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GALLERY'S  
YAMATO

p.18



See how Harvey Low  
backdated Gallery's  
brand-new 1/200  
scale Japanese  
battleship, adding  
and modifying parts  
along the way.

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- BUILD FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER p.44
- CUSTOMIZE A CHEVELLE SURF WAGON p.38

BONUS  
ONLINE  
CONTENT  
CODE  
PAGE 3



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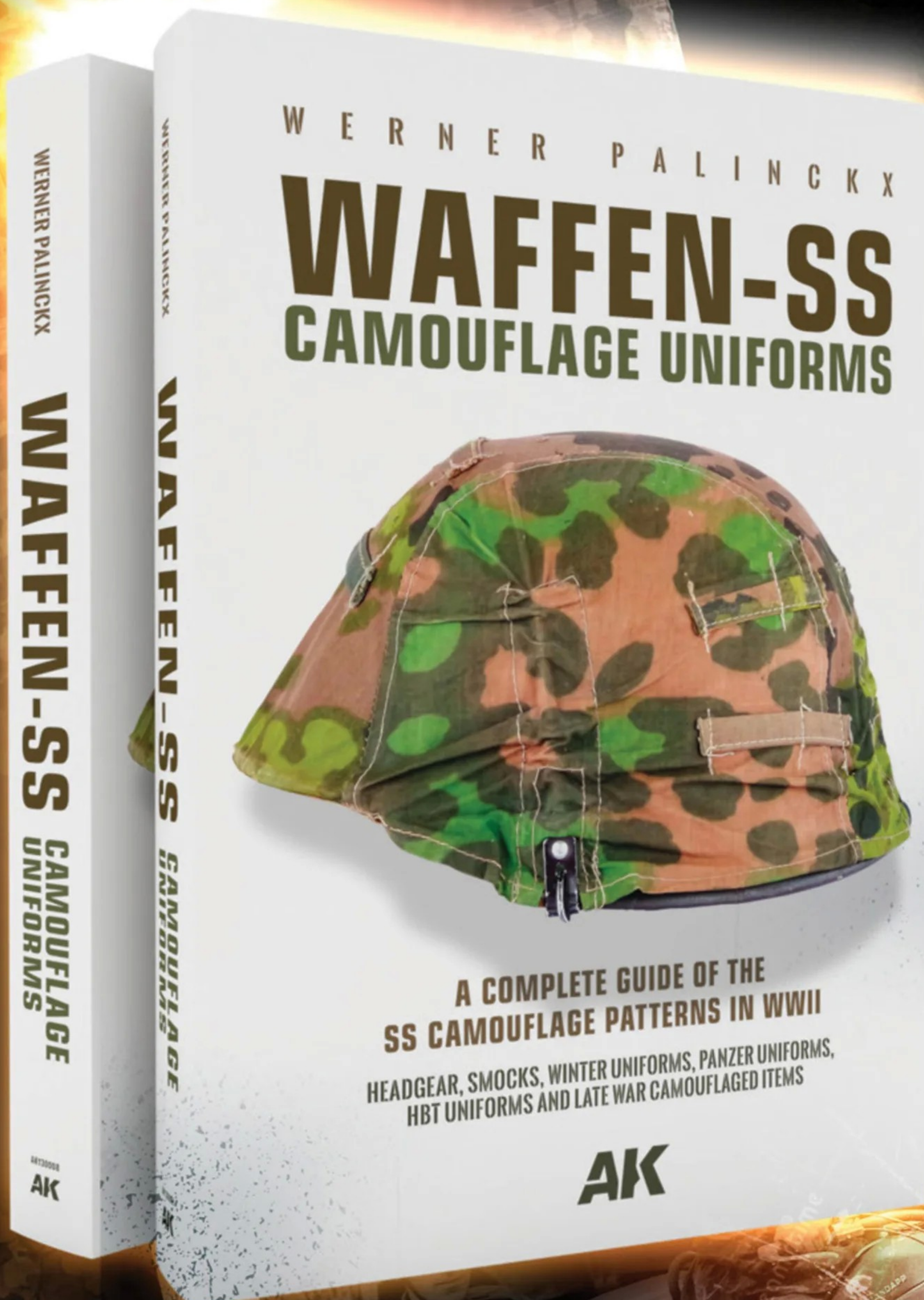
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By Aaron Skinner

# Modelers say things funny

All hobbies and specialist professions have terms and words that are particular to them. It's nomenclature (or gnomomenclature if you play *Dungeons & Dragons*) that you quickly become comfortable using as you gain experience.

Modeling is no different. Newcomers or the uninitiated may be confused that when modelers say cement they are taking about glue rather than the stuff sidewalks are made from. In our world, a wash isn't about the dinner dishes. Quite the opposite, we apply a wash — thin paint — as part of weathering or adding grime to a model. And a pinwash is not thin paint applied with the tip of a pin, but a targeted or pinpoint wash. Weathering and finishing give us so many terms that must leave non-modelers overhearing hobbyists scratching their heads: filters, zenithal lighting, modulation, dry-brushing, non-metallic metal, mapping. (I'm not sure I can tell you what the last one is!) And this doesn't include items there are multiple terms for, such as parts tree versus sprue. Is it sprue cutter, side cutter, or part nipper?

The other nomenclature modelers pick up along the way are the equipment and their parts. In what I jokingly refer to as my misspent youth, I built a lot of 1/72 scale aircraft and read about the real things. Even today, in what may be the lamest party trick ever, I can recognize most aircraft from a spotter's silhouette. Along the way, I learned to tell the difference between an elevator and an aileron — and how to pronounce the latter — and a Spitfire

Mk.V and a Mk.VIII. I've never been in the military or been much of a gearhead, but I know what a glacis and mantlet are, and I can tell an oil filter from a carburetor, at least in 1/25 scale. (We won't discuss the pronunciation of chassis, because Tim Kidwell and I have a difference of opinion about that.)

Modelers often use shorthand terms for subjects. For example, *Sonderkraftfahrzeug*, German for special purpose vehicle is a mouthful. The initials SdKfz is commonly used and many people, including the *FSM* staff, say "sid-ka-fizz." Sounds weird, but it's probably saved us all an hour or two in our lives. Like being able to skip the credits on Netflix shows.

All of this is meant humorously, but it does indicate one of the things I have always appreciated about modeling — it's educational. I picked up a lot about the history of the fighters, tanks, landing craft, and cars I've built. My beloved sci-fi spacecraft helped reveal the history of cinema and the magic behind the movies. Beyond the historical facts, I've also learned a lot about the systems that make the vehicles I've modeled run, from the forces that keep airplanes in the air and make them controllable to the difference between a turret basket and a bustle basket on a tank. Hey, I may not be an engineer, but I play one at the workbench.

Model on and keep learning!



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*Contest Cars 2023* will arrive in November 2023. Cover subject to change.



## What I like to build changes

I was pleased when I read the Editor's Page by Aaron Skinner titled, "Gatekeeping has to stop." The article is spot on, in my humble opinion. I have been modeling since 1973 when I built my first model, Aurora's King Kong. After years of being infatuated with monster models I shifted to military vehicles.

For me, World War II equipment was the focus of my passion, so much so that I joined the military and served in three mechanized infantry divisions and later special forces. After a while, I became bored with military "ground-pounding" hardware — living in and around APCs and tanks all the time will do that to a person.

I soon gained an interest in ship building, working in plastic initially — all military — and eventually got bored. Notice a pattern developing? I shifted my attention to wooden ships, refitted my hobby bench, and dove into plank-on-frame construction, doing mostly Italian kits. I was even commissioned to build a couple of ships for people who lacked the skill and patience required for such a task, but they had passion just the same. I soon got bored with that and began scratchbuilding ships and boats from my favorite movies (*Orca* from *Jaws* and *S.S. Venture* from *King Kong*).

I then discovered *Warhammer*! Wow, I could build models and then play with them — I never looked back. As an avid hobbyist, I embrace anyone who takes joy in creating scale models of whatever interests them — that is the magic that should bond this community of modelers together, not tear it apart. Thank you, *FSM*, for being there over the years as a guiding beacon of inspiration and, yes, change! Keep calm and model on!

— Robert Bevelacqua  
Jackson Springs, N.C.

*Ed.: Thanks, Bob. It sounds like you've had an interesting and exciting modeling life. You appear to live by the old adage, "Variety is the spice of life." Model on, indeed! — A.S.*

## Every genre offers something

I just received the July/August 2023 *FSM*. Thanks for some more great articles, but the cover article pertains to what I want to address. I was kind of disheartened to hear you all had received negative feedback regarding the inclusion of articles about other subjects that do not fall in the aircraft and armor genres. I have been a subscriber since the '80s and have always enjoyed the

wide variety of subject matter in this magazine. Although I am an avid builder of both armor and aircraft, it is always great to see the techniques used in the genres of automotive and sci-fi. Being a diehard *Blade Runner* fan, I was extremely excited to see the Spinner on the cover — and a gorgeous build it was, too.

Articles about subjects across different genres have something to offer, and I personally enjoy reading each and every one of them. As an armor modeler, maybe I can learn something from another modeler who does a world-class weathering job on a Gundam or sci-fi piece. As an aircraft modeler, maybe I can learn some techniques about high-gloss finishes from an automotive article. I enjoy seeing "what-if" models and dioramas because they demonstrate so much imagination.

As for the comment about 3D-printed models, all I can say is the hobby is evolving and expanding at a great rate — not dying like some say — so it is definitely in *FSM*'s best interest to evolve along with it.

I think the July/August issue demonstrates what makes the hobby fun. In one installment we got a Spinner, a Spanish Leopard, wood weathering techniques, and a great automotive article. What's even better is that I took a modeling tip from each article. Nothing was lost or wasted on "fringe subjects."

Keep up the great work regarding the variety of subjects because there is something to learn from every project.

— Ian Holahan  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

*Ed.: Preach, Ian! That is how we look at every how-to story. Techniques and products from one genre work in another. — A.S.*

## More about kit prices

*Ed.: An editorial about kit prices in the April 2023 FSM DLC and a subsequent discussion Tim Kidwell and I had during a FineScale Modeler Weekly seems to have hit a nerve with readers. The comments, via email and comments on the video run to either side of the argument about the impact those prices will have on the hobby. Here's a sampling of them. — A.S.*

Your comments in the latest "Weekly" regarding kit prices got me wondering how much my perception was clouding reality. Using an inflation calculator (the one at <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/> is good), I compared a hypothetical kit price

in 2023 of \$30 to its equivalent cost when I was 12 in 1965. The shelf price then would have been \$3.13, which gives nicely with my recollection of hanging out with my friends among the shelves in the local hobby shop, calculating how many lawns I would need to mow to get a desired kit. So, I feel better now about today's kit prices, thinking that they really haven't skyrocketed in price while soaring engineering-wise. Keep up the good work — I have to go now and yell at some kids on my lawn.

— Jim Jefferson  
Richmond, Texas

Living in Finland has become much more expensive since the war in Ukraine. The inflation rate was 8.4% in February. The prices of scale models have not risen at the same speed as, for example, food. In the last year, the prices of scale models have increased by €1–€2, and of paints by €0.10–€0.30. The prices of some manufacturers' scale models have decreased during the year. The increase in prices has not affected my hobby. I buy 2–3 scale models per month. I remember when the new Tamiya 1/35 scale Tiger I (late) cost 400 FIM (€67) in 1995, and now the same model costs €32.

— Tomi Helttula  
Turku, Finland

The editorial on kit prices brought back memories. My father bought my first kit for me at a "Mom and Pop" store for \$0.98. It was a Cessna 172 wing-over. I was about 9 or 10 years old, and I was hooked. I put together models regularly until I was 19 and joined the Army. When I was in Vietnam, I got the itch again for modeling, so I would write to AMT and buy car kits direct for \$2.00 each. When I came home, I still did a few models but got heavily invested in marriage and kids. I tried to get my boys interested at one time, to no avail. But I did get back into it in the early '90s and discovered *FineScale Modeler*.

The prices on kits have gone up dramatically, but there are bargains to be found. Hobby shops from Ukraine and Poland sell Ukrainian kits on eBay that are excellent. I have also found really good deals at flea markets and rummage sales. I keep a few inexpensive models handy and give them away to young people who want to try modeling. I include a tube of nontoxic glue and a few old issues of *FSM*. Also, IPMS used to be able to get "Make and Take" kits to hand out at one time. Yes, modeling has



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## NNL Milwaukee celebrates 30 years

NNL Milwaukee returned for its 30th annual show with over 500 scale auto models including dragsters and gassers, muscle cars and motorcycles, pickups and light commercial trucks, and so much more. *FineScale Modeler* couldn't turn down an invitation to cover the event, and you need to visit [FineScale.com/show-galleries](https://www.finescale.com/show-galleries) to see a selection of the outstanding scale replicas from some of the Midwest's top modelers.



## Get started building Star Wars model kits

*Star Wars* fans have been a mainstay of the model-building community since the original trilogy hit screens more than 40 years ago. You can get in on the fun, too, and *FineScale Modeler* is here to help you, no matter your skill level. Visit [FineScale.com/how-to](https://www.finescale.com/how-to) and let award-winning modeler Don Suratos lead you through the rudimentary steps for building a Bandai *Star Wars* model kit, from initial assembly to painting, decals, and weathering.

## FineScale Modeler DLC

Make sure to download the April 2023 FSM DLC. Every installment features the sorts of scale modeling how-to you've come to expect from *FineScale Modeler* in a down-

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become an expensive hobby but the older modelers that can afford what they want should help out the youngsters to keep them interested. The day will come when they will be able to afford what they want.

Thanks for the great magazine and the product reviews.

— Jay Cain  
Dexter, N.Y.

As an adult with a mortgage and bills to pay, I can't afford the \$91.99 for Revell's 1/48 scale SR-71. And I have job! If a younger modeler wanted to build that kit, he'd have to mow a lot of yards. Even older kits of that plane in that scale are up there a bit. So, what are they to do? Hell, I can't even afford to subscribe to *FSM* since you all pulled back a couple issues and still charge the old rates. This terrible economy we're in affects all of us and especially the ones that have limited funds. The big guys need to understand that by taking away from their customers instead of rewarding their loyalty and support will kill your business far greater.

— Angelo Hernandez  
via YouTube

To your point Mr. Kidwell, these kits are luxuries and as such, are extremely overpriced. Mark ups range from 50% to 5,000% with 50% being relatively comfortable for the consumer. However, at the 5,000% range, we are talking about an out-and-out crime against humanity and nothing more than greed.

Granted, everything costs more than it did a decade or two ago, but when manufacturers take kits manufactured then, and may I add, already paid for several times over as far as tooling is concerned, rebox them today and mark the price at anywhere from tens to several hundred percent over the original price, you get the point. People are complacent and we are the reason these manufacturers are getting away with what is happening. When we, as consumers, stop or extremely curtail our purchases of these overpriced kits, we will see a drastic drop in prices.

— Kenneth Combs  
via FineScale.com

With regard to kit pricing, of course they've gone up over the years. Everything else has as well — just look at food prices. However, in comparison to so many other hobbies and leisure activities, like golf, photography, skiing, cars, etc., model making is quite

cheap. A \$50 kit and a few dollars of supplies and paints can provide days or weeks of enjoyment for the price of a night out at a restaurant! When put in those terms, I believe our hobby is still more affordable than most, especially considering the incredible advancements in detail, engineering, and quality of the last 20 years.

— Maurizio Laudisa  
via YouTube

## A note on Academy's A-10C decals

I love your magazine and the great info and entertainment provided.

In the Workbench Review of the Academy 1/48 scale A-10C Thunderbolt II (July/August 2023), the third-to-last paragraph noted that some of the decals (H, F, G) were mislabeled. I agree with that observation, but I also found that decals A/C and B/D are shaped differently on the decal sheet than shown in the instructions and may require trimming or alternate placement. Perhaps an even better idea might be to mask those areas and paint the walkways. It is a minor thing, but I thought I'd mention it. Keep up the great work!

— Curt Basner  
Henderson, Nev.

Ed.: Thanks for the info, Curt! — A.S.

## Comments on the Huey

I found Kevin Ottens' article on building Dragon's 1/35 scale UH-1D (July/August 2023) interesting. I have spent a lot of time in and around that aircraft — most likely part of the cause of my hearing loss. I think he got a little carried away with the panel lines and their paint. I have never seen such pronounced dark lines over the panel edges. I think he was trying to show the fading of the panels but overdid it. I have seen other folks do that with fixed-wing aircraft. Subtle is normally better in my opinion.

On the other hand, I never would have thought of drilling a figure's head out to come up with an empty helmet.

— Bruce Parkes  
San Antonio, Texas

Ed.: Bruce, thanks for the perspective. — T.K.

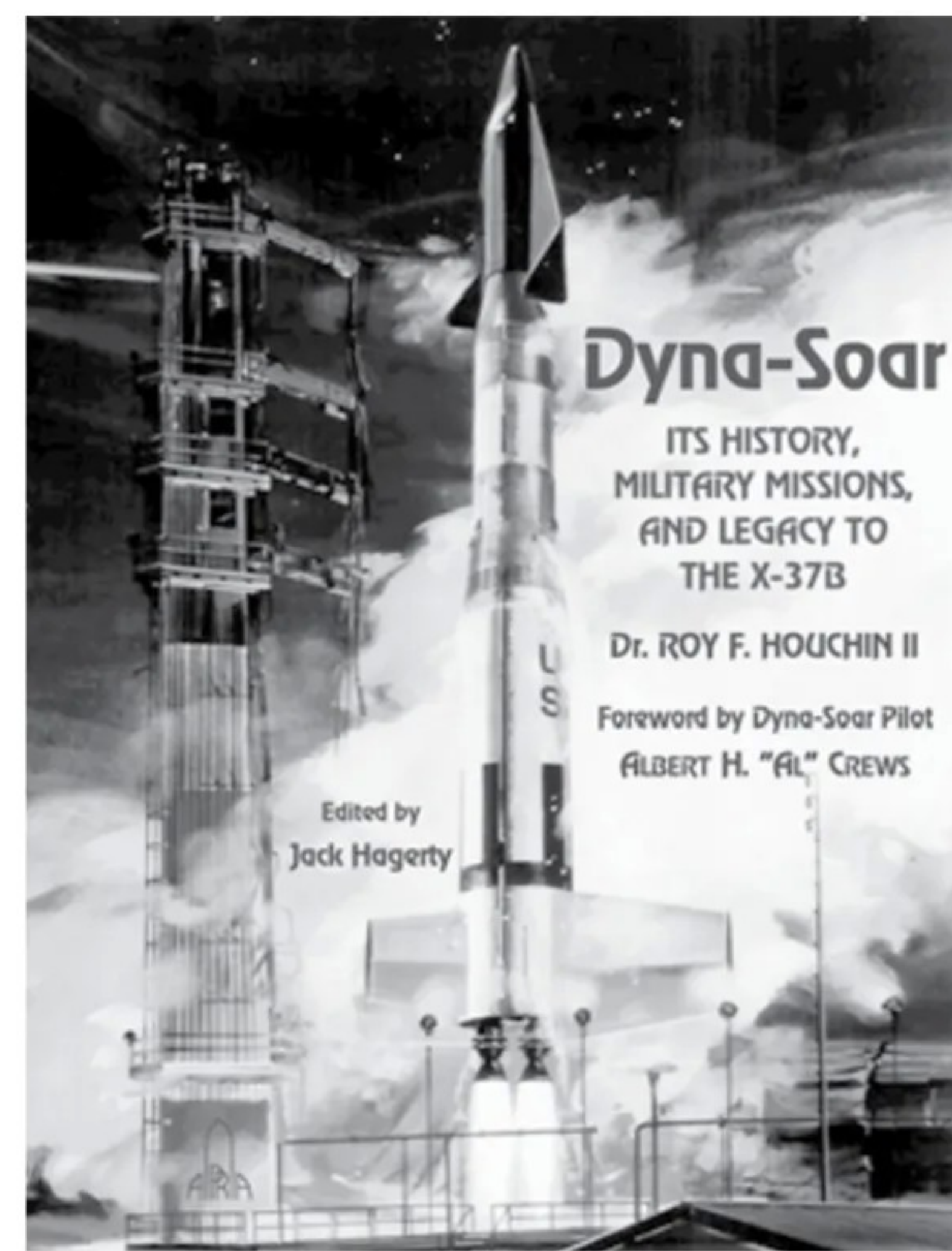
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### 1/35 SCALE



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### 1/48 SCALE



**Snark missile** from AMT, No. AMT1250, \$42.99.



**TBF-1 Avenger** from AMT, No. AMT1377, \$31.99.



**Mi-4A Hound** from Trumpeter, No. 05817, \$89.

### 1/72 SCALE



**P-39N Airacobra** from Arma Hobby, No. 70056, \$29.



**CR.32 Freccia** from Italeri, No. 1438, \$28.50.

**OV-10A Bronco** from ICM, No. 72185, \$59.99.

## ARMOR

### 1/35 SCALE



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**M103A1** from Takom, No. 2139, \$79.95.



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### 1/72 SCALE



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## AUTOS

### 1/12 SCALE



**Honda CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP 30th Anniversary** from Tamiya, No. 14141, \$49.

### 1/24 SCALE



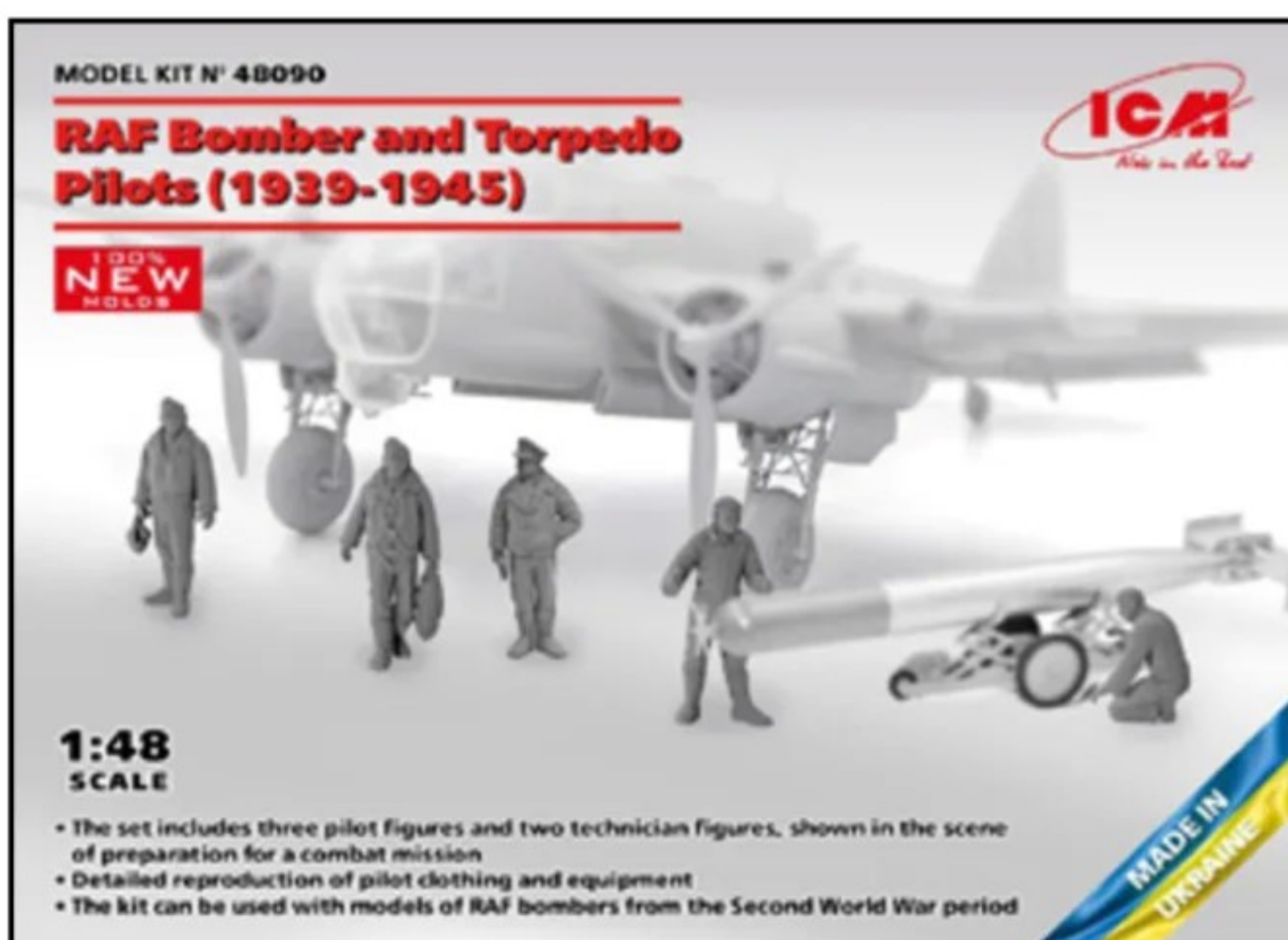
**GMA T-50 (Gordon Murray Automotive)** from Tamiya, No. 24364, \$60.



**Scania S770 4x2 normal roof** from Italeri, No. 3961, \$82.

## FIGURES

### 1/35 SCALE



**RAF bomber and torpedo pilots (1939-1945)** from ICM, No. 48090, \$22.99.



**"Prost" Between Battles on Bergepanther** from ICM, No. 35343, \$TBA.

## SCIENCE FICTION

### 1/24 SCALE



**Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace N-1 Naboo Starfighter** from AMT, No. AMT1376, \$31.99.

### 1/48 SCALE



**Return of the Jedi TIE Interceptor** from MPC, No. MPC989, \$33.99.

### 1/350 SCALE



**Star Trek III: The Search for Spock Klingon Bird-of-Prey** from MPC, No. AMT1400M, \$37.99.

## REAL SPACE

### 1/24 SCALE



**Gemini space capsule 60th Anniversary Edition** from Revell, No. 03705, \$34.95.

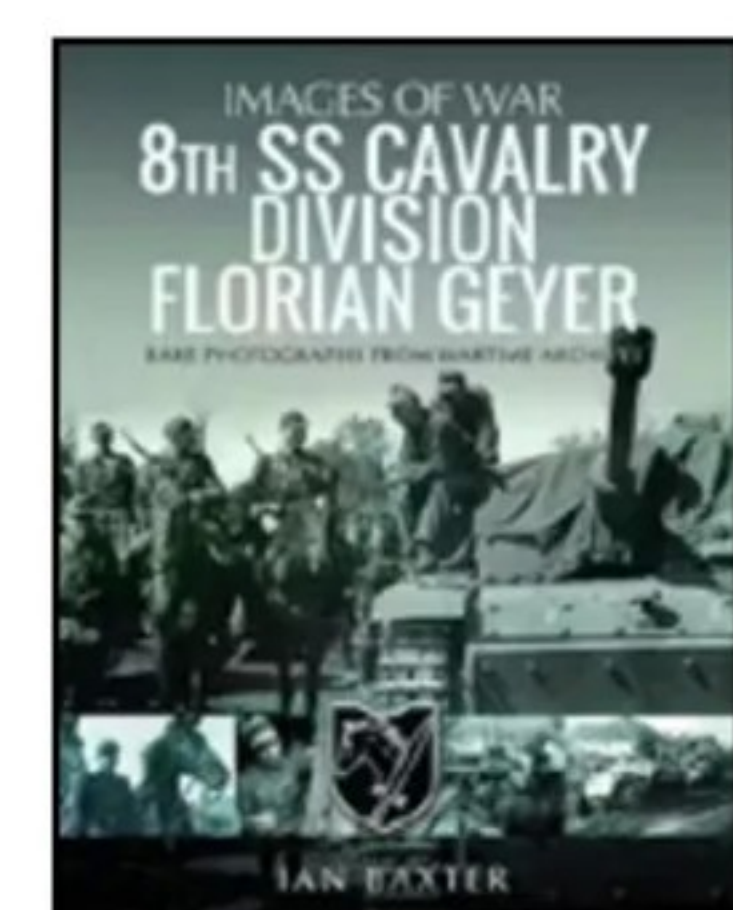
## AIRCRAFT DECALS

### 1/48 SCALE



**F-16 Press to Test Anniversary** from Twobobs Aviation Graphics, No. 48-281, \$16.

## BOOKS



**Images of War: 8th SS Cavalry Division Florian Geyer** from Pen and Sword/Casemate Publishers, by Ian Baxter, soft cover, 128 pages. 250 mono illustrations, ISBN: 9781399062817, \$26.95.



**Stalingrad - Death of an Army** from Pen and Sword/Casemate Publishers, by Ben Skipper, soft cover, 64 pages. 200 color and B/W illustrations, ISBN: 9781399007740, \$28.95.



# Royal

## Building MiniArt's Lanz Bulldog as a well-used farm tractor

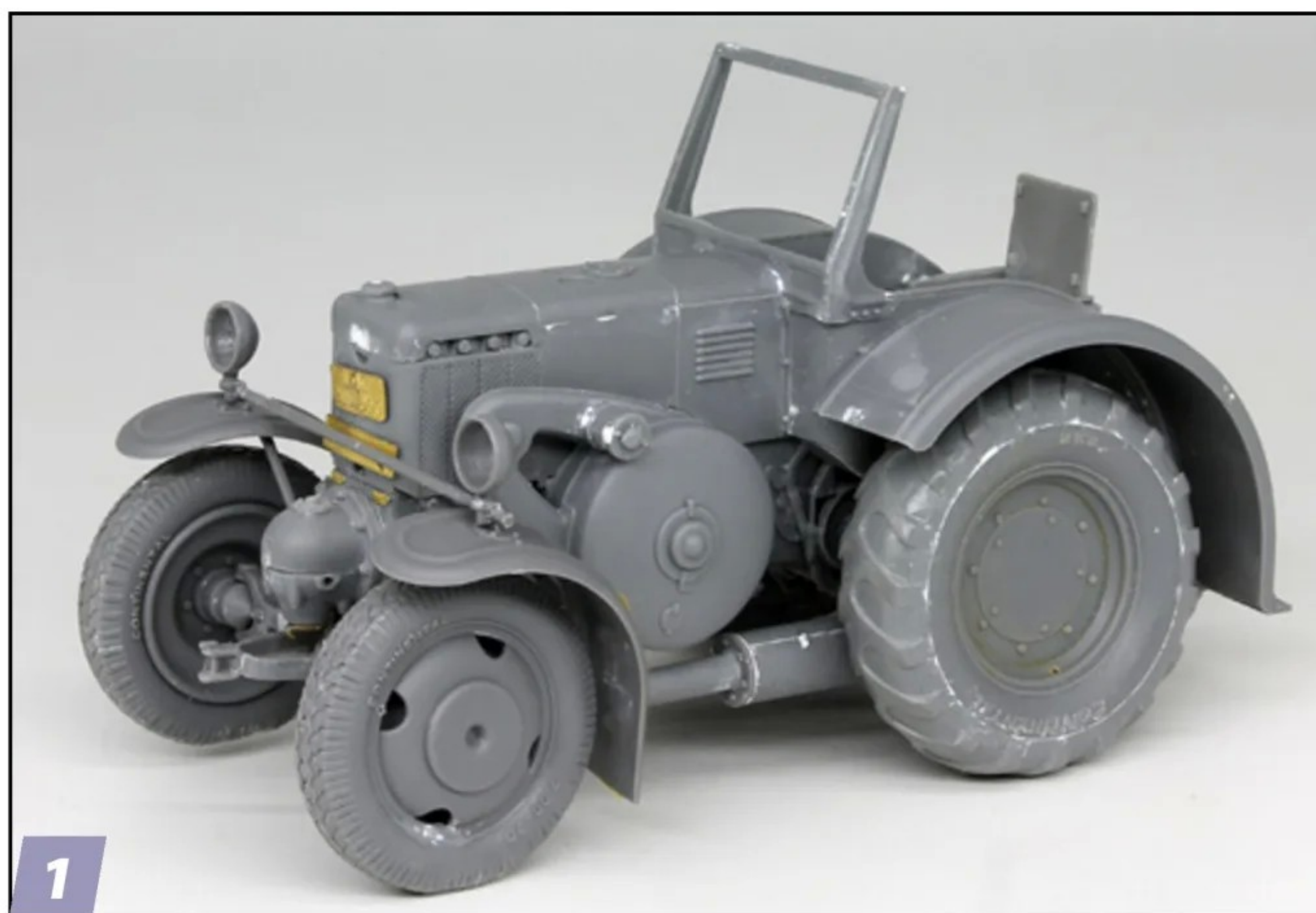
BY ILYA YUT

**B**uilt from 1921 until the 1950s, Lanz Bulldog tractors are so iconic in Germany that “Bulldog” is still used as a synonym for a tractor today.

Development of the vehicle that would become the Bulldog started in 1912, but World War I slowed things. The eventual vehicle was more of a self-propelled engine with belt drive to power various pieces of agricultural equipment. The name “Bulldog” was derived from the shape of the vehicle. Power came

from a single-cylinder, hot-bulb engine that could run on multiple fuels, including crude oil, kerosene, diesel, and even vegetable oil. Although safer than the contemporaneous steam engines, the engine needed to be heated with a blow torch for 10–15 minutes in warm weather and up to an hour in winter before starting.

MiniArt's 1/35 scale Lanz Bulldog is a couple of years old, and the company has released several versions. They build easily and I consider them a good weekend project.



My only alterations to the kit were wire for plumbing. To show weight, I gently pressed the plastic tires against a warm iron to flatten them a bit. The key is to be careful and not to use an especially hot iron.



I wanted to experiment with a combination of lacquers and acrylics to produce a worn finish. The latter can be removed with alcohol leaving the former undisturbed, creating wear without using hairspray. First, I airbrushed Mr. Color Red Brown (No. C41).



*purple,*  
*but faded*



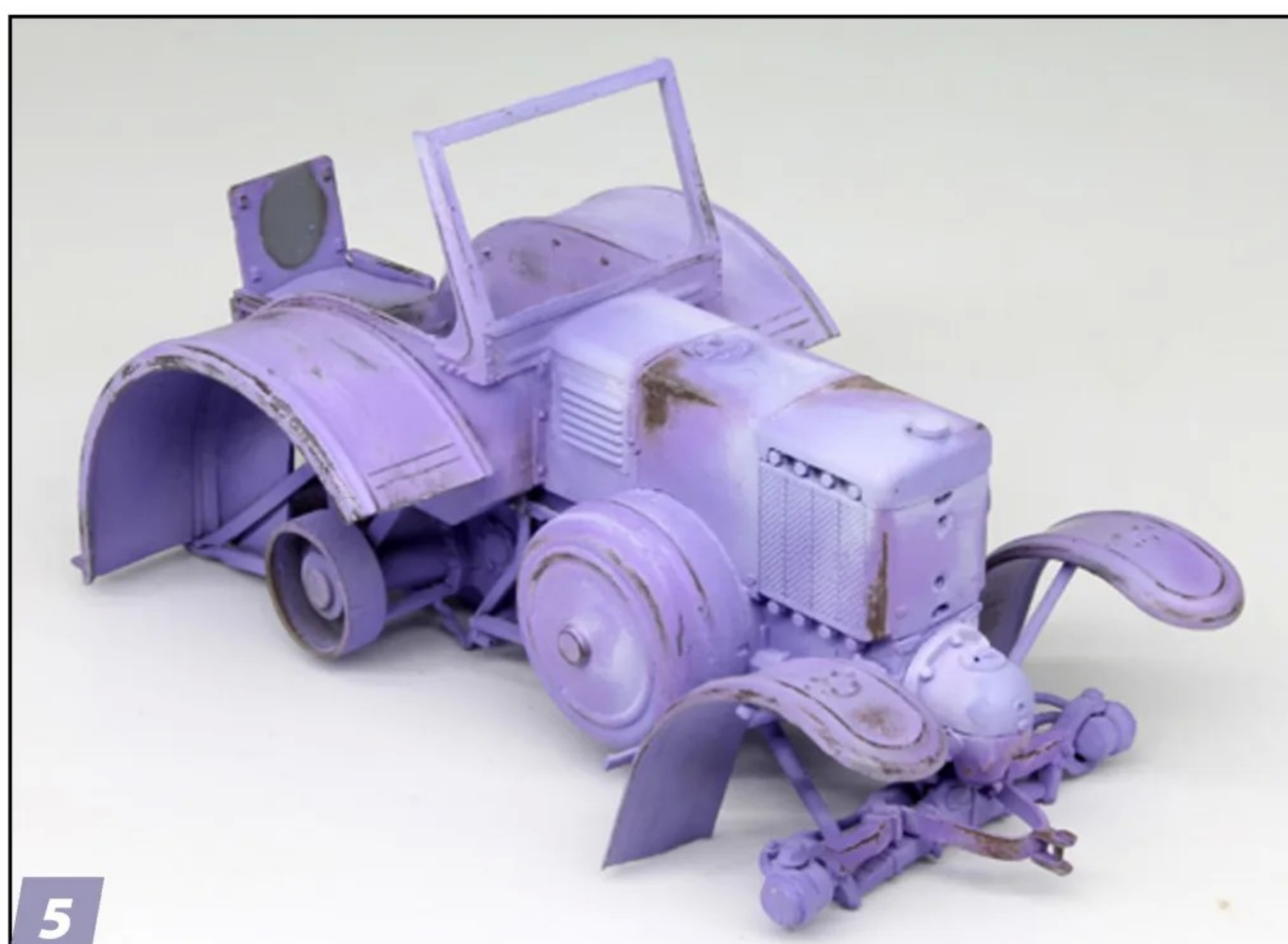




3 For the body color I mixed a pale purple by lightening Tamiya Purple (No. X-16) with a lot of White (No. XF-2) and covered the red brown.



