

## Assembly Instructions for MAD Marble Machine #1



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## Required for assembly:

Wood glue (PVA or aliphatic resin recommended) and/or Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue  
Clamps or weights, rubber bands  
Sandpaper

It is recommended that you apply varnish or sealer to the finished marble machine, especially if you live in areas with high humidity. Polyurethane varnish is a good choice.

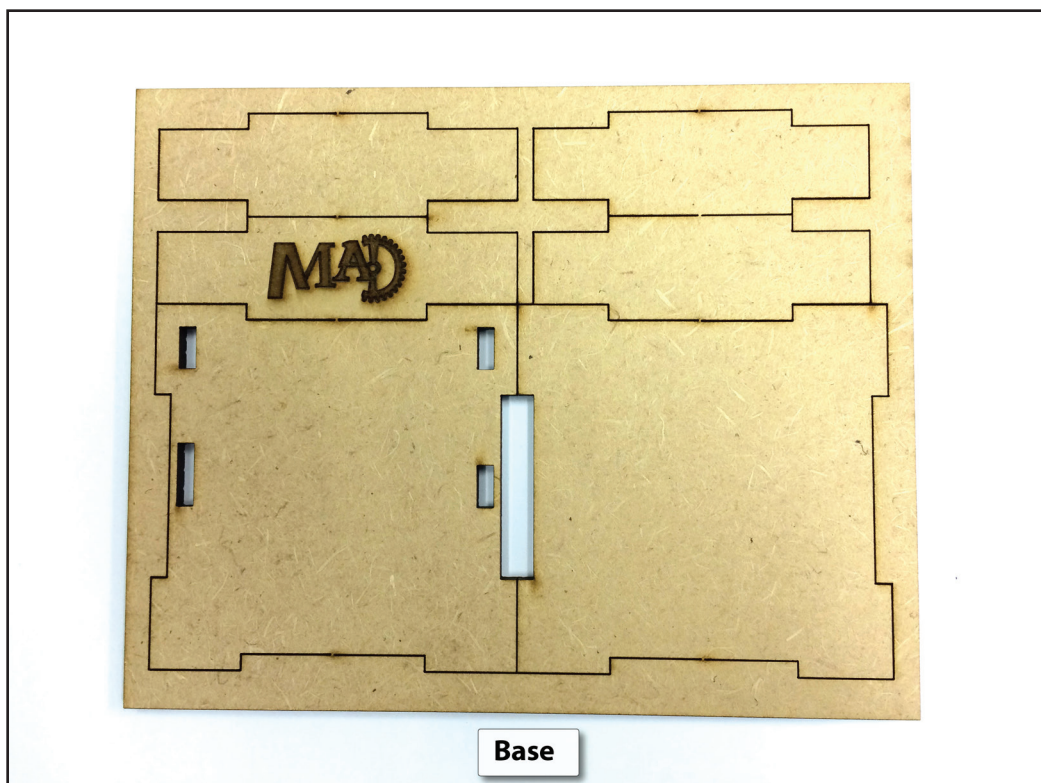
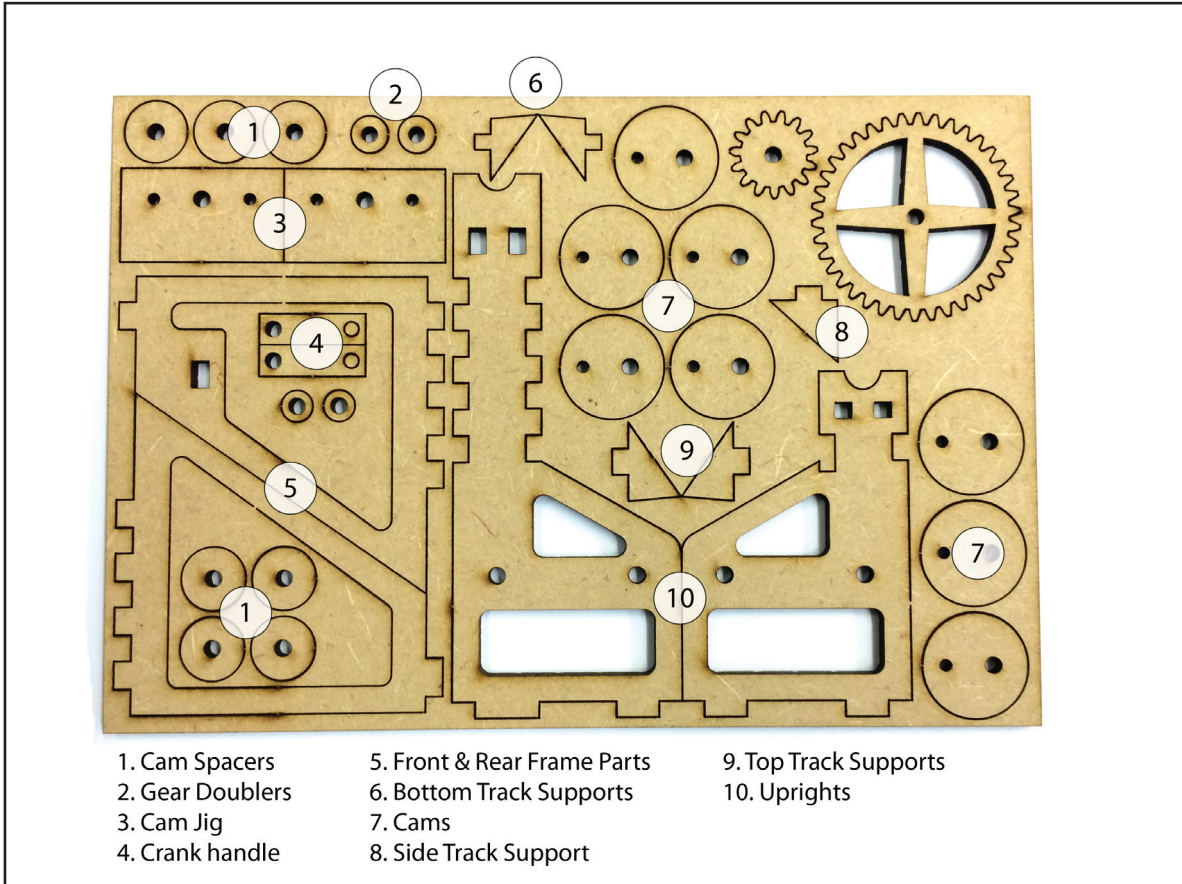
If you manage to drop some of the balls on the floor (inevitable!) then **DO NOT** be tempted to pick them up with a magnet. This can cause the balls to become magnetised and they will then stick together which will impair the operation of the marble machine.

