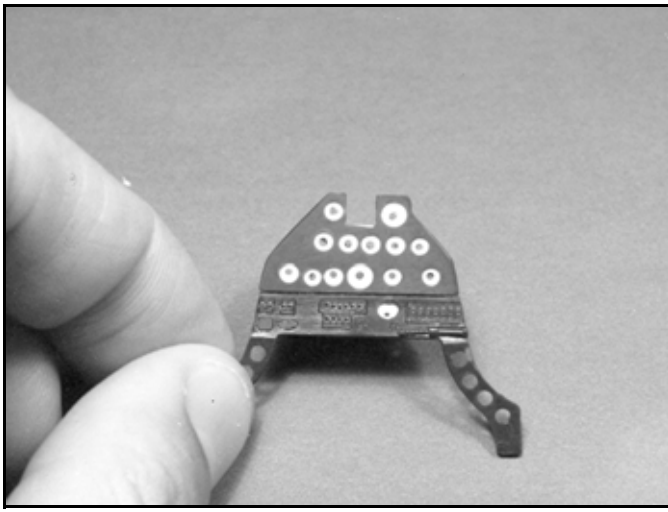




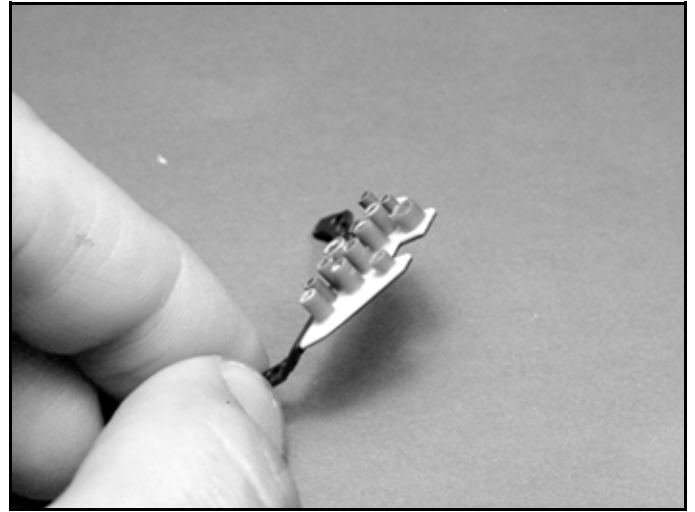
**MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS**

**IMPROVING THE COCKPIT OF REVELL'S 1/32 SCALE P-40
WARHAWK
BY
MIKE ASHEY**

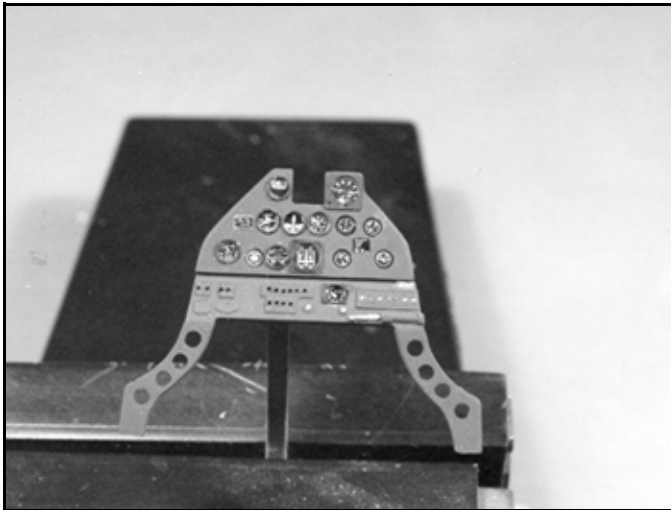
By today's standards Revell's old 1/32 scale P-40 is a dinosaur, but with a little bit of work and some Evergreen plastic strips this kit can be turned into a beautiful replica. The detailing hardware that I used for the seatbelts were made by Model Technologies and the console instruments are Waldron placards that are individually punched out. If you built this kit using Eduard's prepainted seatbelts and their interior detail set you could achieve a much higher level of realism and accuracy. However, when I built this kit almost 20 years ago none of those things were available. It is amazing how a few pieces of photoetch, some Evergreen plastic, stretched sprue, tiny strips of masking tape and Waldron instruments and bezels coupled with good painting can turn an ancient kit into a master piece.



