AMPS Atlanta 2018 Club Project

M2/M3 Halftrack Family
Part 3 – Steps 5-7

Before starting Step 5…

Making the idler springs:

- **First, I cut the ends from the kit spring , saving them and discarding the center section.**

- **I replaced the center with a piece of 0.125" plastic tubing 0.340" long, (or 8.64mm for those who are metrically inclined)**

End from kit

End from kit

0.340"
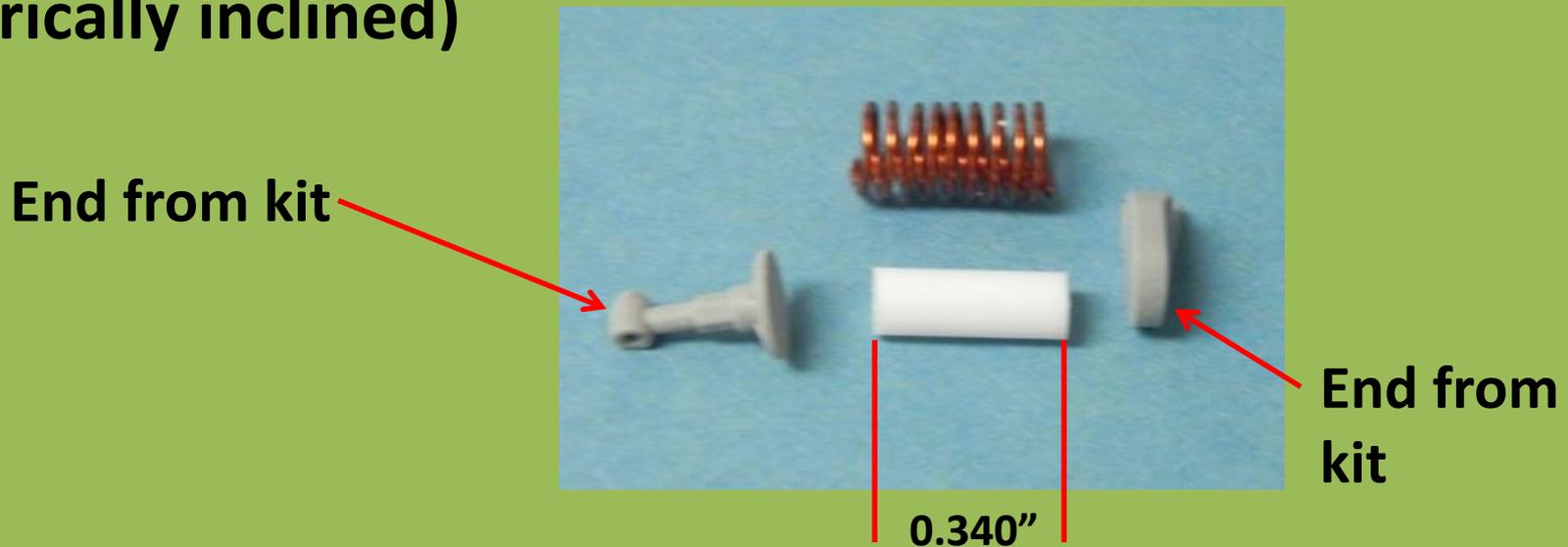
Idler Springs

- I wrapped 0.020" copper wire around a mandrel made from a dowel

- I turned down the end to 0.130" (3.30mm).

- The mandrel also served as support when sanding the ends of the spring flat to fit the idler.

0.130"
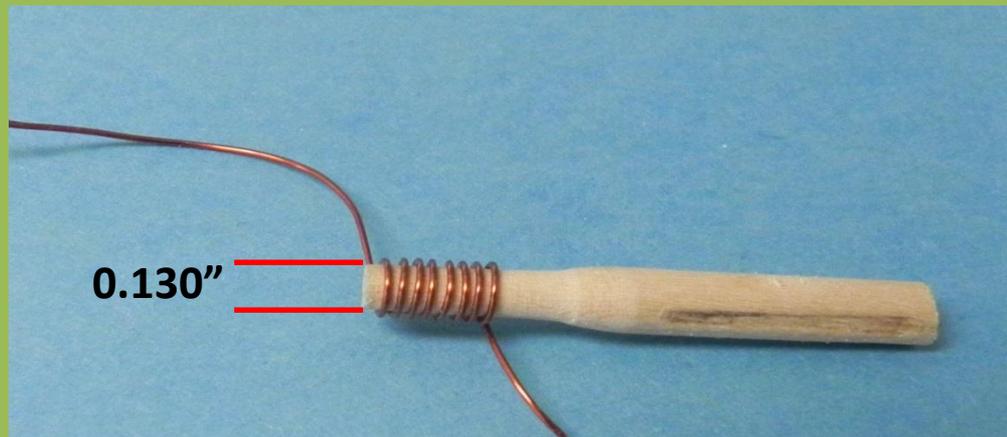
Idler Springs

- **Glue rod end on, insert "spring", then glue butt end on, taking care to maintain alignment of attachment points!**
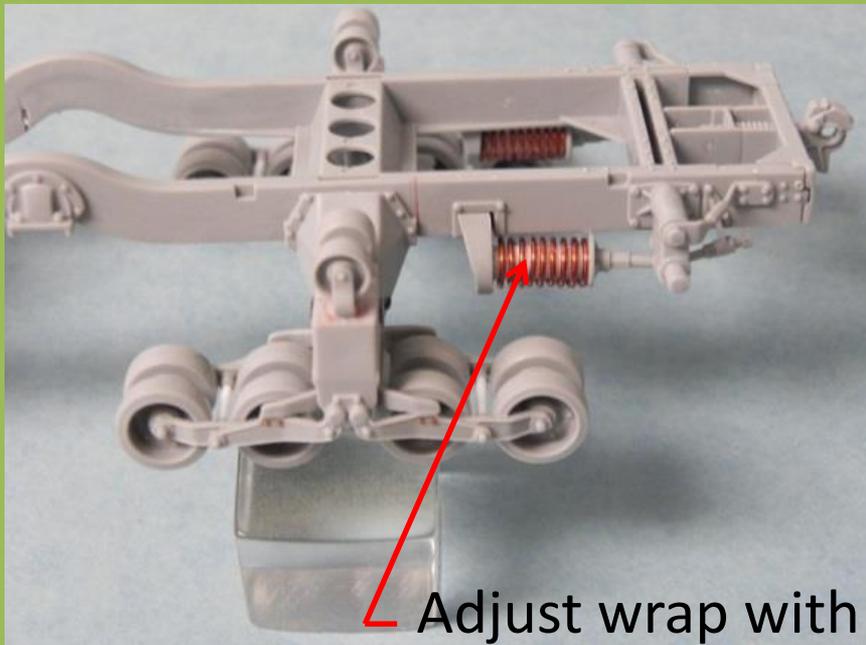
Installed

