

Guide to Askari Miniatures Artillery



French Artillery



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Assembling the French Guns: 75mm DeBange Mountain Gun (A-I)

The deBange gun is simple to assemble: just the carriage, barrel and two wheels.

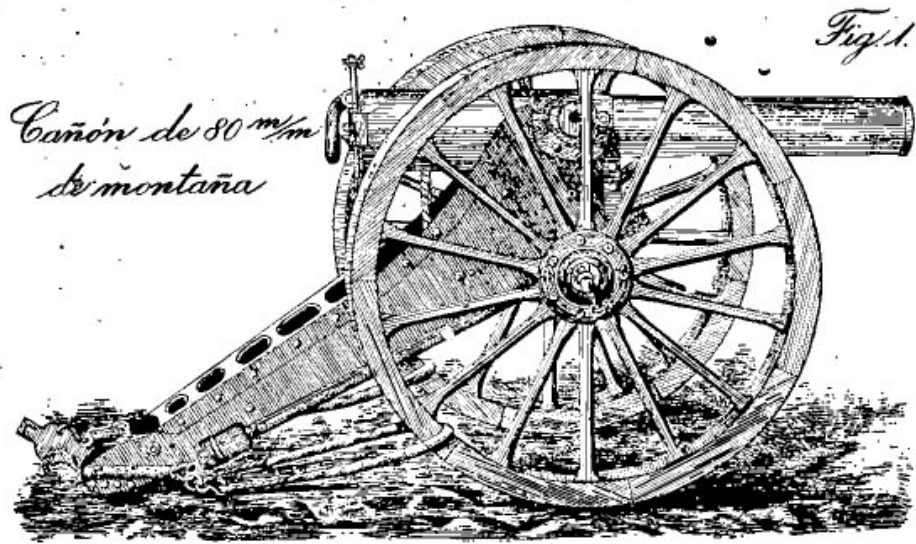
Of more interest is how the gun was carried on mules. Below, what looks like an early World War II crew attempting to keep their mules on the road. In the process we get a great view of the way the lead mule is loaded with the barrel. I've used this photo to model the extra equipment on the artillery mules (M-3).

Facing page, a postcard showing a pre-World War I Chasseurs Alpin battery formed for review. Each column of mules carries one gun: wheels and carriage on one mule, barrel on a second and one or two more following with an ammunition box on each side and someone's pack strapped on top.

The loads in these two photos are slightly different in that the wheels below are attached to the carriage while on the postcard they are strapped separately onto the mule's harness.



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The deBange guns were used by the Foreign Legion (FR-10D), the Chasseurs Alpins (FR-18D) and the Colonial Artillery (FR-16), the latter with with mixed European and Senegalese crews.



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Assembling the French Guns: The French 75 (A-2)

The famous French 75 is also easy to assemble. Barrel, two wheels, carriage and mantlet.

Some pictures of the 75 in a museum, along with it's limber. Within the next several months we'll be making the limber and pneumatic tires for the 75.

This piece was not used by the Foreign Legion until after World War I when Legion artillery units were formed. The FR-10D artillery crew in khaki uniform or the FR-14 *Saharienne* crew in their 1940 olive overcoats can both be used to man the guns.



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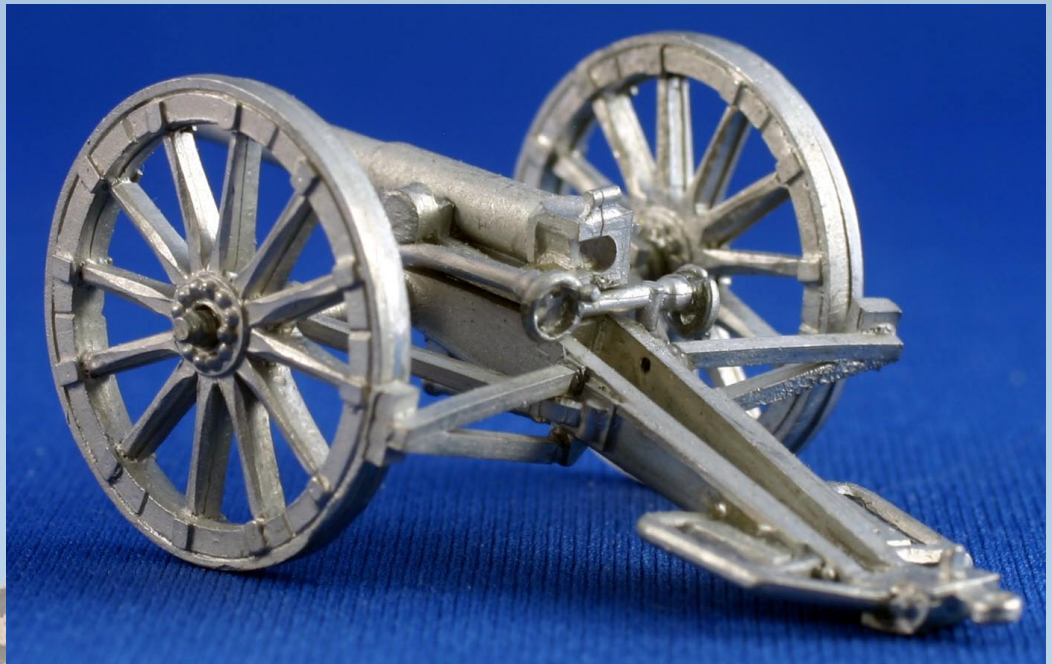
Krupp Guns

A-4 Krupp 75mm Mountain Gun

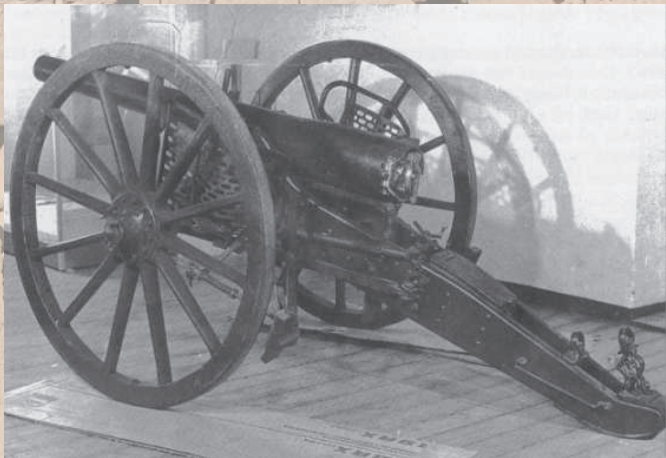


Krupp 77mm gun in Ouarzazarte, Morocco.

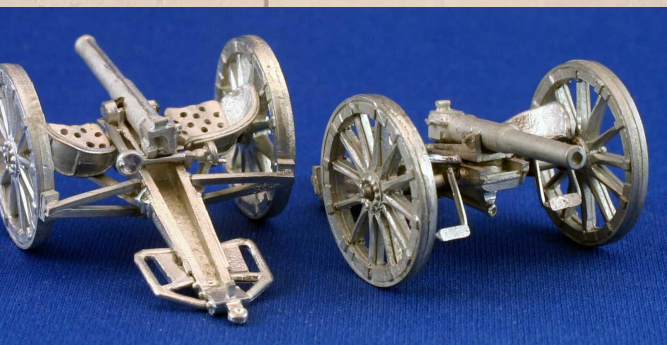
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A-5 Krupp 77mm Field Gun. This gun was made in various caliber variants on the same carriage. The 75mm version was sold to the Turkish Army and used in the Russo-Turkish War.



