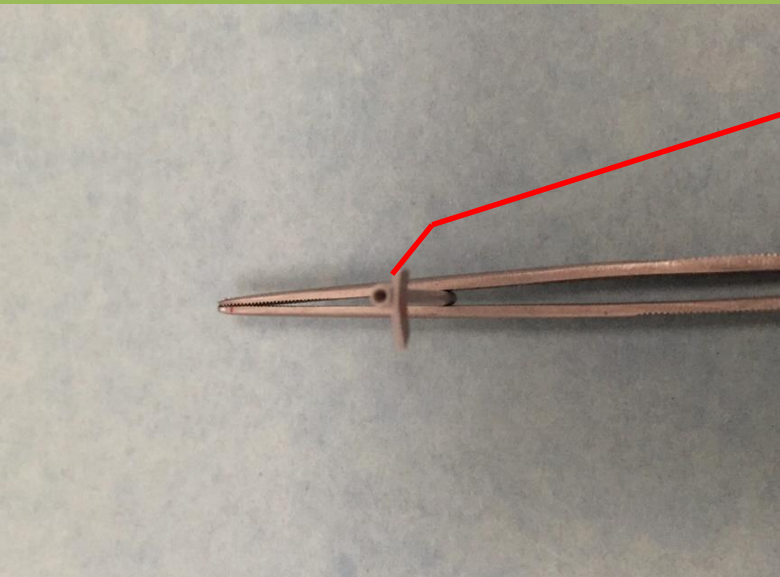


AMPS Atlanta 2018 Club Project



**M2/M3 Halftrack Family
Part 7 – Final Details or...
Will this ever end?**

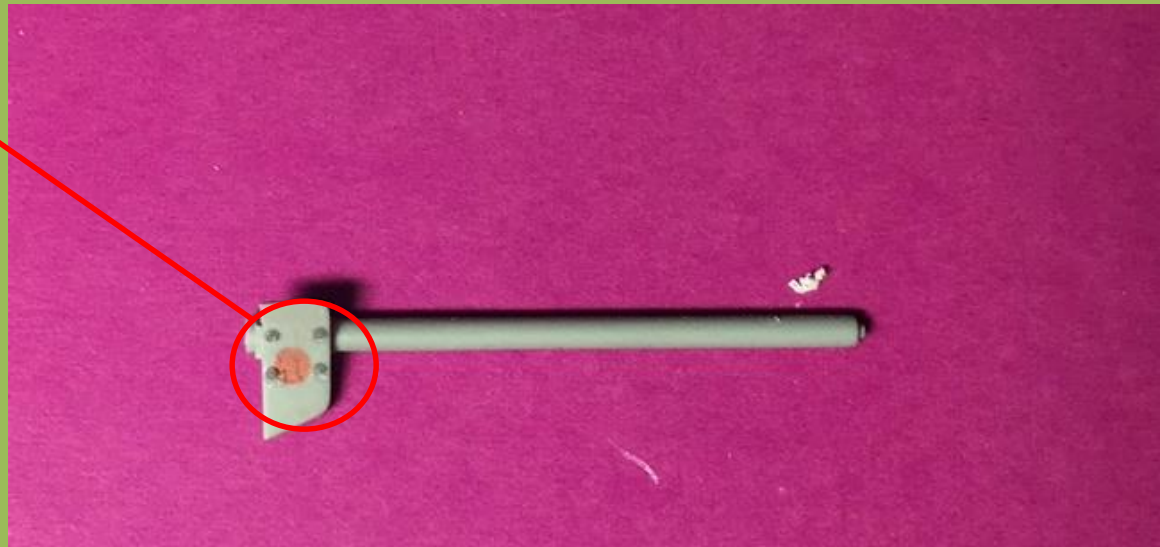
M3A1 – Detailing the Support for the Ring Mounted MG



Kit part C25

In reality, it is a piece of pipe, so I drilled out the top

I filled the punch out mark on the inside of the tart and added nut detail for the two U-bolts