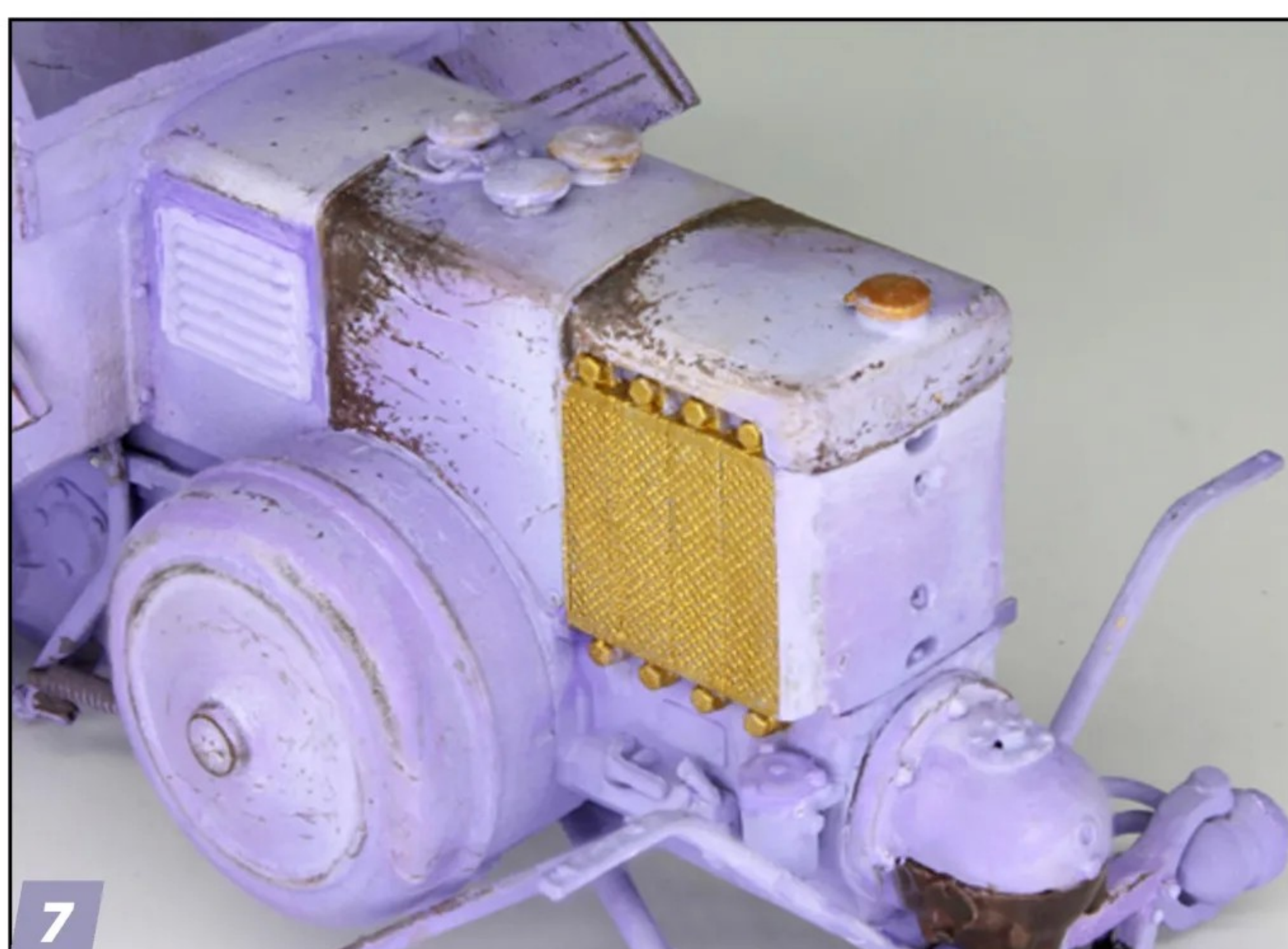
4 With its panels, the Bulldog is perfect for applying color modulation. So, I added purple to the mix for a darker shade and airbrushed it along panel lines and corners.



5 Using cotton swabs and stiff brushes damp with 70% isopropyl alcohol, I rubbed and removed the purple acrylic from edges and panel lines. It worked, but not as well as I had hoped, I think because I let the acrylic dry overnight. If I'd worked sooner, the effect would have been greater.



6 To refine the chipping and wear already on the model, I applied Vallejo Model Air Dark Brown RLM 61 (No. 71.042) with a fine paintbrush and a small chunk of sponge. Work carefully and slowly so as not to overdo this step.

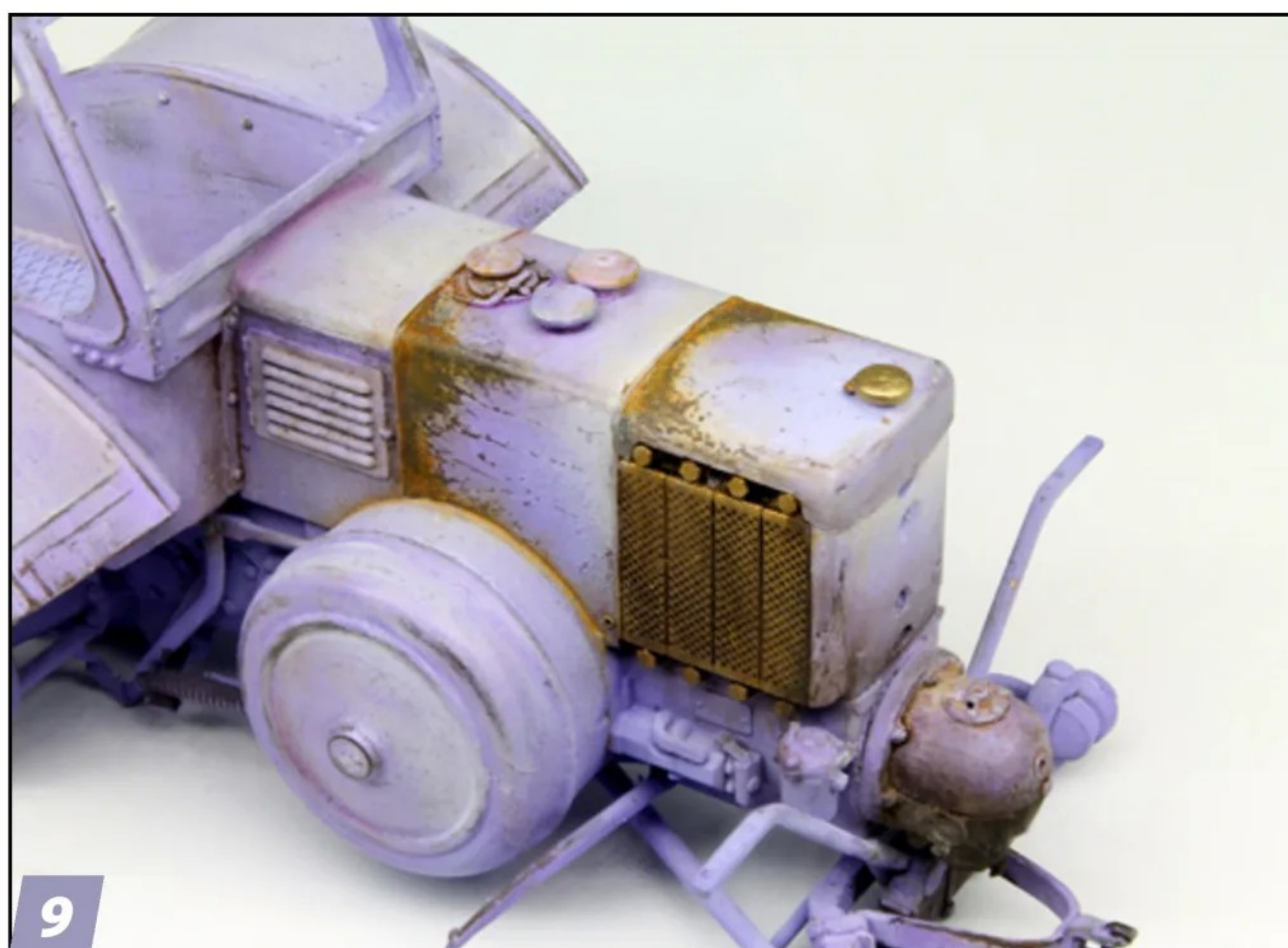


7 I picked out the filler caps and the distinctive side-mounted radiator with Vallejo Model Color Gold (No. 70.996).



8 Shades made by blending Ammo by Mig Jimenez (Ammo) Oilbrushers — Yellow Bone (No. A.MIG-3521), Starship Filth (No. A.MIG-3513), Space Purple (No. A.MIG-3526), Dark Brown (No.A.MIG-5312), and Buff (No. A. MIG-3517) — pop details and give panels more variation.





9

I added rust to some corners and major chipped areas by blending 502 Abteilung Dark Yellow oil paint (No. ABT020) and Ammo Light Rust Wash enamel (No. A.MIG-1004).



10

To emphasize small details, I mixed Ammo Dark Wash (A.MIG-1008) with Oilbrusher Starship Bay Sludge (No. A.MIG-3532) and Dark Brown, and odorless thinner. I applied this as a pinwash with a fine brush.



11

MiniArt decals are thin and well-printed. I took a lazy approach to painting the photo-etched metal name plate on the nose; after priming it with white, I sprayed it red and carefully sanded the paint from the raised letters and border to expose the bright brass.



12

Underneath, I airbrushed a thin layer of Tamiya Buff (No. XF-57), followed by a hand-brushed application of AK Interactive Dust & Dirt Deposits Sand Yellow (No. AK4061), the perfect thing for this job that can be wiped off and refined when dry.

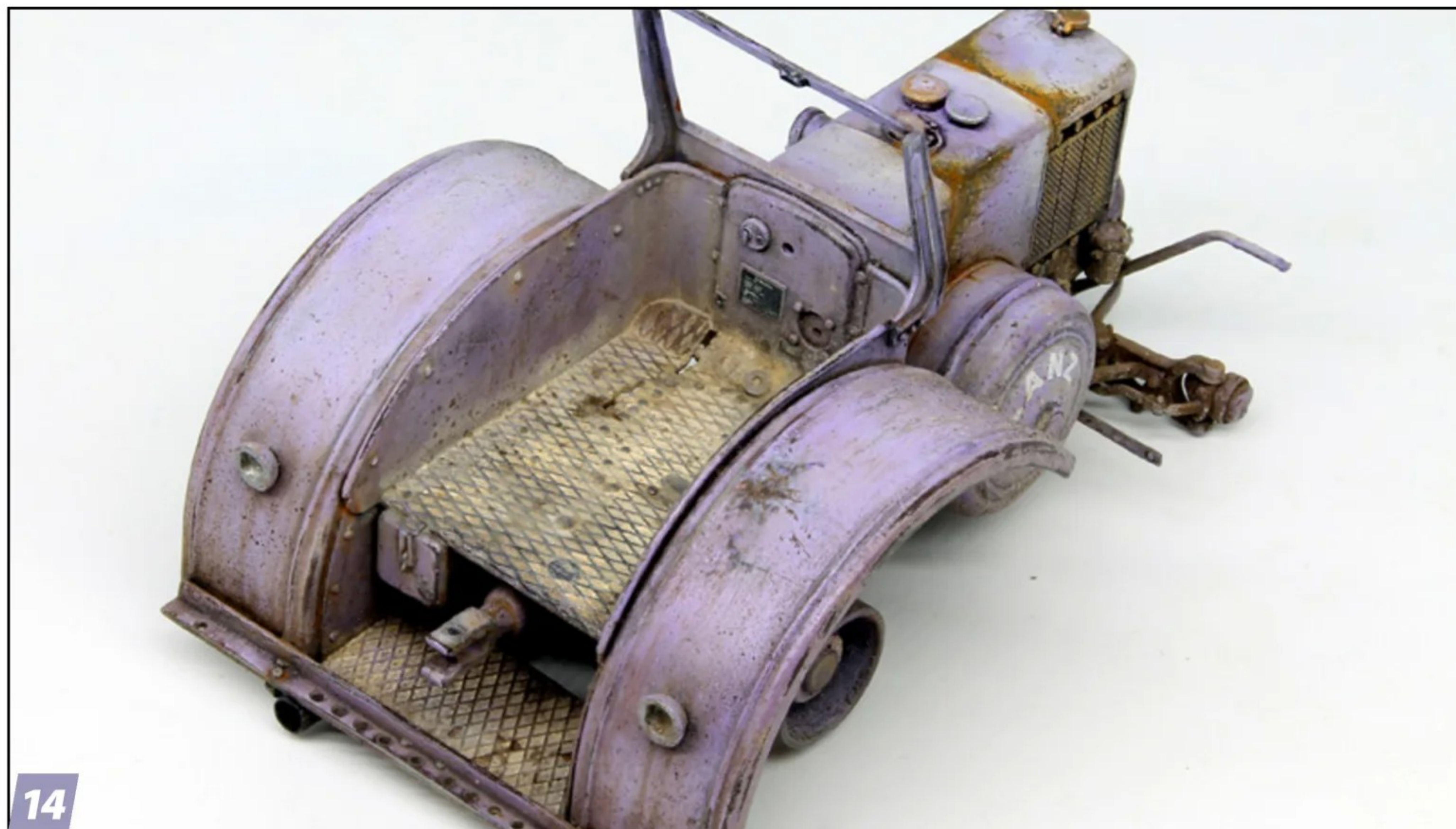


13

To enhance and layer the mud and dust, I flicked on enamel products from Ammo, including Splashes Dry Earth (A.MIG-1750), Nature Effects Dark Mud (No. A.MIG-1405), and Heavy Mud Wet Mud (No. A.MIG-1705) by raking a toothpick across the bristles of an old brush.



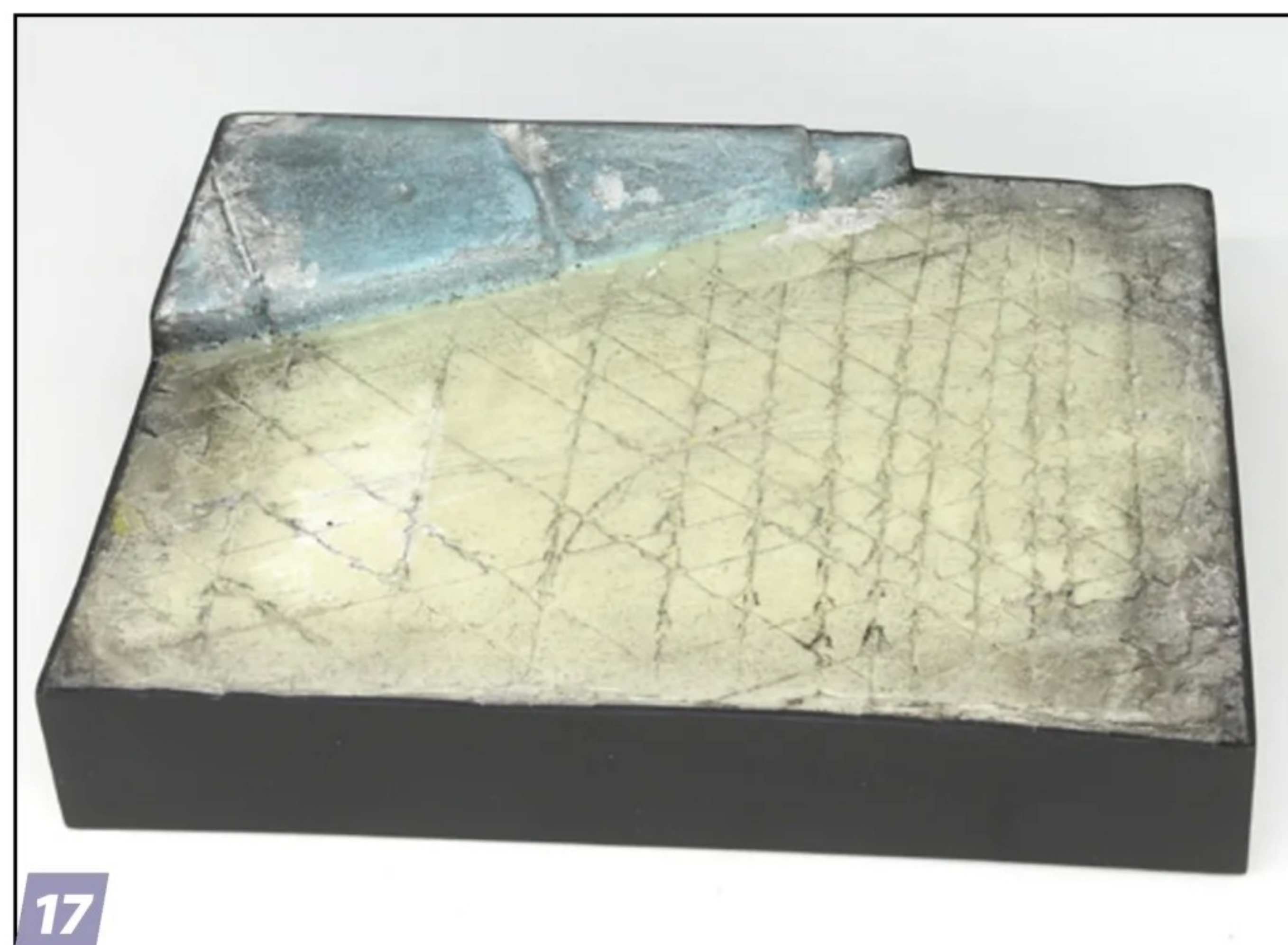
I imitated dry dust on the floor with a combination of Ammo pigments, including Light Dust (No. A.MIG-3002), Airfield Dust (No. A.MIG-3011), Africa Dust (No. A.MIG-3003), and Sand (No. A.MIG-3012). Drops of fuel, oil, and water were added with Ammo Oilbrusher Dark Brown and Effects Brusher Fuel Stains (No. A.MIG-1801) and Fresh Engine Oil (No. A.MIG-1800).



Rust and grime streaks were added using Ammo Streaking Brusher Medium Brown (No. A.MIG-1250) and Grime (No. A.MIG-1253), as well as Streaking Rust Effects (No. A.MIG-1204) and Rainmarks Effects (A.MIG-1208) blended and shaped with enamel thinner on a fine-tipped brush.



For more pronounced fuel streaks and drops around the filler caps, I applied Winton Burnt Umber (No. 76) and 502 Abteilung Engine Grease (No. ABT160) oil paint and Ammo Effects Brusher Wet Effects (No. A.MIG-1802), blending and streaking them with thinner.

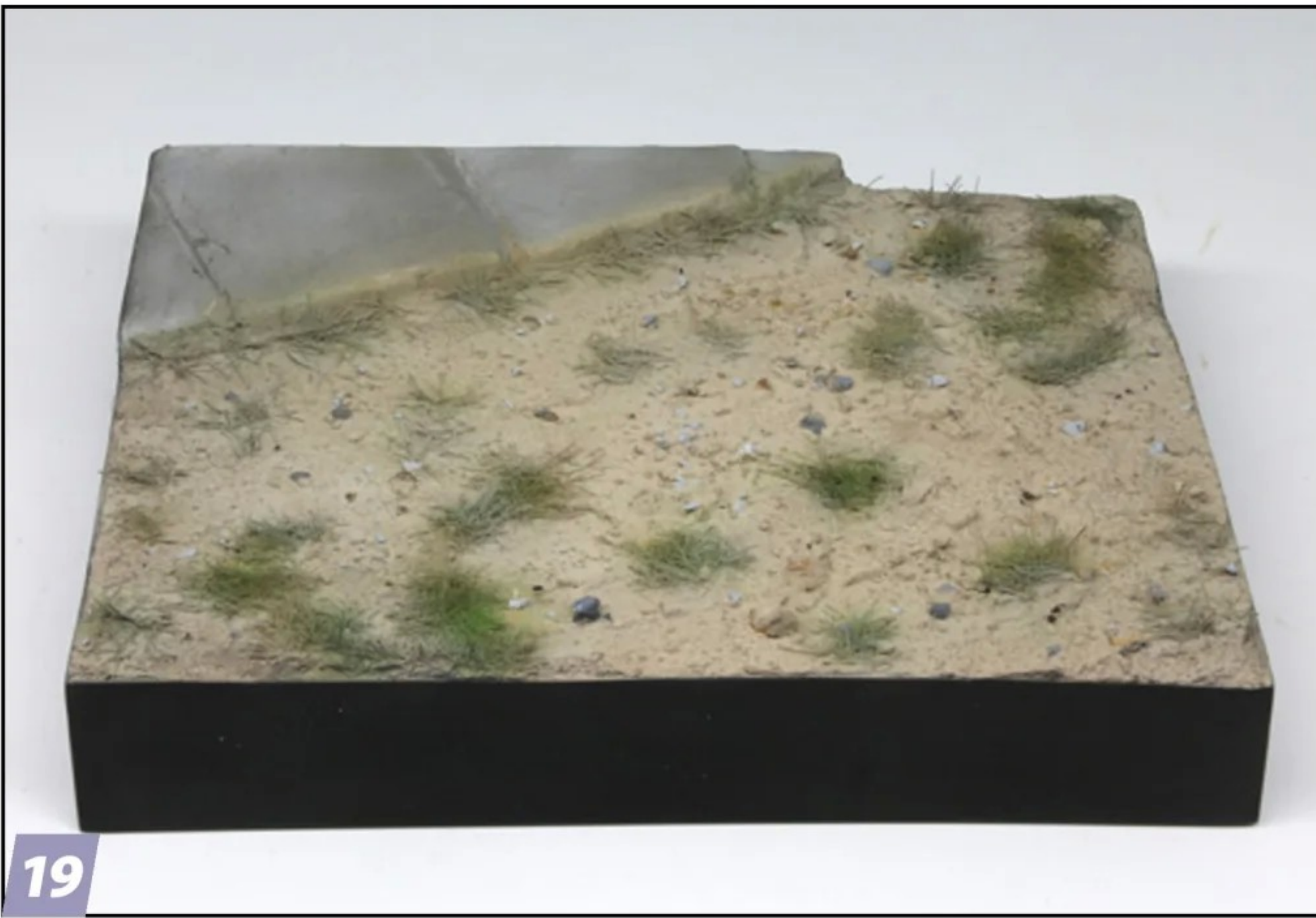


For context, the tractor needed a base. I blocked in a section of insulation foam with black styrene sheet and added a raised section that will be concrete slabs at one corner. The crosshatch pattern adds texture for the groundwork to attach to.



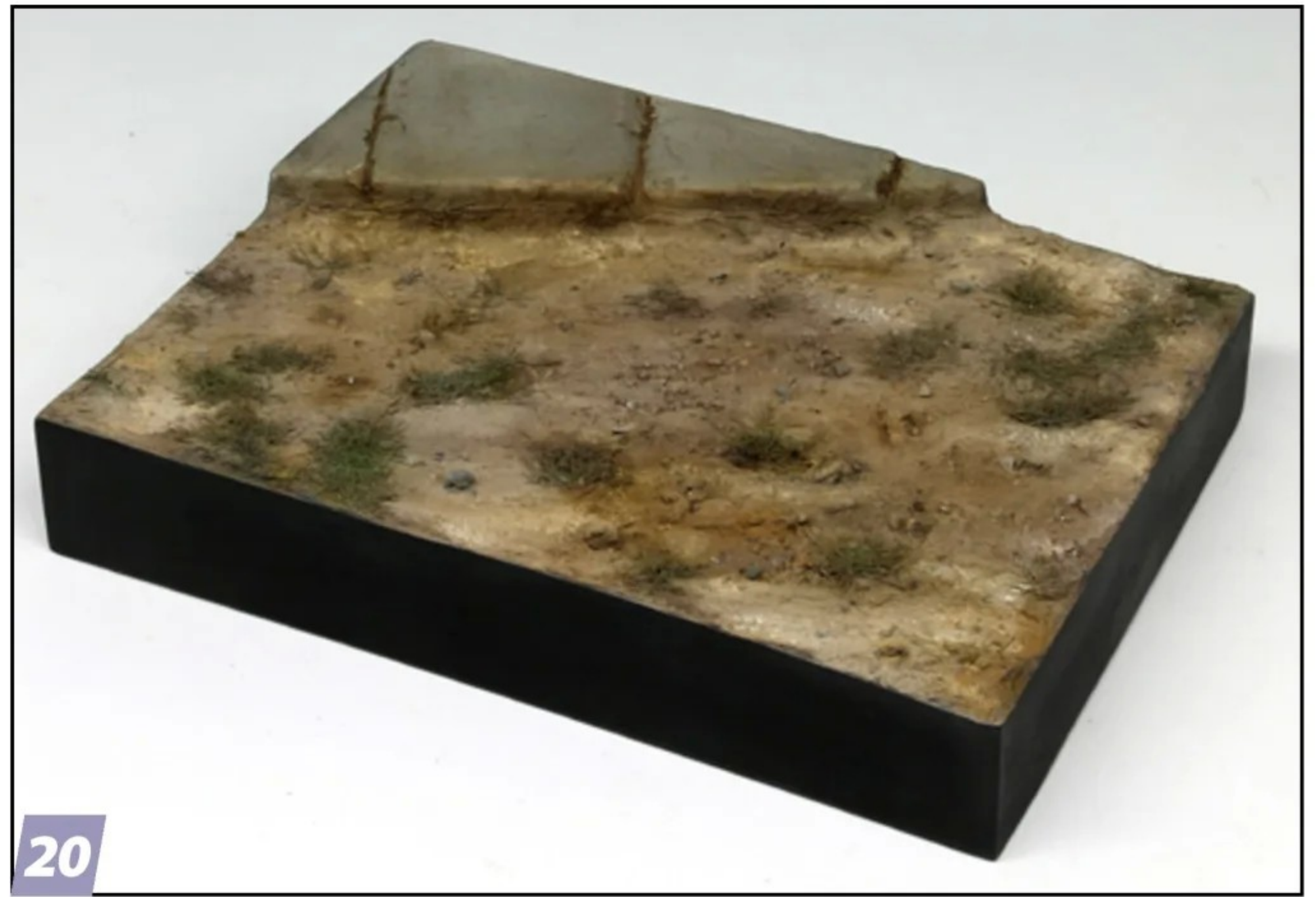
I applied a layer of Ammo Acrylic Sand Beach Sand (No. A.MIG-2106) to the foam. Stir this paste well before use or it won't dry properly. While it was still damp, I sprinkled on stones and sand and added static grass.





19

I airbrushed the soil with Tamiya Deck Tan (No. XF-55) and Buff and the grass with mixes of Park Green (No. X-28), Light Green (No. X-15), and Yellow Green (No. XF-4). Stones were picked out with contrasting shades of Vallejo acrylics.



20

To tie the base into the tractor, I used the products used on the vehicle, too. New Ammo products used on the base were Middle East Dust (No. A.MIG-3018) and Splashes Dry Earth (No. A.MIG-1750), Turned Earth (No. A.MIG-1753), and Dry Steppe (No. A.MIG-1751).



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**WHEN I GLUED** the tractor to the base, I had to adjust the texture around the wheel to ensure it sat right. Diorama guides suggest adding vertical elements for visual appeal, so I opted for a MiniArt clock, an item whose height and style fit the scene. Smaller accessories by MiniArt and 3D MicroCosmos, as well as a child's toy from Plus Model finalized the project. **FSM**





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# MASSIVE

## Tips and tricks to build Gallery Models 1/200 scale *Yamato*

BY HARVEY LOW



Occasionally, a kit comes along that takes the modeling community by storm and this is one of them. Only one word can describe Gallery Models'

*Yamato* — massive! This kit arguably holds the record as the largest injection-molded plastic kit ever produced at almost 5 feet long. The box contains more than 2,800 parts and 15 photo-etched metal (PE) frets and weighs 21 pounds. It marks the first 1/200 scale kit of this World War II behemoth since Nichimo released one way back in 1968!

This is not a review of what's in the box — you can find that in a special *FSM* New Product Rundown video. Also, I am not aiming to create a 100% historically accurate replica. Rather, I want to provide

tips to making a convincing representation of *Yamato* while fixing some notable accuracy issues. I intentionally used minimal aftermarket products to allow the model to stand on its own.

### A brief history

The lead ship of its class built for the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), *Yamato* was launched on August 8, 1940, and commissioned one week after the Pearl Harbor attack. *Yamato* and its sister ship, *Musashi*, were — and still are — the largest battleships ever built. The hulls were 863 feet long and, fully loaded, each ship displaced nearly 71,000 tons. Their main 18-inch guns fired rounds that weighed as much as a small car at a range of 25 miles.

After the Japanese defeat at Midway in June 1942, *Yamato* spent its time

transporting supplies between remote bases. The ship finally saw action at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Ironically, while designed to sink enemy battleships, *Yamato* fought Allied ships only once in action against the U.S. ships of Taffy 3 at Leyte, where it sank the carrier USS *Gambier Bay*, the only American carrier to be sunk by a surface warship in WWII. In the end, *Yamato* was sunk on April 7, 1945, and of the 3,332 crew members aboard, only 276 survived.

### Taking a stand

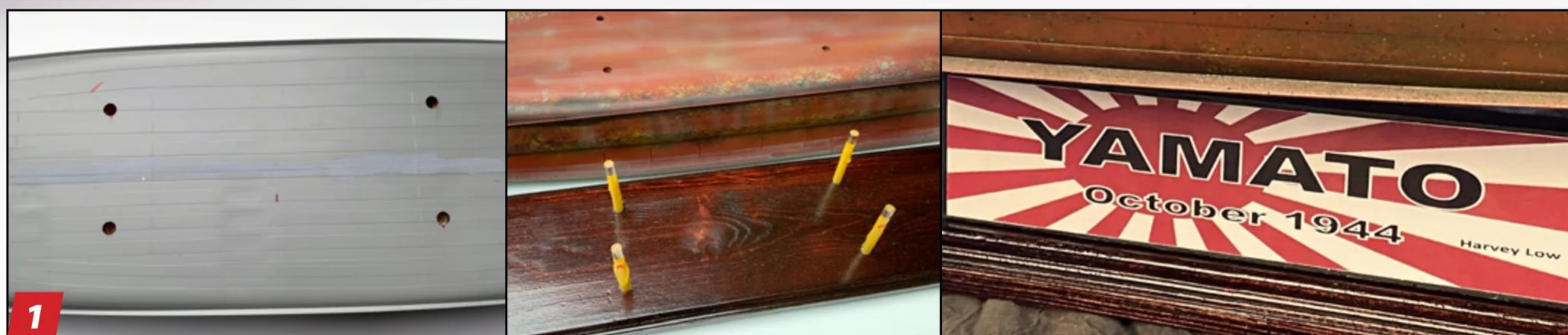
The kit provides a nameplate but no stand. I drilled four ¼-inch holes in the hull to



# VF MODELING



Photo by Connor Bruesewitz, Saturn Lounge



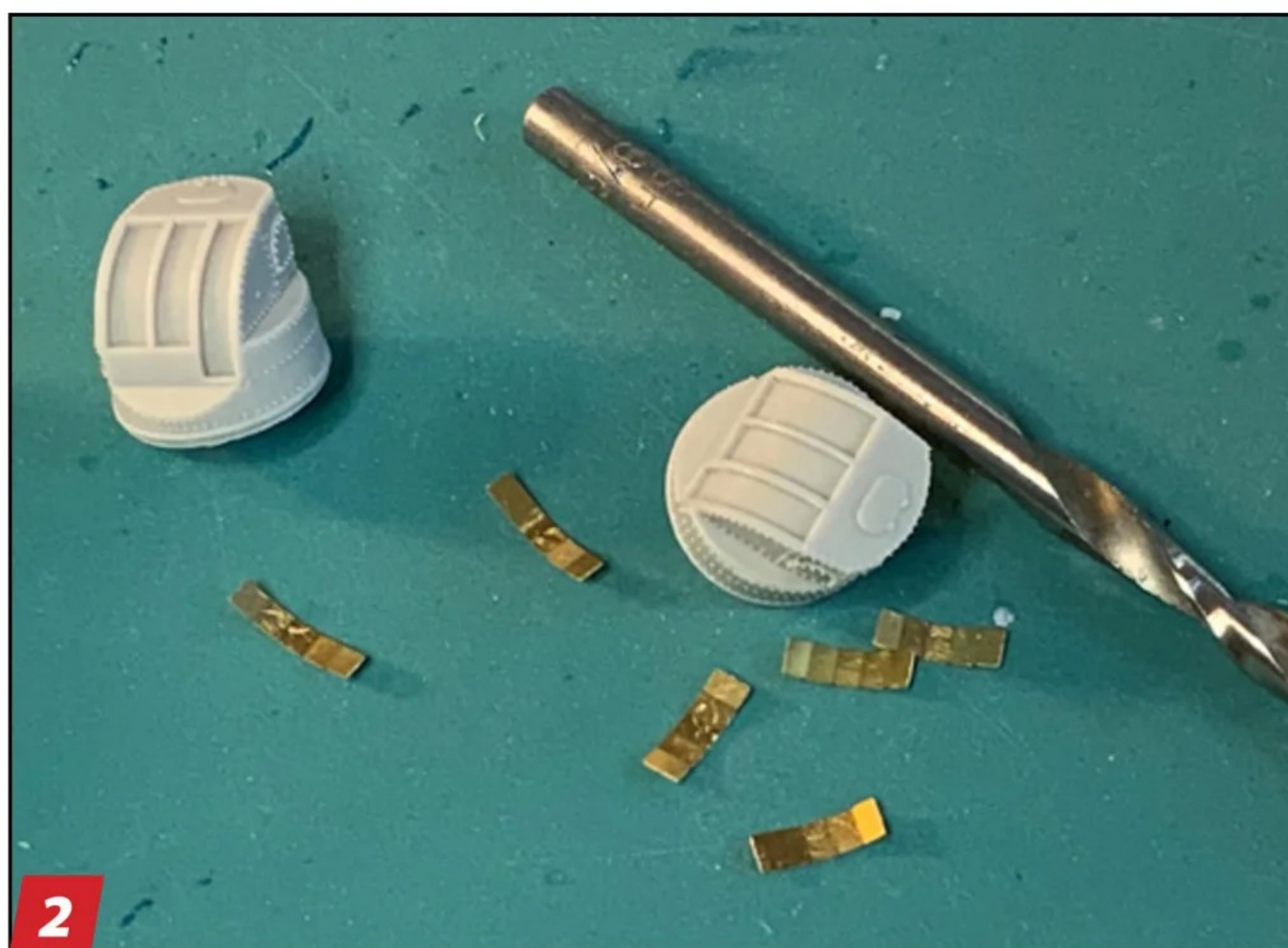
accept clear acrylic rods mounted in a simple wooden base. Matching holes were drilled into a basswood block glued into the hull. I left the model loose for assembly and painting. The final touch was a new color label designed in PowerPoint, printed on high-gloss paper, and glued to the kit's plastic nameplate. **1**

## Construction tips

I found no obvious inaccuracies that the non-*Yamato* enthusiast would notice, so building this kit completely out-of-the-box will yield a good representation of *Yamato* as it appeared in 1945 when sunk. The parts are beautifully detailed with little flash thanks to slide molding. Surface detail is

crisp and sharp with no need to open scuttles or portholes. However, sink marks abound; fortunately most are hidden or on the undersides of platforms, so I did not bother filling many of them. The kit's design indicates other variants of the class are planned. The excellent instructions provide accurate color references and clear





parts placement. The only problem is the lack of rigging diagrams. There is also no indication of where to place the ship's lifeboats and cutters. These boats were stored internally at the rear of the ship inside boat hangers, so I left them off. I generally followed the instruction's sequence, but given the size of this kit, I recommend the following:

1. Separate each PE fret with the cardboard backing in between to make it easier to access these parts without damaging them.
2. Use drill bits to help "shape" PE parts

for a better fit over compound curves, **2**.

