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Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

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ISSUE
356

June 2025

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SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

Tamiya's 1:12 1975
Martini Brabham BT44B
full build feature

MIGHTY NINETY

Tamiya's new 1:35 M36 Jackson
tank destroyer announced!

QUAD SQUAD

Tamiya's 1:35 1974 Quad Gun Tractor in a desert scene

INSIDE...

Tamiya 1:350 USS Fletcher and IJN Kagero, Vanguard 1:64 Grecian ship, Airfix all-new 1:48 Jaguar GR.1 previewed, plus new kits, books and modelling accessories...

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Our legendary 1/48 Aircraft Series now has all F-35 variants! The F-35A conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) aircraft kit was the first released, and praised for excellent renderings of its form and details such as weapon bays, with unitized interior components for an ergonomic assembly experience. The F-35B short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft kit offers three assembly types: parked, short takeoff and vertical landing.

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Tamiya's new 1:35 M36 Jackson tank-destroyer is on the way!



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Tamiya's 1:12 Martini Brabham BT44B gets a modern makeover



32 QUAD SQUAD

Tamiya's classic 1974 Quad Gun Tractor in 1:35



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Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL

Issue 356 June 2025

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IN BRIEF...



TAMIYA

- 1:10 RC Audi 90 Quattro Racing (Painted Body) (TT-02)
- 1:10 RC The Hornet by Jun Watanabe
- Non-Scratch Long Nose Pliers II
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Hyper-Dash 3 Motor J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Hyper-Dash Motor PRO J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Torque-Tuned 2 Motor J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Torque-Tuned 2 Motor PRO J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD HG Carbon Reinforcing Plate (1.5mm) J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD HG Carbon Rear Roller Stay (1.5mm) J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD HG Mass Damper Set w/Ball Connectors (Block Weight/Carbon Plate) J-Cup 2025
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Thunder Shot Mk.II Asia Challenge 2025 Special (MS)
- 1:32 Mini 4WD Estoura Clear Orange Special (MA)

tamiya.com hobbyco.net



AIRFIX

- 1:48 Westland Sea King HC.4
- 1:72 Blenheim Mk.IF

airfix.com

ALPHA MODEL

- 1:24 Porsche 911 Carrera (1992)

alphamodelkit.com



ICM

- 1:48 Dornier Do217K
- DShKM with support/tripod

hobbyco.net and good retailers worldwide

INSIDE THE ARMOUR

- 1:48 engine exhausts for Airfix Jaguar

insidethearmour.com



ITALERI

- 1:48 F-16C Fighting Falcon

hobbyco.net

MATTERS OF SCALE

- 1:48 Intakes for Airfix Jaguar

mattersofscale.com



MINIART

- 1:35 T-34/85 Czechoslovak Prod. Late Type
- 1:35 Spherical Fighting Vehicle TsAMO Project
- 1:35 Raupenschlepper Ost RSO/01 Mid Prod.
- 1:35 Panzer Crew France 1944
- 1:35 German 3t Troop Carrier 3.6-36S
- 1:48 Junkers F-13 Mid Production
- 1:48 P-47D-26RA Thunderbolt Advanced kit

RADO MINIATURES

- Tiger II B wheels

radominiaturesworld.com



COMING SOON FROM TAMIYA! 1:35 US Tank Destroyer M36

Announced at this year's Shizuoka Hobby Show, Tamiya's next WW2 1:35 AFV kit takes the form of the 90mm-gunned US M36 Jackson tank-destroyer. Full build coming soon!
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide



COMING SOON FROM TAMIYA! - 1:72 Lockheed Martin F-35C Lightning II

Tamiya's breathtaking 1:48 F-35C Lightning II has been scaled down to 1:72 to create this stunning, all new model. The trio is complete!
www.tamiya.com www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers worldwide



NEW FROM MAGIC FACTORY 1:35 M2A4 Bradley IFV

This up-armoured variant of the US Army's ubiquitous Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle is on release from Magic Factory. Looks cool!
www.modelsforsale.com



COMING SOON FROM AHHQ 1:16 M16 Halftrack

The iconic WW2 US M16 halftrack is on its way from Andy's Hobby Headquarters and the box art is fantastic! www.andyshhq.eu

NEW FROM MASTER - 1:35 Browning M2HB .50 cal 12.7mm M49 Ring Mount

This is a stunning 3D print replica of the US WW2 .50cal machine gun, or 'Ma Deuce' that was fitted to many Allied vehicles, including the M8 Greyhound M20 Armoured Utility Vehicle, M26 Dragon Wagon and more..

www.master-model.pl



NEW FROM AIRFIX 1:48 Albion Three-Point Fueller

This WW2 RAF fuel truck is the ideal vehicle to place alongside your Spitfires and Hurricanes!

www.airfix.com and from good retailers worldwide





COMING SOON FROM MODEL FACTORY HIRO - 1:12 MS670B LM

This new 1:12 resin and metal mega-kit of the Matra MS670B is for experienced modellers, and will build into a stunning replica of this Le Mans racer. www.modelfactoryhiro.com



COMING SOON FROM REAL MODEL - 1:35 Dragon Wagon conversions

Whilst you may have trouble ordering these items in the UK due to VAT issues, Real Model's 3D-print sets for Tamiya's epic 1:35 M26 Dragon Wagon kits are still worth a mention. On offer is an engine set, M26A1 'soft cab' conversion and wheels for tractor and trailer and M26A1 'soft cab' set only. Let's hope those export problems are settled soon. www.realmodel.cz



COMING SOON FROM REVELL 1:16 BMW Isetta 250 70th Exclusive Edition

The fabulous large scale kit of the 1955 BMW bubblecar is back to celebrate its 70th anniversary! www.revell.de/en



NEW FROM REVELL

1:32 MS Surtees TS16-03

Another of Matchbox's lovely 1970s car kits is on the way back in the form of this cool 1970s Surtees. Comes with a multi-part three-litre engine and driver figure. www.revell.de/en



COMING SOON FROM T-REX STUDIO

1:35 Pz.Kpfw.I ausf.B Suspension Upgrade Set for Tamiya

Tamiya's all-new 1:35 Panzer I ausf.B (full-build feature in TMMI 351 January 2025) is a beautiful little model. If you're still not satisfied, T-Rex Studio has created a whole new suspension for it! www.t-rex-studio.com



NEW FROM RYE FIELD MODEL - 1:35 M551 Sheridan Vietnam War

RFM has gone all-out with this kit of the US Army's lightweight Sheridan tank, configured in the early spec for the Vietnam War. Check out the turret stowage bin and those M2s up top!



www.modelsforsale.com

COMING SOON FROM TAKOM

1:35 M4A1 (76W) HVSS

A new series of 1:35 Sherman 'Horizontal Volute Spring Suspension' (HVSS) kits is on the way, kicking off with the late-war M4A1 (76W) HVSS. They are sure to be very impressive. www.modelsforsale.com



AVAILABLE NOW FROM AMT

- 1:25 '62 Impala
- 1:25 1967 Oldsmobile Cutlass 442
- 1:25 '64 Dodge 330
- 1:25 1965 Pontiac GTO Hardtop
- 1:25 1964 Chevelle Malibu SS
- 1:25 '60 Ford Starliner
- 1:25 '1961 Ford Galaxie Hardtop

www.modelsforsale.com



New Arrivals

A quick round-up of new and recent arrivals at Tamiya Model Magazine. Thank you to the manufacturers and suppliers for the review samples!



AIRFIX

1:72 Bristol Superfreighter (A05002V) re-issue

The Bristol Superfreighter is one of Airfix's older re-releases in the Vintage Classics line, dating back to 1959 no less! It's all the more surprising then, when looking at the kit parts, just how good it still looks. Naturally it will need some TLC to build, but the huge airframe has some remarkable detail and the decals are to die for.

www.airfix.com and good retailers everywhere



AIRFIX

1:48 DeHavilland Chipmunk T.10/T.20 (A04105A) new decals

Airfix's 2021 De Havilland Chipmunk is an absolutely gorgeous kit with ridiculously fine detail plus extensive cockpit and engine detail, the latter with individual cowlings so it can be seen after assembly. Now the kit is back with new decals for the Irish Air Corps, Portuguese Air Force plus the-then HRH Prince Charles's Queens Flight, 1968.

www.airfix.com and good retailers everywhere



AIRFIX

1:72 Dogfight Doubles Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vc Messerschmitt Bf109F-4 (A50194)

new presentation Amazingly, Airfix's iconic 'Dogfight Doubles' series began back in 1962 but now it has returned in a well thought-out marketing move, using much more up to date kits. The excellent 2020-issued Spitfire Mk.Vb and equally good, 2024-issued Bf109F-4 are in this aerial clash, along with a bag containing the main paint colours needed for both, plus a brush and cement. Brilliant stuff. www.airfix.com and good retailers everywhere



AIRFIX

1:72 Focke-Wulf Fw190A-8/F-8 (A02066A) new decals

The plastic parts date back to 2013 for this Fw190 re-issue but that's just fine, because the kit is one of the gems of Airfix's new generation models with loads of superb detail. It's a straightforward build with a sensible parts-count, but doesn't compromise on accuracy. The new decals are for two late-war machines in standard Luftwaffe colours which will be fun to airbrush. www.airfix.com and good retailers everywhere



AIRFIX

1:72 Westland Sea King HC.4 (A04056A) new decals

New decals come with this re-issue of Airfix's excellent 2015 kit of the Westland Sea King HC.4, allowing it to be finished as an aircraft serving with No.848 Naval Air Squadron, Commando Helicopter Force, Royal Navy Air Station Yeovilton, 2006 in overall BS381C Olive Drab (Humbrol Matt Light Olive 86) or a Sea King of No.846 Naval Air Station, Operation Granby/Desert Storm, Iraq, 1991 in overall Matt Desert Sand (Humbrol mix).

www.airfix.com and good retailers everywhere



CLEAR PROP!

1:72 DH.88 Comet (CP72019) new tool for 2024

Clear Prop!'s 2024 kit in 1:72 of the DeHavilland DH.88 Comet is a little beauty, capturing perfectly the sleek lines of the aircraft which was designed to take part in the 1934 England-Australia MacRobertson Air Race. It features a thorough cockpit with full flight controls, PE brass instrument panel, seat harnesses and more. CP! also offer canopy masks and a 3D-print engine to take it even further.

www.clearpropmodels.com and good retailers everywhere



GECKO MODELS

1:35 '60s - '70s Saigon Fruit & Vegetable Market Stall Set (35GM0122) new tool for 2024
This new set from Gecko will make a superb diorama backdrop for a Vietnam street-scene from the 1960s and '70s, providing a corrugated steel roof, fruit-box stands, masses of fruit and vegetables, cooling fans, fluorescent lights, a bicycle and stall owner! It's a wonderful production and would make a lovely, peaceful vignette on its own, without troops and tanks. www.modelsforsale.com and *good retailers everywhere*



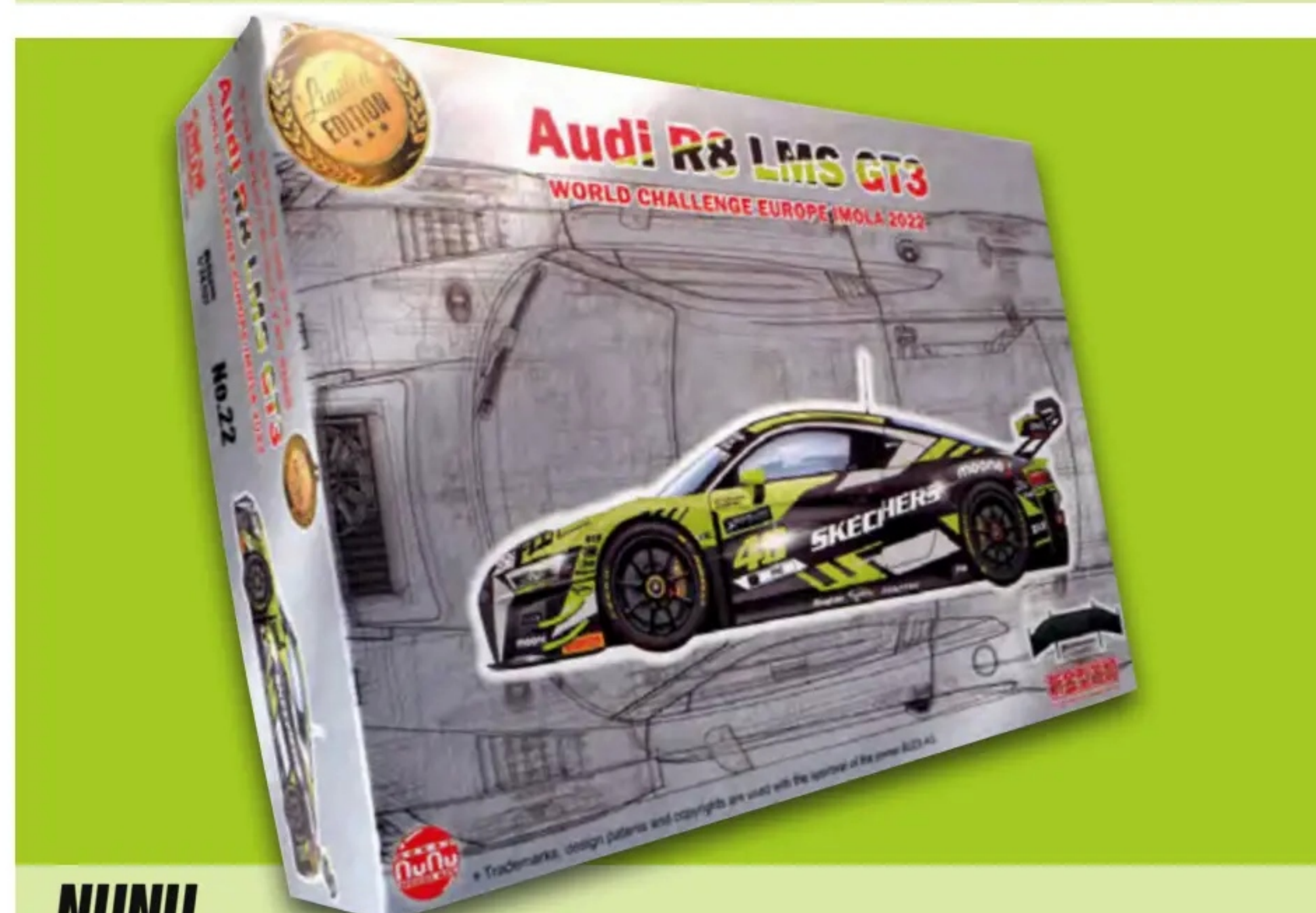
ITALERI

1:72 S.79 Sparviero Bomber Version (1412) new decals
Italeri's S.79 Sparviero dates back over twenty years to 2003 and is testament to how good their aircraft kits are that it looks as if had just been released today. Two sprues of light grey polystyrene carry the parts for this distinctive-looking 1930s Italian bomber, coming with three engines, well-appointed cabin interior and nicely detailed airframe exterior. New decals for no less than six machines are included. www.hobbyco.net and *good retailers everywhere*



MINIART

1:35 7.5cm Pak 40/4 Selbstfahrlafette RSO (35483) new tool for 2025
We have taken a look at the standard tractor version of this all-new kit from MiniArt of the World War Two German 'Raupenschlepper Ost' in New Releases Kits in this issue, and here is the second version (so far) of this machine. The chassis, engine, suspension and tracks are the same, but the cabin is replaced with a flattened structure to allow the Pak40 to traverse. Tons of detail; full build coming. www.creativemodels.co.uk www.miniart-models.com and *good retailers everywhere*



NUNU

1:24 Audi R8 LMS GT3 World Challenge Europe Imola 2022 (PN24044) new decals
Nunu produce a range of fantastic car kits in 1:24 and one shining example is this Sketchers-sponsored Audi R8 LMS GT3 car that took part in the 2022 World Challenge Europa Imola. It's a 'kerbside' model, so no engine, with just the gearbox and driveshafts sitting above the rear diffuser. But that's fine, because all the effort has gone into the cabin and bodyshell, which look spot on. www.hobbyco.net and *good retailers everywhere*



REVELL

1:32 Mercedes-Benz SSKL (07737) re-issue
It was an excellent idea by Revell to refresh the moulds and re-issue some classic Matchbox 1:32 car kits from the 1970s, because they were wonderful models back then, and still are today! The first to arrive at TMMI is the Mercedes-Benz SSKL of the early 1930s and it comes with a nice replica of the car's 7.1 litre engine, which produced a somewhat terrifying 300bhp! The wheel spokes are a little thick but it's still a delightful model. www.revell.de and *good retailers everywhere*



TAKOM

1:35 Tiger I Early Production Sd.Kfz.181 Pz.Kpfw.VI Ausf E (2196) new version
Takom's Tigers are terrific and the latest to roll into the TMMI office is this early-production variant which comes in a new, larger box. It's a non-interior model, with all attention being focused on the Tiger I's much-debated external layout. As a scale modelling subject, the Tiger I is a minefield (pardon the pun) when it comes accuracy, but this one looks extremely good, so it just needs to be built and enjoyed. www.modelsforsale.com and *good retailers everywhere*

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KIT PREVIEW

TAMIYA 1:35 1:35 US TANK DESTROYER M36 JACKSON • KIT NO.35390



MIGHTY NINETY!

Tamiya's next armoured fighting vehicle kit in 1:35 takes the form of the 90mm-gunned WW2 US M36 Jackson tank-destroyer

Tamiya released the 'Tank Destroyer M36' with single motor in 1968 for the first time and now, many years later, an all-new kit of this powerful AFV is on its way for 2025. We say "all new" but in fact the M2 Browning heavy machine gun parts have been retained from recent Tamiya US WW2 armour releases, as has the clear sprue for the vehicle's optical system: these were good already and didn't need replacing. The rest is completely new. The M36 was officially launched at the 2025 Shizuoka Hobby Show, so by the time you read this there will be more extensive photos of it, but for now, here's a brief look at the model, plus some wartime images to whet your appetite! ●

Kit specs

- Length: 216mm, width: 88mm
- Turret interior features 90mm gun breech and auxiliary equipment
- The overhanging turret counterweight depicted with a cast steel texture
- Hull interior features shell racks, floor and bulkheads
- Ammunition cases and one full-body crew figure are included
- Assembly-type tracks (link-and-length) feature one-piece straight sections
- Two marking-options are included: 3rd Army, Luxembourg and 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Germany

Available soon!

