B. W. MODELS.

EAGER BEAVER FORK LIFT

In the 1960's, with the introduction of pallets as a method of moving bulk loads, the military came up with a specification for a fork lift truck that could be used in forward areas over rough terrain, but also be able to keep up with normal convoy road speeds under its own power. It was also to be compact enough to be air portable without too much preparation. The result was the Eager Beaver Fork Lift, produced for the military and used by all branches of the armed forces. It was introduced into service around 1970 and some were still serving in the late 1980's or even early 1990's. The army used it in forward stores areas of all sizes, the Marines for unloading stores from Landing craft and the RAF on airfields for unloading aircraft.

GENERAL NOTES

Please read all the instructions carefully before commencing. Clean all flash and any sprue marks from the pieces before starting. It is recommended that a trial fit of all components is carried out prior to final assembly. The model can be assembled using either Super glue, 5 minute epoxy adhesive or Low Melt Solder. The kit contains 46 pieces including a shaped wind shield and below is a suggested method for construction.

Before starting construction you should be aware that the chassis of this vehicle was of a space frame lightweight construction. This has been impossible to replicate fully in this scale, but it will be seen from looking at the chassis that there are circular and triangular recessed sections in the chassis sides. These should be open areas and there are 2 possible methods of replicating this if required. 1). These areas can be drilled out carefully and filed to create the open areas, or, 2). The recessed areas can be painted matt black to represent shadows in these areas.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS.

1). Fit the wheels to the axles, noting that there are 2 pairs of tyres, and the slight 'V' shape on the tyre pattern should face forward on each end of the axles.
2). Fit the front axle to its mounting points on the underside of the chassis front.
3). The rear axle was mounted onto a separate open frame, which was then fitted onto the location points on the underside of the chassis cross members. This allowed the rear axle to pivot. Ensure the chassis sits square when the axles are located into place.
4). Fir the gearbox unit to the underside of the chassis plate, location strips are provided. Note that the plug on the side of the gearbox unit should face outwards.
5). Fit the 2 prop shafts between the gearbox and the axles.
6). Fit the twin fuel tank unit onto the chassis top, immediately to the rear of the chassis platform. The 2 vertical fuel level indicators should face forwards.
7). Sit the radiator assembly onto the very rear of the rear chassis cross member. The number plate strip being to the bottom.
8). Fit the engine into the space between the fuel tanks and radiator, with the fan facing rearwards.
9). Fit the engine cover into place between the fuel tanks and radiator. Note that the inner faces of the engine cover may need chamfering with a file to ensure a correct fit.

10). Fit the battery box units to the extreme rear of the chassis sides, with the light fittings facing rear wards. A location lip, which fits under the chassis side is fitted to each battery box.

11). Fit the drivers base unit to the front of the chassis on the off side. A lip on the underside of the floor unit locates it into place and the rear of the unit fits against the lug on the top of the chassis.

12). Fit the seat to its base. Note that the seat could slide backwards and forwards as required.

13). Fit the hydraulic control box and levers to the side of the drivers seat base, just in front of the fire extinguisher.

14). Fit the steering column unit into the rectangular hole in the floor.

15). If you want to fit a driver figure in the seat, it should be done at this stage.

16). Fit the steering wheel to the top of the column.

17). Fit the hand brake lever to the top front of the box on the near side of the drivers seat base. The hand brake lever should angle forward.

18). Fit the gear lever into place immediately to the rear of the hand brake. The gear lever should also angle forward.

19). Fit the tow hook into place on the lowered portion of the rear chassis cross member.

20). Fit the shaped gear linkage rod between the rear of the box on the drivers seat base, through the gap between the fuel tanks and attached to the clutch housing on the rear of the engine. It may need trimming to the required length.

21). Fit the exhaust into place. The angled end fits into the recessed point on the exhaust manifold and then extends rearwards past the side of the radiator.

22). Fit the fork lift cross tube onto the angled mounting points at the very front of the chassis.

23). Fit the near side head light platform into place at the very front corner of the chassis. The horizontal bar sits on the chassis top with the angled bar braced against the chassis side.

24), Fit the 2 headlights into place, location holes are provided.

25). Fit the larger rear mudguards into place around the top of the rear wheels. The struts for attaching to the chassis sides may need to be trimmed to length.

26). Fit the front mudguards into place. It is best to fit the one under the drivers platform first and get the other one lined up with it when fitted. Again the support struts may need to be trimmed to length.

27). The remaining components make up the lift mast, forks and attachments. Before assembling these parts you need to decide what height and angle you want the forks to be at and build accordingly.

28). Fit the lift mast to the fork lift cross tube. The hook on the rear of the mast fitting over the tube. Remember to fit this mast at the required angle before final gluing.

