



The M16 Half Track was used in almost every portion of both World War II and the Korean War. The Half Track could be a troop carrier or have different types of armament installed onto it. This version has two 50 caliber machine guns with a power operated turret in the bed. As the Revell website puts it so graphically, "They hear the shriek-the thunderous combination of mechanical and natural noise as the Stuka turns into a dive, blazing fire at the column. These machines have torn apart Allied machines from France to the Crimea... but they won't today. The powered mount traverses the gunner lines up the sights and hits the triggers. Quad .50 cal machine guns cut loose with a whirlwind of lead, sending the Swiss-cheese Stuka straight to the dirt. One down!" The half-track vehicle was a customizable mainstay of the battlefield for over thirty years.

For the modeler: This is a review of the Monogram US Army Armored Half Track with crew figures in a 1:35 Scale Selected Subjects Program (SSP) Model Kit #85-0034. It is a Skill Level 2 kit for the intermediate builder molded in olive drab green, clear, black vinyl tires and water slide decals. There are 84 pieces to this kit and very well laid out instructions. This kit contains the original parts of the first issue and an anti-aircraft variant half-track with gunner, driver and crew figures. The dimensions are; 7" L X 2½" W X 2¼" H. With the turret and machine guns installed the kit is 7" L X 2½" W X 2-7/8" H.

Covered in this Review: If you want to perfect your build; basic construction; preparing parts for better finishing; alternate assembly sequence suggestions for fit and ease of finishing; identifying and removing unwanted flash; complete paint and adhesive selections and applications; test fitting; front and rear suspension construction; track installation techniques; Battalion version considerations; identifying and removing unwanted script; replacing the kit driveshaft for accuracy; paint mixing ratios for authentic color; removing unwanted labels; windshield construction and appropriate adhesive; bogey wheel assembly; painting the crew figures; decal application and finishing; are all fully examined in this **16 page, full-color** Step-by-Step review in PDF format.



Figure 0000 This is the kit's contents and box art. Unless stated differently Testors Model Cement in the tube and Testors Enamel paint in the bottle was used for the construction of this model kit.



Figure 2701 and Figure 2702 For a competition build the copy right logos on the frame and the bed need to be removed. This can be done with a hobby knife and some sand paper. Revell did not update the copy right dates so the kits molds appear to be 57 years old.



Figure 2705 There was flash on the floor board and the rear cab wall. This can be easily removed with a hobby knife.

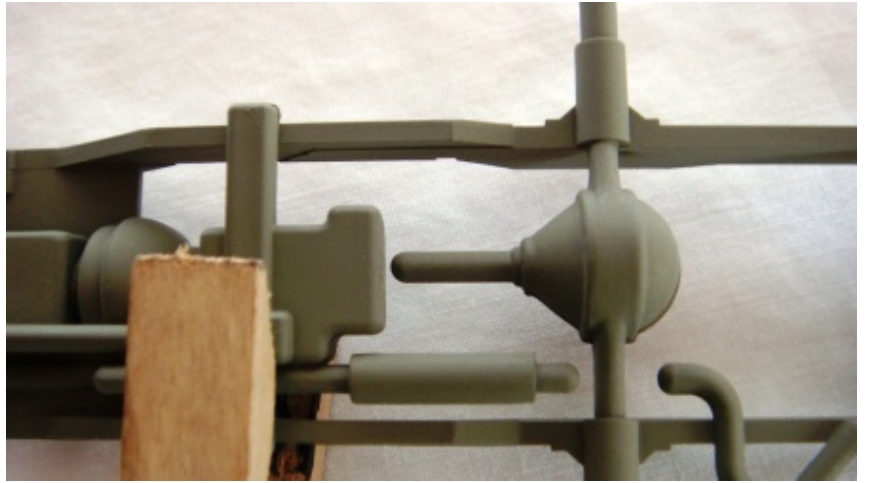
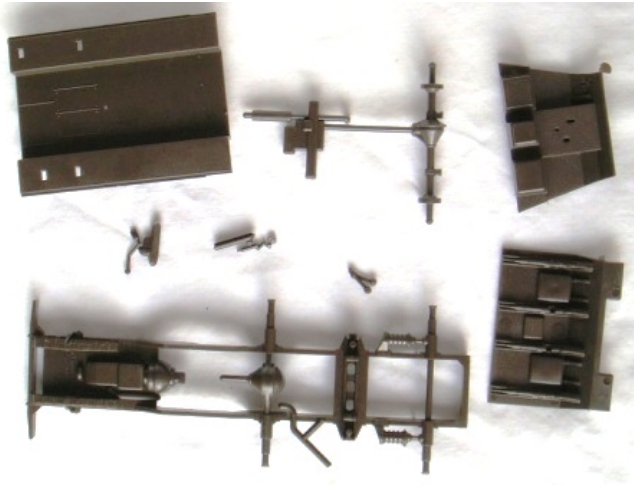


Figure 2706 and Figure 2707 The bed, front axle assembly, floor board, rear cab wall, hand brake, and frame are air brush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The gear shifter and transmission case shift lever are airbrush painted with 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner and detailed with Model Master Flat Black. The hand brake, gear shifter and transmission case shift lever are attached to the floor board and then the floor board assembly is glued to the frame. The bed, front axle assembly, and rear cab wall are glued to the frame assembly as well.

