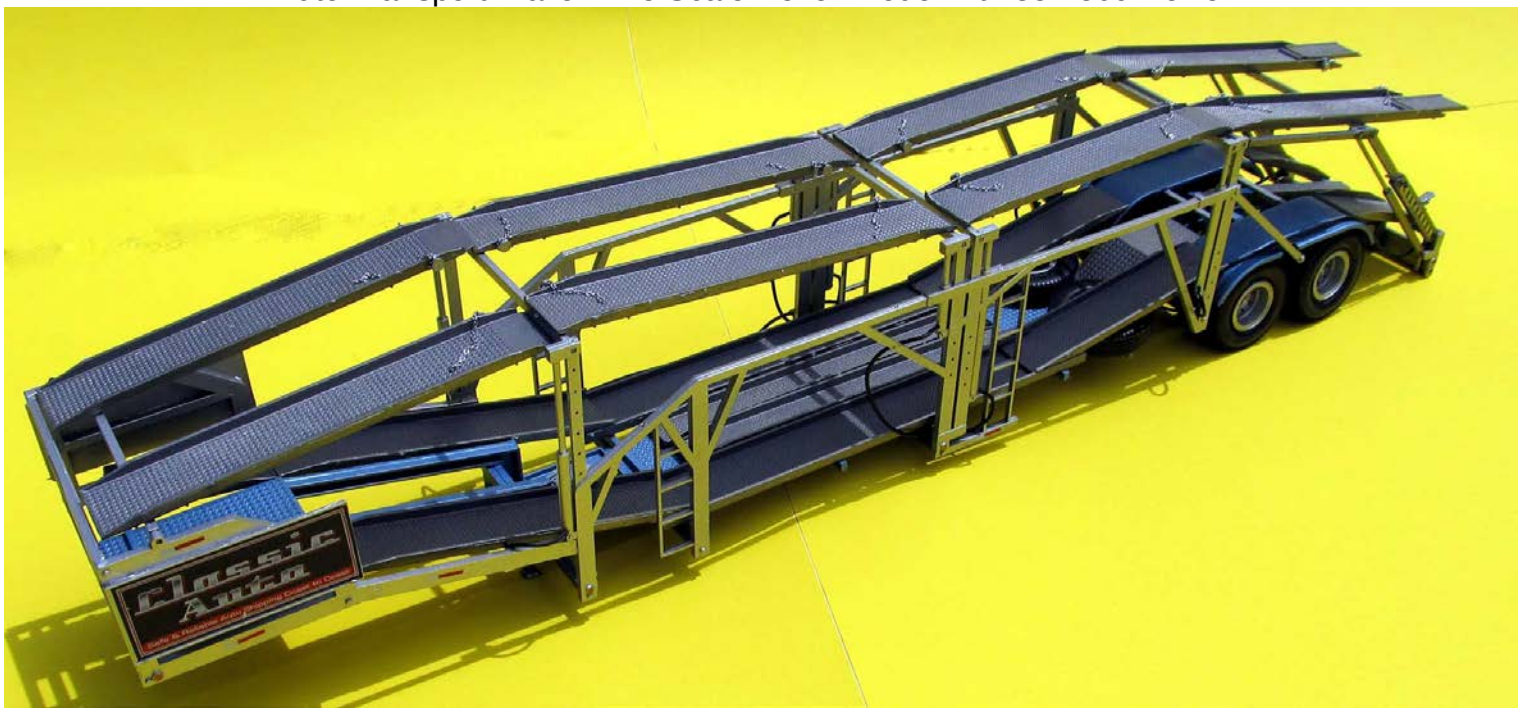
Right On Replicas, LLC SnapShot Review 20150717*
Auto Transport Trailer 1:25 Scale Revell Model Kit #85-1509 Review



An auto transport trailer is a type of semi-trailer designed to efficiently transport passenger vehicles via truck. Commercial-size car carrying trailers are commonly used to ship new cars from the manufacturer to auto dealerships. Open car carrier trailers typically have a double-decker design, with both decks subdivided into a number of loading and storage ramps that can be tilted and lifted independently of one another with hydraulics. Unlike flatbed tow trucks, which often need to transport non-running vehicles, car carrier trailers aren't equipped with loaders or winches, instead relying on the vehicles to be loaded under their own power. The trailer hydraulics allow the ramps to be aligned on a slope so cars can be driven up and secured to the ramp floor with chains, tie-down ratchets or wheel straps, after which the ramp can be tilted in any direction to optimize stacking. To load vehicles on the top deck of a double-decker commercial trailer, the rear half of the deck can tilt and be lowered hydraulically, forming a drive-up ramp to the upper deck. The top deck is usually loaded first and off-loaded last, since the presence of cars on the lower deck can make it impossible to lower the top deck ramp. Trailer hydraulics are operated using a control box mounted on the trailer itself.

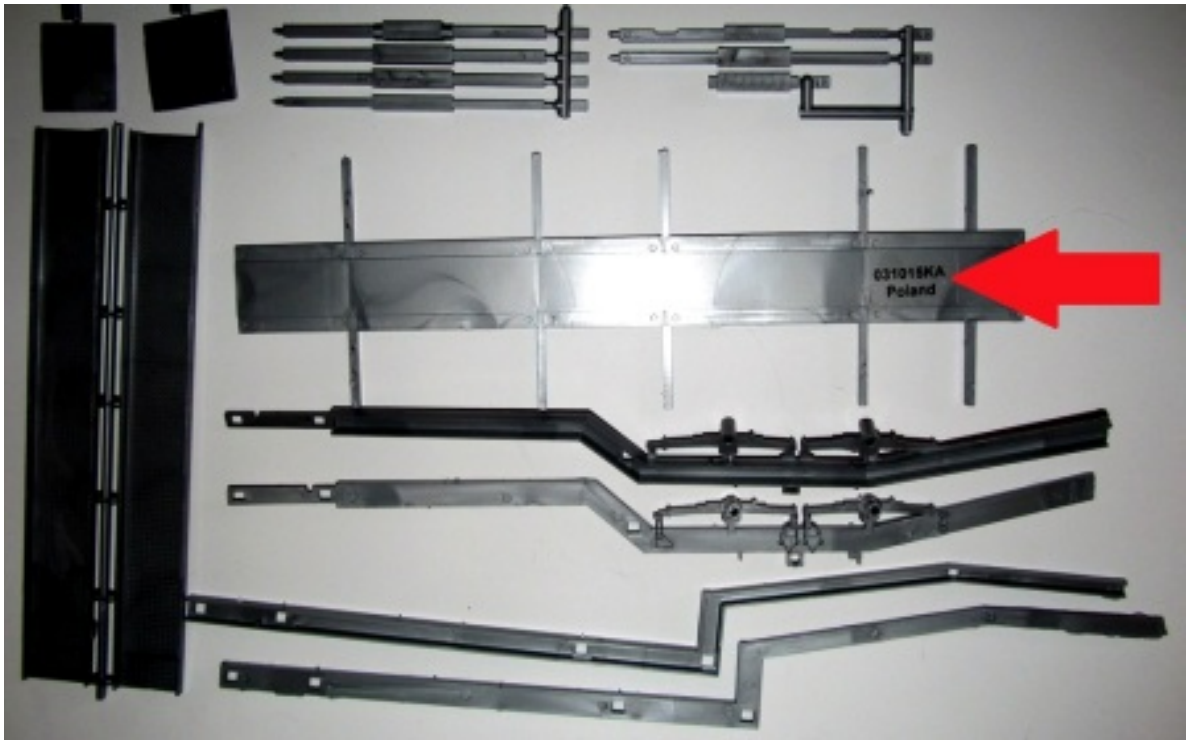
For the Modeler: This review covers Revell Kit #1509 Auto Transport Trailer in 1/25 Scale. This is a direct Re-release (Re-Pop) of the car transporter and has been seen in many different box arts over the years. The build is a Skill Level 3 for advanced builders. The kit consists of 160 parts molded in Gray with Vinyl tires and tubing and scale sized metal chain. The instructions are well laid out and have a cutting diagram for the tubing. Decals are given for the hazard stripes, a generic shipping company and a few “New Car” window decals. Much of the assembly is painted one color for the frame and ramps and a second color for the chassis. Most transport companies would have matching tractors painted the same colors as their trailers. Completed dimensions are: Length: 23-5/8", Width: 6-7/8", Height: 5-1/8".

BUILDING CAVIATS: Having organization and a proper work area is important if you want to build a model properly. But even without dedicated space a place to leave your build while you work is necessary. Being able to lay out your parts organized helps the build as you are not digging for parts in the box possibly losing or damaging them. Also you really should have a place to let painted parts cure.
Throughout the review you will find **OPTIONAL IDEAS** that I suggest. These are completely your choice. Not doing these steps will in no way affect the build, they are just ways to offer some personal and custom touches to your builds. **OPTIONS** will be noted. One of the best parts of model building is using your imagination to create the car YOU want! Unless you are building a "Factory Stock" or a "Replica" car your choices of color and build options is completely up to you. The instruction give recommendations but you are free to substitute whatever options you want. There is no "Wrong way" to build your kit! Have fun and enjoy your hobby. Review the instruction sheet thoroughly to get familiar with the assembly sequence. Decide your color scheme in advance and your custom options so you can build accordingly.

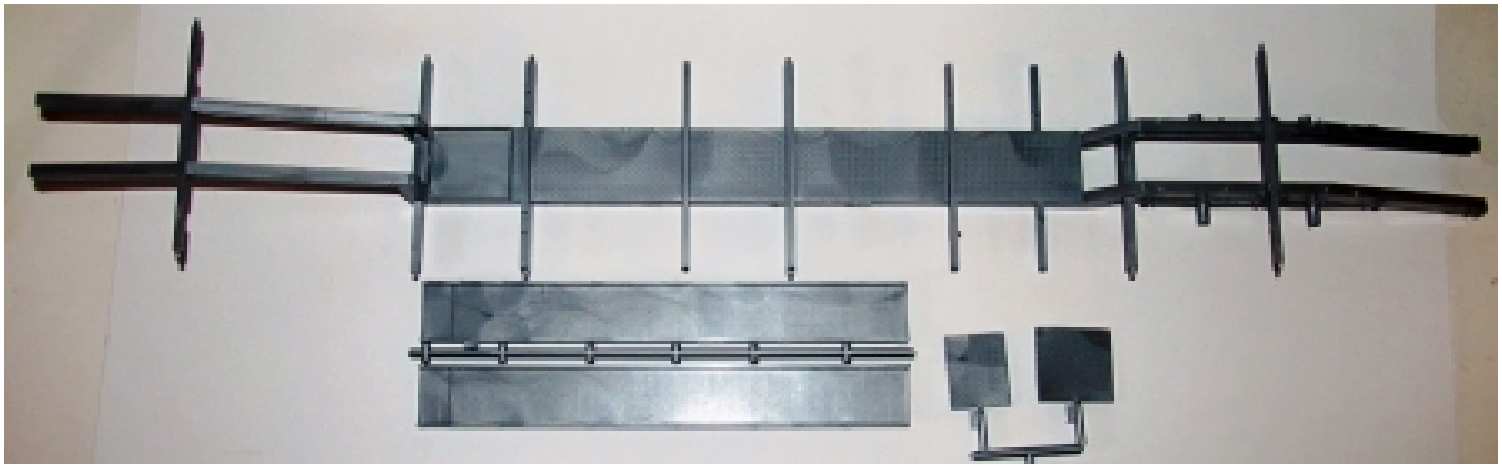
PIC 1 This is the box art for this kit as released in the 2015 Re-release version. Unless otherwise stated I use Testors Tube Glue (Orange Tube) for assembly of the parts. Other adhesives used in the construction are Superglue and Elmer's White Glue. Paints consist of Testors Enamel or Tamiya Acrylic bottle paints and different brands of "Rattle can" spray paints. The body is finished using 1:1 automotive use paint products shot with an airbrush. One of the major benefits of using automotive paint is a very fast drying time. You can get just as good results using Spray can products but they require a longer drying time. Automotive paint is FULLY cured in less than an hour and clear about 6 hours. Use a good quality airbrush to paint automotive products because Lacquer Thinner will destroy the cheaper ones quickly. Assembly paint colors may vary from instructions as I use simplified colors that most model builders should have on hand. Before beginning your build soak and wash your parts with a mild detergent like DAWN to remove any mold release agents and help with paint adhesion.

