

Open Source Rover: Body Assembly Instructions

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1 Machining/Fabrication

1.1 9x12 Aluminum Plate Drilling

Table 1: Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
9"x12" Aluminum Plate	S35	1					

Next we need to drill a hole in one of the 9x12 Aluminum plates **S35** because we will need a hole of just over 0.5 in diameter for the differential pivot mount. There is already a small hole drilled in the location we want to use, but it needs to be widened substantially. Start with the drill # 23 and drill the hole shown by Figure 1. Repeat this with drill sizes stepping up until you get to a drill of 0.5 in. Take the 0.5 in hollow rod **S19** and make sure it spins freely in the hole you have created. If it does not, drill the hole slightly larger or sand/file the hole until the rod spins with no resistance.¹

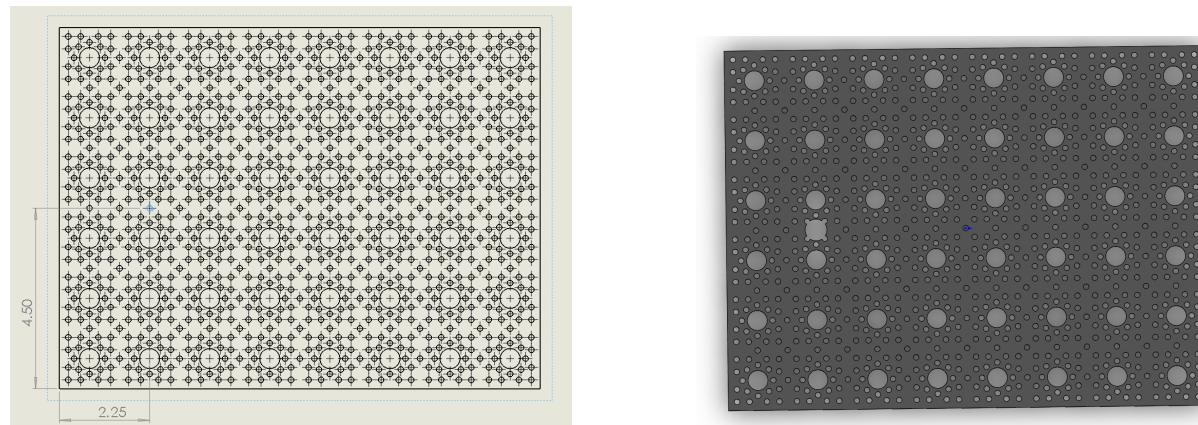


Figure 1: Drilling the Aluminum Plate

¹The 0.5 in hollow rod must spin *freely* while mounted inside the bearing blocks (See step 2.2 Differential pivot for example). It may help to follow step 2.2 in this document to test if you have enough clearance.

1.2 Laser Cut Parts

The front and back panel of the rover are designed to be made from laser cut acrylic, as to keep them modular to design different things to mount there as wanted. The 2D cutout files are the .DXF files and can be found on the github under Mechanical - Body Assembly - Laser Cut Parts

If you do not have access to a lasers cutter there is an online service which you can order these from below:

- <https://www.sculpteo.com>

To get the above parts from Sculpteo, go to Laser cutting and then upload these files (with mm selected as units). Hit Next. Make sure scale is set to 100%, change the material to Acrylic, have thickness to 1/8 inch, and then select whatever color you wish.

2 Mechanical/Structural Assembly

DISCLAIMER All images were created using CAD that has #6-32 Socket head cap screws, but the parts list calls for button head screws. The button head screws are correct.

2.1 Chassis

Table 2: Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
Dual Side mount A	S17	4		#6-32x3/8" Button Head Screw	B2	4	
4.5"x12" Aluminum Plate	S37	2					
1" PVC Clamp	S24	1		Allen Key Set			
9"x12" Aluminum Plate	S35A	1		5/16" Wrench			
#6-32x1/4" Button Head Screw	B1	16					

1. **Top panel:** Take the modified 9x12 Aluminum plate **S35A** and attach the four Dual side mount A **S1** using screws **B1** at the locations shown below. Take care to match the orientation shown.