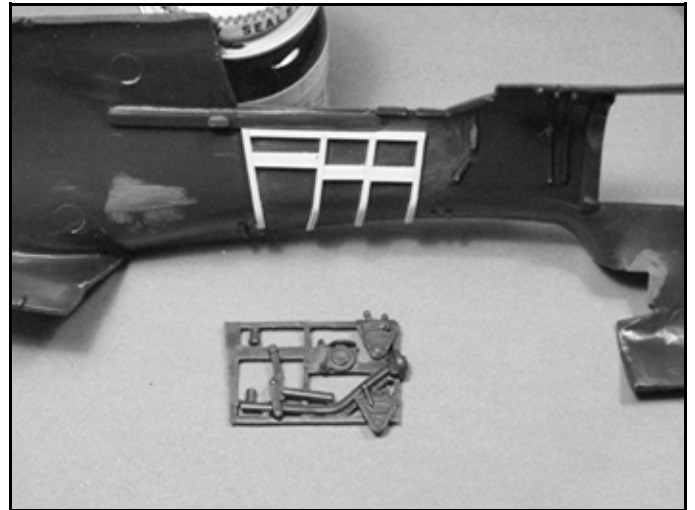
I started with the kits console and sanded off the raised detail. I drilled holes for a set of Waldron instruments and then added a backing. The tiny holes are for the white glue to seep out of.



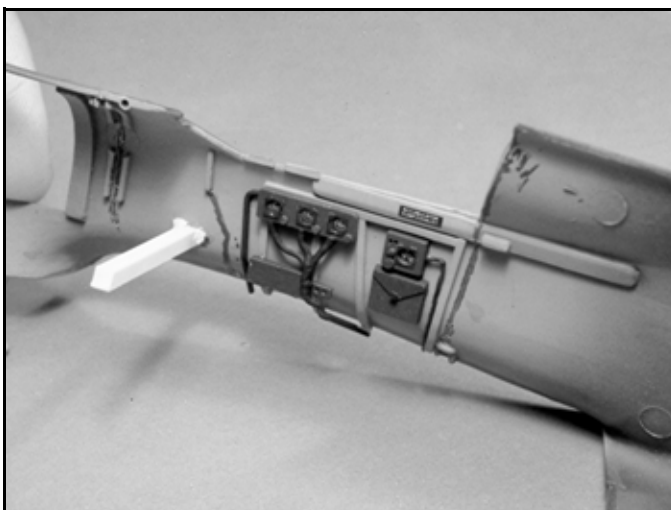
Since the back of the instrument console is visible through the windscreen I added lengths of plastic rod to represent the instruments casings.



The Waldron instruments and bezels were attached with Elmers white glue. This improved console is much better than the original console.



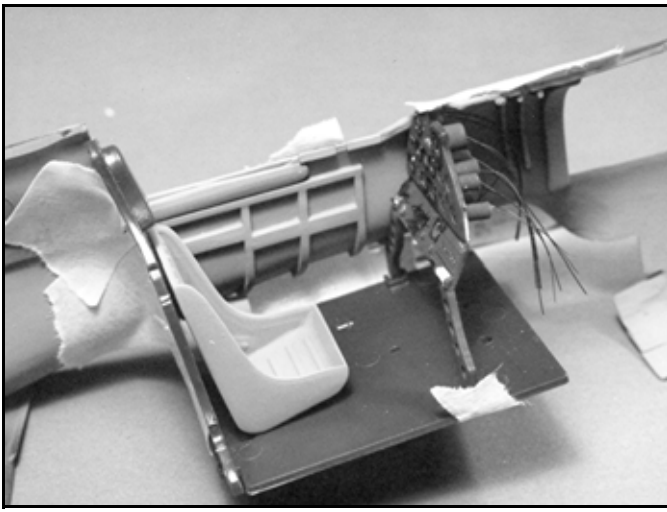
Next I added framing to the inside area of both sides of the cockpit using the kits part as a guide for both the framing and the positioning of the interior components.



