

Scratchbuilt Main Battle Tank

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### SCRATCHBUILT MAIN BATTLE TANK



This document describes how to construct the basic hull and turret of a 25/28mm scale main battle tank. This has been left deliberately incomplete. Details should be added according to your own tastes.

#### Materials:

1 sheet of 1mm thick plasticard, approximately A4 sized.

1 short length of wire about 1mm diameter.

#### Tools:

Compasses.

Pencil.

Ruler.

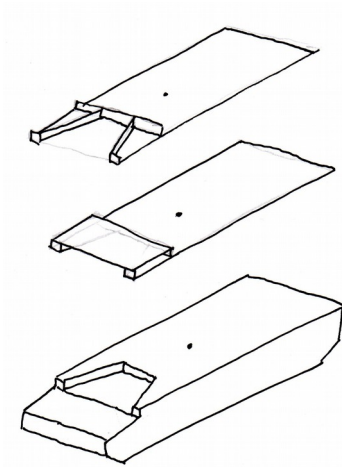
Knife.

Sandpaper/files.

#### Notes:

This project makes use of sections consisting of two side pieces with connecting parts glued between them. These connecting parts will require sanding or filing to fit at the required angles.

## The Hull



The first stage in building the hull is to attach the 2mm wide strips to the underside of the hull top. This is the component with the notch taken out of the front. The 2mm wide strips are positioned to surround this notch, with the longest running right across the hull top.

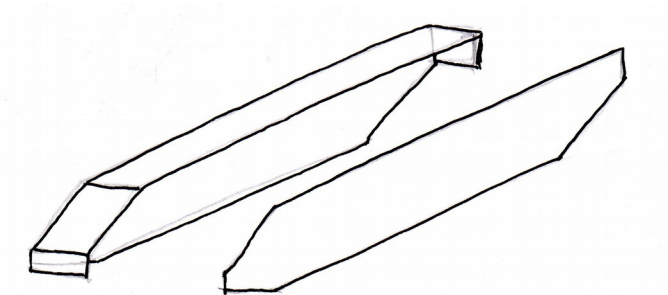
The 16x38mm piece is glued over these.

A 1mm hole should be drilled at the marked position to take the turret.

The hull top is glued to the side of one of the two hull sides and the remaining 38mm wide parts are glued around the other edges.

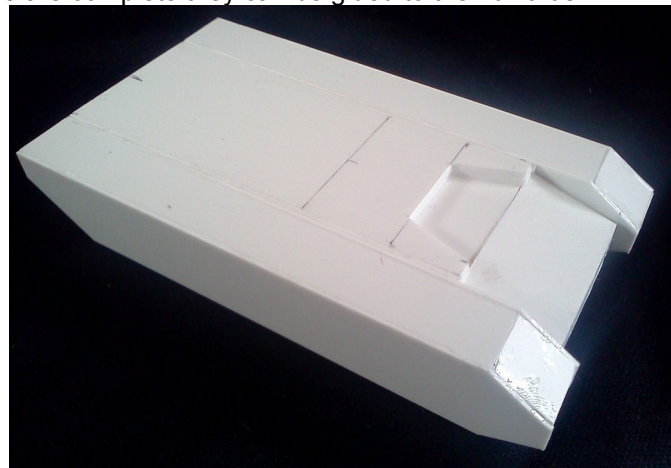
Finally the second hull side is glued in place to seal the hull.

## Track Covers

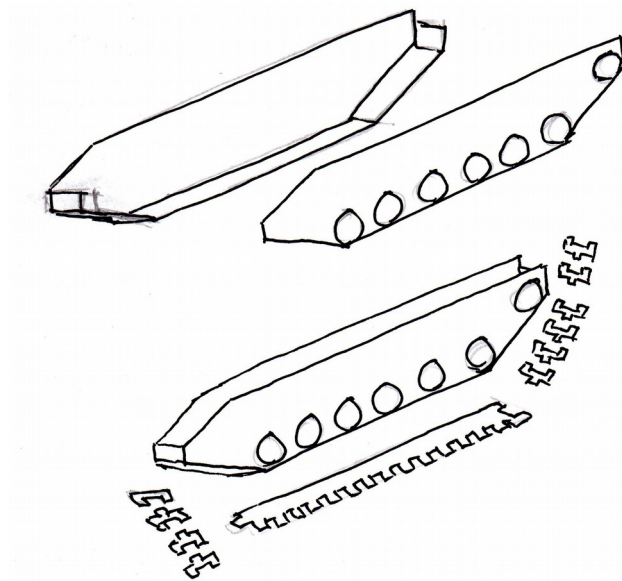


The two track covers are assembled in identical fashion. The four 13mm wide pieces are used to connect the two side pieces, starting from a 7mm vertical piece at the front and ending with the second 7mm vertical piece at the rear.