3. Build and paint the model in subassemblies, including PE and rigging. This approach makes it easier to assemble and weather the model given its size. For example, I did not attach the superstructures, turrets, rear floatplane deck, and secondary 15.5cm gun turrets to the main deck until after I painted and weathered the deck and hull, **3**.

4. Install and paint the floatplane hangar area, including PE before installing the upper floatplane deck, **4**.

5. For long PE details, such as railings

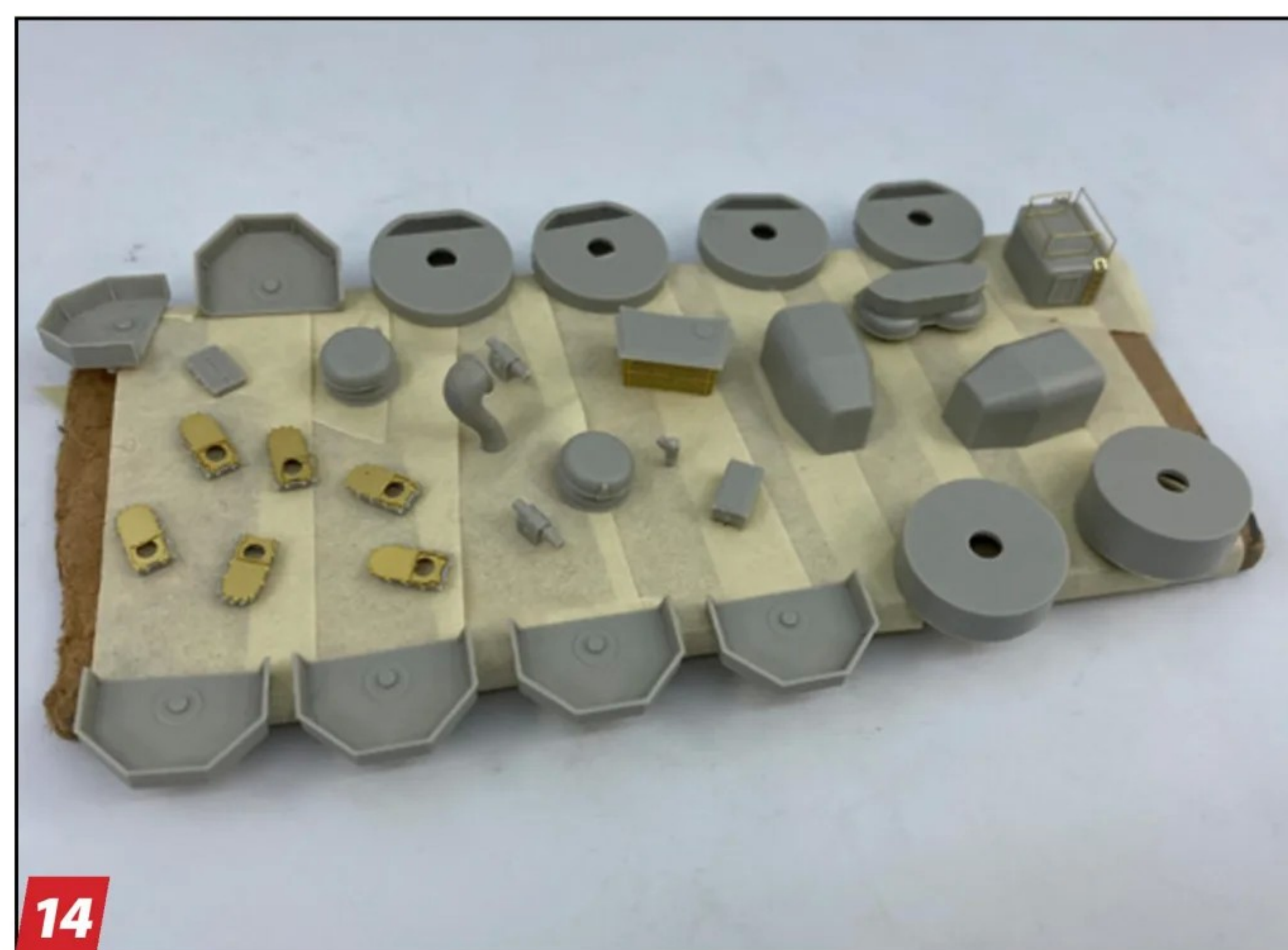
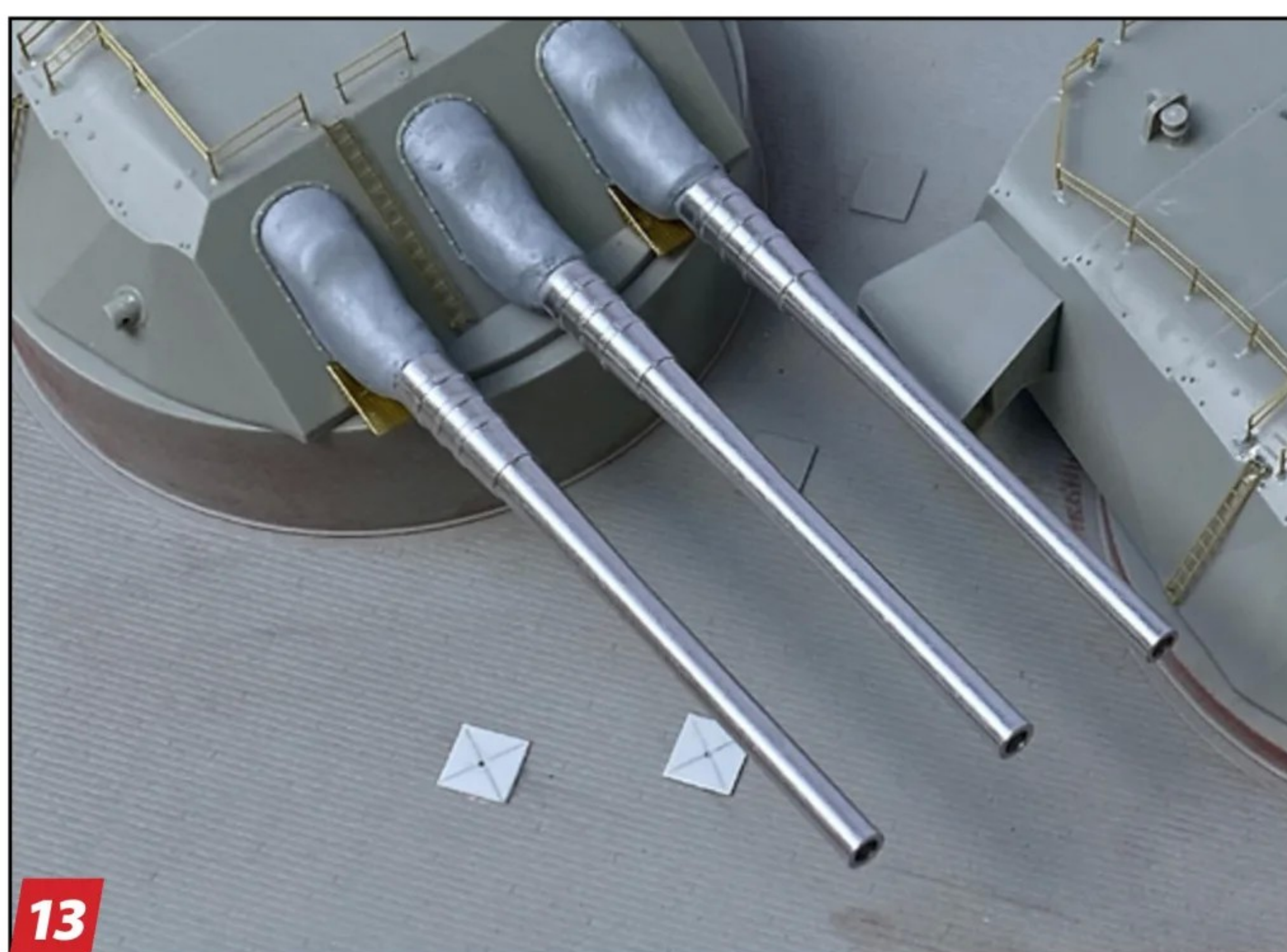
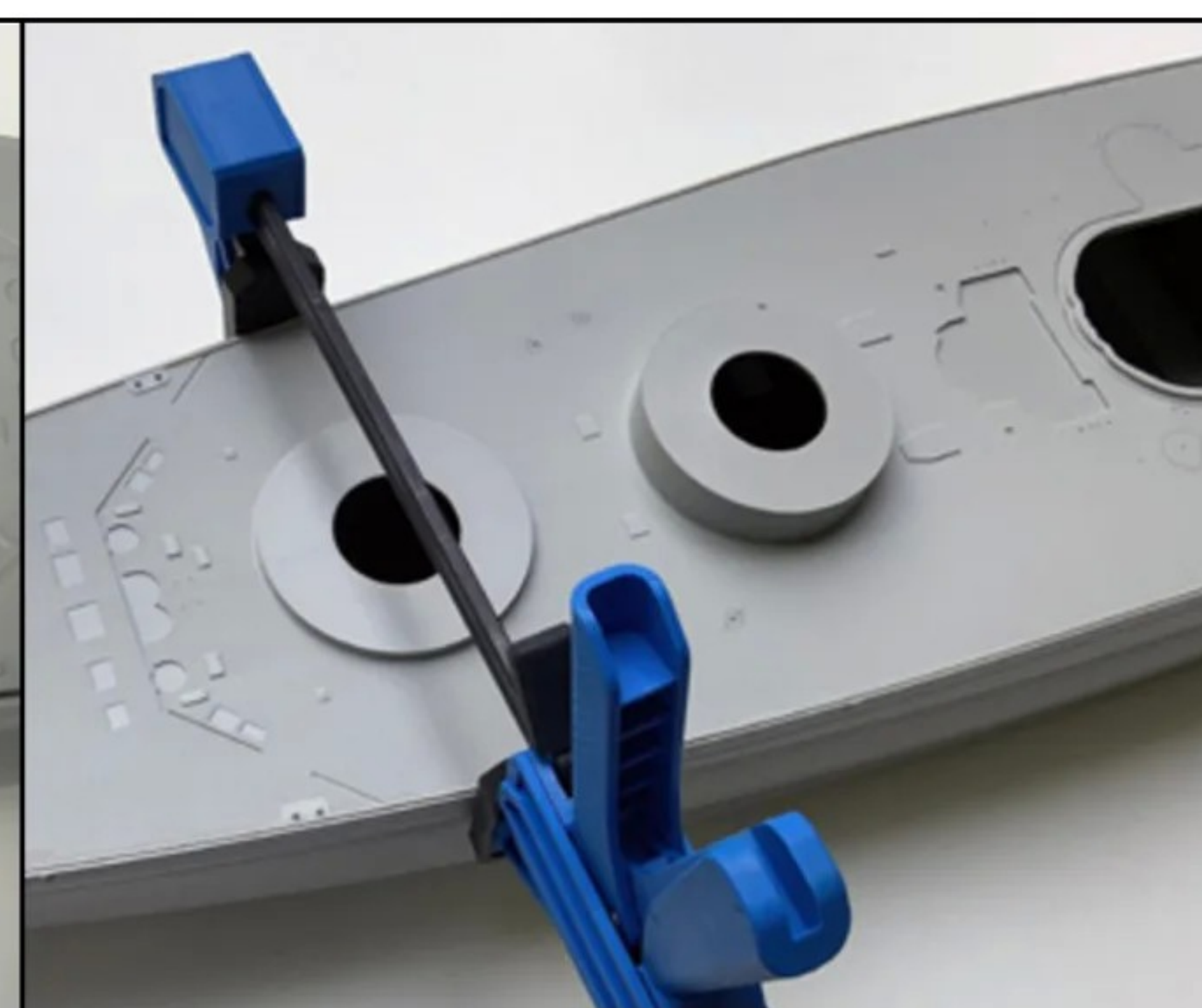
and the tracks for the floatplanes, I anchor one end with superglue and secure the spot with accelerator. Then I work my way along that part until it is installed. This ensures a strong, yet straight, aligned joint, **5**.

6. Add PE and delicate plastic parts to the inner areas of each subassembly first, then work out from there. This helps prevent damage to fragile details.

7. Paint small parts, such as davits, on the sprue. This includes spraying the PE railings while they are still on the frets.

8. I replaced some small, fragile PE parts with styrene as I found the tiny gluing





surfaces made obtaining a strong joint difficult.

9. Add the paravane rollers (parts B36 and B37) after the railings are in place to ensure they are correctly located.

10. This kit has many tiny parts that will be swallowed by the Carpet Monster! Although it sounds basic, I laid a large single-color bedsheet on the floor to catch dropped parts.

11. Install the main deck side railings last to avoid damaging them.

## Building the hull

The hull comes partially assembled with several hefty metal U-shaped metal braces supporting it, **6**. While you are required to re-tighten the screws, do not tighten them

too much or you risk warping the hull resulting in an ill-fitting deck!

With the brackets in place, I ran liquid cement along the center seam, **7**. To ensure the long seam stayed together, I reinforced sections with 5-minute epoxy and thick styrene sheet.

Clamps kept the bow and stern together and aligned as the glues set, **8**.

Before adding the main deck, I glued styrene blocks atop the large ejector-pin marks inside the hull to help support the part, **9**.

Although the kit features mostly good fits, the starboard side needed encouragement in the form of a large bar clamp to meet the forecastle deck, **10**.

I left off small parts and fittings from

the main deck so I could paint it without complicated masking.

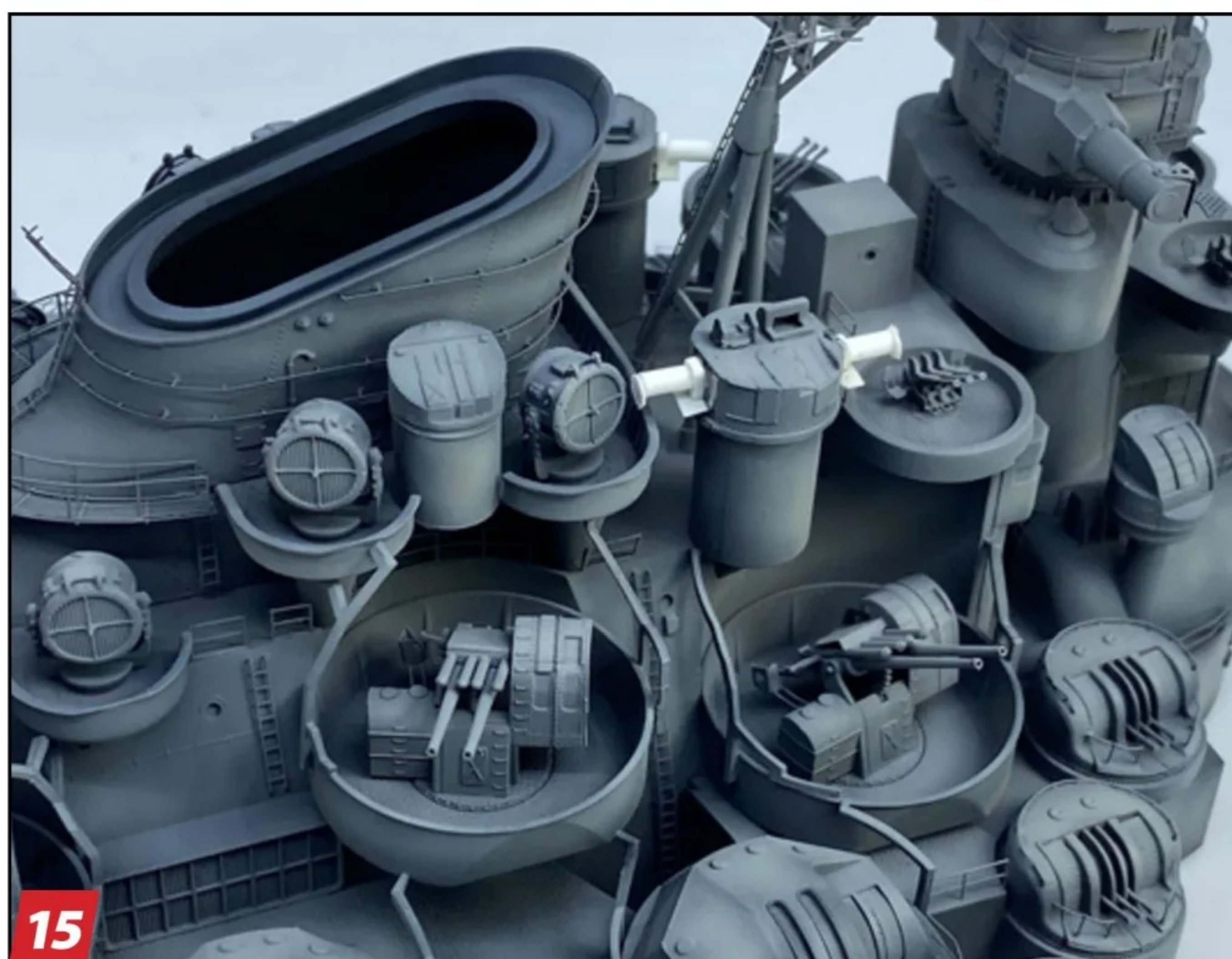
In preparation for painting, I sprayed the hull with Tamiya Fine Surface Primer Red Oxide (No. 87160) directly from the can, **11**.

## Noticeable accuracy issues

Because both ships were built in secrecy, few detailed photos of *Yamato* or *Musashi* exist.

While a plethora of books and references are available, the most accurate sources are period photos and underwater photos of the wrecks. No complete factory blueprints on these ships exist. Many line drawings may be interpretations, although those of some of the weapons and





equipment that were used on *Yamato* and other ships is more reliable. Again, because color photos of the ship are so rare, exact colors are best guesses or derived from crew testimonials, which can be inaccurate.

With that said, one must decide on what time-period to depict the model. I chose *Yamato* during its engagement with Taffy 3 in October 1944. This date is crucial in modifying the kit's armament complement and arrangement.

For these modifications, I used the "scale rule" that says if you cannot see the detail standing 200 feet away in real life, then I do not bother adding it to the model. I found some of the kit's PE parts too small (even for 1/200), or too fragile, so I omitted them to move the project along without sacrificing detail. The corrections I did make were as follows:

1. The most noticeable issue is the

heavily exaggerated sheer strakes (hull plating), which had to be sanded down significantly starting with large, 150-grit sanding pads and then finer grades, **12**.

2. The kit's 18-inch plastic gun barrels featured difficult-to-remove mold seams and attachments, so I replaced them with an out-of-production set of turned-metal barrels from JB Model designed for the old Nichimo 1/200 scale *Yamato* that I had in my stash, **13**. It was work retrofitting these into the turrets, but there are newer metal barrels available for the Gallery kit.

3. I recommend replacing the kit rudder with a more accurate 3D-printed item from Model Monkey. I did not because it was not available when I built the hull.

4. Paint small deck parts and fittings separately to avoid complex masking

around these items later. I attached them to cardboard with double-sided tape, **14**.

5. The kit includes metal propeller shafts, but the inner ones are 1cm (.4-inch) too long. You need to trim the shafts or deepen the locator holes for the shafts. I went with the former, because I realized they were protruding too far after I assembled the mounts in Step 12.

6. I modified the rear Type 94 HA Fire Control Range Finder by replacing the box-like arms (parts W17 and W18) with scratchbuilt arms using  $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch styrene rod as a base, **15**. These arms were different from the forward ones shown in the Model Art Super Illustrated reference.







7. Using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch drill bit in a pin vise, I opened the bow pipe; it is molded solid on the model, **16**.

8. I also drilled through the hawsepipes on the forecastle and hull so the bow anchors would sit properly. When attaching the shanks (Part J9), place them at an angle of about 20 degrees off vertical from the crown (Part J38), **17**. Attach the chain after gluing the anchors in place.

9. A detail that I added were four small hand-wheels on the anchor deck. I mounted unused PE searchlight wheels (Part PE-C38) on fine brass wire and superglued them in place around the anchor-chain runs, **18**.

10. The forecastle is also missing the leadsman platforms, so I added them with spare PE and styrene, **19**.

11. The kit omitted lifebuoys. I made four from thin slices of  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch styrene tube painted with red and white stripes.



12. Some of the gun tub support brackets do not fit, so I inserted thin styrene spacers for a seamless join.

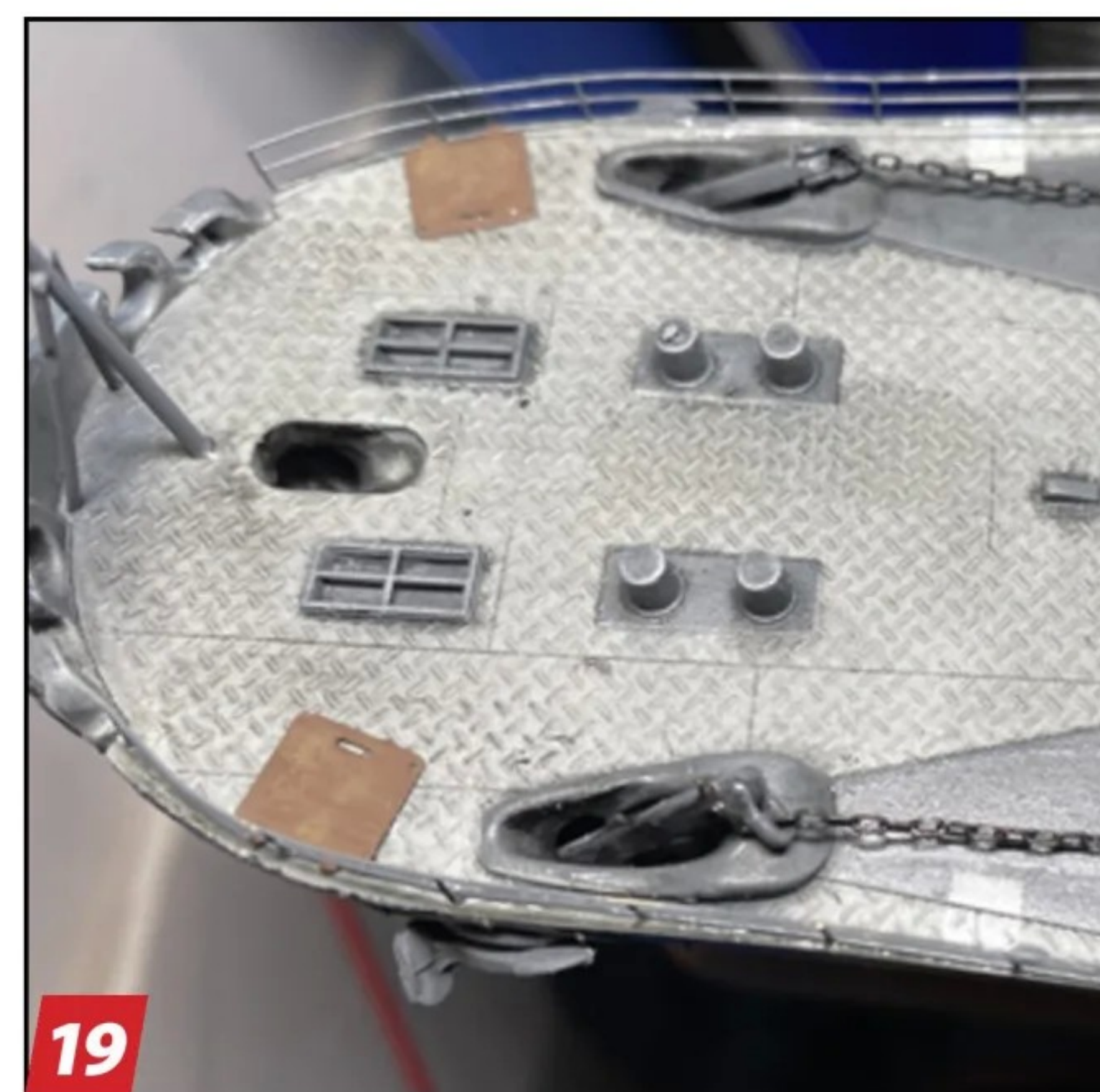
13. While the kit provides all the PE you will need, the 15.5cm rangefinder on the main tower with its Type 21 radar mattress array looked off compared to several references (which also seemed at odds with one another). Either way, the inner PE details (parts PE D45) were too fragile and their placement unclear. So, I fashioned my own PE mesh from spares for a more acceptable appearance.

14. After dragging fine, beige thread through beeswax, I wound it around the deck reels to simulate fire hoses.

15. I rigged the ship with EZ Line Heavy — black for standing and tan for running — attaching it with superglue. For the running rigging on the superstructure, I cut small pieces of  $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch styrene tube to help anchor each rope **20**.

### Backdates

As it comes in the box, the kit replicates the



*Yamato* at the time of her demise in April 1945. To backdate her to October 1944, I made these alterations:

1. Omitted the middle three midship Type 96 triple AA 25mm mounts (Step 33: middle three Q2 parts). Omitted two deck gun positions (parts W11).

2. Omitted several deck gun positions and all sandbag emplacements (parts M5, M7, Q1, M8/9, M19/20).

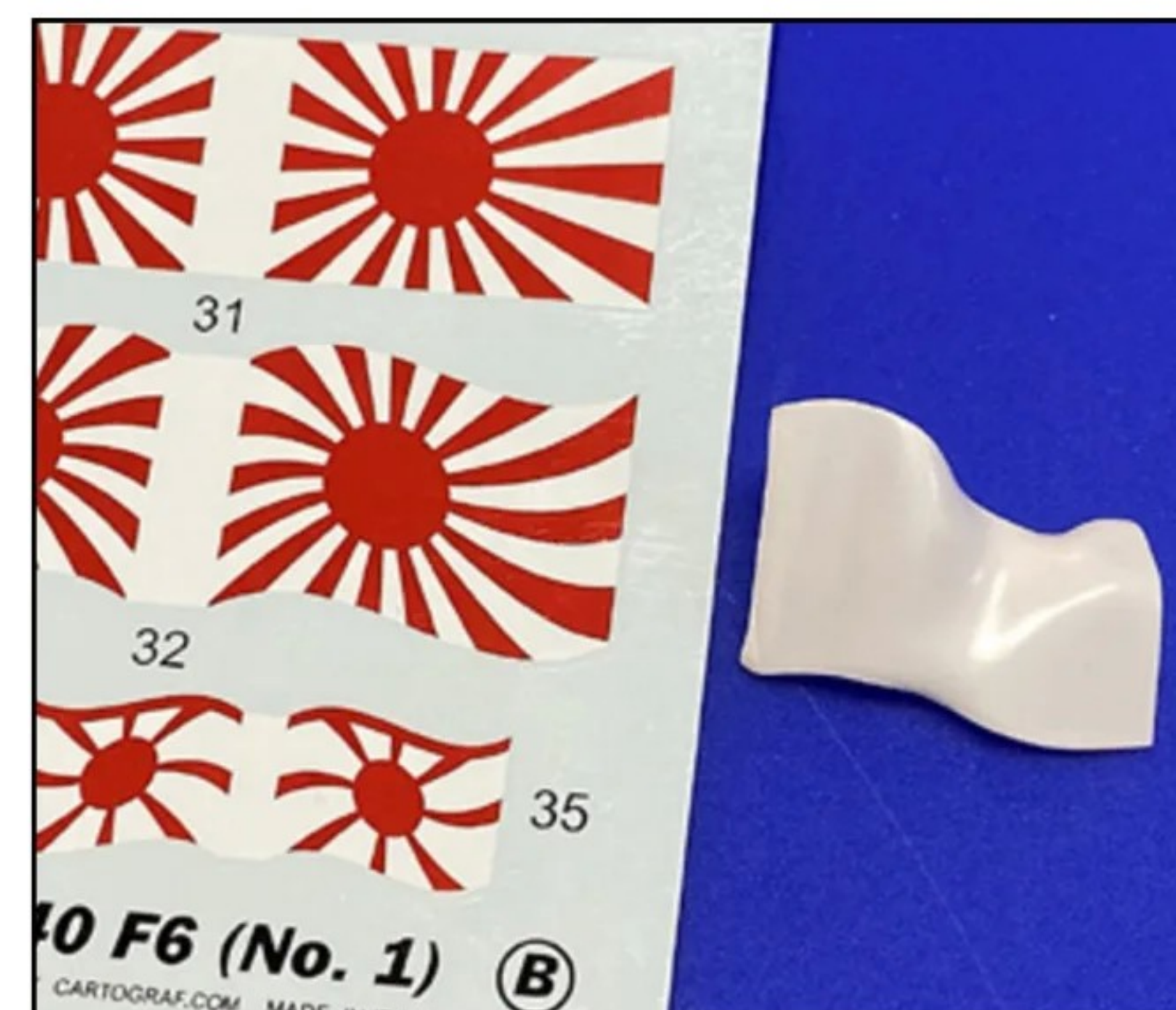
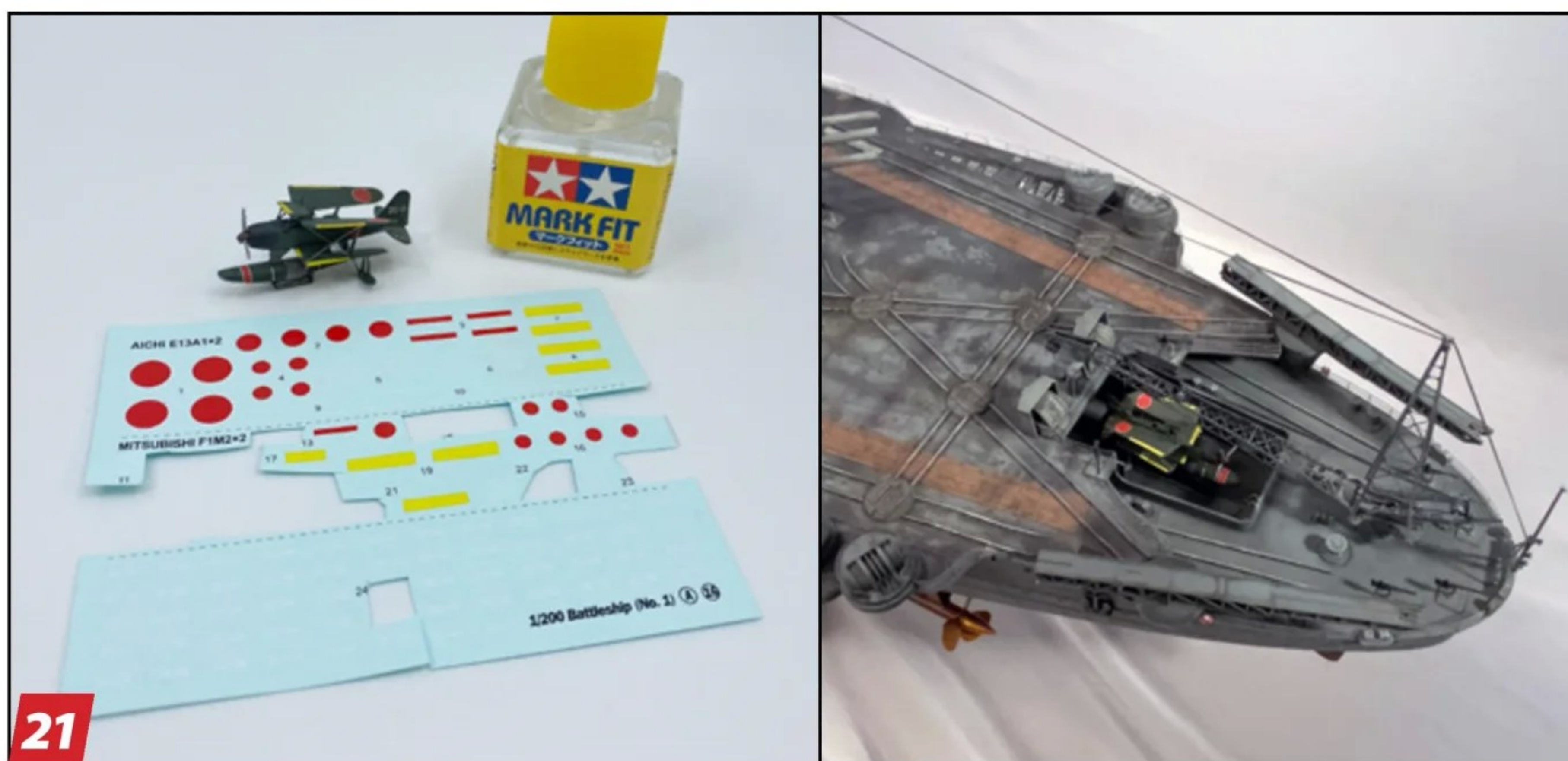
3. Omitted the stern elevated twin gun tubs (parts M1, PE G22).

4. Omitted the turret-top gun positions (parts W9, W13).



Photo by Connor Bruesewitz, Saturn Lounge





5. Photos show that *Yamato* was missing the main gun sighting apparatus when in action in 1944. This includes the sighting device atop turrets (part L20). I also left off the PE trusses on the gun barrels (part PE H2 and H3) as these were only temporarily fitted when adjusting the guns and were not on *Yamato* in October 1944.

6. The kit includes F1M2 “Pete” and E13A “Jake” floatplanes, but in 1944 only Petes were aboard. I used tail code 212-01 from the decal sheet to represent the aircraft that was spotting for *Yamato* when she sunk USS *Gambier Bay*. The decals went on well with Tamiya decal setting solution. I cut the wings so I could pose

them folded and located the float plane in the plane’s lower deck hangar well, **21**.

7. I added 25 single 25mm AA guns on the deck, sourcing extras my old Nichimo kit as the Gallery kit does not have enough. I made tiny base plates for each by cutting squares of .010-inch styrene sheet, **22**.

8. I altered the placement of some of the deck ammo containers to correspond with the added single 25mm guns.

9. The mainmast Imperial Japanese Naval flag is supplied as a decal. Folding it over itself isn’t a great plan as it will be fragile and deteriorate, so instead I cut .010-inch styrene sheet to the size of the flag. After gently bending it over low heat, I

applied the decal, **23**. I didn’t add any of the other flags because they weren’t in use at Leyte Gulf.

