

Building the  
AFV Club 1/35 Scale  
**M-40 Self-Propelled Gun Motor Carriage**  
*by Phil Pucher*



The following tips correspond to the steps in the kit instructions.

#### Step 1

I had to file and sand both sides of part 13C to get it to slide in the grooves in C38/39.

#### Step 1A

C1 threads did not line up well. I placed it in the closed position.

#### Step 2

It was necessary to cut a notch in the rear vertical stiffener on B2 so the teeth on the bottom of C39 will clear so the gun can be elevated.

Glue B12 in place AFTER the gun and cradle are placed on B3. (Guess how I know this.)



Recoil rods not provided. Given location under the gun, they would be hard to see anyway.

Step 3

Instructions say not to glue C20 in place. However, there are locator pins for it on C11 and C15. Is this part meant to be a travel lock?



### Step 5

Do NOT sand off the seam on A5 (6 pieces), it is supposed to be there.

### Step 7

Do NOT glue A42 idler arm in place at this time. You will need to move it in order to tension the track.

### Step 8

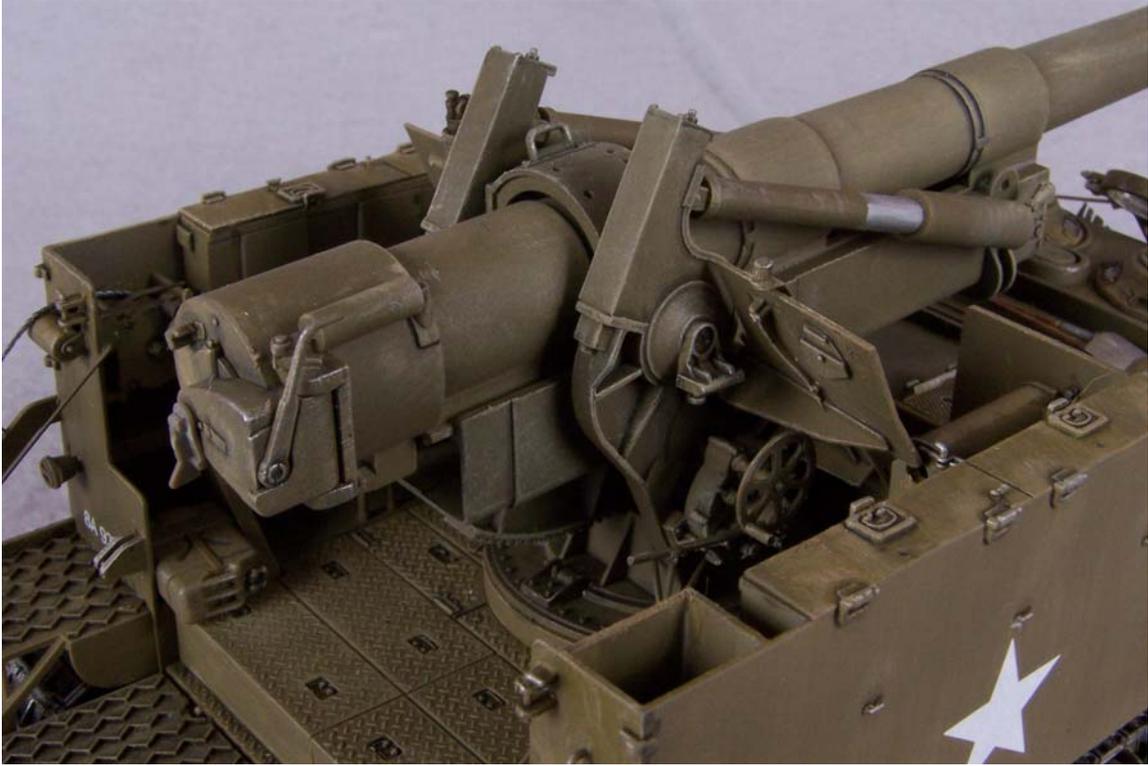
Once assembled, glue the drive sprockets in place. Note how S18 and S19 go together. Also, glue the idler wheels S23 and S24 to the idler arms A42 (the short end).

### Step 11

I did not use G10 (photoetch). It did not look right. Part A49 must be at the same height as corresponding tab that is part of cable winch assembly on opposite side.

## Step 12

I kept breaking the grab bars on parts F7/8, so I cut them off and replaced them with brass wire.



## Step 14

Parts B29 were small and difficult to work with, so I replaced them with brass wire.



### Step 15

Parts B22 and B23 are a poor fit. You cannot glue them directly to the spade, because the spade has to pivot. I glued both B22s in place, pushed the spade ends on the pivot pins, then glued both B23s in place.

When installing the spade winch, first wrap one end of the cable (string) around the spool several times and glue it in place. I strongly recommend waiting until you have glued the spade and platform into position before you string the cable.

### Step 16

If you are building the model in firing mode, do NOT glue A29 and B31 in place at this time. See next step first.