Krupp 84mm field gun from 1887. It has smaller handles at the trail but otherwise looks the same as our gun.



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Assembling the Krupp Guns: 75mm Mountain Gun (A-4)

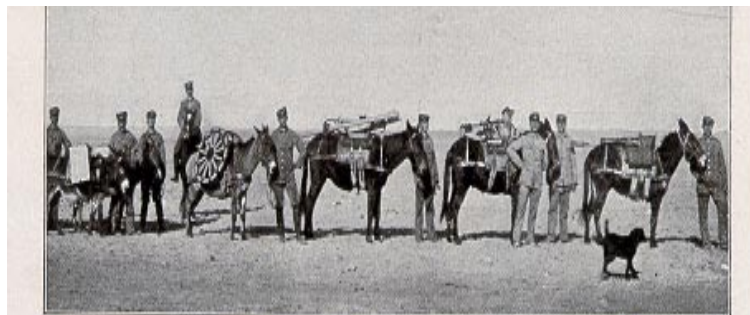
Not too many pieces here--easy to assemble.

1. First attach the wheels. These wheels have a slight but definite dish to them so be sure to test fit. It helps to have a gridded mat to keep everything aligned. If the wheels don't line up exactly the way you want, I find spinning them on the axle is the easiest way to set them just right.
2. At the same time, glue the barrel into the cradle. The longer lug is on the open side of the cradle, as shown in the diagram.
3. When the wheels are dry, attach the lifting handles. There are little locating holes in the sides of the carriage.
4. The spade is optional. There is a locating hole underneath the carriage for it. I usually don't attach it because the spade is meant to be dug into the ground and when it sits on top it puts the gun at an angle I don't like. If you work the spade down into base material you may want to attach it. You may also want to attach it if you're mounting it in pieces on pack animals.

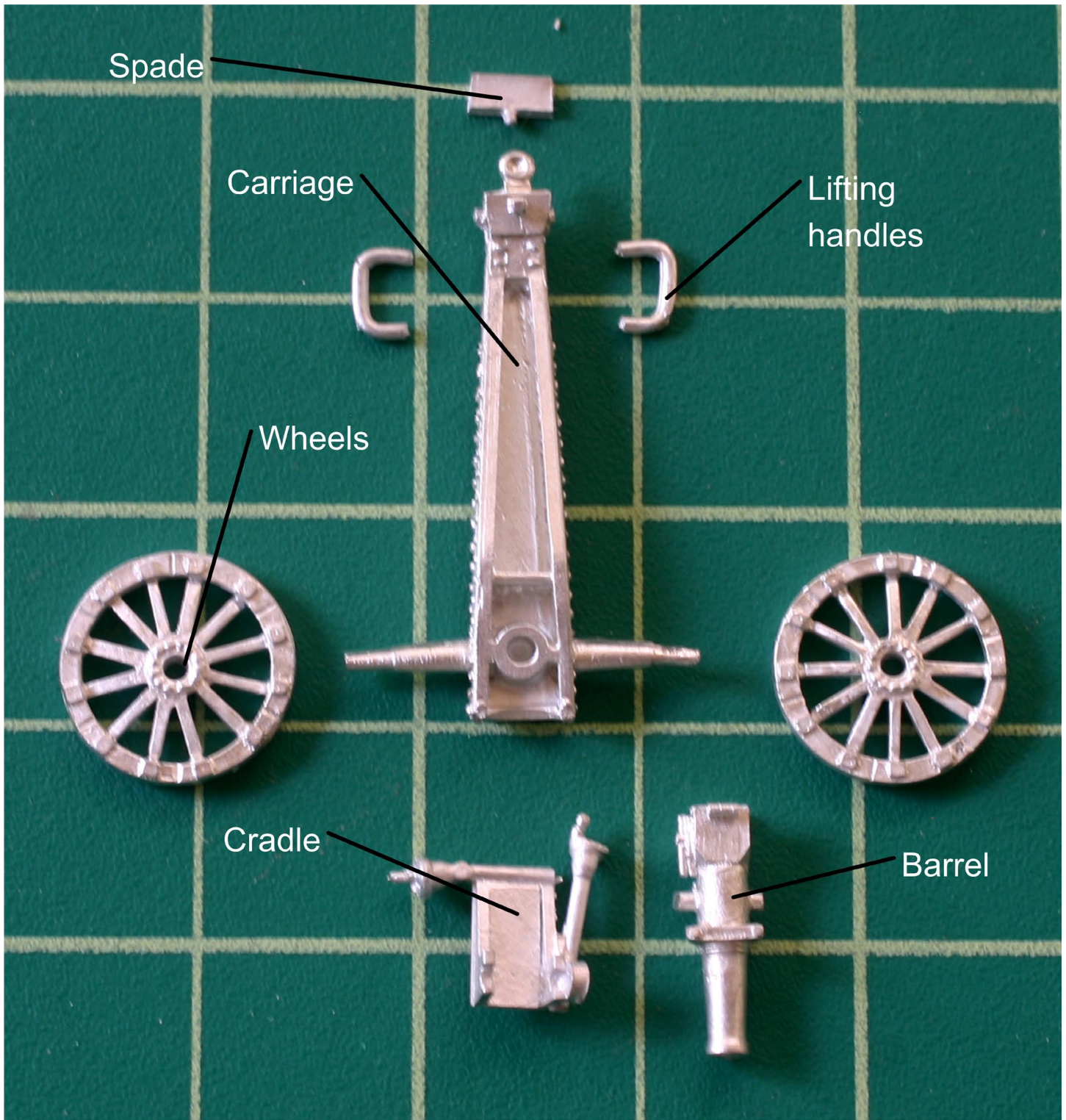
For mounting on mules, the loads are:

- 1 - Barrel (facing backwards)
- 2 - the wheels, one on each side
- 3 - the carriage
- 4 - two ammunition boxes

In reality, I have a couple of photos (one is below) that show a fifth mule carrying what appears to be the axle or some other equipment. For gaming purposes, I'd go with four.



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Assembling the Krupp Guns: 77mm Field Gun (A-5)

There are a lot of pieces to this beauty! Here's how I approach it.

1. First attach the wheels. These wheels have a slight but definite dish to them so be sure to test fit. It helps to have a gridded mat to keep everything aligned. If the wheels don't line up exactly the way you want, I find spinning them on the axle is the easiest way to set them just right.
2. Next the hand wheel under the carriage. This can really be done any time but if you do it now, it is one less piece to worry about.
3. The lifting handles at the back. There are holes in the carriage and they fit just under the top edge on the side of the carriage.
4. The brakes. Note that there are two distinct brakes: the horizontal part is on top, as shown in the drawing.

As an alternate method, you might glue the brakes and handles together, one side at a time.