M3A1 – Adding the Mud Flaps

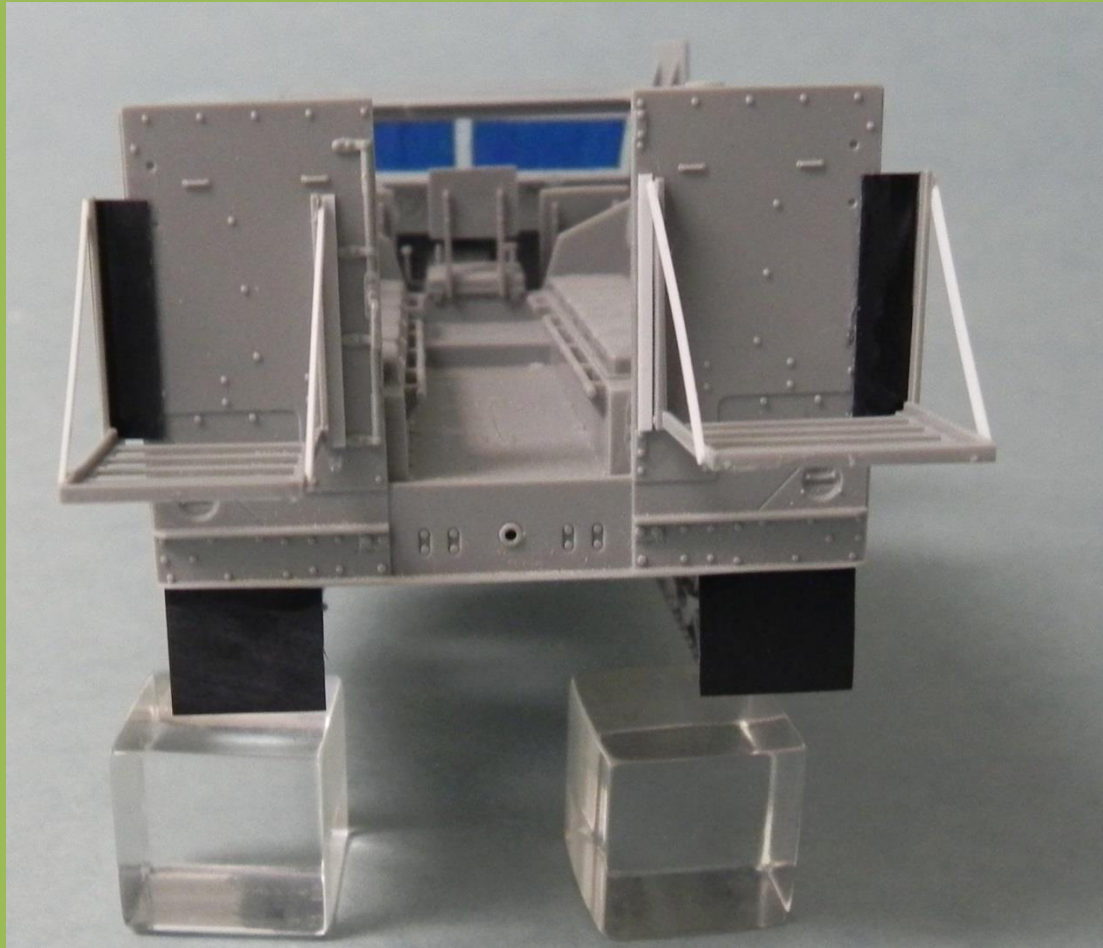
The kit supplies very thin and fragile photoetch for the mud flaps

I prefer the strength of a plastic to plastic joint and slight flex of plastic



I used the kit part as a template and made a new part from 0.010" sheet plastic

M3A1 – Adding the Mud Flaps



The mud flaps in place. Much less prone to snapping off in exposed position than brittle cyano glue joint.

M3A1 – A Note on the Front Tow Hooks

The P/E front tow hook mounting plates are easily knocked off and tricky to position due to limited gluing surface

I glued 0.005" sheet plastic to the P/E part, trimmed and then glued it to the model normally with plastic cement.