Tamiya models, accessories, paints and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net

My cool Jackson: a little history

The M36 tank destroyer, officially known as '90mm Gun Motor Carriage, M36', was an American tank destroyer first deployed in during World War II. The M36 combined the hull of the M10 tank destroyer – which used the M4 Sherman's reliable chassis and drivetrain combined with sloped armour – with a new turret mounting the 90mm gun M3. Conceived in 1943, the M36 first served in combat in Europe in October 1944, where it partially replaced the M10. It also saw use in the Korean War, where it was able to defeat any of the Soviet tanks used in that conflict. Some were supplied to South Korea as part of the Military Assistance Program and served for years, as did re-engined examples found in Yugoslavia, which operated into the 1990s. Two remained in service with the Republic of China Army at least until 2001. The vehicle is also known by the nickname 'General Jackson', or just 'Jackson', which was originally assigned to the vehicle by the Ordnance Department in November 1944 for publicity purposes but does not appear to have been used by troops in the field during the war. *History edited from Wikipedia.*





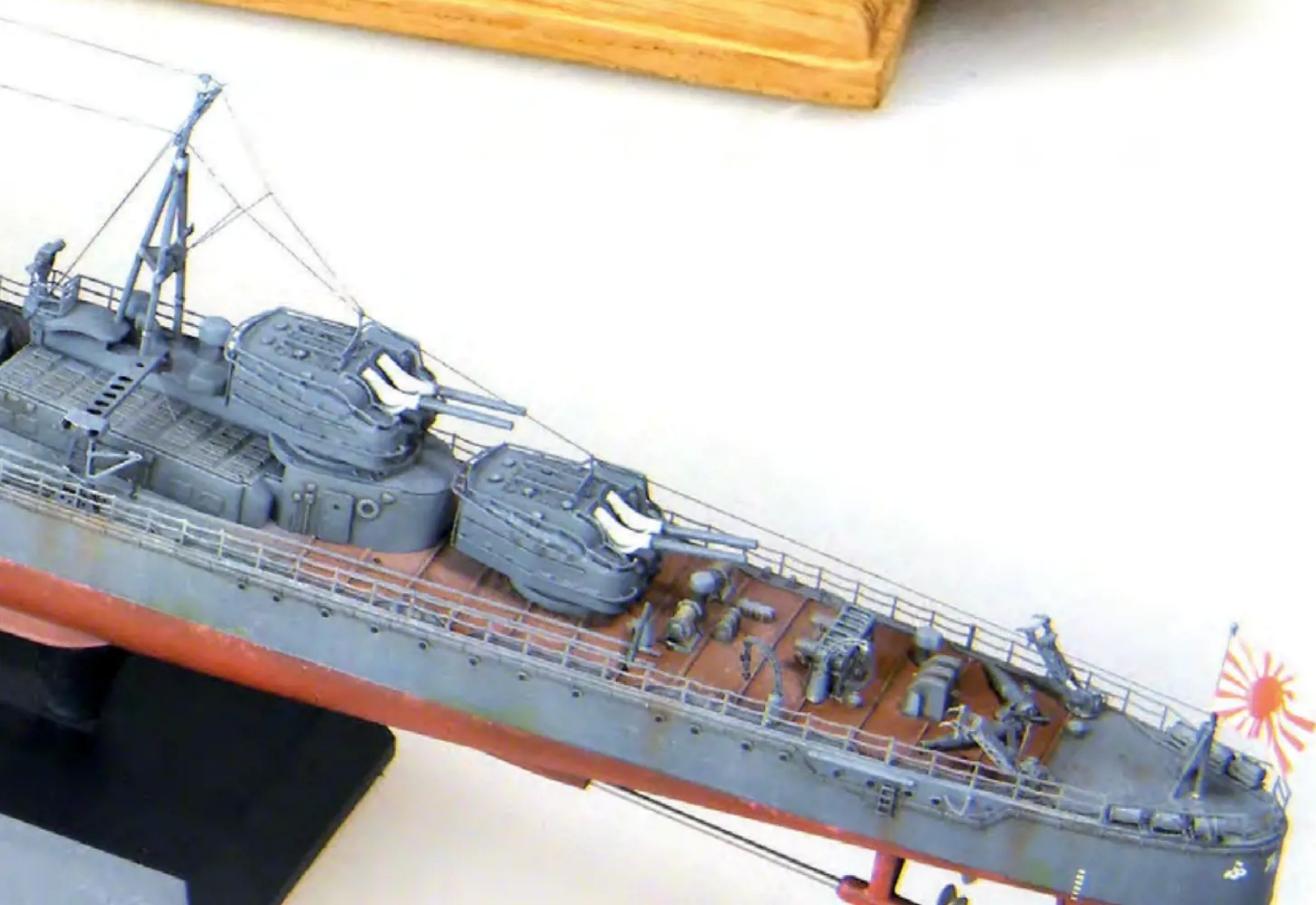
FULL-BUILD WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED AND AXIS NAVAL KITS
TAMIYA 1:350 USS FLETCHER DESTROYER (KIT NO.78012) & TAMIYA 1:350 IJN KAGERO DESTROYER (KIT NO.78032)

Destroyer Double



Take

Jeroen Veen performs back-to-back builds of Tamiya's 1:350 IJN Kagero and USS Fletcher destroyer kits



During my long, long hobby life I have built many different kits; tanks, planes, racing cars, railroad stuff, figures and even animals, but for some reason I never felt very attracted to ships. I think the main reasons for me personally were twofold. The first one was the lack of opportunity to tell a story in 1:700 or 1:350 scale (the most popular scales for ship modelling). I have been proved very wrong in that perception though – just take a look at the stunning work of Marijn van Gils, Guido Hopp, Christian Bruer and so many others

blessed with more creativity than I have. The second reason had everything to do with detail. Plastic models of ships have evolved to an incredible level, but often still lack finer details because of for example moulding limitations, leaving them somewhat crude compared to other model categories. Off course I knew that there were etched sets available but my interest in ships really sparked after seeing some Pontos and Infini etched sets.

The detail they add to the plastic kit is incredible, the instructions are beautifully done. Besides that, the subjects they picked for their sets really appealed to me. Kits like HMS Exeter, but also Tamiya's 1:350 scale Fletcher and the Kagero in the same scale just begged to be built. At the time I had finished a number of Wingnut Wings kits and I really felt I had to try my hand at something new, something I had to approach fresh and without much experience. A challenge was at hand and Kagero and Fletcher were the subjects of choice! 🎯

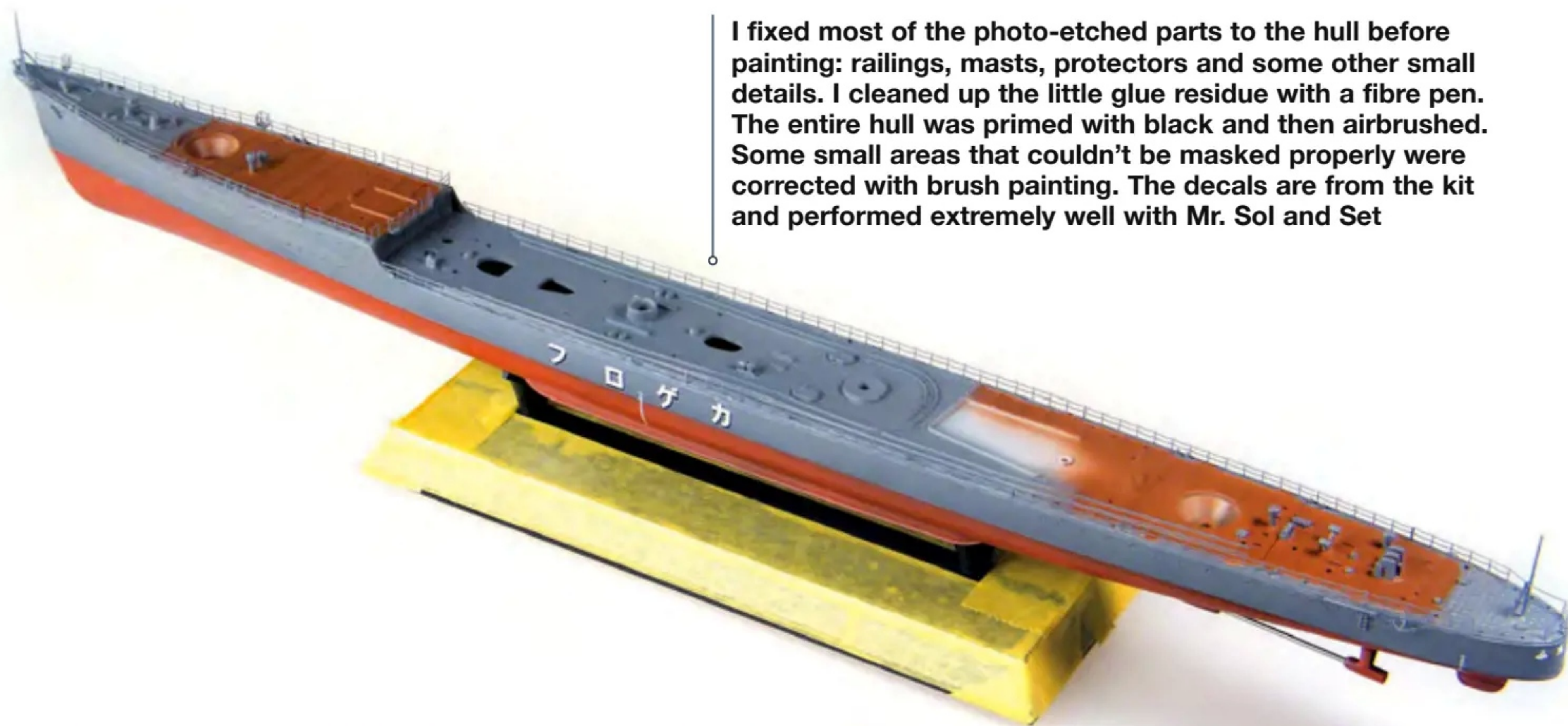
REFERENCE GATHERING

I was lucky enough to be able to purchase a number of great reference books. For the Kagero I had Waldemar Góralski's book available, filled with drawings and plans of the ship. Admittedly not everything the book shows can be represented in the kit or Infini's detail set, but it is very valuable to have good references available while building a model. And perhaps that points to one of the most valuable lessons I learned about working with super detail etched sets; take them as far as you can because every etching adds detail that can't be represented in plastic but at the same time, there is no need to use every etched part available. There have been instances I just couldn't hold the part, not even with a sticky pencil or some fine tweezers, let alone glue it in place. Just leave it and don't get frustrated.

Working with photo-etch isn't very difficult – I would say it's more a matter of patience. Some cyano glue, a sharp knife, a ruler and for some parts a folding aid will suffice to fold and glue all those photo-etched parts in place. Kagero has over 350 etched parts added. Most of them are prepared separately, primed and painted by airbrush with colour-washes and details painted by brush.

After they were completely painted and weathered, I carefully glued them in place and airbrushed a thin layer of matt varnish. By the way, it's worth buying a fibre pen, which work very well to remove glue excess from the parts. The rigging was done with EZ line which is included in the Infini set. I find EZ line great to work with as it's so suited for creating lines under tension.

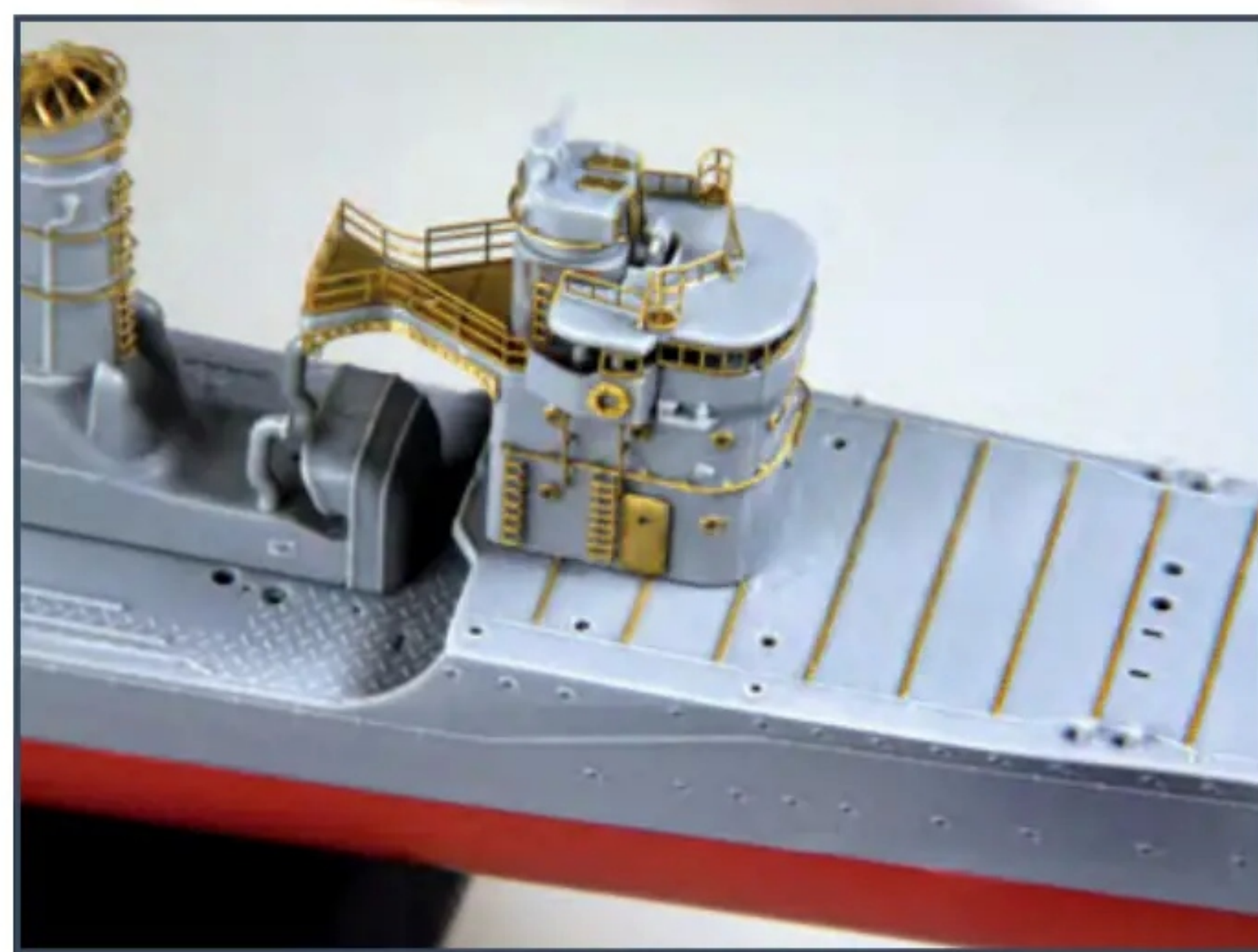
One last remark about when I was working on Kagero (and other ships after that). The process of adding photo-etched parts to a model like this are immensely repetitive. Cut, fold, prime, paint, weather, glue in place, airbrush matt varnish. It is because of this I work on small parts of the model at a time, switching it up with other projects, mainly because I lose my patience and that is really



I fixed most of the photo-etched parts to the hull before painting: railings, masts, protectors and some other small details. I cleaned up the little glue residue with a fibre pen. The entire hull was primed with black and then airbrushed. Some small areas that couldn't be masked properly were corrected with brush painting. The decals are from the kit and performed extremely well with Mr. Sol and Set



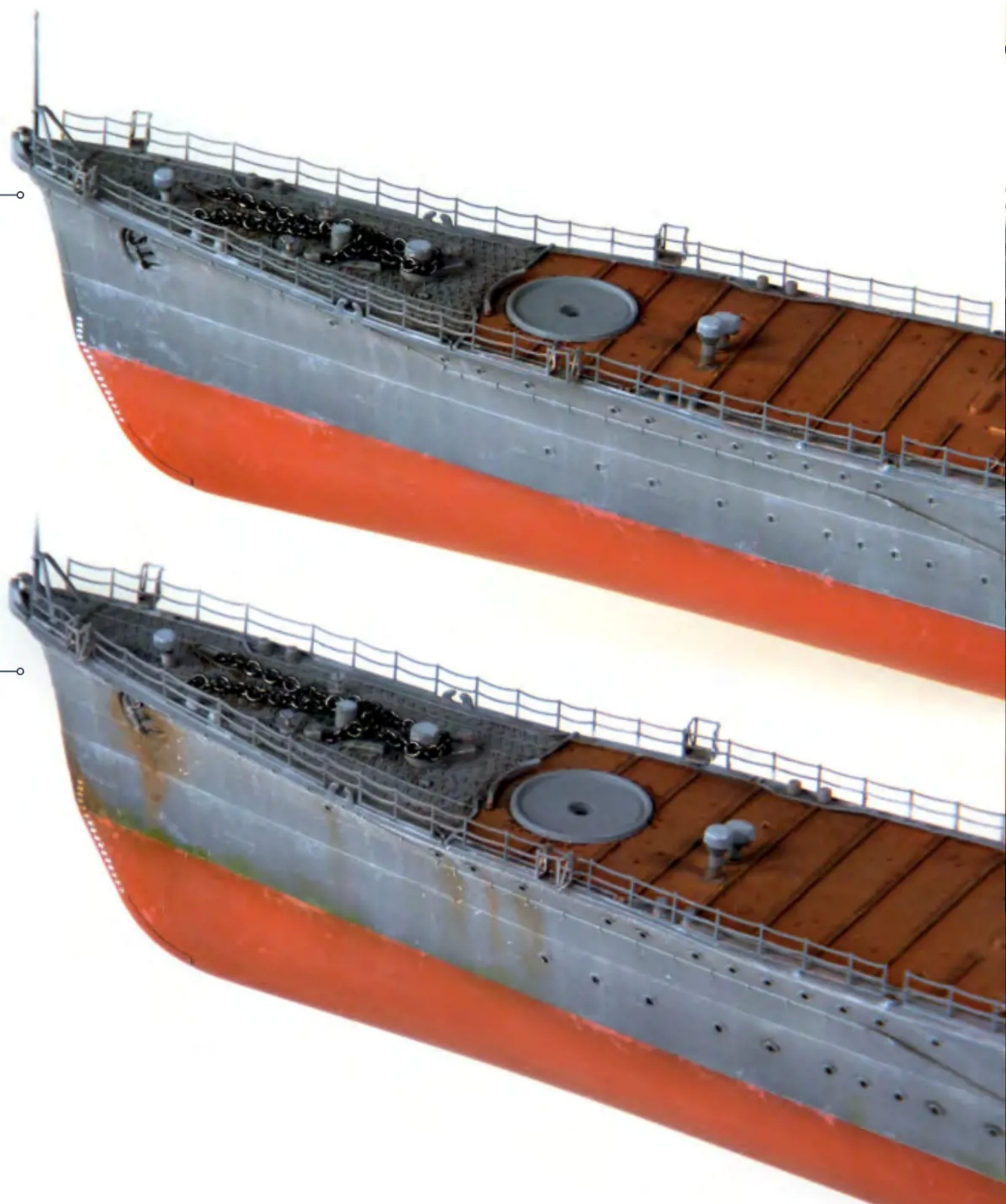
A good example how photo-etched parts add a tremendous amount of detail. I always try to build in as large as possible sub-assemblies. Here you can see how the bridge and midships area benefit from the time and attention that is needed to add the details



