



AMPS Atlanta 2018 Club Project

M2/M3 Halftrack Family

Part 4 – Steps 8-12

Step 8

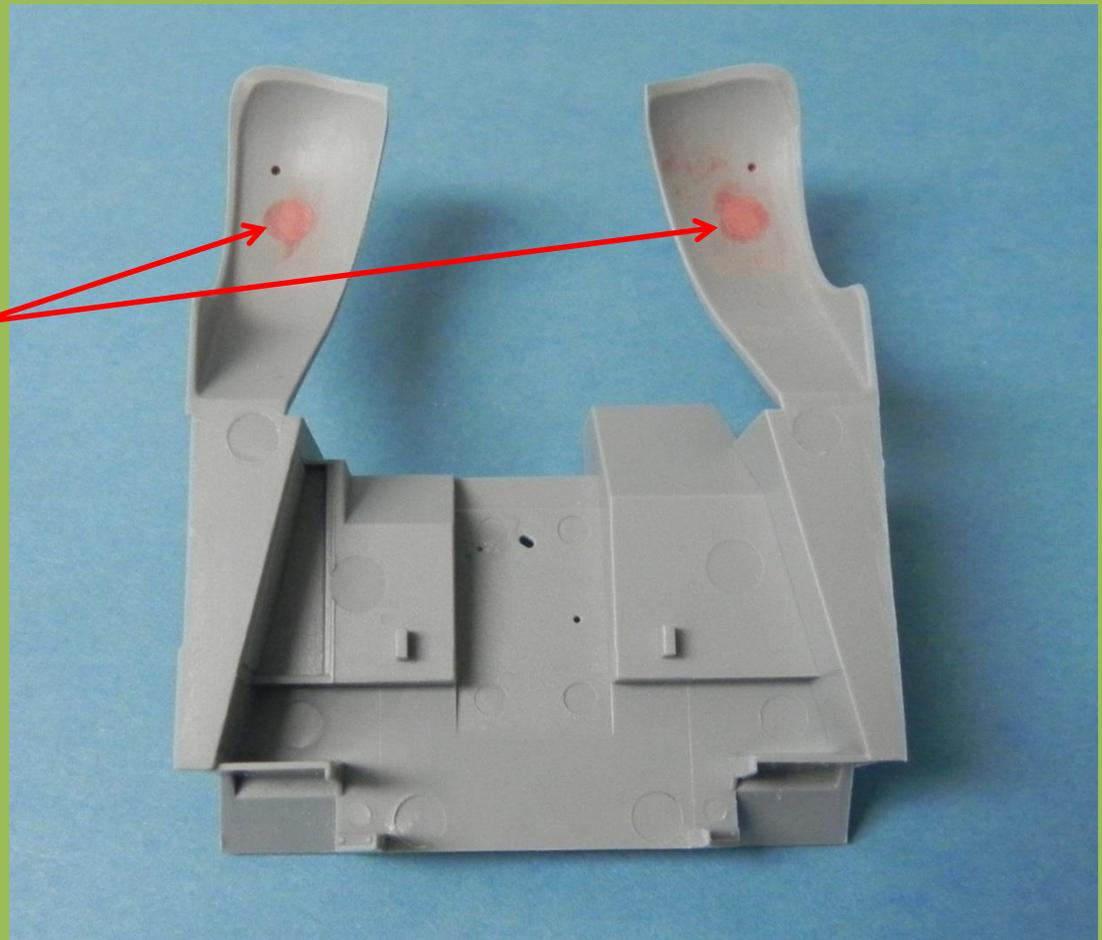
Step 8 covers the assembly of the 0.50 caliber m.g. I plan to use a more detailed offering from Tasca, so I skipped this step for now.

Step 9

The Front Driver's Compartment and Fenders

- First we deal with a little clean up under the fenders

These punch out marks will be visible, so I filled and sanded them

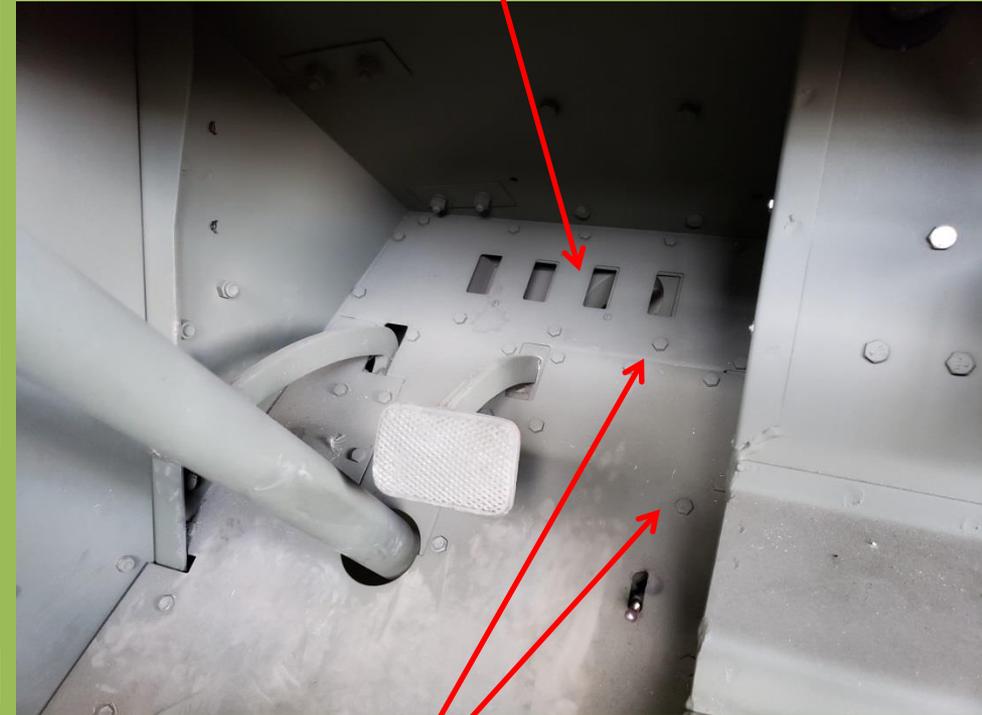
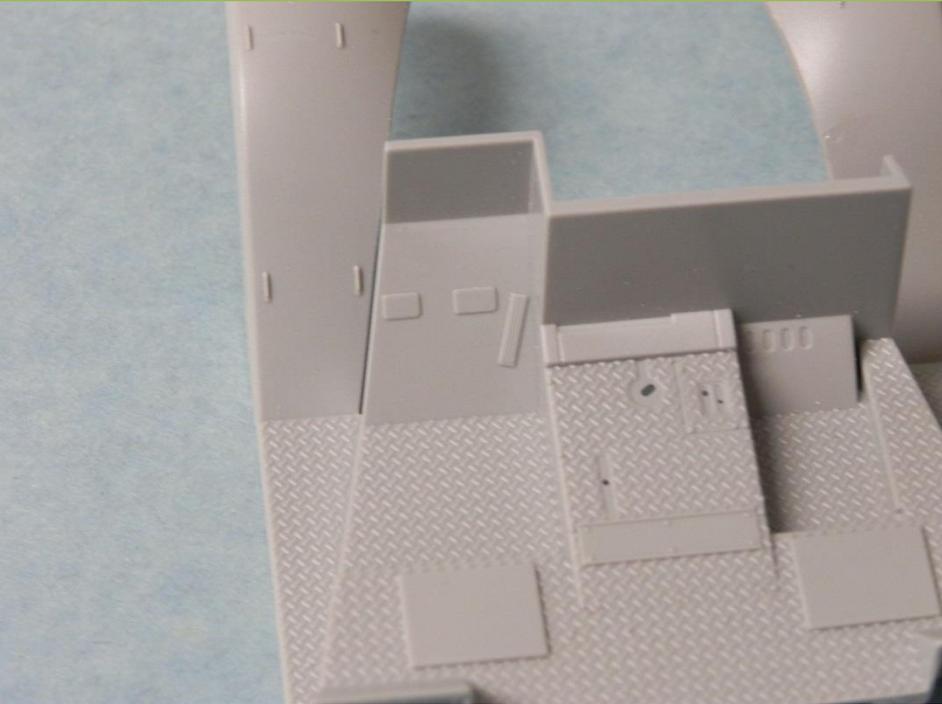