Note to remember: Always follow the Manufacturer's Safety and Use Guidelines when using any of the products mentioned in the review for your own protection.

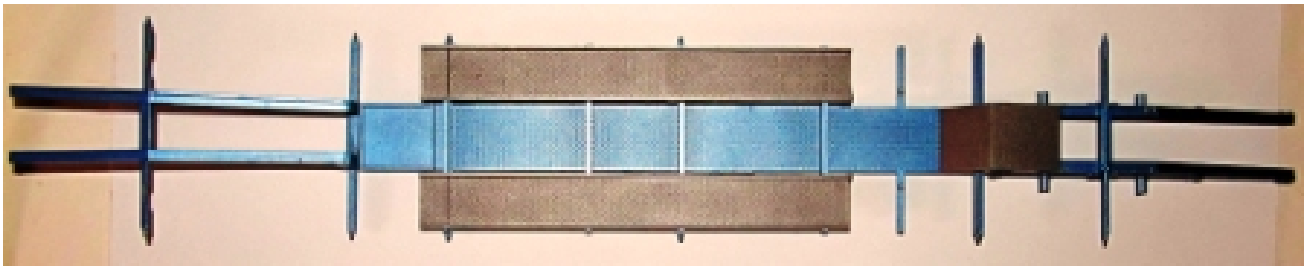
PIC 2 PIC 3 Here are the decals for this build. The quality is very high and color register is good. There is a small carrier around each decal. These decals float easily and will set quickly. Normally it is preferable to use a setting solution to help move the decals in place on your build and to allow extra time to place them. I personally have found Microscale Industries products to be the most compatible with all the different manufacturers of decals.



PIC 4 Start with the main chassis. Note there is a sticker on the bottom of the center panel to remove. Clean off any flash and remove the sprue tabs.

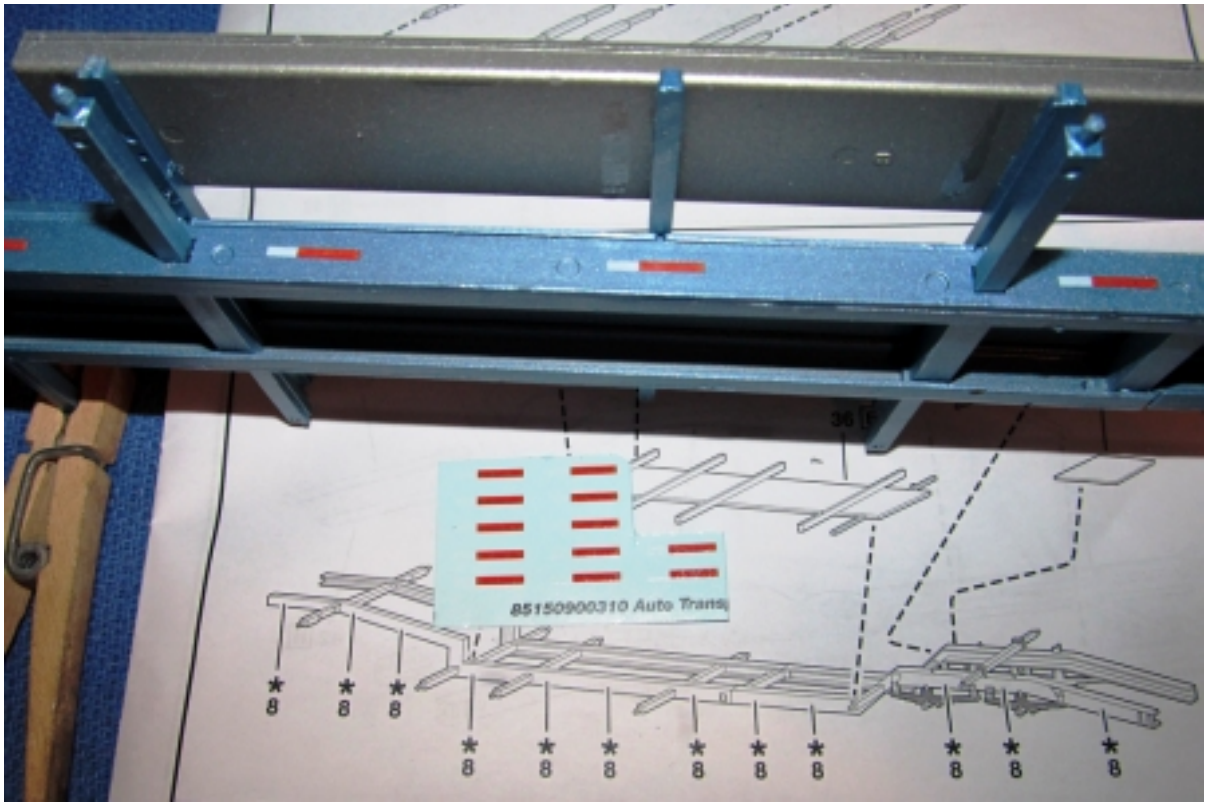


PIC 5 Assemble each frame rail and add the cross members in place. Add the center support. Paint that as a unit the color you chose for your frame. The rear platforms are Steel and the lower middle ramp sections are Steel.

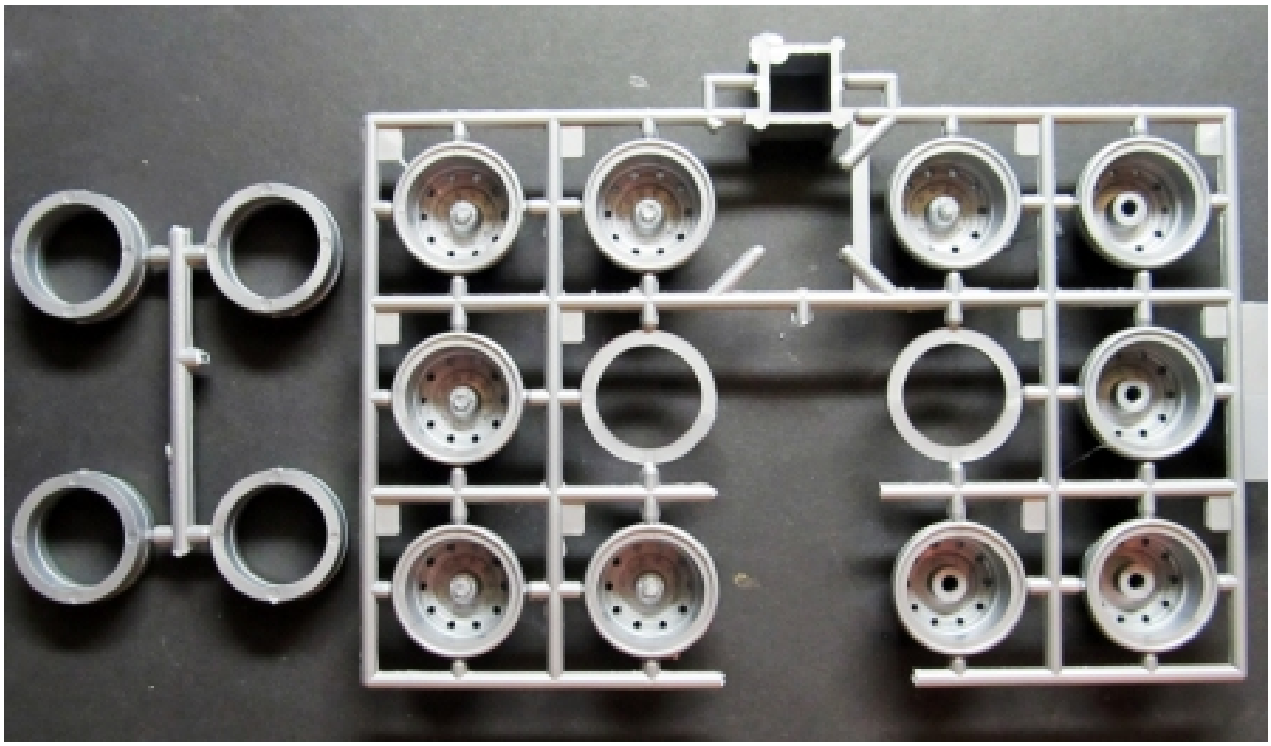


PIC 6 & 7 The parts need to be primed before paint. As it would be near impossible to properly sand the diamond tread and the parts you need to use a Self-Etching Primer. I prefer an automotive product that is a Lacquer based Primer/Sealer. Once the primer is dry you can paint your Frame and ramps as needed. PIC 7 Install the lower middle ramps and the rear platforms to the frame.

