

= M9 Half @-@ track =

The M9 Half @-@ track was a half @-@ track produced by International Harvester in the United States in World War II for lend @-@ lease supply to Allies . It was designed to provide a similar vehicle to the M2 Half Track Car . It had the same body and chassis as the M5 Half @-@ track (also built by International Harvester for lend @-@ lease) but had the same stowage and radio fit as the M2 Half Track .

The M9 served for a significant amount of time . 3 @, @ 500 were produced by the end of World War II . It was used during World War II , the Arab @-@ Israeli War of 1948 , the Korean War , the Suez Crisis , the Vietnam War , the Six @-@ Day War , and the Yom Kippur War . It was used by eleven different countries by the end of its service .

= = Development = =

The United States adopted half @-@ tracks in large numbers as they could be built more quickly and cheaply by civilian vehicle producers than vehicles from the established armored vehicle manufacturers . The M2 Half Track Car had first been intended as an artillery tractor but was also used for carrying the machine gun squads of armored infantry regiments and for reconnaissance units until faster and better @-@ armed M8 Greyhound armored cars were available .

In order to supply U.S. allies , much more production was required than was possible through the firms producing the M2 (and the larger M3 Half @-@ track) . International Harvester (IH) could produce half @-@ tracks but some differences had to be accepted due to different manufacturing methods and components . This led to IH producing for lend @-@ lease the M5 Half @-@ track as a M3 equivalent and the M9 as the M2 equivalent .

= = Design = =

The M9 used the same chassis and mechanical components as the M5 . It was laid out to provide similar stowage , access to the radios from the inside , rear doors , and a pedestal machine gun mount as with the M2 . The M9A1 variant of the M9 matched the improvements made to the M2 , M3 , and M5 , changing to ring mount machine gun mount and three pintle machine gun mounts .

As with the M5 , due to the lack of face @-@ hardened armor , homogenous armor was used . Although thicker , it gave less protection and could be penetrated by armor @-@ piercing rifle bullets from 300 yards (270 m) rather than 200 yards (180 m) . The armor also made the vehicle heavier though the " performance was essentially similar " .

= = Service history = =

The M9 started production in August 1942 , at IH . The M9 and M9A1 were manufactured en masse and 2 @, @ 026 were produced in total . According to American military historian and defense specialist Steven Zaloga , 2 @, @ 026 M9 and 1 @, @ 407 M9A1 were produced in 1943 .

The M9 was used in World War II , the Arab @-@ Israeli War of 1948 , the Korean War , the Suez Crisis , and many other conflicts . The production of M9s was leased to other countries , like most other IH half @-@ tracks produced in World War II . This M9A1 was leased to both the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom , the latter providing it to other countries in the British Commonwealth .

= = Operators = =

The M9 was used by many countries but not the United States as there was sufficient M2 and M3 production for U.S. needs . Th UK leased some half @-@ tracks to Free France and other governments @-@ in @-@ exile . The Soviet Union received supplies directly . Following World War II , the second hand market was a source of supply for some countries , including Israel . M9 half @-@ tracks were provided under the Military Aid Program (MAP) to the following countries :