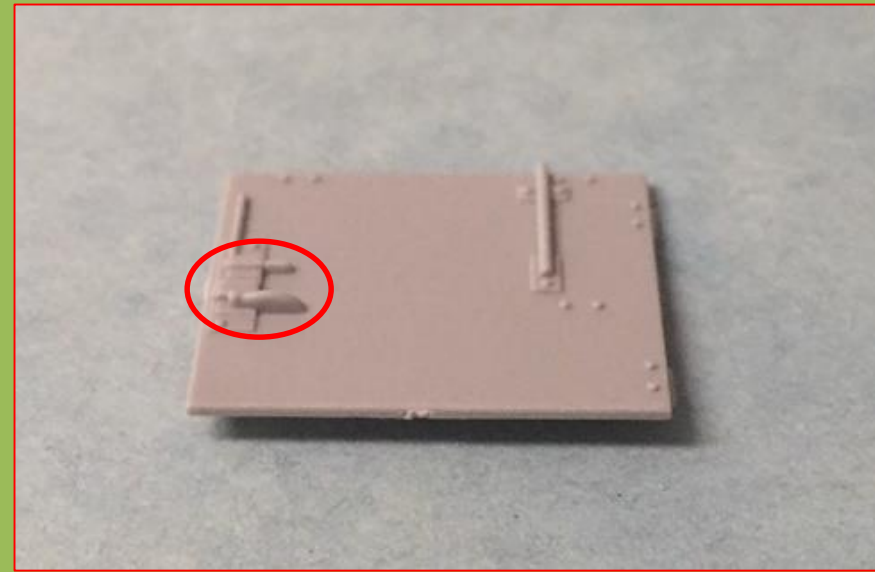
M3A1 – The Doors

Or...Don't You Love Her Madly?

Exterior of Door



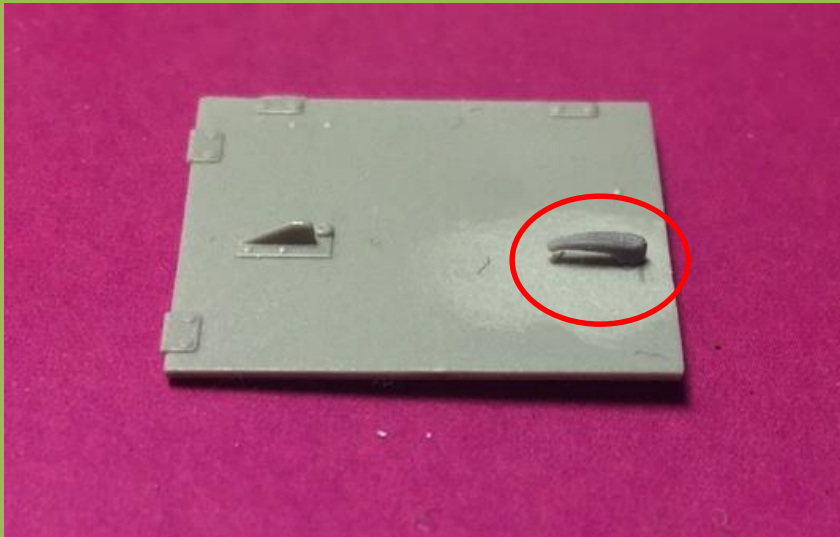
Interior of Door



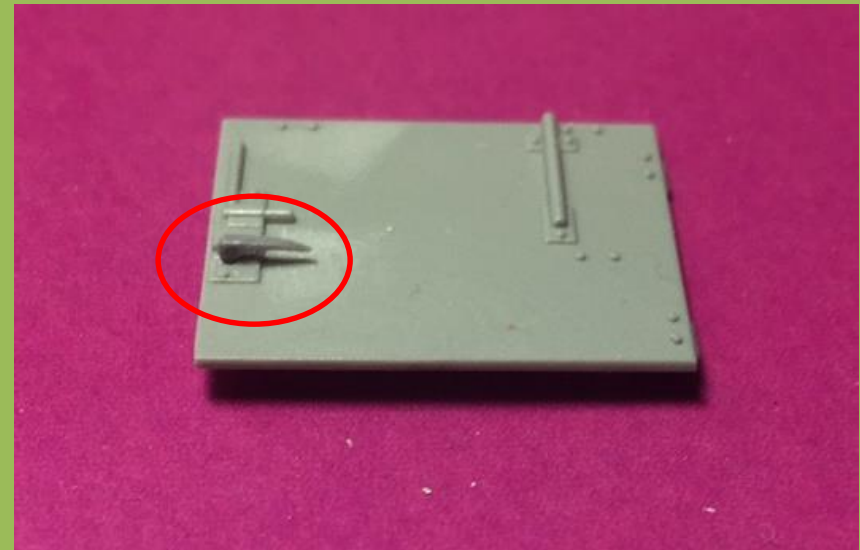
I wanted to replace the molded on blobs with something that looked more like a handle

M3A1 – The Doors

Exterior of Door



Interior of Door



After carefully cutting away the molded on handles and sanding, TMD to the rescue! I used their excellent set of resin door handles.

