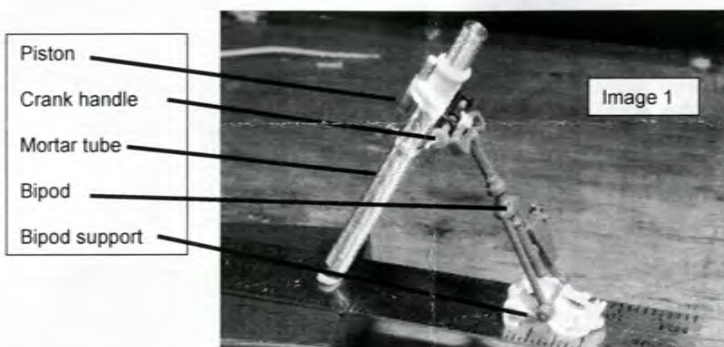


The resin bump stop replaces C10 and is now located in the left rear corner just forward of the lifting eye and is parallel with the rear edge of the hull.

Note the hatch lock on the hull and matching lock point on the hatch cover (Image 3)

Right: Top hull image shows position of the three things that hold the mortar baseplate in place and the two hatch locks – for the driver's hatch and mortar hatch – both left side of hull roof



Painting:

Externally the M125A1s were overall olive drab lustreless. The interior was also ODL in the rear compartment – walls / ceiling / floor. The driver's area was Seafoam green

Markings

Mouse House will be releasing a set of decals for Australian Mortar carriers shortly MAD638. The Mortar carriers that served in Vietnam are: 134 417 – 419, 421-423 and 426-428

Notes:

Australian M125A1s only had aerials next to the driver and just behind the engine deck on the right.

Other Mouse House items that can be used with this update set.

Military Briefs No.7 Australian M113A1 FOV 1972-2013
 MA110 carbon fibre aerials
 MA108 antennas AS1729 (post 1968)
 MA134 Sponson and belly armour (Tamiya)
 MA302 Plastic water jerrycans
 MA902 Radios for M113A1
 MAP01 – olive drab lustreless



Mouse Armour

1/35 scale kit

MA144

Australian M125A1 81mm mortar carrier 1965 – late 1980s.

(for Tamiya M106A1 kit MM116)

Researched and crafted John Myszka, Gordon Branch, Michael Koudstahl

Background

Australia ordered 23 M125A1 81mm mortar carriers and the first arrived in July 1965. Nine served in Vietnam with the first two arriving in September 1965. The mortar carrier was equipped with an M29A1 81mm mortar carrier and in Vietnam the mortar, ammunition and crew was provided by the infantry battalions. The mortar carriers were deployed as "APCs" when required. The M29 81mm mortar was replaced by the F2 in the early 1990s.

Model notes: The bipod bin (right front hull roof) was not used in Vietnam because in those days the mortar tube and ammunition and crew were provided by the infantry battalions. Post Vietnam the bipod bin was added.

Painting: Olive drab overall external and internal for the crew compartment. The interior around the driver is sea foam Green FS24533.

Parts

Mortar turntable	3 pc hatches including filter box	Integral fuel cell	Engine mesh (PE)
Mortar mount	Mortar base plate supports (3)	White phosphorus bin	Rear mudguard infills (2)
Mortar bipod	Bipod storage box	WP bin support	Spot welded tiedowns (1)
Mortar tube piston		Battery box	Australian axe
Bipod support		Driver's seat column	Bump stop for filter box (2)
Bipod travel bracket		30 thou rods (6+6)	Ramp pulley
Mortar tube with yoke	Mortar round storage vertical (4)	Tow hooks (4)	Gunshield + mount
Mortar traverse crank	Mortar round storage horizontal (6+3)		Hatch locks (3 PE)
Mortar base plate	Mortar round storage supports (4)		

Tools

Handy tools would include a sharp model knife and wet and dry sandpaper.

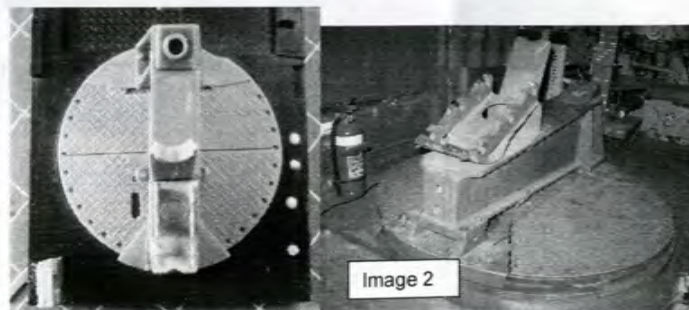
Safety

This is a resin product so keep it away from extreme heat and naked flames. When sanding do it in a well-ventilated area and do not inhale the resin dust – wear a mask. Use wet sanding methods to reduce the dust.

