

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 2nd and 3rd 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.



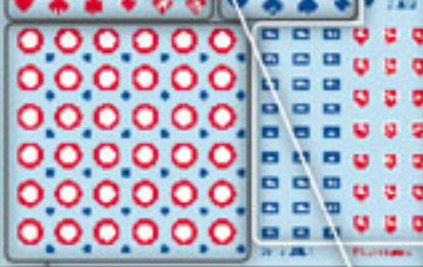
CHAR B-1 BIS NAMES

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.



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.



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 (♠♥♦♣).

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.

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.

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.