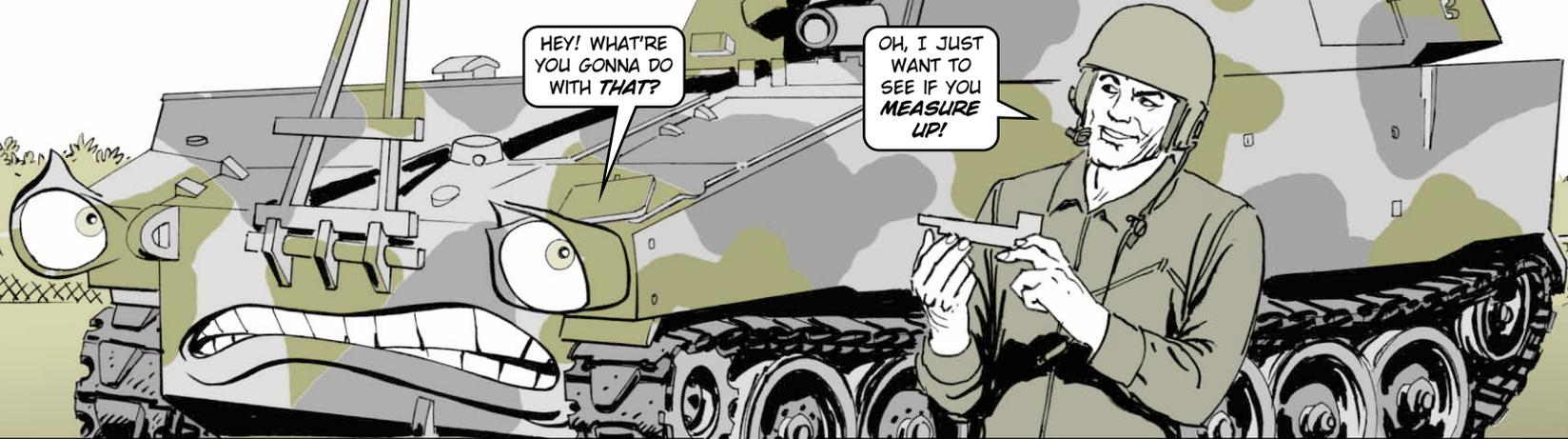


HOMEMADE TOOL MEASURES UP

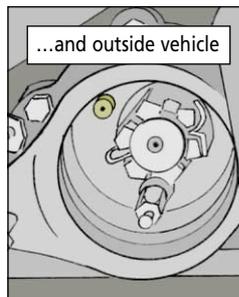
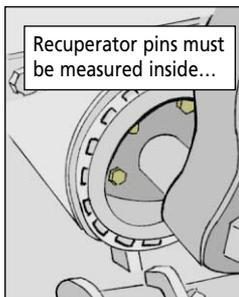
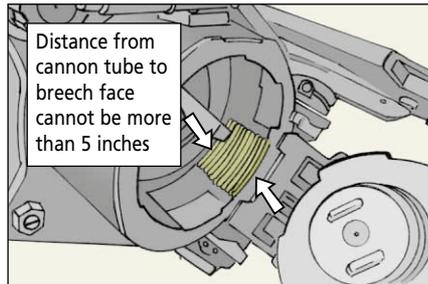


Dear Editor,

Some of the pre-fire checks for your M109-series howitzer require taking measurements.

For instance, the distance from the rear face of the cannon tube to the rear of the breech ring cannot be more than 5 inches. If it is, the gun tube and breech ring are out of alignment and you could be seriously injured or even killed when the howitzer is fired.

You also must measure the length of the recuperator's indicator pins inside and outside the vehicle. If the pins extend less than 1/8 inch, or more than 3/4 inch, your howitzer is NMC until the hydraulic fluid level in the recuperator is adjusted. That's to prevent damage to the recuperator when the gun is fired.

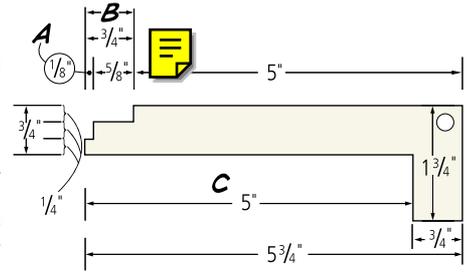


We've developed a tool that makes taking these measurements quick and easy. Make the tool from 1/8-in steel plate.

A is the minimum length the recuperator guide pins must protrude.

B is the maximum length the guide pins can protrude.

C is the maximum distance from the face of the cannon tube to the face of the breech.



We added a 1/4-in diameter hole to one corner of the tool so a lanyard can be attached to hang it up.
SSG Les Kolder
2/147th FA
Watertown, SD

From the desk of the Editor



That's a lot easier than using a ruler or tape measure. Good job!