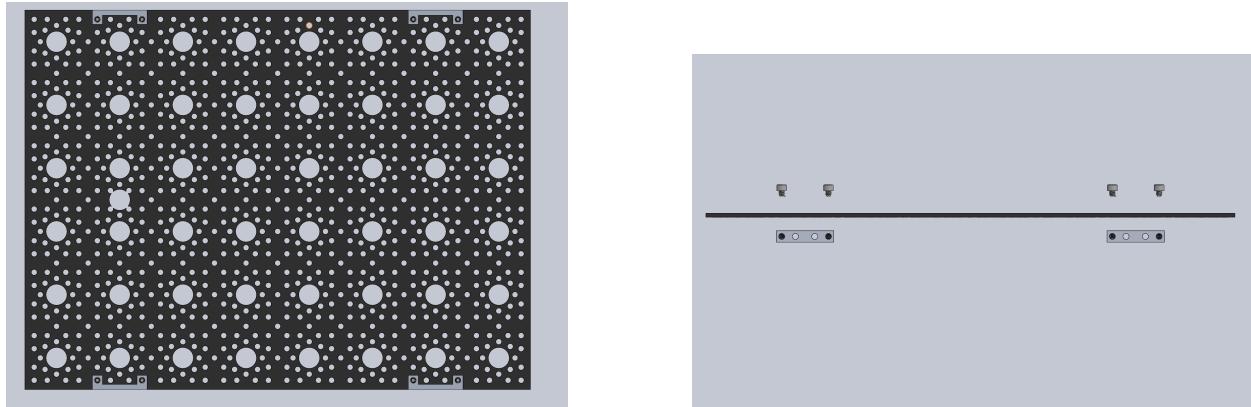


Figure 2: Attaching side mounts to top panel

2. **Attach the side panels:** Attach the 4.5x12 plates **S37** to the dual side mounts using screws **B1**

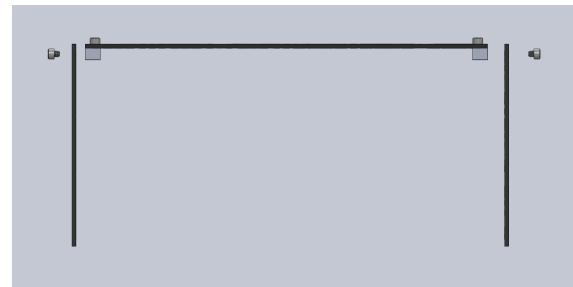
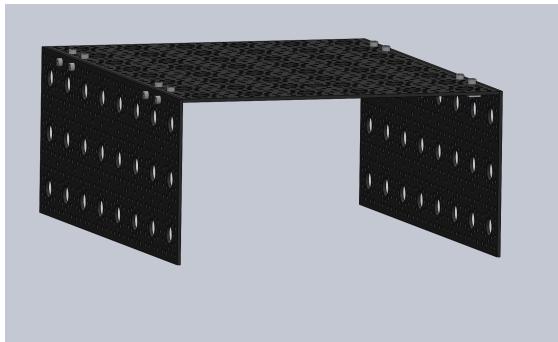


Figure 3: Attach the side panels

3. **Attach the PVC clamping hub:** Attach the 1-inch PVC bore clamping hub **S24** to the top plate of the body using screws **B1**. Use the location shown in Figure 4.

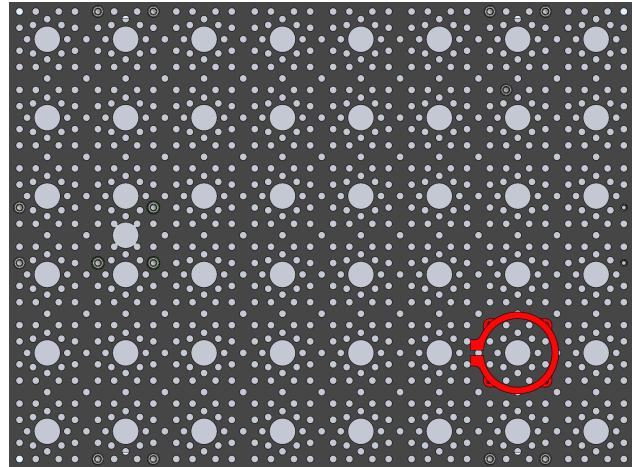
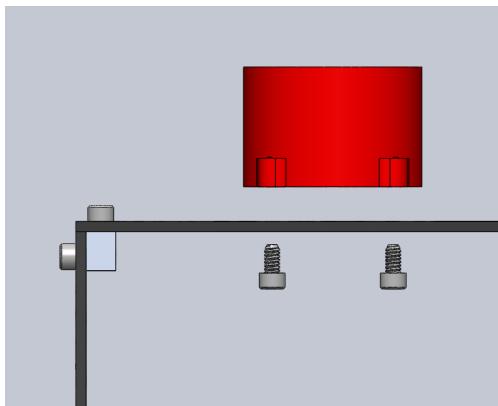


Figure 4: Attach the PVC clamp to top plate

2.2 Differential Pivot Block

The differential pivot is used to transfer weight off of the wheel that is currently climbing to the other front wheel, allowing the rover to climb more easily. Additionally, it serves as a second contact point for the rover's body such that it does not rotate freely about the cross rod.

