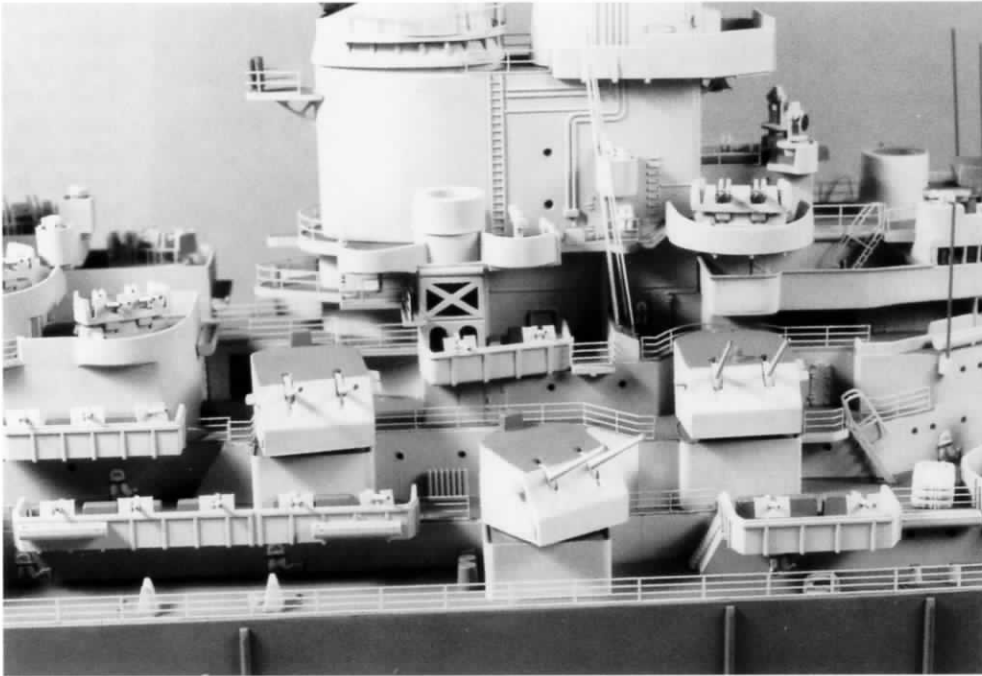


## Chapter One

# Building Plastic Kits



1/350 scale *USS Missouri* built by Mike Ashey

**T**o have a successful experience building plastic ship kits it's important to study the instructions first and become familiar with all the parts and assembly sequences. I spend a lot of time test-fitting the hull, deck, and superstructure parts to find out where the fit problems are so I can decide how best to deal with them. Every ship kit is different and each one, no matter who the manufacturer is, has its own unique fit problems and minor flaws. Sometimes the decks do not exactly butt up against the sides of the hull, and there may be a slight gap to fill. Sometimes main deck sections do not line up correctly, or there may be a space between sections, or a superstructure level might sit skewed. Whatever the problem, there is always a simple solution.

I like to keep my workbench neat and organized. Since ship kits can have a lot of parts and subassemblies, I use plastic storage boxes for organizing them. These lidded bin organizers are usually found in the sewing sections of arts and crafts stores. They are great for organizing the parts you will be working with—not to mention the fact that you will be a lot less likely to lose any parts if they are all stored in one place.

Once I get set up, I decide how I will display the model and then begin making the necessary modifications to the hull. At this point I pick out the piece of wood I want to use for the display base, cut it to size, and stain it. I decide what color scheme I want and assemble the paints and mix the colors, test them, and make any adjustments that are needed. I also decide how I will assemble the kit, since I use the instructions only as a general guide. This is an important point because the assembly sequence you follow will depend on the display you choose, the color scheme, details you may want to add, changes you may want to make to the kit, and how you want to deal with any problems you have identified.

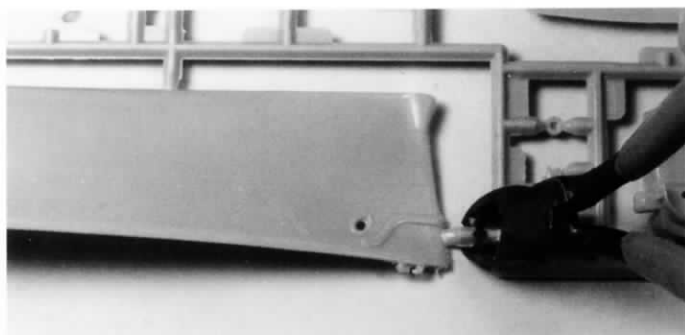
When removing parts from trees, be careful how you cut them off. This is the first step in dealing with seam removal. If you snap off the parts you will most likely damage them, which means either repair work to the part or extra work to fill a seam.

Next, check each part for a casting line and carefully scrape off this line with the edge of a number 11 X-acto blade. For parts that will be glued together, check the gluing surfaces. You will almost always find small injection marks that you'll have to flatten. Check the fit of these assemblies—the locating pins are not always correct.

Sometimes you can get a better fit by removing the pins and running the part halves across a stationary piece of sandpaper to flatten the gluing surfaces. Sometimes the surfaces of parts have small,

round indentations. Typically, you will not find these round indentations in newer kits, but older kits produced in the early years of plastic modeling can have a lot of them. The indentations result from the injection-molding process, and there are several ways to get rid of them. You can fill them by punching out a thin plastic disk using a Waldron punch tool, gluing it in the hole, and sanding it smooth, or you can hide them if sanding them will destroy detail.

When you check the fit of superstructure parts on deck surfaces, or when you have to stack superstructure layers, you will almost always find voids around the bases of each layer. The secret to dealing



Use a pair of wire cutters to cut the trees connected to the parts. Then you can do the fine trim work with a number 11 X-acto blade.

with these is to fill them with white glue applied with a thin wire applicator and then remove the excess with a damp cotton swab.

As you build up the superstructure, I recommend that you cut and measure photoetched railings and then set them aside until you are ready to use them. In some cases you may have to add photoetched railings and ladders as you build up the superstructure, because they may be impossible to add later on. Here again, a little planning is important because it will make assembly a lot easier.

Sometimes filling voids on superstructure assemblies cannot be accomplished with white glue because the gap is too wide. In these cases, I use small sections of Evergreen strip, half-round, and quarter-round plastic to hide the voids.

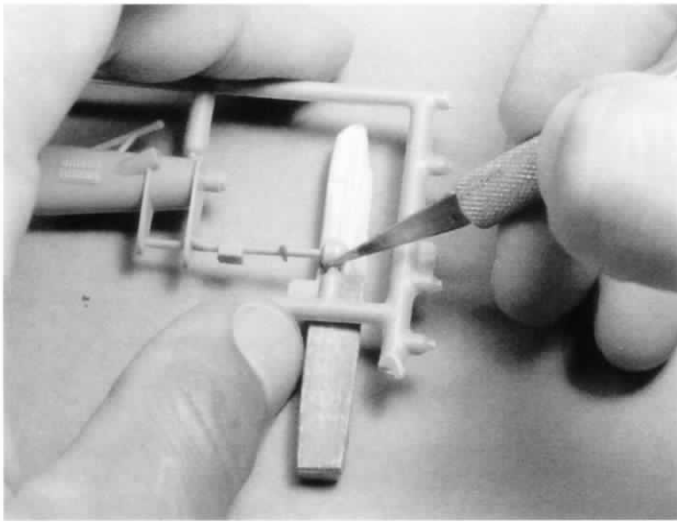
Another trick is to use Evergreen half rounds to cover seams and gaps where two prepainted superstructure parts meet and form a flat surface.

Sometimes you'll have to reinforce fragile superstructure parts so they will not break when you are fixing the seams or adding detail. I use small lengths of Evergreen strips glued to the inside of the parts. Another trick I use to help glue large superstructure parts to the deck is to fill the inside of the part with resin. This gives me a large gluing surface on the underside. I can glue it down without having to run a bead of glue around the base of the superstructure where it meets the deck, which can mar the deck surface.

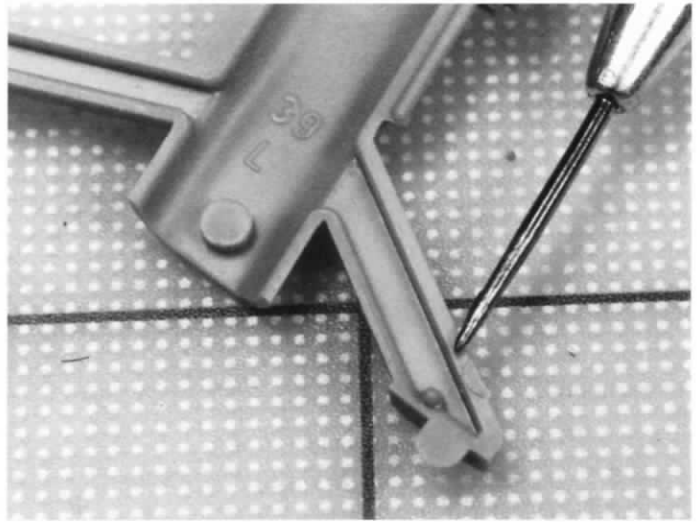
The decks of large scale kits may flex slightly once they are glued to the hull. This sometimes occurs because the span between the sides of the hull is wide and the plastic deck is too thin. To prevent this flexing, simply glue sections of thick Evergreen strips to the underside of the deck, but be sure these strips do not interfere with the deck-to-hull fit, or any parts that may be attached to the deck.

Typically, I assemble the hull, insert the display pedestals into their locations, glue down the deck, and then add the shafts, struts, and rudder. I then prime and paint the hull and main deck, add the props, and finally attach the model to the display base.

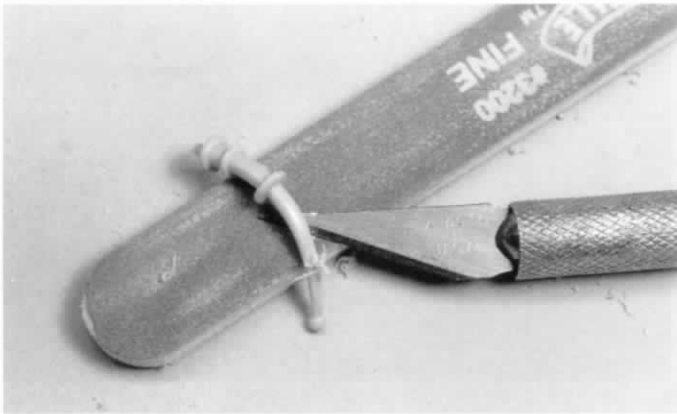
At this point I set the completed hull aside and start assembling the superstructure parts, fixing flaws, filling seams, smoothing out surfaces, adding detail, measuring photoetched railings and ladders, and painting the parts. I then build up the superstructure, adding photoetched railings when necessary. I also add the masts at this point. Then I turn my attention to fittings like searchlights, gun directors, radars, boats and davits, cranes, and catapults. Finally, I assemble all the large and small caliber guns, paint and install them, and then add the rigging.



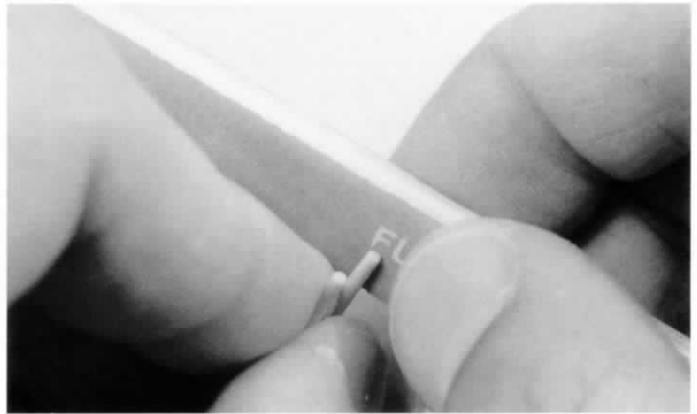
To trim delicate parts from their trees, place a piece of balsa under the part and then cut it with a number 11 X-acto blade.



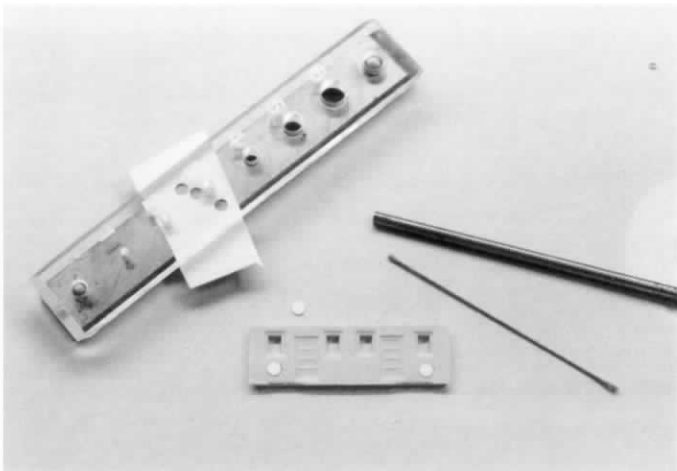
Prior to gluing together part halves check the gluing surfaces for raised mold lines. Carefully scrape off these mold lines with a number 11 X-acto blade.



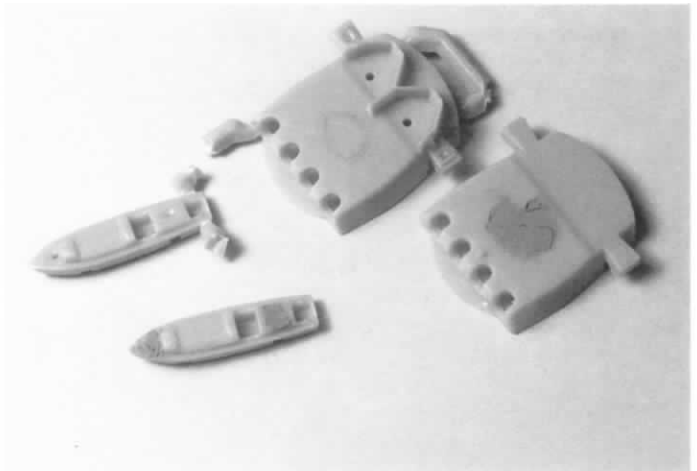
To remove the mold lines from small parts carefully scrape them off with the tip of a number 11 X-acto blade.



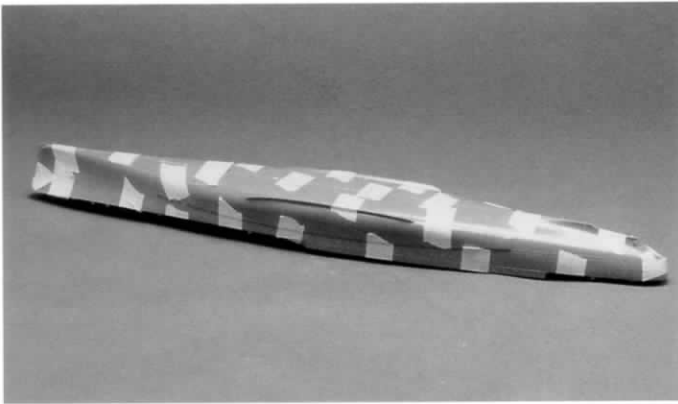
Use a Flex-I-File sanding stick to help reshape parts after you scrape off the mold lines.



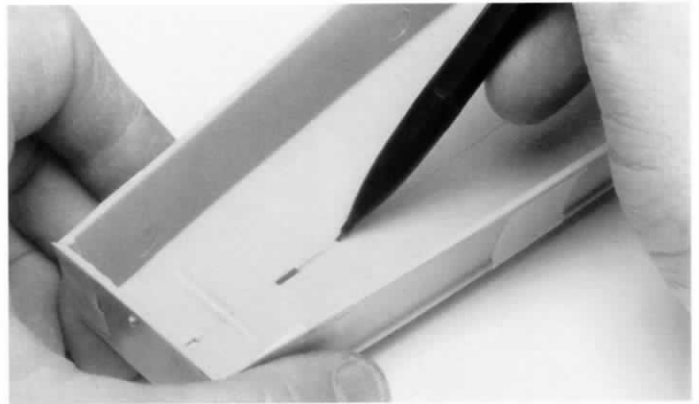
Waldron Products punch tool is great for fixing indented injection marks. Select the disk size closest to the indentation. Glue the disk into place with super glue and then carefully sand the disk to blend into the surface.



Although dimples are easy to fix with super glue, you can also use putty.



