

# Base for Motte and Bailey Castle

Armada Model Designs Ltd

SM04B-16

Constructing a motte and bailey castle is a popular year 7 school project and this model kit provides a fundamental structure from which a customized model can be created. In effect, this kit provides a blank canvas that allows your imagination free rein to fill in the detail. The motte and bailey model pictured here gives an idea of what can be achieved. It was drawn-up, built and photographed by Alex - a year 7 student.

Motte and bailey castles, popular in Britain during the 11th and 12th centuries, typically consisted of a fortified courtyard (bailey) overlooked by a wooden castle built on a mound of earth (motte). The basic model here produces a good approximation of a motte and bailey structure by using two modified, intersecting cones. By the time you reach year 7, you will probably be familiar with the idea of producing nets of 3D objects. Our model uses nets of cones that have had their tops chopped off (truncated) and their lower parts folded upwards to form a "moat".



***Photo offering some inspiration for detailing our basic Motte and Bailey base.***

“Scenic scatters” used to decorate this model are available from [www.javis.co.uk](http://www.javis.co.uk)

[www.armadamodels.co.uk](http://www.armadamodels.co.uk)



*Picture showing three models at various stages of construction. The plain white base is the model that is provided in this kit. You can design buildings based on your own research and paint / decorate the model as you see fit.*

## Instructions

The tools required for card modelling (referred to as paper modeling in the USA) are generally to be found around the home. This model requires 4 sheets of 150 gsm white card, scissors or a knife to cut out the components, a ruler for scoring straight lines and some glue (PVA white-glue, used sparingly is best but Uhu, Bostick or even Pritt Stick will do). Remember to use some scrap paper to protect your work-surface from glue-spills.

The first thing to do is to score all fold-lines before cutting out the components. Careful scoring is the key to accuracy of shape. Score-lines can be made using a pin or perhaps a blunt craft knife.

The components are identified by the letters A to H. Assemble the model in this sequence. Cut out each piece as you need it. In this way you will reduce the risk of confusing one piece with another.

The sheet containing part "E" also gives an "exploded view" of the model, showing how it all fits together. All glue-tabs are shaded, except for the tabs on part E, which need to be cut as illustrated in the photograph that appears alongside the component.

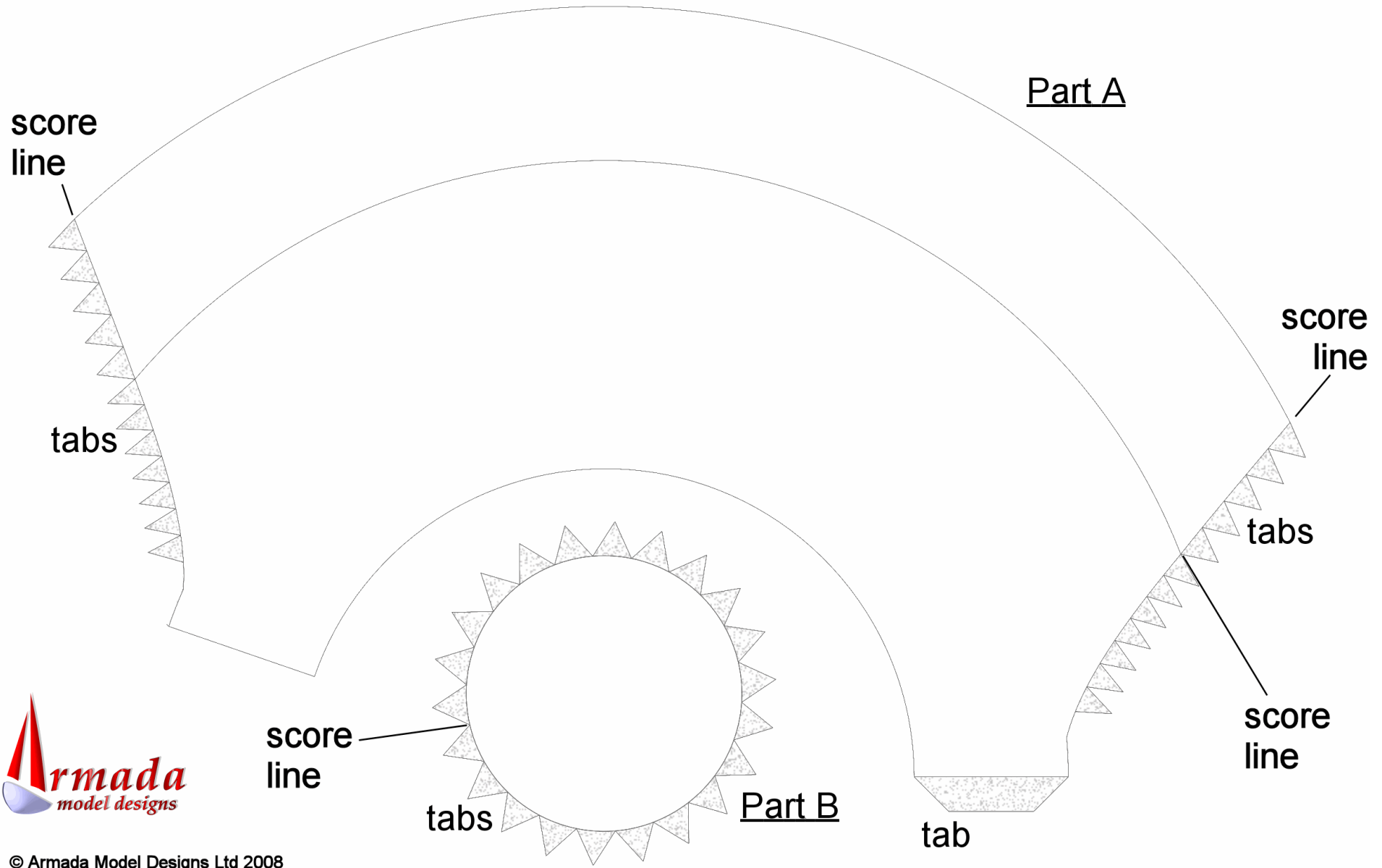
First, fold and glue the component that forms the motte (part A). Turn it upside down and place it on a flat surface. Apply glue sparingly to the tabs on the flat top (part B) and insert it into part A until it is also resting on the flat surface. Fold and glue the bailey (part C) to the motte. This is probably the trickiest part of the model, so take care to match up the edges of components A and C precisely. Then fit the flat top of the bailey (part D) in a manner similar to assembling the top of the motte.

