

# Aftermarket Product Review

## 1/35 Minor Model

### Armoured WW2 Jeep with SCR Radio Set



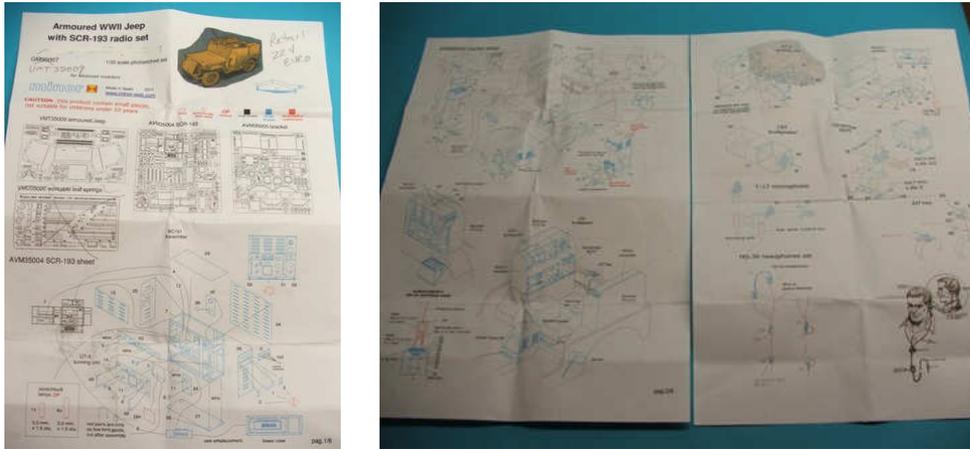
Manufacturer- Minor Model  
Stock Number - VMT 35009  
Scale- 1:35  
Medium- Photo Etch Brass  
Parts- 262  
Donor Model- Tamiya Jeep #35219  
Price- 23.Euros/ Approximately 27.00 USD  
Reviewer- Mac Johnston  
Date- 12/15/2011

### **Brief History of Vehicle**

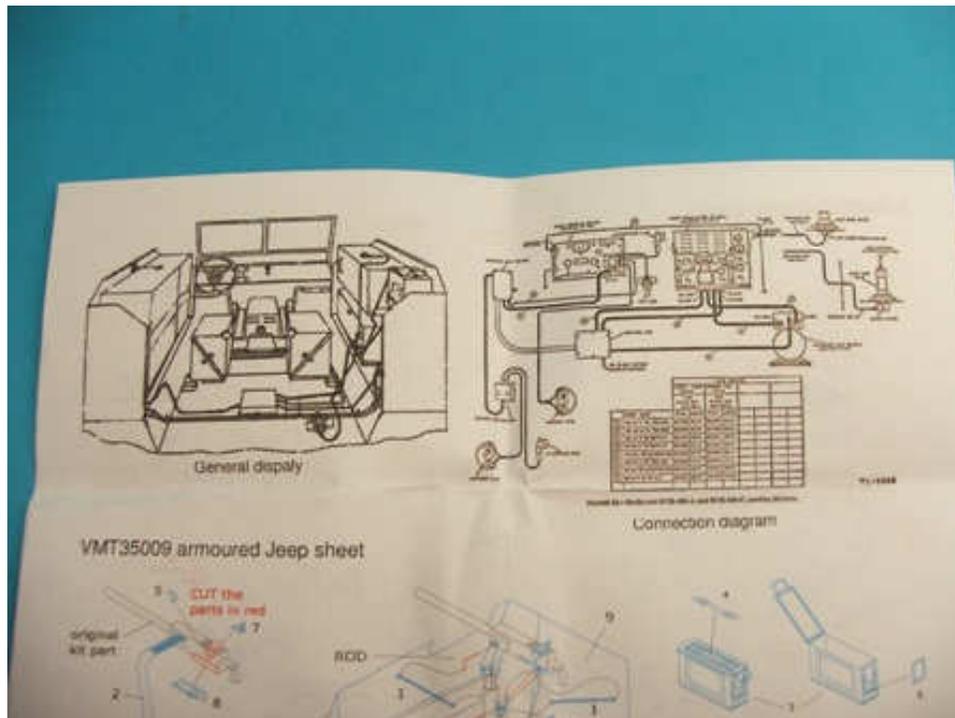
Officially, the US military trials of armored Jeeps were considered a failure. They concept didn't work for a variety of reasons, most importantly the extra weight from the added armor overtaxed the chassis and running gear. However, that didn't mean armored jeeps didn't serve during the war, only a few photos surviving. One was reportedly photographed in Tunis on May 8, 1943 and the Reconnaissance Company of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division also had two of these field built armored jeeps. Later photos show that one of these Jeeps was converted to a command radio vehicle. Basically all pretty much had the same configuration with only a few differences like the number of vision ports, sizes and/or placement. One photo showed a vehicle having windshield folded down rather than being removed. With that being said, my review is based on the Jeep Command radio version.

