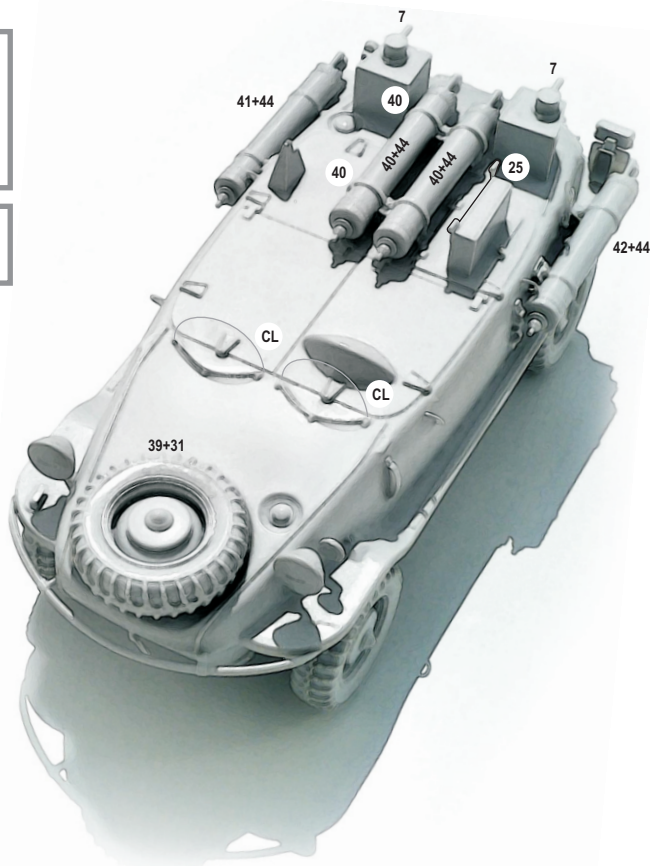


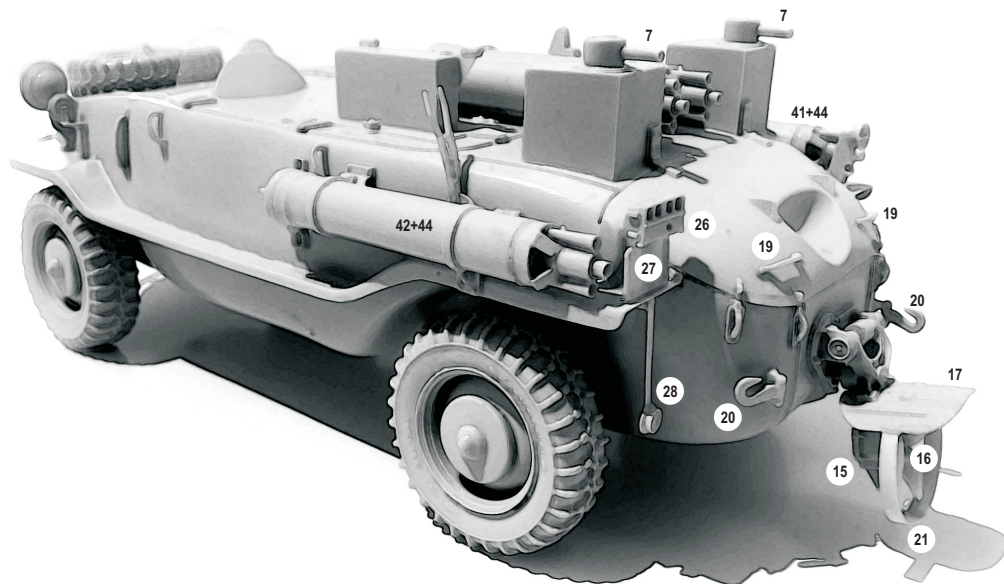


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2016

VW SCHWIMMWAGEN
SONDERTYP 129



? Fully armed version with 4 rockets installed, and the Screw Drive in working position.