Once both of these are complete they can be glued to the hull thus:



## Tracks



When assembling the two track sections it is important that the left and right assemblies are mirrored. The four 8mm wide connecting sections are used to join the two side pieces, starting with a 19mm long piece at the rising front edge and moving back to a 7mm vertical piece joining only part of the back end. This should connect to the rising rear edge so that no gap is left. This is the same for both sides. The tracks and wheels require mirroring.

The long track section is glued to the bottom of the track assembly so that the 'plug' at one end points forwards.

Then three single tracks plus the single track without a plug are glued to the rising front face, leaving a small gap between each. As shown here:



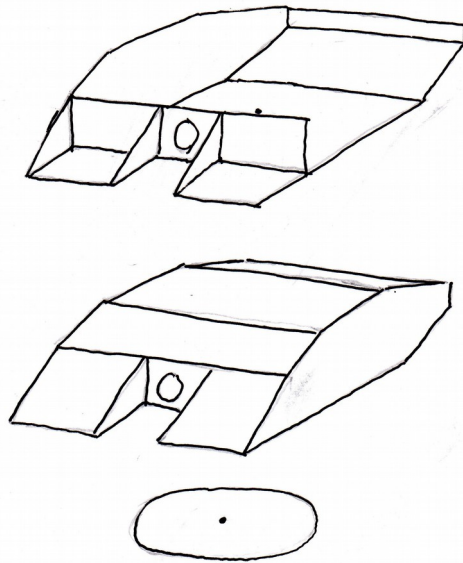
Four single tracks are glued to the rising rear face and two to the vertical fac at the back. Again a small gap is left between each.



Six wheels should be attached along the bottom and one at the rear corner. You may wish to delay this to add detail to the wheels.

The completed track assemblies are inserted and glued into the track covers.

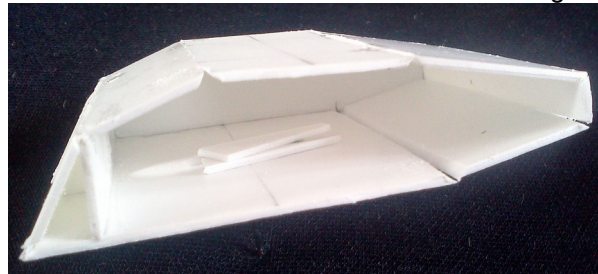
## Turret



The first parts of the turret to be connected are the base and the gun mount. Glue the gun mount to the base so that the hole is aligned with the square cut out in the base. This should be reinforced with the two small triangular pieces that fit within the cut out. Note that the hole in the gun mount should be suitable for whatever you are using for the gun.

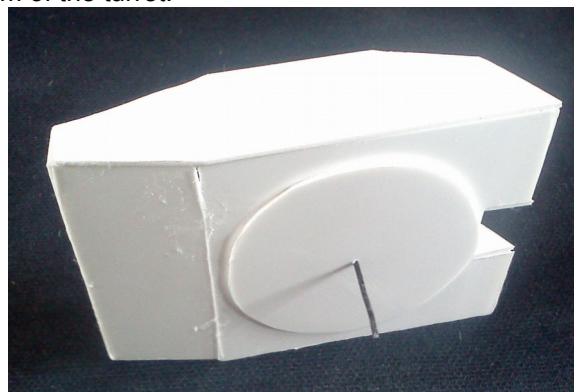
A 1mm hole should be drilled at the marked position and a length of wire secured pointing downwards through it.

The remaining 48mm wide connecting pieces are then glued in place. The two 18x15mm rectangles are used to cover the front of the turret either side of the gun mount.



The second side plate can now be attached, though you may wish to leave this until after you have attached and secured the gun.

