

SPANDAU LMG 08/15

BUILDING INSTRUCTION SPANDAU 08/15

The aviation version of the MG 08/15 water cooled barrel gun is a lightened air-cooled version of the original water-cooled rectangular pattern-receiver MG 08 infantry automatic designated as the IMG 08/15. This was developed by the Spandau arsenal as a rigidly mounted aircraft machine gun and went into production in 1915. The Spandau fitted in single-gun mounts for use on the Fokker Eindecker E.I through to the E.III. A lower case letter "L" beginning the prefix meant *luftgekühlt* (air-cooled) rather than *Luft* (air)

The initial model of the air-cooled "Spandau" IMG 08 front-firing cowling machine guns had lost the stocks, grips, and bipods of the infantry MG 08s to adapt it to a fixed, forward-firing mount forward of an aircraft's cockpit, with gun synchronization allowing safe firing through a spinning propeller's arc.

The IMG 08s were later used in pairs by the time of the introduction of the Fokker D.III and Albatros D.I biplane fighters in 1916. These were fixed and synchronized cowling guns firing through the propeller.



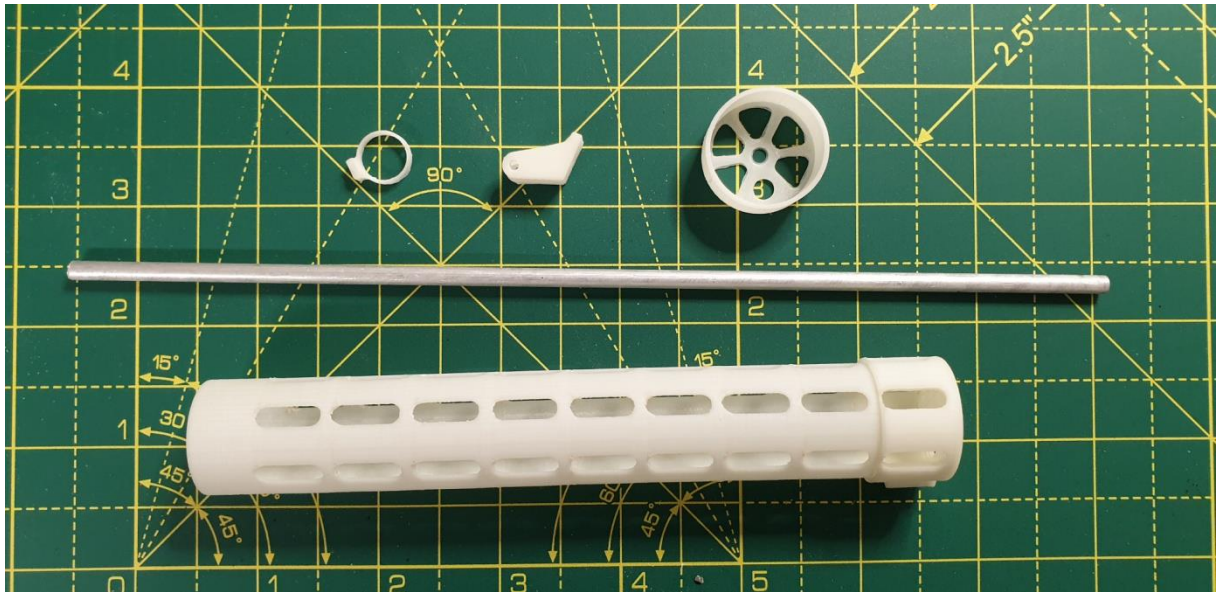
BUILDING THE SPANDAU LMG 08/15

Before you begin to glue all the parts we recommend to sand each component carefully and remove the plastic printing tabs that may be visible from the printing process.

