



Mack Trucks, Inc., is an American truck–manufacturing company and a former manufacturer of buses and trolley buses. Founded in 1900 as the Mack Brothers Company, it manufactured its first truck in 1907 and adopted its present name in 1922. Mack Trucks is a subsidiary of AB Volvo which purchased Mack along with Renault Trucks in 2000. Mack started to produce the R, RW, and U models in 1966 for highway use, and the RD, DM, and all-wheel drive RM and DMM Models for construction use. The lightweight RL model followed in 1967, the RW Superliner with a large, rectangular hood and grill in 1977, and the setback front axle RB in the 1990s. All these models featured the same cab; the U, DM, and DMM had the cab offset to the left. In the 1990s, the R, RW, and U Models were discontinued and the RB was introduced, mostly for severe-duty applications. The hood was modified slightly for the model RB. 2004 was the last year for the RD, and 2006 for the RB and DM. The DM was the last model to use this cab style, and was the last model of this family to be produced.

For the modeler: This review covers the Re-release (Re-Pop) of the Mack DM600 Tractor by Round2 under the MPC brand. This is a Skill Level 3 kit and is in 1/25 scale. The kit contains over 275 parts molded in White, Black, Chrome, Clear and Clear Red. There are Vinyl tires and tubing. The kit itself has seen multiple releases since the original 1960's initial release. In fact this is the base kit used for the famous "Rubber Duck" kit although it is the wrong cab entirely as the real cab was an R series cab. (No Rubber Duck parts exist in this release). The DM series was a Construction use tractor and not an Over-the-road rig. Round2 included decals for Roadway Transportation but that company used U and R series trucks not DM, so the decals are incorrect. The overall construction is straight forward and the build goes together well. Take your time and test fit parts and part locations. The build starts with the chassis and works up the

rig from the bottom. The motor is nicely detailed but has many Chrome parts that need to be stripped and painted instead. Interior assembly is simple and as a day-cab only has just seats and a dash with the shifters. The cab is a one piece unit with a separate hood which helps in painting and all the Chrome parts go on after cab assembly which helps them to stay in place. You do get some options and this will build up to a nice construction truck. I removed much of the Chrome to replicate a more correct cheaper level rig as a Fleet vehicle would be lower end without all of the “Bling”. Overall Dimensions: Length: 10-1/4”, Width: 4”, Height: 5”.

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 build YOU want! Unless you are building a “Factory Stock” or a “Replica” your choices of color and build options are 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.

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 1 This is the box art for this kit as released in the Round2 Retro Deluxe 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. Many parts are 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 a half 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.



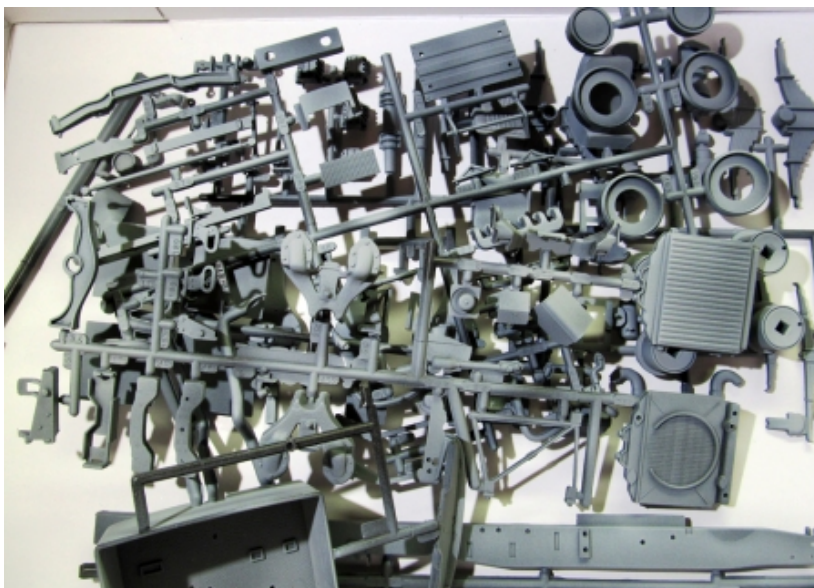
PIC 2 PIC 3 Here are the decals for this build. The quality is very high and color register is good. There is a small carrier around each decal. These decals float easily and will set quickly. Normally it is preferable to use a setting solution to help move the decals in place on your build and to allow 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 **OPTIONAL IDEA:** As I mentioned earlier, the decals for this build create an inaccurate road truck that would be an R or U model not a DM, so I have created my own decals to replicate a local company that does use Mack trucks and did use the DM versions in the 70's and 80's. The company is Standard Sand and Silica and the transport company is TranSystems, <http://www.standardsand.com/we-deliver/>. I remember all white fleet trucks with just the logo as a kid running the back roads of the area. This rig is a representation of my memory only not a direct replication. I will eventually pair it



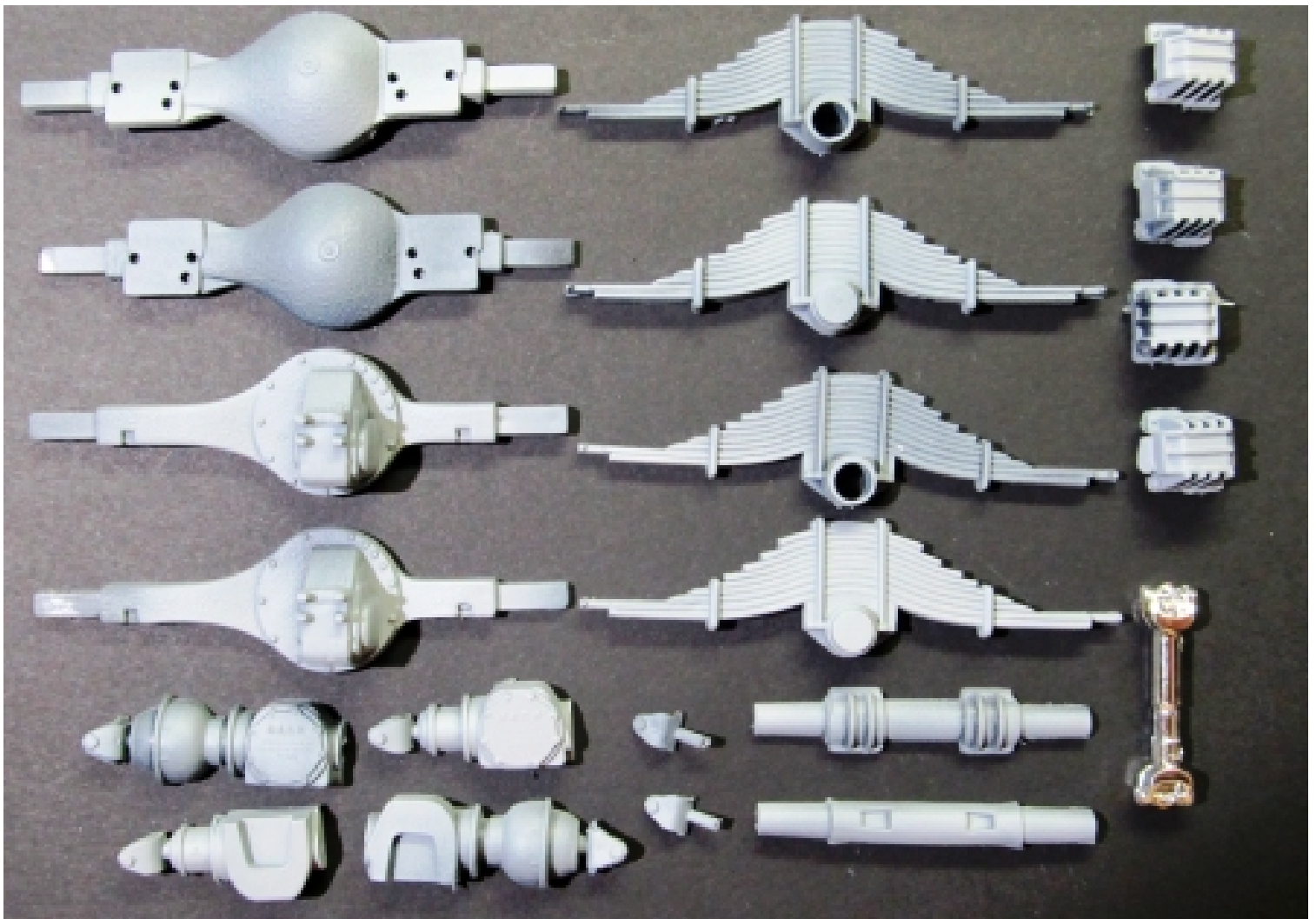
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with the Gravel Trailer Re-release from AMT in a future review. The decals are made with a photo program and images taken from the internet and also hand created. I sized them to fit. I printed them on Clear Decal paper at HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTO QUALITY and used Krylon Krystal Clear Rattle can for decal fixative. I then cut and use the decals as a normal waterslide decal. You can do this as well by doing a little research on similar setups or use the kit supplied graphics at your discretion.

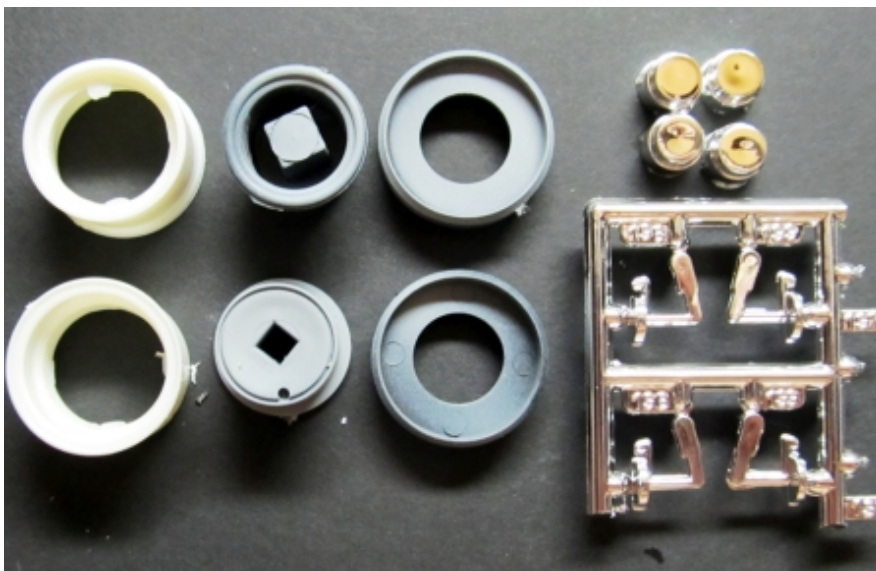


PIC 5 As the parts are molded in Black I decided to Primer them with a thin coat of Neutral Grey to make painting easier. This is not required but when painting lighter colors on the Black parts it will make painting much easier.

