

GERMAN ARMED FORCES, WORLD WAR II

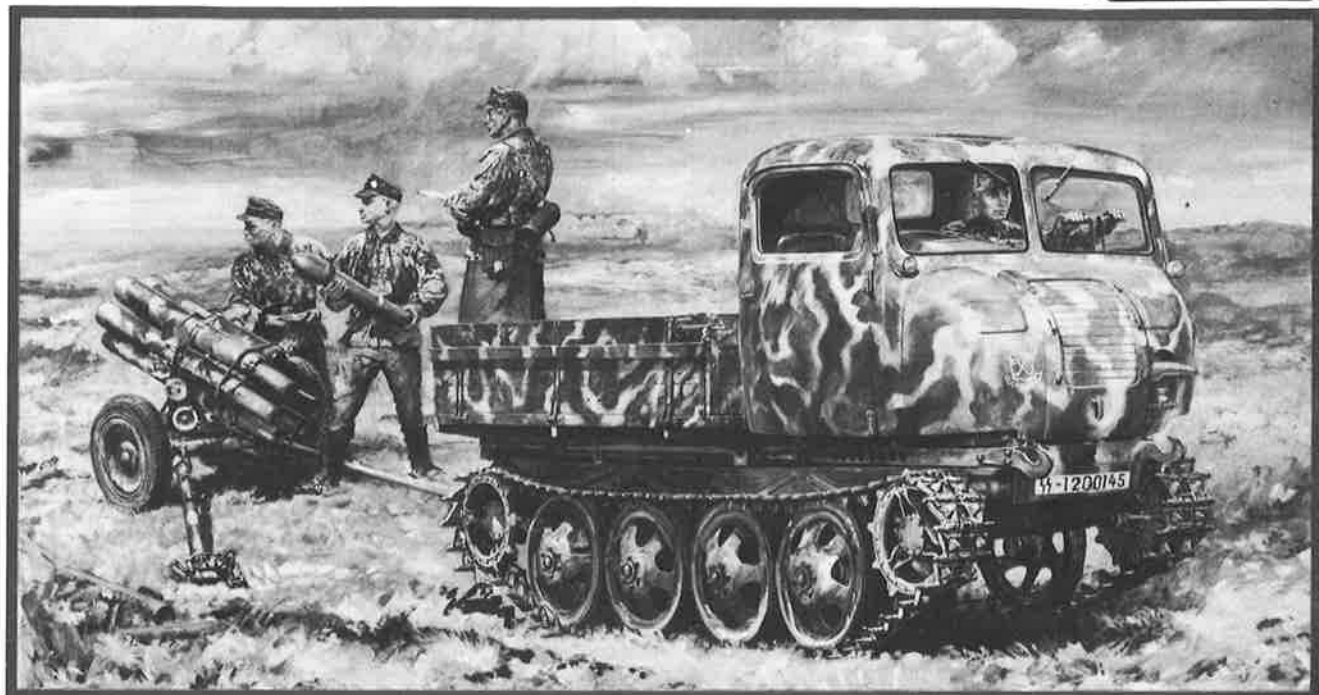
STEYR RSO/01 TRACTOR

1:35 SCALE PLASTIC MODEL UNASSEMBLED KIT WITH 15CM NEBELWERFER 41 AND CREW

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

ITEM NO. 3512

PEERLESS®



The Second World War was said to be a battle of machines. All the major combatants were placing their efforts in producing mechanized armed forces, and Germany, of course, was no exception. However, at the beginning of the war, while the armored and elite units were all motorized and mechanized, the bulk of German infantry transport was horse drawn. In Poland and France the inadequacies of horse drawn transport were not unmanageable, however, the invasion of Russia in 1941 saw the German transport system begin to break down. The severe climate, the great distances to be covered, and the lack of sufficient animal food stocks, caused the German Army to lose horses at a disastrous rate. The wheeled vehicles in use at this time were also inadequate. They would not start in the extreme Russian cold and became bogged down in the mud and snow. The Germans found it increasingly necessary to find a replacement for horses and wheeled vehicles for use by infantry units in Russia as general purpose vehicles and particularly as towing vehicles for artillery pieces. The German army requested from the Weapons Development Branch a vehicle with the following specifications:

- 1) good running and operational performance under the severe climate and poor road conditions in Russia.
- 2) mechanical reliability and simplified maintenance.
- 3) simplified design.
- 4) easily mass produced, and light weight.

The answer was the Raupen Schlepper Ost (RSO/01), which means "East Front Battle Tractor." The initial development was handled by the Steyr firm in Austria. A fully tracked vehicle was deemed the best solution to the problem of mud and snow and poor road conditions and in order to speed production the Steyr 1500A engine, then already in production, was adapted for use in the RSO. To simplify production, road wheels without rubber rims, and wooden cargo compartments were incorporated. The RSO/01 weighed 3 tons empty. Mass production started late in 1942 and by the end of the year, 1500 were completed. By the war's end over 2700 RSO vehicles had been produced. As with many other German vehicles, the

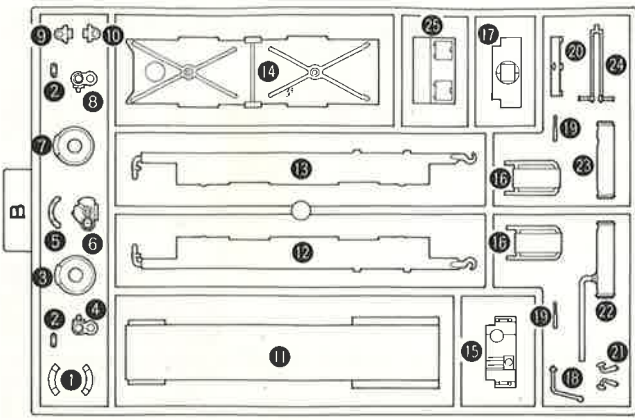
basic RSO/01 was adapted to other needs. An anti-tank vehicle mounting the 75mm AT gun, a dozer blade equipped vehicle, and ambulance and various other types were all produced using the RSO/01 although in limited numbers. Though designed for service in Russia, the RSO eventually saw action on all fronts where the German Army was engaged.