Each photograph shows the components that are provided to build the Gun

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THE GUN BARREL

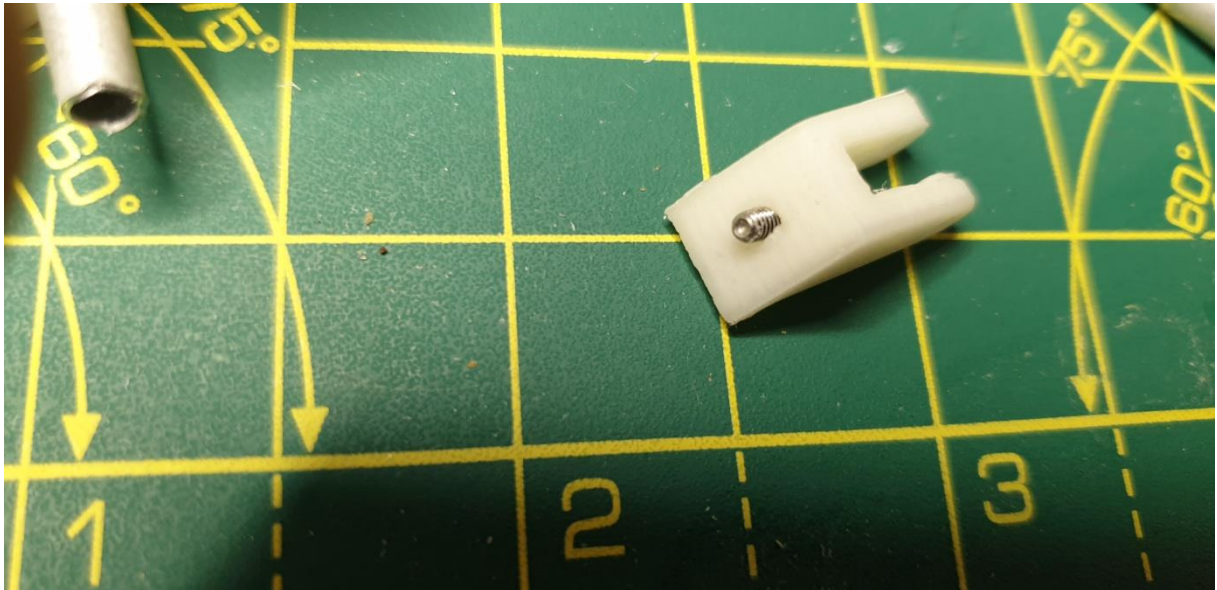


- 1) Dry fit the gun barrel tube into the gun aircooler and ensure the gun barrel tube has 8mm excess each side, this enables the gun body and the muzzle to be attached to the barrel.
- 2) Once this is checked and correct, this is the point at which you can paint the gun tube. Slightly rough up the tube with a fine wire wool or wet and dry 400 grade and then lightly paint or spray with a gun metal grey paint. You only need to use a very light coat or thinned coat of paint.
- 3) Using a good quality medium Cyano or Epoxy, glue each end cap of the gun barrel onto the aircooler, ensuring the pre-made holes where the gun barrel tube fits line up.



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- 4) Screw the grub screw into the gun barrel mounting lug holder and then glue the gun barrel lug onto the end cap lug of the Aircooler



- 5) On the aiming reticle you now mount the wires into reticle.

