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## Trumpeter TSM-7218

# Trumpeter 1/72 Japanese Type 74 Tank Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model: TSM-7218

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This instruction manual provides guidance for assembling the Trumpeter 1/72 scale Japanese Type 74 Tank plastic model kit. This kit is designed for hobbyists aged 14 and up. The finished model is an accurate representation of the Japanese Type 74 main battle tank. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

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- **Small Parts:** This kit contains small parts which may pose a choking hazard. Keep out of reach of young children.
- **Sharp Tools:** Assembly requires the use of sharp tools such as hobby knives and nippers. Exercise caution to prevent injury.
- **Adhesives and Paints:** If using glue and paints (not included), ensure adequate ventilation. Refer to the specific product's safety data sheet for handling instructions. Avoid prolonged skin contact and inhalation of fumes.
- **Age Recommendation:** This product is recommended for individuals aged 14 years and older.

## 3. KIT CONTENTS

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Before starting, verify that all parts are present and undamaged. The kit typically includes:

- Plastic sprues containing model parts
- Decal sheet
- Instruction booklet (this document)

### Items Not Included (Required for Assembly):

- Plastic cement (glue)
- Hobby knife or sprue cutters
- Tweezers
- Sandpaper or sanding sticks

- Paints and brushes (for finishing)

## 4. ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

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Follow the numbered steps in the instruction diagram provided with your kit. The following are general guidelines:

1. **Preparation:** Carefully remove parts from the sprues using sprue cutters or a hobby knife. Clean any excess plastic (flash) from the parts using a hobby knife or sandpaper. Test fit parts before applying glue.
2. **Chassis Assembly:** Begin by assembling the lower hull and suspension components. Ensure all road wheels and drive sprockets are aligned correctly.
3. **Track Assembly:** The tracks are a critical component. If they are link-and-length, assemble them carefully, ensuring proper sag. If they are rubber band style, fit them over the wheels once the glue has dried on the suspension. Some adjustment may be required for a proper fit.
4. **Upper Hull and Turret:** Assemble the upper hull, adding details such as hatches, tools, and machine guns. Construct the turret separately, including the main gun and any external equipment.
5. **Final Details:** Attach smaller details, antennas, and any clear parts.



Figure 1: Example of a completed Trumpeter 1/72 Japanese Type 74 Tank. This image illustrates the general appearance and detail level of the finished model.

## 5. PAINTING AND FINISHING

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Once assembly is complete, you can proceed with painting and applying decals.

- **Cleaning:** Before painting, wash the model with mild soap and water to remove any oils or dust, then allow it to dry completely.
- **Priming:** Apply a thin coat of primer to ensure paint adhesion and a uniform base color.
- **Painting:** Apply paint in thin, even coats. Refer to historical references or the kit's suggested paint scheme for accurate colors. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly.
- **Decals:** Cut out each decal carefully. Dip it in warm water for a few seconds until it slides freely from the backing paper. Position the decal on the model and gently slide the backing paper away. Use a soft brush or cotton swab to remove excess water and air bubbles. Apply a decal setting solution if desired for better adhesion and to conform to surface details.
- **Weathering (Optional):** Advanced modelers may wish to apply weathering effects to enhance realism.

## 6. MAINTENANCE

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Once your model is complete, minimal maintenance is required to preserve its appearance:

- **Dusting:** Regularly dust the model with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air to prevent dust buildup.
- **Display:** Display the model in a stable, dust-free environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperature.

fluctuations, which can cause paint fading or material degradation.

- **Handling:** Handle the model carefully, grasping it by its main body rather than delicate protruding parts.

## 7. TROUBLESHOOTING

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Here are solutions to common issues encountered during model assembly:

- **Parts Not Fitting:**
  - Ensure all flash (excess plastic) is removed from the parts.
  - Check the part numbers against the instruction diagrams.
  - Gently sand or trim mating surfaces if necessary, but avoid removing too much material.
- **Decals Not Adhering:**
  - Ensure the surface is clean and smooth. A gloss coat before decals can help.
  - Use decal setting solutions to help decals conform to irregular surfaces and adhere better.
- **Warped Parts:**
  - For minor warps, gently heat the part with warm water or a hairdryer (on low setting) and carefully bend it back into shape. Allow it to cool in the correct position.

## 8. SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Detail
Brand	Trumpeter
Model Number	TSM-7218
Scale	1/72
Product Dimensions	6.5 x 10 x 2 inches (packaging)
Item Weight	0.01 ounces (packaging)
Recommended Age	14 years and up
Manufacturer	Stevens International

## 9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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This product is a plastic model kit and does not typically come with a manufacturer's warranty for individual parts once opened, due to the nature of hobby assembly. However, if you encounter missing or defective parts upon initial inspection of a new, unopened kit, please contact the retailer where you purchased the kit or the manufacturer directly for assistance. For further support or inquiries, please refer to the contact information provided by Trumpeter or Stevens International on their official websites.