Nebelwerfer 41

The artillery piece which is included with your Peerless RSO/01 is an unusual weapon called a Nebelwerfer, the German word for "smoke thrower." Nebelwerfers were developed in the 1930's by the German army, and the design originally called for a device which could project large smoke shells. The sizes of the rockets for these units ranged from 150mm to 210mm to 320mm, but the larger sizes were unsatisfactory so the standard issue models were 150mm. In Poland, France and North Africa, German commanders used the new weapons to lay smoke screens. Since the Nebelwerfer weighs only 1,200 pounds, has inexpensive ammunition, and has a range of 7,750 yards, it soon became popular among combat troops. To facilitate mass production, the Nebelwerfer consisted simply of tubes, trails, firing devices and wheels. The trails were interchangeable with those of many German antitank guns, and the overall durability of the Nebelwerfer was excellent.

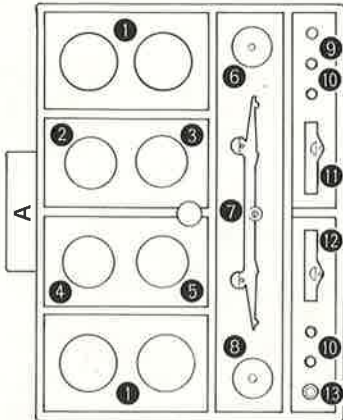
Like its Russian counterpart, the Katyusha, the Nebelwerfer was not particularly accurate but instead depended on laying down a devastating barrage on a limited area. After Nebelwerfers were modified to fire explosive shells, they could be used to saturate enemy concentrations. All six barrels were sequentially fired which resulted in an enormous impact in the target area. The Russian front was particularly susceptible to such usage and Soviet tanks and trucks were the prime targets. After firing, the Nebelwerfer could be rapidly packed up and moved before hostile counter fire could respond. The rapid rushing sound from its shells gave this unique weapon the nickname "Mew, the Screaming Mimi."

PARTS



A PARTS GROUP

1. Road Wheel
2. Idler Sprocket (Inner)
3. Drive Sprocket (Inner)
4. Idler Sprocket (Outer)
5. Drive Sprocket (Outer)
6. Idler Sprocket Brake Drum
7. Suspension Bar
8. Drive Sprocket Brake Drum
9. Idler Sprocket Axle
10. Road Wheel Hub
11. Suspension Arm A
12. Suspension Arm B
13. Drive Sprocket Axle



B PARTS GROUP

1. Track Guide
2. Rear Axle Part
3. Final Drive Gear Case (Right)
4. Idler Sprocket Mount (Left)
5. Gear Case Bolt Plate
6. Differential Gear Case
7. Final Drive Gear Case (Left)
8. Idler Sprocket Mount (Right)
9. Idler Sprocket Shaft (Left)
10. Idler Sprocket Shaft (Right)
11. Chassis Upper Panel
12. Chassis Left Side
13. Chassis Right Side
14. Chassis Lower Panel
15. Chassis Front Panel
16. Seat Back
17. Chassis Rear Panel
18. Gear Shift Lever
19. Windshield Wiper
20. Front Bumper
21. Pedal
22. Muffler Rear
23. Muffler Front
24. Track Control Levers
25. Front Under Guard Panel

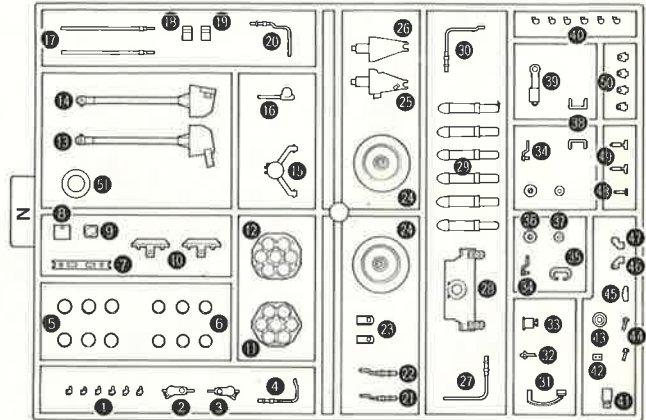
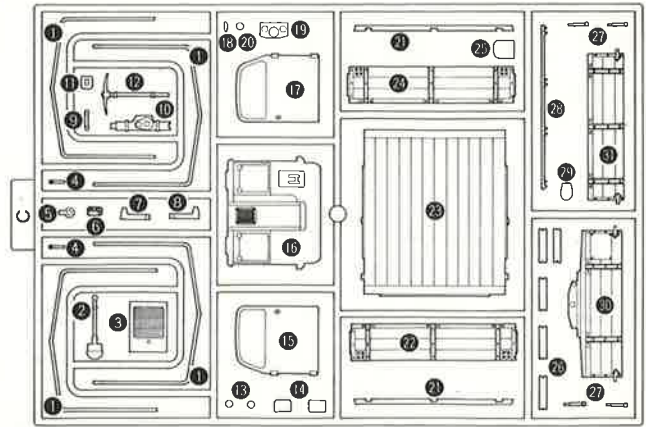
C PARTS GROUP

1. Cargo Bed Cover Frames
2. Shovel
3. Radiator Grill

4. Door Handles
5. Tow Hook
6. Vehicle Clearance Light
7. Right Mudguard
8. Left Mudguard
9. Jack Handle
10. Jack
11. Jack Base Plate
12. Pick
13. Small Light
14. Ventilator Louver
15. Left Door
16. Cab Floor
17. Right Door
18. Radiator Cover Handle
19. Dashboard
20. Light Base
21. Side Panel Strip
22. Cargo Bed Right Side Panel
23. Cargo Bed Floor
24. Cargo Bed Left Side Panel
25. Light Housing
26. Radiator Grill Covers
27. Side Panel Latches
28. Cover Frame Ridge Pole
29. Front Light
30. Cargo Bed Rear Panel
31. Cargo Bed Front Panel

