

# Armored car FAI

"Ford-A Izhorskiy", for which the abbreviation FAI stands, alludes to the chassis being derived from a Ford A, while Izhorskiy is the factory that produced the armored car. It was produced from 1932 to 1936; the production number is given as 676.

Before the war, the armored car was used everywhere in the Red Army and it took part in all kinds of battles before and during, including the Spanish Civil War. A later version, which was mounted on a somewhat longer chassis, was designated FAI-M, as it was mounted on the chassis GAZ-M1.

The armored car was well liked by the crew and was reliable in use; however, weak armor (6 mm) and narrow wheels are highlighted as disadvantages, which reduced the armored vehicle's off-road characteristics.

There was also a variant which was equipped to also run on railway tracks; it was called FAI-ZhD - ZhD stands for: Zheleznaya Doroga, which translates to "road/rail". On top of the ordinary wheels, a steel band suitable for railway rails was strung. When the steel bands were not in use, it was fastened to the side of the wagon. In this version, it was used as a scout vehicle for armored trains

The BA-20 armored car mentioned above is almost confusingly similar to the FAI - it is a little longer and a little wider, and for many it is equipped with a radio, either with a frame antenna, or with a rod antenna, mounted either between the driver's hatches or on the left side, immediately below the tower.

The main difference is that the two domes above the driver's and commander's seats are not found on the BA-20.

So for use during wargaming, the FAI can easily be used in place of a BA-20 - at least until someone produces a model.

## Source:

*Russian Armoured Cars 1930-2000* of James Kinnear, Darlington Productions, Maryland, 2000, ISBN: 1-892848-05-8

**Read more and see pictures and drawings here:**

<http://www.battlefield.ru/fai.html>

<http://www.gis.minsk.by/ironage/tanks/MODELS/fai.htm>

