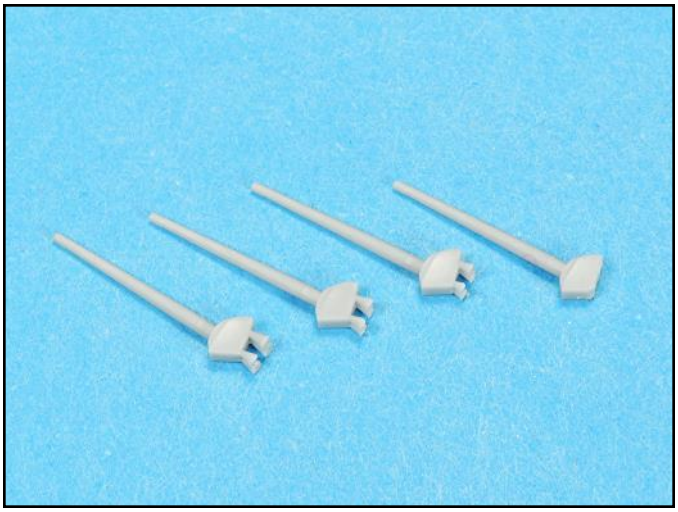
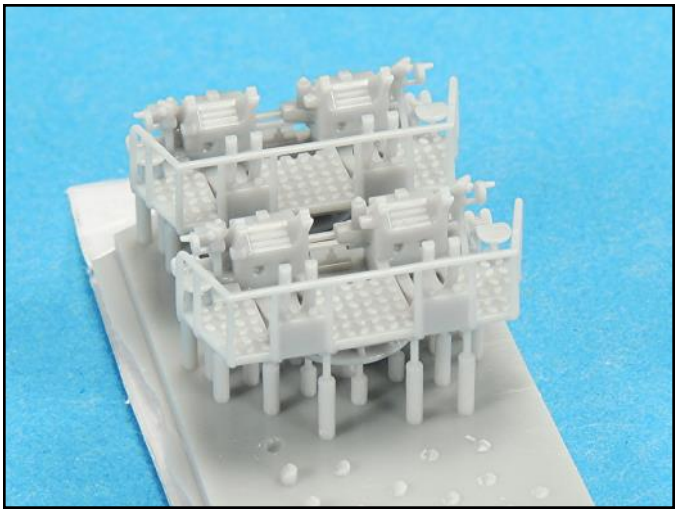
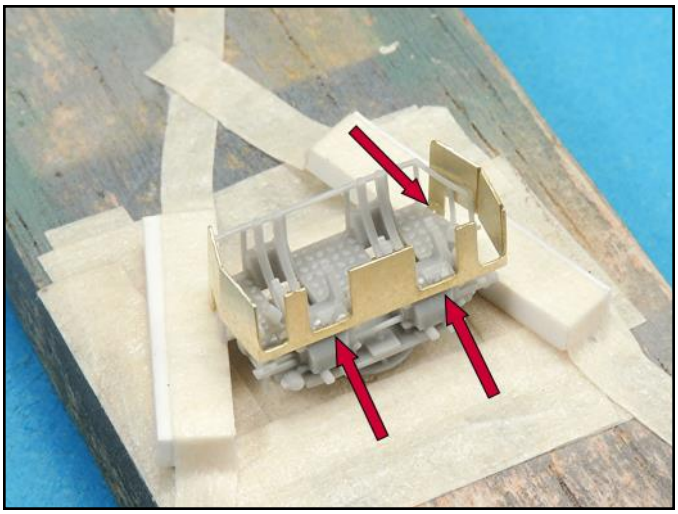


The 3D printed 5”/38 barrels are easy to clean up. However, it is also easy to damage the bases while cutting so go slow and carefully position the number 11 X-Acto blade.

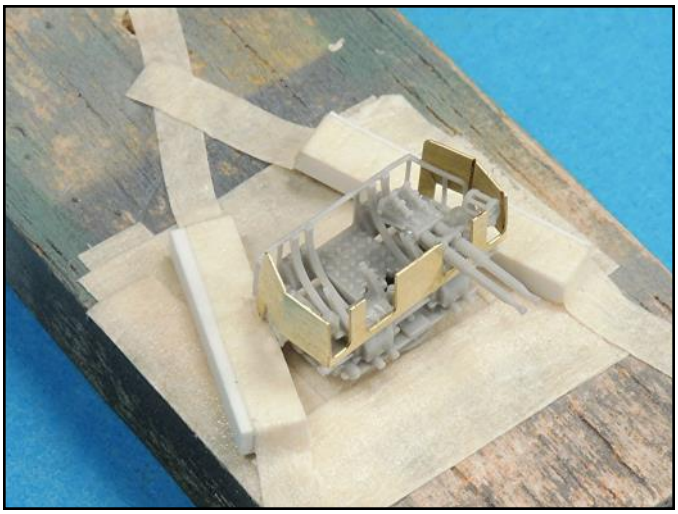


The quad 40mm Bofor platforms have impressive surface detail. To remove them, cut the stems at the base of the 3D block and then flip them over and trim off the stems from each part using a snipper.

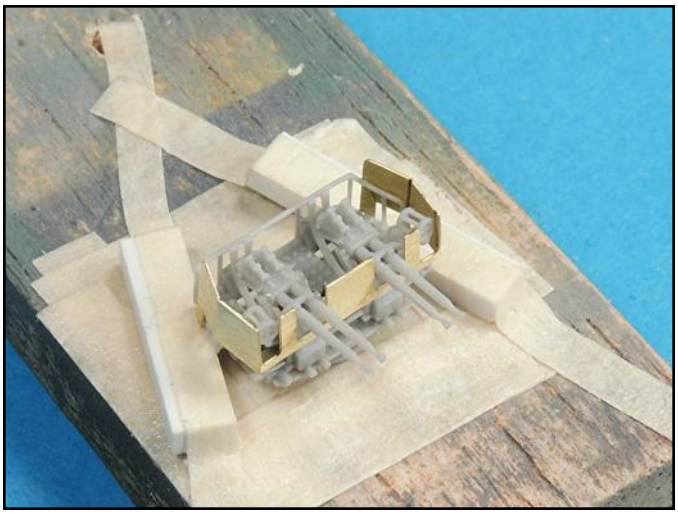
The photoetch splinter shields are easy to shape and the back sides have etched fold lines.



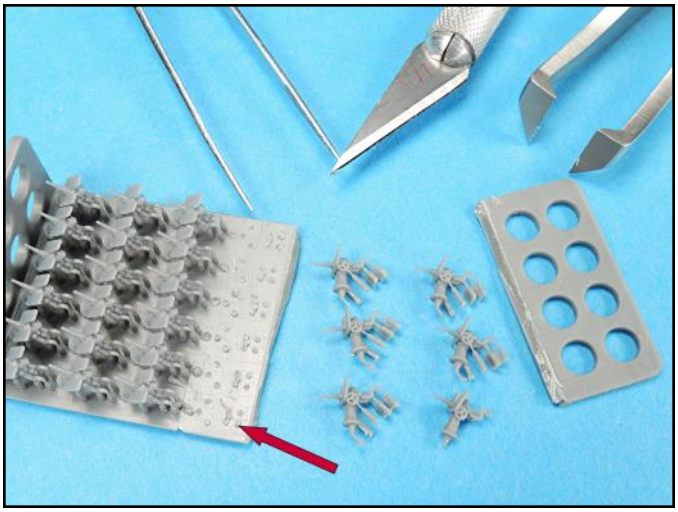
There are two tiny ledges on the front of the platform that the bottoms of the splinter shields sit on. The backsides of the shields just sit against the platform base. Use tiny drops of super glue to attach the splinter shields.



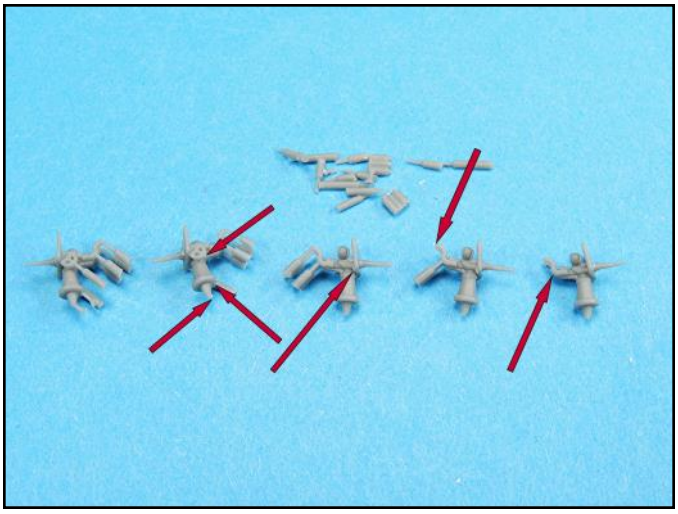
The 40mm guns have tiny pins on both sides and they fit into tiny depressions on the frames. If you use white glue to attach them, you can make adjustments to the elevations later if both guns are not at the same angle.



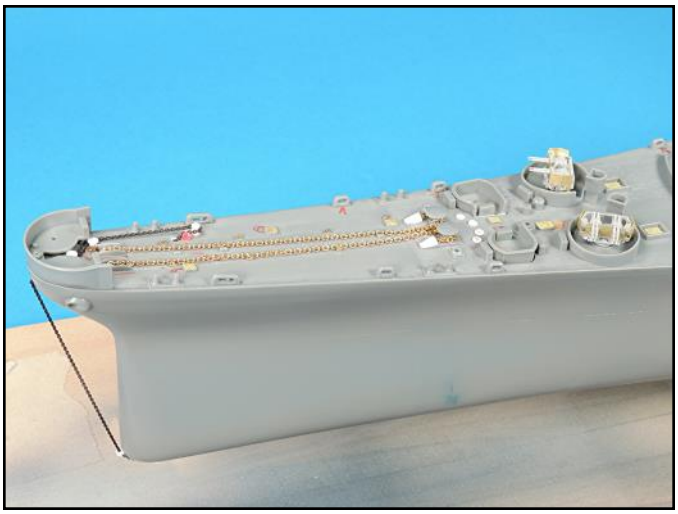
Note how the plastic strips are positioned. The base of the balsa wood also has a piece of masking tape folded over itself so that the base will be secure while the splinter shield and guns are attached.



The Blue Ridge Models 20mm guns have superb detail and no assembly is required. Remove one side of the 3D printed block and then cut the stems at their bases.



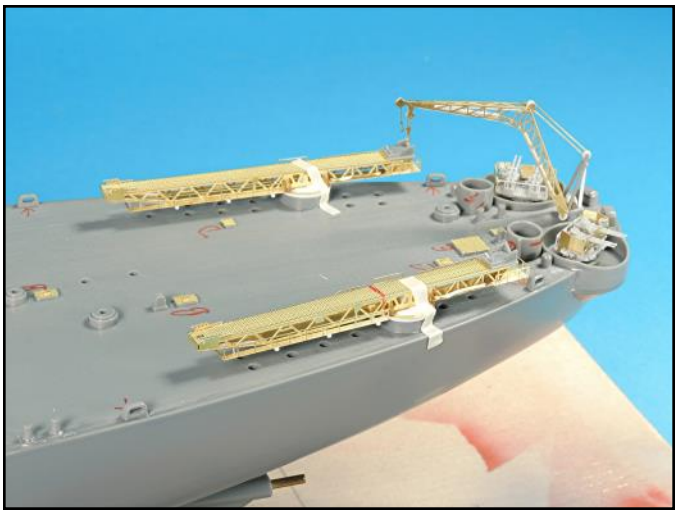
Snip off the two stems at the base of the gun and then the one from the wheel. Then snip off the two stems at the bottom of the gun shields. Finally, snip off the stems on the upper shoulder rests and then the stems on the lower shoulder rests.



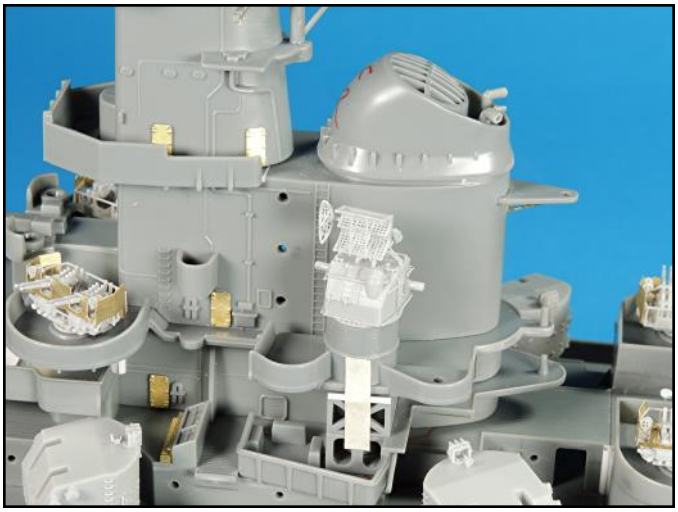
A final fit check of all the main parts on the bow area is complete.

The final fit check on the forward superstructure shows that everything fits and that the forward mast and yardarm are straight and level.

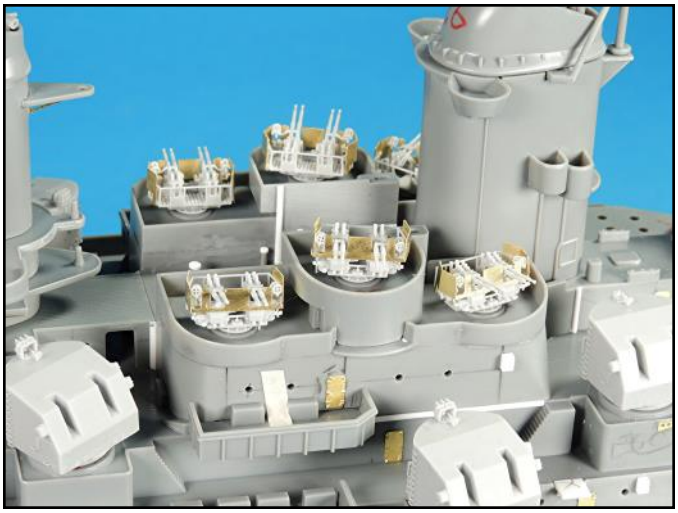
The aft superstructure also looks good and the 3D printed accessories will greatly increase the level of detail on the completed model.



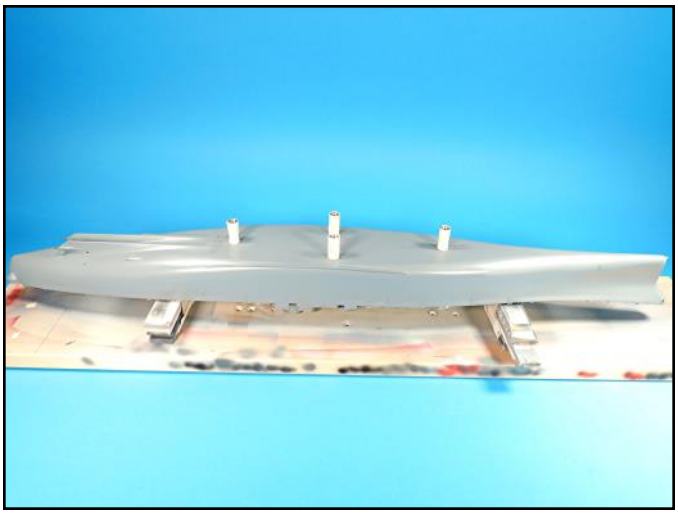
The added parts on the catapults and the crane really help add detail to the stern area.



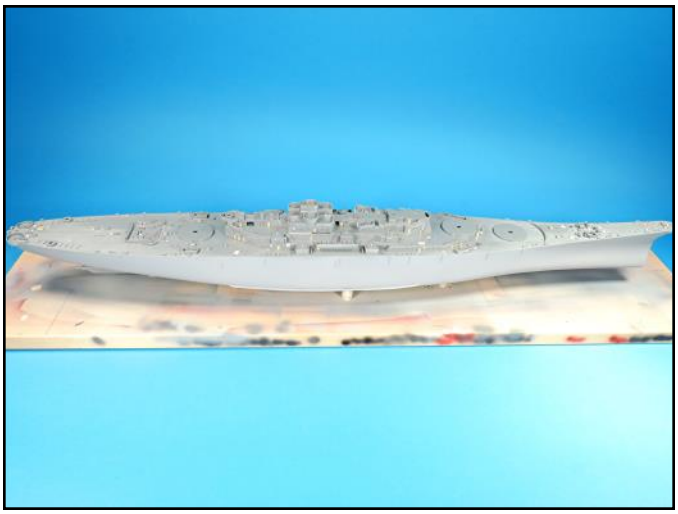
The 3D printed Mk-37 radars look really good.



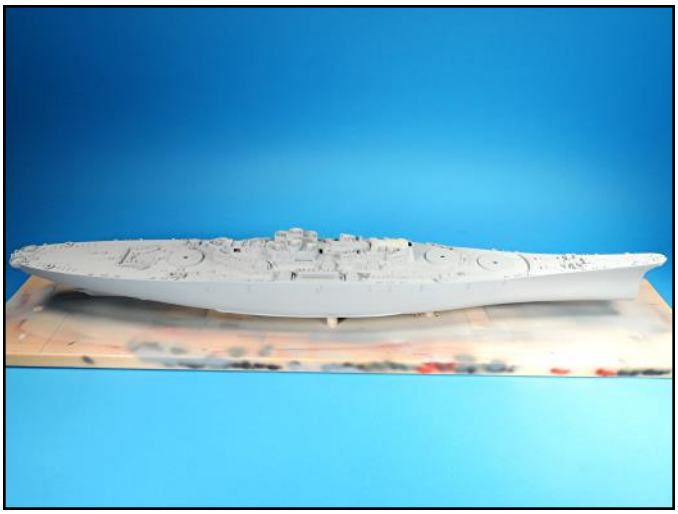
The 3D printed quad Bofors even have the curved, open 40mm brass shell collection and ejection details.



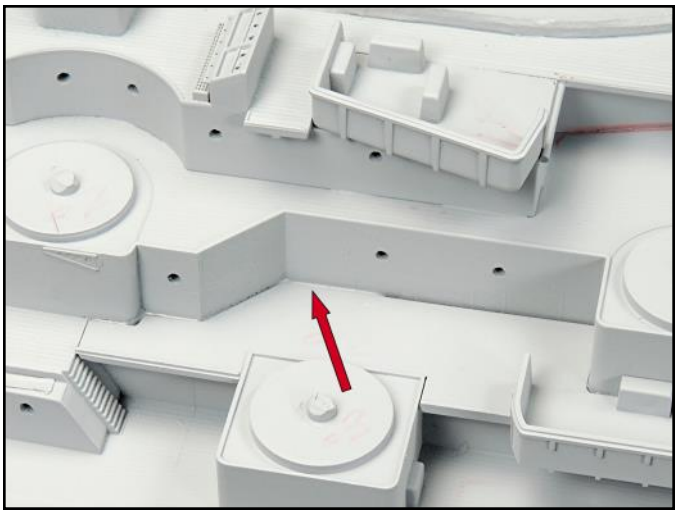
The first step in the hull painting process is to mask the brass pedestals and set the model upside down on blocks of balsa wood for the application of the primer.



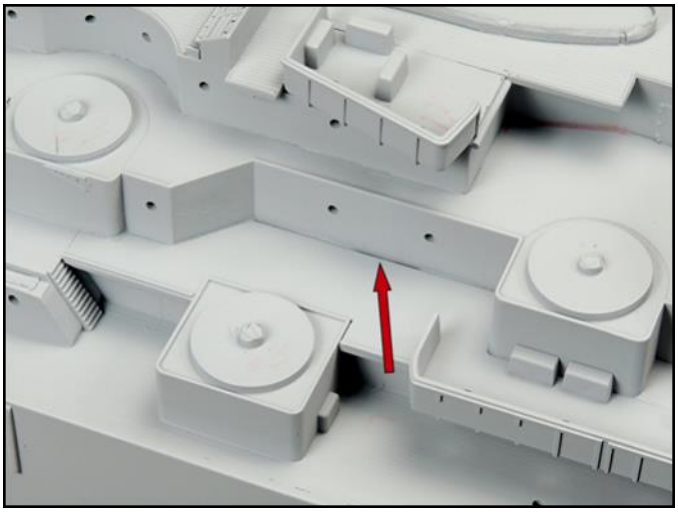
After the primer was dry the hull was flipped, secured to the working base and then the main deck and superstructure were primed.



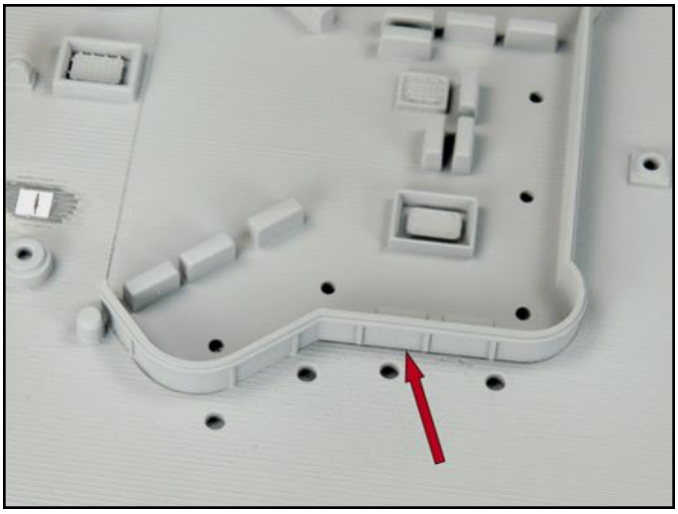
The model received two coats of primer on the main deck and superstructure, as some areas did not receive complete paint coverage. The superstructure was then checked for any flaws and voids.



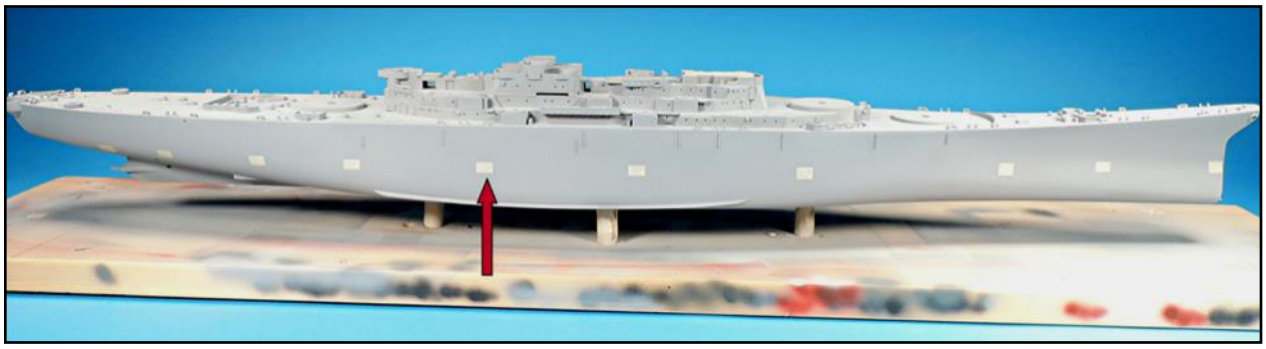
This deck insert created a void along the base of the superstructure. It is being filled with tiny drops of white glue, which is then contoured with a damp “Q” tip.



