

The M10 / Achilles / Wolverine Tank Destroyer

In 1942 it had been planned to create a British tank destroyer but with the availability of the M10 these projects were put on hold. The M10 was first made available at the end of 1942, these vehicles were open topped and mounted a 3" American gun, this weapon was significantly more powerful than the 6 Pounder that mounted British tanks of the period and slightly better than the 75mm guns used by the Panzer IV. These M10s were given the name "Wolverine".

The M10 was light, relatively fast and had decent armament but the turret was poorly balanced which led to very slow turret rotation speeds, later versions had counterweights added to help with this issue. The armour on the M10 was very thin, thinner than that of the Sherman's and thus offered little protection against the newer German guns but the open top, despite the additional vulnerability offered excellent visibility for the crew.

The British made several modifications to the M10, additional 17mm thick armour plates were welded to the front and sides of the M10, also a 20mm thick shield was fitted to the top of the turret to give extra protection to the crew. The biggest change to the M10 was the removal of the American 3" gun and

replacing it with a British 17pdr, the 17pdr had vastly superior anti-tank performance to the 3" gun and virtually all M10s received by the British mounted a 17pdr by the end of the war - these were known as the Achilles.

The first conversions to carry a 17pdr were carried out in April 1944, by June 124 M10s had been converted, by the end of the year this had been increased to 816 with 152 vehicles being converted in November alone. Around 1,650 M10 tank destroyers were received by the British, of these 1,100 were converted by the end of the war.

Name	M10	Achilles
Type	Tank Destroyer	Tank Destroyer
Crew	5	5
(In turret)	3	3
Length	19'-7"	19'-7"
Length With Gun	22'-4.75"	23'-8.25"
Width	10'	10'
Height	8'-2"	8'-2"
Weight	26.8	26.8
Ground clearance	12.3	12.3
Track type	Steel, Parallel Grousers	Steel, Parallel Grousers
No per track	79	79
Weight of one Track	3780	3780
Track width	16.56"	16.56"
Engine	GM Dual Diesel	GM Dual Diesel

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B.H.P	14	14
Max road speed	30	30
Average road speed	25	25
Cross Country Speed	-	-
Gear box type	Syncromesh/Clash	Syncromesh/Clash
Gears	5 Forward 1 Reverse	5 Forward 1 Reverse
Fuel consumption (road) – MPG	0.5	0.5
Fuel consumption (cross country)		
Petrol	150	150
Auxiliary capacity	-	-
Radius of action -(road)	-	-
Radius of action (cross country)	-	-
Trench Crossing	7'-5"	7'-5"
Vertical obstacle	1'-6"	1'-6"
Fording height	3'	3'
Gradient	30	30
Main Armament	3" M5	17 Pounder
Ammunition	-	-
Secondary Armament	-	-
Ammunition	-	-
Transverse type	Hand	Hand
Max elevation	30	30
Max depression	10'	10'
Turret Ring Size	69	69
Optics		No.43?
Armour		
Hull Nose	50.8	50.8
Hull Front	38.1	38.1
Hull Sides Upper	19.05	19.05
Hull Sides Lower	25.4	25.4
Hull Rear Lower	19.05	19.05
Hull Rear Upper	25.4	25.4
Engine Deck	9.53	9.53

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Hull Top	19.05	19.05
Hull Floor	12.7	12.7
Turret Mantlet	57.15	57.15
Turret Sides	25.4	25.4
Turret Rear	25.4	25.4
Turret Floor	25.4	25.4
Turret Top (Front)	19.05	
Additional Armour	17(I.T.80)	
	Hull Front	
	Turret Sides	
	Hull Sides	
	20(1.T.80) Turret Shield	