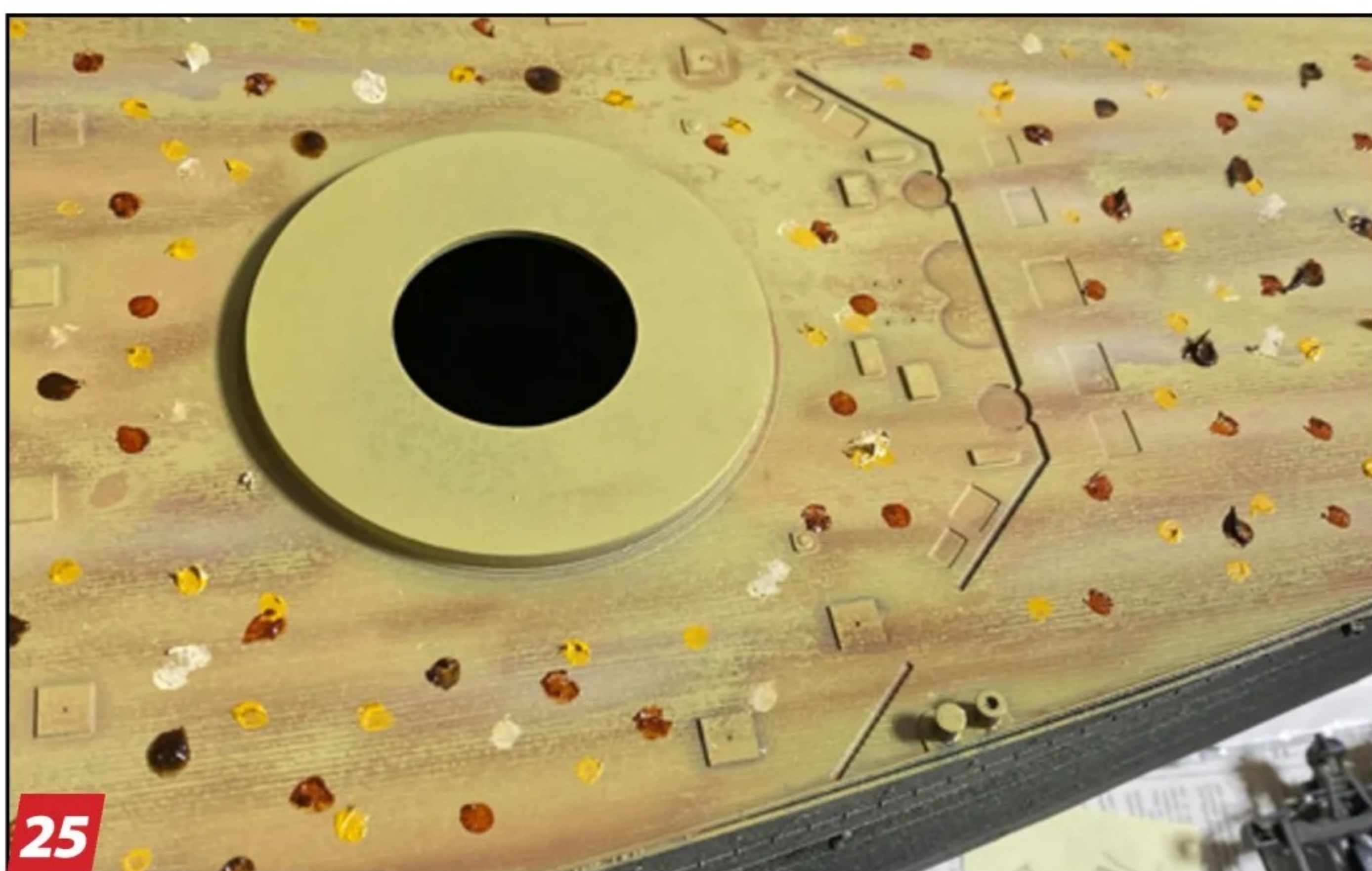
The kit also did not include decals for draft markings, so I used Peddinghaus 1/200 scale Draft Marks for Ships (No. EP2883).

### Painting and camouflage

The main color of the ship was an overall dark gray with a red-brown hull. Much of the main deck was wood, and there were two strips of linoleum on the floatplane deck.

Scale Colors, a new brand of acrylic paints, have colors matched for Japanese





ships. I thinned them with Scale Colors thinner at 7 parts paint to 3 parts thinner. Here is a list of all the colors I used and the sequence in which they were applied:

- **Lower Hull:** Scale Colors IJN Anti-fouling Hull Red (No. SC111).

- **Wood Deck in the Upper Tower Bridge:** Vallejo Panzer Aces Old Wood (No. 70.310).

- **Main Deck:** Before adding the black "camo" paint, I airbrushed Tamiya Deck Tan (No. XF-55), Red Brown (No. XF-64) and Desert Yellow (No. XF-59) in random patterns. A mist coat of Scale Colors Deck Teak (No. SC900) blended the shades in preparation for weathering.

- **Upper Hull/Superstructures:** A base coat of Tamiya IJN Grey (Kure Arsenal) (No. XF-75) with highlights of Royal Light Grey (No. XF-80), and a final mist coat of Scale Colors IJN Kure Naval Arsenal Gray (No. SC107) overall.

- **Forward Anchor Deck:** This part of the deck was unpainted in real life and noticeably lighter than the rest of the ship's gray. I airbrushed Tamiya Sky Grey (No. XF-19) to simulate zinc steel.

- **Linoleum:** Scale Colors IJN Linoleum Red-Brown (No. SC110) with dry-brushed brass-colored frames.

- **Canvas Blast Bags:** Vallejo Panzer Aces Highlight US Tanker (No. 70.322).

- **Floatplane:** Tamiya J.N. Green (No. XF-11) topsides and Royal Light Grey underneath.

- **Navigation lights:** Vallejo Game Color Bloody Red (No. 72.010), AK Interactive 3rd Generation Lizard Green (No. 11145), and Tamiya Flat Aluminum (XF-16).

- **Chrysanthemum at bow and Propeller Screws:** Citadel Gold (No. 21121).





## Weathering

*Yamato* was well cared for during its service, not seeing action until 1944. By then, it had been ferrying supplies and would have begun to see significant weathering, particularly below the water-line; some photos suggest this weathering was severe. Weathering was achieved as follows:

1. To modulate the monochromatic color below the waterline, I sprayed bright complimentary colors — AK Real Color RLM 61 (No. AK268) and Tamiya Sky (No. XF-21), Flat Yellow (No. XF-3), Orange (No. X-6), Hull Red (No. XF-9), Flat White (No. XF-2), and Flat Black (No. XF-1) — through a splatter mask. A light overspray of the original hull color blended it all together before I flowed on a wash of raw umber artist oils.

I applied dots of various artist oil colors, including Winsor & Newton Burnt Sienna (No. 074) and Titanium White (No. 644) and 502 Abteilung Field Grey (No. ABT150), Oxide Patina (No. ABT260), and Faded Green (No. ABT040), and blended them into the hull with a flat brush, **24**.

2. I also used dot filters to weather the main deck. The colors applied were: Winsor & Newton Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre Pale (No. 746), and Burnt Umber (No. 076), and Abteilung 502 Buff (No. ABT035). An overall wash of Winsor & Newton Raw Umber (No. 554) added definition to the molded planks, **25**.

3. Photos of *Yamato* in October 1944 show an unusual black camouflage intended to conceal it as it maneuvered at night. The crew took soot from the funnel, mixed it

with dark gray paint, and applied it to the deck and forward turret. The result was a patchwork of black and gray clearly visible in photos.

I replicated it by airbrushing mixes of several Tamiya black and dark gray acrylics over hairspray and chipping it away with a water-damp brush. I sprayed patterns over this using Ammo by Mig Jimenez Shaders Ash Black (No. A.MIG-0858) and Starship Filth (No. A.MIG-0855), **26**.

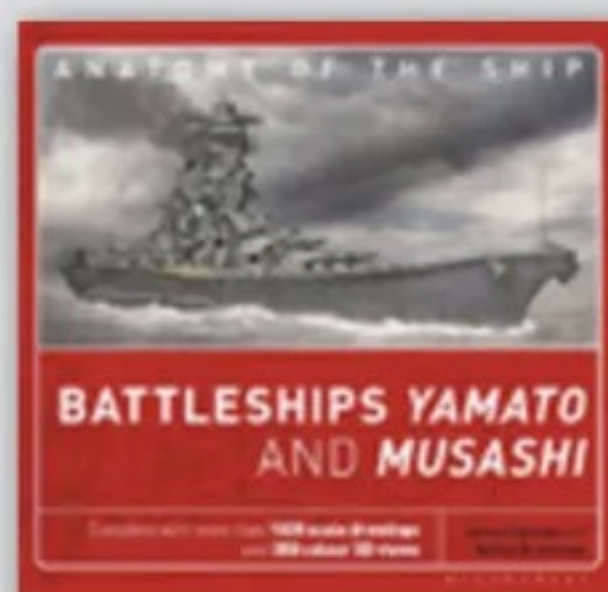
4. Deck night warning markings were masked and painted AK Real Color Off White (No. RC013), **27**.

5. I added the oil and grease spills on the floatplane deck using 502 Abteilung Engine Grease (No. ABT160), AK Engine Grime (No. AK082), and Wilder Nitro Line Grease (No. NL35), **28**.

**KalmbachHobbyStore.com**

### Looking to build a better *Yamato*?

*Anatomy of the Ship: Battleships Yamato and Musashi* (Item No. 85317, \$60) is packed with 3D renderings and drawings of the ships' fittings and fixtures.





6. I mixed 1 part Winsor & Newton Lamp Black (No. 337) with 3 parts 502 Abteilung Ghost Grey (No. ABT25) as an overall wash for the gray areas. Then I used dot-filters weather the hull sides, **29**.

7. To build up grunge and undersea growth along the waterline, I airbrushed light coats of Dirty Down Moss and Verdigris acrylics followed by streaks of Ammo starship filth. I used a stiff brush to flick on tiny splatters using AK Interactive Decay Deposits (No. AK 675).

8. To highlight details on the gray areas, I used Ammo Drybrush Paint Medium Grey (No. A.MIG-0602) before a coat of AK Interactive 3rd Gen Satin Varnish eliminated remaining glue marks and provided a consistent protective finish.

### Final Thoughts

Having finally experienced this monster, it has now given me a whole new appreciation of large-scale ships. If you are a *Yamato* or *Musashi* fanatic, or interested in large ships

and love PE, then this model is for you. It will take some thinking and test your skills, but it's a satisfying journey all the same. Just make sure you have the real-estate to display it! **FSM**

Yamato makes a hard turn while engaging U.S. carrier aircraft during the Battle of the Sibuyan Sea, October 24 1944. Harvey reproduced this moment in the ship's history down the position of the turrets. U.S. Navy photo now in the collections of the National Archives.

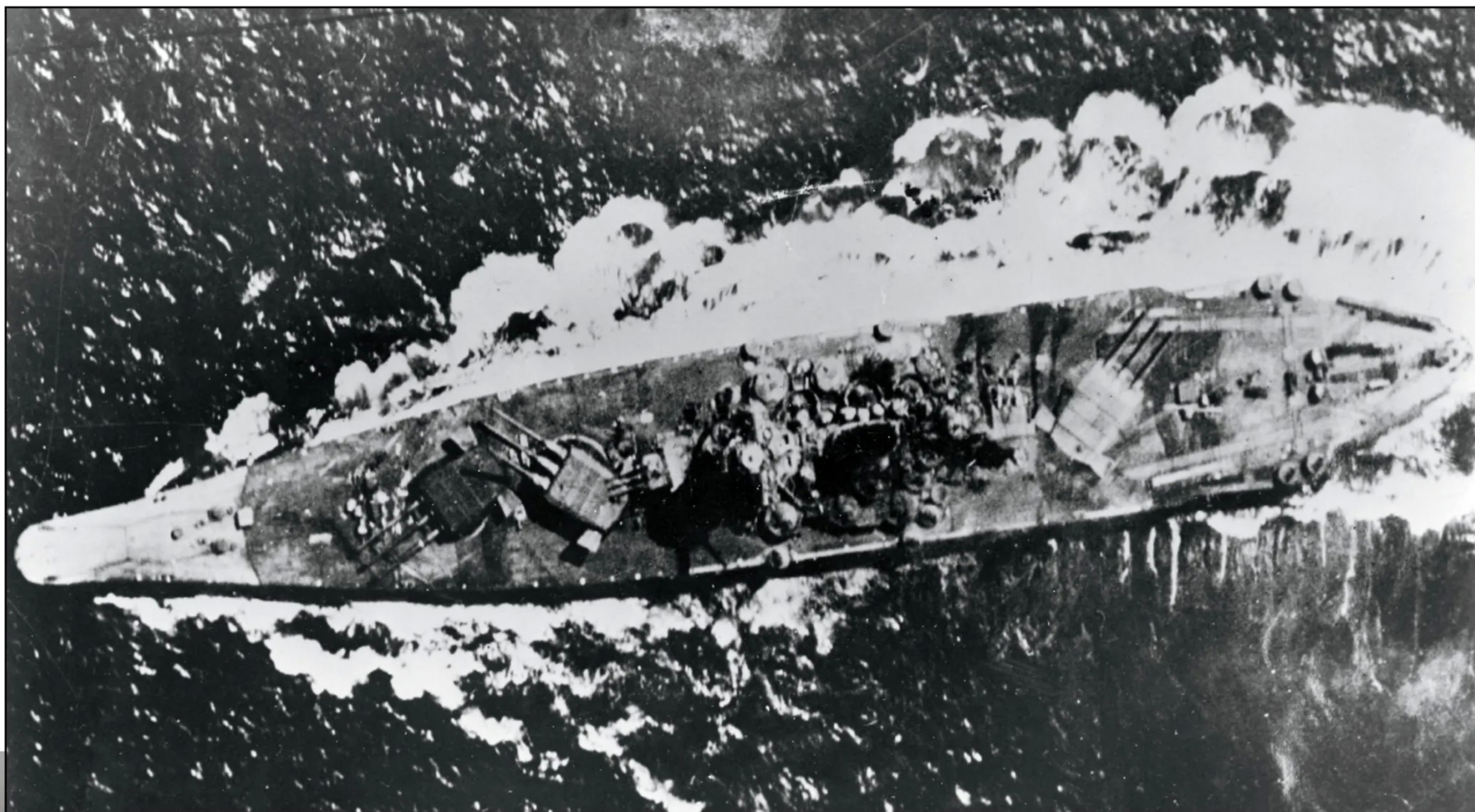


Photo by Connor Bruesewitz, Saturn Lounge



# ***SHINE a HUSTLER***

Use Bare-Metal Foil to finish a Monogram 1/48 scale B-58

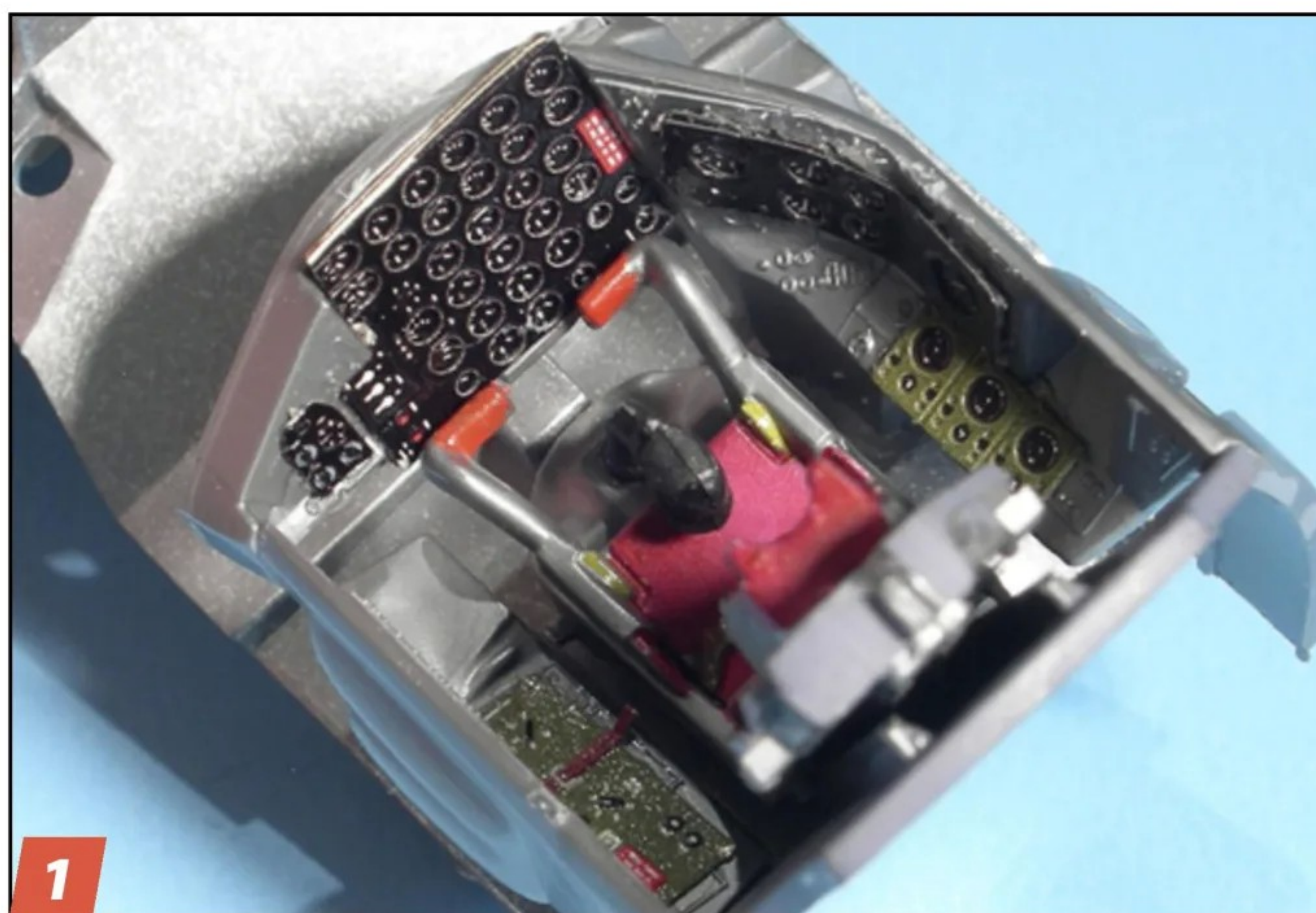
BY JOHN KOWALSKI





Everyone has a soft spot for a particular kind of model. Mine is Monogram and Revell 1/48 scale bombers. Included in my builds are multiple versions of B-17s, B-24s B-25s, and a B-29. A number of those builds wear natural-metal finishes provided by Bare-Metal Foil.

I built a B-58 many years ago as a kid, and I am sure that it was a true glue bomb. Knowing I would be able to improve upon that previous build, I picked up a 34-year-old Monogram B-58 kit. The Monogram Hustler has a well-earned reputation for being a difficult build. Warped wings, poorly fitting parts, and lack of detail eventually relegated it to my Shelf of Doom for a year. Finally, it was time to get back to it.



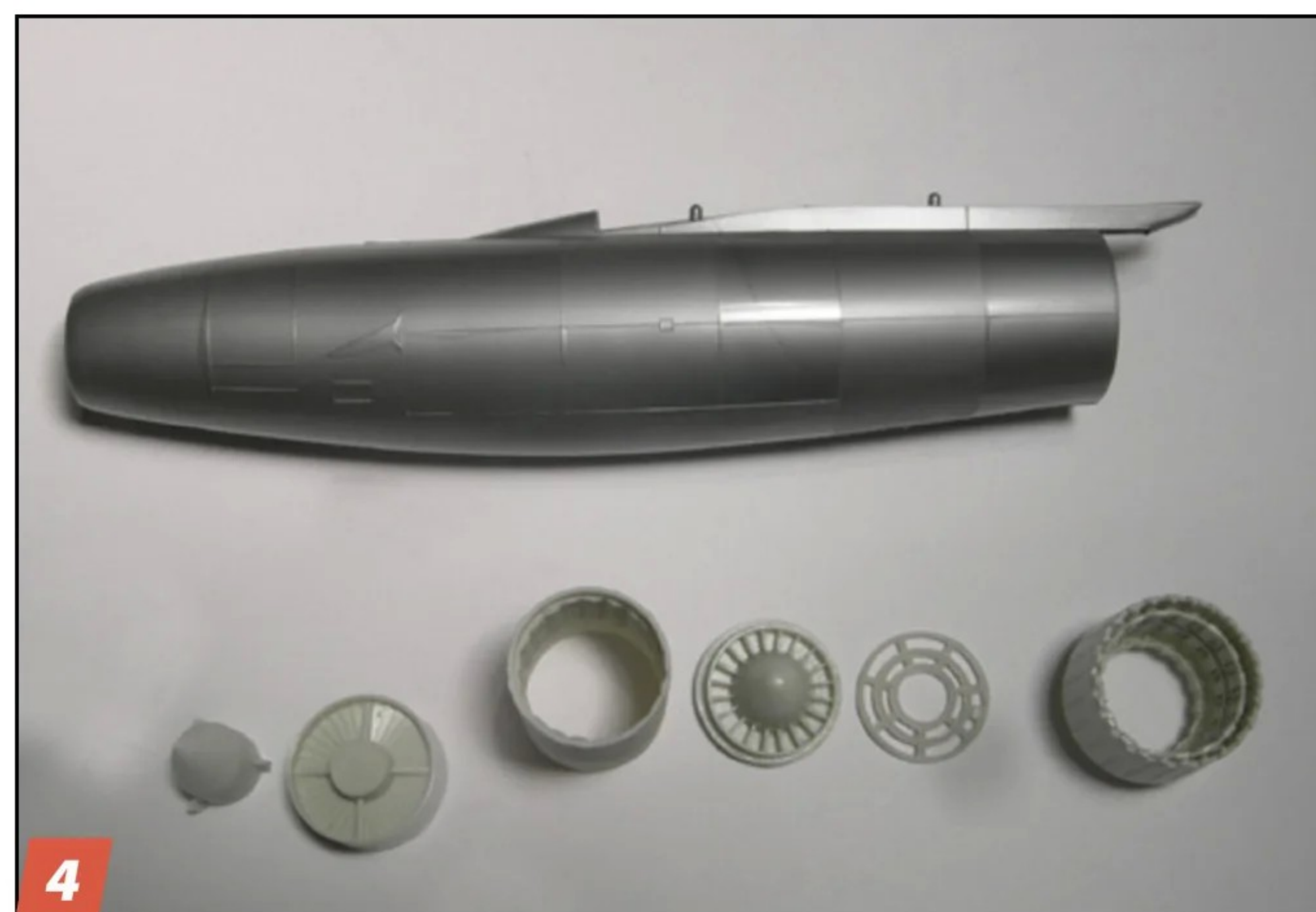
1 The interior wasn't my focus, but I went ahead and dressed the cockpit with aftermarket photo-etched (PE) metal and careful painting.



2 Using thin wire, I added brake lines to the nose-gear leg. I painted the gear aluminum and highlighted detail with a black wash.

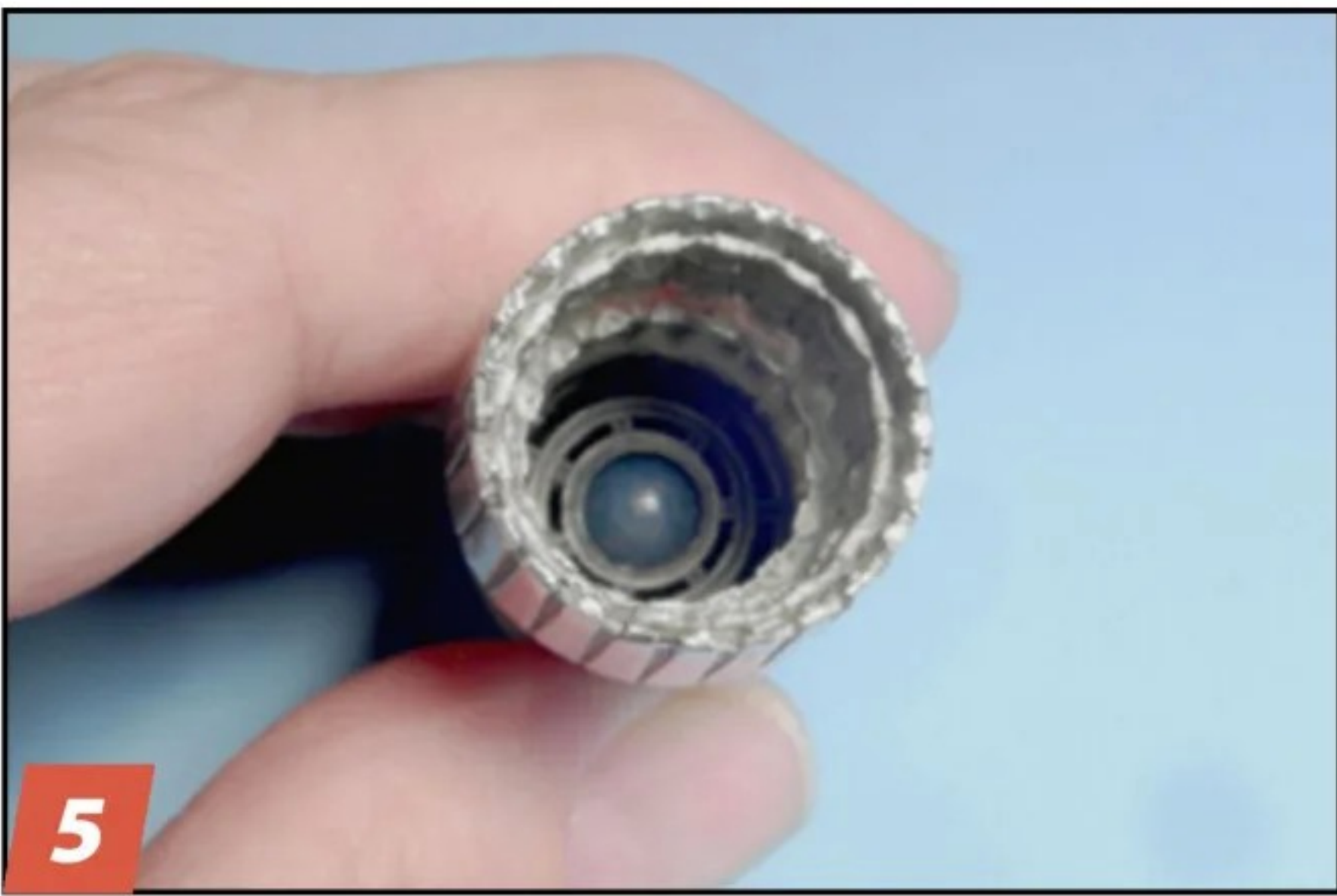


3 Each of the main gear legs is equipped with eight small wheels. I applied a rust wash to simulate dirt and pop details on the struts and wheels.



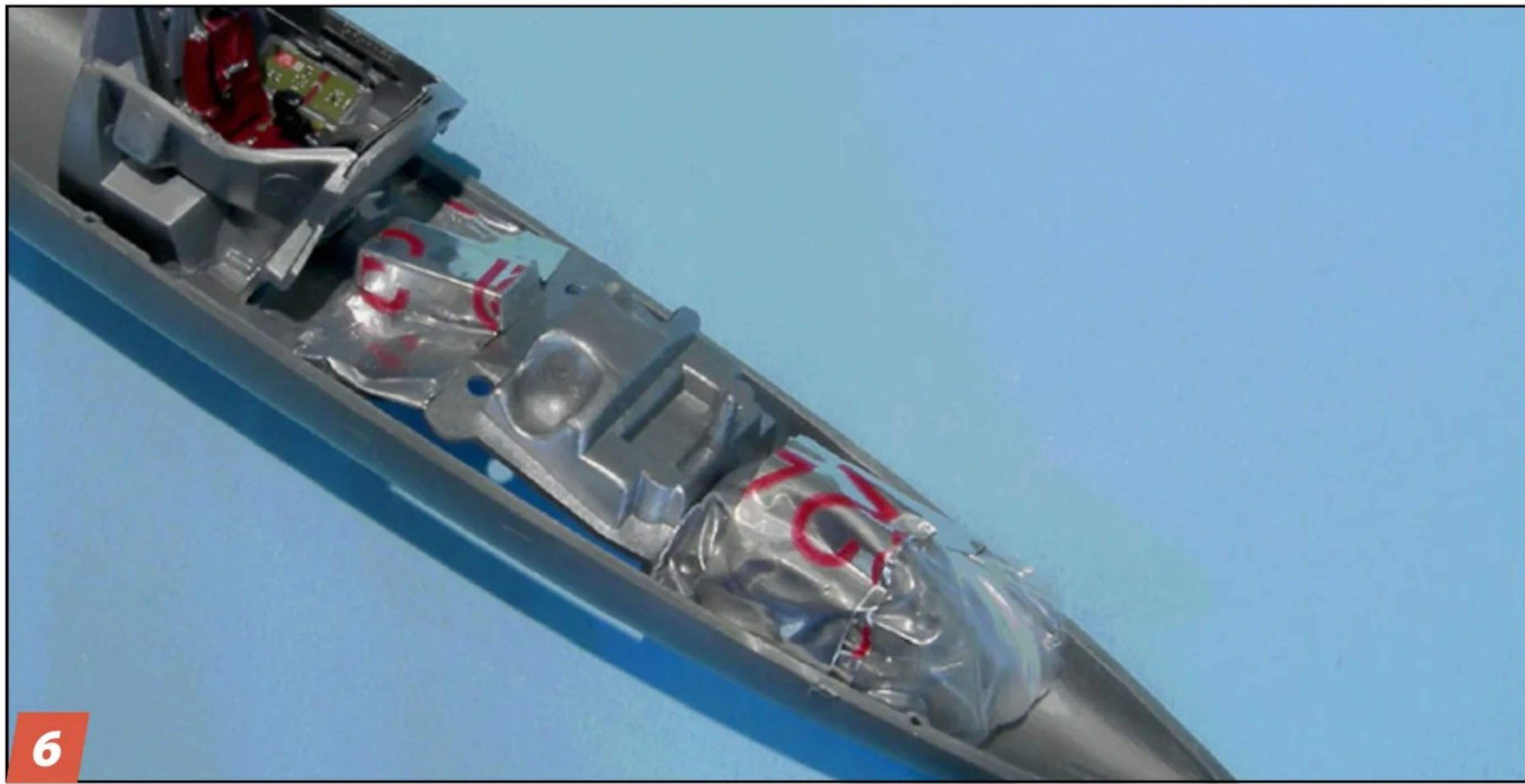
4 The kit's engine detail is poor, so I replaced the intake and exhaust sections with out-of-production resin parts from Fisher Model and Pattern. A similar set is offered by Lone Star Models.





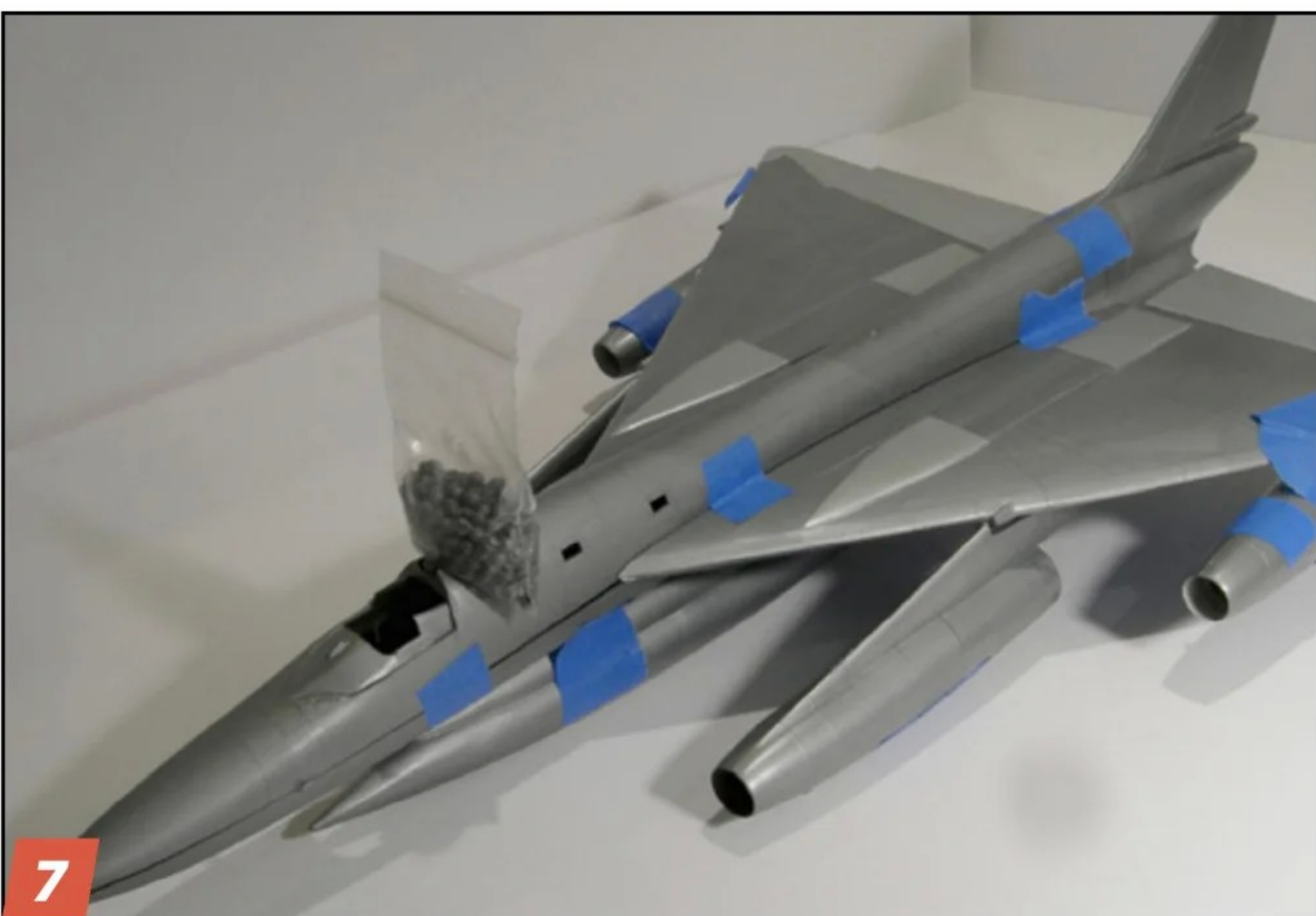
5

After detail painting, I applied a black wash to the interior of each exhaust. I airbrushed the exterior of each nozzle black and then covered each individual petal with Bare-Metal Foil (BMF).