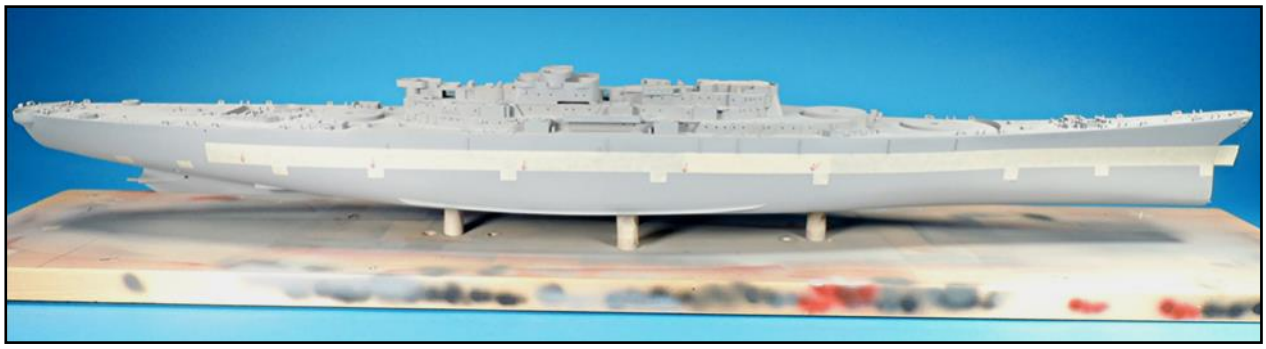
Several applications of white glue applied with a .012 inch diameter stiff wire were needed to completely fill the void. The area was also primed between applications, which showed one area that needed more white glue.



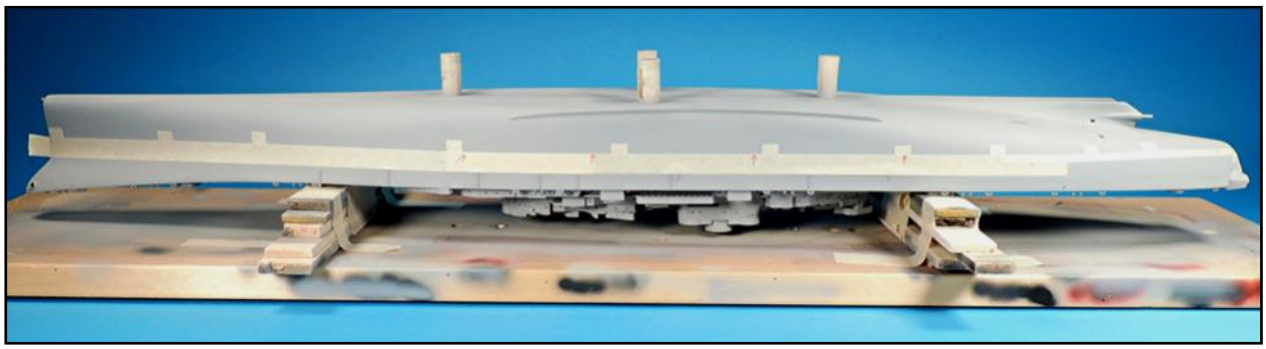
The voids around the 20mm platform main deck inserts were also filled with tiny drops of white glue applied with a .012 inch stiff wire and contoured with a damp “Q” tip.



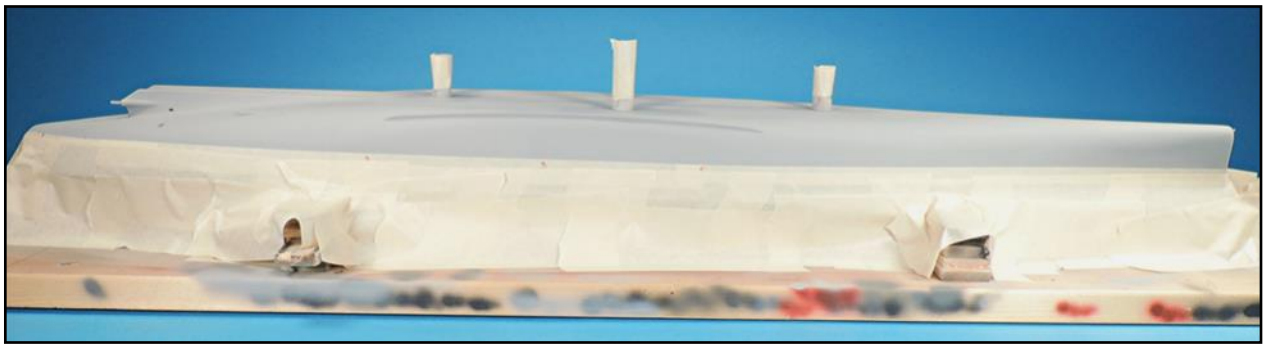
The red hull line was set with small lengths of masking tape applied along the tiny raised line along the hull.



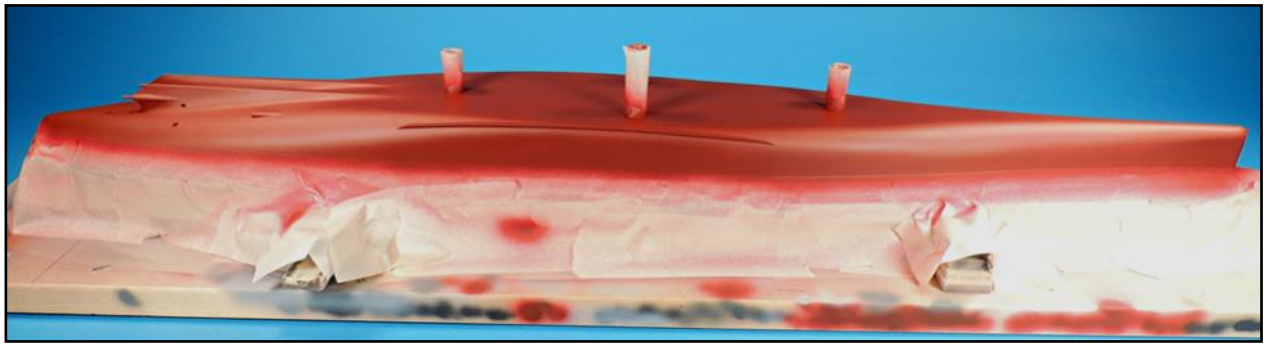
Long lengths of masking tape were then applied onto the hull.



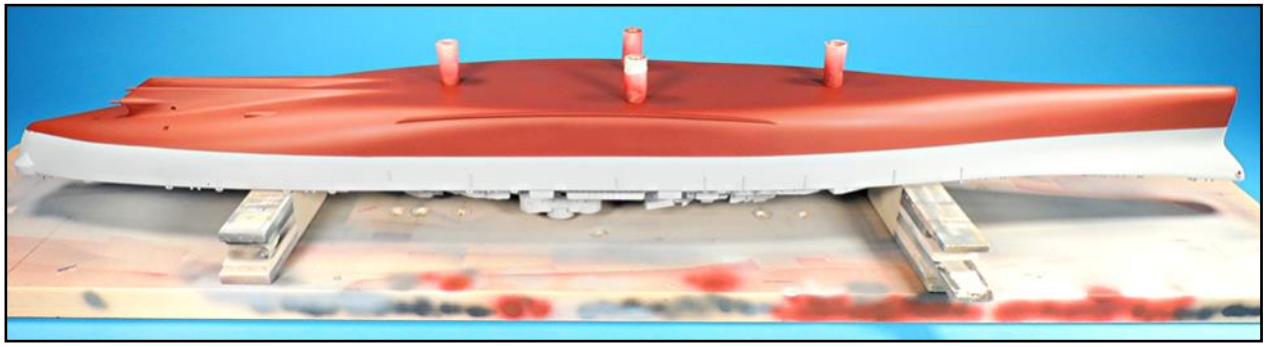
To mask the stern, a thin length was applied so the tape would follow the contour of the hull.



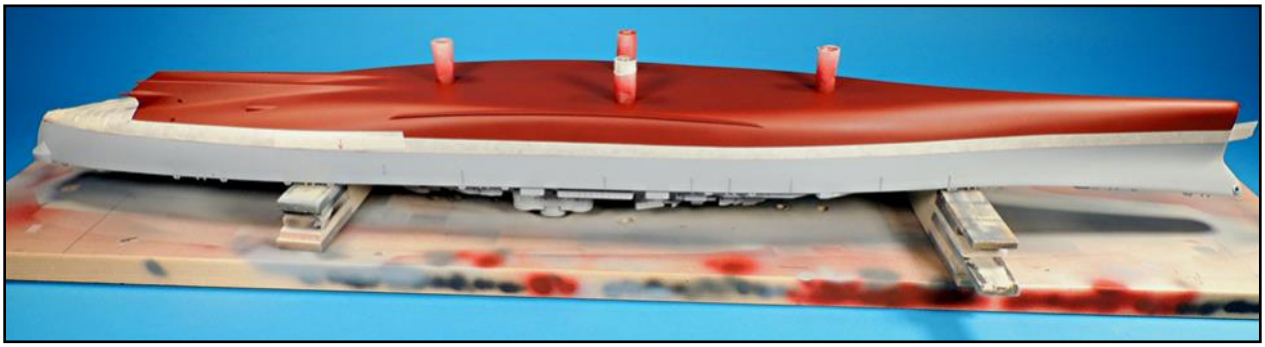
The exposed areas of the hull were then taped off with large sections of tape with a lot of overlap.



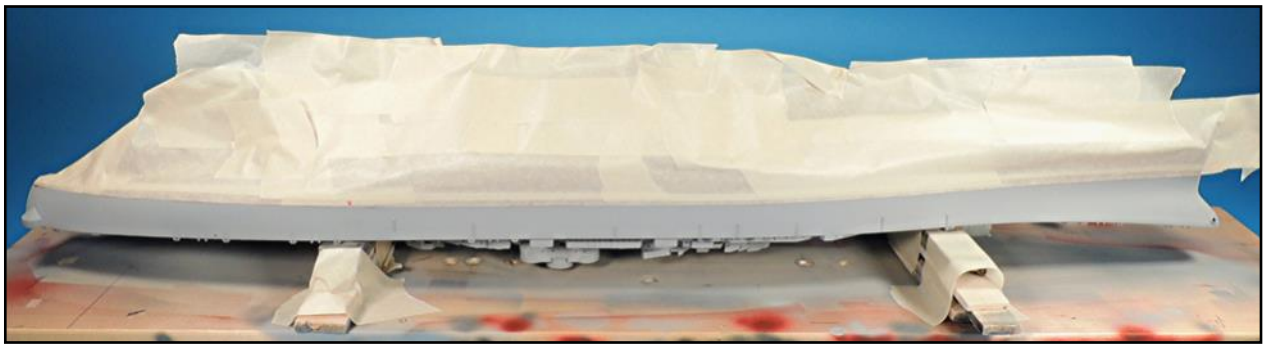
The few drops of flat black were added to the flat red so the resulting color was blood red.



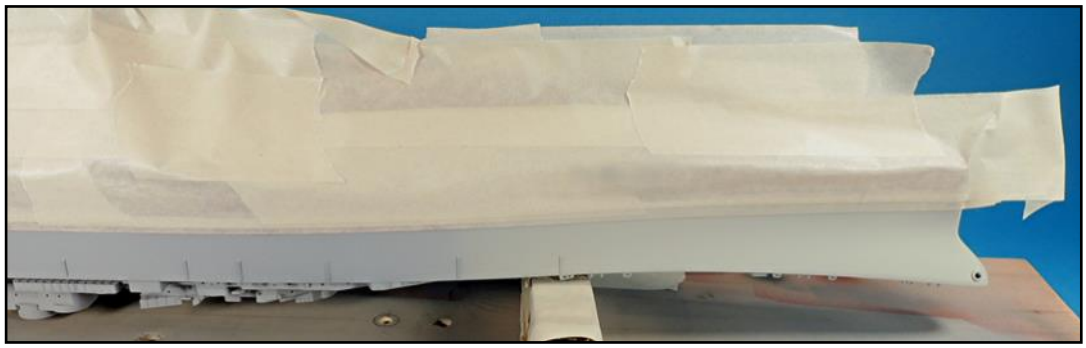
The airbrushed red color looks great and the demarcation line is very sharp between the red and the primer colors.



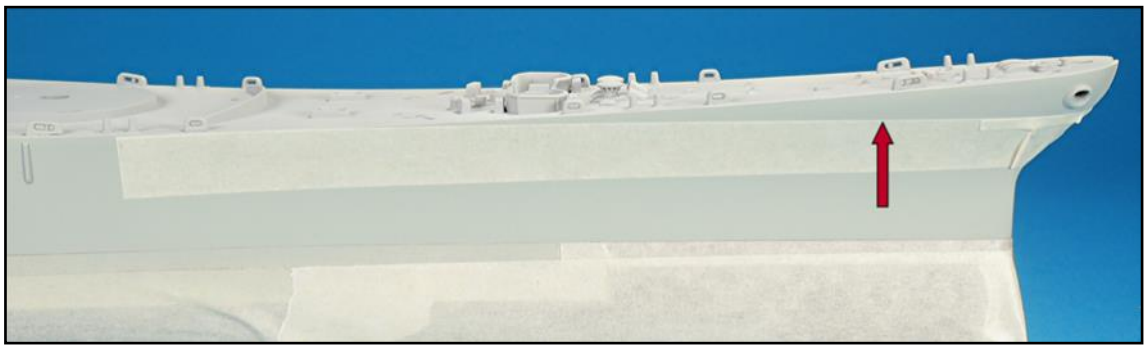
Strips of masking tape were then applied along the edge of the red color.



The entire lower hull was then masked with a lot of masking tape and a lot of overlap between tape sections.

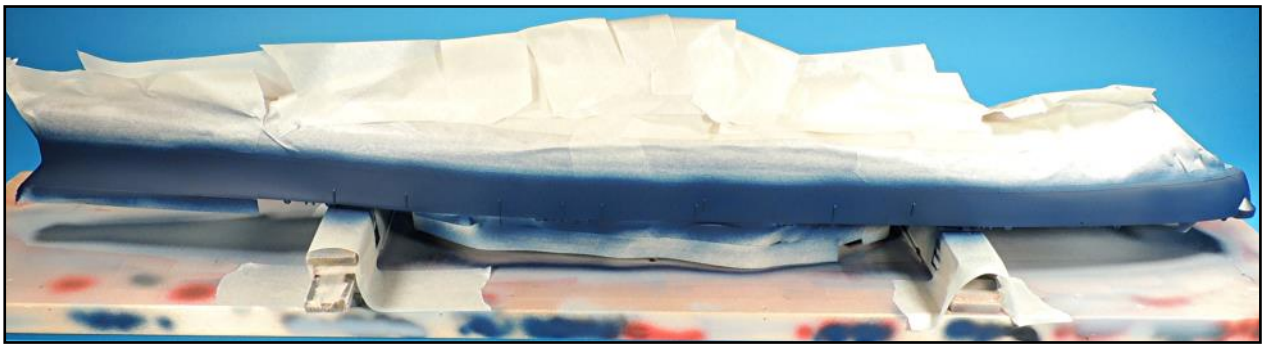


The forward hull area was then airbrushed flat gull gray.

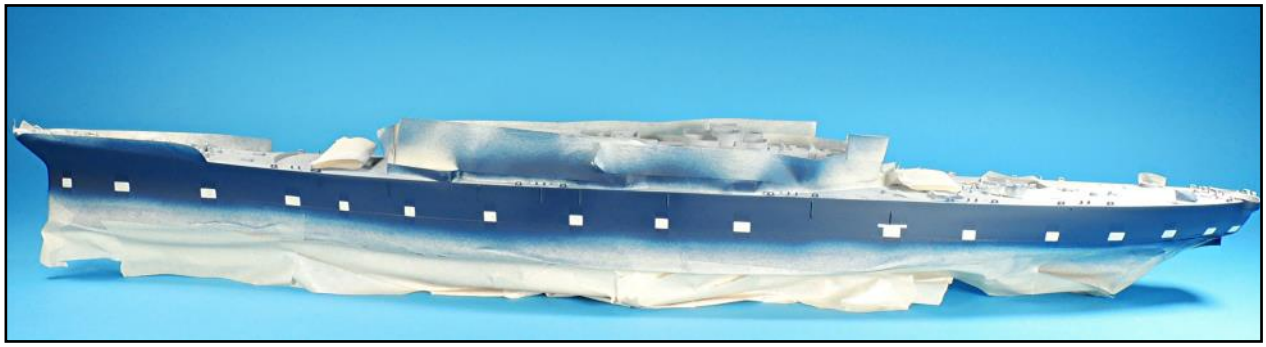


With the hull flipped, a length of masking tape set a level lower line for the bow flat gull gray color. The upper edge will be used to set another length of masking tape to cover the flat gull gray.

The length of masking tape on the bow area covers the flat gull gray. This masking will set the flat gull gray color for the bow area and the Missouri's distinctive measure 22 hull color configuration.

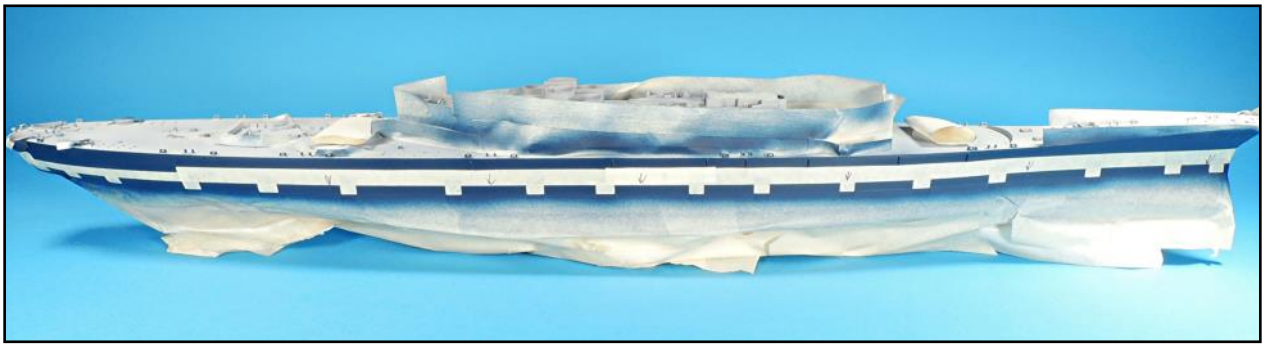


The hull was airbrushed with Testors 1/4 oz. bottle flat sea blue color with a little intermediate blue added to make a navy blue color. This makes the flat color a semi-gloss because the intermediate blue is a gloss color.

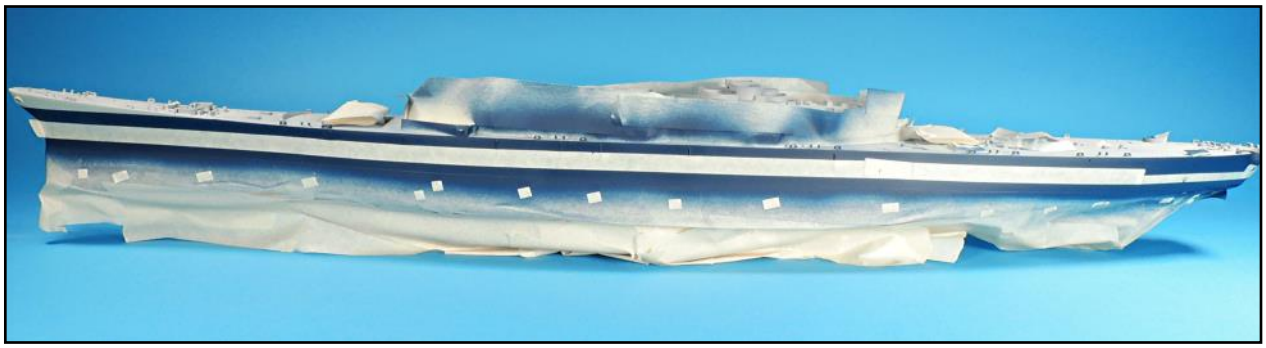


Strips of masking tape 7/32 inches high were placed against the lip of the masking tape on the hull to set the height of the black boot stripe.

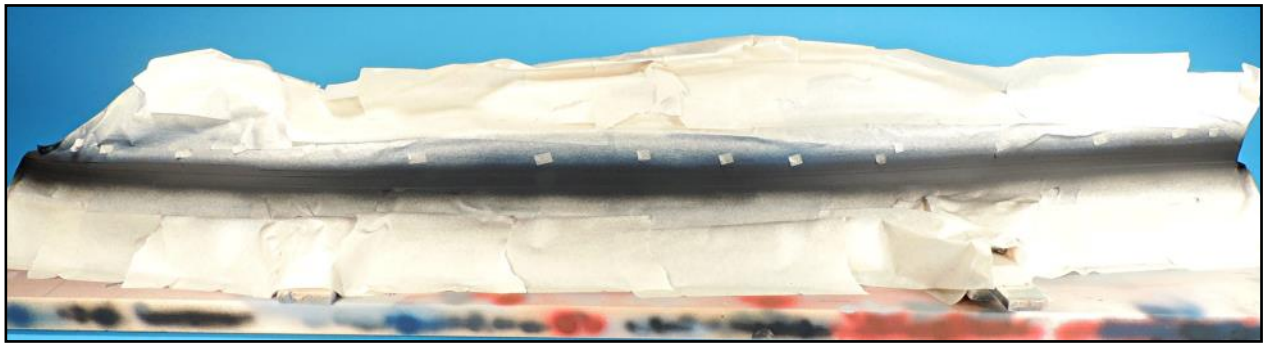
Small masking strips were positioned for the hull details to prevent overspray.



Strips of masking tape were placed on the hull and the lower edge of the tape was positioned against the small masking strips.

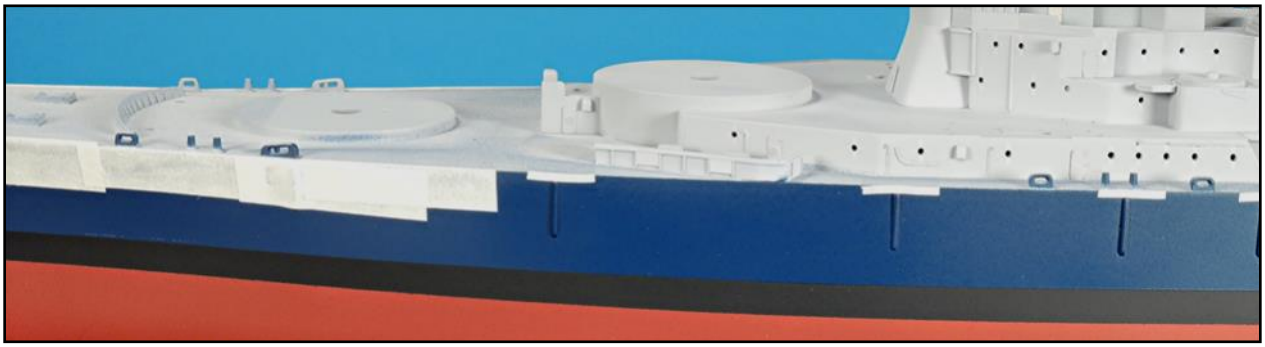


The small strips were removed and then the tape was pressed down all along the edges.

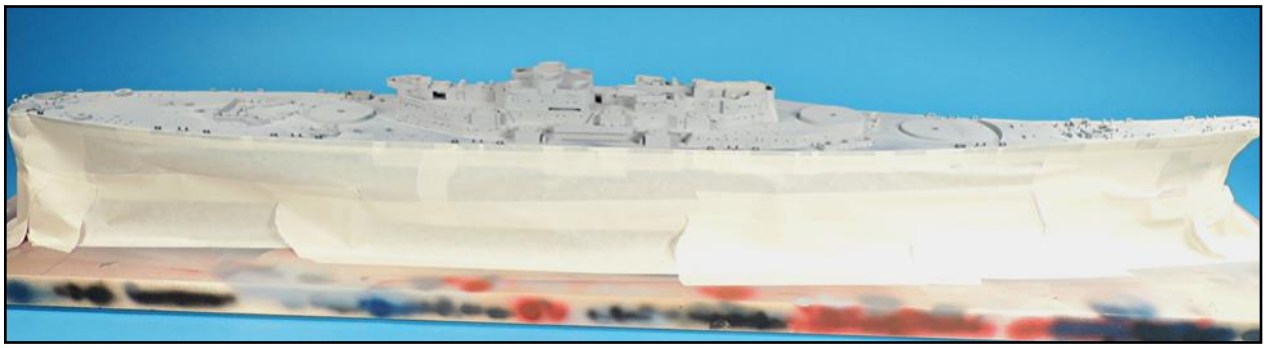


The boot stripe was airbrushed flat black.