**Please note: Before you start assembly it is a good idea to study the pictures in these instruction so you know how it goes together. You can dry assemble the lifter frame initially.**

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## Kit contents

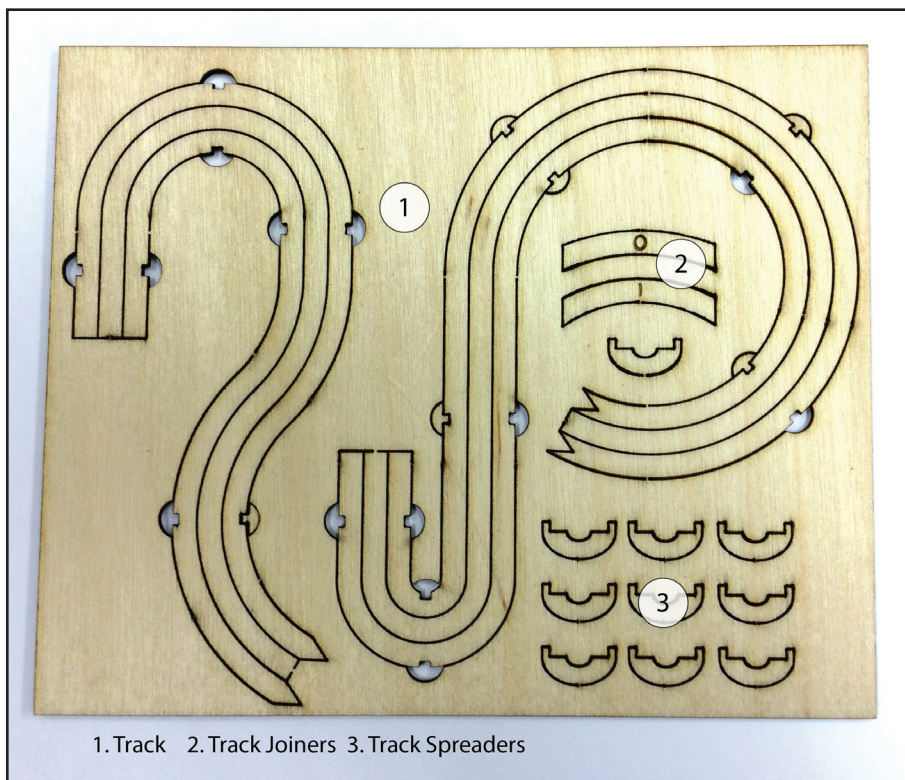
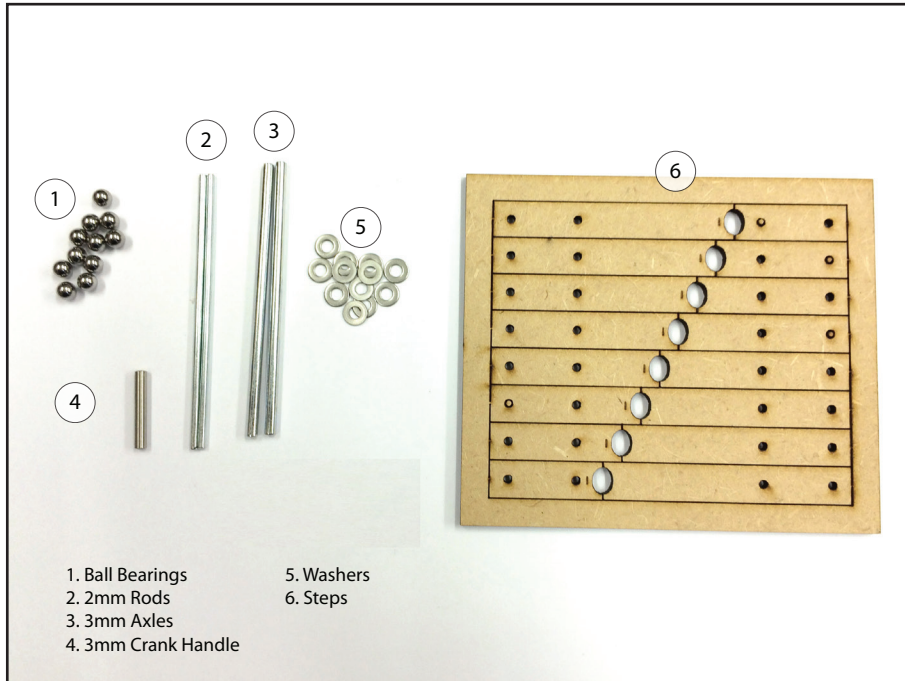




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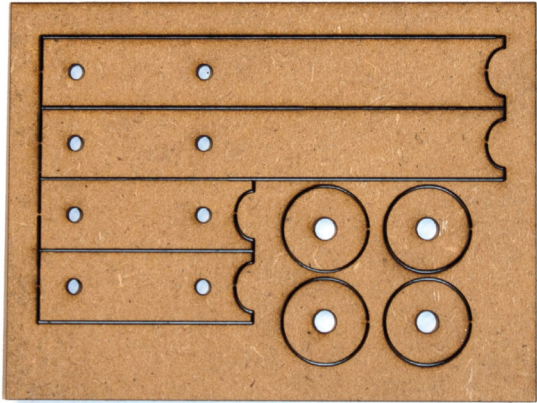


