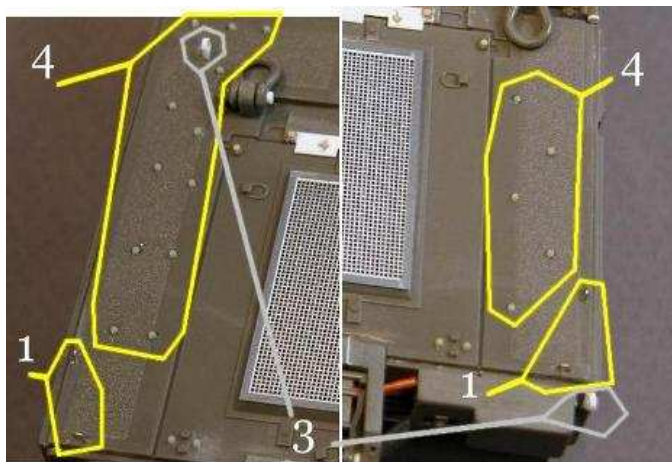
1. 2 tie-downs are missing at each rear hull corner. On each side of the engine deck 2 bolts are missing.
2. Under the hinge bar of the battery bay hatch a weld mark is missing in the middle.



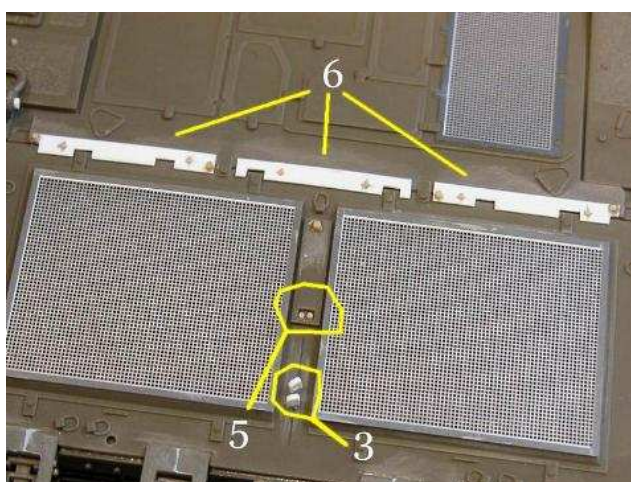
## Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2

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3. The 4 snorkel brackets (2 between the engine grilles, 1 at the rear right corner and 1 on the left and in front of the shackle) must be done from plastic card.
4. 12 small bolts are missing on the left sponson beside the engine grille and 5 other in staggered rows on the right sponson.



5. Between both engine grilles there is a plate with a recess where 2 tiny bolts should be added.
6. At the junction between the engine deck and grilles, 3 bolted metal plates can be added.

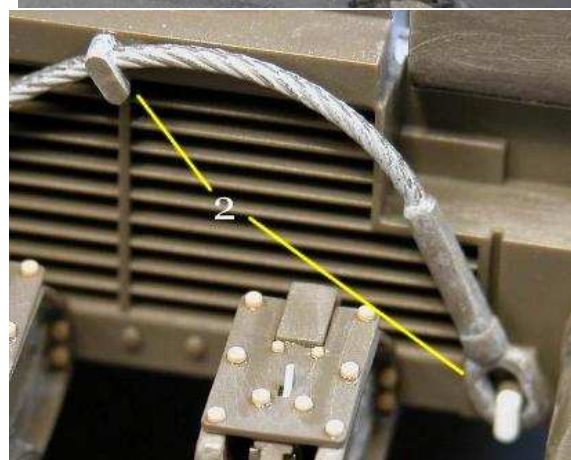
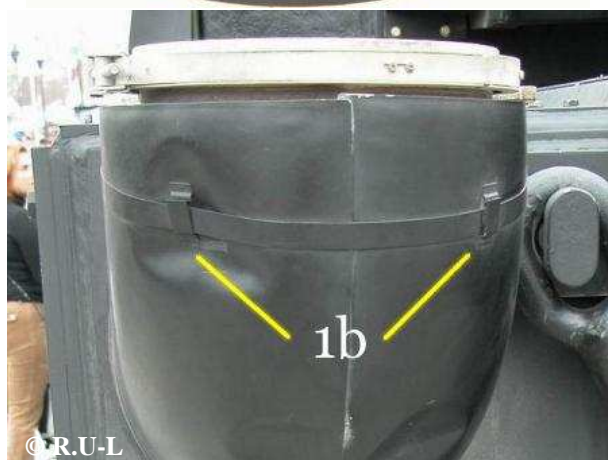