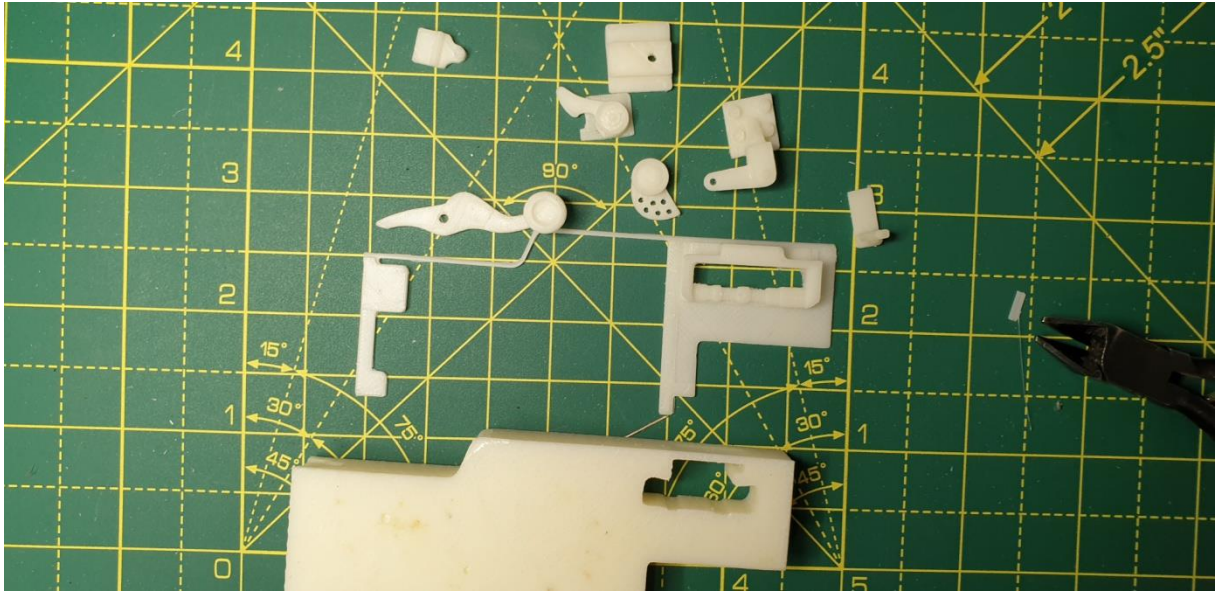


- 6) At the front of the gun barrel, glue the reticle onto the aircooler ensuring it is on the top side of the gun and opposite side of the mounting lug
- 7) Glue the gun muzzle onto the front of the gun barrel (the end where you fitted the reticle).



THE MAIN BODY

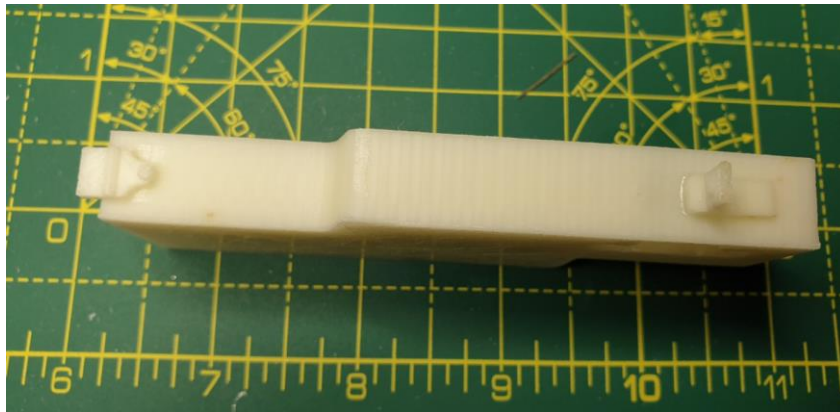
- 8) Shown below are the components you need to build the main body of the gun.



- 9) On the top of the body glue the rear aiming slot onto the body so that the aiming slot is approx. 30mm from the front of the main body.
10) Glue the rear cover as shown so that the lip lines up with the rear of the main body.