Another view of the bridge area. As you can see there is no glue residue. Of course, I try to work as precise as possible but it's inevitable that there is some glue spill. A fibre pen will clean it all up and in my opinion is a tool you have to have for work like this

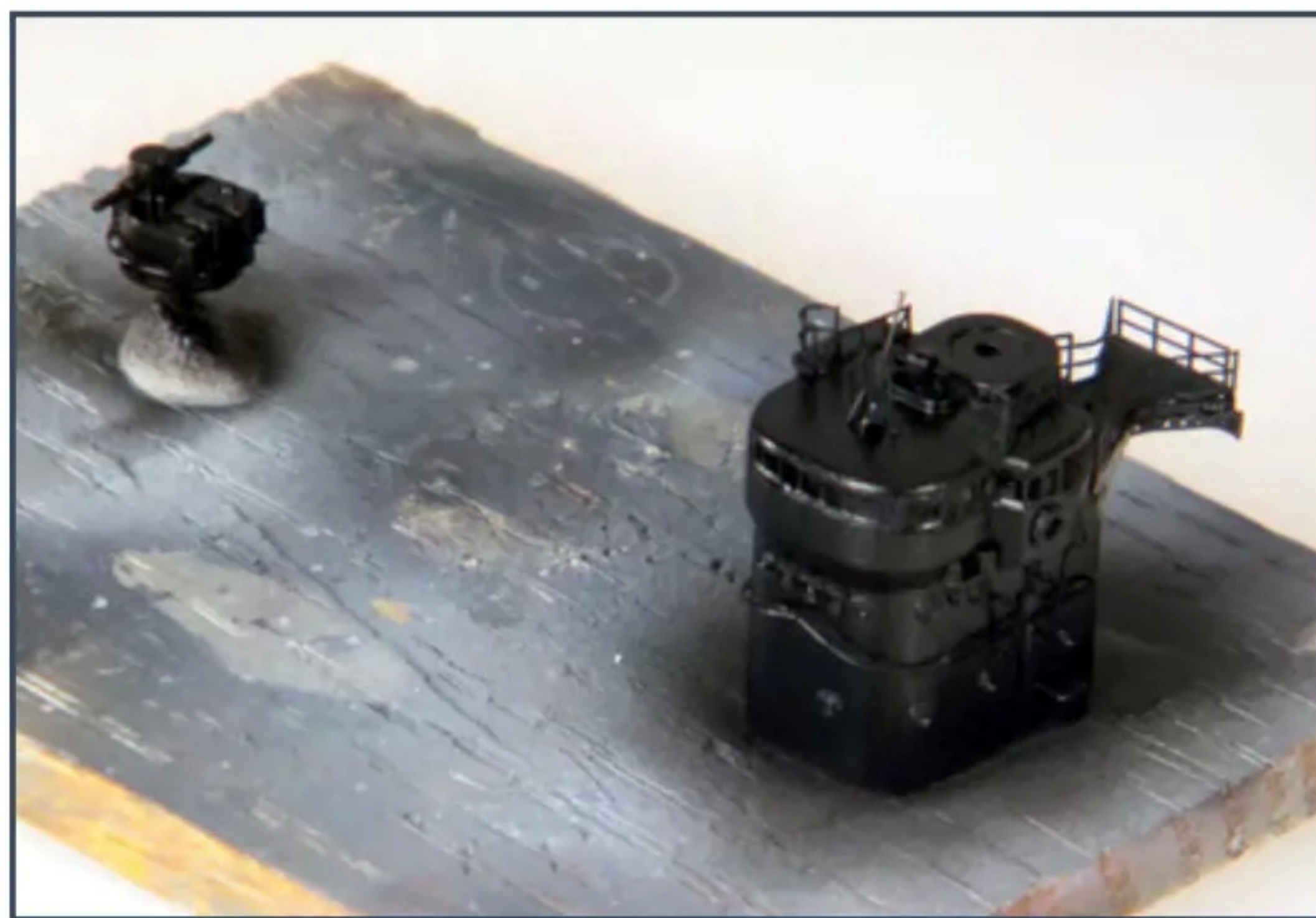
Weathering of the hull has started. The first thing I did was to add a random pattern of small light grey, white and buff oil dots. With a wide brush moistened (not wet) with odourless spirit I pulled the dots down in streaks, leaving you with a very subtle, in scale weathering effect. The chipping was done with a small pointed brush and a lighter tint of the base colour

Rust tones were also done with oils. Again, I placed small oil paint dots in places where I wanted to rust to show. Use very, very little paint for this because it's very easy to overdo it. This time the oil paint was blended in with a small flat brush, but no odourless spirit was used. This is dry blending

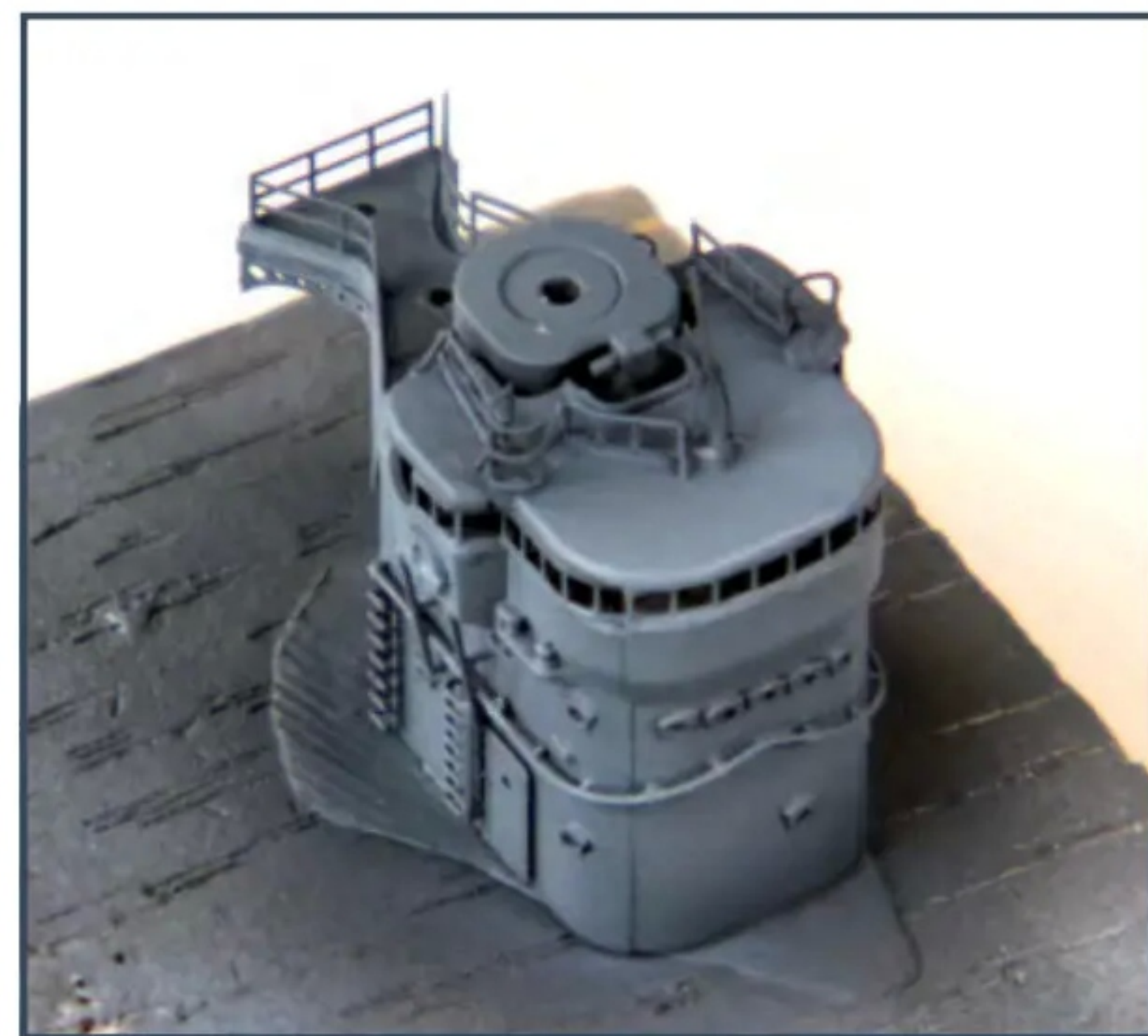


a killer when it comes to working with fine detail.

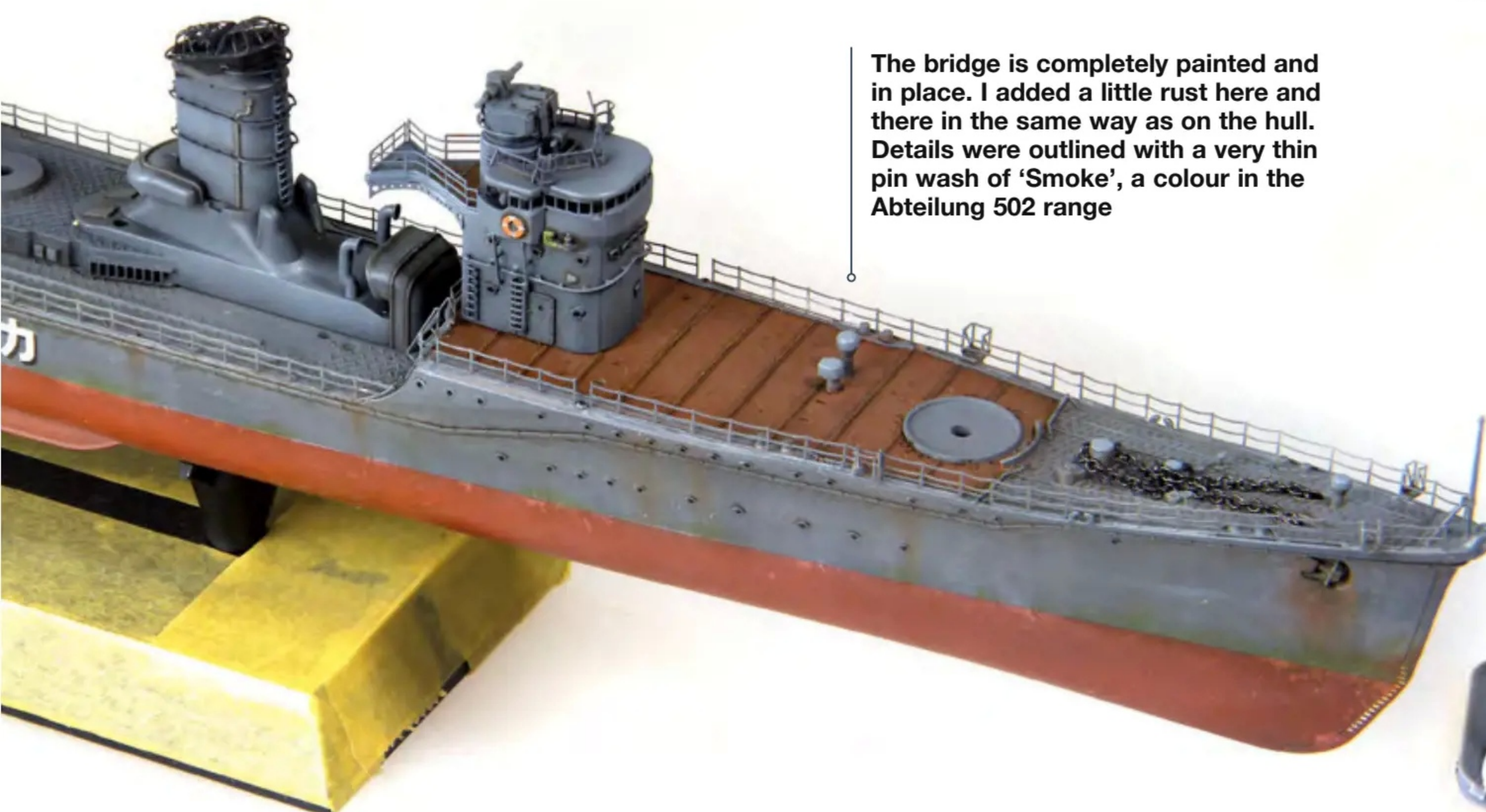
Fletcher's build was slightly more complicated, especially because there were photo-etched parts that replaced some plastic structural components. And then there was the camouflage scheme that needed to be applied and I was very lucky that a friend of mine was able to cut masks enabling me to airbrush the camouflage pattern on the hull. On the upper structures the pattern was brush-painted – not my forte I must admit. I'm still very happy with the result. ▶



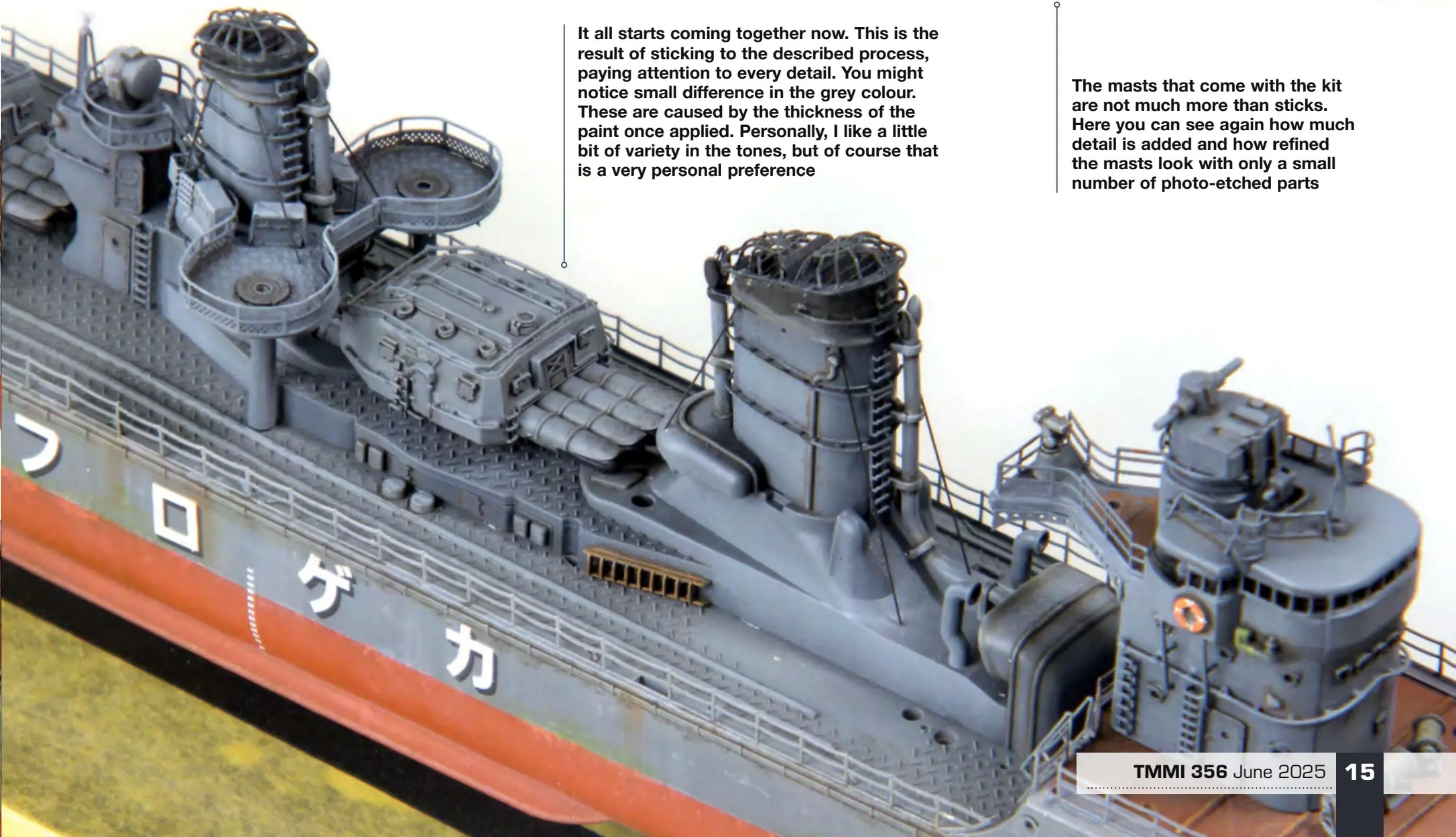
The bridge area primed in black. When you use this as a base colour you can build up colour intensity with the subsequent greys more easily, adding paint until you have a nice coverage with some depth in it



Here you can see that the base colour over black looks monotone, but in fact isn't. There is a hint of shadow and highlight which is only achieved by airbrushing more or less grey paint. This is a very good base for further weathering



The bridge is completely painted and in place. I added a little rust here and there in the same way as on the hull. Details were outlined with a very thin pin wash of 'Smoke', a colour in the Abteilung 502 range