## Getting Started

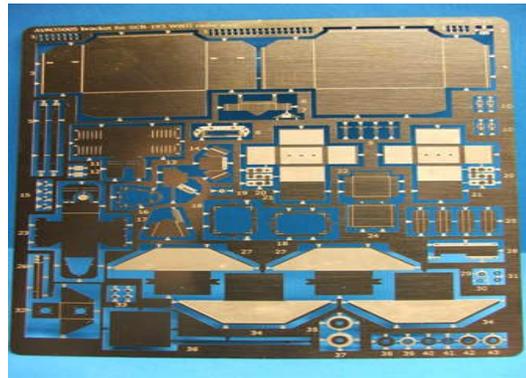
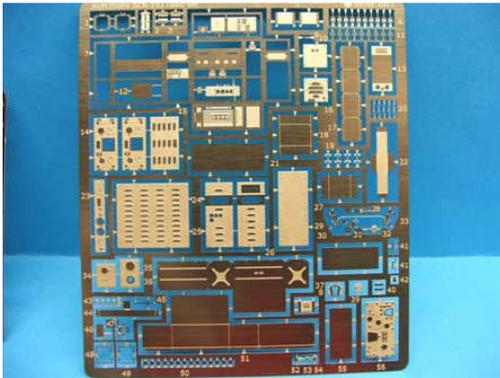
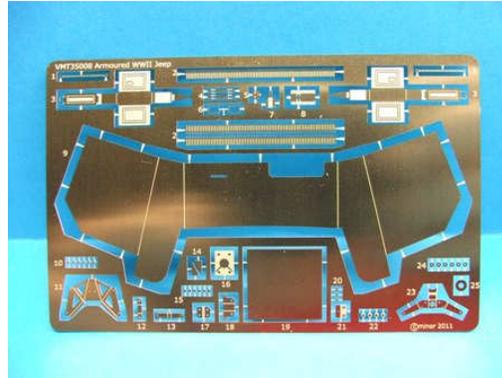
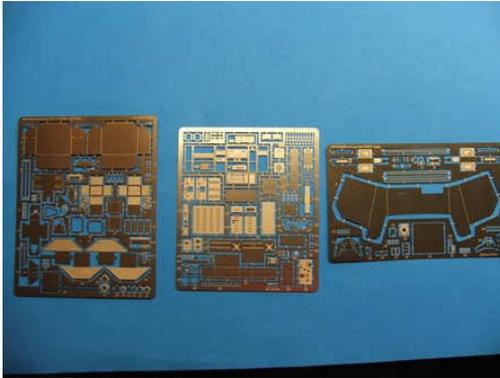
The parts come in a simple plastic bag, but it has a study cardboard reinforcement to prevent damage. The instructions consist of four very detailed pages. It's hard to believe, but Minor lists 262 pieces comprising the set. Start looking at it all and you'll agree that there are that many parts, which are all nicely laid out on three frets.



The instructions are very well illustrated and make the build much easier than it could have been due to the complexity of this set. There are a couple of gray areas that do exist in terms of the build though and these will be mentioned later in the review.