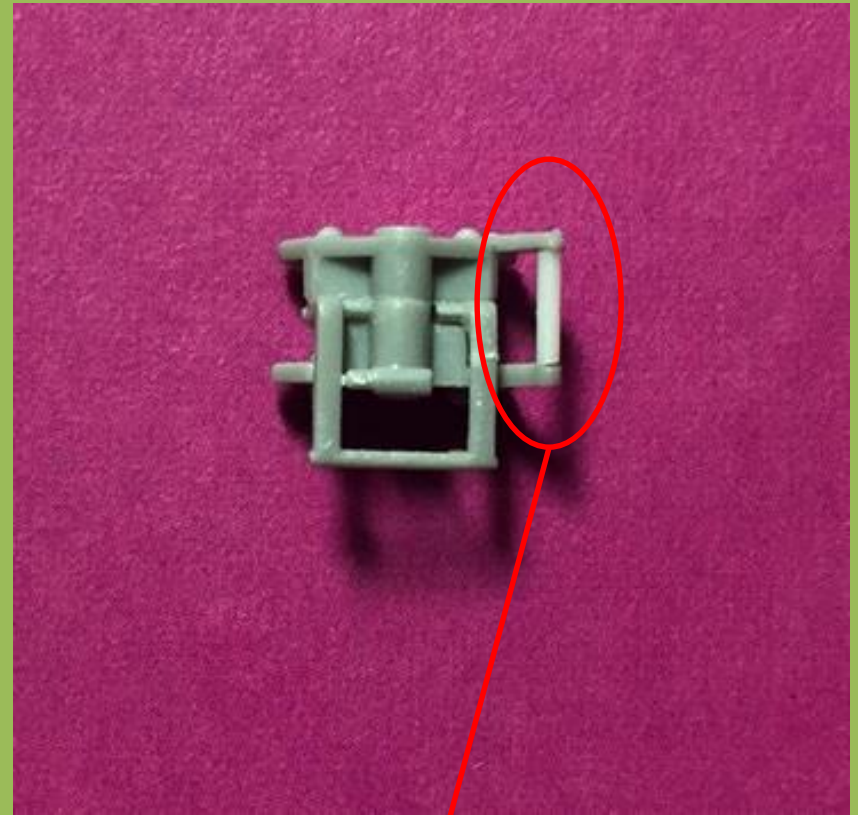
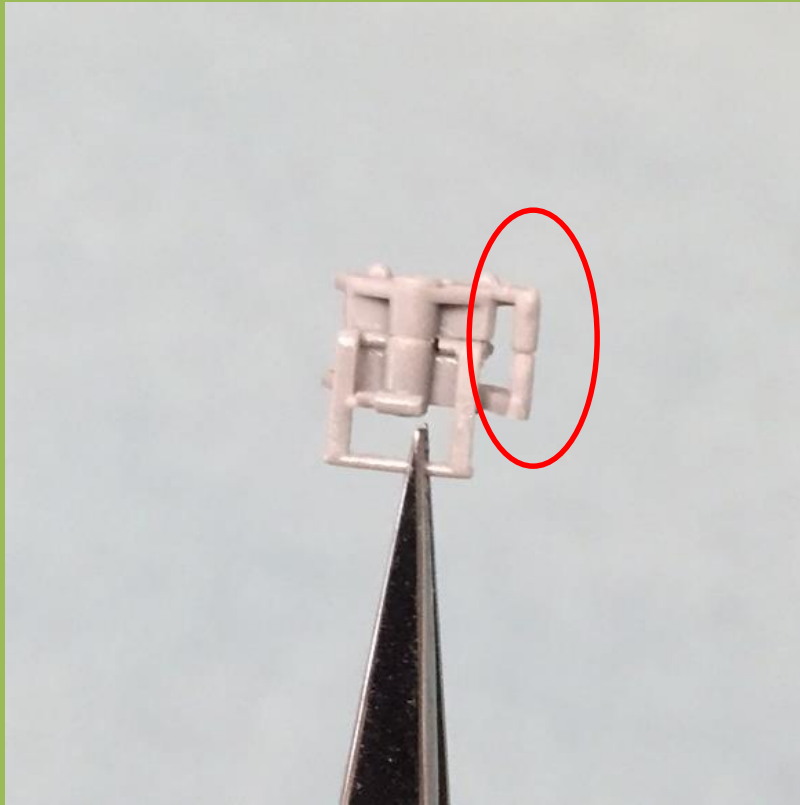
I drilled small mounting holes for the handle base and glued them on.