Table 3: Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
0.5" Pillow Bearing Block	S11	2		#6-32x1" Button Head Screw	B6	4	
#6-32x1/4" Spacer	T1	8		Allen Key Set	D2		
#6-32x1/4" Button Head Screw	B1	8		0.5" Clamping Hub	S13	1	
0.5" Bottom Bore clamping hub	S20	2		Single pattern bracket	S8	1	
0.5" Hallow aluminum tube 2" long	S18	1		0.5" Collar clamp	S22	1	
0.5" Nylon Washer	W3	5		#6-32 Hexnuts	B11	4	

1. **Mount the pillow bearing blocks:** Using spacers **T1**, screws **B6**, and hex nut **B11**, mount the pillow blocks **S11** to the top of the body over the hole in the aluminum plate that you drilled earlier as shown in Figure 5.

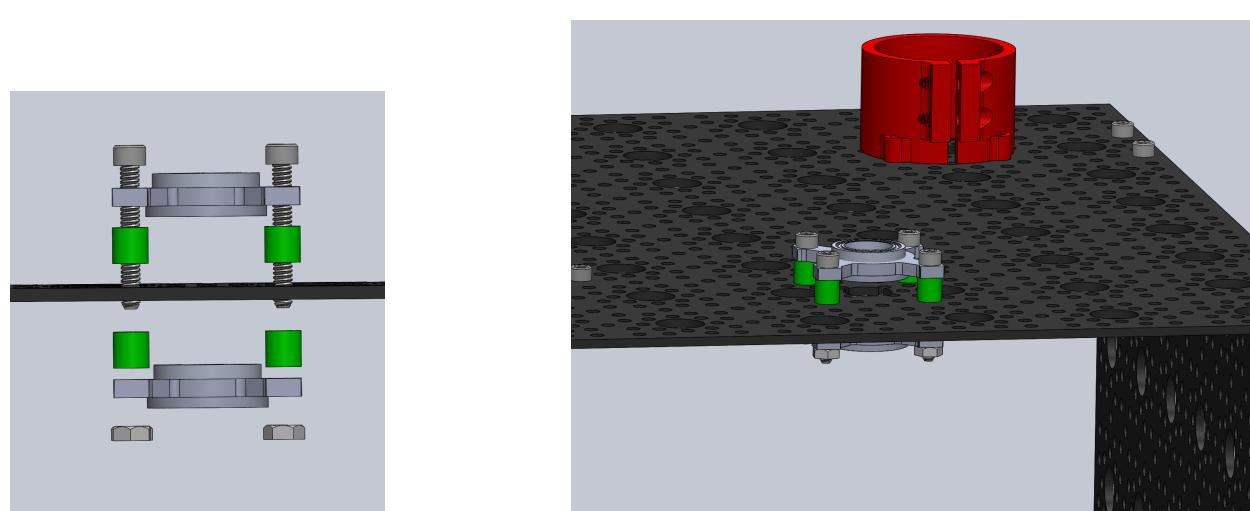


Figure 5: Mounting the pillow blocks

2 MECHANICAL/STRUCTURAL ASSEMBLY 2.2 Differential Pivot Block

2. **Build single bracket assembly:** Attach the the Bottom bore clamping hubs **S20** to the single pattern bracket **S8** using screws **B1**. Then mount the 0.5" clamping hub **S13** to the bottom of this assembly using **B1** screws.

