

# Working with the MACK AB “Stubby” Tow 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

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.

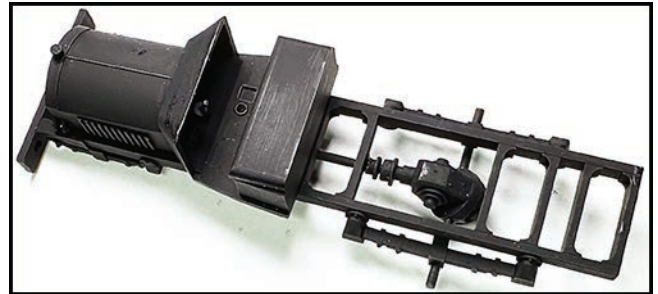
As with nearly all SierraWest 3D Printed parts, the supports are removed in house. On highly detailed castings like these, you may find very fine, thin supports that are easily removed with a pair of tweezers. Remnants of supports may be filed or gently scraped away with a sharp blade tip.

Test the fit of the four wheels and steering wheel. Use a very light touch and a hand drill bit 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.

## Initial Weathering and Assembly



Use epoxy to glue the rear axle and differential in place. Allow to set. Photographs follow that illustrate the weathering process including the colors used. I utilized the “Chipped Paint Effects” technique demonstrated in the video on my website (Visit the “University” link on my website) to achieve the desired peeled paint appearance. All components were then chalk weathered.



Paint and weather all of the details that bring the tow truck to life. Brass highlights are added to lanterns and horns. Paint the headlight “lenses” off white and the flasher “lenses” bright red. Always finish with a dry chalk weathering to dull the colors.

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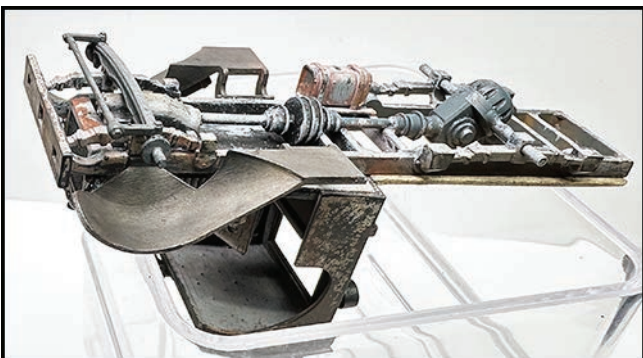
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Handle the fenders and front axle assembly with care, they are fragile. Before gluing the details in place test the fit of the cab, front axle, and fenders.

Epoxy is recommended for assembly. Just after the epoxy sets, and is still a bit tacky, any excess can be easily picked away with the tip of a blade and a little chalk powder applied.

Glue the rear mounted tool box in place. Photographs can be found at the end of these instructions on the completed truck. Use the thin strip of styrene supplied to “brace” the toolbox.



Glue the gear shift, brake lever, and steering wheel in place. Glue the gas tank in place. Glue the details mounted on the cab roof then once set, glue the cab in place.

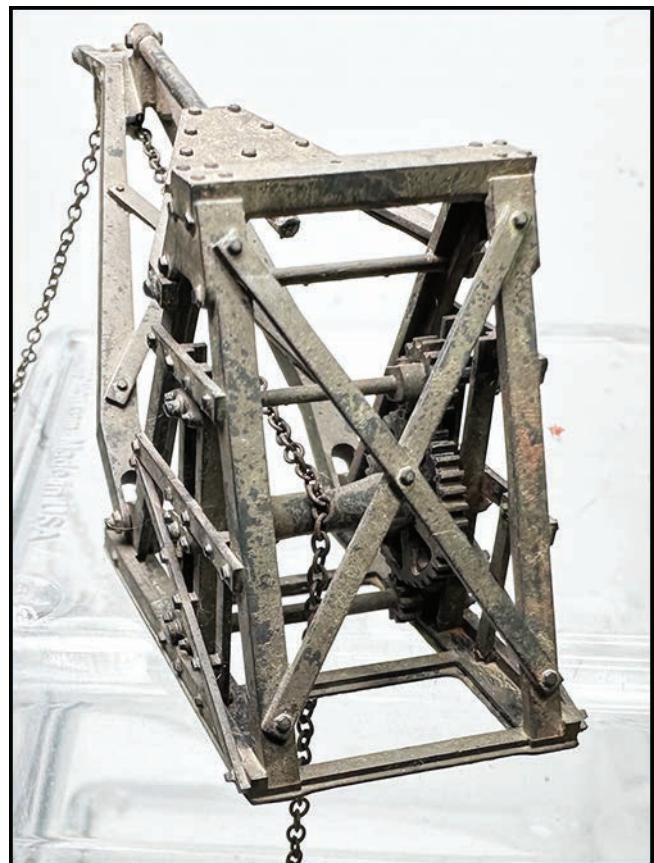
Glue the fenders in place, one at a time. Allow the epoxy to set before installing the second fender. Once set glue the lights, fender mounted acetylene tank, cab mounted horn, and spare tire. Carefully turn the truck upside down and glue the front axle assembly in place. It will be a snug fit.