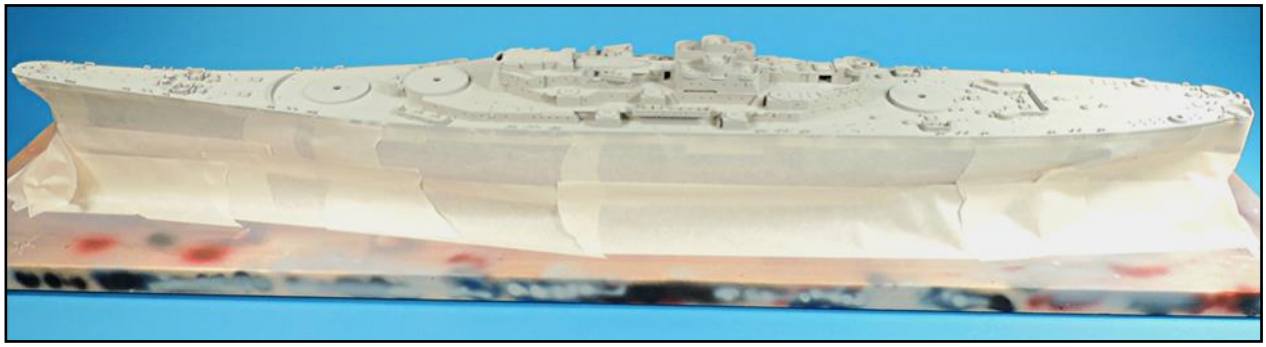
All the masking tape was removed to check the paint demarcation lines and for overspray. Note the glossy appearance of the navy blue color.



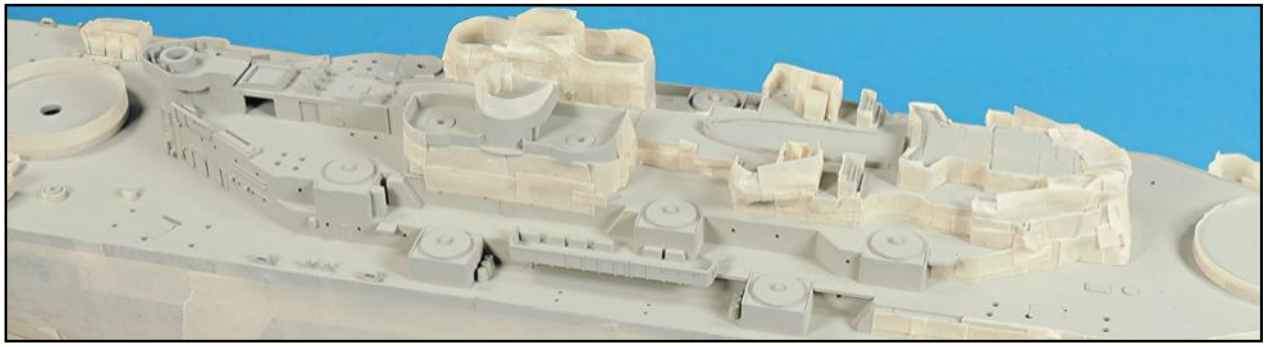
Strips of masking tape were applied to the hull up to the top edge for the next airbrushing step. Note the small strips above the hull details.



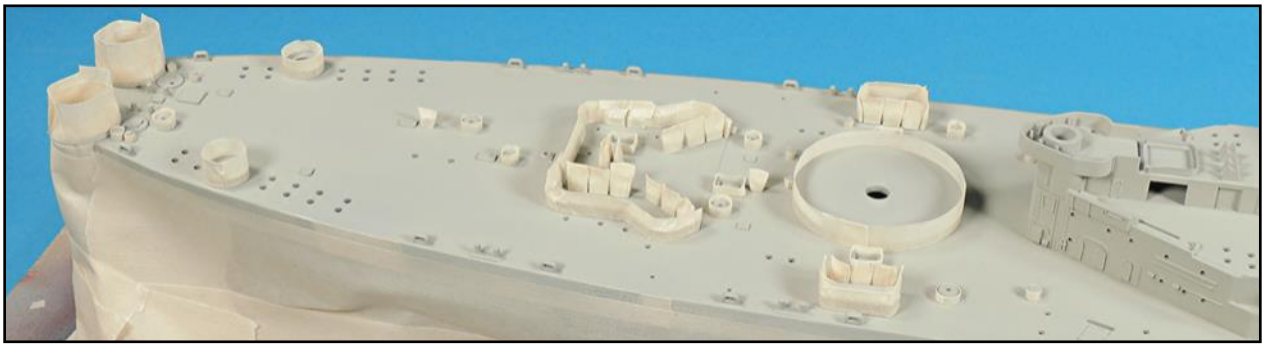
After the strips were applied along the hull edge, the entire hull was masked with lots of overlapping of the tape.



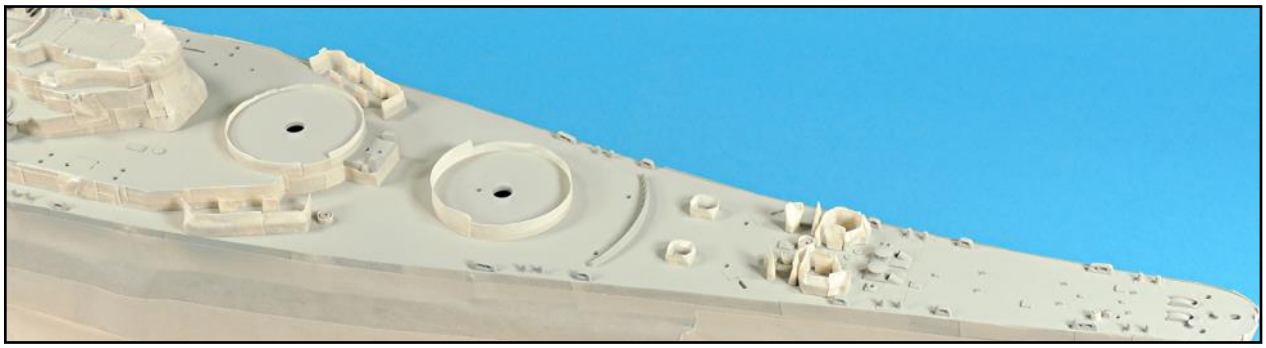
The main deck and superstructure received two coats of airbrushed flat gull gray.



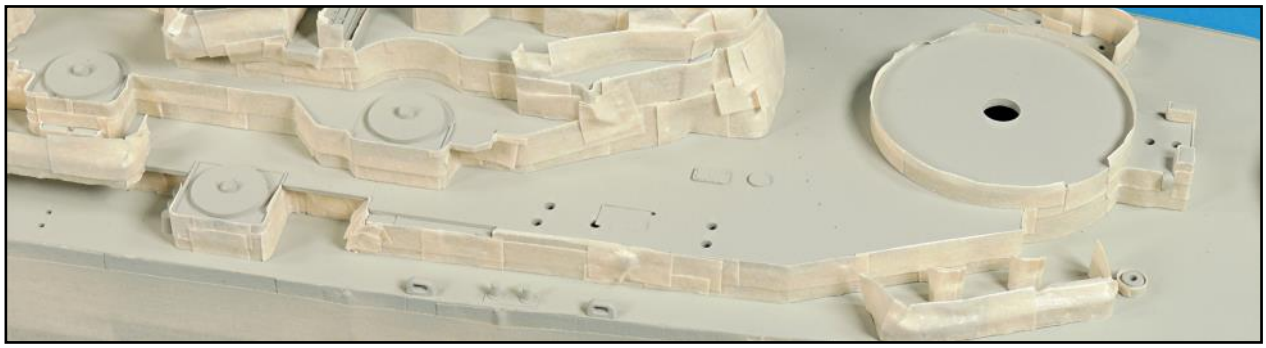
The vertical sides of the superstructure and all other vertical sides were masked with small lengths of masking tape. The masking process started on the upper areas first.



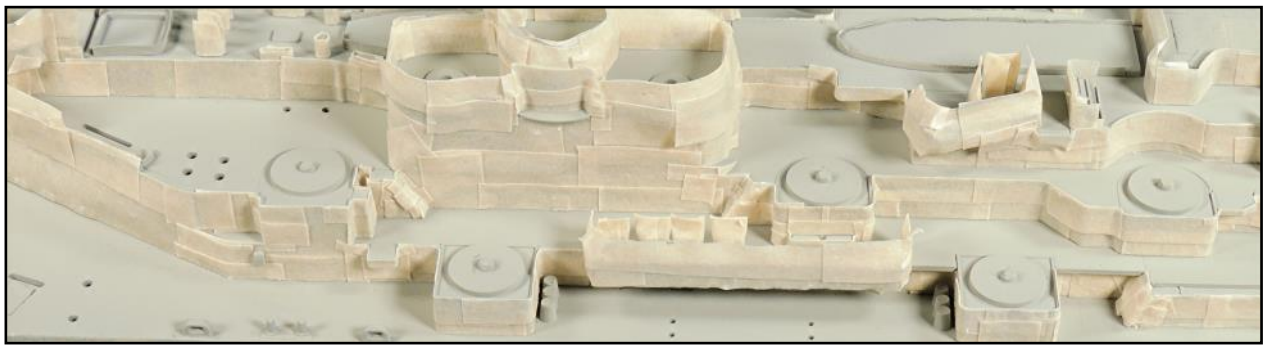
Note how the 20mm boxes and the splinter shields are masked.



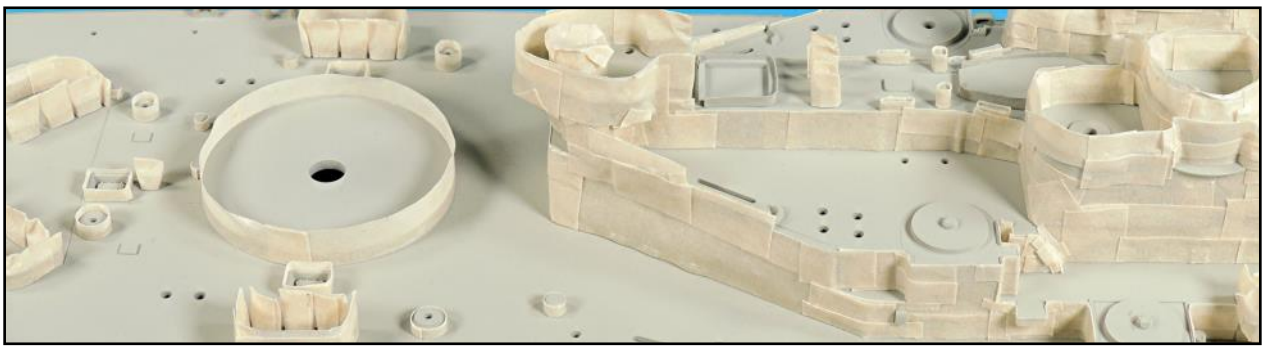
Note how the masking was accomplished on the bow area.



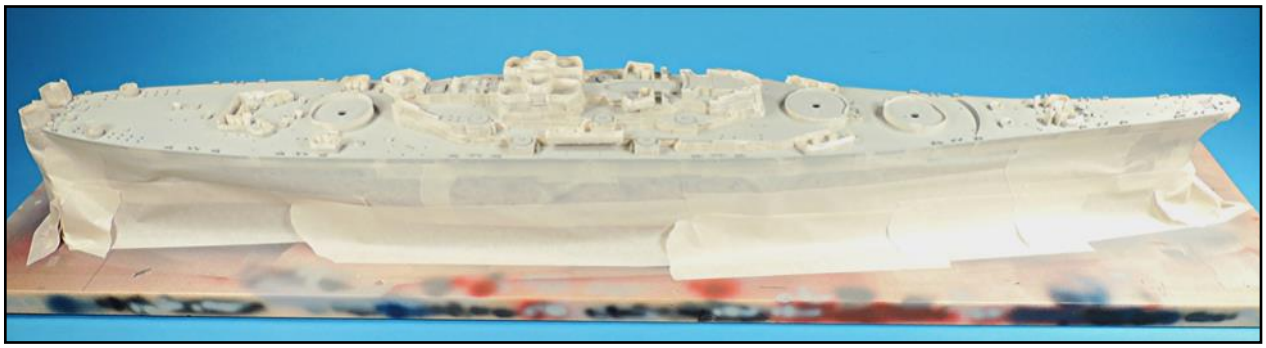
The lower superstructure sides were masked next. Note how the small sections of masking tape overlap one another.



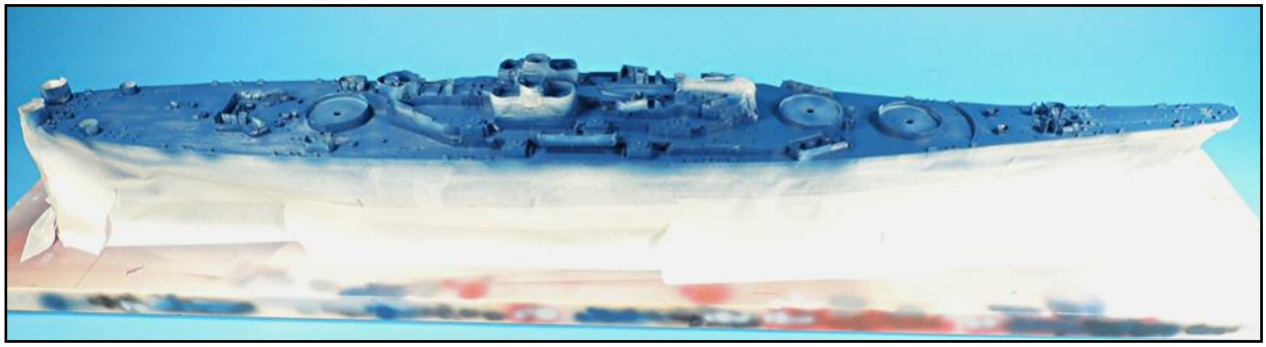
Ship models take hours of careful masking so go slow and complete the masking in different sessions.



Note how the masking on the lower areas of the superstructure sides are set against the deck edges.

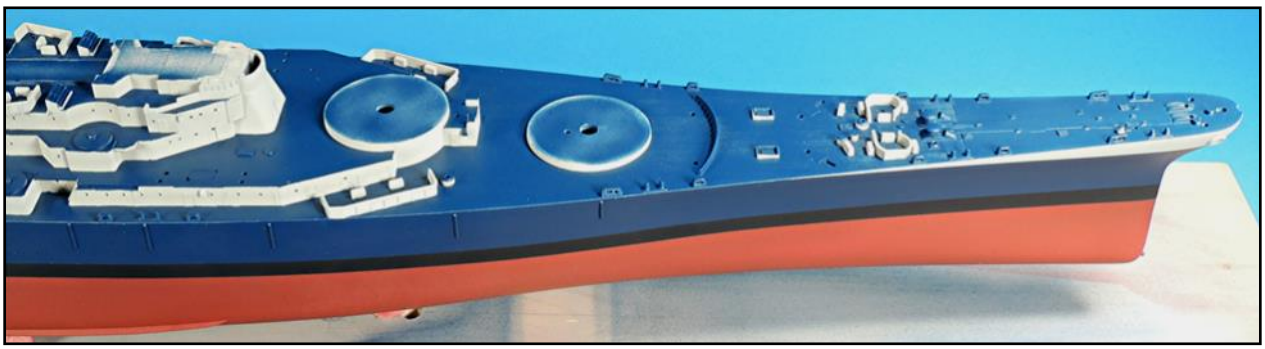


Check all the masking to be sure every section is tight against its vertical surface.

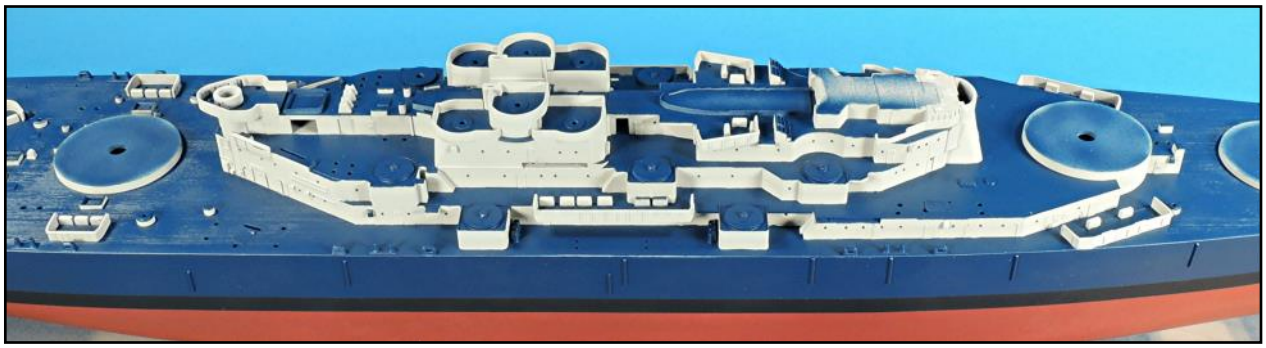


The exposed surfaces were airbrushed with Testors 1/4 oz. bottle flat sea blue color with more intermediate blue added than the navy blue color, so that the resulting deck blue color would be lighter.

With all the masking tape carefully removed, the measure 22 paint configuration is complete except that the navy blue and deck blue colors have a gloss appearance

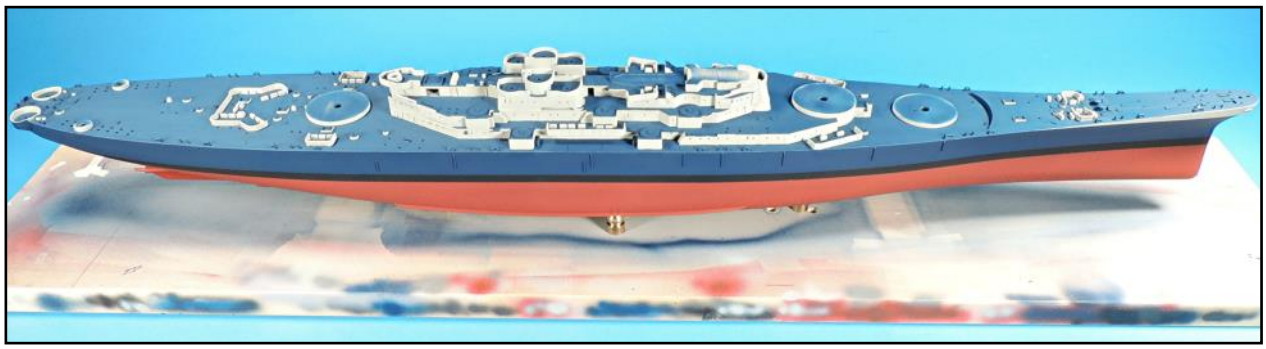


The flat gull gray bow color has a sharp demarcation line.

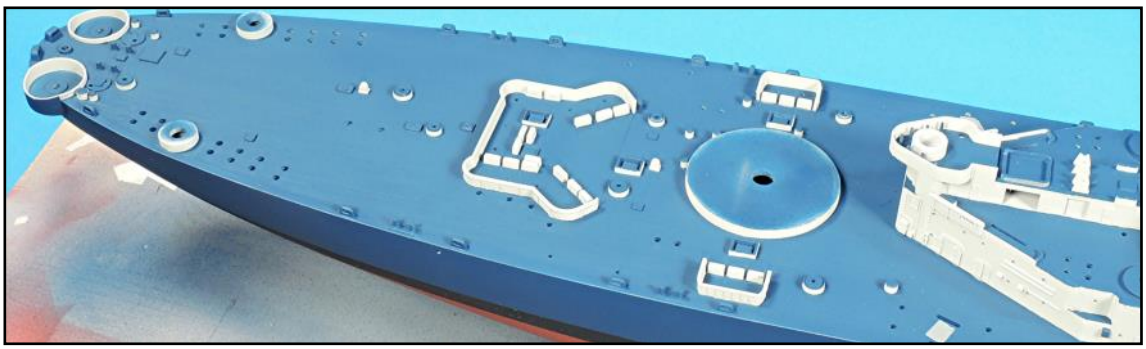


There were tiny areas where there was some paint bleeding on the superstructure sides and these were touched up with a detail brush.

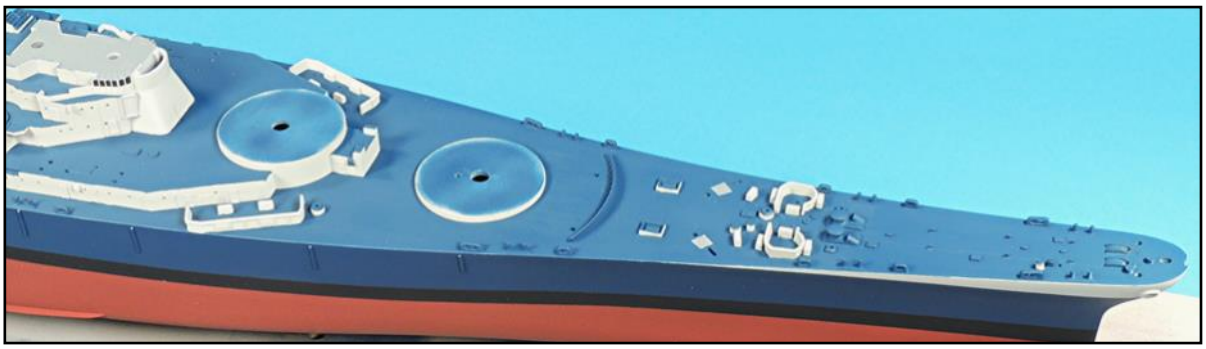
The stern area really shows just how much the intermediate blue gloss color changes the flat sea blue color.



The entire model received a coat of Testors dullcoat which lightened up the navy blue and deck blue colors.



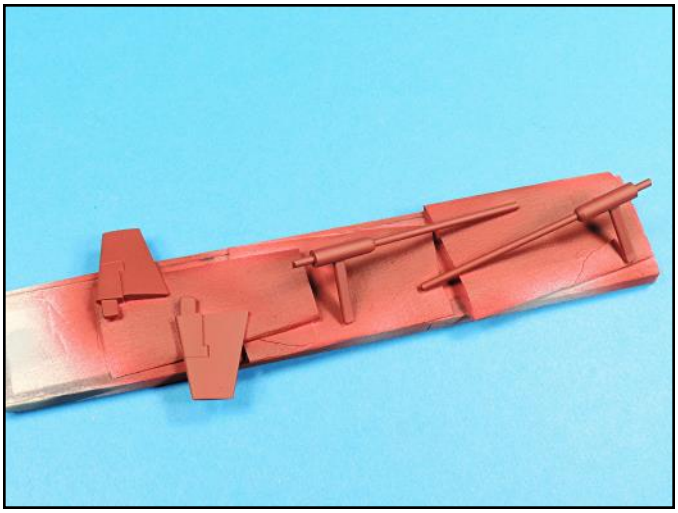
The dullcoat also made a glossy deck blue into a flat deck blue color.



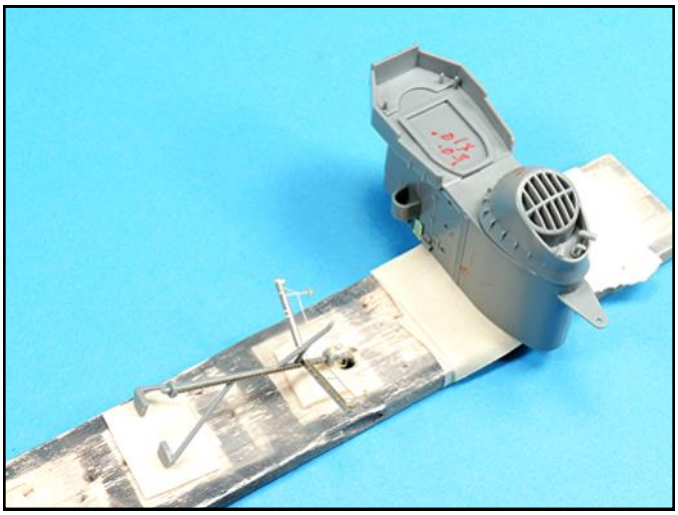
The bow area also looks much better with a flat deck blue color.