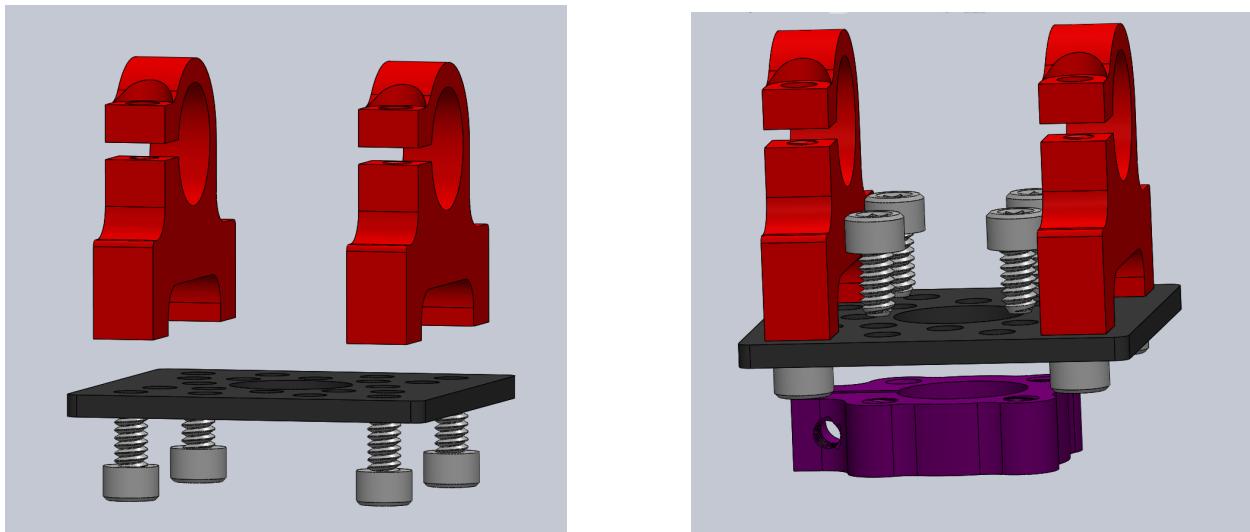


Figure 6: Building singla bracket assembly

3. **Insert the differential pivot joint:** Mount a collar clamp **S22** onto the end of the 2" Aluminum Rod **S19** as well as two of the 0.5" Nylon washers **W3** as shown below. then Insert this rod into the pillow bearing blocks, followed by two more nylon washers and then the single bracket assembly made in the previous step.

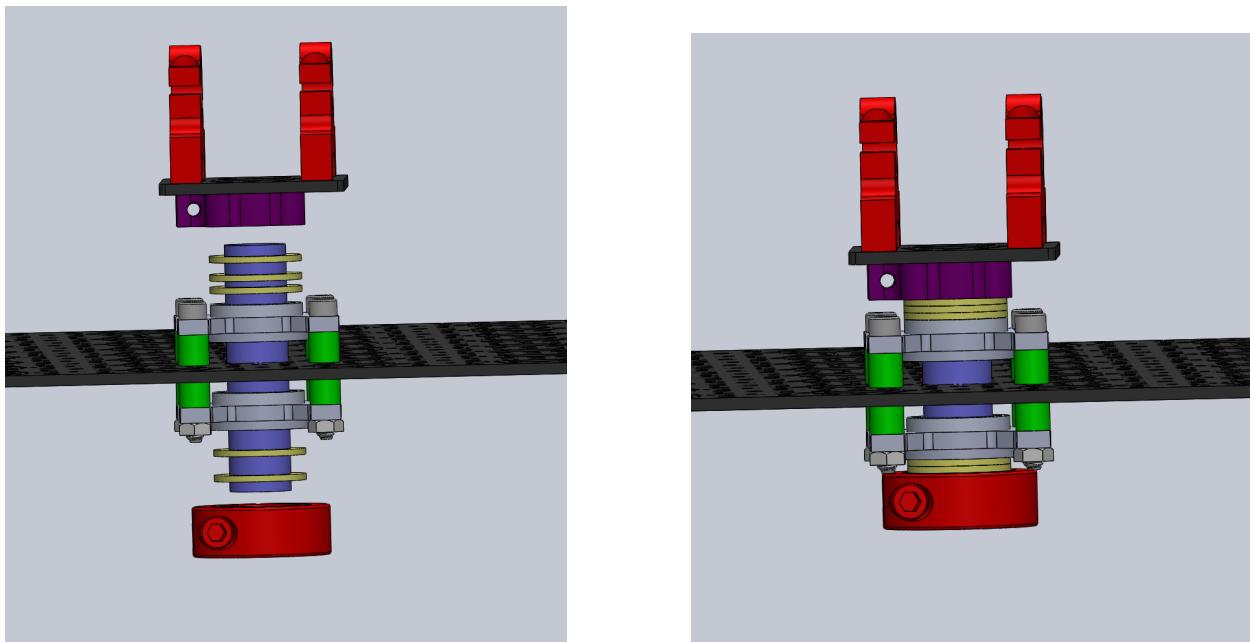


Figure 7: Inserting differential pivot joint

2.3 Control Board PCB

Table 4: Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
Assembled Control Board PCB	E1	1		#6-32x3/8" Button Head Screw	B2	4	

You may want to skip this step until the PCB is completed and tested and insert the PCB later.

- 1. Mount the PCB:** Mount the PCB **E1** to the top of the chassis using screws **B2**. Note the position of the PCB below.