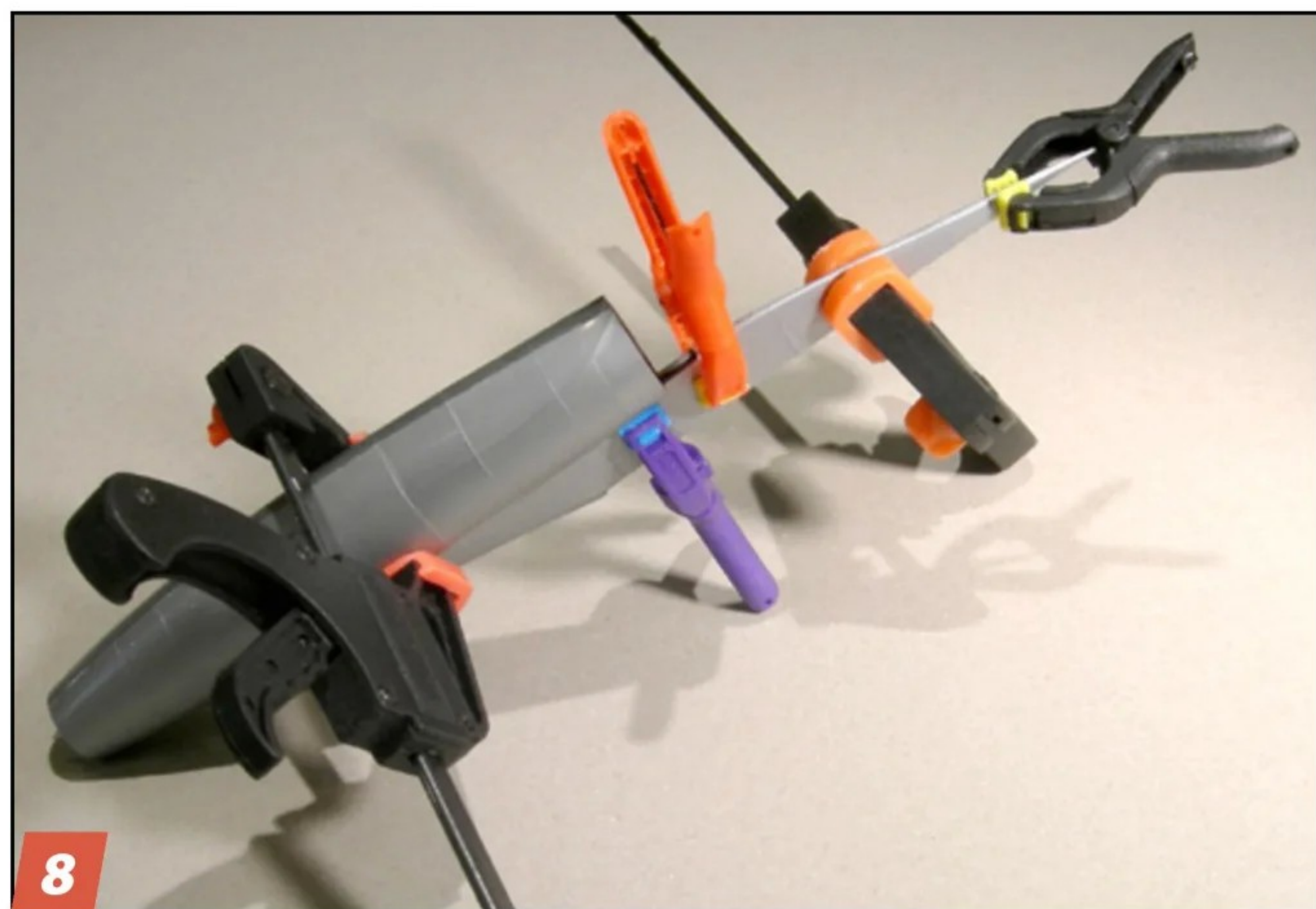
6

The Hustler is extraordinarily tail heavy. To keep the nose grounded, I started by taping automotive wheel weights forward of the cockpit with aluminum duct tape.



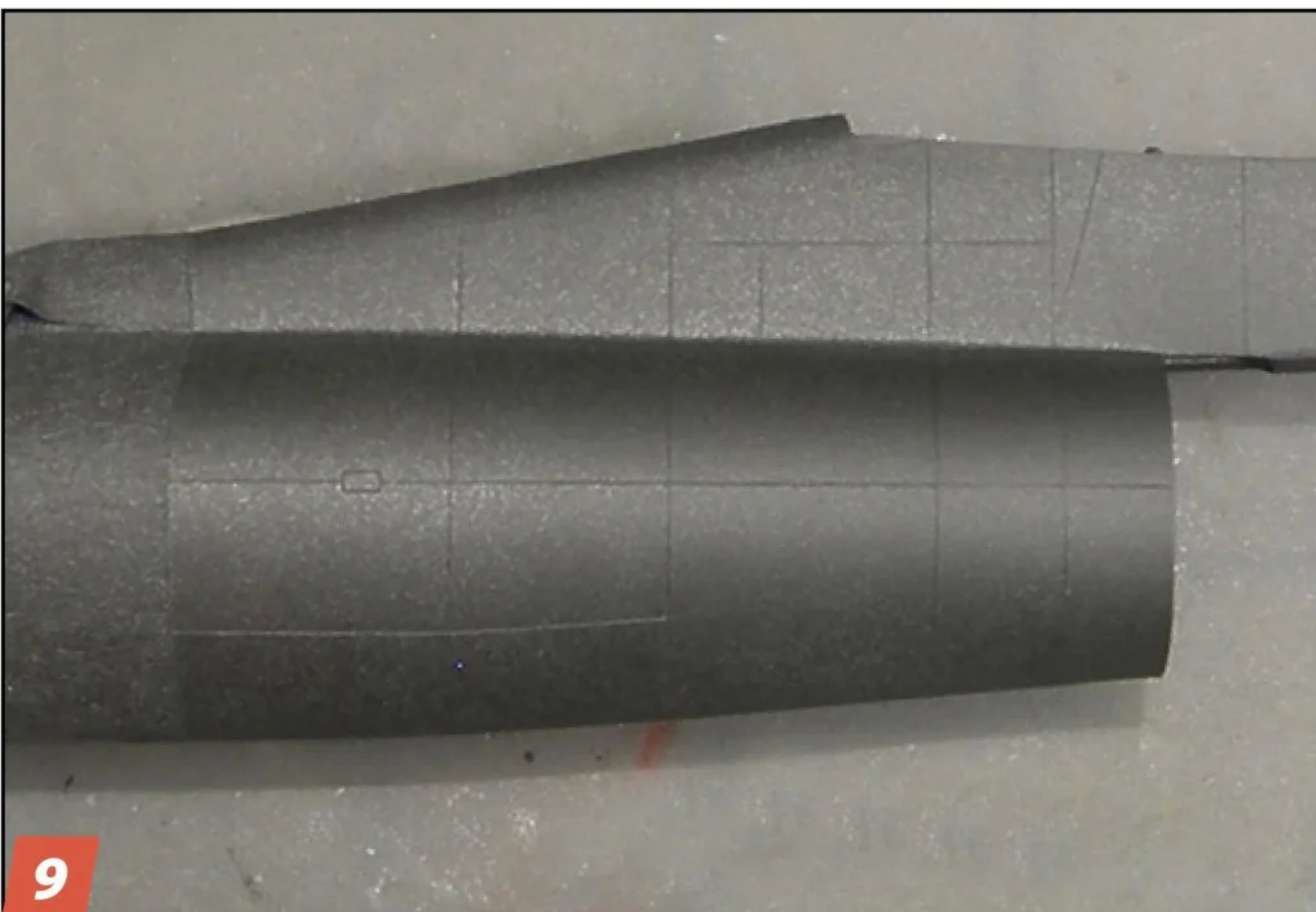
7

Next, I taped the entire plane together and poured fishing sinkers into a small plastic bag resting on the fuselage behind the cockpit until the nose dropped down. I sealed the baggie and taped it into the fuselage aft of the cockpit.



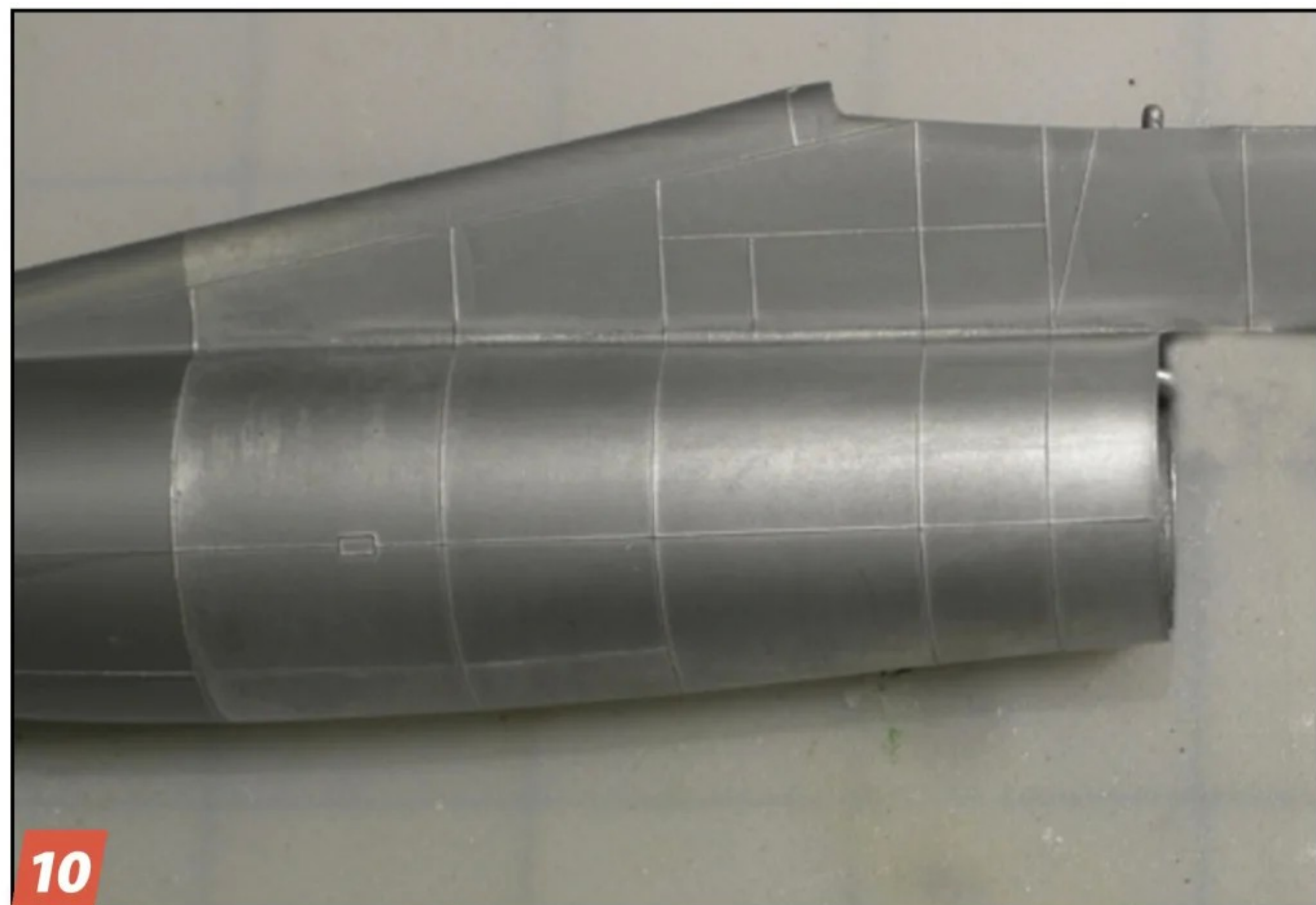
8

Encountering the first of many fit issues, both halves of all four engine pods was warped. Clamps, clamps, and more clamps held the parts together while the glue set.



9

I airbrushed the rear section of each engine pod and the adjoining pylon with Testors Model Master Metalizer Non-Buffing Aluminum (No. 1418) topped with Metalizer Titanium (No. 1404).



10

The titanium lacquer was partially removed as I wiped the surface with enamel thinner. The results closely resemble the color of the a real Hustler's engine pod.





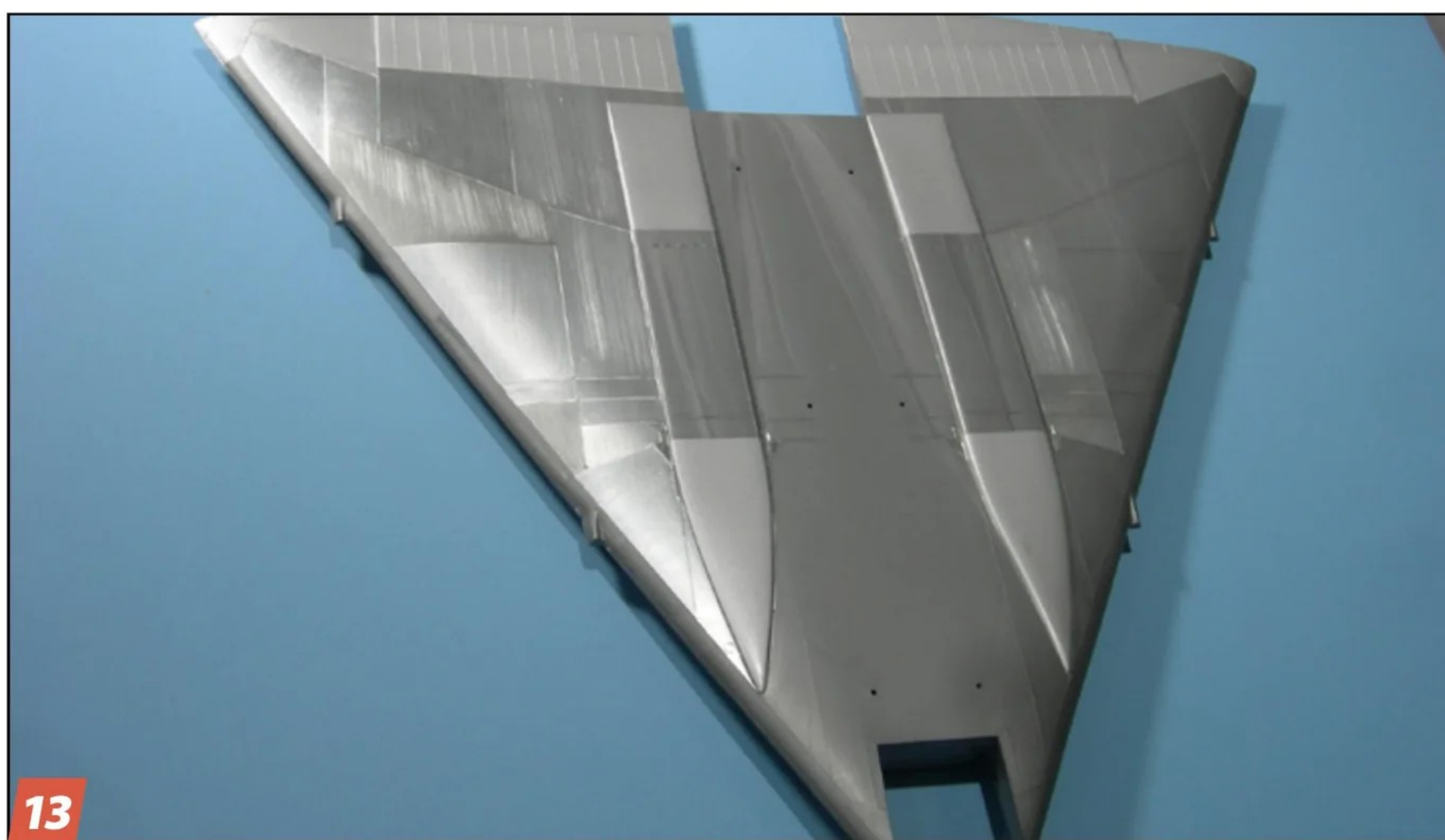
11

I proceeded to wipe each panel individually, which made them different from each other and added variation and visual appeal. The front section of each pod was finished with BMF, and I attached the resin nozzles with superglue.



12

Surprise! (Not really.) The wings were warped in my kit, so out came the bar-clamps and my trusty architect's scale to hold the parts straight as the glue dried. Clamping the triangular metal scale along the leading edge helped flatten everything.



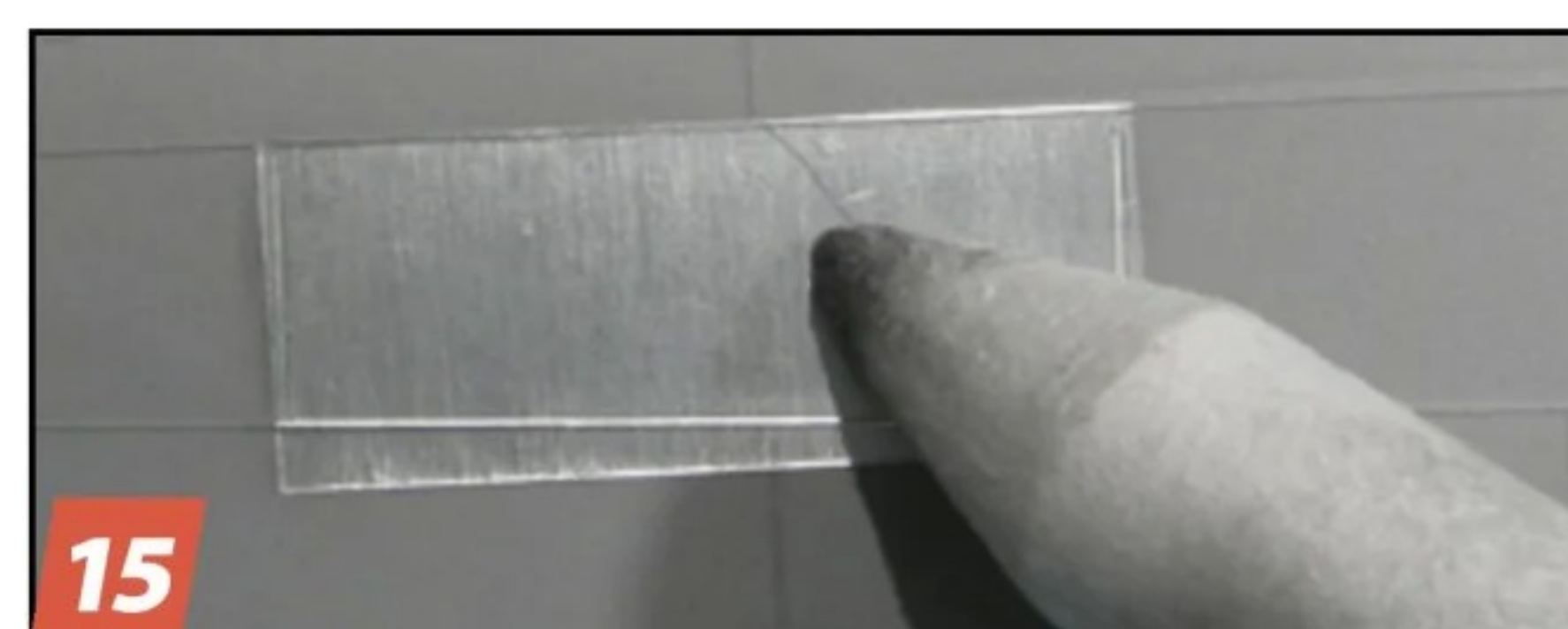
13

I applied BMF to the wings, tail, and fuselage prior to joining the three subassemblies. It was easier to foil the components separately.



14

When applying BMF, the first step is to cut a piece of foil slightly larger than the panel to be covered. Don't worry about the wrinkles yet.



15

Smooth or burnish the foil with an artist blending stump. The paper stump will not tear the delicate foil no matter how hard you rub.



16

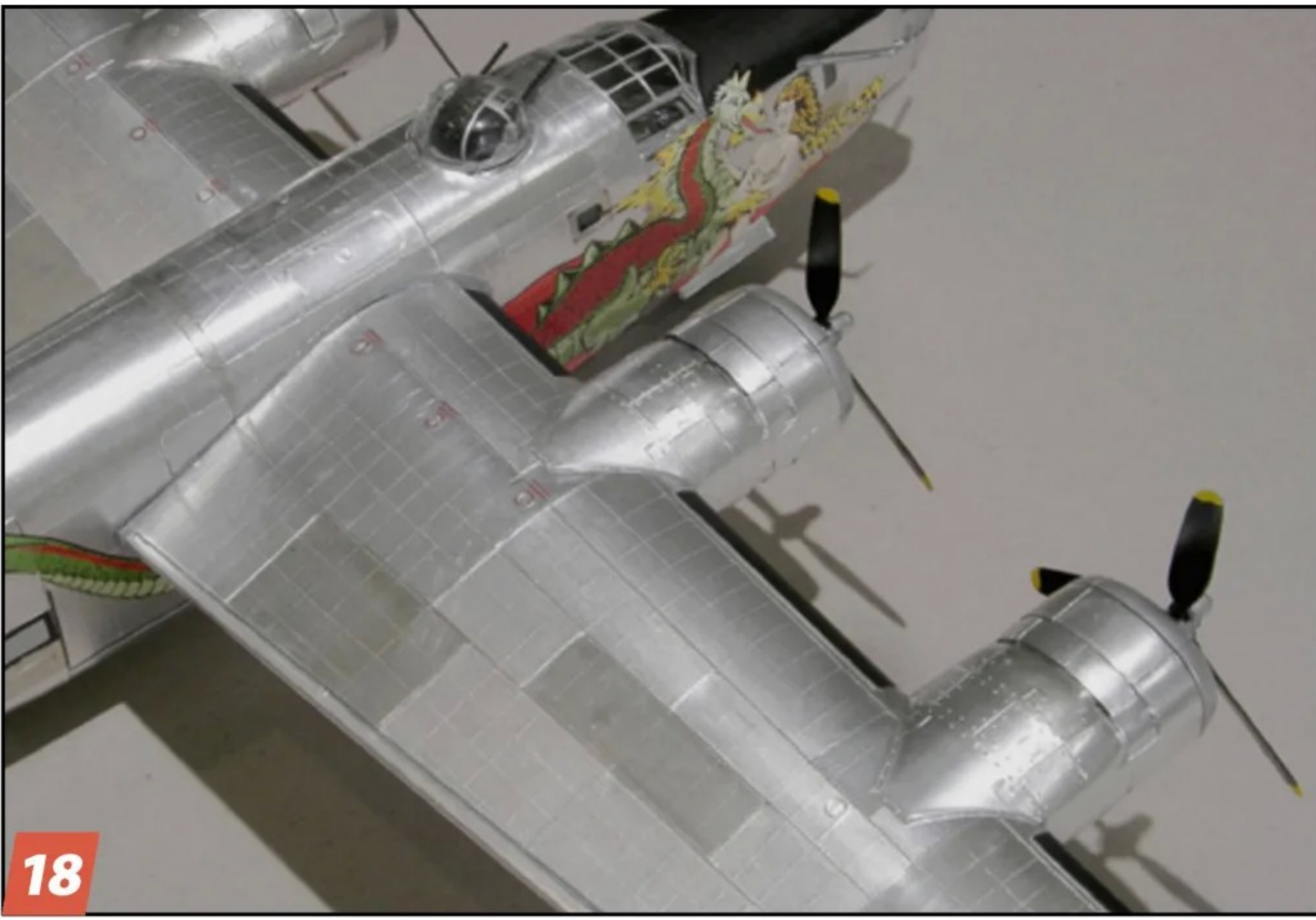
Once the foil is in place, trim along panel lines with a hobby knife guided by a flexible straight edge. (See John's story about applying BMF in the September 2021 *FSM* for more tips and tricks.)



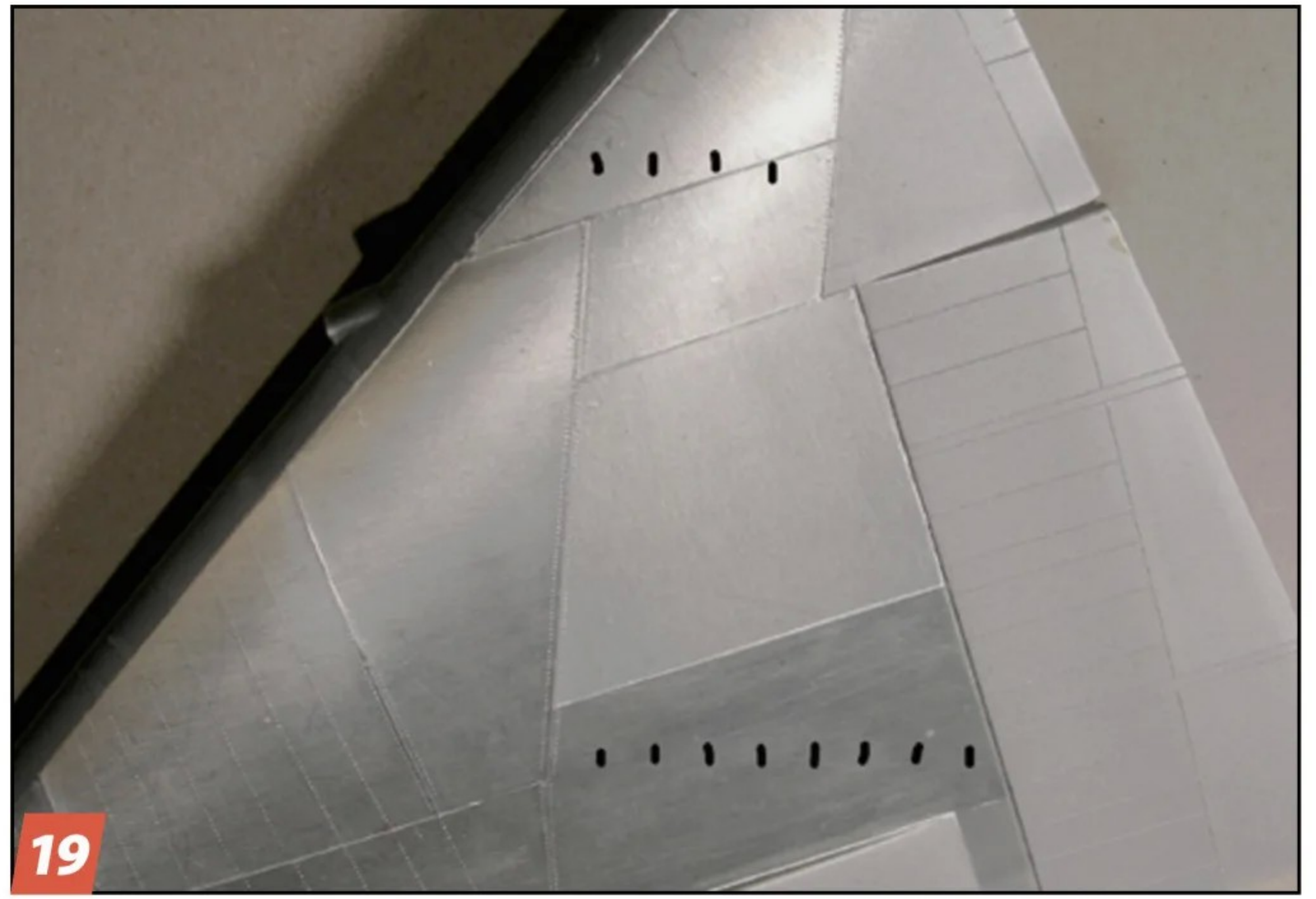
17

Next, I use 0000 steel wool to enhance the foil's natural grain. A single, light swipe is all that is required — do not swipe more than once.





You can rotate swatches of BMF 90 degrees to provide visual interest and contrast between panels as seen on this B-24 I built. Most of the foil is Matte Aluminum (No. 011) with a few panels finished with Chrome (No. 001) for added contrast.



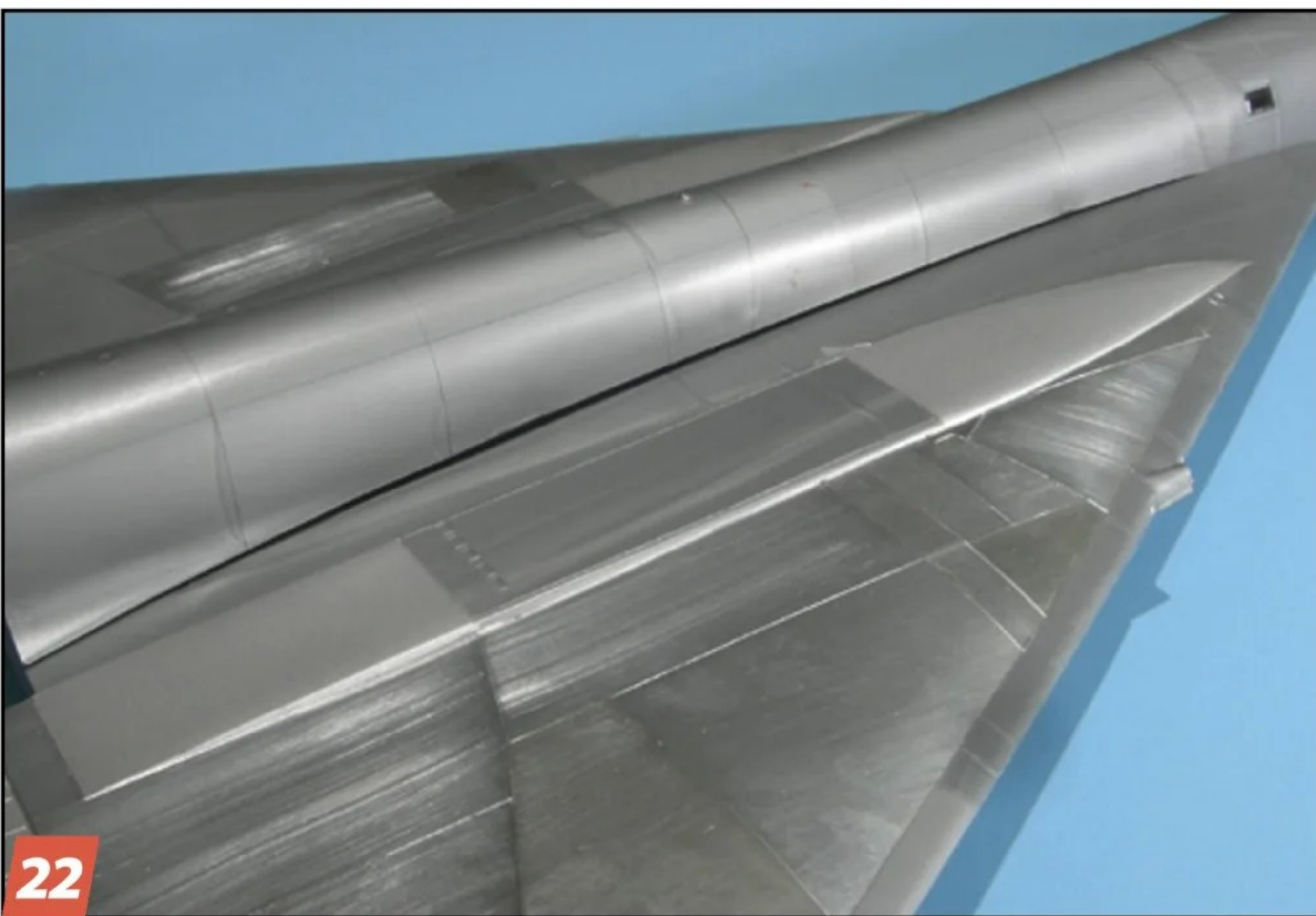
Next, I added rivets or, in this case, titanium screws. I started by indicating each line with a magic marker on the foil.



Then I gently ran a pounce wheel — here it's a Rivet-R Tool from R.B. Productions — along each line guided by a flexible straight edge.



It is important that the lines of screws be equally spaced and perfectly straight. Foiling and adding screws or rivets to a model is a marathon, not a sprint. Patience is a virtue in this situation.

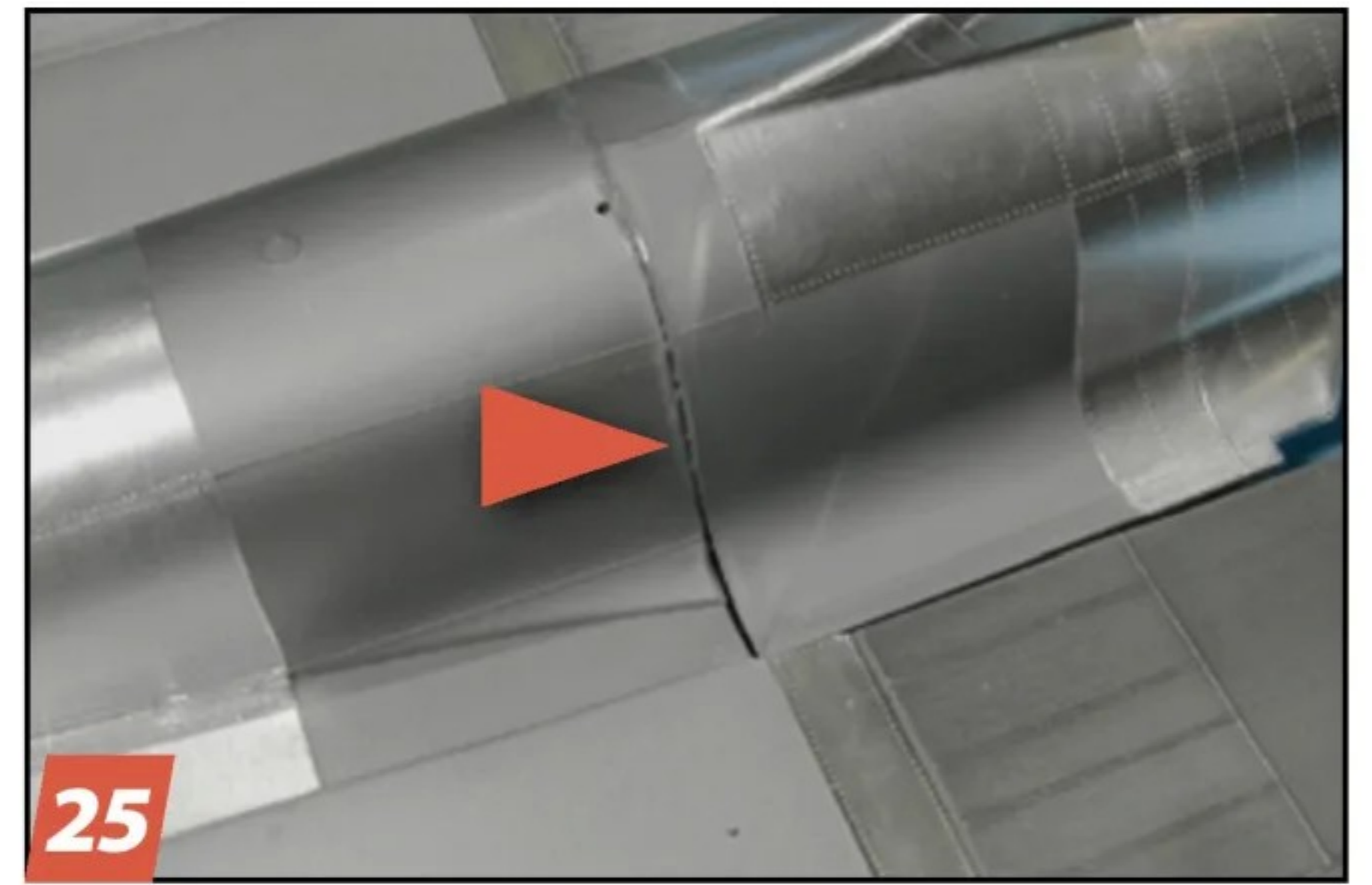
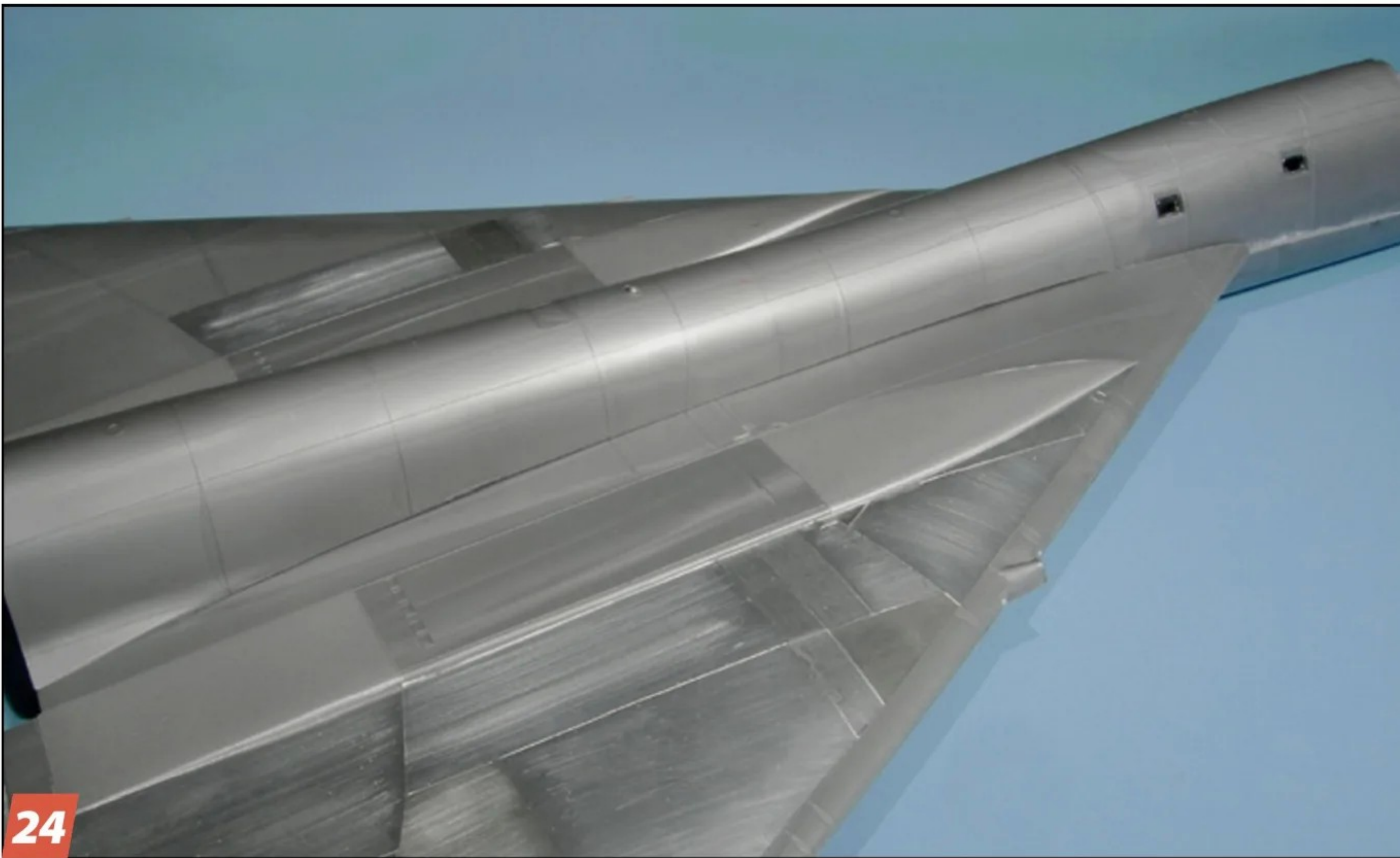


When I went to join the fuselage and wing, I discovered the curve of the former didn't match the latter. Filling this gap with putty and cleaning it up would have been tedious and difficult.