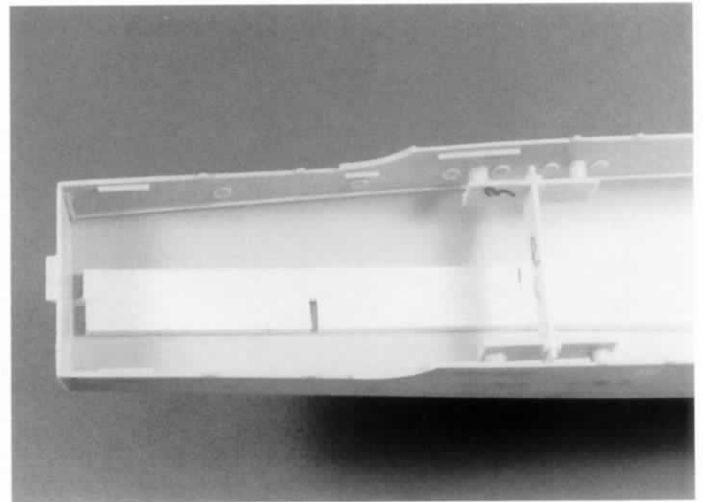
Always test-fit the hull and deck parts to ensure that they fit together before gluing. This will allow you to figure out how to fix any problems.



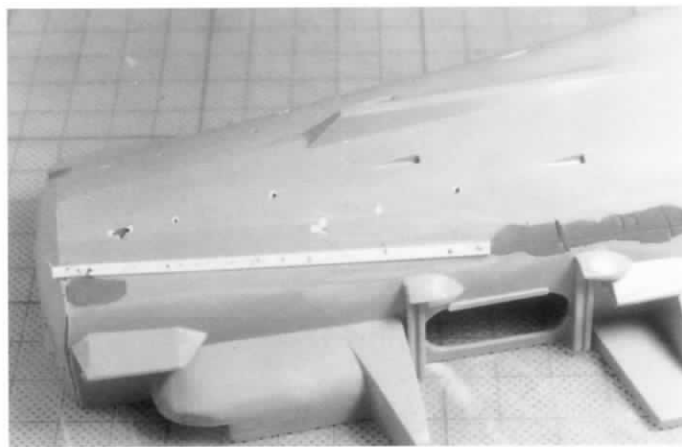
To glue the hull together, run a bead of super glue on both the inside and the outside of the hull along the seam line. I like to use a .5mm lead pencil or a length of stiff brass wire to apply the glue.



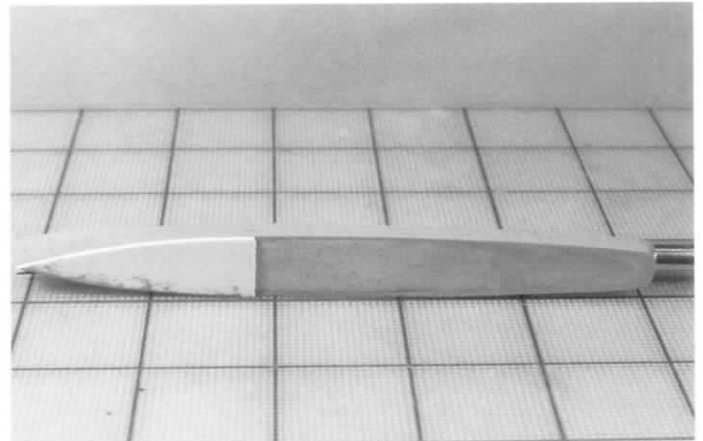
Testors silver paint makes an excellent seam, crack, and flaw detector. After the paint dries, simply apply more super glue to any flawed areas. Remove the paint with Polly-S Paint and Decal Remover and then sand the super glue.



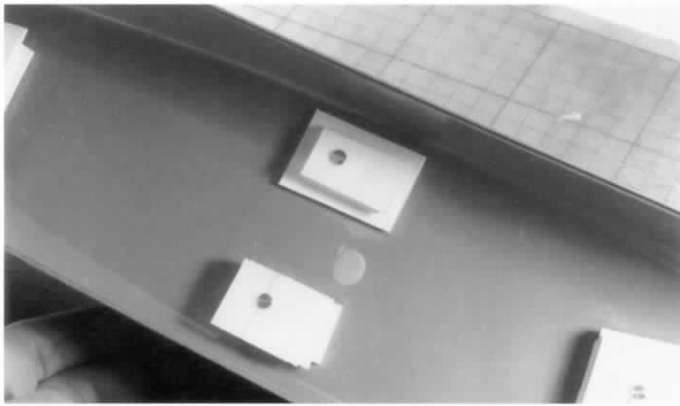
To add strength to a multiple-piece hull, glue lengths of Evergreen strip stock along the inside of the hull along the seam line.



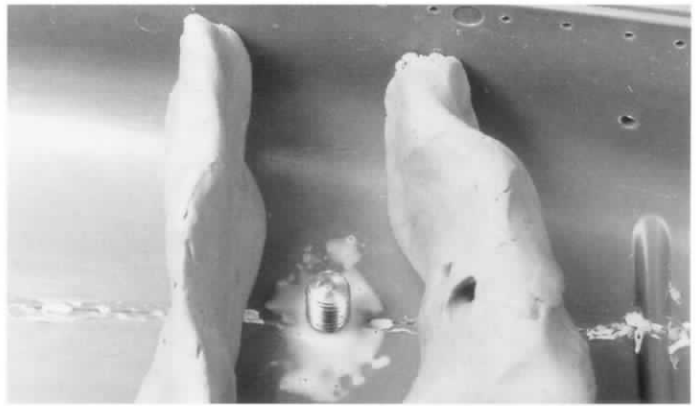
To fill seam lines on the exterior of the hull, you can use putty or thin lengths of Evergreen plastic strip. If you use the Evergreen strip be sure that the plastic strip is completely covered with super glue before applying it to the hull.



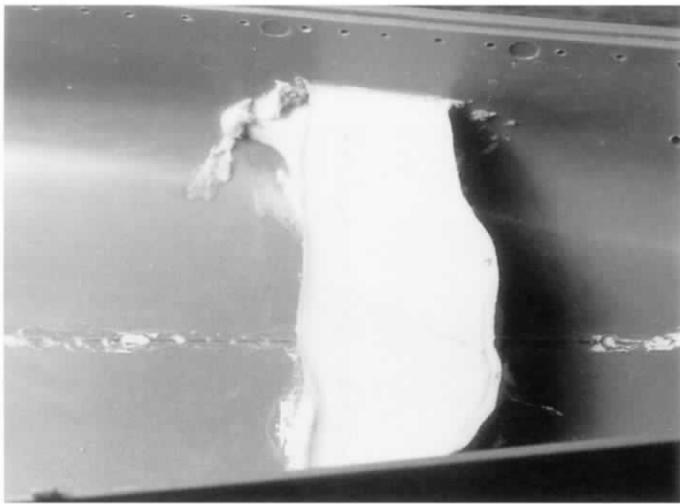
To increase the gluing surface on this 1/700 scale hull, pour resin into the hull. Add evergreen plastic sheet to the forward section of the hull. Then, when it's placed on the diorama base, the ship will be more realistic.



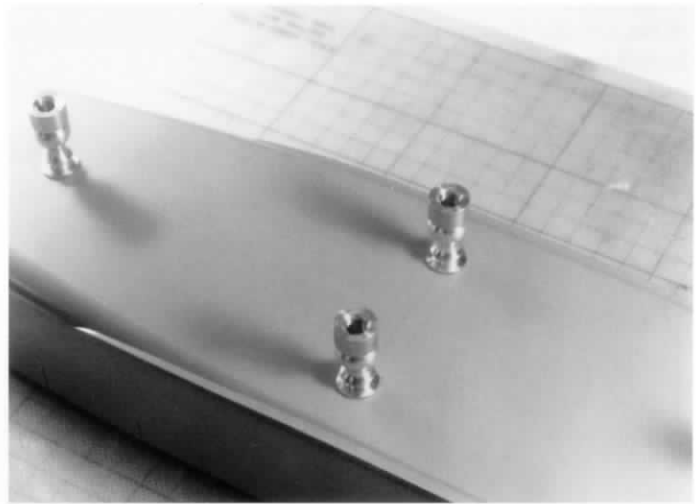
To reinforce brass pedestals, stack glued sheets of Evergreen plastic to the inside of the hull and then drill them out.



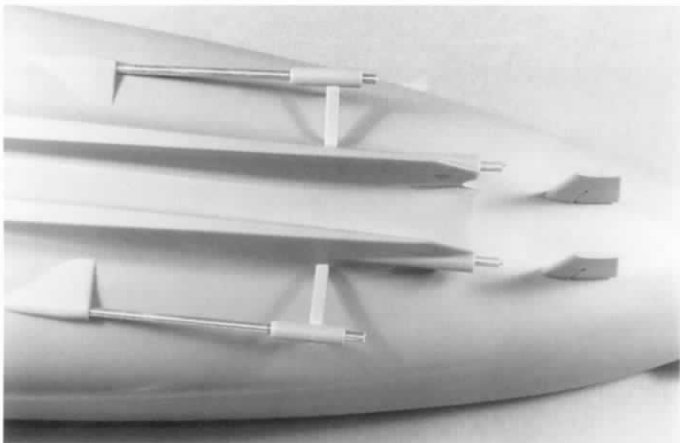
Another method is to glue the pedestal into place with white glue and then carefully build a box around the top of the pedestal inside the hull with clay.



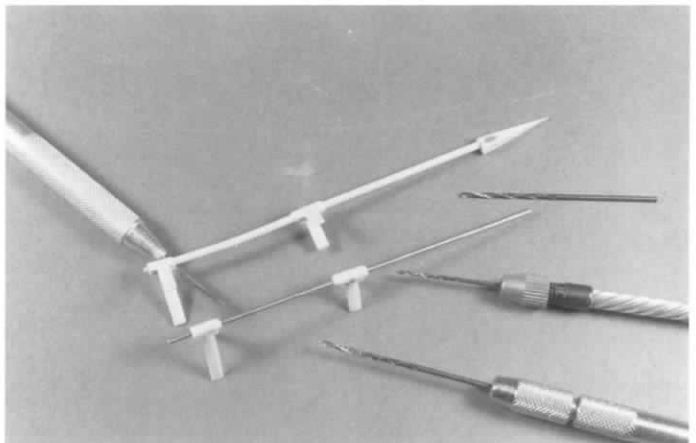
The next step is to pour resin into the clay box. After it sets, super glue the edges of the resin to the interior of the hull, because resin won't adhere to plastic.



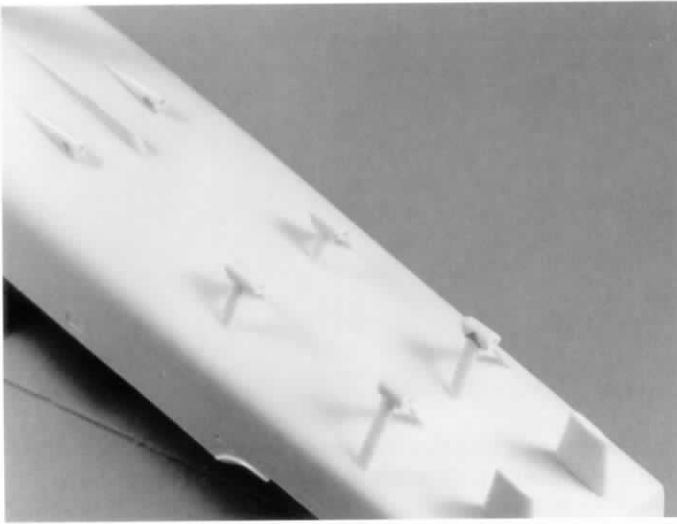
These brass pedestals are nothing more than lamp finials that you can find in a local hardware or lamp store. They are turned brass with one end having a long stem screw and the other end set up for screw insertion.



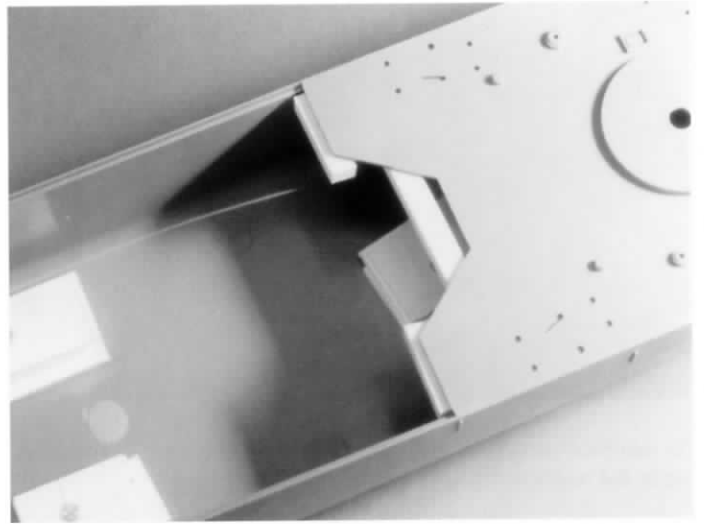
I like to use brass rod for propeller shaft applications whenever it's feasible. Here, Tamiya's *Missouri* sports new brass rod propeller shafts.



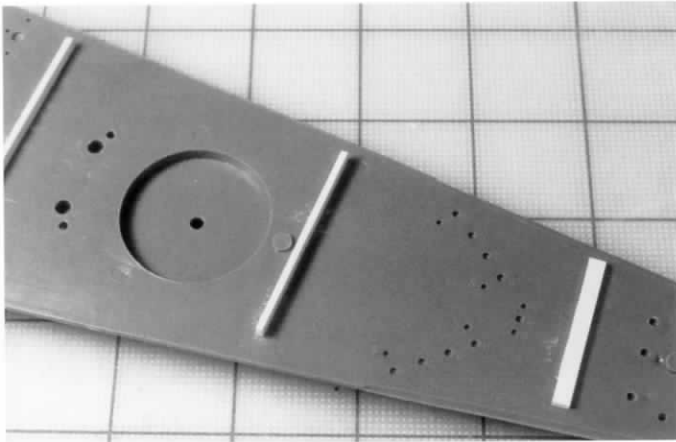
To fix warped one-piece shafts and struts, cut the shafts from the V struts and carefully drill out the struts to the diameter of the brass rod you select for the shafts. When drilling, start with a small bit and work up to the bit size that you need for the brass rod.



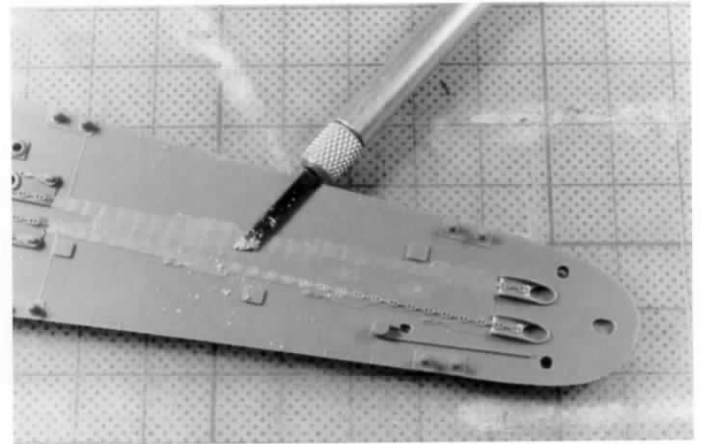
Position the V struts with the brass rods in place. Glue the struts to the hull and then remove the brass rods. The hull is now ready for painting.



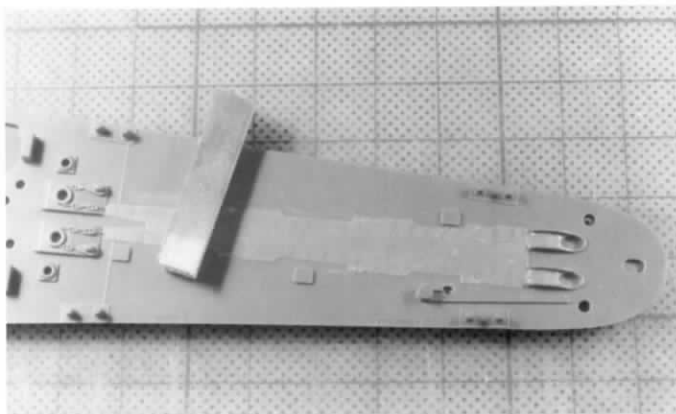
To help strengthen main deck connections, glue thick strips of Evergreen strip stock to the underside of the deck.



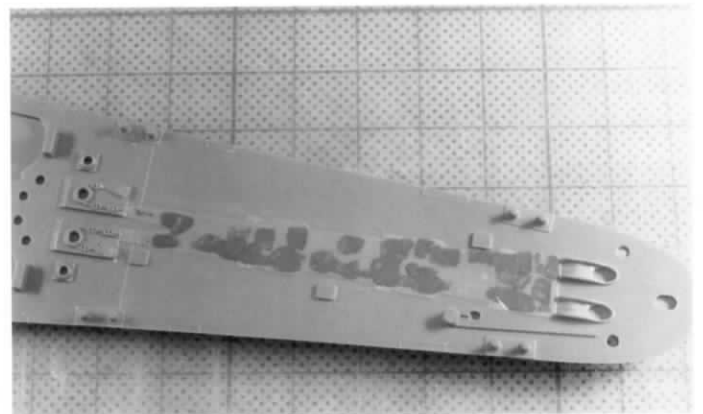
To help reinforce and strengthen decks, you can glue strips of Evergreen to the underside of the deck. Be careful that the strips do not interfere with parts placement or with the hull/deck connection.