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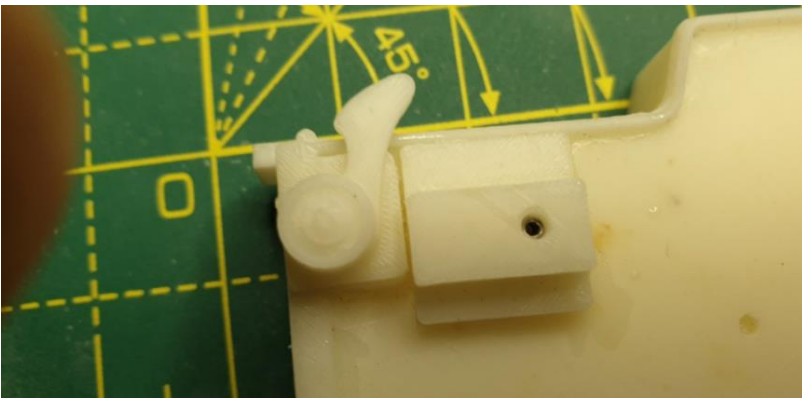
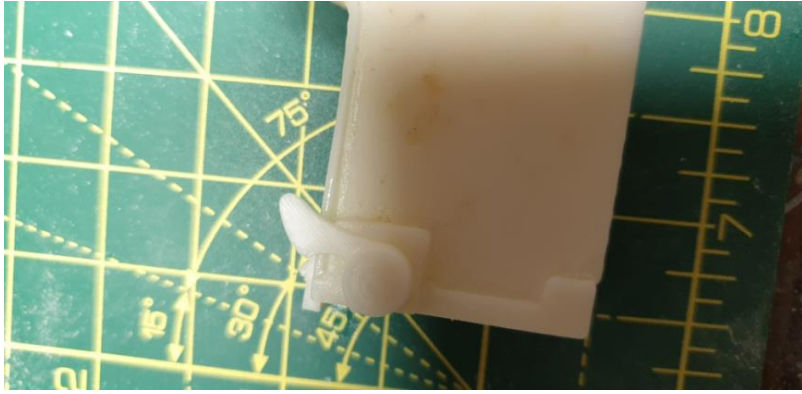


11) On the right side of the body glue the frame onto the body.

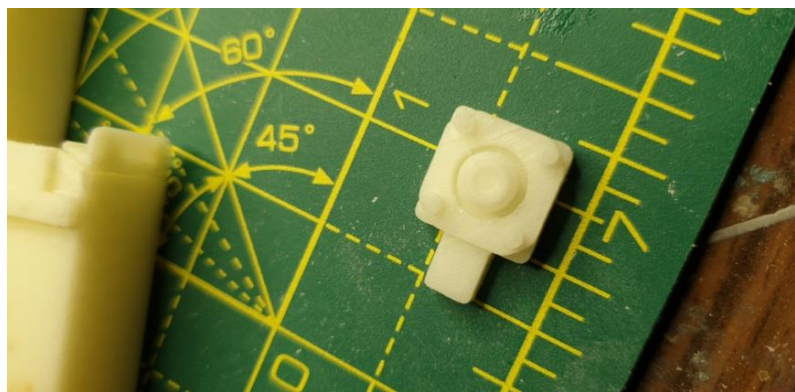
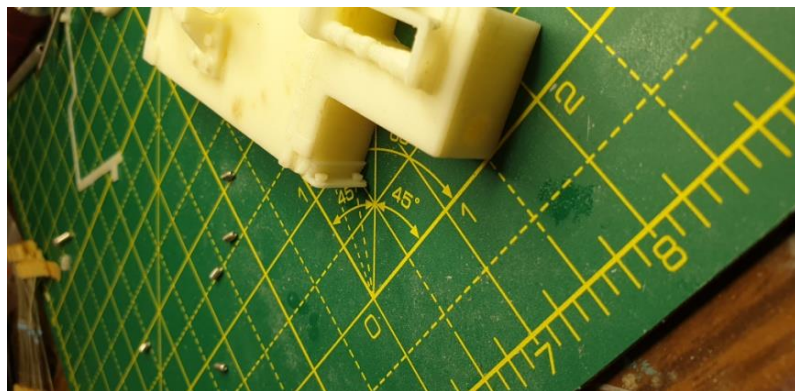
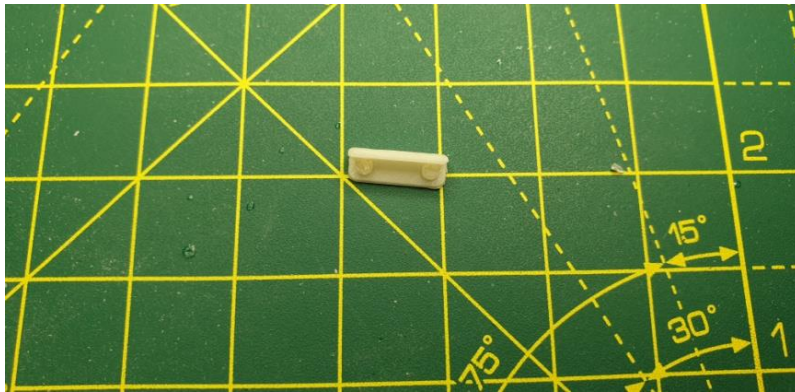