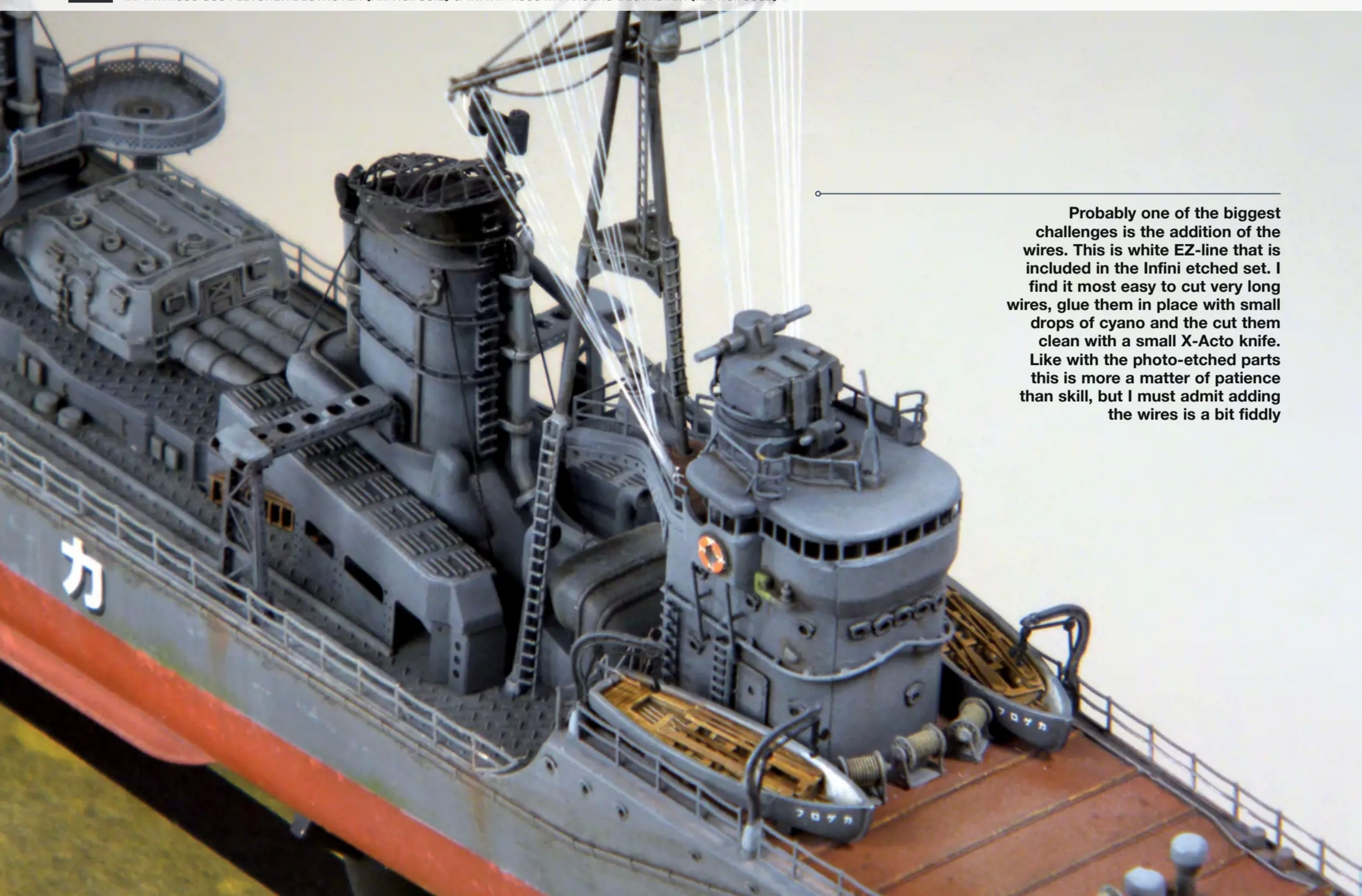


It all starts coming together now. This is the result of sticking to the described process, paying attention to every detail. You might notice small difference in the grey colour. These are caused by the thickness of the paint once applied. Personally, I like a little bit of variety in the tones, but of course that is a very personal preference

The masts that come with the kit are not much more than sticks. Here you can see again how much detail is added and how refined the masts look with only a small number of photo-etched parts

FULL-BUILD WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED AND AXIS NAVAL KITS

TAMIYA 1:350 USS FLETCHER DESTROYER (KIT NO.78012) & TAMIYA 1:350 IJN KAGERO DESTROYER (KIT NO.78032)



Probably one of the biggest challenges is the addition of the wires. This is white EZ-line that is included in the Infini etched set. I find it most easy to cut very long wires, glue them in place with small drops of cyano and the cut them clean with a small X-Acto knife. Like with the photo-etched parts this is more a matter of patience than skill, but I must admit adding the wires is a bit fiddly

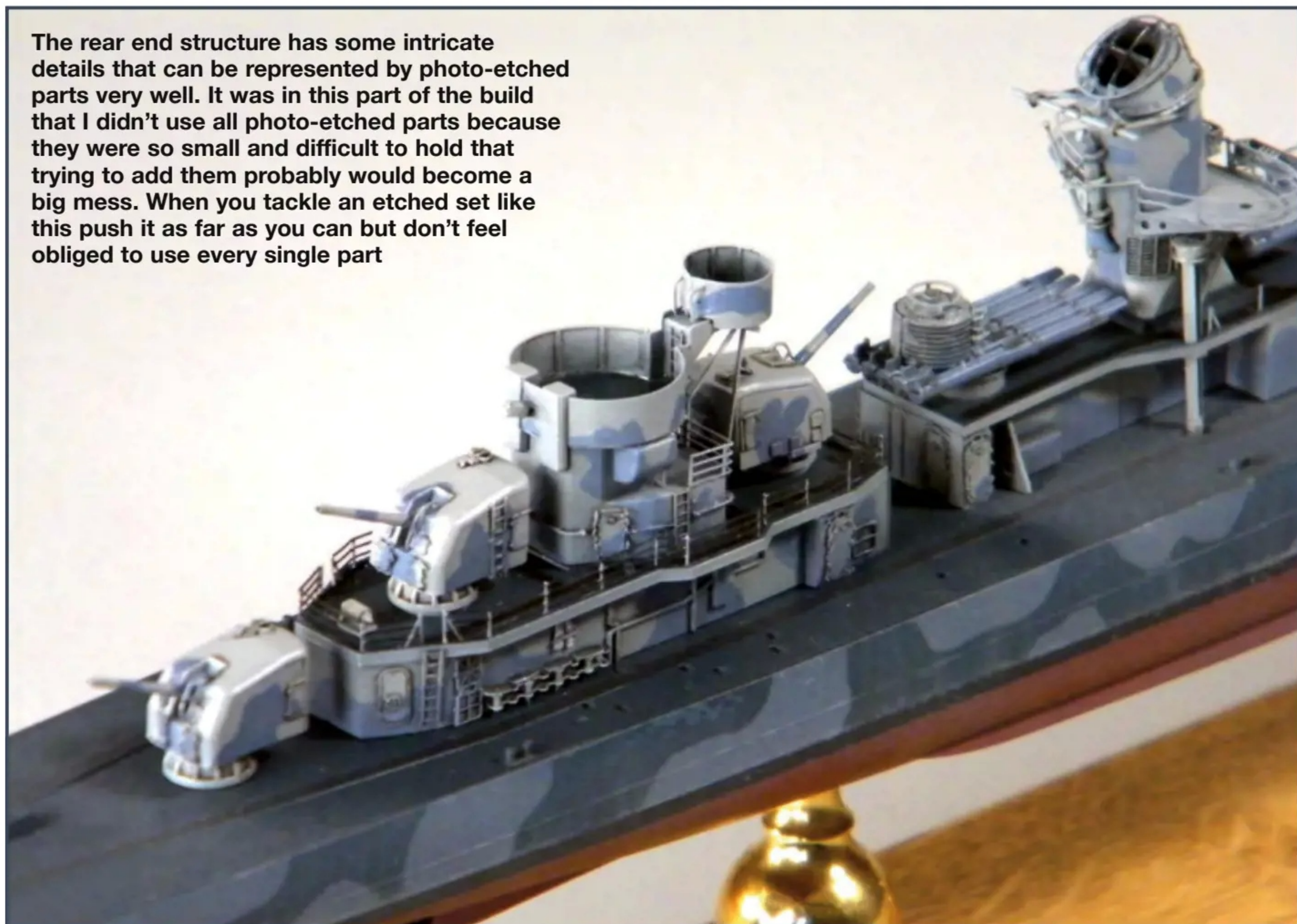


Fletcher build follows more or less the same steps as Kagero. One of the main differences and a slightly challenging one was the camouflage pattern. A friend of mine cut the masks for the camouflage on the hull which is spray-painted. On the superstructures and other small details, the pattern is brush painted. Weathering and pin washes were done identical to the process I used for Kagero

🕒 BEST PRESENTATION

After Kagero won a gold medal at Scale Model Challenge a couple of years ago, someone suggested I put a little more attention to the pedestal that holds the ship – and rightfully so. Kagero was placed on the very basic black plastic base. For the Fletcher I used two brass pedestals made by Pontos. They come in different sizes. I think, presentation wise, this was a giant step forward. Fletcher has around 400 etched parts and the build took me a little short of two years. In the meantime, I also finished 1:350 HMS Exeter, a Trumpeter kit. I have the Hasegawa 1:350 IJN Seaplane Tender Akitsushima in my stash. I'm very tempted to give it a go but I really need to charge myself to start this challenge. Stay tuned! ●

The rear end structure has some intricate details that can be represented by photo-etched parts very well. It was in this part of the build that I didn't use all photo-etched parts because they were so small and difficult to hold that trying to add them probably would become a big mess. When you tackle an etched set like this push it as far as you can but don't feel obliged to use every single part



“
Fletcher has around 400 etched parts and the build took me a little short of two years...
”



FULL-BUILD WORLD WAR TWO ALLIED AND AXIS NAVAL KITS

TAMIYA 1:350 USS FLETCHER DESTROYER (KIT NO.78012) & TAMIYA 1:350 IJN KAGERO DESTROYER (KIT NO.78032)

TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:350 USS FLETCHER
DESTROYER KIT NO.78012
TAMIYA 1:350 IJN KAGERO DESTROYER
KIT NO.78032

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide
decals

Availability:

Tamiya models, paints, materials and acces-
sories are widely available from good model
shops and online. UK import and distribution
by The Hobby Company; www.hobbyco.net



“
*Kagero has over 350
etched parts added...*
”

www.creativemodels.co.uk

Model by Wayne Hui

Model by Jeremy Moore

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KIT PREVIEW

REVELL 1:12 SPEEDER BIKE: THE MANDALORIAN • NO.06786



...A LANDSPEEDER OR SPEEDER BIKE THAT I COULD HIRE?

Marcus Nicholls finally gets his hands on Revell's 2024 1:12 Speeder Bike from The Mandalorian TV series and, of course, Return of the Jedi...

Starring first in 'Return of the Jedi', the third film of the original Star Wars trilogy, the Imperial Speeder Bike will forever cemented in the minds of Star-Warsians worldwide and not just because it looks so cool, but because of the unforgettable sounds it made too, like a sped-up motorcycle mixed with a haunted, hooting owl. It will certainly be those sounds that echo around the minds of modellers when they build Revell's superb 2024 kit (me included) and you'll need some extra bench-space too, because at over 26cm in length and 17cm in height in 1:12, it is pleasingly large in size when complete.

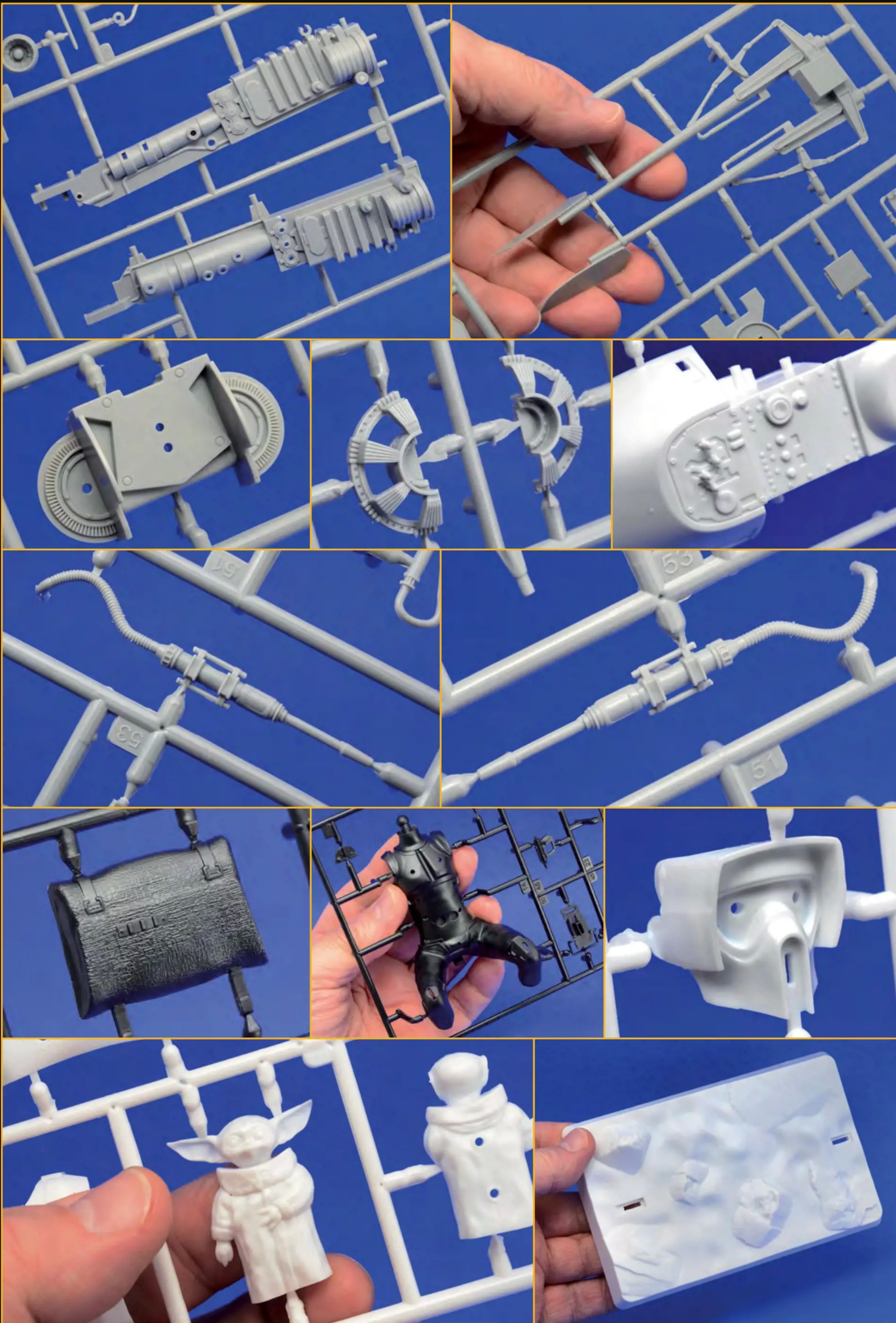
As mentioned, The Speeder Bike made its first appearance in ROTJ but it also appeared in 'Star Wars The Mandalorian' too – painted white but

basically the same design from the 1983 classic – and it is this version that Revell's kit depicts. The excellent Imperial Scout Trooper rider can be fitted with a saddlebag containing a delightful miniature of Grogu, immediately placing the model in the Mandalorian timeline, or left off and the 'Bike painted brown to show it in ROTJ form. Detail all round is excellent, as can hopefully be seen from the accompanying photos. To top things off, the kit comes with a textured display base and transparent supports to depict it in flight mode. It's a 1:12 Speeder Bike – what's not to love? ●

Availability;

Revell models are widely available from good model shops and online.
www.revell.de/en





SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED...

Mark Casiglia takes on Tamiya's big scale
1:12 Martini Brabham BT44B from 1975...

Tamiya's rendition of the Martini Brabham BT44B in 1:12 was tooled in 1975, right on the back of the car's release and major sponsorship deal with Martini. The kit was re-released in 2010 with some new parts and finally in 2021 with Cartograf decals, photo-etched metal (PE) and fabric seatbelts, PE fasteners, metal air funnels and adhesive chromed parts for instrument dials and mirrors.

I knew right away that the kit would be challenging, having already tackled Tamiya's 1976 1:12 Porsche 935 Martini and understanding the limitations of a tooling that dates back half a century. However, I'm clearly unable to resist the Martini livery and the box art made it impossible to resist this kit as well. There are two options to choose from and two drivers from each. I chose Carlos Reutemann's number 7 from the 1975 German Grand Prix.