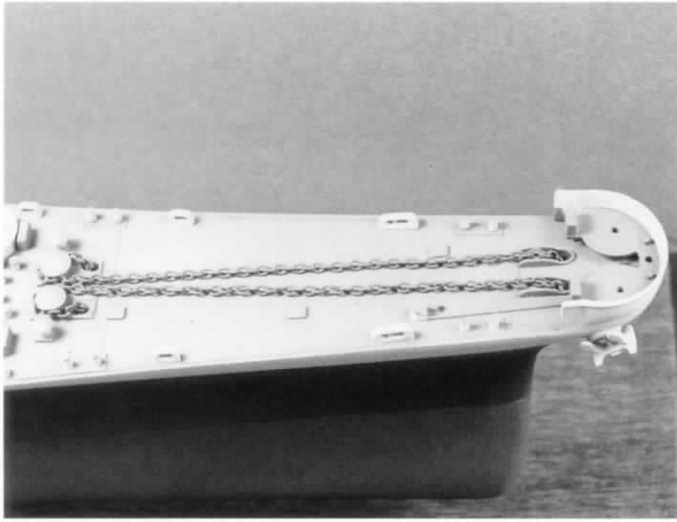
To remove molded-on chains, carefully scrape them off using an X-acto stencil knife.



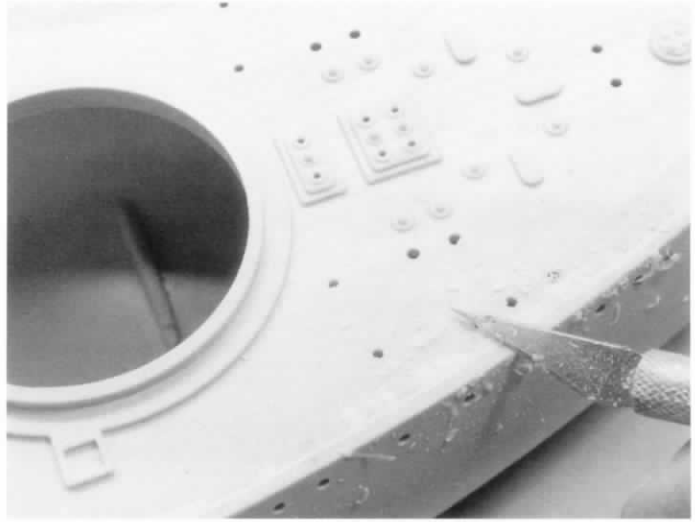
To smooth out the surface, cut a small piece off a Flex-I-File sanding stick and carefully wet-sand the surface.



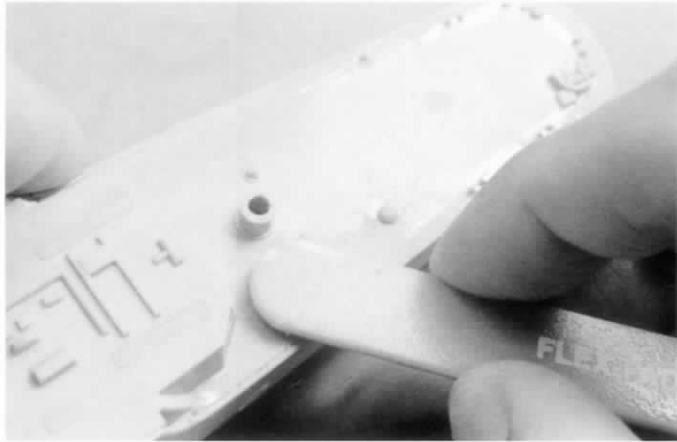
To fix any gouges, carefully apply automotive scratch filler putty with the stencil knife tip, and then wet-sand smooth with a Flex-I-File sanding stick after it dries.



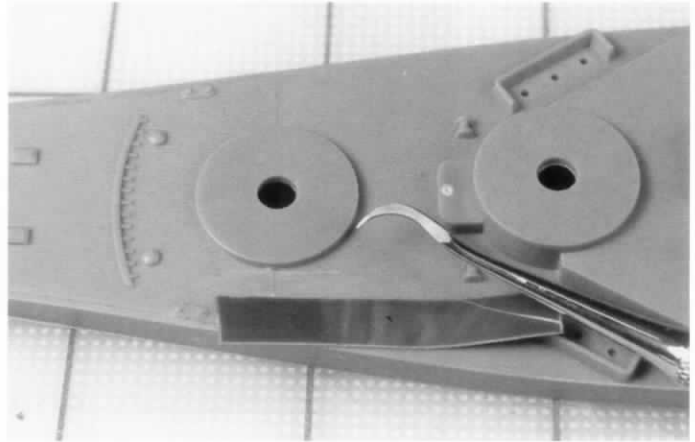
Removing the molded chains from Tamiya's *USS Missouri* and replacing them with real chains adds realism. Don't forget to drill out holes where the chains go into the deck.



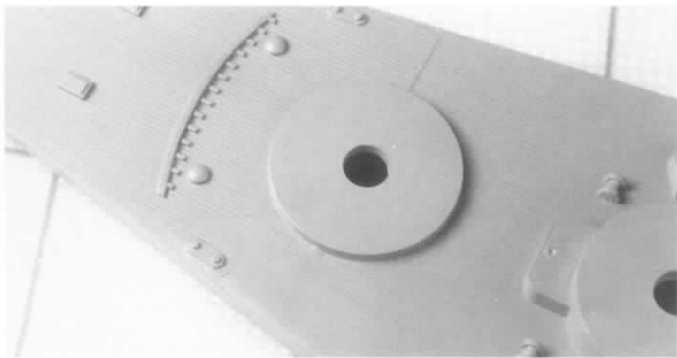
Use Testors putty to fill voids between the deck edge and the hull. I like to scrape the putty flat prior to sanding it smooth.



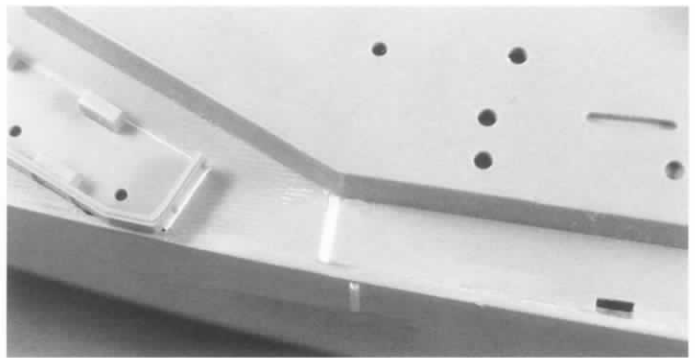
To smooth the filler between the deck and the hull on Monogram's *USS Halsey*, I wet-sanded the area with a Flex-I-File sanding stick. To fill the voids between the deck and hull on this kit, I used super glue instead of putty.



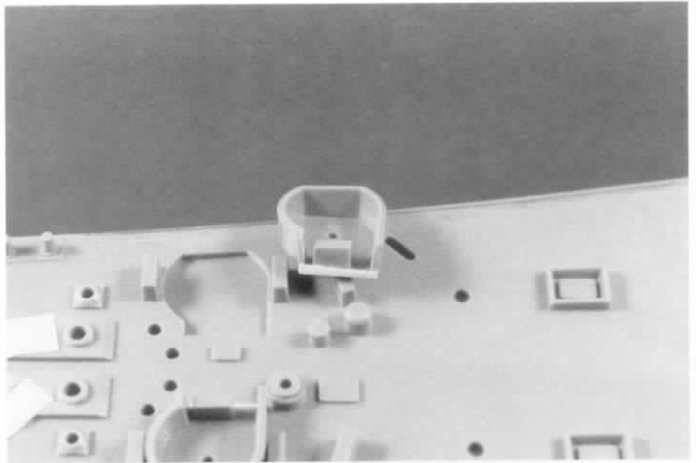
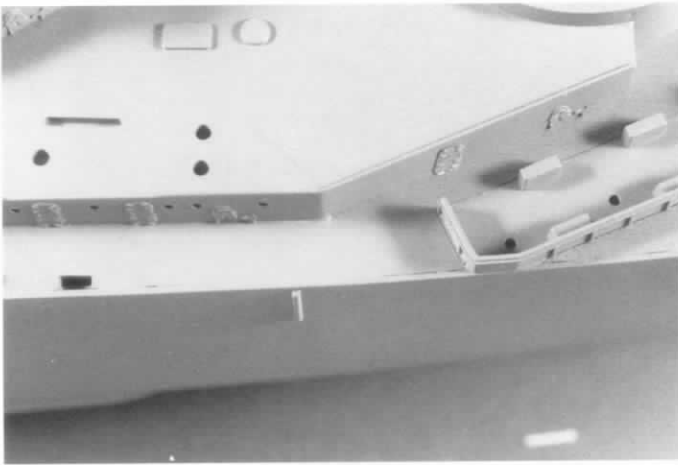
To repair deck detail, use labeling tape as a guide and use a Bare Metal Foil plastic scribe to rescribe and connect the wood deck lines.



The port side deck surface on this 1/700 scale kit has been rescribed. Once the deck is painted it will be hard to tell the difference between the indented scribed lines and the raised scribed lines. Aircraft modelers use this same trick all the time to replace raised panel lines on aircraft surfaces.

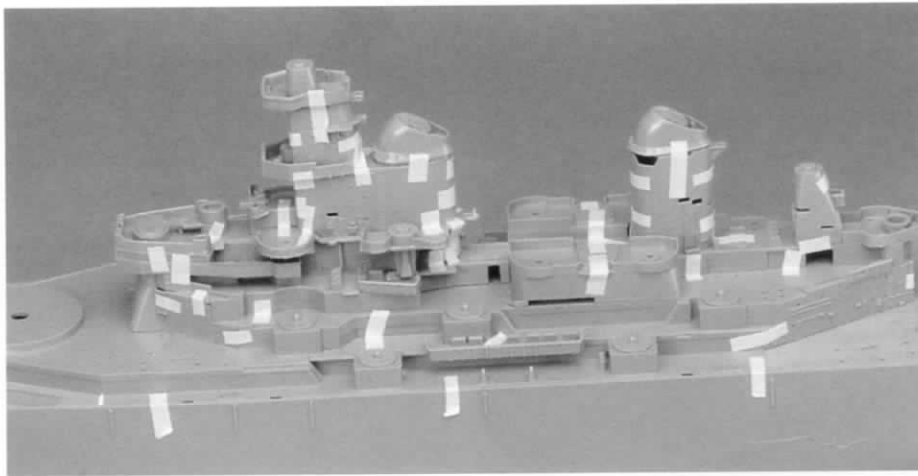


To fix gaps between adjoining deck surfaces carefully glue a strip of Evergreen plastic between the connection points.

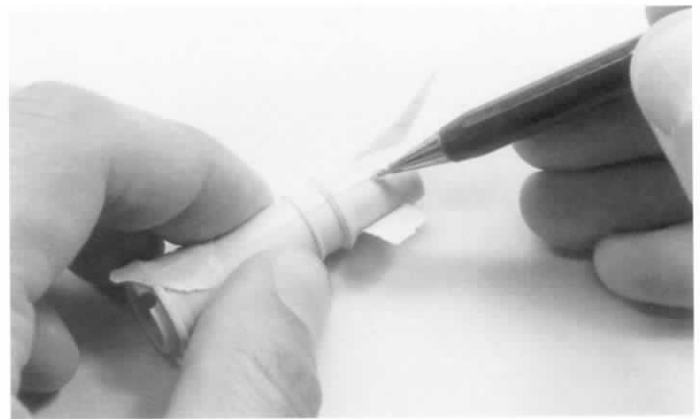
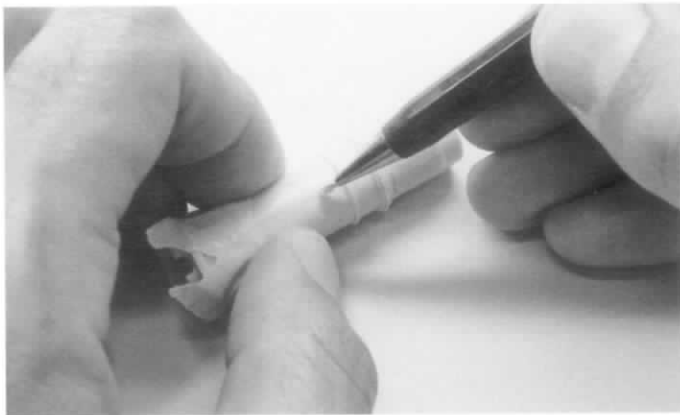


Sand the gap smooth and re-scribe the deck. On this kit I left the voids at the junction point between the deck and the hull because the brass railings would cover the area.

To fix gaps in parts that insert into the deck, simply glue a strip of plastic in the location of the gap and carefully form-fit it into place.



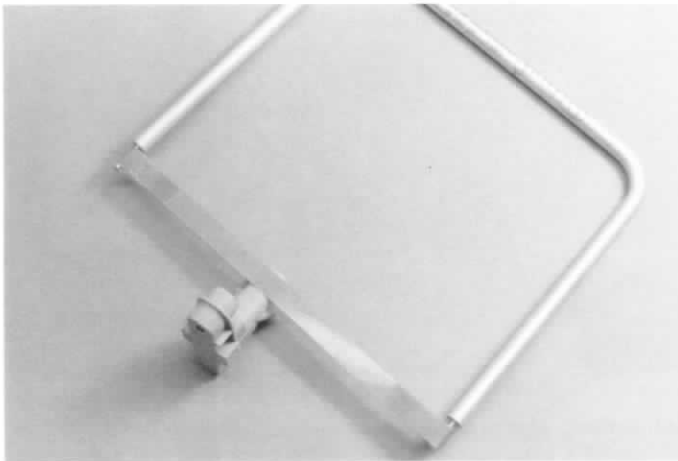
Tape together the superstructure parts. Then connect all the parts and place them on the hull. Note any fit problems and voids so that you can figure out what approach to take to fix them. Photo by Glenn Johnson



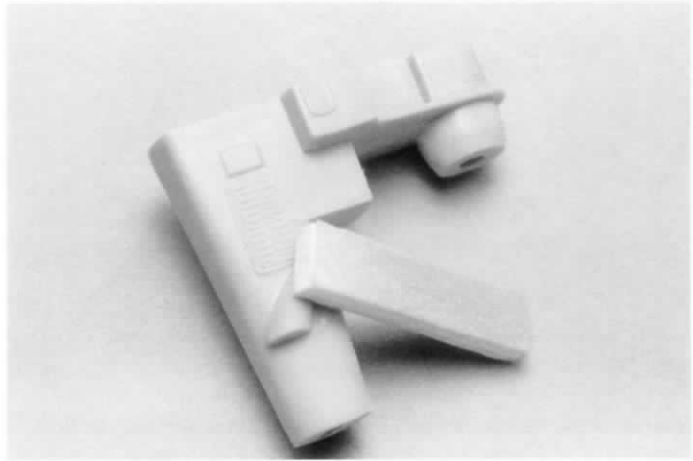
To glue together parts, especially superstructure parts, position the parts, tape them together tightly, and run a bead of thin super glue along the seam between the tape. The capillary action of the super glue will cause the glue to seep into the mating surfaces of the parts.

After the glue is dry, remove the masking tape and finish applying glue along the seam line.

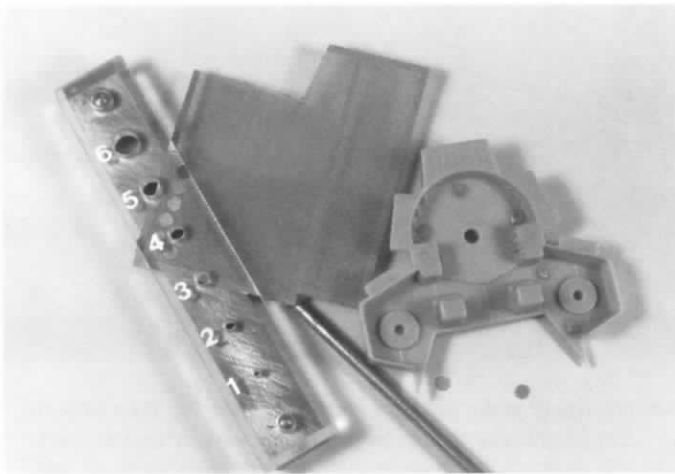




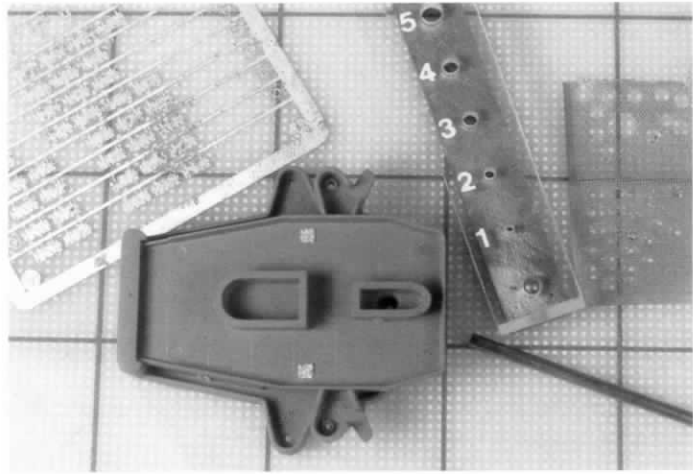
Once the glue is dry, carefully scrape and sand the super glue bead line so that it blends into the surface. For curved surfaces use a Flex-I-File to maintain the contours of the part.