Minor even provides a real wiring diagram so you can do as much or as little as you want with this aspect of the build. Amazingly, some of this scale wiring is the diameter of a human hair!



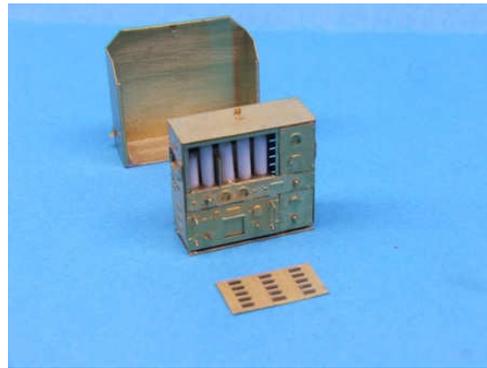
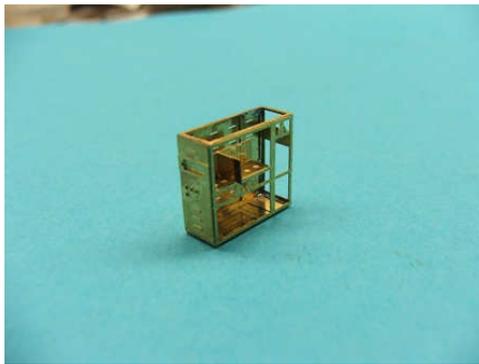
The photo-etch parts are absolutely top quality. It is stamped with incredible definition and the mounting tabs are designed so that the small parts aren't damaged when removing them. This helps cut down on time repairing and filing parts.

There are three frets, but be careful as each one is used for a certain assembly portion during the build. Yes, there are duplicate fret numbers so read the top of the frets and pay attention!!



If all goes well you will end up with a bunch of parts that resemble these above. The armored sides aren't shown here though.

