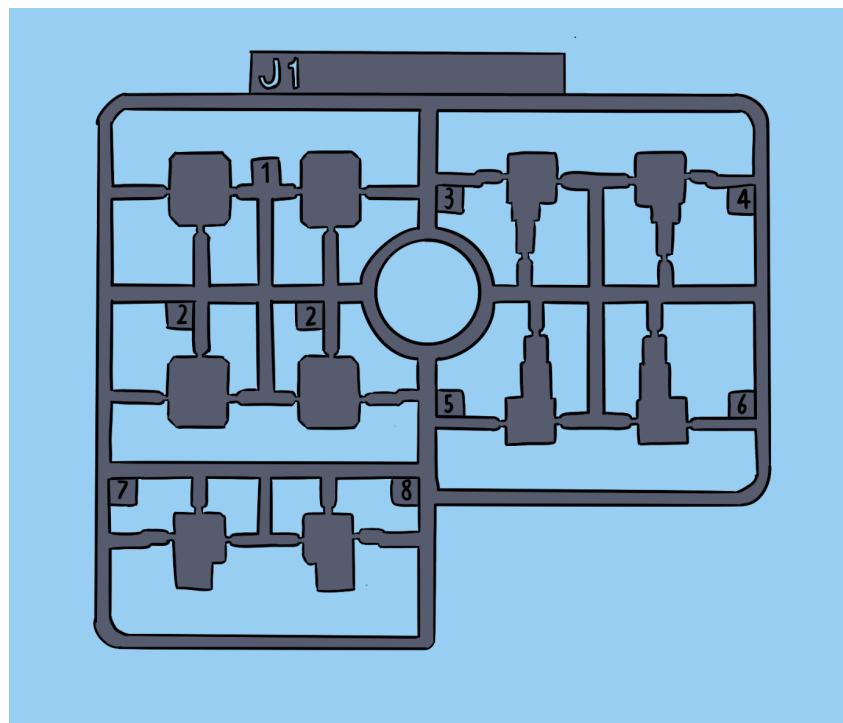


## User Instructions

# How to Cleanly Cut Pieces off a Plamo Runner/Sprue.

## Background Knowledge

Plamo is a combination of the words “Plastic model kit” which describes the hobby of building plastic models of objects, be it military vehicles, characters or figures from pop culture, similar to Legos. A runner or sprue refers to the plastic injection molded sheet that the pieces to build the model are printed on which require the pieces to be cut out individually. (See Figure 1).

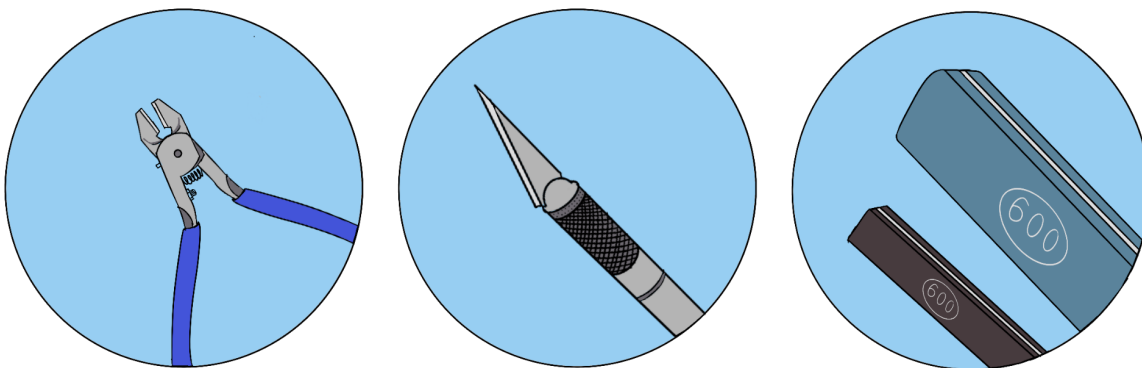


(Figure 1)

## OVERVIEW

When building plastic model kits, improper removal of pieces from a plastic runner can result in whitening stress marks on the piece or nub marks (leftover pieces of the runner) from improper cutting. The purpose of this guide is to help reduce stress and nub marks with the proper way of cutting and cleaning a piece from a runner using the Double Cut Technique.

## Required Tools



(Figure 2)

For this guide, you will need the following tools (See Figure 2):

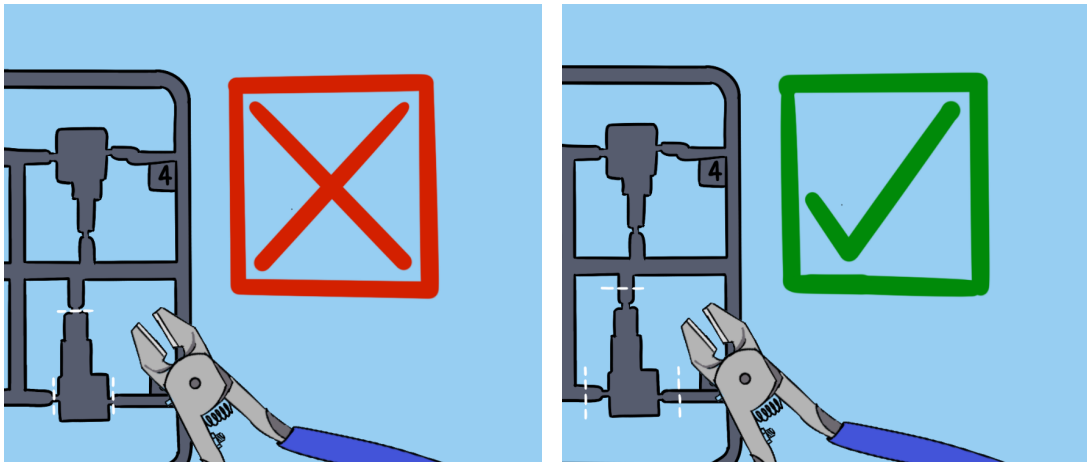
- A set of hobby nippers (end cutting pliers)
- A hobby knife (utility knife, precision knife)
- A set of sanding sticks/sponges with grits ranging from 400 - 600 - 800.
- Optional: buffing or finishing sponge