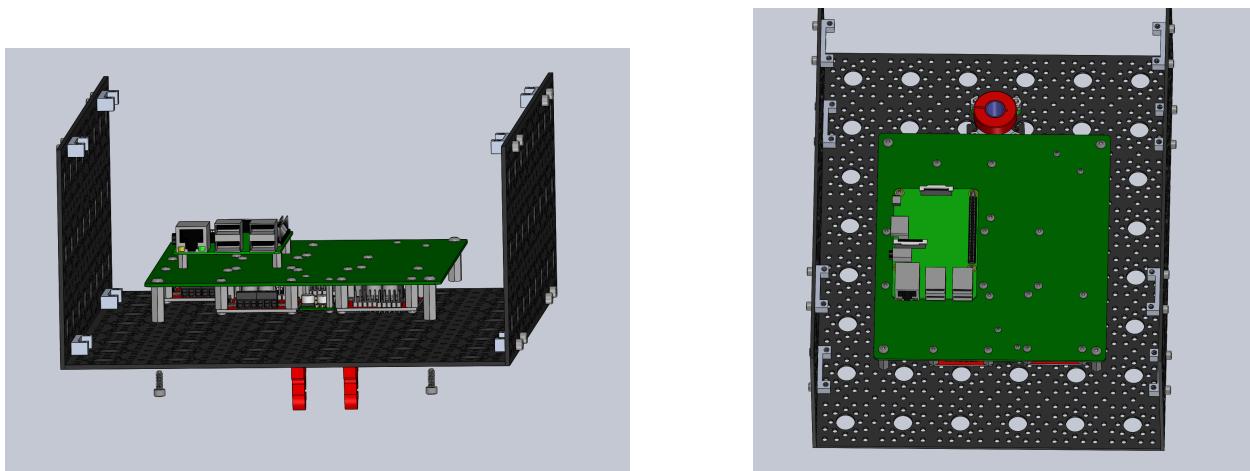


Figure 8: Mounting the PCB

Note that you might not be able to get the screw circled in light blue in because of the PCB clamping hub. This is okay, install the other 3 circled in yellow.

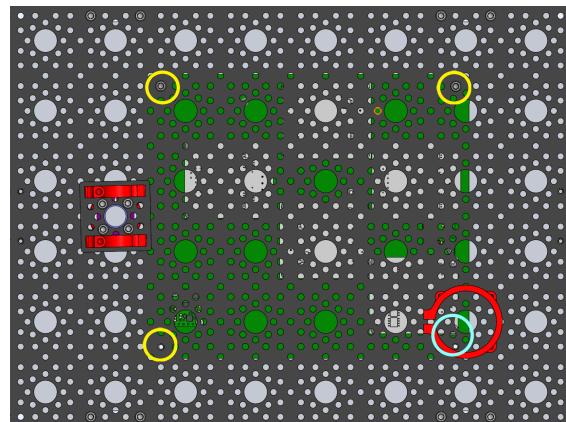


Figure 9: Mounting the PCB

2.4 Closing the Body

Table 5: Parts/Tools Necessary

Item	Ref	Qty	Image	Item	Ref	Qty	Image
Dual Side Mount A	S17	12		#6-32x1/4" Button Head Screw	B1	28	
9"x12" Aluninum Plate	S35	1		Volt Meter	E38	1	
Laser Cut Front Panel	S39	1		Laser Cut Back Panel	S40	1	
Switch	E39	1		3D printed Battery Holder	S41	2	
# 6-32 Heat set insert	I1	4					

1. **Attach the Dual Side Mounts:** Mount Dual Side Mounts A **S17** using screws **B1** on the side plates in both the front and back.

