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Dave Campbell
Editorial Content Chief, *WOOD* magazine



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Mil-spec Jeep &

This nimble vehicle and light artillery piece performed with distinction in rugged terrain from WWII through Vietnam. They were cheap and quick-to-build back then, and these models retain those traits: you can build them from scrapwood in a weekend!

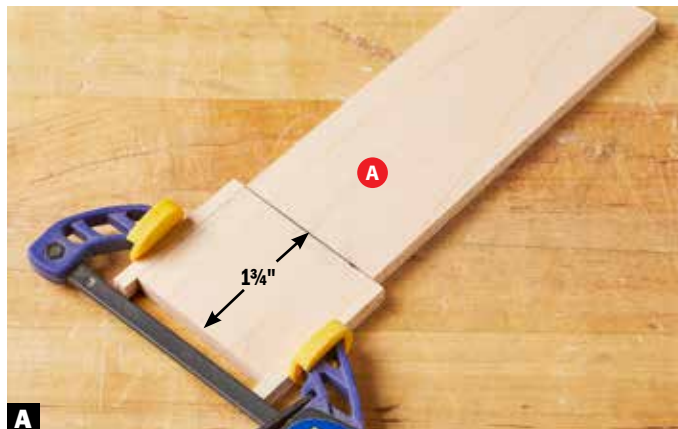


Note: To build this project, prepare 12"-long blanks in the following sizes: $\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ " maple, $\frac{3}{16} \times 1$ " maple, $\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ " maple, $\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ " cherry, $\frac{3}{8} \times 1$ " maple, $\frac{3}{8} \times 1$ " cherry, $\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ " cherry, $1 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " maple, $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ " cherry.

Let's start with the Jeep

1 Cut the frame (A) to the listed length [Materials List] but $2\frac{5}{16}$ " wide. Rip a $\frac{3}{16}$ " strip from one edge, and from it crosscut two 2"-long pieces. Attach and trim those pieces [Drawing 1a, Photo A.] Then cut the back seat (B) to size and set aside [Drawing 1].

2 From a $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3 \times 12$ " cherry blank, saw a $\frac{1}{2}$ "-long piece from one end for the cowl (C). Cut and sand the 27° miters [Drawing 1b]. Then cut a $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " scrap and miter one end at 27°. Double-face-tape the cowl to the end of the scrap and rout the corners [Photo B].



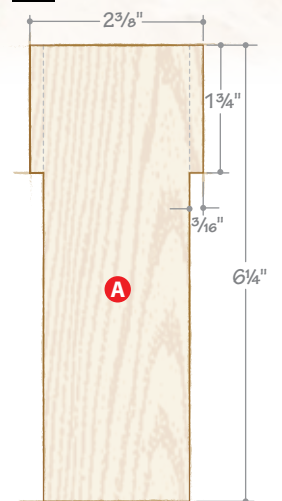
A Glue the crosscut edge pieces back onto the frame (A), aligning them as shown. After the glue dries, trim them flush with the end of the frame.

37mm Gun

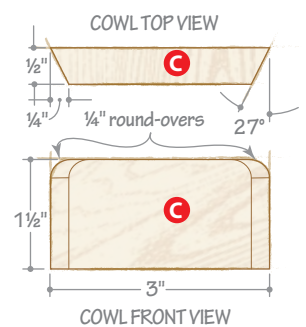
D I M E N S I O N S
 JEEP $3\frac{3}{4}"$ H x $3\frac{1}{2}"$ W x $7\frac{3}{16}"$ L
 37mm GUN $3\frac{1}{4}"$ H x $3\frac{5}{8}"$ W x $9\frac{1}{8}"$ L
647,925
 Number of
 Jeeps
 manufactured
 for WWII
7'7"
 Length of actual
 gun barrel