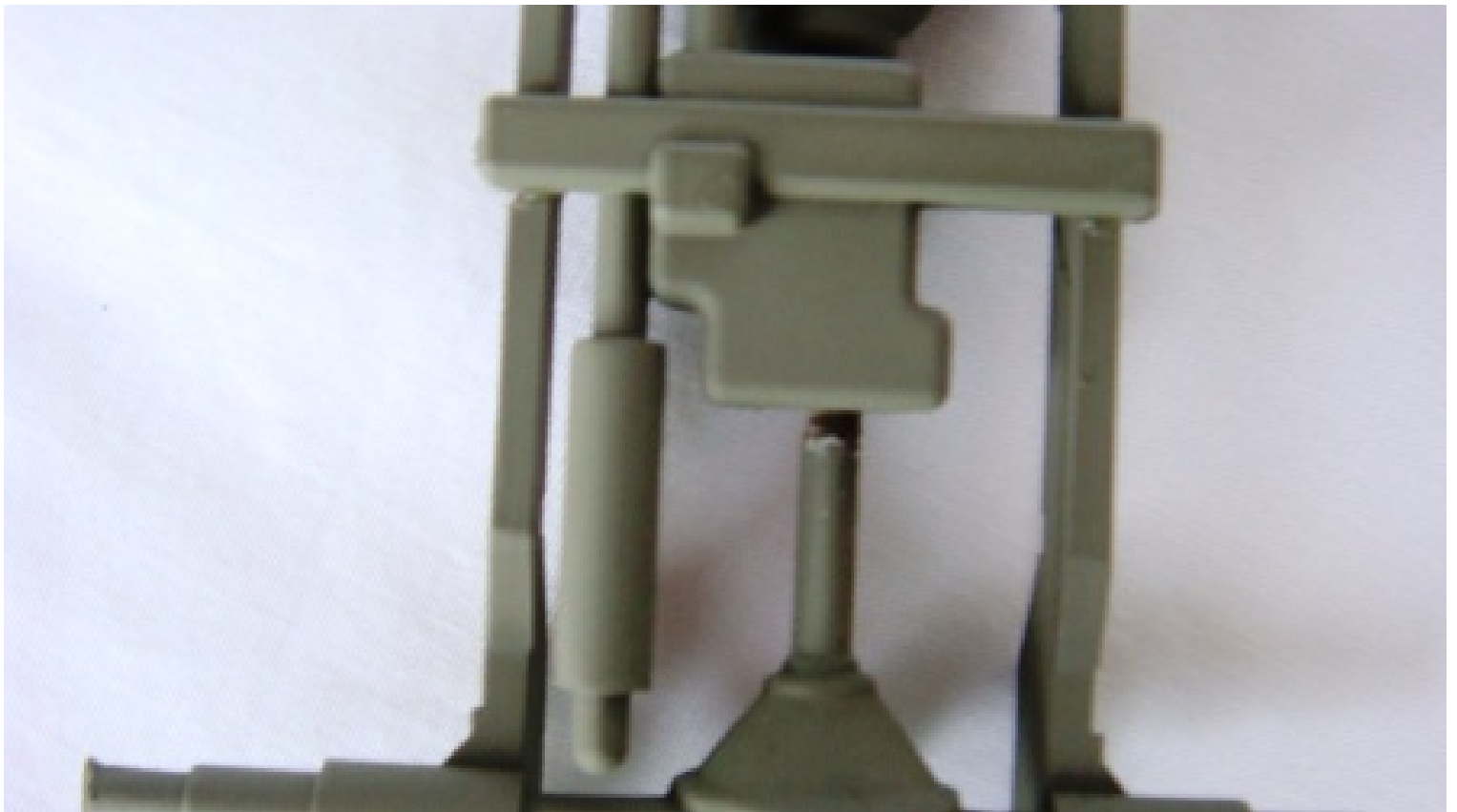


Figure 2708 The front axle assembly drive shaft does not go all the way to the gear box. By cutting a piece of the parts tree that is the same diameter and cutting the driveshaft straight this can be corrected.



Figure 2709 I used a piece of the parts tree from the kit for the driveshaft so the shading will not be off when it is painted.



Figure 2710 The right door and the left door are taped into the body sides and then the assemblies are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The ammunition boxes are also airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner.

