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## FineMolds FM26

# Fine Molds 1/35 IJA Medium Tank Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha Early Hull Model Kit Instruction Manual

**Brand:** FineMolds | **Model:** FM26

## Introduction

This document provides detailed instructions for the assembly, care, and maintenance of your Fine Molds 1/35 scale Imperial Japanese Army Medium Tank Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha Early Hull model kit. This kit allows enthusiasts to recreate a historically significant World War II era tank. The Type 97 Chi-Ha, specifically the Shinhoto Chi-Ha or Chi-Ha Kai variant, was equipped with a new turret and a Type 1 47 mm gun. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly.

## Important Safety Information

- This product is a precision **ASSEMBLY-REQUIRED PLASTIC MODEL KIT** with parts mounted on sprue trees.
- Recommended for ages 14 years and up. To avoid choking or injury, keep all model kit parts and small components away from small children.
- Assembly and painting are required. This kit does not include glue, paint, or modeling tools. These items must be purchased separately.
- Always work in a well-ventilated area when using adhesives and paints.
- Exercise caution when using sharp tools such as hobby knives and nippers.

## Assembly (Setup)

Your Fine Molds model kit includes detailed, illustrated instructions in both English and Japanese within the packaging. Please refer to these specific instructions for step-by-step guidance. The general assembly process involves the following stages:

1. **Preparation:** Carefully unpack all components. Familiarize yourself with the parts layout on the sprue trees and the assembly diagrams in the included manual.
2. **Part Removal:** Use appropriate modeling nippers to carefully cut parts from the sprue trees. Avoid pulling or twisting, which can damage parts.
3. **Cleaning:** Gently remove any excess plastic (flash) from the parts using a hobby knife or sanding stick.
4. **Assembly:** Follow the numbered steps in the instruction manual. Test-fit parts before applying glue. Use plastic cement sparingly to join components. Allow sufficient drying time for each section before proceeding.

5. **Painting:** The included painting guide color table shows recommended Tamiya Acrylic Paints and Gunze Sanyo AQUEOUS Hobby Colors. Apply primer before painting for best results. Paint in thin, even coats.
6. **Decals:** Apply decals according to the instructions, using decal setting solutions if desired for a seamless finish.




*Image: Example of the model kit box art, which typically includes assembly diagrams and painting guides.*



*Image: A fully assembled and painted Fine Molds Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha model, showing a side-rear view.*



*Image: Another perspective of the assembled and painted Fine Molds Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha model, highlighting front and side details.*

## Display (Operating)

Once assembled and painted, your Fine Molds model is ready for display. To ensure its longevity and appearance:

- **Location:** Place the model on a stable, flat surface away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. Direct sunlight can cause paint fading and plastic warping over time.
- **Handling:** Handle the model carefully, preferably by its base or main body, to avoid damaging delicate parts like antennas, machine guns, or tracks.
- **Protection:** Consider displaying the model in a dust-proof display case to minimize dust accumulation and accidental damage.

## Maintenance

Proper maintenance will preserve the appearance of your model for years to come.

- **Dusting:** Regularly dust the model using a soft brush (such as a makeup brush or soft paintbrush) or a can of compressed air. Avoid wiping with cloths that might snag small parts or scratch the paint.
- **Cleaning:** For stubborn dust or light grime, lightly dampen a cotton swab with plain water (no chemicals) and gently dab the affected area. Avoid rubbing.
- **Storage:** If storing the model, ensure it is placed in a sturdy box with soft packing material to prevent movement and damage. Keep it in a cool, dry place.

## Troubleshooting

Most issues encountered during model building can be resolved by carefully reviewing the instruction manual or common modeling techniques.

- **Parts Not Fitting:** Ensure you are using the correct parts as indicated in the manual. Check for any excess plastic (flash) that might be preventing a proper fit and carefully trim it.

- **Paint Issues:** If paint is not adhering or appears uneven, ensure the surface is clean and dry. Apply thin coats rather than one thick coat. Consider using a primer.
- **Missing or Damaged Parts:** Before contacting support, double-check the sprues and packaging thoroughly. Small parts can sometimes detach during shipping.

For specific assembly challenges, refer to the detailed instruction booklet included with your kit.

## Specifications

| | |
|---|---|
| **Product Name** | 1/35 IJA Medium Tank Type 97 Shinhoto Chi-Ha Early Hull |
| **Brand** | Fine Molds |
| **Model Number** | FM26 |
| **Scale** | 1/35 |
| **Product Dimensions** | 1.97 x 13.39 x 7.48 inches |
| **Item Weight** | 12.6 ounces |
| **Manufacturer Recommended Age** | 14 years and up |
| **ASIN** | B002B76NR4 |

## Warranty and Support

For inquiries regarding damaged products or defective parts, please contact Fine Molds C/o Dragon Model USA, Inc. directly. Specific warranty details are typically provided within the product packaging.
**Contact Information:**
Dragon Model USA, Inc.
Phone: (626) 968-0322
Please have your model number (FM26) and purchase information ready when contacting support.

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