

MARK DAWES designed it – ‘SPANNER’ describes it:

ANTI-TANK GUN and CARRIER

AN ARMY MULTIKIT MODEL

NEVER LET it be said that the MMQ does not keep its word! In the July Editorial, we illustrated a Track-ed Transporter with Anti-Tank Gun designed from an Army Multikit by Mark Dawes of Bicester, Oxon, and we promised that we would give full building instructions this issue. True to our promise, here they are, but before describing construction, I would like to take a moment to explain why we were so impressed with the model when we first saw it at last year's Henley Exhibition.

To begin with, although the model is built from only one set, it is really

two models in one as the Gun and Transporter are separate constructions. On such "double" occasions there is often a tendency to overstretch the capabilities of a set and end up with two visually ineffective, insubstantial units instead of one good, solid model, yet Mark has succeeded in keeping substance and effective realism in both his units. He has also put the parts in the Army Multikit to very good use by fitting tracks to the Transporter and Wheels to the Gun, thus using both traction systems in the one model. Add to this the fresh originality of the choice of subject and the fact

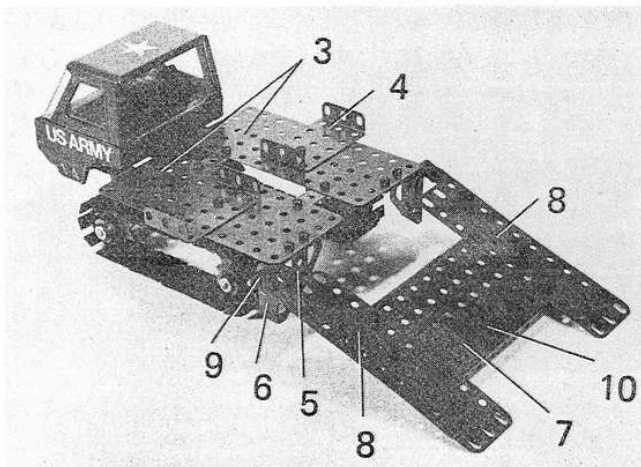
that Mark was only 12½ years old at the time he designed the model and you have many good reasons for being impressed.

CONSTRUCTION

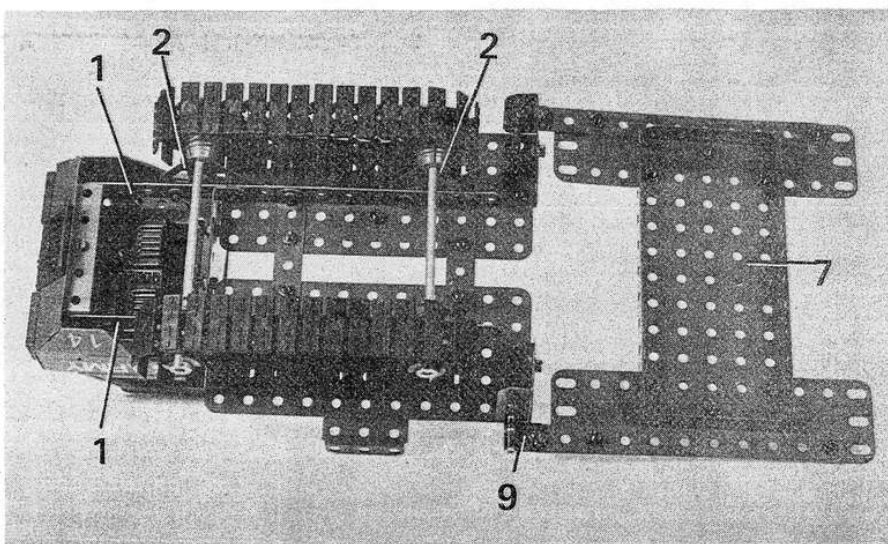
To get down to brass tacks (or at least green plates!), construction is not difficult. Dealing first with the Transporter, the chassis is provided by two 7½" Strips 1 connected together in the positions shown by four 2½" x ½" Double Angle Strips. Note that the front Double Angle Strip is positioned lugs upwards, the second Double Angle Strip lugs rearward and the third and fourth Double Angle Strips lugs downward. The Bolts fixing the second and fourth Double Angle Strips in place also help to fix four Flat Trunnions 2 to Strip 1 to serve as the axle supports.