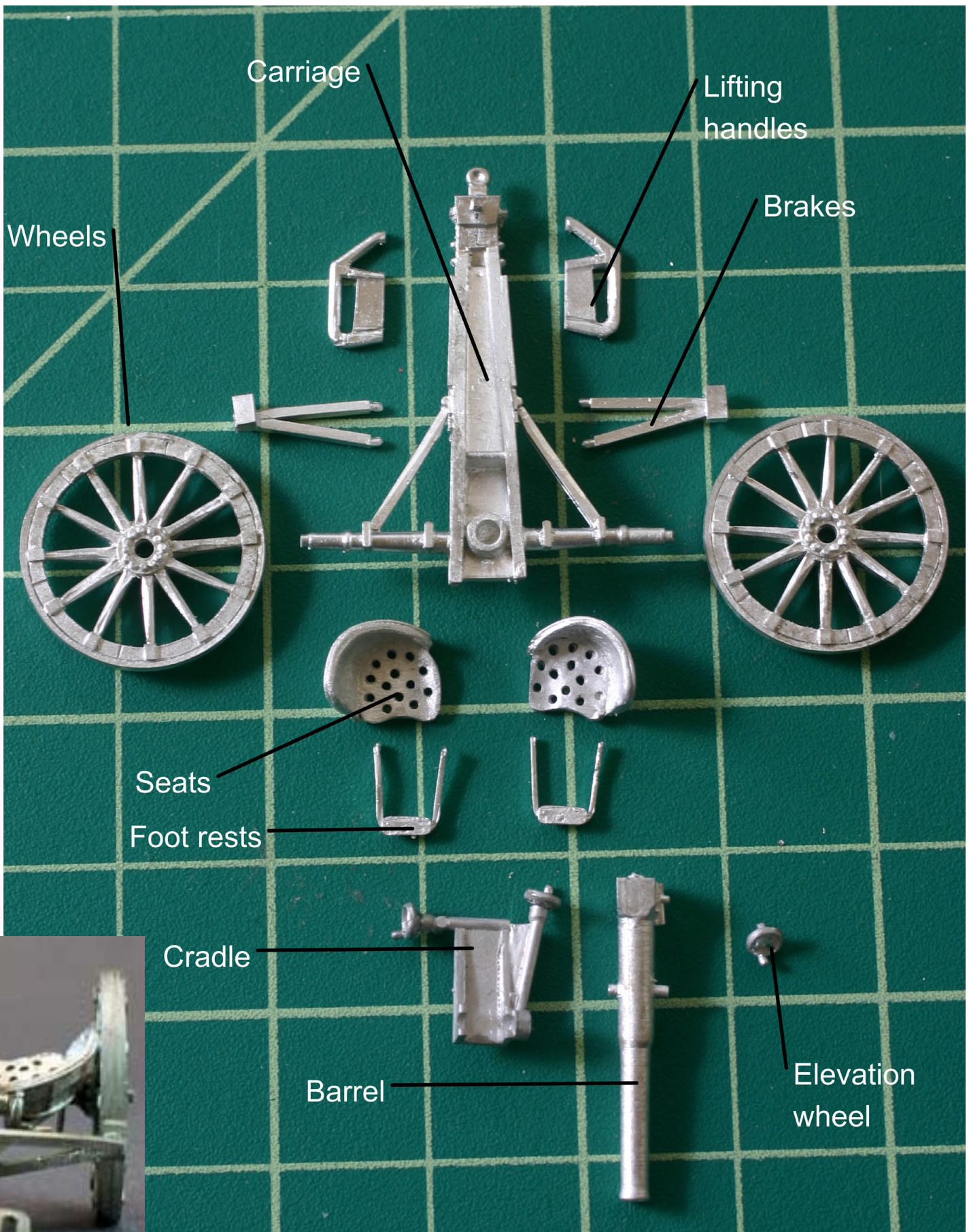
5. The gun can be glued in the cradle at any time. The long lug on the barrel is toward the open side of the cradle; the barrel is upside-down in the photo. If you glue it flat into the cradle, the barrel will be slightly elevated in the finished model. If you want a flatter barrel angle, I'd recommend gluing the cradle on the carriage first, then setting the barrel at the angle you want.
6. Next, fit the seats, making sure the high sides are toward the wheels. The seats can be a bit tight: you might, in fact, want to glue them before the wheels. They will rest on the bar that runs between the axle and the carriage, so there will be plenty of gluing points. If you make sure the front of the seat is ahead of the axle, the footrests will locate easier.



Left, a Turkish Krupp Gun



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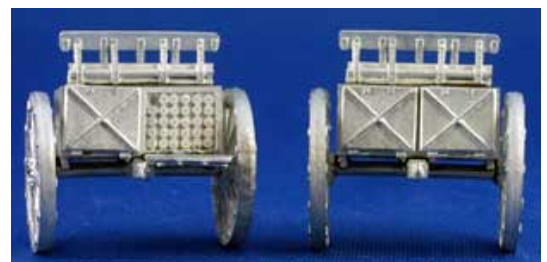
Assembling the Krupp Guns: German Limber (A-6)

The limber is not difficult, and comes with a nice option to model the rear doors open or closed.

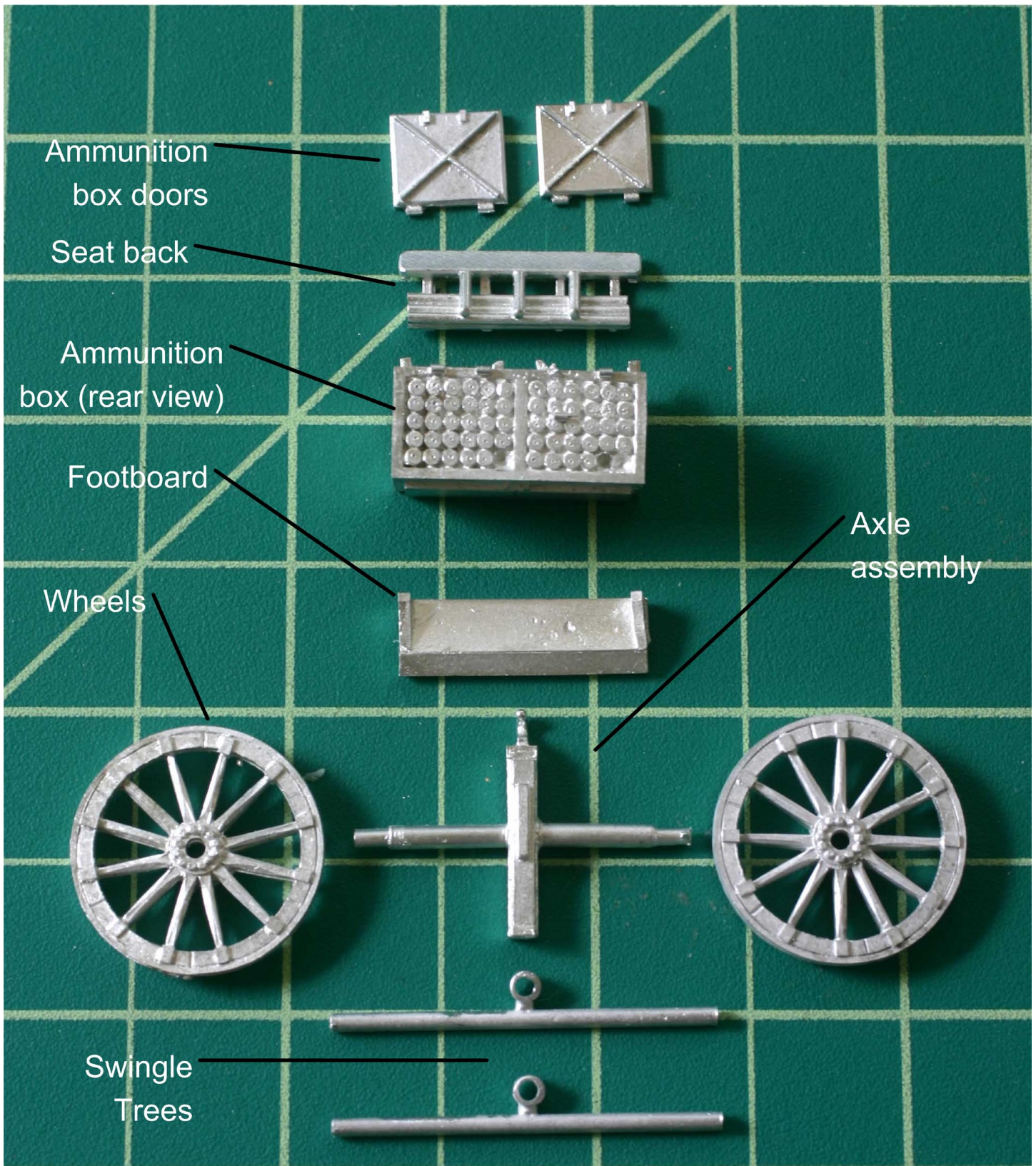
1. Glue the axle under the carriage ammo box. There are registration points, so fitting is easy. Make sure the “hook” faces the the rear.
2. Decide how you want the doors and glue them in place. If they’re closed, you can do that as step 1. If you want one or both open, so the msecond because the doors rest on the hook and it’s a place where you can add a little extra glue.
3. Glue the footboard and the seat rest. I recommend doing these one at a time, either order. There are registration points but always test-fit before adding glue.
4. Glue the brass rod supplied for the pole into the front of the axle-piece in the hole. Make sure it is 90 degrees to the footrest!
5. Glue the wheels last. It is easier to do all the other parts (except maybe the seat rest) without the wheels in the way.
6. The swingle trees have a loop on top designed to fit over the 1/16” brass rod. The fit may be a little too tight. If so, widen the hole (carefully!) with a file or a fine drill bit.

