

German Wehrmacht Camouflage RAL color WW2

World of Tanks posting from 23 December 2010

Camouflage patterns of the Wehrmacht were regulated by Army Communiqués (Heeresmitteilung) issued throughout the war. Vehicle base colours were permanently applied at the factory, and factories were the first to implement any base colour changes. When dark yellow was introduced as a base colour in 1943, the new regulation was rapidly implemented, any recently produced equipment was immediately repainted at the factory. Depot vehicles were to be handed out to units in the new base colour only. However, vehicles already in operation were not to be repainted, they retained the dark grey base colour.

Basic Vehicle Patterns

- * 1935-1939 Anthrazitgrau Base Colour.
- * 1940 Panzergrau Base Colour.
- * 1941 Pattern North Africa.
- * 1942 Pattern North Africa/Crete.
- * 1943 Dunkelgelb Base Colour.
- * 1944 Ambush Pattern.
- * 1944 Red Primer Base.
- * 1944 Dark Green Base Colour.

Camouflage patterns were applied in the field, using water/fuel soluble camouflage paste available in three colours, dark yellow, oliv green, and red brown. Camouflage paste could be washed off with fuel in the event that a pattern needed to be adapted to local and seasonal conditions.

Camouflage paste was also used on Panzergrau vehicles in 1943.

Anthrazitgrau/Signalbraun Pattern, 1935-1939

RAL 7016 Anthrazitgrau - Factory Base Coat

RAL 8002 Signalbraun - Disruptive Pattern

Vehicles drafted in 1939 were painted in this pattern. The base colour dominated the disruptive pattern by a factor of 2 to 1, with soft contours between colours.

Panzergrau (HM 1940, Nr. 864 of 31.06.1940)

RAL 7021 Schwarzgrau - Factory Base Coat

Panzergrau replaced the earlier two-colour pattern in 1940, in order to save paint. Panzergrau was discontinued in February of 1943. Vehicles in operation were not to be repainted. Instead, camouflage paste was used to create two and three colour patterns over the Panzergrau base colour. Armoured vehicles at Kursk in 1943 are documented in Panzergrau with Dunkelgelb patches, typically in the recommended ratio of 2 to 1.

Afrikakorps Disruptive Pattern (Heeresmitteilung 1941, Nr. 281)

RAL 8000 Grünbraun - Base Colour

RAL 7008 Grüngrau - Disruptive Pattern

Panzergrau vehicles deployed to Africa were repainted in the new base colour with disruptive patches. The base colour dominated the disruptive pattern by a factor of 2 to 1, with soft contours between colours.

Afrikakorps Disruptive Pattern (HM 1942, Nr. 315 of 25.03.1942)

RAL 8020 Gelbbraun - Base Colour

RAL 7027 Sandgrau - Disruptive Pattern

The new pattern for Africa was introduced in March of 1942. Available paint and camouflage paste of the earlier pattern was to be used up, resulting in a mixture of patterns in the interim period. The new Africa pattern was also used in Crete (HM 1942, Nr. 600). Water soluble, and removable camouflage paste was to be used to paint vehicle tarps.

Dunkelgelb Base Colour with Disruptive Pattern (HM 1943, Nr. 181 and 322)

RAL 7028 Dunkelgelb - Factory Base Coat

RAL 6003 Olivgrün - Disruptive Pattern

RAL 8017 Schokoladenbraun - Disruptive Pattern

As of February 1943, vehicles were supplied in the Dunkelgelb factory base coat, to be painted with camouflage patterns according to regional and seasonal requirements. As a result, a great variety of two and three colour patterns were in existence, even serving alongside each other in the same unit. Operational vehicles painted Panzergrau were not to be repainted in the new base colour. Instead, camouflage paste was to be used to create two- and three-colour patterns.

Ambush Pattern, 19th August 1944

RAL 7028 Dunkelgelb - Factory Base Coat

RAL 6003 Olivgrün - Disruptive Pattern

RAL 8017 Schokoladenbraun - Disruptive Pattern

The ambush pattern was designed to hide vehicles under trees, an important consideration in light of allied air superiority following the Normandy landings. Ambush pattern was factory applied, using standard designs.

Dark Red Primer Coat with Disruptive Pattern, 31st October 1944

RAL 8012 Dark Red Primer - Factory Base Coat

RAL 6003 Olivgrün - Disruptive Pattern

RAL 7028 Dunkelgelb - Disruptive Pattern

RAL 7021 Schwarzgrau - Disruptive Pattern

A simplified process of applying the three colour disruptive pattern, using the dark red primer as the

base colour and adding disruptive patterns of Olivgrün and Dunkelgelb at the factory. Panzergrau may have been used as an alternative to Dunkelgelb on occasion.

Olivgrün Base Colour with Disruptive Pattern, 31st November 1944

RAL 6003 Olivgrün - Factory Base Coat

RAL 8017 Schokoladenbraun - Disruptive Pattern

RAL 7028 Dunkelgelb - Disruptive Pattern

Some vehicles may have been rushed to the front in Olivgrün base coat only, to be camouflaged by the units receiving them.

Snow Camouflage

Heeresmitteilung 1941, Nr. 1128 of 18th November 1941 regulated the application of snow camouflage to vehicles operating in Norway, Finland, and Russia. White camouflage paste was to be applied over the Panzergrau base coat, to be washed off again with fuel when the snow melted. However, supply problems on the Eastern Front were so severe that this instruction could not be followed. Replacement vehicles, and divisions newly deployed to the front were painted as required, but units already engaged had to use lime wash to camouflage their vehicles.

Sources

1. THOMAS L. JENTZ & HILARY LOUIS DOYLE. PANZER TRACTS No.1-2 - Panzerkampfwagen I - Kl.Pz.Bef.Wg. to VK 18.01. Boyds, MD : Panzer Tracts, 2002.
2. BRUCE CULVER & RICHARD MURPHY. Panzer Colors I, II, & III - Camouflage of the German Panzer Forces 1939-45. Carrollton: Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc.,
3. RAL COLOUR CONVERSION TABLE. <http://miniatures.de...al-farben.html>. Retrieved 08/28/2006 - <http://www.miniature...-wehrmacht.html>
4. PANZER WORLD <http://www.panzerworld.net/> - <http://www.panzerworld.net/colours>
5. STUG III <http://stugiii.com/g...camouflage.html>

You can find a RAL color palette reference here: <http://www.polycomp.nl/ral.htm>

For information and reference about the **german panzer divisions insignia** see: <http://www.panther19...uppe/DivAbz.htm>
or <http://freeforumzone...k/D9131825.html>