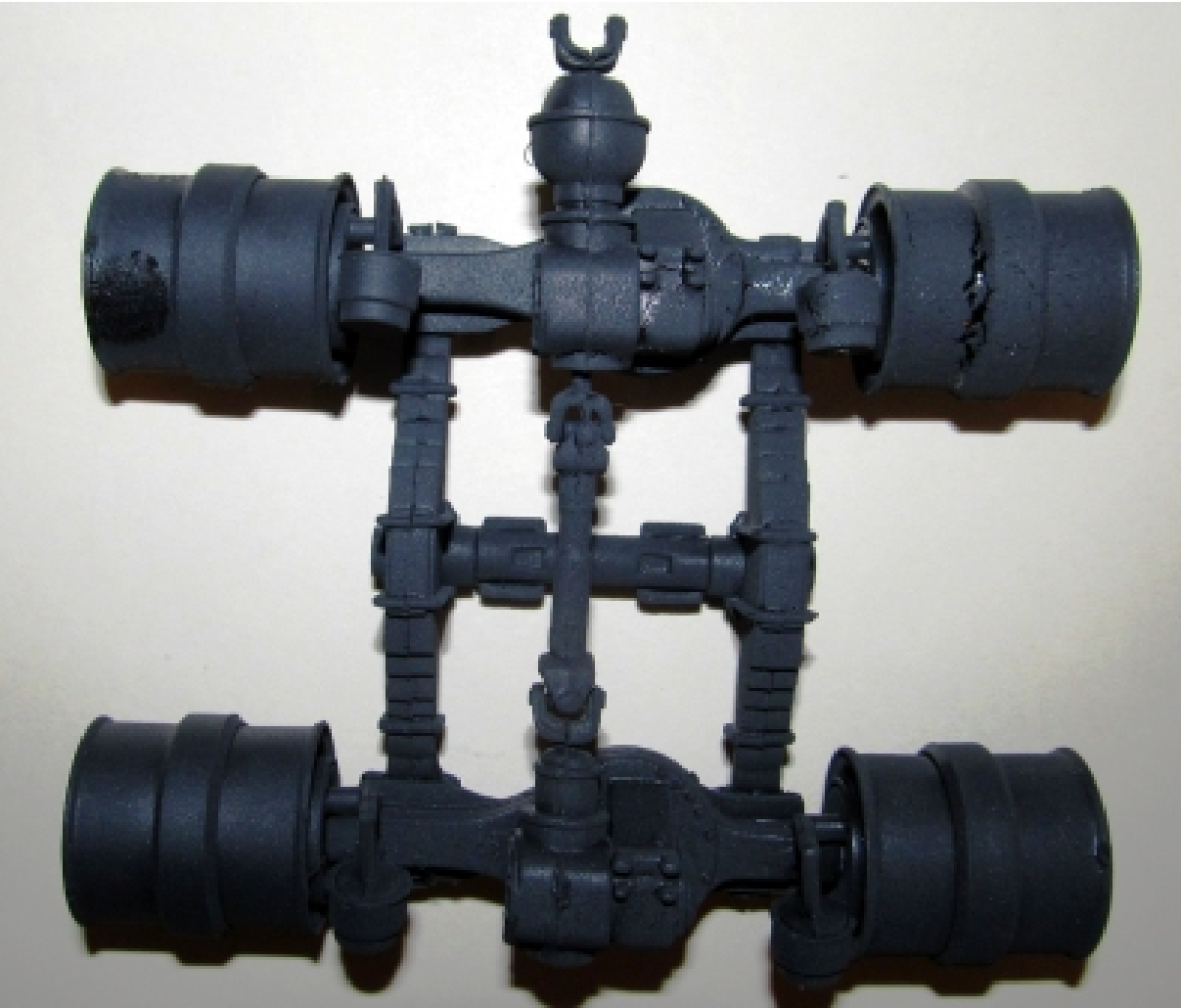
OPTIONAL NOTE: The rear suspension is built in a number of steps in the instructions but painted as a unit. Build Steps 1 through 4 except for adding the tires and paint the completed sub-assemblies. Then add the tires and complete the units.



PIC6 Start with the suspension and axles. Assemble the axle halves and the spring halves. Attach a spring to the axle with a retainer on both ends. Assemble and insert the cross bar without glue and attach the other spring. Assemble the transfer cases and attach them in the proper locations. Install the driveshaft with the U-joint with the SHORT pin.



PIC 7 PIC 8 Soak the air brake parts and the outer rims in Bleach to remove the chrome. Assemble the inner rims by inserting the hub into the rear rim, glue the mid-section (deep well out), add the outer rim. Assemble and install the air brakes. Install these four units onto the axles.



PIC 9 Paint the whole unit Flat Black.