Construction

General

1. Assemble stages 1 and 2 as per instructions
2. At stage 3 insert the resin mudguard infills into A7 and A25 before gluing to the rear of the hull. Discard bipod base Z14. Australian carriers stored their 81mm mortar base plate on the hull roof behind the driver.
3. Stage 4 – use resin turntable in place of part D23 and then add handle D9.
4. Stage 5 -discard parts D21, 17, 16, 20, 18, 22. Replace the mortar ammunition storage shelves with resin parts supplied. The vertical parts are sequenced – 4-2-3-1 from the front of the vehicle. Glue the shelving in place to and middle. Bottom shelf glued in place when unit is glued to the sponson. Placement of the shelving unit once assembled is 8mm from the rear



Note the position of the mortar mount on the turntable and that of the ramp pulley. The travel bracket is glued to the rear of the bipod support.

The four white dots on the right edge of the image are blanking rods

6. Replace part D37 with resin battery box and C21 with resin fuel cell. Discard C24 fuze storage as this was not used by Australian M125A1s in Vietnam. Fuses were stored in 50 cal ammo liners.
7. When assembling the driver's seat replace part D24 with resin part supplied and then add D28 and D29. Blank off the square slot below the seat. **Leave the gluing of the driver's seat support until last as you will have issues gluing in the floor.**

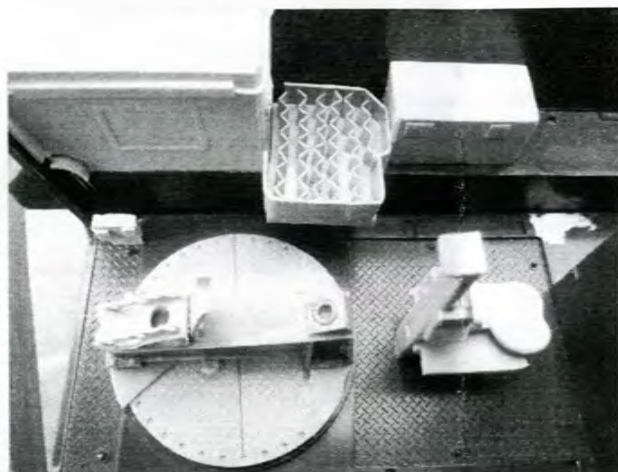
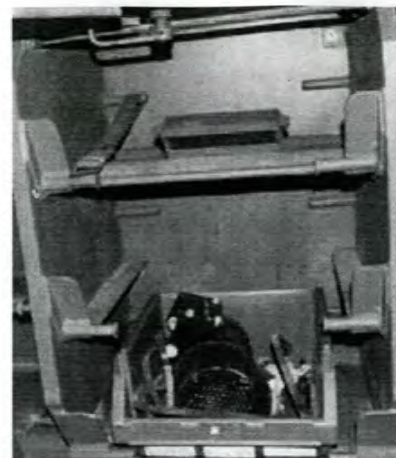
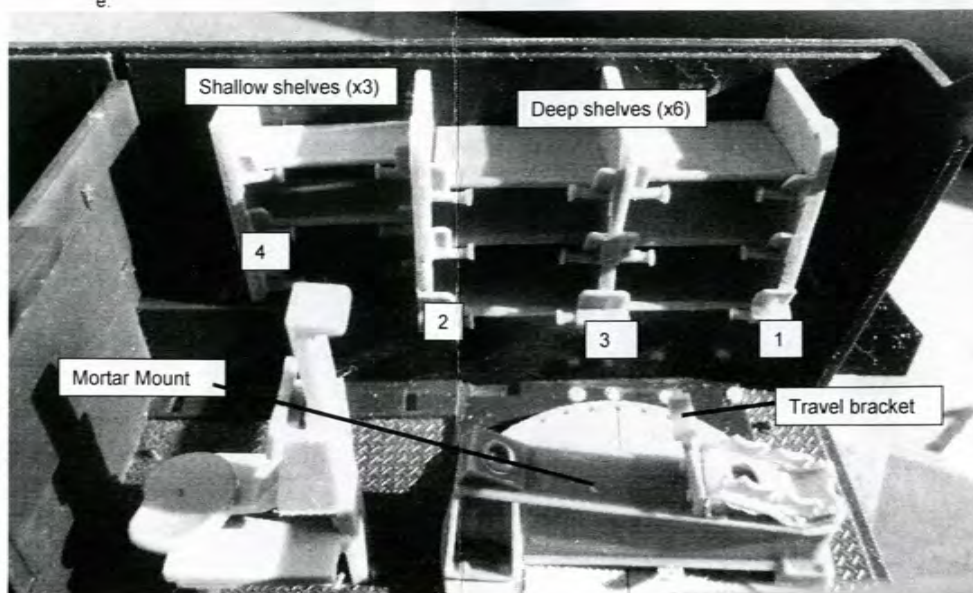