### Step 17

If platform F2 is installed per instructions (per picture, it is supposed to sit level), the teeth of the spade assembly below it will sit below the level of the tracks. This means the vehicle will not sit level on the tracks. To correct this, I placed the model on a flat surface and slid the tracks under the

roadwheels. I then filed down the supports on the bottom of platform F2 (you cannot see this anyway) and shortened the teeth on the spade. Once everything is level, the platform and spade can now be glued in place. The location of parts A29 and B31 can now be determined and glued in place. The spade cable can now be run thru the pulley system and glued in place.



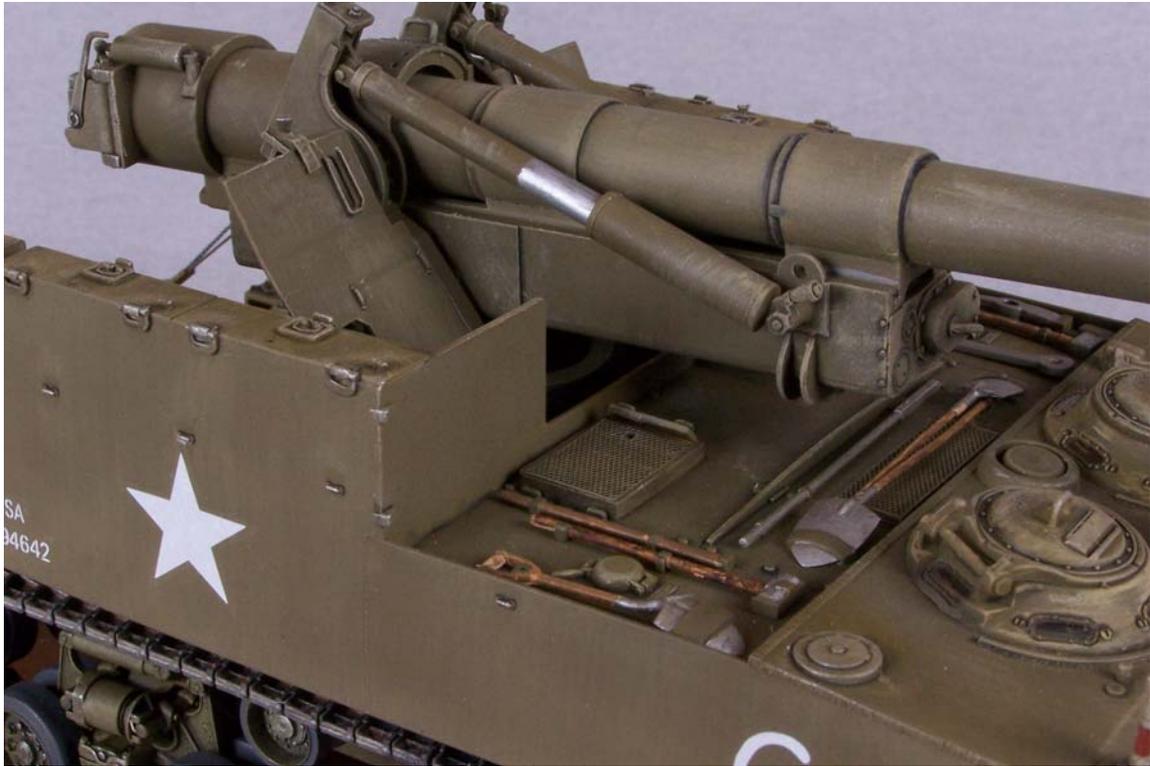
### Step 19

The vision port rings are clear plastic. I could not mask them, so I took a chance and painted over them. I was able to use a toothpick to scrape the paint off the vision ports and coat them with clear gloss.



## Step 21

Parts A25 and A26 are a poor fit. I glued A25 and A26 on the outer sides, placed E7 between them, and glued A25 and A26 on the insides, making sure that E7 can pivot. DO NOT glue A27 to A21 until position of E7 (up or down) is determined. This determines final position of A27. If E7 is to be in the down position, be sure it is centered on latch A31.



## Step 22

Photoetch part G7 is glued to teat on FRONT of shield F5. Attachment points for shields F5 and F6 are poorly defined. Edge of shield F5 does not clear ammo rack.

The tracks cab be superglued and will accept solvent based paint. I slipped the track over the drive sprocket and then the idler wheel. I used small wood scraps as a wedge between the last road wheel and the idler wheel to put tension on the track. I then used a copious amount of superglue to cement the idler wheel shaft in place. Because the roadwheels pivot, tensioning the tracks lifts the first and last roadwheels off the ground. I solved this problem by wiring the model to the base (a wire runs thru the track, around the axle shaft of the inside first and last roadwheels, and back out thru the track into the base).

Applying decals.

The first decal I tried disintegrated, so I coated the rest of the sheet with decal film and they worked perfectly.

I liked the kit, but it is complicated. Major dimensions match those given in Hunnicutt. The vehicle can be built in either firing or transport mode. Detail is good as are the tracks. There are a lot of small, fiddly parts (some of them now in my carpet) that require precise placement, and some vague parts locations and fit problems. I strongly suggest that you become thoroughly familiar with the instructions before beginning construction.

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Photos by Tom H. Johnson

