

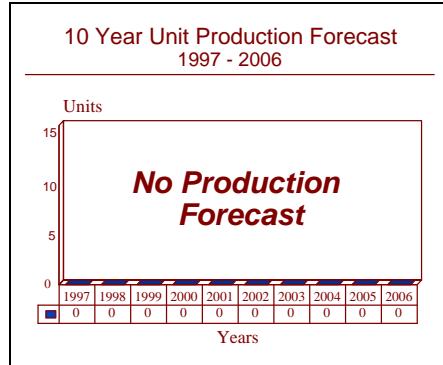
ARCHIVED REPORT

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M48 Patton - Archived 3/97

Outlook

- Production of the M48 was completed in 1959
- Total of 11,703 M48 tanks manufactured
- The M48 remains in service in at least 19 nations
- Additional modernization or retrofit programs for this tank are forecast



Orientation

Description. A tank

Licensees. None

Sponsor. The development and United States procurement of the M48 was sponsored by the United States Department of Defense through the United States Army Tank, Automotive and Armaments Command.

Status. The serial production of the M48 ended in mid-1959; the tank remains in service with a number of nations around the world.

Contractors. This tank was manufactured by the American Locomotive Company (now ALCO Products Incorporated); Schenectady, New York; the Defense Division of Chrysler Corporation (now General Dynamics Land Systems Division), at the Delaware Tank Plant; Ford Motor Company at the Livona Tank Plant and General Motors Corporation at the Detroit Tank Plant, all locations being in the United States of America. Major subcontractors included Continental Motors (now Teledyne Continental), General Motors Corporation, Allison Transmission Division and Watervliet Arsenal.

Total Produced. A total of 11,703 M48 tanks was manufactured.

Application. A tank for the projection of power as well as defensive missions.

Price Range. In mid-1991, reconditioned M48A3 tanks were being offered by international brokers at \$311,000. The M48A5 is traded by international arms merchants for approximately \$356,000; this price is in 1996 United States dollars. The United States of America has offered surplus M48A5 tanks to selected nations for the transportation costs.



Technical Data

Crew. Four: commander, gunner, loader, driver.

Armor. Conventional rolled homogeneous with a maximum thickness of 12 centimeters (4.72 inches) on the hull front.

Dimensions. The following data are pertinent to the M48A5.

| | <u>SI units</u> | <u>US units</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Length | 9.31 meters | 30.54 feet |
| Width | 3.63 meters | 11.91 feet |
| Height | 3.09 meters | 10.14 feet |
| Fuel capacity | 1,420 liters | 377.66 gallons |
| Combat weight | 48.99 tonnes | 54.0 tons |

Performance. The maximum speed and range figures are on a metalled road.

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Maximum speed | 48.2 kilometers per hour | 29.93 miles per hour |
| Maximum range | 499 kilometers | 309.88 statute miles |
| Step | 91.5 centimeters | 3.0 feet |
| Trench | 2.59 meters | 8.5 feet |
| Slope | 34% | 34% |
| Gradient | 60% | 60% |
| Fording | 1.22 meters | 4.0 feet |

Engine. Teledyne Continental Motors provides the AVDS-1790-2D 12 cylinder air cooled diesel engine rated at 559.3 kilowatts (750 horsepower) at 40 revolutions per second (2,400 revolutions per minute). With this engine, the power-to-weight ratio is 11.42 kilowatts per tonne (13.88 horsepower per tonne). A 24 volt electrical system with six 12 volt batteries is the standard electrical fit.

Gearbox. General Motors Corporation/Allison Transmission Division provides the CD-850-6A gearbox with two forward and one reverse gear ratios.

Suspension and Running Gear. This tank uses a torsion bar type suspension with six dual tired road wheels and five return rollers on each side. Hydraulic shock dampers are mounted at the first, second and sixth road wheel stations.