The turret ring should have a 1mm hole drilled at the centre. It is then threaded over the wire and glued to the bottom of the turret.



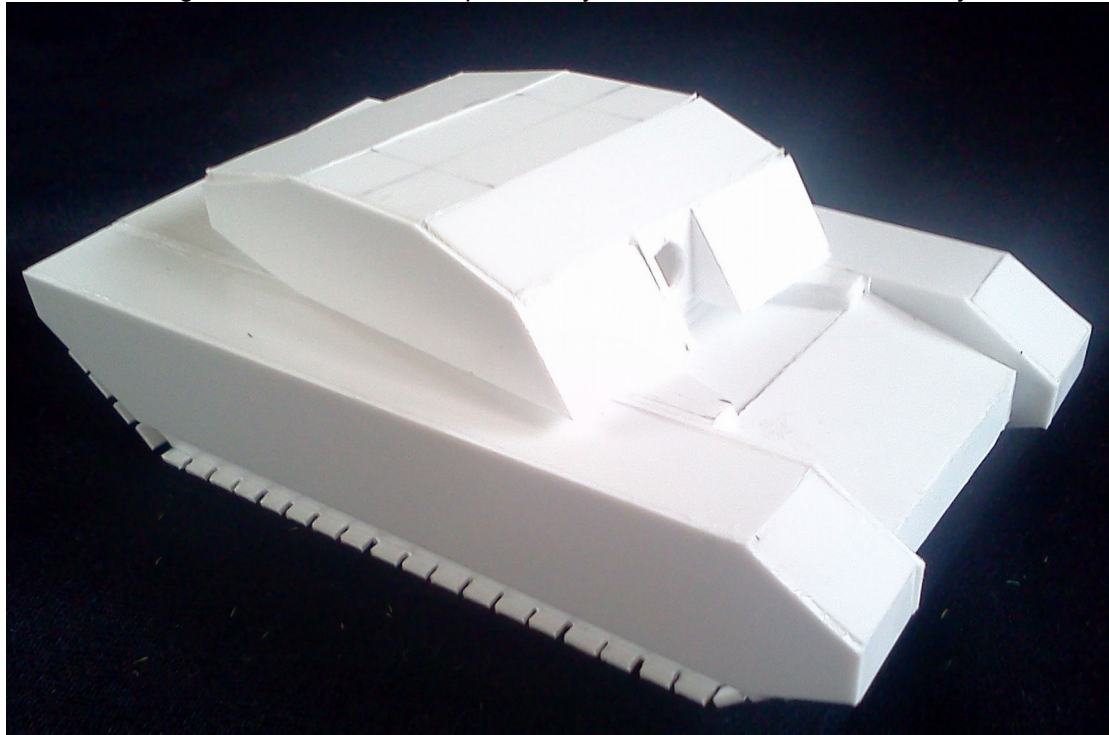


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The turret can now be attached to the hull by inserting the wire into the matching hole in the hull. At this stage the basic tank is complete and you should add whatever detail you want.



The painted example on the first page uses:

Styrene tube main gun

Cotton bud coaxial gun and smoke dischargers.