### **Step by Step Build Process**

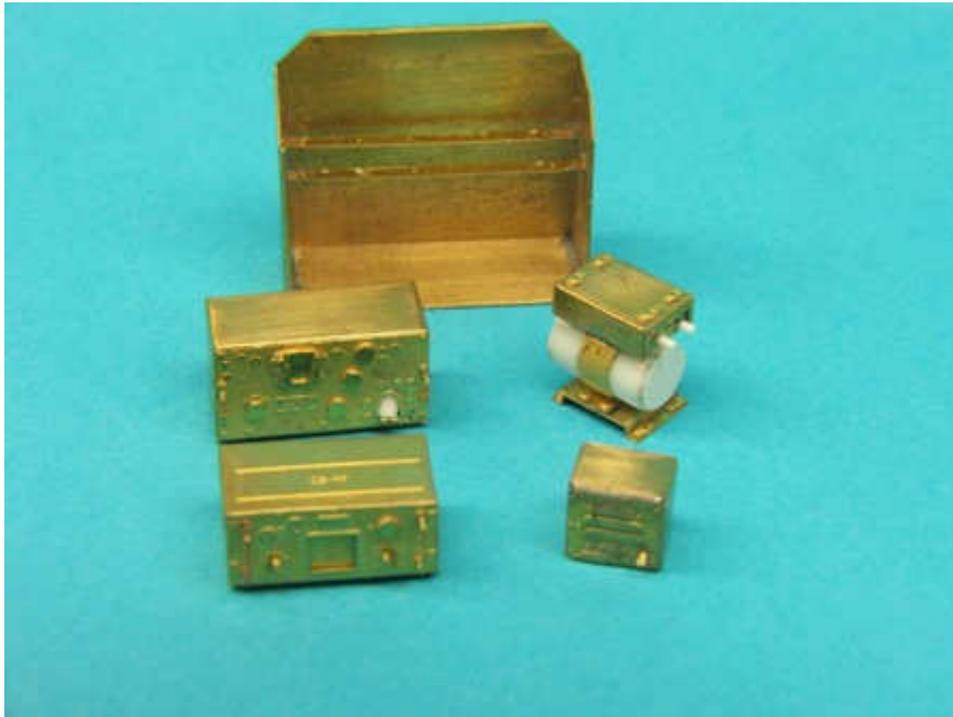


### **BCR 191 Radio**

The radio framework above consists of pretty much ONE part. It is multi angular and requires a bit of concentration and attention to bend properly into shape. It is shown here with the sides, back panel, and one interior partition installed. Here is a step where Minor omitted the use of one the parts, specifically the interior shelve. The drawings don't show to bend the shelf down to form the back half of the front shelf. This is where the radio tubes sit on, so it is critical if you are displaying the tubes.

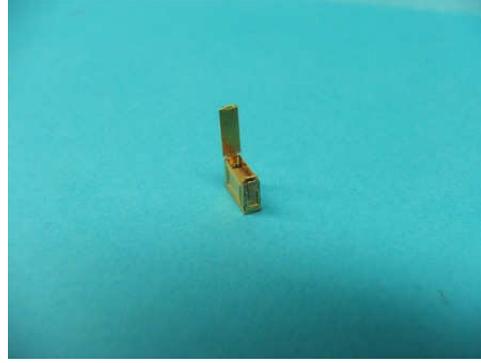
Also, note that if you wish to portray the radio with the front panel installed and not make some “tubes”, the above step omission won’t matter. However, if you do choose the other option of no front panel (as I did) the shelf will need to be bent down as stated. In addition, when completed, the side handles of the housing will actually be workable. After building the radio, I completed the cabinet for the rear of the transmitter, which was the protective shield/case it is placed into for mounting on the jeep.

Finally, the instructions mention the inclusion of acetate film to be used for the radio glass area. In fact, the film is listed in a few areas. I imagine the film would have had radio type markings under a dash-like glass. However, there was no film included in the bag and instead of contacting Minor for a replacement, I chose to keep things "as is".



### **UT 5 Tuner, LS 3 Loudspeaker, BD 77 Dynamotor, and BC 312 Receiver**

These units all go into the cabinet behind the driver. Please note that the dynamotor needs to have the body made from plastic tubing or a solid rod though. The construction was straight forward in these steps, but you must be careful when placing the shelving strips in the cabinet. The correct placement is critical as all the other components will be misaligned when they are inserted onto the shelf if care is not exercised. The previously mentioned missing acetate film would have been used here in both the tuner and receiver as well.