Adjust wrap with tweezers after glue has set
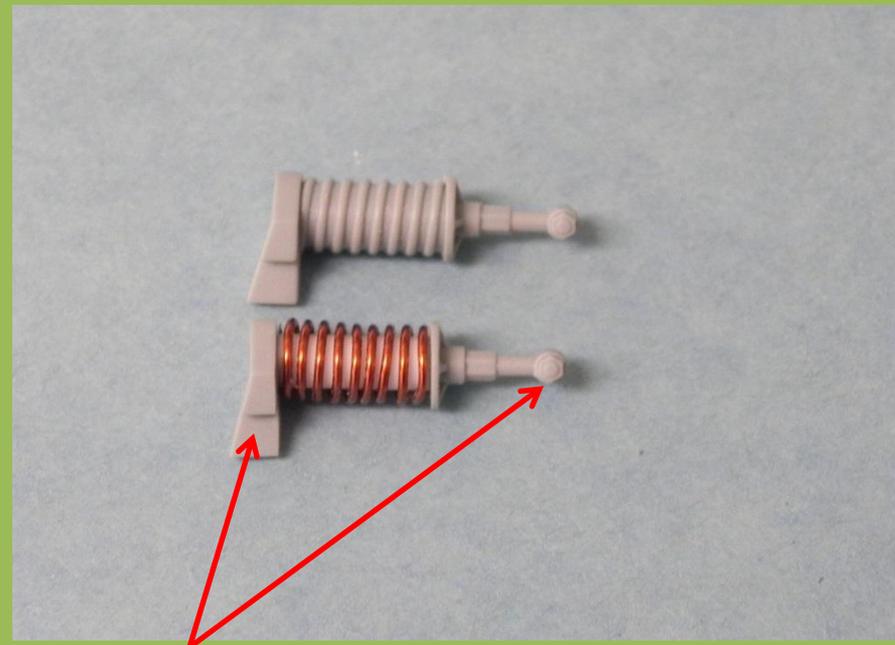
Flat mounting surface parallel with rod mounting face

Idler Springs

- The butt end of the idler spring mount is not that well detailed. See photo of actual spring vs. kit part.

- The hole is for an adjustment nut. I will depict it backed out some, just to give some detail.
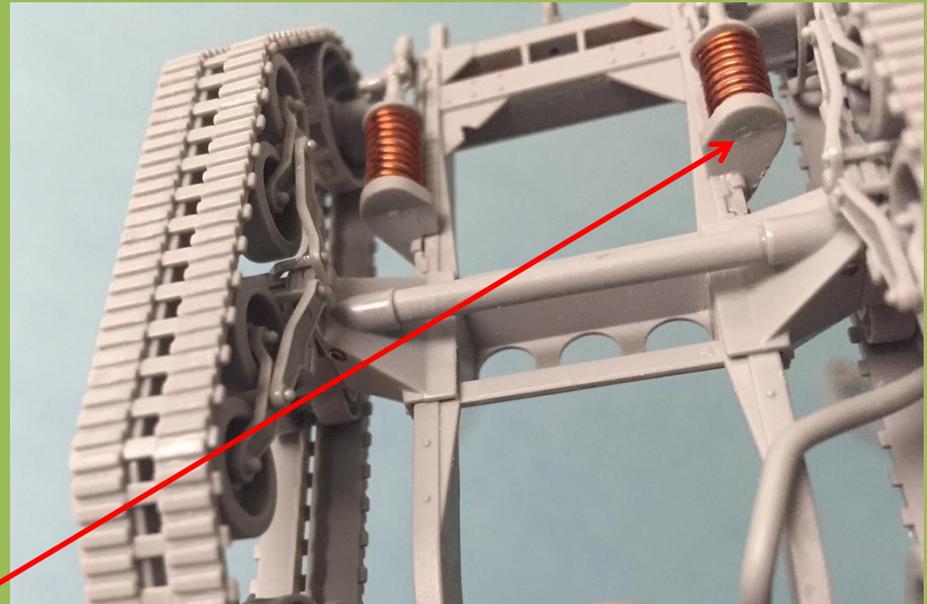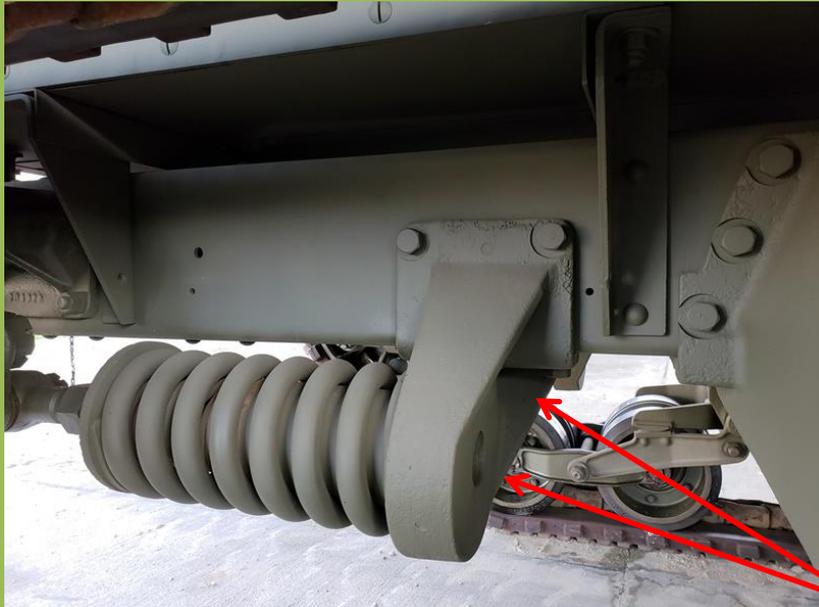
Step 5

- **The drive shaft (part A39) fits a bit wonky. The angle is off, causing the half round plate molded on the end to fit poorly with the mating plate.**

- **I bent the drive shaft at universal joint so that it fit better.**

- **It is underneath, so not a big deal.**

Poor fit

Bend at universal joint
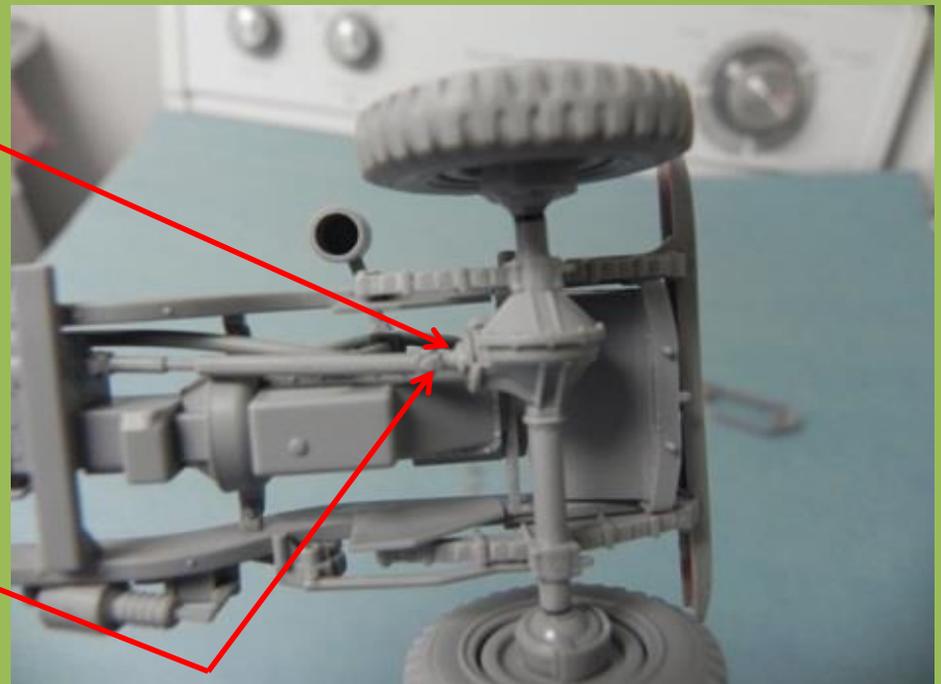
Step 5

- **Exhaust- I bored out the end of the exhaust pipe (A19) to give it more of a scale appearance.**