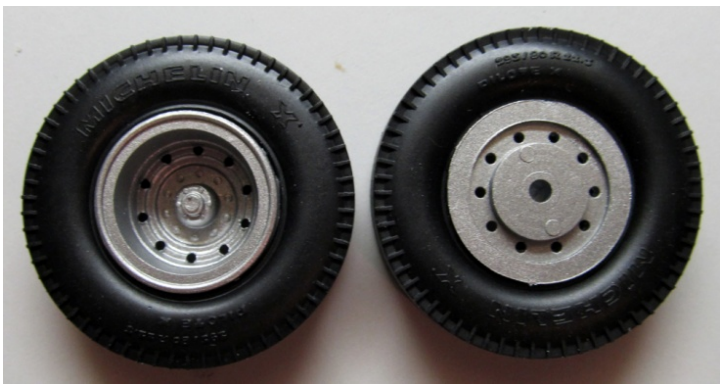
PIC 8 Twelve of the DECAL 8 are installed on each side of the outside frame. Body Decaling and Finishing: After you have your base coat on you are ready to decal it. Remember decals lay better on a GLOSS surface and will not adhere properly on a FLAT surface. If you decal a flat surface you get what is called SILVERING of the decals, or the look that they are not adhered, as air is trapped under the decal. Clean your work area good so no dust or grunge from building and sanding gets under your decals. Pick the decals you want to work with and plan out how the best way to lay them



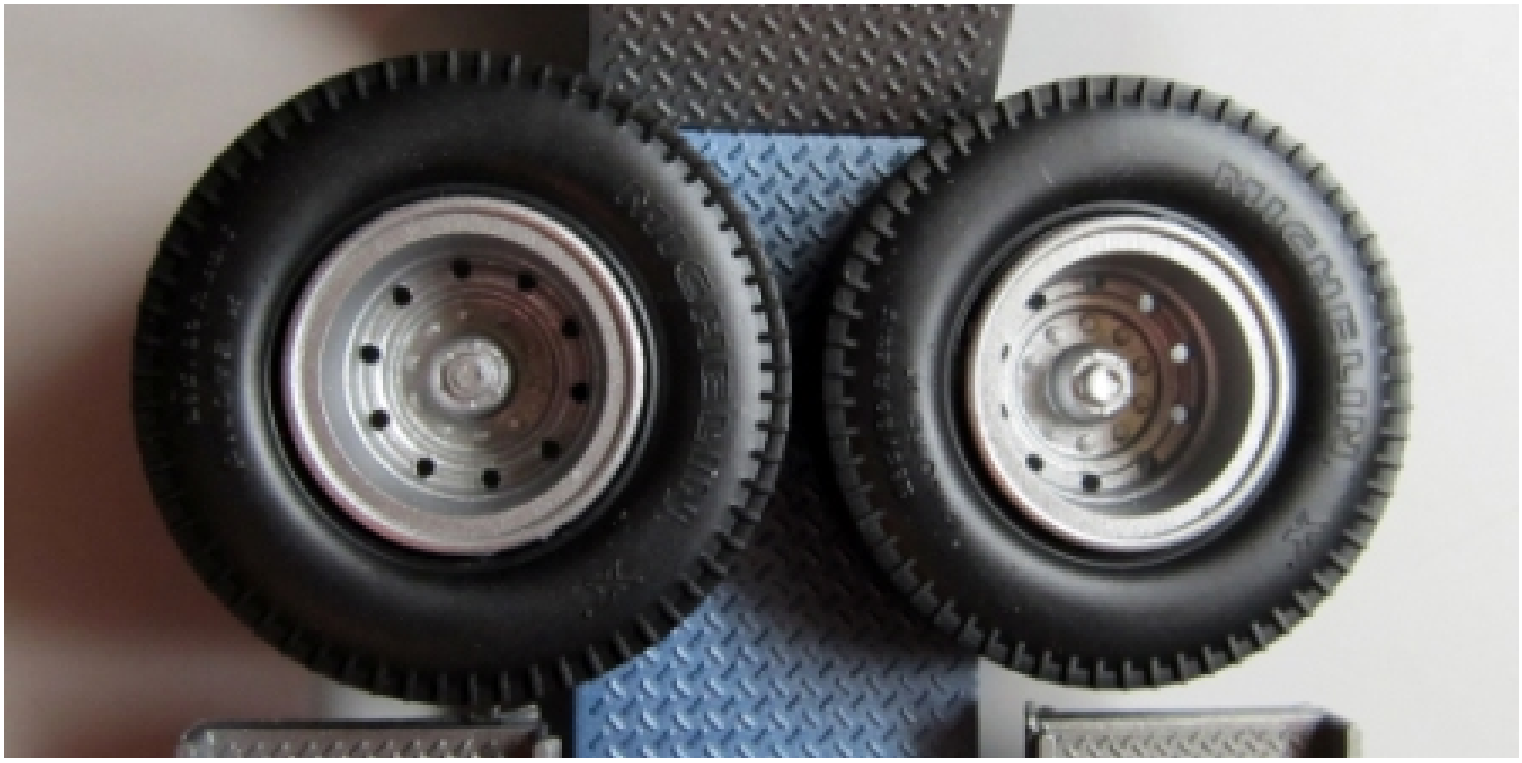
out without handling previously laid decals will be. I try either a Front to Back or Top to Bottom approach doing one side at a time then the front and rear of the car in steps giving the decals time to set and dry in place before handling it again. Once you have a plan of action cut your first decal as close to the edge of the outermost color as possible. Once trimmed place the decal into warm water and let it get soft until it “Floats” loosely on the carrier paper. Microscale Industries has a product set called Micro-Set and Micro-Sol. The purpose is to soften the decals to help them conform to the contours of the body and lay smooth. To apply Micro Set, use a soft brush and apply Micro Set to the part where you are going to apply the decal. Next apply the decal as normal. Use a small pointed tip synthetic bristle brush and carefully position the decal. Blot the decal carefully with a Q-tip or paper towel so as not to move it and allow it to dry. For a tougher decals apply Micro-Sol with a small flat brush on to the decal. Apply with as few strokes as possible so as not to disturb the decal. As the decal dries slowly work any creases or blemishes in the decal out with a Q-tip or damp paper towel. Work slowly as not to damage the decal. A second coat of Micro-Sol can be added if needed. Now continue this process until all the decals for that area are done, wait for them to set and continue the rest of the decals.



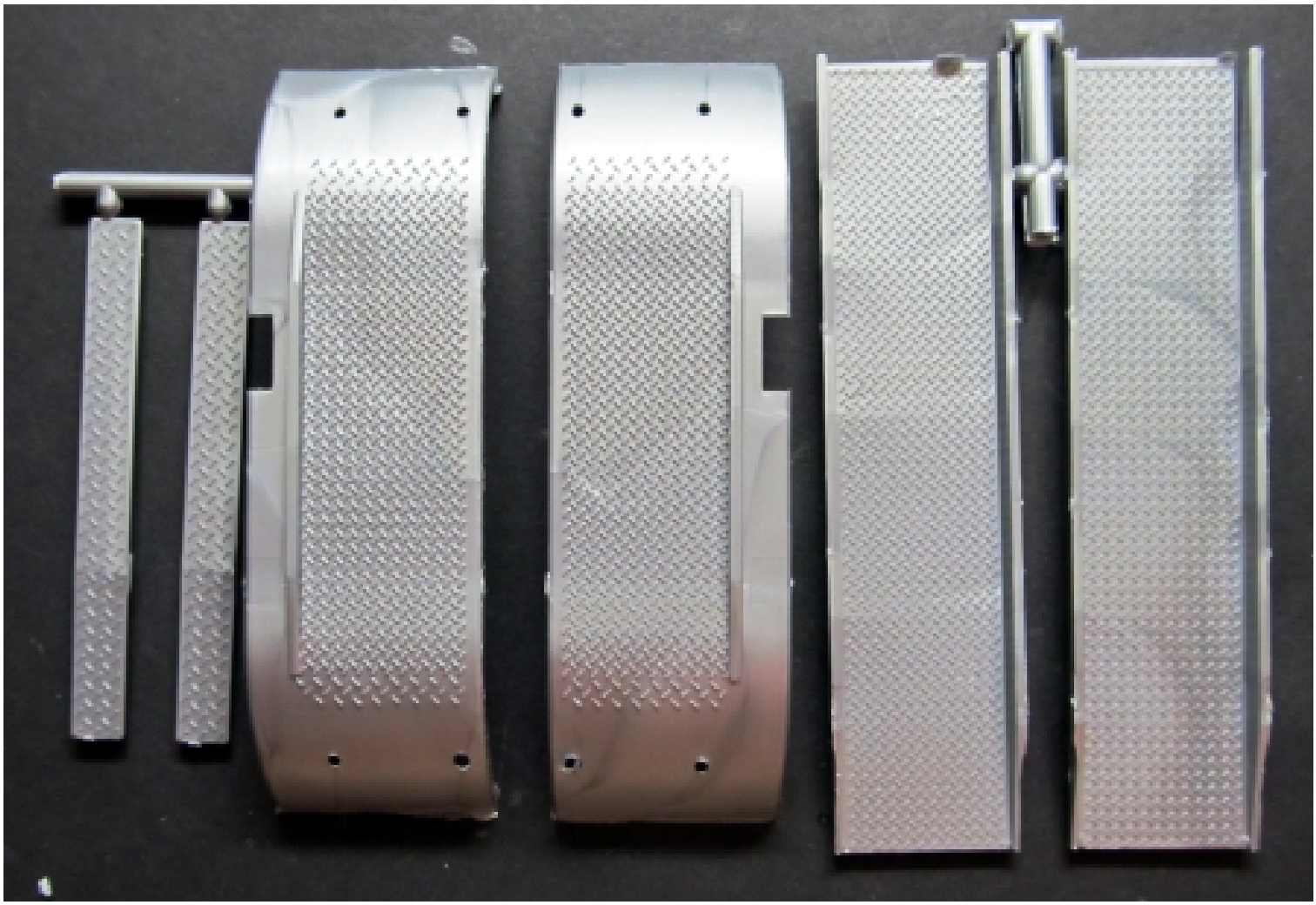
PIC 9 The next step requires installing the spare tires onto the frame. As the rims are all Aluminum I will paint the whole set for all the wheels at once.



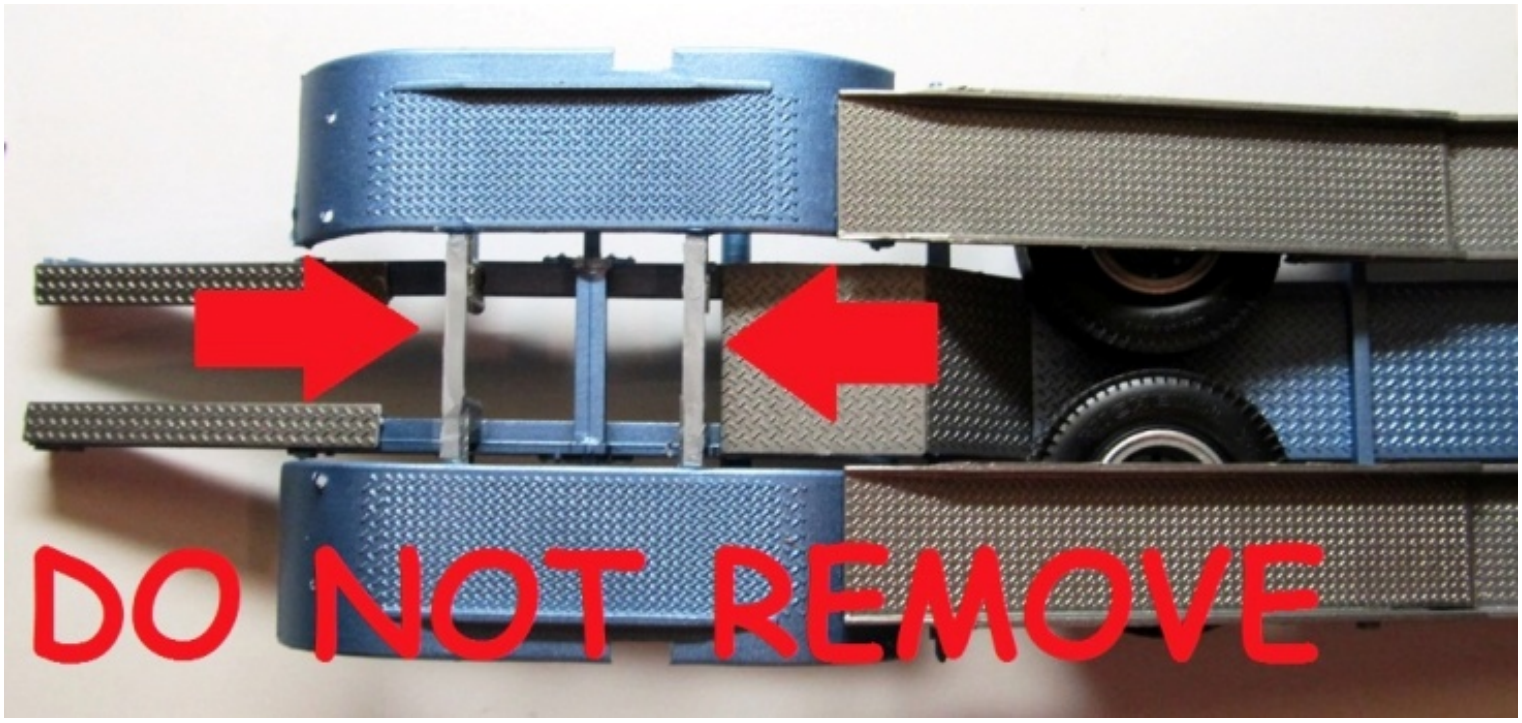
PIC 10 PIC 11 There are two spares that have a rim and back ring. Install the rim and back ring into either side of the tire as the tires are non-directional and have the printing on both sides.