Two swingle trees are supplied with the limber for a four-horse set-up. In reality, six horses or 6-8 mules were used. A third pair can be added with a third swingle tree at the end of the brass rod: the pole appears (from the photos I’ve seen) to go no farther than the second pair. Of course, you can always substitute your own brass rod if you don’t like the length of the one supplied.

In order to keep costs manageable, I have not tried to cast the traces. If desired, you can make them from fine gauge copper electrical wire (my preferred method) or thread. Model ship suppliers have a nice thread used for rigging that looks good. The thread can be stiffened with liquid glue; the copper is fine as is.

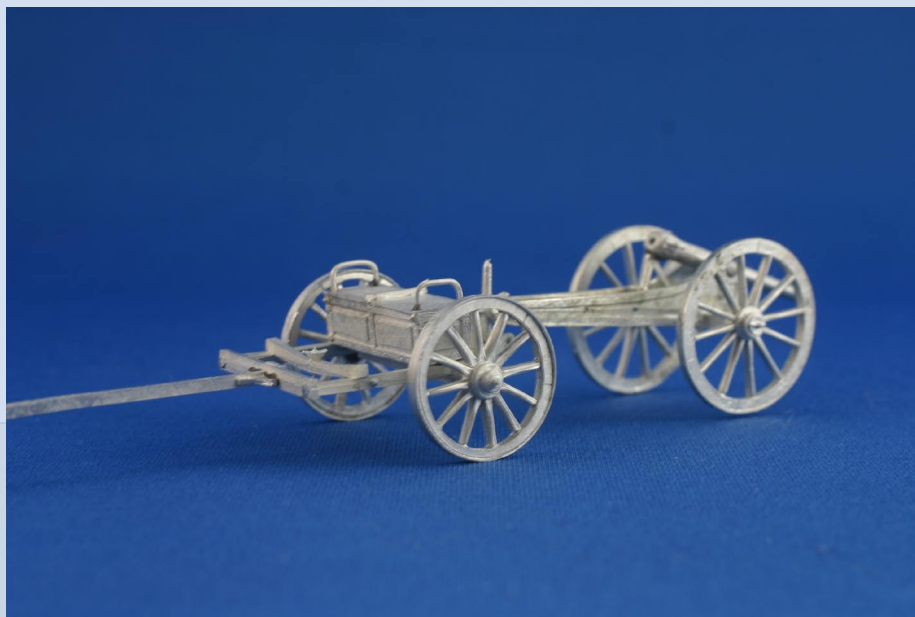


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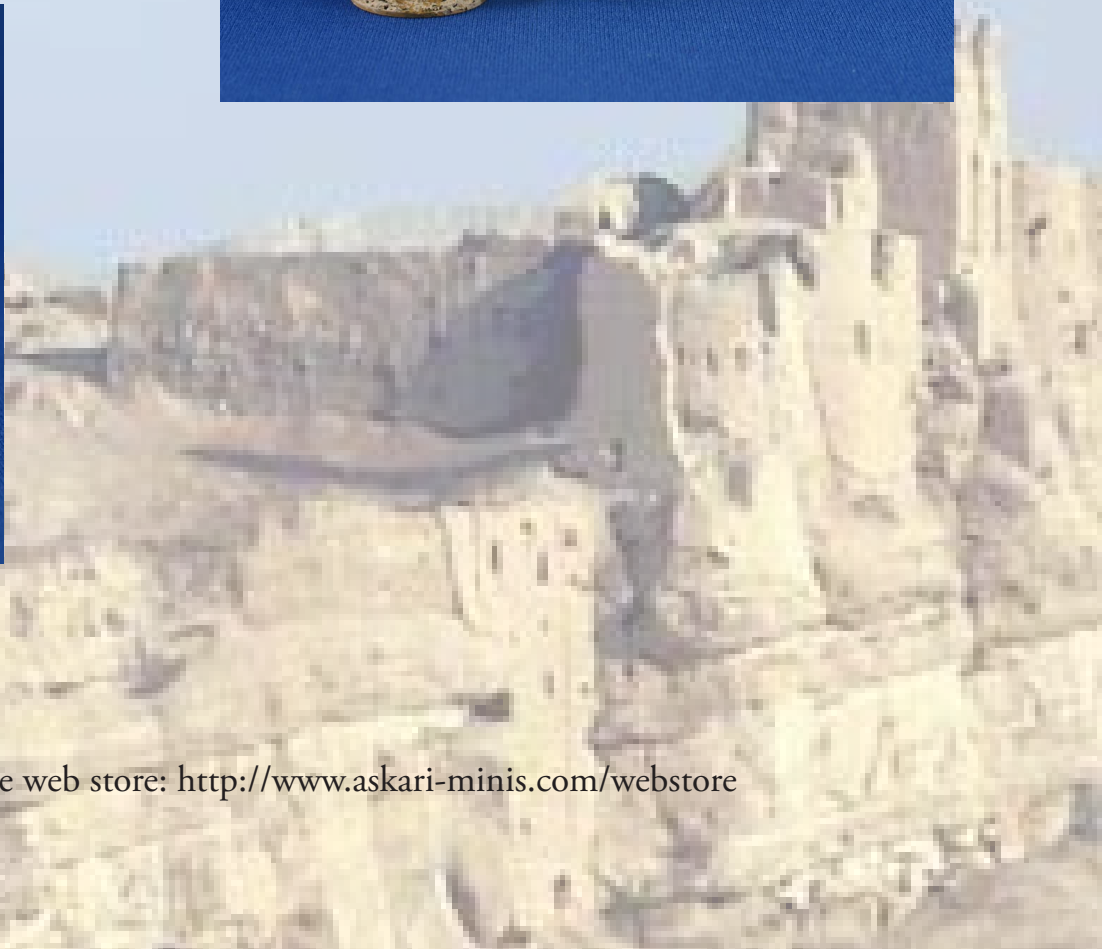