The side view shows how good masking technique results in a great measure 22 paint configuration.

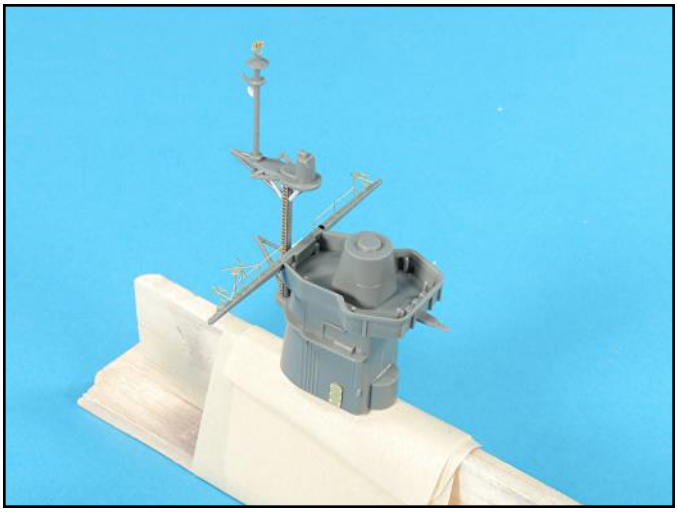
Note the difference in colors between the navy blue and deck blue colors.



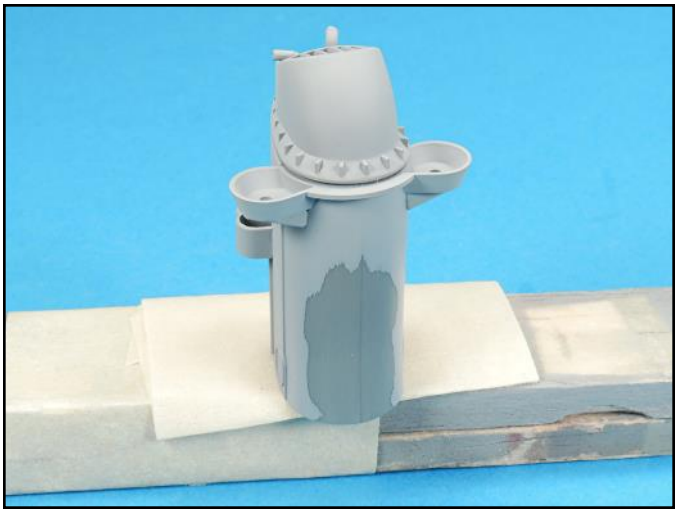
The propeller shaft assemblies and the rudders also received a coat of Testors dullcoat so they would match the hull color.



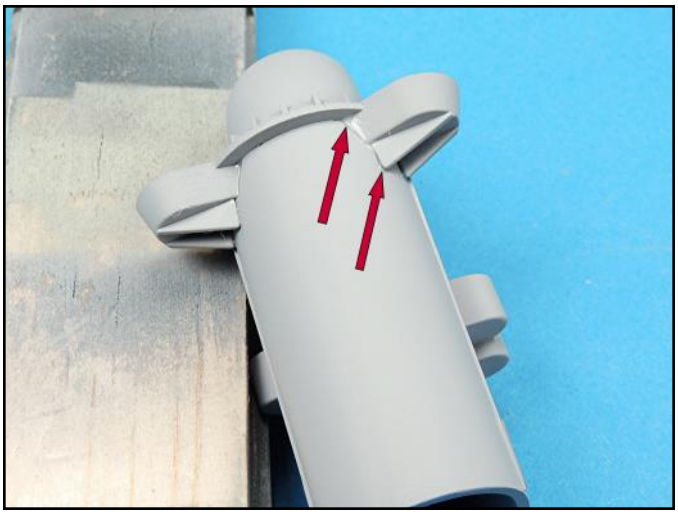
Using balsa strips and masking tape folded over itself is a great way to attach parts for airbrushing.



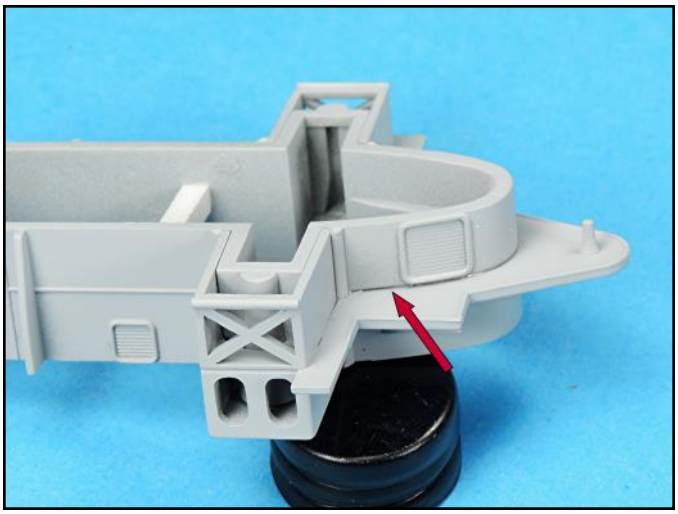
To airbrush the undersides of assemblies, elevate them on sections of balsa wood so you can paint the undersides.



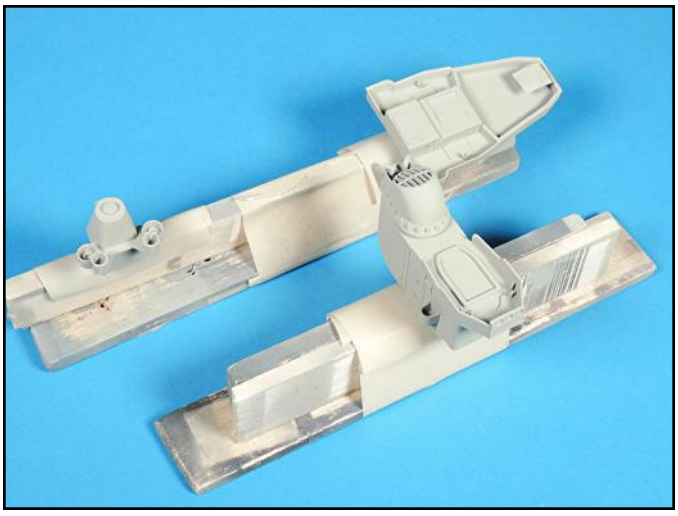
Priming allows you to check assemblies one more time for any flaws before applying paint colors.



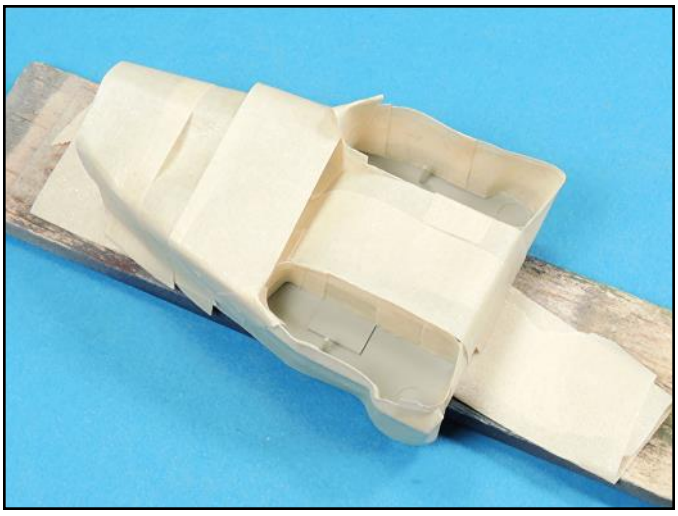
White glue was applied into these tiny voids with a .012 inch diameter stiff wire and then contoured with a damp “Q” tip. White glue sticks very well to primer and flat color surfaces.



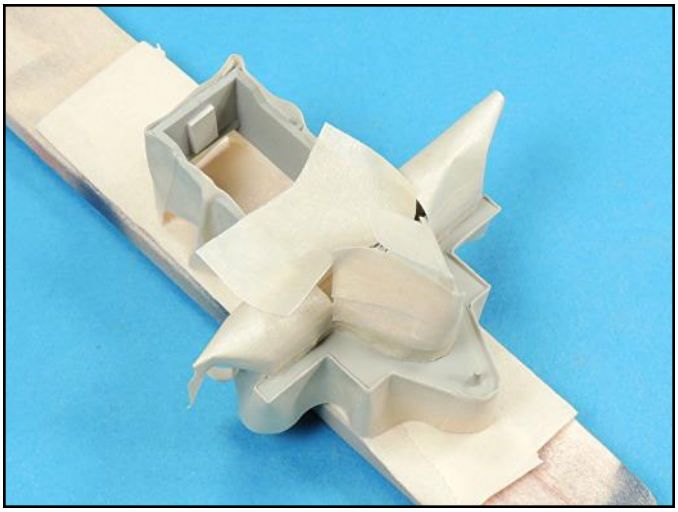
The void between the deck and the superstructure side was also carefully filled with white glue.



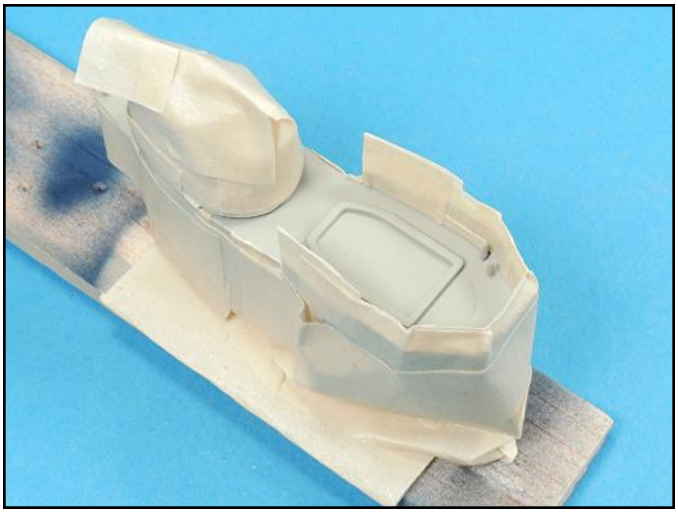
All the upper superstructure assemblies were airbrushed with flat gull gray.



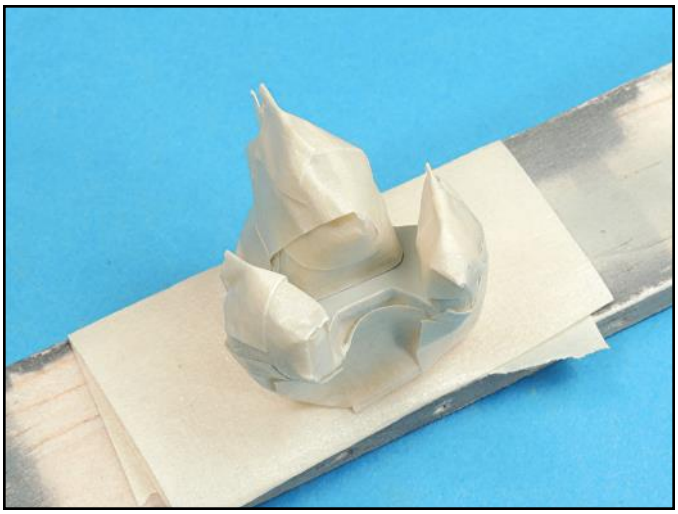
The vertical surfaces were then masked for airbrushing the deck blue color.



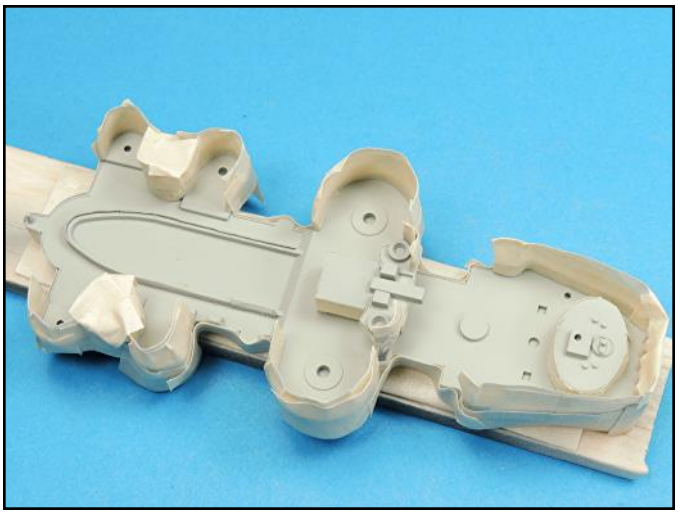
Each assembly required a slightly different approach for masking. Note that all the vertical surfaces were covered so that there would be no chance of overspray.



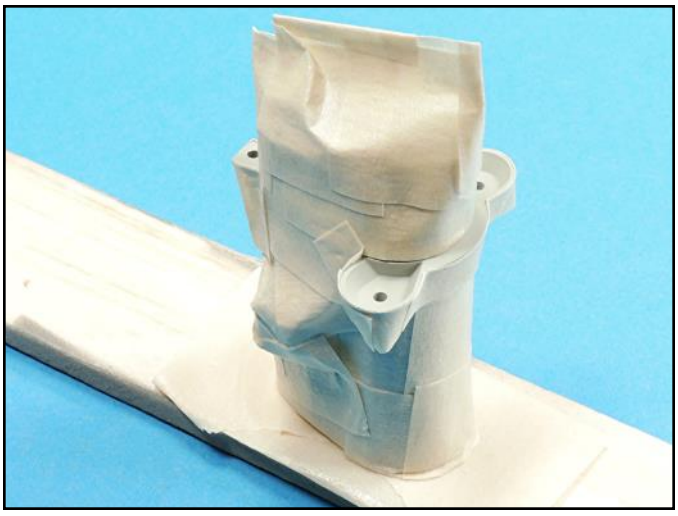
The paint on the small raised surface sides for the positioning of the upper superstructure were scraped off so that the glue would have a strong bond.



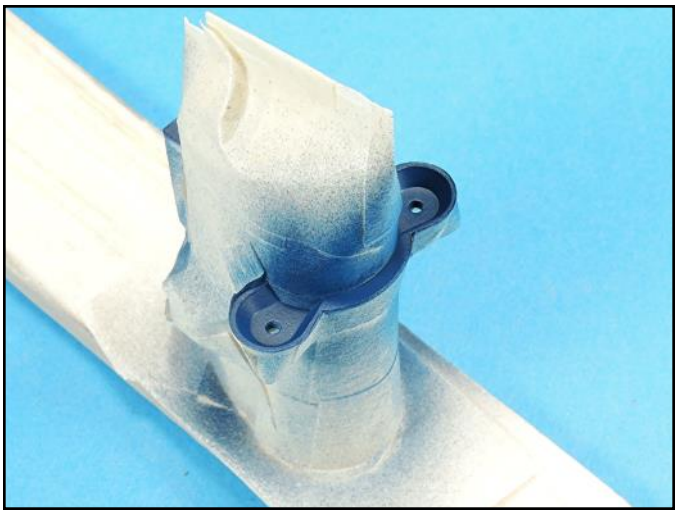
Airbrushing at a low pressure of 15psi will get into the tight deck areas on this part.



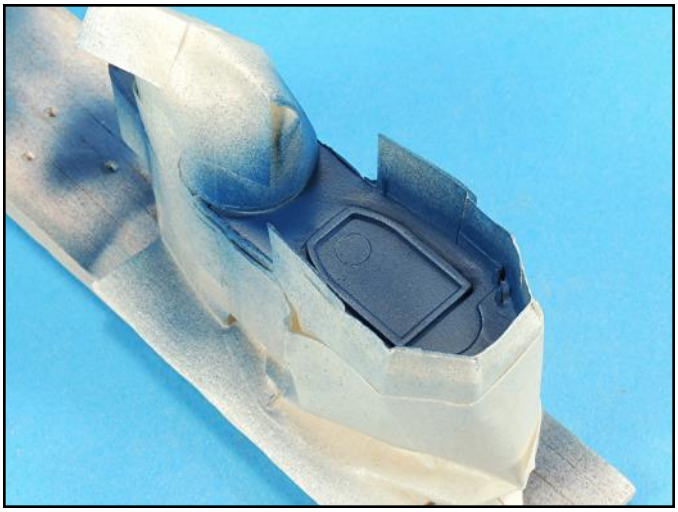
Note all the small lengths of masking tape used to cover the vertical surfaces. The tape around the splinter shields was also sealed at the top to prevent overspray.



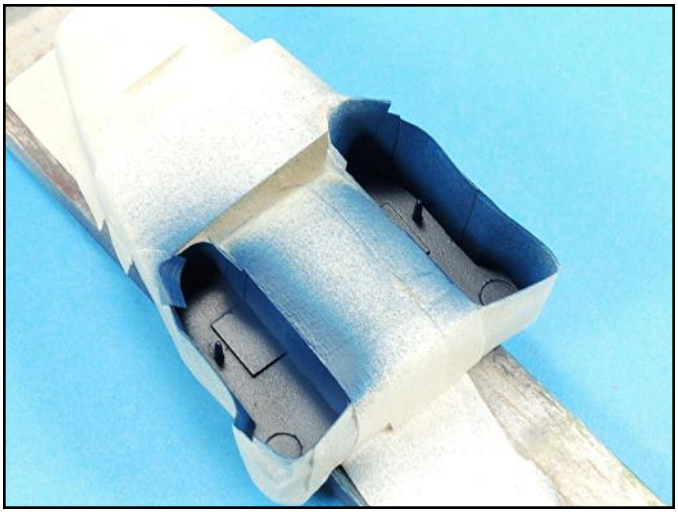
The aft smoke stack vertical surfaces are completely covered and there is lots of overlap between the sections of masking tape.



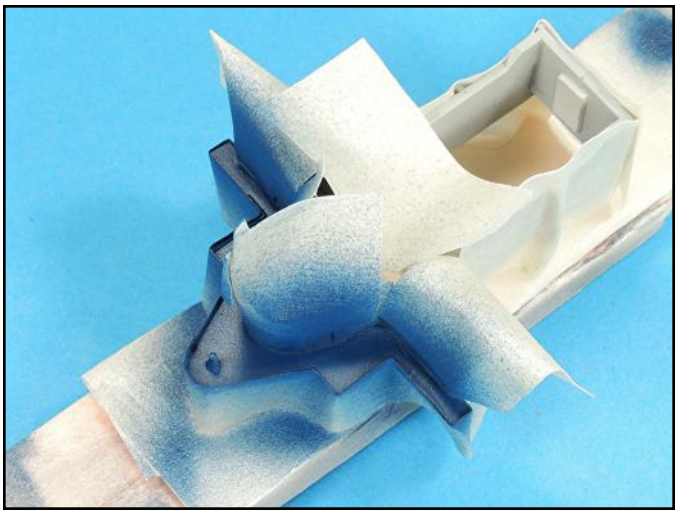
There is a lot of overspray and this is why it is important to seal all surfaces that will not get airbrushed with lots of masking tape.



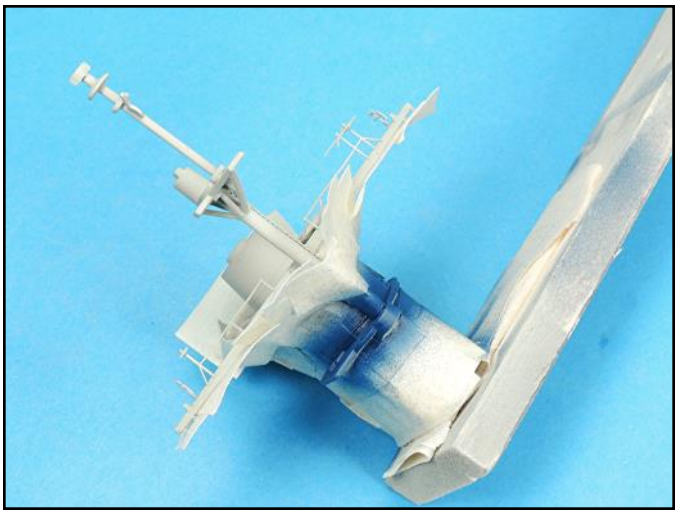
When airbrushing small surfaces in tight areas always use low air pressure (15psi) so the air will not push paint under the tape locations between the edges of the deck and the vertical sides.



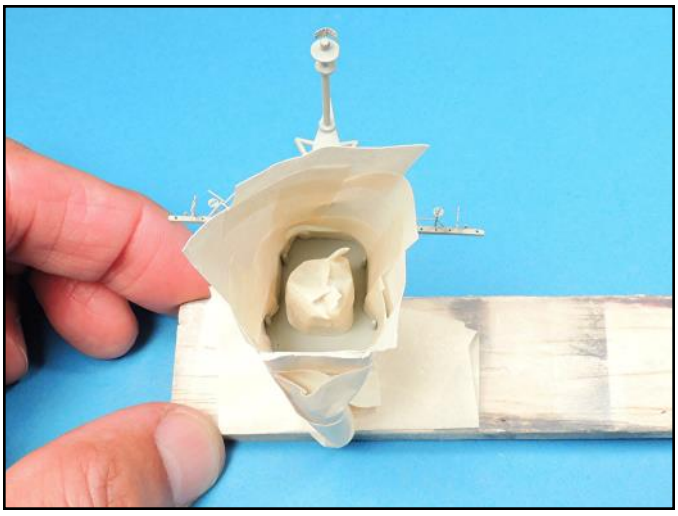
The deep mold punch outs on the deck will not be seen because the upper deck will cover this area.



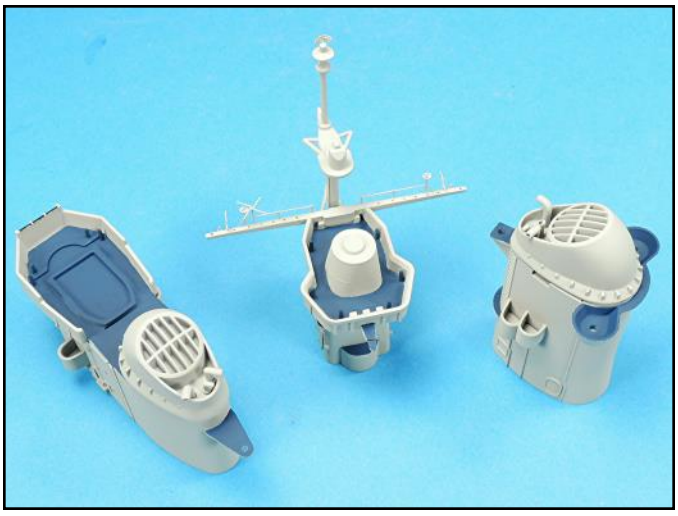
The masking tape sitting against the outer edges of the deck was slightly pushed away even when using low air pressure, because of the angle of the airbrush during spraying. The edges were touched up with a detail brush.



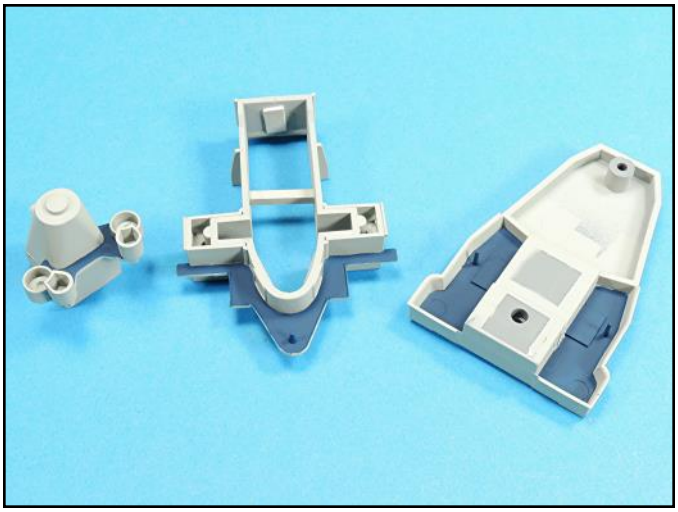
The forward upper superstructure deck painting had to be done in two stages. The mid level deck was airbrushed first.