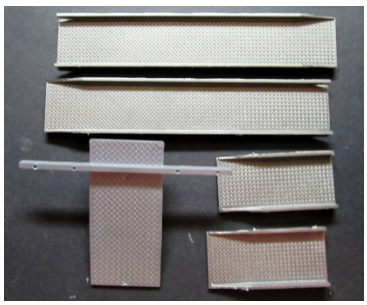
PIC 12 Install the tires in place on the trailer frame.



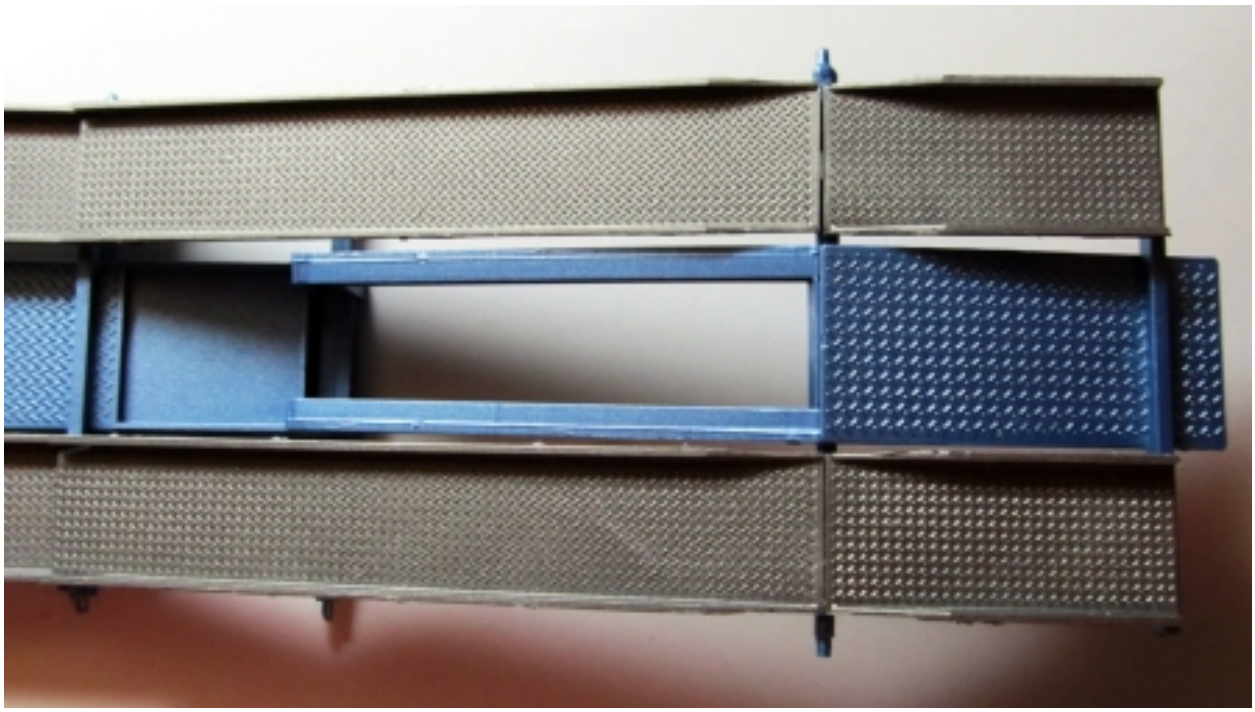
PIC 13 The fenders and ramps are installed next. Paint the fenders Frame color and the ramps Steel. Install the rear frame covers. Install the fenders. Install the ramps from the fenders to the lower middle ramp.



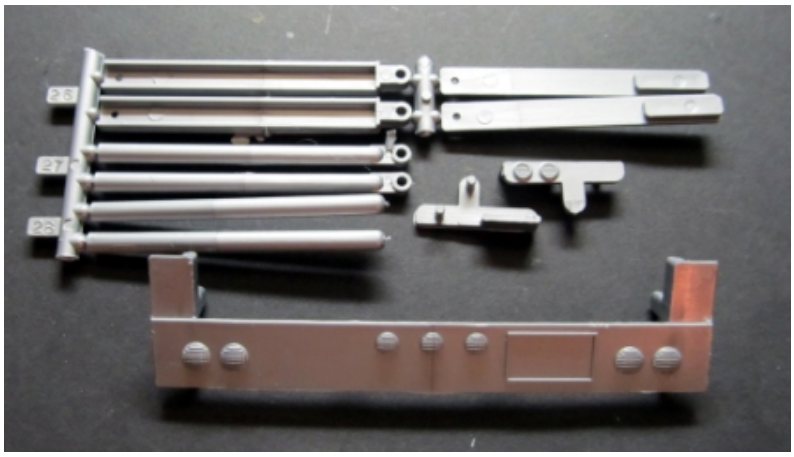
PIC 14 **NOTE**: There are braces in between the fenders that should STAY ATTACHED. The way they attach to the sprue makes it look like they are to be removed. **DO NOT CUT OFF THE CENTER BRACES**! I did and had to repair the fenders.



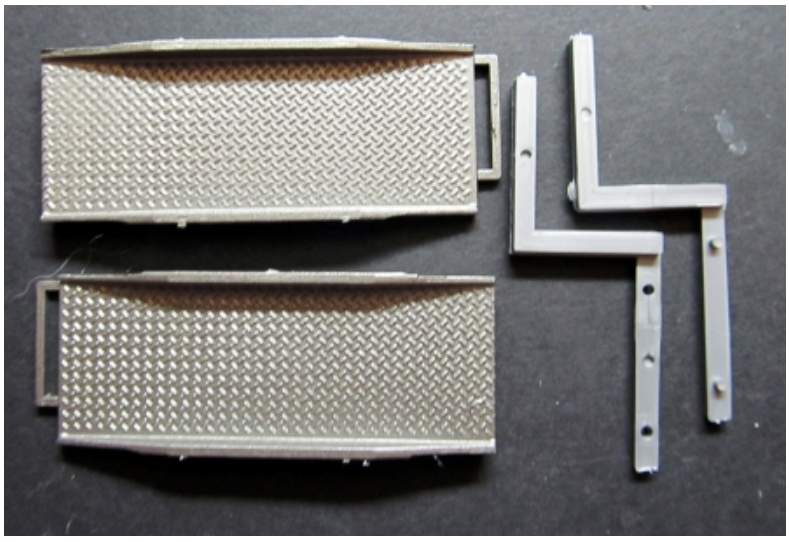
PIC 15 The front ramps are installed next. The ramps are Steel and the center plate with the kingpin is Frame Color.

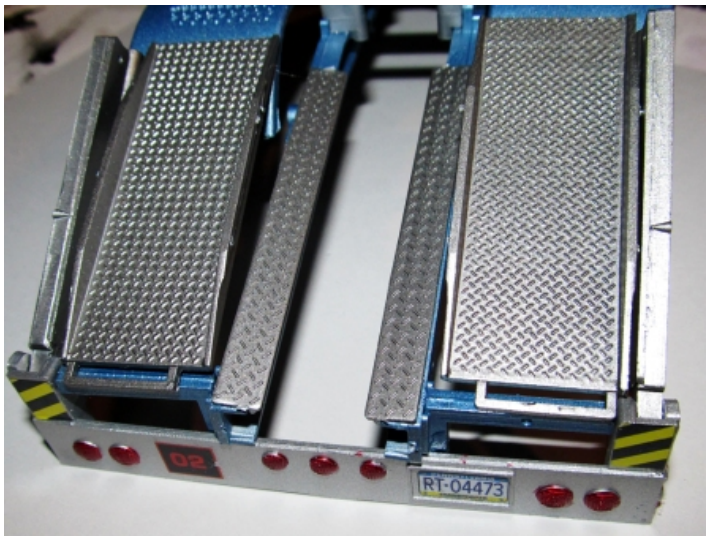


PIC 16 Install the center plate on to the frame. Add the long ramps from the center plate to the lower middle ramp. Add the front ramps in place.

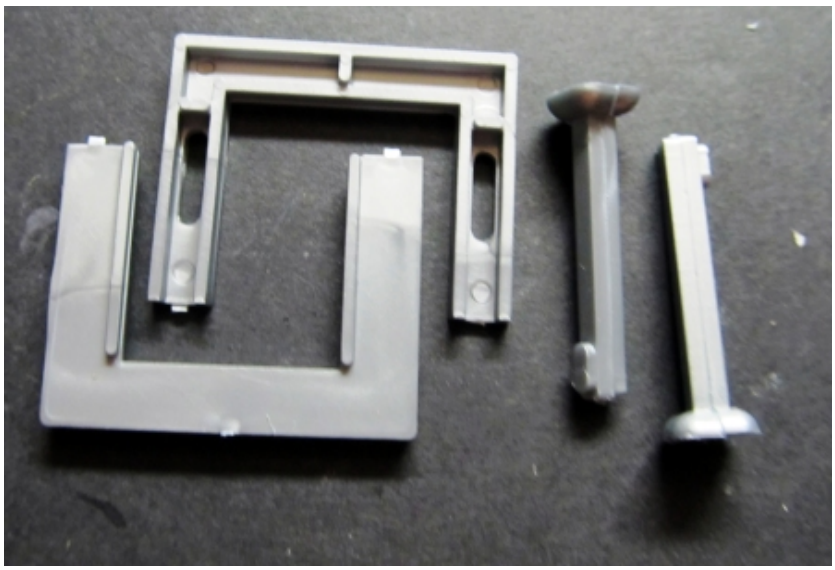


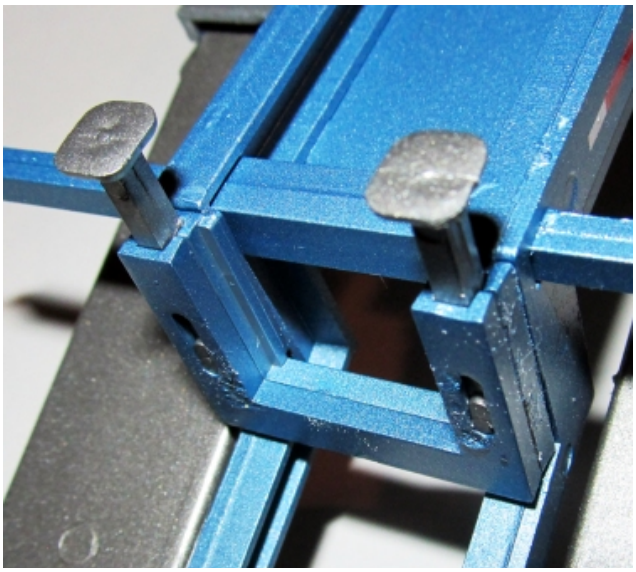
PIC 17 PIC 18 The rear of the trailer is assembled now. Assemble the four hydraulic rams and paint them Steel. The rear panel and side panels are Aluminum. On the rear and side panels all of the tail lights and marker lights are Stop Light Red. Add DECALS 4, 6 and 7 in place on the rear panel. DECALS 2 and 3 go on each of the square rams on the outer side. Install a ram on each pin of the side panels, Round ones on the lower pin. Mount the side panels in place on the rear panel.