M3A1 – The Doors



I did not want to fool with a P/E map case, so I scraped in some relief with the point of an X-acto #11 blade. I will have the top of some maps sticking out.

M3A1 – The MG Mount



Much Better

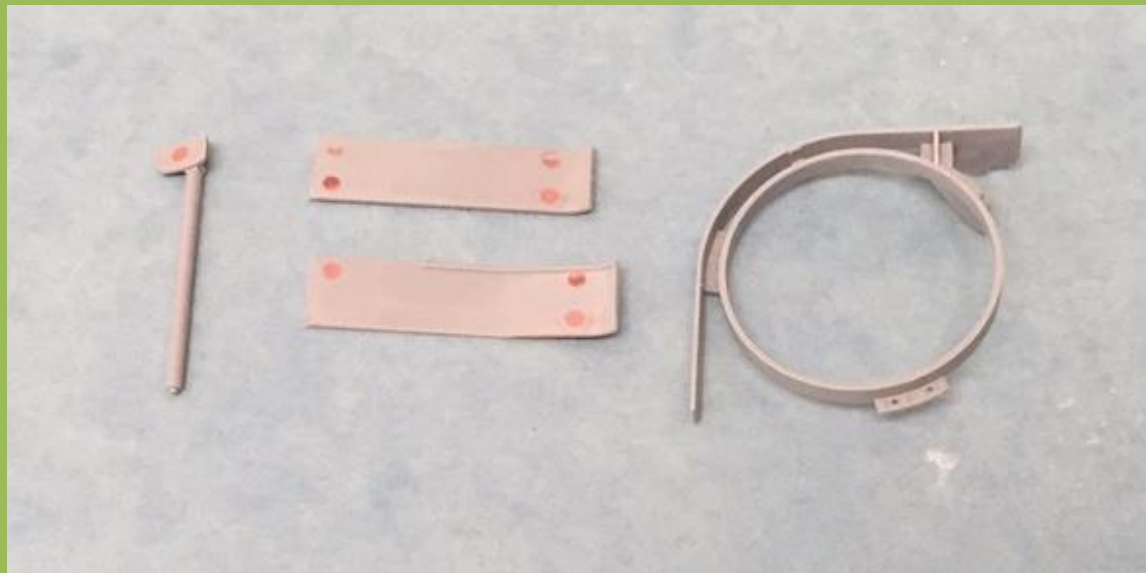
The 0.50 cal mount is molded so that there is a nasty seam on the handle
I cut it off and replaced it with 0.025" rod

M3A1 – The MG Ring Mount



Time for some good sprue cutters, a sharp X-Axto blade and some sandpaper!

The Cleaned Up Parts



Some punch out marks have to be filled and sanded

M3A1 – The MG Ring Mount



There are a lot of footman loops molded onto the model

I would normally replace them with 0.010" rod

In this case, it is better to gently score some relief into each one with a #11 blade with back to the flat of the part. Consistency is key.

M3A1 – The 0.50 Cal



I opened up the front sight. It needs a little more work.



Best barrel changing handle of any 1/35 scale 0.50 cal

Replacing the kit 0.50 cal with the outstanding Asuka Late War 0.50 cal. Excellent detail and value for the money.