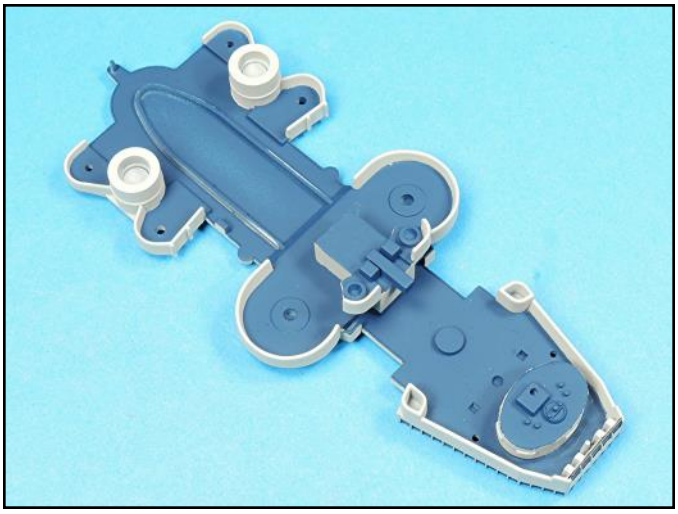
Additional masking tape was then applied to all exposed surfaces below the top deck. The splinter shields around the upper deck were then carefully masked and then the deck was airbrushed.



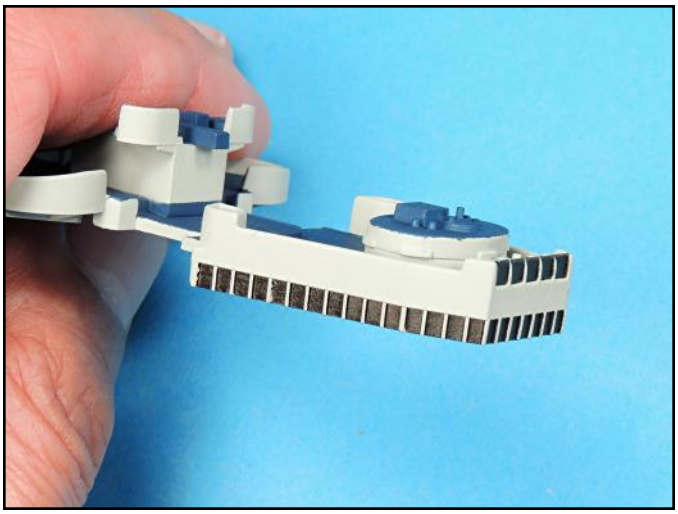
All the superstructure assemblies received a coat of Testors dullcoat and now the decks have a much better deck blue color.



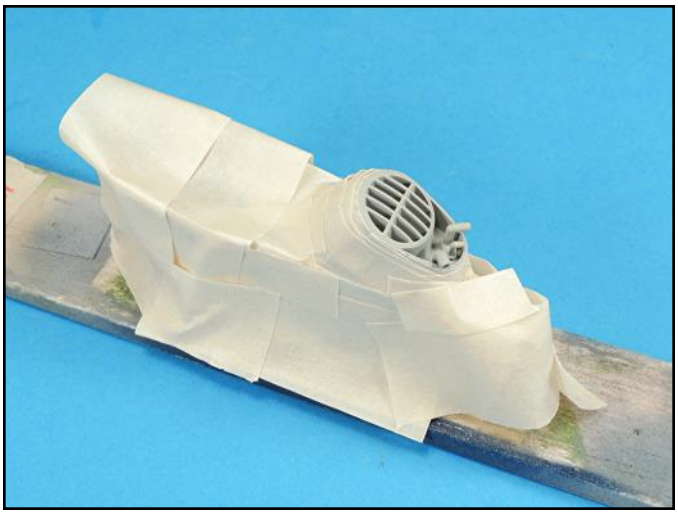
Thanks to careful masking and using low air pressure, these parts look great and they are ready for their railings.



All the superstructure parts have sharp demarcation lines between the flat gull gray color and the deck blue color.

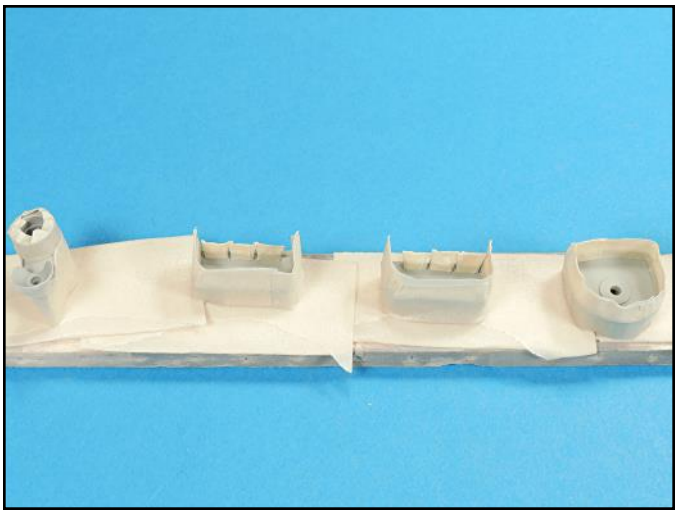


The windows were painted using a 0.1mm drafting inking pen. The edges were inked first and then the center areas were covered. A coat of Testors dullcoat flattened the glossy appearance of the black color.

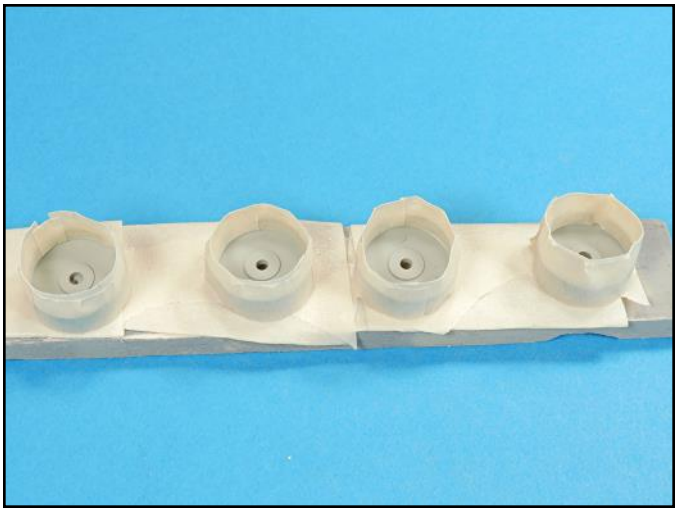


The forward and aft smoke stack tops were carefully masked and then airbrushed with flat black.

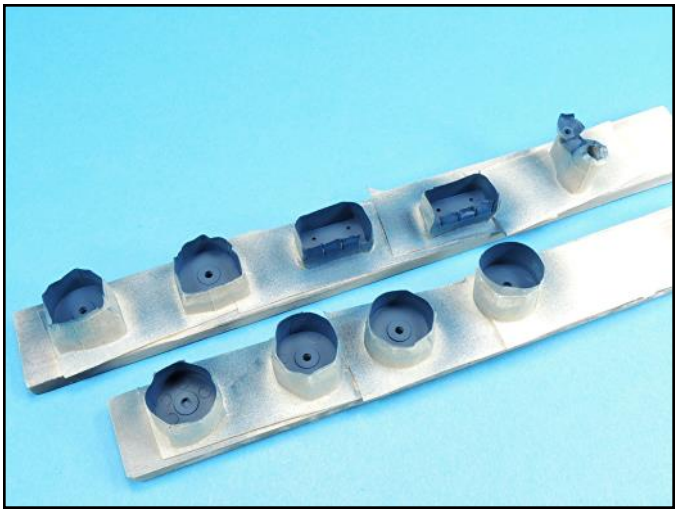
The flat black color did not need a coat of dullcoat.



Note how the 20mm ammo boxes were masked. The masking tape seals at the top, which will make them easy to remove.

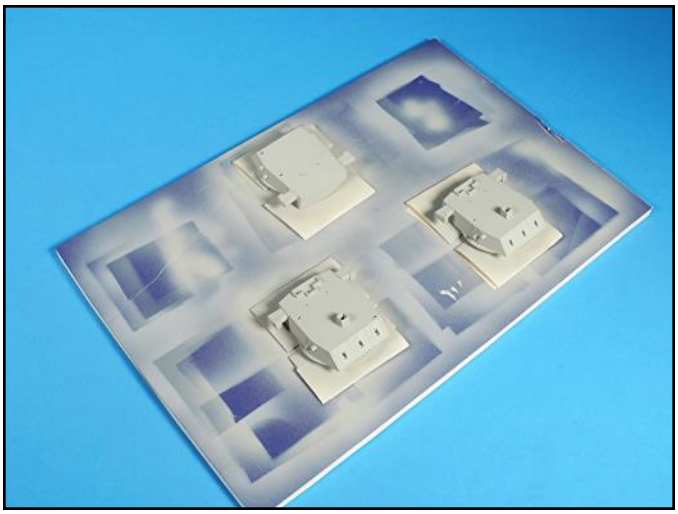


The inside areas of the splinter shields were masked first, then masking tape was applied to the outside areas.

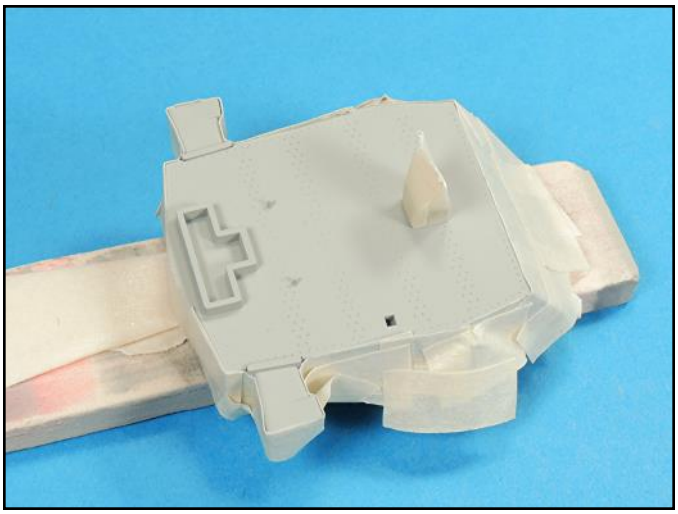


These parts were airbrushed with an air pressure of 15psi.

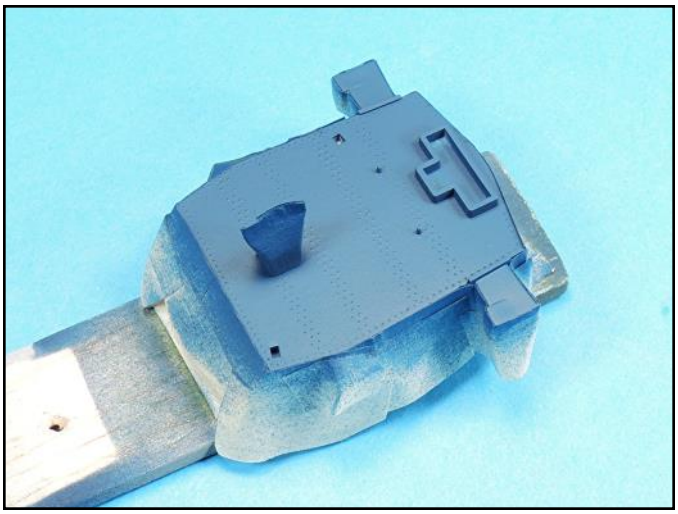
Note the sharp demarcation lines between the colors.



The 16 inch turrets were airbrushed with flat gull gray first. The parts were flipped so that the undersides also got a good coat of paint.

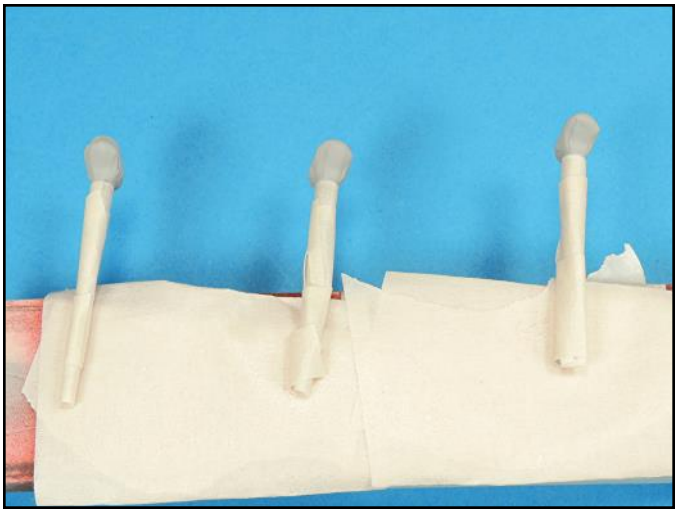


Each turret was carefully masked for the application of the deck blue color.

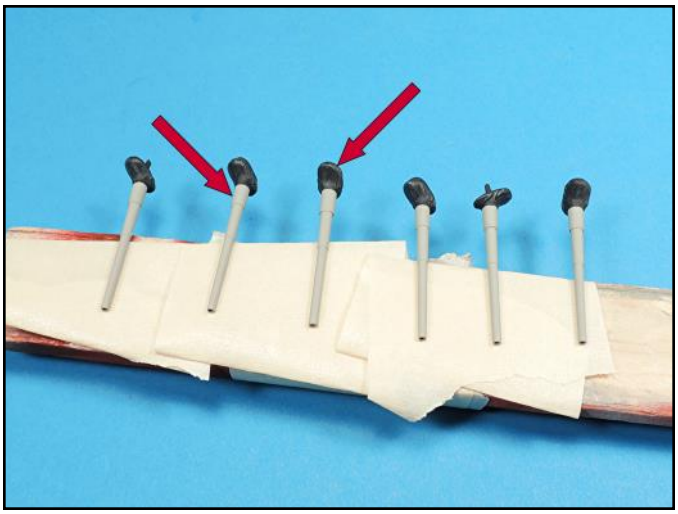


The turret tops now have a nice deck blue color with a coat of Testors dullcoat.

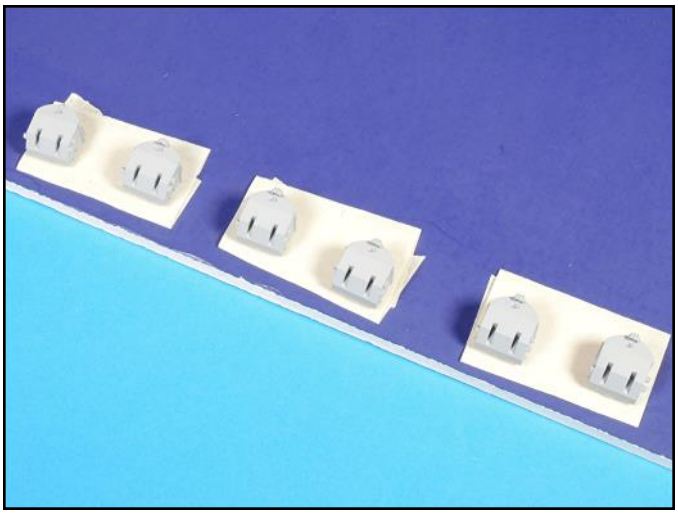
The 40mm bofor platforms that sit on the tops of turrets 2 and 3 will be glued into place with tiny drops of white glue, which sticks very well to flat paint.



Small strips of masking tape were wrapped around the ends of the barrels where they meet the blast bags and then the bags were airbrushed with flat black with a little flat white added to lighten up the black color.

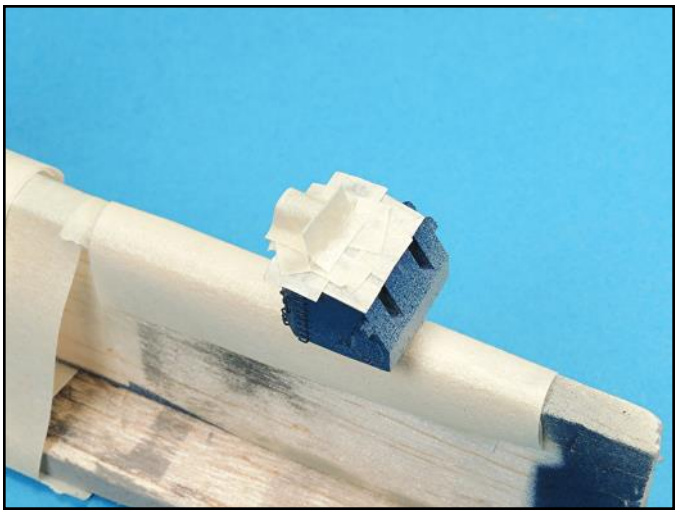


The blast bags were lightly drybrushed with flat white and then the first barrel extension was painted chrome with a small flat brush.

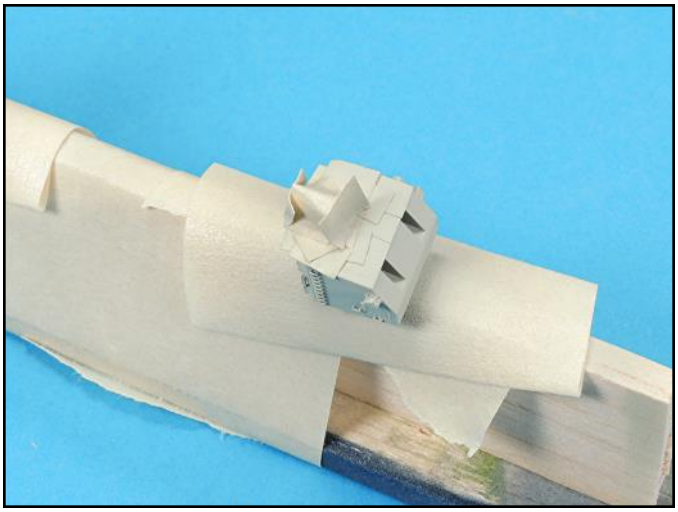


The 5”/38 turrets were primed and they are now ready for the deck blue color.

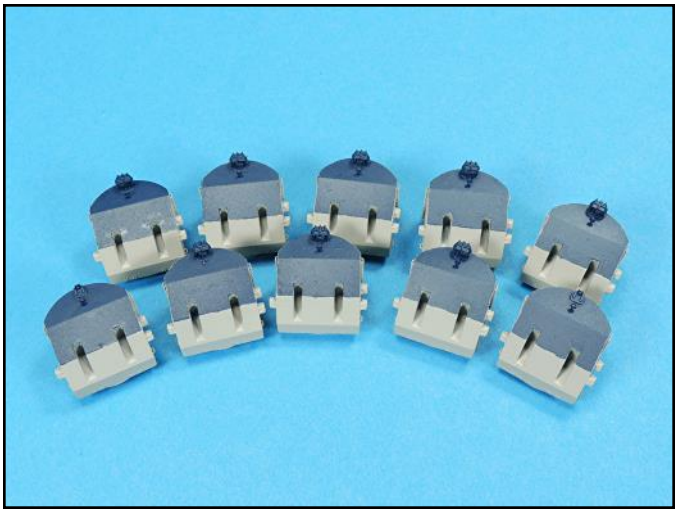
The tops and the upper angle on the turrets were airbrushed with two coats of deck blue. Be sure to get the inside areas of the covers on the tops of the turrets.



The area around the cover and the delicate aiming ring were masked first, then the remaining areas.

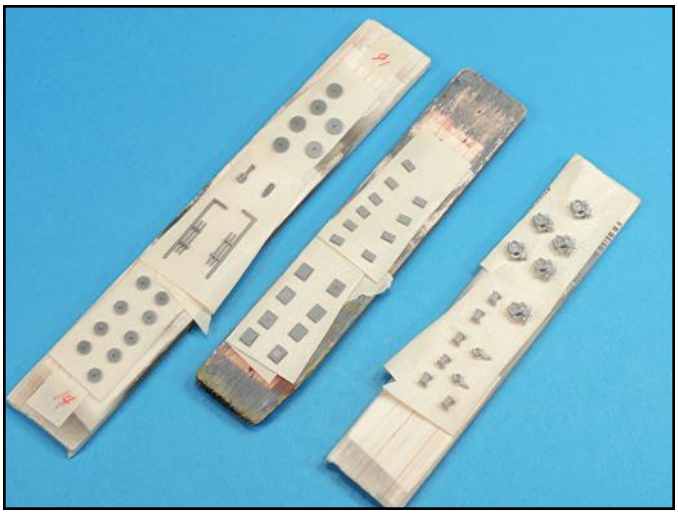


Each turret was elevated so that the underside of the ladder detail was also painted. They were then airbrushed flat gull gray.

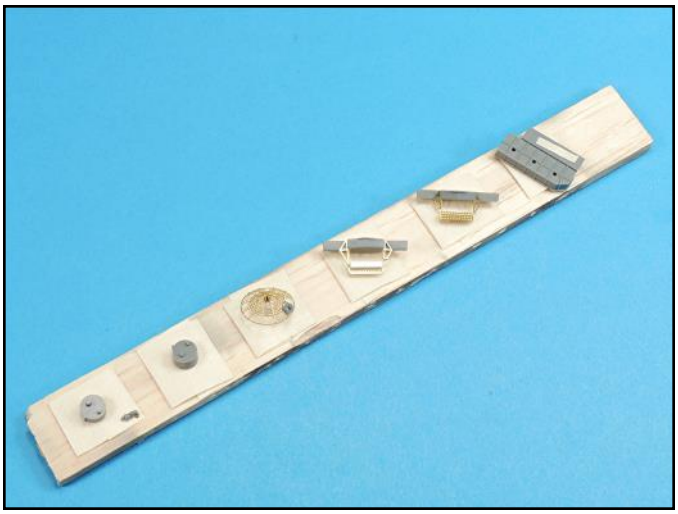


The turrets are done and a little touchup will be needed in a few areas.

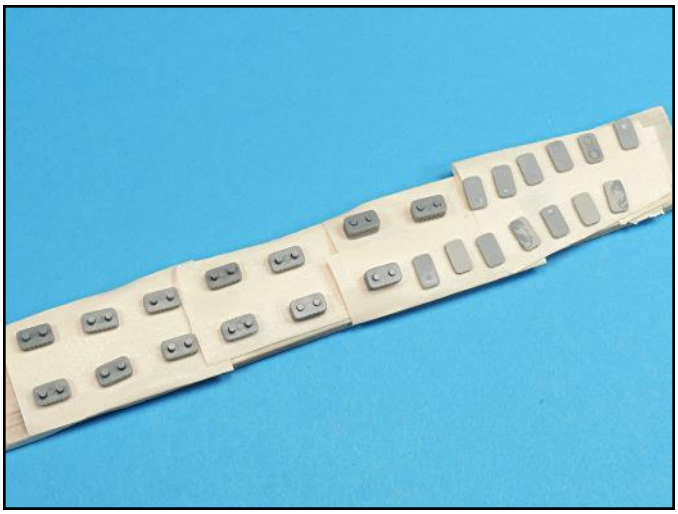
A coat of Testors dullcoat was applied and now the turrets and ready for their guns.



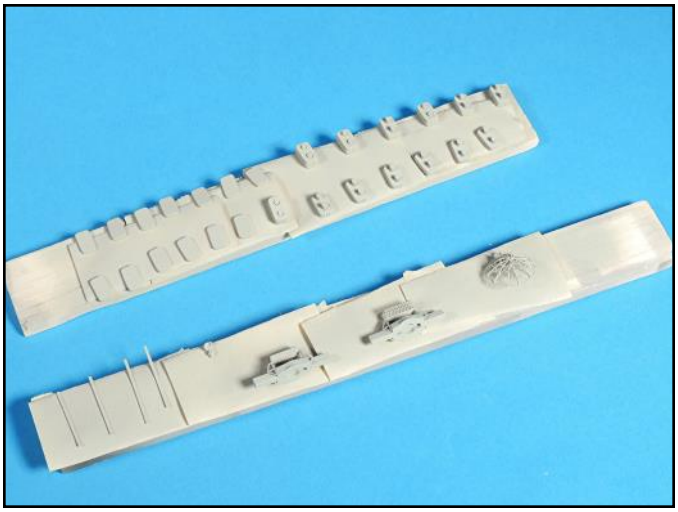
The best way to airbrush small parts is to attach them to balsa wood strips with masking tape that is folded over itself. Also be sure to add part numbers where needed.