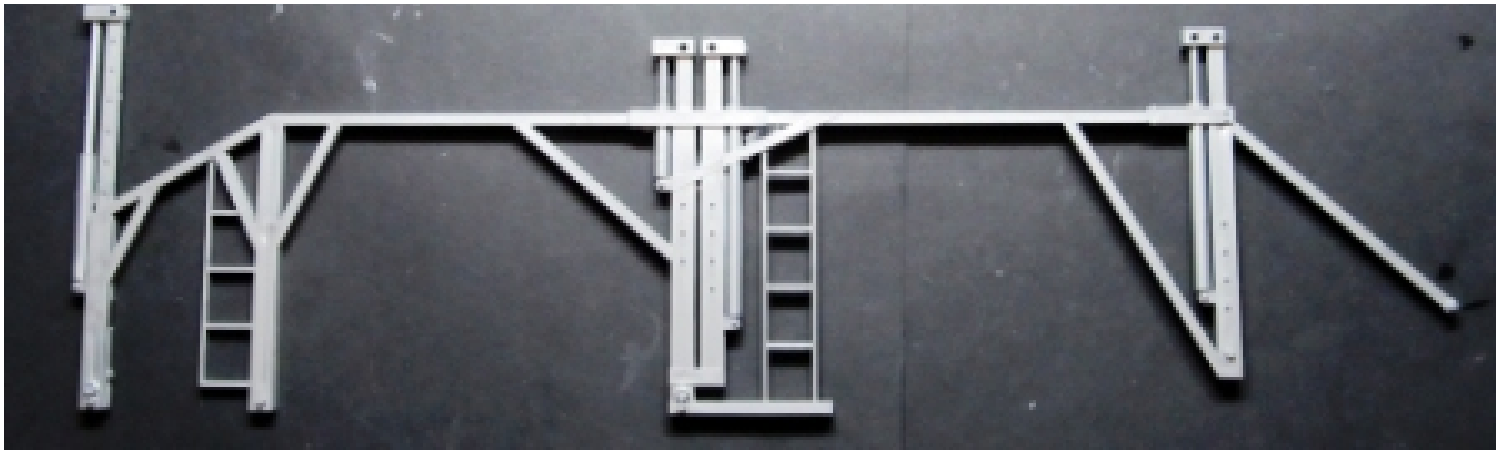


PIC 19 PIC 20 The rear ramps and rear panel assembly is attached to the frame. Assemble the rear brace and paint it Frame Color. The ramps are Steel. Install the brace and then the rear panel on to it. Add the ramps from the fenders to the brace.

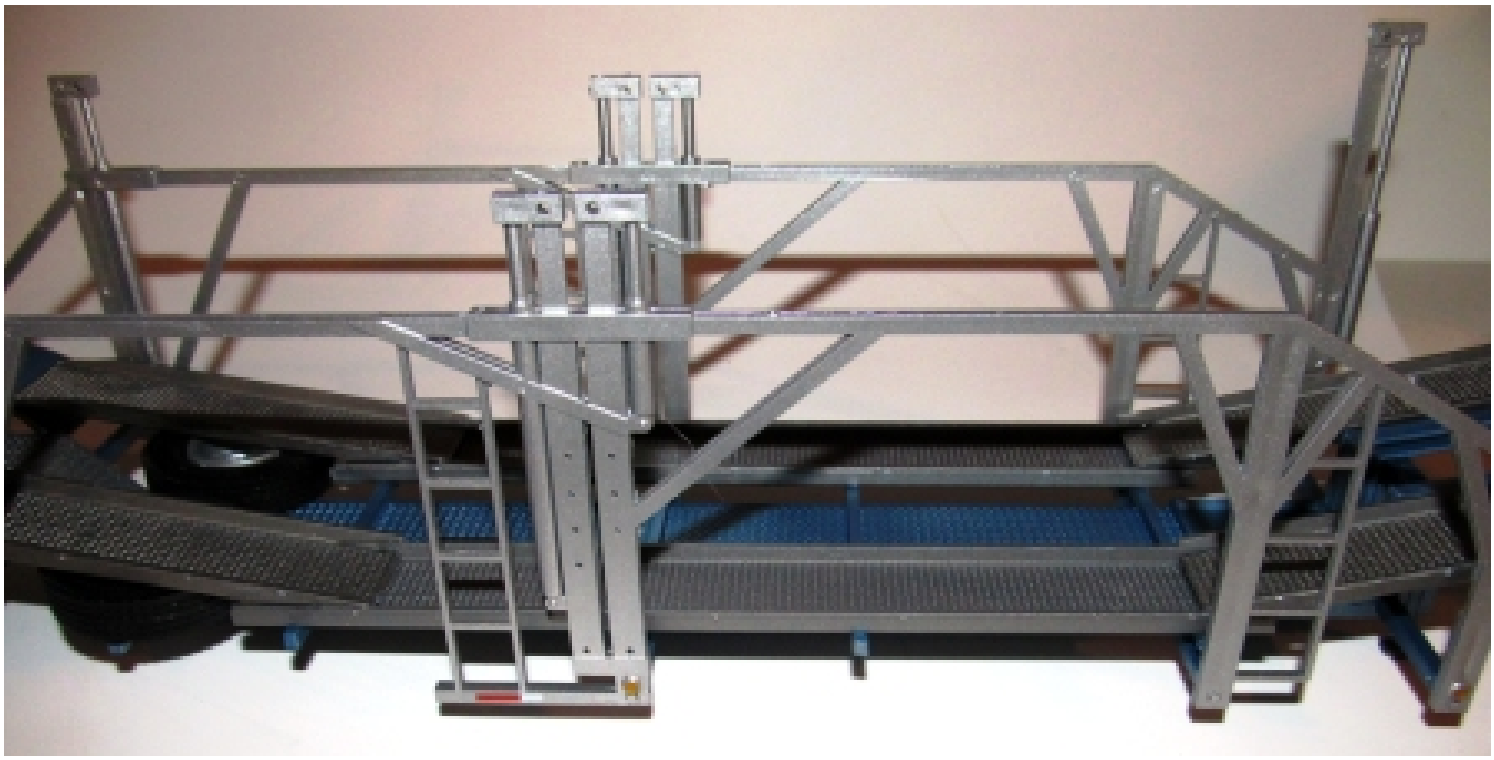




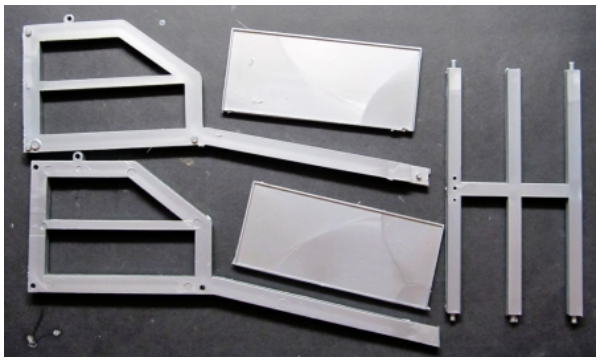
PIC 21 PIC 22 The landing gear legs are Steel with the gear housing painted Frame color. Install the gear with the tab so it slides freely in the housing and assemble the housing halves. Add the completed unit to the frame.



PIC 23 The side structures are painted Aluminum, there are two.

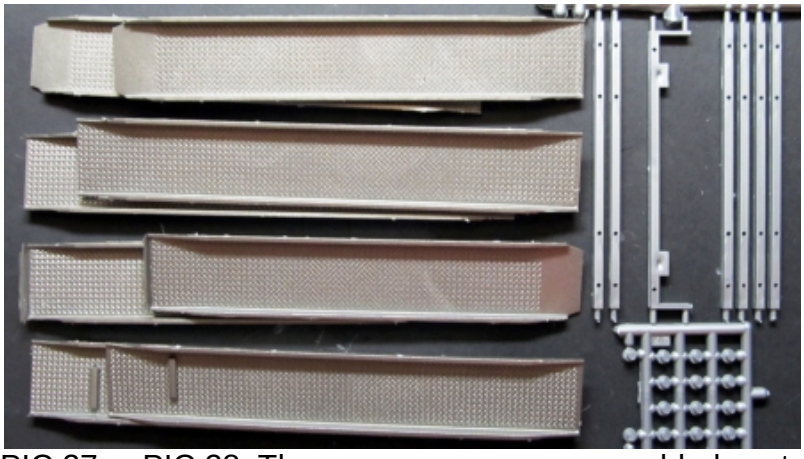


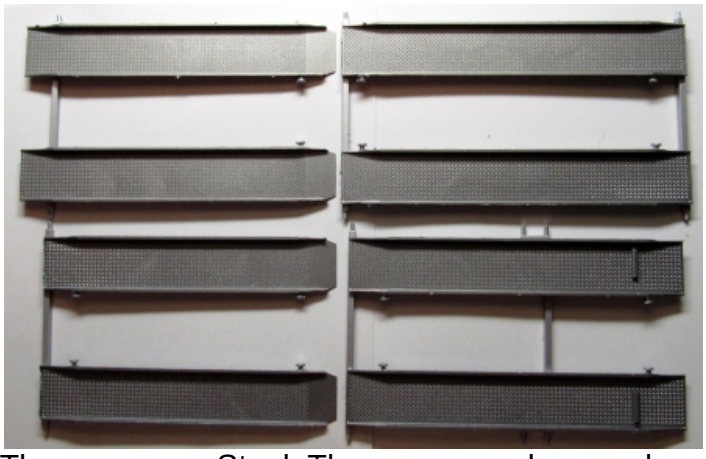
PIC 24 On the bottom of the structures there are two marker lights to paint Turn Signal Yellow. Add DECAL 8 to the bottom frame under the ladder on each side. Install the sides in place on the frame.



PIC 25 The front structure is assembled using the two sides and front panel. Add he sign panels to the sides and paint this unit Aluminum.

PIC 26 Add DECALS 1 to each sign and 3 DECAL 8s to each side. Paint the front markers Turn Signal Yellow. This completed unit is mounted on the frame and side structures.