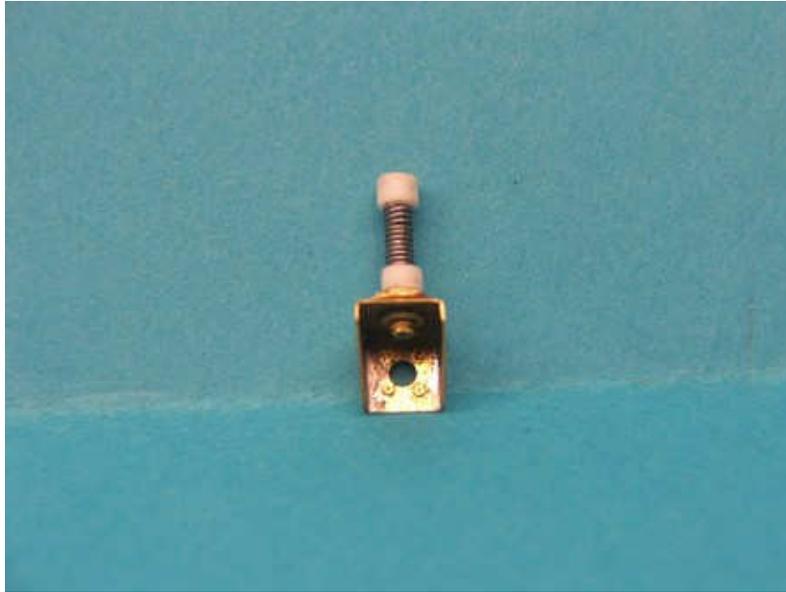


### **Browning .30 cal Machinegun**

For this step, you'll use the heavily modified Tamiya model kit gun. Pretty much all of the kit part is used: specifically the gun and part of the mounting post. However, you can actually make a new post instead of cutting up the Tamiya part if you wish. One issue I had with this portion of the build was with the machinegun mount, part 23. There seemed to be too many scribed fold lines for the part. I ended up using reference photos and I decided to bend it less than the instructions/ parts showed. My effort came out fine but I still don't understand why the part was scribed as it was or what it would have looked like had I followed the instructions.

When building this part of the set, again, proper alignment is very important. Keeping the gun, floor mount, and holding arm all straight is very delicate and complicated work. Another thing to watch is the placement of the holding arm mounts. Remember that when it is folded down it has to be the same distance to the lower holding mount as it is to the gun mount.

Finally, the inclusion of the small ammo boxes is pretty neat. With the supplied ammunition belt, it can be folded and laid into the box for content. They bend up easily and look good too.



### **MP 37 Radio Antenna base and MP 50 assembly**

All I can say is WOW!!! The number of pieces required for this step are impressive and the completed base assembly is a work of art. There are no less than 16 etched washers/mount parts here as well as a few scratch built pieces required. In addition, you do have the choice to build the antenna mast like I did or to just use a supplied weather cover if the mast isn't used.

On to the construction: first you must put a shaft up thru the base, wind a spring, and make a few collars as well. The only glitch here was finding the proper diameter rod to use. This isn't Minor's fault because the rod I had available was the issue. The Evergreen rods I had weren't perfectly rounded so I had to use a smaller diameter rod. Minor lists a .1mm rod being needed, but I used .088mm/.035 diameter rod. The size is critical to install the washers, but if the rod is of a slightly smaller diameter it doesn't matter as the washers will stack well anyway.

The next step is where I question the location Minor states the antenna mounting should be. Minor shows it mounted and tipped a little beside the gas filler, but the illustration on the top of their instructions shows it on the side of the front armor plate. My reference photos agree with the placement of the antenna on the left side of the platin, so that is where I placed the assembly.



**J 37 Keypad, T 17 Microphone, and H 30 Headphones**

As you can see, these small components are very delicate. The headphones are like working with a hair strand!. When building the microphone you will need to add a plastic rod to complete the handle. Finally, remarkably, the keypad is movable. Although not shown here, all these components will be wired when permanently installed on the model.



**Radio Batteries**

The Command/Radio Jeep was equipped with two extra batteries which were mounted behind the front seat area. These assemblies, like other parts of this set, have a couple options. Basically, they can be built with the cover off or on. But, I decided to build them open as all the interior hold downs, clamps, battery terminals/covers, and floor mounts are included. Again, be very careful about bending the boxes into shape and test fit them together before finishing them. The fit is tight but it will work.



### **Power Take Off**

Finally, we've come to the end of the project. Once again, this is another nicely detailed component to build. However, it is also an assembly that is critical to test fit as the top and base need to fit just right. I used a #37 drill to shape the top cover and that worked out well. Again, this assembly has an alternate option, specifically the inclusion of a cover over the wire-connection area. In addition, a floor plate is needed (which I supplied) where the generator-drive would come up through the floor from the Jeep's power source. As before, careful test fitting is needed. Finally, all the air louvers on the assembly cover need to be pressed open. I used a broken #11 blade and a piece of pine wood to perform this operation.

### **Final Thoughts**

This is a top quality product through and through. Minor Model uses a lot of overlapping parts to make a nice three dimensional appearance specifically on the larger radio components. I will state that Opti-Visors or another magnification source is a must. Other than the couple of grey areas in the instructions and the missing acetate film in question, it is a real gem and well worth the money and effort to build.

