

Buried Under Plastic 2026 – Quarterly Combat Patrol Challenge (v1.3)

1) Objective

Finish **one Combat Patrol** per quarter in 2026. Finishing early can trigger extra boxes that “bury” the other player.

2) Calendar & Opening Rules (Pacific/Auckland)

- **Q1:** 1 Jan–31 Mar
- **Q2:** 1 Apr–30 Jun
- **Q3:** 1 Jul–30 Sep
- **Q4:** 1 Oct–31 Dec
- You may **buy/receive** boxes ahead, but **no box may be opened before 12:00am on the first day of its quarter** (including Q1).

3) Core Quarterly Requirement

- Each quarter’s **core box** is a **Combat Patrol** (unless pre-approved as a Spearhead swap; see §7).
- You **must complete** that quarter’s core box **before** you’re allowed to open the next quarter’s core box.

4) What Counts as “Complete” (tabletop-ready)

By the quarter’s end, the core box is **complete** when:

- All models **fully assembled** and **tabletop-ready painted** (more than primer; at least **3 colours**; tidy/readable on the table). **Primed-only does not count.**
- **WYSIWYG** for obvious wargear (reasonable good-faith clarity).
- **Bases:** not plain stock rounds — add texture/terrain (painted sand, texture paste, tufts, rubble, etc.).
- **Decals/stickers:** optional but encouraged if the kit provides them.

5) Kitbash Requirement (per quarter)

- **At least one model** in the quarter’s core box must be **kitbashed**.
- **Definition:** add one or more parts from **another kit entirely** (bits from the same kit or base decorations don’t qualify).
- Identify the kitbashed model in your completion photo/caption.

6) The Trap – Finishing Early = Extra Boxes

If you finish your quarter's core Combat Patrol **before the quarter ends**, you may immediately start **one or more extra boxes** in that quarter. Options include:

- **Kill Team** (full box), **Necromunda** (gang box or starter), **Spearhead**, or **another GW box set** of similar scope.
- **Obligation:** the other player **must buy an equivalent box to match** (see §8) and, once started, **must also finish it before the next quarter's core box can be opened**.
- These **extras** are part of that quarter and follow the same **tabletop-ready** and **base** standards.

7) Spearhead Swap (pre-approved substitution)

- With agreement **before the quarter begins**, a quarter's **core Combat Patrol** may be **swapped** for a **Spearhead** as the official core box for that quarter.
- Everything else (kitbash requirement, completion, bases, etc.) still applies.

8) “Equivalent Box” (for matched extras)

When one player triggers an **extra**, the other must match with an **equivalent** choice:

- **Scope/complexity:** broadly similar **build/paint workload** and **MSRP** ($\pm 15\%$ as a guide).
- **Like-for-like** where possible (Kill Team \leftrightarrow Kill Team; gang \leftrightarrow gang; Spearhead \leftrightarrow Spearhead).
- Equivalence should be agreed in good faith via a quick message before opening.

9) Falling Behind (“Plastic Debt”)

- You **may not** open a new quarter's core box while **any** prior quarter core boxes or required **matched extras** remain **incomplete**.
- Extra boxes **can** stack — if you're forced to match multiple extras, they all become part of the backlog that must be cleared before moving on.
- This is the risk: finishing early can “bury” the other player under plastic.

10) Interaction with the 2,000-pt Army Challenge

- **Only one** of the four quarterly Combat Patrols may be allocated toward your 2026 army (declare which by the **end of that quarter**).
- **No extra boxes** (Kill Team, Necromunda, Spearhead, etc.) **may be counted** toward the army challenge.

11) Proof & Tracking (light-touch)

- **Sprue photo** on/after the quarter start (timestamped).
- **Completion photo(s)** at quarter end showing the whole core box, plus a note identifying the **kitbashed** model.
- If extras were triggered, add a **group shot** of those too.

12) Conversions, 3rd-party bits, printing

- Conversions are welcome. 3rd-party or printed parts are fine, but the **kitbash requirement** specifically needs parts from **another kit**.
- Keep silhouettes and base sizes appropriate for table play.