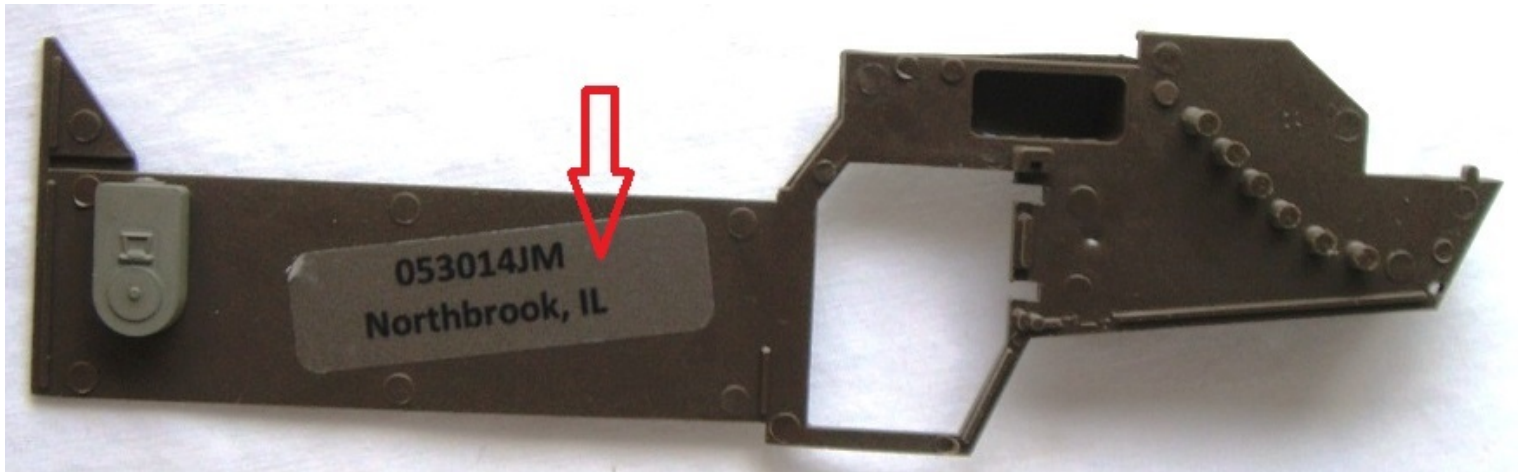


Figure 2711 is the right body side's interior, there is a sticker there that will need to be removed prior to painting.



Figure 2712 The doors are removed from the body sides and then the body sides are glued to the frame assembly. The ammunition boxes are glued to both of the body sides.



Figure 2713 The dashboard is airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner.

Figure 2714 The doors are reinstalled into the body sides and taped into place. The dashboard has a decal (Decal 5) that is applied prior to the dashboard being installed into the body assembly.