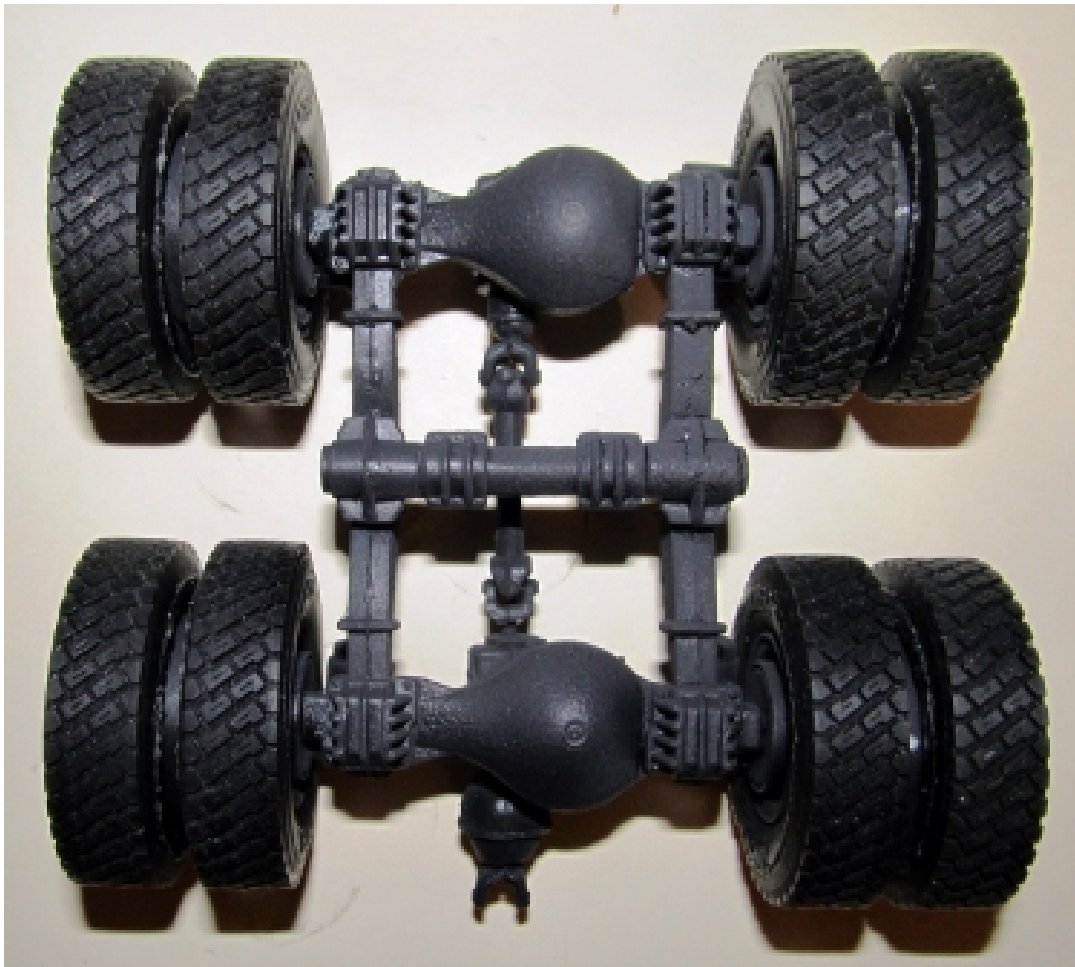


KIT



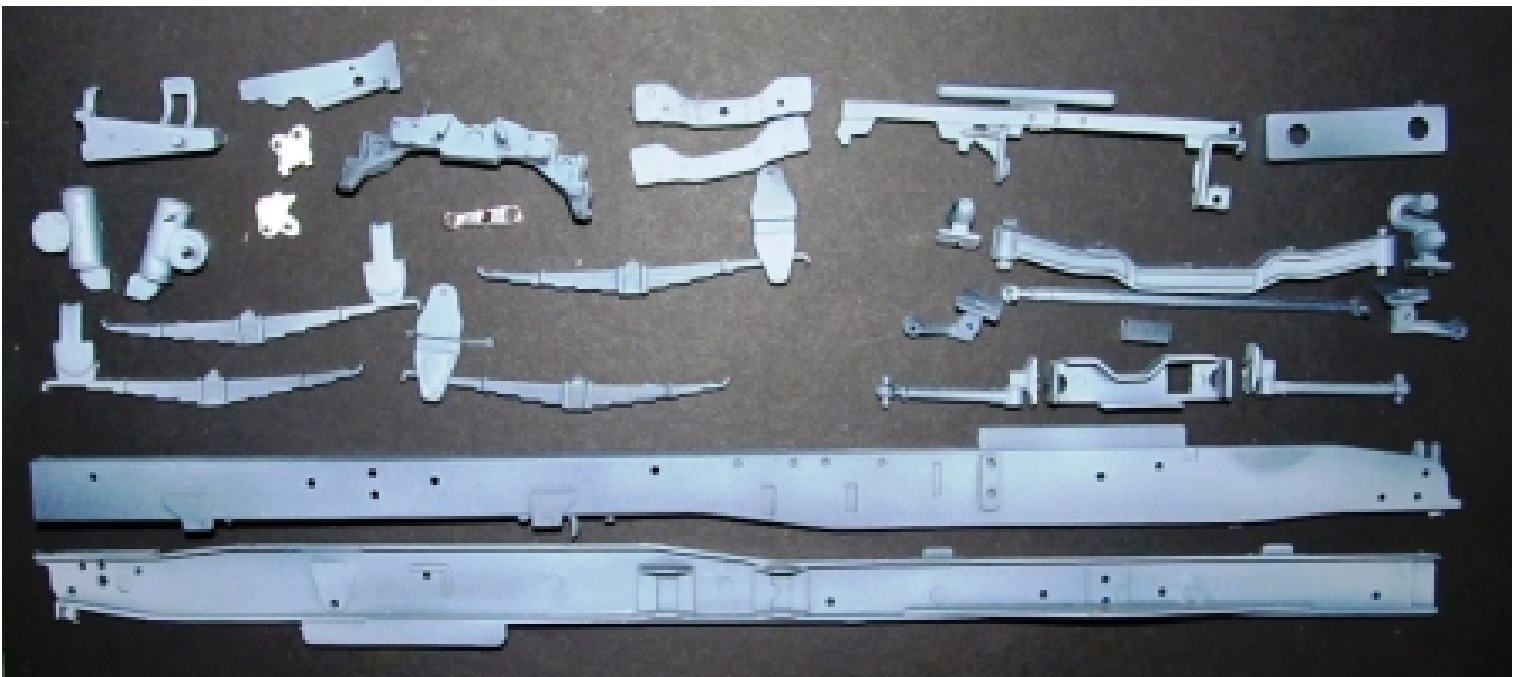
DOUBLE TAKE REPLICAS

PIC 10 PIC 11 The kit tires are strictly for Highway use. **OPTIONAL IDEA:** As I am building a vehicle that would be more for the use in a Sand Mine and some minor off road construction site use I wanted a more aggressive Drive tire. I used a product from Double Take Replicas of a Heavy Duty tire that is cast in a pliable rubber that is very high quality and quite realistic. There were no blemishes and the molds are crisp and clean with nice details. The turn-around of ordering was quick and I had my parts within a week and service and communication was very good. These are ready to use without any prep work beyond the basic mold release cleaning. Their products can be found at: <http://kdhumphr.wix.com/double-take-replicas>



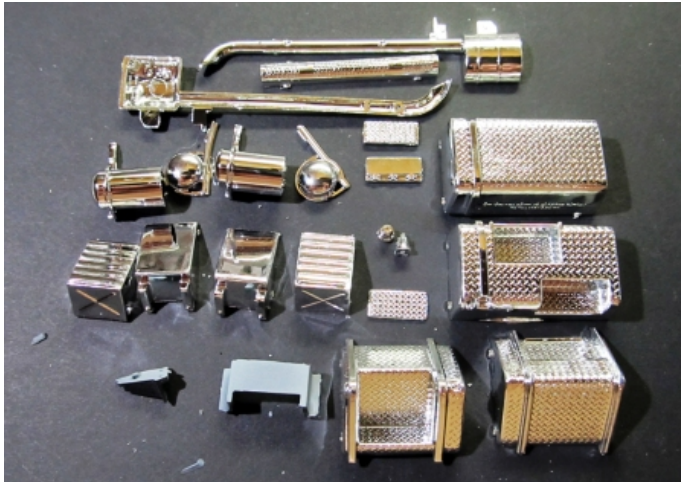
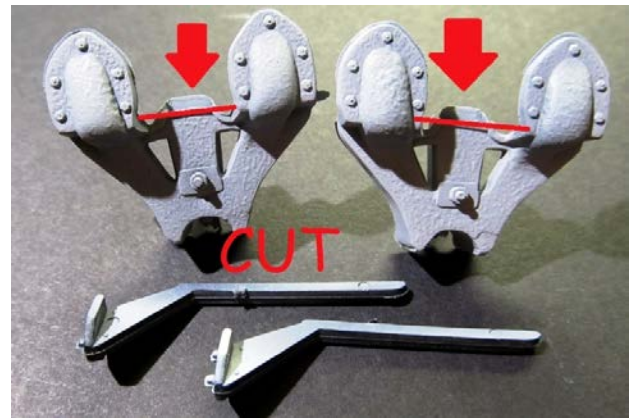
PIC 12 Slide the tires over the rims and into place. Add the chrome hub covers and the chrome cross bar end caps.

NOTE: The chassis assembly is Steps 5-11 in the instruction sheet and will be done prior to paint.



PIC 13 Prepare the parts for assembly of the chassis. The leaf springs are assembled, the steering box assembled. On the front suspension the spindles and tie rod is attached. The stabilizer bar is assembled.

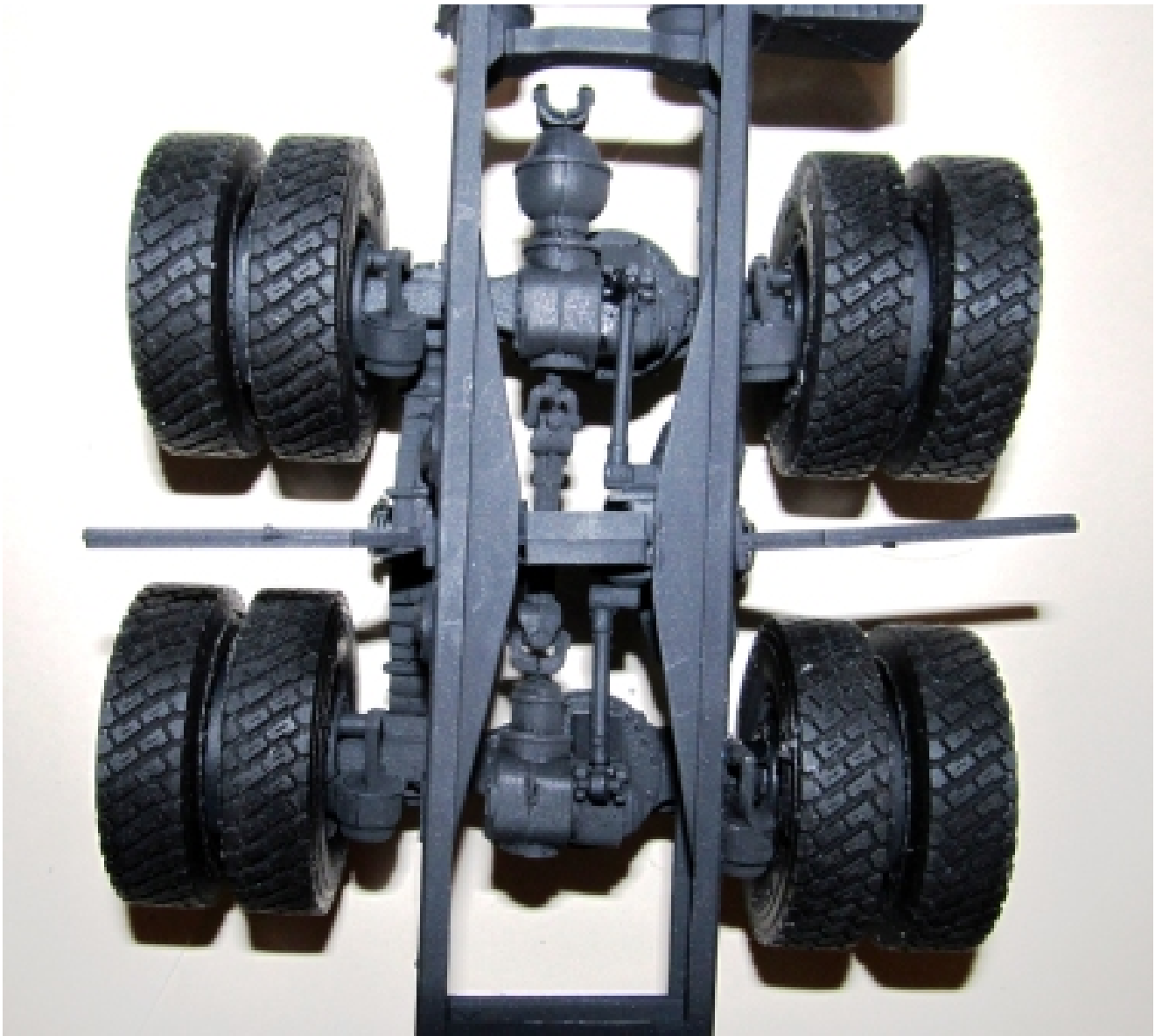
PIC 14 **NOTE:** Remove the tabs on the Trunnions prior to assembly.