Step 9

The Driver's Floor Board can use some detailing

Here is what you get in the kit

The real thing...



Heater register?

Bolt detail

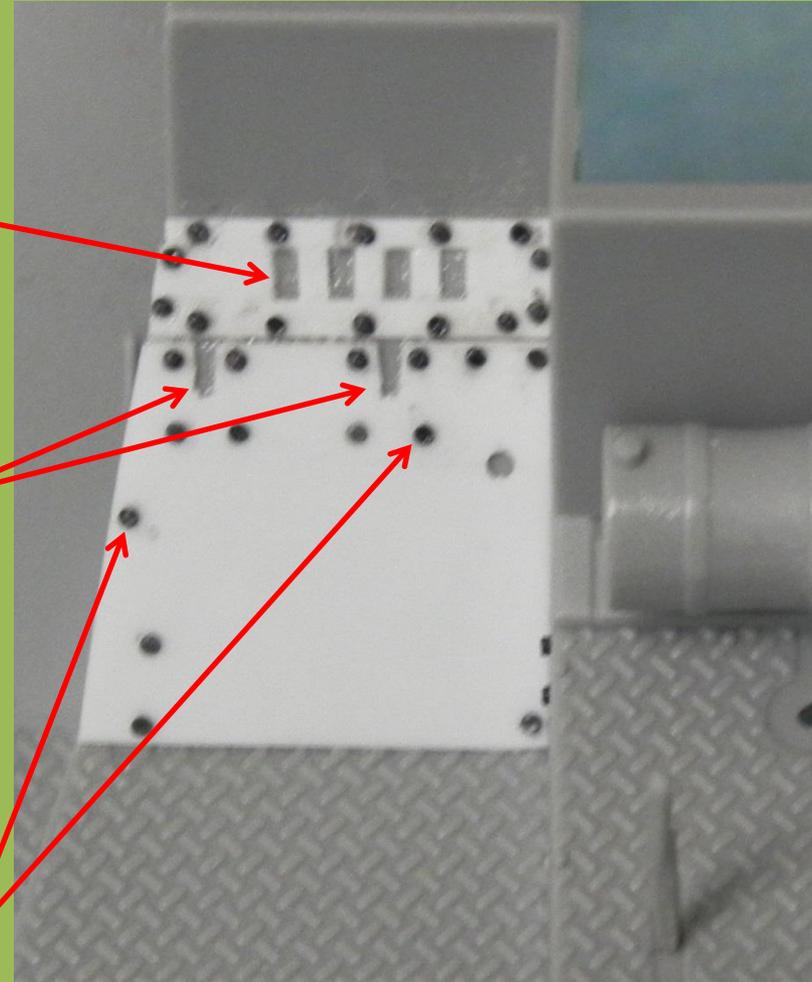
Step 9

Detailing the driver's floor

I blocked in the heater register with strips of 0.010" strip to form the openings. The openings and spacing are about 0.030".

The rest of the floor is 0.015 plastic sheet. I cut slots in the top to accept the clutch and brake pedal arms (for more positive glue joint). Use center line measurements of molded pedals as a guide.

Bolts are 0.018" discs punched with Waldron sub-miniature punch set



Step 9

The Pedals

Clutch and brake pedal arms were cut, filed and sanded from 0.020" plastic strip. Pedals are 4-5 scale inches from the floor. In 1/35 scale, these are about 1/8" long.

Accelerator pedal was cut from 0.010" strip using kit pedal as a guide. Very fine stretched sprue was glued on to represent the ribbed pattern of the pedal.