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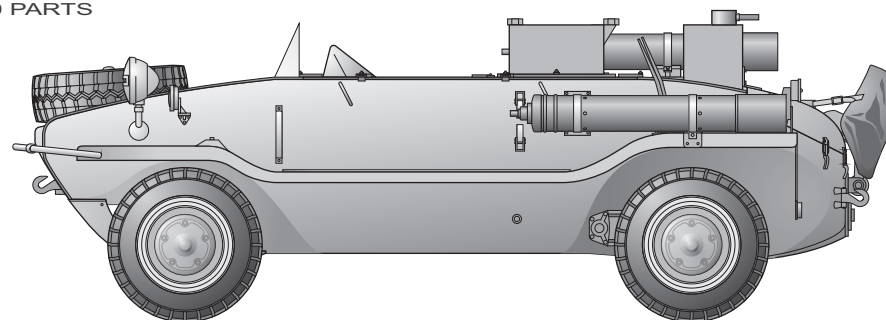
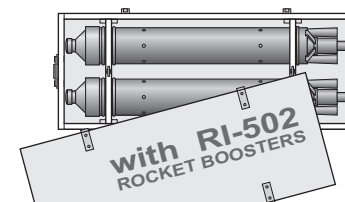
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VW Schwimmwagen SONDERTYP 129

1:35 COMPLETE RESIN KIT
70 PARTS

GERMAN 1942
REMOTE-CONTROLLED
ROCKET-BOOSTED
AMPHIBIOUS
DEMOLITION DRONE



In late 1941, the famous VW Schwimmwagen Type 166 came into mass production, to become the most numerous amphibious car in the history.

But before that, the small series of 30 Schwimmwagen's Type 128 was built. Unlike the Type 166, which had only 200 cm. wheelbase, the Type 128 was based on the standard All-Wheel-Drive Kubelwagen Type 86 chassis with the wheelbase of 240 cm. That led to the insufficient rigidity, so the Type 128 was not put into mass production.

On 8 April 1942, two VW Schwimmwagens were delivered from the Porsche company in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen to the Panzer-Versuchs-und-Ersatz-Abteilung 300. These two Schwimmwagens were deeply modified 128 Types, designated "Sontertyp 129" – Special Type 129.

The Panzer-Abteilung 300 was quite special division, where different types of experimental vehicles were tested. Among them – Sd.Kfz.300 Borgward BI/BII demolition drones, and Borgward "Ente" amphibious radio-controlled self-propelled mine.

The VW Schwimmwagen Sontertyp 129 also was to be a radio-controlled amphibious demolition drone, but steering wheel was also left intact.

The crew compartment was sealed with metal hatches, and the explosive charge was accommodated inside, probably overweighting the vehicle greatly. The exhaust mufflers were rearranged into vertical position and shielded with metal boxing – may be, to avoid steam generation. The fuel tank was moved to the back.

Sontertyp 129 was to be used to destroy heavily-armored objects on the shores. The problem was that the remote-control operator had no feeling when the vehicle touches the ground. To help the vehicle to get out of the water, up to four rocket boosters had to be used.

Looks like these boosters were Rheinmetall-Borsig RI-502 type (109-502 by RLM designation) – (or similar) - solid fuel, electrically-ignited rockets, used by Luftwaffe as Rocket-Assisted-Take-Off (RATO) boosters for heavy gliders like Gotha Go-242, or even jets like Me-262. One booster delivered thrust of 600 kg. during 6 seconds, so four boosters could lift the Sontertyp 129 off the ground even vertically!

As it was standard to mount two boosters on most aircrafts, these rockets were shipped in pairs, in a special crate. This model kit includes such a crate with a pair of RI-502 boosters.

In spring of 1942, one Schwimmwagen Sontertyp 129 was tested on the River Spree, in the course of which one vehicle was expended.