### 1-5 Rear deck

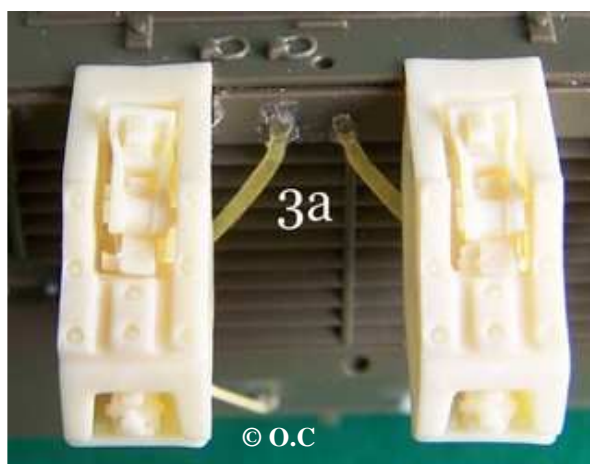
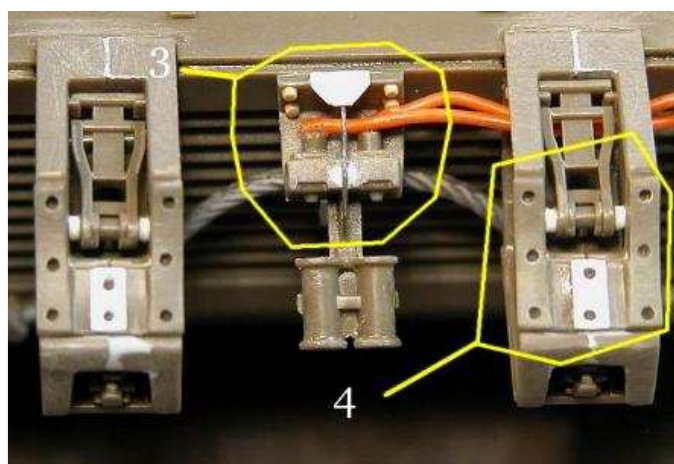
1. 2 or 4 (both models can be found) dividing fins inside the exhaust must be added as well as the girdles fasteners (**1b**) on the exhaust outlet.

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2. The tow cable brackets may be detailed with plastic strips and a new metal wire added.
3. The fuel drums brackets may be detailed. Their lower faces miss a number of bolts whereas the upper faces need supplemental rubber padding if the drums are not installed. **It should be stressed that the drums are very rarely used in peacetime conditions.** 4 ground wires must be added where Tamiya represented bolt heads.
4. The fuel pipes connector must be detailed. A triangular protection plate is missing as well as a thin protective curved guard. The tubing must also be added.

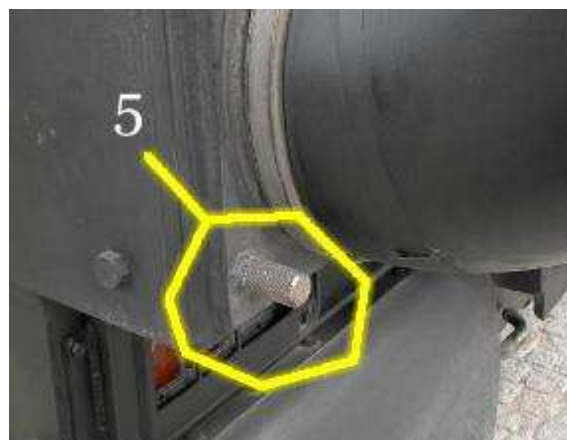
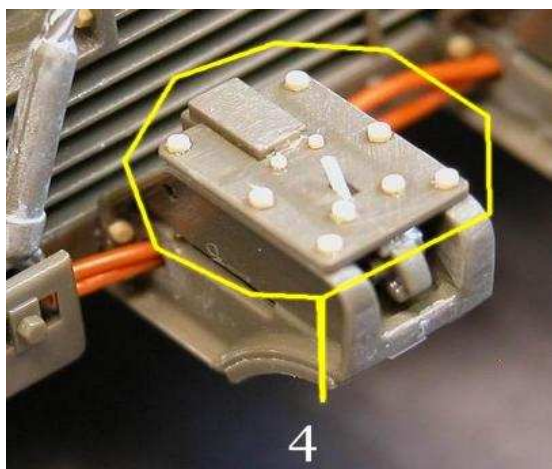




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5. At the chassis rear left corner, under the exhaust, the ground plug must be redone longer (1.5mm) than the kit molded one.