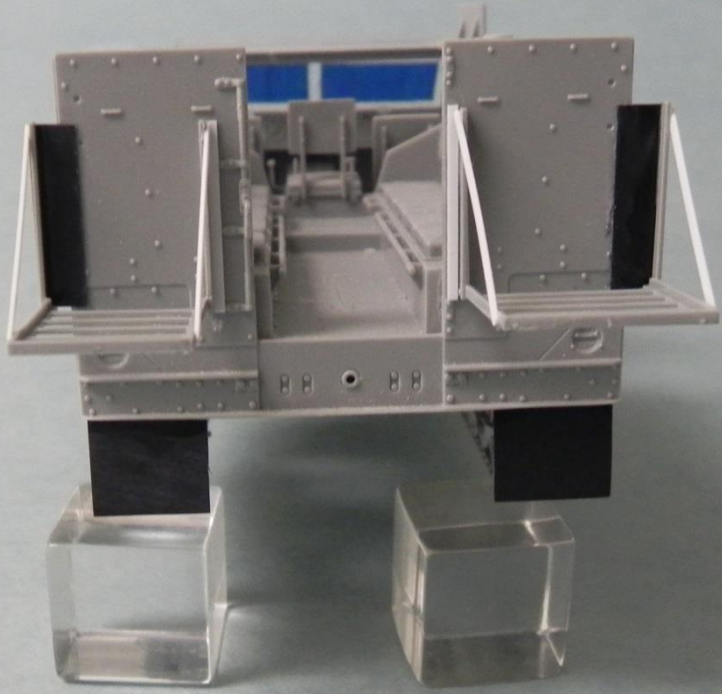
M3A1 – The 0.50 Cal

The Asuka 0.50 cal is missing a couple of details:

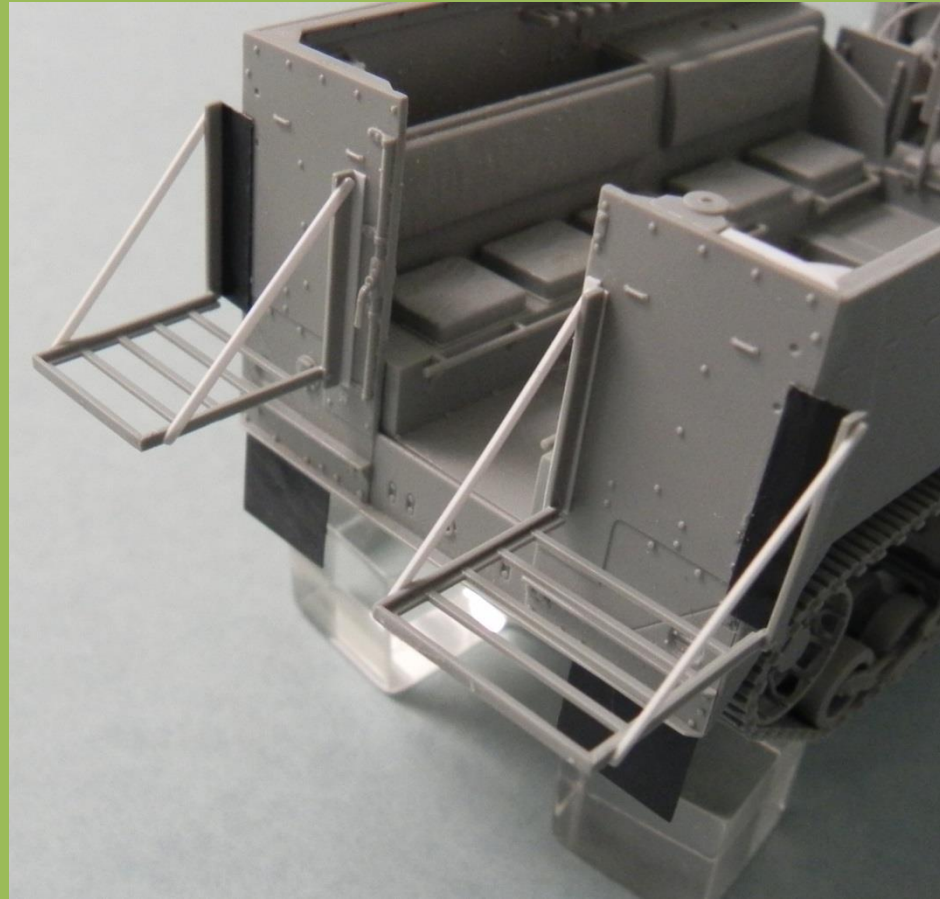
- No trigger
- The ammo tray does not have the characteristic lightening holes in the bottom
- I remedied this by adding the bottom part of a P/E tray