- **Support for exhaust pipe is made from left over copper photoetch (thicker), 0.070" (1.78mm) wide by 0.260" (6.6mm) long.**

Photoetch mounting bar

Mounting bar bolted to roller mount

Clamp made from 0.015" lead wire

Mounting bolts are Grandt Line
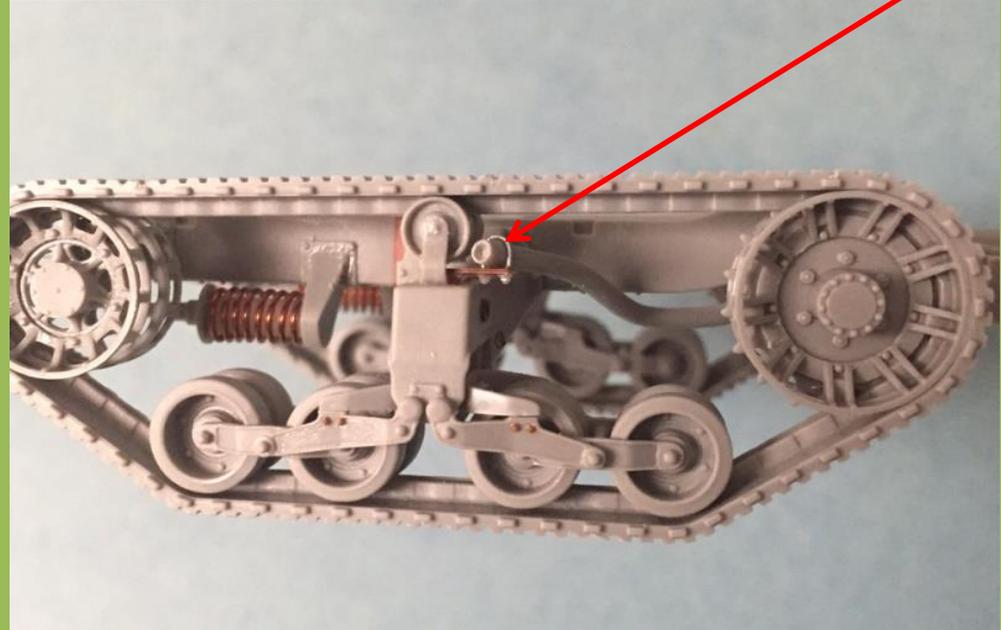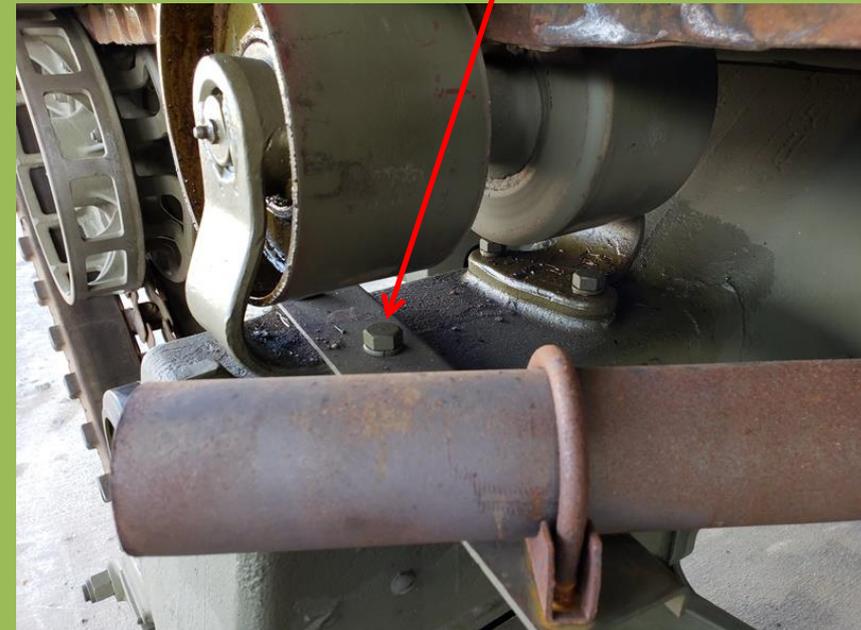
Step 5

- **Uhhh...Nevermind**
- **I added rear brake lines to the back of the chunk. Turns out you can't see a bit of it.**
- **I only did one. At least I know it's there! DOH!**

Tee made from 0.025" plastic rod
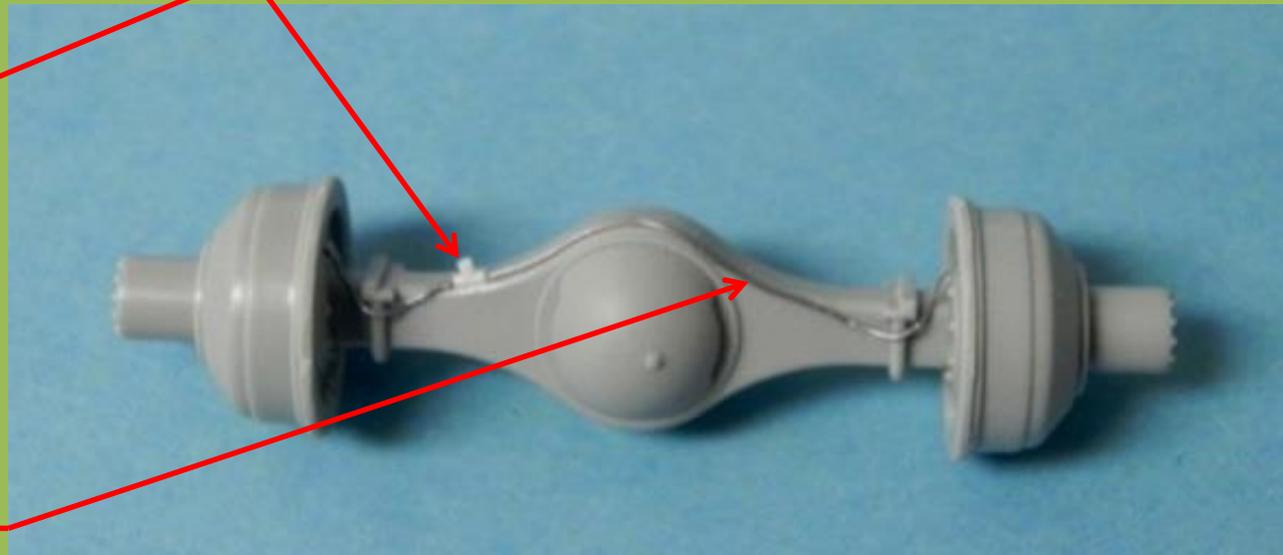
0.015" Solder