13) Disputes & Good-Faith Clause

- Ambiguities are resolved by **most conservative** interpretation for the current quarter, then update the document after.
 - Aim for clarity and parity; the fun is finishing and playing, not rules-lawyering.
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Addendum A – Legacy & Gifted Combat Patrols, Sourcing & Proof (v1.3)

To widen options and availability:

1. **Legacy/previous Combat Patrol boxes are allowed** as a quarter's core box (including discontinued SKUs or earlier print runs), provided they are **official Games Workshop Combat Patrol products**.
 2. **Gifted kits are allowed**. A Combat Patrol qualifies if it was **unopened at the time of receipt** (factory shrink or **sealed internal sprue bags**).
 - For gifts without outer shrink, photos showing **sealed internal sprue bags** are acceptable proof.
 3. **Acceptable sourcing** includes:
 - Online retailers and local gaming stores,
 - **eBay** or similar marketplaces,
 - **Private sellers** (friends/other hobbyists),
 - **Gifts** (as above).
 4. All other rules remain unchanged: you **still may not open** the box until the quarter starts; kitbash requirement, basing standards, and completion deadlines still apply.
 5. **Proof**: Include a timestamped photo of the **sealed** box (or sealed sprue bags) taken **on or after the quarter start**, and a photo after breaking the seals to begin.
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Pre-Start Preparation (Allowed)

Before your official start window, you **may**:

- **Gather supplies** (paints, brushes, tools, glue, magnets, basing materials, decals/tufts) and **plan paint schemes and lists**.
 - **Test paints and basing on spare/test bases** not used on challenge models. You **may not**: open the quarter's core box, assemble, prime, or paint challenge models before the quarter start.
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Instagram Verification & Public Space

This is a **personal challenge conducted in a public space**. Verification is intentionally light-touch and trust-based.

Official hashtags

- Always include **#BuriedUnderPlastic2026** and either **#MPCombatPatrol2026** (Combat Patrol posts) or **#MPArmyBuild2026** (Army posts).
- Posts using the legacy tag **#TrappedUnderThePlastic2026** remain valid; using both is fine.
- Other relevant hobby tags (e.g., **#Warhammer40000**, **#Warhammer**) are encouraged.

Handles

- Tag your **opponent's handle** in local head-to-heads (e.g., you tag Joash).
- Tagging other accounts is **not required** for completion, but welcome.

Required posts (Combat Patrol)

- **Start-of-quarter post (required)**: Unopened box **and** untouched sprues. Include official hashtag(s) and tag your opponent.
- **End-of-quarter post (required)**: Nicely shot completion photos of the whole core box (identify the kitbashed model in the caption or image).
- **Timing**: Make each post within a reasonable window of the start/end—this runs on trust rather than penalties.

Army Build cadence on IG

- **Aim for monthly photos** showing progress. Include unopened boxes before beginning, and completion shots of finished units/boxes as the months go on.
- Captions are **encouraged but not required**; narrate your progress if you like.

Disputes ("kangaroo court" honesty box)

- Any dispute is resolved by the participants themselves in good-faith: this is a **kangaroo court** model where each person is their own **honesty box**.
 - The point is public accountability and fun—**not** policing. Decisions can be recorded by a brief comment under the relevant post if needed.
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Optional Toggles (agree now or leave off)

- **Extra cap per quarter:** e.g., max **1** extra box each, to stop absurd pile-ons.
- **Grace window:** allow a **7-day grace** beyond quarter end before “Plastic Debt” locks you.
- **Photo deadlines:** e.g., upload completion pics within **72 hours** of finishing.

Adjustments

New in v1.3: Challenge renamed to Buried Under Plastic 2026; added allowances for gifted kits (must be unopened at time of receipt) and pre-start gathering/planning.

From v1.2: Instagram Verification & Public Space section.

From v1.1: Addendum A allowing legacy/previous Combat Patrol boxes so long as they were unopened at the time of purchase/receipt.