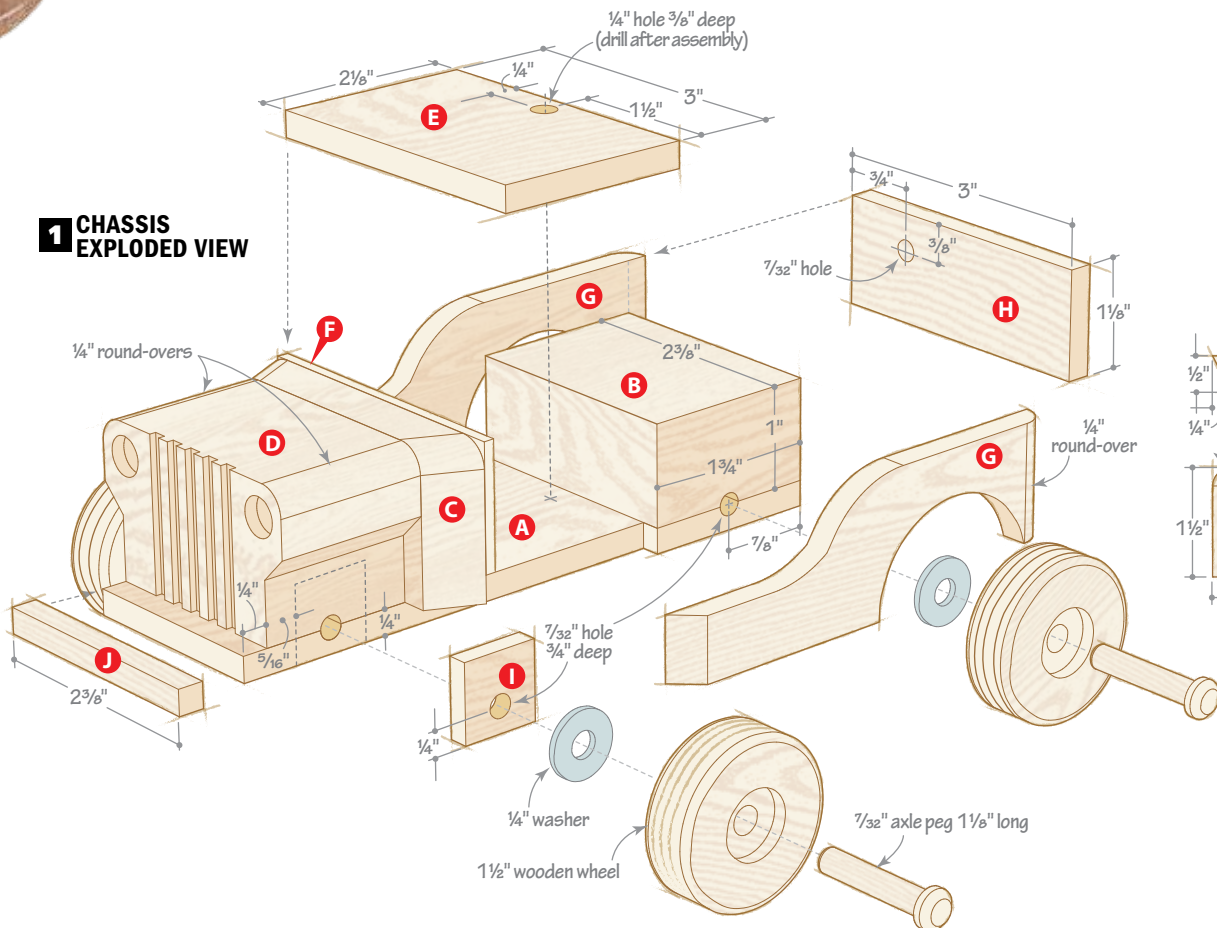
1a FRAME



1b COWL



1 CHASSIS EXPLODED VIEW



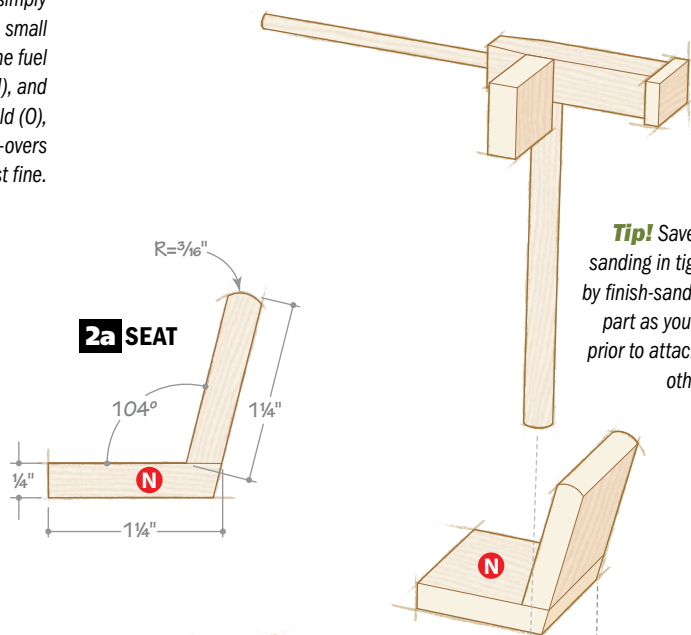


B Rout $\frac{1}{4}$ " round-overs on the top edges of the cowl (C), aligning the mitered edge of the cowl flush with the edge of the scrap.