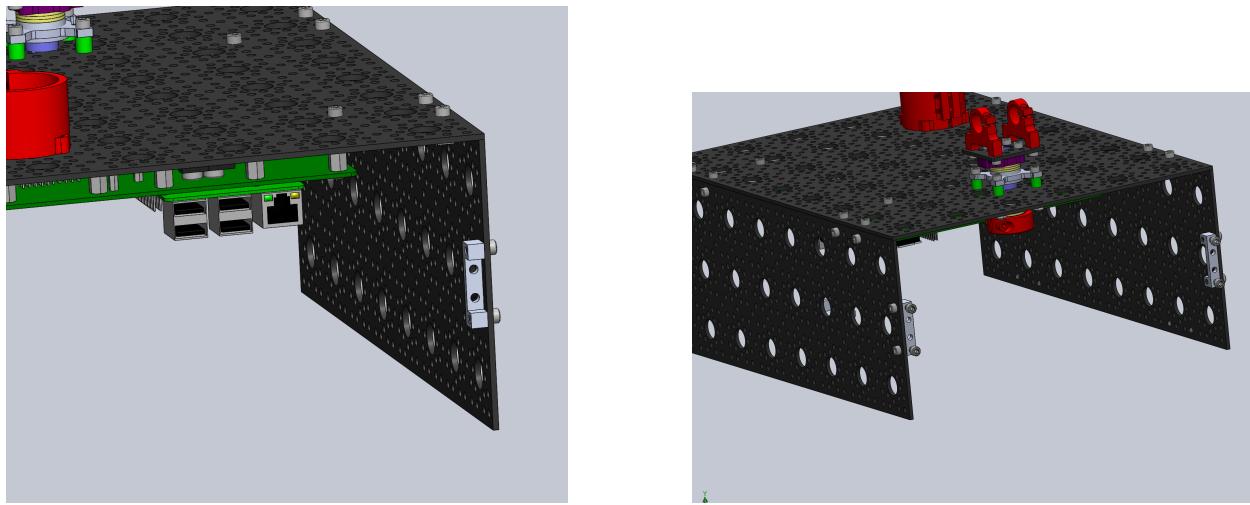


Figure 10: Dual Side Mount A locations

2. Also attach Dual Side Mounts A **S17** using **B1** screws on the top plate, in the front and back

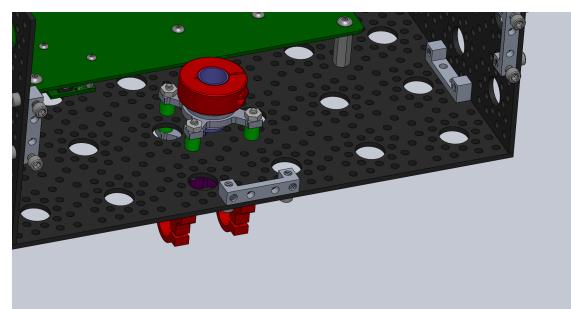


Figure 11: Dual Side Mount A (cont)

3. **Front and back panels:** Using screws **B1** attach the front and back laser cut panels to the chassis.

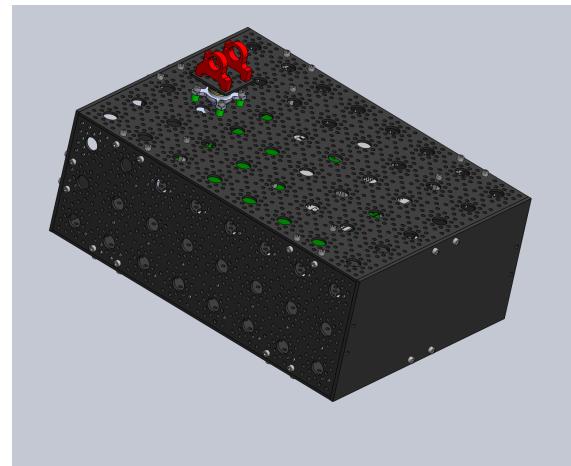
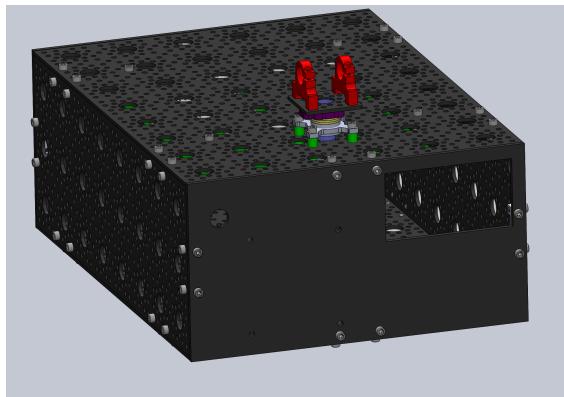


Figure 12: Panels attached

4. **Attach the switch and volt meter:** Take the Volt Meter **E38** and the Switch **E39** and attach them to the back panel. Note that the switch goes in from the inside of the body, and the volt meter should snap press fit in from the outside.