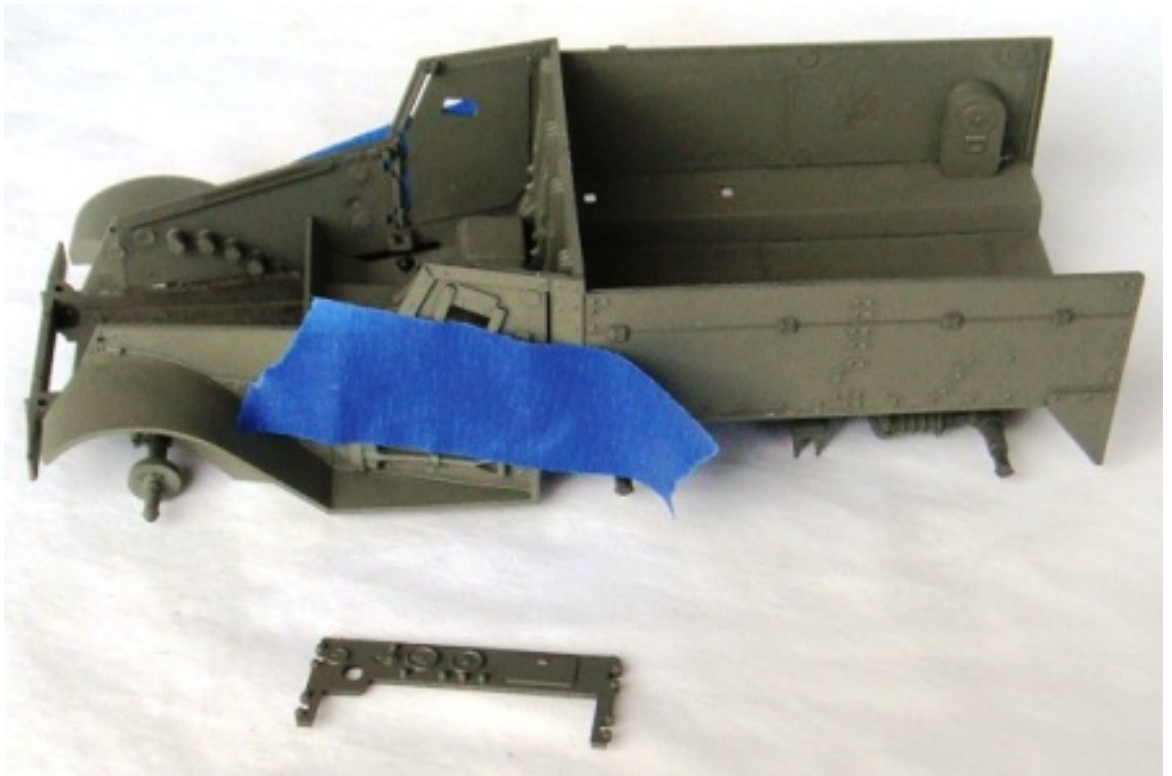


Figure 2715 and Figure 2716 The steering wheel is airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner and detailed with Model Master Flat Black. The driver is painted Tamiya Acrylic Flat Flesh, Model Master Flat Black, Testors Flat Olive (uniform), Model Master Olive Drab (helmet), and Testors Flat Tan. I painted the radio man to match hoping to add him to the cab however the position he is posed in will not allow him to fit in the passenger seat very well. The driver is installed into the cab and then the steering wheel is installed.

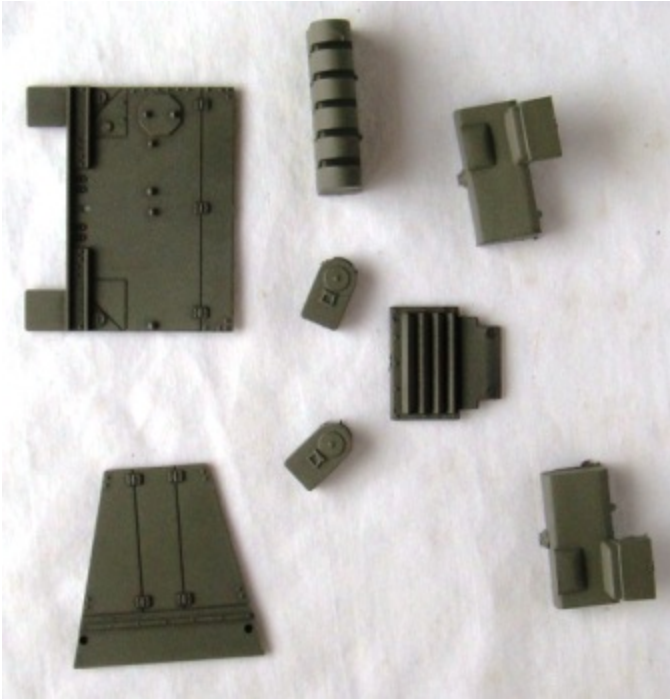


Figure 2717 and Figure 2718 The body rear, ammunition storage, right gas tank, left gas tank, grille, both ammunition boxes, and hood are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The grille is attached to the body assembly. The hood is glued to the body assembly and the grille. The left gas tank, right gas tank and ammunition storage are installed into the bed section of the body assembly. Both ammunition boxes are attached to the body rear and then the body rear is glued to the body section of the body assembly.