N PARTS GROUP

1. Rocket Tube Stoppers



2. Left Wheel Mount
3. Right Wheel Mount
4. Firing Cable (F)
5. Rocket Container Lid
6. Rocket Containers
7. Carriage Front Panel
8. Sight Cover
9. Firing Cable Junction Box
10. Recoil Spade
11. Launching Tubes (Front)
12. Launching Tubes (Rear)
13. Trail Arm (Right)
14. Trail Arm (Left)
15. Stabilizer Arms
16. Elevating Gear Shaft
17. Cleaning Rod
18. Right Cradle Arm
19. Left Cradle Arm
20. Firing Cable (C)
21. Firing Cable (A)
22. Firing Cable (B)
23. Bracket
24. Wheel
25. Launcher Cradle (Left)
26. Launcher Cradle (Right)
27. Firing Cable (E)
28. Carriage
29. Rockets
30. Firing Cable (D)
31. Elevation Gear
32. Stabilizer Stop

33. Firing Switch Box
34. Suspension Lockout Lever
35. "C" Hook
36. Hand Wheel
37. Wheel Hubs
38. Hand Holds
39. Tow Hook
40. Firing Connectors
41. Sight Cover Bottom
42. Guide Bracket
43. Cradle Cap
44. Stabilizer Locking Lever
45. Cradle Base Plate Front
46. Elevation Transfer Gear (Left)
47. Elevation Transfer Gear (Right)
48. Stabilizer Locking Pin
49. Trail Locks
50. Stabilizer Brackets
51. Stabilizer Plate

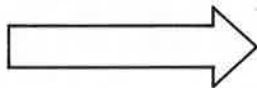
IMPORTANT: A WORD OF CAUTION

1. Cement should be kept out of the reach of children and safely stored not in use.
2. Do not dispose of cement by placing the tube or bottle in an open fire.
3. Cement fumes are harmful and cement should be used in well ventilated areas.
DO NOT INHALE FUMES FROM CEMENT. THESE MAY BE NAUSEATING.
4. The vinyl bags used to package the parts should be destroyed.

BEFORE ASSEMBLING

- ☆ Before you begin to assemble your model, read the instructions carefully. Familiarize yourself with the part numbers and their location on the "trees". Detach parts from the "trees" only when a part is to be used.
- ☆ A sharp modeling knife or wire cutter is the "best" way to remove small parts from "trees". Do not attempt to "twist" parts off.
- ☆ Test fit parts together before cementing them. Apply cement carefully, avoiding excess amounts.
- ☆ When applying decals, cut them neatly from the sheet and place pieces in a small bowl of water for a few seconds. Then place the decal in position on the model. The decal can be moved slightly with a model knife point or the end of a paint brush. When the decal is in exact position, blot with tissue for a firm bond.
- ☆ It is best to spray paint the model Panzer Gray or Dark Yellow overall first. Then paint individual parts (tools, seats, dash panel, tires, etc.) with a paint brush, in the desired color.