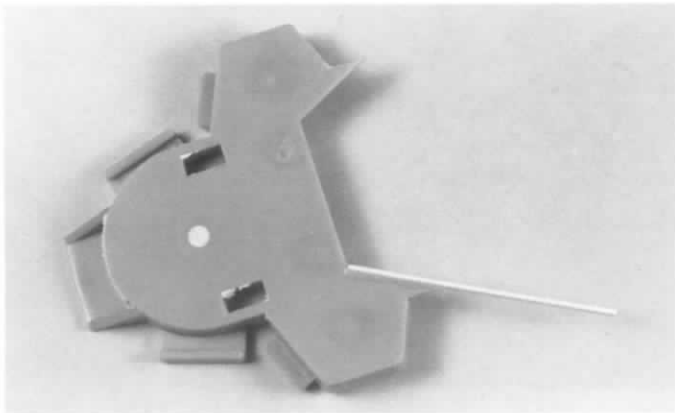
Use small lengths of Flex-I-File sanding sticks to get into corner areas. They are also great for removing unwanted molded-on detail.



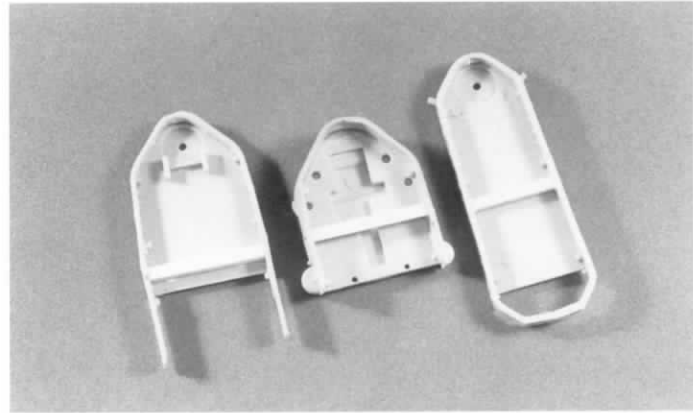
One way to deal with injection marks that are impossible to reach is to hide them. Thin mesh screening punched out with a Waldron punch tool covers the injection marks on this part.



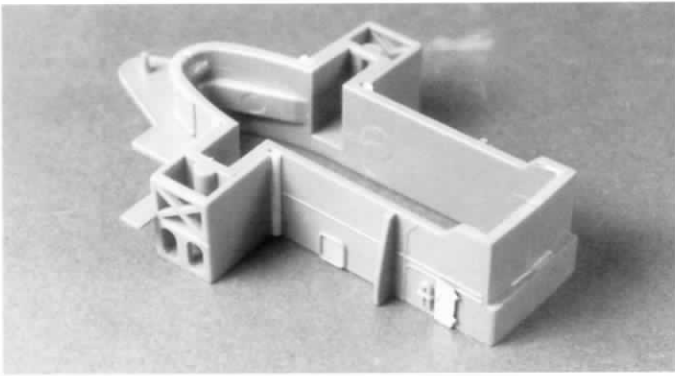
Another way to hide blemishes or imperfections is to cover them with Gold Medal Models deck hatches.



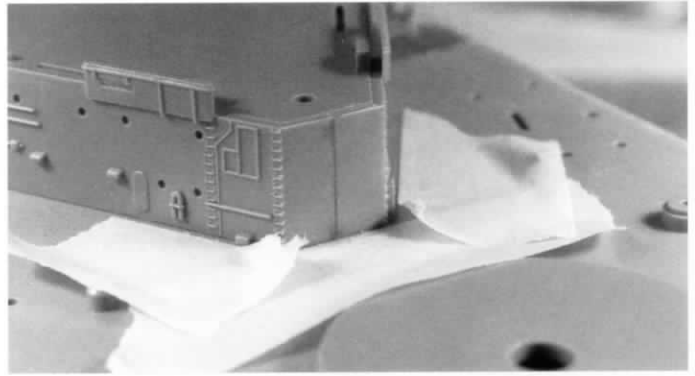
Fix voids between superstructure parts by adding thin strips of Evergreen stock to the gluing surfaces and then form-fitting them into place.



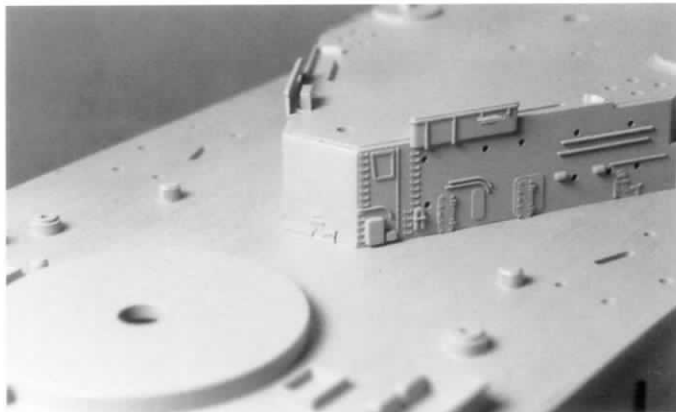
To reinforce flimsy superstructure parts, glue them together and then add strips of Evergreen strip stock to the inside of the parts. Be careful when doing this—you don't want to distort the shape of the part. Kit parts by Bill Teehan



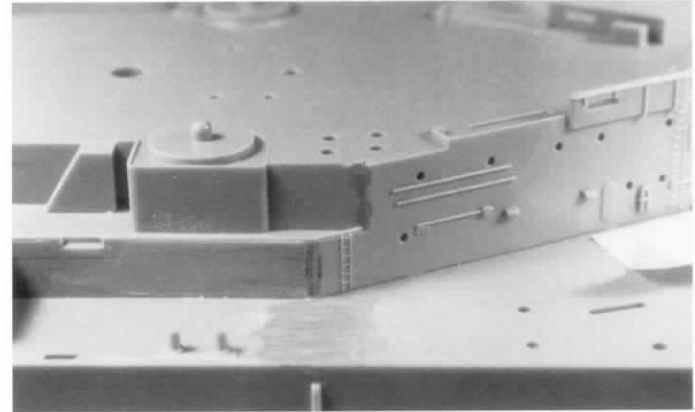
Interior corner joints can be difficult to fill. An easier way to deal with these problems is to simply cover them with small lengths of Evergreen quarter-round stock.



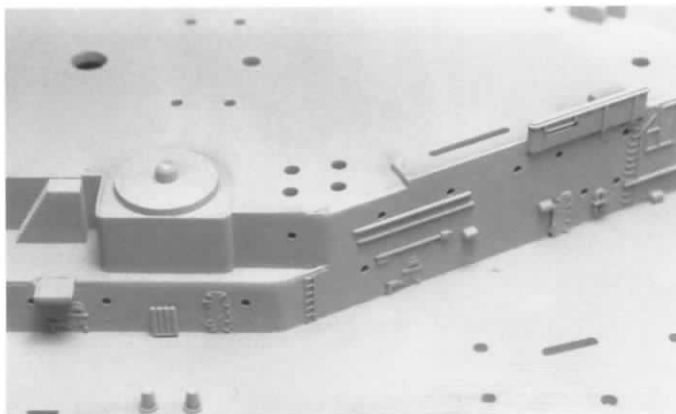
When fixing seams, surround the area with tape to protect surface detail. Fill a seam line with automotive crack filler and wet-sand it smooth with a small length of a Flex-I-File sanding stick. This area is now ready for painting.



Next, prime the area, and add a Gold Medal Models photoetched detail fire hose. It is now ready for final painting.



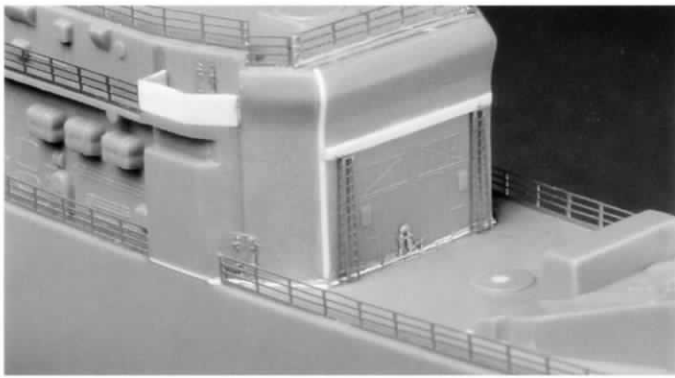
Exterior corner joints can be a challenge to fill and then smooth out, but automotive scratch filler makes it easy. While you can't use this scratch filler for large voids, it works well for small, thin crack lines and voids, and it sands quickly. Here again, use a small length of a Flex-I-File sanding stick to smooth out the putty.



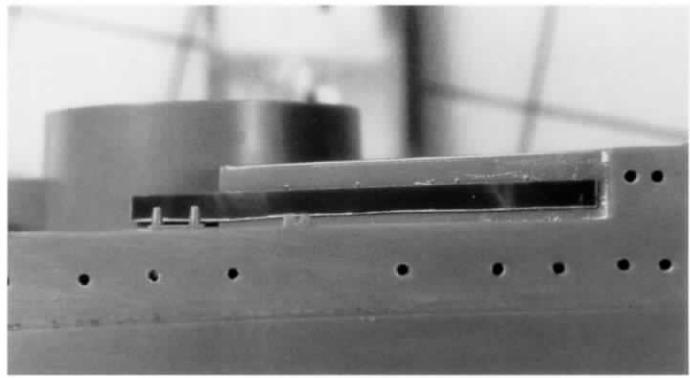
Here you can see that the putty has completely filled the areas. After applying primer, you cannot detect the cracks.



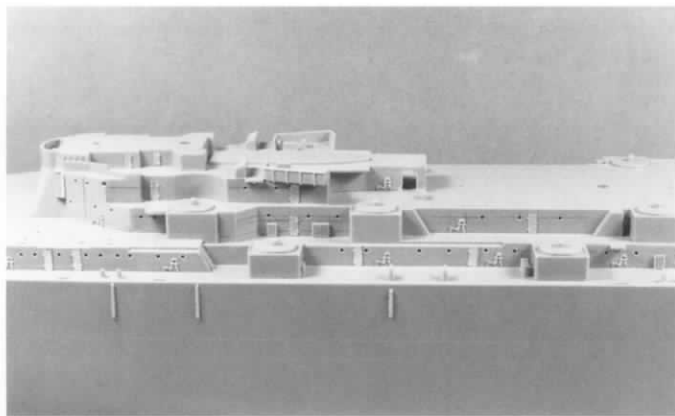
Some superstructures require a lot of fill work, like Monogram's age-old *USS Halsey*. Here, apply combinations of Evergreen strip stock and thin- and thick-gel super glue to the seams and voids. The trick is to carefully sand these surfaces smooth while retaining the shape of the superstructure parts. Using small lengths of Flex-I-File sanding sticks is the best way to do this.



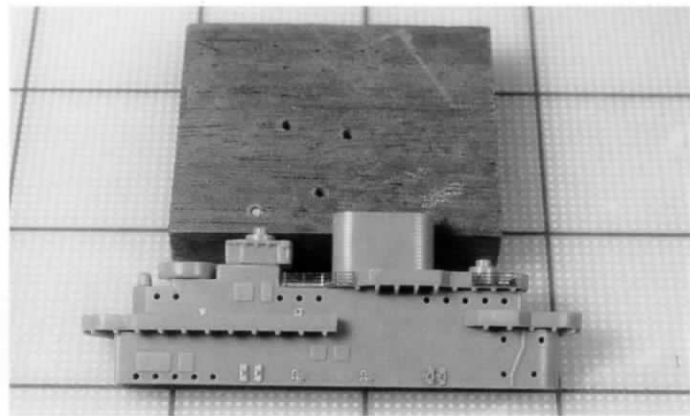
After cleaning up, reshaping, and adding brass details, railings, and ladders, the superstructure of Monogram's *USS Halsey* is ready for painting. Replace the bridge windows with Gold Medal Models bridge window decals. Photo by Glenn Johnson



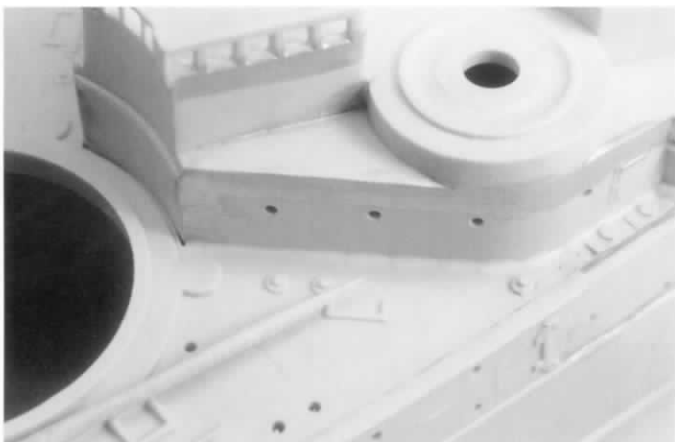
One way to add porthole details is to use a thin length of labeling tape positioned along the superstructure surface. Use a needle point inserted into a pin vise to mark the locations of the portholes, and then drill them out.



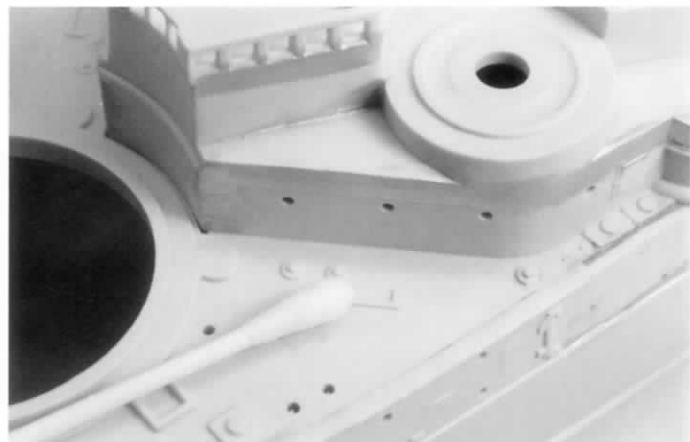
Here is a good example of adding details to a superstructure. While Tamiya's 1/350 scale *Missouri* is a great kit, adding Gold Medal Models hatches and fire hoses, as well as locating and drilling out portholes, is a great way to add a higher level of realism. A twist drill is a handy piece of equipment to have when you're drilling out a lot of portholes.



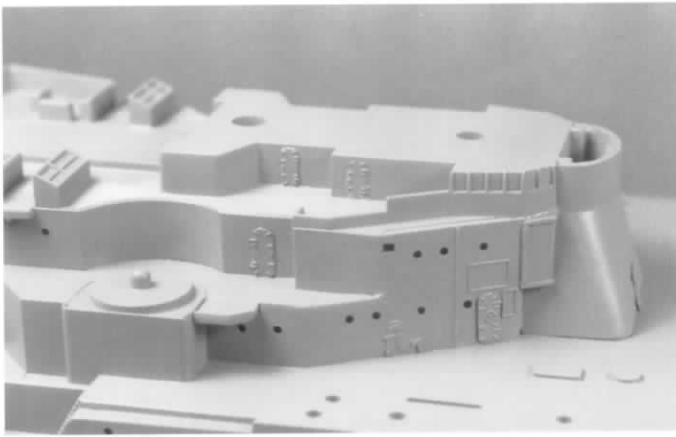
You can improve even 1/700 scale superstructure parts by adding photoetched details and drilling out portholes.



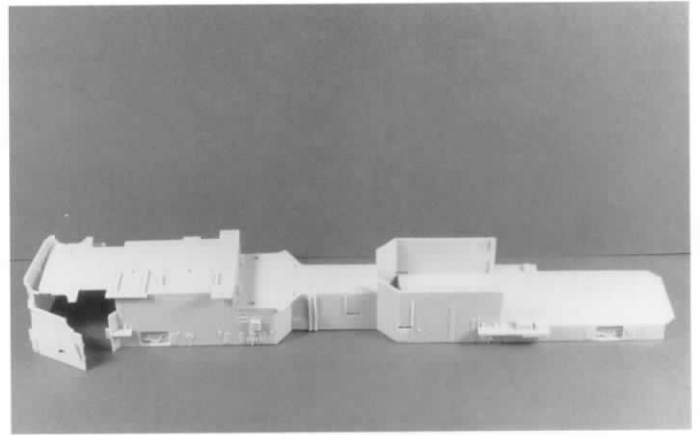
To fill voids between the superstructure and the deck, apply white glue. Work in small sections at a time so that the glue doesn't start to dry before you shape it.



