

Tank Driver Proficiency Badge, Master (highest level), 1954-1961.

Brass, enamels; 24.9 mm tall x 64.3 mm wide.

In very fine to excellent condition, way above average for the Tanker's qualification badge of highest level and among the best examples of this badge we have seen in many years. The enamel shows magnificent luster and appears perfect to the unaided eye. Under a 10x magnification, one can find a tiny surface flake to the lower left arm of the star and a couple of even smaller, microscopic flakes near the lower right edge of the white shield under the "M", but these flaws are practically unnoticeable without a loupe. Almost all of the original black finish on the tanks is present showing only minimal wear at the highest points. The nickel plating on the wings is perfect and bright. The fire gilt finish is exceptionally bright on the wreath and very well preserved on the reverse. The screw post is full length, approx. 11.5 mm, and includes original screw plate marked "Pobeda Factory, Moscow".

To reiterate, this badge is extremely well preserved, much better than vast majority of Soviet tanker proficiency badges in general, let alone the highest Master level.

/Avers 8, p. 452, fig. 2119; also, Borisov, Badges of the Soviet Armed Forces, fig. 239/.

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