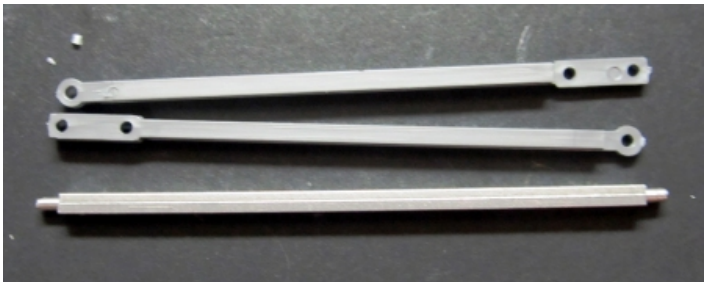


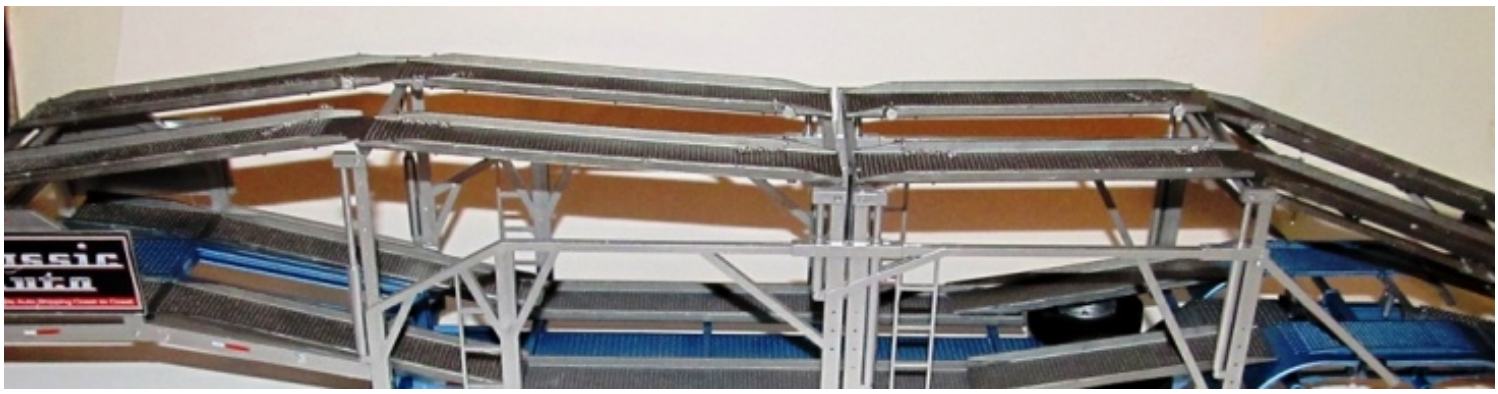


PIC 27 PIC 28 The upper ramps are assembled next. The ramps are Steel. The cross members and chain mounts are Aluminum. The ramps are paired and are assembled in pairs. Add the cross members in place and the chain mounts on the inside of the ramps. There are five cross members and 14 mounts.

PIC 29 PIC 30 Use the included chain and you provide thread to create tie down chains. Cut the chain into 14 equal lengths. Wrap the chain around a chain mount and tie it with thread. Place the chain on the ramp loosely. The chain is cut roughly at 1-5/8” lengths.

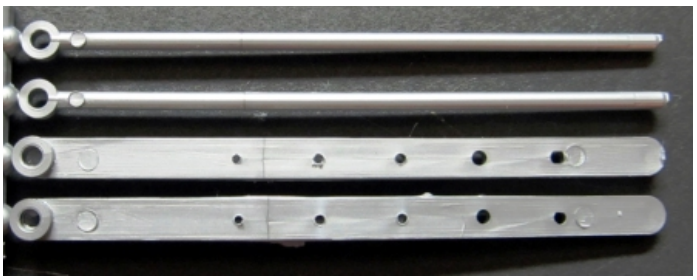
PIC 31 The upper ramps will be installed now.

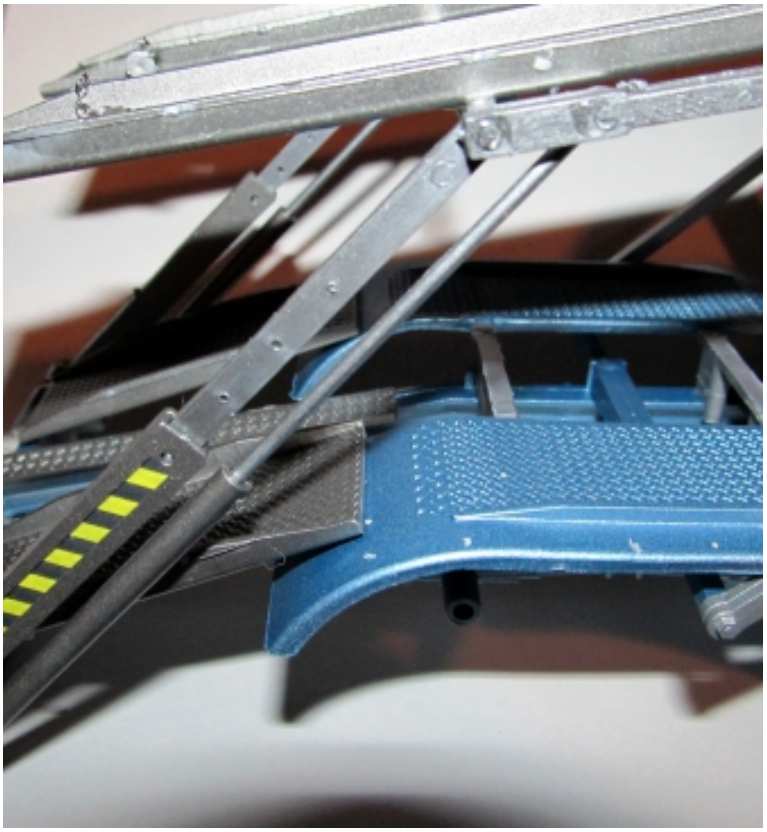




PIC 32 There is one cross member to add in the frame for the “C” set of ramps. On the “D” set of ramps add the hydraulic lock shafts. Install the ramps in order A-B-C-D from front to back on the top frame. The cross members have pins that slide into place.

PIC 33 Paint the rear hydraulic rams Steel and insert them into the hydraulic tubes in the rear.



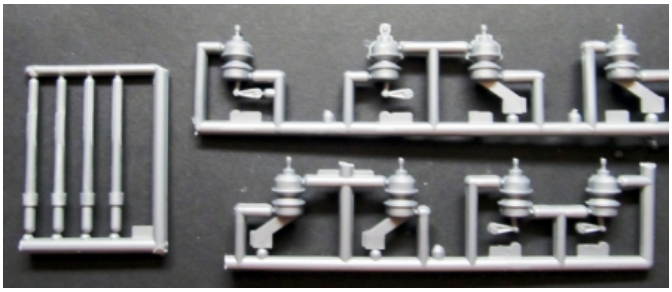


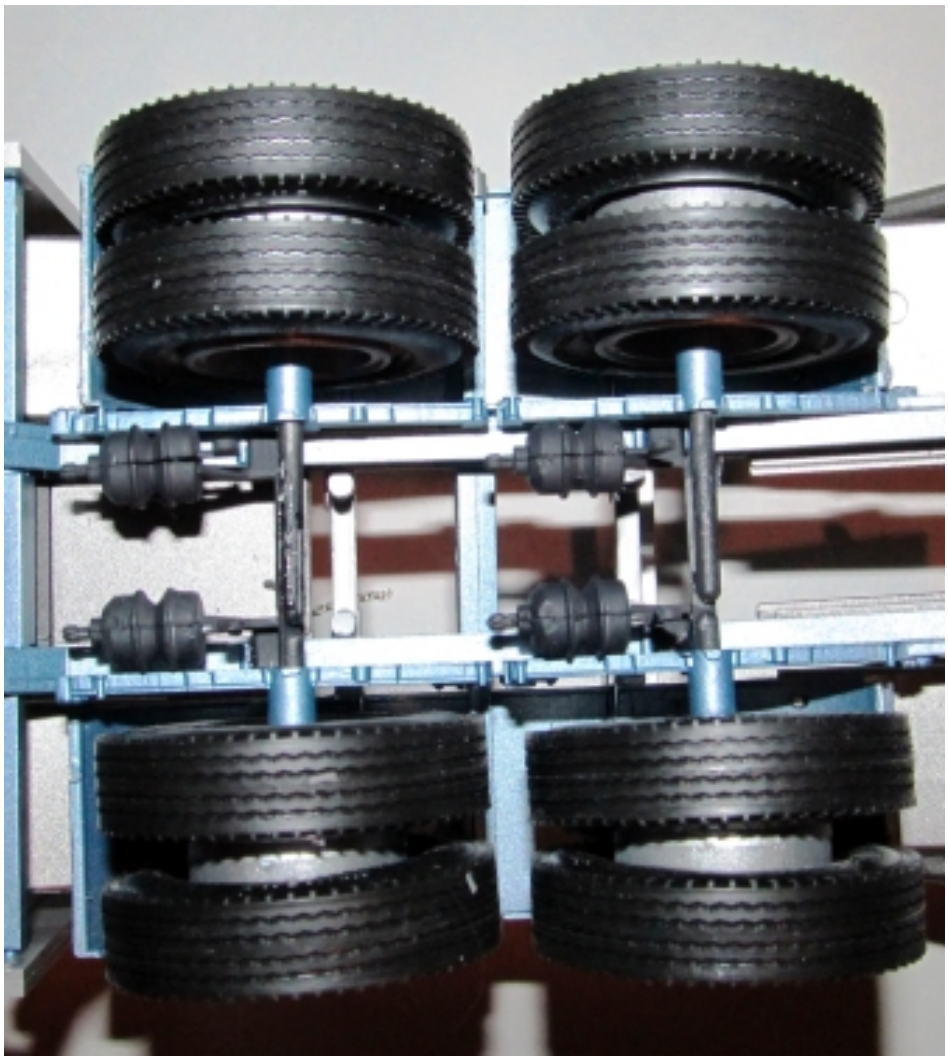
PIC 34 Attach each side to the ramp and mount the lock bar in place while leaving the rams unglued to lift and lower the ramp.

NOTE: For ease of assembly I have reversed the build order of the tires and brakes/axles.

PIC 35 PIC 36 The tires can be assembled. The rims were painted Aluminum. Insert a rear and front rim into a tire. Glue the inside ring of the rims to a separator ring. The tires are left loose to spin on the rim. Do all four sets.

PIC 37 Assemble the brake units and paint those and the axles Flat Black.