### **Warning**

**This guide is not intended for users ages 14 and below. Improper use of listed tools may result in physical injuries or damage to the tools. This guide is intended for users age 15 and up and help them obtain a cleaner result on their parts when building plastic model kits.**

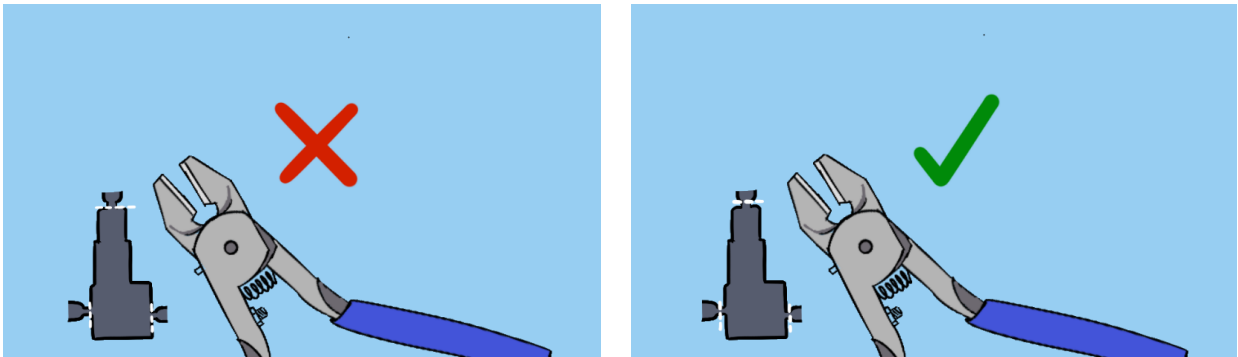
## PROCEDURE

1. Each piece will have areas that are connected to the runner by a small bit of plastic. Using your nippers, cut the pieces from the runner. **Make sure to not cut directly next to the piece**, or on the small connection between the piece and the runner. Cut instead on the thicker part of the runner that is connected to the piece. This will make sure that while cutting, you are putting as little stress on the actual piece as possible. (See Figure 3).



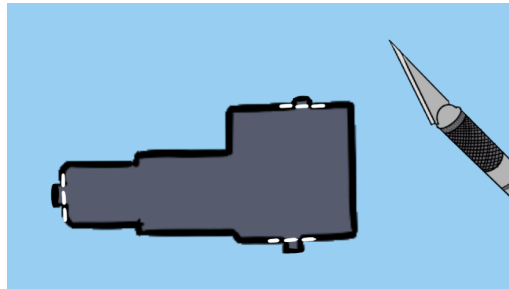
(Figure 3)

2. With the piece cut out, this time, using your nippers again, **cut close to but not directly flush**, the remaining connection left from the initial cut. Make sure to **leave a small remaining nub**. (See Figure 4).



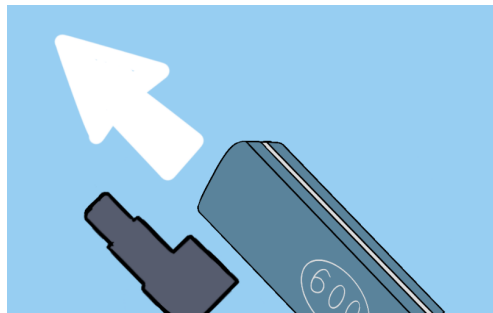
(Figure 4)

- Using a hobby knife, being flush with the piece, slowly cut off the remaining bit of the nub that is left behind. You may repeat this process a few times using gentle strokes with the knife flush to the piece. (**Caution:** Do not, cut with the knife facing towards you or your fingers. Make sure to hold the piece securely to reduce the risk of cutting yourself). (See Figure 5).



(Figure 5)

- Using your 400 grit sanding sponge/stick, gently stroke the area which you had cut the nub from. Sand in **one direction only** using gentle strokes with **very little pressure applied** to the piece. Sand until the initial marks left behind by the nub are completely gone. (See Figure 6).



(Figure 6)

- Once the initial nub mark is gone, using your 600 grit sanding sponge/stick, go over the area which you had just sanded with 400 grit. This will help smooth out the scratches you made from the 400 grit sponge/stick. Repeat this process with the 800 grit sanding sponge/stick. (Note: As you go higher in sanding grit, you may start to apply more pressure with each increment, and start sanding in a back and forth motion. However it is **recommended** to still only sand in one direction)

6. **This step is optional.** If you so desire, depending on the finish you want your piece to have, you may use a buffing sponge to get a matte or satin finish on the plastic. Alternatively you may instead use a finishing or polishing sponge to get a higher gloss finish on your piece. Using either sponges, repeat the same process as you did before with the 800 or higher grit sanding sponge/stick.

## CONCLUSION

You should now know how to use the Double Cut technique to properly remove parts off the runners of Plamo kits. These steps should only act as a basis though. Everyone has their own unique process of how to remove nub marks. Some may add more or less steps and tools to obtain a finish they are comfortable with. Simply repeat these steps on every piece in the kit to obtain the best results you are looking for. While it may seem tedious, the end result will be worth the work.