## Kit contents





# Assembly Instructions for MAD Marble Machine #1



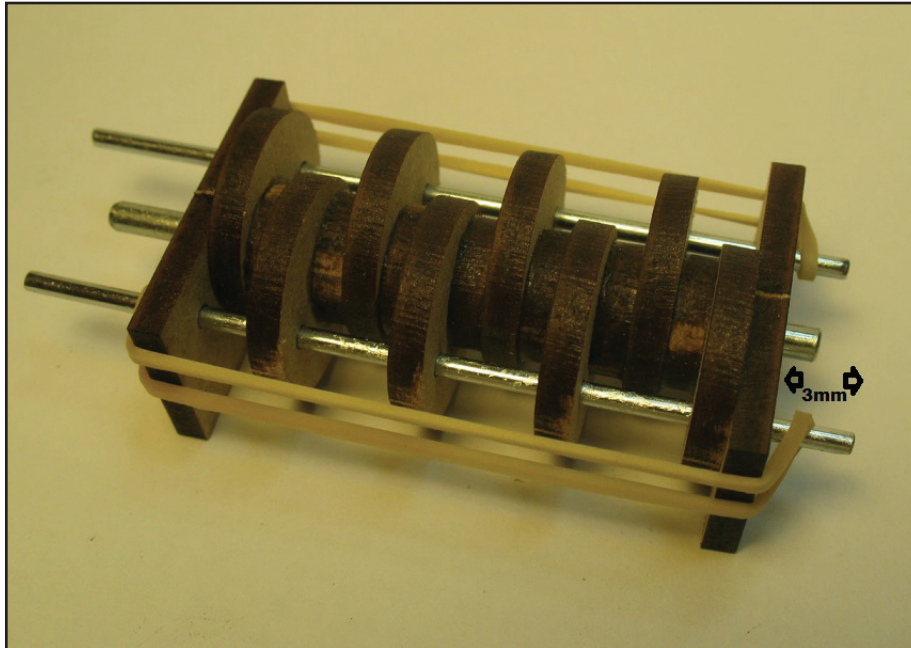
Spacers

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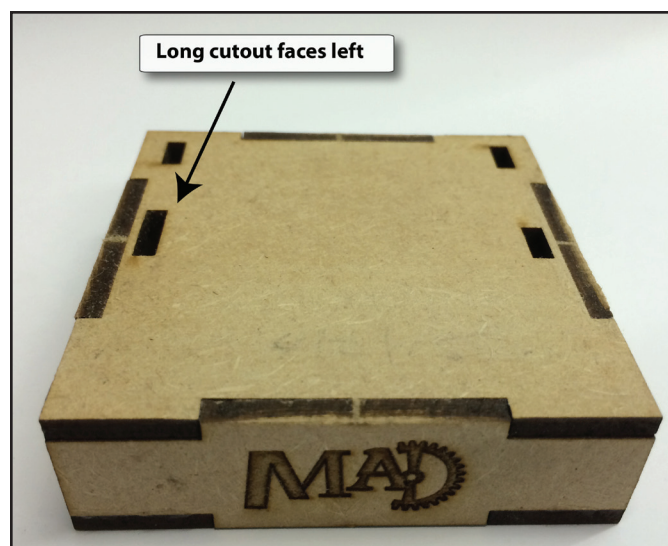
## Camshaft assembly

Use the supplied jigs and 2mm rods to ensure the cams are properly aligned on the 3mm axle. One of the 3mm axles should be used for the camshaft. The axle should protrude 3mm from the jig at one end as shown below. Layer the cams and spacers with the application of wood glue between each part. Use rubber bands to hold the assembly together while the glue sets.



## Base assembly

All the parts can be glued together in one go and the parts held in place with rubber bands while the glue dries. If you don't want the text to be visible, simply turn the part so it face inwards. You will notice that one of the cut-outs on the top of the base is longer than the others. This should face left as shown in the picture below.



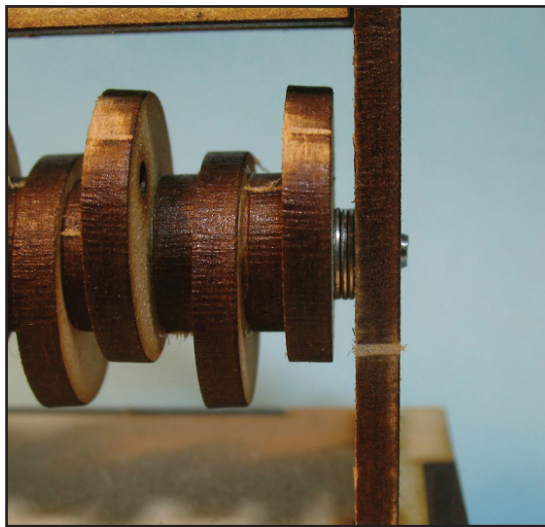
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## Frame assembly

Use glue sparingly – you don't want a lot of glue to go inside the frame as this can interfere with the movement of the steps. Any excess glue can be wiped off with a damp rag.

Place 3-4 washers on each end of the camshaft and slide it in place between the frame ends. Check the fit. If there is a lot of play add another washer or one of the round spacers. It must not feel tight between the frames though. If you are right handed, the short free end of the cranks should face right. If you are left handed it should face left. All pictures show the marble machine assembled for right handed cranking.



Now glue the front and rear frame pieces in place. The tabs/slot differ in size so you cannot attach them the wrong way round. Next glue the uprights to the base. Hold the frame pieces together with rubber bands while the glue sets.

