



A self-contained set in its own right, the Combat Multikit is also designed as an ideal add-on outfit for the Army Multikit. Here we show you how to take the two sets and build a superb combination model.

HALF-TRACK & HOWITZER

Described by 'Spanner'

PROBABLY THE best-selling Meccano outfit in recent times has been the Army Multikit. Since its introduction in 1973, demand has consistently outstripped supply! At the beginning of this year, we introduced the Army set's younger brother, the Combat Multikit and, already, sales have more than met our expectations. Conclusion — military-orientated outfits have a wide appeal!

With the Combat set, of course, only comparatively simple (though very realistic) models can be built, whereas, with the Army set, considerably larger, more involved productions are possible. Besides being a self-contained outfit in its own right, however, the Combat set is specially designed as an add-on set for the Army Multikit and, with the two outfits combined, model-building scope is significantly increased — witness the Half-track and Howitzer featured here. Built with a mixture of the two outfits, this model — or two models — makes one of the most appealing combination pieces which I have seen for a long time. It was designed by the Meccano Model Development Manager at Binns Road and, in my opinion, it serves as a credit to his modelling ability. I am not the only person to be attracted by it, either; our Model Book people liked it so much that they included an illustration of it in the Combat Multikit Book of Models, as some readers might have noticed.

Beginning construction with the Half-track, the chassis consists of a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flanged Plate 1, extended 12 holes forward by two

$7\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 2, one Strip bolted to each side flange of the Plate. These Strips are curved inwards slightly, as shown, and are attached at the front by Angle Brackets to a Channel Bearing 3, the flanges of which project rearwards. Bolted to the top flange of this Channel Bearing is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Flexible Plate 4, overlaid along its forward edge by a Double Bent Strip 5, and also overlaid along the next row of holes by a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Narrow Strip 6. The Plate is curved upwards as shown. Clamped to the centre section of the Double Bent Strip are a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Girder 7, behind the Double Bent Strip, and, in front of it, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " Double Angle Strip 8 overlaid by the Multikit radiator grille which is, in turn, overlaid by a Double Bracket 9. It is important to stress that these components are not bolted directly to

the Double Bent Strip, but are clamped to the raised centre section by a $\frac{3}{4}$ " Bolt.

Leaving the front of the model for the time being, two $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flanged Plates 10, flanges upwards, are bolted to the top of Flanged Plate 1, the appropriate edges coinciding with the front and rear edges of Flanged Plate 1. The two small gaps remaining are enclosed by two $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Strips 11, bolted to the Flanged Plates as shown, then fixed to the flanges of Plate 10 at each side is a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Plate 12, the securing Bolts passing through the second row of holes in the Flat Plate. The front upper corners of the Flat Plates at each side are connected by a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Flat Girder 13 attached to the Plates by Angle Brackets, while another $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

Underside view of the Half-track showing chassis detail.