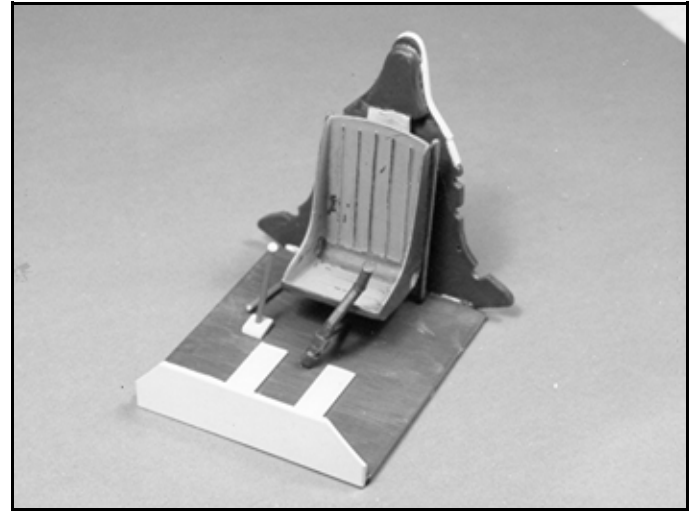
The right side of the cockpit is now complete. I used the kits parts and improved them with Waldron instrument faces. I also added some wiring.



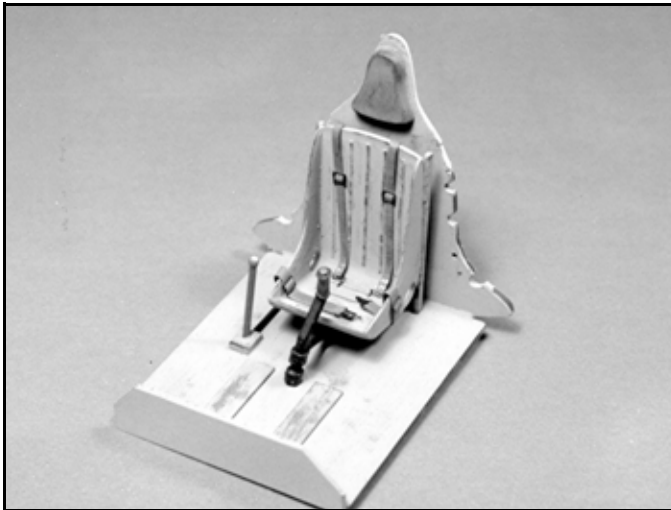
I thinned out the kits seat by running it across various grades of sandpaper.



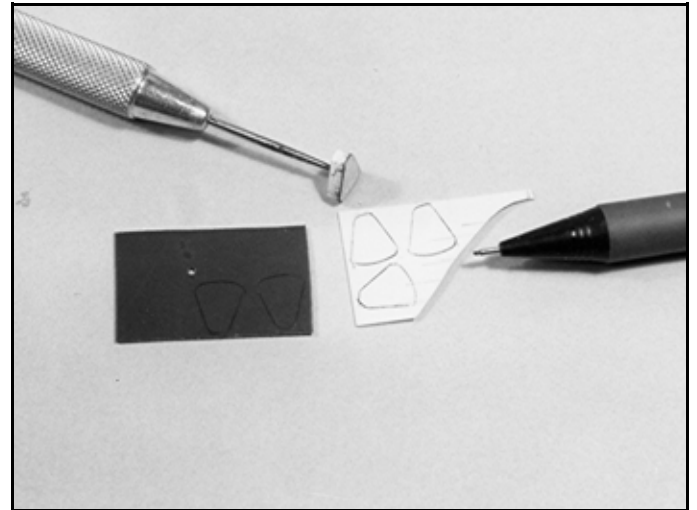
Test fitting all the parts as you either scratchbuild them or modify them is important to ensure everything fits and looks in proportion to all the other interior parts.



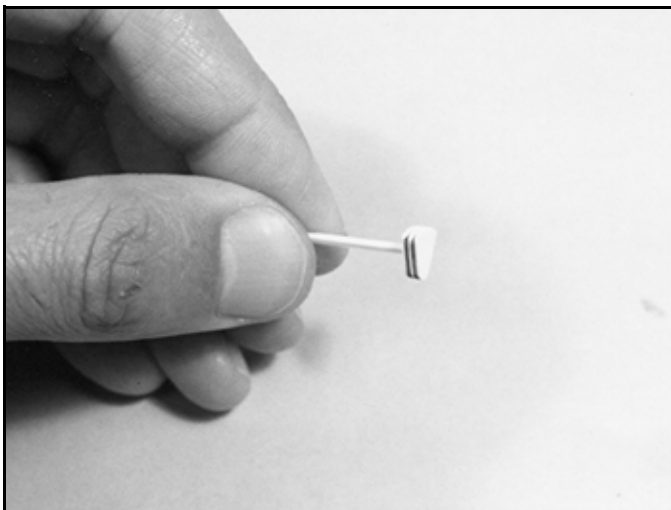
The interior and seat are starting to take shape.



