

Working with the MACK AB Flat Bed Truck Kit

by Brett Gallant

Please handle these parts very carefully! While I use a high strength tooling resin that is very flexible and strong, these parts contain incredibly fine detail that must be handled carefully to prevent damage. I always recommend test fitting all parts prior to assembly to familiarize yourself with the proper fit and orientation. Before you begin construction be sure to download: *“Working with SierraWest 3D Printed Castings”*. These instructions cover all of the basics and provide essential information you will require before proceeding. There is a wealth of information Online about the history of the MACK AB as well as many examples of the various paint schemes. Please visit the “University” link on my website for more relevant instructions and videos.

General Notes

Since the assembly of the MACK AB flat bed is straightforward, these instructions are not intended to be a step by step. They will suggest coloring and basic assembly along with the sequence of assembly that is recommended.

As with nearly all SierraWest 3D Printed parts, the supports are removed in house. On highly detailed castings like these, you may find very fine, thin supports that are easily removed with a pair of tweezers. Remnants of supports may be filed or gently scraped away with a sharp blade tip.

Test the fit of the four wheels and steering wheel. Use a very light touch and a hand drill bit or broach reamer to insure these parts fit correctly.

Prepare and prime all of the 3D Printed parts as outlined in the *“Working with SierraWest 3D Printed Castings”* download. Allow the primer to fully cure before proceeding. I primed all of the parts in this kit with a quality flat black spray paint. Except for the primer, all paint used is AK Interactive 3rd Generation water based paint. (Unless otherwise noted).

All brass chain and wire is first blackened with a chemical blackening agent. Visit the “University” link on my website for current materials and sources.

For small details a “slow cure” cyanoacrylate is appropriate. For larger details (like wheels to axles) epoxy is highly recommended.

Dry Chalk Weathering

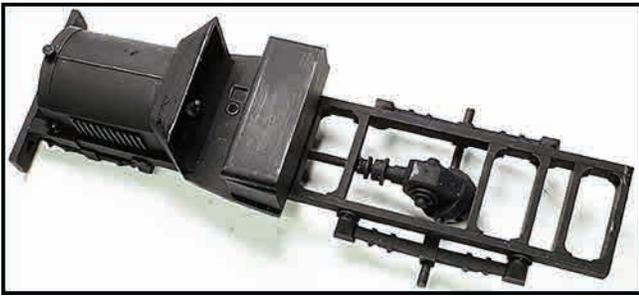
Once all of the components have been painted, and the paint has had a chance to cure, they are dry chalk weathered prior to assembly. Paint that is “dry to the touch” is a physical process where the solvents have evaporated. Cured paint is the chemical process on a molecular level and is durable enough to withstand the chalk weathering process. I usually wait at least 24 hours after painting to chalk weather.

Use a combination of black, brown, gray, orange/red/rust, chalk powders. Start with black chalk powder and a stiff bristled brush. Use a light hand. Let the chalk build slowly until you achieve the weathered and aged effect desired. If you press too hard you may damage the parts. I primarily use the black along edges and on the underside of components to create shadows and depth. Then a softer bristled brush is used to apply the remainder of the chalk colors randomly. Use several shades of brown to dirty and dull surfaces, then add rust highlights where appropriate. Light gray is a great finishing color if used very sparingly. It provides a wonderful contrast over top the darker colors. Do not overthink this step. Remember it is a completely random application. Enjoy watching the chalk build up and age the components. Since these parts will not be handled once assembled, a fixative is not necessary.

Working with the MACK AB Flat Bed Truck Kit

by Brett Gallant

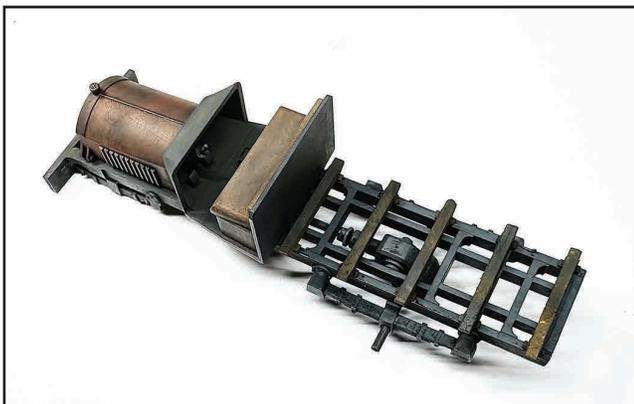
Weathering and Assembly



Use epoxy to glue the rear axle and differential in place. Allow to set. Paint the hood and wheels Brick Red. Paint the rubber tires Graphite. Paint the seat and seat back Tan Earth. Once the paint has thoroughly cured, dry chalk weather.

Paint the large round tank, five flat bed supports, steps, gas tank, steering wheel, gear shift and brake levers Pale Grey. Chalk weather once cured.

Paint the headlights and lanterns with Rusty Brass then chalk weather with black to dirty and dull once cured. Paint the headlight "lenses" off white then chalk weather.



Epoxy the five flat bed supports in place as shown. Grain and stain the included stripwood decking. Instructions on how I weather stripwood can be found by clicking the "University" link on my website. Cut to fit and epoxy the decking in place.



Epoxy the rear wheels in place. Be sure the bottom (with the group of small bumps) is facing down and hidden. Monitor the wheels as the epoxy cures. Ensure the wheels are straight and do not angle out of alignment as the epoxy cures. This is very important so take your time and do not rush this step.

Carefully turn the truck upside down and epoxy the front axle assembly in place. It will be a snug fit. Now epoxy the front wheels in place.

Glue the gear shift, brake lever, and steering wheel in place. Glue the gas tank in place. Glue the steps, headlights, and lanterns in place. Glue the large round tank to the deck and add any load as desired. A license plate holder is included as an extra detail that can be added as desired.

Wrap the chain around the front bumper securing with drops of epoxy.

Extra pulleys and hooks are supplied for you to add anywhere on the truck as desired to assist in securing the load.

Ordinary solder is used to form the hose draped around the large tank. It is then blackened and epoxied in place.

Working with the MACK AB Flat Bed Truck Kit

by Brett Gallant



THE MACK MODEL **AB FLAT BED**