Step 6

These punch out marks will be visible on back of bumper
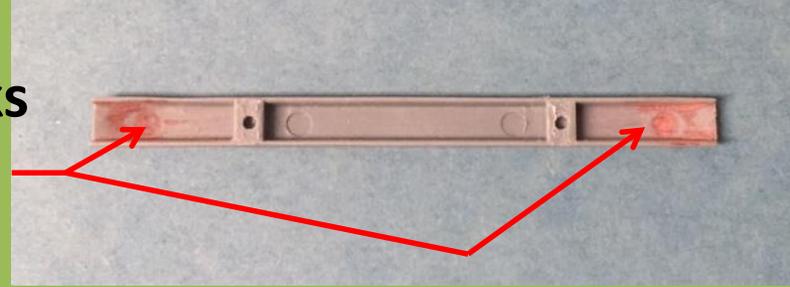
- I did not find many reference photos showing the reinforcing plates depicted on the front of the bumper, so I carved and sanded them away.

- The locating slots in the bumper will be shallower, so tabs on roller mounts will need to be cut down
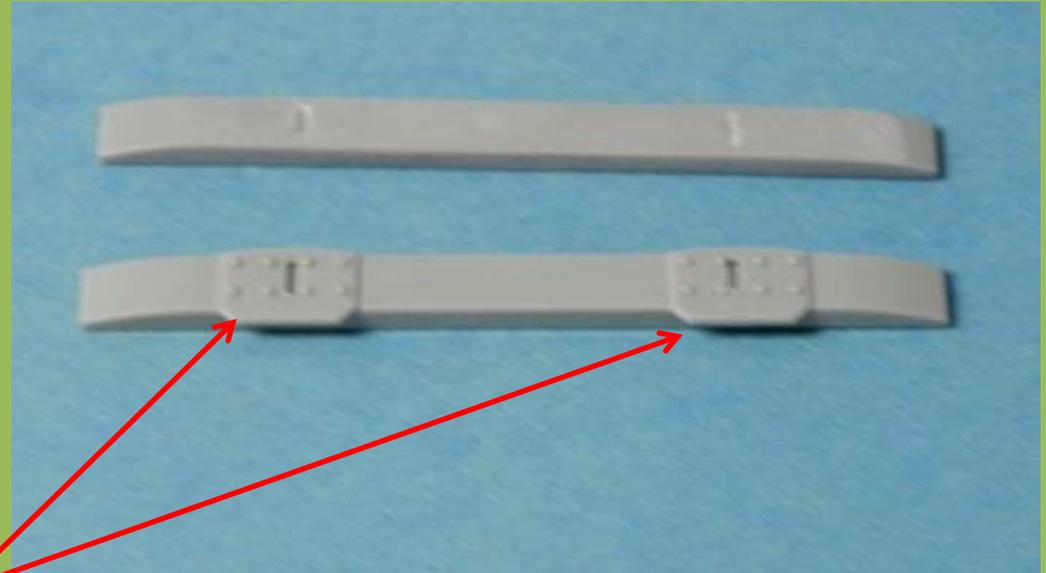
Remove

Step 6

- **The springs molded on the unditching roller mounts are incomplete.**

- **I carved and sanded them away, and replaced them with springs made from 0.010" wire wrapped around an 0.020" mandrel (I used a drill bit)**

New spring made from coiled wire

Spring detail removed

Kit part – note incomplete spring detail
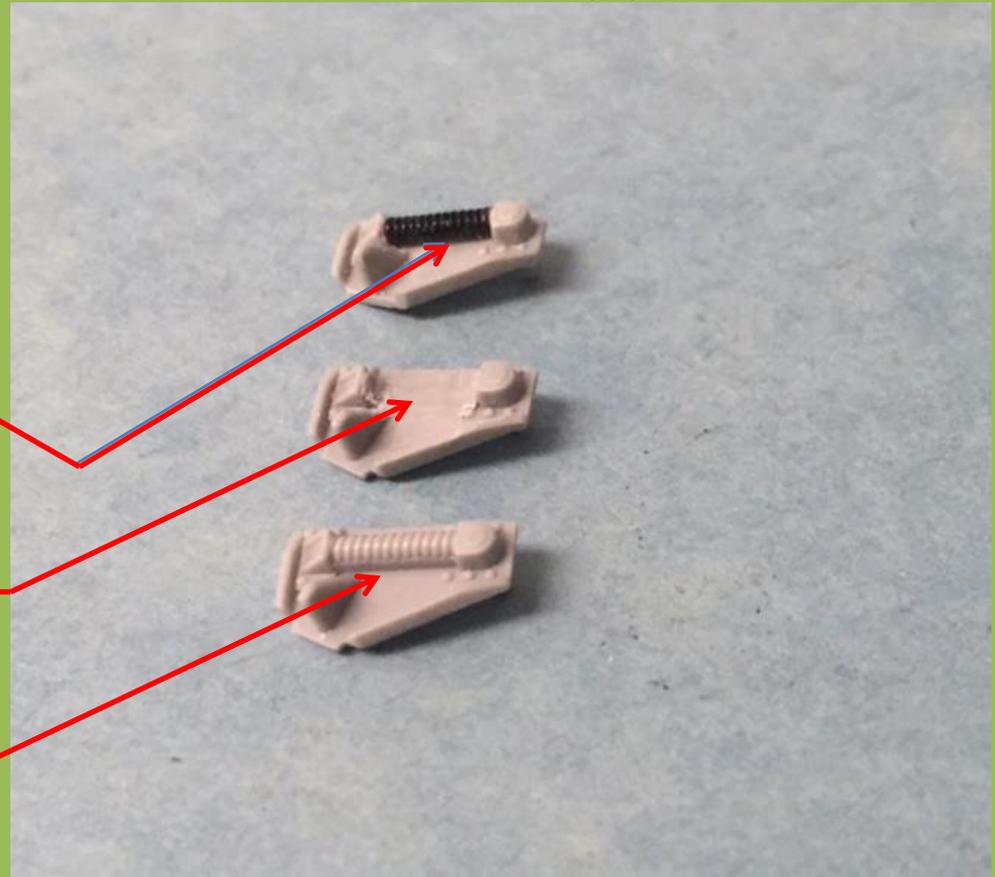
Step 6

- **Unditching roller mounted**
- **I bent the top of the front tow hooks outwards to match photos**