M3A1 – The Rear Baggage Racks



I used kit supplied racks with mounting plates from 0.010" plastic and longer support bars so racks sit horizontal

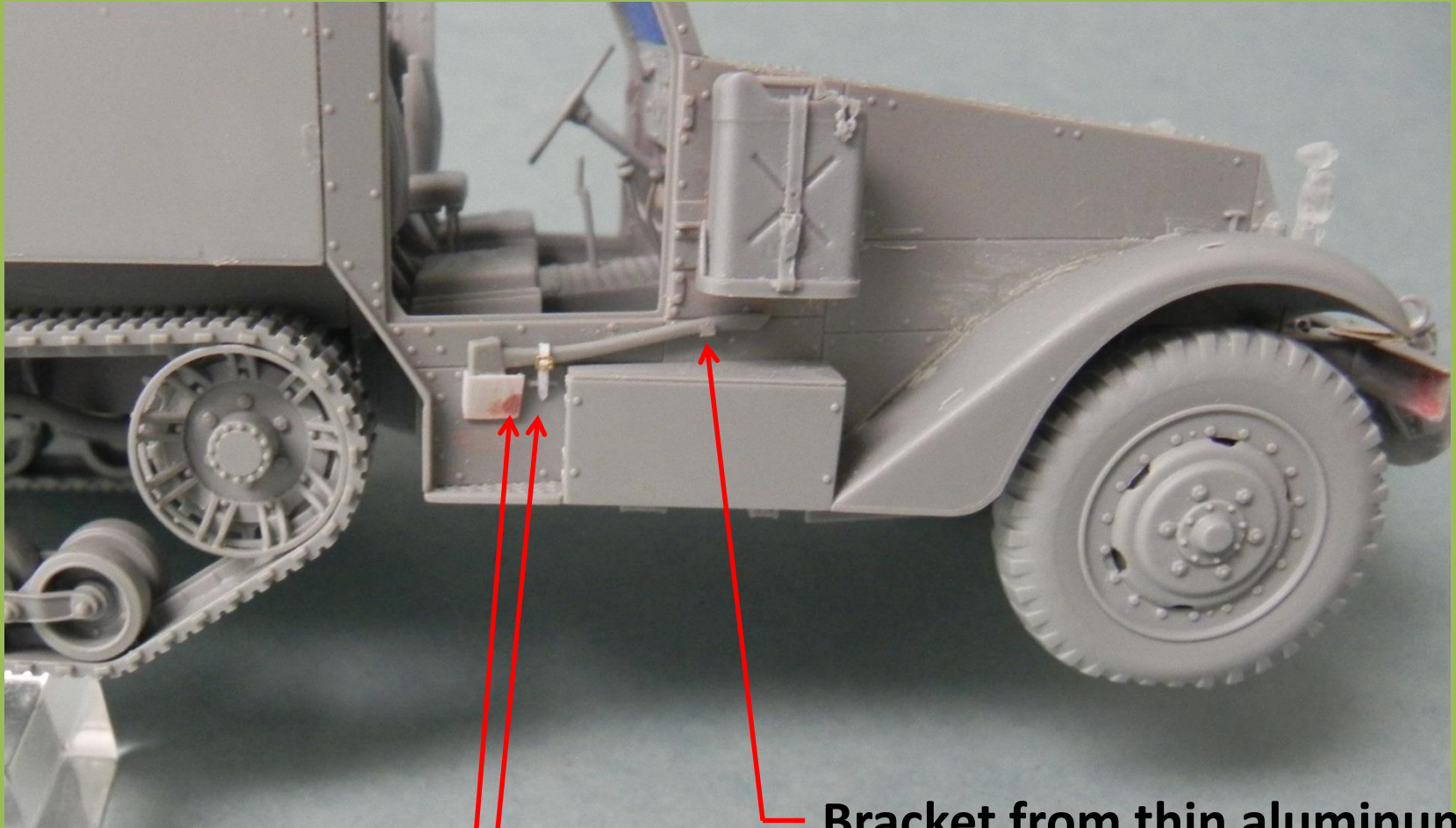


Note that one rack is larger than the other

M3A1 – Side Stowage Racks



M3A1 – Detailing the Tools