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Russian Artillery



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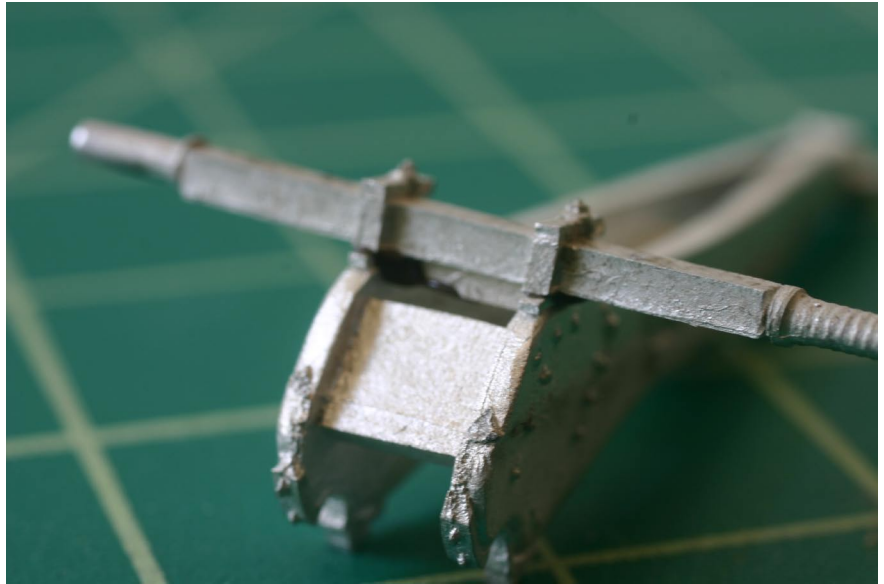


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Assembling the Russian Guns: 9lb Field Gun (A-7)

First, glue the axle to the carriage, as shown at right. Although you can (physically) glue the axle either way, the bolts should be facing the rear as shown. There's a locating pin on the bottom of the axle to help you align it.

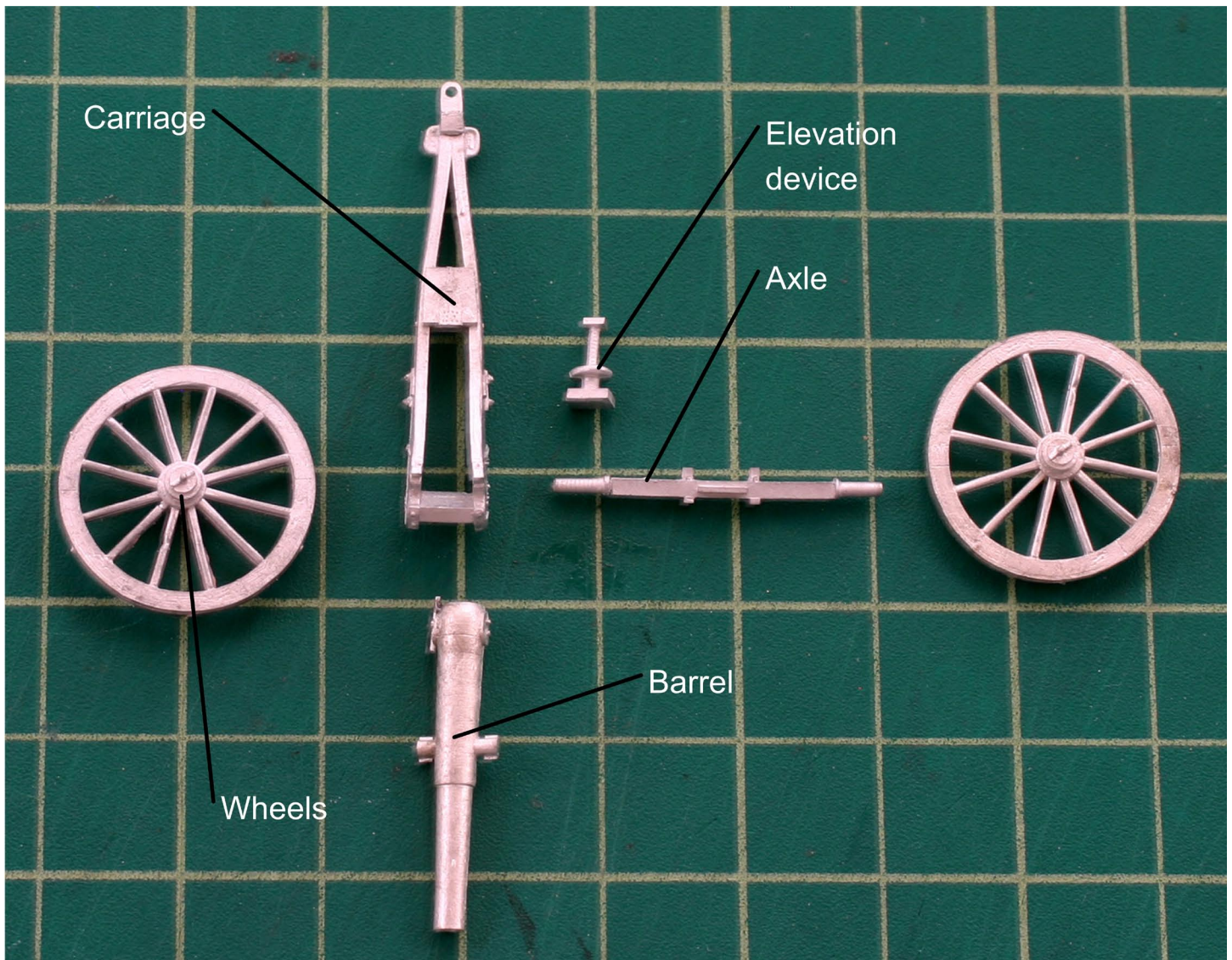
Next, attach the wheels. It is always helpful to have a gridded surface to make sure they are aligned correctly.



The elevation device is installed as shown below. I find it easier to glue it in position first and then glue the barrel to both it and the carriage. Test-fit how you want it to look in any case. Note that the barrel is fitted to that the breech screw is on the left side and the wider part of the trunnions is on top--as shown below. It won't fit well the other way.



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Above, the parts of the 9lb field gun. Note that the barrel and axle are pictured with their bottom sides up. When you get your kit, take a close look at the wheels: you can see each of the eight spokes fitted into the hub, just like the wheelwright made them! Amazing detail.

