



## Mouse Armour

1/35 scale kit MA136  
Australian M113A1 Saladin fire  
support vehicle update set.  
(for Tamiya M113 FSV)

Researched and crafted John Myszka

### Background

Eight Australian M113A1 Fire Support Vehicles served in South Vietnam during 1971-1972. The main problems with the Tamiya kit of the M113A1 FSV (kit 35107) are the shape and size of the turret riser, hull roof extension and trim vane.

### Parts

Hull roof	Axe	Mattock head
Trim vane	Track links (set of 4)	30 cal ammo box and mount
Trim vane extension	Aerial bases (2)	Towing shackles X4
Rear jerrycan in holder X2	Right side aerial mount	76mm dust boot
Jerry can handles x2	Exhaust handle	Track tool

### 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 the model as per instructions for stages 1 to 3 inclusive. Replace the kit parts B23 with the resin track links provided. Replace parts A17 with resin jerrycans and handles provided.
2. Stage 4 – replace part C38 hull roof with corrected hull roof provided. The new hull roof comes with blanked off aerial bases and no aerial brush guards. Check your references to see if brush guards were on the specific vehicle being modeled.
3. Stage 5 – add canvass dust boot to the 76mm gun. A little bit of filing may be necessary – it is a snug fit.
4. Stage 6 add additional aerial base to the right side of the turret in the corresponding position as the left aerial base (C36). Remove the aerial from the left aerial base (C36). Add resin aerial bases to both sides onto the mounts and add aerials (not supplied) made of thin wire, bristle or stretched sprue.
5. Stage 7 - add the 30 cal ammo liner and mount to the machine gun (C4)
6. Stage 8 – Before gluing part A12 – hollow out the exhaust pipe with a No.11 blade. Insert the A12 thru the hand plate and then glue to model.
7. Stage 9 – Replace B2 with resin two part trim vane. The top piece can be glued extended or folded forward. It was locked in place and extended when the vehicle entered a body of water otherwise it was folded forward.
8. Tools are provided in the kit but the axe handle in particular is fictional. Use the resin axe provided. The tools are stored (front to back) in this order: crow bar / pick handle/sledge hammer/axe. The mattock handle is stored right hand side and the track tension tool on the left rear against the raised edge at the rear.

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

Military Briefs No.1 Australian Fire Support vehicles  
MAD608 – Australian FSVs in Vietnam  
MA313 M113A1 engine deck mesh  
MA311 Metal military chests  
MA134 Sponson and belly armour (Tamiya)  
MA316 50 cal ammo liners  
MA312 Jackie boxes  
MA302 Plastic water jerrycans