

The Basics Of Paper Modeling, Page 1 of 2

Tools Needed

1. Knife
2. Steel ruler
3. Scissors
4. Tweezers
5. White glue
6. Empty ballpoint pen
7. Markers or paint
8. Cutting mat
9. Inkjet or laser printer
10. Cardstock or heavy photo paper
11. Patience



Techniques

1. Scoring

Scoring is a technique used to make folding easier by pre-creasing the paper along a fold line. The most common method of scoring is to lightly drag a knife blade across the fold line, slicing through the upper layers of the paper. The recommended method is to instead use an empty ballpoint pen or a ball stylus tool to gently compress the paper along the fold lines. This prevents the appearance of unsightly naked edges and makes for a much stronger model.

2. Cutting

Cutting may seem to be a glaringly obvious technique, but a few pointers are essential. For the majority of cutting where paper models are concerned, a sharp knife and a steel ruler are far more precise and efficient than a pair of scissors. Save the scissors for separating individual parts or groups of parts from the rest of the sheet.

3. Edging

Edging improves the appearance of paper models considerably by hiding the naked edges of cut parts. Anything from color markers to soft pencils and various types of paints may be used to edge parts. However, in most cases, matching the color exactly is less of a concern than simply matching the contrast. For most purposes, three or four shades of gray from lightest to darkest will more than suffice.

4. Folding and Gluing

Depending on the thickness of the paper or cardstock used, some parts may be difficult to assemble with fingers alone. In this situation, a pair of tweezers is worth more than its weight in gold. Tweezers come in a wide variety of sizes and jaw shapes, and some of the more exotic shapes are fantastically useful for assembling tiny parts. Tweezers can be used to fold tiny flaps and clamp them in place while the glue sets, as well as making it much easier to attach small parts to other parts.

The Basics Of Paper Modeling, Page 2 of 2

Special Notes

1. Gluing Tabs

This model includes integral gluing tabs for joining certain parts together. However, the utility of gluing tabs decreases proportionally as the thickness of the paper or cardstock increases. Thick cardstock or paper can be used for printing this model, but it is recommended that you try a test assembly before committing wholly to assembling a model. If the gluing tabs won't fit or otherwise throw off the tolerances of the finished test assembly, leave them off the parts entirely and cut your own gluing tabs out of scrap cardstock.

These separate gluing tabs should overlap both of the parts to be joined, and glued to the unprinted surface along the joining edges of both parts. This is called "backing", and a side effect of this is that parts will fit more or less flush. Backing parts with separate gluing tabs also generally yields better modeling results, but the integral gluing tabs are retained for the convenience of beginners and those who prefer to use thinner media for their paper models.

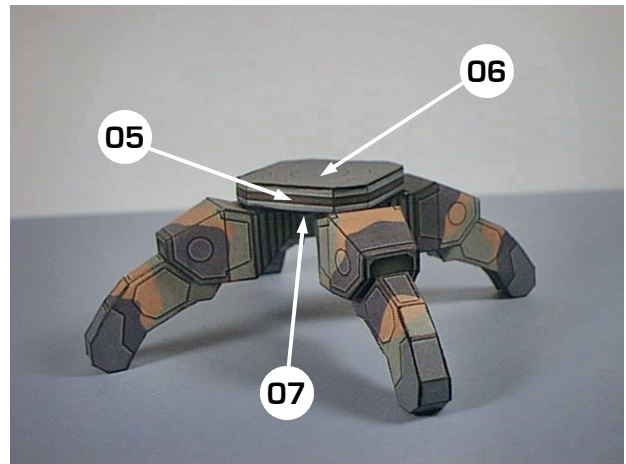
2. Sealing

In most cases, sealing the model with varnish or other form of spray sealant isn't necessary. However, if you want to add further detail to the model with decals or paint, you may want to seal the model with several light coats of a waterproof glossy clear sealant first. This will protect the model from a moderate level of moisture, and the smooth surface will facilitate the application of decals. You can also apply a final coat of a matte clear sealant to kill the gloss afterwards. Keep in mind that the simple act of sealing a model does not necessarily render it waterproof, and that any application of waterslide decals needs to be done with great care.

Assembly Instructions: Page 1

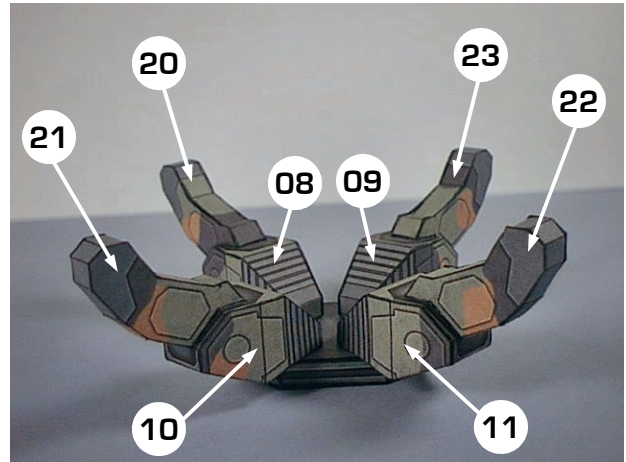
Suspension Unit

1. Glue Parts 06 and 07 to Part 05 together to form the hip block.
2. Glue Parts 08, 09, 10, and 11 to the bottom of the hip block to form the upper legs, aligning them with the small beveled corners.
3. Glue the lower legs (Parts 20, 21, 22, and 23) to the upper legs, making sure they fit snugly against the openings textured onto the bottoms of the upper legs.



