

# Value Gear: Tents, Tarps and Sherman Deck Equipment

by Eric Christianson,  
IPMS # 42218

**Scale:** 1/35

**Company:** Value Gear

**Price:** \$11.50 (each set)

**Product/Stock #:** # VG005,  
# VG011, # SH004

**Website:** ValueGearDetails

**Product Web Page:** View

**Product provided by:**  
Value Gear

Value Gear out of Ireland continues to add to its list of quality aftermarket armor accessories, featuring plastic representations of tents, tarps, backpacks, crates – just about anything you might find piled high on a busy AFV, or anywhere else for that matter.

Their website is intuitive and easy to navigate. The home page describes Value Gear's Goal:

"The Value Gear idea is to give model builders (me [Steve Munsell] included) a more useful spares box! Creating and casting sets of Generic/Universal stowage. No helmets no weapons and nothing to keep you from using it in a wooden cart, a chariot, a truck, or a Panther tank. "Any Army, Any Era!" is my motto... the Army lives under canvas!

The Value Gear Promise is to have the best customer service, and constantly improving and



innovative quality and new ideas. All sets will have the minimal amount of cleanup before use and no huge pour plugs to saw off and potentially ruin a piece like we have all done in the past. A little scraping and a little sanding is all you will ever need with Value Gear."

Each set offered by Value Gear comes in a sturdy plastic bag, backed by a piece of cardboard for strength. As the contents

are basically finished chunks of solid plastic, there is little to no chance of damage occurring during shipping.

Inside each bag are a number of loose items and a handy insert containing painting suggestions, personal anecdotes, tips on how to heat and mold some of the longer tarps (if desired) to wrap around shapes, etc. The 'Tents and Tarps' sets each have a color picture

showing the finished items – and the website has a complete set of these same photographs.

### Tents & Tarps Set #5

This is basically your generic set of rolled up duffle bags, tarps and backpacks. You get a lot of items (16). I selected five items to finish for my review. (see image)

### Tents & Tarps Set #11

This set includes tents with tent poles, adding another visual element to the mix – very nice. You get 11 items in this bag. I selected three items to finish for my review. I painted the poles with Tamiya Metallic Grey and washed them with Mig Wash Brown.

### Sherman Engine Deck Set #4

This is a departure from the more generic sets, but could still fit on just about any surface and look fine. Since these were larger, more dramatic pieces, there are fewer in the set (5). I selected three items to finish for my review. The larger piece features a tarp thrown over a set of crates that peek out on the sides and back.

### Painting

Since all of the products come ready-to-use, there is little to do short of painting and



weathering, which brings me to the main reason I wanted to do the review. I must have two dozen paints that might be appropriate for this kind of job, and I wanted to do a little experimentation to find out what looks/works best and what doesn't.

In summary, Vallejo and Tamiya paints, thinned with their own thinners, worked best for brush painting. Model Master Enamels required several coats but offered better color choices. Mig and Windsor Newton oil paint filters and washes, thinned with Mona Lisa White Spirit, worked great.

A pre-shade coat of Vallejo Black caused the overall finishes to be darker than I wanted them to be. Next time I think I will pre-shade with a lighter colors – perhaps darkened versions of Vallejo Canvas or Vallejo Light Brown for the lighter packs.

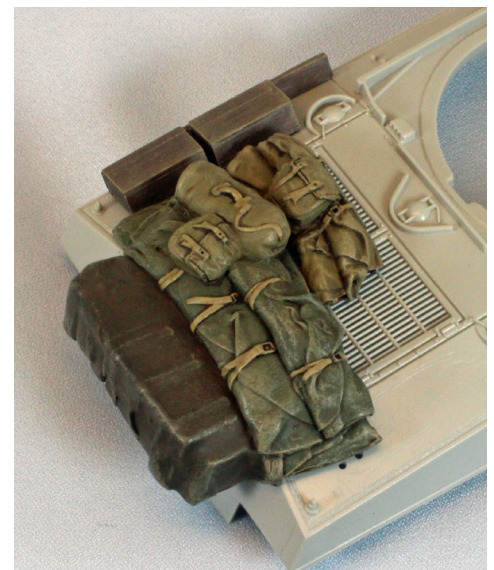
### Conclusion

I highly recommend these products for any modeler – Value Gear has a good idea, a solid website, and quality products offered at a good price.

I would like to thank Value Gear for providing the products for review, and IPMS USA for giving me the opportunity to review them.

The following colors were used, with my favorites highlighted (\*)

- 340 Vallejo Highlight Afrika Korps \*
- 314 Vallejo Canvas \*
- 986 Vallejo Deck Tan
- 312 Vallejo Leather Belt
- 70977 Vallejo Desert Yellow
- 70950 Vallejo Black
- XF-56 Tamiya Metallic Grey \*
- XF-49 Tamiya Khaki
- XF-65 Tamiya Field Grey \*
- XF-51 Tamiya Khaki Drab
- XF-64 Tamiya Flat Brown \*
- XF-61 Tamiya Dark Green
- XF-58 Tamiya Olive Green \*
- 1702 Model Master Field Drab
- 2051 Model Master Faded Olive Drab \*
- 2013 Model Master Afrika DunkelGrau 1942





**Cleaning/Degreasing:** All resin bits should be cleaned with washing up liquid, glass cleaner or alcohol before painting to remove any mold release or oils for best adhesion of glue and paint. We not use any mold release.

**Gluing:** Resin parts need to be glued with "CA Glues" (Cyan Acrylate) or epoxy glues or epoxy putties. Normal model cement will not work on resin.

**Painting:** All pieces should be cleaned and primed before painting. \*Sample Pictures were painted with these paints: (Primed with Games Workshop Chaos Black or Army Painter Skeleton Bone Primers - Painted and dry brushed with combinations of Tamiya, Testors and Vallejo Paints - Washed with Games Workshop Citadel Black and Devlan Mud Washes.

**Bending Resin:** Resin bits can be bent and shaped using boiling water. Toss a piece in a coffee cup, pour in some boiling water and let sit for 30-60 seconds and bend away to fit your fender, turret or other spots etc... Practice on some older unused resin pieces. This is also a good tip for flattening out resin buildings or any other resin pieces. Experiment with time and temperature of water.

**Removing Old Paint:** Do not soak resin bits in brake fluid to remove paint. Brake fluid may work on Poly Styrene (kit plastic) but it wills destroy most resins.

Set #5 - Painted Samples



Generic/Universal Tents & Tarps Set #5

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Saxon Tank  
By Jose Brito  
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[www.valuegeardetails.com](http://www.valuegeardetails.com)