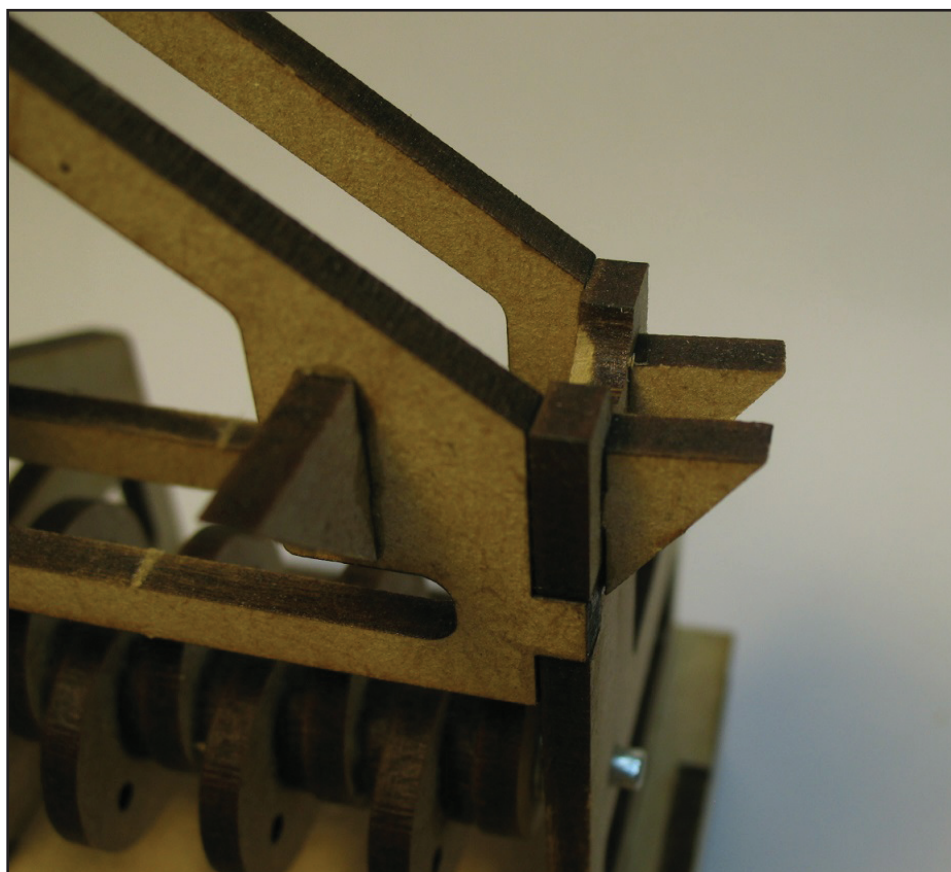
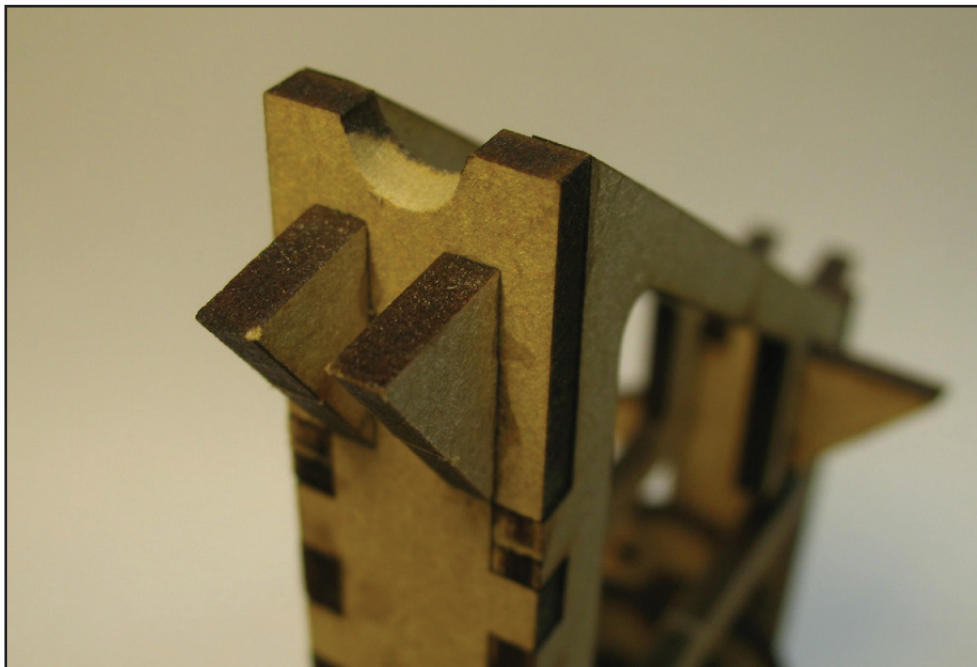




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Glue the top, front and bottom track supports to the frame.

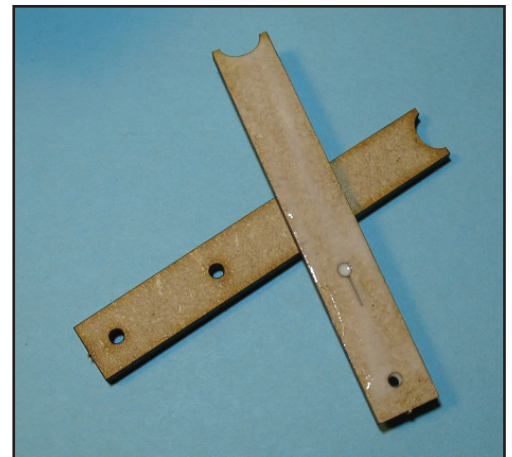
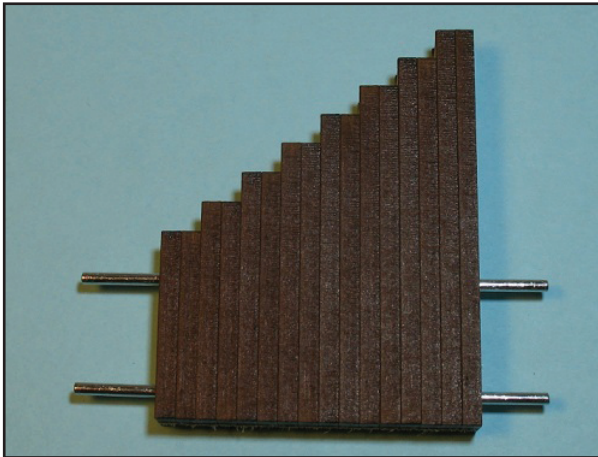


# Assembly Instructions for MAD Marble Machine #1



## “Steps” assembly

Each step consists of two parts. Apply wood glue sparingly and assemble the stack using the 2mm rods to ensure good alignment. Be careful you don't get glue on the surfaces that shouldn't be joined!