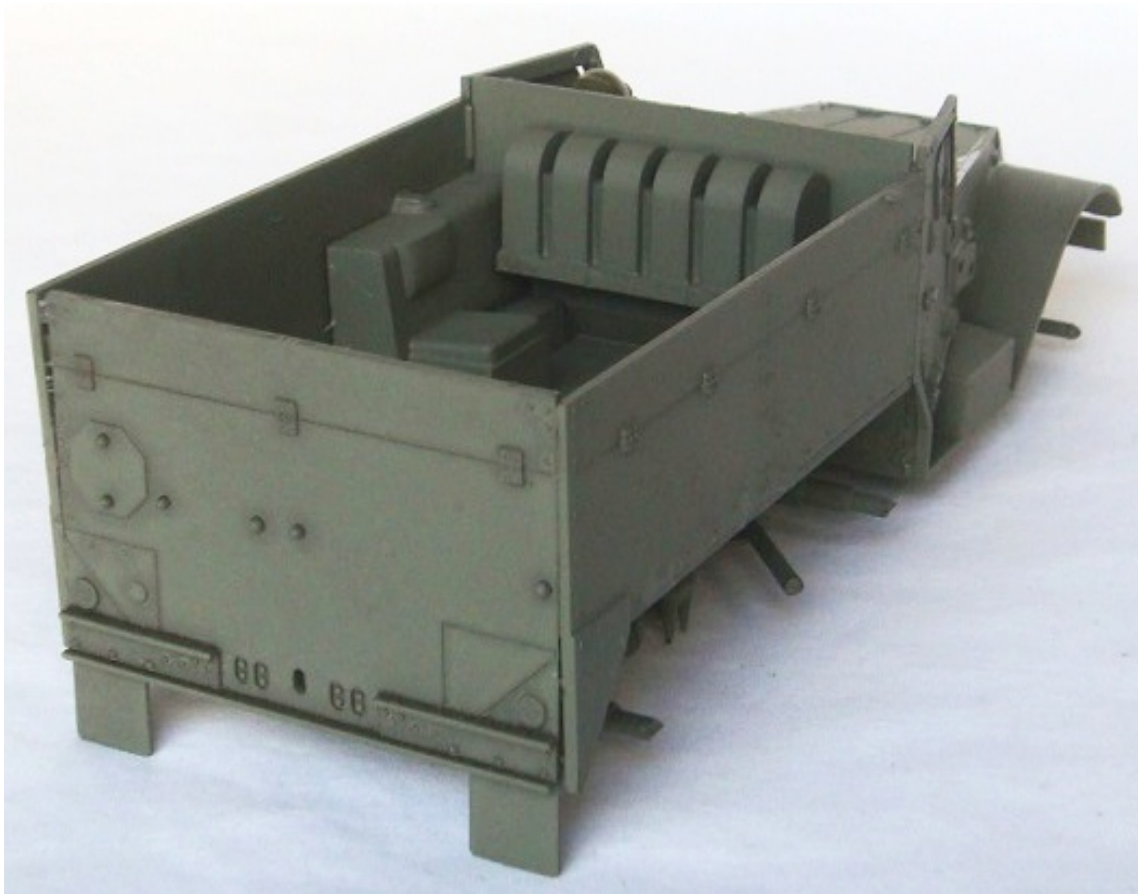


Figure 2719 A rear view of the build up to this point. The half track is really coming along.

Figure 2720 The windshield frame is airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The windshield is cut out of the windshield sheet using the template in the instruction sheet.

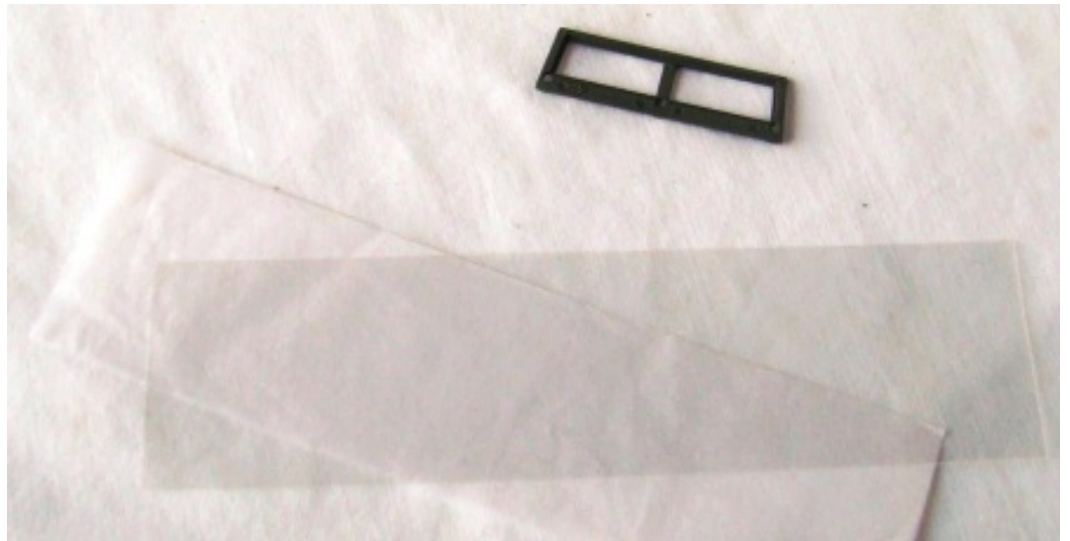


Figure 2721 The windshield is then glued into the windshield frame with Testors Clear Parts Cement & Window Maker. The windshield frame assembly is installed into the body assembly.

Figure 2722 The windshield armor, blanket storage box, hook, bucket, right roller bracket, left roller bracket, ration storage, both roller halves, right headlight, left headlight, both 5 gallon can outer halves, and both 5 gallon can inner halves are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner.

