

Hello again group. I hope everyone had a great DHS open house-sorry I was not able to attend this year-there is always next year! Welcome to a very brief part three of my CC8800 conversion. I have finished painting the winch carriage and the counter weight sled, but not without some problems.

After masking off the red underlay strip, I laid down the first coat of black. Looked good. Two hour later I added the second coat and disaster strikes. The second coat dries alligator style-the whole paint job is distorted and cracked in all directions-my finish was ruined. It was really hot and humid that day and I did not leave the fan on-this is what I attribute to the bad finish.

So what to do? I figured that I should try sanding it first and see if I could use what was there as a base coat. I really did not want to strip it, but that was my back up plan. I spent several hours sanding it smooth removing all the gloss and leveling the surface. I re-sprayed them again and got a satisfactory finish.

I removed the model masking tape covering the red strip. This looked so cool. I can't wait till the decals get here to add those finishing touches.

Today I re-assembled both the carriage and the counter weight sled. It is necessary when re assembling parts with pins to strip off the paint on the pin for an easy fit. I did the counter weight sled and it went together about as easily as it came apart. The winch carriage went together pretty easily. Now came the moment of truth. I had to reattach the upper structure with rivets and my homemade tool.

The rivets I had I measured as 5/32" in diameter. I tried them in the holes of the model and they were just a fraction too large to push through. So I grabbed my trusty drill and the 5/32" bit, lined it up and drilled through all three pieces at the same time. The rivet slide right through. It looked a little long as I only need about a 3/32" or so sticking out for the flair. I took it out and took it over to the bench sander and shortened it a little. Re installed it and it looked about right. Hooked on the tool and slowly turned the handle and low and behold it flared the end back perfectly. Repeat three more time and I was back together!

Here are some pics-and by the way the guy in the pics is my site foreman-Gus. He keeps things moving!

Bob