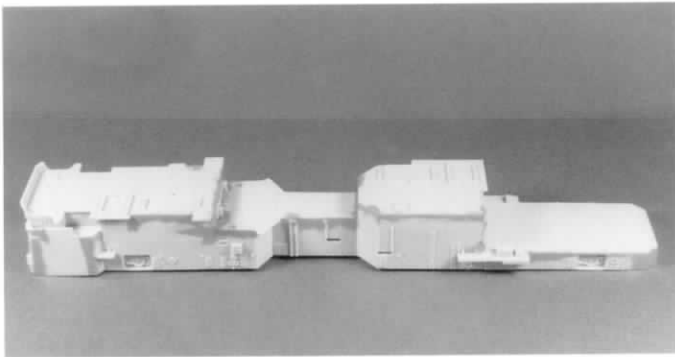
To shape white glue, simply dampen a cotton swab in your mouth, twirling it to compress the cotton, then run the tip along the edge of the superstructure and the deck, thereby removing the excess glue and pushing the glue down into the void.



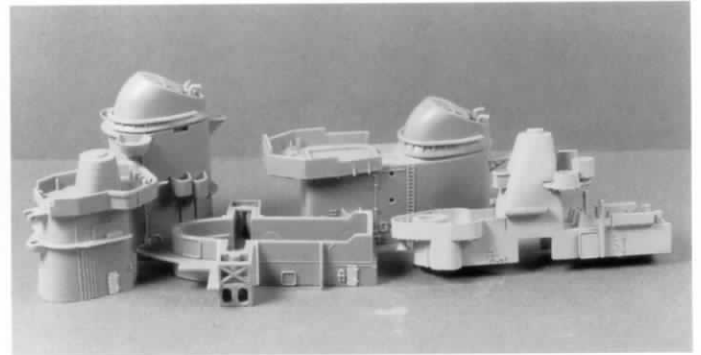
Fill the deck/superstructure seams on Tamiya's 1/350 scale *Missouri* and prime the model. While white glue is not the answer to all void problems, it is by far the best filler to use for voids between superstructures and decks.



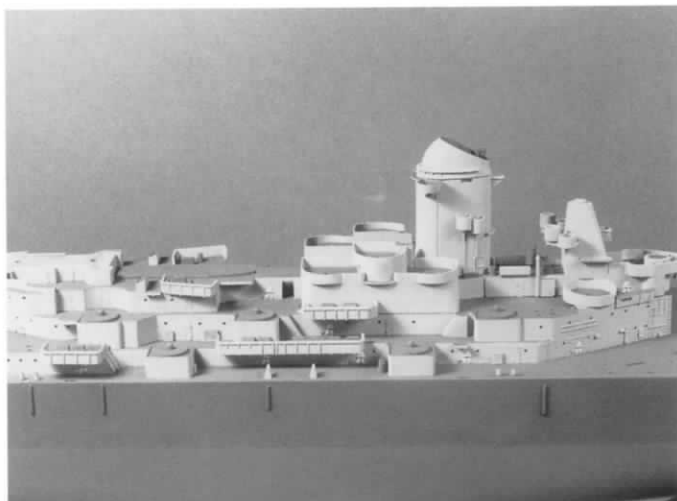
The superstructure parts on DML's 1/350 scale kits present a special challenge to modelers because they are not designed as left and right halves; you literally have to build a five-part box—four sides and a top. The secret is to start from the stern portion of the main superstructure and work forward. The stern parts are easier to fit together.



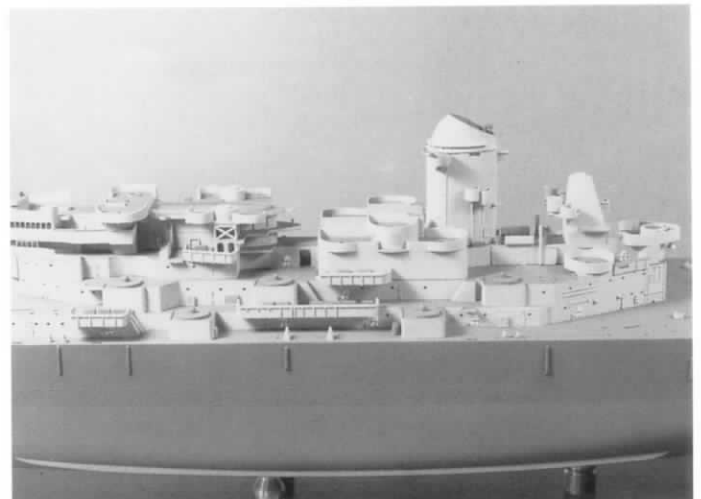
Complete the DML superstructure and apply silver paint to the seams to check for flaws. You have to be careful when sanding the corner areas on this particular kit because you don't want to skew the sharp edges of the superstructure.



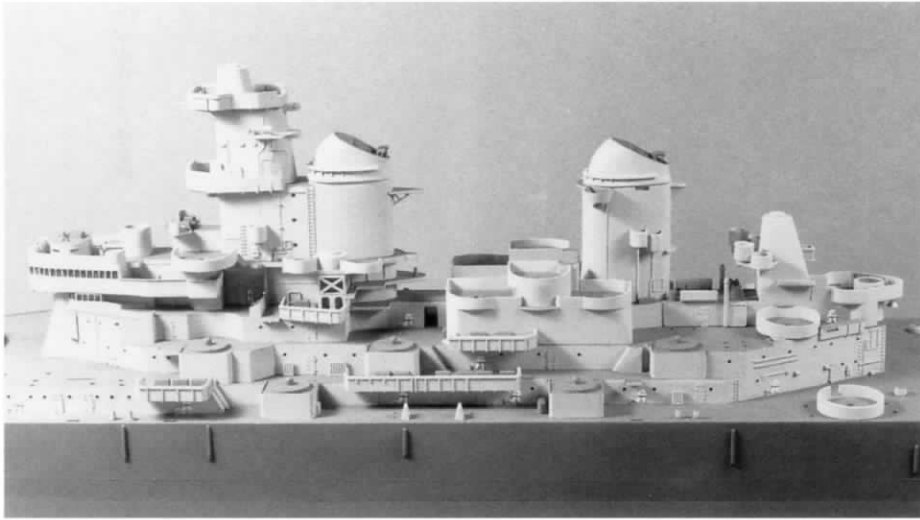
Build up superstructures in sections wherever possible, especially with kits that have multiple levels. Here, some of the superstructure parts on Tamiya's 1/350 scale *Missouri* have been completed and are ready for painting.



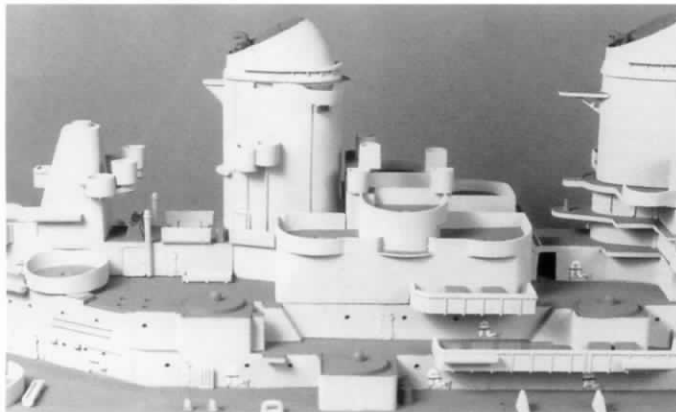
Build up complex superstructures in stages. Here, the buildup of Tamiya's 1/350 scale *Missouri* has begun.



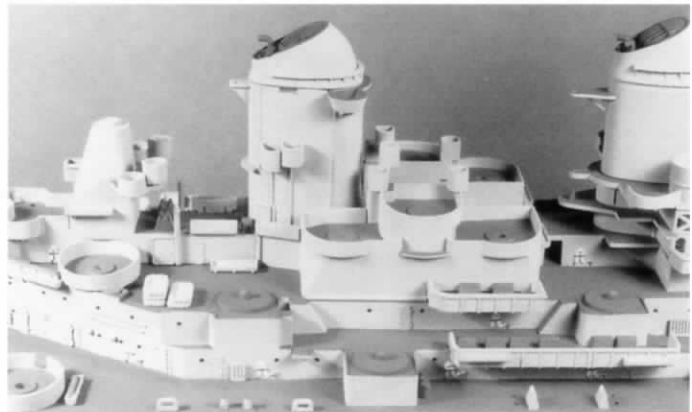
The stern area of the *Missouri's* superstructure is complete. Now work on the forward section, one layer at a time.



The forward superstructure is now complete. As you build up the superstructure, prepaint all the subassemblies. Use white glue to fill the tiny voids between the deck layers. Because white glue dries clear and transmits light as well as color, it is not necessary to paint the white glue where the parts are already painted. The glue transmits the color of the deck and superstructure.



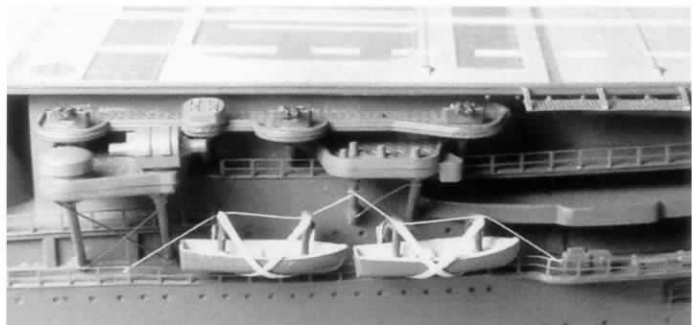
Sometimes, because of the engineering of a kit and the assembly sequence, you can't always fix a flat surface seam (center of photo, one-fourth up from bottom) prior to painting. In these cases you have three choices: You can live with the seam. You can fill it carefully, sand it, and then repaint the surface—which can be difficult and time-consuming. A better way is to hide it.



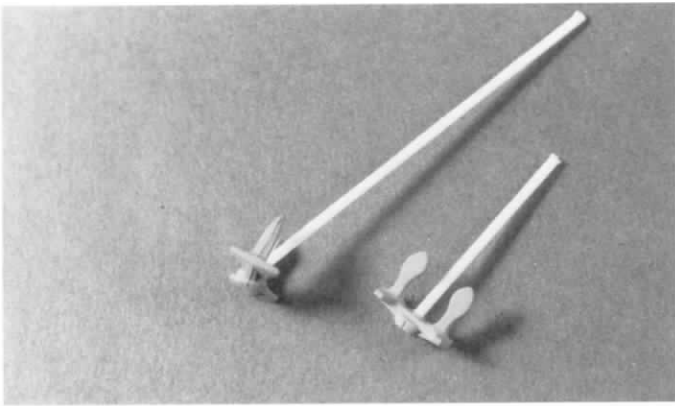
Covering a seam with a small length of prepainted Evergreen half-round stock is not 100 percent accurate. But it's better than leaving the seam there or taking the chance of ruining surface detail by trying to fill it.



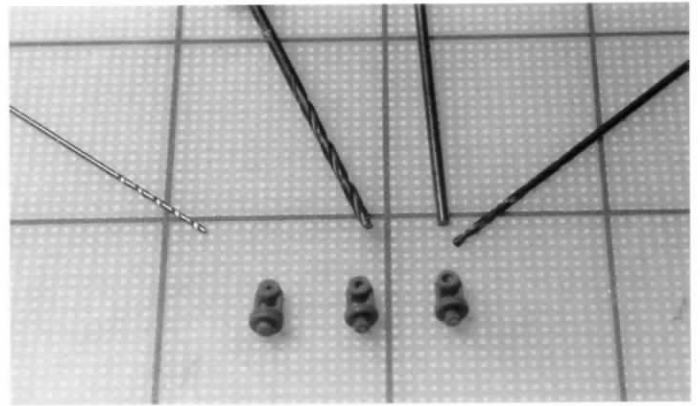
Adding details such as rudders and small smoke stacks to personnel boats adds another level of realism as well as helping to cover flaws.



Adding boat straps to this 1/500 scale kit gives yet another layer of realism. Model by Scott Weller



You'll have to replace the center stems on anchors on most ship kits so the anchors will sit correctly against the hulls.



Drilling out the lenses on searchlights is a quick and easy way to add detail to these parts. The final drill bit size that you use should match a Waldron punch disk size.



The search lights on Heller's *Jean Bart* were drilled out and replaced with clear disk parts punched out with a Waldron punch disk set.



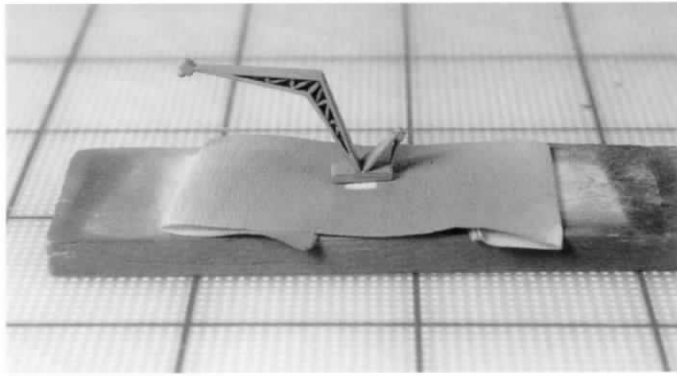
Here is another good example of searchlight detail. Revell's popular 1/426 scale *Arizona* looks a lot better with drilled out searchlights as well as photoetched railings.



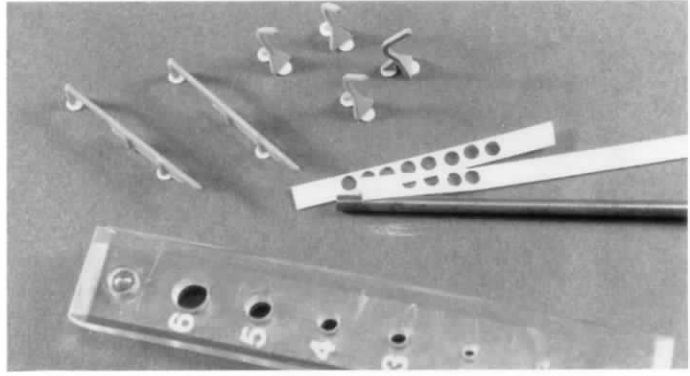
Sometimes a good paint job on a searchlight will also work, especially if the searchlight has a curved surface, which would be hard to simulate with a clear disk.



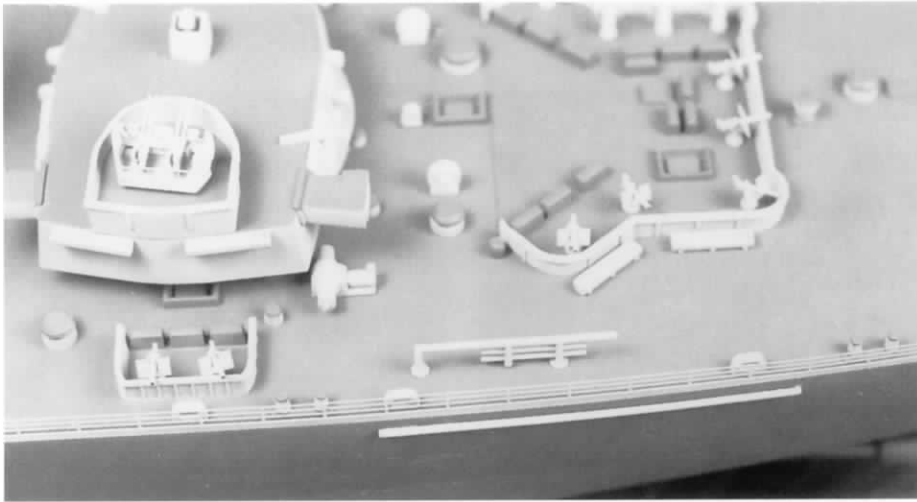
Little bits and pieces can also add detail to other parts like cranes. On Revell's *USS Arizona*, for instance, remove some of the molded-on detail and add photoetched detail, as well as new crane hooks.



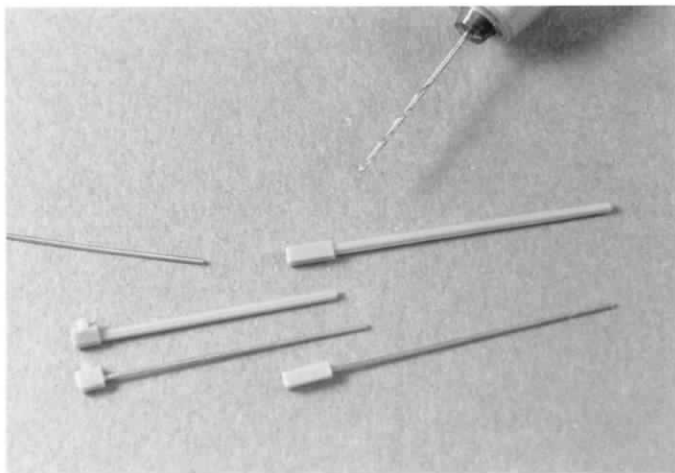
For small-scale cranes you can paint the areas between the lattice-work, which will improve their appearance. A better solution would be to replace this part with a photoetched crane.