Ignoring the instruction sequence, I reached straight for the main body panels as my plan was to get starting on painting, decalling and clear coating since these ideally require some curing time between phases. I started by identifying the many sink marks, which were filled with Tamiya Putty White, with some help from Mr Surfacer 500 Grey as needed. I then posed the pieces together and realised there were some fit issues between the main body parts. ▶





There are many sink marks and moulded details to be removed so these were circled to help guide the necessary filling and sanding. Tamiya Putty White and Mr Surfacer 500 were used to fill voids and restore contours



A trial fit demonstrated a good fit between the induction box and front cowl. The fit of the front cowl to the main body is poor as the cowl on the right side is considerably narrower than the body. There is also a gap between these two pieces which needs attention. This area was built up with putty and primer and sanded flush



I chose Mr Color GX1 Cool White for the overall white base colour. After three coats thinned with Mr Levelling Thinner, I applied another two coats mixed with both thinner and around 50-50 Mr Color GX112 Gloss Clear. After painting the body parts, they were set aside to cure for a week or so



Further trial fitting was carried out of the cockpit into the body. The locating tabs at one end are too thick to allow a good fit and at the other end the tabs force the cockpit into a poor position. They were removed from one side and both filed thinner and reduced in width on the other



Despite adjustments there was still a large gap to close between cockpit and body. The sides of the cockpit's top edges were bulked out with Evergreen sheet styrene and putty to deal with this. Conspicuous openings on the cockpit top side for locating tabs which were since removed from the front cowl were also closed off and made flush



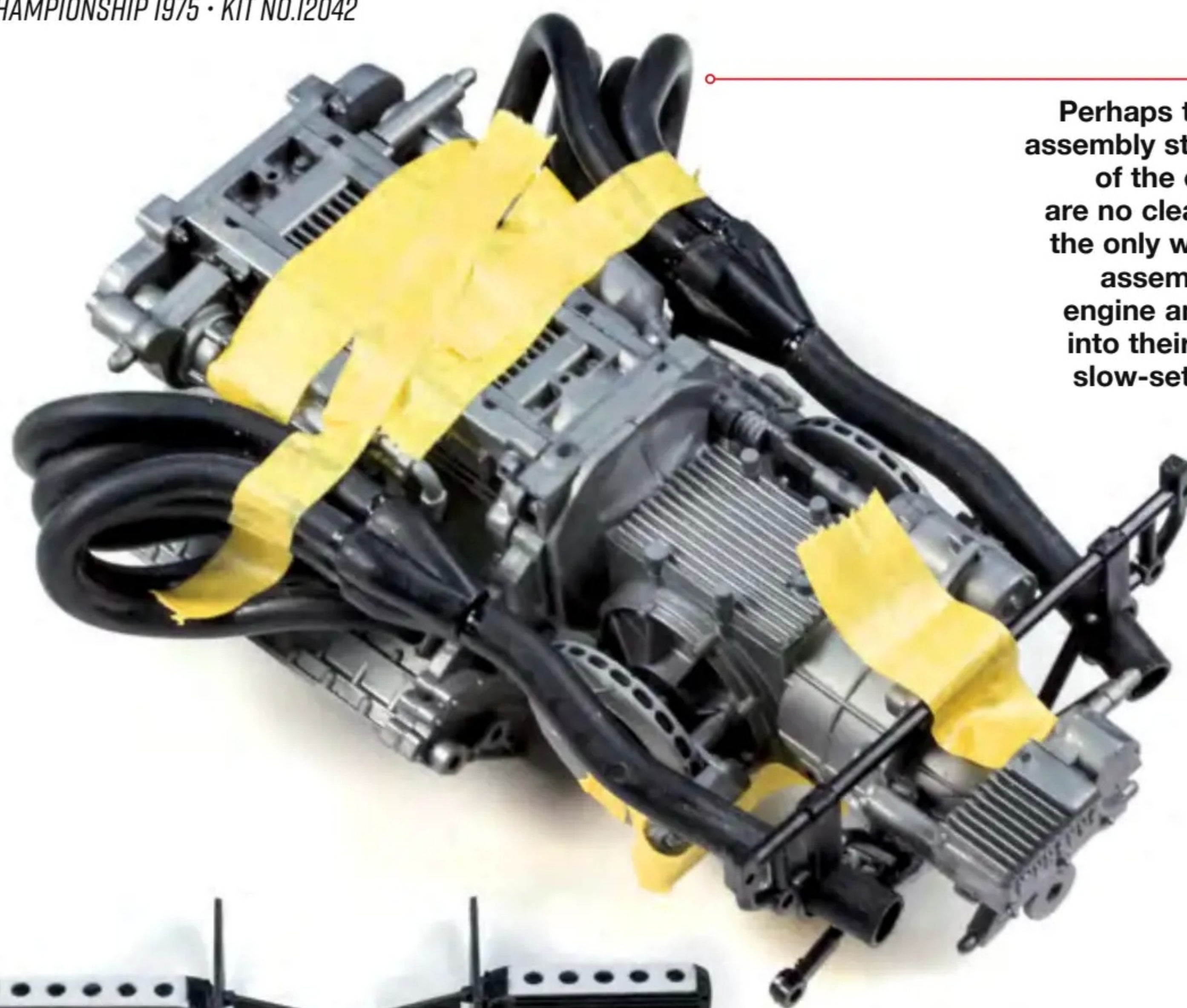
The excellent Cartograf decals were applied using nothing more than Mr Mark Setter, which has a mild softening effect. The larger decals on the side of the body were cut into two pieces to maintain control

There were gaps and alignment problems in multiple planes so I started by ensuring a flush fit between the forward cowling and induction box by removing the kit's locating tabs which did nothing to ensure alignment of those parts relative to each other. I created my own tabs with four pieces of Evergreen styrene rod bonded to the forward inside surface of the induction box, such that the forward cowling could slot over the tabs perfectly flush. I then dealt with a width discrepancy between the narrower cowling relative to the wider main body. The right side needed to be bulked out so I used putty and Mr Surfacer to build the levels up and sanded the area level and flush.

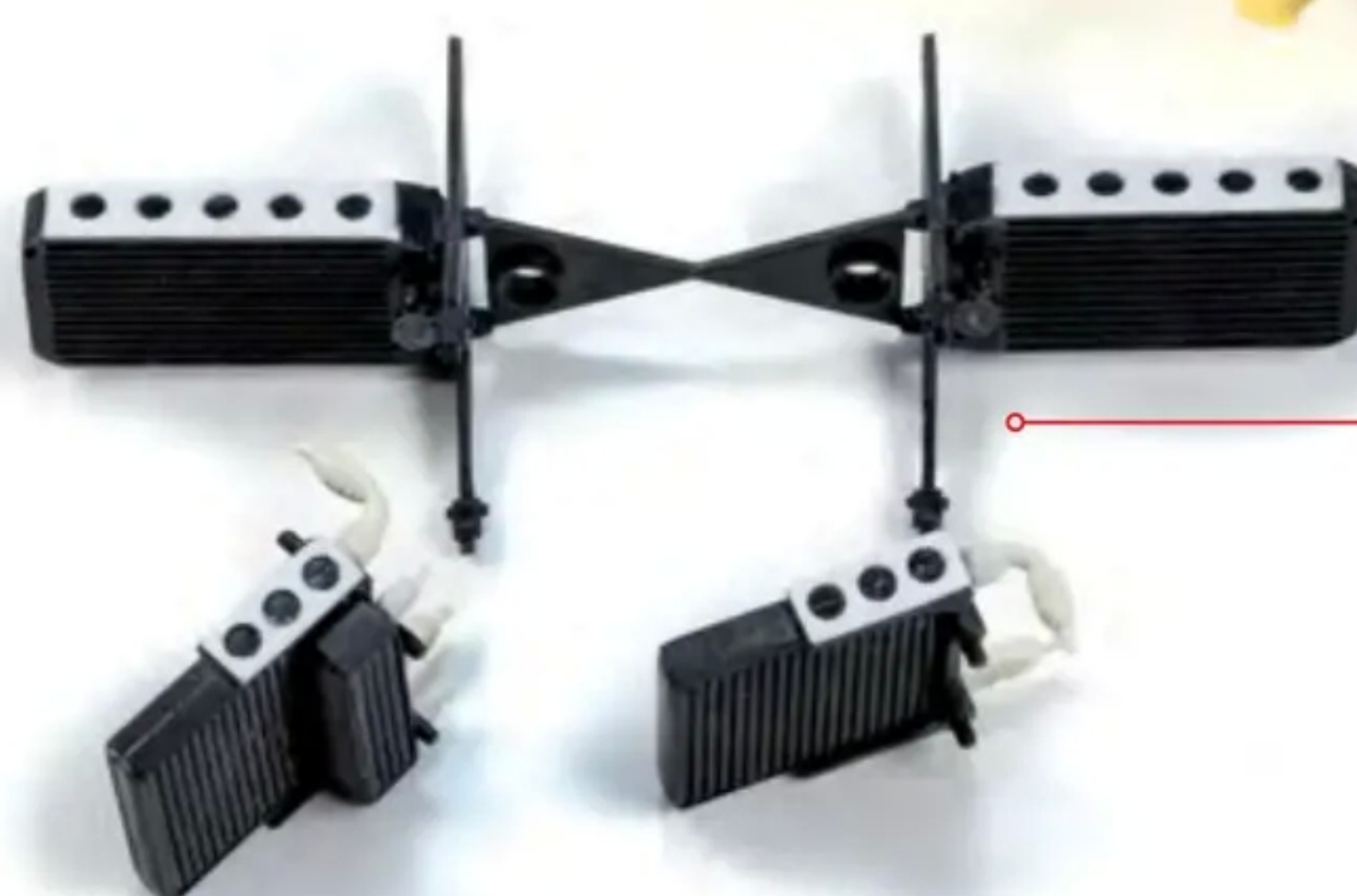
The rear wing underside piece showed enormous gaps which required putty to rectify. The vertical sides of the rear wings have through-and-through holes which could be dealt with if assembled prior to painting, but my plan was to paint first to maintain control and ease of polishing, so I reduced the thickness of the locating pins on the wings and filled the outside halves of the open holes with putty, retaining the holes inside as locators for the wings.

The nose cowling has two small spoilers left and right, which should have a slot and pin in each. I marked and cut the slots using a pine vice drill and sharp blade, ready for addition of a pin at the closing stages after painting. All putty areas were allowed a minimum of 48 hours to cure before sanding, then another week or more to cure before painting.

Once satisfied with all the body work, I primed the rear wings pieces, body, induction box, forward cowling and nose cowling including its two spoilers with Mr Surfacer 1500 White. Using a white primer would ensure even coverage of the final white paint. Once dry, the primed surface was sanded with a piece of Infini 1500 sponge sheet. I chose Mr Color GX1 Cool White as the main body colour, which I thinned with about 25% Mr Levelling Thinner and applied in three or four coats. I then applied another two coats of the same paint, mixed 50/50 with GX112 Gloss Clear. The body parts were then set aside and allowed to cure for a week or so.



Perhaps the most challenging assembly step was construction of the exhaust pipes. There are no clear locating clues and the only way to ensure correct assembly is to build up the engine and tape the exhausts into their final position as the slow-setting Revell Contacta cements cured



Reference photos show that the top and bottom of the radiators and oils coolers have metal plates with circular cut-outs. I created basic replicas using a metal ruler, strips of Evergreen sheet styrene and a disposable 2.5mm biopsy punch to create the openings

Top Studio resin hose connectors of different shapes and sizes were used to both add connectors or replace the kit moulded parts



Top Studio PE exhaust system clamps were added to the exhaust pipes to add some authenticity. With all parts now ready for painting, they were divided into colour groups and primed with Mr Surfacer 1500 Black



The main engine components were painted using a 50-50 mix of LP-20 Light Gun Metal and LP-70 Gloss Aluminium and any parts requiring a chrome finish were painted using LP-48 Sparkling Silver



The brake discs were painted in LP-48 and the edges were subsequently hand-painted using a 50-50 mix of XF-6 Copper and XF-57 Buff enamel paints to replicate the surface of these areas

In the interim I started working on the cockpit fit against the body, which was less than ideal. I narrowed down the causes, mainly being overly large and thick locating tabs. I removed them completely from the front side and thinned then to almost nothing and reduced their width on the rear side. The remaining gaps between the cockpit and body were solved by adding thickness to the outer edge of the cockpit using Evergreen styrene sheet material and putty.

PREPPING FOR DECALS

I sanded the painted body parts with GodHand sanding sponge strips in 800, 1,000, 2,000, 4,000 and finally 6,000 in preparation for decalling. Being high quality Cartograf decals, I didn't anticipate many problems and any need for strong decal solvents. Using only Mr Mark Setter, I laid down all the main exterior decals uneventfully.

I built up the engine and gearbox as far as possible, taped the rear framework into position and glued the exhaust pipes together with Revell Contacta cement as the slow set allowed for positional adjustments. I added Top Studio PE exhaust clamps to increase authenticity of the exhausts. Elsewhere, I utilised assorted Top Studio resin hose joints to either add to or replace the kit moulded parts.

The final piece of pre-painting detail was the addition of some strips of Evergreen styrene on the upper and lower surfaces of the radiators and oil coolers. These plates have a row of round cut outs and I replicated these using careful measurements guided by a metal ruler and a 2.5mm disposable biopsy punch.

After having separated all parts and subassemblies into colour batches, I began the process of priming using Mr Surfacer 1500 Black. Priming and painting needed to be carried out in two phases since there were a very large number of parts which exceeded my available paint clips, stands and bench space.

For the main engine block and gearbox, I used a 50-50 mix of LP-70 Gloss Aluminium and LP-20 Light Gun Metal. I was happy with this colour however I soon identified that the gearbox needed to be darker than the engine block. To create the darker, flatter and mottled surface of cast metal for this area, I brush-applied liberally thinned XF-56 Metallic Grey enamel paint in a stippling action. LP-48 Sparkling Silver was used for all chrome parts and provides an exceptional and durable chrome finish.

The semi-gloss black radiators and oil coolers looked a little lifeless so I painted their grilles with XF-56 enamel and once dry, applied a Magic Wash composed of five parts Pledge varnish, one part Liquitex acrylic ink in Carbon Black and one part Vallejo airbrush flow improver. This 'wash' is self-setting while spreading and levelling beautifully. 🎨



The gearbox was darkened and dulled off using a thinned and brush touched coat of XF-56 Metallic Grey enamel. It was applied in a stippled manner to help replicate cast metal

The exhausts were painted in LP-3 Flat Black, with LP-27 German Grey used to create highlights



After painting with LP-5, the radiator and oils cooler grilles were brush painted with XF-56 before a black Magic Wash was applied, made using 5 parts Pledge varnish mixed with 1 part Liquitex acrylic ink in Carbon Black and 1 part Vallejo airbrush flow improver

To replicate the anodised aluminium finish of the hose connectors, I first painted them in LP-48 before hand painting in X-23 Clear Blue and X-27 Clear Red enamel paints

❶ To replicate the anodised aluminium of the hose connectors, they were first airbrushed in chrome using LP-48 and once dry, brush painted in thinned X-23 Clear Blue and X-27 Clear Red enamel paint. I was very happy with the authentic result achieved by this improvised method. Finally, aluminium parts including the cockpit were painted in LP-70 and various accessories were painted in colours as required.

With painting of all parts complete, I went ahead with further assembly of as many components as possible. Decals were applied to the fire extinguisher, steering wheel and instrument dials, which were placed on adhesive mirrored bases provided with the kit. At this stage I decided to make up some stone-guards for the oil coolers as they kept showing up in references. I fashioned some simplified versions using copper wire bent into rectangles and soldered closed, with black plastic mesh glued and trimmed along the periphery.

FURTHER ENGINE WORK

The kit provides eight excellent metal air funnels to replace the original moulded parts. These were attached to the painted throttle plates with CA as preparations were made to attach all the black vinyl ignition leads and clear fuel lines. These were filled with X-24 Clear Yellow to replicate fuel, by carefully sucking the paint through.

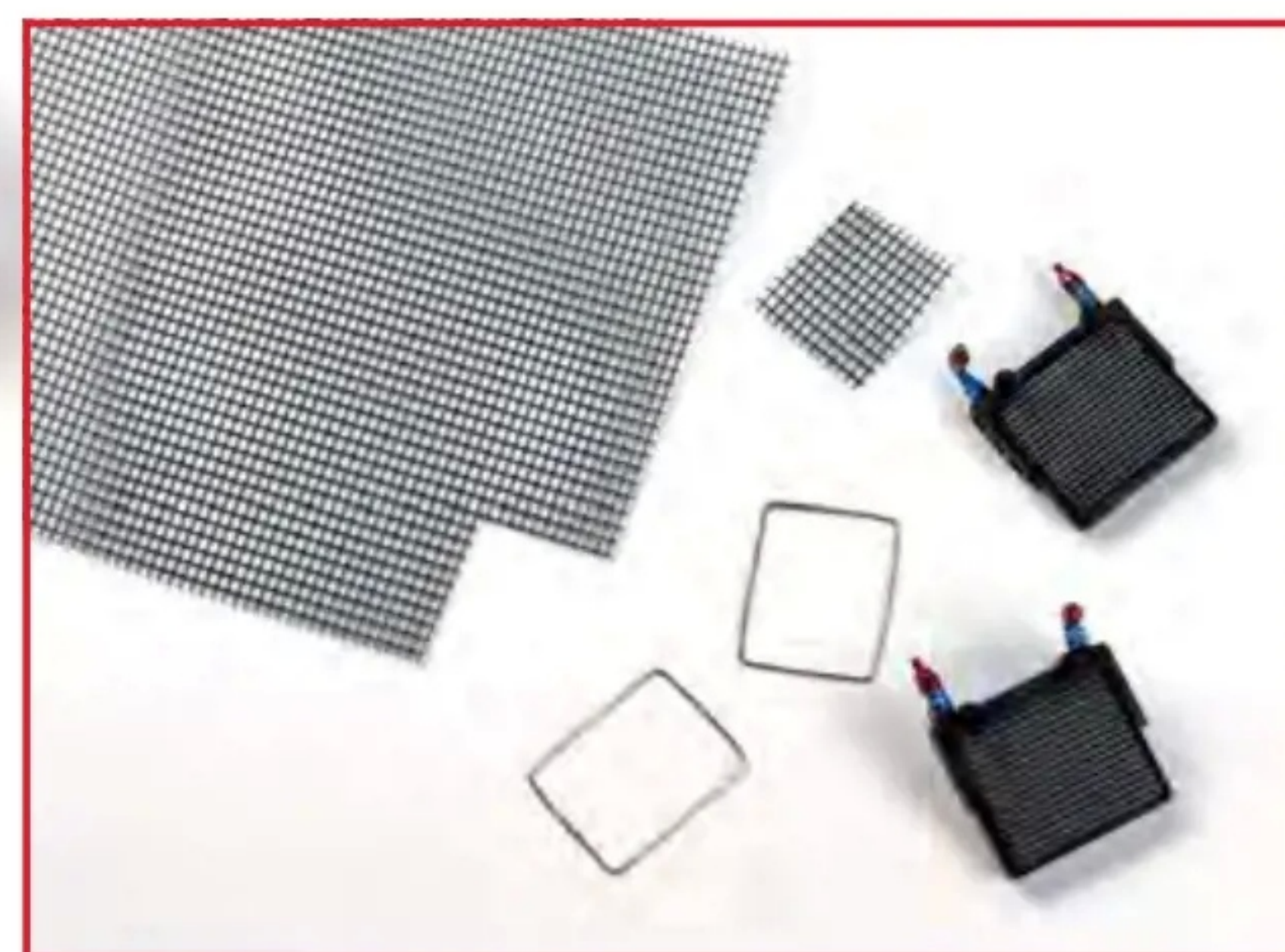
The engine was now nearing completion, with only a few small details remaining. With no more work to do on subassemblies, I turned my attention back to the main body parts as it was time to start uniting these two halves of the project. After having had a couple of weeks to cure, the clear coat was sanded smooth using GodHand sanding blocks and sponge strips from 800 to 6000 with some help from Infini sanding sponges in 1500 and 2500, using a wet sanding method. Once satisfied with the surface, which at 6000 grit is already a low sheen polish, there was not much work needed with Tamiya polishing compounds in Coarse, Fine and Finish to bring out a high lustre.

At the same time I began work on the rubber tyres, which contain a heavy mould seam which needed to be removed. I used a rotary abrasive bullet to do the majority of the work, followed by an Infini soft sanding stick in 220 under running water to complete the job. As the tyres are very thin and I was concerned they may lose form under the final weight of the model, I reinforced them by inserting an inner lining made from strips of cardboard and supported by strips of sponge to hold the cardboard tight against the inside of the running surfaces of the tyres.