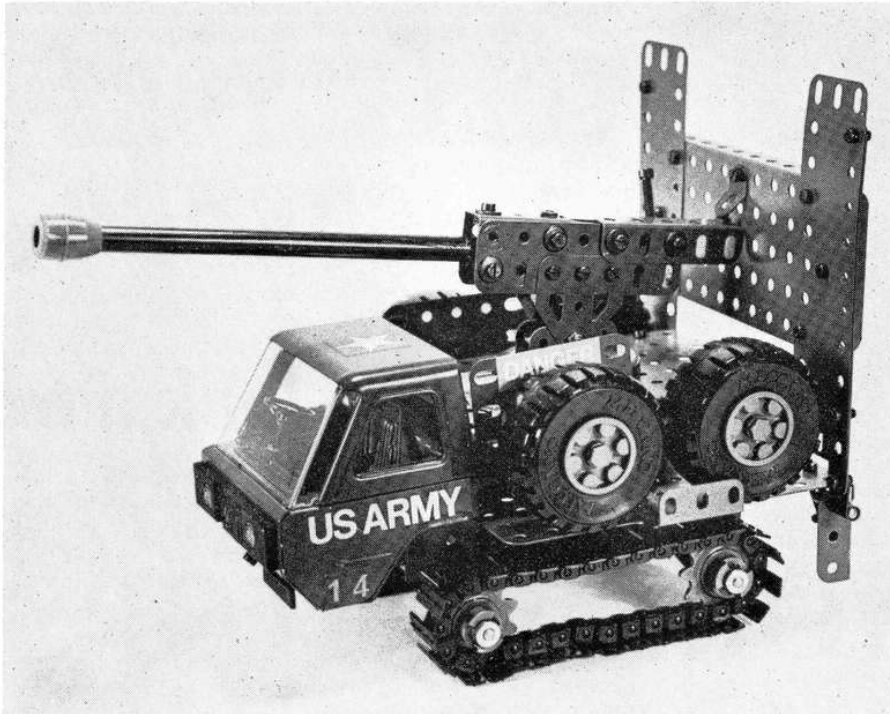
The Cab Unit included in the Multikit is next fitted with its windows, seat moulding and radiator grille, at the same time fixing an Obtuse Angle Bracket to the inside of the cab with the lower radiator securing Bolt. The completed unit is then fixed to the chassis, the Obtuse Angle Bracket being bolted to the centre of the front Double Angle Strip and the rear cab lug being bolted direct to the second Double Angle Strip.

Bolted to the top of the two rear Double Angle Strips are two 5½" x 2½" Flat Plates 3, to each of which a 2½" x 1½" Flanged Plate 4 is bolted in the position shown to later serve as a wheel guide for the Anti-aircraft Gun. Attached to the rear end of each Plate 3 is a Trunnion 5, to which another Trunnion 6 is attached through its apex hole in such a way that its Base Flange is positioned vertically. The upper hole in this Flange serves as a swivel point for the loading ramp which is built up from a 5½" x 2½" Flanged Plate 7, to which two 5½" x 1½" Flexible Plates 8 are bolted. Each of these latter Plates is underlaid along its outer edge by a 5½" Strip, projecting one hole forwards. Bolted to this projecting end is a Right-angled Rod



Left: a rear general view of the Transporter with the loading ramp lowered. Although only a comparatively small number of parts are used, the vehicle still has a substantial appearance. Below: an underside view of the Transporter chassis and track arrangements.





The Transporter with Anti-Tank Gun loaded aboard for travel.

and Strip Connector 9 which carries a 1" Rod and it is this Rod which locates in the vertical Flange of Trunnion 6 to serve as the pivot. An Obtuse Angle Bracket 10 is secured to the top of Flanged Plate 7 through its outer row centre hole, this Bracket serving as a securing catch to hold the ramp in place for travelling when the Gun is being carried.

Each crawler track consists of 31 Track Links carried on 10-teeth driving Sprockets. The Sprockets are carried on the length of plastic rod included in the Multikit, these in turn being mounted on 5" Rods journalled in the apex holes of Trunnions 2. Collars hold the Sprockets in place.