The small parts went together well with super glue, but I also would recommend that soldering all the main joints and seams would be a good idea for added strength and stability. In my case I used a jig to stabilize the main radio frame, the side armor cabinets, and the battery boxes while soldering. I didn't keep track of the time it took me to build this set, but it was quite a bit. However, it was well worth the effort

**I HIGHLY RECOMMEND** this set to experienced modelers but I think the complexity of this offering would be a challenge for a beginner though. Although not cheap, this set

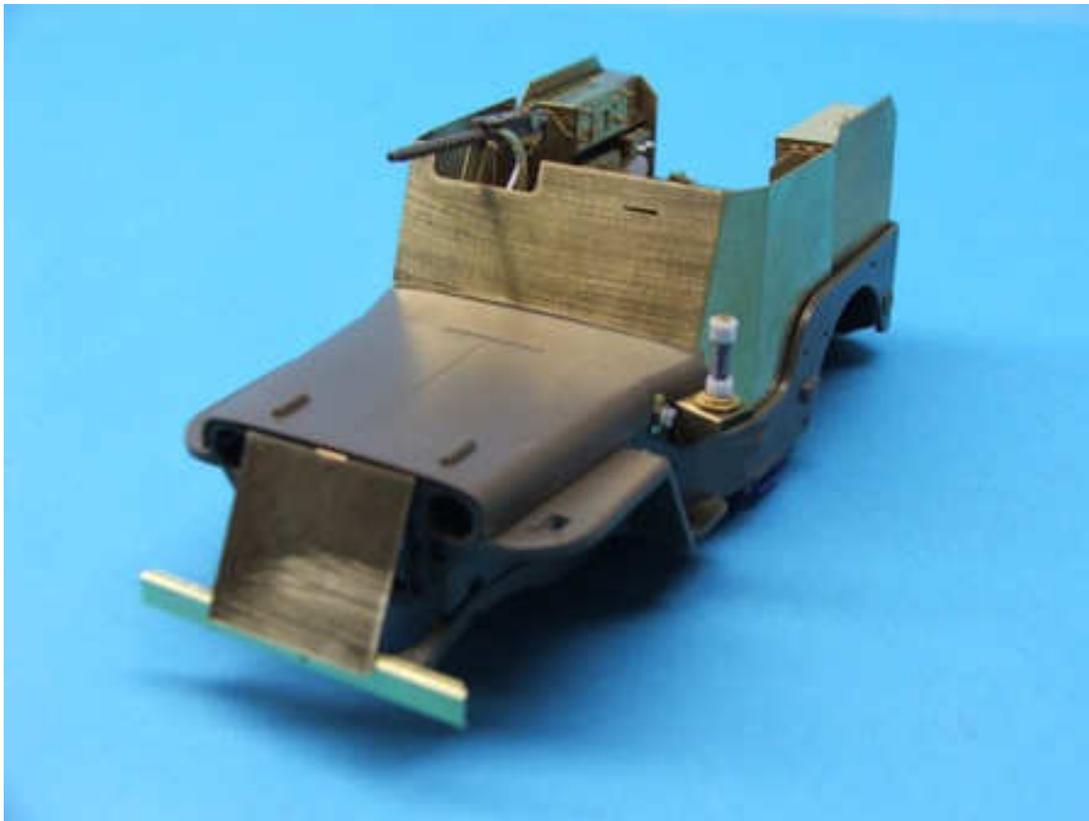
is well worth the money due to the large number of high quality parts included and the resulting excellent finished product.