6. One seam is visible between the hull and the rear deck grille vertical frame on both sides abreast the rear lights clusters.



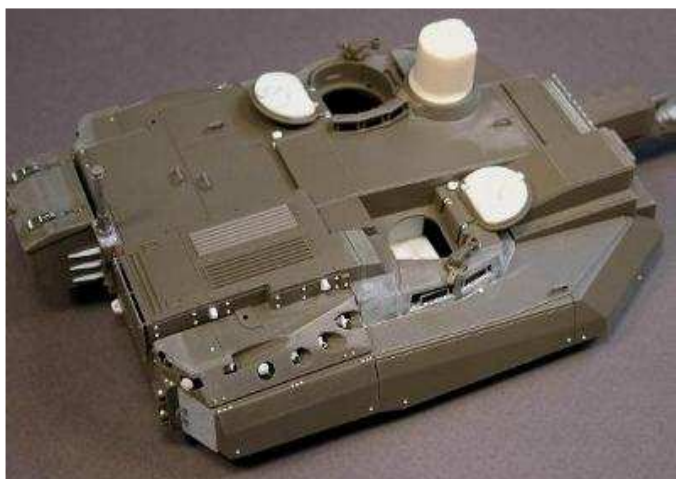
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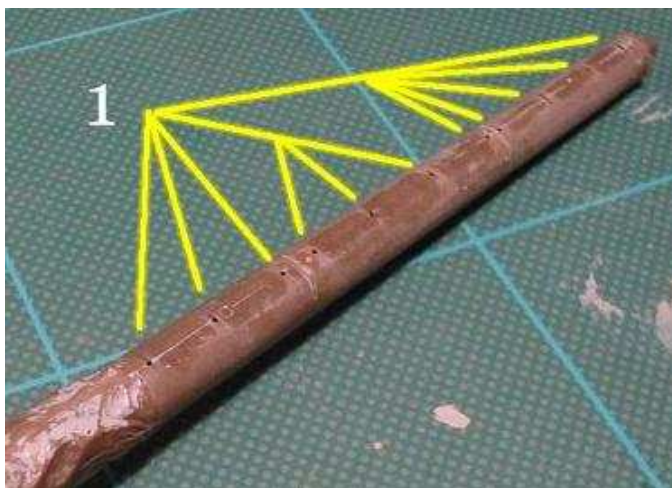
### 2- Turret

Here are two overall views of the turret. The TC sight and the hatches inner padding come from a *Blast Models* set.



#### 2-1 Main gun and mantlet

1. Under the barrel, 11 vent holes should be drilled. The barrel thermal sleeve may be improved. Where the segments join, there should be a more prominent weld line **as well as a recessed line** that needs to be carved with a sharp blade (**1b**).
2. The muzzle reference system may be improved. The upper plate is flat in the kit. In fact, it has a rectangular hole in which are 4 bolts in 2 pairs. The rubber cover at the back could be shortened (**2b**).





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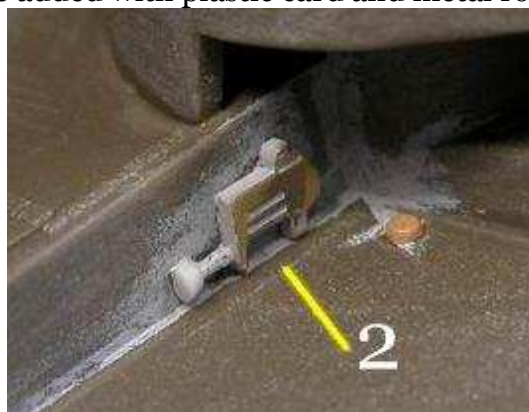
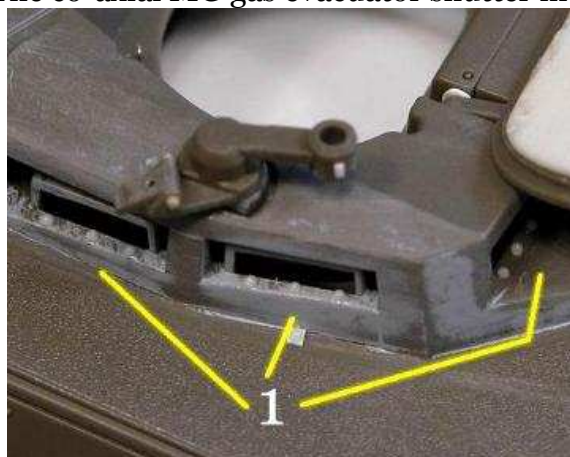