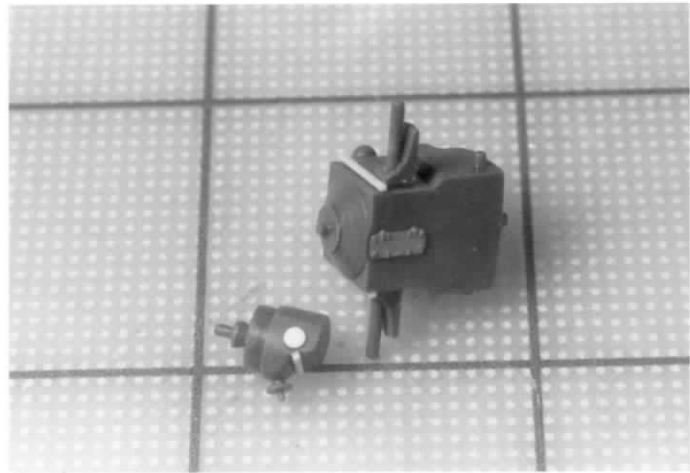
Another problem is that small detail parts do not always fit into their deck locations correctly. This becomes an acute problem when the deck is already painted. A simple solution is to add small thin disks to the base of these parts.



Glued to the deck surface of Tamiya's *Missouri*, the part covers the holes that would have resulted from misalignment. It was impossible to fill the void around the base of the 20mm splinter shield. Instead, I carefully filled the void with white glue and left it unpainted.



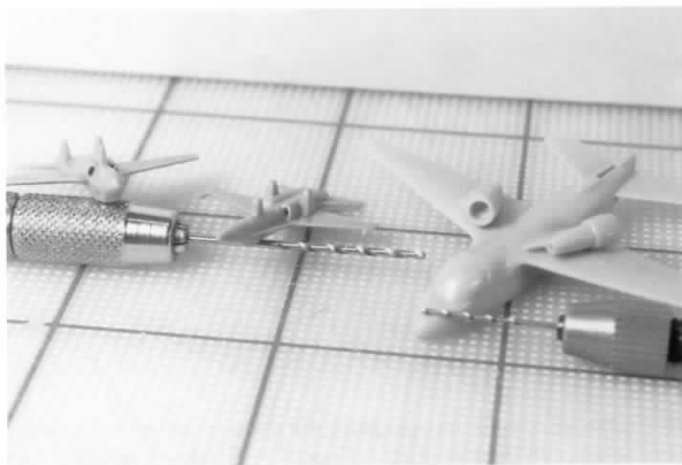
Molded antennas are usually too thick so I like to replace them with lengths of brass wire. Simply cut them off their bases, drill a hole into the base, and glue the brass rod in place.



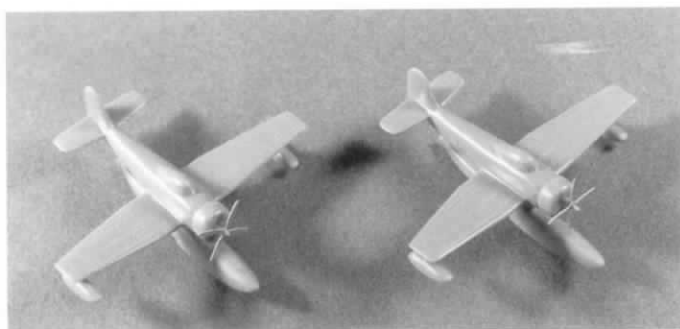
Adding parts to gun directors and range finders adds detail to them. Here again, you can hide flaws that are hard to fix.



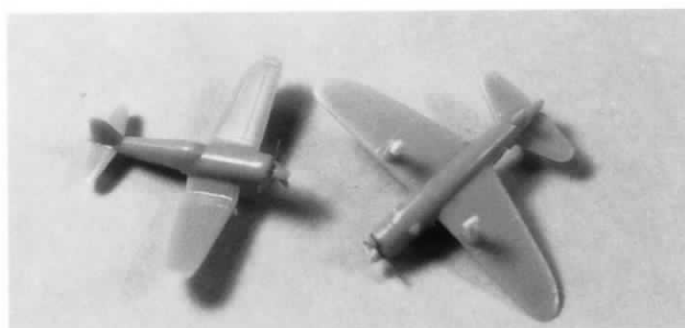
All the small details you add to the superstructure, as well as the small parts, add realism and give the model a very busy-looking appearance.



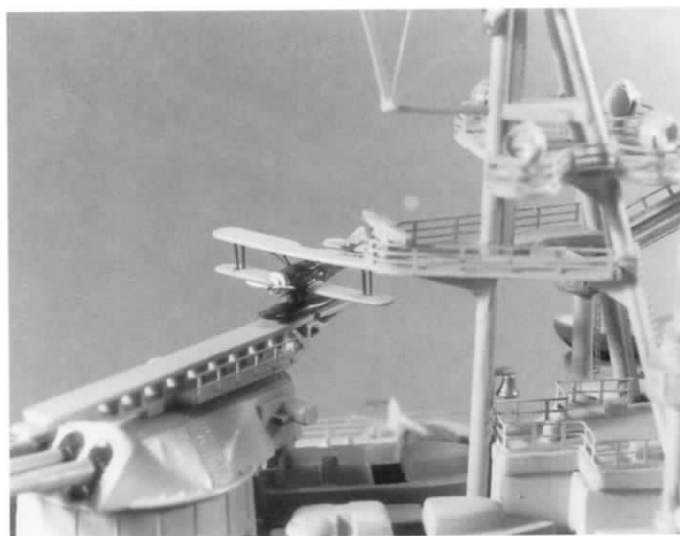
The appearance of jet aircraft can be greatly improved by just carefully drilling out the intake and exhaust areas of the engines.



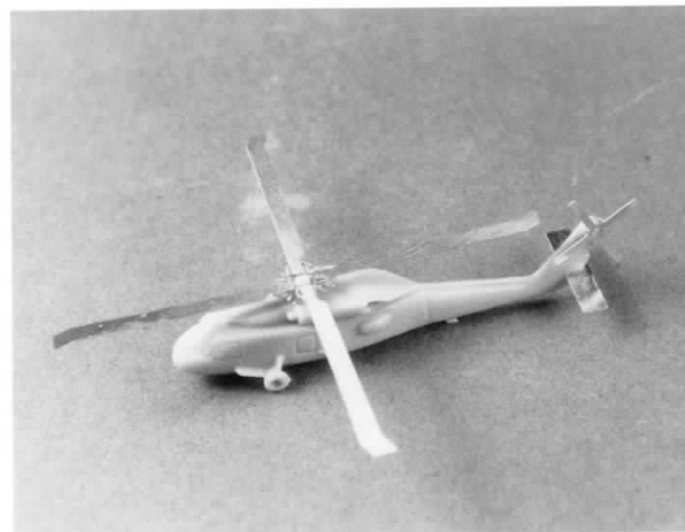
The appearance of propeller aircraft can be greatly improved with the addition of photoetched propellers, wheels, and tailhooks.



Add wheels to 1/700 scale planes like these by punching out small disks with a Waldron punch tool.

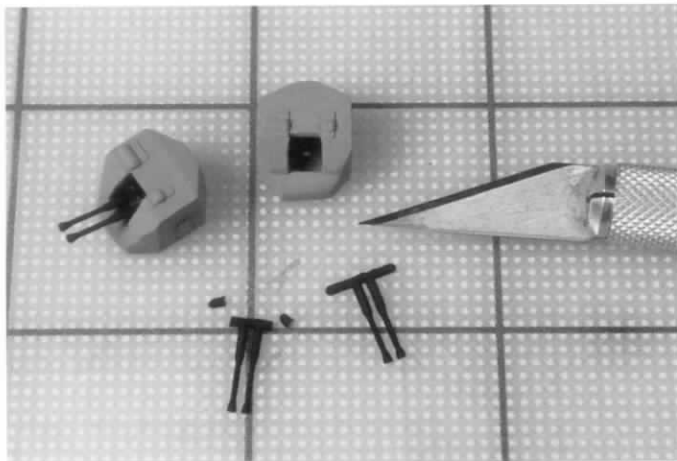


The biplanes on Revell's *USS Arizona* have solid wing struts. Cut the struts off and replace them with thin-diameter brass rod. These aircraft look a lot more realistic with these struts. The struts plus a good paint job really improve the overall appearance of this kit.

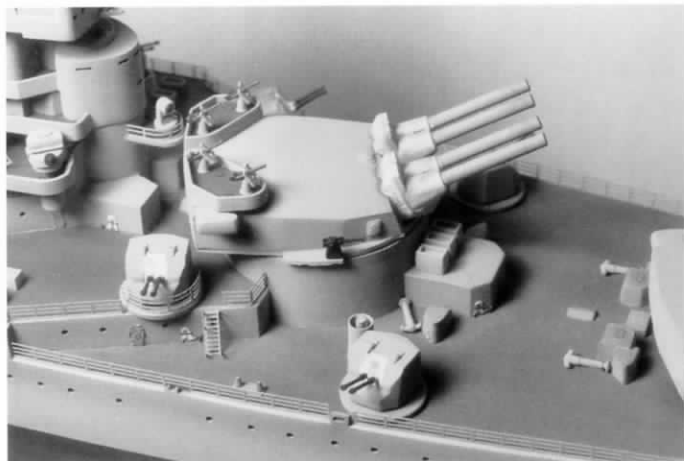


Improve the appearance of helicopters as well by adding photoetched detail parts.

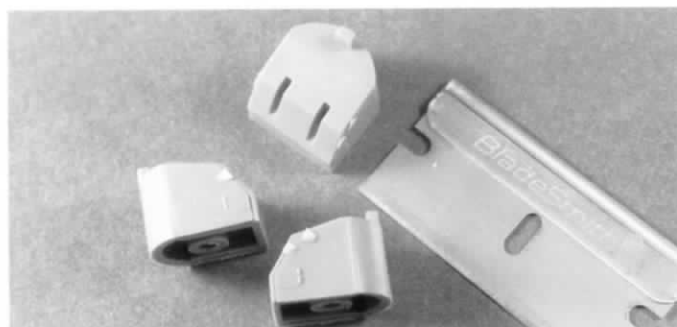




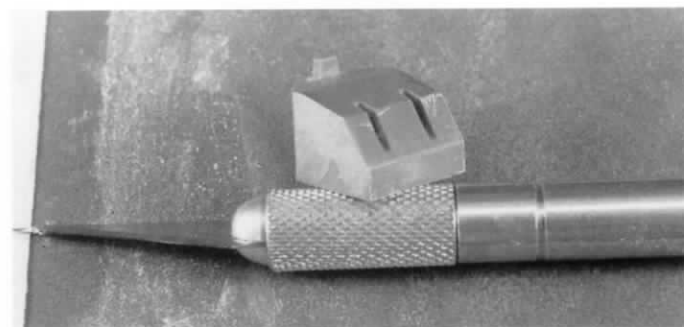
Don't add the guns to these 1/400 scale parts until you have assembled the gun turret, filled the seams, and reshaped the turret. This is a good example of modifying the kit assembly sequence to fix seam problems.



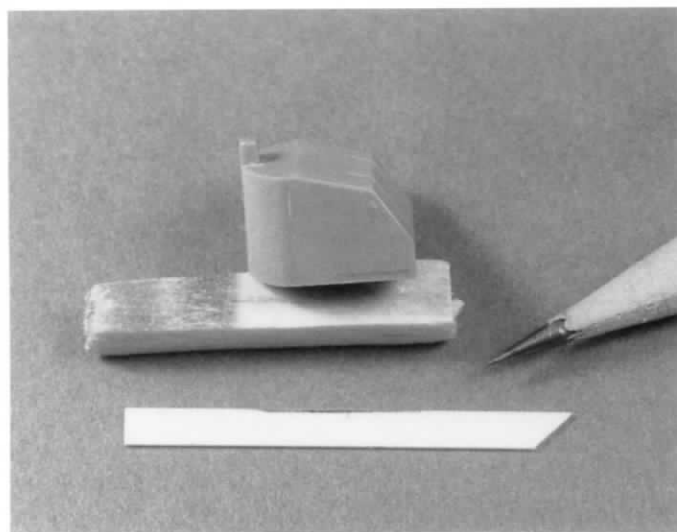
Fill the gun turrets with white glue to simulate the blast bags and to hide the lack of detail inside the turrets.



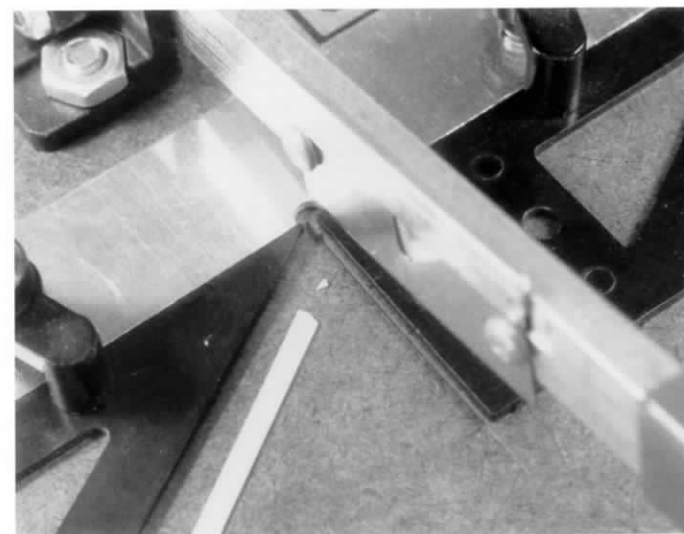
Tamiya's 1/350 scale twin 5-inch mounts have separate side plates. When glued together, they create seams that are almost impossible to fix. The solution is to glue the parts together and then carefully cut off the range finder appendages.



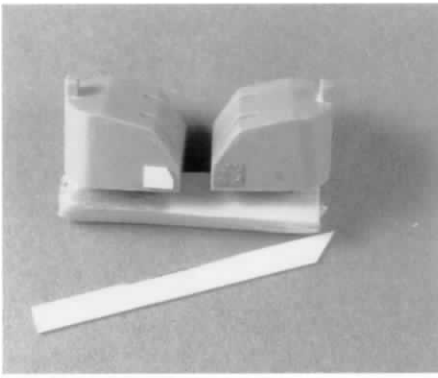
The next step is to fill the seams with super glue and carefully scrape, sand, and smooth the surfaces.



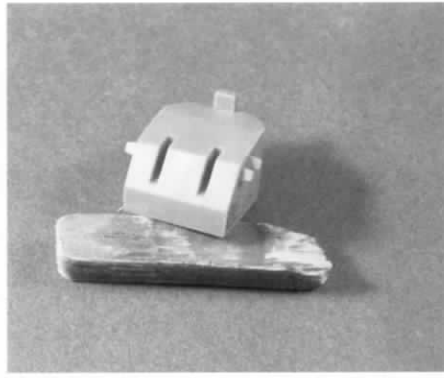
The first step in replacing the detail is to mark the locations of these parts.



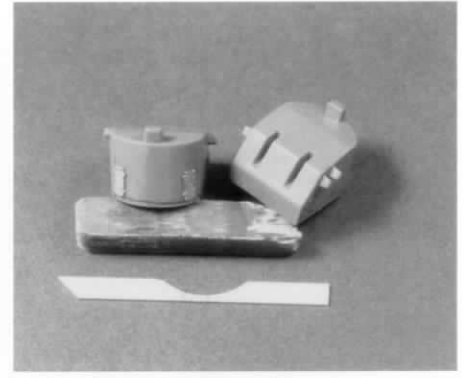
To replace the access hatch detail on the forward portion of the turrets, you can create the parts using Evergreen strip stock and your chopper.



The left turret has an access hatch made from strip stock, while the right turret has a custom-made photoetched hatch.



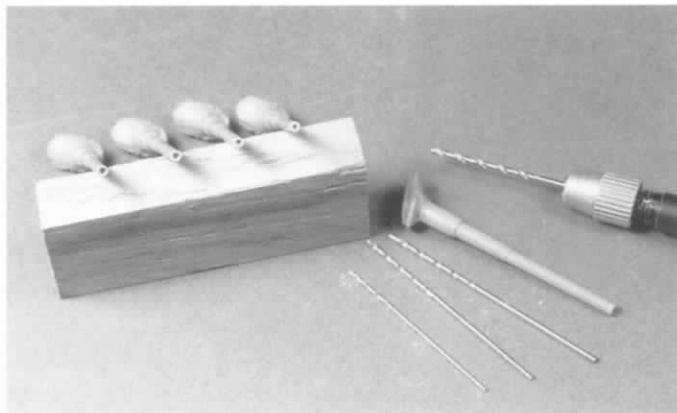
At this point you can glue the range finder appendages back onto the sides of the turret.



