



## Mouse Armour

1/35 scale kit MA135  
Australian M113A1  
sponson and belly armour  
(for Academy M113s)

Researched and crafted John Myszka

### Background

Australian M113A1 APCs served in South Vietnam during 1966-1972. A program commenced in August 1969 to fit sponson armour (driver's side being a priority) to both sides of M113A1s in Vietnam. The belly armour program did not commence until 12 months later in September 1970. The belly armour plate was 38mm thick and held in place by two rows of bolts down each side. A collapsible footrest for the driver was also introduced. These improvements were necessary to combat the increasing threat of Vietcong land mines and improvised mines.

### Parts

Belly armour plate

Left & right sponson armour

**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.

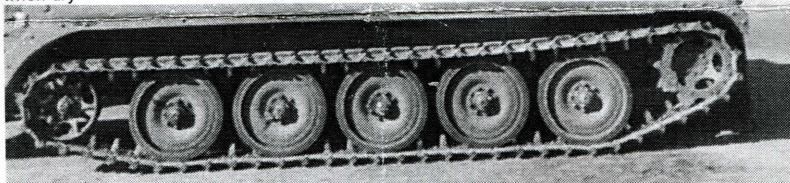
### Construction

#### General

1. Assemble the model as per instructions.

#### Belly armour

2. Ensure that all protrusions are removed from the hull bottom. Remove the casting plug from the resin belly armour plate and test fit. If it fits well then use superglue to attach it to the model. It is suggested that you glue from front to back.
3. There are two cutouts at the rear of the belly armour for the ramp hinges parts (D21-22). Once the belly armour is in place use the filler of your choice to fill the gaps around the hinges. Sand smooth when dry



4.

#### Sponson Armour

5. Remove the two sets of two raised track shroud guides on the upper side of each sponson part of the hull. These need to be removed from both sides so that the sponson armour plates can fit well.
6. Placement of sponson armour. The forward edge of the plate should be 1-2mm rearward of the drive sprocket. Attach with superglue.

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

MA313 M113A1 engine deck mesh  
MA311 Metal military chests  
MA302 Plastic water jerrycans  
MA303 Plastic jerry cans in vehicle holders

MAP01 Olive drab lustreless paint  
MAP04 Seafoam green  
MAP05 AUSCAM three pack