

# Inighthawk studios

grenzmauer 75  
70th anniversary model

#50

paper model kit  
maquette en carton  
kartonmodellbausatz



The Grenzmauer 75 (Border-Wall 75) was the fourth generation construction of the Berlin Wall, over 100 watchtowers, and 20 bunkers lined the and is the most recognizable incarnation of the frontier. A wide 'death strip' separated the eastern partition. Constructed in 1975, Grenzmauer 75 and western frontiers, providing guards with a was constructed from 45,000 segments of clear field of fire onto would-be defectors. Heavily-reinforced concrete, each segment 3.6m high ploughed sand and dirt would show any footprints, by 1.2 meters. The wall was completed in 1980. that is, if the defector was lucky enough to not leave a trail of his own blood.

Grenzmauer 75 went under the official designation of "Stützwallanlage UL 12.11" (Retaining Wall The Grenzmauer 75 project cost over DM 16,155,000 (US\$3,638,000). The Berlin Wall was to prevent defectors from smashing their cars over 140km long and contained nine border through the frontier, although the wall was crossings, which were open to foreigners, allied weakened at certain strategic points, so that in the event of war AFV's could pass through with ease. 1989, after months of protests, the frontier was finally opened, reuniting Germany after decades of strife.

The top of the wall was lined with a smooth pipe, to make scaling the wall decidedly more difficult.

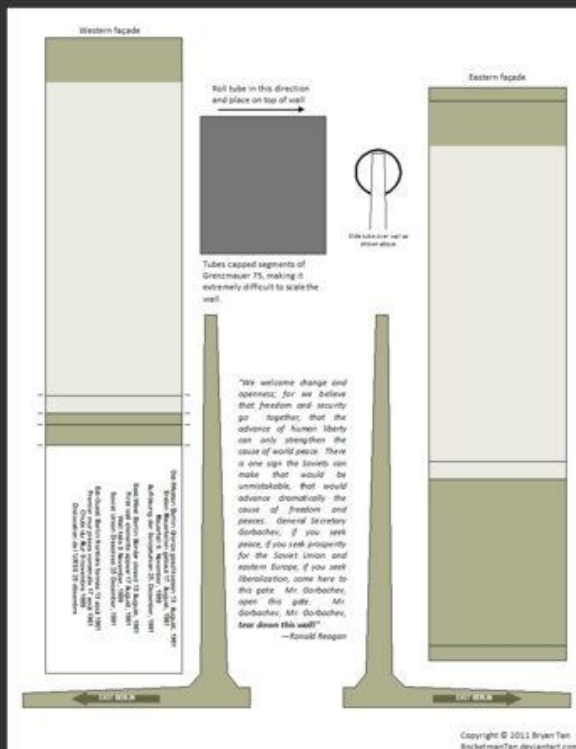
## The Wall, The Union: 20 years later

December 25th will mark the 20th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Since December of 1991, the world has changed quite a bit, for better or for worse. The world has seen the development of the internet, the cellphone, the personal computer; we're able to connect with one another in ways that people back in 1991 couldn't imagine. We have ventured far out into space, Voyager 1 becoming the farthest manmade object from Earth, we've explored Saturn and worlds beyond with the most advanced machines ever built, and we've discovered exoplanets in far off star systems, some of which have been found to be in the star's habitable zone. For the first time ever in human history, we have evidence that we just might not be alone. At the same time, however, we've seen the widespread use of ghastly implements of slaughter; suicide bombings, hijackings, terrorism. Ever since September 2001, just a few months shy of the 10 year anniversary, the World has been under vigilant lookout for any suspicious activity. While the threat of annihilation from the east is long gone, we are now faced with the threat of terrorism on our home front, and recently Middle East has shown us its horrifying nuclear capabilities.

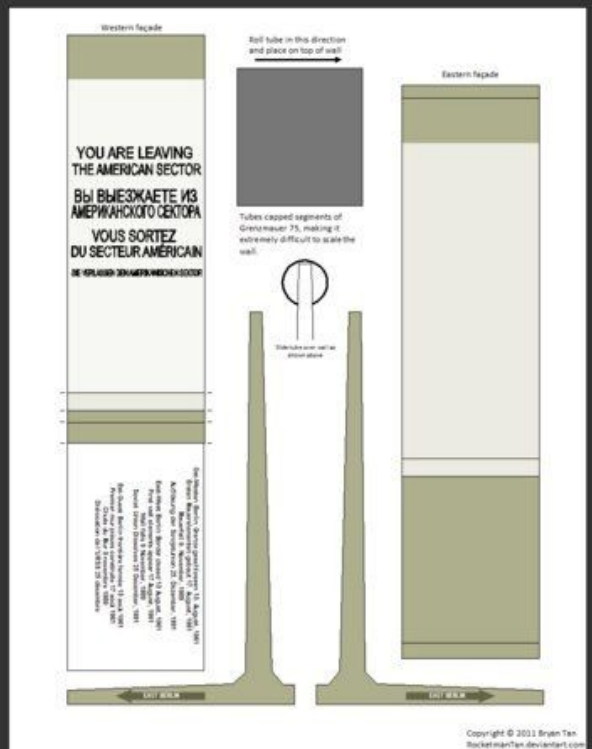
Despite the turmoil that some say is scarring the Earth once again, the Berlin Wall remains to be one of the great symbols of oppression. Construction of the Wall began on August 17th, four days after the East-Berlin border was closed. Before August 17, the wall was nothing more than World's Longest Barbed Wire Hedgehog. It required very little physical exertion to defect into West Berlin, a task Conrad Schumann was more than happy to carry out. On August 15, Schumann, a guard stationed at the border, leapt over the barbed wire fence and into a waiting van in West Germany. The moment of his jump was immortalized by photographer Peter Leibing. As the years progressed, however, the Wall would become a towering, labyrinthine concrete monster of oppression. The wall became heavily guarded, soldiers operating under a "shoot to kill" order. Beds of nails, minefields, and a hundred-meter wide "death strip" were placed along the wall; it was a depressed man's paradise. It is estimated that somewhere around 200 people were killed trying to cross the wall, compared to 5,000 successful defectors.

One defector, 18-year-old Peter Fechter, was not so lucky. Exactly one year after the Wall's construction, Fechter and his friend Helmut Kulbeik attempted to cross the wall over into West Germany. After crossing the death-strip, the two attempted to scale the wall over into West Berlin. Border guards began to fire at the two, and Fechter was shot in the pelvis, falling back into the death strip. Kulbeik made it into West Berlin as mortified onlookers watched Fechter bleed to death in plain view. Fechter bled to death in approximately one hour.

In September of 1989, a series of protests sprung up in Berlin. Fueled by slogans such as "Wir wollen raus!" (We want out!) and "wir bleiben hier!" (We'll stay here [at the wall]), the protests culminated in the 4 November Alexanderplatz Demonstration. On November 9, 1989, Günter Schabowski, spokesman for the SED Politburo received a note shortly before attending a press conference. Having been given no instructions as to what to do with the note, Schabowski read the note aloud at the conclusion of the conference. One of the journalists asked when the regulations would take effect, to which Schabowski replied: "As far as I know, effective immediately, without delay." At 7:17 that night, ZDF's Heute aired excerpts of the press conference. After the broadcast, East Germans flooded the wall's six checkpoints, demanding that the gates be opened immediately. Outnumbered, the border guards finally opened the gates, East finally being reunited with the West. People celebrated through the night to herald in a new era in German History. The dark ages were over for Germany; the Fatherland was reunited once again.



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