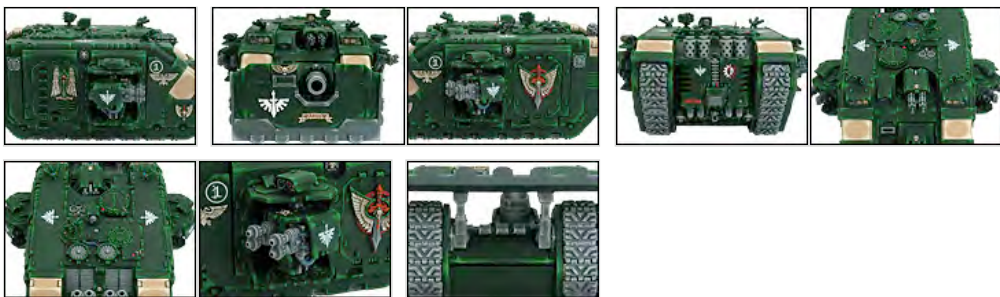
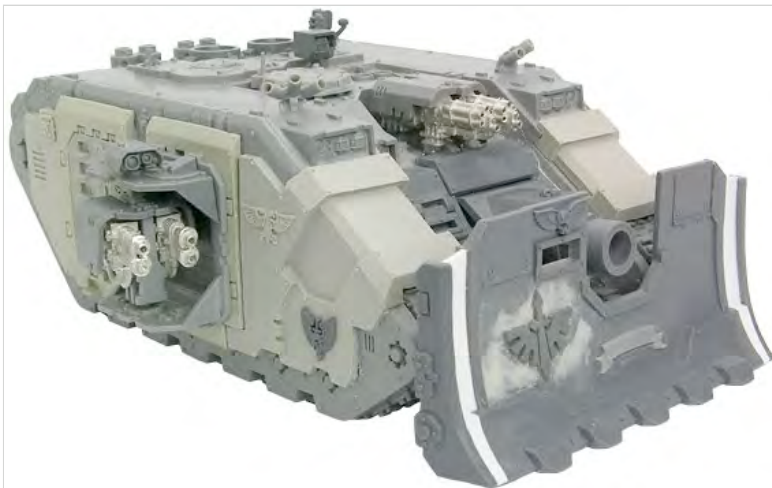


Creating the Land Raider Ares



Nathan Bishop: I have always liked the idea that the Deathwing, the 1st Company of the Dark Angels, when working without the support of the other Dark Angels Battle Companies, exclusively use Land Raiders for all their tank needs. This would mean they would need to have various patterns of Land Raiders to fill the roles that other tanks built on the Rhino Standard Template Construct would normally fill. So when we got ahold of the new Plastic Vindicator I knew I was going to have to make a siege Land Raider for my Apocalypse army.

What really made this project work is that the front hull piece on the Vindicator sprue fits very nicely on the front of the Land Raider with just a little bit of modification. I cut down the Assault ramp so that it would fill in the area below the hull. I also put the blast exhaust fan from the Vindicator on the back top of the Land Raider, this took a bit of cutting but ended up fitting nicely as well.

Next I decided to extend the dozer blade so that it would look wide enough to fit on the front of a Land Raider. Since the dozer blade that comes with the Vindicator is in three pieces this made it very easy to cut a couple pieces of plastic card the same thickness as the dozer blade and extend the sides a bit. Do a bit of dry fitting before you start gluing just to make sure it all fits right. I then attached the dozer blade with the dozer hydraulics provided on the Vindicator sprue. I decided to connect the dozer blade to the assault ramp section of the Land Raider rather than the sides as it is on the Vindicator, however you could do it either way. You might consider gluing the Dozer Blade to the mounts after you have painted the model as that will make it easier to paint the front section.

Lastly I had to work out what I wanted use on the side sponsons. Originally I built twin-linked Multi-melta sponsons with the idea that they would be a back up for the Demolisher cannon if it was ever destroyed. But this seemed way over powered and didn't quite fit with the siege assault role I had wanted for this tank. So I decided to go with Twin-linked Heavy flamers. (Yes you read that right, Twin-linked flamers check out the rules for Twin-linked template weapons on page 31 of the 40k rule-book) In my mind I could picture the Ares blowing a hole in a fortification and the enemy pouring from the hold only to be greeted by cleansing flame and Assault cannon rounds. I used the Baal Predator Heavy flamer Sponsons which fit with just a little modification to the center support piece. If you trim off the Blood Angels symbol on the side of the Heavy Flamer sponsons the Land Raider sponson covers fit over them as well.

One last thing to remember if you do decide to make this model you'll have an entire Rhino left over from the Vindicator kit. So you'll be able to make a rhino as well. This was a fun tank to build and I look forward to my next Apocalypse outing to see how it does on the battlefield.

Addendum: Since the original publication of this article, the Baal Predator Heavy flamer sponsons are no longer available separately from the Baal Predator model kit, however some ingenious hobbyists at the Glen Burnie Battle Bunker came up with a solution to this dilemma. If you have one of the plastic Baneblade kits (who doesn't want one of those behemoths in their army!) and you haven't used the Heavy flamer sponsons they are easily modified to fit on to the Land Raider sponsons. Another alternative is to use the Heavy flamers from the Sisters of Battle Immolator, or scratch build the Heavy flamer sponsons yourself!