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Assembling the Russian Guns: 4lb Field Gun (A-8)

The 4lb field gun is pretty easy to assemble, having only five pieces.

Start with attaching the wheels.

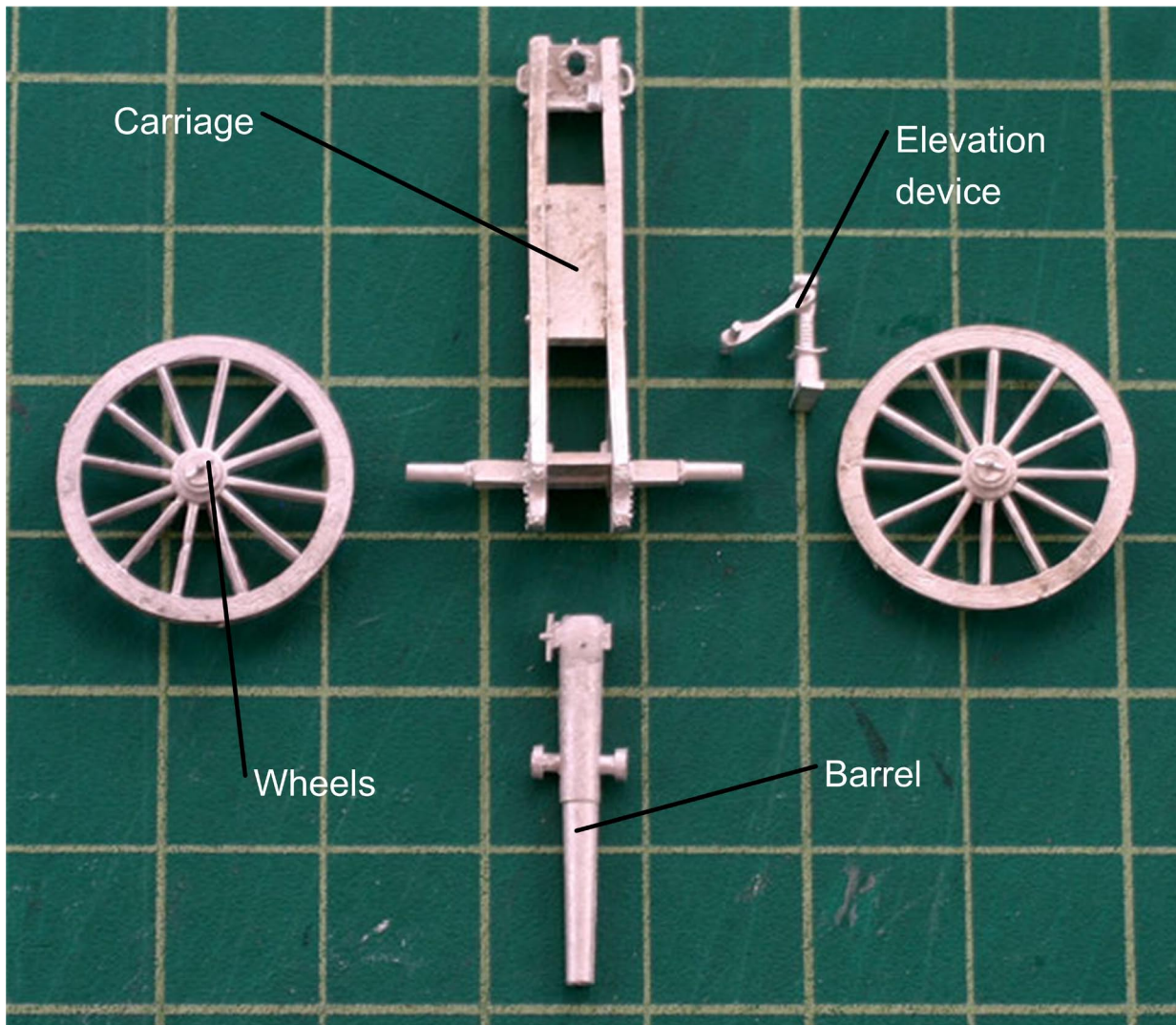
The elevation device on this piece was different than on the 9lb gun: it is attached as shown below, with the lever arm forward and the screw toward the rear.

The barrel has the breech screw on the right side. I generally decide first the angle I want the barrel at and then glue in the elevation device. You'll want to test fit the device before gluing it in place.

The 4 lb gun has a large reinforced hole at the end of the trail which fits nicely onto the pintle of the limber. (A-10)



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4-lb Gun in pieces. Relatively straight-forward assembly.

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Assembling the Russian Guns: Gatling/Gorlov Guns (A-9)

The Gatling Gun comes in 7 pieces; I usually leave the three small pieces on the sprue. Cut them off carefully and you shouldn't need to trim them at all.

First, glue the barrel mount on to the trail/axle assembly. This feature of the later model Gatlings distinguishes them from the 1865 model.

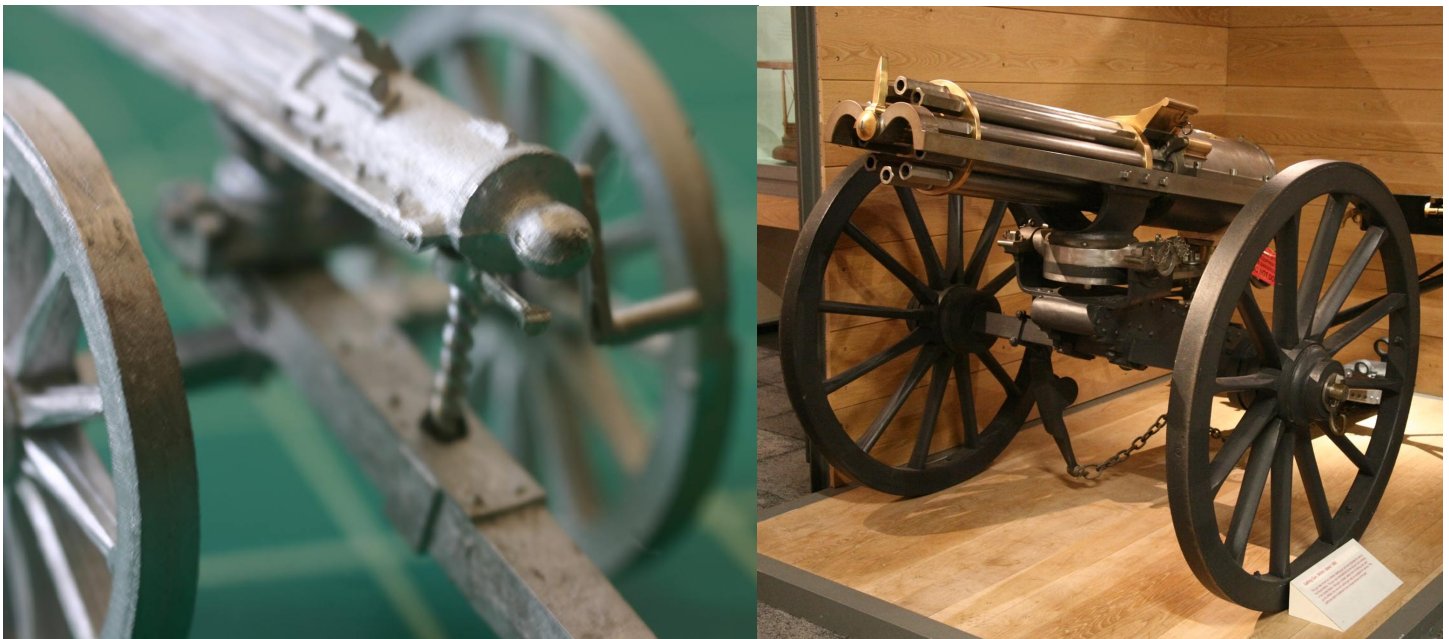


Make sure that the mount angles downward to the rear, as shown above and on the real gun below.