3. On the mantlet bottom left corner the driver's head protective padding is missing.



### 2-2 Turret roof

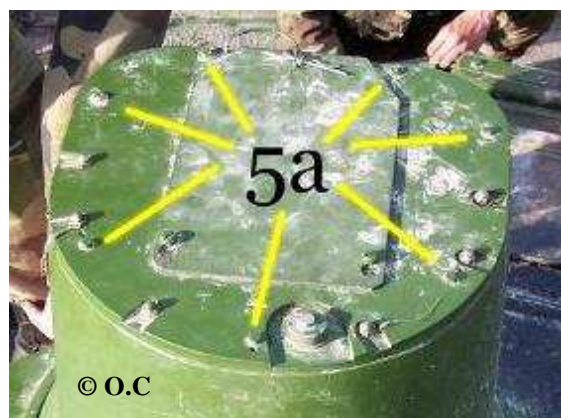
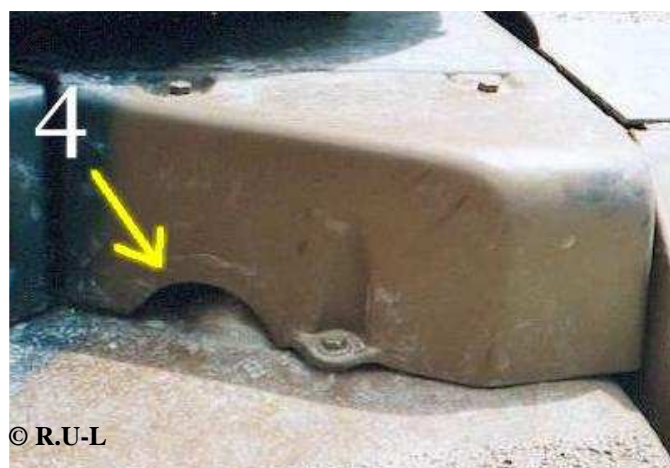
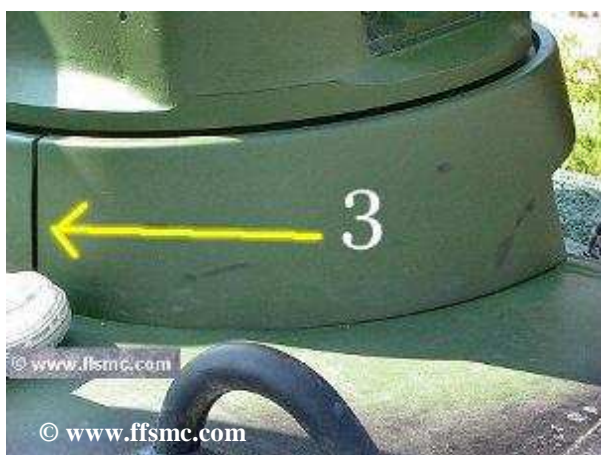
1. At the base of each vision block, 3 bolts are missing.
2. The co-axial MG gas evacuator shutter must be added with plastic card and metal rod.



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3. A large vertical recessed line is missing at the bottom of the TC sight.
4. At the rear of the TC station, a semi-rounded hole is missing from the wedge shaped part. As Tamiya molded this part solid with the turret, you need to cut the part prior to correcting it. The fastening part can be added too.
5. The TC sight is composed of a large cover (D44) and a clear part (G3) representing the optical glass and the frame. On the top of D44, you must add 7 small bolts around the edge, 2 screws for the sight protective plate (D45) and 1 more for the securing cable (**5a**). On the frame, you can add 3 tiny screws securing D45 in the closed position. At the base, there are 2 countersunk bolts. The vertical edges show 2 small holes and 1 screw hole from the surface down to the glass (**5b**). The plate D45 needs to be thinned and has to get the 2 holes and the retaining cable. You finally have to add a piece of strip perpendicular to the plate (**5c**).