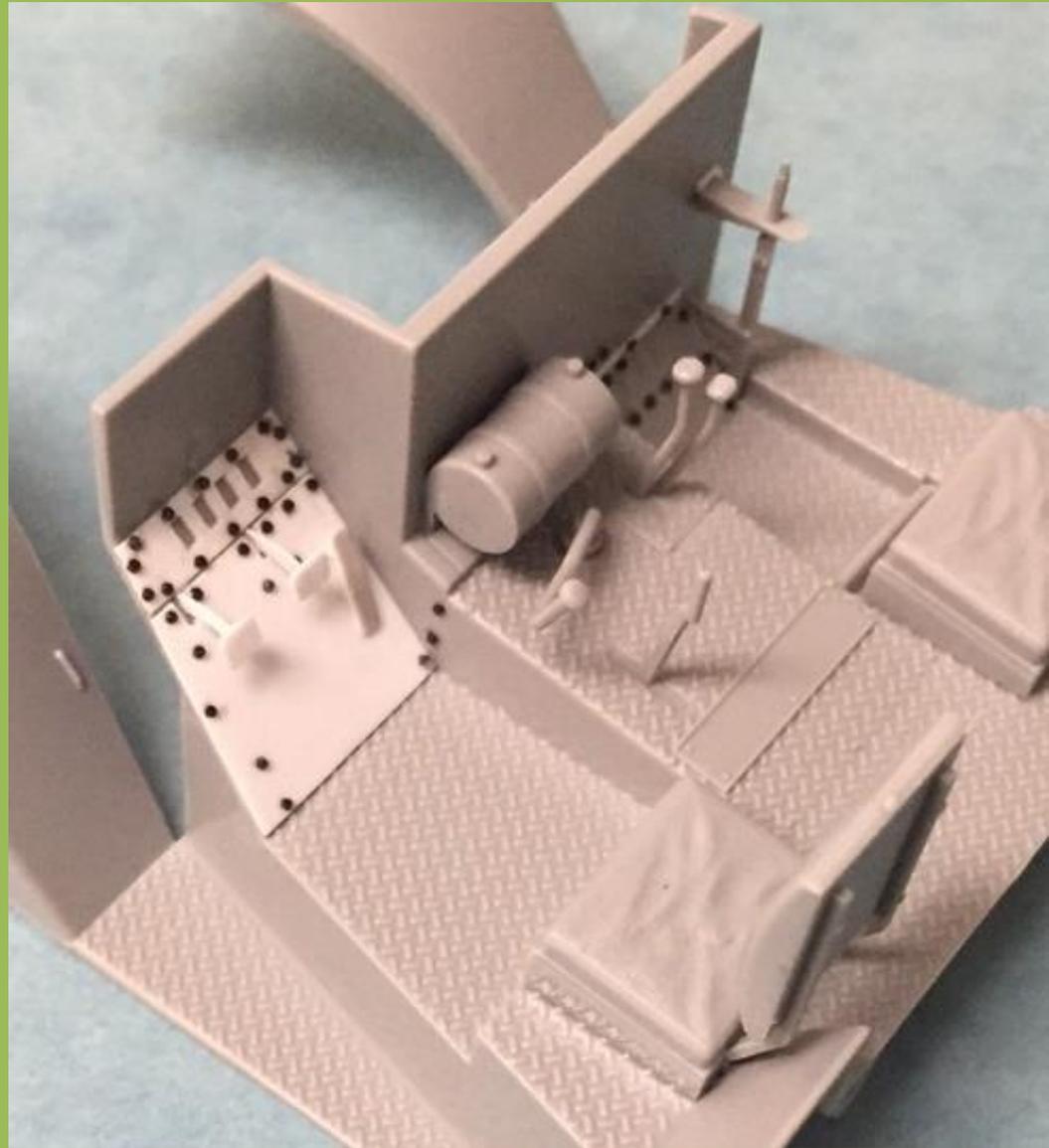
Brake pedal from 0.010" strip using kit pedals as a guide. Note, photoetch details of this stuff are available, if you prefer that route.



Still on Step 9...

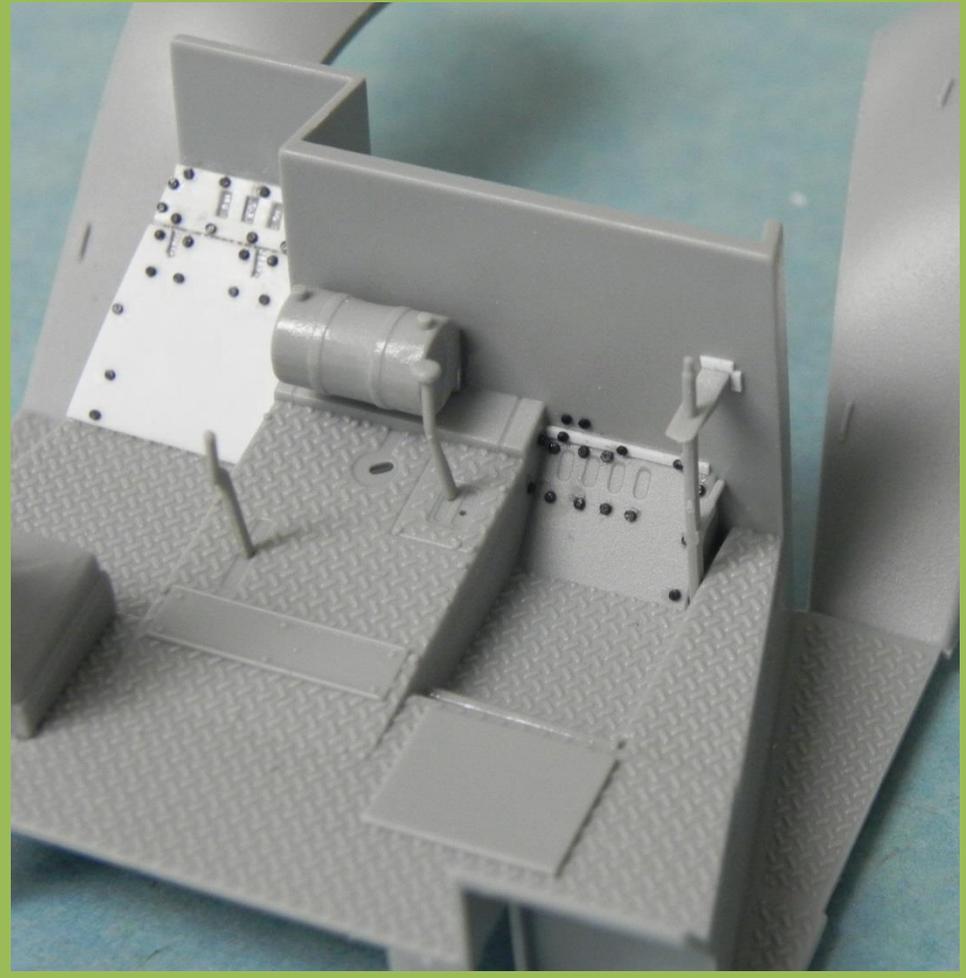
Here is the completed floor area with pedals.