CEMENT

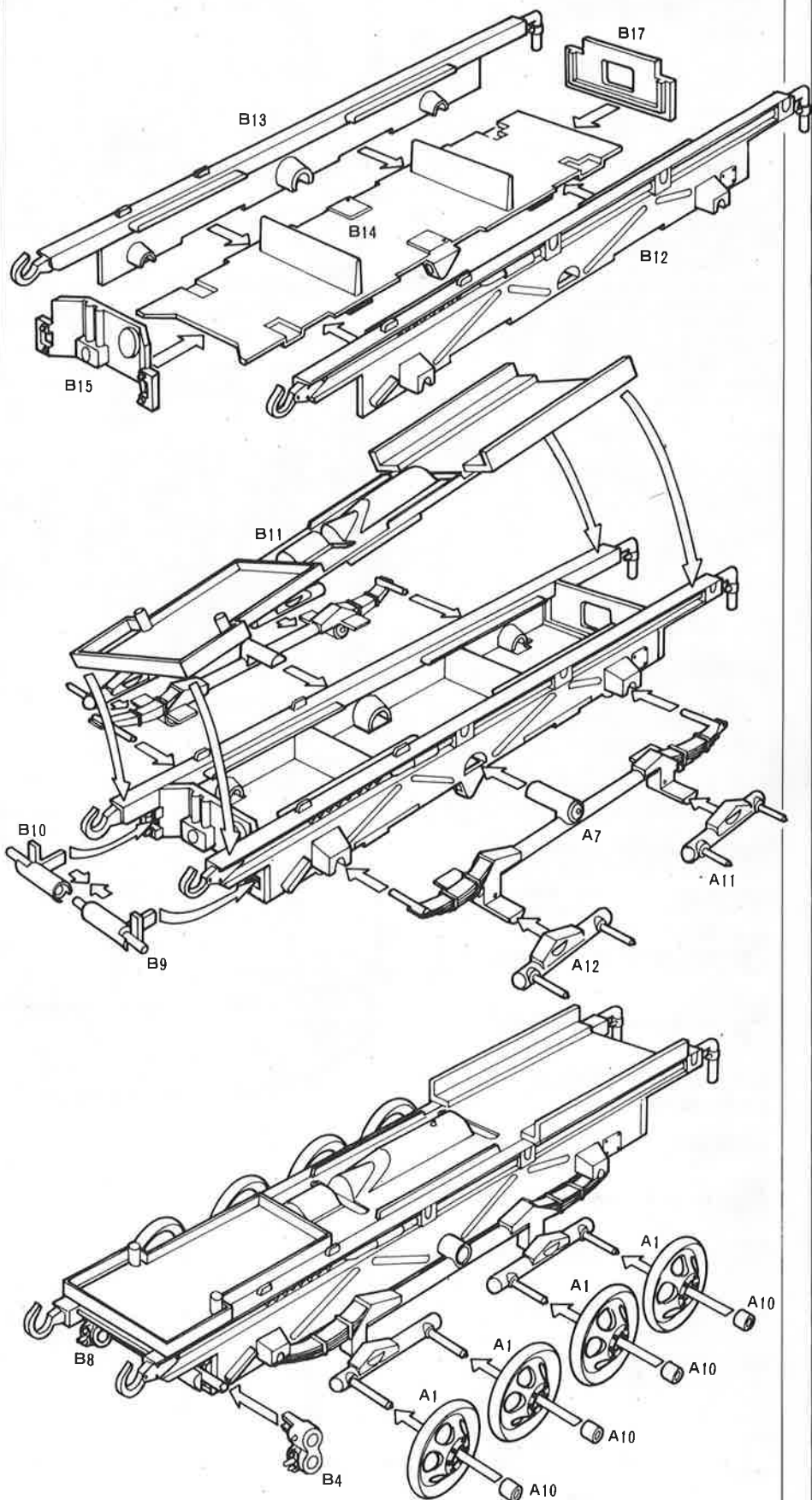


DO NOT CEMENT



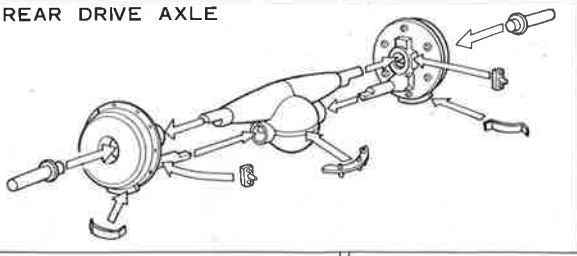
When cementing parts A10 to parts A11 or A12 be careful not to get cement on parts A1 or road wheels will not turn.

1 CHASSIS ASSEMBLY (1)

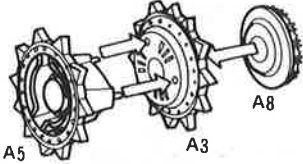


2 CHASSIS ASSEMBLY (2)

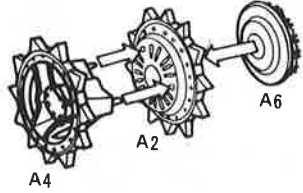
REAR DRIVE AXLE



REAR DRIVE SPROCKET



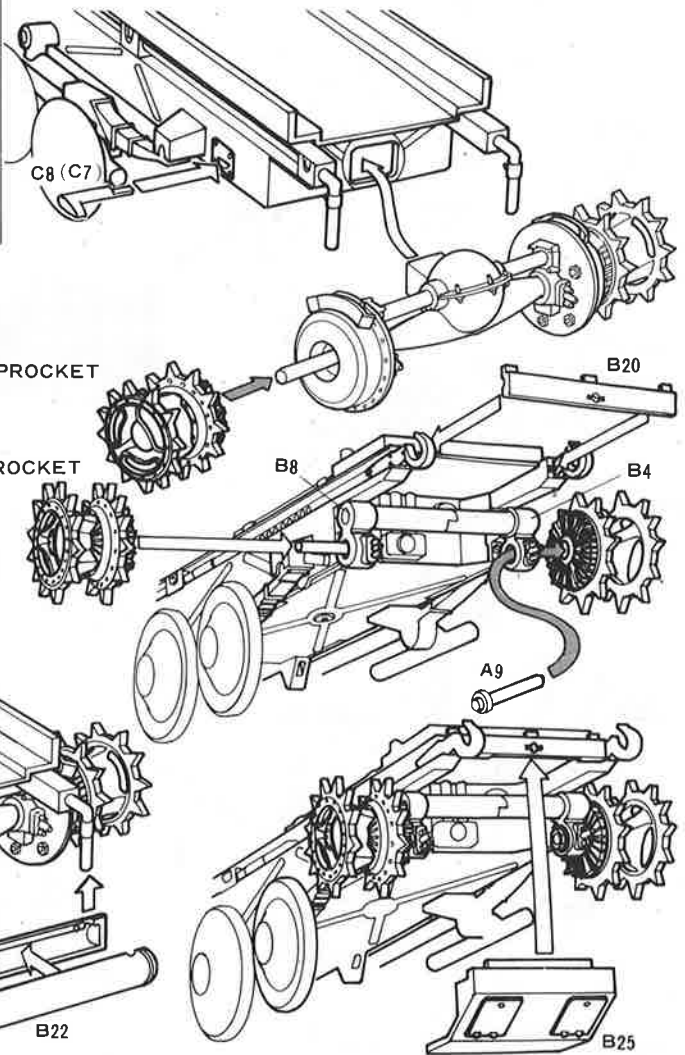
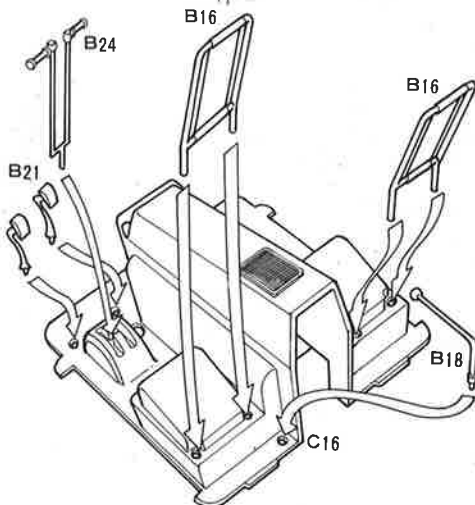
FRONT IDLER SPROCKET



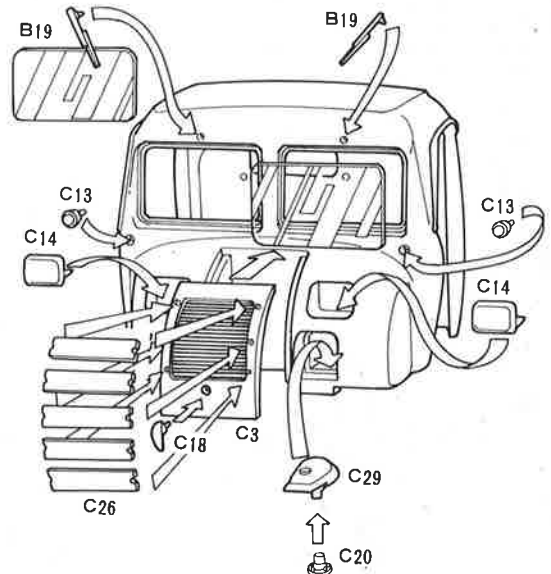
The idler sprockets and drive sprockets are very similar. Be careful when assembling them, not to confuse their individual parts. The idler sprocket parts all have small center holes, the drive sprockets have large holes.

