

**-----The Question ?? -----**  
**Can anyone out there tell me why HO scale anything is so EXPENSIVE????**

**Updated Oct 19, 2017**

Can anyone out there tell me why HO scale anything is so EXPENSIVE???? Vehicles and buildings for sure. I won't even mention train cars and locomotives.

We have solved the mysteries of the universe (except 3 items maybe ?), scaled the highest mountain, gone to the deepest depth of the oceans, and of course put a McDonalds in all countries.

But the last thing I am still unclear about is the cost of HO.

**Example:**

A LARGE scale tank below is about the price of a LITTLE BITTY HO tank. Many vehicles are even more expensive in HO..... Why????????????

The screenshot shows three HO scale tank models for sale. Each item has its price circled in blue. The first item is a 'Flakpanzer Gepard 1/35 Tamiya' priced at \$24.60 (original price \$30.00). The second is a 'Gepard A1/A2 German Flakpanzer 1/35 Meng Models' priced at \$75.64 (original price \$88.99). The third is a 'Gepard 1A2 KWS AA Tank 1/87 Minitanks' priced at \$19.48 (original price \$22.50). Each item listing includes an 'ADD TO CART' button and a heart icon.

John



**From: Eric Christianson**

Good Morning John –

I am not a model retailer, but as an avid ROCO Minitank collector (1/87 scale), I have some theories...

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First – that kit is a hella-nice little vehicle. Relative to other vehicles in that scale, this one is more toward the high end of detail. I have one sitting in front of me, in fact.

Second – ROCO has always commanded a high price because it is a favorite brand among wargaming community. Minitanks purchased for 49 cents back in 1975 are selling in minutes for \$10.00 or more (which is why I saved my Minitank army all these years.) I just checked – a King Tiger (\$1.98 in 1975) is on eBay for \$20.00.

Also – that \$25 Tamiya kit is ancient; it has molded on tools and most likely cut-outs for RC hardware. Still builds up nice, though. That Meng kit is, well, a Meng kit. I can't defend the high price, but unless you settle for the Tamiya kit, it's the only other one in town.

And that's all I know!

Thanks!  
Eric



**From: John DeRosia**

Eric- yes- I remember the ROCO line from way back. Always great little models. My 'minds eye' more or less is comparing the size of the HO items mostly. Always wanted to get into the HO hobby, but the prices pretty much have kept me at bay. There are absolutely amazing buildings and subjects in HO that are not found in our side of the realm. RATS!!

**John**

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**From: Morgan Girling**

John,

HO and N scale are pretty much exclusively model railroad scales, and the overwhelming majority of interest there is for passenger and freight cars/locos, and buildings/scenery typically found around the track. I've only seen one layout (actually an N-scale module) that featured AFVs - he was modeling the load-out of an armored division at Ft. Lewis. Otherwise, one rarely sees tanks on trains, so they are a niche in that scale.

That being said, ROCO has a huge line of highly detailed AFVs in HO scale, which seem to be marketed as toys (the tanks have rigid tracks which conceal tiny wheels between the tracks. They have been moderately hard to find on this side of the pond, though back when I was a kid, my friends came back from Germany with armloads of the stuff.

Morgan Girling

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**From: Mark Andrews**

A couple years ago I got a small 5 pack of O scale figures. That was \$20!!!! Nothing special just plain civilian figures. Insane!

Mark Andrews, IPMS 33206

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**From: Jacob Russell**

Actually there are plenty of 1/87th scale kits, but it depends on what you are looking for. Kibri of Germany produces some great tractor-trailers, cranes, excavators, etc.

You should go here:

<https://www.1-87vehicles.org/>

Jacob Russell

**From: John DeRosia**

Drool Drool Drool

Hard to fathom these are HO scale they look so good!



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and of course- orange colors to sooth the brain...YES!!



John