Sadly, you can't see this stuff all that well with dash installed, but I know it's there!



Still on Step 9...

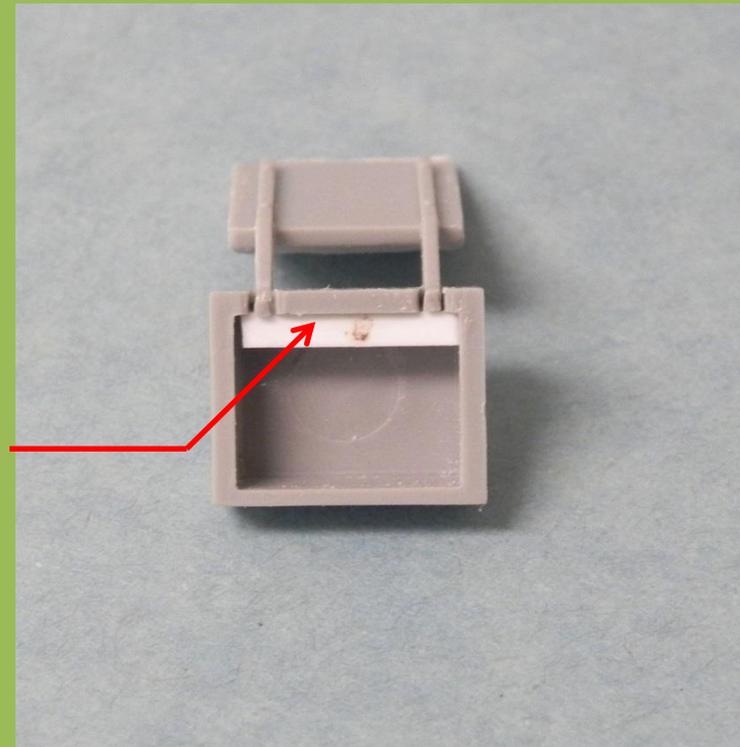
Passenger side is not as complicated. Just some bolt detail



A little more on Step 9...

Not that fond of the seat backs and the way they fit with the seat bottoms. For a more positive fit, I glued strip on the inside back to cover the holes. Just be sure to leave a little space at the bottom for the locator on the floor.

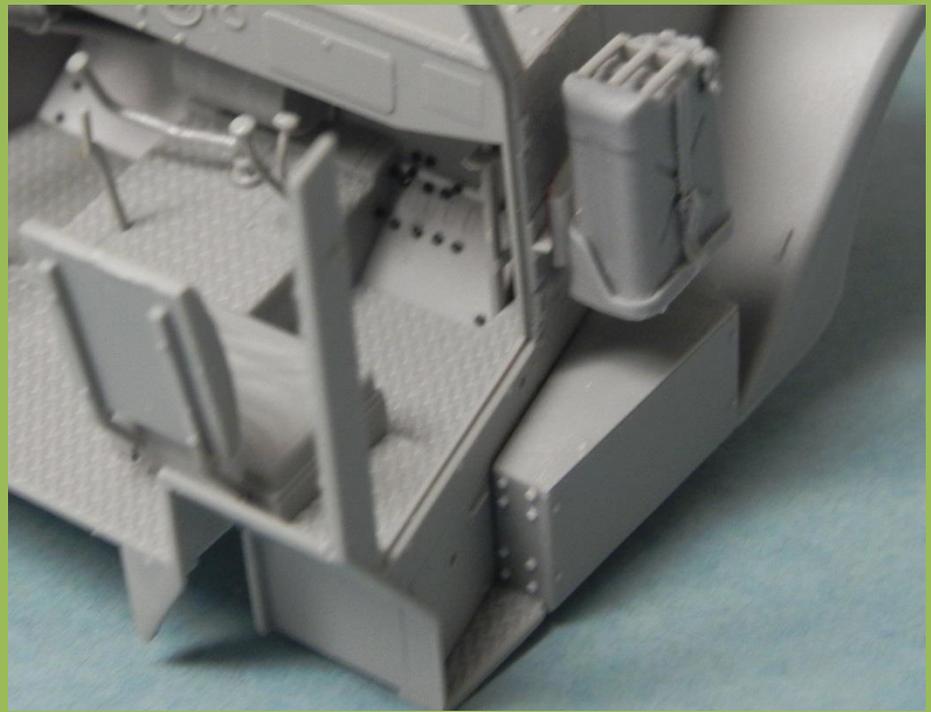
Strip added to back. Don't position it flush with the bottom, leave a little room for the square locator on the kit floor.



Step 9

A little detail added to
the battery box (part B4)

Screw heads added with
0.018" punched discs



On to Step 10

This is where we tackle to fuel can mounts.