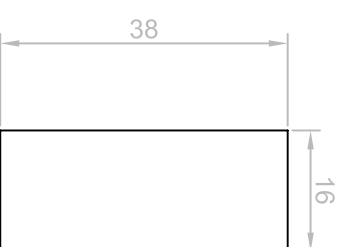
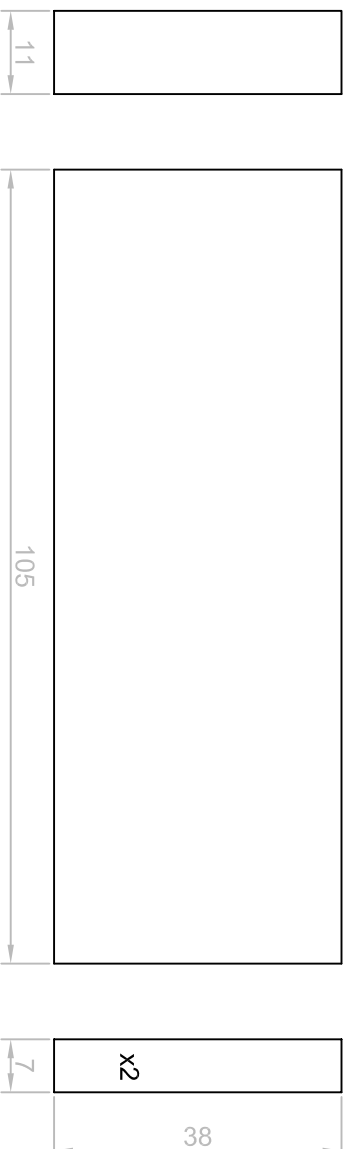
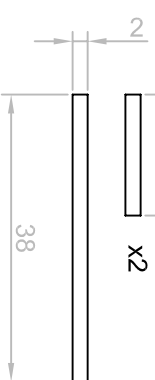
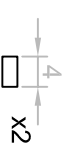
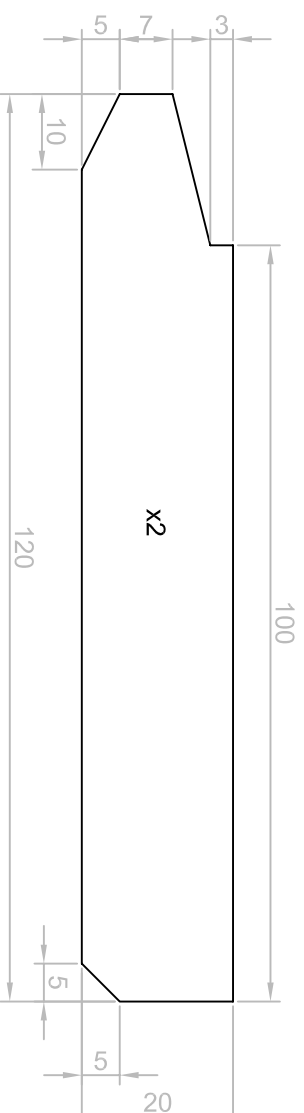
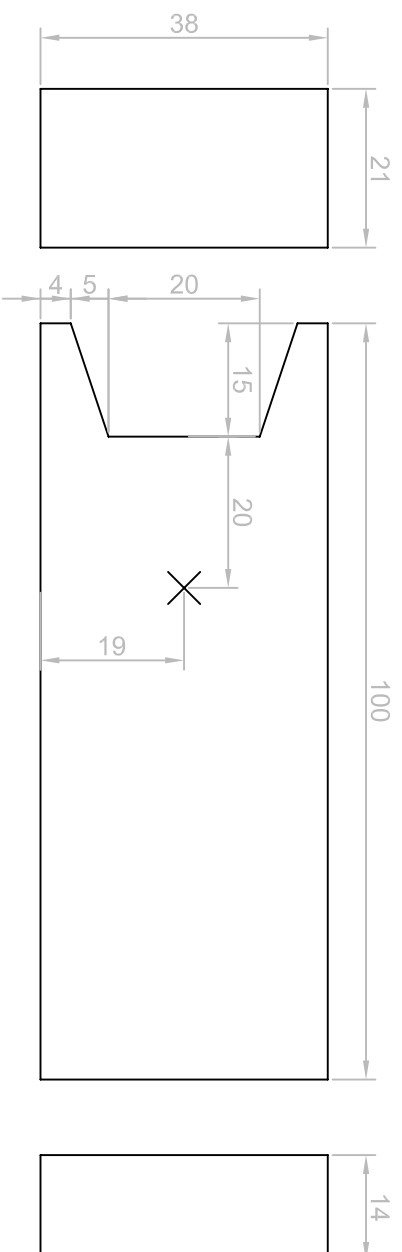
Periscope made from drinking straw, cotton bud and 6mm BB pellet.

Drinking straw headlights.