Clamp the parts or wrap with rubber bands and allow the glue to dry. One part is marked. This is so you can identify front from back when you sand the slope into the steps and it is used to indicate how much to sand off. Once the steps are dry, lightly sand the sides and chamfer the corners slightly. This prevents binding. Use a fine grade sandpaper. The smoother the steps are the better and it is recommended that you apply a light coat of varnish or MDF sealer and rub them down with fine sandpaper when dry.

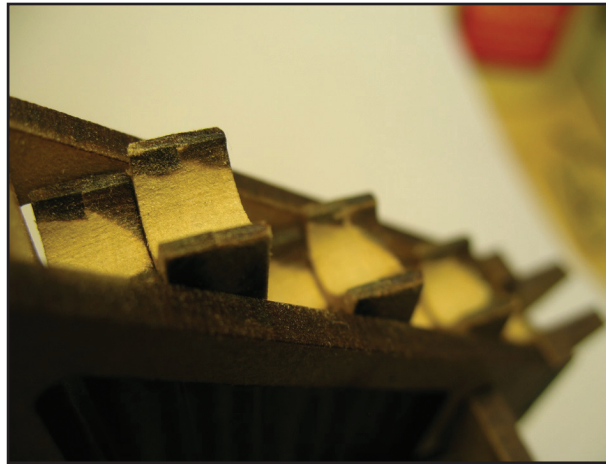
Now it's time to tackle the top of the steps. These need to be at an angle so the balls easily roll from step to step. Wrap sandpaper around a dowel or pen 5-7mm in diameter and sand the top of the steps at approximately a 5-7 degree angle. If you have a Dremel type tool with a small diameter sanding drum use that but be careful not to remove too much material from a step so it cannot reach above the next step up. The small horizontal line marks the limits of how far you should sand. Sand to the line but do not start to sand it away. Make sure you are not sanding away the opposite side of the step.



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Place the steps in the frame from time to time and check that they match up. When a lower step is in its top position it should still be a bit taller than the next step up so the ball will roll from step to step. If you accidentally sand off too much then a piece of scrap plywood can be glued to the bottom of the step and you can then proceed to sand the top until it aligns with the other steps.



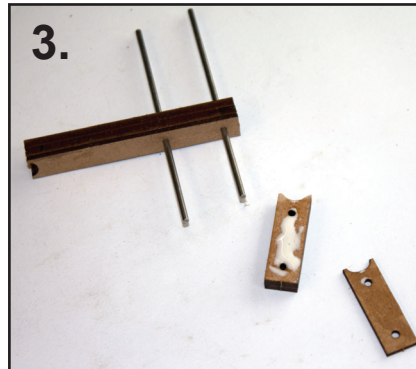
The amount of glue or varnish used can affect the width of the steps. If they are binding in the frame, sand a couple of the steps a bit thinner.

If the steps are too loose in the frame glue a spacer step to one the steps, repeating as necessary to close the gap in the frame but make sure the steps are loose enough to still move up and down.

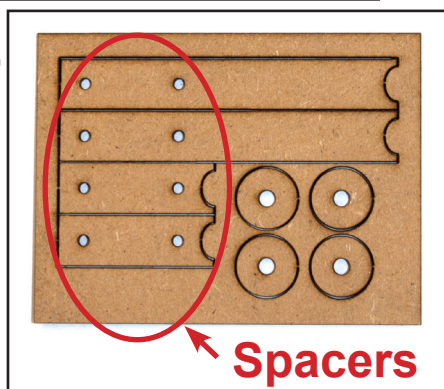
1.



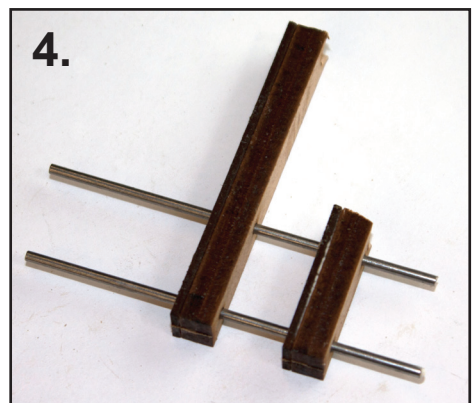
3.



2.



4.





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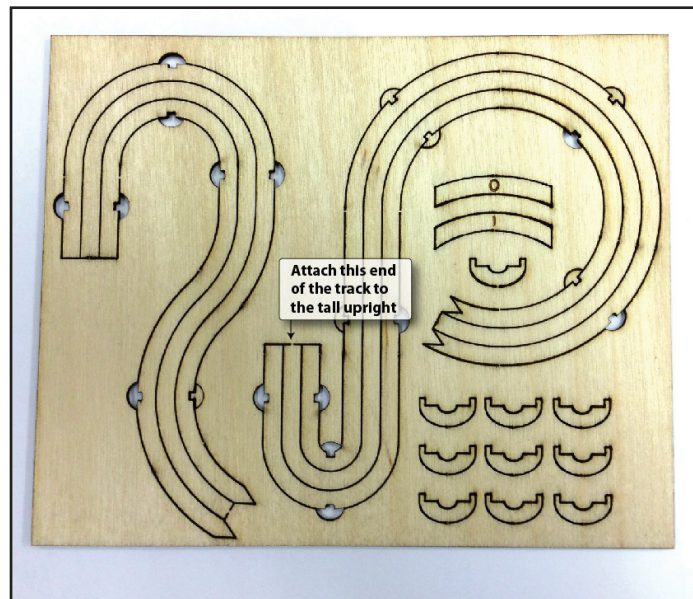


## Track assembly

Do not remove the tracks from the retaining sheet at this stage. They should be left in place until the track joiners are glued in place. However the piece between the tracks should be removed before the track spreaders are fitted. Use a sharp knife to cut the retaining tabs.