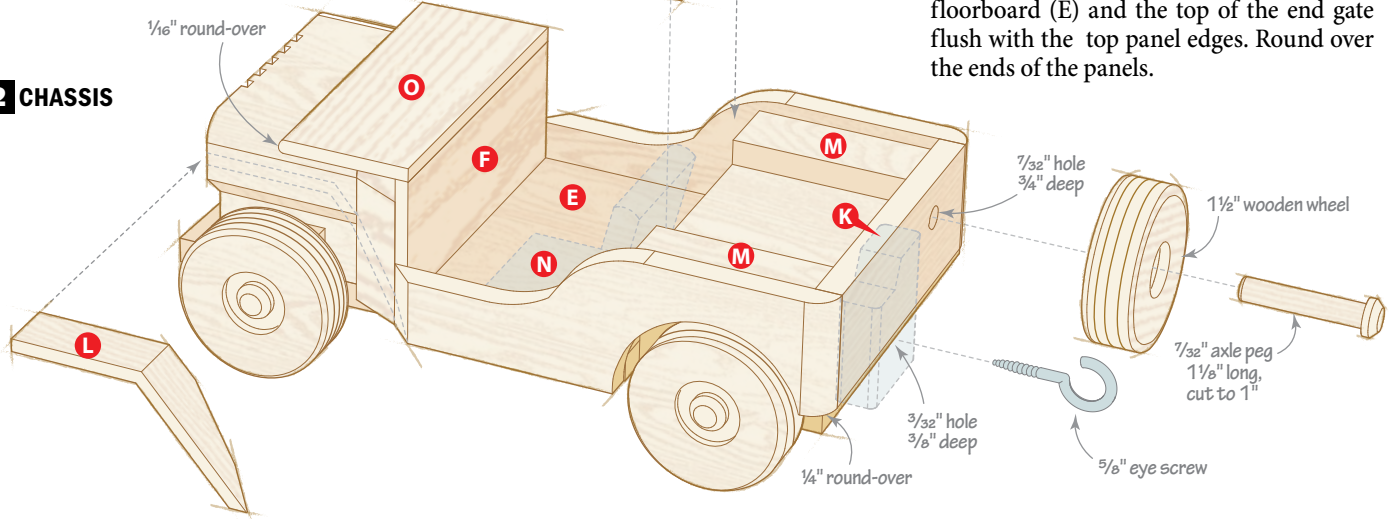


C Two cuts create the fender wells. Make the first cut with the blade at 90° ; for the second cut, angle the blade to 45° .

Tip! For round-overs smaller than $\frac{1}{4}$ ", simply sand them. On small parts, such as the fuel can (K), seats (N), and windshield (O), hand-sanded round-overs look just fine.



2 CHASSIS

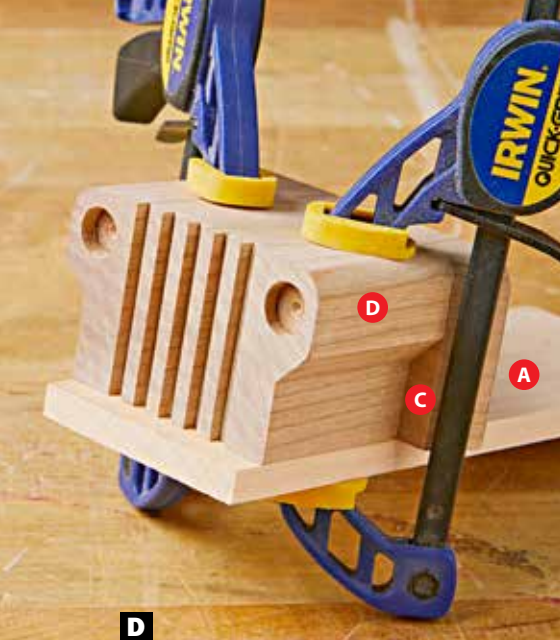


3 Retrieve the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " cherry blank and rip it to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Attach a copy of the Hood Full-size Pattern [page 6] to the end of the blank. With the blank on end, cut the kerfs for the hood (D). Cut the fender wells [Photo C], saw the hood to length, rout the top edges, and drill the headlights using a Forstner bit.