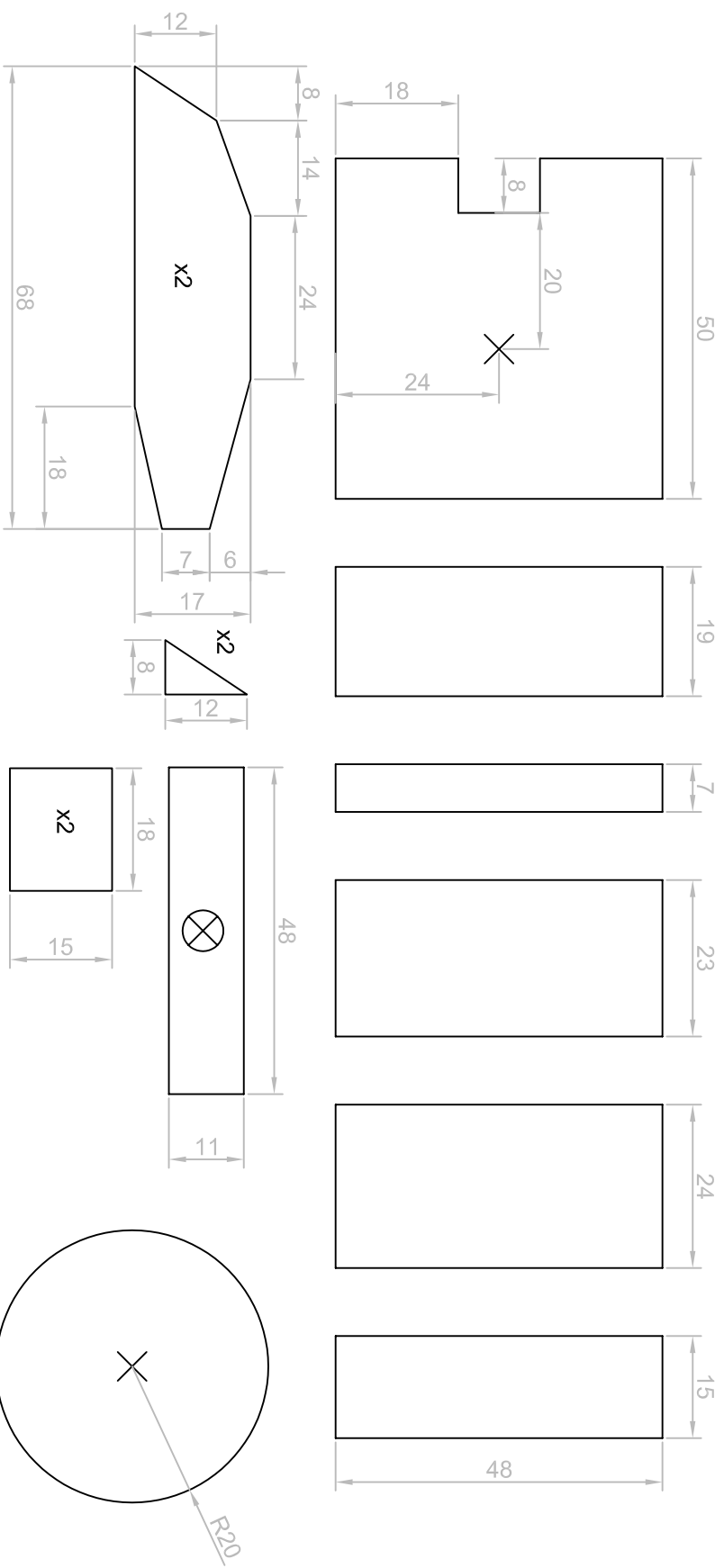
Aluminium mesh engine covers.

Hatches and panels from 0.5mm, 1mm and 2mm thick plasticard.