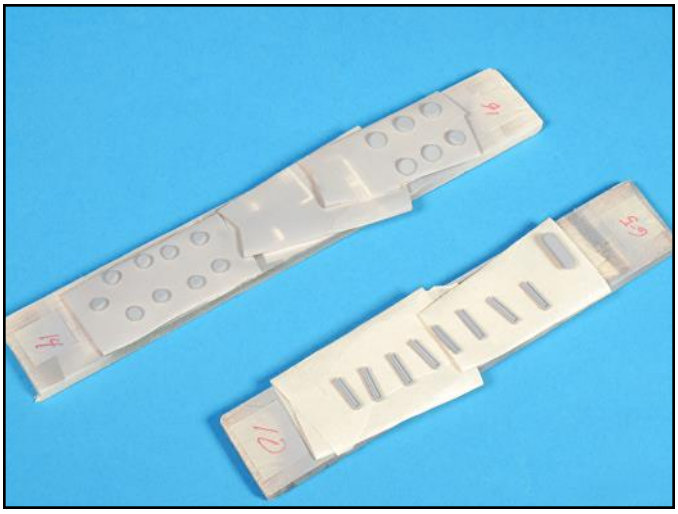
After the parts have dried remove them, apply new masking tape and then flip the parts to airbrush the remaining areas.



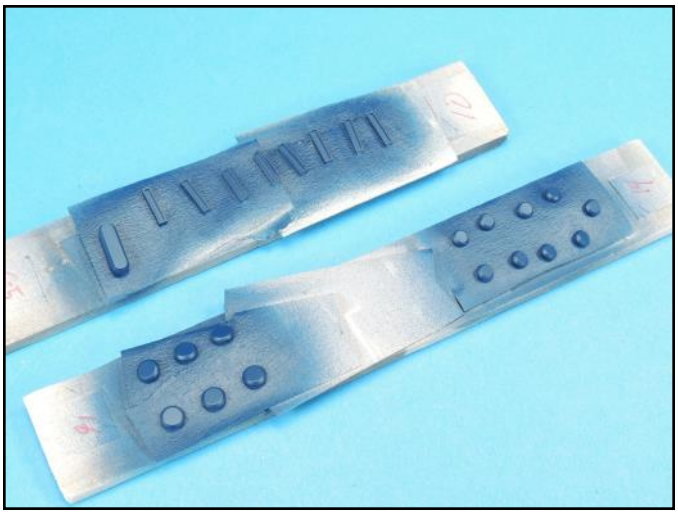
Positioning parts that are the same shape in one direction makes airbrushing easier as it minimizes the rotations of the balsa wood strips while airbrushing.



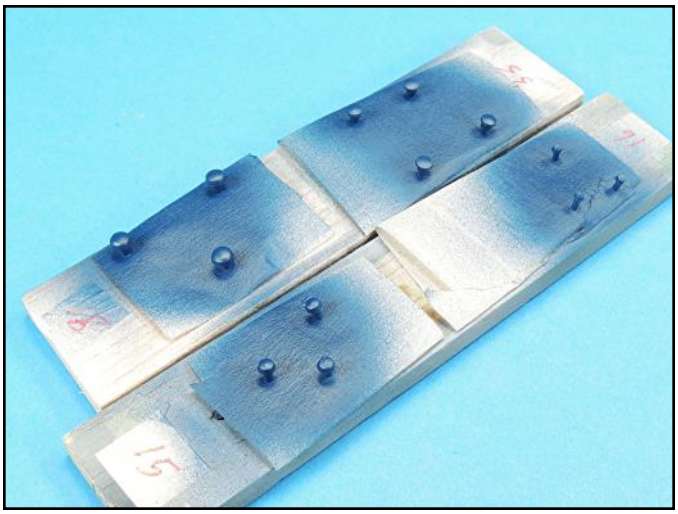
These parts have been flipped and airbrushed and they are ready to be attached.



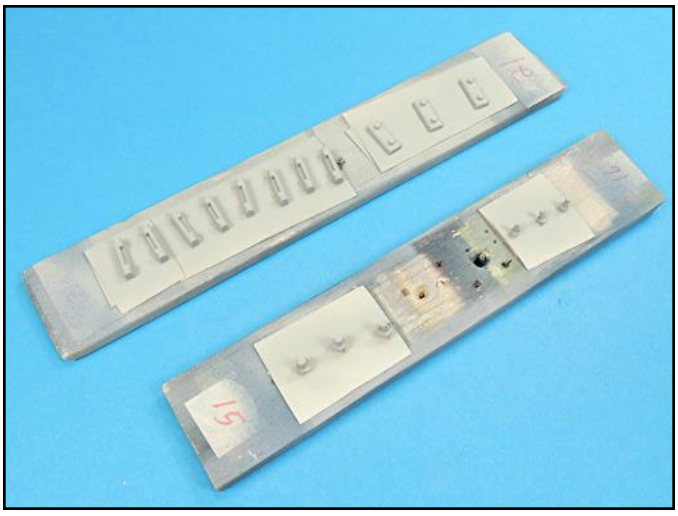
These parts will have deck blue tops and flat gull gray sides.



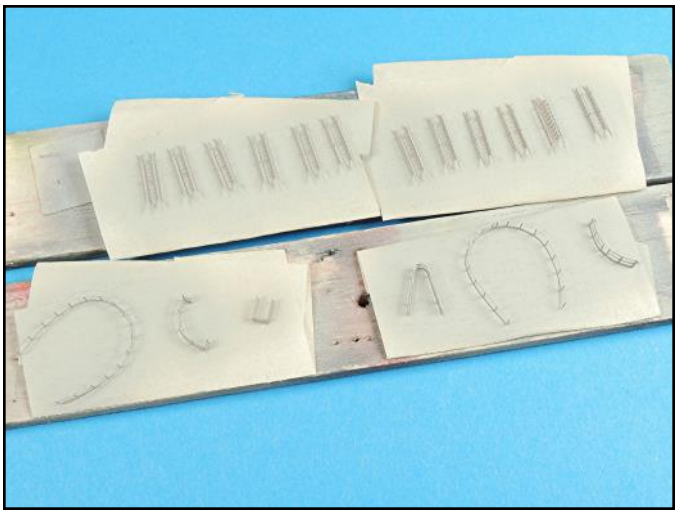
The deck blue color is airbrushed onto the surfaces first.



Although the stems on these vents have a small diameter, they stick well to the masking tape.

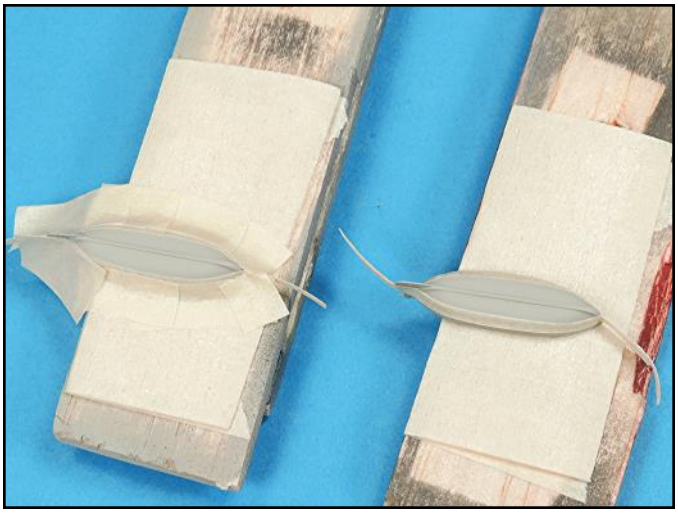


The parts with the deck blue tops were flipped and carefully placed onto new masking tape. Airbrushing was done at 15psi to minimize any potential for paint bleeding under the masking tape.



Photoetch parts and railings can be airbrushed the same way as plastic parts. Use the tip of a number 11 X-Acto blade to remove the railings where they attach to the masking tape and carefully peel them off so the railings will not be bent.

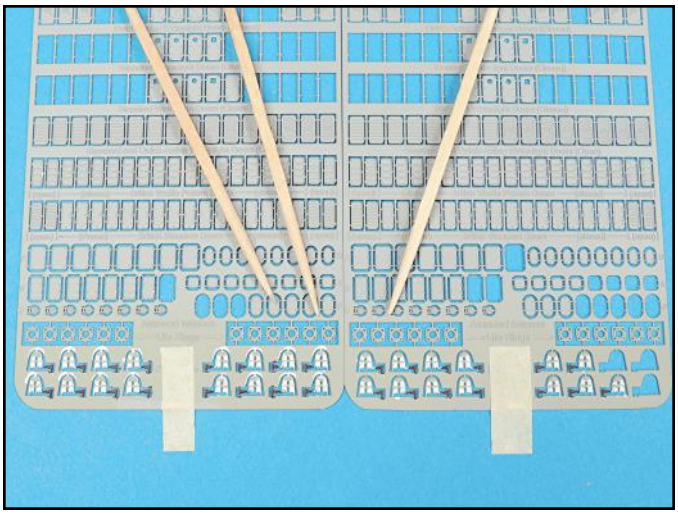
Long, straight railing lengths can be airbrushed by slightly curving them while attaching them to masking tape. This prevents them from falling over while being airbrushed.



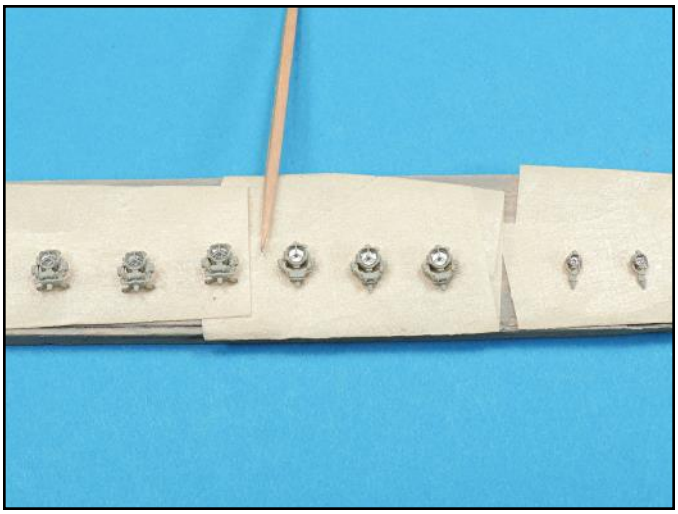
The whale boat bottoms were masked with thin strips of tape and then larger strips were added.

The whale boat propellers were painted brass and the tiller handles were painted leather. The cables on the crane were painted flat black and the hooks were painted brass.

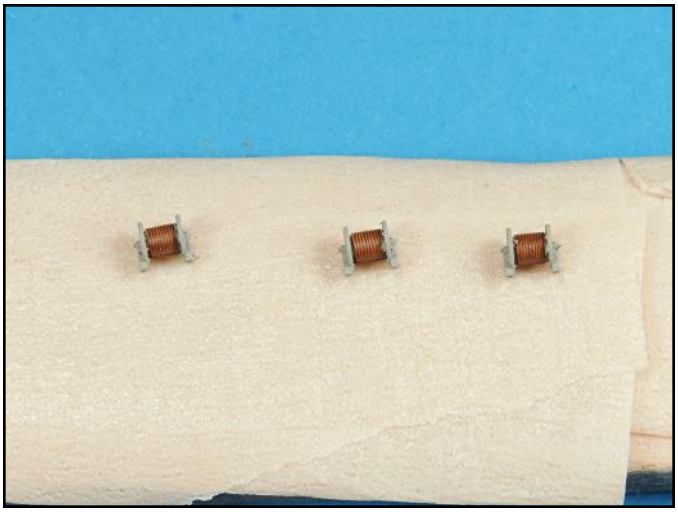
The propellers were airbrushed brass and then given a coat of Testors dullcoat.



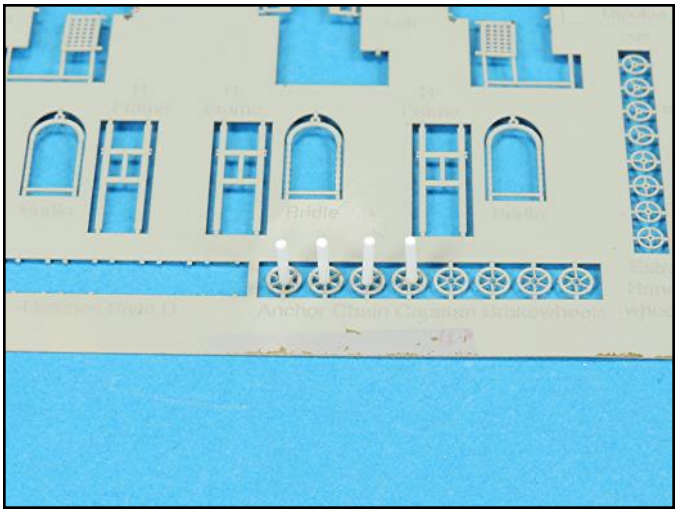
These Gold Medal Models fire hose and hydrants were detail painted with the tips of round toothpicks.



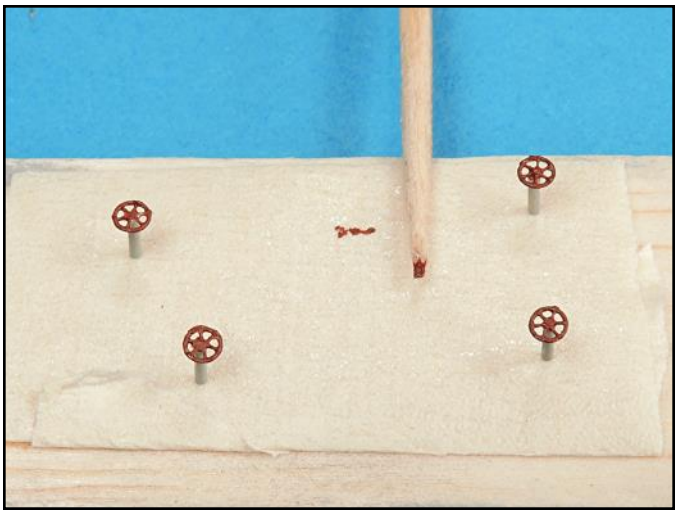
The insides of the Black Cat Models searchlights were painted silver with the tip of a round toothpick



The rope detail on the reels where painted with a leather color using a detail brush.



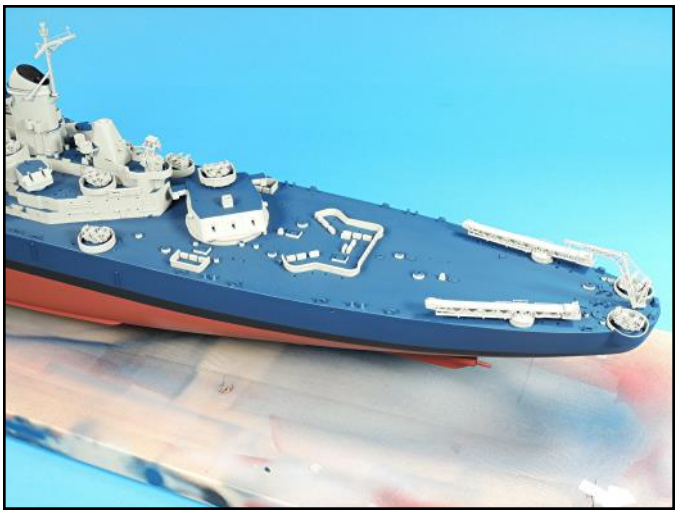
The anchor chain break wheels have .025 inch diameter rod that is 3/16 inches long super glued to their centers. The rod was then painted flat gull gray with a detail brush.



The chain brake wheel assemblies were removed from the photoetch sheet and the wheels were painted flat red with a round toothpick.

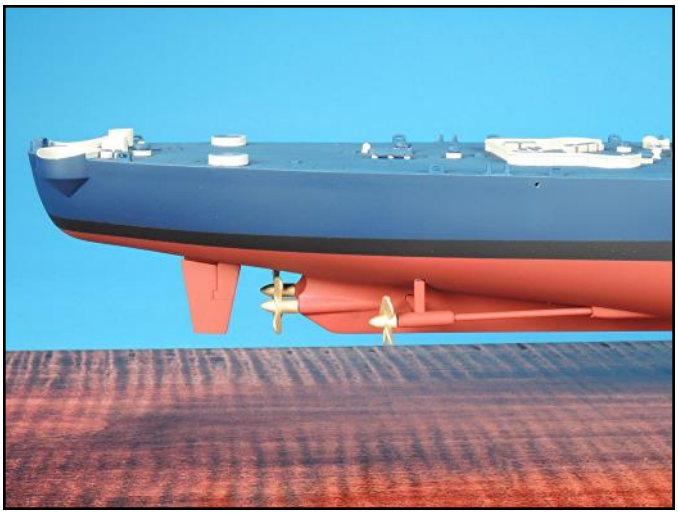
Now that all the parts are painted, a final fit check will ensure that everything is painted the correct color. Some positioning stubs needed to have their paint scraped off to get them to fit into their corresponding holes.

The forward superstructure looks good.

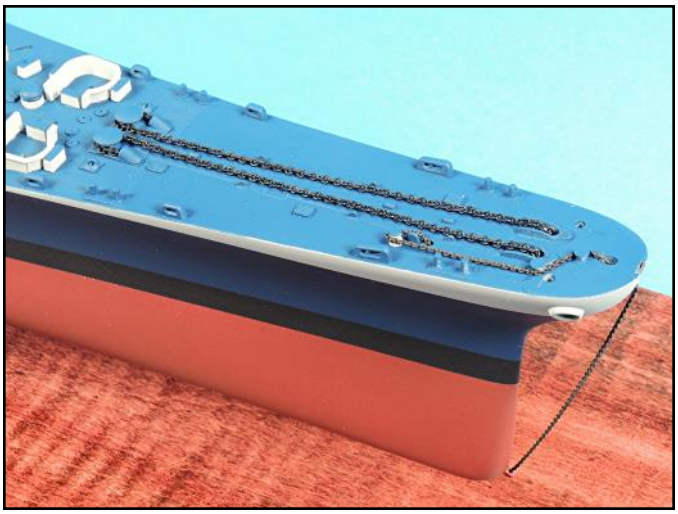


The aft area looks good too.

The overall appearance of the model and the colors have passed the visual test and now its time to start the assembly and rigging process.

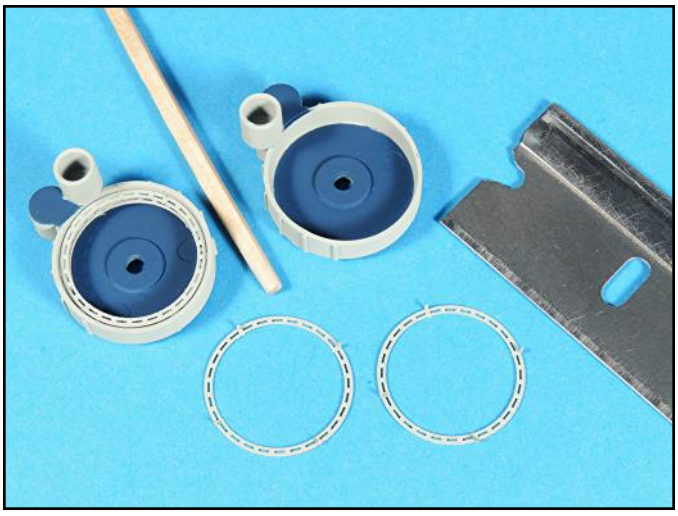


The propeller assemblies were glued into place first and then the propellers were added. The rudders were then attached and the model was mounted on its display base.

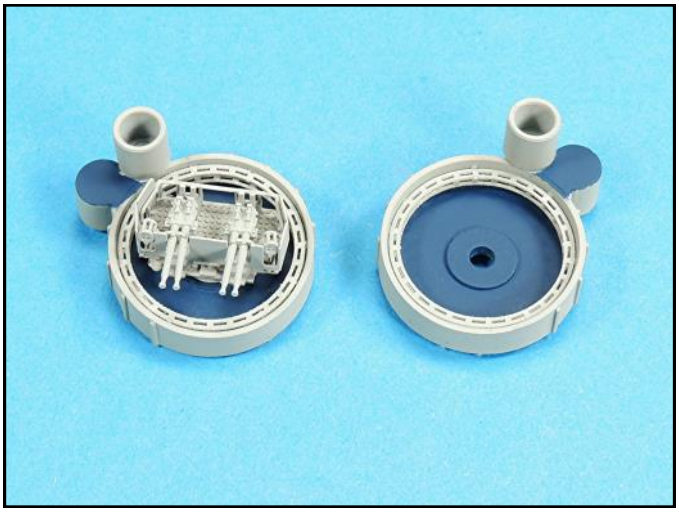


The mine sweep chain was positioned first and then glued into place with white glue. The anchor chains were airbrushed flat black and then carefully positioned and attached with tiny drops of white glue.

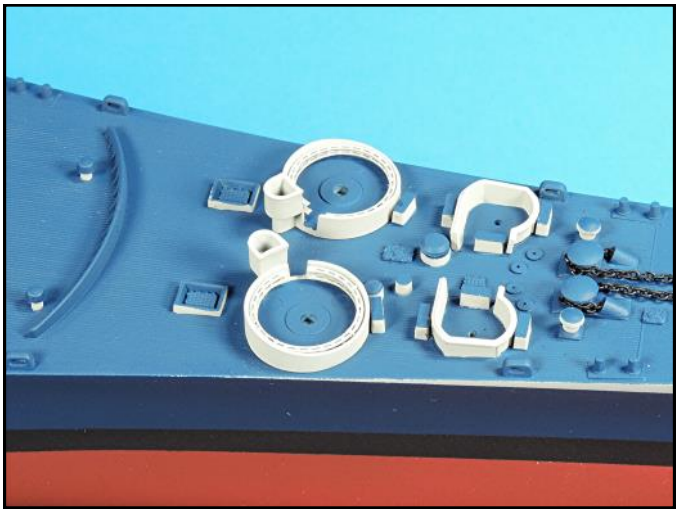
The bow 20mm platform was attached and the tiny seam along the attachment point to the hull was filled with white glue, contoured with a damp Q-Tip and then painted with flat gull gray with a detail brush.



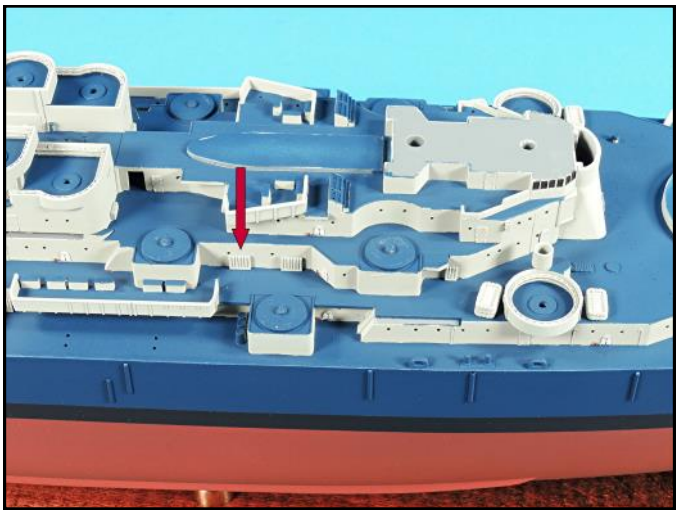
The Gold Medal Models 40mm bofor ammo rack tabs were bent into shape, positioned and attached with tiny drops of white glue.



