

# Dressing French Tanks FOR BATTLE

All French tanks had their camouflage applied in the factory before being sent to their units. Each factory had their own camouflage schemes, although they changed over time. It is common replacement tanks to have a different camouflage scheme from the rest of their unit. The painting guide below can be applied to suit any of the French camo schemes shown on these two pages.



STEP ONE

Undercoat the tank with black primer, then basecoat with **Gunship Green (895)**. Wash with **Black Shade (201)** then lightly drybrush with **Gunship Green (895)** again.



STEP TWO

Apply **Flat Earth (983)** as the base coat for the brown patches and as an undercoat for the yellow patches, as yellow will not cover the green well.



STEP THREE

Paint **Green Ochre (914)** over the brown camouflage undercoat to build up a good base for the yellow. Give the entire tank another thin wash of **Black Shade (201)**.



STEP FOUR

Paint the yellow patches with **Tan Yellow (912)**. Touch up the brown and green patches with **Flat Earth (983)** and **Gunship Green (895)**, leaving black in the recesses.



STEP FIVE

Paint a thin line of **German Camo Black Brown (822)**, around each camouflage patch. Paint the tracks **Black Grey (862)**, wash with **Black Shade (201)**, and drybrush with **Gunmetal (863)**.

At this stage you can apply decals using the guide on the next page.



WEATHERING

Paint chips of **Gunship Green (895)** over the camouflage patches and **Gunmetal (863)** over the base colour to show paint chipping back to the base colour and metal. Drybrush **Flat Earth (983)** and **Green Brown (879)** over the tracks and bottom half of the hull to represent dust and dirt. **Brown Shade (200)** can be used to add rust streaks.

All colour names and codes given are for the Vallejo range of Flames Of War paints, available from the online store and Flames Of War stockists.

## MARKING FRENCH TANKS

The decals used as examples on this page come from Battlefront Miniatures new *FR940 French decal set* released on October 30.



### RENAULT CHAR B-1 BIS

Renault Char B-1 bis tanks have a wide variety of markings. Some companies numbered their tanks, painting large single digits on the turret sides and sometimes on the rear. Larger numbers were painted on the hull sides.



Other companies assigned each platoon a letter. The platoon command tank usually has a plain letter, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tanks in the platoon are marked with dots to the left or right of the letter. At least one battalion painted the hull letter in black on a white background.



### CHAR B-1 BIS NAMES

Every Char B-1 bis tank was assigned a name and serial number. The name was usually painted on the hull front and the turret sides. The serial was painted on the front cross shaft and the hull sides.

### ROUNDELS

French tanks usually carry roundels on their turret sides and sometimes on the hull nose and sides and the turret rear. Some units painted roundels on the top of the cupola for air recognition as well. Armoured cars carried roundels on the turret top and rear and sometimes on the hull front and sides.

An excellent source of photographs of French tanks is <http://www.chars-francais.net/>. Click on Chars for tanks and Blindes a Roues for armoured cars, then select the vehicle you want. Translators like <http://translate.google.com/> will help you read the text as well.



### SOMUA S-35 AND HOTCHKISS H-35 AND H-39

Somua S-35 and Hotchkiss H-35 and H-39 tanks were identified by individual numbers on the turret sides and sometimes on the turret rear. The Somua tanks were usually numbered 1 to 49 and the Hotchkiss tanks from 50 to 99.



1<sup>st</sup> Platoon



2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon



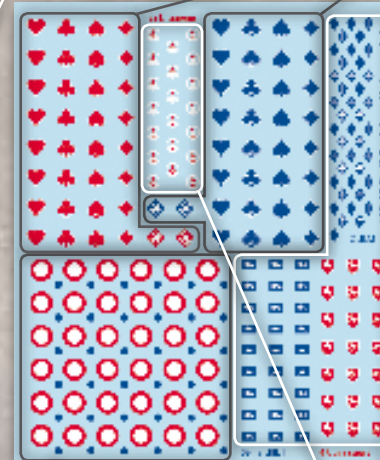
3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon



4<sup>th</sup> Platoon

### PLAYING CARD SYMBOLS

The French army used playing card symbols to distinguish platoons and companies. Each platoon had its own symbol. The colour indicated the company: blue for the first, white for the second, and red for the third company. The company command tank has a symbol containing all four platoon symbols (♦♦♦♦).



### UNIT SYMBOLS

Many mechanised cavalry units painted their traditional symbol on their tanks and armoured cars. Tanks and armoured cars displayed their symbol on the hull side. Armoured car units sometimes replaced the roundels on the hull front and side with their unit symbol.