

Hello again group. I have replied to most of the posts in Part I and it has been several weeks since new pictures of the conversion progress, and as it is over 100 degrees F today, I thought I would sit in the A/C, download/upload pictures and write Part II for you all.

As I last left you, I was finishing the crawler assembly and had managed to break and fix it by drilling and pinning broken tracks. With the crawlers done and in the box, I went to work on the counter weights. Although very cool to play with and look at, a pain to finish, however I did get them all done. I finished the black ones with flat black, not the gloss. Looks better I think. Two coats of paint and one 6 hour day in the 90 degree sun and they were headed back for the box. The lower tray was completed-less decals of course.

Speaking of decals, Eric here in the forum is supplying me the two page set, including all the ones needed to put safety corners and little Mammoet's on the counterweights.

Moving on to the second box now. I did the counter weight sled next. Took it apart and with little problem and premiered it. So on to the winch carriage. I removed the winch drums by pushing in on the spring loaded end and out they came. Next was removing the upper pulleys-the pins pulled right out-no problem. The upper structure was riveted in as were its arms. I had bought some of these rivets at the model shop in the airplane department and they looked they would fit. My only dilemma was how to flare out the other end once installed. I went to the hardware store and checked out a plumbing flair tool, but it was way big. So I bought a small 1.5" C clamp to make my own.

I took the clamp, backed it out and popped the head off it. I went over to the bench sander and worked the tip for a few minutes until I had what looked like a sharpened pencil head. I then placed a rivet in with the unflaired end towards the point. I gave it a few turns and at da! A prefect flair end.

I drilled out the rivet in the upper structure and the arms and removed them from the carriage. I then tried to remove the three screws that would hold the two halves together. I went through every Philips in the tool chest-that's quite a few. None had a shank small enough to get down the hole. The ones that did could not grab the head. So with one that was close and a #1 head on it, I went back to my trusty bench sander and ground down the shank and head until it fit. Finally with the screws out the carriage split easily.

The carriage and the cab are black with a red stripe around them. The method I am using is an underlying red and paint over it with the black. The red stripe is going to be 1/2" wide. To do this I primed the carriage, masked off an area about 3/4" to 1 inch wide on the sides, more than wide enough to place my 1/2" wide model masking tape (used for painting on radio controlled car bodies). I then covered as much of the rest of the piece and shot the red stripe.

The counter weight sled also has a red stripe around it I masked off most of the top and shot its sides red. This will also receive the model masking tape, before the black overcoat is applied.

Today, as some of the pieces are drying, I took the cab apart. It came apart with little trouble, but I can see I will need to epoxy the deck plate pieces back on, the pins were not much to be hold-so a little two part epoxy should put them on nicely.

That's all for now!

Bob

Completed Crawler

Counterweights

Completed bottom box

Watch out for over spray!

Home made flair tool

Carrier

Counter weight sled

Putting on the red underlay stripe