

⚡ TIGER (P) HEAVY TANK

DEVELOPMENT

Germany started work on a 27-tonne heavy breakthrough tank in 1937. Like the British Matilda, the French Char B, and the Soviet T-35, this tank was intended to breach WWI-style trench lines so that the light and medium tanks could fight a mobile battle. After three successively heavier designs, the 45-tonne VK4501 specification was given to both Porsche and Henschel in May 1941. The Porsche prototype, now known as the Tiger (P), was finished in April 1942.

Its suspension consisted of six pairs of steel-tyred rubber-cushioned road wheels with rear drive sprockets instead of the more usual front sprockets. Two air-cooled V-10 engines drove generators that powered an electric motor for each drive sprocket. This sophisticated design had huge theoretical advantages, but proved to be troublesome in practice.

As production of both designs was scheduled to begin in July, there was little time for testing or fixing the problems with the petrol-electric drive. With five tanks built, production was halted to enable the problems to be sorted out. The Henschel works was delighted when its production order was increased to compensate.

By February 1943 many of the mechanical problems had been resolved and Hitler ordered the massive 8.8cm L/71 PaK43 to be fitted to ninety Porsche Tiger tanks as the Ferdinand assault gun in time for the Battle of Kursk.

COMBAT SERVICE

The Tiger (P) was scheduled to be sent to Africa where their air-cooled engines were seen as better suited to the hot and dusty conditions. After delays to modify their electric transmissions, the first five Tiger (P) tanks were sent to Africa for field testing, arriving as the Second Battle of El Alamein began.

Their effect on the battle more than justified the effort in getting them operational and production of the Tiger (P) was restarted. Two battalions of Tiger (P) were subsequently committed to the theatre where they have been invaluable against the British and American forces.

DESIGN FEATURES

The competition between Porsche and Henschel to produce the next German heavy tank had been intense and the resulting designs were very similar. Both had the same armour specifications and mounted the same gun in the same Krupp-designed turret.

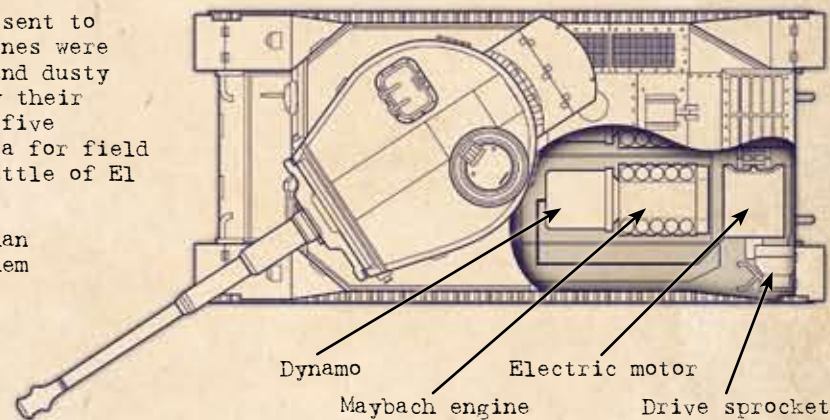
The differences were mainly mechanical. Porsche preferred longitudinal torsion bars that saved space over Henschel's transverse torsion bars, steel-tyred road wheels, and a new Petrol-electric transmission to solve the problem of moving such a heavy vehicle.

The Tiger (P) heavy tank was designed to the same specifications as the Henschel-designed Tiger I E.

You may replace Tiger I E models with Tiger (P) models in tournaments

PETROL-ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

The basic principle of the petrol-electric transmission is that each petrol engine spins a dynamo to generate electricity. This then powers an electric motor that powers the drive sprocket. In theory, the result is a smooth transmission with no need to change gear and plenty of torque. In practice, the system proved too complicated and unreliable.



TIGER I (P) AND TIGER I E SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON



SCHWERE PANZER (PORSCHE) PLATOON (HEAVY TANK (PORSCHE) PLATOON)

Tiger tank crews were hand-picked.

Schwere Panzer (Porsche) Platoons are rated as: **Confident Veteran**

REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

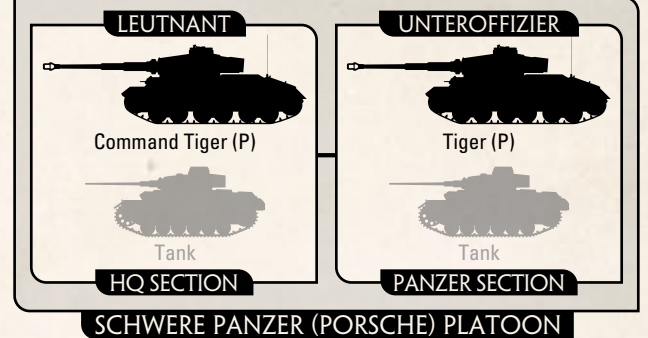
Any German company may replace all of its Schwere Panzer Platoons with Schwere Panzer (Porsche) Platoons, and replace all Tiger I E tanks in the Company HQ with Tiger (P) tanks at no cost.

PLATOON

- 2 Tiger (P) and 2 Panzer III N..970 points
 - 1 Tiger (P) and 1 Panzer III N..495 points
 - Replace all Panzer III N tanks with Panzer III L or M tanks for +5 points per tank.
 - 4 Tiger (P)1540 points
 - 3 Tiger (P)1155 points
 - 2 Tiger (P)770 points
 - 1 Tiger (P)385 points
- Remember to roll for your Tiger Ace skills before each game.

Name	Mobility	Front	Armour			Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top		
Tiger (P)	Slow Tank	9	8	2		Co-ax MG, Hull MG, Protected ammo, Unreliable, Wide tracks.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower		
8.8cm KwK36 gun	40°/100cm	2	13	3+	Slow traverse.	

LEUTNANT



ESCORT TANKS

The Tiger battalions sent to Africa had a Panzer III escort tank for each Tiger tank to protect them from infantry and anti-tank guns. With their much lighter armour, their life expectancy was low.

The companies fighting in Sicily and Italy dropped the Panzer III tank in favour of more Tiger tanks.

A Schwere Panzer (Porsche) Platoon does not count Panzer III tanks as Destroyed when determining if it needs to check Platoon Morale.

TIGER (P) SPECIFICATIONS

Designation: Panzerkampfwagen VI, Tiger (P)
 Crew: 5 (cdr, gnr, ldr, dvr, co-dvr)
 Weight: 125,656lb/57,000kg
 Length: 30'7"/9.34m
 Height: 9'2"/2.8m Width: 11'1"/3.38m
 Armament: 1x 8.8cm KwK36 tank gun, 2x 7.92mm MG34 machine-guns
 Armour Thickness: 60mm to 110mm
 Engine: 2x Porsche Typ 101/1 V-10 petrol, 915cu in/15 litre, 315hp each
 Transmission: Electric
 Maximum Speed: 22mph/35km/h
 Cross-country Speed: 6mph/10km/h
 Vertical Obstacle: 2'6"/0.80m
 Trench Crossing: 8'6"/2.6m