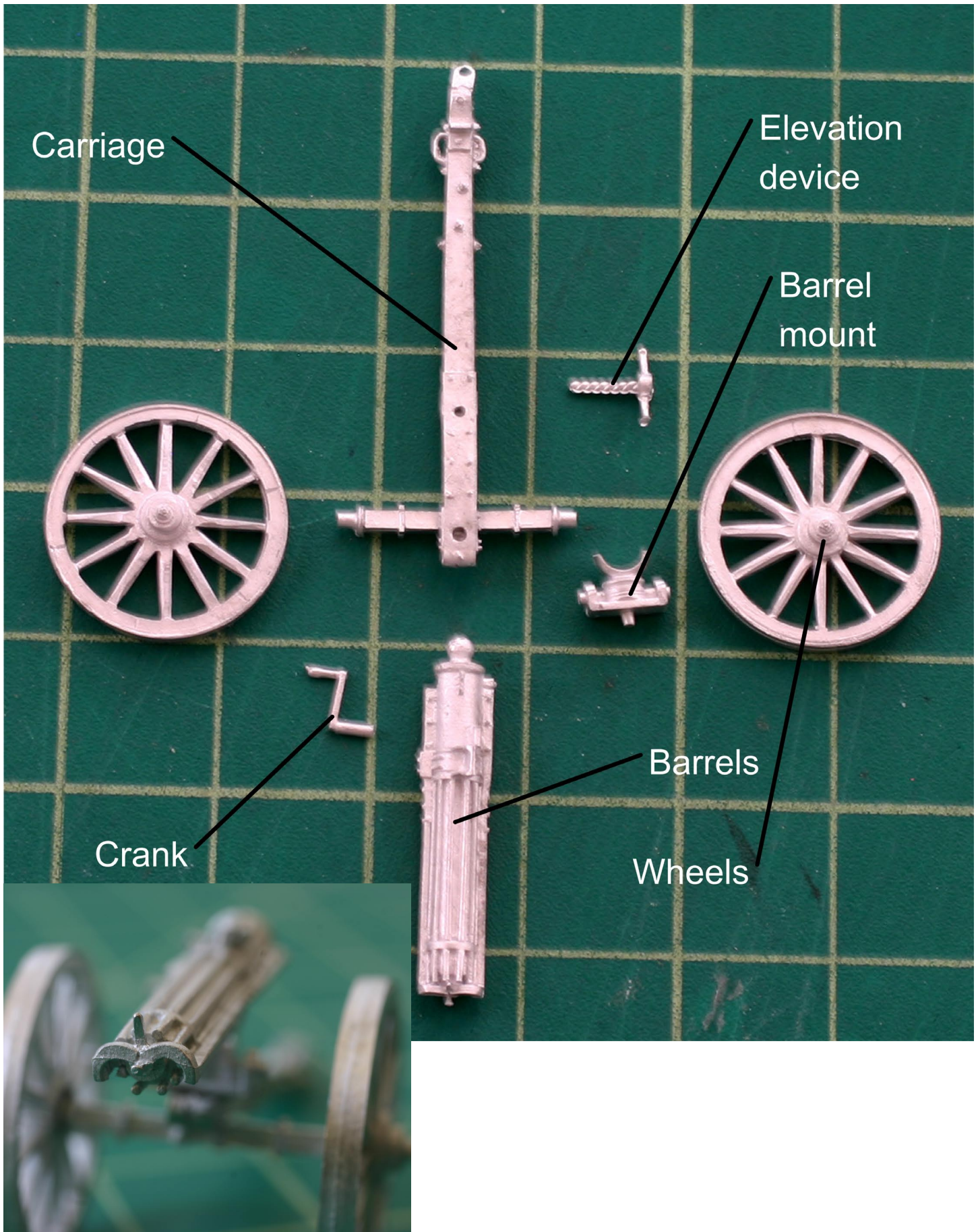
Next attach the wheels.

The barrel is mounted to the mount just forward of the ejection port, as shown. It's easy to get the right position when you realize where the elevation screw fits under the barrel. You can adjust the elevation of the barrel by clipping the length of the screw. Since the screw fits into a hole in the carriage, it's easy to test fit the whole assembly. I like to align the screw handle fore-and-aft so it's out of the way, but you certainly don't have to.

The crank fits into the hole on the right side of the barrel as shown.



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Carriage

Elevation device

Barrel mount

Crank

Barrels

Wheels

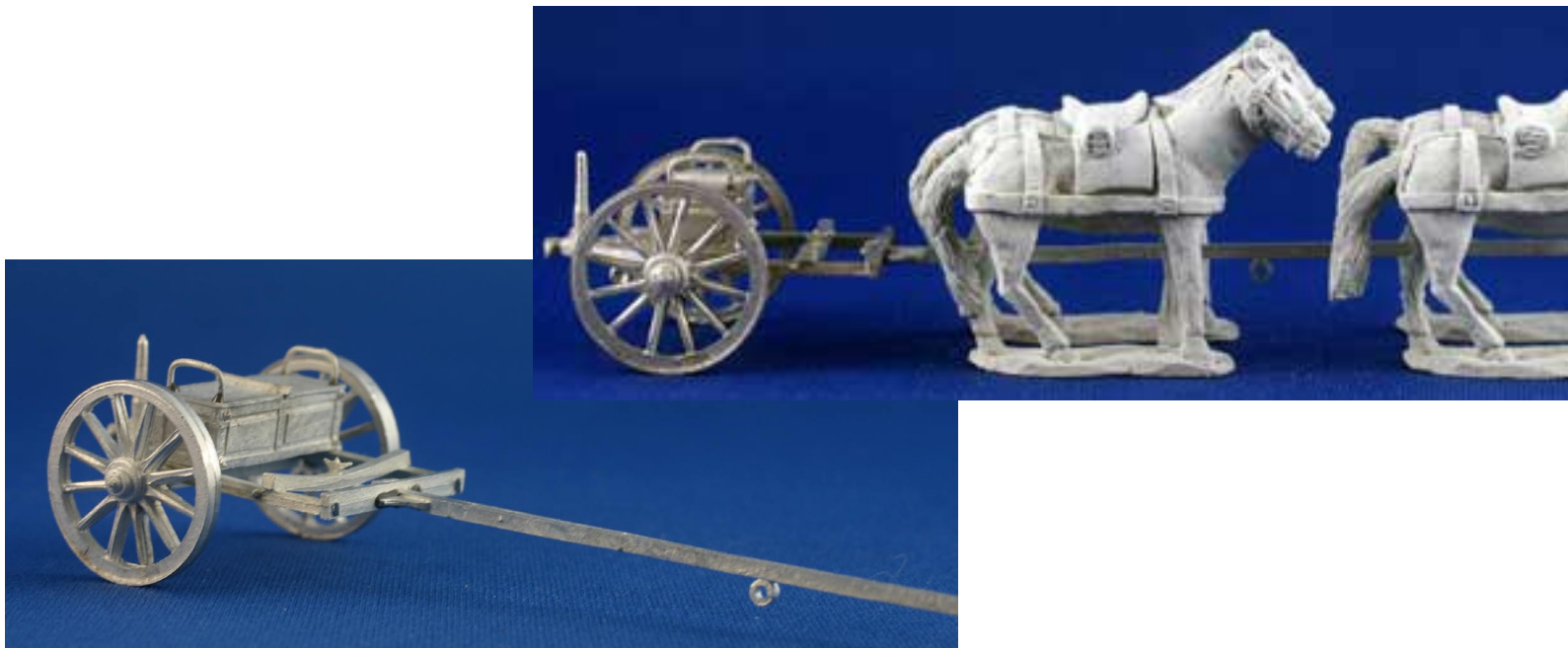
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Assembling the Russian Guns: Russian Limber (A-10)