Insert idler sprocket axles, parts A9, into idler sprocket mounts, parts B4 and B8, but do not cement. Then cement idler sprocket assembly to idler sprocket axle. Do not allow cement to touch idler sprocket mounts or idler sprocket will not turn.

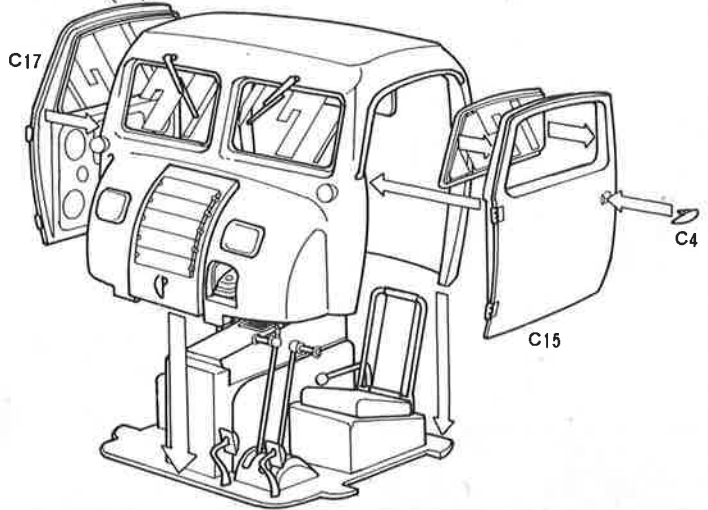
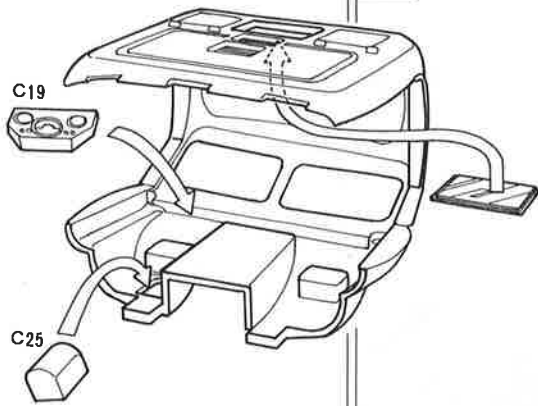
Radiator grill covers, parts C26, are optional and may be added or left off as you desire. Covers were used only in extreme cold.



3 CAB ASSEMBLY (1)



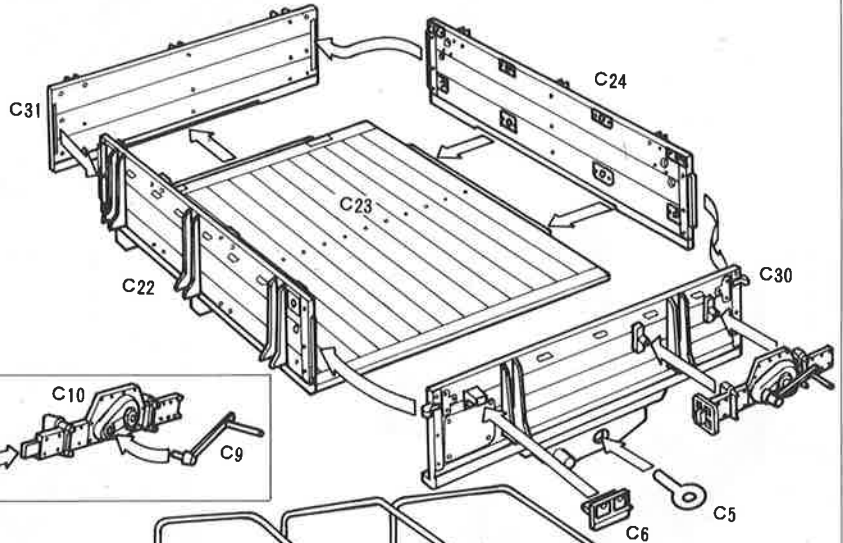
4 CAB ASSEMBLY (2)



