

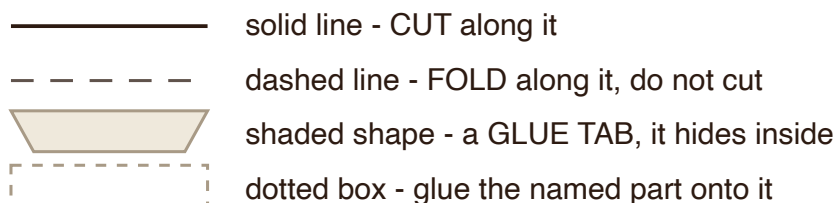
Make your own Coober Pedy blower

A blower is a giant vacuum cleaner built on the back of an old truck. Miners here invented it. An engine on the tray spins a huge fan, a pipe reaches thirty metres down the shaft, and the broken rock comes flying up into the big drum at the top of the boom. When the drum is full the door on its mouth swings open and the whole load whooshes out - that is how every pale heap around Coober Pedy got there. One of these stands at the edge of town as the welcome sign. Build your own.

What you need

- A printer and 4 sheets of A4. Thin card prints best, but paper works.
- Scissors, a glue stick, and a grown-up for the four rolling steps.
- Colouring pencils, if you want to paint yours up before you fold it.
- About 40 minutes - or build the truck one day and the boom the next.

The three kinds of line



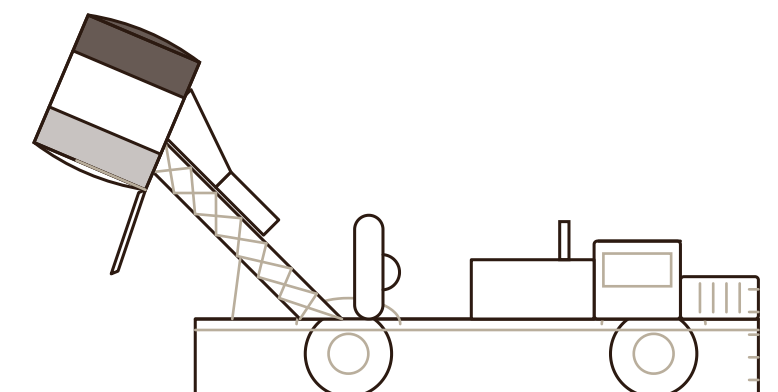
How to build it

1. Colour everything in first - it is far easier while the parts are still flat.
2. Cut out the parts on pages 2 and 3. Page 4 is the ground it stands on.
3. Fold every dashed line, then open it flat again. Creased card folds up neater.
4. Glue the CHASSIS box - that long box is the truck and its tray in one piece.
5. Glue on the CAB, then the BONNET (the lower, narrower one, right at the front).
6. Glue the four wheels onto the printed circles, two on each side.
7. Glue on the ENGINE, then roll the FAN column round a pencil and stand it up.
8. Roll the DRUM into a fat tube, glue the lap, cap one end with the round lid, and fold the dump door out so it hangs open at the other end.
9. Fold the BOOM into a square tube and glue its lap. Fold out the deck plate, glue it onto its dotted box, then glue the brace leg back against the boom.
10. Glue the CRADLE on the slanted top of the boom, then the drum's printed patch onto it - the drum leans back, mouth pointing down behind the truck.
11. Roll the FUNNEL and glue it on the dotted box on the boom, wide end to the drum.
12. Fold up the letter board on page 4 and stand your blower over the shaft.

Did you know?