4 Glue, align, and clamp the cowl (C) and hood (D). Then glue and clamp the C/D assembly to the frame (A) [Photo D].

5 Cut to size the floorboard (E), and dashboard (F) [Drawing 1]. Glue the dashboard to the cowl (C) flush side to side. Glue in the floorboard tight against the dashboard and centered side to side. Glue in the back seat (B) as shown in Drawing 1.

6 Cut the rear quarterpanels (G), and end gate (H). Double-face-tape the panels face-to-face, attach a copy of the Rear Quarter-panel Full-size Pattern, and cut and sand to shape. Attach the panels and end gate to the chassis [Drawing 1] with the bottom edges of the panels flush with the bottom of the floorboard (E) and the top of the end gate flush with the top panel edges. Round over the ends of the panels.



D

Attach the cowl/hood (C/D) to the frame (A), aligning the hood flush with the edges of the frame and set back $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the front end.



E

Drill the wheel-axle-peg holes $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep—the extra depth allows you to fine-tune the depth of the axle pegs later for wheels that spin freely, but without slop.



F

Cut the fenders to length using a bandsaw or scrollsaw. Go easy to avoid breaking the end-to-end glue joint.

7 In the floorboard (E) mark and drill the centered gun-turret hole [Drawing 1].

8 Cut the front wheel spacers (I) to size and glue them to the chassis [Drawing 1]. Mark and drill holes for the axle pegs [Photo E]. Also drill a $\frac{7}{32}$ " axle-peg hole $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep through the end gate (H).

A few more parts complete the Jeep

1 Cut the bumper (J) to size, and glue it to the front of the frame (A), centered side to side. Then, cut the fuel can (K) [Full-size Pattern] and glue it to the end gate (H), positioned as shown in Drawing 2.

2 From your $\frac{1}{8}$ " maple blank, cut two $\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ " strips. Tilt your tablesaw blade to 24.5° , crosscut each strip at its center, and crosscut the offcut to make matching bevels [Fender Full-size Patterns]. Glue each pair back together at the beveled ends to form the fenders (L). Make a copy of the Driver-Side and Passenger-Side Fender Full-size Patterns and adhere those to the tops of the fenders. Cut the fenders to length [Photo F]. Then sand each angled edge to match where it mates against the cowl. Take your time to ensure a tight fit. Glue on each fender, aligning it flush with the front of the hood and centered on the headlights.

3 Cut the rear wheel wells (M) and glue them in place [Drawing 2].

4 From your $\frac{1}{4}$ " maple blank, cut two $1\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{8}$ " pieces. Tilt your blade to 14° , crosscut each piece at its center, and glue each pair back together to make the seats (N) [Drawing 2a]. Sand the round-over. Glue the seats in place against the quarterpanels.

5 Cut to size the windshield (O), round over one edge, and glue it in place [Exploded View].

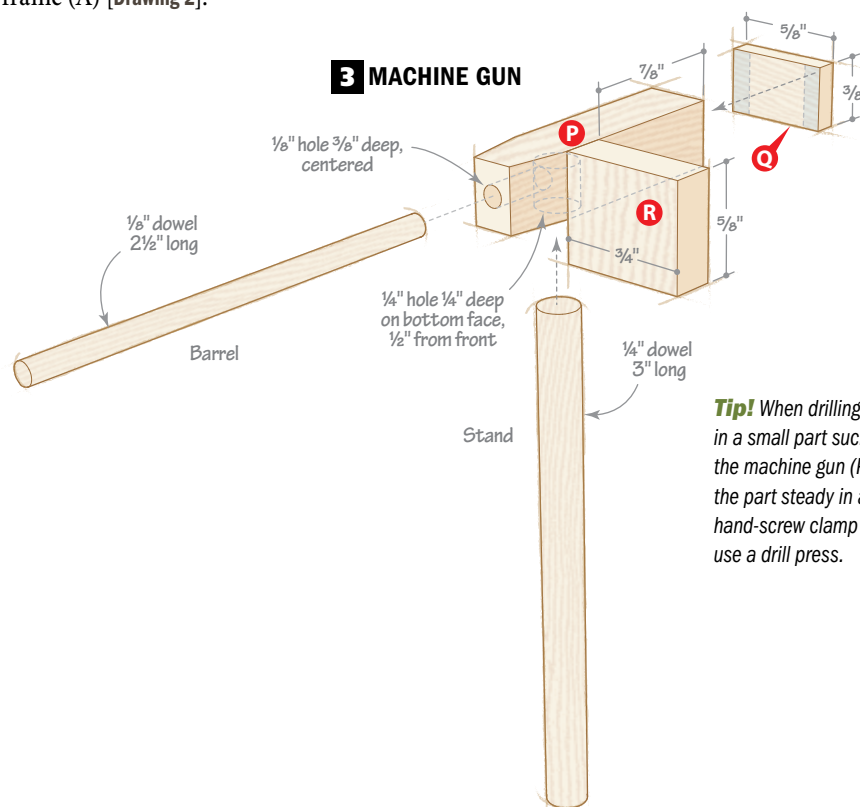
6 Apply finish to the Jeep (we sprayed on three coats of aerosol lacquer). Also finish five wheels and axle pegs [Source], being careful to keep finish off the portion of the pegs that will be glued into the chassis.