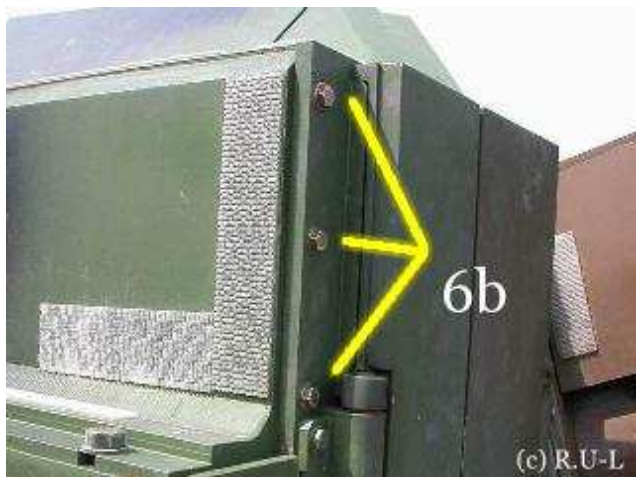
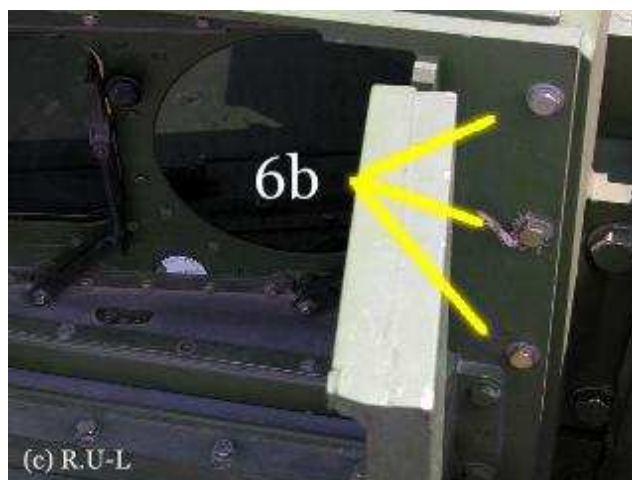
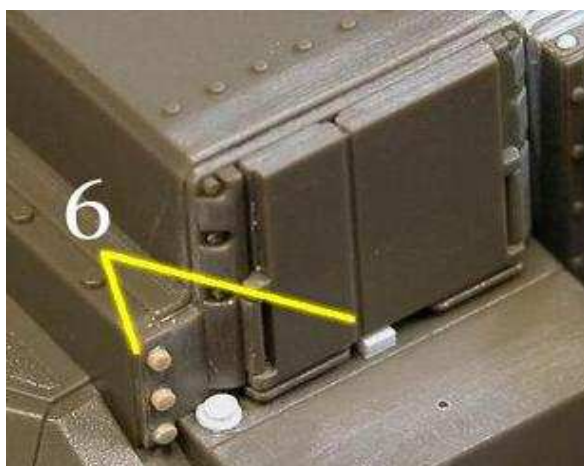


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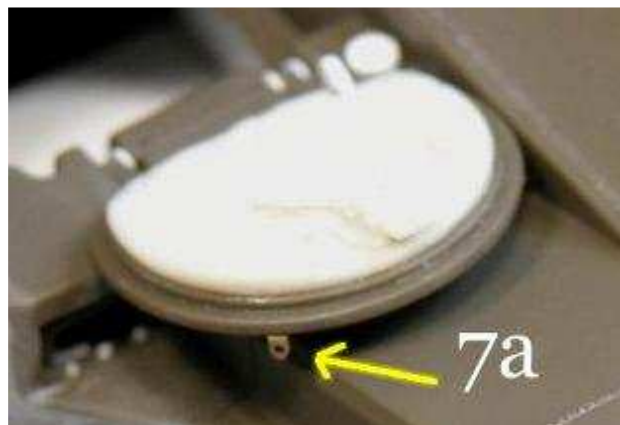


6. The main sight frame can be improved with a stop at the door base, 3 bolts on the right vertical edge and 1 large plug cap on the right. The newer versions frame has not the 3 bolts on each side of the doors in a kind of recess anymore **(6b)**
7. The hatches inner face is too thin and the handles are too flat. The rubber padding may be thickened, the handle redone and a stop added (encircled in the picture below). On the outer face, a rounded piece of strip with a hole through it for a padlock must be added **(7a)**.