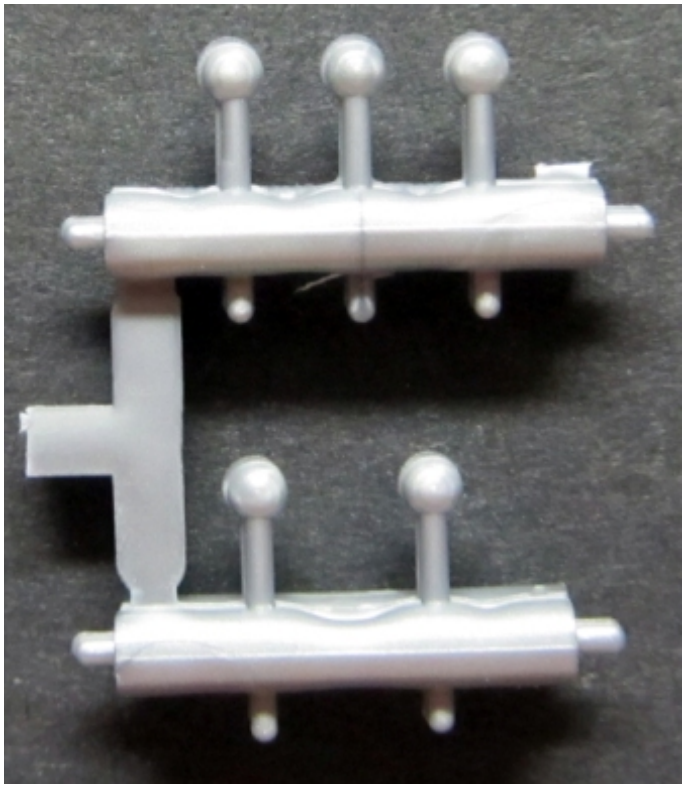


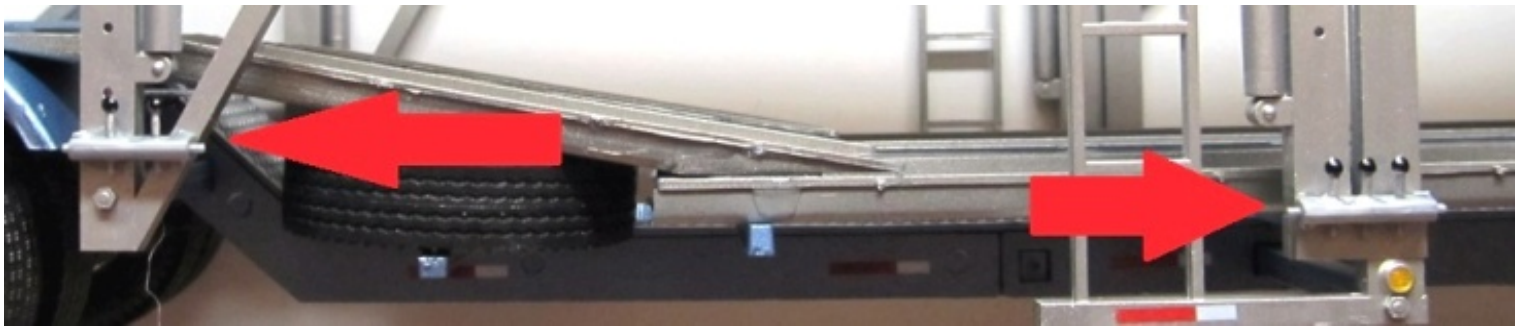


PIC 38 Attach a brake unit to each location on the frame. Insert an axle into each rim back. Slide the axles into each hole in the leaf springs and line up the axles to attach them to each other. Glue the axles together.

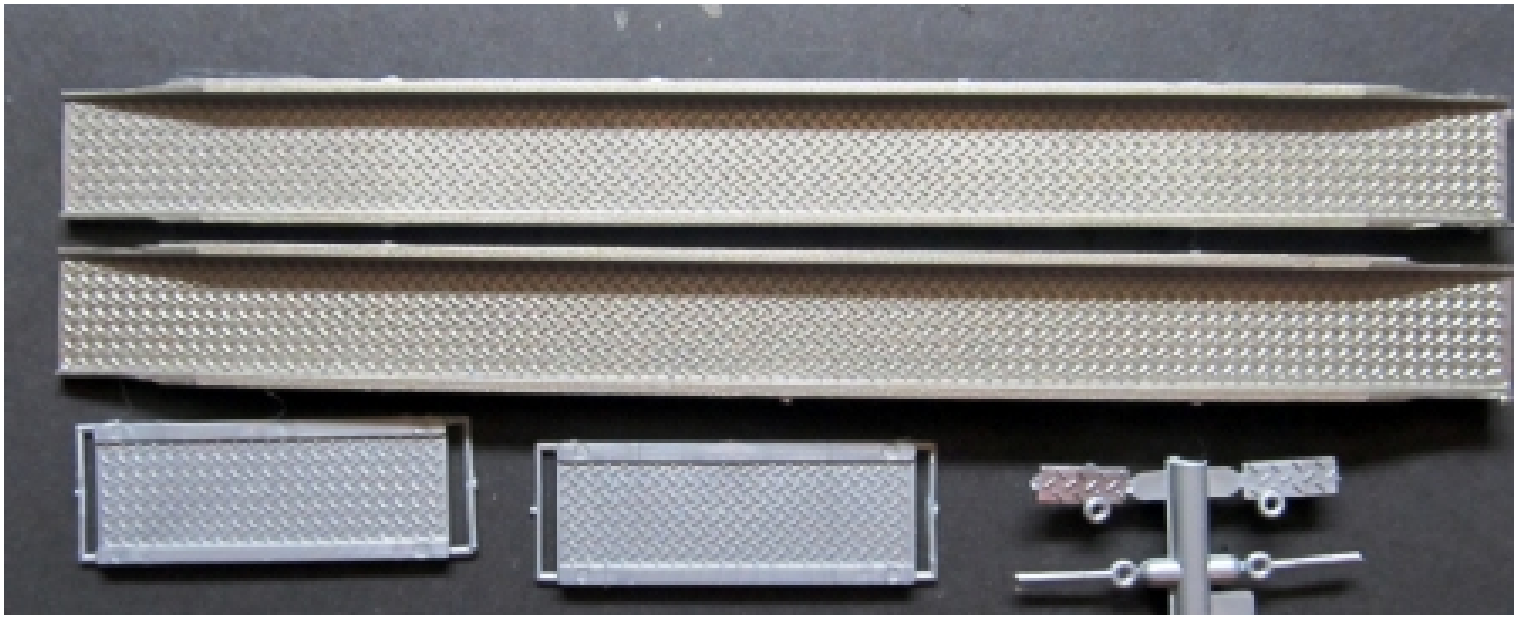
NOTE: The tires were left loose on the rims so you can now spin and align them on the rims so they are straight. As can be seen during assembly they will move and be misaligned.

PIC 39 Install the control levers with Superglue



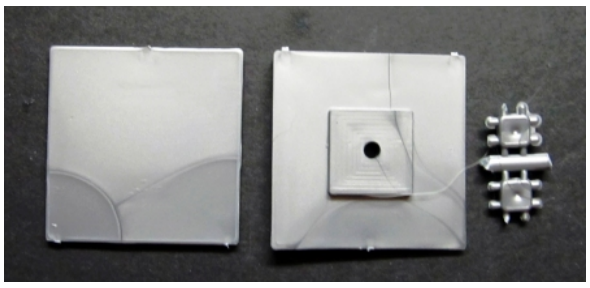


PIC 40 . The knobs are Black the rest Aluminum.

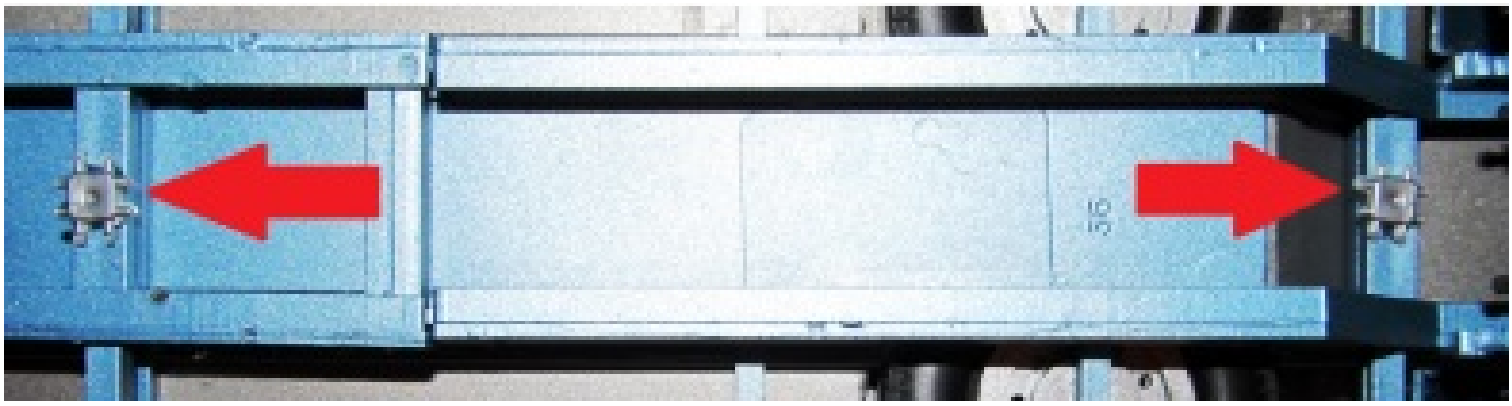


PIC 41 The rear ramps are installed. The ramps are Steel as are the steps and pins.

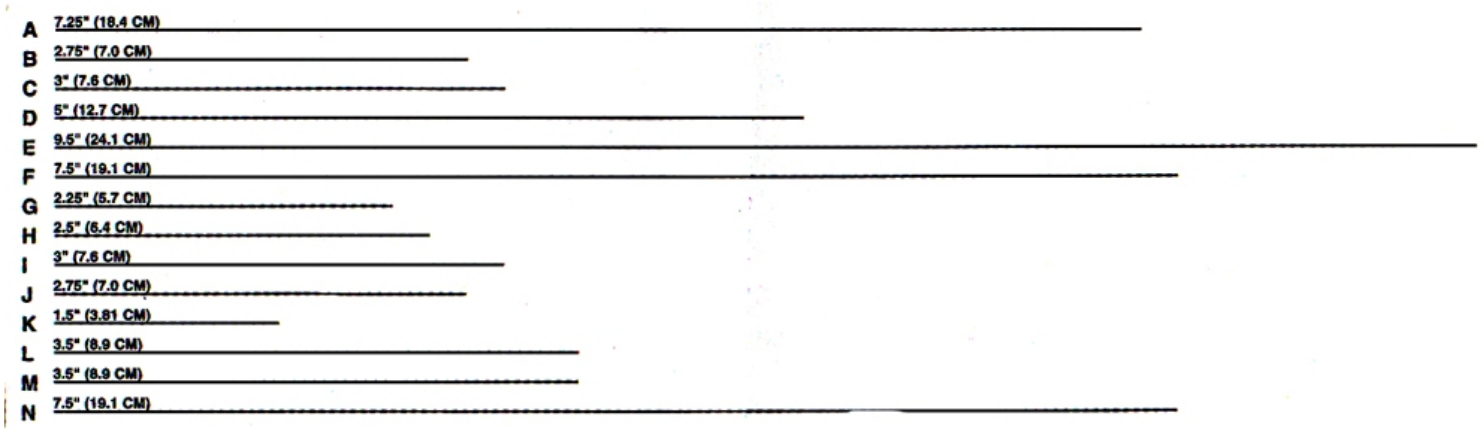
PIC 42 The instructions have you use chain to connect the pin and step. I used Silver Craft Wire instead as the chain looked too big. Mount the steps and slide the pin into the hole in the lock bar. Install the upper end ramps into ramp D. The bottom ramps are left loose as they are for driving cars onto the trailer.



PIC 43 Paint the kingpin and frame covers Frame color and install on the front of the frame.