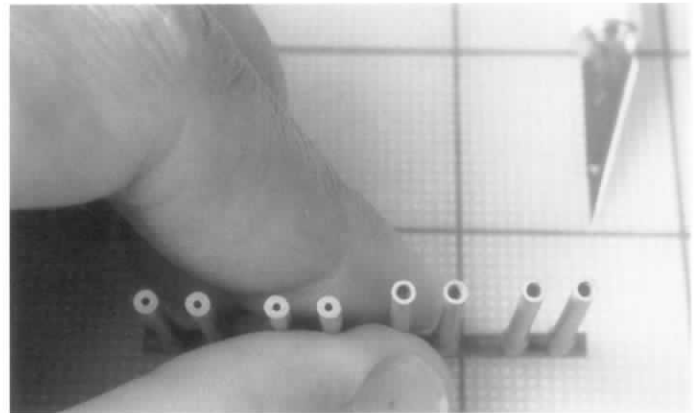
Add hatches to the rear turrets after marking the locations.



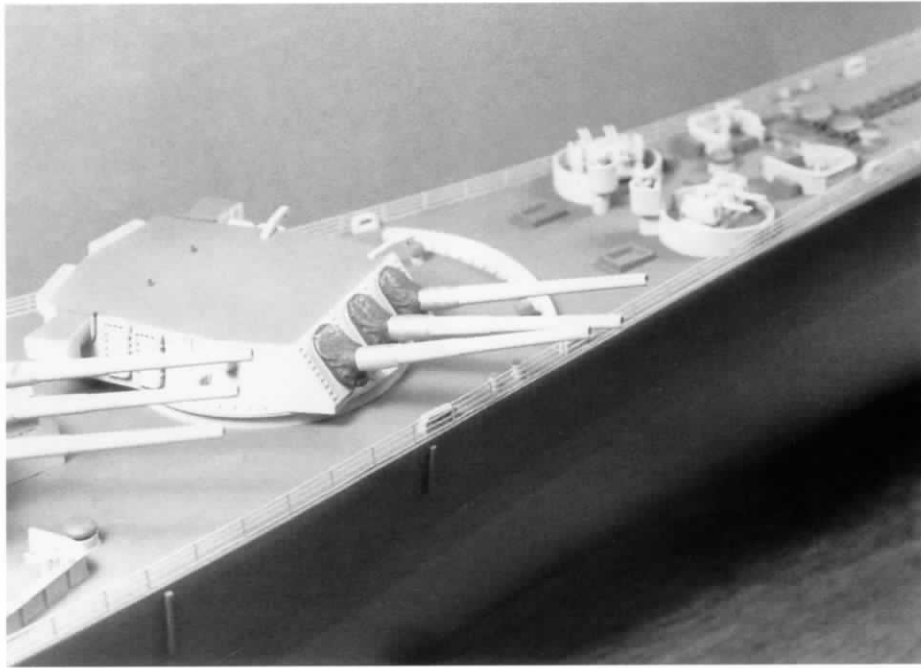
Paint the completed twin 5-inch turrets and install them.



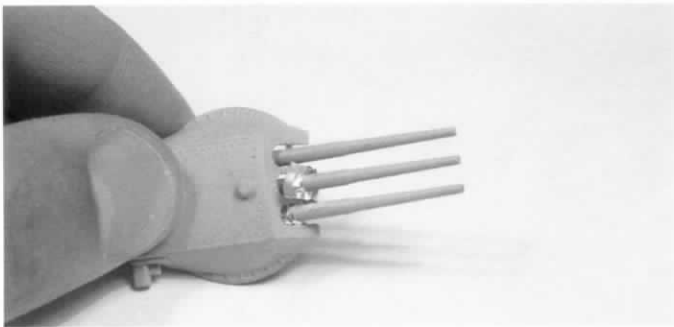
One way to bore out gun barrels is to start with a small drill bit and work up to the largest size drill bit you wish to use. The trick is to center punch the barrel so that your drill bit will not skew to one side.



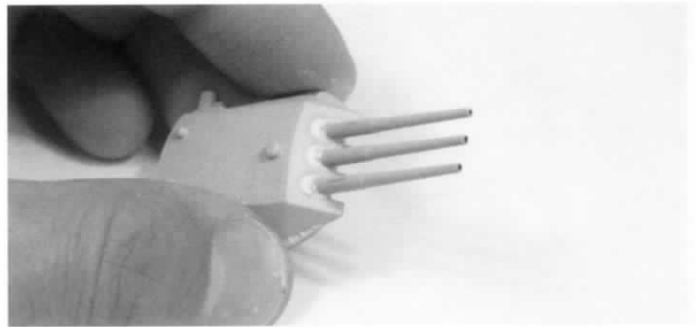
If you don't have the right size drill bit you can also use the tip of a number 11 X-acto blade to enlarge the hole.



The main turret guns on modern U.S. battleships have independent elevating gun barrels. Simulating this detail adds another level of realism.



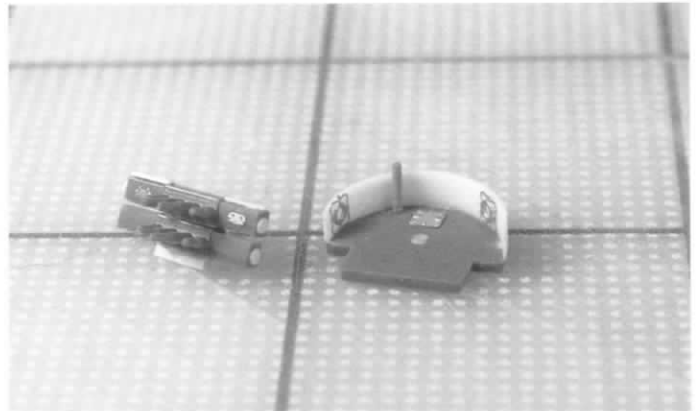
To create blast bags, place aluminum foil at the base of the gun barrels and tuck the aluminum foil underneath the face of the gun turret.



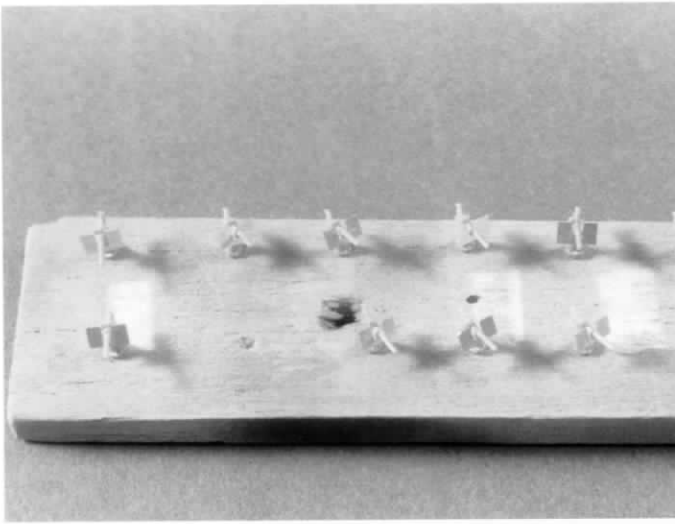
To simulate the blast bags, add white glue to the face of the aluminum foil, being careful not to allow the glue to spill out onto the turret face.



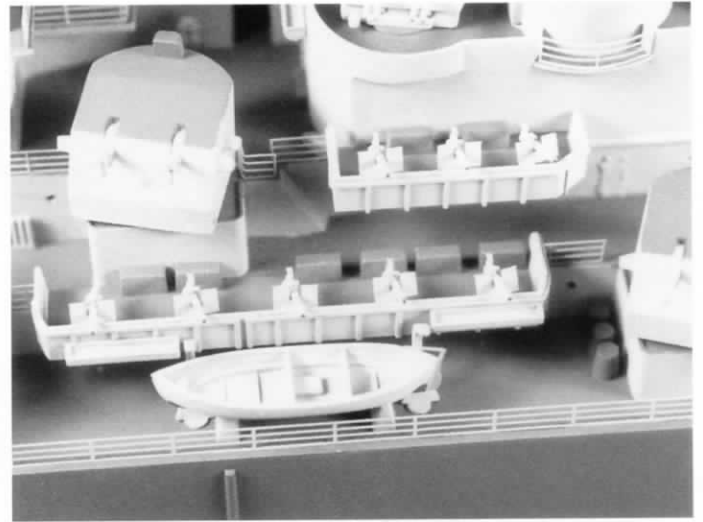
Then paint the finished turrets and paint the blast bags black.



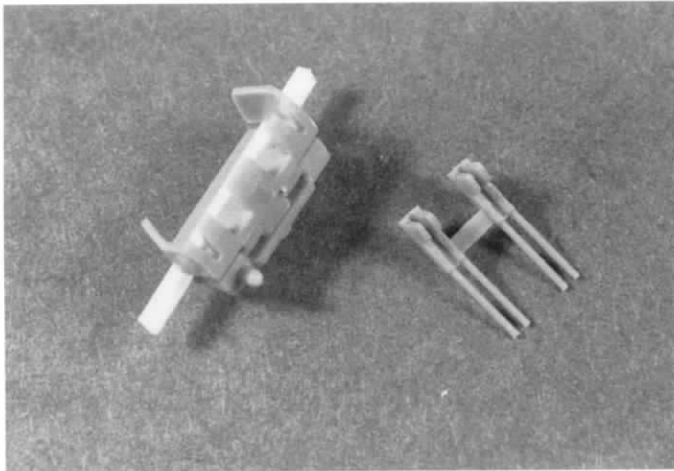
Add parts to the 1/400 scale pom pom gun, as well as the gun platform, to enhance the overall appearance of the gun. Replace the splinter shield with a section of Evergreen plastic tubing, as well.



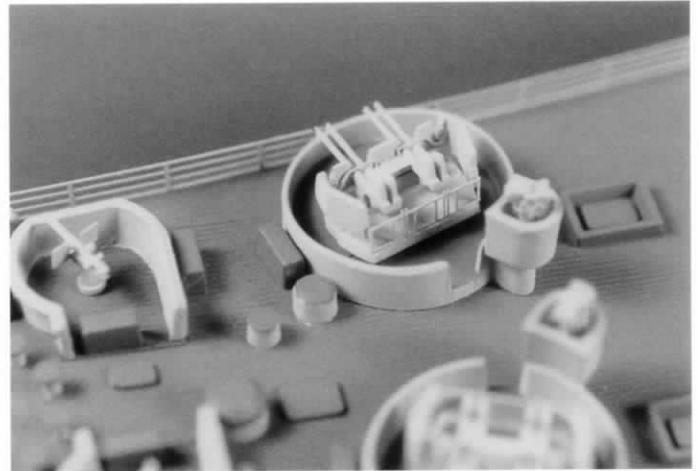
Parts control is important for ship modeling, especially when you are dealing with hundreds of parts. Photoetched shields were added to these 1/350 scale 20mm guns. They are now ready to be painted.



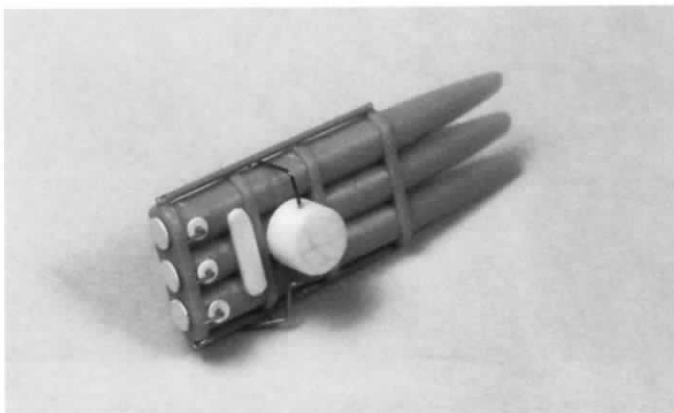
When installing 20mm guns, be sure that the guns are straight and level, especially with respect to each other and the splinter shields that surround them.



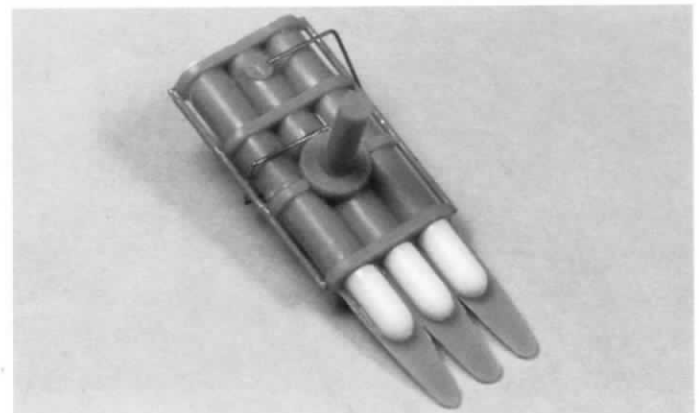
To help assemble Tamiya's 40mm gun shields use a small length of Evergreen strip stock to balance the upper part while you glue it into place.



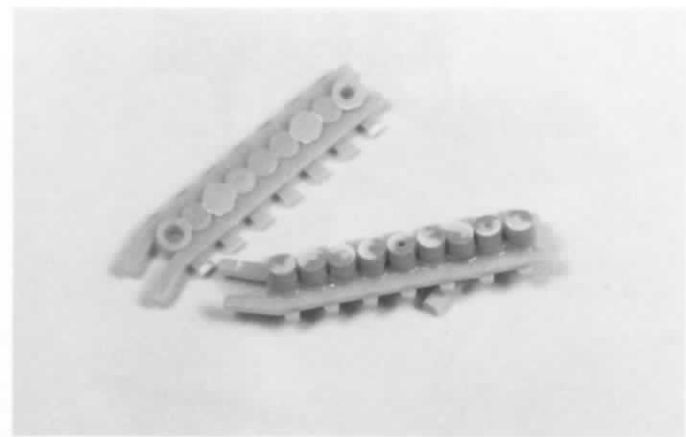
Enhance 1/350 scale 40mm guns like these with railings and gun-sights from Gold Medal Models.



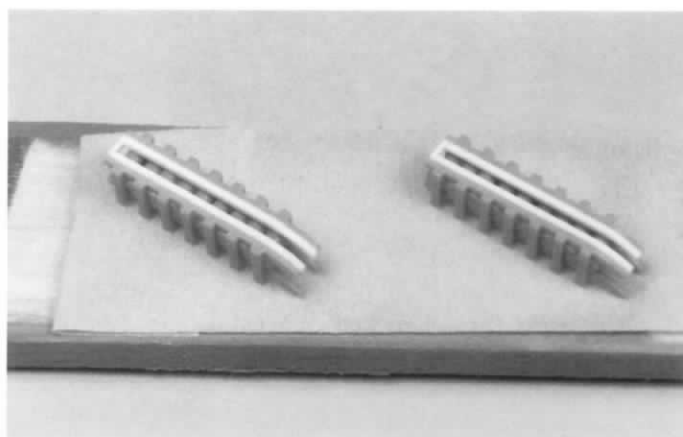
You can enhance torpedo tubes in 1/500 scale and larger with disks, lengths of brass wire, and other scratchbuilt shapes.



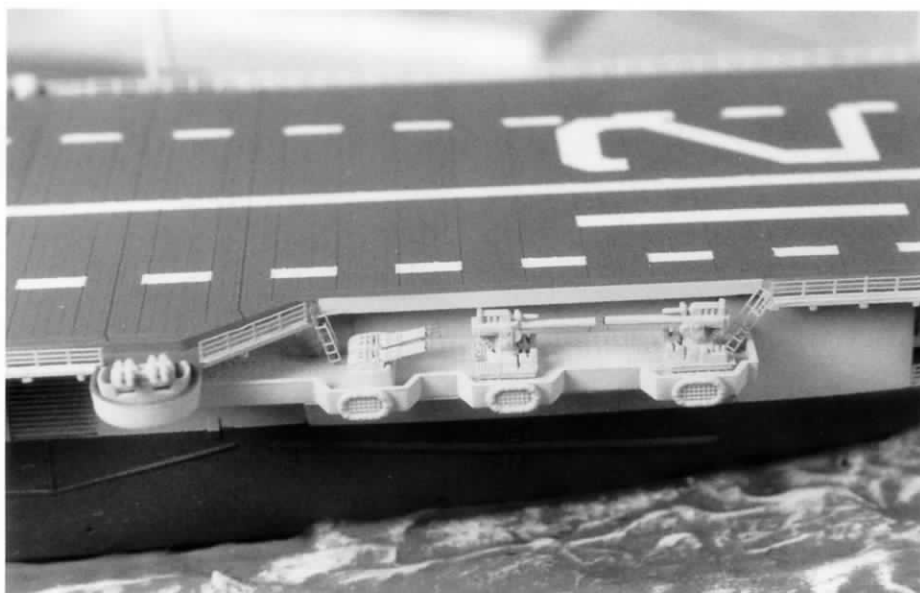
To really enhance the appearance of torpedo tubes, add the torpedoes to the underside of the tubes.



