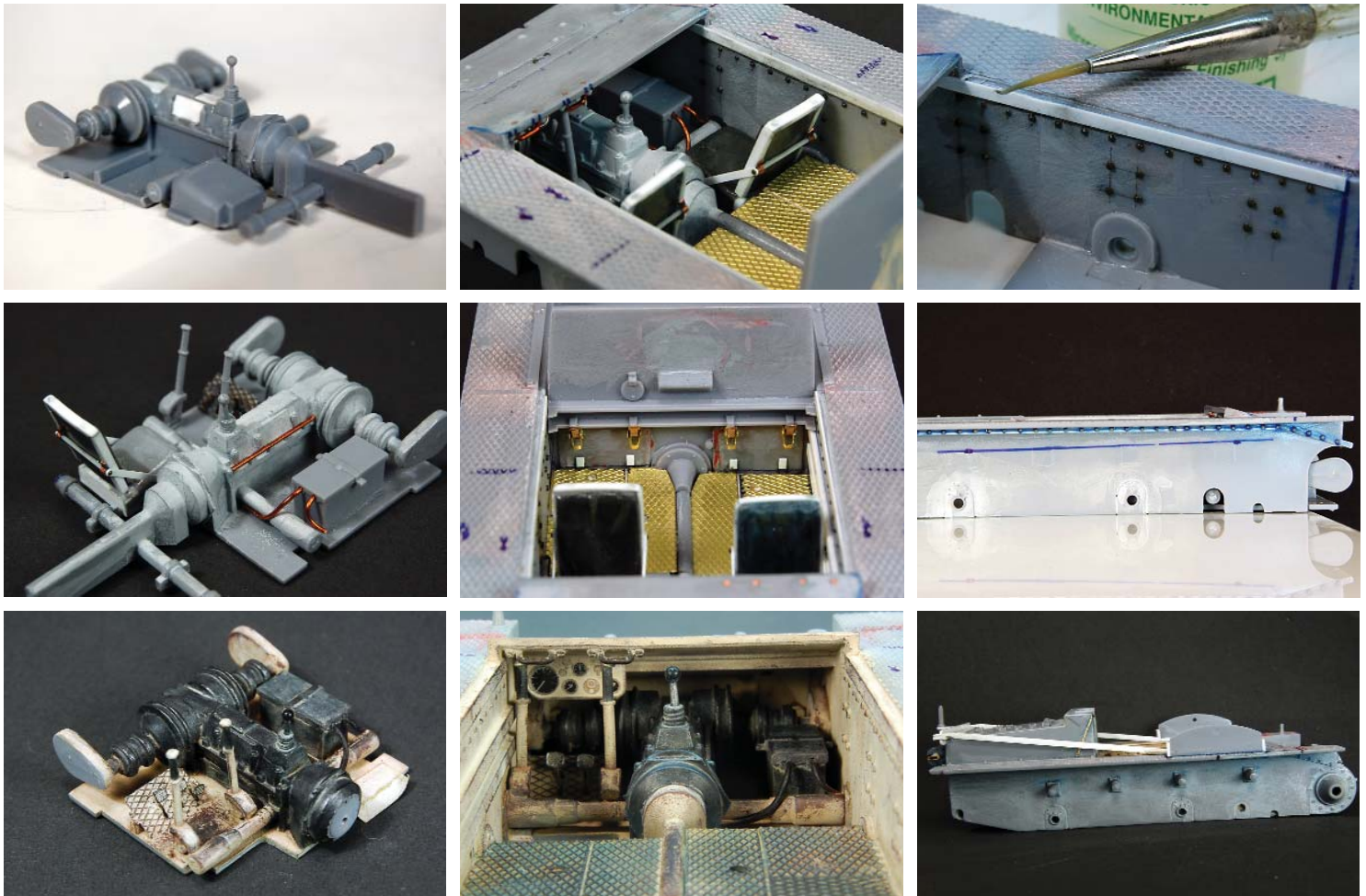


Driving post and transmission housing



brand. It suffers from a lack of detail, bad fit, low plastic quality, and a large number of and huge mould marks. In addition, the concept and design of the parts makes assembly quite difficult and even impossible at times. There are numerous parts assemblies in places where applying putty to get rid of the seams very difficult for this reason. In the face of such a set of circumstances, I decided to restrict myself to improving the model by merely trying to create a replica with a reasonable resemblance to the real vehicle. Another option was to assemble an absolutely perfect model, which required using a Dragon hull and building the casemate myself. Doing it this way meant doubling the work time, and I was not ready for that. Nevertheless, three months were necessary for assembly, because I had to alter many pieces, entirely scratch build some others, and glue over one thousand rivets and screws. It must be said that I had to make a lot of dry adjustments before definitively gluing the pieces, just to avoid surprises.

It is not my intention to make an exhaustive description about the assembly of this model, and therefore will remit myself to the photo etched directions and to the model itself. I'll only remark on those

problem arising aspects of the assembly, or that could lay open some doubts on the brave ones daring to assemble this model. I also added a huge amount of small parts such as handles and supports, whose full description would become reiterative and confusing. I mainly made use of plastic slabs and shapes as well as photo etched leftovers for my own scratch built parts.

Driver's position and transmission housing

I must admit that the layout of this area is unknown to this very day, as there is no preserved vehicle, plans, or pictures that show it clearly. I therefore made the model by relying on the interior of a Panzer IB and used common sense for the rest.

Let us take the following as an illustration: If there is a sight for the co-driver or gunner, it is only logical that there would be a seat for him, and, if there was a seat, there would not be room for a radio. Though some of the vehicles had a radio set, it would be placed somewhere else. As a consequence, one of the first tasks was to make two seats, because the kit merely has one seat, and a very bad one, by the way.