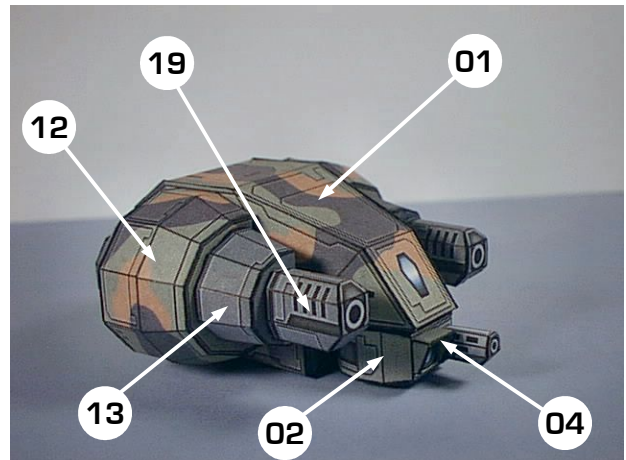
Suspension Unit, Clarification

The image to the right clarifies the positioning of the occluded parts mentioned above.



Main Chassis

1. Glue the chin turret (Part 02) to the main chassis (Part 01), and then glue the sensor shroud (Part 04) and the chin gun (Part 03) to the chin turret as shown.
2. Glue the side pods (Parts 12 and 15) to the right and left sides of the main chassis.
3. Glue the weapon housings (Parts 13 and 16) to the front of the right and left side pods.
4. Glue the weapon units (Parts 18 and 19) to the fronts of the right and left weapon housings.



Assembly Notes and Tips

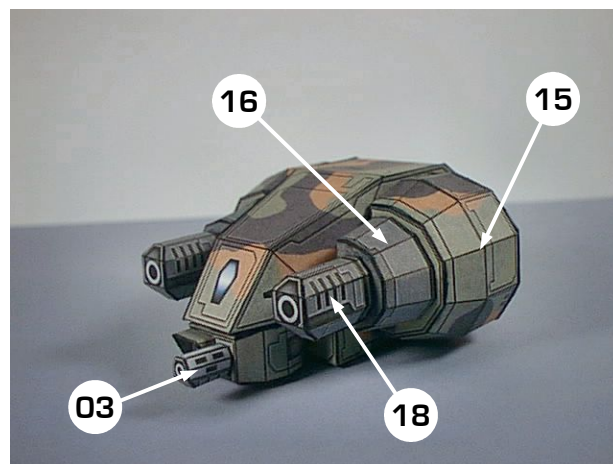
Chin Turret: When mounting the chin turret, the side with the gray disk faces up, and the sensor lens should be on the right side of the installed turret.

Sensor Shroud: The sensor shroud is designed to be folded over onto itself. When gluing it to the chin turret, the cut edges face **away** from the chin turret.

Assembly Instructions: Page 2

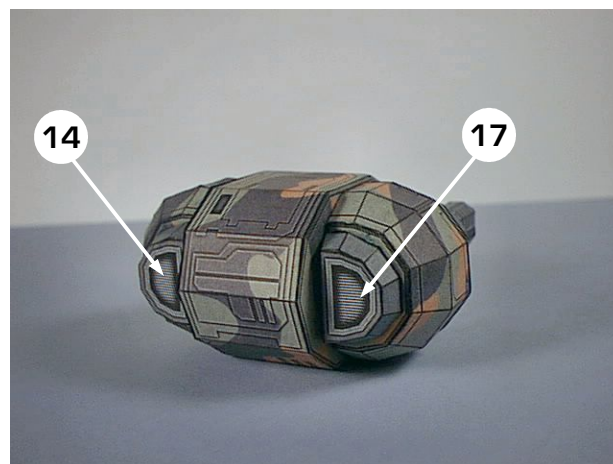
Main Chassis, Clarification

The image to the right clarifies the placement of the left side parts which were occluded in the previous image.



Main Chassis, Continued

1. Glue the weapon exhaust vents (Parts 14 and 17) to the backs of the left and right side pods.



Final Assembly

Glue the main chassis to the suspension unit. The model is now finished.



Assembly Notes and Tips

Side Pods: When assembling the side pods, take your time. Glue each individual section of the three strips together one at a time, and then move on to the next. When all of the strips have been joined, glue the end flaps to the side wall of the pod, and then fold in the front/rear walls last. This allows you to clamp each section with tweezers one at a time, thereby ensuring all of the strips line up nicely to form a roughly hemispherical assembly.