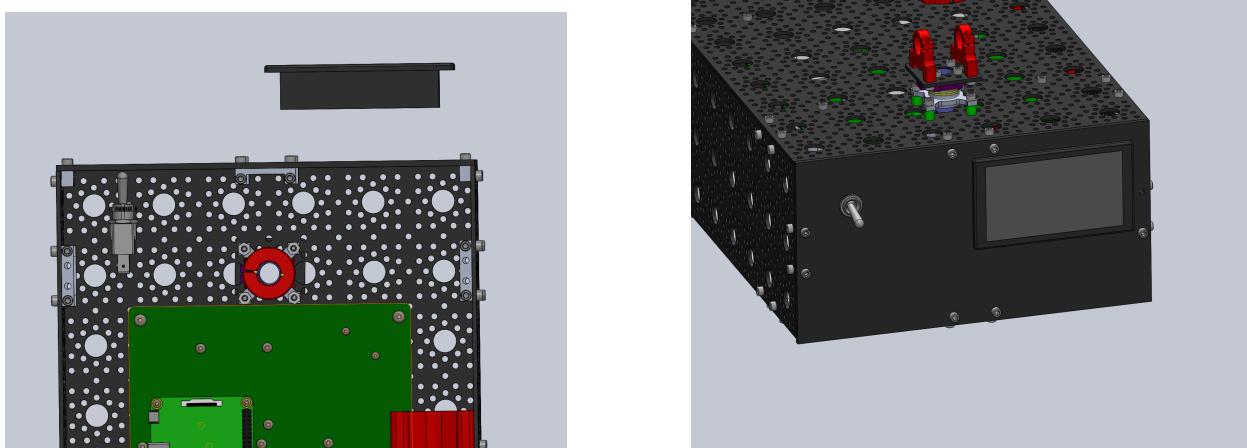


Figure 13: Volt Meter/Switch Installation

5. **Attach the Battery Holder:** Take the 3D printed Battery holder **S41** and using a solder Iron at 460 degrees F melt push the #6-32 heat-set insert **I1** into the battery holder as shown below.

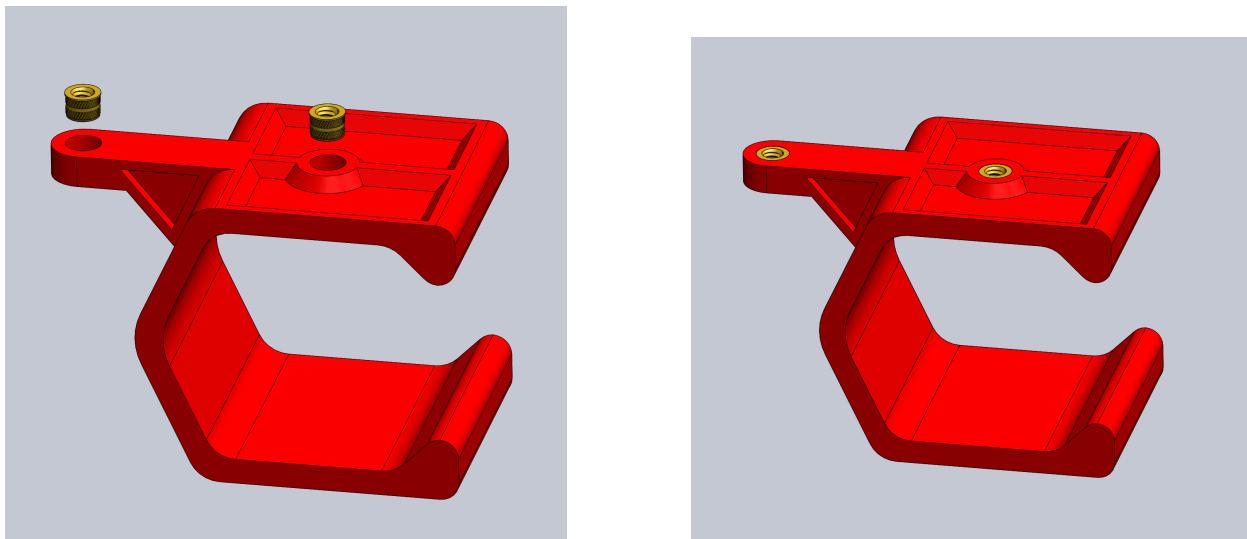


Figure 14: Installing heat set inserts

6. **Build bottom plate assembly:** Take the 9x12 Aluminum Plate **S35** and attach 6 Dual side mount A **S17** to the edges shown. Be sure to verify that the orientation of the Dual side mounts match the pictures.

