**Pre-Paint>Fuselage>Undercarriage>Assemble main gear**

**Objectives of this task:**

In this task you will assemble the main undercarriage legs, which includes fitting the axles, disc brakes and wheels and adjusting the brakes.

**Materials required:**

Cards # J8 ‘Dual Brakes’ and J21 ‘Main wheels’

Brake fluid for assembly of disc brake pistons

**Spat brackets**

Fit the retained nuts to the spat mounting brackets using countersunk 3/32” rivets. There are 4 retained nuts (arrowed) on each bracket. Countersink the actual screw holes where the spat will be fitted: the countersinks will help to guide the screws into the holes when fitting the spats.

**Fit the axles and backing plates**

Slip the stub axles (from the ‘Main wheels’ card) through the brake mounting plate (photo at right) and fit to the main gear leg. The chamfered face of the plate is on the side that faces the gear leg.

Align the bolt hole in the outboard end of the stub axle vertically and fix the plate in place 2 x AN5-16A bolts at the top and 2 x AN5-15A bolts at the bottom. The longer bolts are used at the top to allow for the spat bracket.

Fit the spat bracket to the AN5 bolts with the captive nuts facing towards the wheel and with the notched surface to the bottom. Fix with one Nyloc nut and washer as shown at right.

Check that the hole in the outboard end of the stub axle is positioned up and down before tightening the nuts up.

Fit Nyloc nuts and washers to the 2 bottom bolts and a Nyloc nut with a penny washer to cover the adjustable slot at the top rear bolt. This slot will allow the spat to be moved up or down during final assembly.

The location of the slot determines if this is a right or left leg – the slot must face the rear of the aircraft. The gear leg in the photo above is a left-hand gear leg.

Use a permanent marker to identify each leg as being either a right or left leg at this point – it can save confusion when you come to fit the gear legs in the next task.
Assemble the brake pads

Fit the brake pads to the backing plates: there are 2 types of backing plates – flat and U channel. Both types use same pads, but the shorter rivets are used on the flat backing plate.

Face the angled side of the pad to the outside of the backing plate as shown in the photo of completed pads below right. Each brake pad is held in place by 3 rivets and the fitting process is as follows: fit all 3 rivets from the recessed hole in the pad through the pad and though the backing plate. Note that fitting the third rivet may need a slight touch with a drill to ease the rivet through the last hole.

Seat the rivets by tapping the heads to make sure that each rivet is fully through the pad and the backing plate, then turn the assembly over and rest the head of the rivet on a protrusion* and flare the rivet using a tapered punch then use a flat punch to mushroom the end of the rivet over. The rivets should not be able to move when correctly fitted.

*In the factory we use a simple jig that holds the backing plates over studs at each end and has 3 raised screws to hold the rivets up – you can see it in the riveting photos above.

You could make up something similar in your workshop by screwing 3 screws into a solid wooden bench (use a backing plate for the spacing), all at the same height so that the brake pad just clears the bench and the head of each screw touches the head of each rivet, then place each brake pad and backing plate over them and use them to punch against.

Check each brake pad and backing plate assembly carefully to see if there are any cracks in the pad, particularly around the end rivet holes. If there are any cracks call your dealer for a replacement pad and rivets: do not fit a cracked brake pad.

The brake pad and backing plate assembly will be referred to as simply a pad from this point on. The U channel pad is the outer pad and the flat plate pad is the inner pad.
**Assemble the brake calipers**

In this step you will assemble the hydraulic disc brake calipers. Cleanliness is essential when working with hydraulic brake parts, so clean your working area and your hands thoroughly before starting this step.

Use compressed air to clean any dust and dirt from the inside of the brake calipers and pistons. Apply brake fluid to the O-rings and fit one to each piston, then apply a smear of brake fluid to the inside of the caliper and fit the pistons to the calipers: press the piston gently into the caliper with the cupped side of the piston facing outwards.

Thread and tighten a bleed nipple into the lower fitting on the caliper (*under* the Jabiru logo) and push a blanking plug into the top fitting as shown at right – the brake lines will be fitted later in *Post-Paint* and the blanking plug will keep the caliper sealed until then.

Wash any brake fluid off your hands – it can irritate sensitive skin.

Refer to the drawing on the next page for an overview of the brake system.
Assemble the brake and wheel

Firstly and very importantly place the alloy washer (#6A028B0D on the ‘Main wheels’ card) on the stub axle with the tapered inner side **towards** the gear leg and **away** from the wheel – this washer (circled at right) provides a square surface for the inner wheel bearing to butt up to.

Now we can fit the appropriate wheel (left or right) to each gear leg and then fit the brake system.

Fit the wheel to the stub axle and secure with the axle extension, fitting an AN3-12A bolt though the extension and the axle from the top with a lock nut on the bottom.

Take the U channel backing plates and the steel lock nuts. Fit a bolt through the backing plate from the pad side and into the nut and very carefully apply a drop of Superglue to 2 opposite flats of the steel lock nut and then pull the steel lock nut back into the U channel as shown arrowed at right to glue the nut into the U channel:

Take care not to glue the bolt into the nut!

Look carefully at the drawing on the previous page to see how the brake assembly fits together.

As you can see from the drawing the outer pad goes on the outside of the wheel disc, while the inner pad goes between the wheel disc and the inner mounting plate and the hydraulic caliper goes behind or inboard of the inner mounting plate.

2 x AN4-14A main bolts, each with a washer, secure the whole assembly and each bolt has a spring that is fitted over the bolt and which holds the brake pads apart. In the factory we fit the top bolt first with no spring in order to get the correct alignment and then fit the bottom bolt and spring, then go back to the top bolt and fit the spring.

The calipers must be fitted as a pair, with the top fittings and the bottom bleed nipples turned slightly towards each other as shown below.
Adjust the brakes

The objective is to have a wheel that will turn freely while at the same time not having the brake pads too far away from the disc.

In order to achieve this it may be necessary to slightly bend the brake mounting plate away from the disc – loosen the main bolts just enough that the outer pads are 1 or 2mm away from the disc and check just the clearance between the inner backing plate and inner pads.

If the inner pad is rubbing and making it difficult to turn the wheel, gently bend the brake mounting plate slightly away from the disc until the wheel can turn freely but with the pad just touching the disc.

Repeat the process for the other caliper.

Now tighten the main bolts up until the outer pad just starts to bind on the disc and then back the bolts off slightly, perhaps one third to one half of a turn. At this point the wheel should turn freely and the brake pads should still be very close to the disc.

In the photo at right you can see the finished brake assembly, fully adjusted.

Note that there is very little clearance between the disc and the brake pads.

Note also the springs on the bolts that hold the pads apart.

At the left of the photo you can see the spat bracket with the captive nut visible.

This completes the Pre-Paint>Fuselage>Undercarriage>Assemble main gear task.