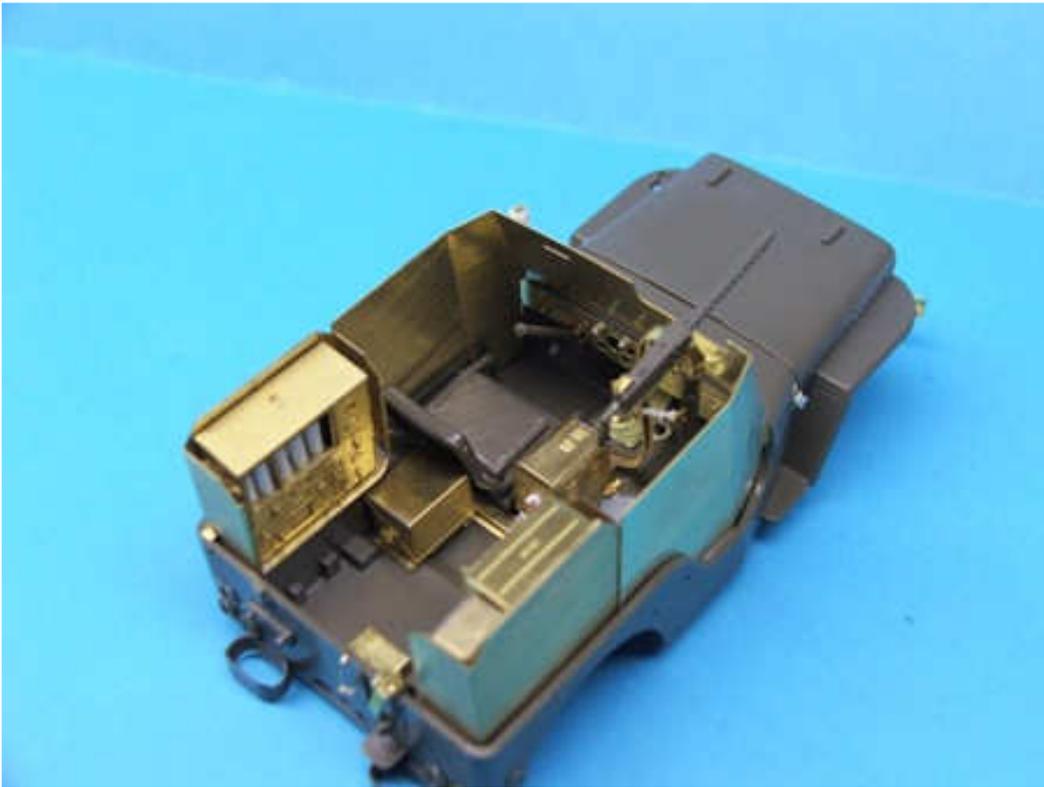
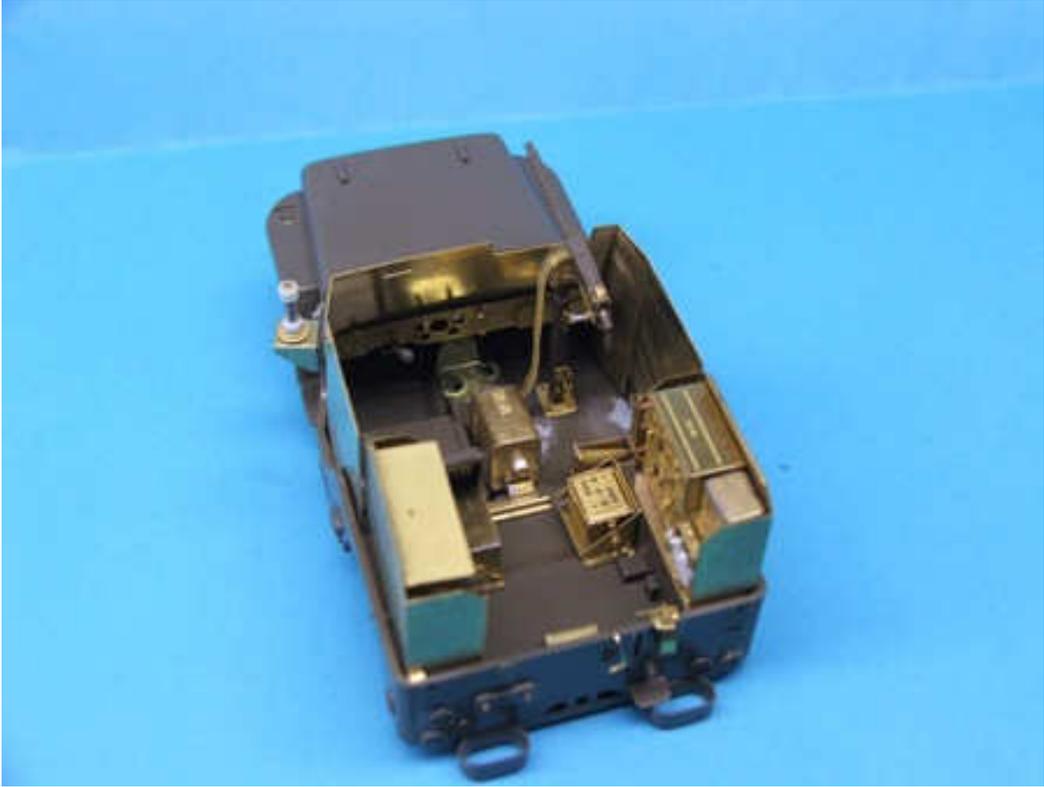
Thanks to [Minor Model](#) for the Review Sample.