Note Hook Shape
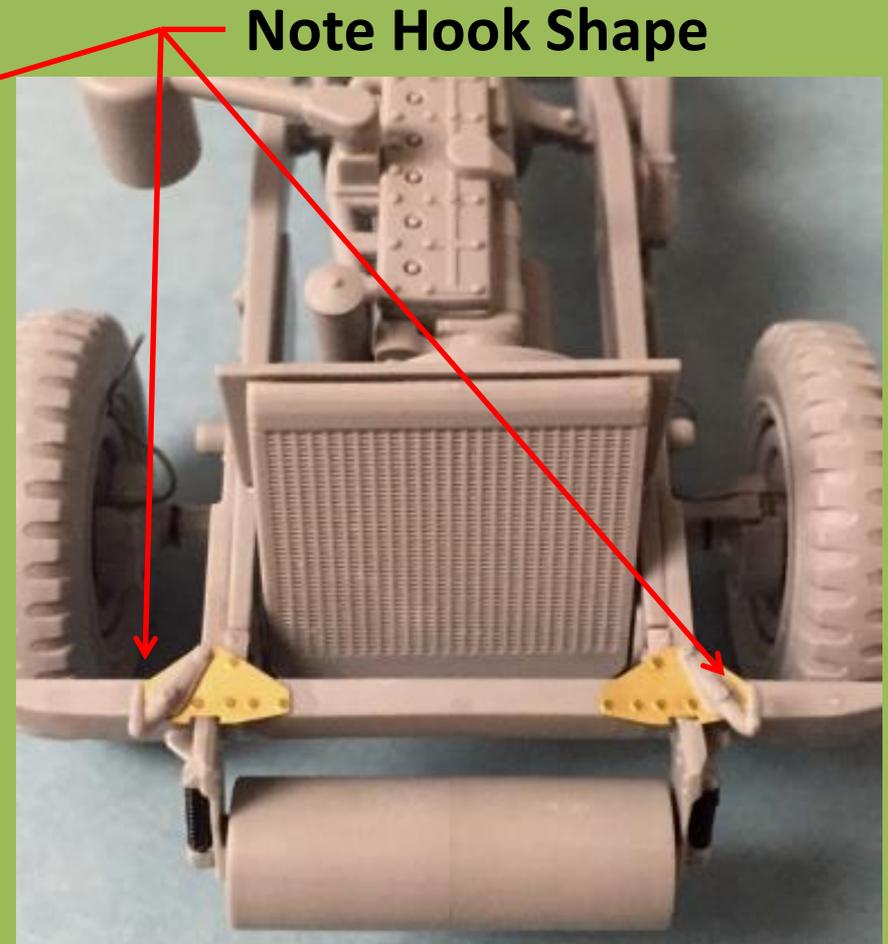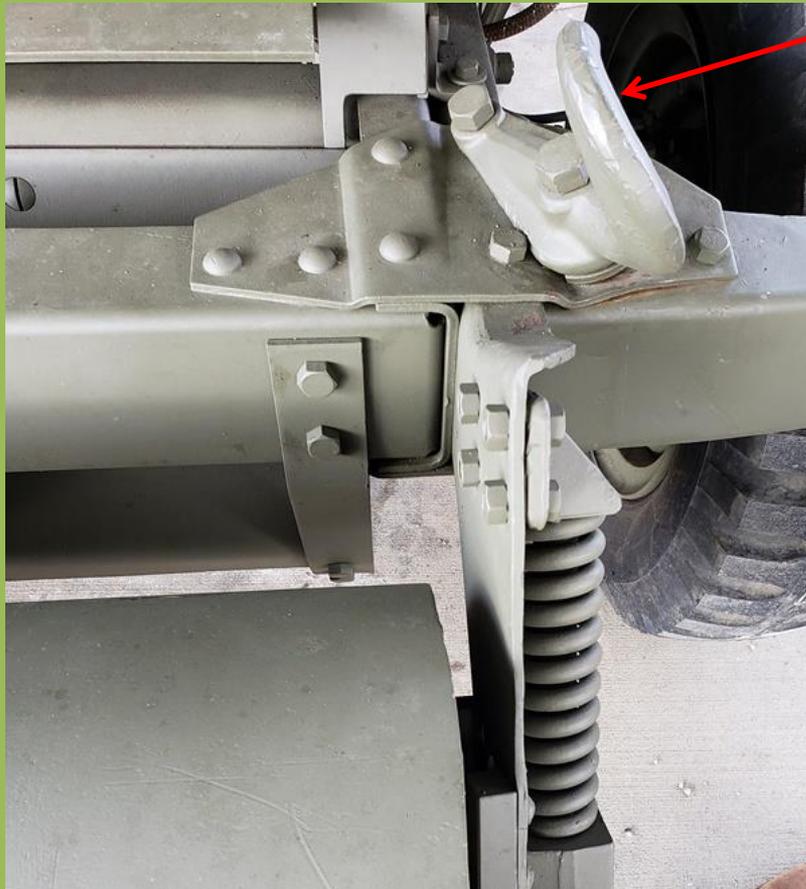
Step 6

