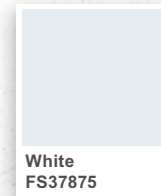
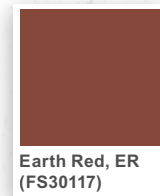
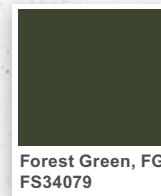
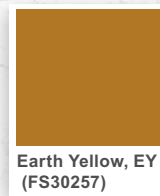
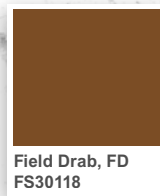
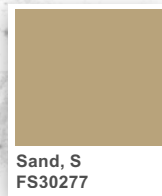
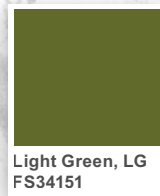
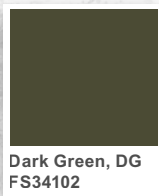


# US ARMY MERDC

## CAMOUFLAGE COLORS



In the early 1970's the U.S. Army recognized that the monochromatic Olive Drab camouflage system that had been in use since WW2 needed to be replaced. In collaboration with Mobility Equipment Research & Design Command (MERDC) they entered into research and development aimed at creating a new camouflage system for their vehicles.



MERDC RED DESERT



MERDC SNOW WITH TREES



MERDC GREY DESERT



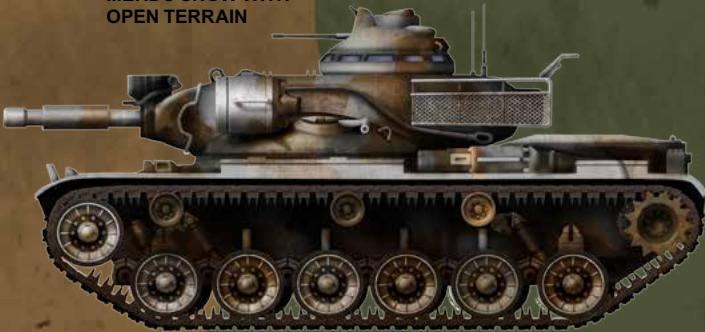
MERDC WINTER VERDANT



MERDC SUMMER VERDANT



MERDC SNOW WITH OPEN TERRAIN





# INTRODUCTION MERDC COLORS

This camouflage system consisted of a set of standard patterns for each vehicle that could be adapted to the terrain, and seasons in which the vehicles operated. The uniqueness and versatility of this system was the ease of which the scheme could be changed. Simply changing one or two colours would change the entire scheme, easily adapting the vehicle to a new field or destination.

This camouflage system was used from the mid 70's through to the mid 80's; at which time the MERDC system was replaced by the three colour NATO pattern.

In total there were eight MERDC patterns. Arid environments were assigned two patterns: Grey Desert and Red Desert. Snow environments were assigned four: Winter Verdant, Snow with open terrain, Snow with trees, and Arctic pattern. Lastly, two were assigned to temperate climates: Summer Verdant and Tropical Verdant.

The most common of the MERDC camouflage patterns were the Winter Verdant, and the Summer Verdant. Winter Verdant was assigned to vehicles that operated in Europe; Summer Verdant was applied to vehicles parked in the United States. Grey Desert pattern is mainly used in vehicles based at Fort Hood, Texas.

In total there are nine different MERDC patterns; each pattern consists of four colours, two basic colours and two secondary colours. The two basic colours covered 90% of the vehicle; 45% each in a wave like pattern. The two secondary colours covered the remaining 10%; typically these are black and a sand colour tone applied in either small irregular shaped spots, or a wave like pattern. The colors used were:



In the following chart we can see the colors assigned to each pattern MERDC published in the Bulletin TB-43 -0209 Army, of October 29, 1975.

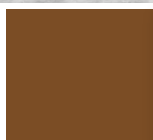
MERDC Colors and Environments				
Environment	Color Distribution			
	45%	45%	5%	5%
Winter Verdant	Forest Green	Field Drab	Sand	Black
Snow with Trees	Forest Green	White	Sand	Black
Snow with Open Terrain	White	Field Drab	Sand	Black
Summer Verdant	Forest Green	Light Green	Sand	Black
Tropics Verdant	Forest Green	Dark Green	Light Green	Black
Grey Desert	Sand	Field Drab	Earth Yellow	Black
Red Desert	Earth Red	Earth Yellow	Sand	Black
Winter Arctic	White	White		



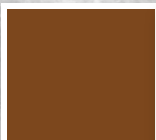




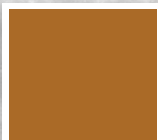
Due to different agents colors can appear clarified and vary their shades in the same color. Matte paintings also absorb dust in their pores more than satin paintings and this can also affect the appreciation of color. In photographs, depending on the incidence of light we can see one color or another. Other times difference in colors are just different production in different factories. Here we can see different tones on FS30118, FS34079 and FS34102.



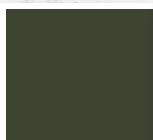
Field Drab, FD  
FS30118



Field Drab,  
different  
fabrication



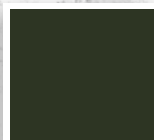
Faded Field Drab



Forest Green, FG  
FS34079



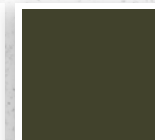
Forest Green,  
variant with  
more cyan  
used. different  
fabrication



Forest Green,  
darker without  
scale effect  
reduction



Dark Green, DG  
FS34102



Dark Green,  
different  
fabrication



Dark Green,  
faded