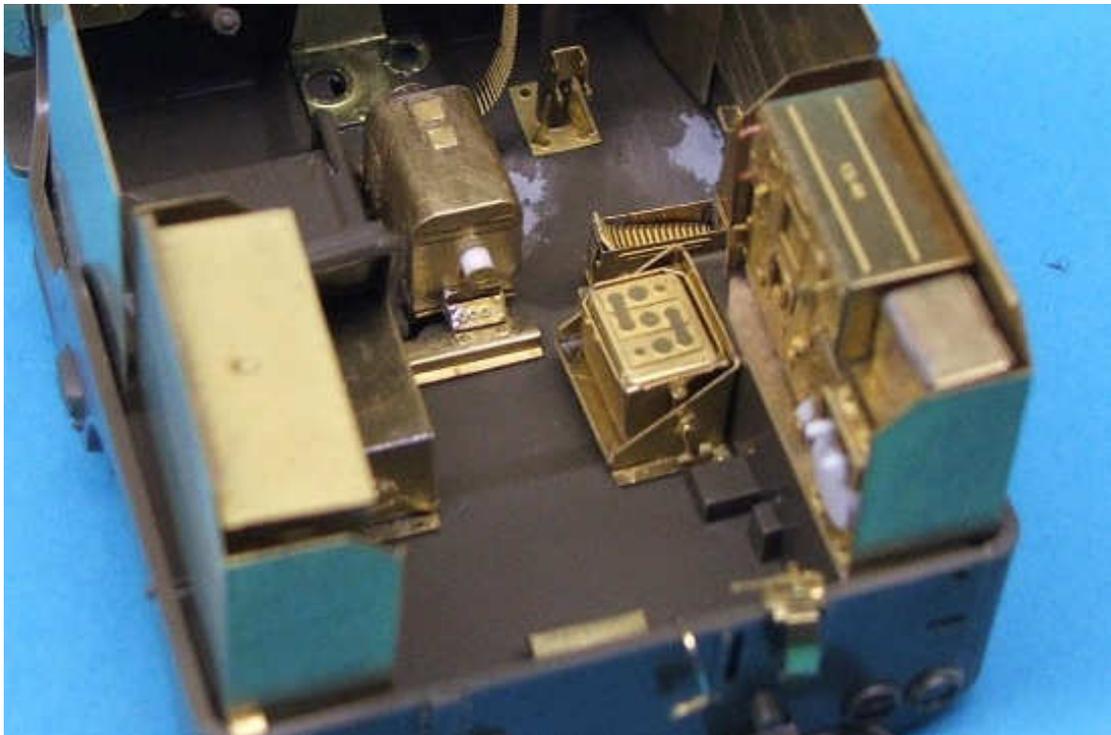
## **References**

"Jeeps in Detail" (WWP #29) Wings & Wings Publications  
"Rare WW2 Jeep photo Archive: 1940-1945" by Mark Askew

## **The Completed Project**







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