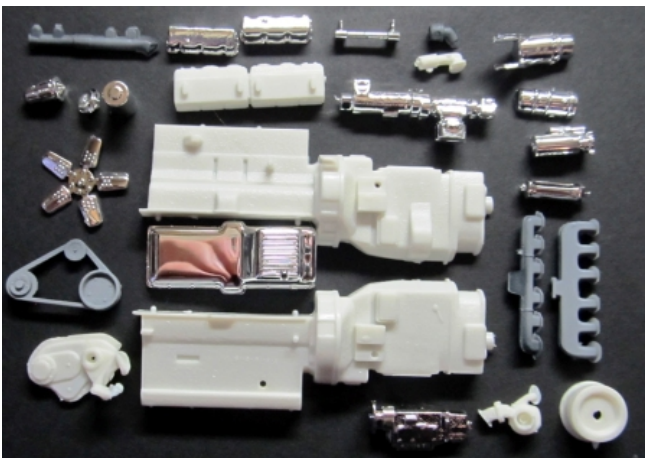
PIC 15 PIC 16 **OPTIONAL IDEA:** For authenticity remove the chrome from the tanks and exhaust by placing them in a bath of common household bleach. Assemble all of the parts to prepare them for final assembly and paint. On the chassis rails attach the tail bar, stabilizer bar, center supports, motor mounts, front motor mount. Add the leaf springs, steering box left horn brace, body brace, steering arm, tank support, front suspension, body mount, trunnions, tank mount, assembled battery boxes, rear fender braces and air tanks. Assemble the fuel tanks and exhaust.



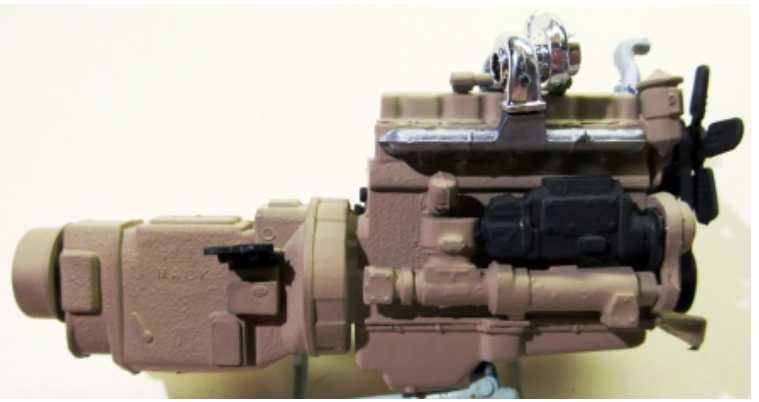
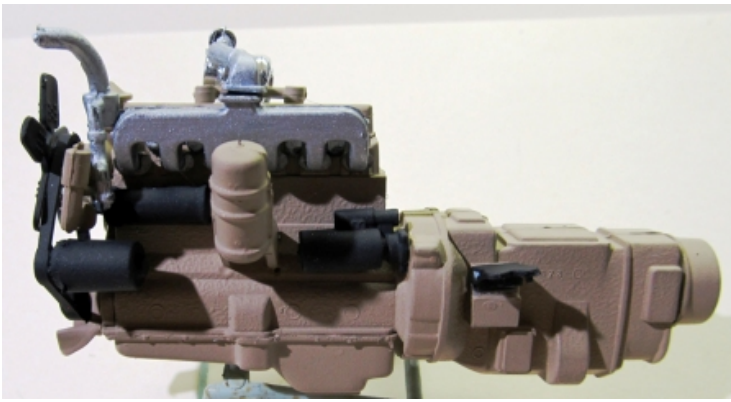
PIC 17 Paint the chassis assembly Flat Black and the fuel tanks and exhaust Aluminum.



PIC 18 Add the Chrome steps and fuel fillers. Pop the driveshaft loose and install the suspension then re-attach the driveshaft and glue the suspension in place.

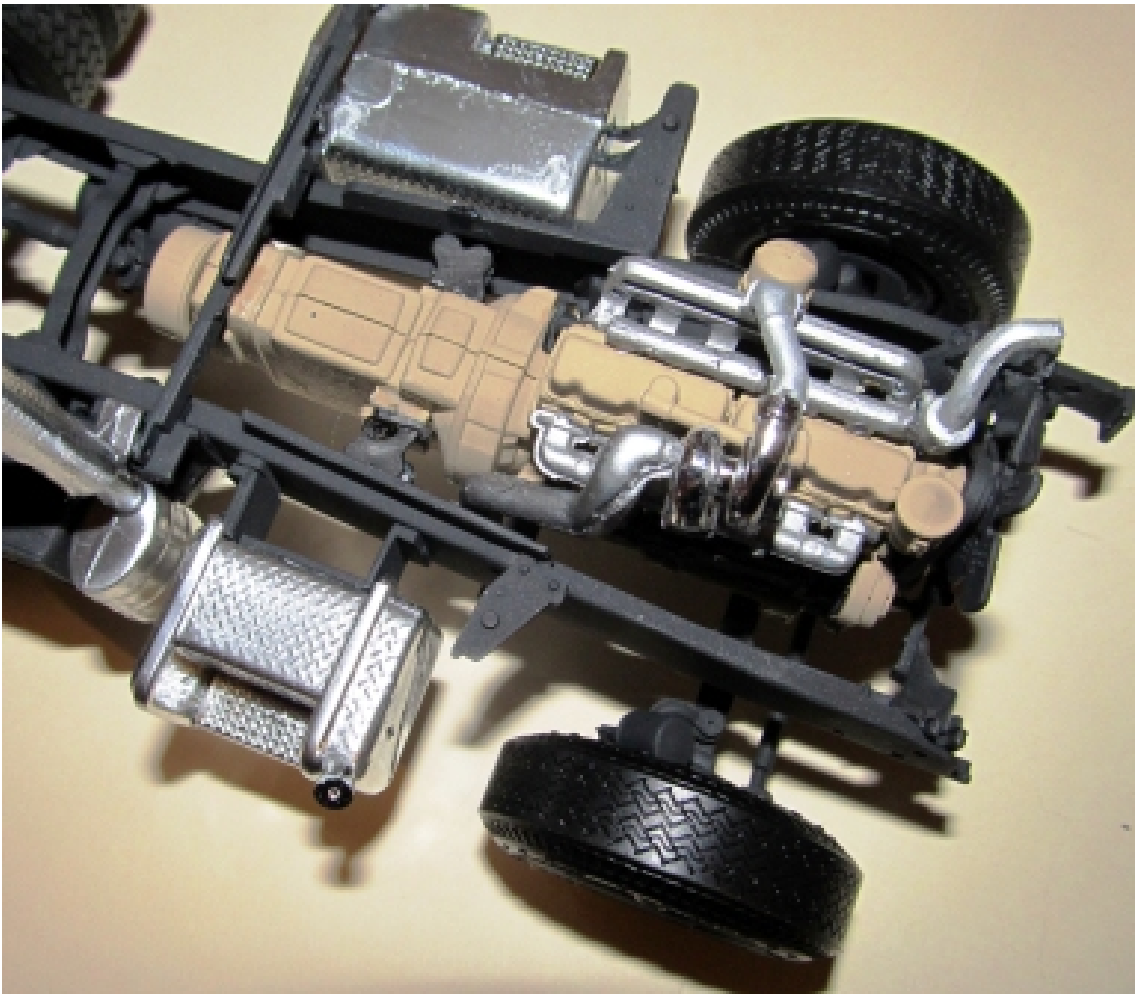


PIC 19 PIC 20 The motor is assembled prior to painting. Assemble the block, oil pan, head, front cover, valve covers, cover link hose, water pump, filler tube, pump, transmission end and oil filter. Paint this a Tan/Gold. The intake, exhaust and water manifolds are Steel. The fan, belt and generator are Flat Black, as is the starter and frame mounts. The water and turbine hoses are Aluminum and the turbine is left Chrome.

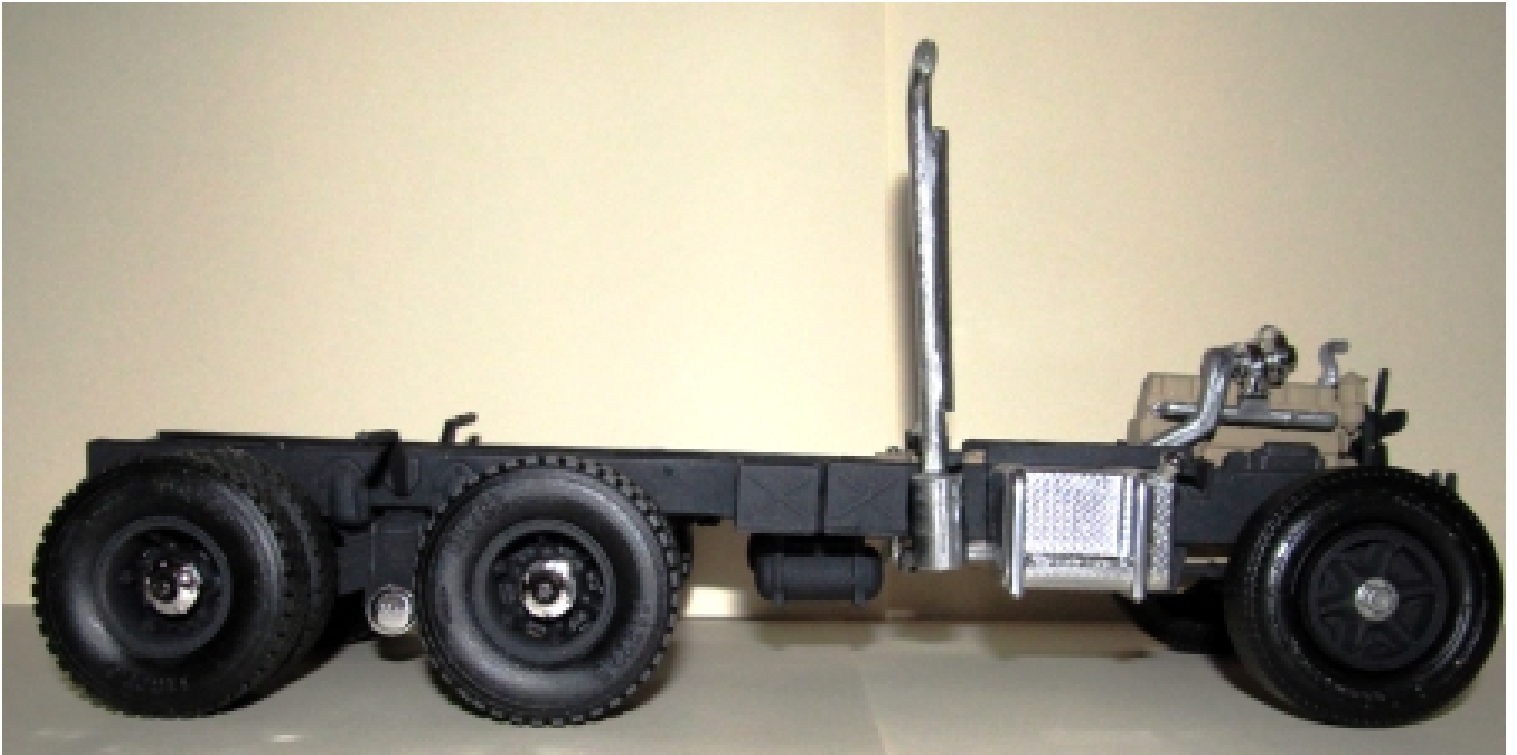


PIC 21 PIC 22 Install the manifold, generator, coil, fan and belt. Add the water and intake manifolds and starter. Add the inlet pipes and turbine. Add the frame mounts.