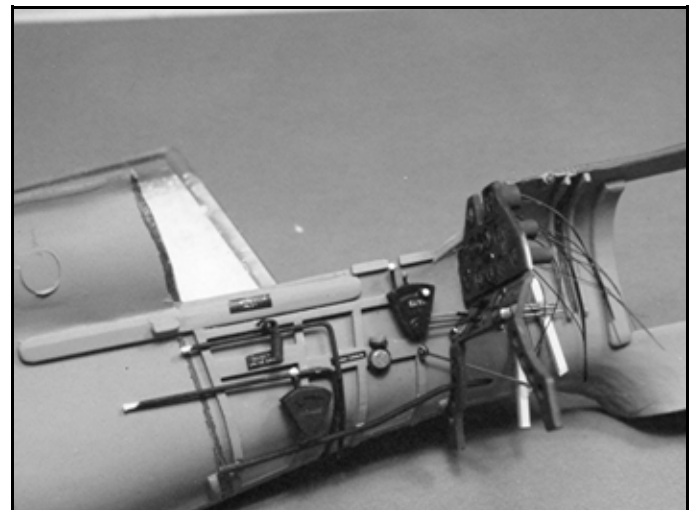
I made the seatbelts from masking tape and used Model Technologies seatbelt hardware. Careful painting adds contrast to all of the parts



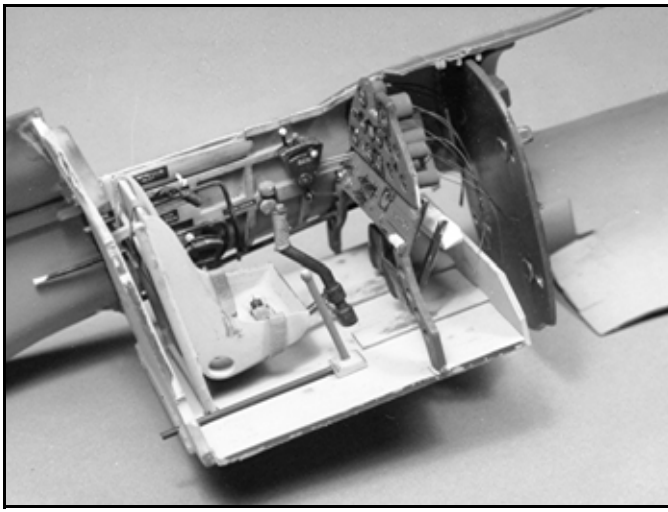
I made the throttle control from several layers of plastic sheet. I shaped a throttle control from one piece of plastic and then traced the outline onto the plastic sheets.



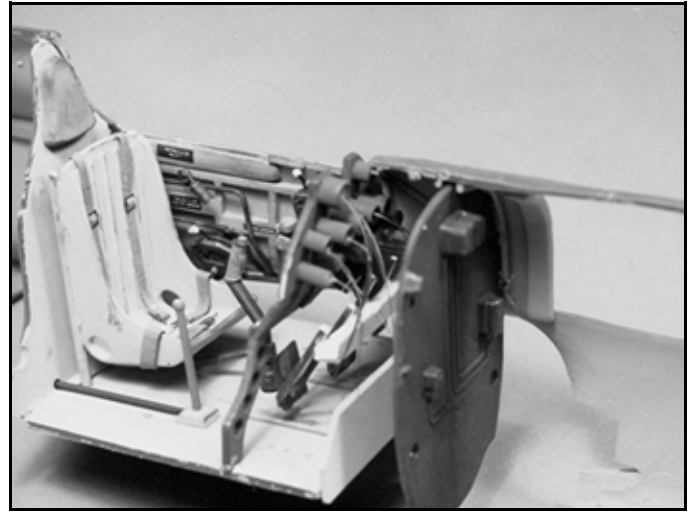
The throttle control is made up of five layers of plastic sheeting. The gray ones had the tops cut deeper so that the throttle levers would sit inside the grooves formed along the gray plastic layers.