29). Fit the hydraulic ram assembly between the pivot point on the lift mast, just above the hook, and the angle of the chassis supports, just in front of the chassis platform. As provided the ram is at maximum extension and needs to be trimmed slightly if the mast is being angled backwards.

30). Fit the lift column over the lift mast. The detail on the end of the column being to the top. Again set the column to the height required up the mast before final attachment.

31). Fit the fork tine frame onto the column, the location bars on the rear of the frame fitting each side of the column. Again, before final gluing, set the frame at the required height.

32). The RAF used the vehicle in support of the Harrier force in the field and when moving the aircraft around, the tines were not always fitted. If fitting the tines, slide one onto each end of the frame, as far as it will go.

33). To finish off the Hydraulic lift assembly, run 2 thin strips of card or plastic strip (not provided), up each side of the front face of the column. From the top of the fork tine frame, over the top of the column, to the end of the recessed section at the back of the column. This represents the chains used to operate the fork frame height, they should be painted gunmetal or a similar colour.

33). The vehicle was sometimes seen fitted with a wind shield, one of which is provided. If this is to be fitted, trim to shape and sit it centrally on the box in front of the steering column.

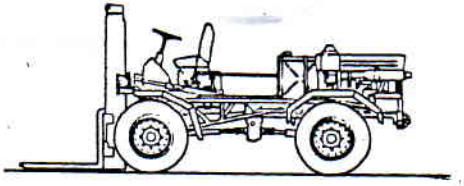
33). The remaining pieces are the ancillary items sometimes carried. Firstly, assemble the crane assembly by fitting the hook to its location point on its lifting beam. In use it fitted across the fork tines, when not in use it was stowed on the 2 chassis side extensions on the near side of the vehicle, with the hook downwards.

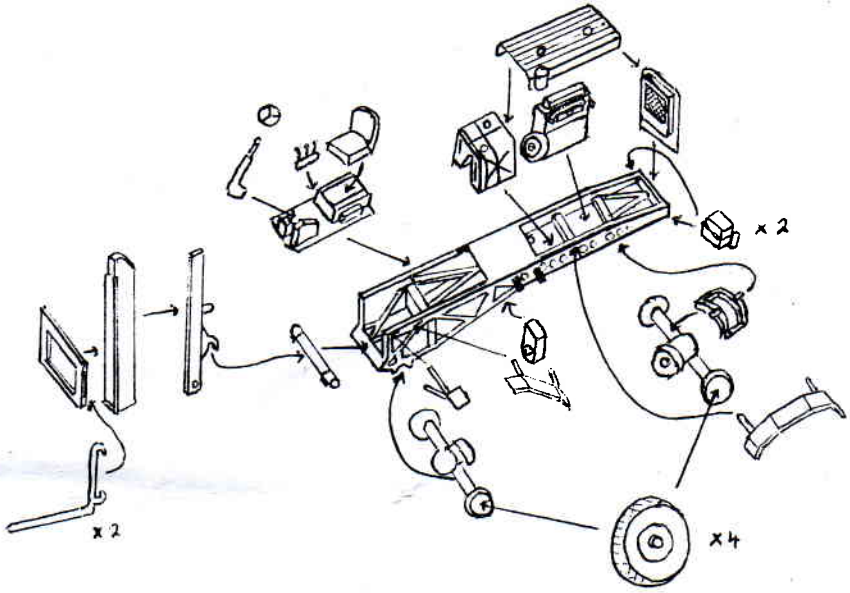
34). The 2 remaining pieces are the tine extensions. If being used they can be fitted over the tines, or sandwiched together and stowed on top of the lifting beam, or left off altogether.

PARTS LIST.

Chassis.	Wheel x 4	Axle x 2.	Rear axle pivot frame.
Gearbox.	Prop shaft x 2.	Drivers base.	Drivers seat.
Steering wheel.	Steering column.	Hand brake	Hydraulic control levers.
Gear lever.	Gear linkage rod.	Exhaust.	Tow hook.
Fuel tank unit.	Engine.	Engine cover.	Radiator assembly.
Battery box unit x 2.	Rear mudguard x 2	Front mudguard x 2.	Near side Headlight base.
Headlight x 2.	Fork lift cross tube.	Fork lift mast.	Fork lift column.
Hydraulic ram.	Fork tine frame.	Fork tine x 2.	Lifting beam.
Crane hook.	Tine extension x 2.	Shaped acetate.	

Eager Beaver Fork Lift.





It is hoped you enjoyed building this kit, it is one of an ever growing range.
If you have any complaint, query or suggestions for future kits, please contact the address below.
If you require an up to date price list, send an A5 size, Stamped Self Addressed Envelope to:-

B. W. MODELS, Hillcrest, Kirk Brae, Cuminestown, Turriff AB53 5YZ, Aberdeenshire.