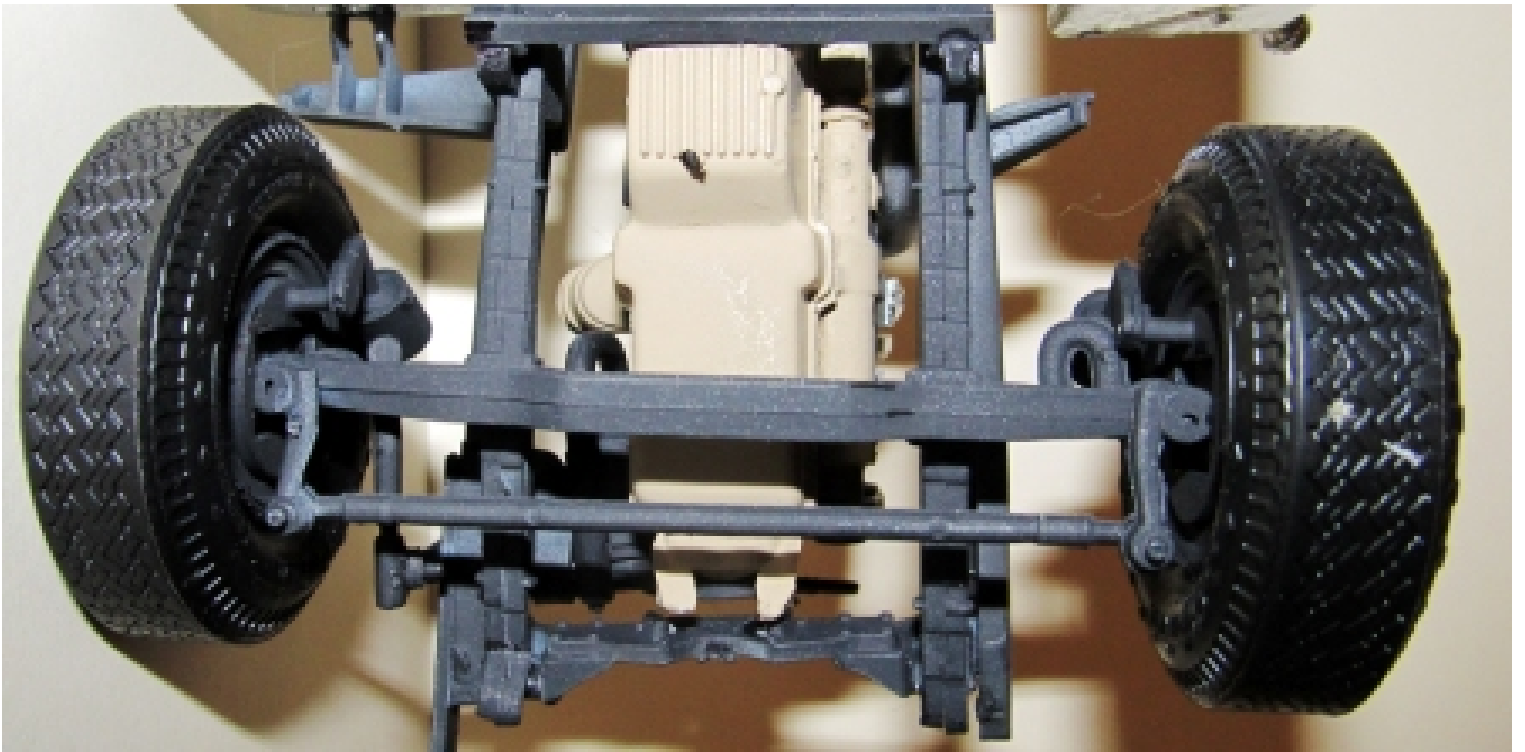
PIC 23 The front end is installed next. Assemble the rims and add the brake boosters then paint those units Flat Black.



PIC 24 Add the tires to the rims. The driveshaft and the U-joint with the long pin is assembled and painted Flat Black. Install the motor and install the driveshaft in place. Add the rims and tires in place. Assemble the exhaust tube and paint it Steel installing it from the motor to the muffler. Paint the spring brace, steering pin, and radiator hose Flat Black and install those in place.



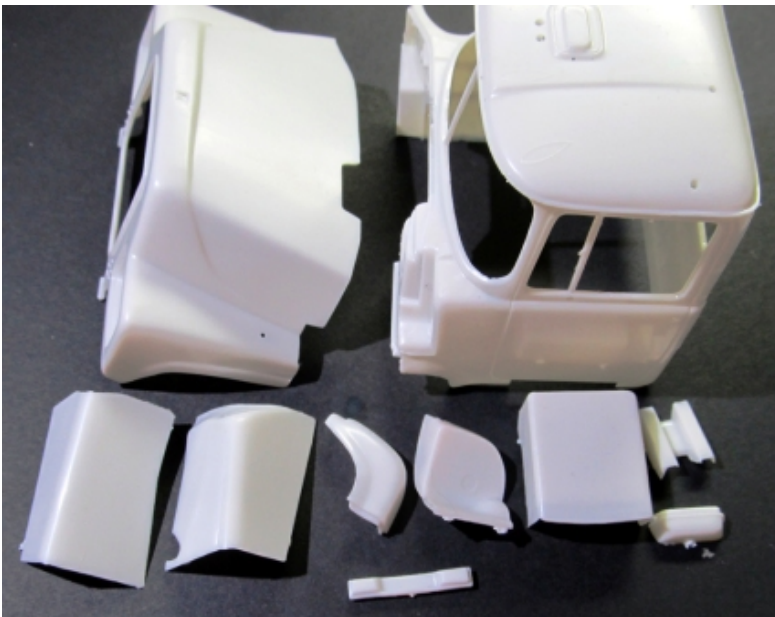
PIC 25 PIC 26 At this time the rolling chassis is completed.



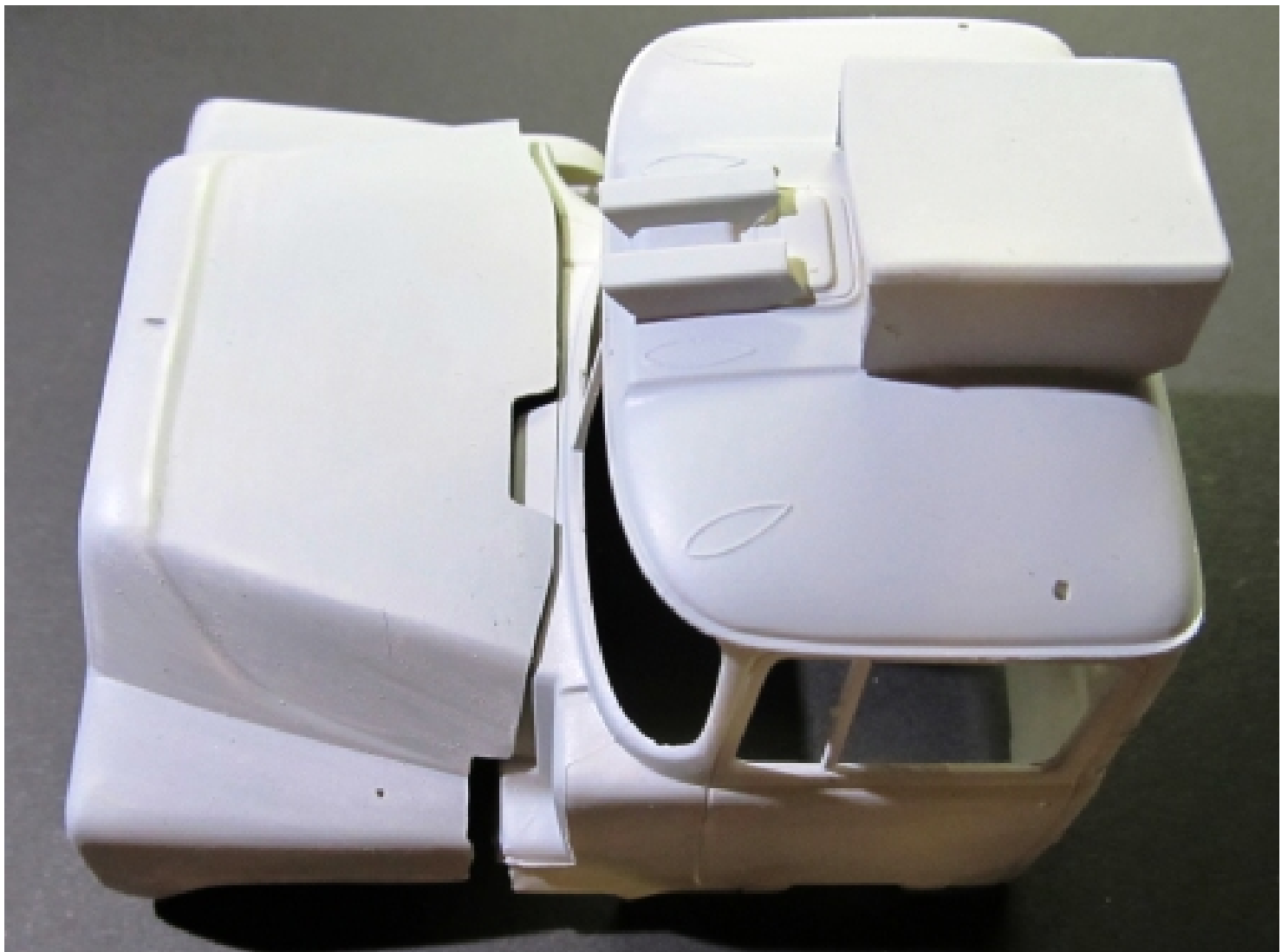
PIC 27 Here's a close up of the front suspension.