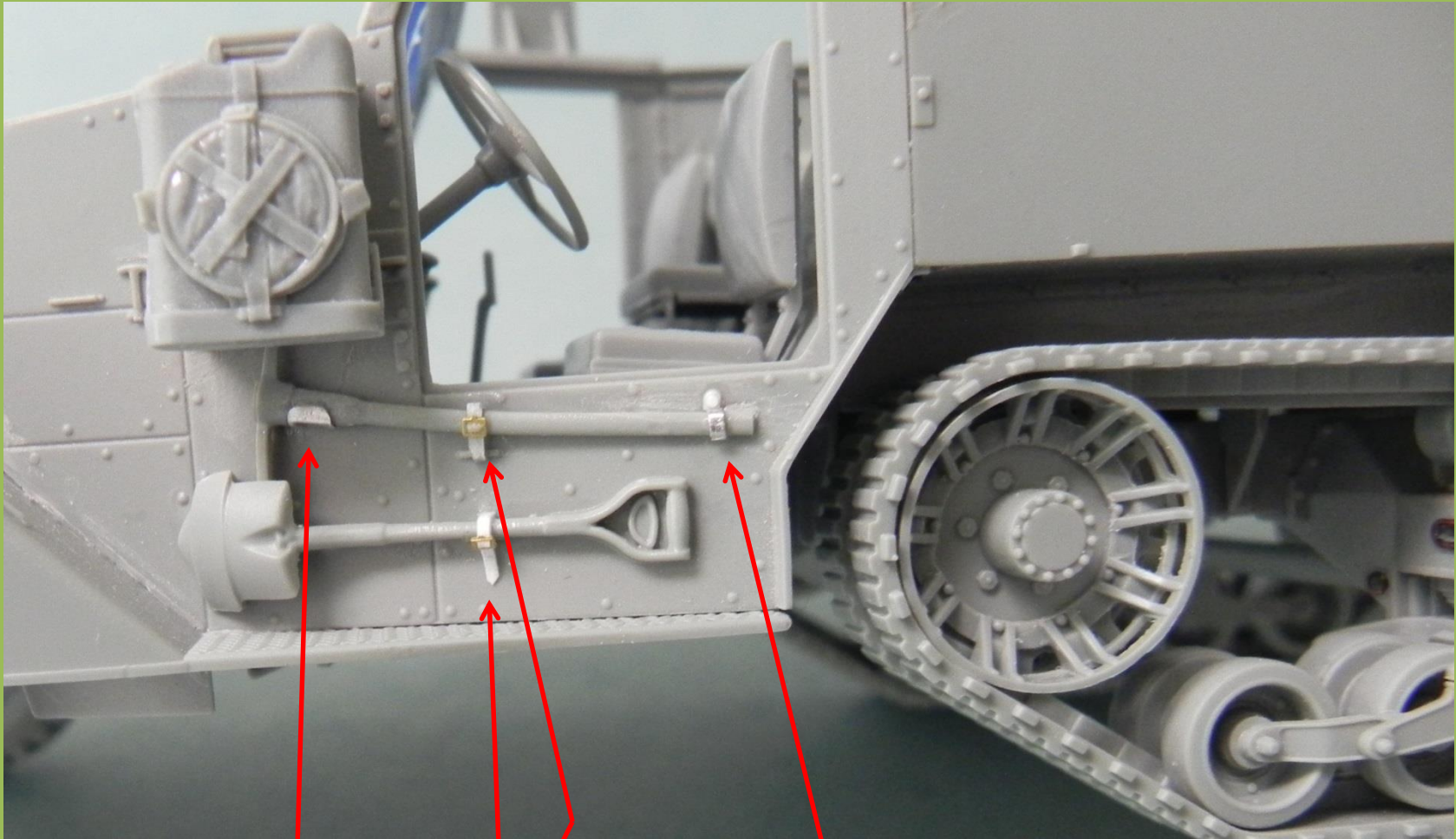


Replacement pocket
from thin sheet plastic

Buckle from Black Dog
with paper straps

Bracket from thin aluminum

M3A1 – Detailing the Tools



Bracket from
thin aluminum

Buckles from Black Dog
with paper straps

Bracket from thin aluminum

M3A1 – Almost Ready for Paint

