

Markings

Identified Leopards AS1 tanks that are fitted with Bulldozer blades have turret numbers 51, 51A, 52B and 52C. Any tank that has the two lower mounting plates fitted is able to mount a dozer blade. Those Leopards without these mounting plates cannot be fitted with Dozer or mine plough attachments.

Wiring

1. Using 8 amp fuse wire, make a cable from the tank's right headlight mount to the rear of the blade's right headlight mount, then another from the tank's left headlight mount to the rear of the blade's left headlight mount.
2. NOTE – the **Leopard lights are mounted upside down** with the convoy lights at the bottom.
3. Using 16 amp fuse wire, make a cable from the driver's left episcopes to the rear of the blade's right side headlight mount, attaching it to the large size plug.

Other Mouse House products that can be used with this conversion.

MAP05 Three tone AUSCAM

Austencil 2 – 1st Armoured Regiment

Armour Bits

AB01 Leopard AS1 conversion with large photoetch fret

Aussie Armour

355 Leopard AS1 conversions

356 Austeys (6 off)

357 Australian pack and pouches

Mouse Armour

MA302 Aust pattern plastic jerry cans

MA304 Aust plastic storage chests

MA306/307 Modern Australian ration packs

MA311 Aust metal military chests

MAD606 1/35 scale 1st Armoured Regiment / School of Armour decals

And many more Leopard AS1 Decals at

<http://www.mheaust.com.au/MHE/Catalogue.htm>

Best reference

Military Briefs No.5 – Australian Leopard AS1



Mouse Armour

1/35 scale
Kit MA119
Dozer attachment for Australian
Leopard AS1

Researched and crafted Allan Currey

Background

The conversion set provides the mounting plate and adaptors for the hydraulic bulldozer attachment for the Australian Leopard AS1. This type of dozer blade attachment is in service with the Australian, Canadian and Danish Armies. The kit is specifically designed of the Italeri Leopard 1A4 but should fit onto the Tamiya Leopard 1A4 as well.

Parts

1 x blade rear (L shaped)	2 x lifting points (bent plates with hole)
1 x blade cutting edge (V shaped)	2 x pusher arms (left / right)
1 x blade front (slightly curved)	2 x push arm mounting supports (left / right)
1 x mounting plate with hydraulic reservoir	2 x light mounts
4 x top attachment points	2 x brush guards for lights (metal)
2 x hydraulic rams	4 x armoured covers for hydraulic cable (all different)
2 x pistons	
2 x lower plate guides (1 with closed end one end without)	Brass rod 1mm diameter
4 x dozer pins (two long and 2 shorter)	Fuse wire to represent light cables

Safety and tools.

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

Construction

If you are building an Australian AS1 Leopard then follow the instructions as provided by Mouse Armour, Aussie Armour or the Armour Bits conversion sets.

Depending on your choice - the blade can be built elevated or depressed to the ground

DO NOT glue the kit headlights onto the hull mounting points. The front towing hooks Parts 49-50 are not required.

Preparation

Drill out the hydraulic rams (12mm) so that the pistons (2mm) fit snugly. Drill out the bottom of the hydraulic rams so that the dozer pins fit (2.5mm diameter). Drill out the pusher arms so that the dozer pins fit (2.5mm).

Blade assembly

This consists of three pieces – rear part, blade face and cutting edge. Attach curved blade face to "L" shaped blade rear assembly. It should be level at the base and protrude slightly over the top, and be centred with a slight overhang on each side. Attach "V" shaped cutting edge to lower edge of blade.

The mounting plate

The mounting plate with hydraulic reservoir needs to have the top attachment points added (this is the 4 pieces on a mounting block) in order for it to fit the tow hook mounts on the hull (part 87). These attachment points should be placed so that they fit each side of the hull mounted tow hook points (parts 87). The mounting plate with the attachment points in place is then held to the top of the glacis plate by "L" shaped pins (brass rod provided) and two lower plate guides at the bottom of the hull.

Add the two "L" shaped lower hull guides to the bottom of the main plate. The hull guide with a closed end fits to the right side of the plate when facing the vehicle.

Hydraulic assembly.

The rams are held in place by the two short dozer pins. Make sure that the grease nipples face outward. The pusher arms are held in place by the long dozer pins. Once these are in place the push arm mounts are glued to the face of the pusher arms. The pistons should be pinned into place in the pusher arms with 2mm brass rod provided.

