

M1A2

Equipment



Vehicle	Type	Rel	Combat speed	Travel speed	Front armour	Side armour	Rear armour	Fuel Type	Fuel Cap	Fuel Con	Crew	Cargo	Main weapon	Secondary weapon(s)	Price
M1A2	MBT	A	10/9	10/9	12	8	6	G	1915	40	3	-	120mm (T), FCS	M240B (C) SD, R	1200000

Note: The M1A2 is a different vehicle to the real world M1A2.

Originally designated the M1A1E1 when it was introduced in 1995, the M1A2 was type standardised in March 1996 (although the M1A1 remained in production to fulfil earlier orders). The vehicles used a remote controlled casemate (unmanned) turret mounting the 120mm smoothbore gun complete with an autoloader holding 30 rounds. The reason for this was to increase crew survivability by keeping them in a separate location. In service it quickly acquired the nickname “giraffe” from its odd profile and high speed.

The crew of three (commander, gunner and driver) ride in an armoured box in the hull. The commander sits on the right and has a full sensor system (the same as the gunner) but also has three periscopes directly in front of his hatch. The commander sits on the left and has a rotating mount complete with five vision blocks. The gunner sits slightly behind and in between the other two but has no hatch being entirely dependent on the sensors. One criticism was the lack of an independent commander’s sight with the commander and gunner sharing the sight (if conflicting instructions are given the commander’s instructions override). A separate sight would have given the commander the ability to search for the next target while the previous target was being engaged. It was planned to upgrade this in the M1A2E1 model but this never made it past prototypes.

“It’s a good job the A2 was so survivable, as a gunner I had no hatch and had to wait for the commander or driver to get out before I could.”

PFC Sarah Grange
3/70th Armour 51D

Divisions known to have used the M1A2 were 1st Armoured, 1st Cavalry, 1st Infantry (Mech), 2nd Armoured, 3rd Armoured, 3rd Infantry (Mech), 4th Infantry (Mech), 5th Infantry (Mech), 8th Infantry (Mech) and 24th Infantry. In addition they were also used by the 194th Armoured Brigade. Most divisions only received a limited number and no division ever had more than approximately 30% of their tanks of this standard. While they were not recorded as issued to the USMC, a photo showing one in Norway has surfaced. Unfortunately the number of this is obscured by the crew and thus no further information can be traced.

“The giraffe did have a big problem. If there was an issue with the autoloader then the gun was inoperable until the crew dismounted and opened the doors on the rear of the turret to manually sort the problem.”

SSgt John Vernon
3/70th Armour 51D

“The giraffe drove like a sports car, it was great. Well it was great until you had to reverse. It was next to impossible and nobody had realised that the commander used to direct from the turret. That’s a bit hard sat in parallel...”

PFC Buster Crichton
3/70th Armour 51D