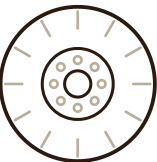
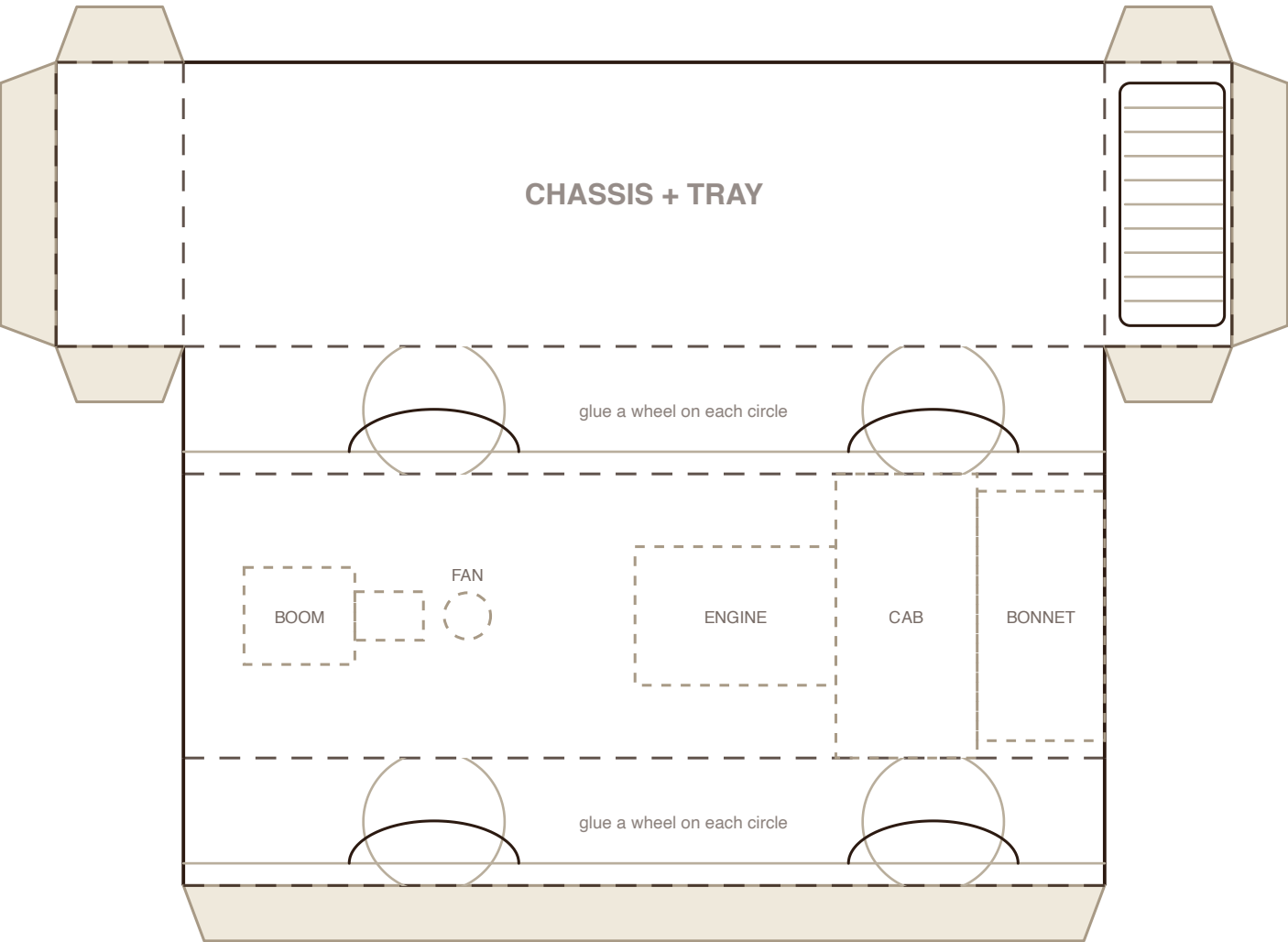
Nobody manufactures blowers. Every single one is homemade, bolted onto whatever old truck was going cheap - which is why no two blowers in Coober Pedy look quite the same. Ask a miner how they built theirs.

This is what you are making

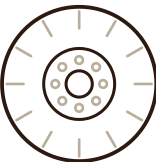


Parts 1 - the truck: chassis, wheels, engine, fan

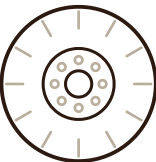
Build this much first. It is a whole blower truck on its own.