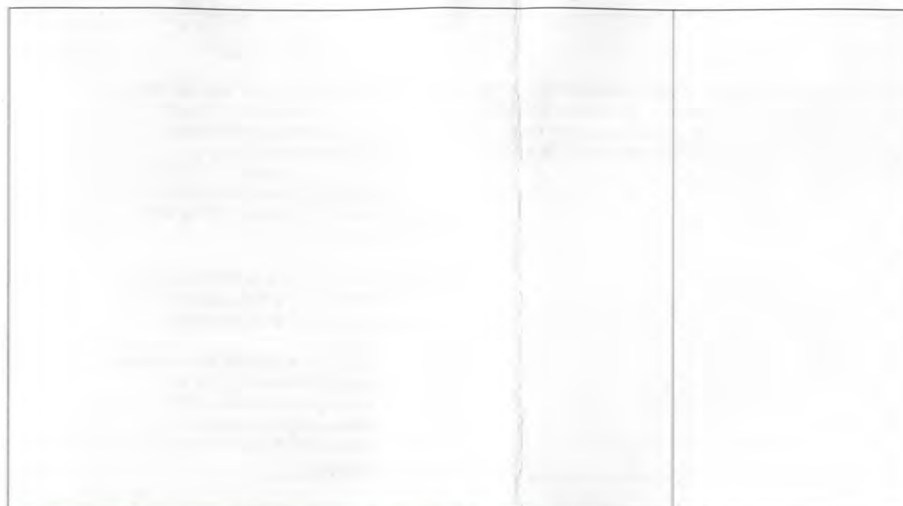
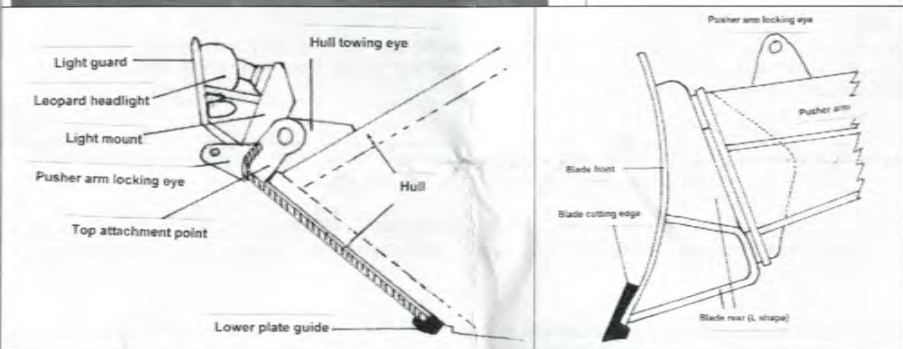
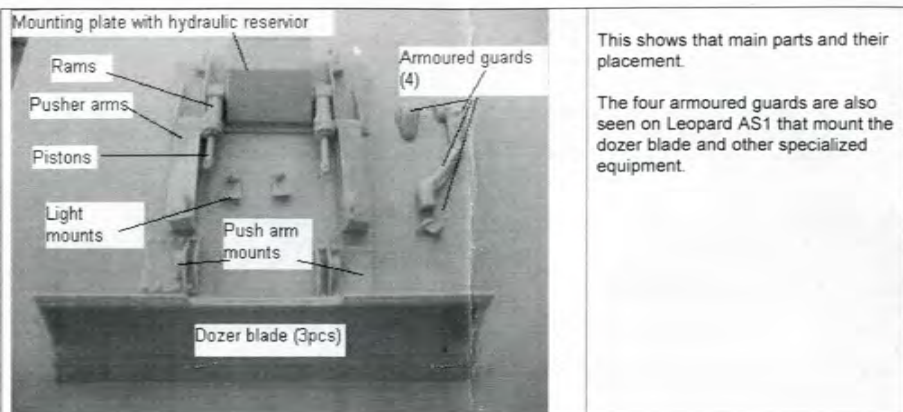
The pusher arms can then be glued to the pusher arm mounts – the inboard of each pusher arm should be glued snugly into the "half round bump". The pusher arm should be mounted in the middle of the pusher arm mount.

Colour

You will note that whilst the tank itself is in 3-tone camouflage, the bulldozer attachment can be seen in 3-tone camo or overall Olive drab. This depends on the vehicle and what time period the vehicle represents.

References

http://anzacsteel.hobbyvista.com/Armoured%20Vehicles/leopardph_2.htm



This image shows:

- Position of the brush guards and the light mounts
- The position of the four armoured covers
- The thick cable that comes from the back of the right hand side headlight mount to the drivers vision port
- Note the track cleats and their mounting plates