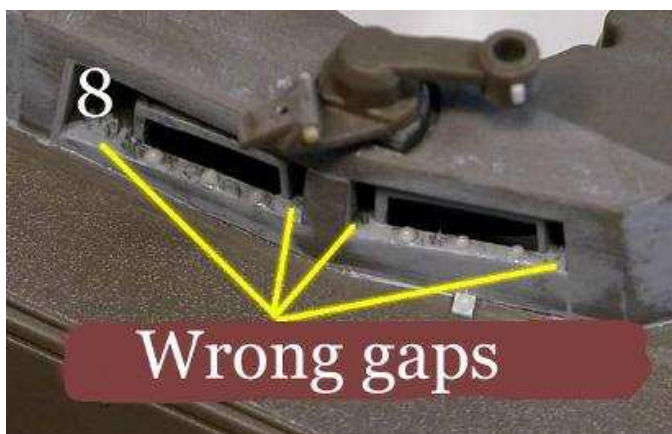


## Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2

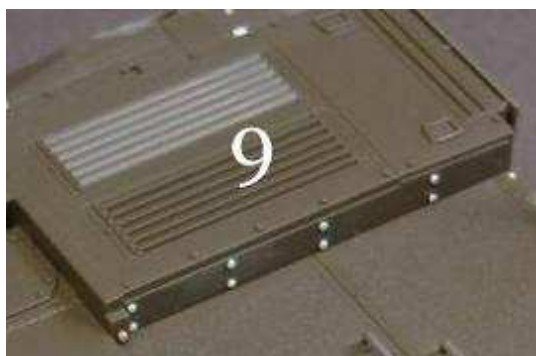
by Olivier Carneau & Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier



8. The TC and gunner side vision blocks covers are inaccurate. They should almost be in contact with the vision blocks. The fastening strips can be added.



9. Several bolts are missing on the A/C unit as well as 2 triangular parts on the right side.

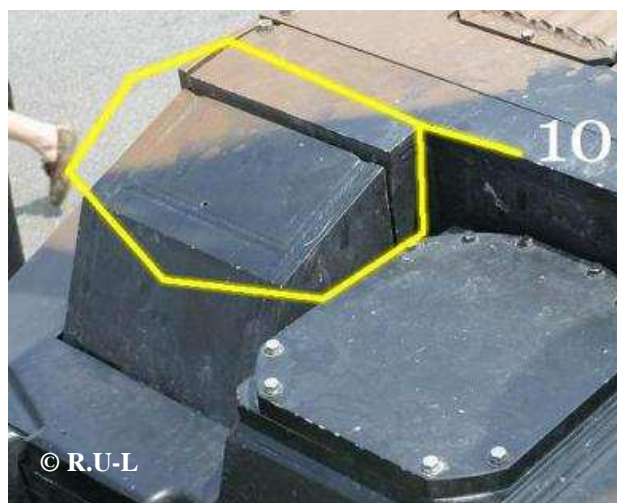




## Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2

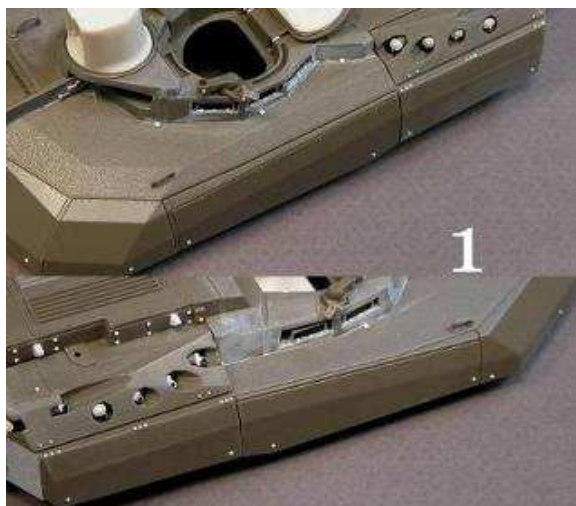
by Olivier Carneau & Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier