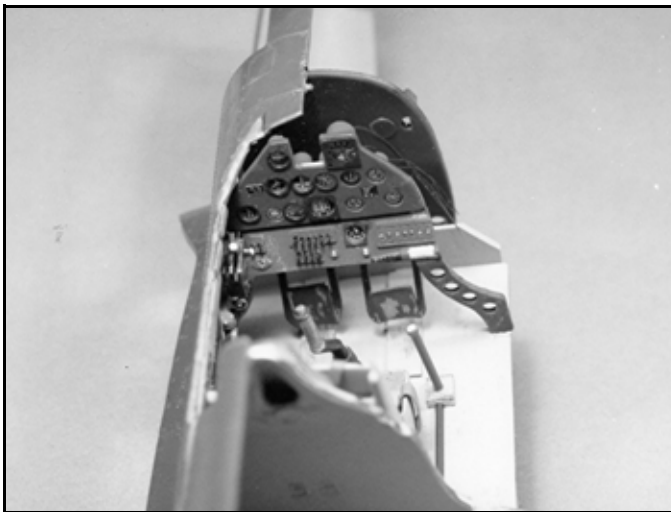
The left side of the cockpit is now complete. Levers were made from small lengths of plastic strip. The balls on the levers are white glue. The wiring on the backside of the console is stretched sprue.



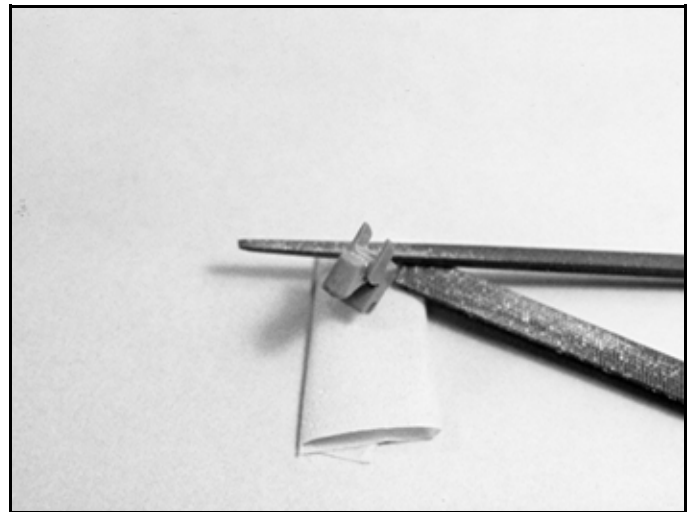
The floor and backing assembly is now attached to the left side and the interior is starting to look busy and well..... like a fighter plane cockpit!



Note how all the wiring is grouped and hanging down.



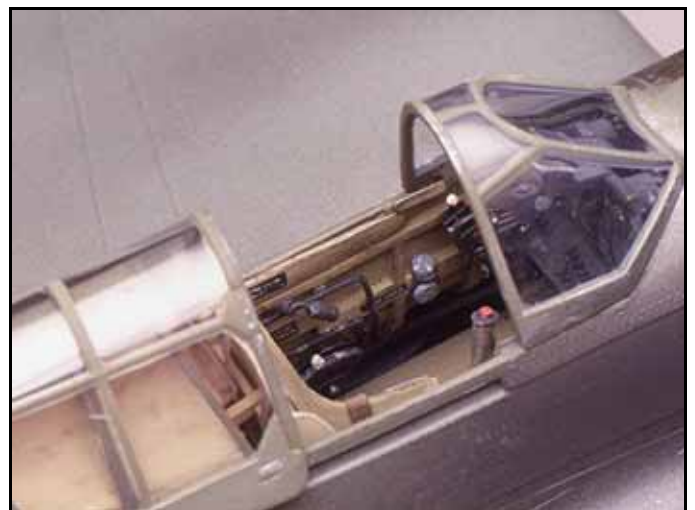
Worn off paint and drybrushing the edges of metal parts with silver paint can really enhance the interior of a cockpit.



The gun sight was a solid piece of plastic so I carefully filed out the center so that the edges became the frame and then I added a small piece of clear plastic and a few tiny dials punched out from my Waldron Punch Tool.



Now that's how a gunsight is supposed to look!
Photo by Glenn Johnson.



Note how the different shades and colors of paint make all the small parts stand out.
Photo by Glenn Johnson.