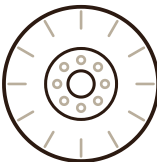
wheel 1



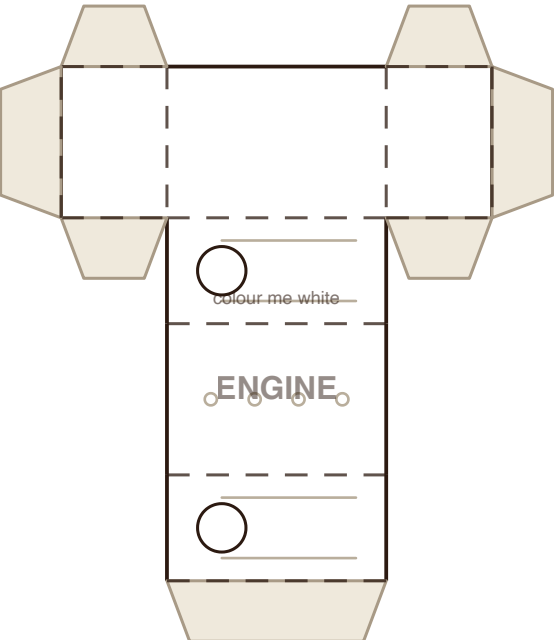
wheel 2



wheel 3

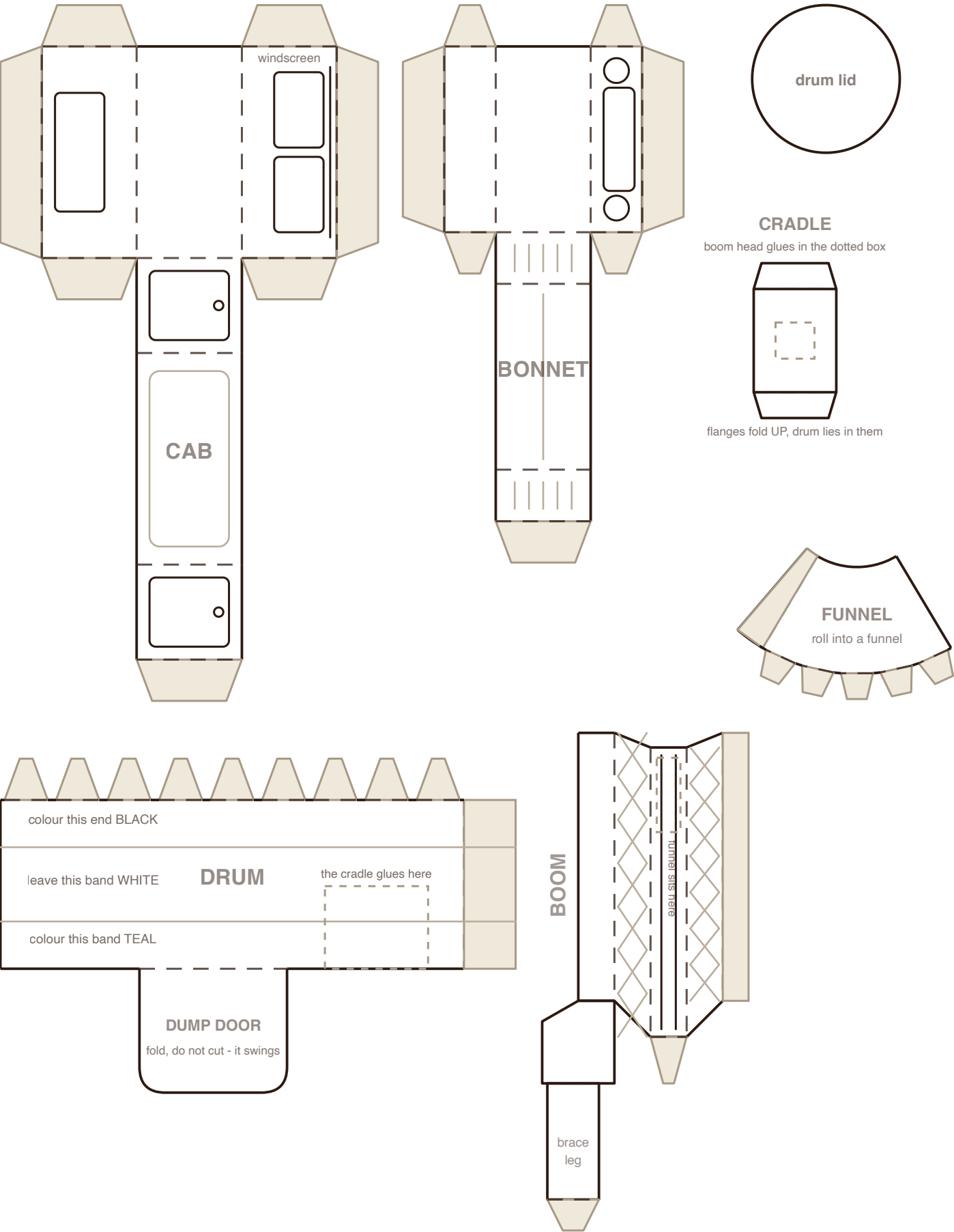


wheel 4



Roll the fan column around a pencil.
Its little tabs glue onto the dotted
circle on the tray, behind the boom.

Parts 2 - the blower gear: cab, bonnet, boom, drum



Parts 3 - the ground it stands on

COOBER PEDY

fold this board UP - it is the welcome sign

BASE MAT

colour the ground red - Coober Pedy dirt is bright orange-red

the shaft - park the blower here

OPTIONAL down-shaft hose - fold every line, concertina style

Glue one end under the drum's mouth and run the other into the shaft ring.

spare rear wheel

spare rear wheel

Optional: real blowers run TWO wheels each side at the back. Glue these two on top of the back wheels.

Check yours against this - boom at 45 degrees, drum leaning back over the tail