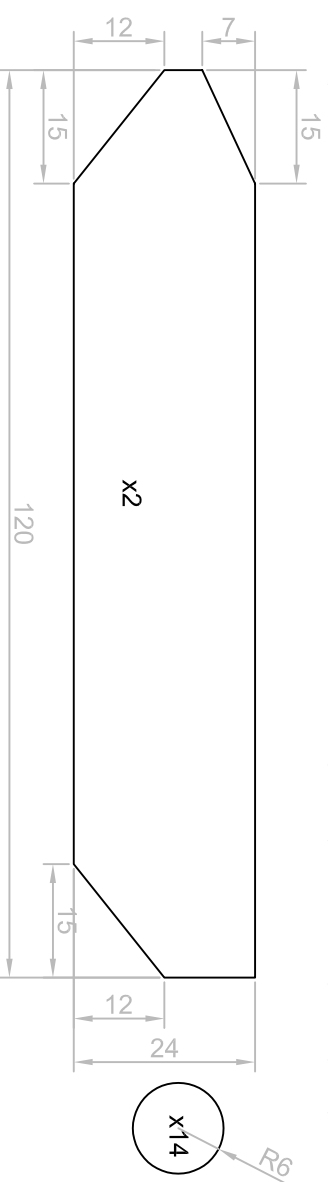
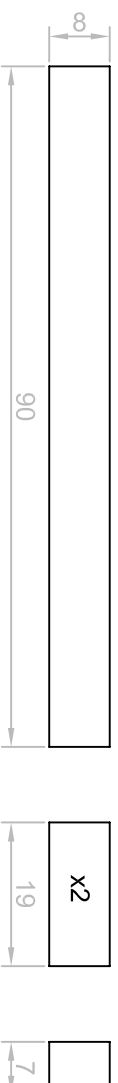
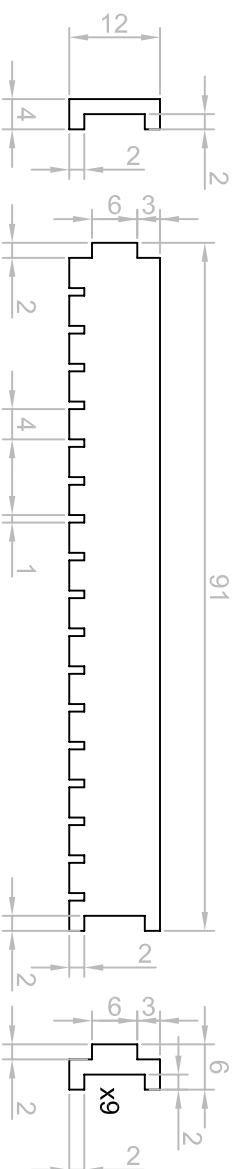
Pintle mounted gun and commander figure from EM4 miniatures.



## HULL COMPONENTS

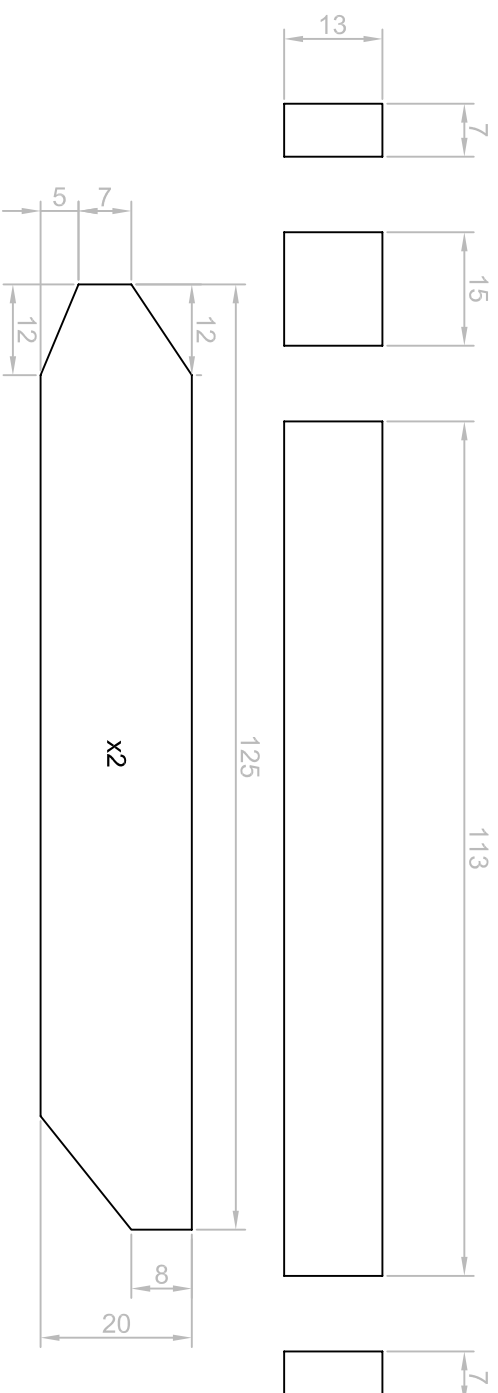


# TURRET COMPONENTS



## TRACK COMPONENTS (x2)





## TRACK COVER COMPONENTS (x2)