belongs to

create table customers (  
id int auto_increment primary key,  
name varchar(75),  
company_id int  
)

customers belongs_to :company

has many

create table companies (  
id int auto_increment primary key,  
name varchar(75)  
)

companies has_many :customers

has and belongs to many

create table articles (  
id int auto_increment primary key,  
name varchar(75),  
body text  
)

create table authors (  
id int auto_increment primary key,  
name varchar(75)  
)

create table articles_authors (  
author_id int,  
article_id int  
)

articles has_and_belongs_to_many :authors

authors has_and_belongs_to_many :articles

articles_authors

note: has_many and has_one work identically except for the number of relationships. both go on the table/model that does not feature the foreign key.

note: the articles_authors table is implicit due to the two models that call habtm, and it does not require a model of its own. when making implicit mapping tables such as this, it must be named tablea_tableb where a is first in alphabetical order.