The track spreaders should be mounted on the opposite side of the side with the “O” and “I” engraved. Double check orientation before assembling the track so you don’t end up with a track the won’t fit on the front of the lifter!

Remove the track spreaders from the sheet. Glue them to the tracks with wood glue. A fast way to do this is to put a good sized blob of glue on a scrap piece of paper and then dip the spreaders in the glue before mounting them in the cut outs in the track.



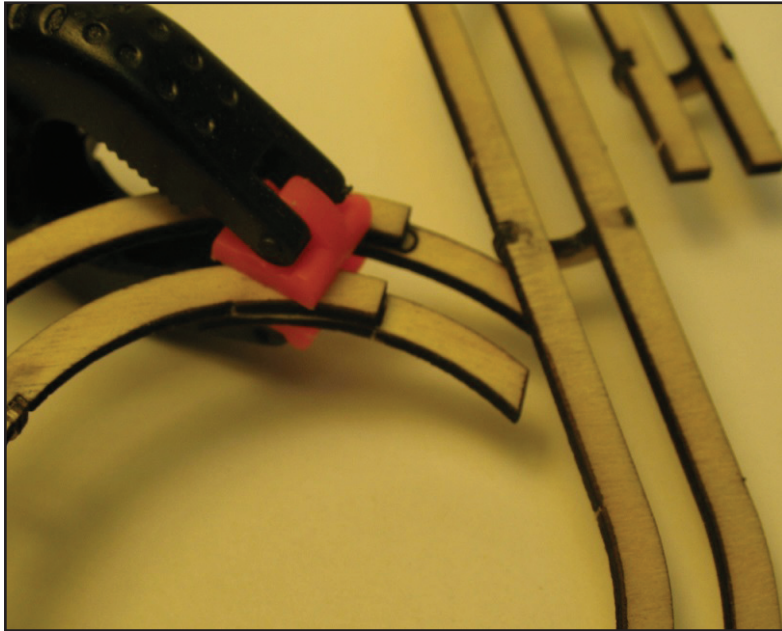
Once the glue is completely dry carefully cut the tracks free from the sheet. Now you can join the two track halves with the joiners marked “O” and “I”. “O” is for the outside track, “I” for the inside

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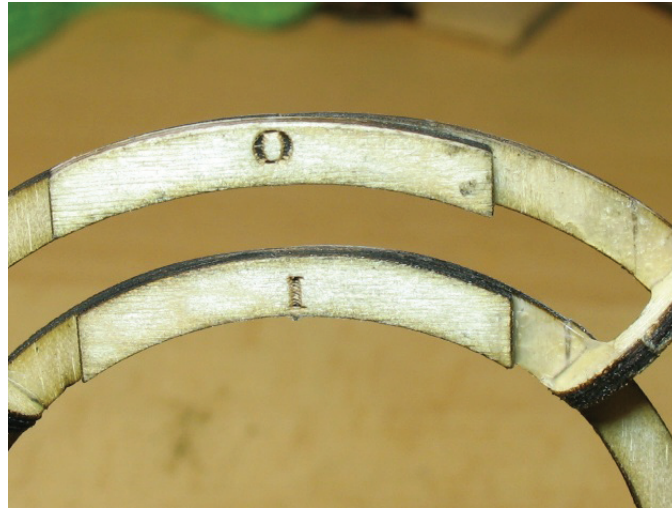


track.

It is easiest to first glue the joiners to one section and let the glue dry rather than joining the track sections in one go. Use clamps to hold the parts together or weigh them down while the glue dries. Once the tracks sections are joined, sand the joint so it is smooth and level. Protruding edges could cause the balls to come off the track.



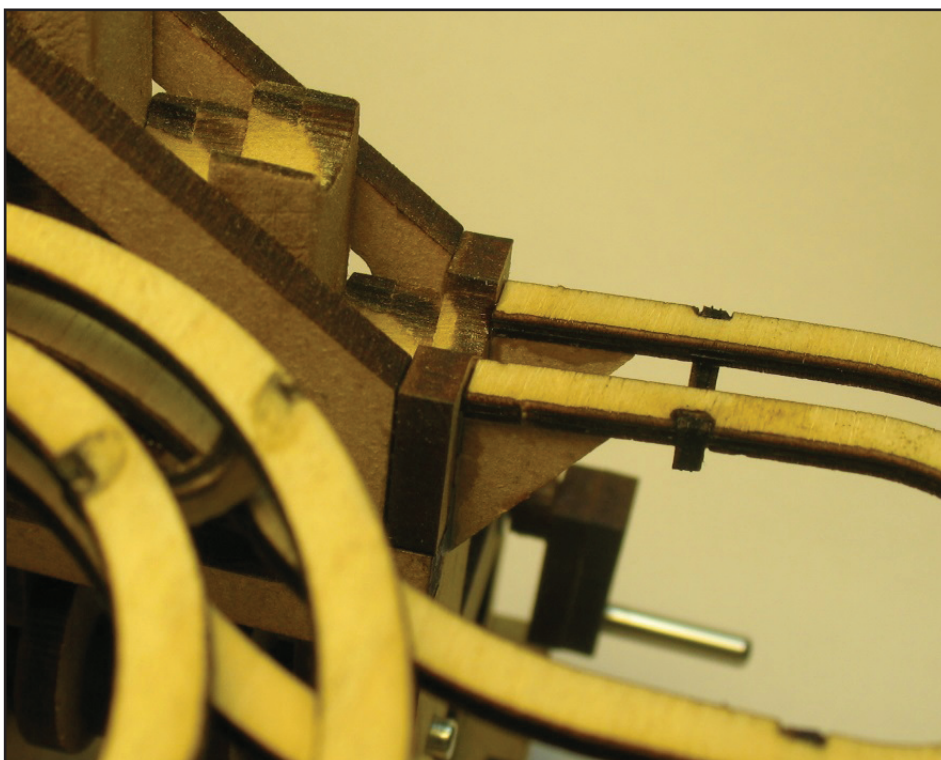
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## Final assembly

The track should be glued to the frame in two stages. If you use CA glue you can simply hold the parts in place while the glue sets. If using wood glue you will need a scrap of MDF and some rubber bands to hold the track in place while the glue dries. Start by glueing the track to the lower track support and the side support. Once dry you can glue the track to the upper track support.