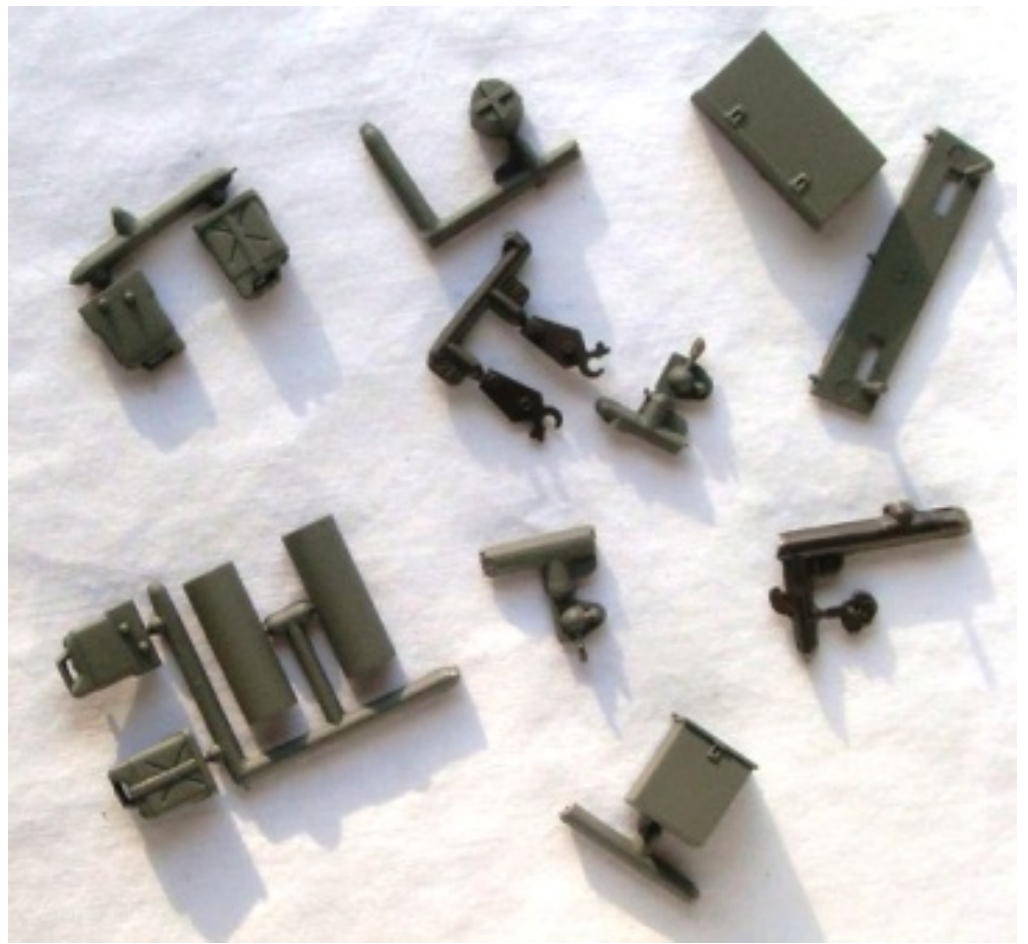


Figure 2723 The right and left head lights are installed onto the body assembly. The windshield armor is installed onto the windshield frame. The roller halves are glued together. The left and right roller brackets are attached to the roller assembly and then the roller brackets are glued to the front bumper.