7 Glue on the wheels and axle pegs, using washers only on the four rotating wheels [Drawing 1]. The wheels should freely rotate without excess slop. Cut down the axle peg holding the spare tire. Spread open a $\frac{5}{8}$ " eye screw to make a tow hook and add it to the back of the Jeep, centered on the end of the frame (A) [Drawing 2].

Add the machine gun

1 Cut the machine gun (P) to size and shape [Full-size Pattern]. Drill holes for the gun barrel and stand. With a square, check that the gun is perfectly vertical before drilling the barrel hole.

2 Cut the barrel, stand, gun grip (Q), and ammo box (R) to size [Drawing 3]. Assemble the machine gun. Apply finish and allow it to dry before gluing the stand into the hole in the floorboard (E).





Build a towable 37mm gun

1 Cut the axle (S) to size [Materials List, Drawing 4]. Drill centered holes in the ends as you did with the machine gun.

2 Cut to size the upper (T) and lower (U) shields. In the upper shield drill a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole [Drawing 5] and complete the slot using a bandsaw or scrollsaw. Glue the shields to the axle [Drawing 4].

3 Cut the tow bars (V) and tow-bar brackets (W) [Full-size Pattern]. Drill and shape them [Drawing 5]. Glue the tow-bar brackets to the axle (S) [Drawing 4]. Then drill angled holes in the tapered ends of the

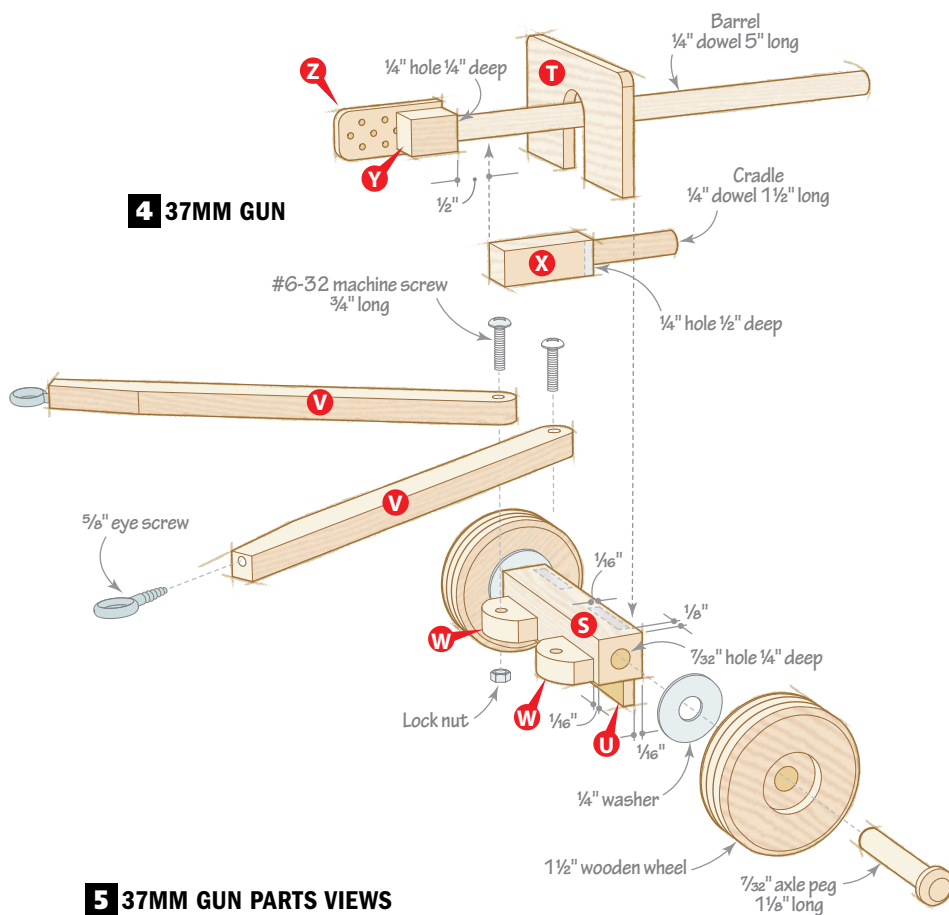
tow bars [Photo G]. Attach the tow bars to the brackets with screws and lock nuts.