Image shows positioning of the resin fuel cell, WP ammo bin and battery box.

Also another view of the mortar mount.

The kit commander's seat is also in place

8. Stage 6 steps 1 and 2 - discard M16 rifles, parts C4,6,11,12,16,19 and shell storage A and B. Replace shell storage B with resin parts (see above) and shell storage A with resin parts
9. Assemble 81mm storage bins:
 - a. Add 9mm lengths of 20 thou rod at the rear of each vertical wall in holes provided. This is the rear point where webbing is used to hold ammo in place when connected to the front rods.
 - b. Join the vertical walls (2+3+1) with the deep shelves
 - c. Join vertical wall (4) to vertical wall (2) with shallow shelves
 - d. Once the ammo rack is glued in place - 10mm from rear of the hull - then add the bottom shelves
 - e.

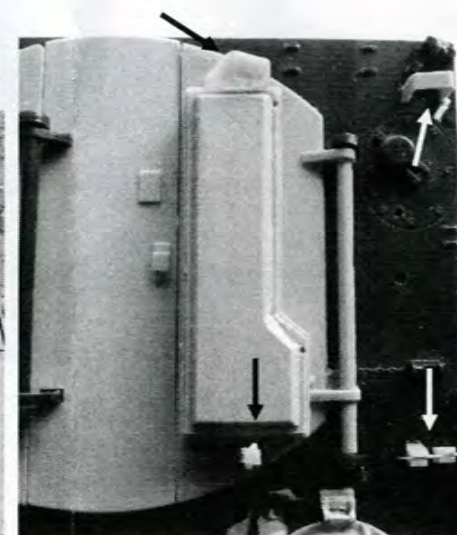
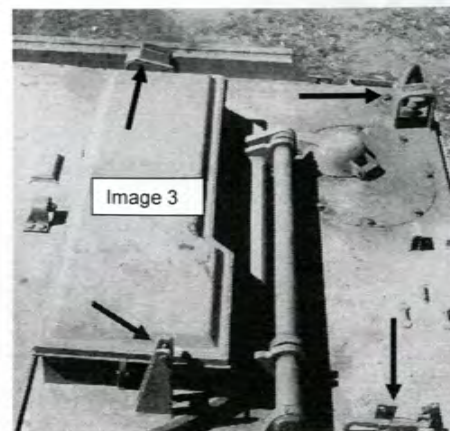


Ammo racks showing webbing straps to hold mortar rounds in place.

The commander's machine gun shield and mount place.



10. Discard step 7 as it shows the assembly of a 106mm mortar never used by the Australian army in M125A1s.
11. Before proceeding to stage 8 the hull roof needs some modification:
 - a. Discard part B22 mushroom ventilator as well as the molded track tool and sand the hull smooth after blanking the hole underneath.
 - b. Fill in the slots under part C10 - C10 will be replaced by a resin part
 - c. Blank off holes under part C17 and C20 discard both (rod provided)
 - d. Blank off hole under part C15 mattock head
12. At Stage 8 replace the axe B9 with resin part. Discard parts D1, C17, C20 and C23. Relocate part C15 pick head to the other side with the other tools. Replace part C10 with resin bump stop provided.
13. Replace kit hatches C5, C26 and C27 with resin parts. On the resin C26 part add the latch catch and bump stop as per image below.
14. Follow stage 9 but add gunshield and mount
15. Follow stage 10 but discard parts Z1 and Z13.
16. Disregard stage 11



Note that the kit part C7 bump stop has been relocated to the other side of the hatch cover.