

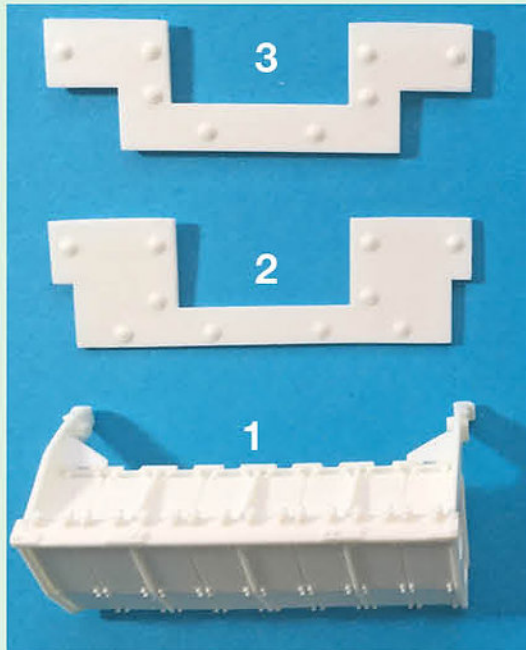
SMM3546C *Challenger 1 Hull Armour Package*

Intended for use with the Tamiya Challenger 1 Mk.3 (35154).

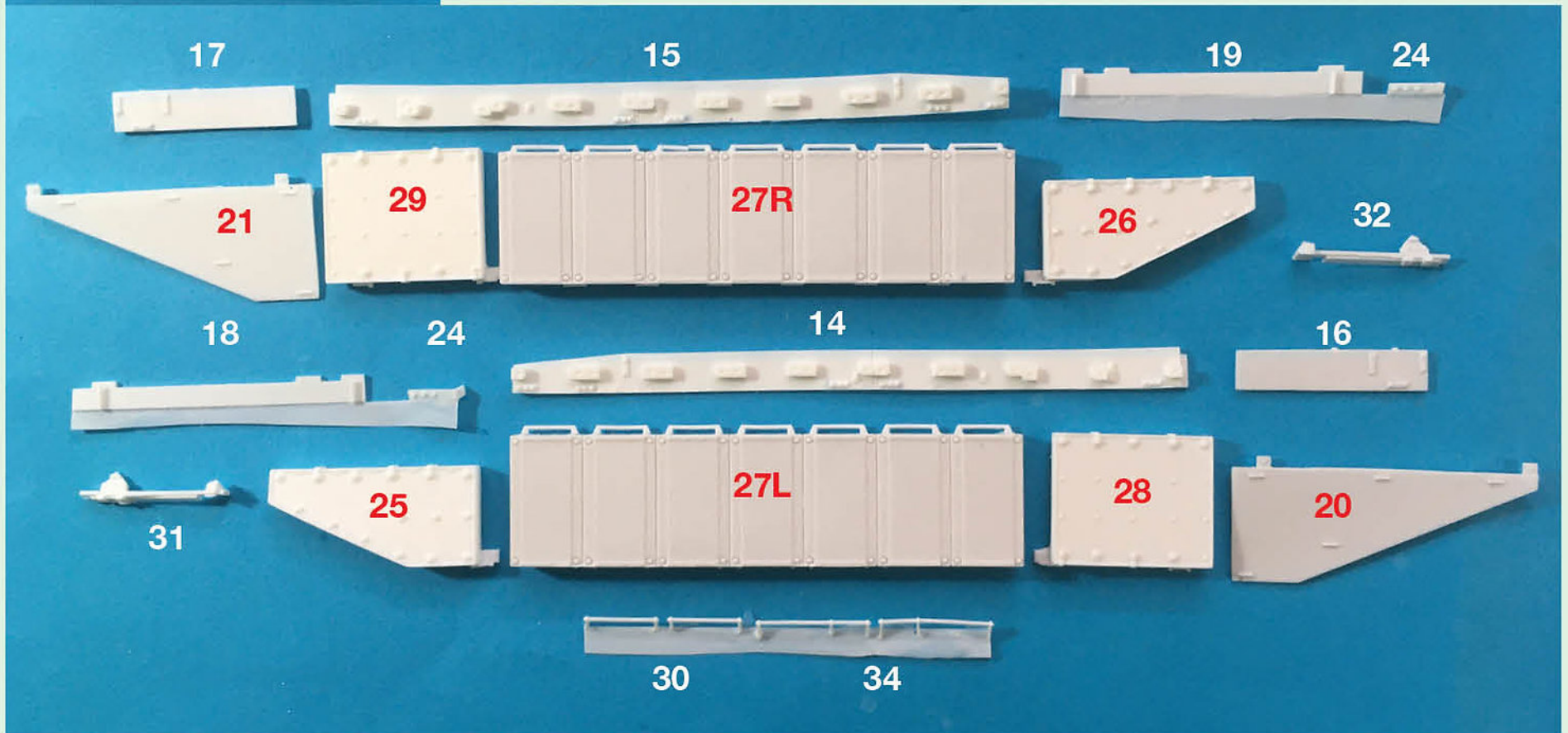
This set represents the uparmour packages fitted to Challenger 1 during Gulf War 1 and in Kosovo (KFOR). This is **NOT** suitable for Challenger 2.