The mounts look like this

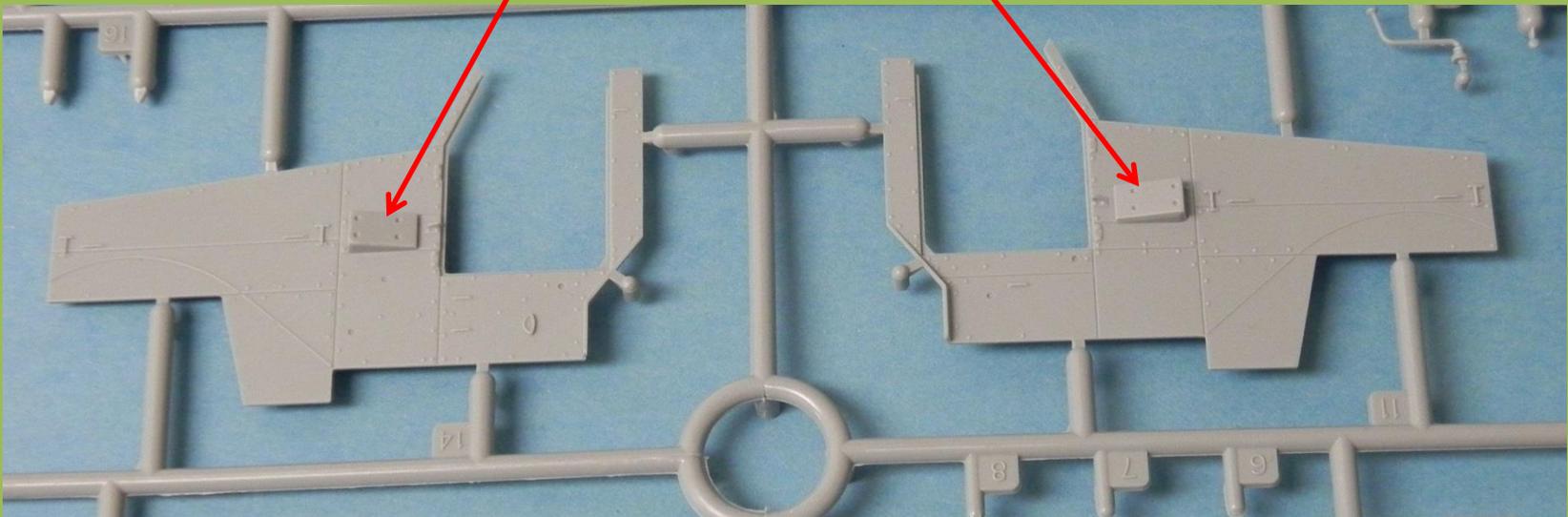
But, on the original versions of the halftracks, Dragon depicted this mount with a solid box shape.



Step 10

So I removed the molded on mount and filled in the hole with 0.040" sheet plastic cut to size, the filled the joints and cleaned them up. So far, my least favorite part of the build.

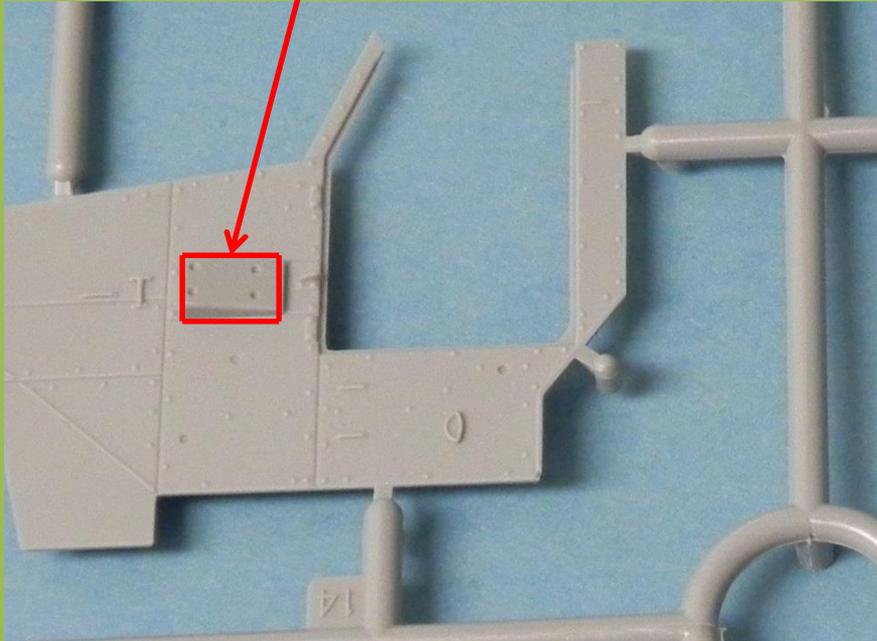
These have to go



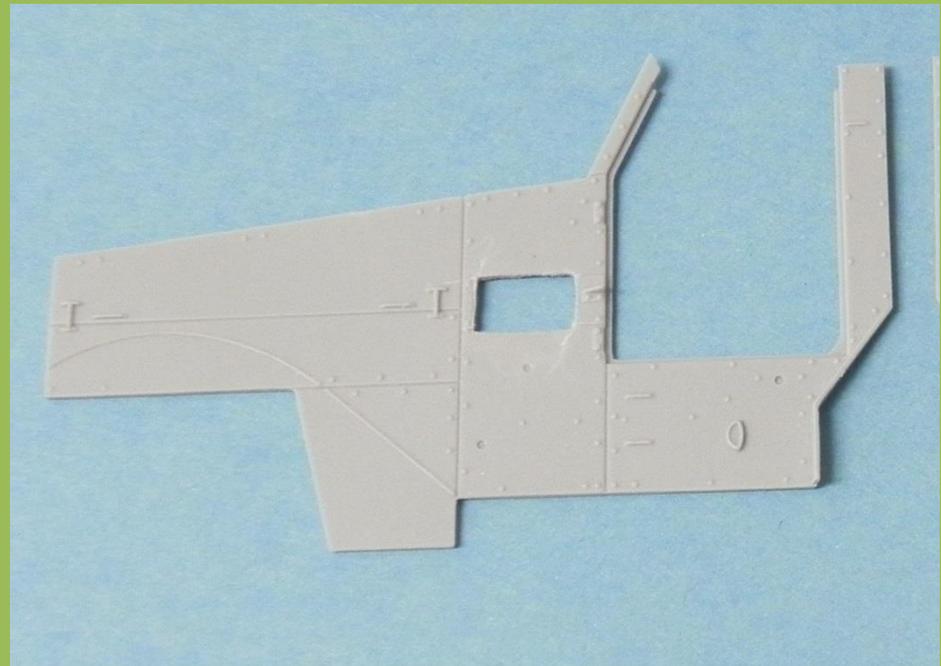
Step 10

Carefully scribe around the base perimeter of the mount with a sharp X-acto blade until you can remove it without damaging the surrounding area.