The solution? I used a big bar clamp to press and hold the wing and fuselage together to reduce the gap.





Unfortunately, there was no easy fix for the seam between the tail section and fuselage; it required many rounds of filler and sanding to eliminate. Note that I did not foil the panels adjacent to the joins until they were glued together to avoid damaging the metal finish.

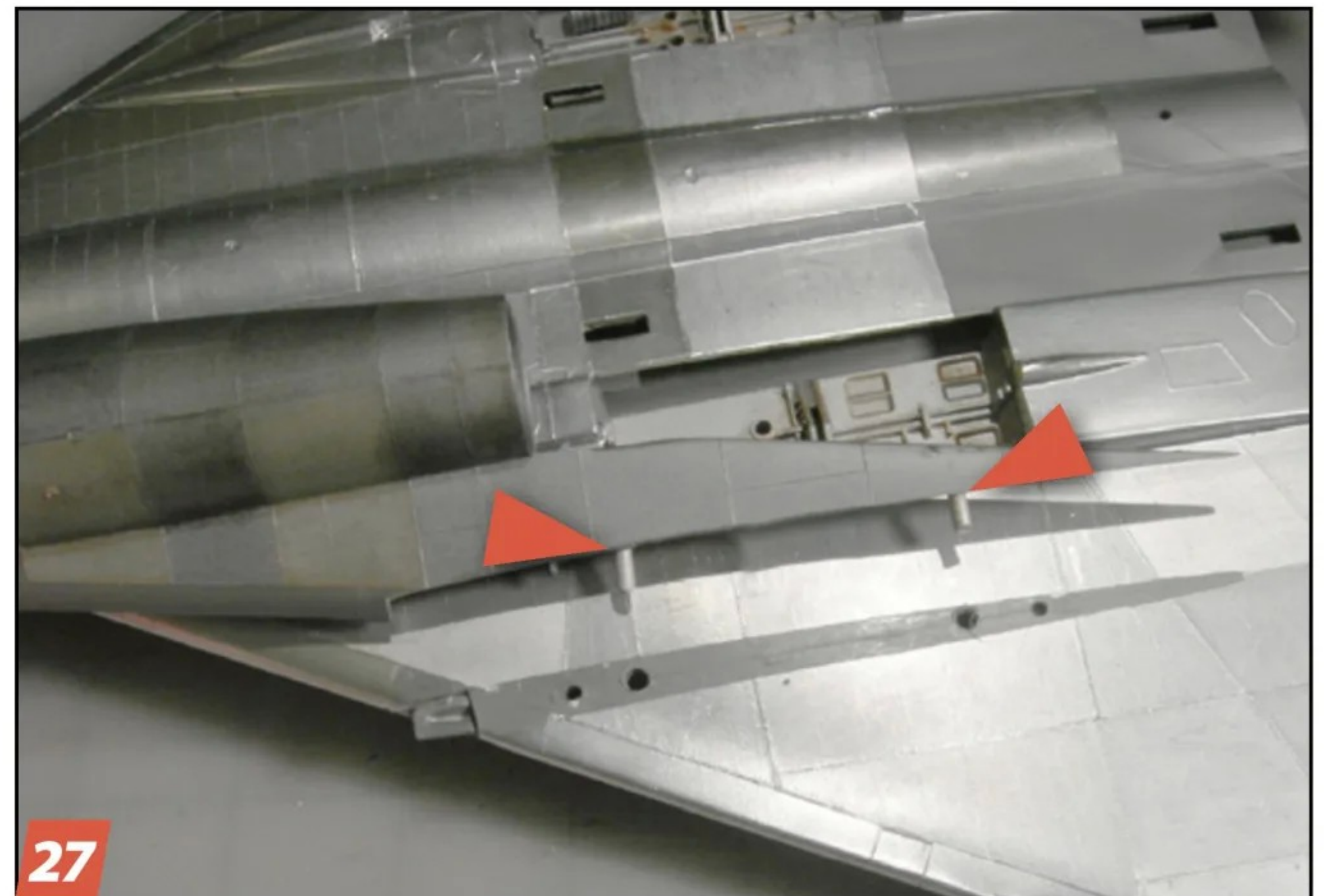
24

The gap was virtually invisible after the glue dried and the clamp was removed.



26

I painted the elevons to match the actual airplane using the same technique previously described for the engine pods: layers of Metalizer Aluminum and Titanium with some of the latter removed with enamel thinner.



27

To support the weight of the engine pods, I inserted metal rods into the pylons that fit into matching holes I drilled in the wings. I attached the pylons and engines with superglue.



28

The final touch was ordnance: The B-58 could carry one 4-megaton nuclear weapon in a combined fuel tank and weapon pod on the centerline and four 1-megaton bombs under the wing roots.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**MONOGRAM'S HUSTLER** was a challenging and frustrating model to build. However, taking the time to clad it in Bare-Metal Foil highlights the elegant lines of the fast-mover. **FSM**

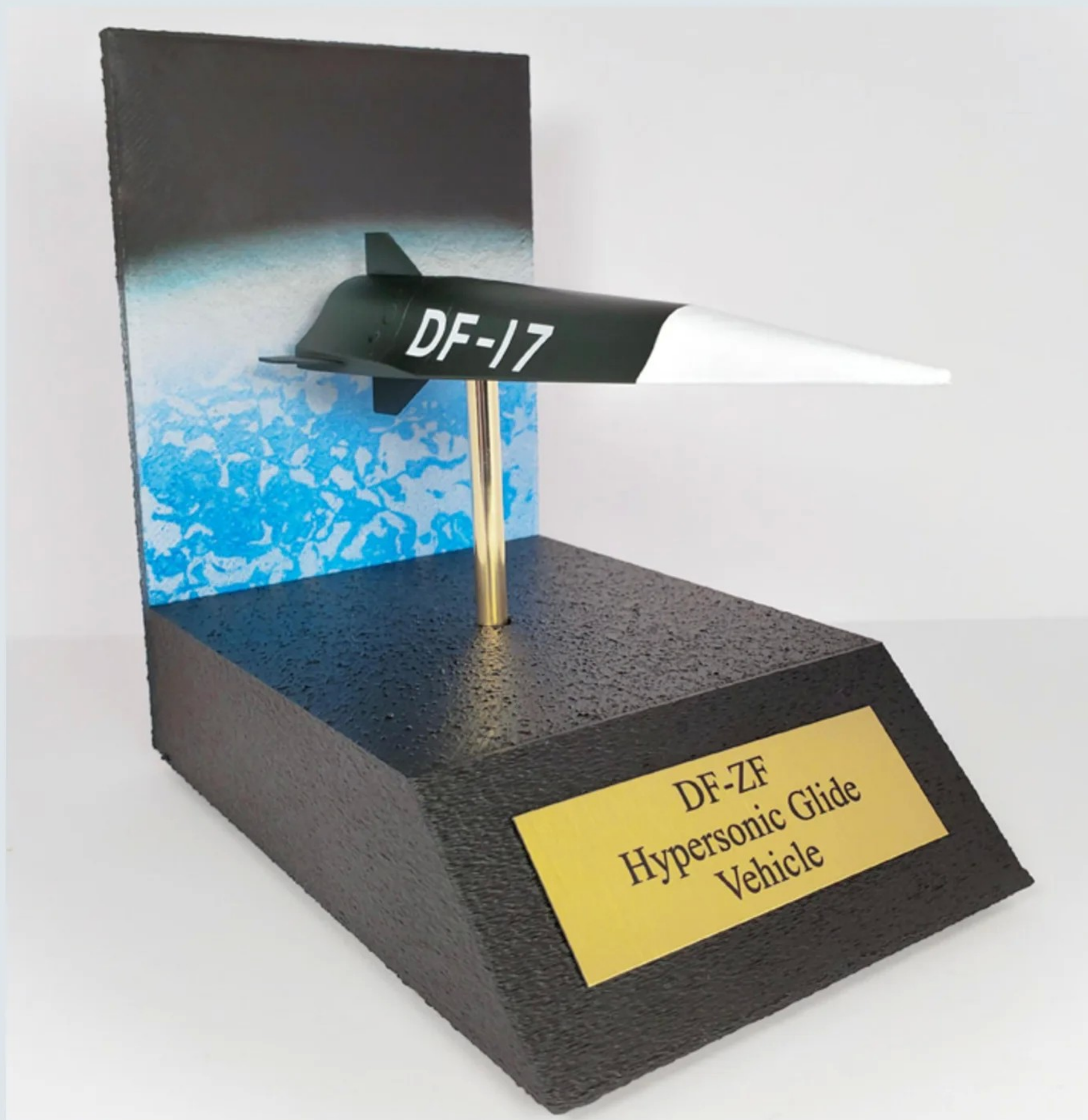


**NILS KEMPKENS  
VIERSEN, NORTH  
RHINE WESTPHALIA,  
GERMANY**

Nils constructed his 1/35 scale Normandy, 1944, vignette on a Styrofoam base, scratchbuilt the vegetation, and modeled the water with AK Interactive epoxy resin water. He completed the scene with figures from Alpine Miniatures. Nils shares his process on his YouTube and Instagram, both called Biberhunter Scale Models.







#### ◀ ZEKE LUTZ

##### PALATINE, ILLINOIS

Zeke used part of a Takom 1/35 scale DF-17 kit to build this Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) descending toward its target. He designed and 3D-printed the base and background and airbrushed it freehand, taking several attempts to get it right. Zeke painted the entire scene with Tamiya acrylics and said he had to repaint the entire model and base twice due to paint issues. "The model was a learning experience and taught me to love the modelmaking process, even when nothing goes according to plan!" he said.

#### ▼ DAVID CAMPBELL

##### YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA

A fan of Tamiya's excellent 1/12 scale motorcycles, David built this Yamaha YZF-R1 straight out of the box and painted it with Tamiya Metallic Black. Like all Tamiya kits, David said, this build was trouble-free with excellent details!





### VAN MCLEMORE WICHITA, KANSAS

Van built this M4 Sherman Crocodile using a Tamiya 1/35 M4 kit, an Accurate Armor resin conversion set, and the trailer from a Tamiya 1/35 scale Churchill Crocodile. He painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with artist oils. A variety of Woodland Scenics products provided groundcover and the stowage came from Van's spares box.

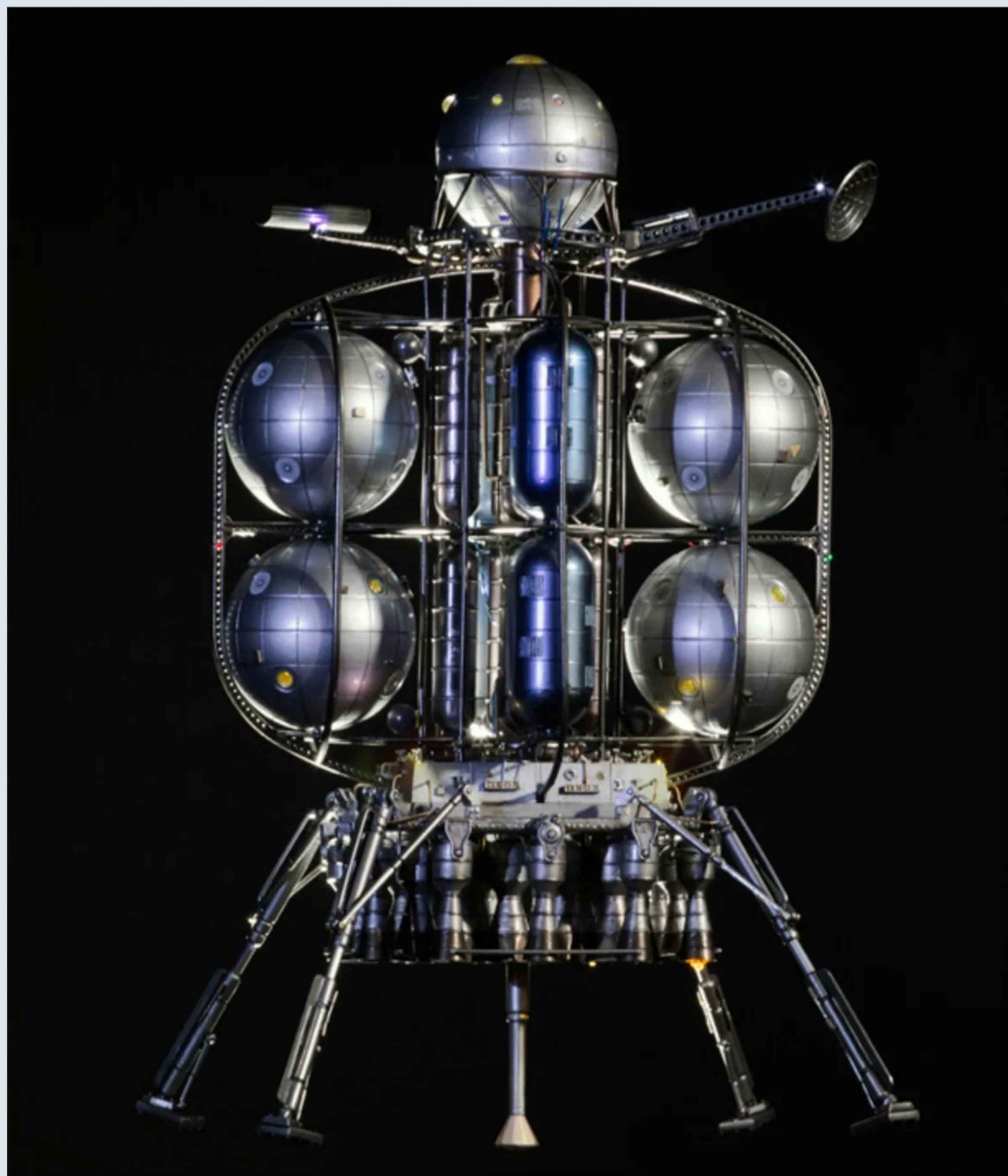


### ▲ SCOTT GLATSTEIN MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

Scott replaced the wheels on a Monogram 1/24 scale die-cast MG-TC with photo-etched metal (PE) wire wheels and added a steering wheel kit from SE Finecast. He noticed that “visually, the MG-TC is all wheels and a dashboard,” so he built a dash from 1/16-inch-thick maple, styrene, PE rings, and wire. Scott painted with two colors: Splash Racing Yellow and Semigloss Black and finished it with Splash 2K clear.

### ► GERMAN MURILLO ARVADA, COLORADO

German's Pegasus 1/350 scale The Moonlander Spacecraft represents a vehicle that Wernher Von Braun created to carry crew on missions to the moon. Halfway through building the kit, German designed the lighting, ordering LED lights with various effects, colors, and sizes. He says that wiring was a difficult task, especially soldering wires in narrow places; the plastic can easily melt and ruin the model.







▼ **TRAVIS PASCHALL**  
**SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

Travis says he likes to keep his sci-fi builds as “tactical” as possible. He built this Bandai Master Grade 1/100 scale RX-121-2 Gundam TR-1 and installed aftermarket LEDs throughout the build. To hide the wires, Travis fashioned a base made from foam insulation, Sculptamold, and a small, decorative, wooden crate. With that finished, he added a paint scheme befitting a mech deployed to the moon. A former Marine, Travis finished the build with waterslide decals of U.S. Marine Corps markings.



**DOUG WEBB**  
**SLIDELL, LOUISIANA**

Doug finished his Hobby 2000 1/48 scale Hs 129B-2 with AK Interactive Real Colors lacquers and the kit decals. “The camo pattern was surprisingly fun to do with liquid masking film,” he said.



# LONG- *makeover*

An AMT 1/25 scale Chevelle surf wagon gets a two-door treatment

BY MARK JONES

**L**ong roofs? I'm a fan. Like many things in life, my appreciation for wagons probably started with the cars I grew up around. I drove a wagon for my first driver's license test, and even my first car was a wagon. In fact, I've owned three real wagons, and I'm especially partial to two-door styles.

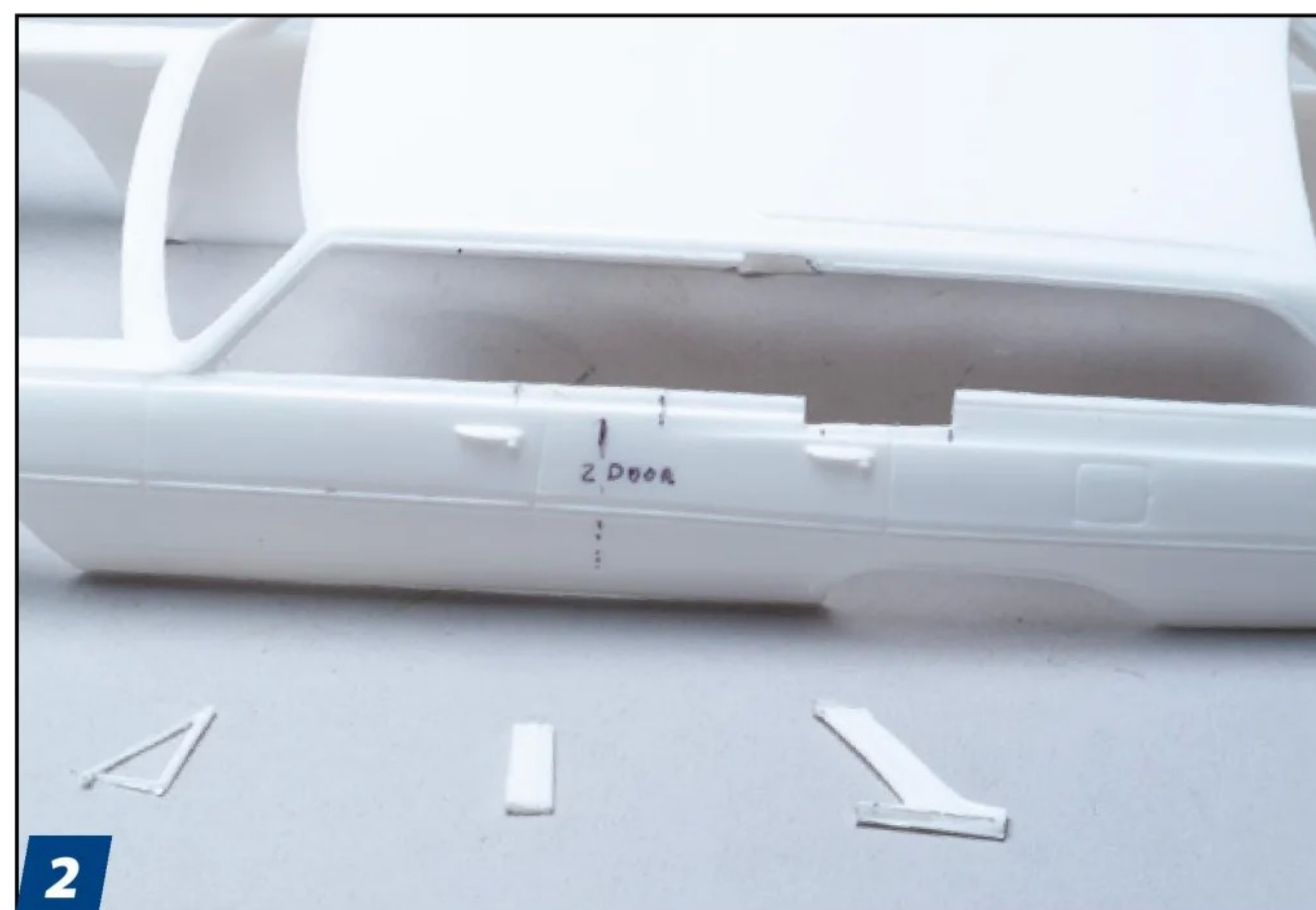
Chevrolet produced a two-door 1965 Chevelle wagon, and there's nothing wrong with the design. Far from it, with nice form and balance, good lines — everything a car should have. Here's the thing: I thought it would be cool to

have really long, single-piece side windows to accentuate the look. And the idea wouldn't leave me alone.

Without knowing if it would look as good as it did in my imagination, I picked up an AMT 1/25 scale '65 Chevelle surf wagon (No. AMT1131/12) as a place to start and got busy turning my idea into a model. Would I love it or hate it? The only way to know was building a proof of concept. With that in mind, I kept it simple regarding the interior, engine, and chassis detailing.



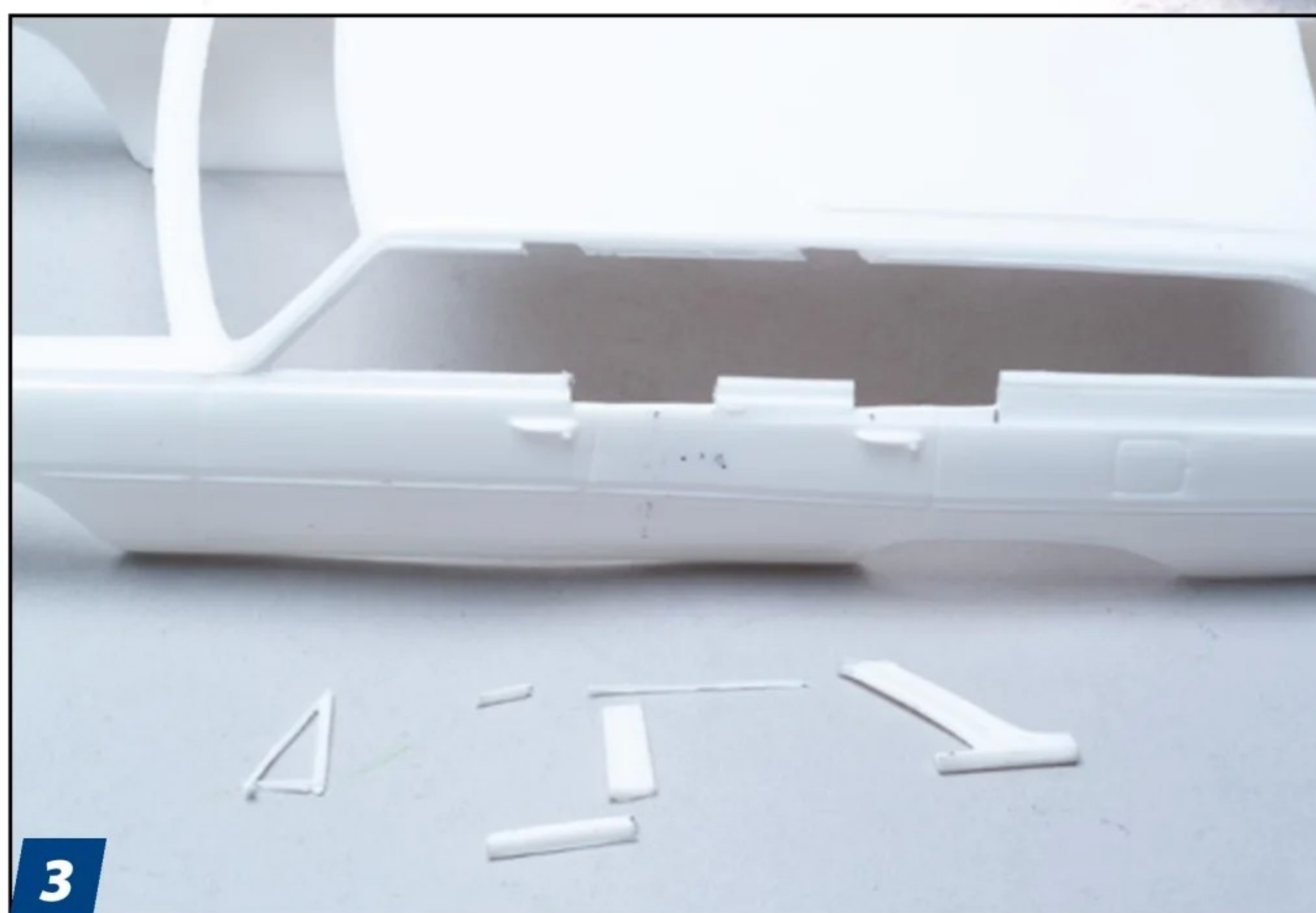
Here's the body of the 1965 Chevelle Malibu surf wagon. The C-pillar will have to go, and the B-pillar, well, it'll never be the same. The the higher contour beneath the main rear side window will need to be relocated behind the front side window.



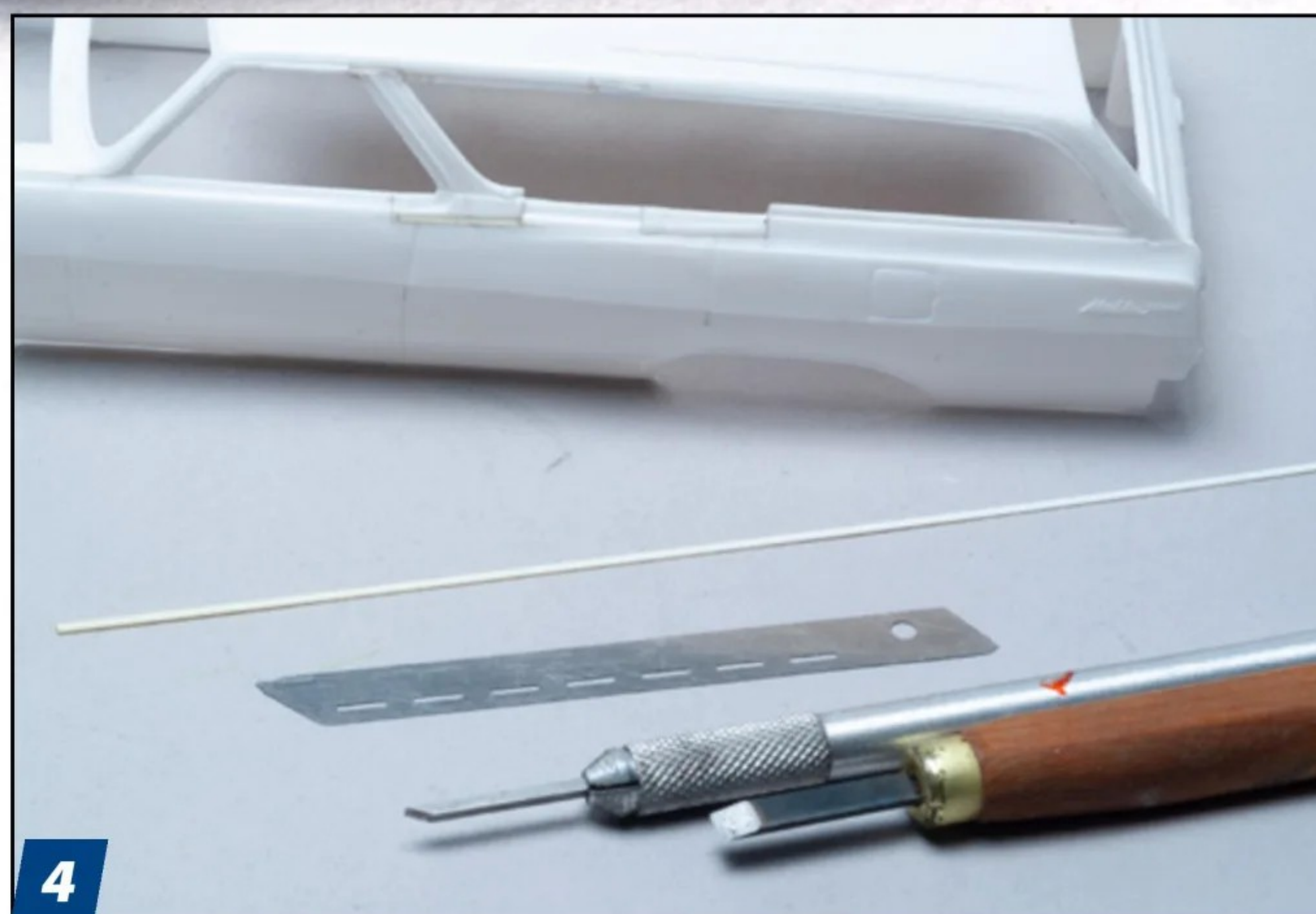
I cut the B and C pillars out of the driver's side with a photo-etched metal (PE) saw and the back of a hobby blade for horizontal slices. Goodbye wind wing. The pencil marks show where the longer door will end and where to install the former C-pillar as the new B-pillar.



# -ROOF



3 Using the same tools, I notched the roof and door areas where the old C-pillar would become the new B-pillar and removed the drip rail that formerly ran between the two.

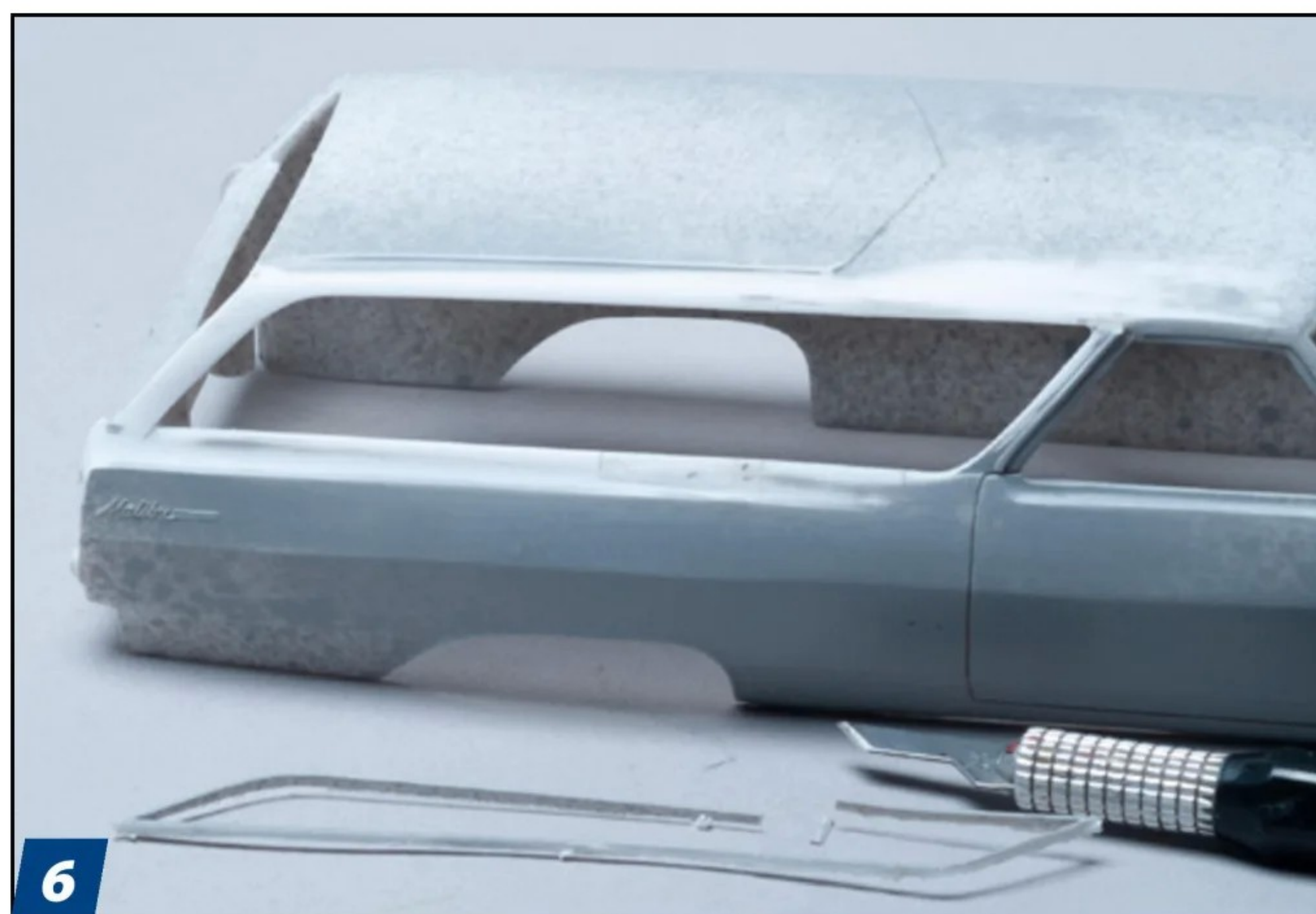


4 I glued the former C-pillar in its new position. Cut styrene strips filled the gaps after the glue dried. The section removed from the front door sill filled the bottom C-pillar notch while styrene sheet did the job on the roof. Micro chisels cut the rabbet into the B-pillar's leading edge.

