

T-43 MEDIUM TANK

DEVELOPMENT

The heavy armour of the latest Soviet tank designs ensured that they made a major impact on the battlefield, even in the hands of the hastily-trained conscripts that were all that was available after the disasters of 1941. When the Germans started fielding tanks armed with new long-barrelled 7.5cm guns, there was an urgent need for a better armoured and easier to use tank than the T-34 medium tank.

In June 1942, the GABTU (Main Directorate of Armoured Forces) ordered work to begin on two prototypes. The SKB-2 heavy tank design bureau in Chelyabinsk started the KV-13 program, which eventually became the IS-1 heavy tank. The Morozov Design Bureau that had been responsible for the T-34, now working at the Uralvagonzavod complex, developed the T-43 based on the advanced T-34M project, which had been cancelled in 1941 when Germany invaded the USSR. The first prototype T-43 was finally completed in March 1943.

Thicker armour means a heavier tank, so the designers made the tank as small as possible to minimise the amount of armour needed. The bulky Christie suspension was dropped for a more space efficient torsion bar suspension, the engine was mounted transversely, and the turret was pushed as far forward on the hull as possible to shorten the crew compartment. The turret had a three-man crew and a cupola giving the commander all-round vision for the first time on a Soviet medium tank.

The first two prototypes were sent to the NKSM Independent Tank Company for combat trials in the middle of 1943, and the T-43 was recommended for production to replace the T-34.

COMBAT SERVICE

The first of the new T-43 medium tanks were just entering service as the Battle of Kursk began. There they proved far superior to the old T-34 and all German medium tanks.

Unfortunately the appearance of large numbers of German heavy Tiger, Panther and Ferdinand tanks highlighted the need for a bigger gun as well as heavier armour. The compact form of the T-43 prevented it from accepting a bigger turret and production was phased out in favour of the re-armed T-34/85 with a long 85mm gun.

DESIGN FEATURES

The T-43 medium tank combines the best features of a heavy tank with the mobility of a medium tank.

With 90mm of frontal armour, the T-43 has nothing to fear from any enemy medium tank. Safe behind their thick armour, a full ten-tank company has the firepower to shatter almost any resistance in short order.

10-tank Companies, Front 8



EKSPERIMENTAL TANKOVY COMPANY

The massive losses suffered in stopping the German advance has seen tank crews thrown into battle with minimal training.

Eksperimental Tankovy Companies are rated as: **Fearless Conscript**

REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

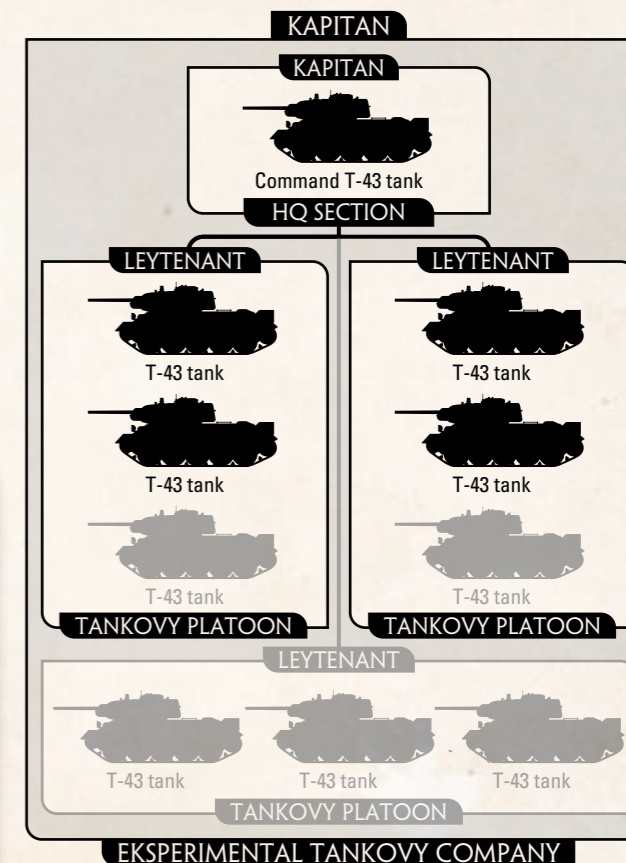
A Soviet force, excluding a Mixed Tankovy Batalon, may replace any or all of its Medium Tankovy Companies with Eksperimental Tankovy Companies. If it is a Tankovy Batalon it can purchase the Command tank in the Battalion HQ as a T-43 medium tank for 95 points.

COMPANY

- 10 T-43 775 points
- 9 T-43 725 points
- 8 T-43 670 points
- 7 T-43 610 points
- 6 T-43 545 points
- 5 T-43 475 points

OPTION

Mount SMG Tank Escorts on all tanks for +15 points per tank.



Name	Mobility	Front	Armour		Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top	
T-43	Standard Tank	8	7	1	Co-ax MG, Wide tracks.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	
76mm F-34 gun	32*/80cm	2	9	3+	

T-43 MEDIUM TANK SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: Sredniy Tank, T-43
 Crew: 4 (cdr, gnr, ldr, dvr)
 Weight: 74,957lb/34,000kg
 Length: 22'/6.71m
 Height: 8'6"/2.58m Width: 9'10"/3.00m
 Armament: 1x 76.2mm F-34 tank gun,
 1x DT 7.62mm machine-gun
 Armour Thickness: 16mm to 90mm
 Engine: V-2 12-cylinder diesel,
 2368cu in/39 litres, 500hp
 Suspension: Transverse torsion bar
 Maximum Speed: 30mph/48km/h
 Road Radius: 186 miles/300km