Scribe



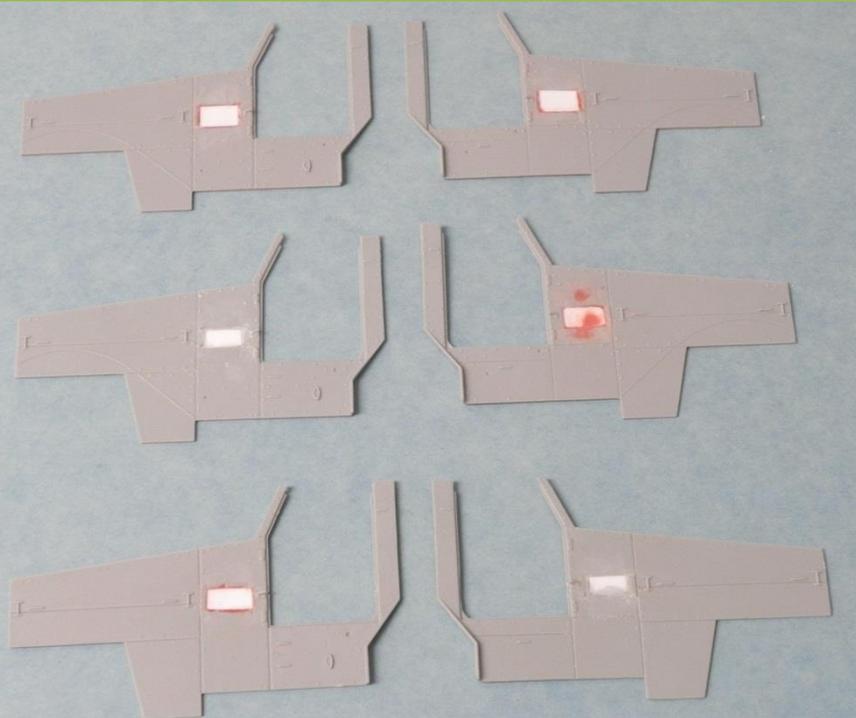
You are left with a hole to fill, unfortunately, both sides of the part are visible on the finished model



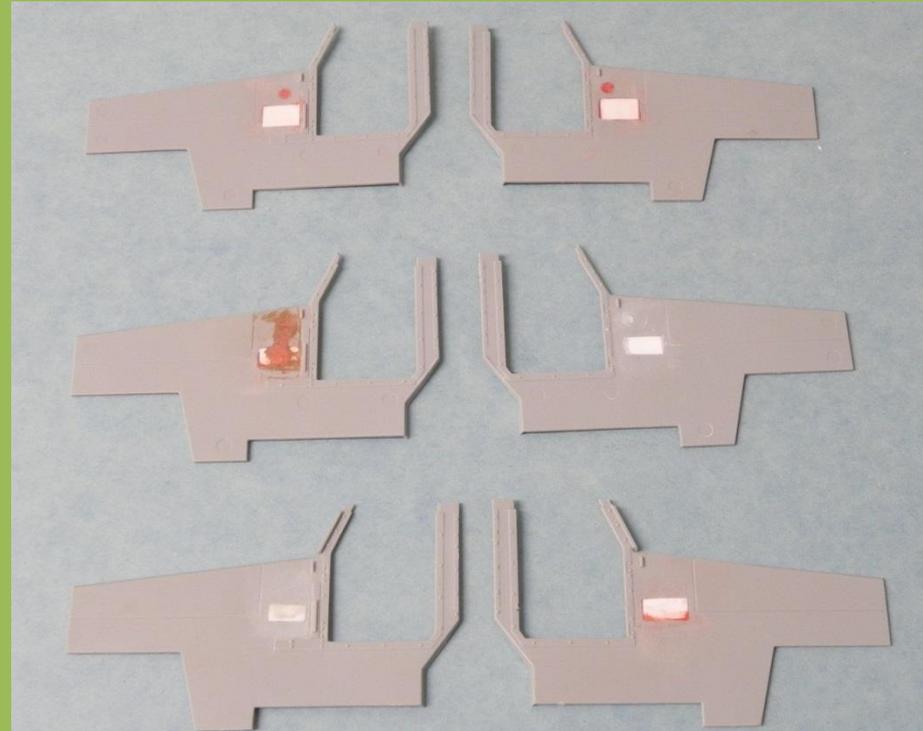
Step 10

It is a little bit of a chore to get this filled and sanded without messing up detail. Be careful.

Exterior Side

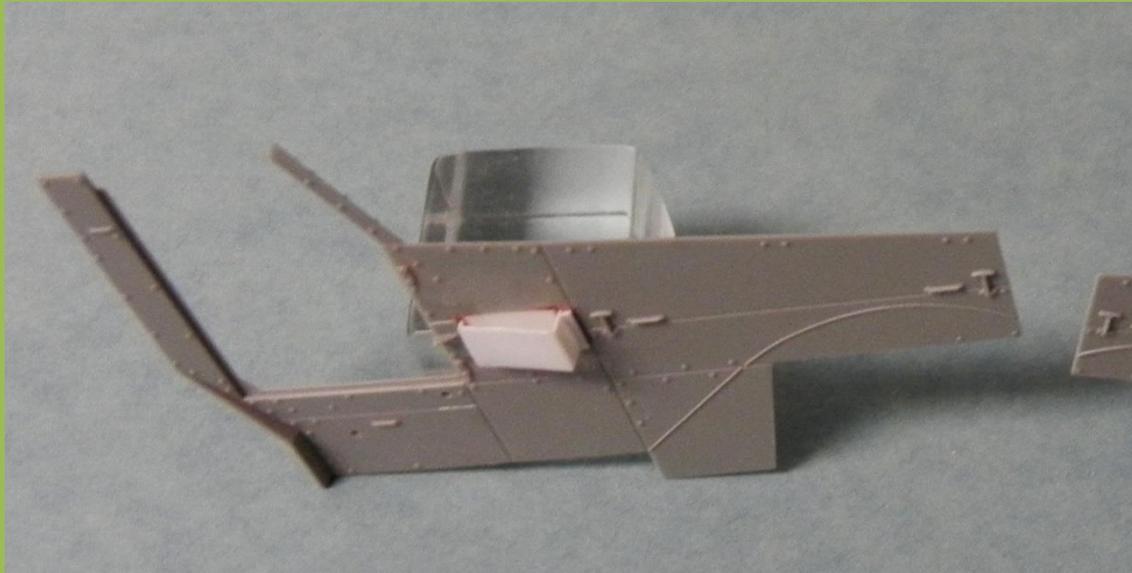


Interior Side



Making the Fuel Can Mounts

Mounts were made from 0.010" strip an sheet.