4 Cut the barrel mount (X) and bolt (Y) to size. Drill a hole into the end of each for the barrel and cradle dowels. Glue in the dowels, and then glue the barrel to the barrel mount [Drawing 4]. Glue this assembly to the axle.

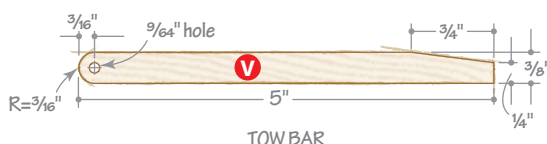
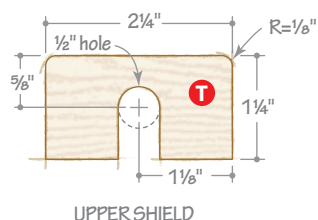
5 Cut the recoil guard (Z) to shape [Full-size Pattern], drill holes, remove the pattern, and glue it to the bolt (Y).

6 Apply finish and add the wheels, axle pegs, and washers as you did for the Jeep. Your classic battlefield duo is ready for action! 🌲

4 37MM GUN

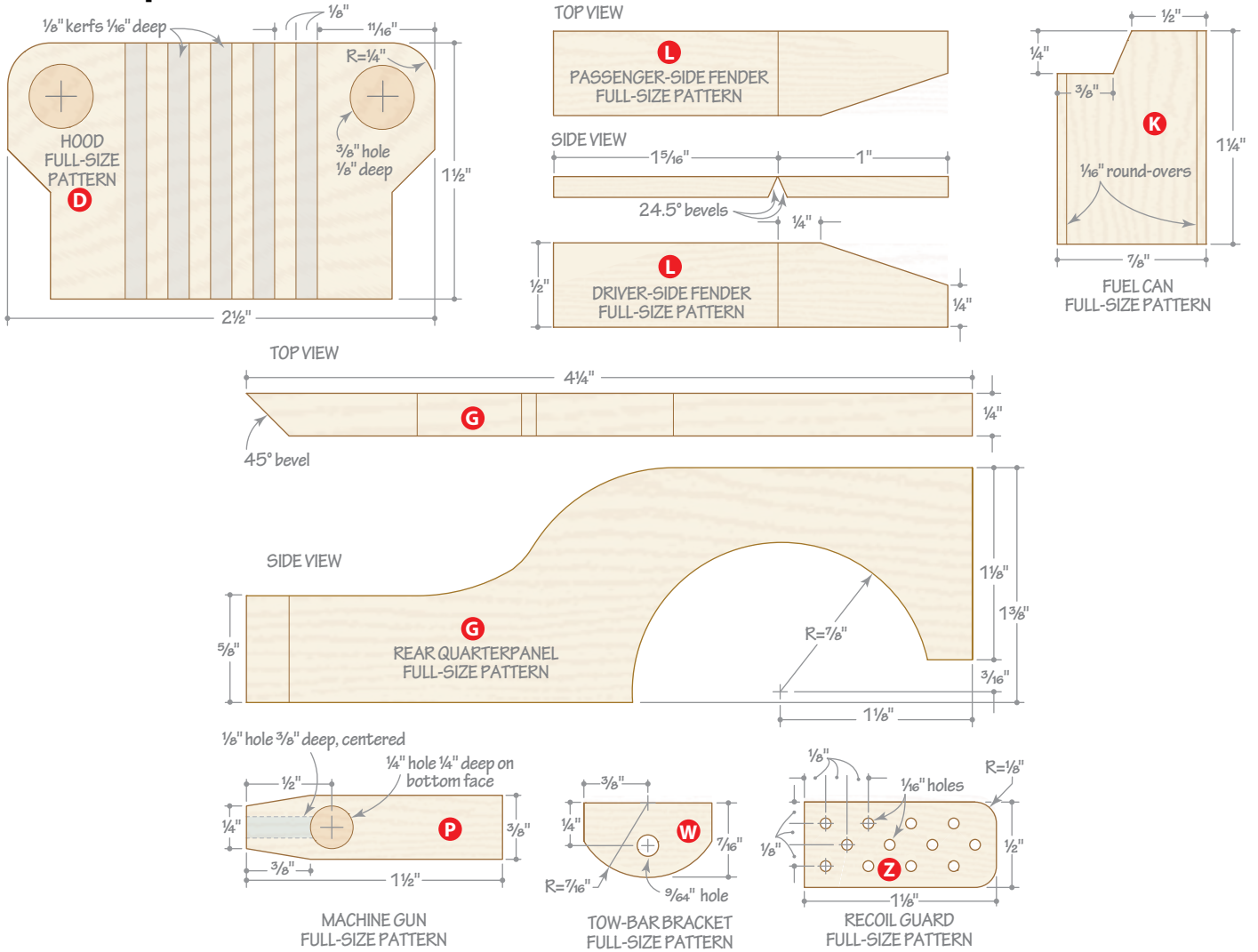


5 37MM GUN PARTS VIEWS



G Drill angled $\frac{1}{16}$ " pilot holes for $\frac{5}{8}$ " eye screws. Eyeball the angle so the eyes overlap when the angled edges of the tow bars meet, allowing the Jeep's tow hook to fit through them.

Full-size patterns



Materials List

Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
Jeep					
A* frame	¼"	2⅜"	6¼"	M	1
B back seat	1"	2⅜"	1¾"	M	1
C* cowl	1½"	3"	½"	C	1
D* hood	1½"	2½"	1½"	C	1
E floorboard	¼"	3"	2⅝"	M	1
F dashboard	⅞"	1½"	3"	M	1
G rear quarterpanels	¼"	1⅜"	4¼"	C	2
H end gate	¼"	1⅞"	3"	C	1
I front wheel spacers	⅜⅞"	¾"	¾"	M	2