Parts List



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|--|--|
| 1 ERA ROMOR-A hull front | 17 Hull side mount frames-rear section, right |
| 2 Glacis applique armour panels - Mk.3 (option) | 18 Bazooka plate section hangers, left |
| 3 Glacis applique armour panels - Mk.2 (option) | 19 Bazooka plate section hangers, right |
| Parts 4-13 are in SMM3546A Challenger 1 and 2 ERA Toe Armour | |
| 14 Hull side mount frame, left | 20 Bazooka plate, left |
| 15 Hull side mount frame, right | 21 Bazooka plate, right |
| 16 Hull side mount frames-rear section, left | 22 Front armour panel mount, left |
| | 23 Front armour panel mount, right |
| | 24 Mudguard front mount brackets (2 supplied) |
| | 25 Front VARMA 'skirt', left |
| | 26 Front VARMA 'skirt', right |



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 27A/27B Main VARMA 'skirt' (2 supplied) | 31 Mudguard front mount bracket, left | 34 Top rails front, right |
| 28 Rear VARMA 'skirt', left | 32 Mudguard front mount bracket, right | Parts 35-40 are in SMM3546B Challenger Fuel Drum Mounts |
| 29 Rear VARMA 'skirt', right | 33 Top rails front, left | |
| 30 Top rails (2 supplied) | | |

Some warping may be evident, so use hot water or a hair drier to straighten parts as necessary.
Do not bend without heating.

Damage may occur on parts with thicker casting tabs.