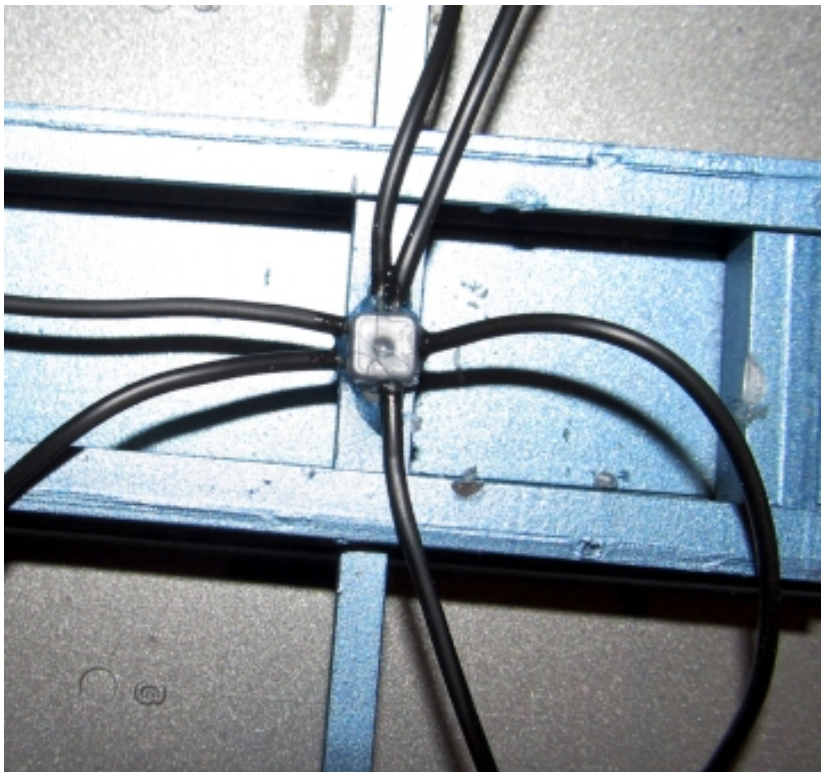


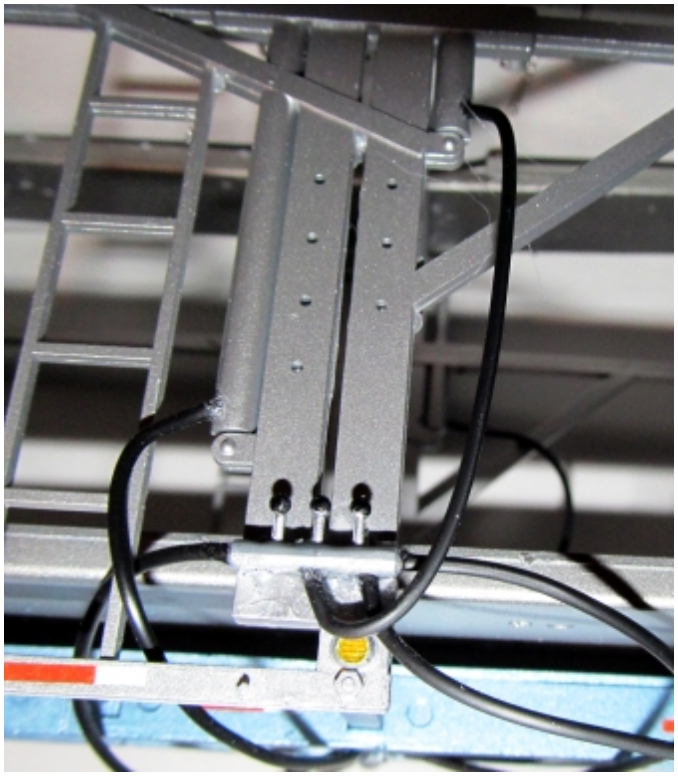
PIC 44 Paint the hydraulic transfer boxes Aluminum and install on the underside.



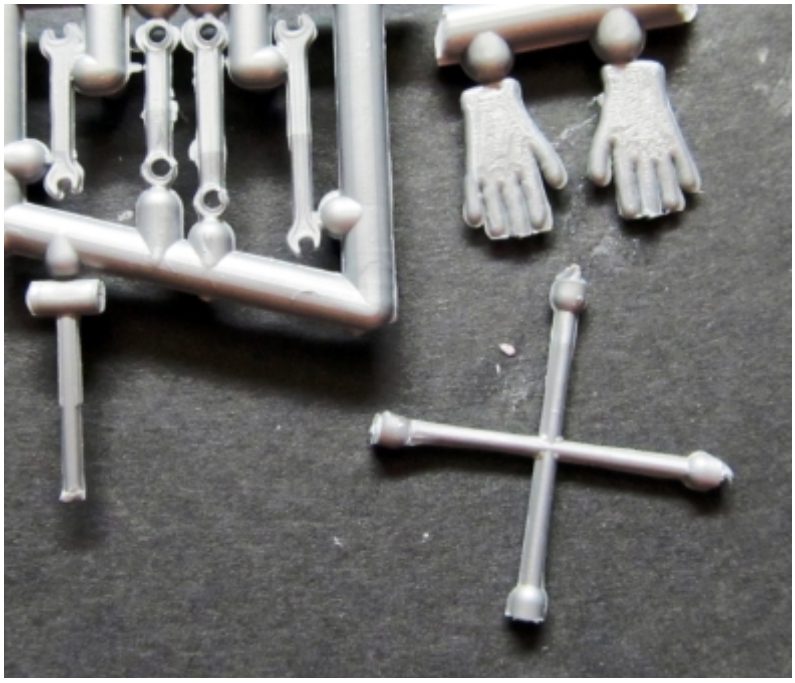
PIC 45 There is a Hydraulic Hose template in the instruction sheet. Cut the hoses to length and install in the locations noted in the instructions. All the dimensions are on the template too if you wish to use a ruler instead.

PIC 46 There are TWO problems running the hydraulic lines. Problem ONE is there are no pins on any of the rams to attach the hoses to. My solution was to use a fine craft wire that fit tightly in the hose and drill a small hole in each ram on the trailer. I can now Superglue a small piece of wire to create an attachment point. Problem TWO is the junction box pins are way too big for the hose, so I cut them off flush and drilled out the locations and pinned them also. I can now easily run the hydraulics without issue.

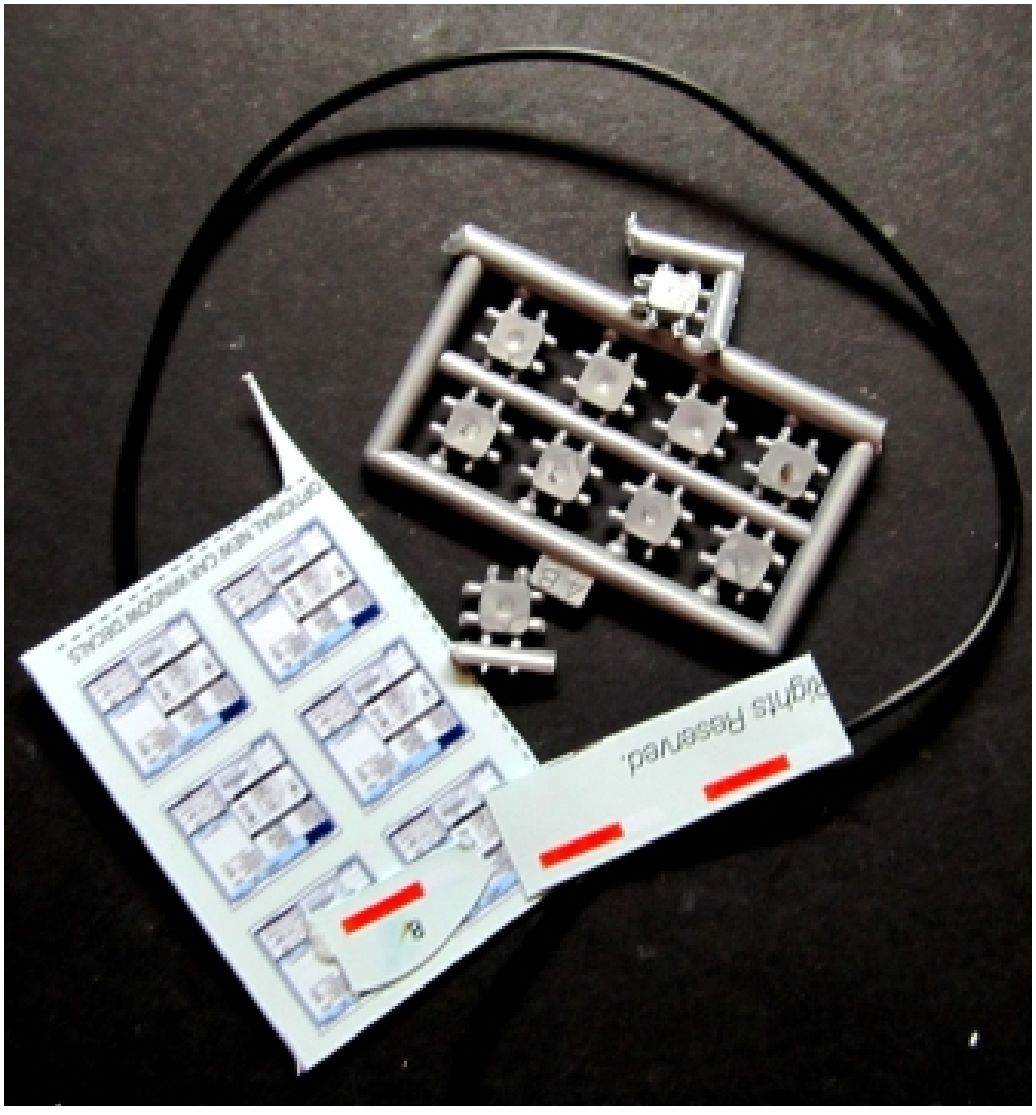




PIC 47 PIC 48 Starting with Hose “A” I will cut each one and attach them in order. Do one hose at a time as not to get confused or misplace them. Once completed all the hoses will be installed.



PIC 49 PIC 50 The final step is adding the accessory tools. Paint the wrenches Silver, the tire tool Steel, the gloves Yellow and the hammer Brown and Black. Set all of the tools in the tray on the trailer floor.



PIC 51 The only remaining parts are excess hydraulic valves and decals for New Car Windows.

The tractor and cars are for demonstration only and are ***NOT INCLUDED*** with this kit!

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS: This trailer has been around for a while and is still quite popular. As it is representative of auto transporters still in use now it is a nice item to add with any of Revell's recent release big rigs. The Peterbilt 359 and Kenworth W900 would both pair well with this trailer. And you can actually use this to display up to six of your built cars. At two feet in length this will take up a bit of shelf space but is a great build. Assembly is straightforward and part fit is very nice. I did not have any issues with warping or misfit parts. There is minor flash here and there but not severe. The biggest issue with assembly is the excessive sprue joins and some of them are thick. Otherwise, the only issue to mention is you must create your own pin system to use the hydraulic hoses. That is a normal problem with many of the kits that use tubing for hoses or hydraulics. It seems most of the time the pins are too fat for the tubing OR there are no pins where needed. It is a simple fix and one any moderate skill level builder should be able to accomplish. The final build is quite nice and this is easily a contest build trailer with some cars on it and a nice rig to pull it. Overall I give this build a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. A fairly easy assembly and a nice looking shelf model.

PREMIUM MODEL REVIEWS

ROR

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