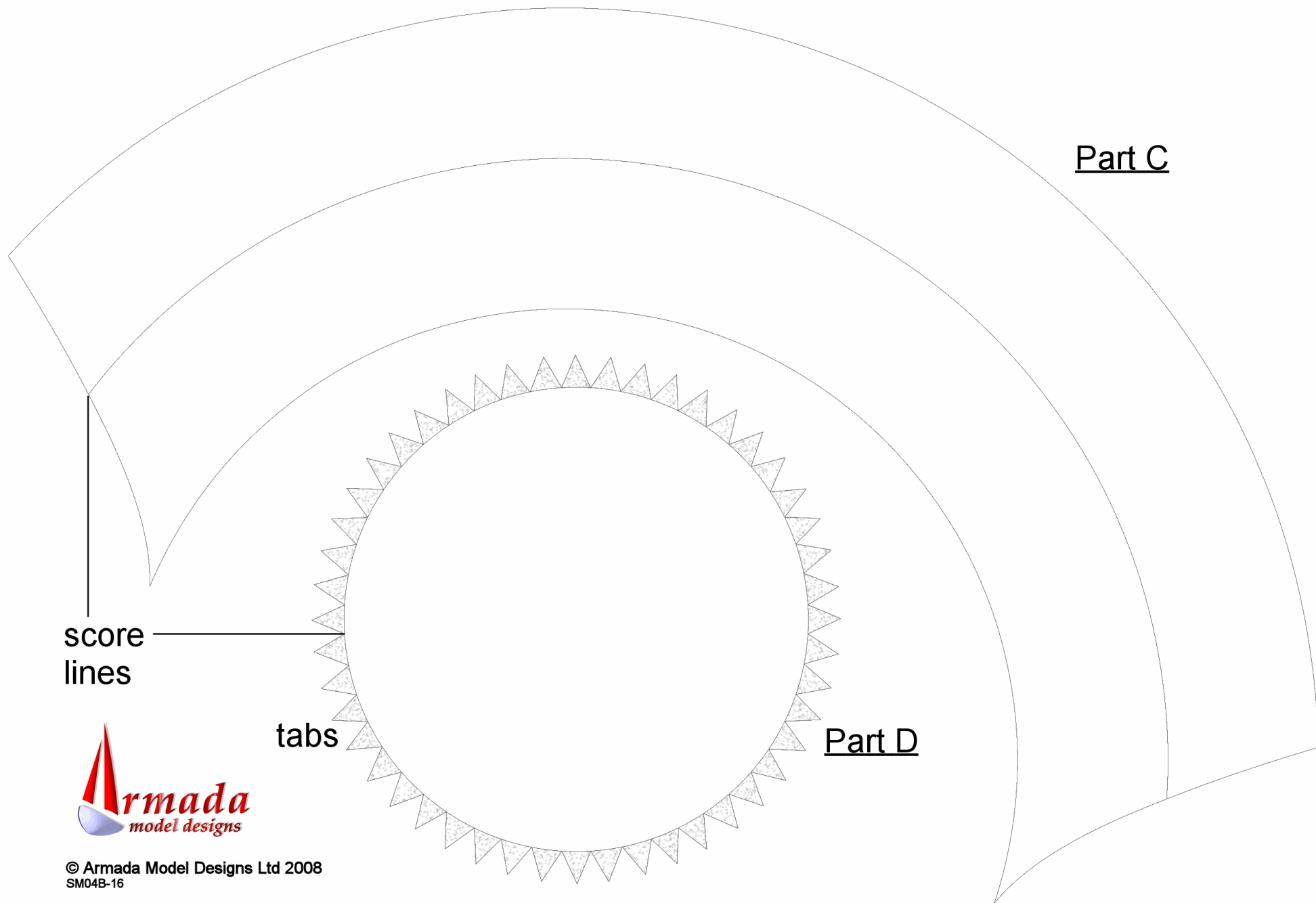
The real "trick" with construction, particularly with gluing the completed motte and bailey sub-assembly to the base (part E), is not to glue everything at once. Glue components a few tabs at a time - first at one location and then a few tabs diametrically opposite. Keep doing this, working back and forth as you secure the tabs. In this way you will be able to build a tidy, symmetrical model. As you do this, use only a thin smearing of glue on each tab and press the parts together, where possible, from either side to ensure that the components are bonded in as short a time as possible.