The track section with the tight bend should be attached to the tall upright so the wider bend attaches to the short upright. This keeps the balls rolling at the right speed so they neither stall nor fly off the track.

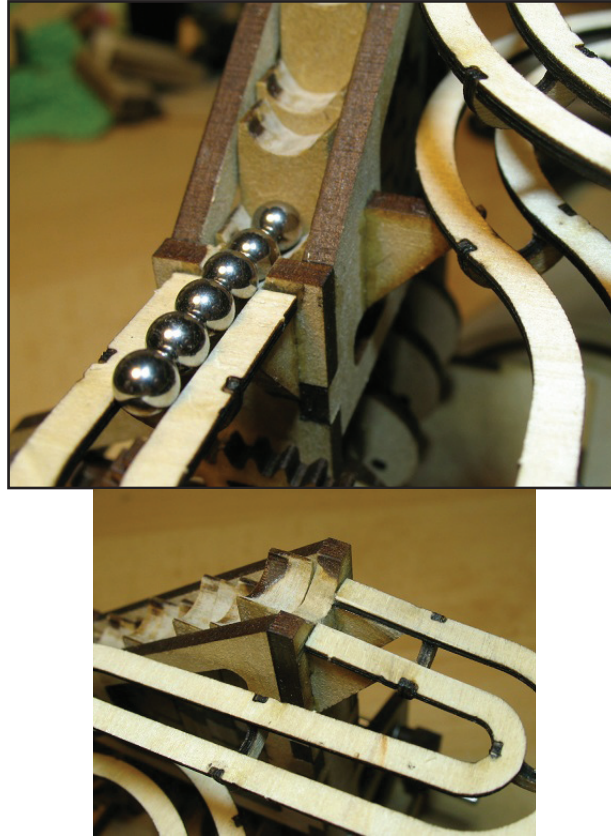




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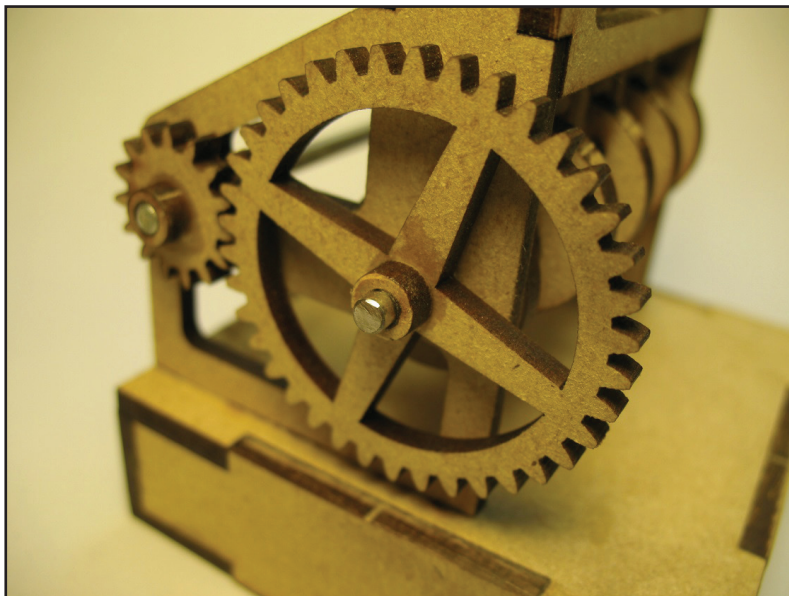


When the track is glued in place, sand the tops of the uprights at an angle so the balls run smoothly off the steps and onto the steps.