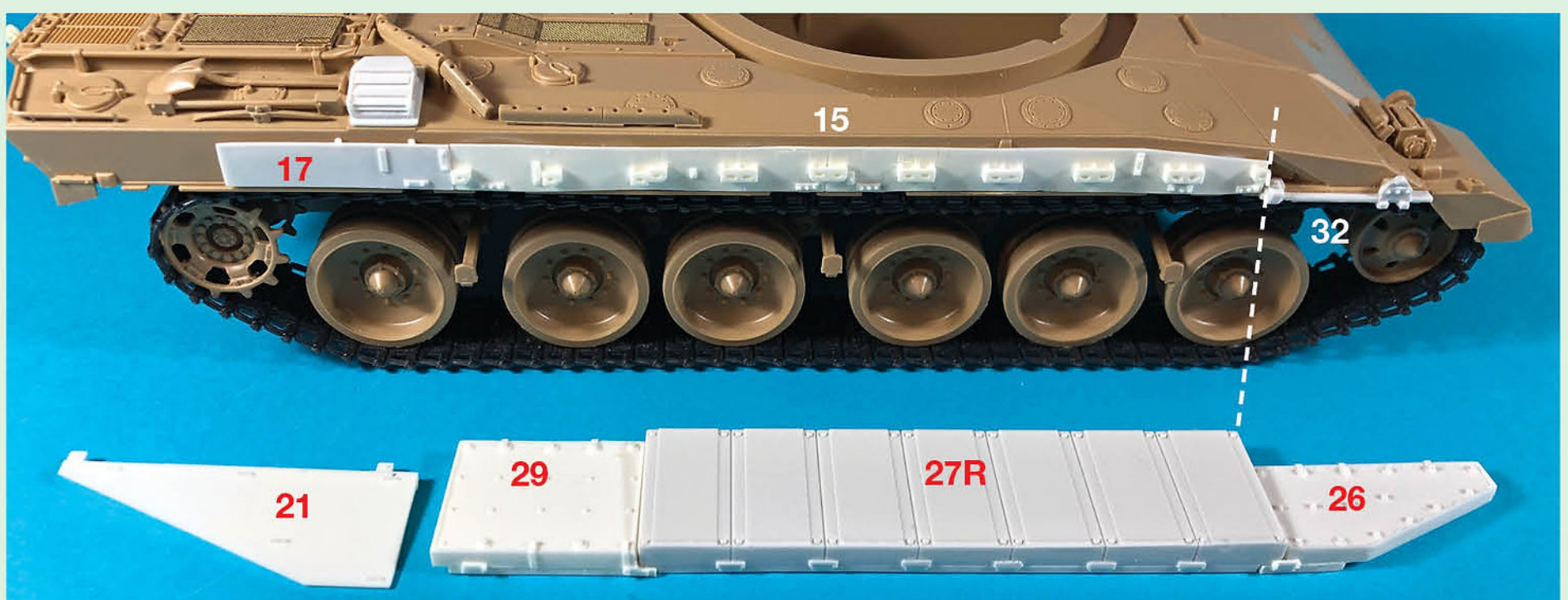
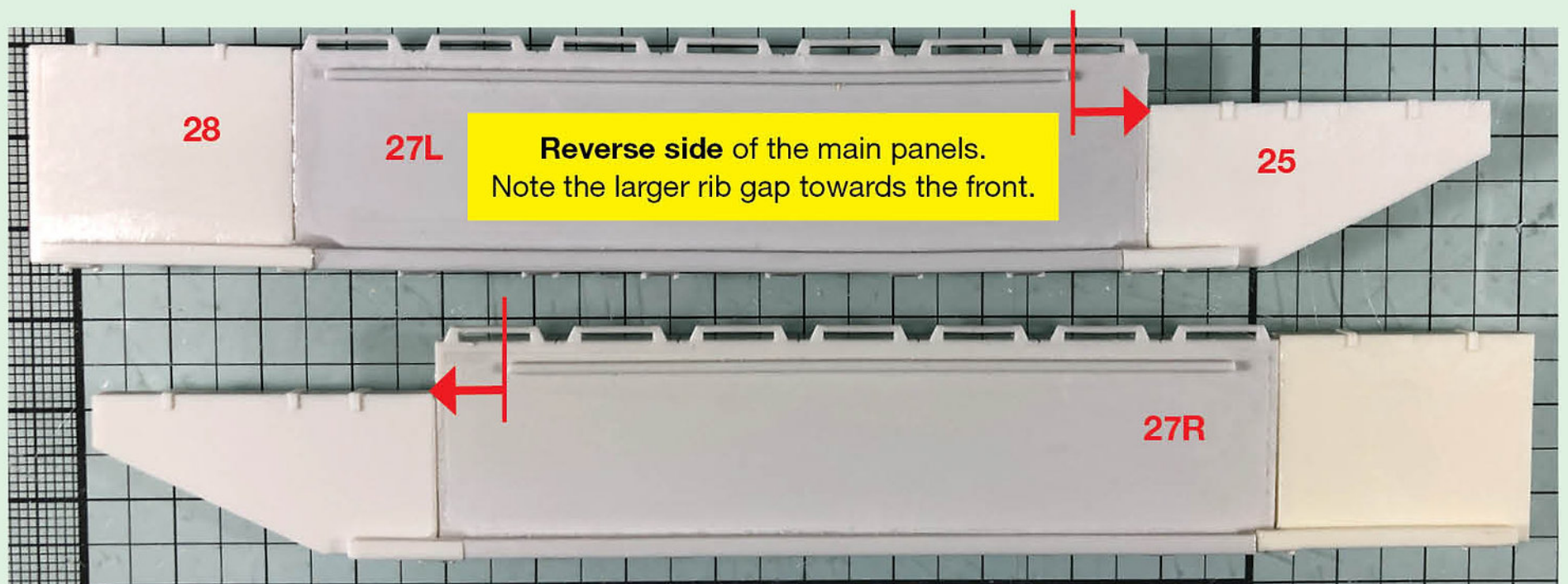
When removing the casting tabs, cut them off instead of snapping them off.