12) Assemble and glue on the firing mechanism as shown in the following photographs

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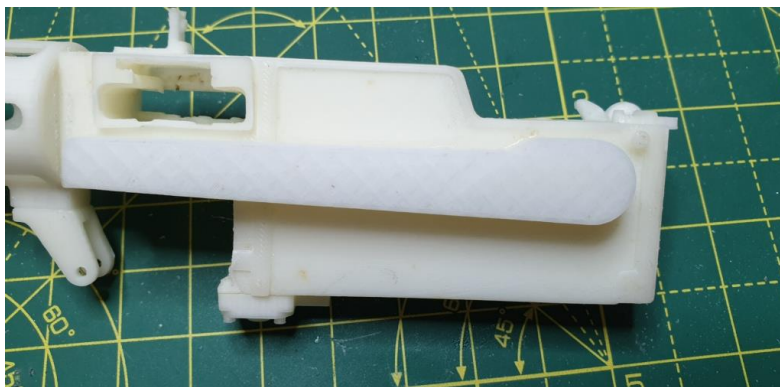
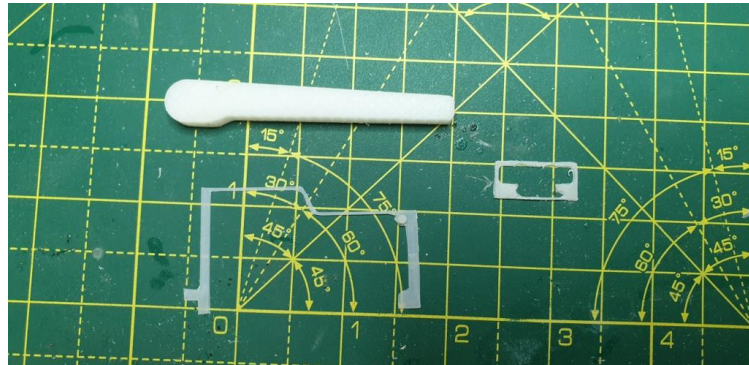


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- 13) On the left side of the main body glue on the frame.
- 14) Place the spring cover onto the body until it's recess sits on the frame level with the gun barrel tube.



- 15) At this stage you can either paint the gun or glue Main Body and Aircooled barrel to make the gun complete.



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PAINTING

To get a smooth surface we recommend to spray paint 2-3 thin layers of filler primer.

When the filler is dry you can sand the gun with either a steel wool or wet and dry paper.

Finishing paint, we recommend that the 1st layers of paint should be a combination of silver, brass and copper to add base colour when adding a “worn/wearing” look to the gun.

Next step is to paint it gun metal or even black. We recommend at this point that airbrush or even a “rattlecan” can be used to add the colour. Very lightly spray the gun metal and/or black, once the paint has dried you can start sanding the body with steelwool to give the worn look to the gun. As a result, you get a metallic effect like the real gun.

We hope that you enjoy the building of the Spandau IMG 08/15 Gun. Please feel free to add any comments on the website “Blog” page.



Thankyou

Cary & Bert

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