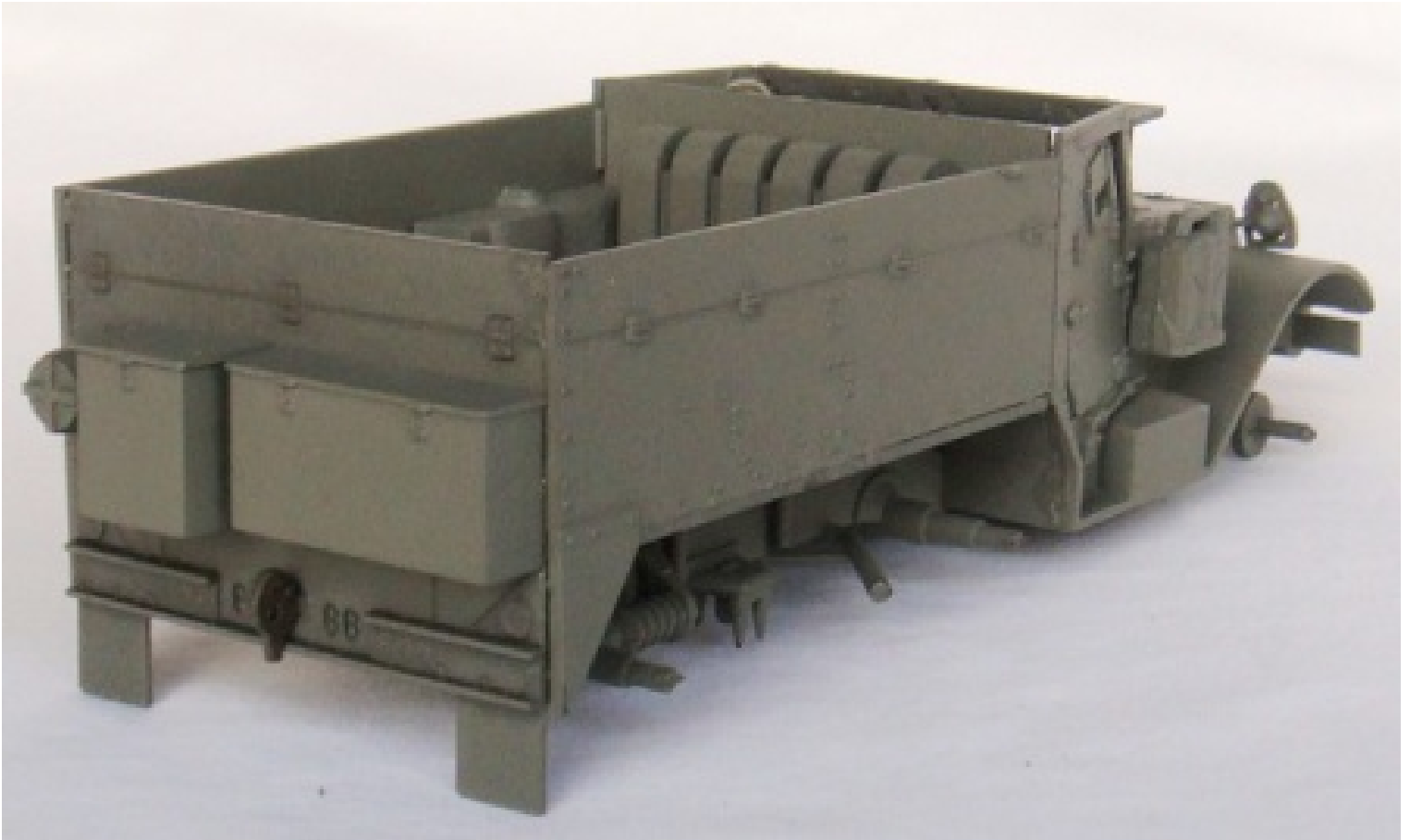


Figure 2724 The 5 gallon can outer halves are glued to the 5 gallon can inner halves. The 5 gallon can assemblies are attached to the body assembly. The bucket, hook, ration storage box, and blanket storage box are glued to the body rear section of the body assembly.

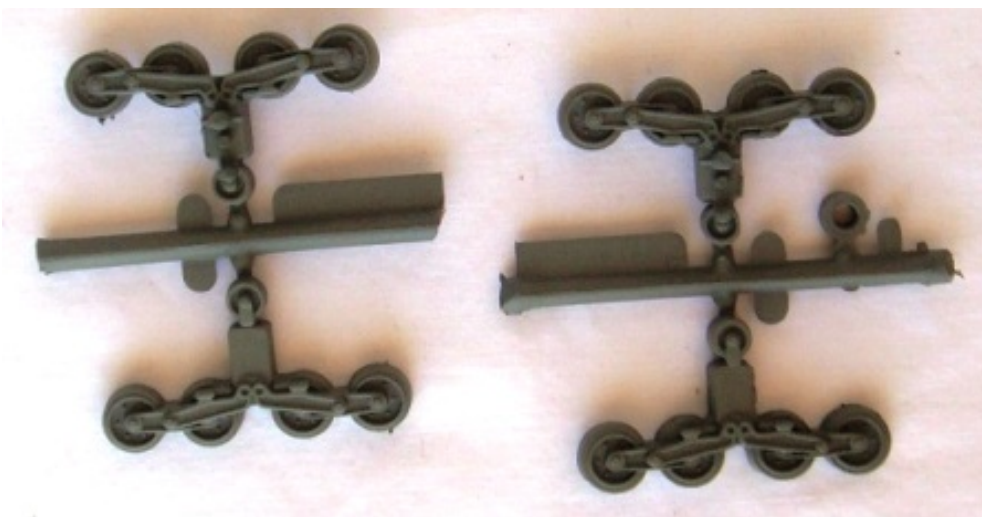


Figure 2725, Figure 2726 Both inner bogie wheels, both outer bogie wheels, both outer driver wheels, both inner driver wheels, both inner idler wheels, and both outer idler wheels are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner.



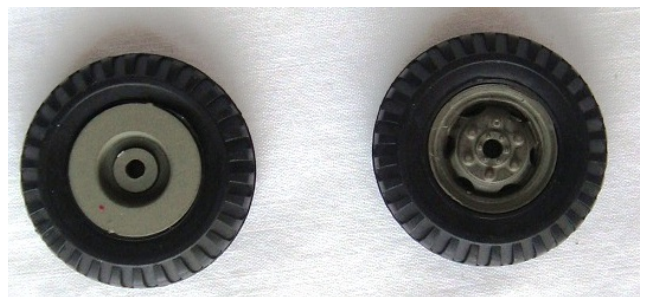
Figure 2727 The outer bogie wheels are attached to the inner bogie wheels (2 times) before the bogie wheel assemblies are secured to the frame on the body assembly. The inner drive wheels go on the posts on each side of the body assembly by the cab. The inner idler wheels go on the posts on each side of the body assembly by the rear panel. The tracks are assembled easily however they pull apart just as easy. I used E6000 Industrial Strength Adhesive to glue the tracks together. With the adhesive I used there was no real need to hide the seam however I did put the seams under the bogie wheels on both sides. Staples could be used however they could stick out on a competition build the adhesive blends in and does not melt or distort the tracks.



Figure 2728 The tracks are installed onto the inner drive wheel, inner idler wheel, and the bogie wheel assemblies. The outer drive wheels are installed onto the posts by the cab and the outer idler wheels are installed onto the posts by the rear panel section. The body assembly is weathered with sand from Tamiya Weathering Master Set A.



Figure 2729, Figure 2730 The front outer wheels, and front inner wheels are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The front inner wheels are installed



into the tires. The front outer wheels are installed into the tires and glued to the front inner wheels.



Figure 2731 The front tire assemblies are attached to the body assembly.