PIC 28 And a close up of the completed rear suspension.



PIC 29 PIC 30 Start the body prep by assembling the cab parts and hood parts. Under the hood add the fender wells and the outer fender. On the cab add the passenger side fender inner and the air vent and side step indent plate. An optional AC unit and vent can be installed on the roof if you wish.



PIC 31 Use a good quality primer to prepare the body for the main color. Wet sand the body with 800 grit paper and rinse clean. Once dry prime the body inside and out completely.

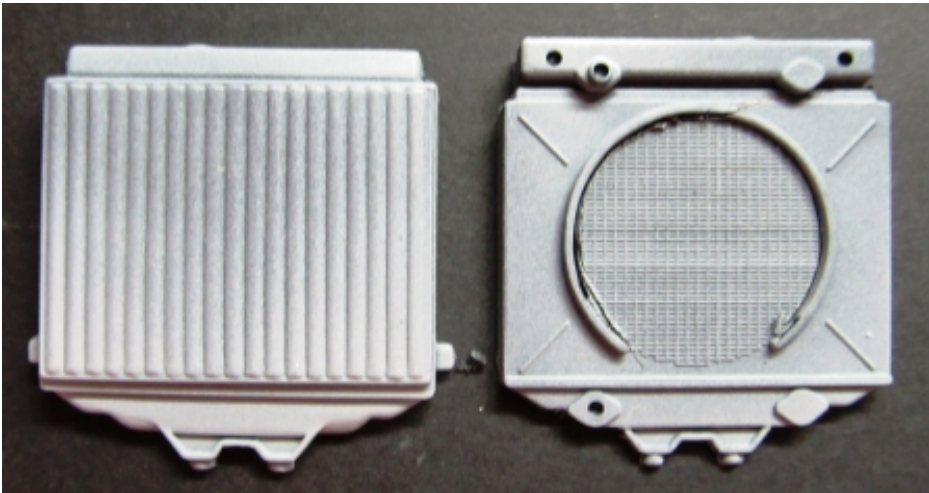
PIC 32 Wet sand the primer with 800 grit paper and rinse clean to remove any blemishes. Once it is dry and the surface smooth and clean paint your base color on the body. For this build I used a basic White paint as I am replicating a factory style Fleet vehicle. But the process is the same no matter the color. Paint your base color and let it cure in a clean dust free area until completely cured.



PIC 33 **OPTIONAL IDEA:** I created my own decals but the process of application is the same as decals from the kit. To create your own decals you need an INKJET PRINTER (typical printer) and WATERSLIDE DECAL PAPER, I use different brands but have found Bel Decal papers are my favorite.
http://www.beldecals.com/inkjet_decals.cfm

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

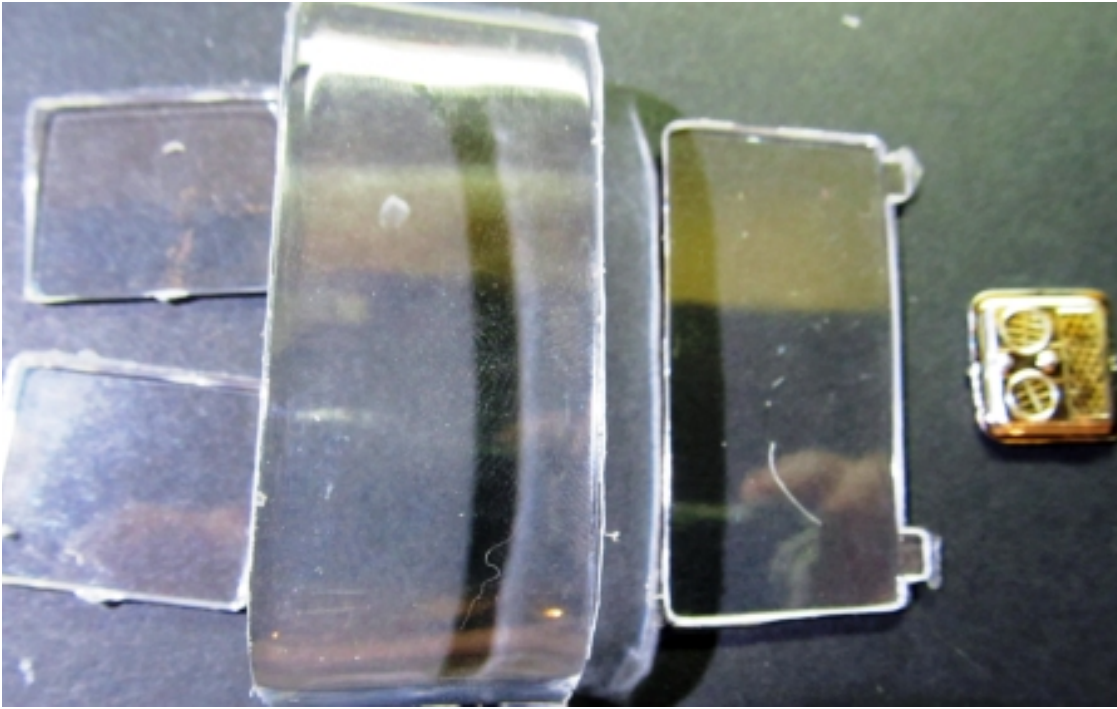
under your decals. Pick the decals you want to work with and plan out how the best way to lay them out without handling previously laid decals will be. I try either a Front to Back or Top to Bottom approach doing one side at a time then the front and rear of the car in steps giving the decals time to 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 car. Let the decals cure at least overnight before applying your clear coat.



PIC 34 PIC 35 Assemble the radiator and paint it Flat Black with the front grille area Aluminum.



PIC 36 PIC 37 Use Elmer's White Glue on the headlight to create a lens and install the lights into the hood.



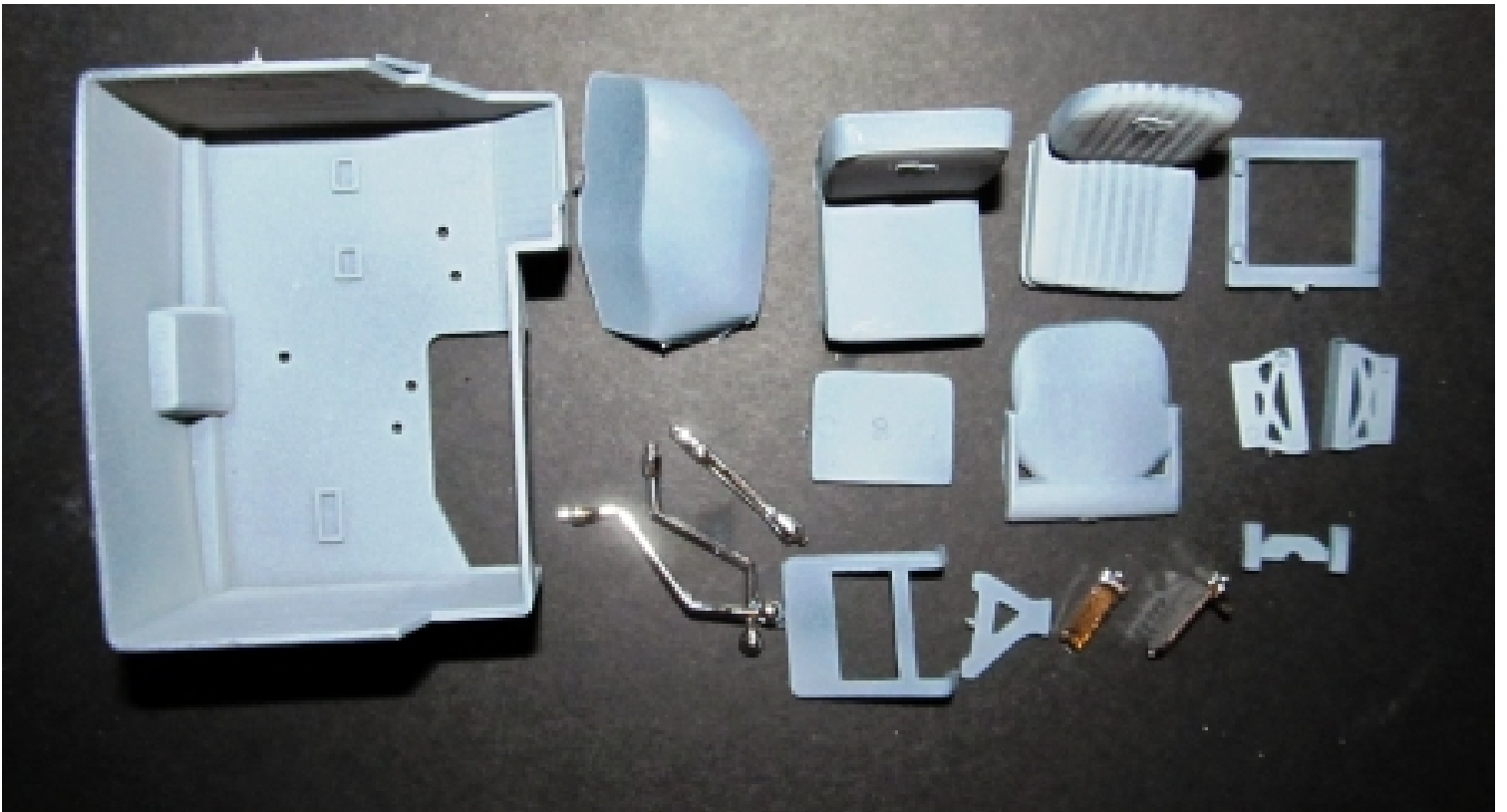
PIC 38 PIC 39 OPTIONAL IDEA: Prior to assembly I want to give the glass a thinner crisper look. I will dip the parts into Pledge Floor Care. When applied to both side of a piece of clear polystyrene, it will make glass appear thinner and clearer. It will help to hide minor scratches also. Simply pour some Pledge into a small container and dip your clear glass into it. It will self-level and make the part look clearer. Place the parts on a sheet of paper towel to cure, the paper towel will draw out the excess Pledge and “Wick” it off the parts so it does not accumulate at the edges leaving an unwanted build up. After you dip the part, be sure to place a cover over it to prevent dust from collecting on it.