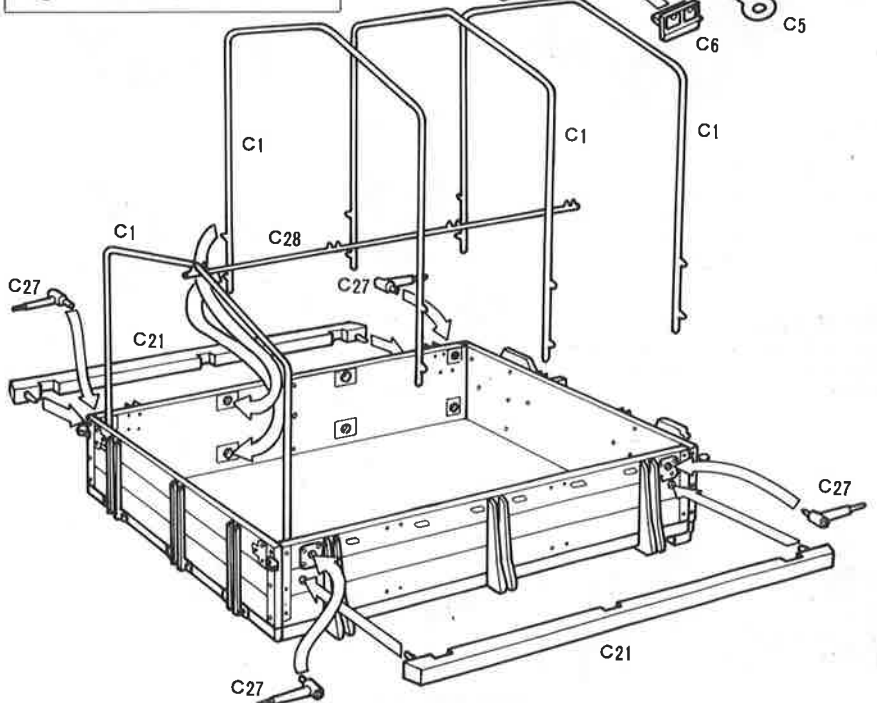
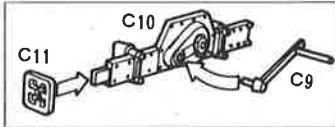
Paint the cab interior and the driver figure, and position the driver in the driver's seat before cementing the cab body to the cab floor part C-16. See page 6 for instructions on painting figures. Paint the cab interior the same color as the basic exterior color of the vehicle. Paint foot pedals, gear shift lever, and track control levers steel. Paint instrument panel dial faces white. Paint seats dark brown.

The cargo bed cover frames (Parts C1 and C28) are optional and may be left off if you desire.

5 CARGO BED ASSEMBLY



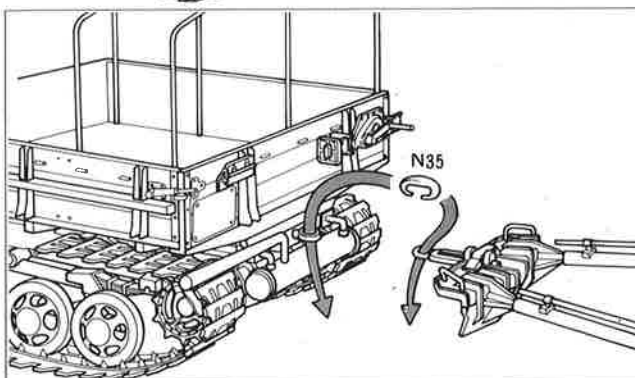
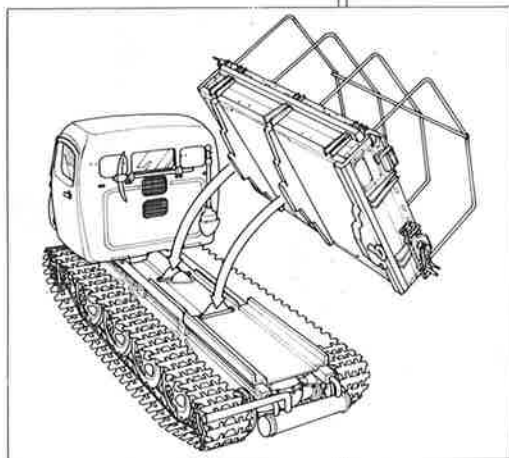
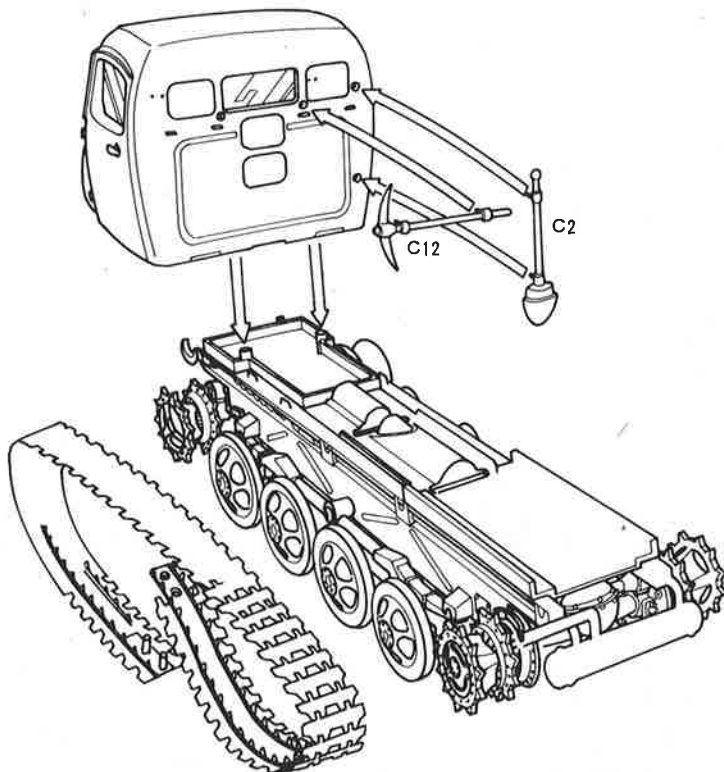
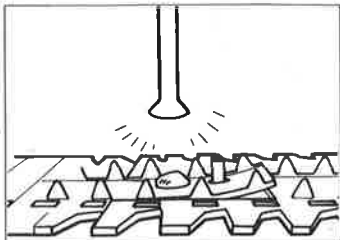
JACK



6 FINAL ASSEMBLY

When assembling the tracks, place the lugs on one end through the holes in the other. Then using the heated end of a large nail or screwdriver, lightly touch the lug and round it off so it will not draw through the hole.

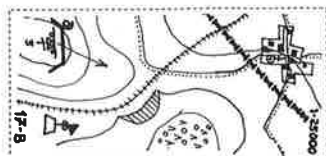
CAUTION:
Do not overheat tracks or they will melt. Use care not to burn yourself with the hot screwdriver or nail.



When using the RSO tractor to tow the Nebelwerfer rocket launcher use the "C" hook, part D-35, to connect the RSO and Nebelwerfer towing pintles.

Cut the map out of the instruction sheet with a pair of scissors. Fold one or two times and place in the left hand of the battery commander.