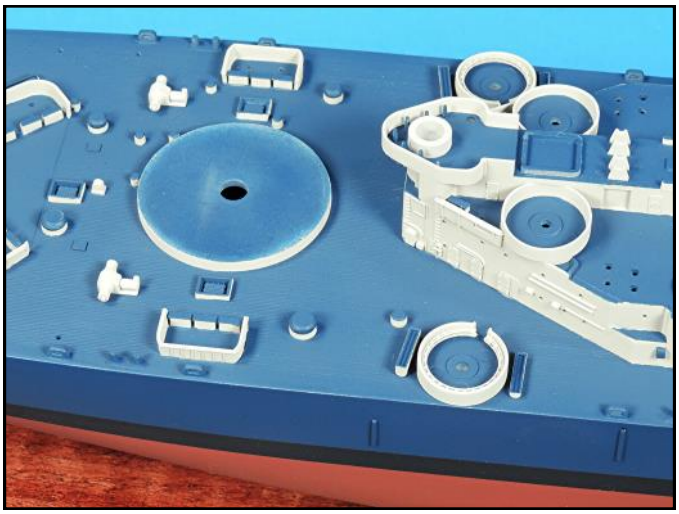
The Black Cat Models 40mm quad Bofor assemblies fit perfectly inside the gun tubs and the ammo racks do not interfere with the guns.



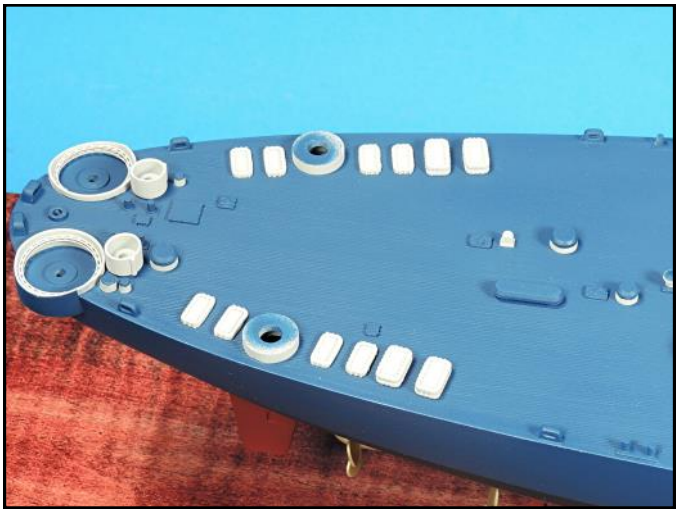
The Gold Medal Models 20mm gun box tops were attached with white glue. The forward 40mm bofor tubs were then attached. Note the holes for the chain brakes.



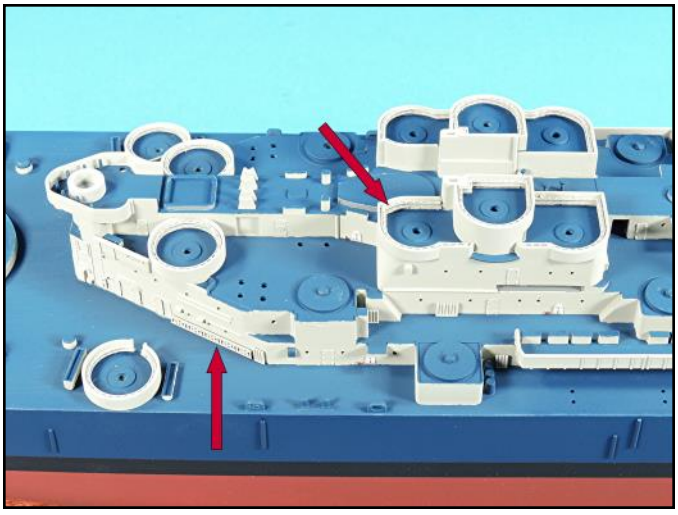
The kits gas bottles were attached with white glue and some extra ones were located over areas where there were minor flaws. The 40mm ammo racks were also installed throughout the superstructure.



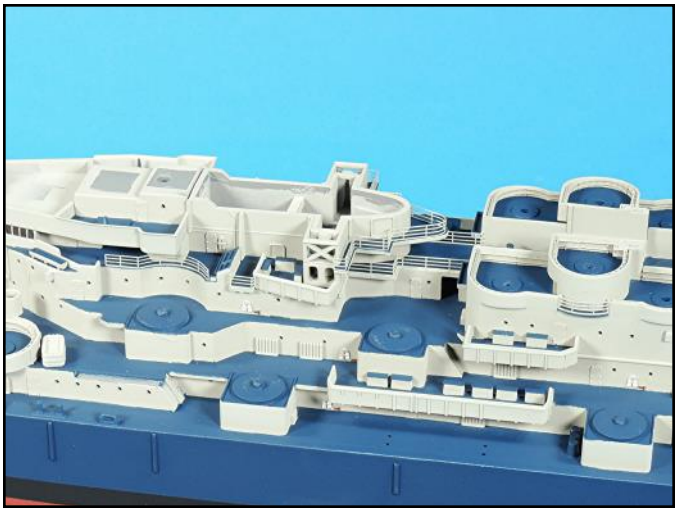
The aft deck details were all attached with white glue.



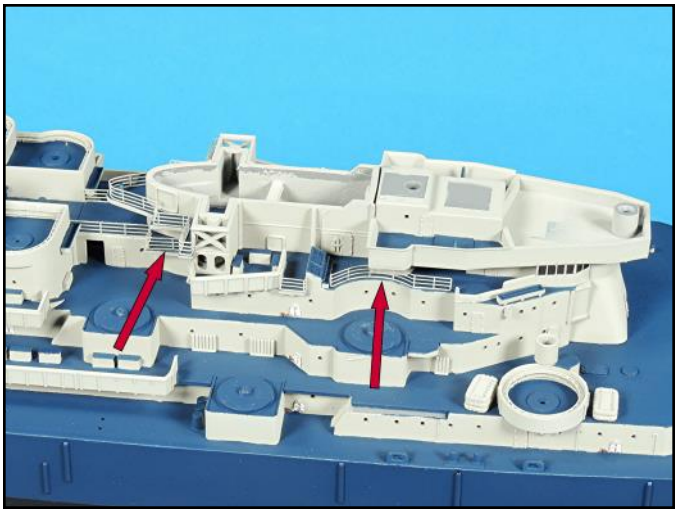
The aft 40mm ammo racks, the Mk-51 director tubs and the life rafts were all attached with white glue.



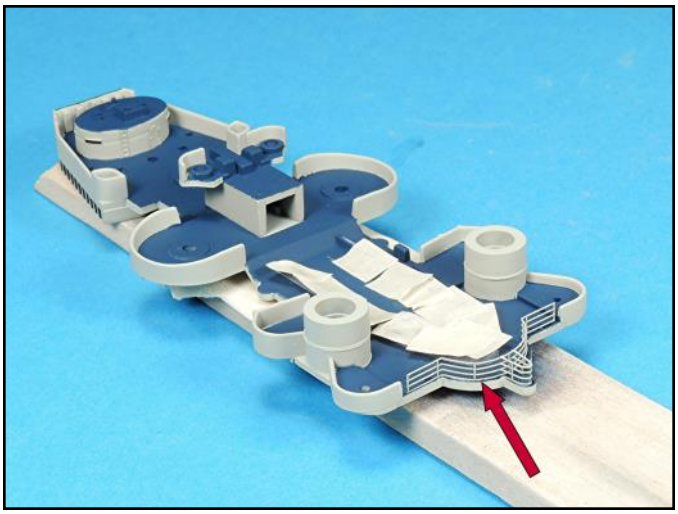
The Gold Medal Models gangways were stowed against the aft superstructure sides. Some of the 40mm ammo racks on the upper bofors platform needed some tweaking to get them to fit better.



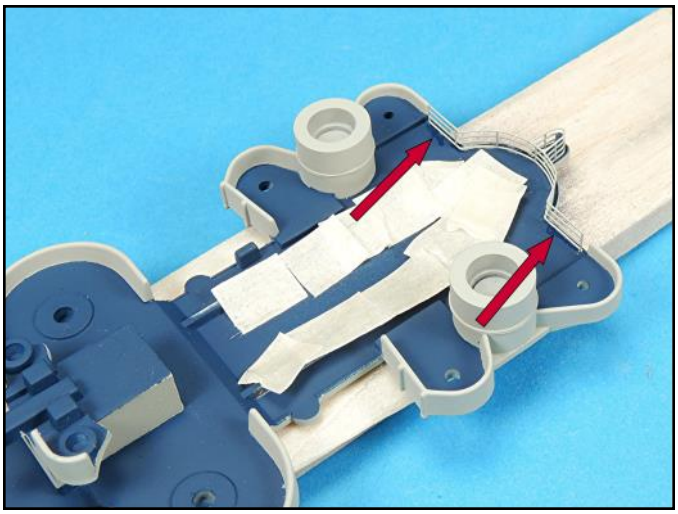
The forward superstructure is being built up, railings are being added and the mid level 20mm platforms have been installed.



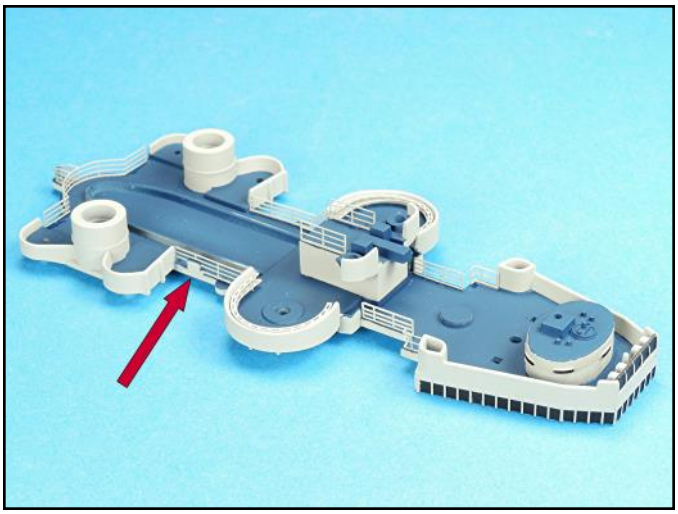
A detail brush was used to apply flat gull gray to the areas where the arrows are between the bottoms of the railings and the upper edges of the superstructure sides.



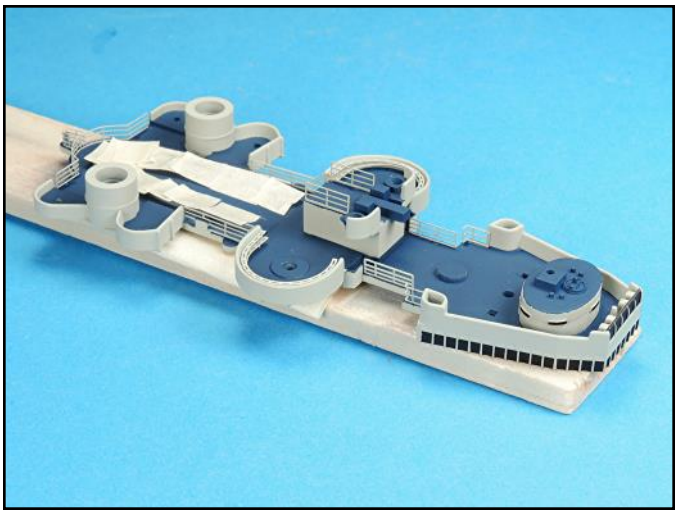
Here again a detail brush was used to paint the outer edges of the railing flat gull gray.



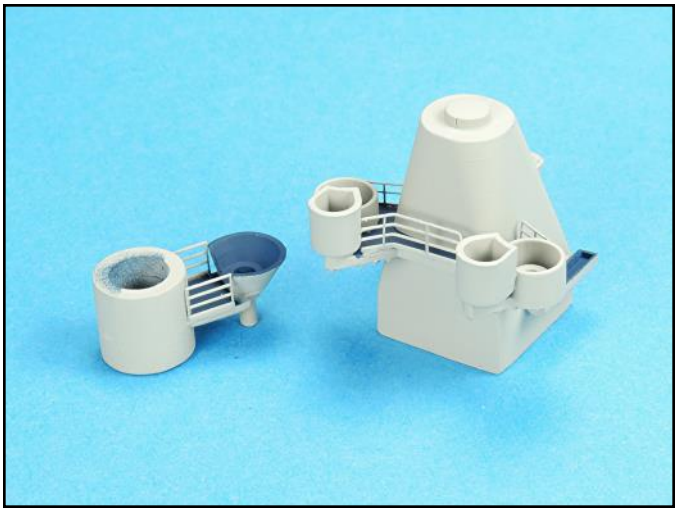
The railings were installed with super glue and there is always bleeding of the glue onto the deck areas. Once the assemblies are airbrushed with a coat of Testors dullcoat the super glue will disappear.



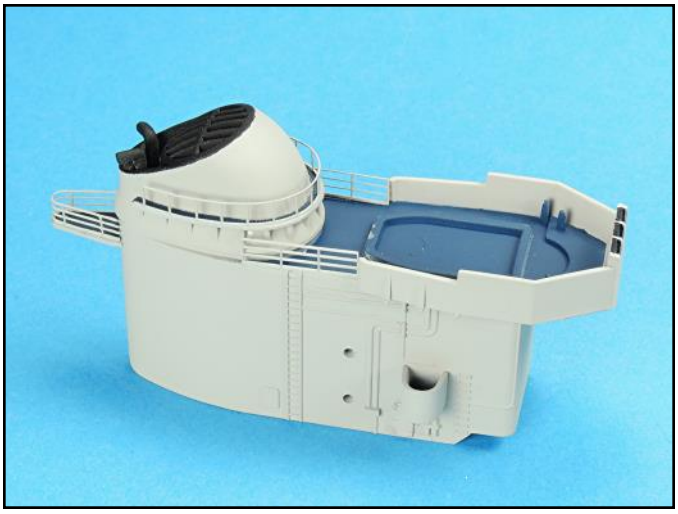
The Eduard exact fit railings at this location had to be carefully trimmed around the box which is at the edge of the deck.



Masking tape was applied to the raised location line for the upper superstructure part and the assembly was airbrushed with Testors dullcoat.



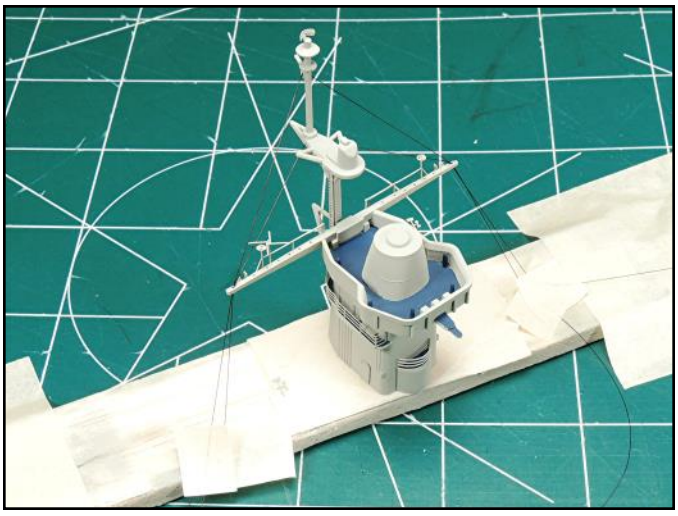
Flat gull gray was applied to the outer edges of the railings where they attach to the deck with a detail brush.



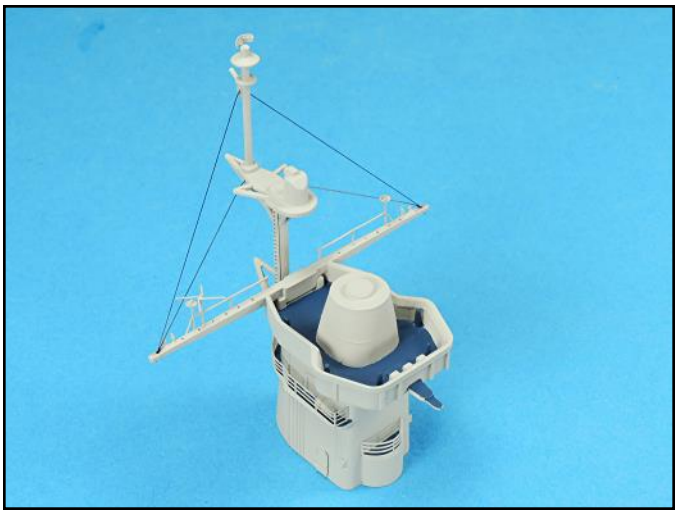
The forward stack assembly is now ready to be installed.

The aft stack assembly has all its railings and it is ready for some rigging.

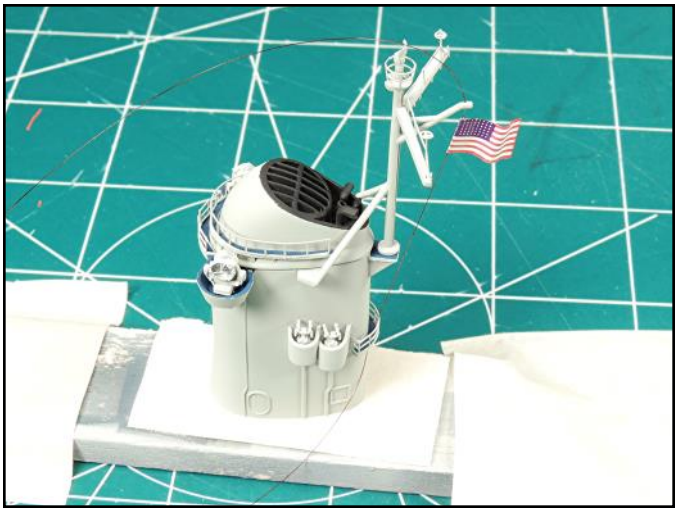
The multi-piece railing length on the mid level platform was attached with white glue so they could be positioned properly. Here again flat gull gray was applied with a detail brush at the base of the railings.



The yardarm rigging is being installed using nylon sewing thread that was inked with a black indelible marker. Tiny drops of super glue were applied to the riggings locations on the outer yardarm holes.

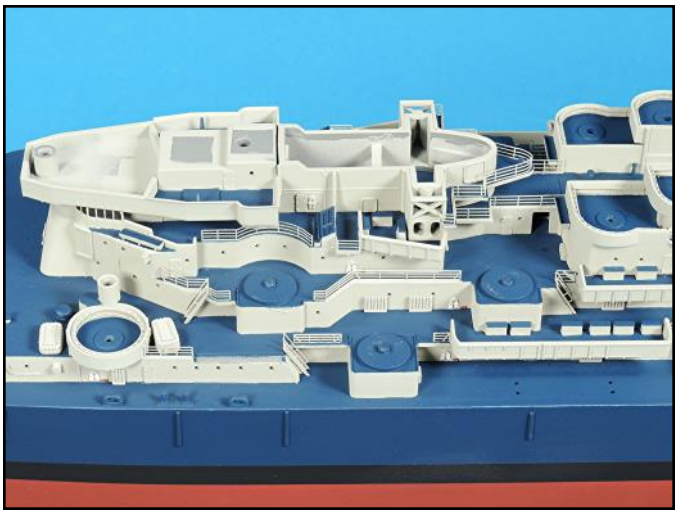


The excess lengths were cut with a single edge razer blade. This assembly is now ready to be installed. The upper rigging had to be cut off because it was bending the radar mast.

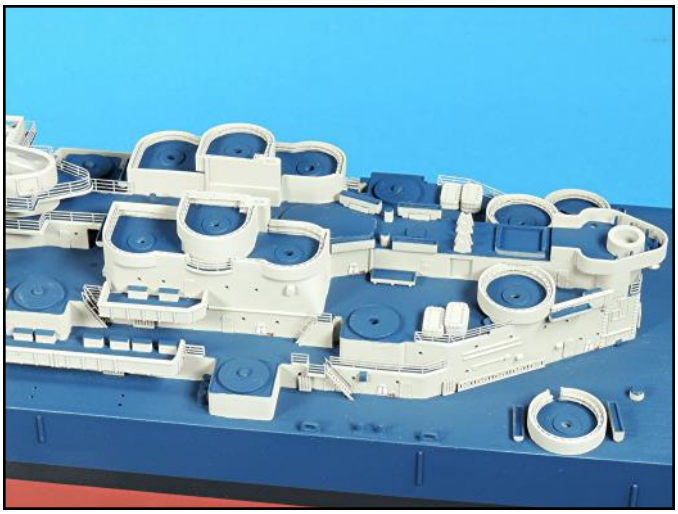


The paper flag was carefully folded onto itself and the rigging with white glue. It was given a wavy appearance. The yardarm rigging was then attached. The excess lengths were cut with a single edge razer blade.

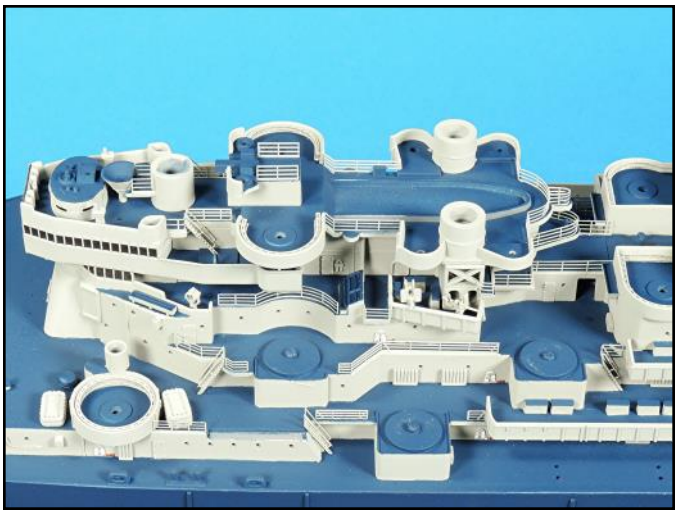
With all the detail parts installed the aft stack is ready to be attached to the superstructure.



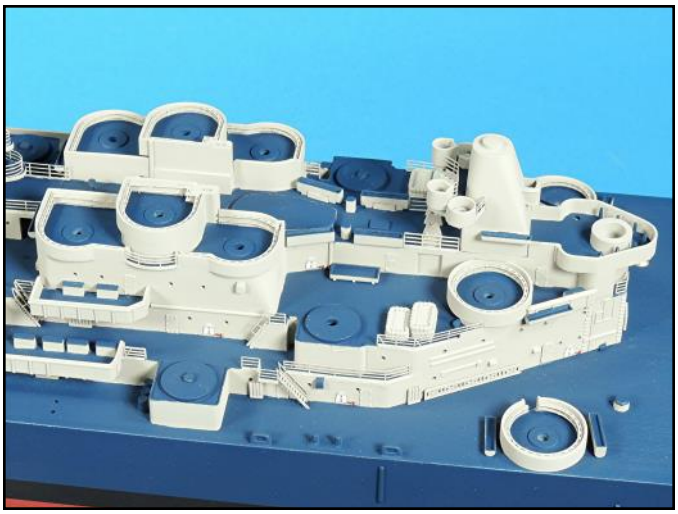
The lower railings and the inclined ladders have been installed and this area is now ready for the upper superstructure parts.



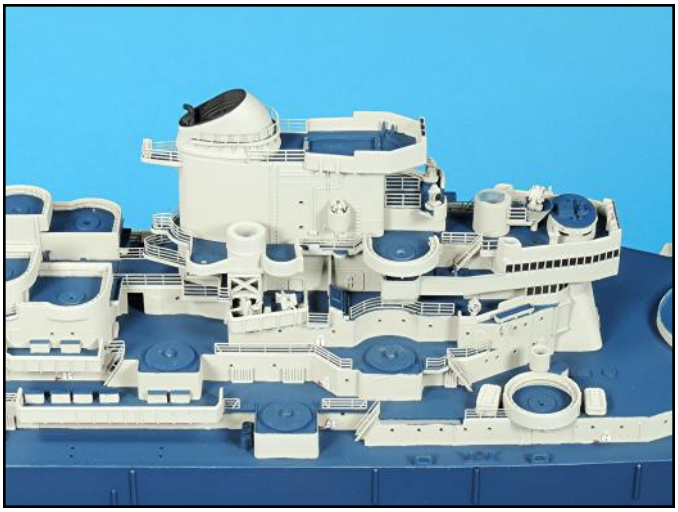
The lower aft railings and inclined ladders have also now been installed.