PIC 40 Install the glass using Elmer’s glue. Install the AC controls to the interior roof.



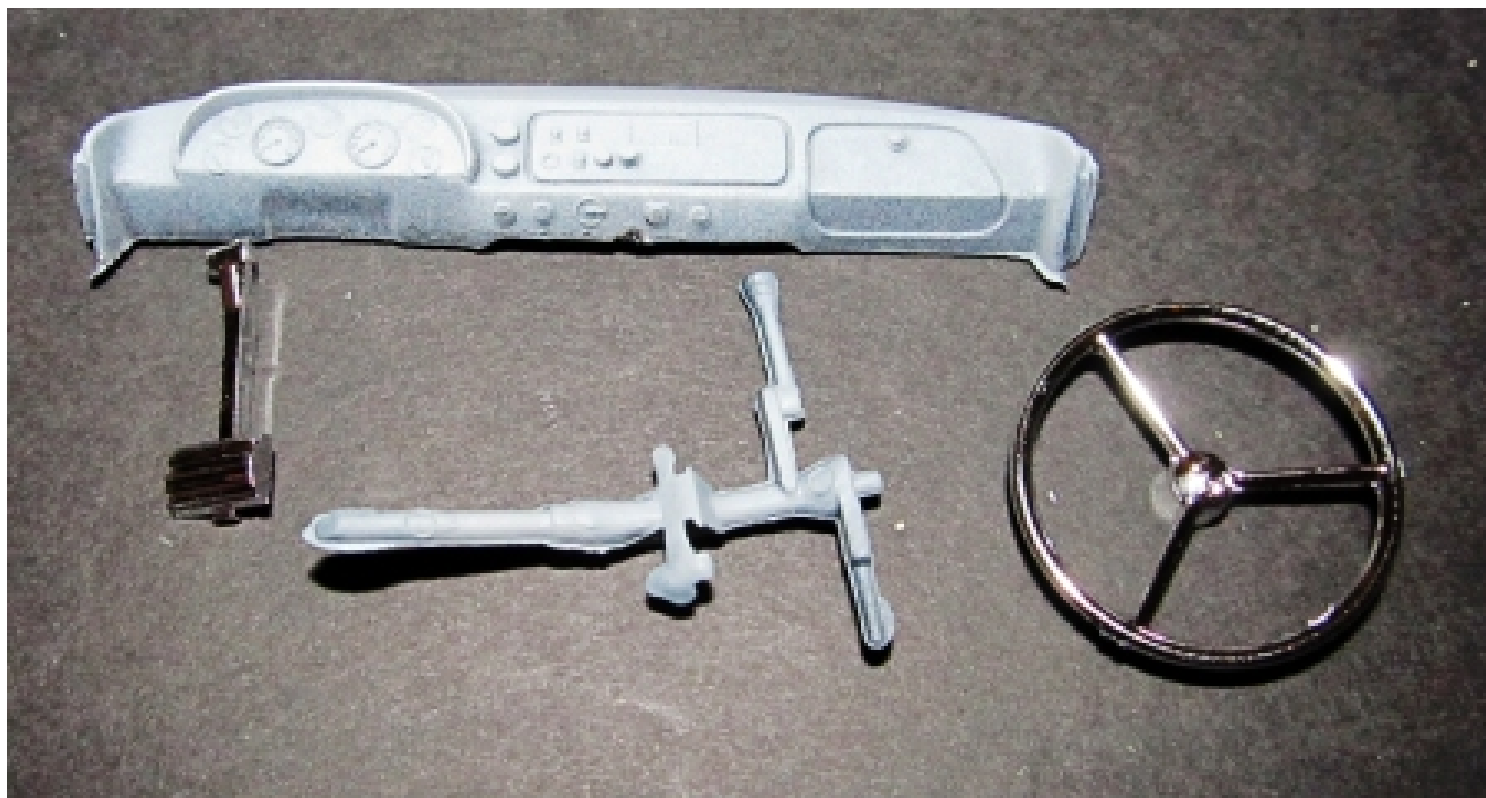
PIC 41 PIC 42 Install the breather to the cab. (USE SUPERGLUE FOR THIS ASSEMBLY) Assemble the breather halves, add the cover. Install the upper and lower mirror mounts and the mirror bar. Install the mirror. Attach this unit to the cab. Add the breather mount. Add the Mack dog and door handle to the door. Add the grab bar to the cab.



PIC 43 Start the interior. Attach the doghouse and install the pedals. Paint the interior tub Flat Black. Assemble the passenger seat and back. The passenger seat bottom and brace are Flat Black.



PIC 44 Assemble the driver seat and back assemble the seat springs, base and support and paint Flat Black. The seats are Charcoal Black. The shifter knobs and bases are Black and all three are installed. Assemble the seats and install them.

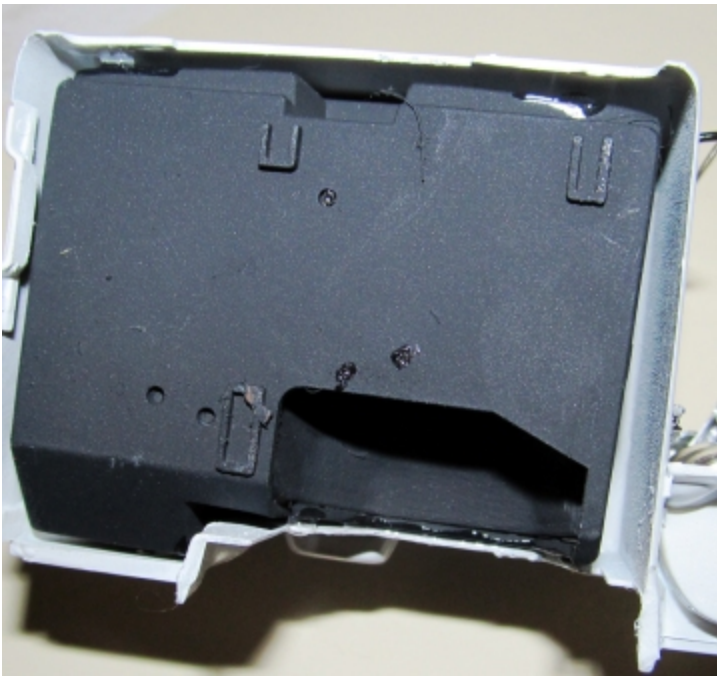


PIC 45 Assemble the steering wheel to the column and paint that Flat Black.

PIC 46 The pedal is attached to the dash and that is all Flat Black. The instruments are White with Black. There is Chrome trim and knobs.



PIC 47 Install the column to the dash and the dash in the interior.

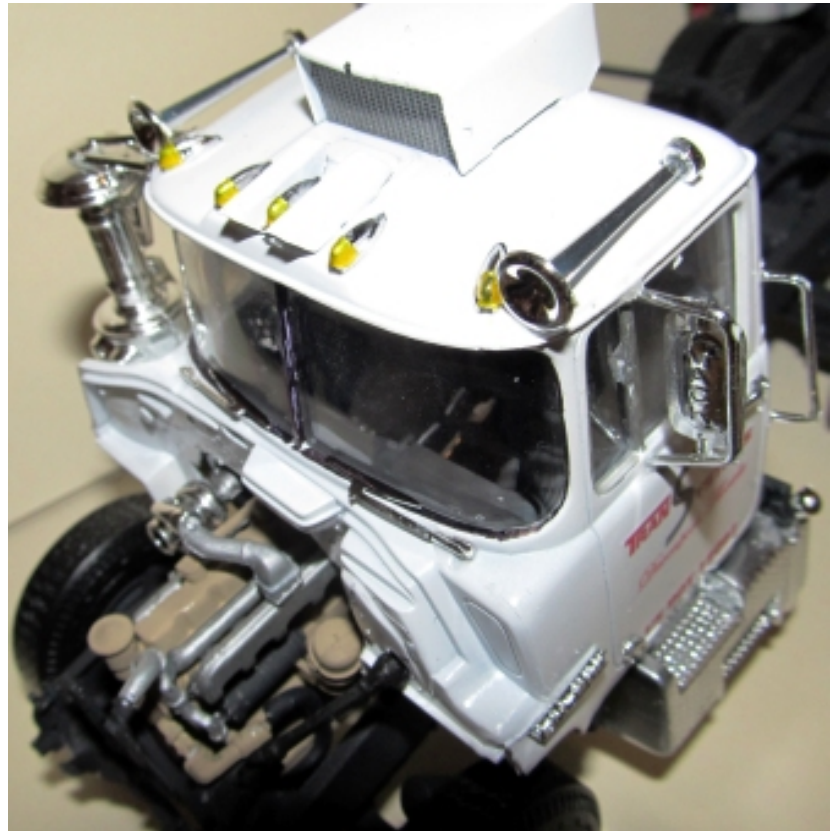


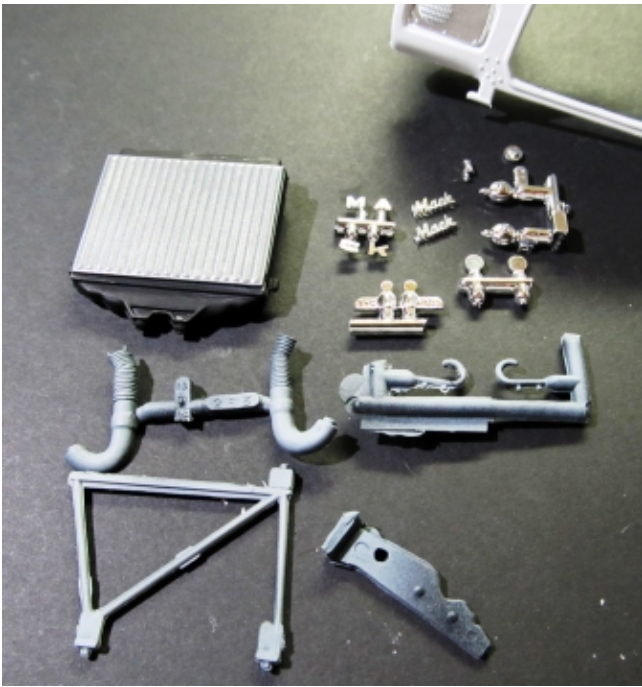
PIC 48 The interior is then installed in the cab.