Paint the camouflage tunics and hats tan with dark brown and green splotches. Study the box art for exact details.



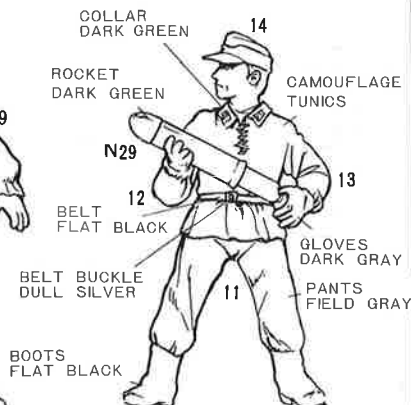
18
BINOCULARS
FLAT BLACK

15
OVER COAT
STONE GREEN

BATTERY COMMANDER



GUNNER



LOADER

14
COLLAR
DARK GREEN

ROCKET
DARK GREEN

CAMOUFLAGE
TUNICS

13
GLOVES
DARK GRAY

11
PANTS
FIELD GRAY

12
BELT
FLAT BLACK

BELT BUCKLE
DULL SILVER

10
CAP

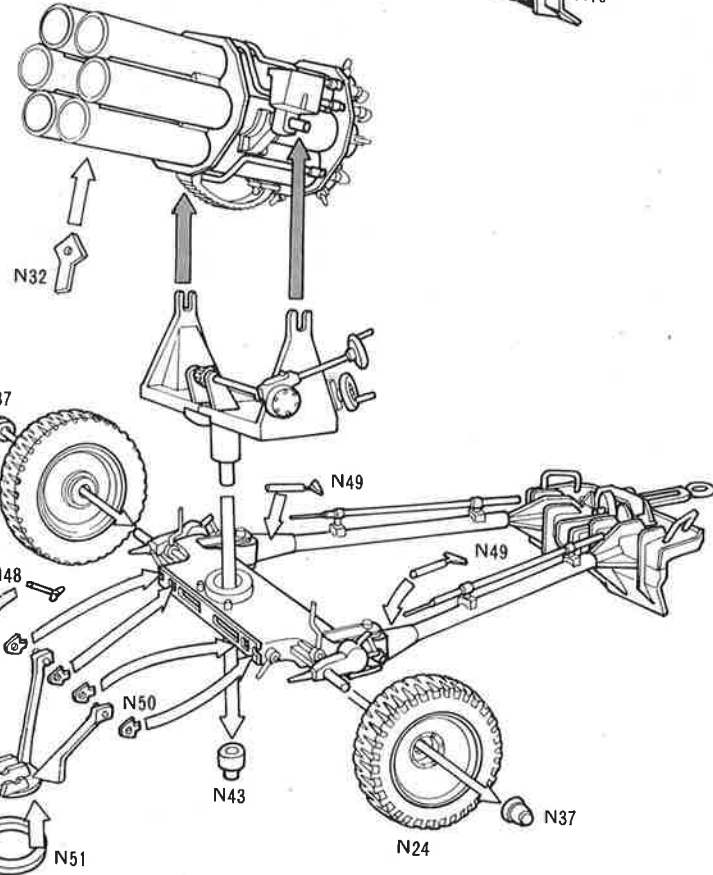
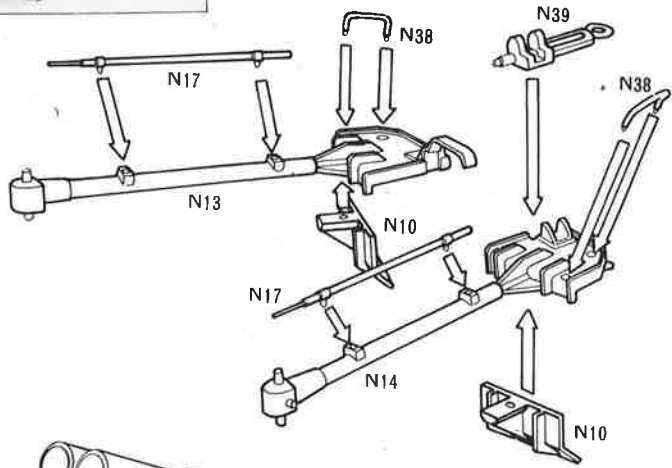
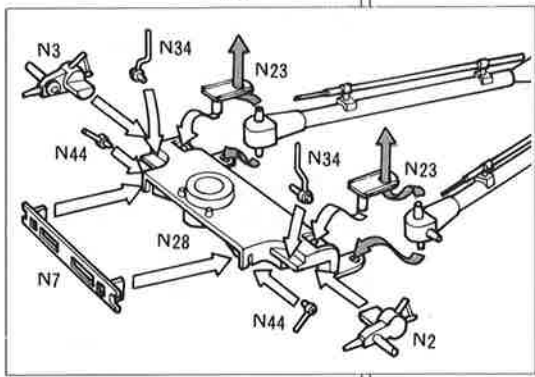
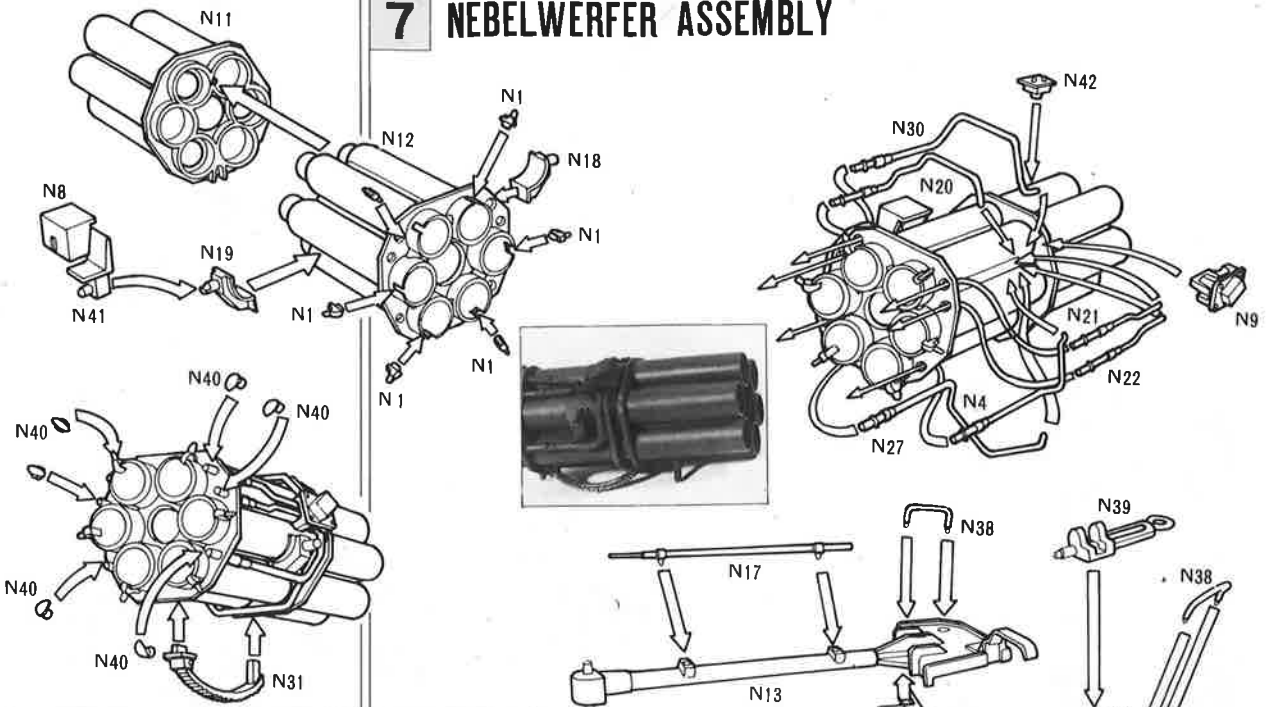
9
TUNIC