10. Right behind the gunner's hatch, there should be a step between the front part and the A/C unit main body.



### 2-3 Turret sides and bins

1. The side bins locks and various rivets are missing.



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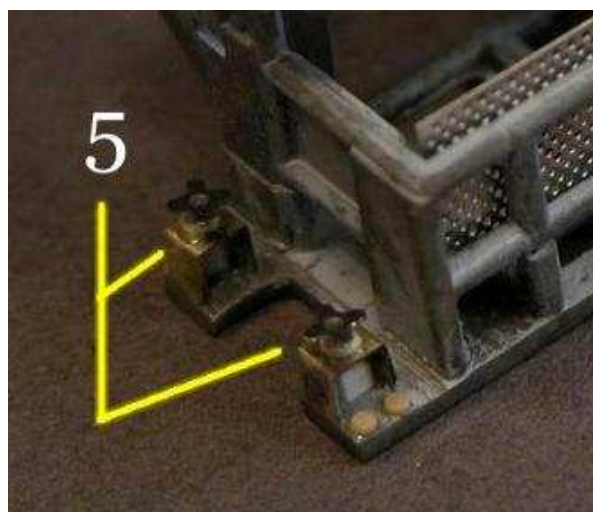
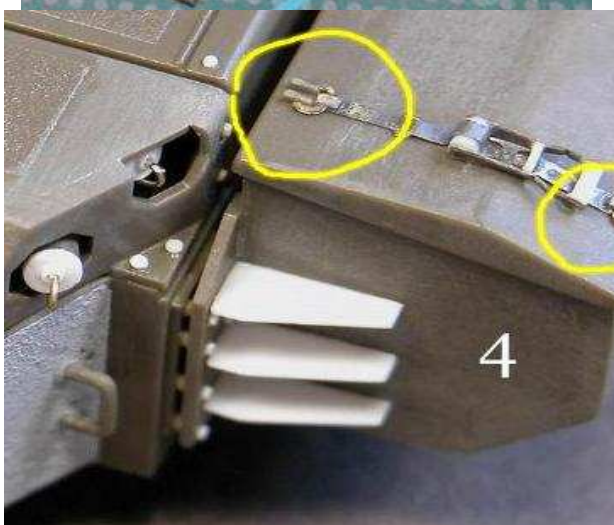
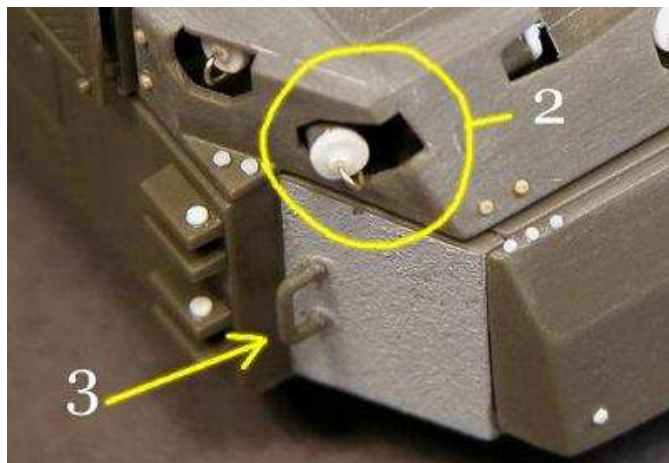
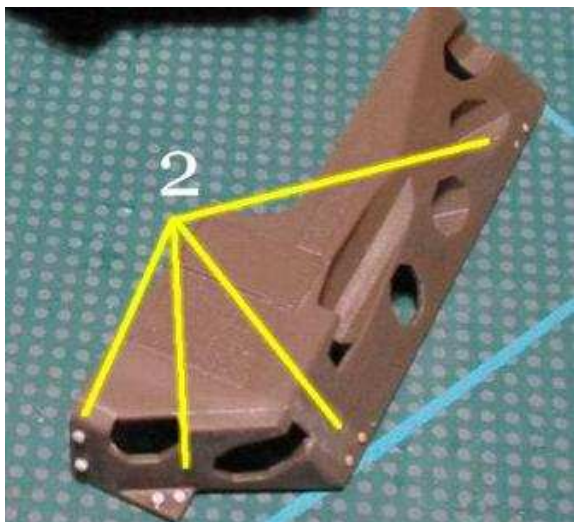
2. Some bolts are missing on the covers of the Galix smoke dischargers. Moreover, the cut-out at the back of the right hand side cover should extend more to the side.
3. The fiberglass look of the slanted panels at the rear of the turret should be reproduced and the handles on them should be glued parallel to the turret axis and not perpendicular to the faces.
4. The side ribs of the rear bin can be improved with thinner plastic card or P-E parts and the fasteners replaced by P-E parts. There must be a gap between the bin and the turret. On the bin lid, Tamiya molded the straps hooks solid. They should be hollowed or replaced.



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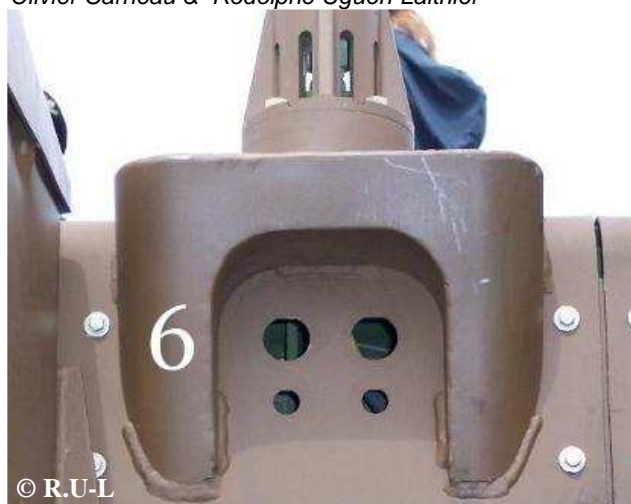
by Olivier Carneau & Rodolphe Uguen-Laithier

5. The stowage basket must be detailed with straps and fasteners as they are attached to the basket on the vehicle. The basket screw handles are missing. The hinge system may be detailed.
6. 4 holes are missing below the wind sensor mount. The top of it can be drilled out as well.