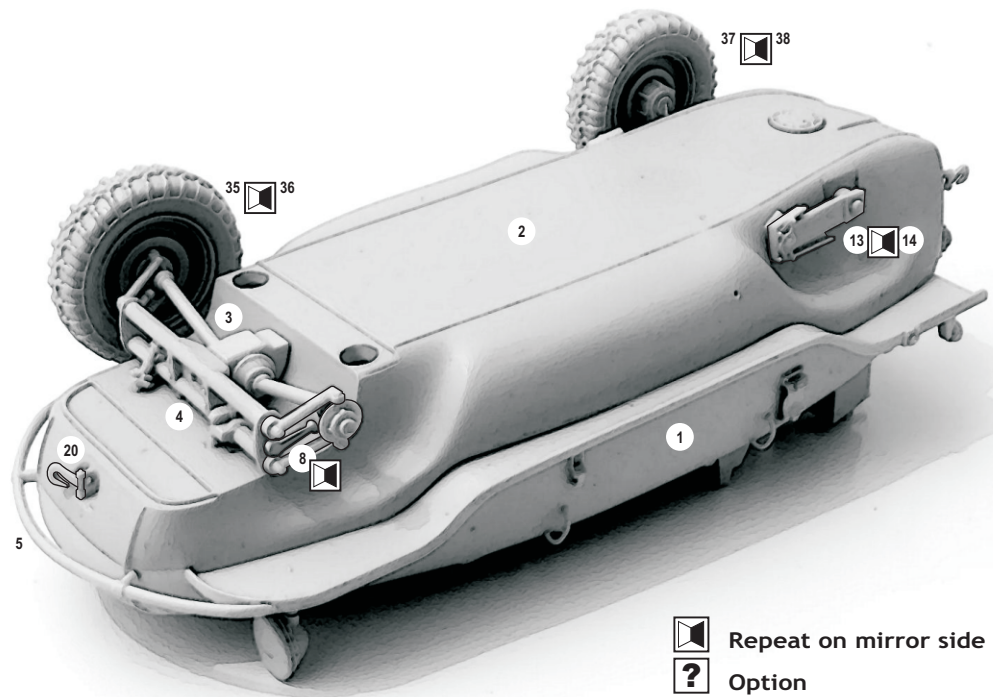
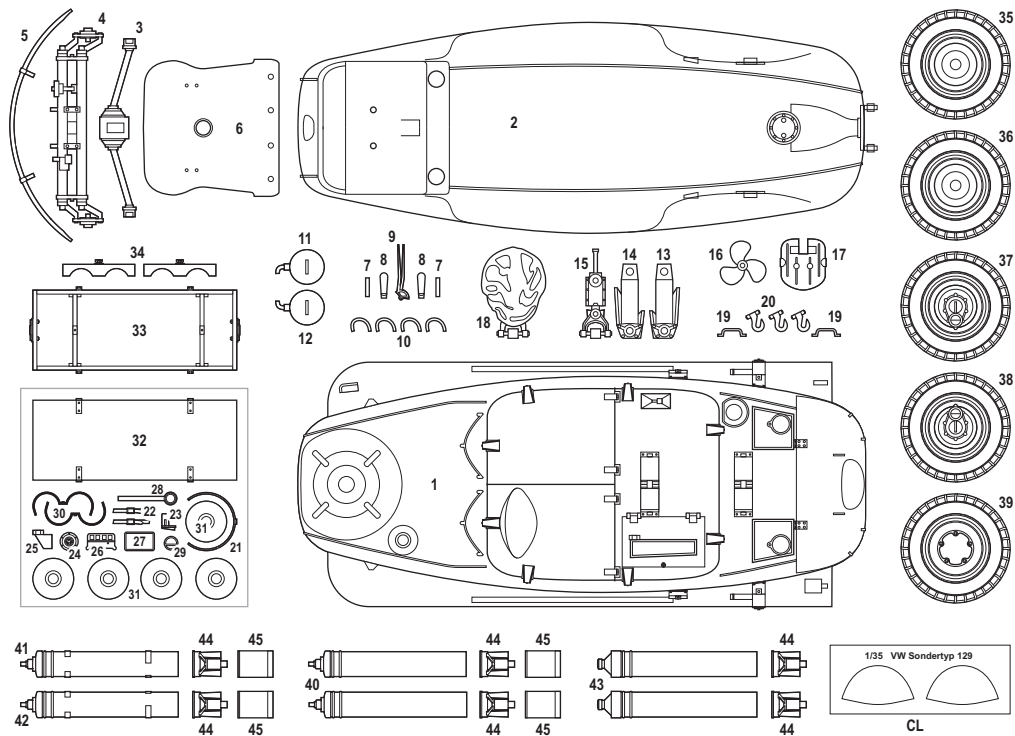
The second vehicle issued to Panzer-Abteilung 300, most likely, was reconverted into conventional Schwimmwagen, as it seen on the period photos. But, knowing that Panzer-Abteilung 300 soon was relocated to the Crimea peninsula, Russia, where the Siege of Sevastopol took place, it's possible that it was used as it was initially intended. But it's just a assumption.