- **Unditching roller mounted**
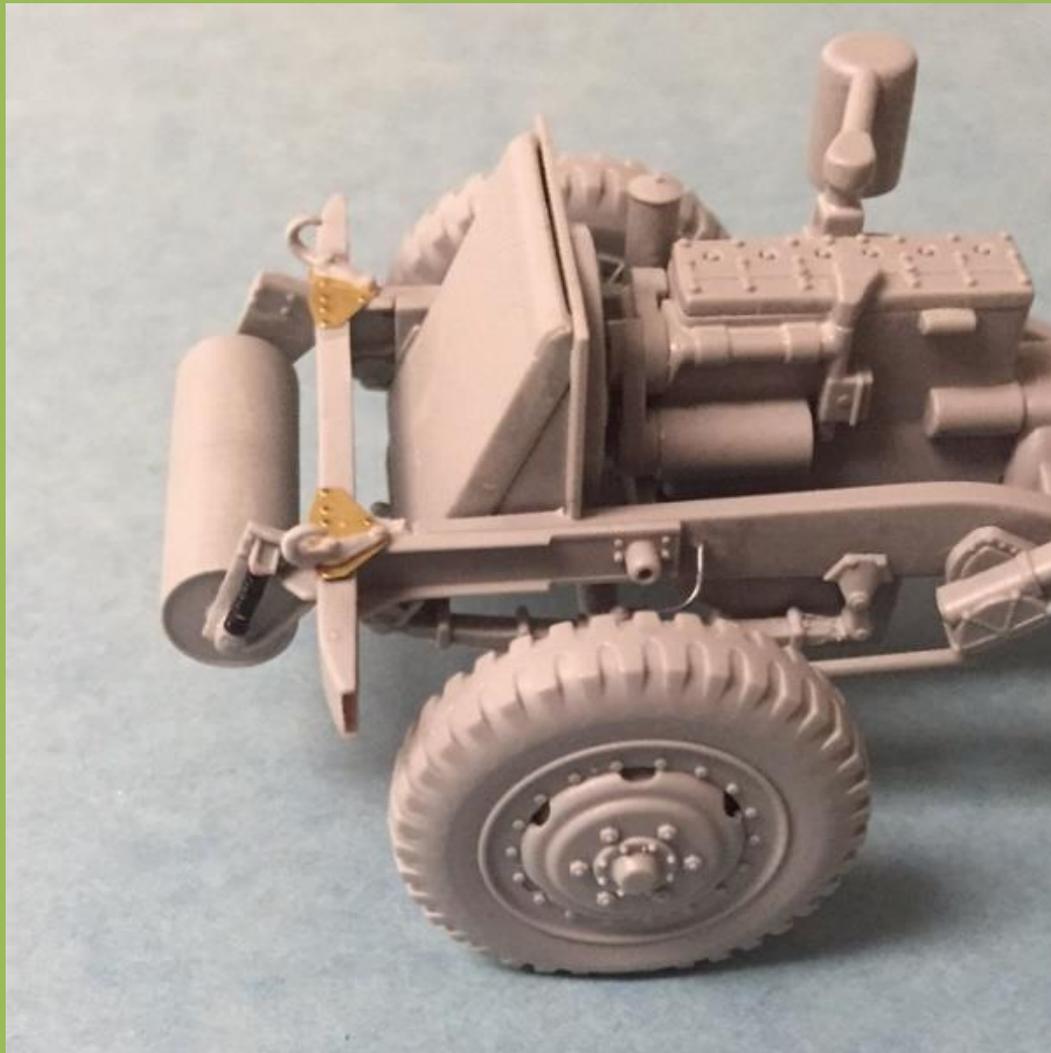
Step 6

Mounting the Tracks

- I glued the track halves together, them glued the drive sprocket and idler wheel into position inside the tracks. This makes them easier to handle when slipping them on the suspension.

- Make sure drive and idler are oriented correctly for each side.
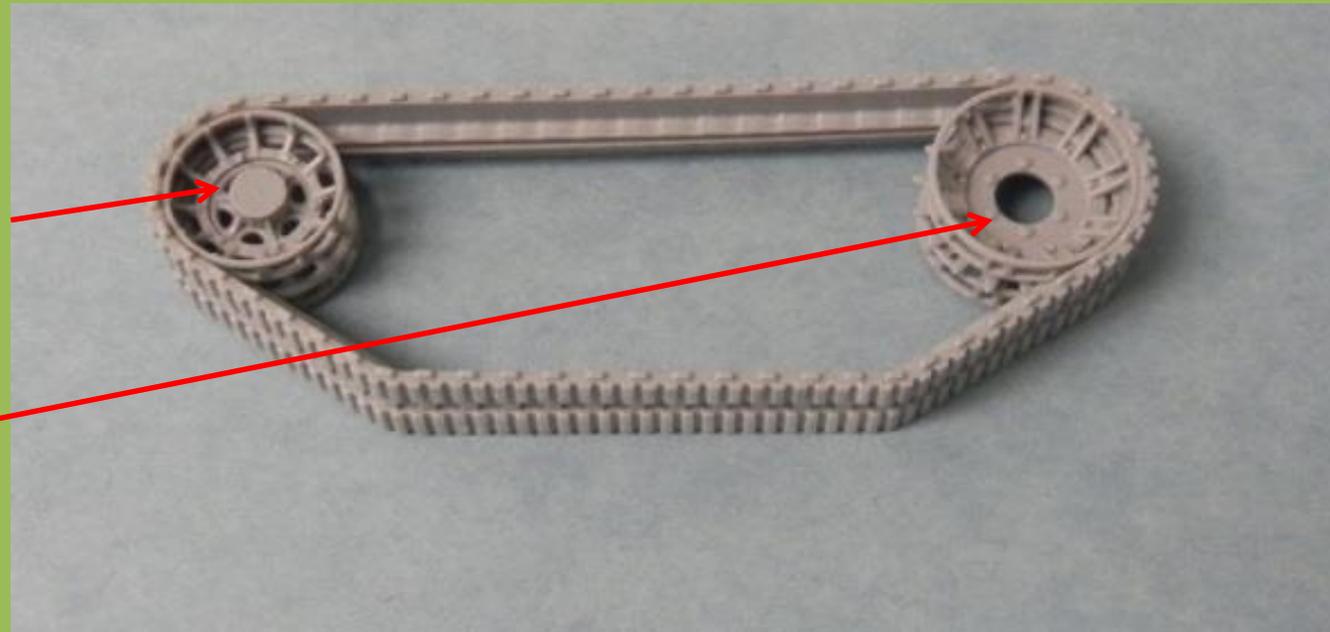
Hub faces outboard

Bolt detail faces outboard

Step 6-Mounting the Tracks

- **Hook the center guide of the bottom track run between the road wheels.**

- **Carefully lift the center of the top run over the return roller, guiding the drive sprocket and idler onto their mounts. The whole assembly will snap right into place.**

- **Easy does it!**

Carefully lift top track run over return roller

Position guides between road wheels
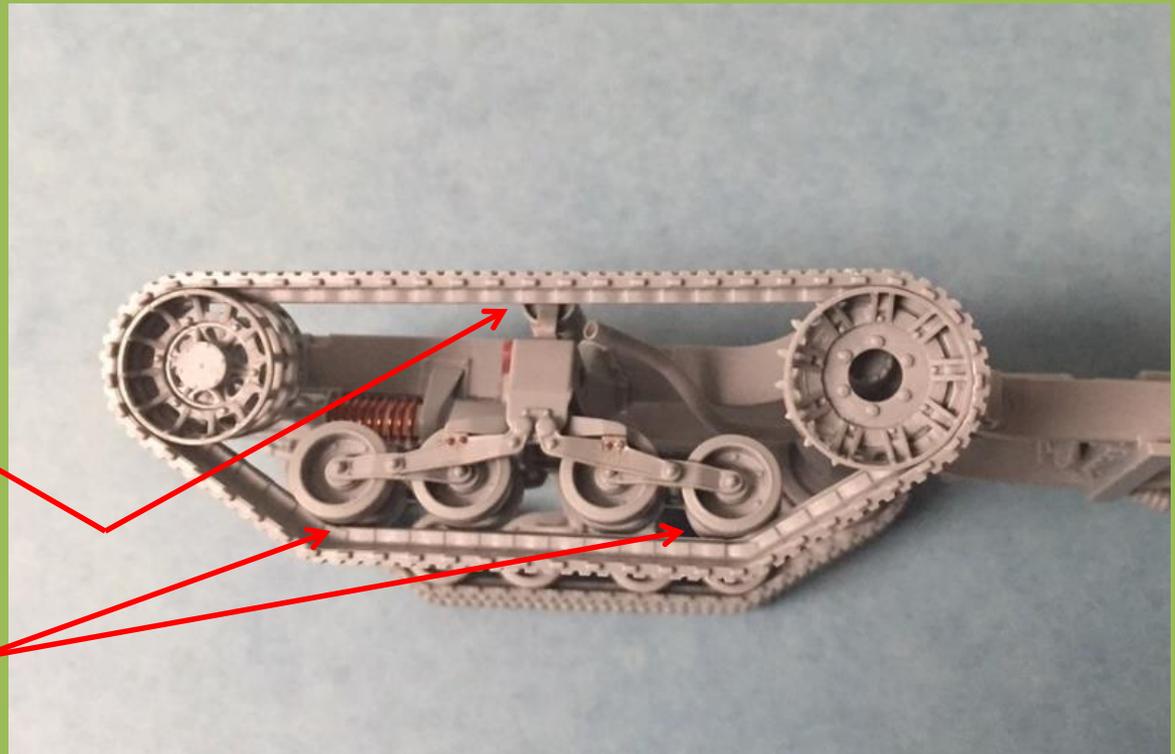
Step 6-Mounting the Tracks

- Snap! It's on.