7
PANTS

11
BOOTS
FLAT BLACK

N29

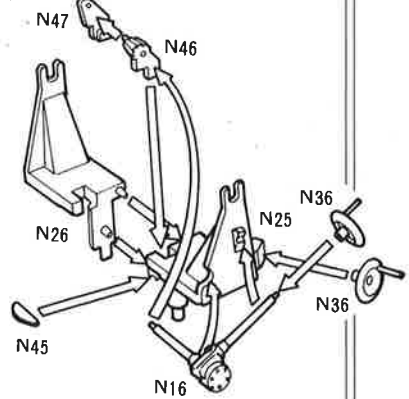
7 NEBELWERFER ASSEMBLY



When cementing parts N23 to parts N28 do not allow cement to contact parts N13 and N14 or trail arms will not move.

When cementing part N43 to parts N25/26 be careful not to get cement on part N28 or launching tube assembly will not traverse.

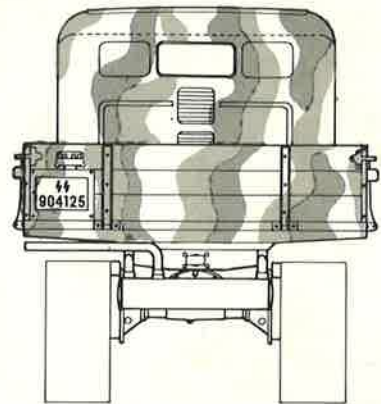
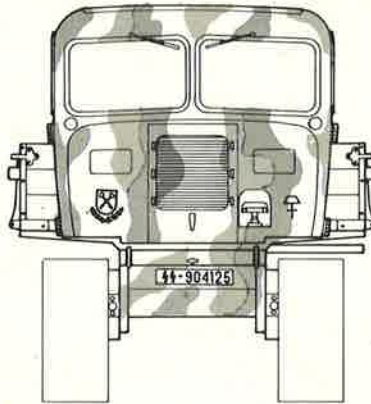
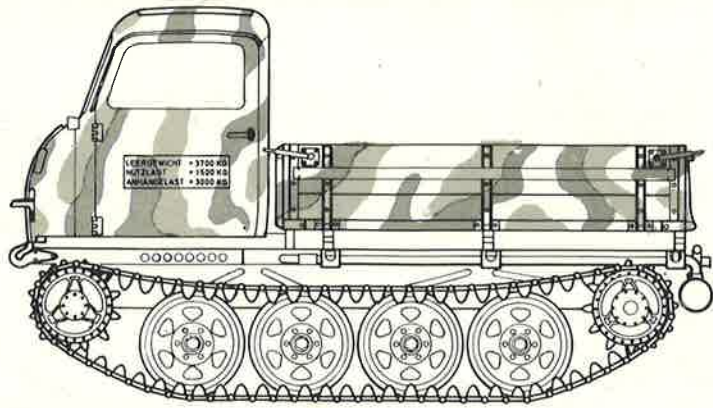
When cementing parts N37 to part N28 do not allow cement to contact parts N24 or wheels will not turn.



PAINTING AND APPLYING DECALS

The RSO/01 was assigned to fighting units in late 1942 and like all German Army vehicles of this period the RSO was painted panzer gray. In early 1943 the basic vehicle color was changed to a dark yellow, however, many vehicles, particularly support types like the RSO were not immediately repainted and continued to be used in the original gray color. The RSO was often camouflaged by overpainting with dark green or red brown or both over the basic gray or dark yellow. In the winter they were often given coats of white wash to camouflage them during periods of snow.

8



SS MARKINGS

44-904125

44
904125



1st SS ARMORED DIVISION



2nd SS ARMORED DIVISION

WEHRMACHT MARKINGS

WH-150 837

W H
150 837



78th INFANTRY DIVISION



1st INFANTRY DIVISION

LUFTWAFFE FIELD UNIT MARKINGS

WL-110974

W L
110 974



1st PARATROOP DIVISION



4th PARATROOP DIVISION

TACTICAL MARKINGS