NOTE: One big problem with this *Tamiya* kit is that the stance of the suspension has the vehicle 'sitting down'. The real vehicle has Hydrogas suspension. A peculiarity of the suspension is that when cold, the suspension compresses. This is how *Tamiya* have modelled the kit, no doubt using a static museum (Bovington) example in their research. After warming up in normal operation, the air in the suspension expands and the ride of the tank increases. In this condition, the tops of the roadwheel hubs align with the bottom edge of the sideskirts (or VARMA armour in this case).

Be careful when posing your model. Remove the pegs on the back of the swing arms and set your suspension to the correct height. Ground clearance to the bottom 'V' of the hull should be 14 mm without tracks. Do the front and rear corners first and let them set. Then fill in with the other suspension. Use photo reference of the real thing to check. See page 3.

Instructions

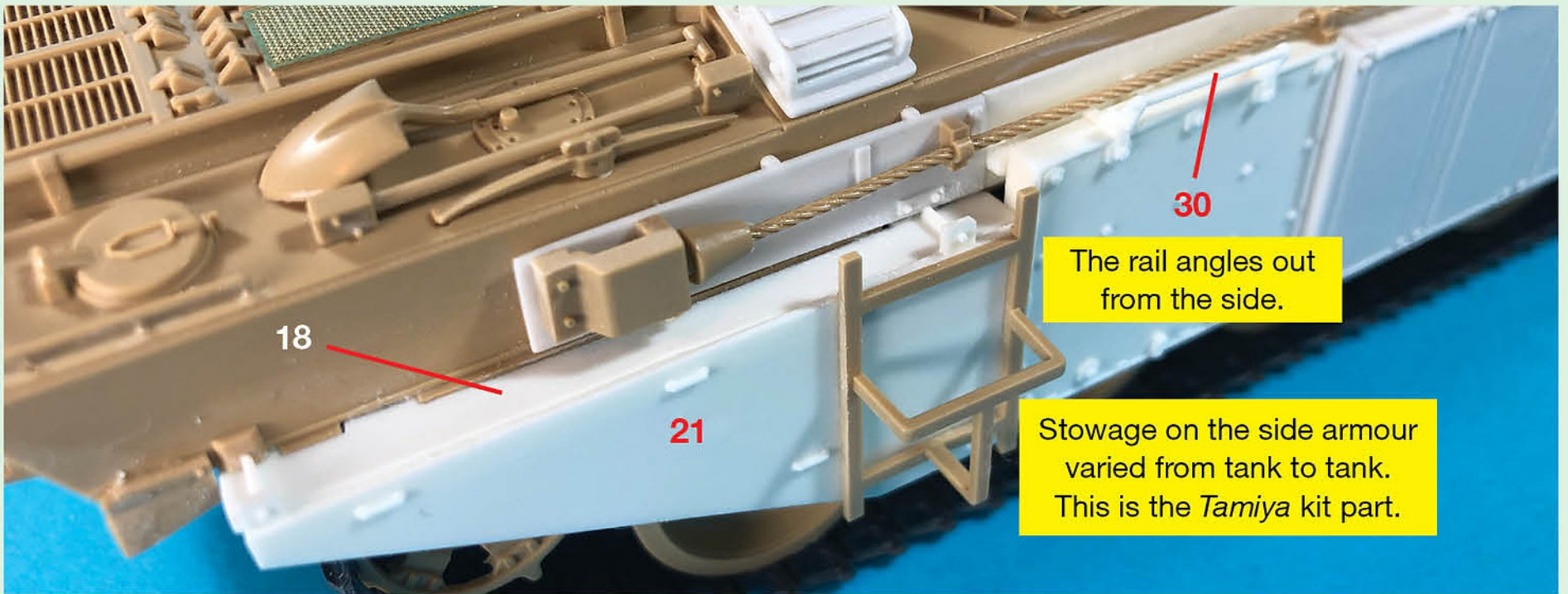
- 1 Attach part **14** to the hull side, which fits over the plastic skirt mounts for positioning. Follow with part **16**. Then attach part **31** to the front edge of the hull.
- 2 Lay out the three main panels, **25/27L/28**, on their backs. Glue together making sure their backs are all flat – and they are level along the bottom.