- Nice fit. I don't think I used glue.
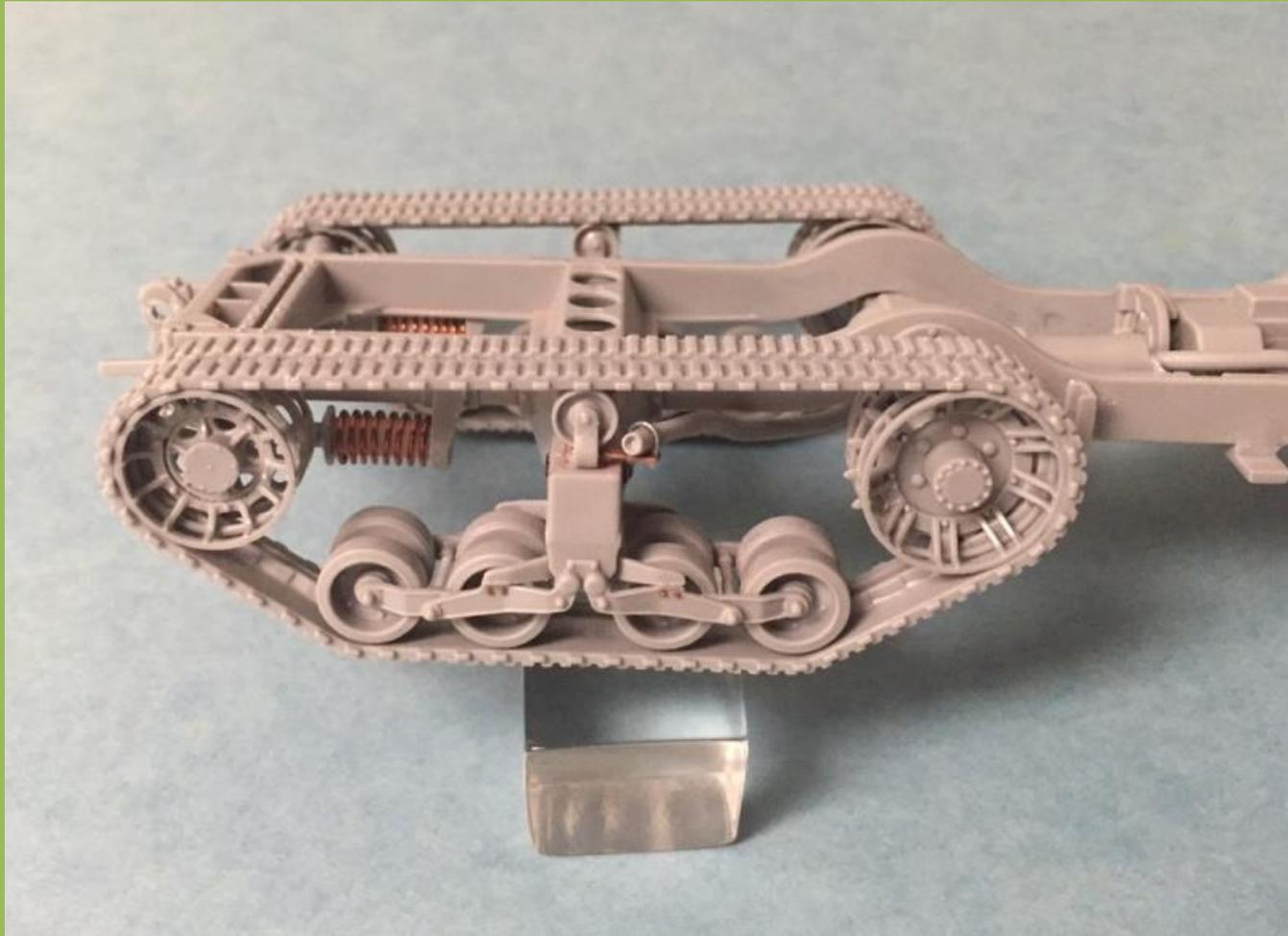
Step 6-The Shock Absorbers

- **Parts A31 and A34. Very Fragile.**

- **Challenge to get off the sprue without breaking.**

- **Remove with a razor saw.**
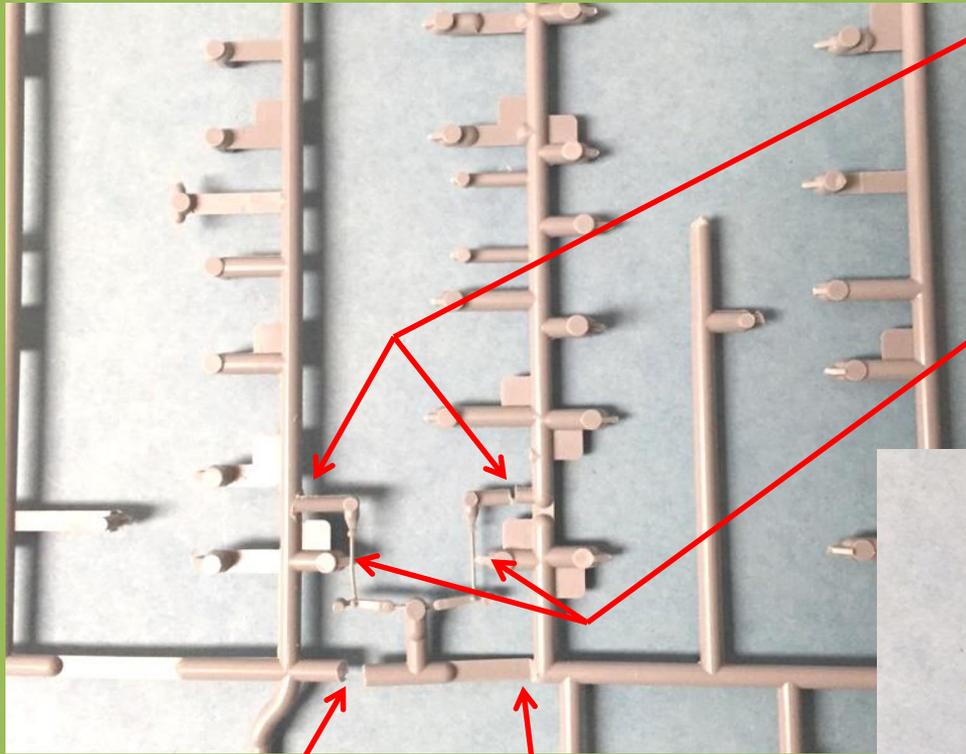
Cuts 3 & 4

Finally, you can carefully cut through these attachment points with sprue cutters to release the parts

Use very sharp X-acto for final removal

Cut 1

Cut 2

Step 7-Front Wheels

- **I mounted front wheels earlier. Brake lines would've been easier to mount prior to that.**