Figure 2732 and Figure 2733 The turret, right frame, left frame, turret base, seat, right gun mount, and left gun mount are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The left and right frames are glued to the turret. Put the turret assembly onto the turret base with post on bottom of the turret going into the turret base. Glue the retainer to the turrets post without gluing the turret to the turret base. Install seat into the left and right frames. Glue the right gun mount to the seat but

not the right frame and glue the left gun mount to the seat but not the left frame mount. Install the gun sight into both the right and left gun mount



Figure 2734 and Figure 2735 The four ammunition box halves, rear shield, and front shield are airbrush painted with a 50/50 mix of Model Master Faded Olive Drab and Testors Airbrush Thinner. The left and right machine guns are painted Testors Steel. The instructions called for the 50 cal to be painted steel which I thought was odd since all the weapons in my military career were gunmetal or black. I think they would have been better painted black but that's up to you. The gunner is painted Model Master Olive Drab (helmet), Tamiya Acrylic Flat Flesh, Testors Flat Olive (uniforms), and Testors Flat Tan. The gunner is installed into the seat and the front shield is glued to the turret assembly. The rear shield is then glued to the turret assembly along with the left and right machine guns. The ammunition box halves are glued together making two complete ammunition boxes and these boxes are attached to the machine guns.



Figure 2736 There is flash on the machine guns from the ejector pins that will need to be removed. A hobby knife can be used to remove this flash. There are some seams shown here (red arrows) that should be addressed for a contest build also.

Figure 2737 The second hole in the bed floor section was not totally drilled out. A small drill will correct this or carefully use a hobby knife.

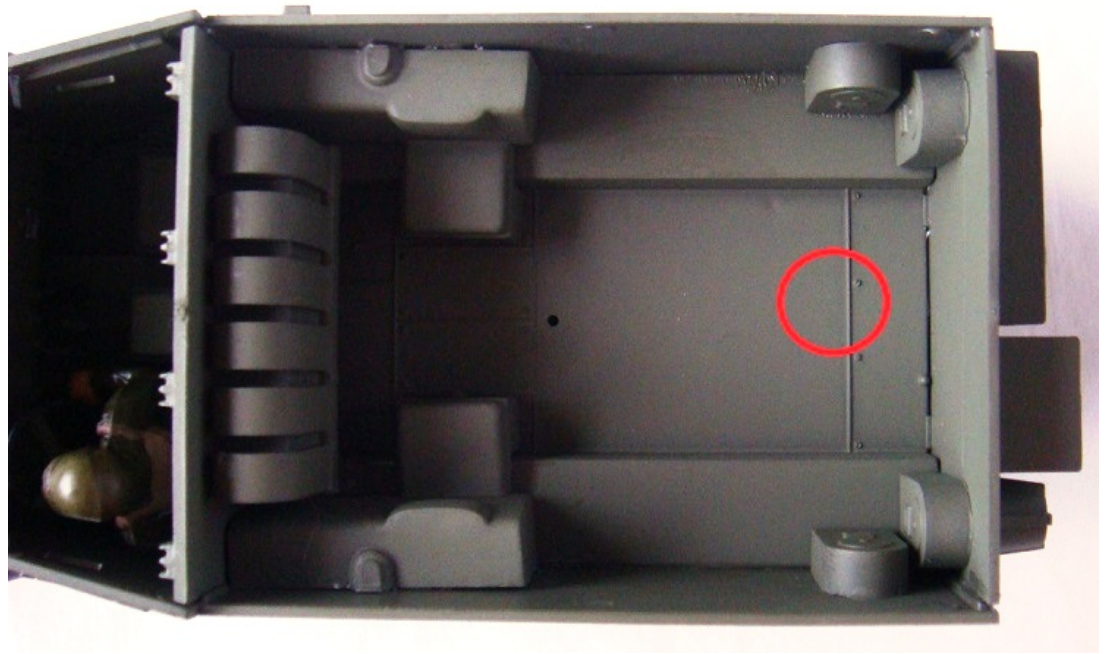


Figure 2738 The turret assembly is installed into the body assembly.

Figure 2739 The rifleman and the machine gunner are painted Model Master Flat Black, Testors Flat Tan, Testors Flat Olive (uniform), Testors Steel, Tamiya Acrylic Flat Flesh, Model Master Olive Drab (helmet), and Testors Brown. The two soldiers are glued to their bases.



Figure 2740 I followed the instructions for applying decals however once the decals are dry (usually the next day) I apply a very thin layer of Testors Clear Dullcoat before I weathered the kit. There were no silvering issues with these decals. That usually only happens when the decals are older than two years. To be on the safe side you can use a gloss coat on your model or Pledge with Future spray to minimize the possibility of silvering prior to their application. Then just return the finish to a flat after the decals have dried. I did not use all the decals as there was an option for two different USA numbers, I also did not use Decal # 7. After everything is complete I added more sand from the Tamiya Weathering Master Set A.



999 Conclusion: I think it was great that Revell reissued this kit even under the Monogram trade name. I thought it was a really good idea to add soldiers to this kit to add a more realistic look to the build. I like the idea that everything was from the original tooling as far as I can tell. This kit in my opinion is a must have for the military collector, the history collector or anyone that just likes to collect something cool looking. It would be nice to have more armament options for this kit such as the four machine gun option I saw while doing research on this piece of equipment.