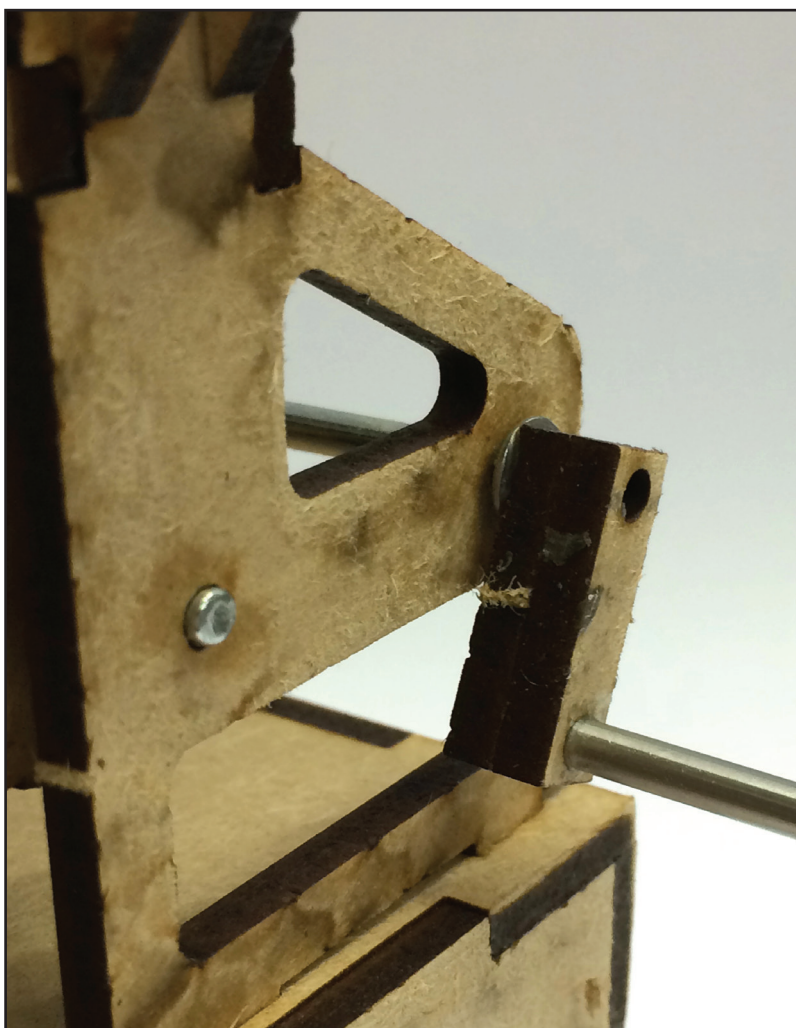


Place a washer on the protruding crankshaft. Fit the large gear and doubler onto the shaft. A tiny drop of CA glue between the gear and doubler will suffice to keep the gear in place on the shaft. Take care not to get glue into the bearing hole and make sure the gear is not tight up against the fram. Insert the crank handle shaft between the frames and place a washer at each end. Fit the small gear and doubler onto the shaft.

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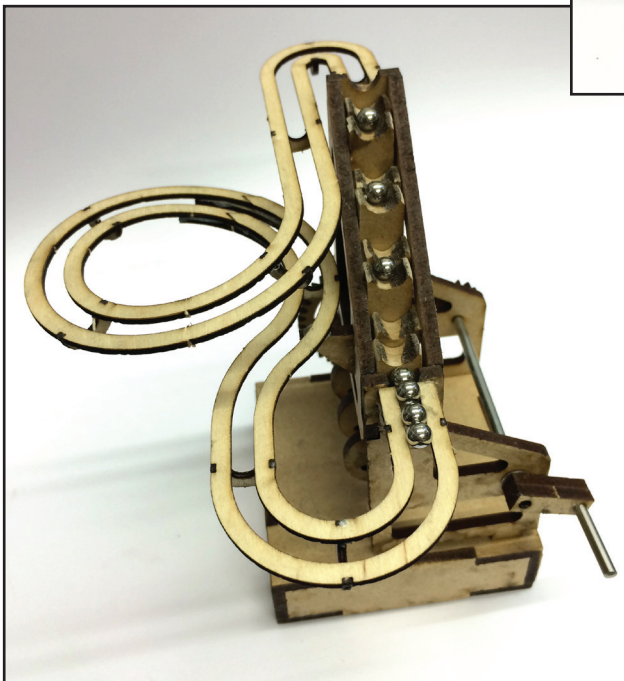
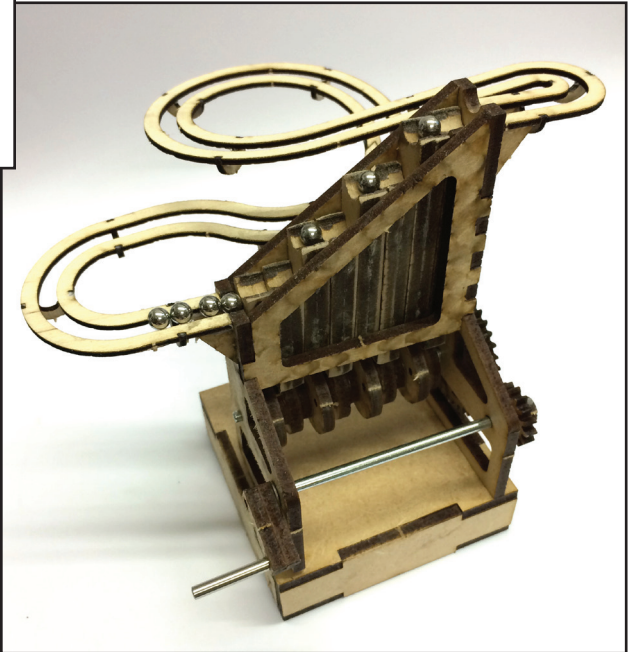
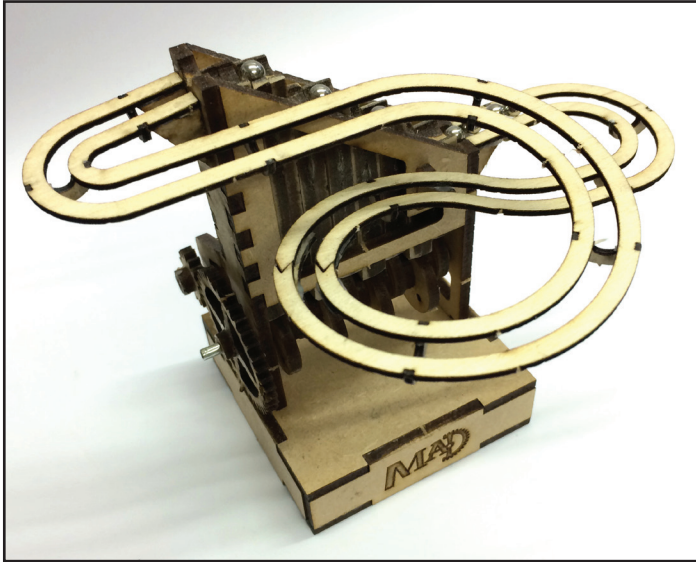
The crank arm pieces are glued together and secured on the axle with a drop of CA. The short 3mm crank handle can be glued in place or left a loose fit.



# Assembly Instructions for MAD Marble Machine #1



Place the completed marble machine on a level surface, drop 6-8 balls on the track and crank away to your hearts content!



If you have any suggestions or comments regarding these instructions please email [info@themadmuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@themadmuseum.co.uk)