- **Brake lines run from inner wheel hub through the frame just aft of the shock absorber mount.**

Front brake line (0.010" Solder)

Shock absorber mount

Front brake line
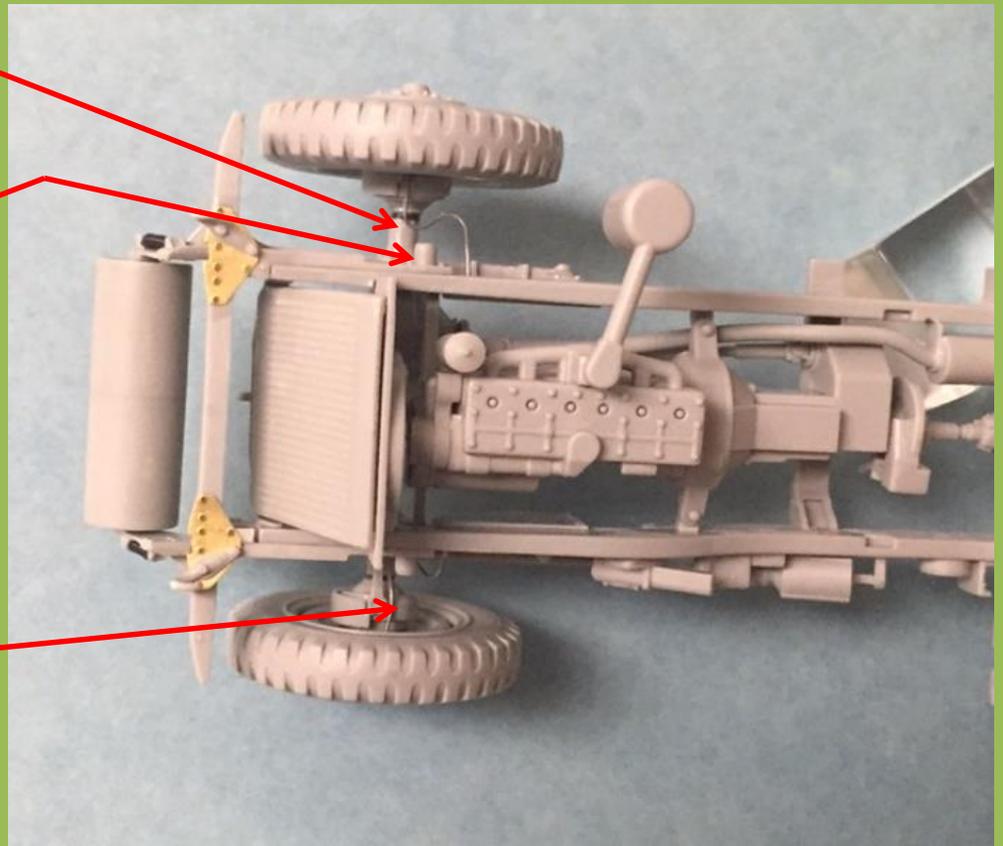
Steps 5-7 Complete

Next time, steps 8-12
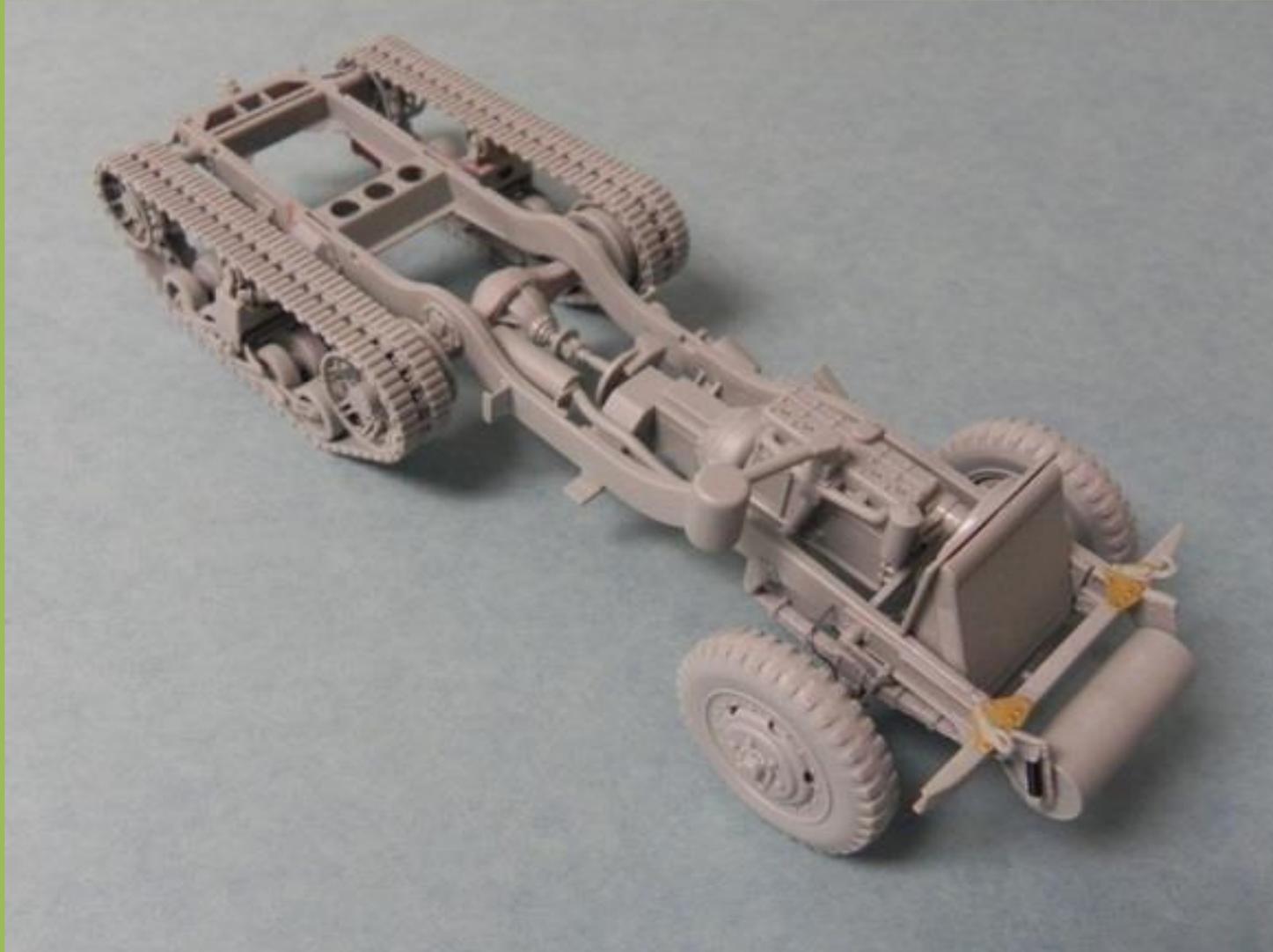
Build Schedule
These Will Vary Slightly For Each Version

- August-Steps 1-4

- September-Steps 5-7

- October-Steps 8-12

- November-Steps 13-19

- December-Paint the Beasts