- 3 Repeat steps **1** and **2** above using the right-side parts.
- 4 Attach parts **19** and **18** horizontally on the relevant sides at the rear. **See next page.** Some minor work on the inside edges might be necessary for a snug fit.
- 5 Make sure the main blocks fit before gluing. On this side, align the front of part **27** with the front of part **15**. The rib on the back of part **27** butts up to the blocks on part **15**. Repeat on the other side.

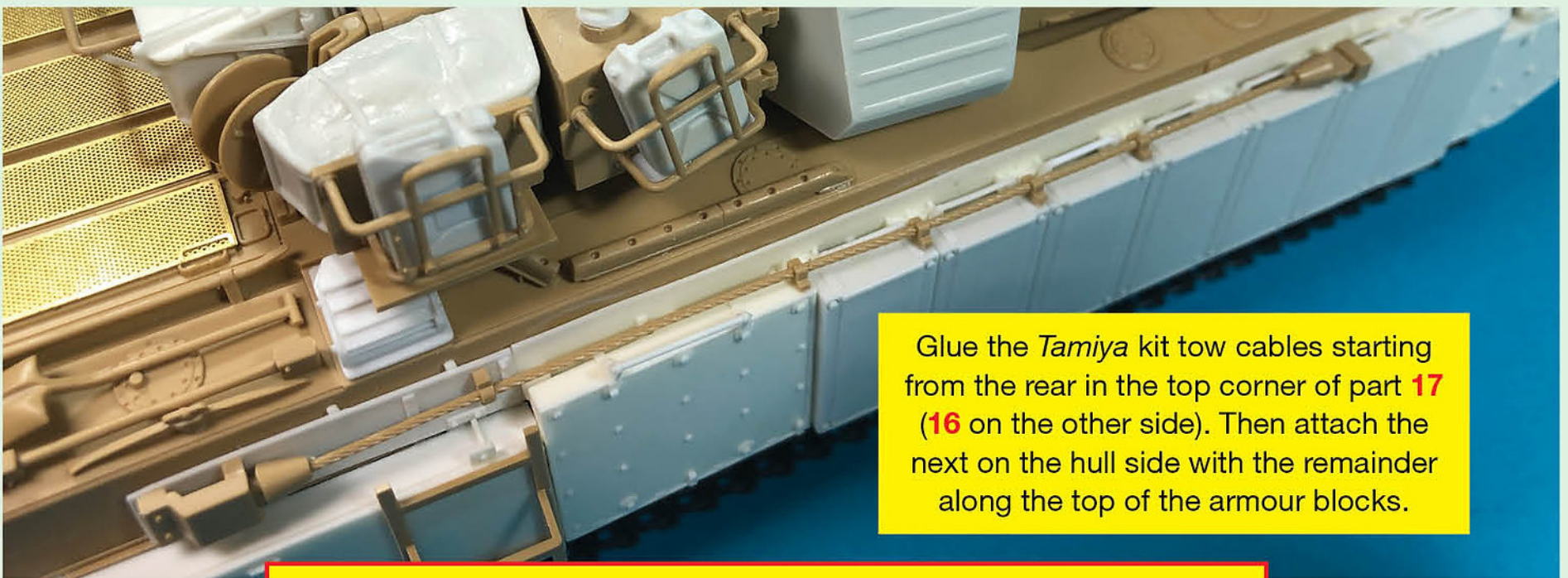


Adjust the kit suspension! See **NOTE** on page 1.
The tops of the hubs should be level with the bottom of the armour blocks.