The motte and bailey sub-assembly is best joined to the base "E" at the two points of intersection between motte and bailey. Once dry, continue to glue the remaining tabs. At this stage the model may appear to be somewhat flexible and a little distorted. Don't worry, once the sides F to I are added the model will be held quite securely in its correct shape. When adding the sides it is best to rest the corresponding part of the base inverted on a flat board, or edge of a table.

The intricate curves and intersections present in this model mean that it is trickier to build than either of our Roman villas and because it requires a little more skill you may find it difficult to get the shape exactly right. Don't worry, just remember that it is a representation of the foundations of a medieval castle and mounds of earth will never appear as regular as the well-defined geometry of a building.

Now you're free to start adding your own detail. Happy model building!





Part C

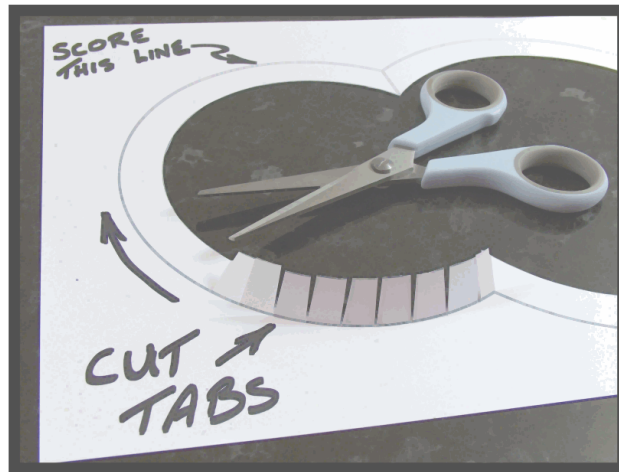
score  
lines

tabs

Part D



## Part E

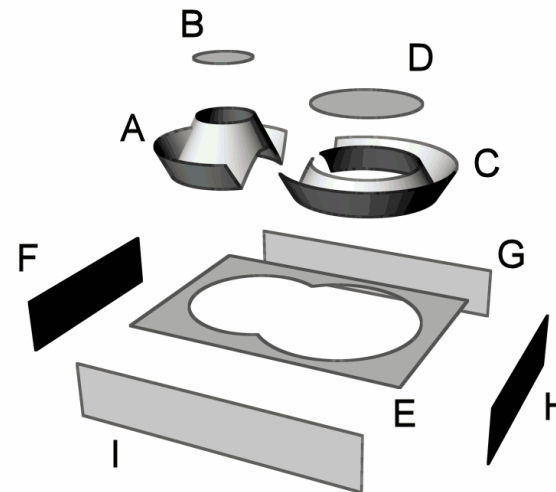


Underside view of part E

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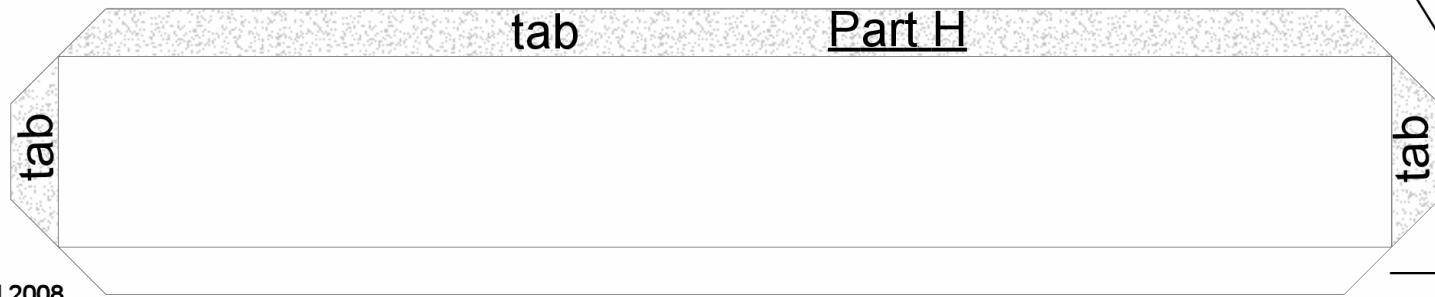
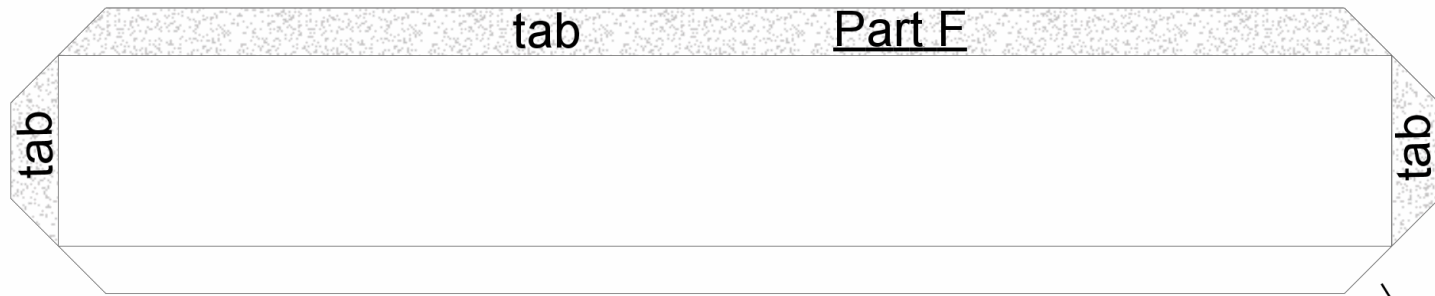
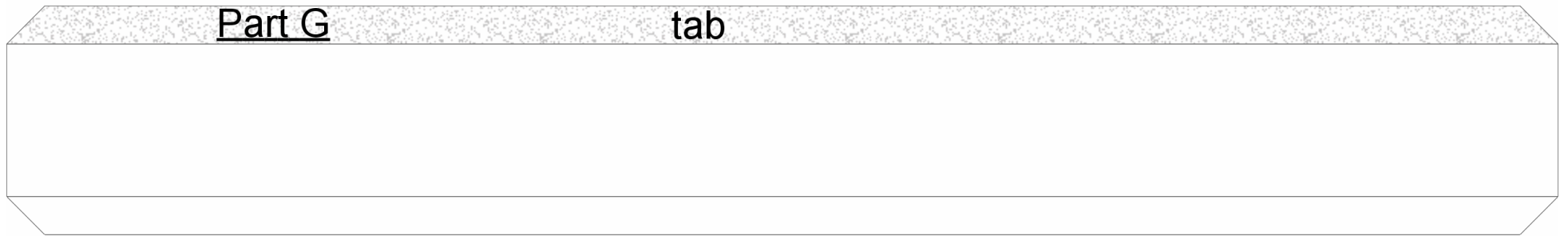
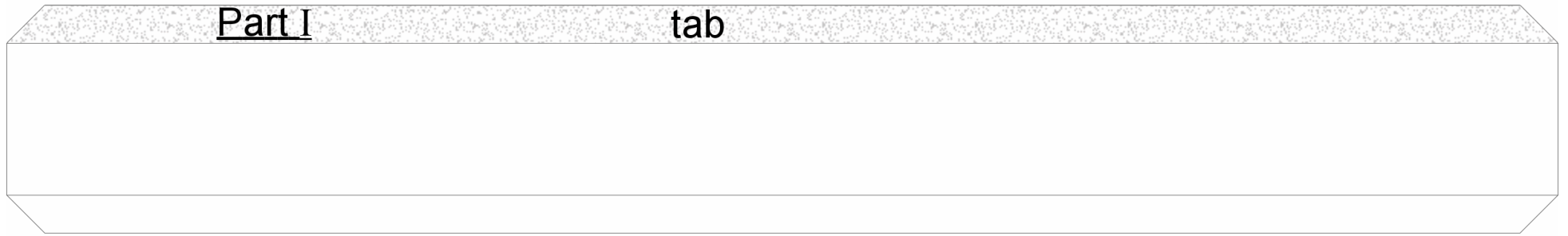
## Assembly Sequence

(construction tabs not shown)



Remove inner material from this sheet,  
then cut tabs all the way round as  
indicated in the adjacent image.





tabs that are folded but not glued.

**Glue Tabs**  
Score all tab lines  
prior to folding.