7. Now install the Battery holders into the body assembly as shown below, using screws

B1

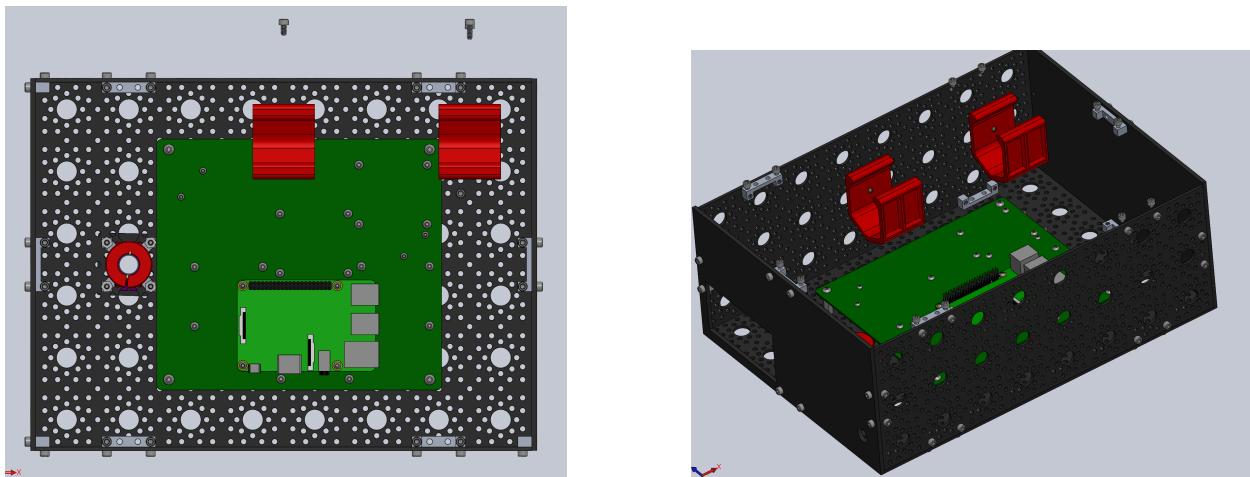


Figure 15: Bottom plate assembly

8. **Attach the bottom plate:** Take the bottom plate assembly you constructed in the previous step and attach it to the chassis

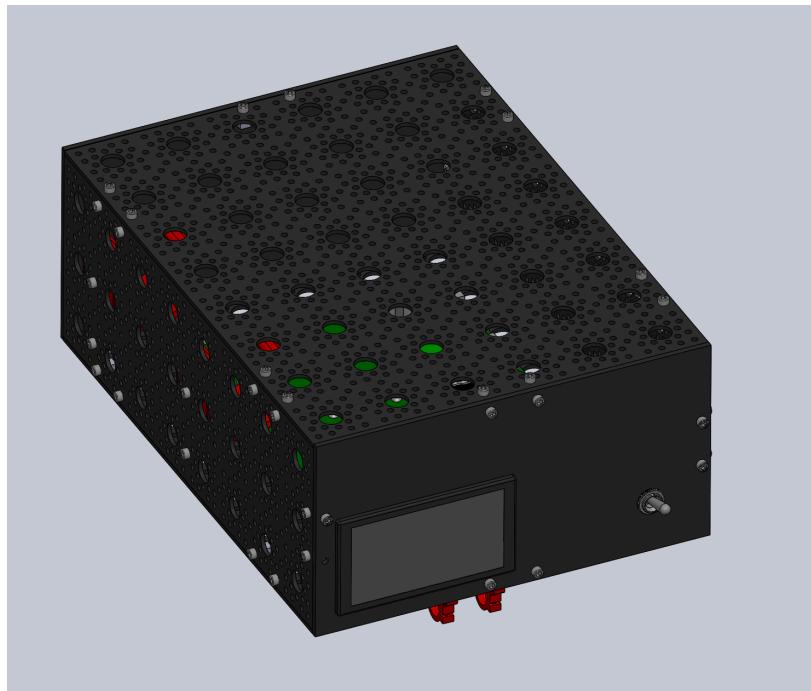


Figure 16: Mounting the PCB

The Body Assembly is now Complete!

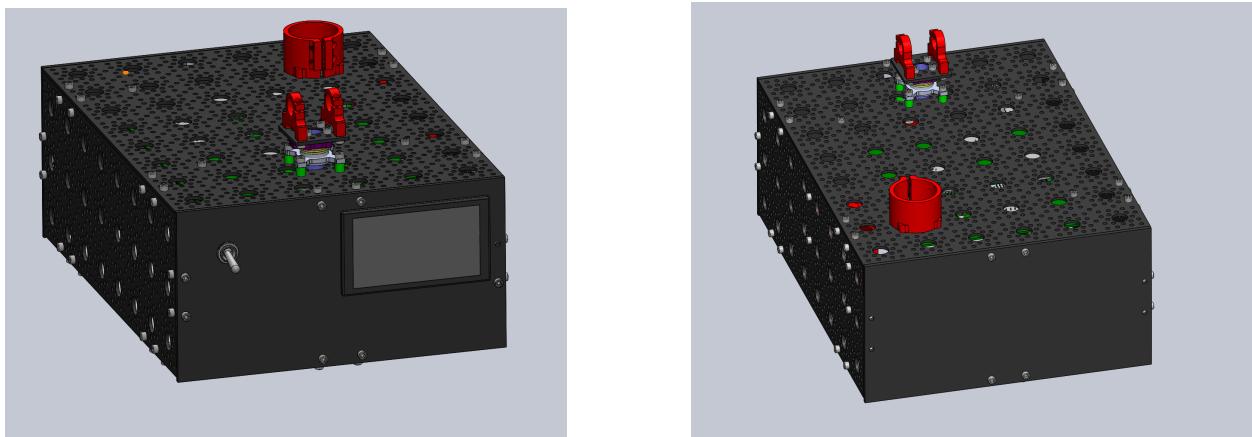


Figure 17: Completed Body Assembly