The seat belts are provided as adhesive blue pre-cut fabric as well as PE which needed to be assembled for the hardware. The challenge with the fabric was that once the pieces were removed from their backings, the



Decals were applied to the steering wheel, instrument panel and fire extinguisher using nothing more than Mr Mark Setter

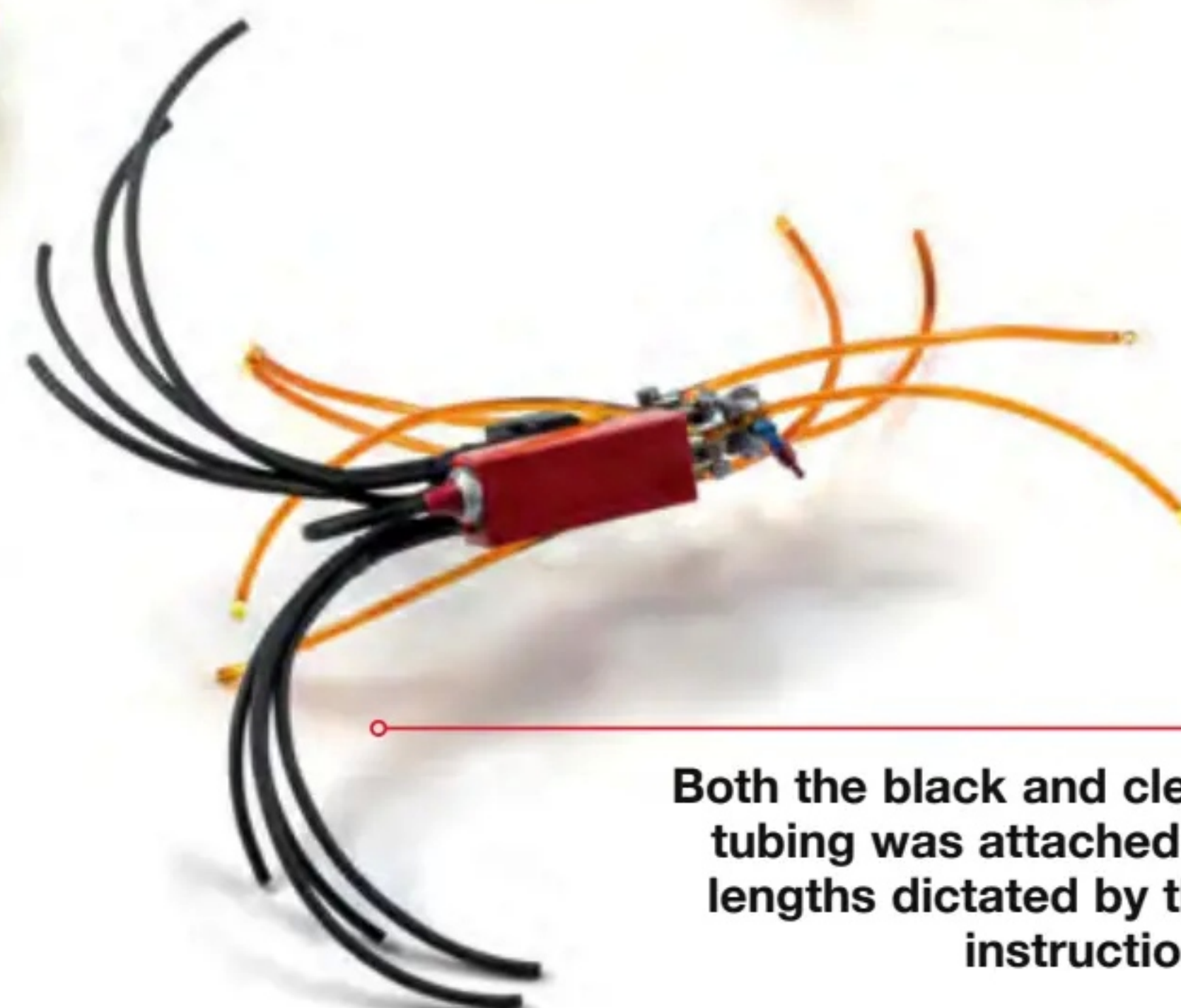


References showed stone guards in front of the oil coolers so I used some soldered copper wire and plastic mesh to create some very basic replicas

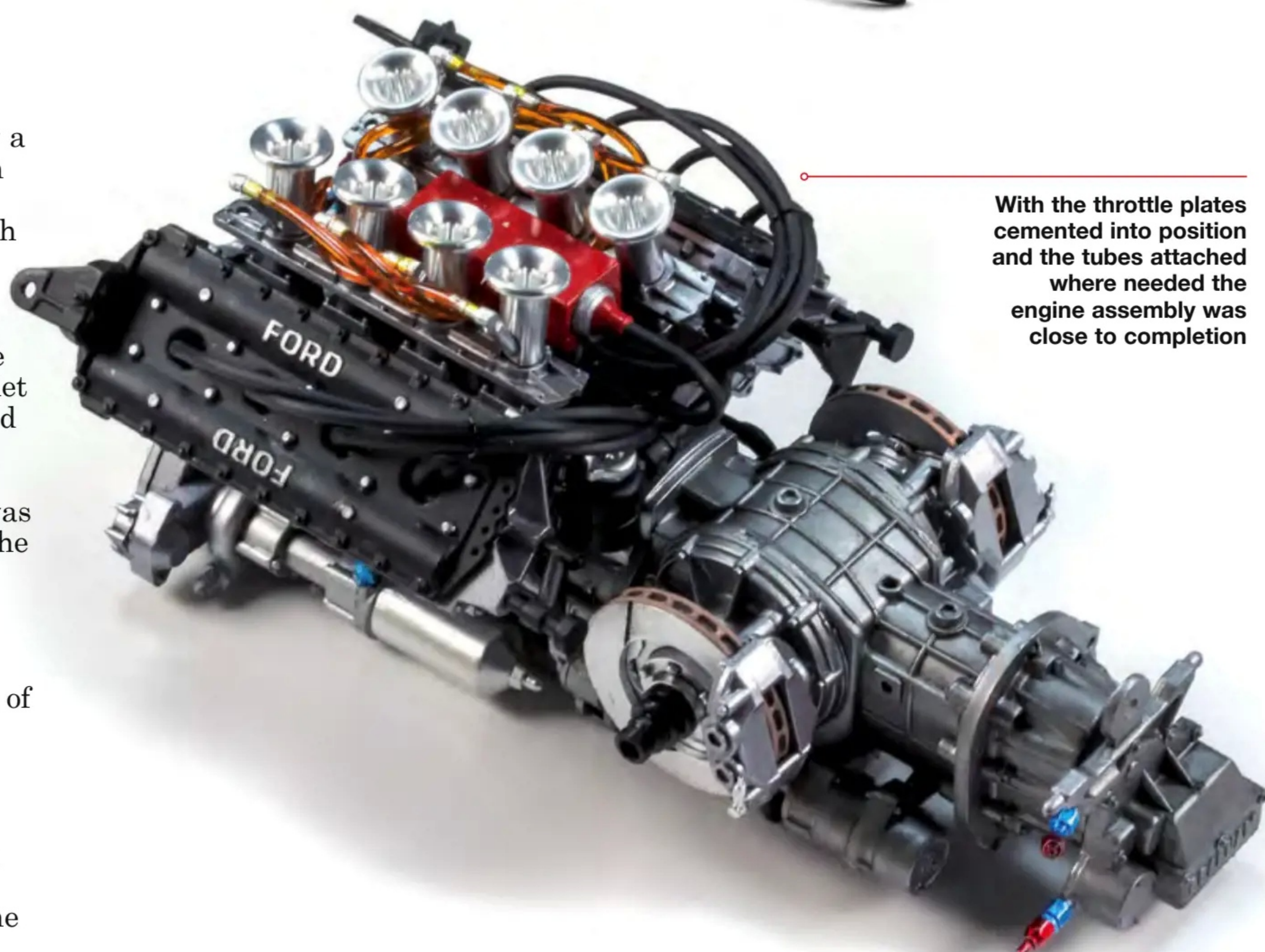
The kit provides excellent metal air funnels to replace the moulded styrene parts



X-24 Clear Yellow acrylic was carefully sucked into the clear tubing to replicate fuel in the lines



Both the black and clear tubing was attached in lengths dictated by the instructions



With the throttle plates cemented into position and the tubes attached where needed the engine assembly was close to completion

edges were quite frayed and devoid of their blue colour. Any attempt to trim the edges resulted in more fraying so I improvised with X-23 Clear Blue enamel paint using a microbrush which provided a neat solution to both seal the edges to stop further fraying and provide the blue colour needed to tint the white fabric edges.

The front end components of radiators and uprights were installed, but the brake air ducts are conspicuously missing from the kit, so I sourced some air hoses from Model Factory Hiro, which provide soft metal ribbed rods, onto which plastic sleeves are placed and heated with a flame. Only a gentle amount of heat is needed for the plastic to shrink against the ribbed core to replicate the duct. Two ducts were made and pre-bent before being installed into position on each side of the front end of the car.

Meanwhile the cockpit and some internal components were installed into the body as well as the body floor beneath. Some wiring was added to the back of the instrument panel to correspond with each switch. These would complement the three black vinyl tubes the kit suggests from behind the main dials.

ENGINE MEETS CHASSIS

It was now time to mount the engine to the chassis and complete work on the rear end. The engine mounts with two secure lugs that slide and lock into place, followed by two styrene pins which slide into the body and engage poly caps which were previously installed on the interior. There is a lot of stress on these pins and poly caps so it is particularly important to make sure the poly caps housings are bonded very securely in prior steps.

The kit provides PE fasteners to replace their moulded counterparts which were earlier removed. I attached these where needed, using a toothpick and a small amount of Blu Tack to hold each tiny piece for gluing. I was mindful of being very careful with placement position of the tiny PE parts as any false move would result in ruining the now completely polished body surface with CA. ▶



The rubber tyres contain a distinct mould seam, which needed to be removed. This was completed using a rotary abrasive rubber bullet followed by sanding under running water using an Infini soft sanding stick in 220 grit



The Good Year logos required hand painting. I used Tamiya XF-2 and Tamiya acrylic paint retarder to help with flow and levelling. A 000 brush was required for the fine detail. After painting within the raised edges, I used a GodHand 1000 sanding block run gently over the raised edges to remove stray paint and increase definition



The kit provides lovely adhesive fabric seatbelts with PE hardware which requires some assembly. The edges of the fabric fray easily and have a white edge, so I solved both issues simultaneously by trimming the edges and sealing them with X-23 enamel paint



The seatbelts in place. Although they are adhesive, CA was used to help them stay in the correct position



The kit does not provide brake ducts, which are a conspicuous part of the front end. I found this product with Model Factory Hiro, which uses pliable ribbed metal rods. Once the plastic sleeves are applied, gentle heat from a flame causes the plastic sleeve to shrink over the metal core. These were then bent and applied into position



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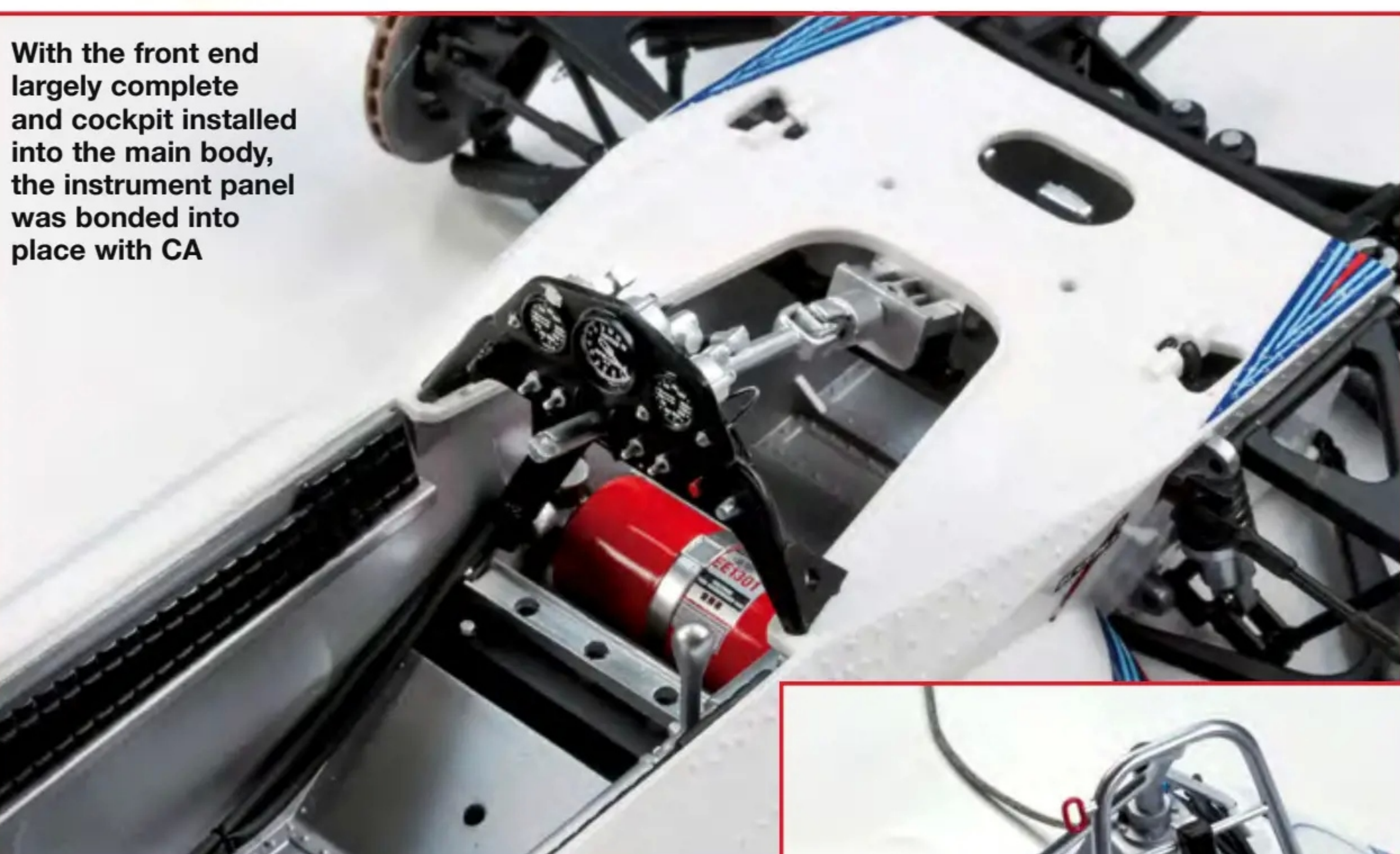
❶ I added pins to the nose cowling spoilers using small pieces of Evergreen styrene rod cemented with CA and while in the nose cowling area I also placed some black plastic mesh on the rear surfaces of the air intakes. For the induction box, I set about fashioning some springs from silver 0.3mm fly tying wire to replicate the support stays at it's lower rear surface on each side. These were glued to the kit's PE attachment hooks previously placed in this area.

The rear wing was now put together carefully aligning the now shortened locating pins and holes and using CA as the adhesive. Some trial fitting and filing was needed to make sure parts fitted flush as the painting process resulted in some added thickness in the joining areas. The vertical wing supports have seven rivets showing on each side and I used some rivet decals from an assorted set by RB Production. Smaller rivet decals were used along the bottom edge of the windshield as well, using VMS Decal Set & Fix as the adhesive. With this, the windshield was bonded to the forward cowling with Ammo Ultra Glue and the mirrors with their adhesive mirrored inserts were set into place with Dspiae non-fogging CA.

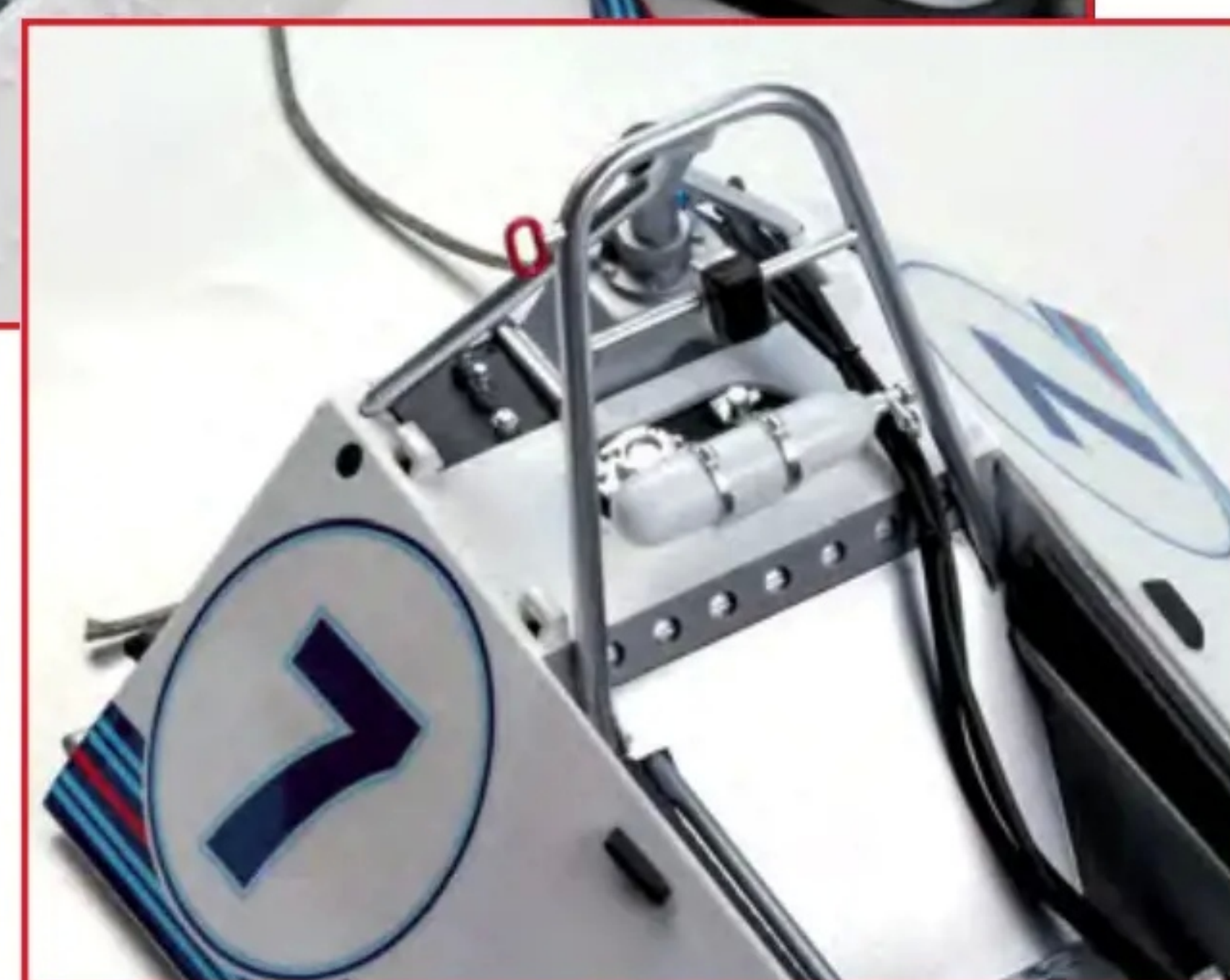
After placement of the wing assembly onto mounting points around the gear box I could see that alignment was way off in every plane. I needed to widen some holes and narrow the thickness of some pins until gradually I was able to get the wing to sit both parallel to the ground and the car's long axis. This was an exceptionally difficult but critically important step. I used VMS Flexy 5K CA as this has a slower set and allowed the fine tuning that was needed.