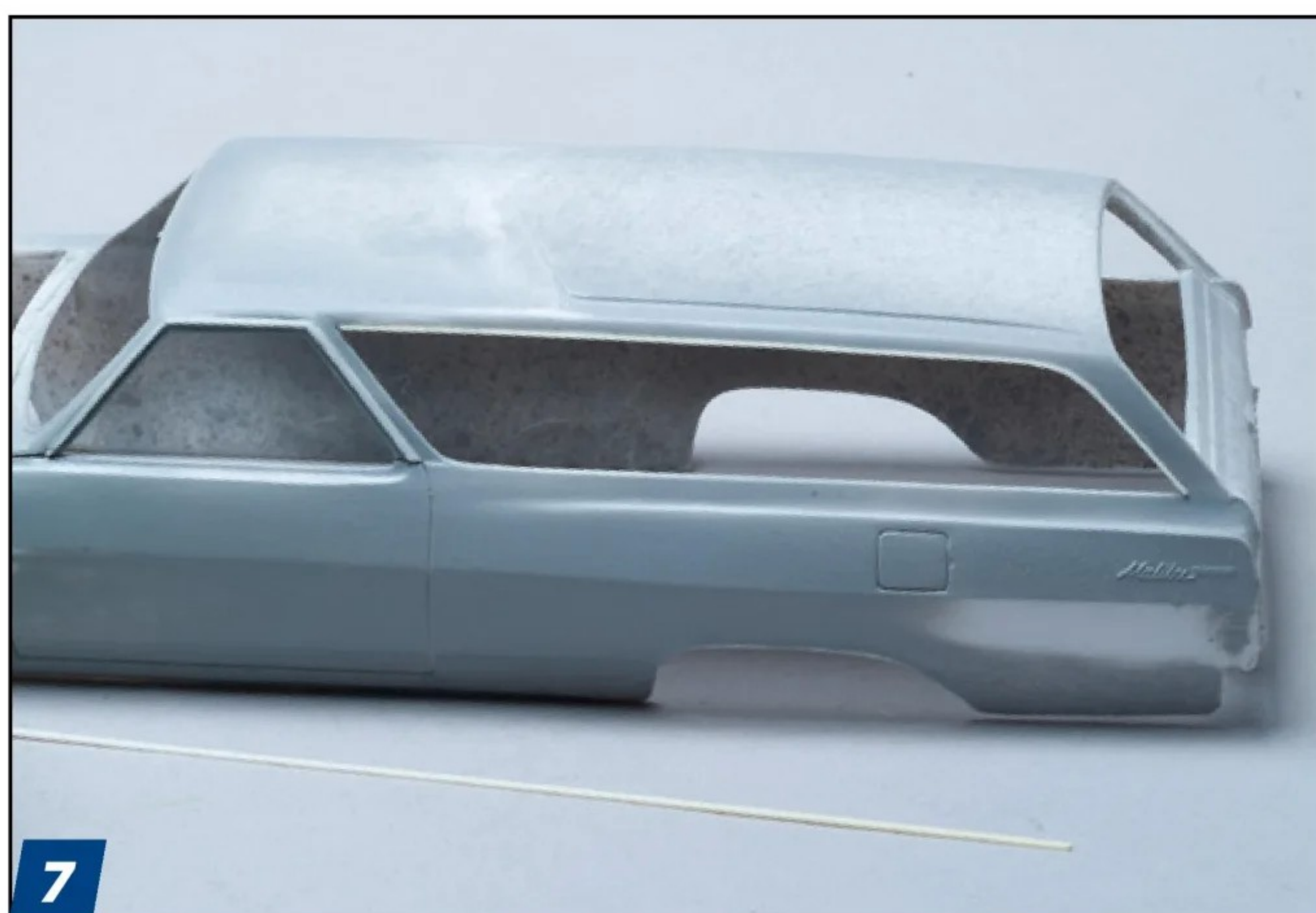




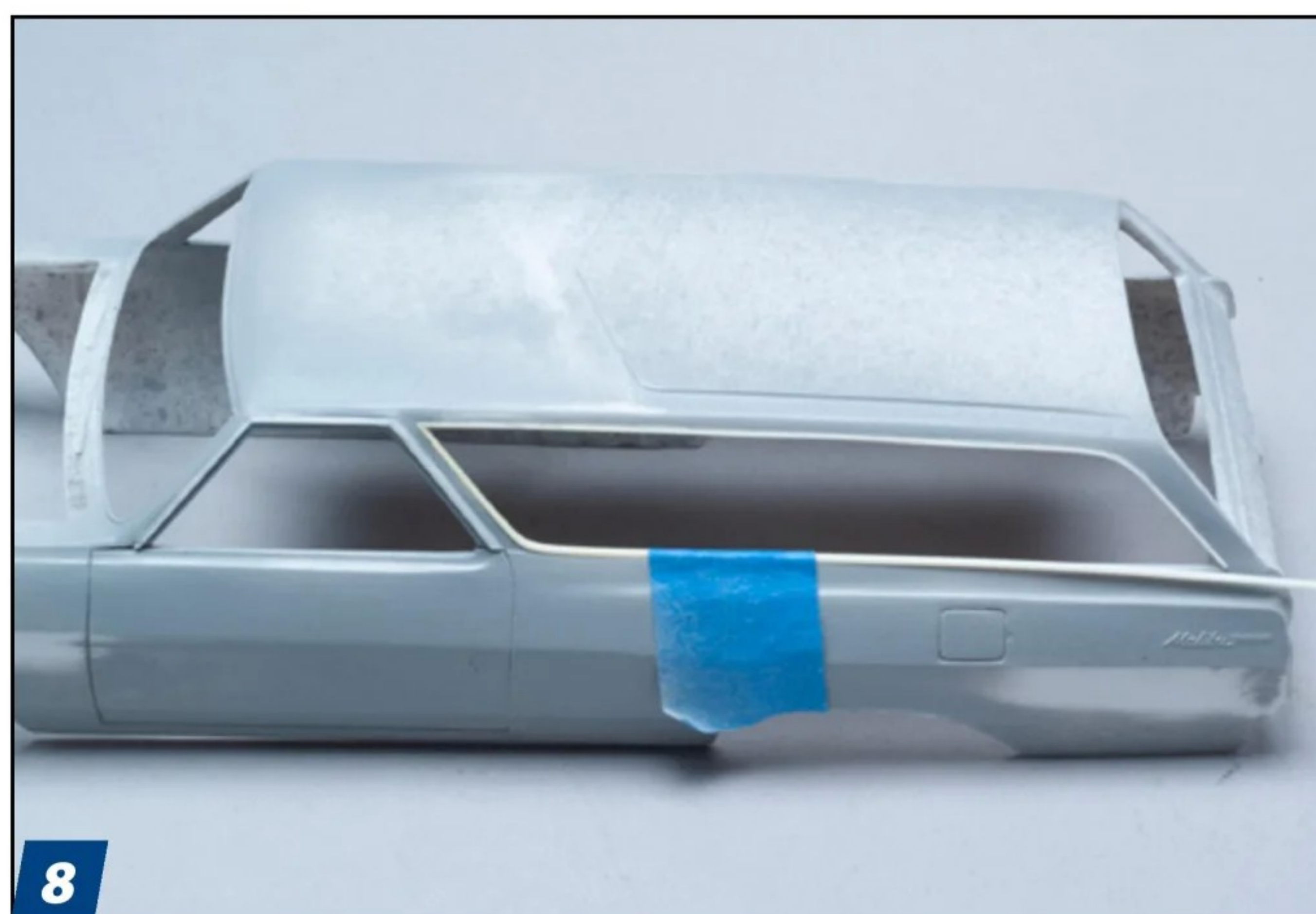
**5** Pre-cut .018- x .045-inch styrene strip connected the bottom of the side window from the B-pillar to what used to be the new C-pillar. A second strip inside the body filled the missing thickness. Styrene sheet filled gaps where the old C-pillar used to be. Superglue filled old door lines.



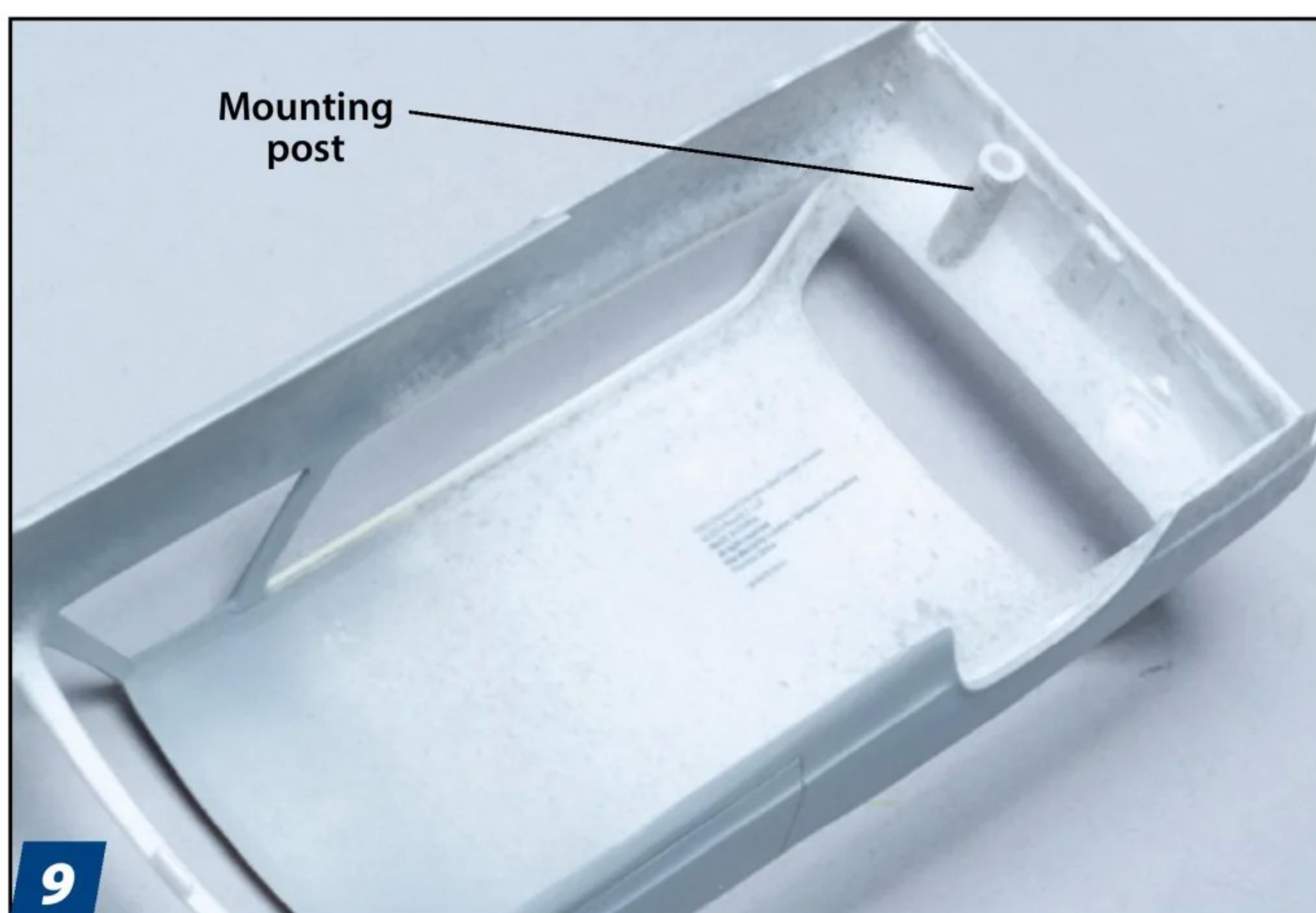
**6** While working on the passenger side, I realized the rear window opening and trim height were not symmetrical with the driver side. To fix this, I removed the rear window frames from both sides of the car by scribing around them with the back of a hobby knife.



**7** I built up the drip rails for the front side windows with .020- x .035-inch styrene strip and Tamiya Extra Thin Cement and reinforced them with superglue. In back, .018- x .045-inch styrene strip replaced the removed side window trim. I let the strip stand proud of the body for a nice edge.



**8** While I cut the upper section to fit prior to installation, I found it easier to install a long piece and trim to fit after most of it was cemented in place. The tape helped hold the strip while the cement around bottom curve dried for about 20 minutes before I tacked down the last section.

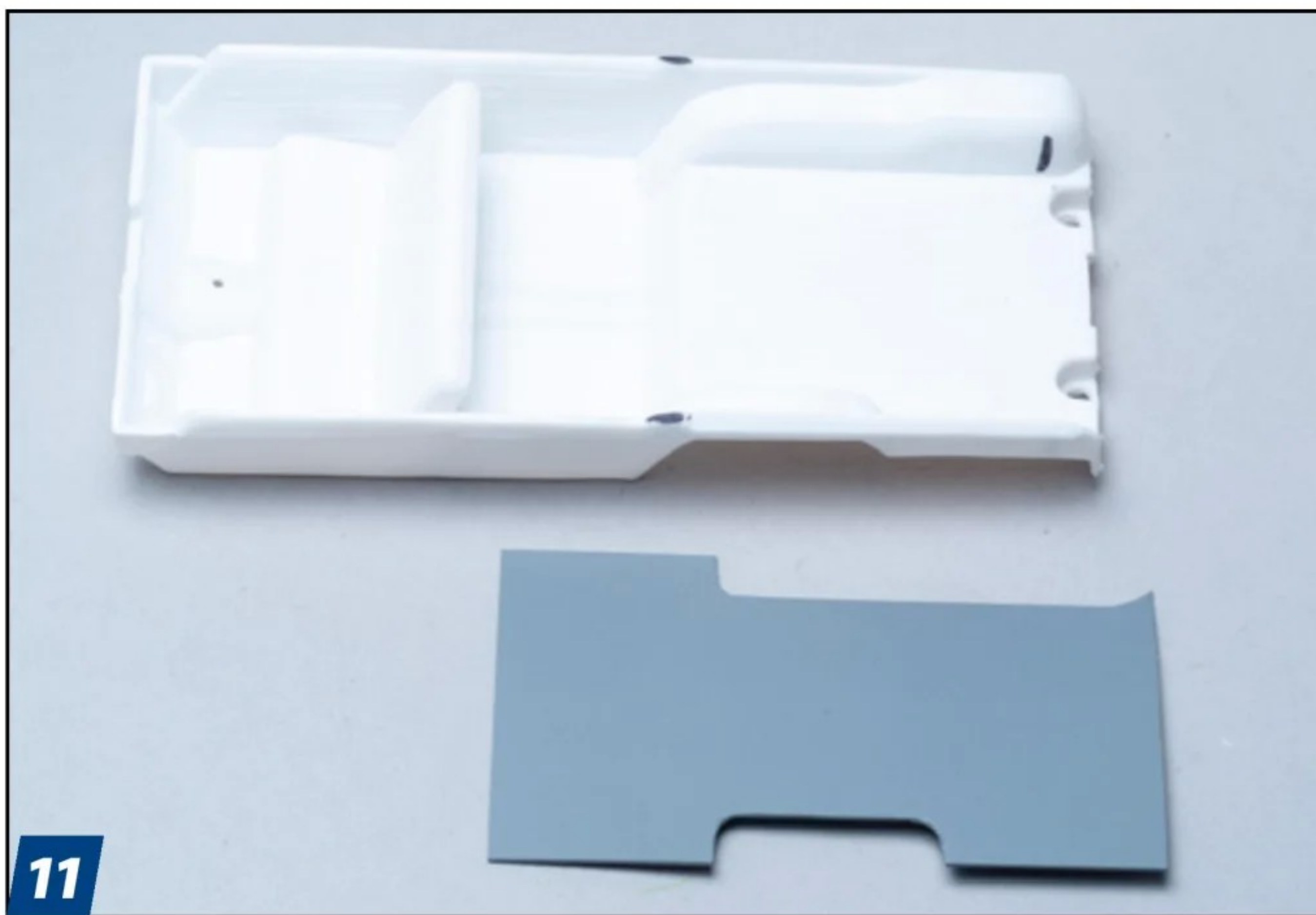


**9** After the window frames were replaced, I applied a bead of superglue along the inside for added strength. You can see I've eliminated one of the mounting posts inside the tailgate with a rotary tool. I'll eliminate the other, too.



**10** I re-scribed the panel lines around the new window frames once more after the solvent glue had cured for 24 hours. Then I primed the body.





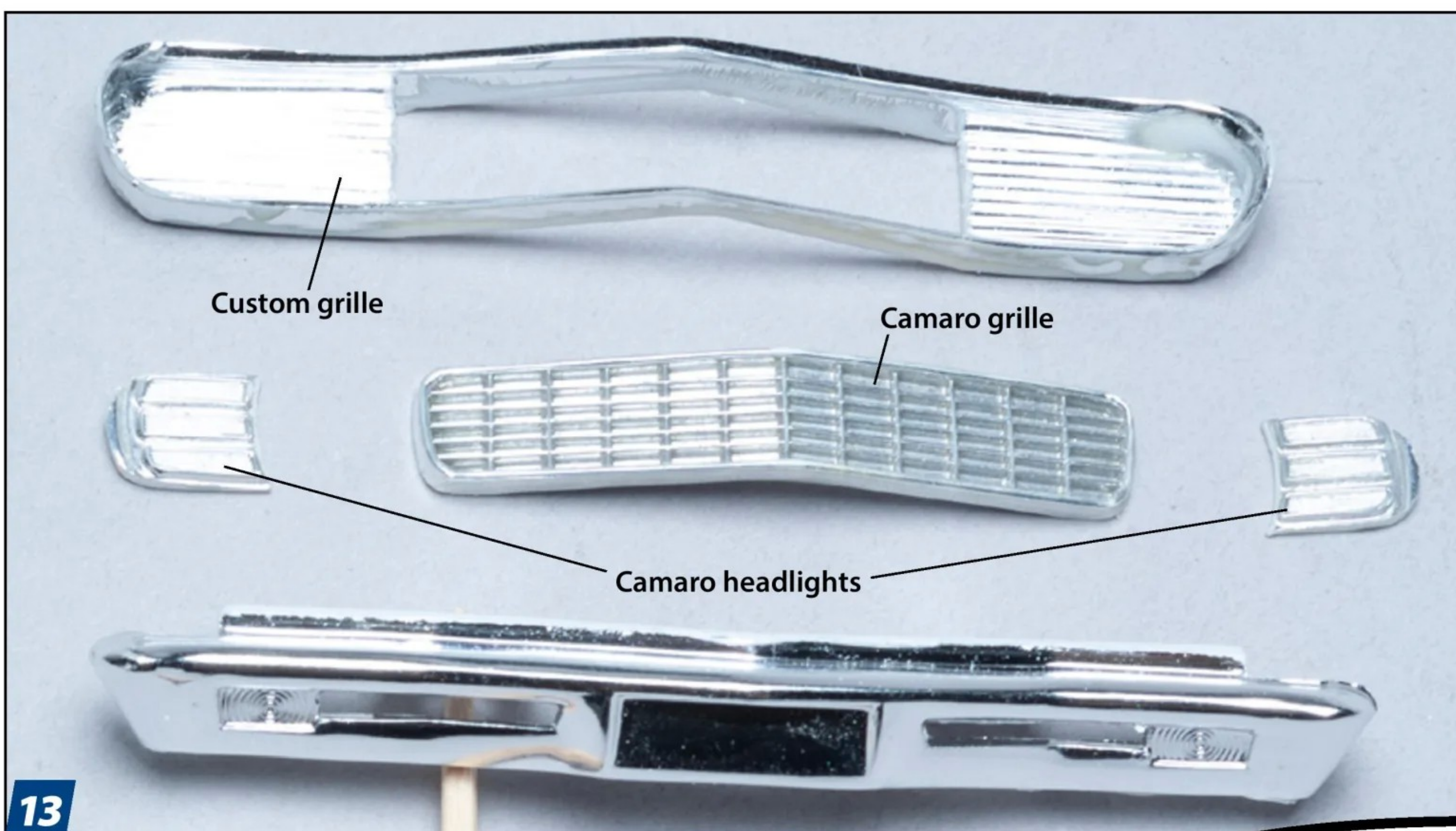
11

The kit interior has two rows of bench seats with the front one molded in. I made a new rear floor from styrene sheet to represent the rear seat folded down. I removed material to smooth the sides along rear windows and a couple of bosses that interfered with the new floor.



12

Wanting more than the stock (top) or generic and somewhat dated custom (middle) grilles in the kit, I found a leftover Revell '69 Camaro RS grille (bottom) insert in my spares. It looked like it could be combined with the custom part to make a more brand-specific full bumper.



13

After sanding the Camaro grille, I removed the center of the custom grille with a knife and a PE saw. I separated the Camaro grille from the headlights and sanded the outer edges to match the shape of the custom grille opening. Lastly, the bumper was cut off the stock grille.



14

Now we're talking! I sprayed the modified custom part Tamiya Metallic Gray (No. LP-61) and brush-painted the ribbed sections flat black. The Camaro grille received a coat of flat black before I hand-painted the egg-crate insert metallic gray. Finally, the surrounds on both parts were brushed Sparkling Silver (No. LP-48). The headlights were painted with the same three colors.





15

For rollers and rubber, I again went to my spares box and dug out BMW wheels and a set of Tamiya tires that fit them well. The kit's wheel backs fit snugly inside the rims, and I was able to press them onto the metal axles. I thought they looked cool under Tamiya Gloss White (No. LP-2).



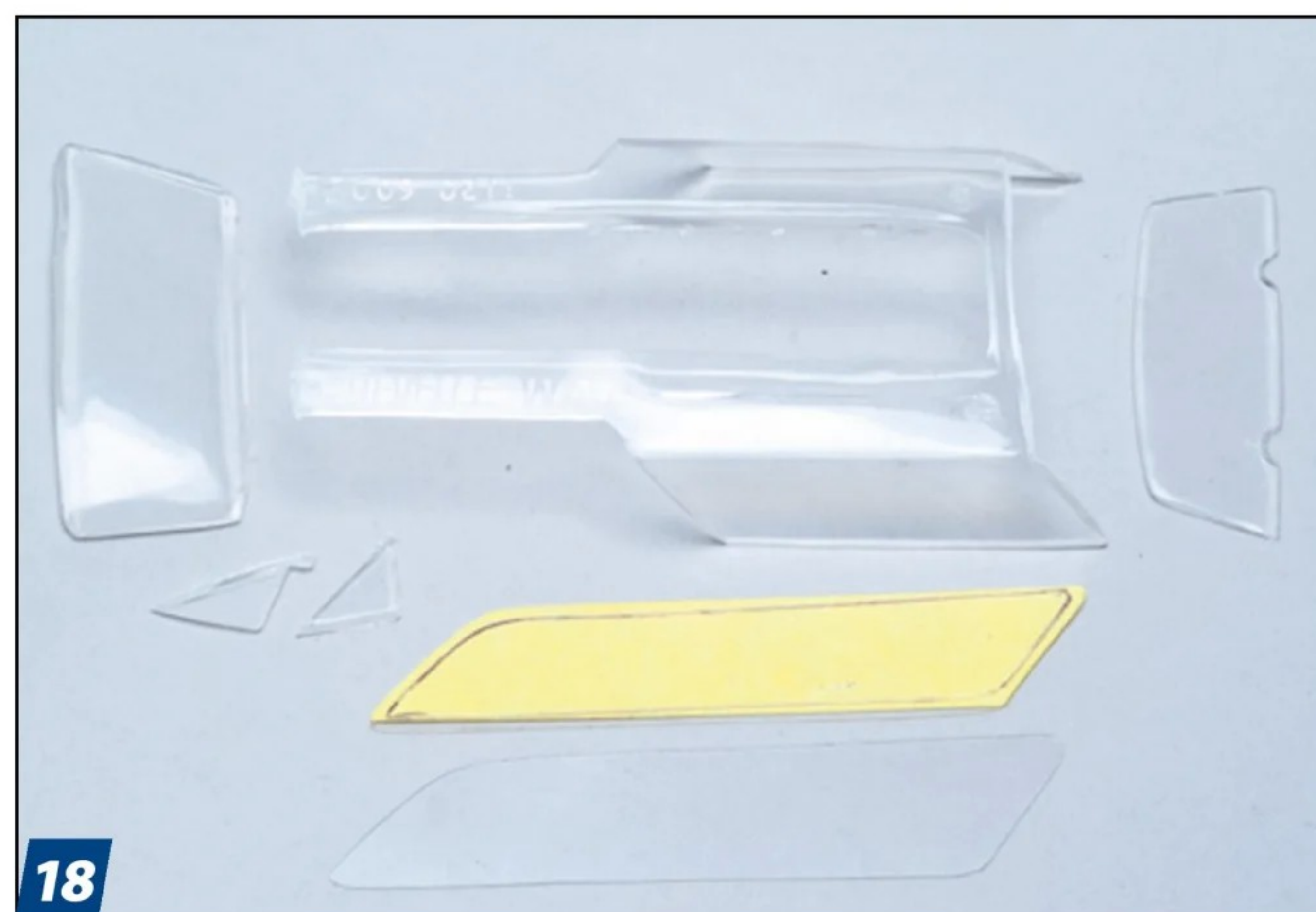
16

The interior came together using the kit parts, including the rear inner tailgate panel that is not shown in the instructions. Had I noticed that part earlier, I would not have removed the mounting bosses inside the body. The colors on the dash are the same as those used on the grille.



17

I primed and painted the body Tamiya Racing Blue (No. TS-51). I placed masking tape over the window opening, traced the trim with a fine Sharpie, and then transferred the tape to thin, clear plastic. I cut the template and window out with scissors.



18

After I was happy with the fit of the side window, I cut a second one using the first as the template. The rear window and windshield were cut from the kit part with a PE saw, and I removed the wind wings from the windshield because I'd removed the frames earlier.





19

After clear coating with Valspar AC2100 urethane, I masked and airbrushed the window trim Tamiya Metallic Gray. The rockers were also painted the same color to continue the theme and create the illusion of a longer body.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**I'M HAPPY WITH THE WAY** this long-roof conversion turned out. The AMT 1/25 scale '65 Chevelle surf wagon's pedigree is an older kit with some issues that I chose not to fix. But that wasn't the point. Rather than perfection, I was looking for proof of concept. With this successful dry run out of the way, I (and you) can use the same processes on a more-recent '66 Chevelle wagon kit. **FSM**



Boris Karloff in  
**FRANKENSTEIN**  
THE MAN WHO  
MADE A MONSTER  
A Universal Picture 1931





# It's Alive!

A 1/8 scale monster model project gets out of control

BY MARK MCGOVERN

In any situation, when a project becomes so big it takes on a life of its own, it is often described as becoming a bit of a Frankenstein. Sometimes that happens with a modeling project when what was supposed to be a straightforward build becomes something entirely different. That's exactly what happened to me — I created my own Frankenstein, figuratively and literally.

It started with a Moebius 1/8 scale Frankenstein kit, designed after an iconic publicity still from the 1931 film version of *Frankenstein* with Boris Karloff as The Monster. There are issues with the figure and the kit base is a poor representation of the laboratory set seen in the film. Looking at it, I thought I could accurize the model with a little work — boy, was I wrong!



The kit head (left) simply doesn't look much like Karloff. So, I replaced it with an out-of-production resin head from Cult of Personality that looked much better. You can find similar products from Escape Hatch Hobbies ([escapehatchhobbies.com](http://escapehatchhobbies.com)).



The monster looked a tad spindly, so I bulked up his shoulders using Aves Apoxie Sculpt, seen in gray in this photo. While I was at it, I corrected clothing details, including the lapels, lower sections, and cuffs, and repositioned his boots to make his pants less high-water.



After some test-fitting, I repositioned the Monster's hands for a better grip on the wall and door. Then I painted the clothes in various shades of black and dark gray and his flesh a pale yellowish gray for an authentic "dead" color.



In the movie, the laboratory door opens into a short passageway, but in the kit, it opens into the lab. I built extensions for kit walls with styrene foam and foamboard and sculpted rock texture with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty and Apoxie Sculpt.



The kit lacks a doorframe, so I built one from basswood strips. To mount the door on the frame, I added small ornate hinges salvaged from a wooden craft box. Mounting the frame on a base helps hide the fact that the door is a little too short compared to the figure.



I sculpted an accurate lintel with foam and Apoxie Sculpt, but scrapping the kit lintel, which was designed to lock together with the wall and floor sections, made it necessary to make a new floor from basswood. I also made a trunk from styrene sheet and lead foil.



**7** To block the view through the door and maintain the scene's atmosphere, I built a wall for the corridor with foam carved to look like rock and covered with Durham's Rock Hard Water Putty for texture. With each addition, the base was becoming unwieldy.



**8** To increase the appearance of depth, smaller stones were sculpted over the inside of the back wall. This forced perspective makes it appear as if the wall through it is farther back than the diorama's back wall.

**9** That's when I found Starlighting Projects' Storm in a Box unit, a electronic set that simulates lightning and thunder. It was too cool not to add, but test-fitting showed installing it would require drastic changes.



**10** The big realization was that the model would need to be a shadow box. I build up the exterior of the box with sections of corrugated cardboard.



**11** I textured the cardboard with Celluclay papier-mâché and, for fun, I added "memory stones," sculpted from Apoxie Sculpt around the exterior. Each shows the birth and death dates of cast and crew that worked on the film.



**12** White LED Christmas lights, some tinted with Tamiya Clear Orange (No. X-26) and Clear Blue (No. X-23) acrylic paint, light up the interior of the shadow box.



**13** The ever larger scene required a more substantial base than the wooden craft plaque I started with. Instead, I mounted it on a solid plank of wood supported by sturdy furniture legs I found at a hardware store.

**14** The finished scene without the shadow box looks pretty good ...



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**IT SEEMS THAT THE LONGER** one builds models, the easier it is to become entranced with all the extra details and aftermarket parts that can be added to a project. Those extras can bring much more time and effort to the build than was originally intended. That happened with this project, but I am pleased with the result. **FSM**

... but it truly comes alive with the shadow box cover fitted. At more than 13 inches square and 18 inches tall, my simple project had truly become a monster.



# A Not-So-Black



## Building and painting Academy's 1/72 scale PBX-5A

BY CHUCK LIPKIN

**T**he Consolidated PBX Catalina flew low and slow, but it proved to be one of the most important aircraft in the Allied arsenal in World War II. With a range of more than 2,500 miles and endurance of more than 21 hours, the aircraft proved itself in reconnaissance and search-and-rescue work. Add a payload capacity of 4,000 pounds of bombs, depth charges, or torpedoes, and, with the -5A amphibian version, the ability to operate from both land and water, it was supremely versatile.

Black Cat PBX squadrons were created to interdict Japanese shipping used to reinforce and resupply their troops in the Pacific theater. Flying from island bases, the Black Cats ranged far over the sea, operating at night to intercept Japanese ships and barges transporting men and materiel among the islands. They

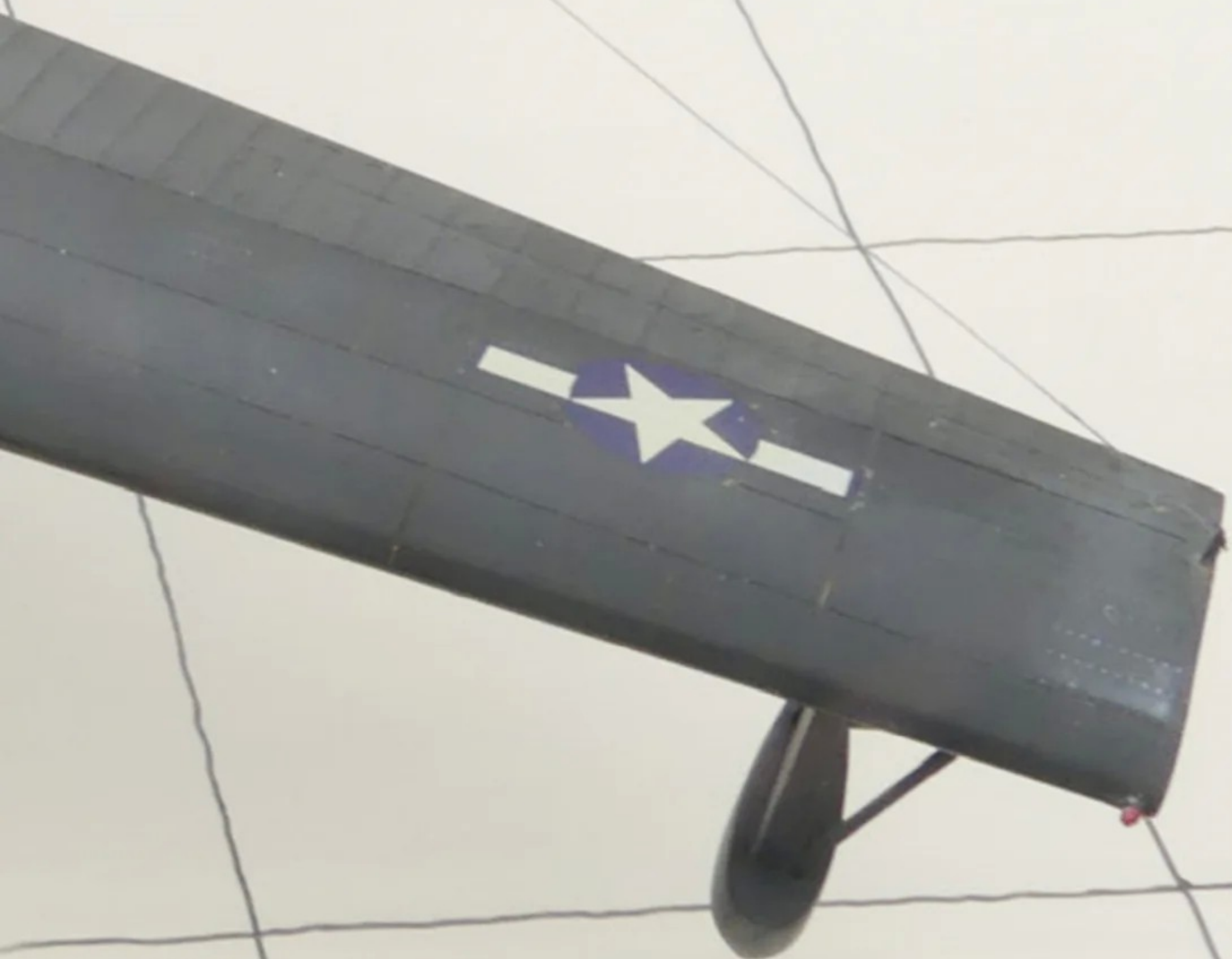
were successful, sinking or seriously damaging more than 30,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping.

I built the 1955-vintage Monogram kit when I was a boy. When I saw Academy's 1/72 scale of the Black Cat PBX-5A (No. 2137), I grabbed it. The kit is fairly accurate and a straightforward build that produces a nice replica. I accurized the simplified framing on the waist gun blisters.

The instructions show the kit being built in a series of subassemblies, including all the fine details. I thought this was a recipe for disaster because little exterior parts tend to get damaged or snapped off during assembly and painting. So, I built the subassemblies pretty much in the order shown in the instructions but left off fine details until after overall painting of the airframe.

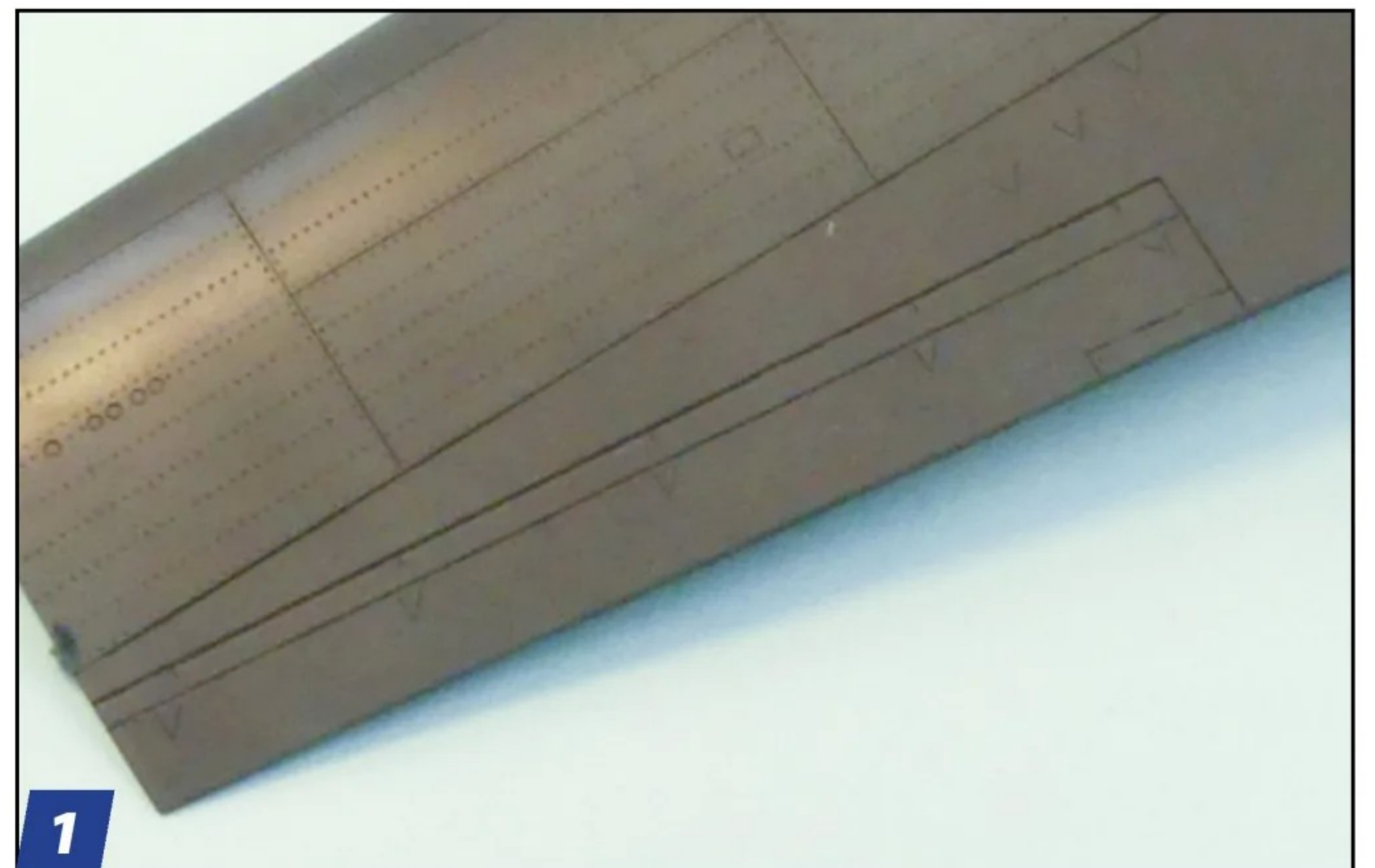


# CAT



Note: This model needs a lot of weight to stand on its nose wheel. Because of the space taken up by the cockpit and nose landing gear bay assemblies, there's almost no room for adding weights to the nose. Instead, I enclosed a space immediately aft of the cockpit with styrene sheet and poured in 30 grams of lead birdshot secured with white glue. That turned out to be too little — you've been warned — so in the end I made a tail prop from clear sprue.