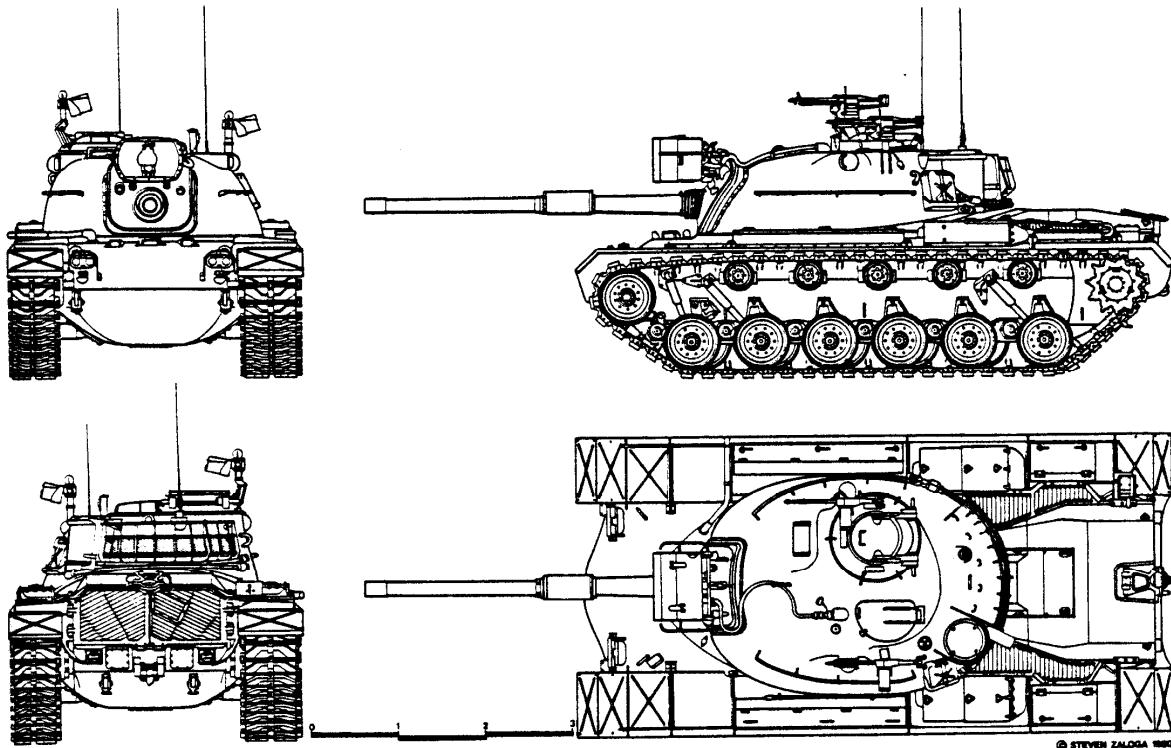
Armament. The 105 millimeter M68, a license-produced version of the ubiquitous L7 from Royal Ordnance is the main armament on the A5 version of this tank. A total of

54 rounds of 105 millimeter ammunition is carried. For secondary armament, the M48A5 mounts a 7.62 millimeter machine gun (M1919A4E1 or M73) in a coaxial mount and two M60 7.62 millimeter machine guns on the turret roof. Earlier models of the M48 (through the A3) mount the M41 90 millimeter cannon as the main armament and a single M73 7.62 millimeter machine gun in a coaxial mount and a M2HB 12.7 millimeter machine gun in an anti-aircraft mount.

Fire Control. The M48A5's fire control suite is greatly improved over the earlier versions of this tank. A version of the M17 coincidence rangefinder, the M17B1C, is fitted for the gunner; an improved version of the M105 gunner's telescope, the M105D, is fitted, as is the M13B1 elevation quadrant. The M13A4 ballistic computer is also fitted, as is the AN/VSS-2 infrared searchlight and infrared vision equipment. The commander is provided with an override feature in the fire control system.

Variants/Upgrades

During its period of manufacture, the only variant of the M48 that was developed to production status was the Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge. This vehicle is described in detail in the Engineering Vehicles tab in this book.



M48

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