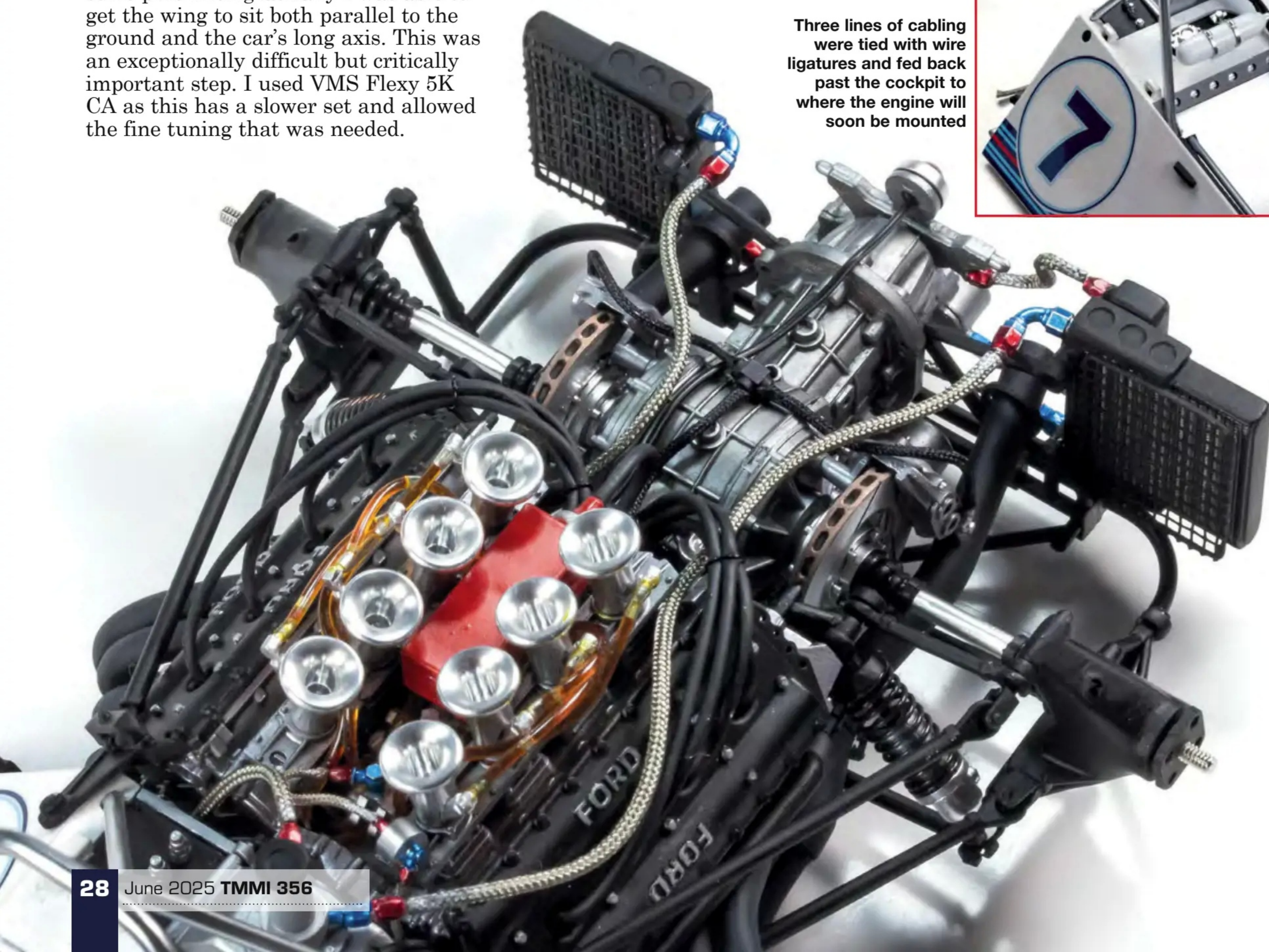
The instructions call for three simple black tubes behind the instrument panel, but there are many switches each requiring wiring, so I used black 0.3mm fly tying wire to recreate the impression of wiring and fed them in groups through some vinyl tubing

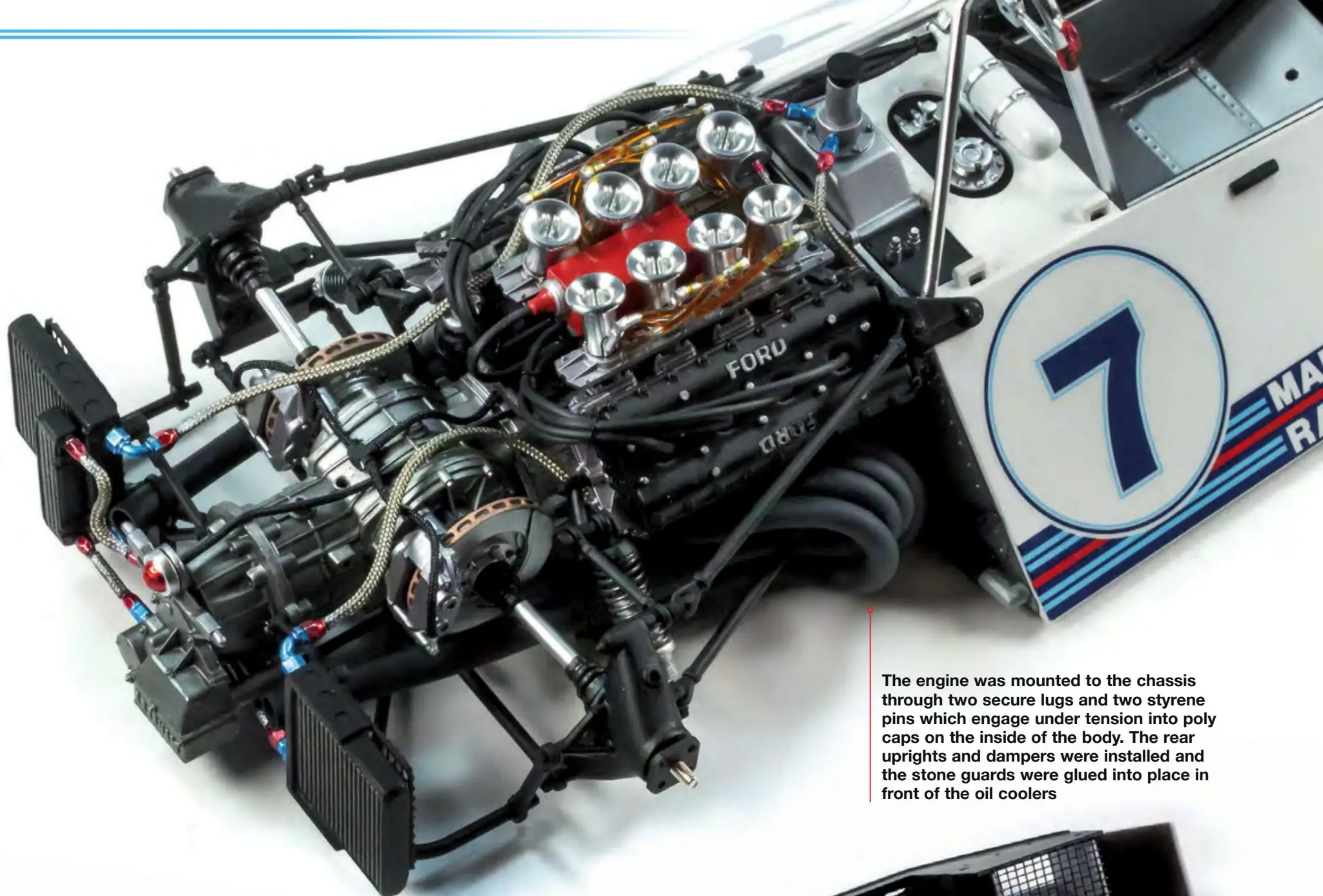


With the front end largely complete and cockpit installed into the main body, the instrument panel was bonded into place with CA

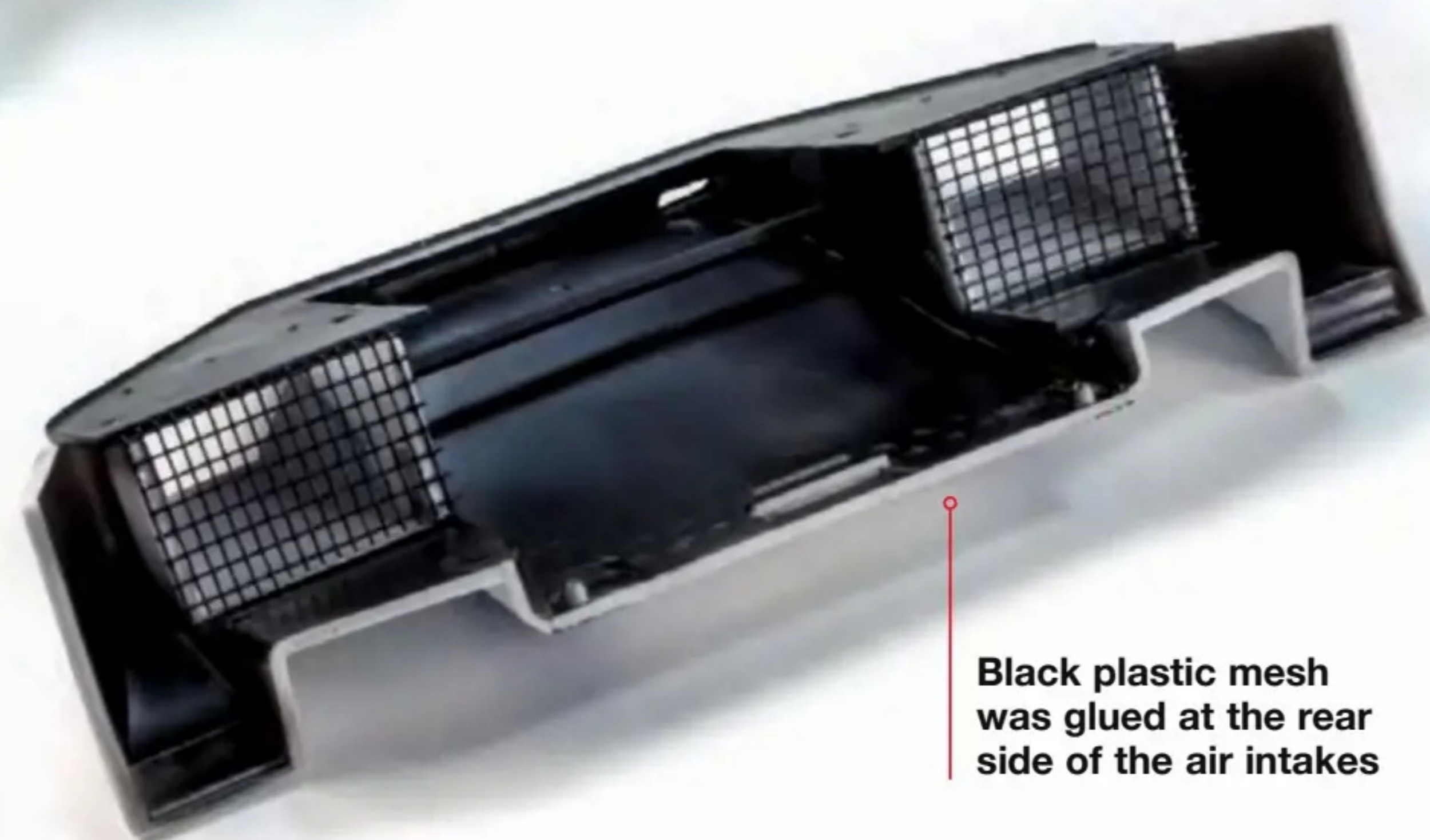


Three lines of cabling were tied with wire ligatures and fed back past the cockpit to where the engine will soon be mounted





The engine was mounted to the chassis through two secure lugs and two styrene pins which engage under tension into poly caps on the inside of the body. The rear uprights and dampers were installed and the stone guards were glued into place in front of the oil coolers



Black plastic mesh was glued at the rear side of the air intakes



Springs were made with silver 0.3mm fly-tying wire (above) to replicate the support stays at the lower rear of the induction box

Chrome rivet decals from LB Production were excellent for the outside vertical surfaces of the read wing and for the base of the windshield piece. VMS Decal Set & Fix was used as the adhesive



FINAL STEPS

The driver's seat is made from soft, flexible plastic and has a pin on the lower surface that engages a hole on the cockpit floor. There was no way of beating the elastic memory of the seat and each time the pin was inserted the seat gradually dislodged itself. The solution was to cut the pin off and glue the seat into place passively

using Ammo Ultra Glue. The steering wheel was added to complete the cockpit and the wheels were then screwed into place. I immediately noticed a slight negative camber to the rear wheels. Inspecting all the components in this area I could verify that the rear uprights, dampers and struts were assembled and connected as prescribed so I could only

assume this camber was intentional, also considering the angle was identical on both sides. My research confirmed that a slight inwards angulation was a common feature. With this, the nose cowl, forward cowl and induction box were replaced onto the body and this most challenging project was complete. ●

TECHSPEC...

**TAMIYA 1:12 MARTINI BRABHAM BT44B FIA FORMULA 1
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1975 KIT NO.12042**

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, synthetic rubber tyres, metal screws, waterslide decals

Paints used:

- Tamiya Lacquer Paint: LP-70 Gloss Aluminium, LP-20 Light Gun Metal, LP-48 Sparkling Silver, LP-3 Flat Black, LP-5 Semi-Gloss Black, LP-27 German Grey
- Tamiya Acrylic Paint: X-11 Chrome Silver, XF-2 Flat White
- Tamiya Enamel Paint: X-23 Clear Blue, X-24 Clear Yellow, X-27 Clear Red, XF-6 Copper, XF-57 Buff, XF-56 Metallic Grey
- Mr Hobby: Mr Color GX1 Cool White

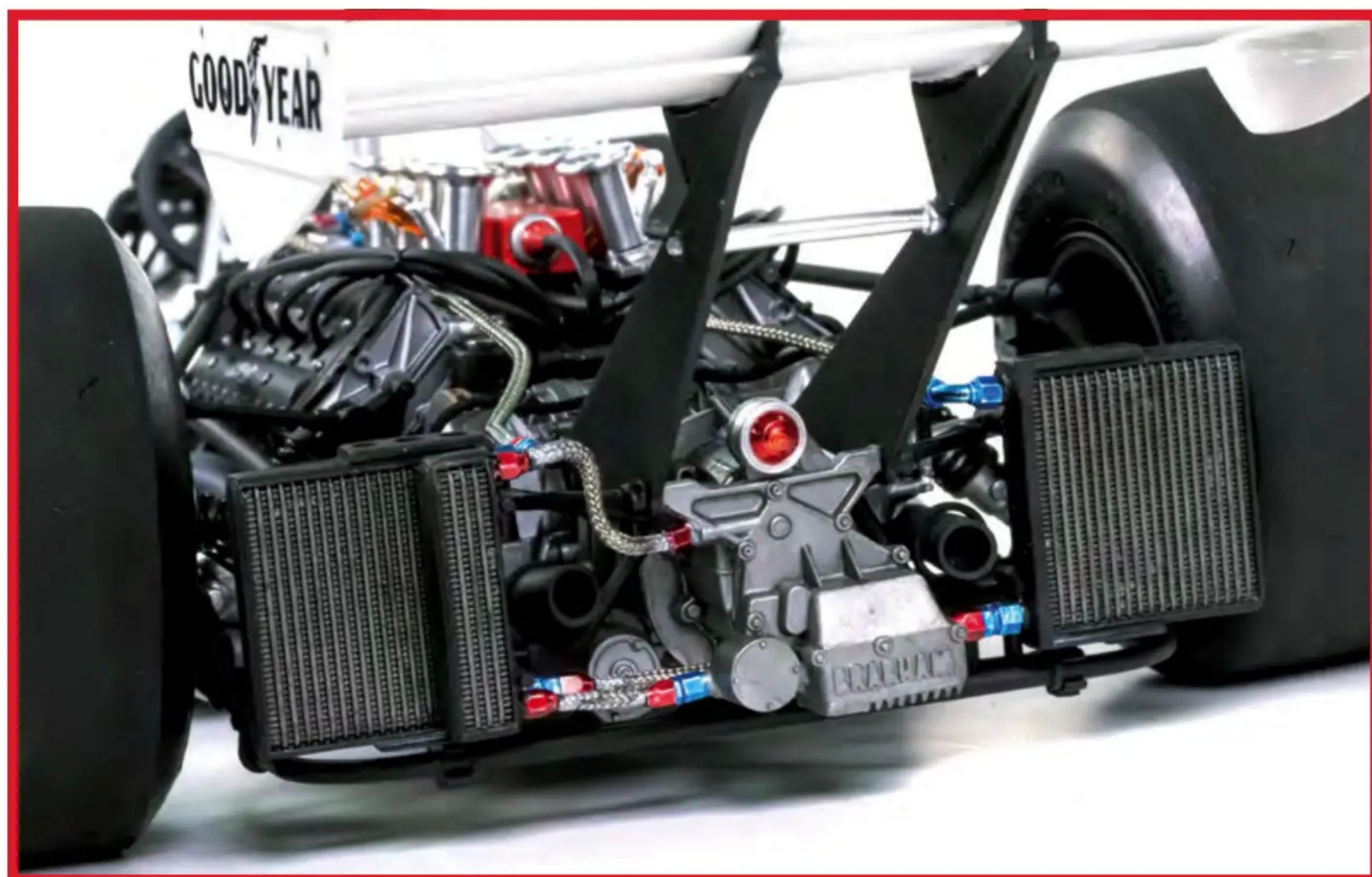
Materials and accessories used:

- Tamiya: Extra Thin Liquid Cement, Putty White, Enamel Thinner, Masking Tape, all widths
- Mr Hobby: Mr Surfacer 1500 White, 1500 Black, 500 Grey, Mr Color Levelling Thinner
- Top Studio: assorted resin hose connectors, assorted braided cables, PE exhaust clamps
- Model Factory Hiro: air duct set
- LB Production: chrome rivet decals
- Revell: Contacta Cement
- Sparmax: SP-20x 0.2mm airbrush, Max-4 0.4mm airbrush
- Hseng: AS186 Air Compressor

Availability:

- Tamiya models, paints, materials and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net
- LB Production: www.lbproductionhk.com
- Top Studio: www.topstudiohobby.com
- Sparmax: www.airbrushes.com





LEVEL 4
★★★★

NEW TOOL

03799 Lockheed Martin® F-35®A Lightning II®, 1:72
Additional "Beast Mode" weapons included

LEVEL 5
★★★★★

04284 BAe Hawk T.1A "RAF Red Arrows", 1:32
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LEVEL 4
★★★★

03782 Grumman F-14A Tomcat, 1:144

LEVEL 4
★★★★

03783 Panavia Tornado IDS/GR.1, 1:144

LEVEL 4
★★★★

07737 Mercedes-Benz SSKL, 1:32

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hobbycraft.co.uk/brand/revell

QUAD SQUAD

Takahiro Sumitomo
builds Tamiya's classic 1:35
Quad Gun Tractor and places
it in a dusty desert diorama

MORE MAGAZINES:
XSAVA.XYZ





Tamiya's Quad Gun Tractor was launched way back in 1974, over fifty years ago now! I was a little surprised that it was such an old kit but very easy to assemble, and that the engine was also reproduced. After assembly, I loved the unique shape. I used round stickers to mask the cloud-shaped camouflage paint and then painted it. Job done! (pics 1 to 4). For the diorama, I applied wood glue to the wooden base, then applied up wood clay (Wood Formo) on top to create the base shape. After drying, I applied Tamiya Texture Paint (Light Sand) with my fingers and a silicone brush, then sprinkled pebbles (for model trains) on top before it dried. I also placed zeolite (small), dripped water-soluble wood glue on top to make it stick and then sprayed the whole thing with rubbing alcohol spray.