A large, all flat black model may be impressive but not too interesting, so I planned to weather it for added drama. Upper surfaces on the real airplanes were faded by the intense, South Pacific sunlight more so than the undersides. Salty sea air eroded the finishes even more, and dust from the sandy soil of the islands got into everything.

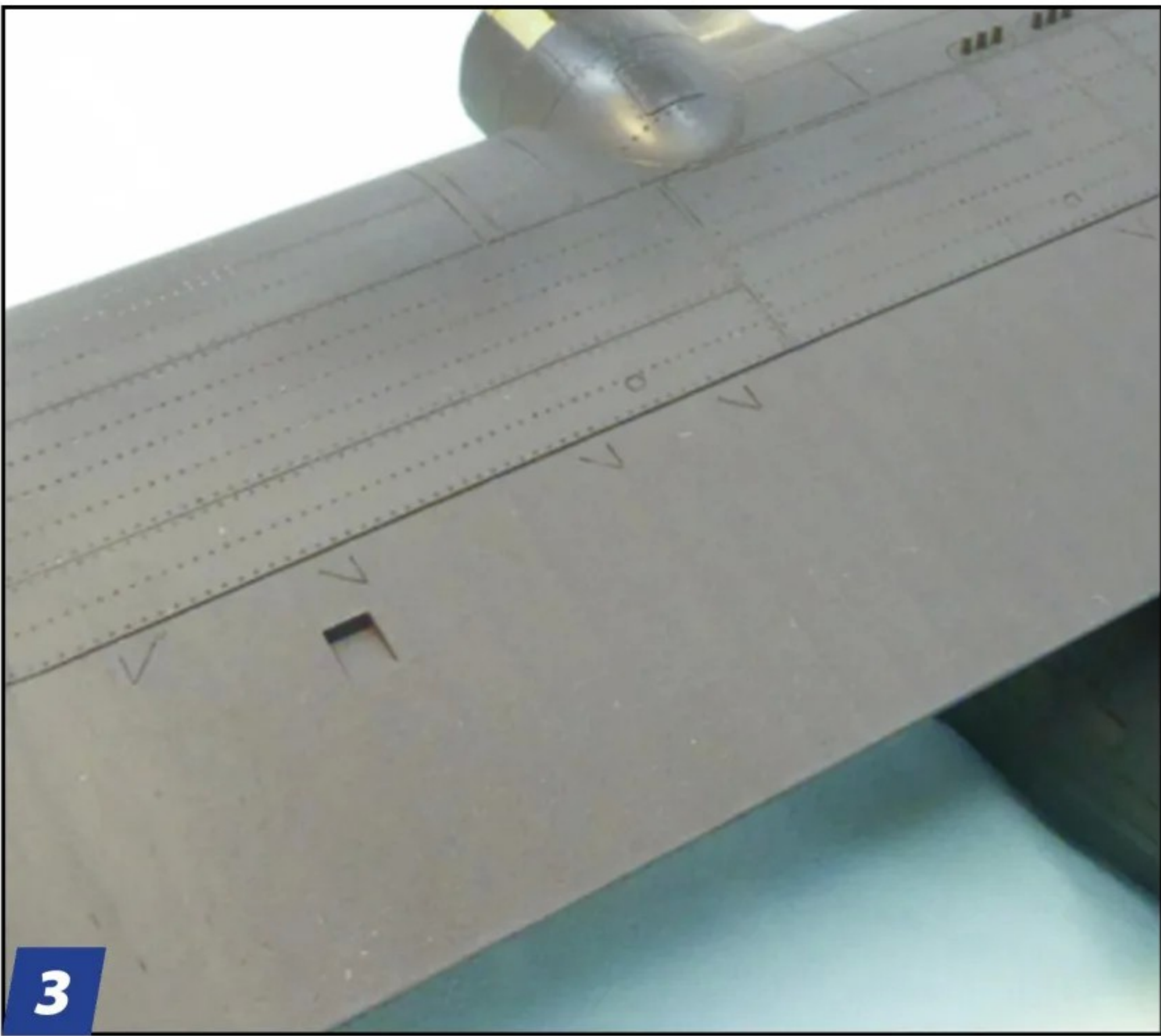


The parts are molded in smooth, black plastic, but the fabric-covered aft portions of the wings and all the control surfaces are molded with a fine woven-cloth like texture.



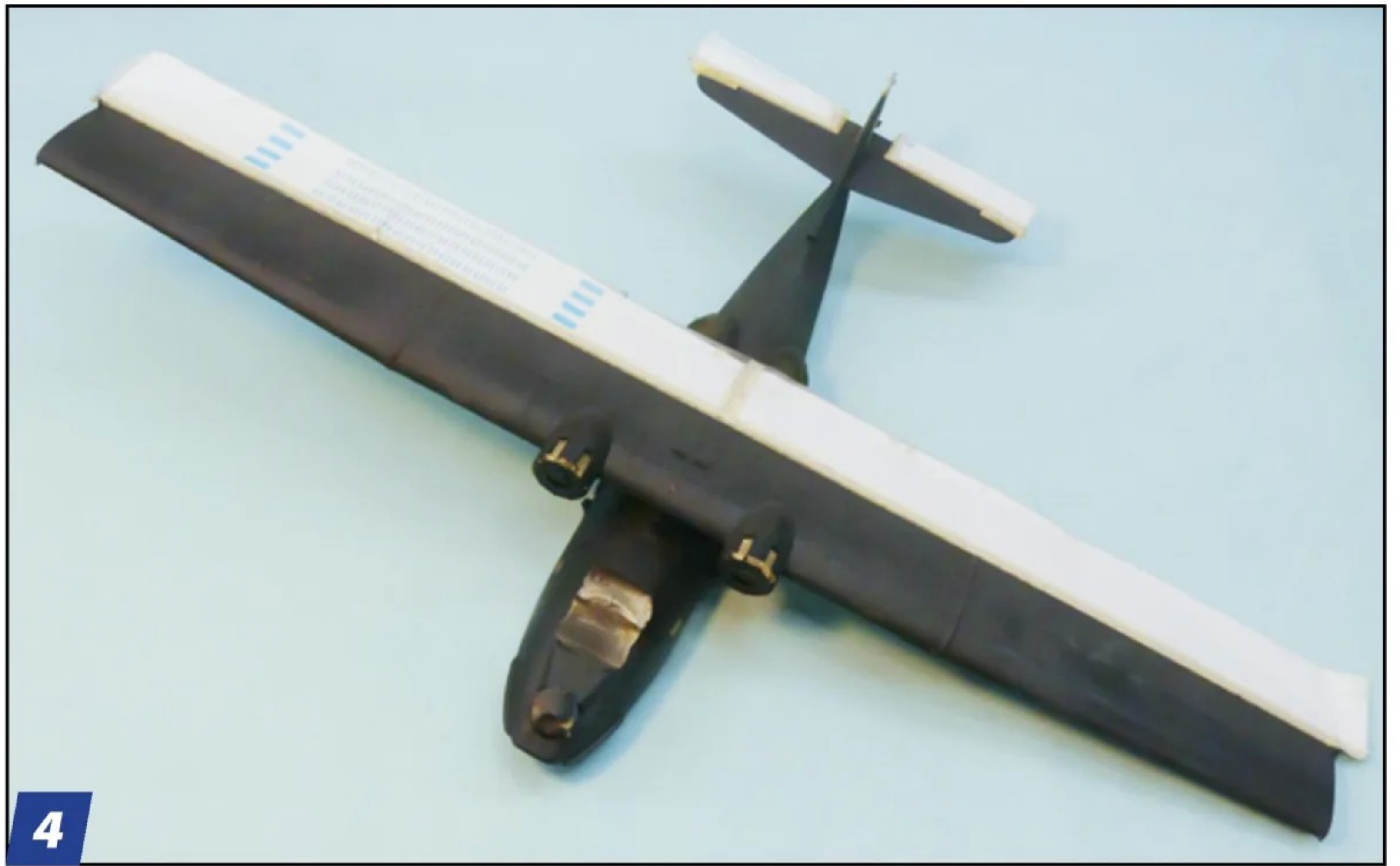
After filling and smoothing seams — despite its age this kit didn't need much work — I masked the turret, windows, landing lights, and blisters in preparation for painting. I also masked the cockpit canopy but left that part off until final assembly. I airbrushed the exposed framing with Model Master Interior Green (No. 1715).





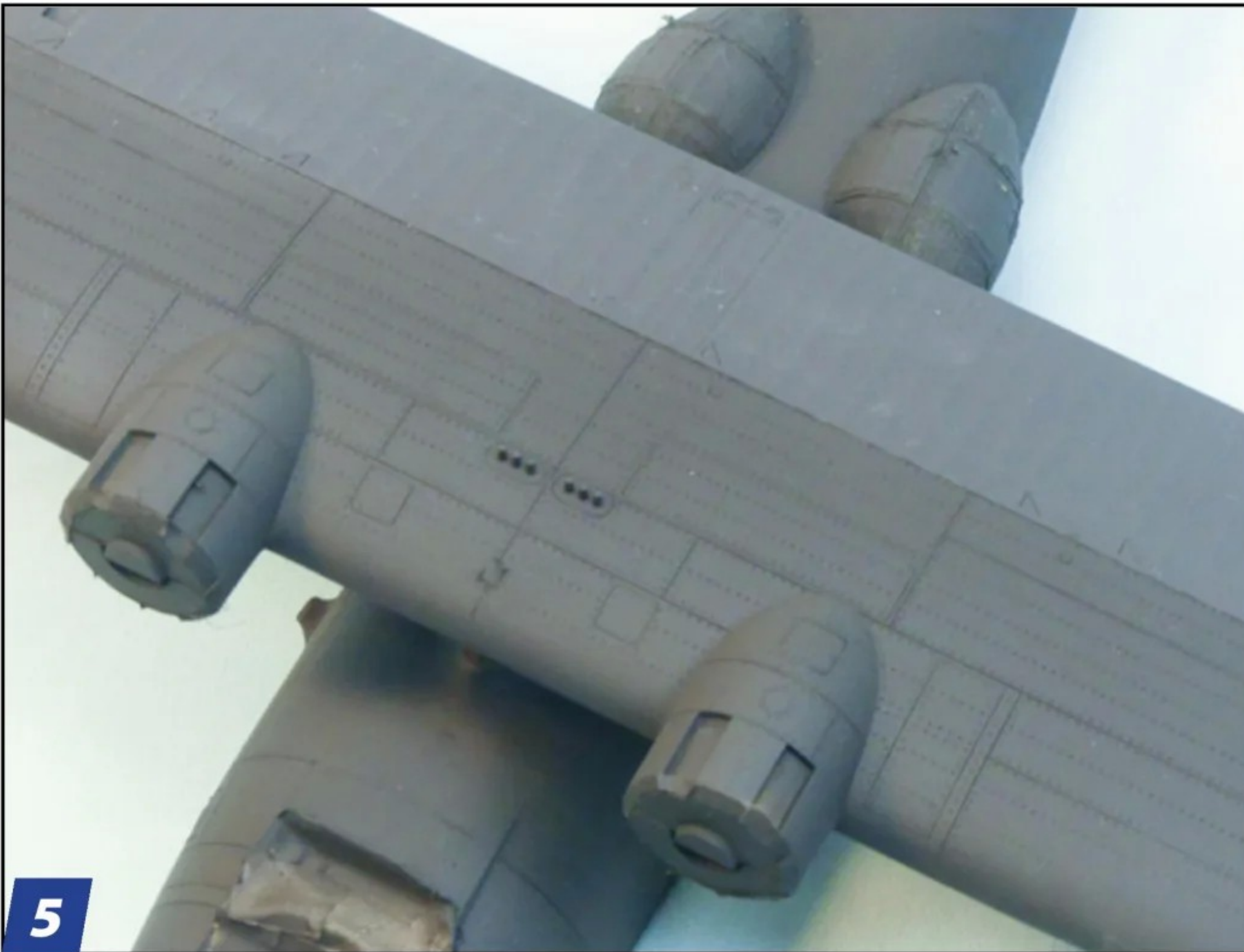
3

To differentiate the fabric-covered portions of the plane, I mixed 4 parts Rust-Oleum Flat Black enamel (No. 7776) and 1 part Flat White (No. 7790). I applied this dark gray with an airbrush and sprayed all the seams to check them.



4

I masked the control surfaces and the aft sections of the wings and airbrushed the undersides with straight flat black. Without removing the masks, I sprayed the upper surfaces with a mix of 7 parts flat black and 1 part flat white.



5

With the tape removed, the contrast between the "faded" metal upper surfaces and the fabric sections is apparent. The difference is even more obvious underneath where the metal surfaces are full-strength black.



6

To prepare for decal application, I polished the painted surfaces with a damp, soft, cotton cloth and toothpaste. This also really brought out the molded rivets.



7

Next, I airbrushed the model with Pledge Floor Gloss (PFG) to provide a smooth, receptive surface for decaling.





8 The kit decals went down without difficulty, except for the large national insignia on the nose where compound curves caused wrinkles. When repeated applications of Microscale Micro Sol didn't cure the problems, I sliced the wrinkles with the tip of a hobby knife blade and applied Micro Sol. A touch of insignia blue paint covered the scars.

9 After sealing the decals with a light coat of PFG thinned 1:1 with distilled water, I airbrushed an overall coat of Model Master Flat Clear acrylic (No. 4636). Worried it looked too flat, I polished with toothpaste again, then applied dots of titanium white, Indian yellow, and cadmium red light artist oils a section at a time.



10 I drew these dots down the fuselage and along the wings and tail surfaces with mineral spirits on a small flat brush, leaving thin streaks of color on the painted surface. They also settle into panel lines and recessed rivets. The overall effect is to make the upper surfaces look eroded, weathered, and stained by salt air and sand.

11 The final weathering step was applying exhaust stains aft of the engines with medium dark gray soft artist's pastel. I smoothed the stains with my fingertip and an artist's paper stub. Any excess can be removed from unwanted locations with a cotton tipped swab dampened with a little water. Finally, I sealed everything with a light coat of flat clear.



## FINAL THOUGHTS

**I INSTALLED THE LANDING GEAR,** wingtip floats, bombs, and cockpit canopy, and added the clear plastic stand at the rear. I rigged the antenna wire using .003-inch dark gray sewing thread rubbed across beeswax to keep down fuzzies and anchored with superglue. Now my not-quite black Catalina was ready for a night interdiction mission. **FSM**



# HELPING

## *troubled and under-served kids through scale modeling*

With support from their communities, two teachers bring scale models to local children

BY KENDRA BELL AND TIM KIDWELL

**B**yron Black, an African-American substitute teacher in Topeka, Kansas, uses scale modeling to help at-risk youth in his community. Black started modeling 56 years ago while visiting a hobby store with his father, and the owner gave him a model kit to build. Modeling became a lifelong passion.

Black mentored his grandkids, helping them win modeling awards in junior competitions, but it was his wife, a child therapist, who suggested Black use his skills to help some of the kids she worked with.

"I made a class up and taught it for about six weeks," he said.

Black worked with a local hobby shop to get discounts for the kids. He also reached out to the members of his Ad Astra Modeling Club in Topeka for kit donations.

He let the kids pick the kits that interested them, often snap-together cars, and taught them to build, paint, and place decals.

"But the main thing was trying to teach them to understand what frustration was, how to work with it, how to work around that, and not give up," Black said.

Almost 1,400 miles north in Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan, Canada, Scott MacPhee saw the opportunity for scale modeling as an after-school enrichment activity for a predominantly Indigenous student body. He started the club at the Hector Thiboutot Community School, where six students between 8 and 15 years old show up twice a week for an hour to build scale models.

Like Black, MacPhee needed kits for his mentees. He posted in a Facebook group called The Canadian Scale Model Aircraft and Military Builders Group and wrote to the Plastic Model Mojo podcast.

The group members and podcasters showed incredible support for the young



An elementary student at Hector Thiboutot Community School works on a plastic scale model during after-school modeling club.

Sandy Bay modelers.

"[There were] model-builders from Toronto donating, Ottawa donating, Winnipeg, Edmonton, as well as parts of the United States. As far south as Tampa Bay," MacPhee said. "I have enough model kits and supplies for the next couple of years."

One enthusiastic supporter, John McElwain, after seeing MacPhee's post on Facebook, reached out to the hobby store Wheels and Wings Hobbies in Toronto, Ontario. Don McCowan and Kyle Hood, the store's owner and manager, respectively, shared MacPhee's campaign over social media and received model kits, paint, and tool donations from customers. They also worked with Games Workshop to get a *Warhammer 40K* Command Edition starter set with paints and supplies.

"Once all the miniatures were finished,

the kids would still have the game itself to try out, and with all the rules and dice required, [it] would be a good reinforcement for literacy and mathematics," Hood said.

McElwain, a former bush pilot who spent time flying into remote communities like Sandy Bay, recognized the difficulties faced by remote villages and the social and economic challenges Indigenous Peoples encounter. One of those obstacles is the cost of shipping goods to difficult-to-reach locations, especially items like plastic cement and paint that are flammable and hazardous.

"But [the donations] fit in my car with room left in the two front seats," he said.

McElwain and his son loaded their car and drove nearly 2,000 miles from Toronto, Ontario, to Flin Flon, Manitoba, where they met MacPhee to deliver the donations collected at the store.

"I'd do it again in a heartbeat," McElwain said. He ran a GoFundMe that raised enough donations to help cover about 75% of the trip's costs.

According to MacPhee, his after-school workshop does more than introduce scale modeling to children who might not have otherwise encountered it.

"A lot of students here have gone without school for some time during COVID," MacPhee said. "We need to improve their math skills and literacy skills [and] looking at the instructions, step by step, that involves not only reading but also involves mathematical skills."

While both Black and MacPhee enjoy their hobby, it's the boost of creativity, confidence, and learning for the children they care about most.

"If one or two kids have benefitted from this club, then my effort was well worth it," MacPhee said. **FSM**





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## ICM Sikorsky CH-54A Tarhe

Developed as a heavy-lift helicopter, Sikorsky's twin-engine CH-54 could lift nearly 20,000 pounds. Used extensively by the U.S. Army in Vietnam, the versatile aircraft was called upon to deliver equipment, reposition artillery, retrieve downed aircraft, and even transport boats. Retired from military service in the 1990s, this workhorse, adapted for civilian use as the S-64 Skycrane (later built by Erickson Air-Crane) still serves today for heavy-duties as well as firefighting.

Although there have been a couple of 1/72 scale kits of the Tarhe, this is the first big-scale offering. That size — the finished model is 28 inches long — means plenty of parts. There are more than 700 across 15 parts trees and a small decals sheet with marking options for two Vietnam War Ch-54As.

Spread over 36 pages, the instructions comprise 208 mistake-free steps. However, I needed a magnifier to see some of the finer detail. Study the parts carefully because many look the same but are slightly different.

The cockpit and the rear-facing crane operator's cabin are detailed with control panels, including an overhead console and joysticks and collectives, but little else. The result looks a little spartan and would benefit from seat belts. The front section closed perfectly around the interior subassembly. I appreciated that the clear parts go in from outside.

The main fuselage builds as a box and careful alignment of the internal frames ensure the outer surfaces fit like a glove. Fit throughout the build was flawless and I

never needed to use filler. Just be sure to eliminate attachment points that may interfere with fits.

Deviating from the instructions in steps 51, 57, and 62, I left the landing gear off until later for ease of handling. Step 95 gives the option to cover the landing gear plumbing with fairings, but be sure to fit all of the pipes because some of them will still be visible.

Small parts on the transmission, engines, intake air filters, crane hooks and ladders fit perfectly, but this is one of those places where close examination of the parts is essential. I had to remove and refit a couple of parts because I failed to notice subtle differences.

Excellent drawings, including inserts, made assembling the six-blade blades loose — they slip in and out of place easily — reducing the width to 13 inches and making transportation and display easier.

Choosing the 101st Airborne Division chopper from the options, I painted the airframe with Tamiya NATO Green (No. XF-67) mixed with a few drops of Khaki (No. XF-49).

Except for a tendency to curl, the decals performed well without silvering. To counter the curling, I slid the decals on with a little Microscale Micro Set, and, again, there was no silvering. There's no indication of where decal No. 13 is supposed to go, but there were six of them, so I assumed they went on the rotor blades and attached them near the hub.

ICM's CH-54A is hands-down the most complicated kit and the best detailed and realistic aircraft I have ever built. Despite that, the 65 hours I spent on it



were thoroughly enjoyable thanks to good fits. About the only thing it needs to make it even better are seat belts. I can see this being used for many terrific dioramas — just imagine the possibilities!

— Ted Horn



**Kit No.:** 53054 **Scale:** 1/35 **Mfr.:** ICM, [icm.com.ua](http://icm.com.ua) (Sample courtesy of mfr.)  
**Price:** \$299.99 **Comments:** Injection-molded plastic (gray, clear); 739 parts; decals **Pros:** Excellent moldings; good fits; great detail **Cons:** No seat belt; wish there were more marking options





# Magic Factory Iron Dome

**M**agic Factory has faithfully recreated the Iron Dome air defense system as its first 1/35 scale plastic model kit. Built specifically for Israel, in a partnership between Raytheon and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, the weapon has been operational since 2011 and used to intercept short-range rockets and artillery. The U.S. announced its interest in the Iron Dome's capabilities, and the Raytheon-Raphael team introduced the SkyHunter system in answer. The kit includes markings for both the Iron Dome and SkyHunter versions.

Assembly begins with the main platform, which is built from support-beam sections with keyed locators, making correctly fitting the parts a breeze. The main model is built from gray plastic, but there is a fair amount of photo-etched brass (PE) sprinkled throughout. Used for scale accuracy, the PE bends and fits exceptionally well, making this kit a great starter for



**Kit No.:** 2001 **Scale:** 1/35 **Mfr.:** Magic Factory, magicfactory.ltd (Sample courtesy of mfr.) **Price:** \$69

**Comments:** Injection-molded plastic (gray); 174 parts (8 metal tubes; 1 wire; 43 photo-etched metal); decals

**Pros:** Precise part fit; metal tubing for hydraulic pistons; well-designed photo-etched metal parts **Cons:** Decals have excess carrier film

someone looking to gain experience using PE.

The weapons platform can be built in either firing or transportation mode. When built in the firing position, you build the stabilizer legs and hydraulic pistons that lift the missile unit from an aluminum tube with a plastic part that fits very snugly into the tube; I didn't even need to glue them.

I was able to build and attach parts, like the missile unit and the datalink antenna, after everything was finished. They fit so tightly into place I have them removable for easier and safer transportation.

Two types of decals come in the kit: traditional and "film-free." This is the first time I used decals with removable carrier film. Smaller decals were easier to place and spread over an area, but they aren't truly film-free: The color areas have film, just a lesser amount. What worked best for me (after some experimenting) was to apply a thin layer of Microscale Micro Sol on the model before putting the film-free decal down and then removing the carrier film the next day. After removal, I went over the

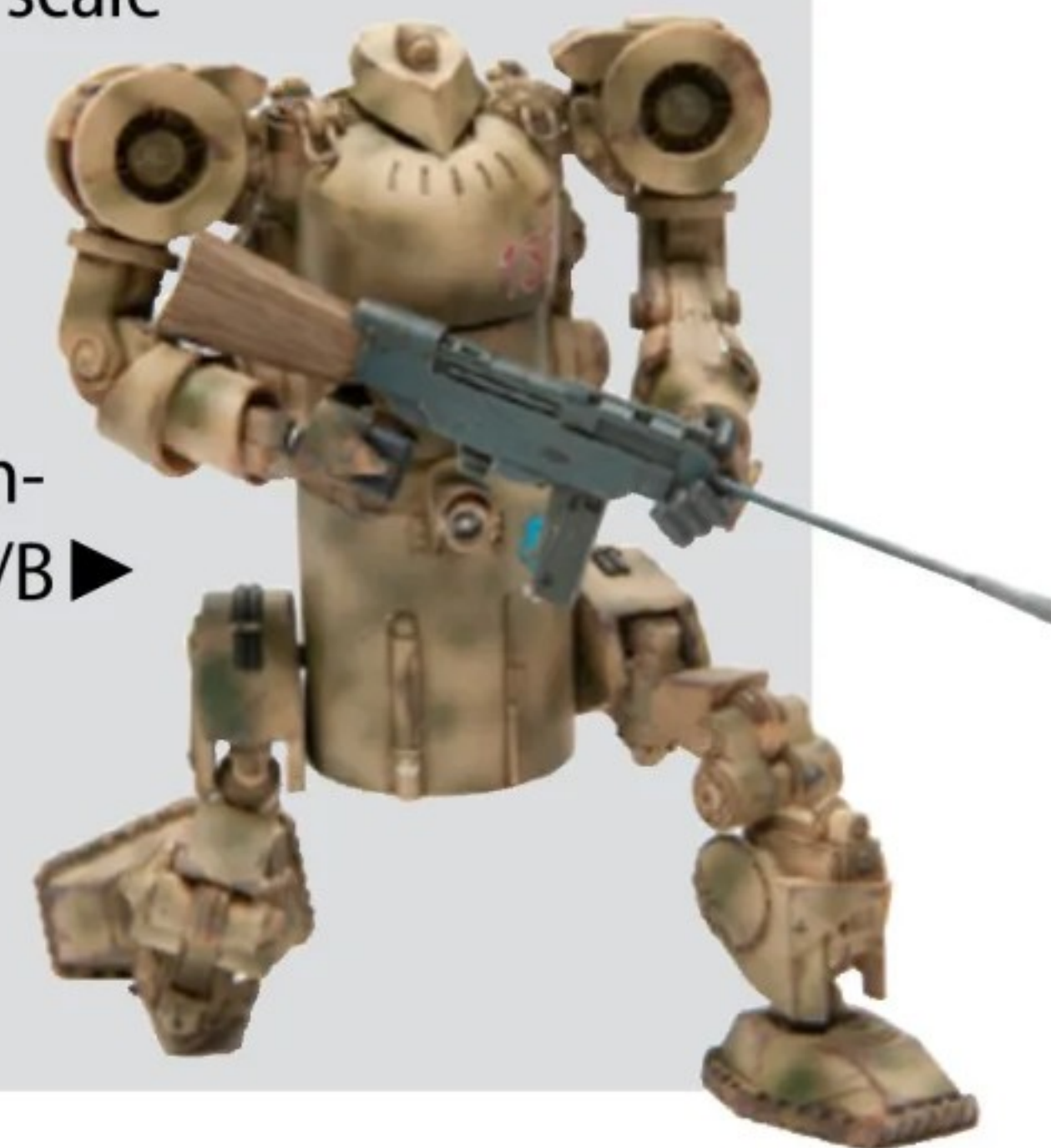
decals with additional Microscale Micro Sol where needed. The film for the traditional decals was



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- HobbyBoss 1/48 scale Hurricane Mk.I
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- Cavico Models 1/35 scale Riesen-Panzer IV Ausf A/B ▶



slightly thick, and there was a bit too much around the markings themselves. I got them to settle down with Micro Sol.

I enjoyed building Magic Factory's 1/35 scale Iron Dome start to finish. Building and painting took about 20 hours. It would make a fun and unique model for anyone with a few armor builds to their name.

— Chris Cortez



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## COMING EVENTS

**IA, WEST BURLINGTON:** IPMS/Hawkcon 2023. Saturday, September 23, 2023, 8:30am-4:00pm. Westland Mall, 550 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington, IA 52655. Awards given out for Best in Show, Modelers Choice Award along with 1st, 2nd & 3rd for each category. For complete details visit: [www.blackhawkmodelers.com](http://www.blackhawkmodelers.com) Contact Doug Kolkman at: [douggolkman02@gmail.com](mailto:douggolkman02@gmail.com) or 319-217-3866

**IL, SCHAUMBURG:** The Military Miniature Society of Illinois holds its 48th Annual Chicago Show Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9am-4pm, at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 N. Martin-gale Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173. For more information contact Show Chairman Pat Vess - [pat@livezey.net](mailto:pat@livezey.net) 630-730-2492, or visit our website: [military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com](http://military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com)

**IL, WHEATON:** 82nd ILLINOIS PLASTIC KIT & TOY SHOW. September 24, 2023, 9am-2pm. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd., 60187. Adults: \$7.00, under 12: \$3.00. 150 tables available, BUY/SELL/TRADE OR JUST BROWSE. Have a great time. Cars, Trucks, Airplanes, Military, Fire/Police, Muscle Cars. Re-live childhood memories. Follow us on Facebook! Past-Time Hobbies, Inc. 630-969-1847

**NY, POUGHKEEPSIE:** HVHMG 2023, Celebrating 37 years, Elks Club Lodge, 29 Overocker Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Saturday, October 28, 2023, General Public: 10am-4pm, sponsored by IPMS Mid-Hudson. Registration 9:00am-noon. More information at: [www.hvhmg.org](http://www.hvhmg.org) or contact John Gallagher at 845-462-4740 or [ggallagherjoh@gmail.com](mailto:ggallagherjoh@gmail.com)

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By Tim Boyd

# Revell Lancia Stratos

An attempt to introduce sporty European cars to the U.S. scale auto model market

Today, model car builders have largely forgotten a series of internationally themed Revell kits dating from the late 1970s. These fully detailed kits covered topics as varied as the Porsche 928, Ferrari 308, Ford Escort XR-3, and Lancia Stratos. English, Swedish, German, French, Dutch, and Italian captions appeared on the box side panels, and the box art itself typically showed fully assembled models. While the kits were produced in the U.S., the tires were molded in Japan.

An influential mid-to-late 1970s sports-exotic, the Lancia Stratos possessed impeccable rally credentials (it won the World Rallye Championship in 1974, 1975, and 1976). Designed by Bertone and powered by a Ferrari 2.4-liter V6, the Stratos ran under the radar in the U.S. auto market but was and remains immensely popular in Europe and Asia.

Internet sources list over 100 different 1/24 scale Lancia Stratos kits introduced over the last 50 years from 15 different kit brands. While motorized Revell and Tamiya 1/24 scale offerings preceded the kit featured here, this one appears to have been the first, fully detailed Lancia Stratos kit available when it debuted in 1979.

The instructions show 45 assembly steps. A two-piece body (rear clip and cockpit/door/front end) is molded in white. The louvers on the front lid are molded open (although partially covered with flash in my kit). Conversely, the top of the rear engine cover has a mesh area molded in styrene. The remaining kit parts are molded in black, and a finely rendered clear styrene tree has exceptionally clear (for the era) windshield glass and 12 light lenses. There are no plated parts. The Alitalia livery includes dark green and orange-red stripes.

A 19-piece engine features separately molded accessories, tubular headers, and a block with modest era-applicable engraving. My kit shows some flash around the tubular headers.

## REVELL 1/24 SCALE LANCIA STRATOS

**Kit No.:** 7303

**Introduced:** 1979

**Present Value:** \$35

Front and rear suspension assemblies include individually molded A-arms, coil-over shocks, and suspension links. Front wheels and tires are located with pins, while the rears connect to a single steel axle. The posable front wheels generate some compromises in spindle and tire rod authenticity to ensure robust operation. The tires are rubber Pirelli P7 Cinturato replicas.

The exterior includes two racing mirrors with separate reflectors, separately molded door and rear clip handles, and gas cap. The kit offers a four-lamp front panel for a rally model. Atypical for kits of this era, the kit provides a finely rendered windshield wiper arm. The platform-style interior builds upon a combined interior floor/front-fender liner assembly except for separate two-piece door panels that are glued to the body first.

You can find more-recent 1/24 Lancia Stratos kits, like the Fujimi EM-16/17/18 Enthusiast Models (introduced in 1997 and very rare in the U.S.) and a 2002 Hasegawa tooling that appeared in Revell boxing (unlike our feature kit, it omits an opening rear clip and has a greatly simplified V6 engine). Still, Revell's Lancia Stratos warrants a search and purchase if the idea of a full-detail 1/24 scale Stratos replica intrigues you. **FSM**





# MAKIN' CAMP



**'65 CHEVY EL CAMINO W/ CAMPER**  
#AMT1364 (1:25 SCALE)

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**'92 TOYOTA 4X4 PICKUP**  
#AMT1425 (1:20 SCALE)



Item No. 35382

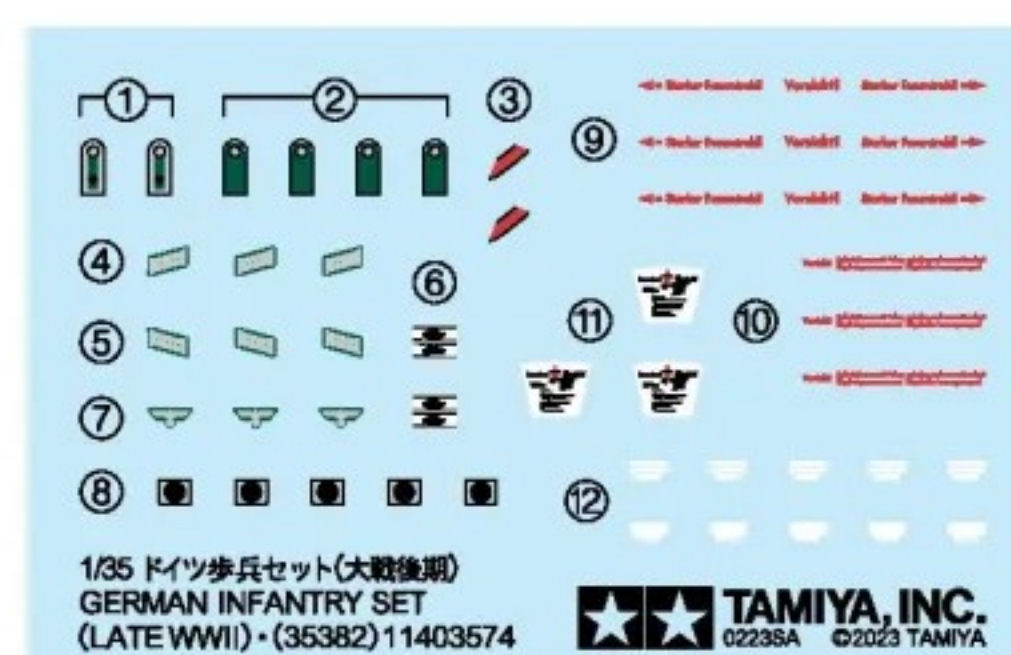
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