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## **Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2**

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### **3- Models, conversions and accessories**

#### **Models**

1/72 scale

Leclerc Series 1

Galaxy ref YH155

Revell ref 3131

ADV Mini ref 72020

1/48 scale

Leclerc Series 1

Academy ref ACA1306

Academy Hobby Models kits ref Mini Tanks series 06 (remote controlled)

Leclerc Series 2

Gasoline GAS50209 Char Leclerc AZUR NEXTER/GIAT

1/50 scale

Replex ref 308 (pre-built and painted)

1/35 scale

Leclerc Series 1

Heller ref : 81135

Wasan ref : MM-16 (or 00316)

MiniHobbyModels ref: 80110

Leclerc Series 2

Heller ref : 81142

Tamiya ref : 35279

#### **Conversions**

Terres Modèles

TM0001 : Conversion RT5 for Heller 81135

TM018 : Conversion T6-T8 for Heller 81135

Azimut

35187 : Conversion T6 for Heller 81135 and Wasan

35189 : Conversion RT5 for Tamiya 35279 (turret with detailed side bins interior)

Blast Models

BL72001K : Conversion T6 for 1/72 scale Revell kit

#### **Accessories and figures**

Blast Models

## **Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2**

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BL35075K : Ammunition and containers  
BL35077K : General update set for Tamiya 35279

BL35078K : Galix  
BL35083K : Ammunition containers  
BL35039F : Tank commander  
BL35079F : Crew in summer dress (3 busts)  
BL35080F : Crew in winter dress (3 busts)  
BL35081F : Dismounted tanker wearing body armor  
BL35082F : Dismounted tanker holding a round  
BL35093F : Crew member reloading (includes loading system hatch)  
BL35138K : Update set for Leclerc series2 Tamiya

### Azimut

72004 : French Modern Tank crew  
35254 : AFV crew France (2 generic busts)  
35366 : Galix  
35369 : Update set munitions 120mm  
35590 : Crew member in winter dress (2 busts)  
35171 : 120mm rounds

### Voyager Models

ME-A015 Barrel for French Leclerc series 2 Main battle tank for Tamiya 35279

### Bronco

AB3525 Leclerc MBT workable tracks

## **Photoetched sets**

### Tamiya

35280

### Eduard

35213 for Heller 81135  
35720 for Heller 81135 and 81142  
35844 for Tamiya 35279  
TP085 Fenders for Tamiya  
XT124 Express Mask for Tamiya

### Voyager Models

35073 for Tamiya (includes an aluminum barrel and resin parts)

### LionRoar

LE35056 for Tamiya (includes an aluminum barrel)

### Alliance Models Works

LW35056 pour Tamiya



## **Tamiya Leclerc Tweaks list 1.2**

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### **Decals**

#### Echelon Fine Details

T35021 - Leclerc Series 2 RT5 & T6 (1/35)

T72021 - Leclerc Series 2 RT5 & T6 (1/72)

D356002 – UNIFIL Leclerc Lebanon (1/35)

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## **4- Reference material**

### **Books**

Raids Special Issue n°5

Leclerc, de la guerre froide aux conflits de demain by Marc Chassillan Editions ETAI

Tankograd n°8001

### **Websites**

Chars Français (<http://www.chars-francais.net>)

Char Leclerc (<http://engins-blindes-francais.wifeo.com/index.php>)

Flying Frog (<http://www.ffsmc.com>)

Maquette Garden (<http://www.maquettegarden.free.fr>)

Modern military modeling ([http://olivier.carneau.free.fr/gb\\_version/index.htm](http://olivier.carneau.free.fr/gb_version/index.htm))

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## **Conclusion**

As mentioned above, this list is not meant to be the definite guide to improving the Tamiya's Leclerc kit but we hope it can be expanded in the future with the help of fellow modelers.

However, we do hope it will meet your needs and enable you to improve your Tamiya model, and maybe raise your interest in French modern armor which we feel deserves to be better known.

If you wish to contribute to this document and help us make it better, feel free to send your contribution through Modern Military Modeling (link above).

We would like to thank all who supported this project and helped making it available.