PIC 49 PIC 50 The cab is installed on the chassis at this time.

NOTE: (USE SUPERGLUE FOR ASSEMBLY) Attach the mirror frame and mirror to the cab. Attach the Mack dog, DM600 logo and door handle. Add the grab bar. Paint the lenses on the running lights Turn Signal Yellow and install them on the cab roof. Assemble and attach the horns. Paint the AC grille Steel and install it. Paint the wiper blades Flat Black and install the wipers. Paint the steering linkage and install.

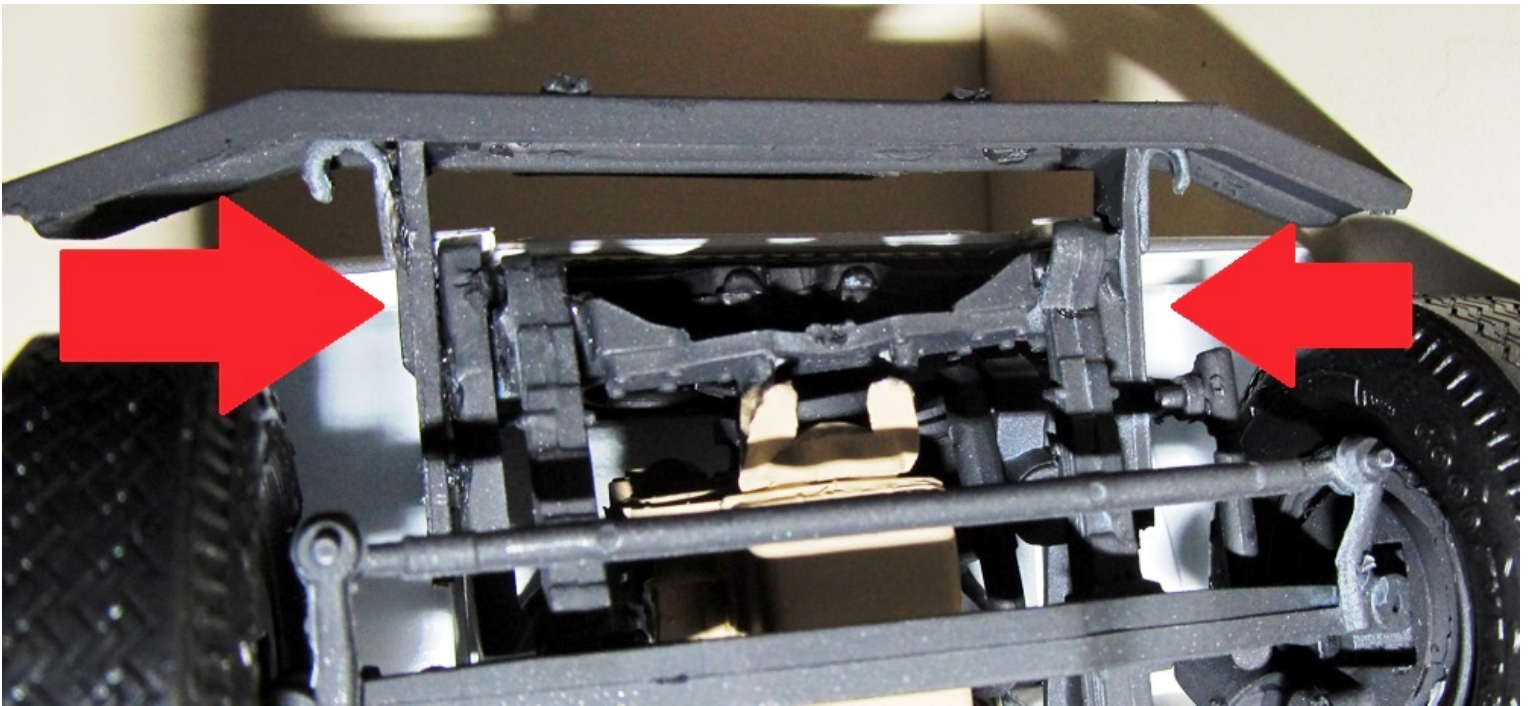




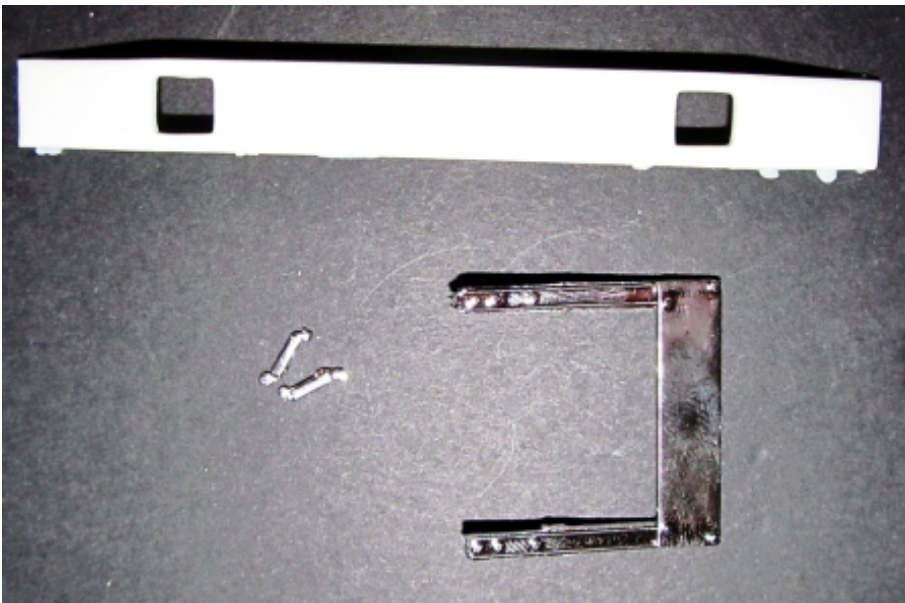
PIC 51 PIC 52 Paint the support, frame horn and hooks Flat Black. Assemble and paint the air tube Flat Black. Install the Air tube to the turbine and cab. Install the radiator and support. **NOTE:** PIC 52 shows the motor prior to the support installation.



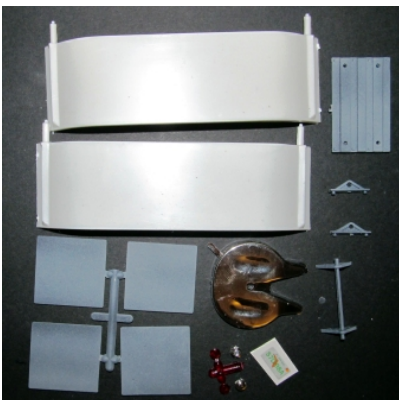
PIC 53 Continue the assembly by adding all the emblems to the hood. The MACK letters and Mack emblems are on the front and sides. The dog is on the center of the hood. The large and small markers are installed and the insides painted Turn Signal Yellow. The turn signals are inserted and each side painted Turn Signal Yellow.



PIC 54 Add the hooks to the frame horn on the truck and the one just painted. Slide the hood pins into the hole in the existing frame horn and glue the other horn in place holding the hood onto the truck so it will open as it should.



PIC 55 PIC 56 As I built a construction truck version, I used the painted bumper and push bar. Attach the bar and paint the unit Flat Black. Install that on the frame horn ends. Install the hood locks on the hood.



PIC 57 Gather the parts for the final assembly for the rear fenders and fifth wheel.

PIC 58 Assemble the fenders and mud flaps. Paint them Flat Black. Assemble the carriage with the fifth wheel mount. Paint the fifth wheel and carriage assembly Flat Black. Install the fenders and carriage adding the fifth wheel to the mount. Insert the tail light lenses into the housing and install them in the rear panel. Add the license plate tag.



PIC 59 Depending on your build you will have a few parts left over. Including there are some parts from the DM800 kit that were carried over into this kit also that are not used.



PIC 999 OVERALL IMPRESSIONS: This kit has always been a popular build. Although it is not the correct version for many uses it has been packaged as, the builders have been able to create construction trucks by the thousands thanks to ROUND2. Overall fit and finish is on par for MPC and is not difficult but does take time and is a bit imperfect here and there. The chassis had a bit of a twist when finished but not too bad. The cab did fit well and the hood fit was not bad at all and I was happy with the fit as I did not need to fight with it even with the twist. I would guess without the twist it would have been spot on. But this is an older mold and has seen multiple releases so some warpage and fit issues are common, I rate this high for fit. I wish Round2 was not so Chrome Happy on this one though. This is a standard construction level model truck not a custom or road truck. Chrome would not be common as this would be a Fleet vehicle and most likely Black or Fleet colors. For the average builder this will be a good build to stretch their abilities. A novice will be a little frustrated so I would not recommend this to a beginner. But on a scale of 1 to 10 on the buildability and "it is what it is" I give this one a solid 8. Round2 continues to bring out the great model of the past and supply us builders with the kits that we remember and love.

Premium Model Reviews



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