Profile of Mount

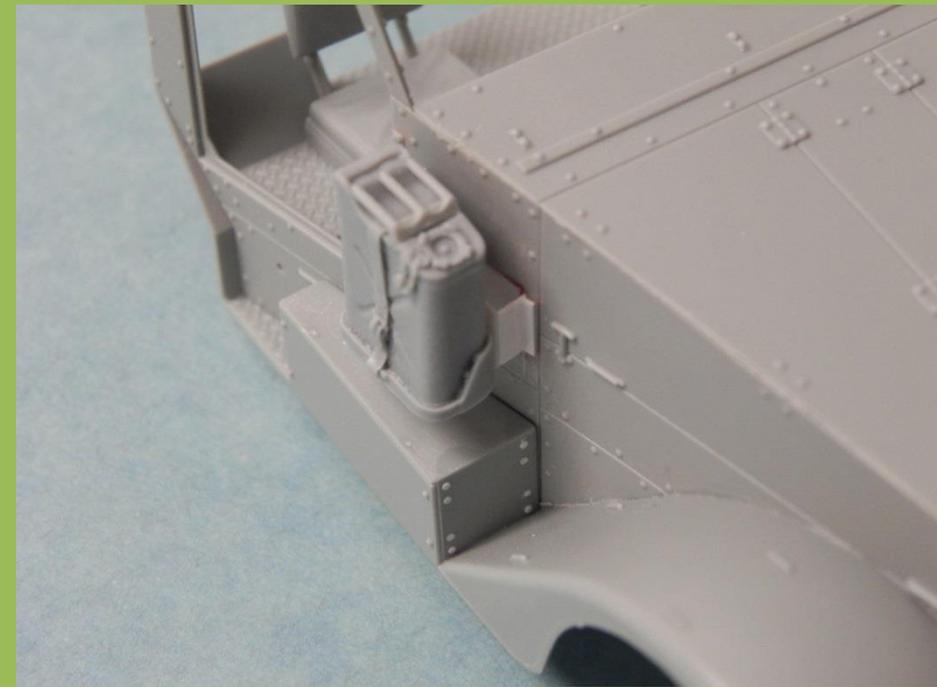
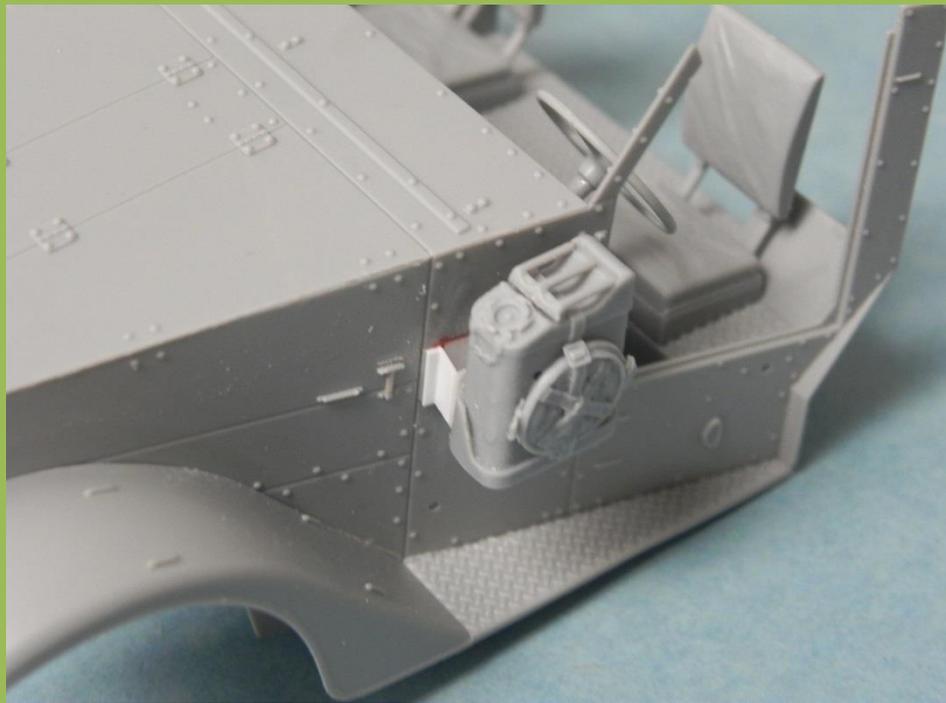
0.010" X 0.030" X 3/16"
long strip on edge