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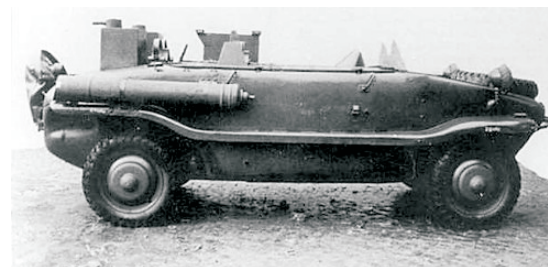
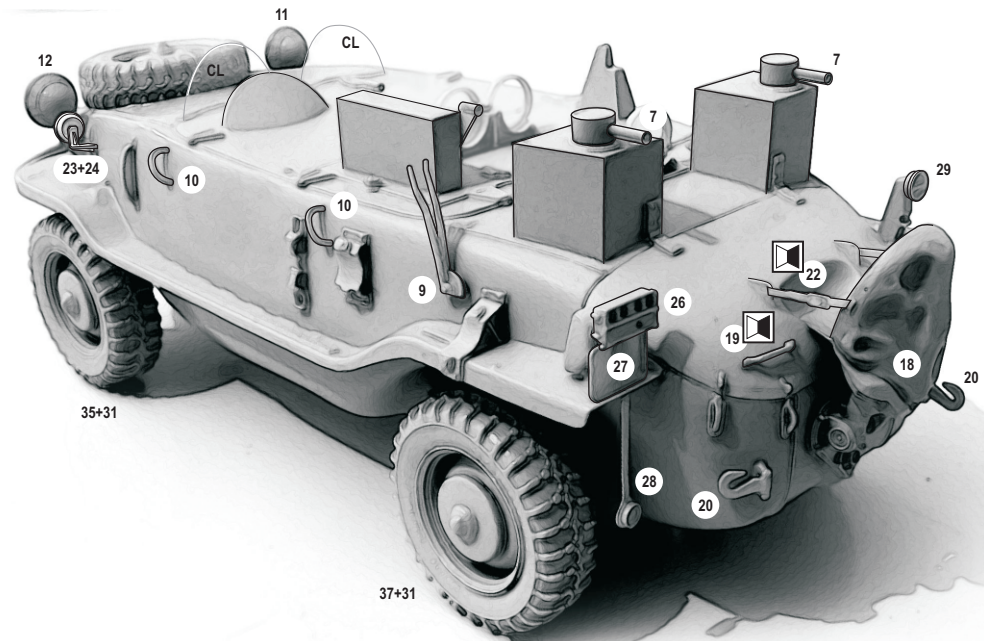
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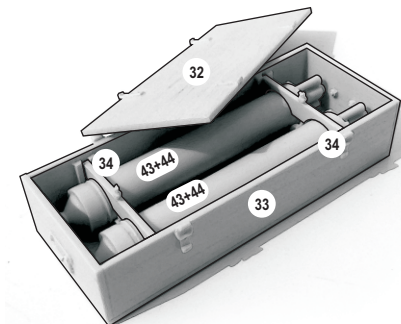
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 Repeat on mirror side
 Option



 Version with 2 rockets installed, in traveling state (as seen on photos of November 1941)



Crate with RI-502 Rocket Boosters