## The Tow Assembly



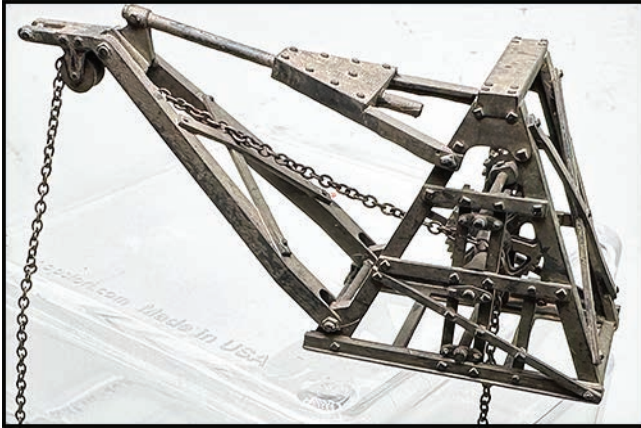
Paint and weather the tow assembly then chalk weather

Do not cut the chain. Thread it through the assembly as shown then secure it in place with a few drops of CA (super glue).



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Wrap the chain around the winch spool several times then use epoxy, hidden on the bottom, to secure in place. Once set cut the excess away. O Scale - glue the winch crank in place. Add a pulley and hook as shown then cut the excess chain off and secure the hook. Different sizes are supplied for you to work with the size that you are comfortable with. O scale is provided with small silver jump rings to attach the hook. Color before assembly. Cut to fit, then weather and glue the stripwood running boards along the top of the truck bed. These overhang the left and right edge a bit and are wider than the tow assembly.

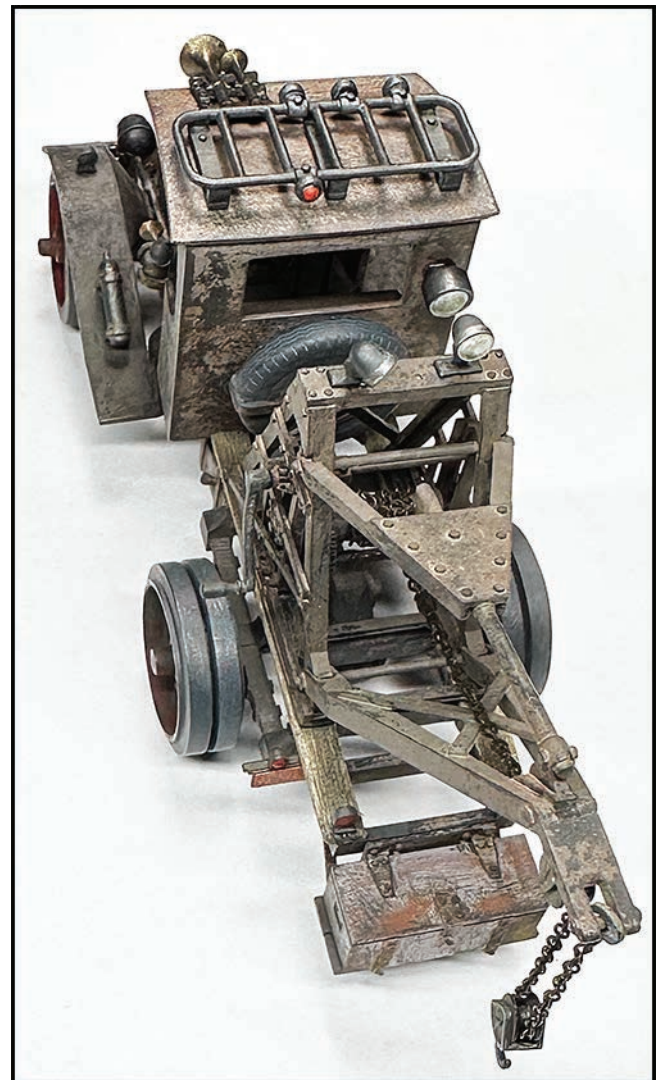


Glue the tow assembly in place. Glue the spotlights on top then add the license plate and rear flashers.

Glue the wheels in place. Be sure the bottom (with the group of small bumps) is facing down and hidden.

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 and tow assembly as desired.



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