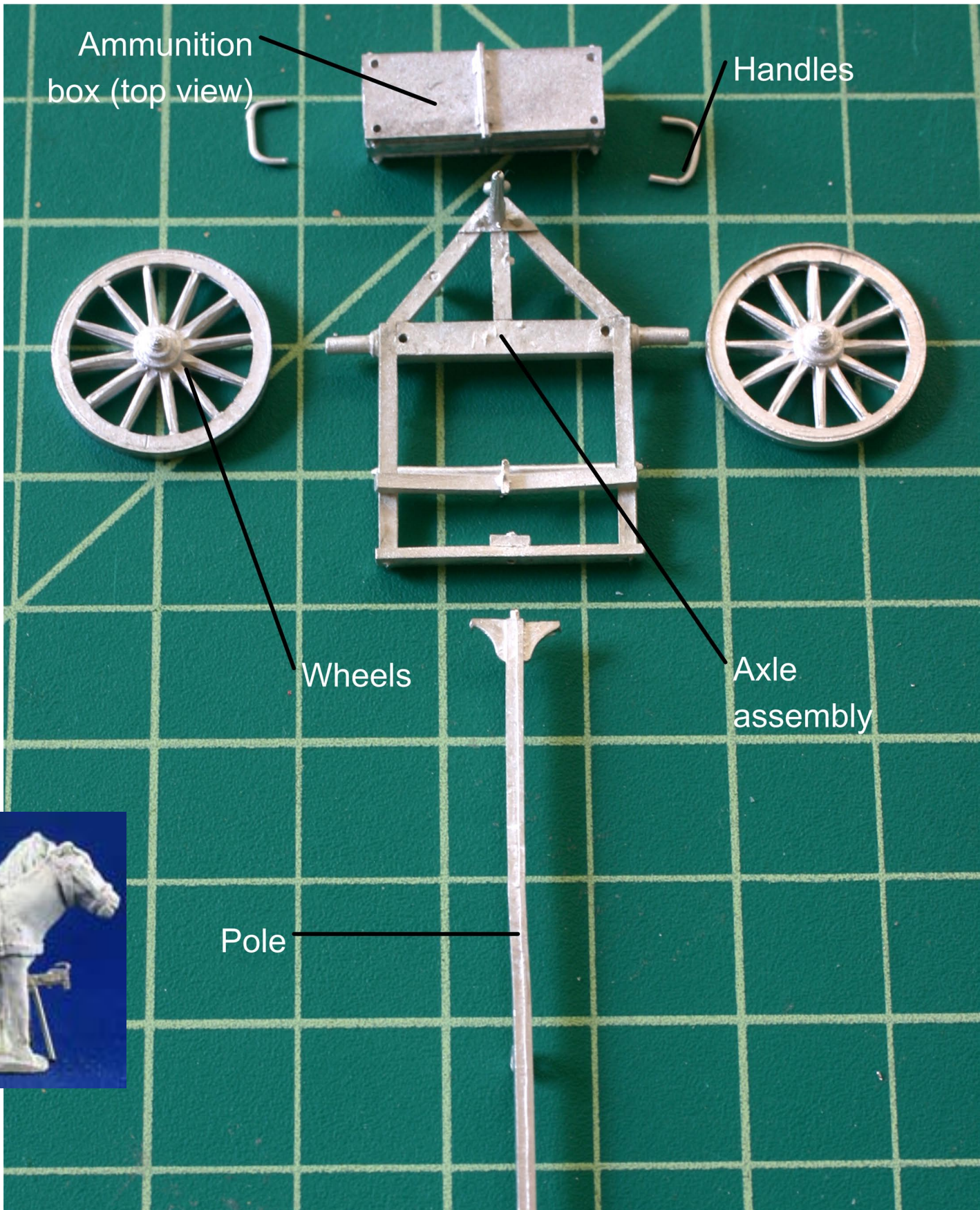
1. Fit the limber box on the limber frame. There are two registration holes at the back of the frame and two corresponding pegs on the box. You can't get it wrong.
2. Glue the limber pole into the frame. This is probably best done before the wheels to make it easier to assure the pole comes out at the right angle. There is a registration peg on the pole and a hole on the frame. Make sure the two loops are on the down side.
3. Glue the two hand-holds onto the top of the limber box. If you don't like the ones supplied, you can always make your own out of copper wire. That's how we made the masters.
4. Finally, glue on the wheels.

To make swingle trees, use either brass or copper wire; or else the larger size of paperclip (1 3/4") works perfectly to make up to 4 pieces about 1 1/4" long.

In order to keep costs manageable, I have not tried to cast the traces. If desired, you can make them from fine gauge copper electrical wire (my preferred method) or thread. Model ship suppliers have a nice thread used for rigging that looks good. The thread can be stiffened with liquid glue; the copper is fine as is.



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Italian Mountain Gun (A-3)



The Italian mountain gun, like the French deBange, is easily put together.

The Italian 75mm Mountain gun (cannone da montagna da 75B) was in service from 1875. The barrel is compressed bronze. It was used by the Italian Askari camel and mule-transported gun companies. Our French artillery mule set (M3) or the Italian Camels (ITA-11, above right) can be used to transport these guns.

A simple design, this gun would be suitable for any small gun of the late 19th century.



Above, ITA-3 askari crew with A-3 mountain gun. Right, askaris rest against gun in the field.



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Product Summary

A-1 French 80mm DeBange Mountain gun
A-2 French 75mm field gun
A-3 Italian Mountain Gun
A-4 Krupp 75mm Mountain Gun
A-5 German 77mm Field Gun
A-6 German Limber
A-7 Russian 9LB Field Gun
A-8 Russian 4LB Field Gun
A-9 Gatling Gun
A-10 Russian Limber

D-1 Donkeys with baskets of grain
H-1 Limber Horse Team
M-3 French Artillery Mules

FR-10d Foreign Legion 1920s artillery crew
FR-14 Foreign Legion Saharienne Artillery Crew
FR-16 Colonial Artillery Crew
FR-18d Chasseurs Alpains Artillery Crew

ITA-03 Italian Askari Artillery Crew
ITA-11 Camel & Italian Askari driver

RU-4 Russian Artillery
TU-4 Turkish Artillery Crew

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