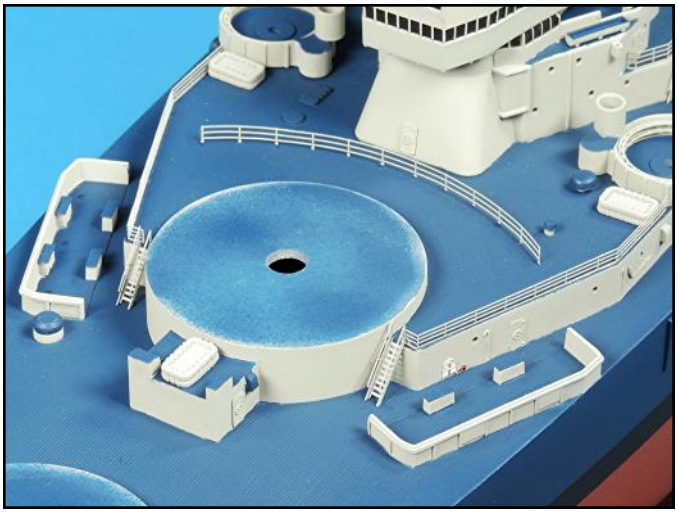
The mid level superstructure assembly is installed as well as some of the 20mm guns and the small searchlights.



The aft tower is installed along with other deck details.

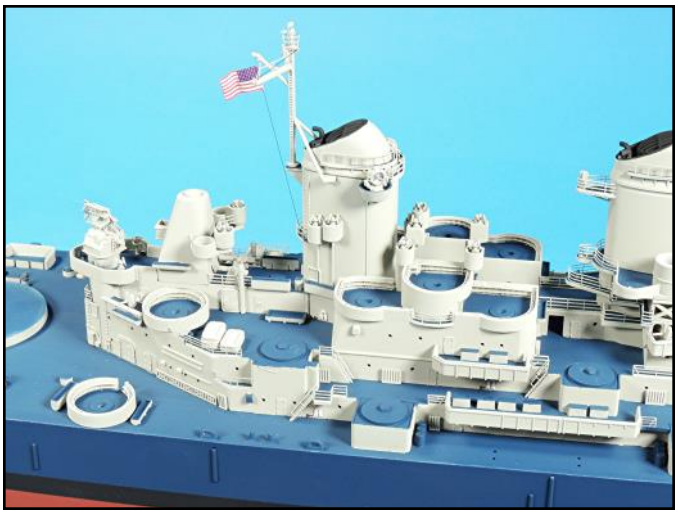


The buildup of the upper mid level forward superstructure is complete and more small parts have been added to this area.



The railing behind turret number 2 has been attached. The fire hoses were positioned using a flat ended toothpick that was dampened. Tiny drops of white glue were used to glue them into place.

The forward top superstructure has been glued into place and it is now ready for the signal flag rigging.



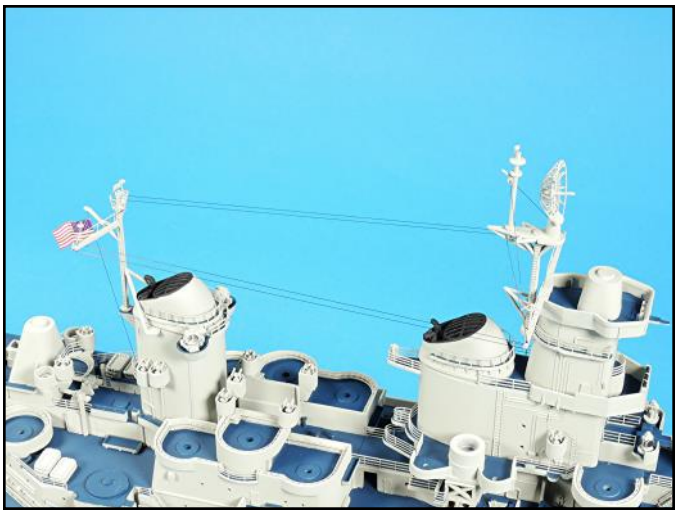
The aft smoke stack assembly has been glued into place and it is also ready for its signal flag rigging.

The entire superstructure assembly is complete.

The rigging between the forward and aft masts was installed using nylon thread inked black. The rigging was carefully threaded through the tiny photoetch rings on the mast yardarms.

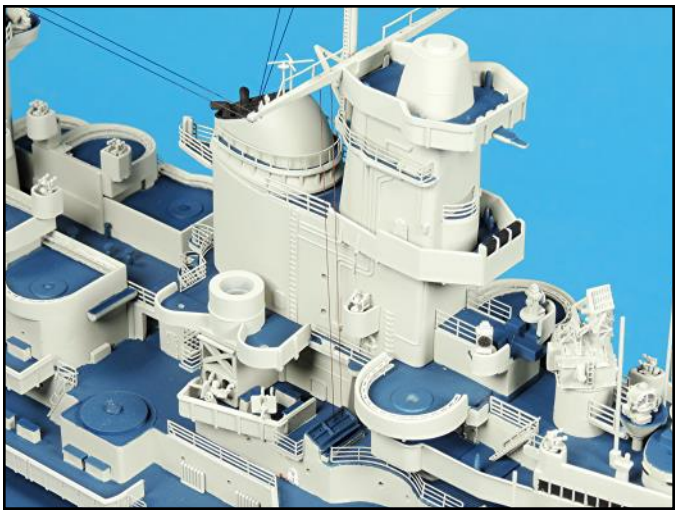
The yardarm to yardarm rigging was slowly made taught and taped to the bow area.

The rigging was also taped at the stern and tiny adjustments made by repositioning the tape until all four rigging lengths were tight.



Drops of super glue were applied to the rings and then the excess thread was carefully cut with a single edge razer blade.

The nylon thread for the signal flag lines was inked with a brown indelible marker. Each length was threaded through its corresponding hole in the yardarm and down to its location in the signal box and then glued into place.



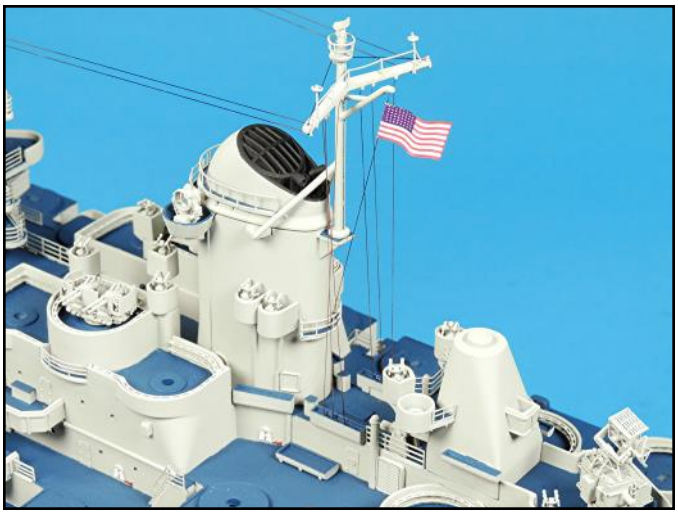
Always start installing signal flag lines from the inside towards the outside. Install one or two at a time on both sides and work your way out to the last one.

Since my hands are not that steady I used an overhead lamp to keep the signal flag lines tight until the glue dried. After a few lines were installed and the glue dried, the excess was cut off to minimize the chance of cutting on the wrong side.

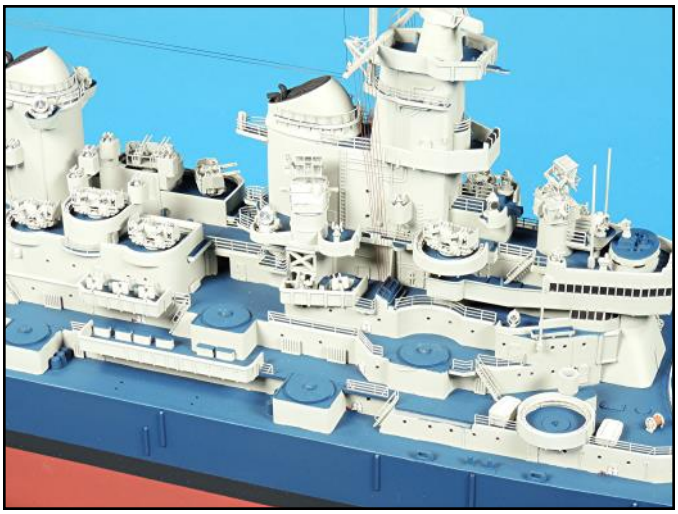
All five signal flag lines are installed on both sides.

This minor mistake was not noticed until after the excess rigging was cut off.

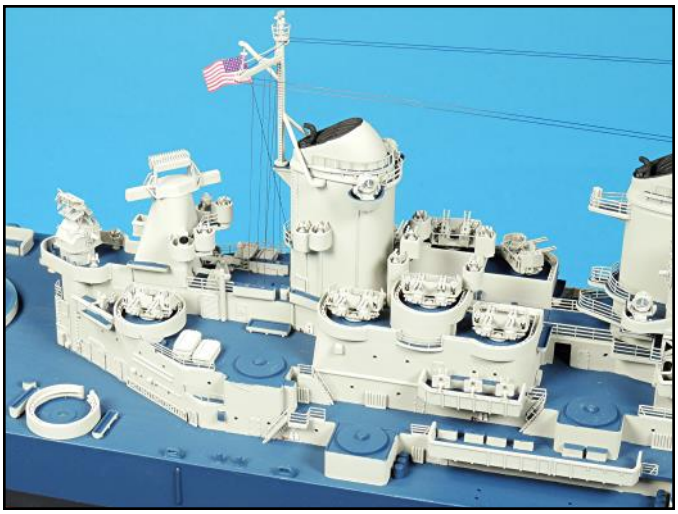
The aft signal flag rigging was installed through the tiny photoetch rings on the yardarm and held taught with masking tape until the glue dried.



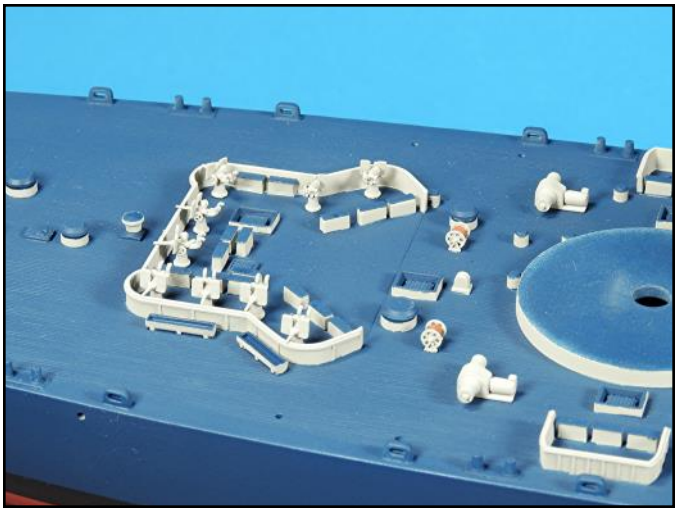
The aft mast looks pretty good with all its rigging.



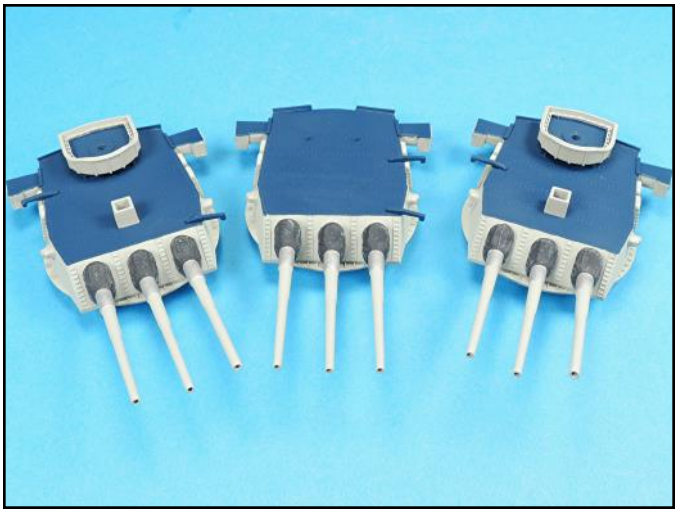
Now that the rigging is complete, 20 and 40mm guns are being added as well as radars and gun directors.



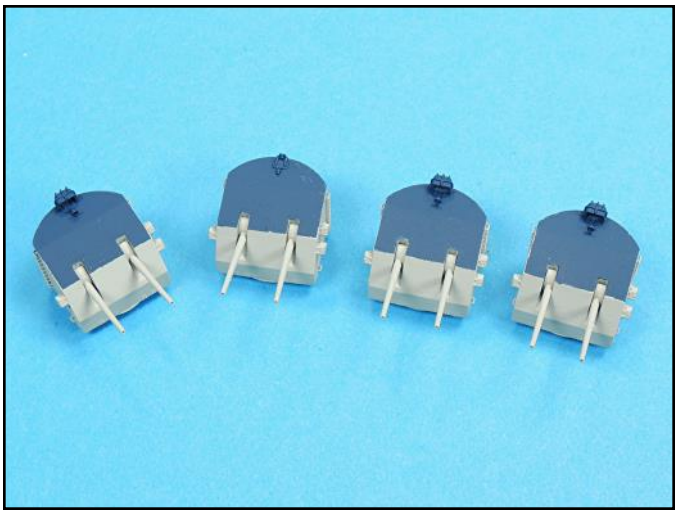
The aft area is also getting filled out with guns and directors.



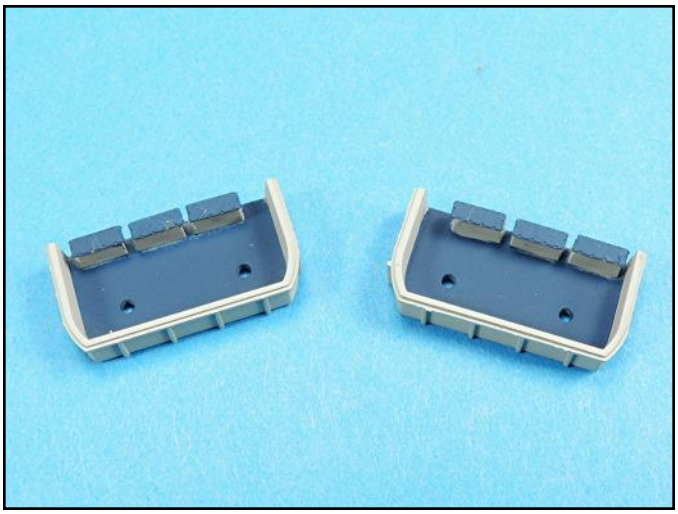
The stems for the Blue Ridge Models 3D printed 20mm guns were slightly larger than the holes in the deck so they were enlarged slightly. The guns were attached with white glue so that they could be positioned.



The 16 inch guns have been assembled and they are ready to be installed.



The barrels on the 5”/38 turrets were attached with white glue so they could be positioned at the same elevation.

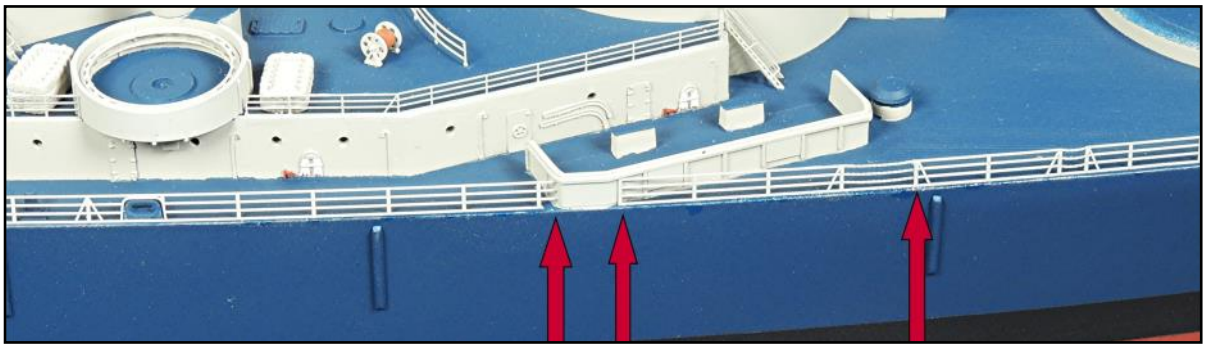


The Gold Medal Models 20mm ammo box covers were positioned with a round flat ended toothpick with a moist tip and attached with tiny drops of white glue.

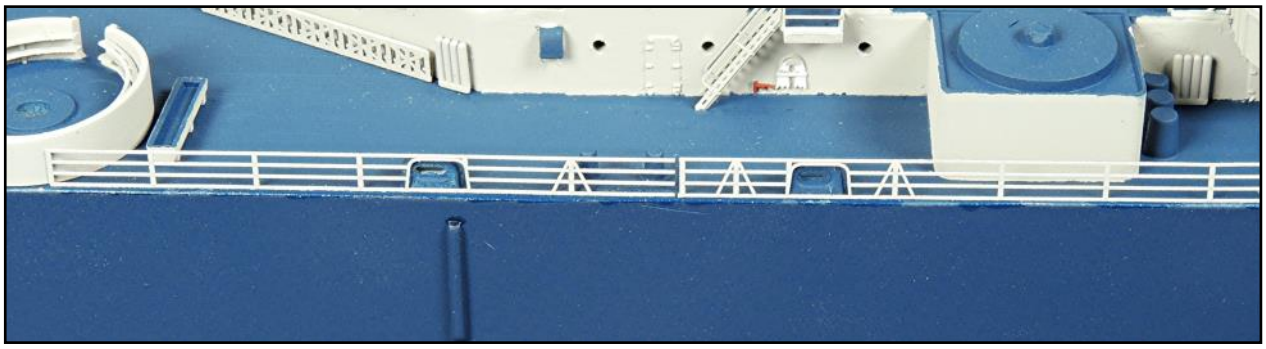
The aircraft were airbrushed dark sea blue and the canopies and propellers were painted flat black. The tips of the propellers were painted flat yellow with a tiny detail brush. The kits decals went on last.

With the catapults, the crane and the aircraft installed the stern area looks pretty detailed.

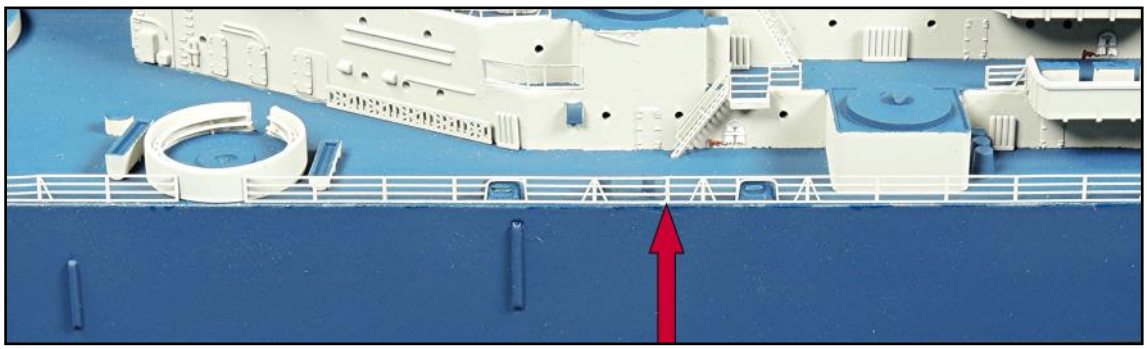
The first two sections of the Gold Medal Models main deck railings have been attached with a tiny bead of super glue applied with a .012 inch diameter stiff wire.



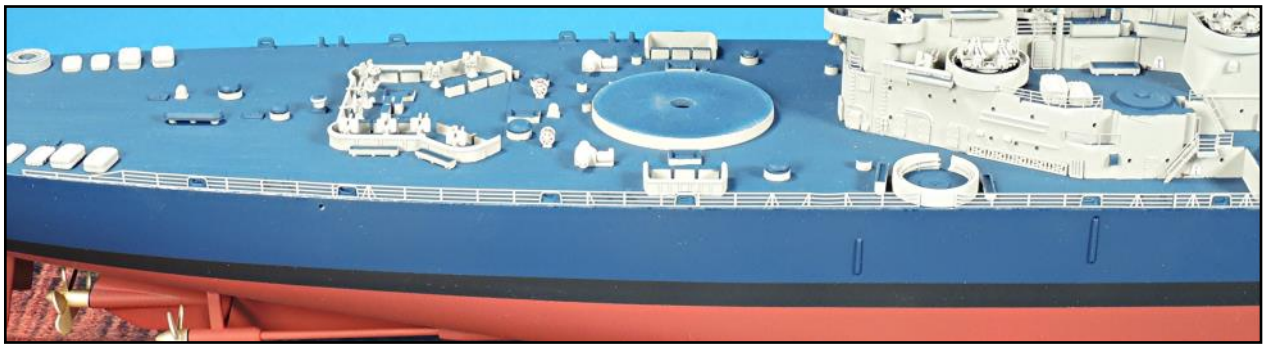
The second railing length was cut at the left arrow location. The two right arrows show the length that was cut and the far right arrow shows where the end stantion was cut off and white glued to the other end stantion.



The third section of railing also had to be cut and the shorter length had its stantion cut off. The tiny gaps will be filled with tiny drops of white glue and then painted flat gull gray.

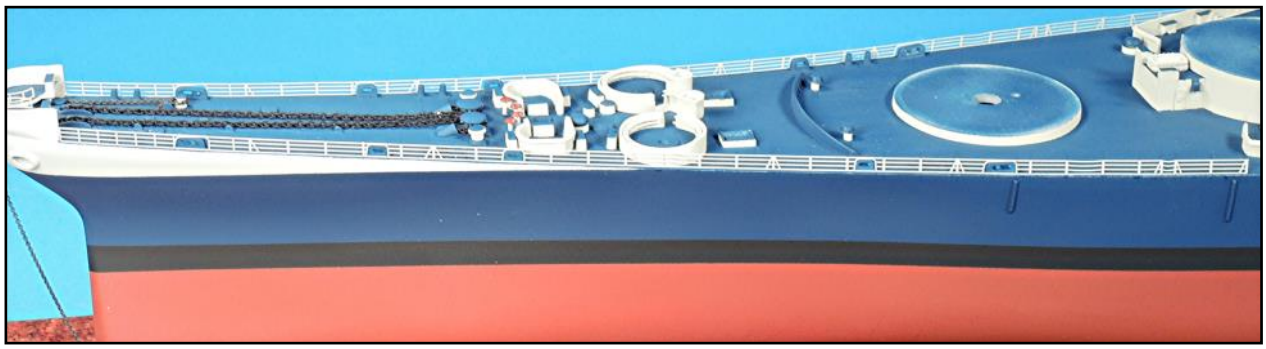


The white glue has been applied and painted with a detail brush.



The last long railing length has been installed.

The short stern deck railing has been installed.



The port side main deck railings are installed the exact same way as the starboard side.

All the main deck railings have now been installed.

The Eduard stern railing was used because I bent the Gold Medal Models railing. All the railing bases on both sides received an airbrushed coat of Testors dullcoat at 15psi to hide the super glue.

The 5”/38 turrets have been installed and the whale boat cradles and booms are also installed.

All the guns and detail parts are now installed on the bow.

The 16 inch turrets, 40mm Bofors and Mk-51 directors have been installed along with main deck 20mm guns.

The superstructure looks very busy now that all the small parts have been installed.

The lighter deck blue color provides for a good color contrast with the navy blue and the flat gull gray.

All the stern details have now been installed.