PAINTING REFERENCE · 1/6 SCALE · RUSSIAN DIORAMA

37MM HOTCHKISS GUN

PALETTE · VALLEJO MODEL AIR / MODEL COLOR
SHEET 1 OF 2 — COLOURS & PROCESS

SCHEME A — NAVAL GREY, FORTIFICATION MOUNT (RECOMMENDED DEFAULT)

Guns pulled from decommissioned or damaged ships and dug into coastal or river fortifications were almost always left in their original shipboard finish. This is the correct call for a casemate, bunker embrasure, or open pit emplacement.

NAVAL GREY BASE	HIGHLIGHT / MODULATION	SHADOW / PRE-SHADE	BARREL BORE / MUZZLE
MA 71.297 Haze Grey	MC 70.905 Blue Grey Pale	MA 71.057 Black Grey	MC 70.950 Black
Barrel, shield, cone, cradle	Shield face, cone shoulder	Cone base, cradle recesses	Bore only, satin

SCHEME B — RUSSIAN GREEN, TRUCK MOUNT (ONLY IF DEPICTING A MOBILE CARRIAGE)

Rare — used only on the small number of guns re-mounted on trucks, which were repainted to match the vehicle. Choose this only if your scene is explicitly a truck-mounted AA piece, not a fortification.

4BO PROTECTIVE GREEN	HIGHLIGHT / MODULATION	SHADOW / PRE-SHADE	DUST FILTER
MA 71.041 · MC 70.924	Base + 15% MC 70.988 Khaki	MA 71.057 Black Grey	MC 70.976 Buff, thinned
Base coat, all parts	Shield face, upper cone	Recesses, undersides	Lower half only

DETAIL & WEATHERING SET — USED WITH EITHER SCHEME

BARE METAL WEAR	RUST DOTS	PANEL WASH	GROUND DUST	TRAVERSE HANDLE GRIP	OIL/GREASE GRIME
MC 70.863 Gunmetal	MC 70.985 Hull Red	Wash 76.518 Grey	Pigment 73.104 Light	MC 70.822 Neutral Grey	Oils, dark umber

ORDER OF WORK

1. **Prime grey.** Build barrel/cradle, cone pedestal and shield as separate sub-assemblies; paint before final joining so the shield's back face and the cone's interior get coverage.
2. **Pre-shade.** Black-grey into the cone's rivet line, the cradle's yoke joints, and behind the shield. This is a small, dense object — pre-shading is what keeps it from going flat.
3. **Base coat, thinned.** Two to three light passes at low pressure. Mask the bore before spraying if you're painting the barrel assembled.
4. **Modulation.** Lighten the shield face and the cone's upper shoulder — the two largest flat surfaces — so the piece doesn't read as one flat tone at 1/6.
5. **Gloss coat, then wash.** Dark grey panel wash into the cradle's yoke, the elevation gear, and the cone's access hatch hinge.
6. **Metal wear.** Gunmetal along the barrel's muzzle collar, the traverse handle grip, and the elevation screw threads — anywhere a hand or a shell touches repeatedly.
7. **Rust & grime.** Hull Red dots at the cone's rivets and the hatch hinge; oil streaks down from the breech and the elevation gear.
8. **Matt varnish, then pigments.** Dust the pedestal base and the shield's lower edge. A gun in a pit or on a truck bed picks up ground dust exactly there.

DECIDING BETWEEN THE TWO SCHEMES

- Fortification, casemate, or open pit emplacement → Scheme A, naval grey. This covers the large majority of surviving pieces.
- Explicitly truck-mounted AA carriage → Scheme B, Russian green — but this was the exception, not the rule.
- Unsure of the mount? Default to naval grey — it's the historically defensible choice and reads well against masonry or sandbag groundwork.

Diorama note — this gun's small footprint makes it a strong secondary element: mount it in a masonry embrasure, a sandbagged pit, or on the flatbed of a truck kit if you commit to Scheme B. Keep the shield oriented toward the viewer's implied threat axis.