The rail angles out from the side.

Stowage on the side armour varied from tank to tank. This is the *Tamiya* kit part.



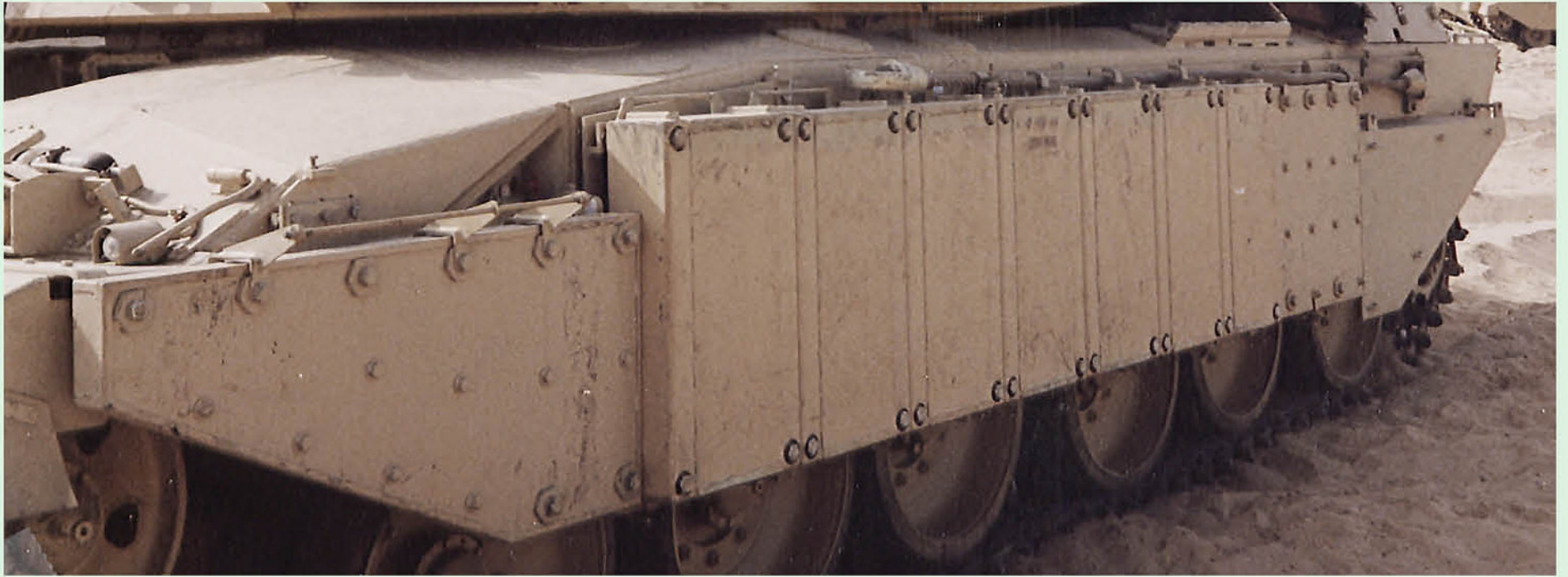
Glue the *Tamiya* kit tow cables starting from the rear in the top corner of part **17** (**16** on the other side). Then attach the next on the hull side with the remainder along the top of the armour blocks.

Other hull and turret parts shown here are from **SMM3546D Detail Set**.



The rails (**33/34**) angle out from the side.

Mk.3 nose plate is shown here. Mk.2 plate is an option in this set.



Photos from various internet sources and Des Burgess, Dai Buckler, Dennis Lunn and Dan Hay.

Happy modelling and keep on building!

Master parts built by Andrew Crutchley

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