J front bumper	¼"	¼"	2⅜"	M	1
K fuel can	⅜"	⅞"	1¼"	M	1
L* fenders	⅞"	½"	2"	M	2
M rear wheel wells	¼"	⅝"	1¾"	C	2
N* seats	¼"	1¼"	1¼"	M	2
O windshield	⅞"	1⅜"	3"	M	1
P* machine gun	⅜"	⅜"	1½"	C	1
Q gun grip	⅞"	⅜"	⅝"	M	1
R ammo box	¼"	¾"	⅝"	C	1

Part	FINISHED SIZE			Matl.	Qty.
	T	W	L		
37mm gun					
S axle	½"	½"	2½"	C	1
T upper shield	⅞"	1¼"	2¼"	M	1
U lower shield	⅞"	⅝"	2¼"	M	1
V tow bars	¼"	⅜"	5"	C	2
W tow-bar brackets	¼"	⅞"	¾"	M	2
X barrel mount	⅜"	⅜"	1"	C	1
Y bolt	⅜"	⅜"	½"	C	1
Z recoil guard	⅞"	½"	1½"	M	1

*Parts initially cut under- or oversize. See the instructions.

Materials key: M-maple, C-cherry.

Bits: ⅞", ⅜", and ¼" round-over router bits; ⅜" Forstner bit.

Source: Each kit includes the hardware and specialty parts to build one Jeep and one 37mm gun. You provide the lumber. ⅞" dowel rod 3" long, ¼" dowel rod 10" long, 1½" wooden wheels (7), ⅞" axle pegs (7), ¼" galvanized washers (6), ⅝" eye screws (3), #6-32×¾" machine screws (2), #6-32 lock nuts (2). Kit no. RS-01149, 888-636-4478, woodmagazine.com/jeepkit.

Produced by **Bill Krier** with **Kevin Boyle**

Project design: **Kevin Boyle**

Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine, Lorna Johnson**