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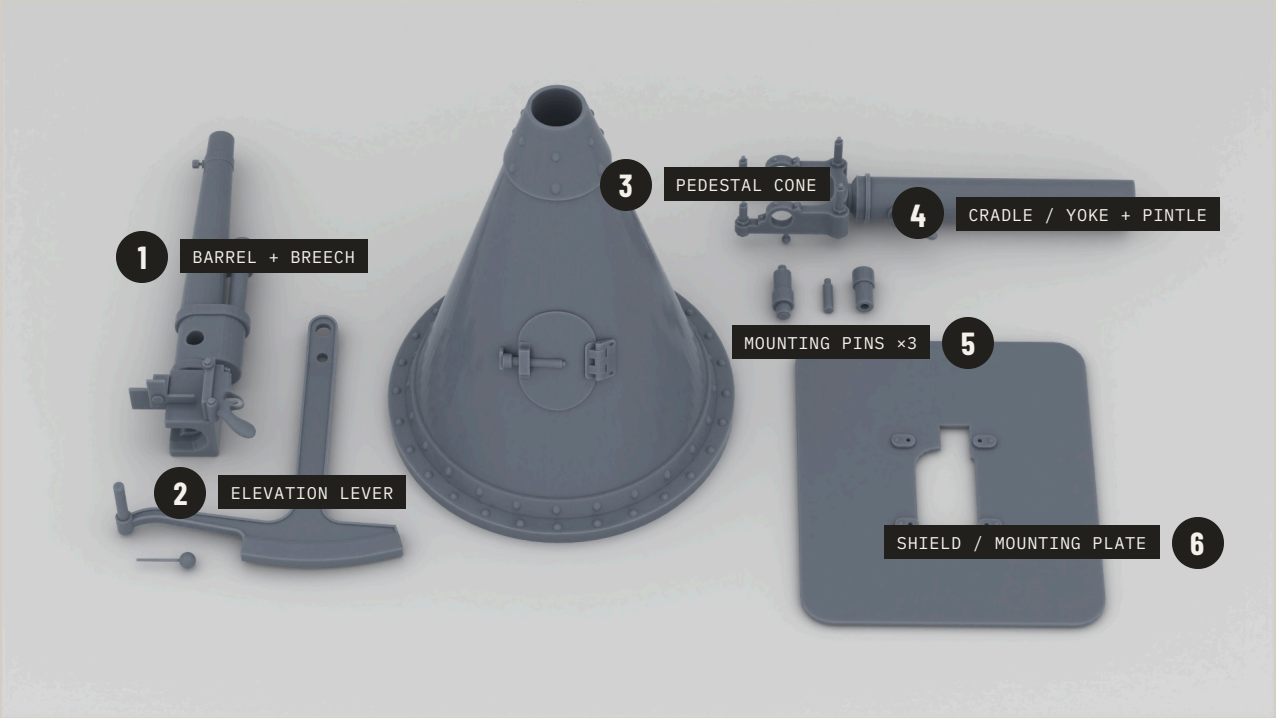
MARKED-UP SPRUE LAYOUT



#	PART	COLOUR	VALLEJO	WEATHERING & NOTES
1	Barrel + breech assembly	Naval grey, dark bore	MA 71.297	Gunmetal wear ring at the muzzle collar and along the breech block edges where a loader's hands land.
2	Elevation / traverse lever	Naval grey, worn grip	MA 71.297 + 70.863	The grip and crank knob take the most handling — chip and Gunmetal-wear these harder than anything else on the gun.
3	Pedestal cone	Base, lightened at shoulder	MA 71.297 / MC 70.905	Largest flat surface on the model — modulate top-to-bottom or it goes flat. Rust the hatch hinge and its latch bolt.
4	Cradle / yoke + pintle	Base, shaded dark	MA 71.297 + 71.057	Sits behind the shield, in shadow — keep it a value darker than the shield face. Wash heavily into the yoke joints.
5	Mounting pins / pivots ×3	Bare metal / gunmetal	MC 70.863	These are working hardware, not painted structure — leave them steel-toned so they read as pivot pins, not moulded plastic.
6	Shield / mounting plate	Base, lightened face	MA 71.297 / MC 70.905	The gun's face to the viewer — put your best modulation and chipping here. Chip hard along the sight-hole edge and the shield's top corners.

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