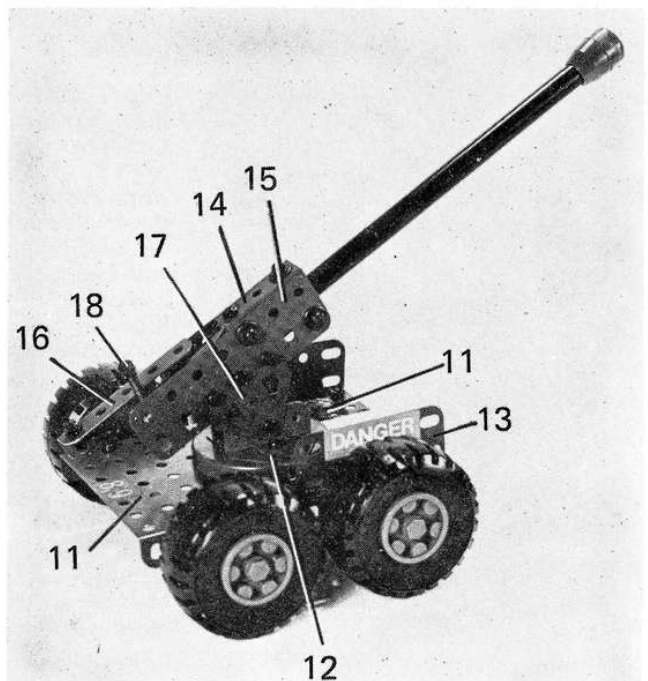
ANTI-TANK GUN

Turning to the Anti-Tank Gun itself this is built up from two 3½" x 2½" Flanged Plates 11, connected end-to-end by two crossed-over 5½" Strips bolted diagonally to the underside of the Plates. Two Trunnions 12 are then fixed, base flanges upwards, to a Wheel Flange by ½" Bolts, the same Bolts also being used to fix the Wheel Flange to the top of Flanged Plates 11 just forward of centre. The Bolts actually pass through the third holes in from each side in the rear row of holes in the forward Flanged Plate. Bolted to each side flange of this forward Plate is a 2½" x 1½" Flexible Plate 13, then the axles are journalled in the

centre holes in the flanges of both Plates and the Multikit Wheels are added.

The Gun, proper, is built up from a Channel Bearing 14, to the flanges of which two 3½" Flat Girders 15 are bolted to extend four holes rearwards. The left-hand Flat Girder is itself extended two holes rearwards by a 2½" Angle Girder 16, this being spaced from the Flat Girder by a Washer on each securing bolt. Two Flat Trunnions 17, apexes downwards, are centrally bolted one

A general view of the Anti-Tank Gun. Again, only a comparatively few parts are used, yet Mark has succeeded in capturing an air of substance and realism. The gun, itself, is fitted with a spring-loaded firing mechanism which allows it to shoot matchsticks, short rods, or other suitable "shells" – and gives the builder a lot of fun!



to each Flat Girder as shown. A Gun Barrel, fitted with a Muzzle Brake, is then wedged between the Flat Girders and the flanges of the Channel Bearing, being held in place by the shanks of appropriate Bolts screwed into the Girders and Brackets to press against the Barrel. A 2½" Rod carried in the inner end of the Barrel is fitted with a Collar, in one threaded bore of which a 1-1/8" Bolt 18 is screwed. One end of a Tension Spring is looped over this Bolt, the other end being held on an ordinary Bolt fixed in the rear hole in the top of Channel Bearing 14. This whole assembly, of course, provides the cocking mechanism and spring-loaded firing pin.

To permit variable elevation, the completed Gun is pivotally attached to its mobile mounting by a lock-nutted ¾" Bolt passed through the apex holes of Flat Trunnions 17 and the centre base holes of Trunnions 12. The Gun should pivot on the Bolt, but the friction should be sufficient to hold the Gun at the chosen elevation. Finally, appropriate stickers are added to both the Gun and the Transporter in the positions indicated – and the model is finished. The only additional point which should be mentioned is that, when the Gun is positioned on the Transporter, the loading ramp is of course hinged upwards and Obtuse Angle Bracket 10 is located on the head of a Bolt fixed in the rear hole of Angle Girder 16 of the Gun to hold the ramp in place.

Our last word on the model goes in the form of congratulations to Mark Dawes for a first class effort!