



Tom Grossman

# MODEL KIT REPORT

## Warriors Then and Now From edged to automatic weapons

In this edition of Model Kit Report, we'll present two series of Master-Box warrior kits. I'll build and finish one with Acrylics Vallejo Paints. The kits and paints came from Stevens International, and it turns out they have a connection despite representing different time periods.

MasterBox, a Ukrainian company, has released a wide range of historical and fantasy figures. Scales include 1/35, 1/32, and 1/24. Several have already been featured in this column. The kits usually include one or two runners, well packaged in colorful boxes. The standard high-quality manufacturing by MasterBox results in excellent and abundant detail. The boxes are standard sized with assembly diagrams, parts guides and paint charts printed on the back. The variety of subjects give them broad appeal. An experienced car or armor modeler might like a new challenge. The out-of-the-ordinary subject matter may draw a new modeler.

First up are 1/32-scale warriors from the Greco-Persian Wars that raged from 499-449 BC. There are seven kits in the series and displayed together, they'd make an excellent historical exhibit. We'll look at three of seven kits: MB 32011, MB 32012, MB 32013. All are Hoplites, citizen-soldiers from the ancient Greek city-states. They were often armed with a spear and shield, like the three represented in these kits. Each kit has different parts to build the warriors in various poses. The color schemes are also unique.

Representing the current era of warfare is the MasterBox 1/35-scale Russian-Ukrainian War Series. Like the Hoplites, many Ukrainian citizens became soldiers when the Russians invaded in 2022. Each of the seven kits in the series includes at least two figures. All are Ukrainian soldiers except MB 35228, representing a different side of the conflict. These are essentially vignettes in a box and will also go well with 1/35-scale armor subjects for larger compositions.



Detailed painting instructions

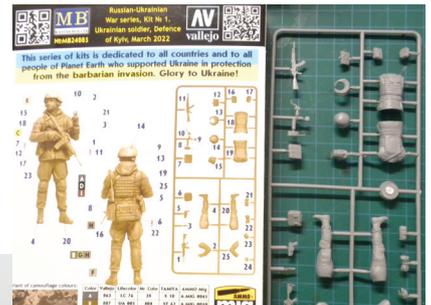
### BUILD LOG MasterBox MB MB24075 1/24 scale Ukrainian Soldier, Defense of Kyiv, March 2022

On a slightly larger scale, the finished warrior is an eye-catching display piece with a small footprint. The detail is crisp and plentiful, with options for gear and the rifle.

Because of the excellent manufacturing, prep was minor, and assembly went quickly. Xuron 2175ET Pro Sprue Cutters and an Excel Soft Grip with a #12 blade did the job! The 2175ET cuts easily and closely with little sprue left on the parts. The pointy tips make them excellent for



Modern warrior series



precision cutting. I like the smaller curved #12 blades for working on curved and uneven surfaces. The shorter length also helps keep my fingers uninjured!

Precision glue tips help assembly move quickly.

Modern military figures capture the realities of our time.



A new approach to painting camo.



Creating a digital camo pattern in 1/24 scale was a good challenge. My solution was a sable 4/0 brush with Acrylicos Vallejo Military Color Paints. I applied multiple layers, building from light to dark.

I used three of the recommended Model Air colors to recreate the camo. The box art and sample on the back are good guides.

The plan was to apply the colors with a sable 4/0 brush. I made a pallet of paint blotches with tiny dabs of color. Before jumping into the figure, I decided to test and practice the technique on a piece of

sheet styrene, starting with light layers and moving to darker shades. It's a time-consuming technique but should look close enough to the random digital camouflage style. The smaller the blotches I made, the better it turned out.

That's all for this edition of the Model Kit Report. I hope you found it informative. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to start working on next month's column. I'll finish the camo job and get started on a very well-done reissue of a classic, ghastly, historical model. Tune in next month for more modeling fun! HM

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