0.010" X 3/16" wide cut
to length

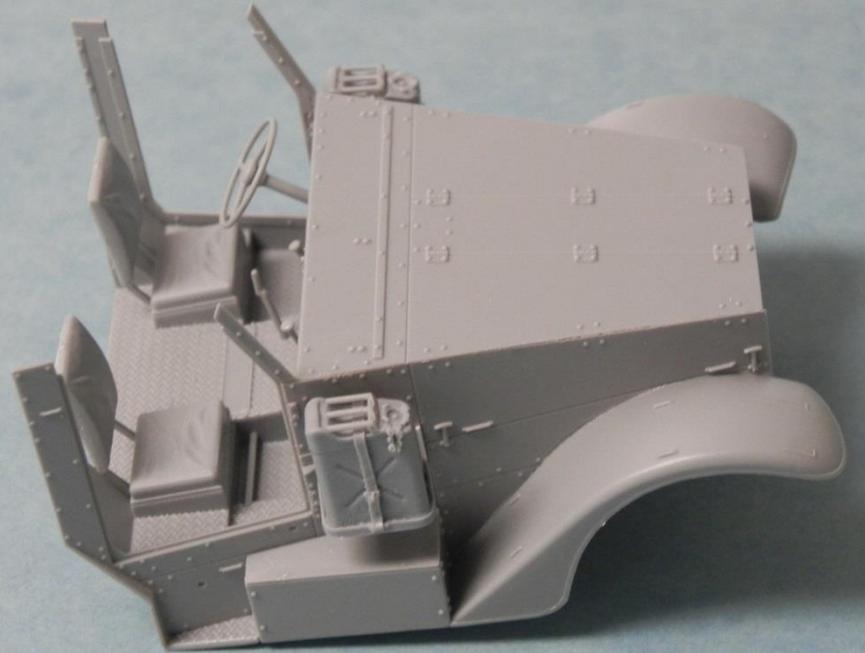
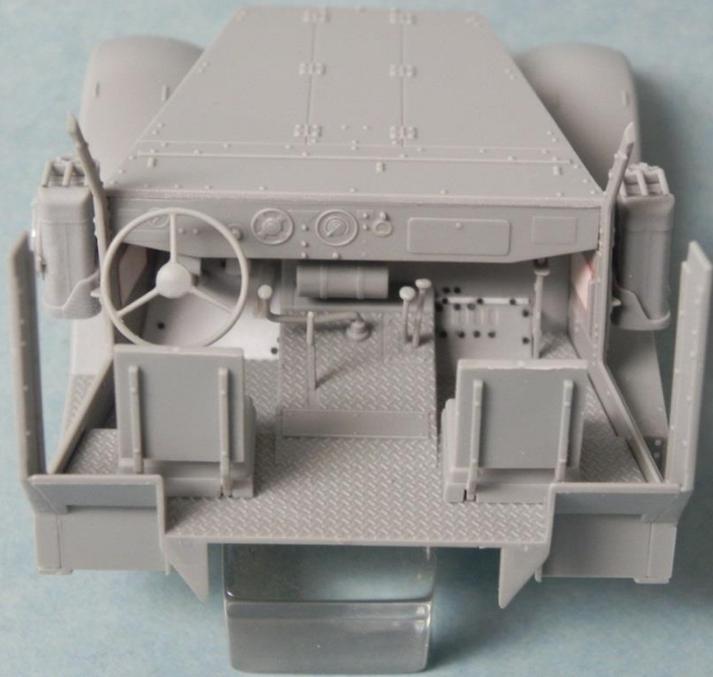
0.010" X 0.030" X
3/16" long

0.010" X 0.080" X
3/16" long on edge

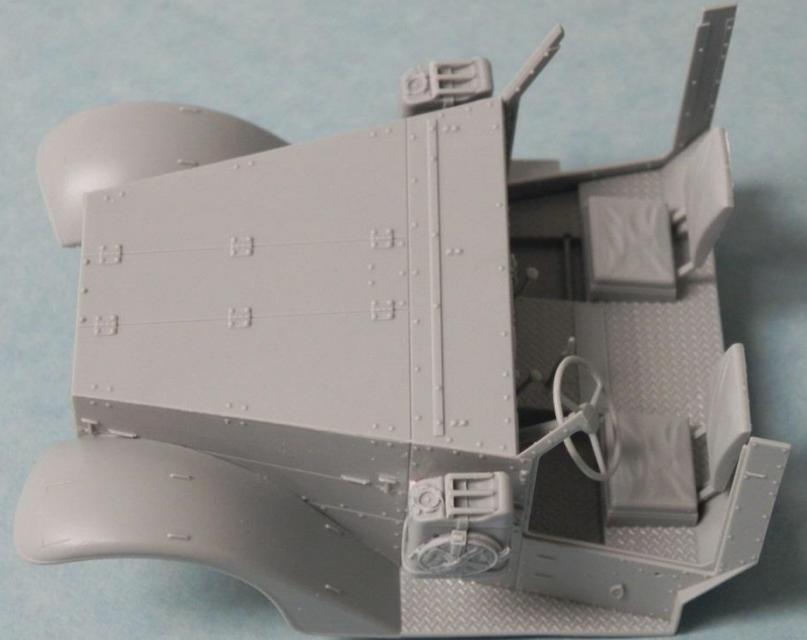
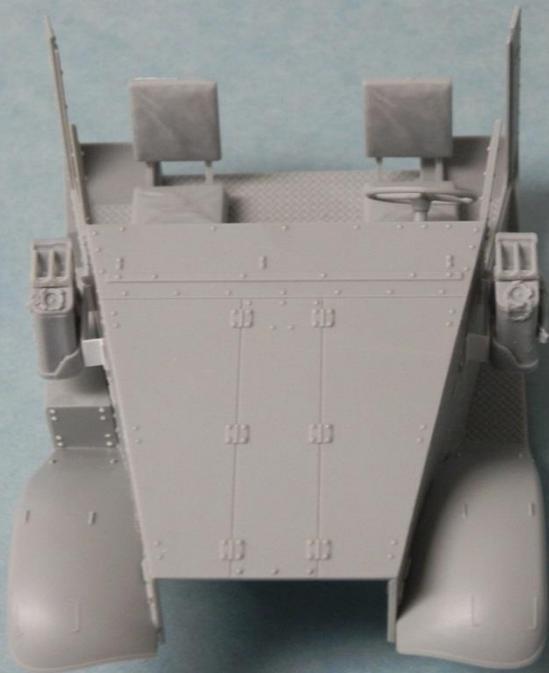
I used the excellent TMD mounted fuel cans. Very spiffy. They even have scale retaining chains for the lid. One also has the canvas bucket attached.



The rest of the assembly through step 12 is straightforward, but take care with alignment of the side walls and hood. I made adjustments as the glue set up.



Here's Where We Are



Build Schedule

These Will Vary Slightly For Each Version

- **August-Steps 1-4**
- **September-Steps 5-7**
- **October-Steps 8-12**
- **November-Steps 13-19**
- **December-Paint the Beasts**