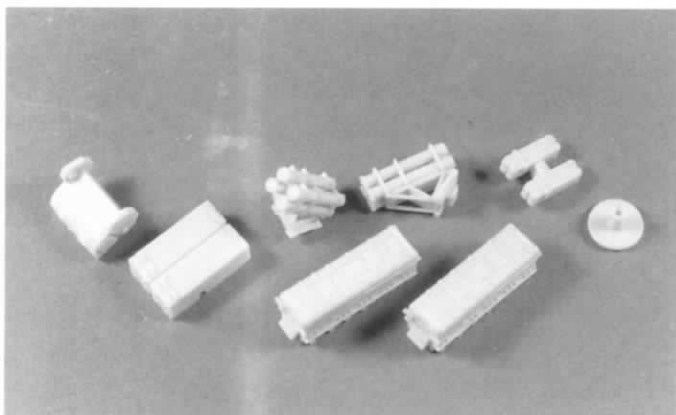
Enhance the appearance of this depth charge rack by adding small lengths of plastic rod to increase the size of the individual depth charges.



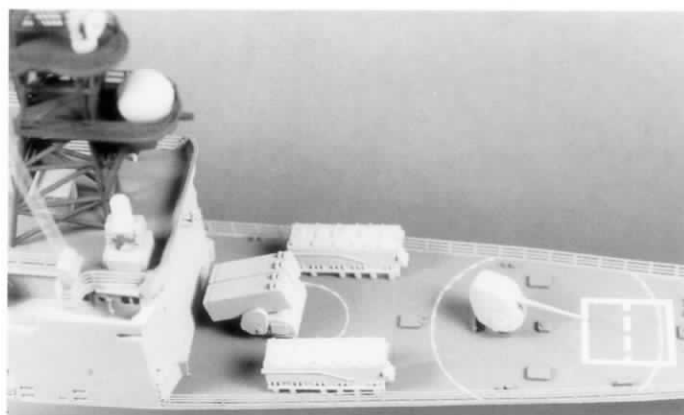
Add small lengths of Evergreen strip stock to these depth charge racks to cover the gluing surfaces that resulted from adding the individual depth charges.



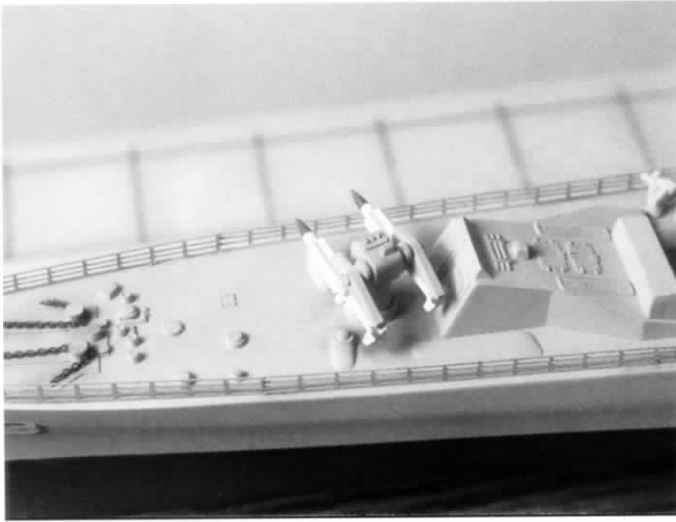
On 1/700 scale kits I recommend you buy a good supply of Pit-Road detail sets to replace kit-supplied parts. These sets, especially the guns, are highly detailed and impressive.



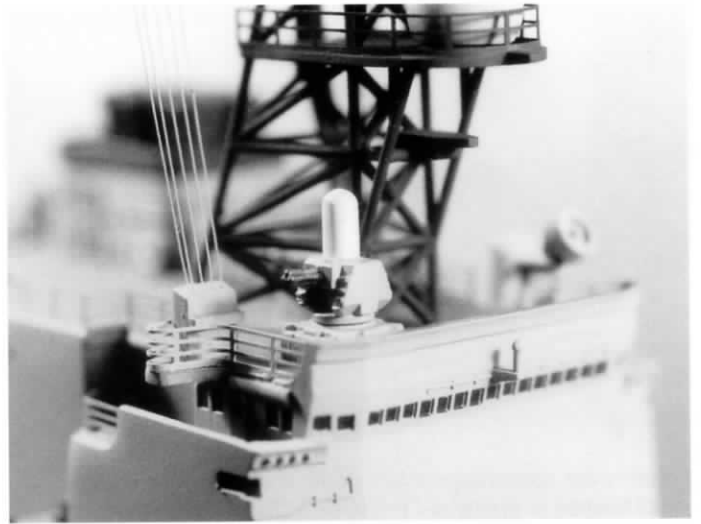
Build up modern weapons sets in stages, just as you would with superstructure parts.



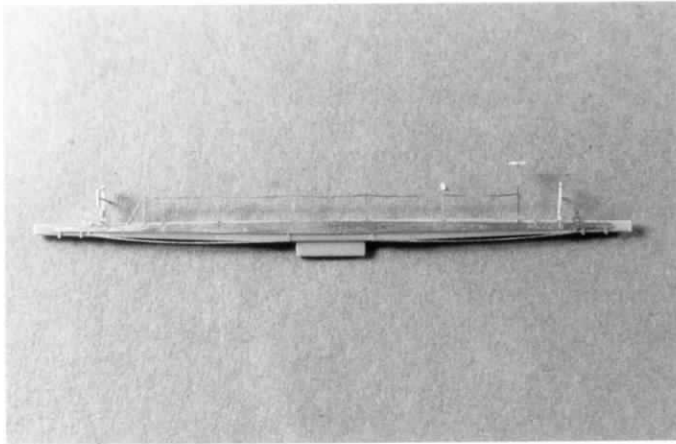
Modern missile systems are very different from their early predecessors and are usually box-shaped in appearance.



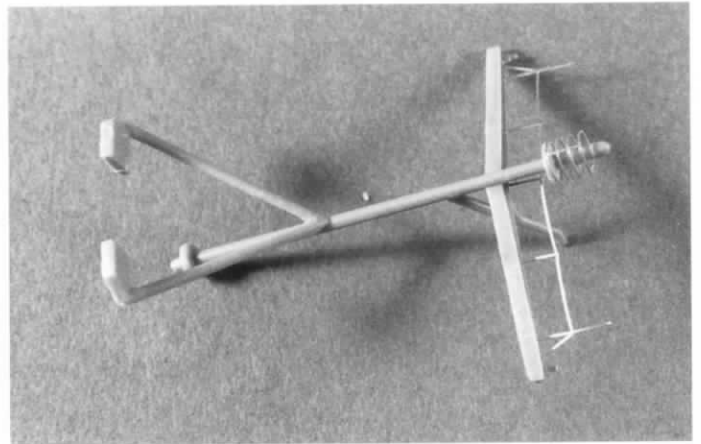
Enhance the appearance of earlier missile systems by rotating the missile arms upward and carefully painting the parts.



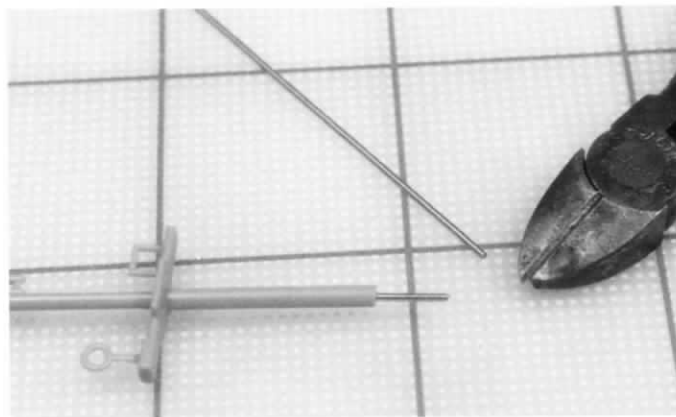
Careful painting on this Phalanx Gatling gun helps bring out the detail on this part.



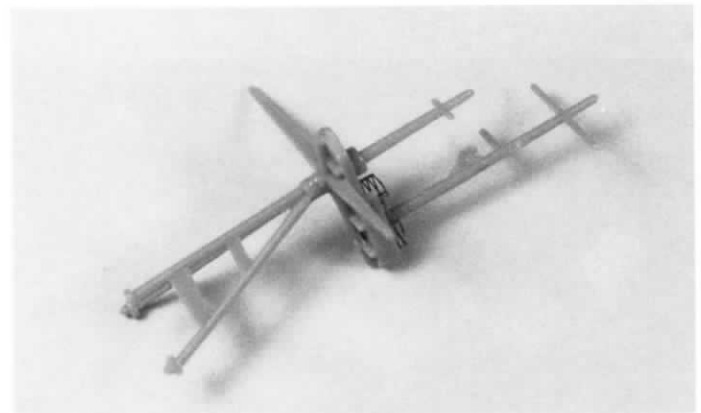
To enhance the detail of Tamiya's main mast for the *Missouri*, glue a Gold Medal Models photoetched mast yardarm to the back side of the kit part.



This is another good example of using a photoetched yardarm bent to shape and glued to the kit-supplied mast.



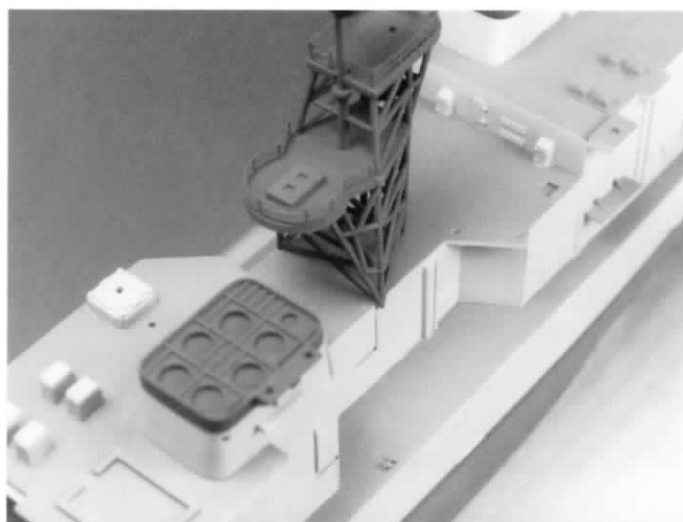
To add strength to kit-supplied masts, drill out the base of the mast and insert a small length of brass rod.



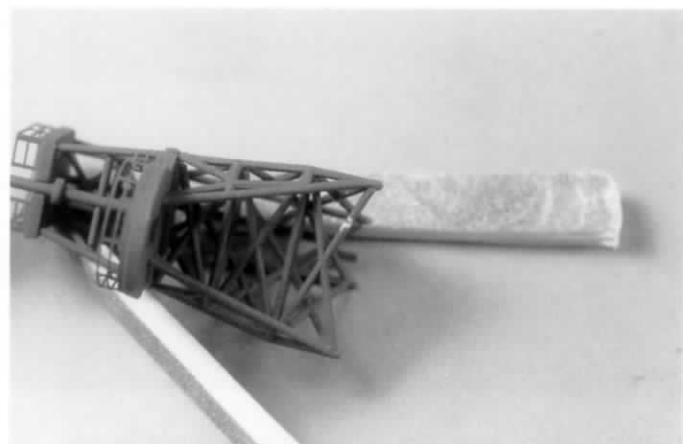
Wherever possible build up masts in subassemblies. I glued together these four 1/700 scale mast parts and added photoetched railings prior to painting.



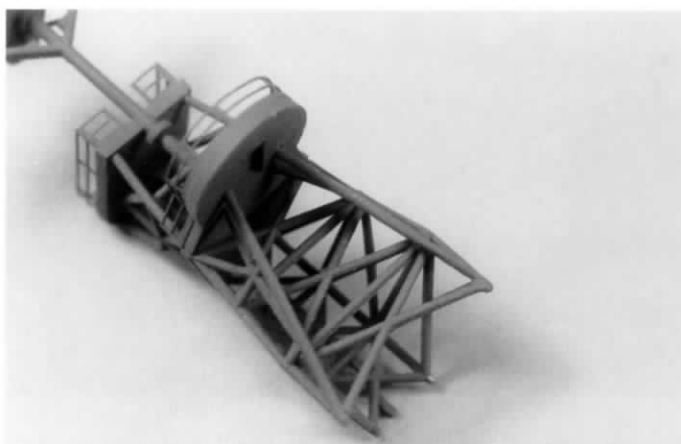
The masts on Heller's 1/400 scale *Jean Bart* have been painted and glued into place and are now ready for rigging.



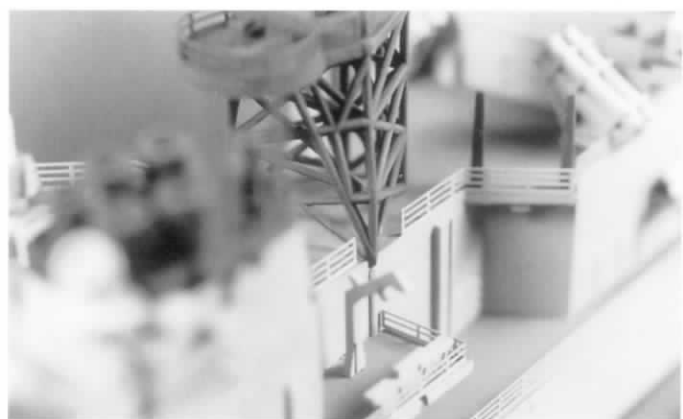
The starboard side of this lattice structure mast is too wide. Since the superstructure and the mast have been painted, this fit problem requires a unique solution.



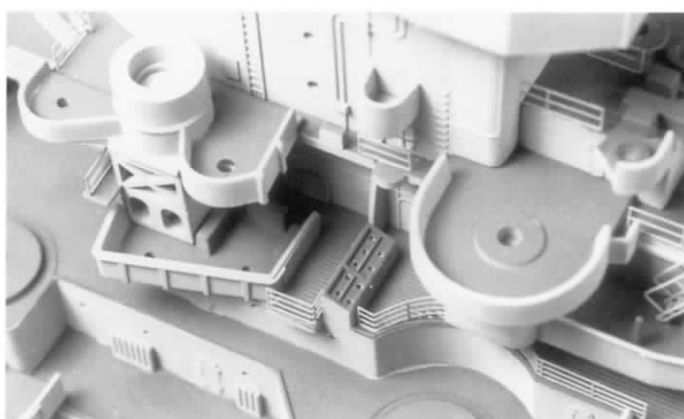
To fix this problem, cut the bottom frame so that you can pinch the starboard side of the base of the mast inward.



Pinch the mast base inward, glue it together with super glue, and paint it over. The dissected part is barely noticeable.



As you can see, the base of the mast fits snugly into its superstructure location after reinstallation. While this glaring problem should have been caught during the fitting phase, it had a simple solution.

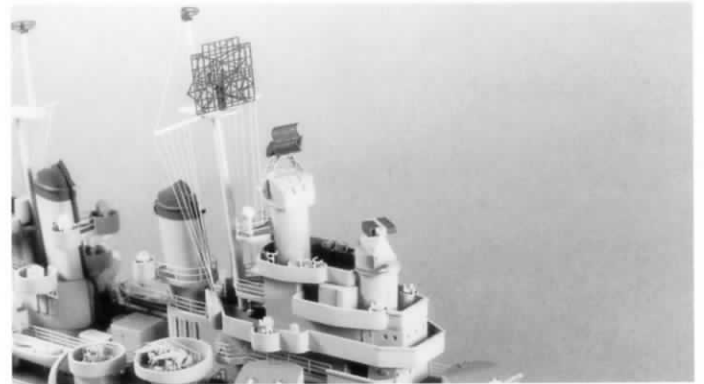
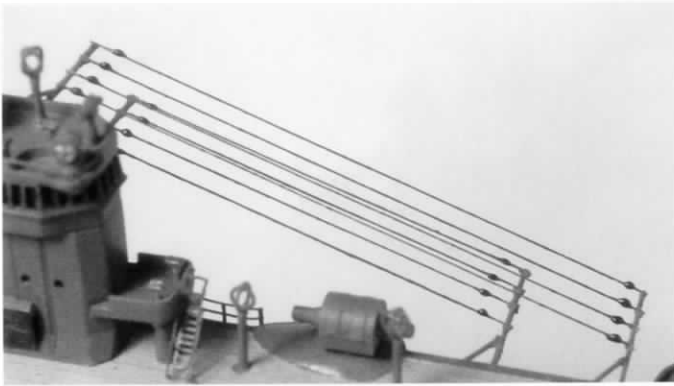


In preparation for rigging, drill holes into the flag bags before assembling the superstructure completely. This is a good example of planning—it would have been very difficult to drill these holes after assembling the superstructure.



Rig the forward mast and flag bag with clear nylon sewing thread; paint the thread after installation. To ensure that the rigging is evenly spaced on the mast, install one length on the port side, then install its counterpart on the starboard side, and work your way from the inside of the mast to the outward edge of the mast.

If you are going to add flags to your rigging, curl them slightly so that they appear to be flapping in the breeze.



If you want to add the insulators to antenna rigging, simulate the insulators with small drops of white glue. Model by Scott Weller

To keep yardarms from sagging down when you add flag bag rigging, add rigging between the yardarm and the upper part of the mast.



When rigging 1/700 scale kits use nylon thread, but don't paint it. In this scale you should see a hint of rigging, but the rigging should not overwhelm the appearance of the model.