I added a well that I made myself using a 3D printer followed by large stones fixed with wood glue, considering carefully their placement. For the undergrowth, I applied matte medium with a toothpick, then sprinkled static grass on with a static grass 'planting' machine. The figures are from Evolution Miniatures and for their gun slings, I folded over 0.5mm masking tape and glued it on (pic 5). For the well's rope, I used 0.2mm solder thread. I applied Mr Surfacer Black as a base coat, then sprayed Tamiya acrylic flat white from above. I diluted the AK Interactive acrylic paint quite a bit and applied it with a brush.

"Battle for territory in the wasteland"

荒地での縄張り争い

PAINTING THE BASE

For the base coat, I sprayed Mr. Surfacer Mahogany onto the entire surface, including the base (**pic 6**). I usually use black, but when I spray white on top of it, the grey comes out too strongly, so I chose to experiment by switching to mahogany to see how it affected the top coat. After drying, I sprayed Tamiya Acrylics XF-2 Flat White on the top (**pic 7**). I sprayed thin layers, little by little, checking the appearance as I went. I didn't use an airbrush to paint, but instead brushed on acrylic paint diluted with retarder. I always mixed two colours together, never applying a single shade. I mixed Vallejo Ochre, sand, grey and white on a palette, diluted them with retarder and painted them like a dye. I didn't use a large brush, but a small one, applying the colours in dots. I diluted the paint quite a bit, so it felt like I was painting watercolours (**pics 8, 9**). After painting, I inked it with AK Interactive Streaking Grime. And there we have it – Tamiya's classic 1:35 Quad Gun Tractor, in a dry, dusty desert setting. ●



2



3



4



5



8



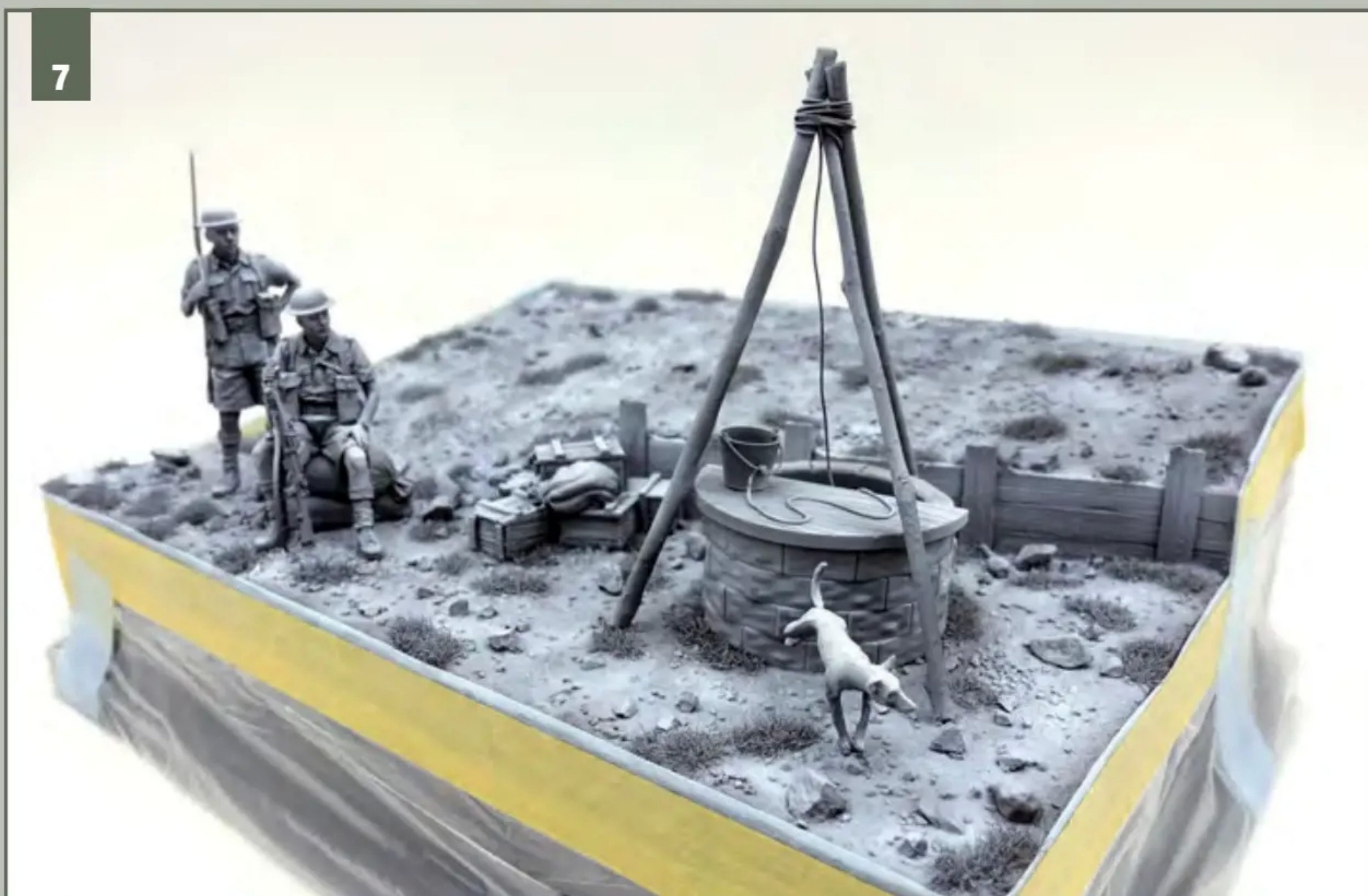
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8



7





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"Battle for territory"

荒地での縄張り争い



TECHSPEC...

TAMIYA 1:35 QUAD GUN TRACTOR
BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES
QUAD GUN TRACTOR CANADIAN FORD
FGT KIT NO.35045

Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, waterslide decals

Availability:

Tamiya models, paints, materials and accessories are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net

in the wasteland"



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JAGUAR, REIMAGINED

Airfix's all-new 1:48 SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1/GR.1A has landed at TMMI. So what do we think of it?

The SEPECAT Jaguar attack jet has long been a favourite of modellers, its small, lithe airframe and high wing giving it a business-like stance that translates perfectly into scale miniature form. Many kits of this aircraft have been produced over the decades, and now with the all-new tooled model from Airfix in 1:48, we have the most accurate and comprehensively detailed replica by far.

The kit arrives in a large, flat box containing eight sprues of mid-grey polystyrene, one in clear plus a decals sheet carrying four markings-options. A generous load-out of 1000lb free-fall bombs, 1200L fuel tanks, over-wing AIM-9L Sidewinder missiles, AN/ALQ-101 ECM pod, EMI reconnaissance pod and French-made PhiMat (Programme Hélicoptères Industriels Métrologiques Aéro Techniques) countermeasures pod

is provided as standard. The Jaguar comes with competently executed cockpit with an impressive choice of ejector seats – a Martin-Baker Type 9B Mk.2 or Mk.3 – as its centre. The seat(s) are designed to accommodate the (very decent) pilot figure and as such, all harness gear is moulded integrally with him/her, not to the seat. If you plan to not instal the figure in your model, you will need to add your own webbing and straps to the seat, for which good references will be needed.

The instrument panel comes with raised and recessed dials which, once painted, receives a decal that provides the dial detailing. It's a logical, user-friendly approach and while it's likely that sophisticated aftermarket replacements are being designed as we speak, the kit-standard panel will look perfectly good once fitted. The model can be built with the early, solid nose or

the later type with laser windows. The forward fuselage sections come moulded with the latter as standard, so if you want to depict the 'pointy' nose, you must cut off the front section and replace it with a new tip (formed from two halves, parts H33/H34). Don't worry though, Airfix provide a pair of cutting templates (H29/H30) which are placed over the fuselage section halves so the modeller can achieve a perfectly straight cut with a razor saw. All this is explained clearly in the instructions.

External detail is wonderfully subtle and undoubtedly Airfix's finest execution of panel lines and access hatches to date. Seriously impressive stuff. It is clear that a huge amount of effort has been put into the creation of this model so hats off to the design team for such an impressive result. Now, let's build the thing..!

MORE MAGAZINES:
XSAVA.XYZ





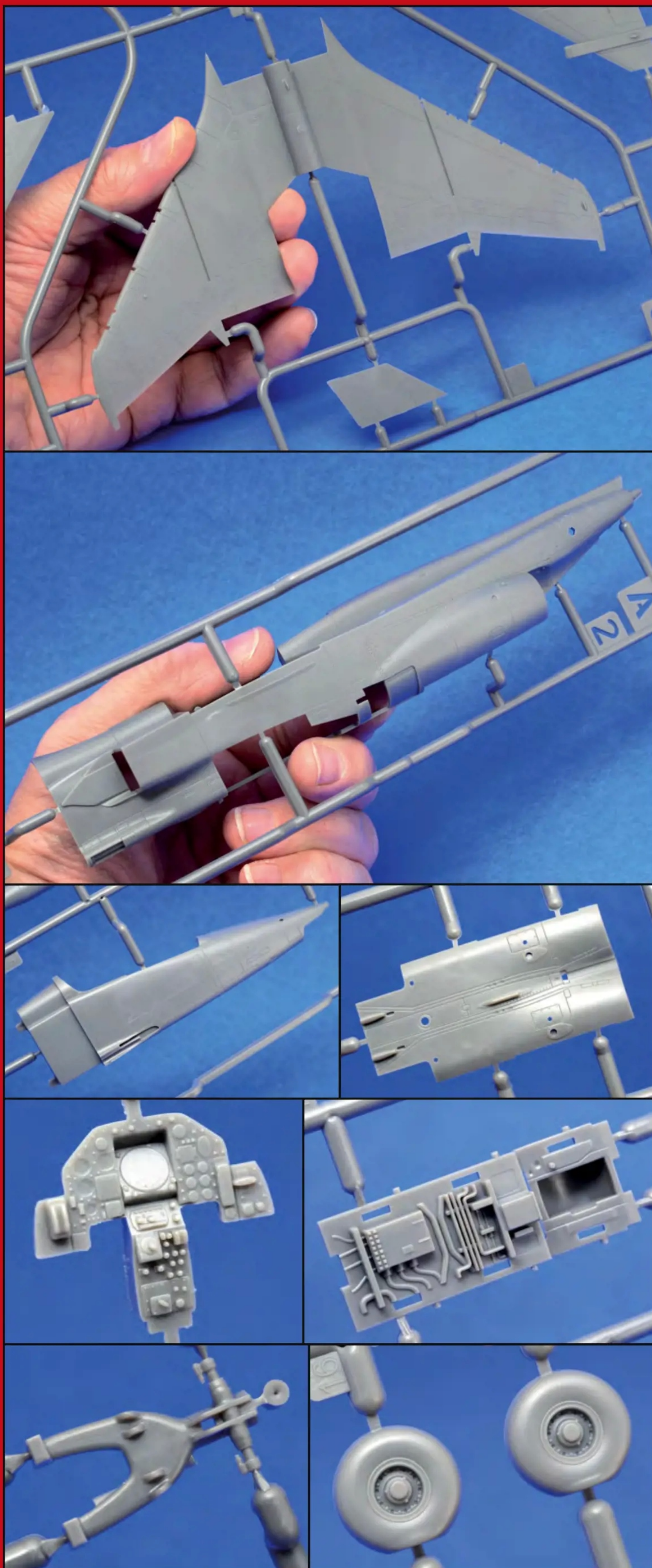
MARKINGS OPTIONS

- Scheme A: SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1, No.54(F) Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, 1974
- Scheme B: SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1A, No.6 Squadron, RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, England, 1990-94
- Scheme C: SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1A, Operation Granby/Desert Storm, Muharraq Airport, Bahrain, 1990-91
- Scheme D: SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1, No.11(AC) Squadron, RAF Laarbruch, West Germany, 1976 ●



Availability;

Airfix models and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. www.airfix.com



Ship



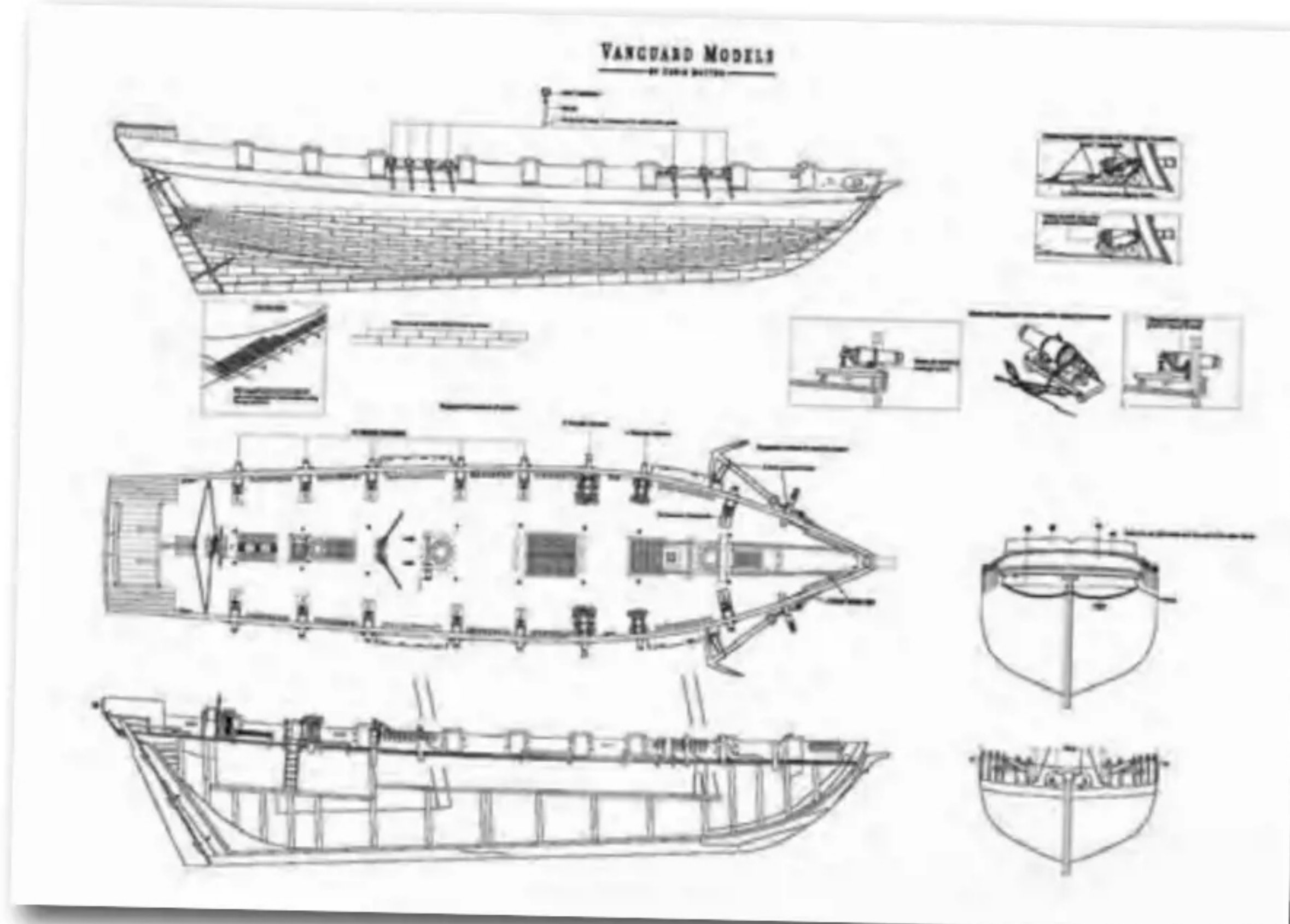
Schooner than Later!

James Hatch builds the 1:64 'Grecian' American 1812 schooner from Vanguard Models' exquisite, all wood kit

Grecian was an American schooner launched in 1812. During the War of 1812 she received a letter of marque. The Royal Navy captured her on 5th February 1814 and took her into service as HMS Grecian. She was sold in 1822. In 1823 she became a merchantman. In 1824 the Chilean Navy captured her, but she escaped, and thereafter may have served for a time as a Spanish privateer. After the end of the Peruvian War of Independence she apparently returned to more conventional pursuits and was probably lost in 1829 though she was still listed in 1830 as sailing between London and Lima.

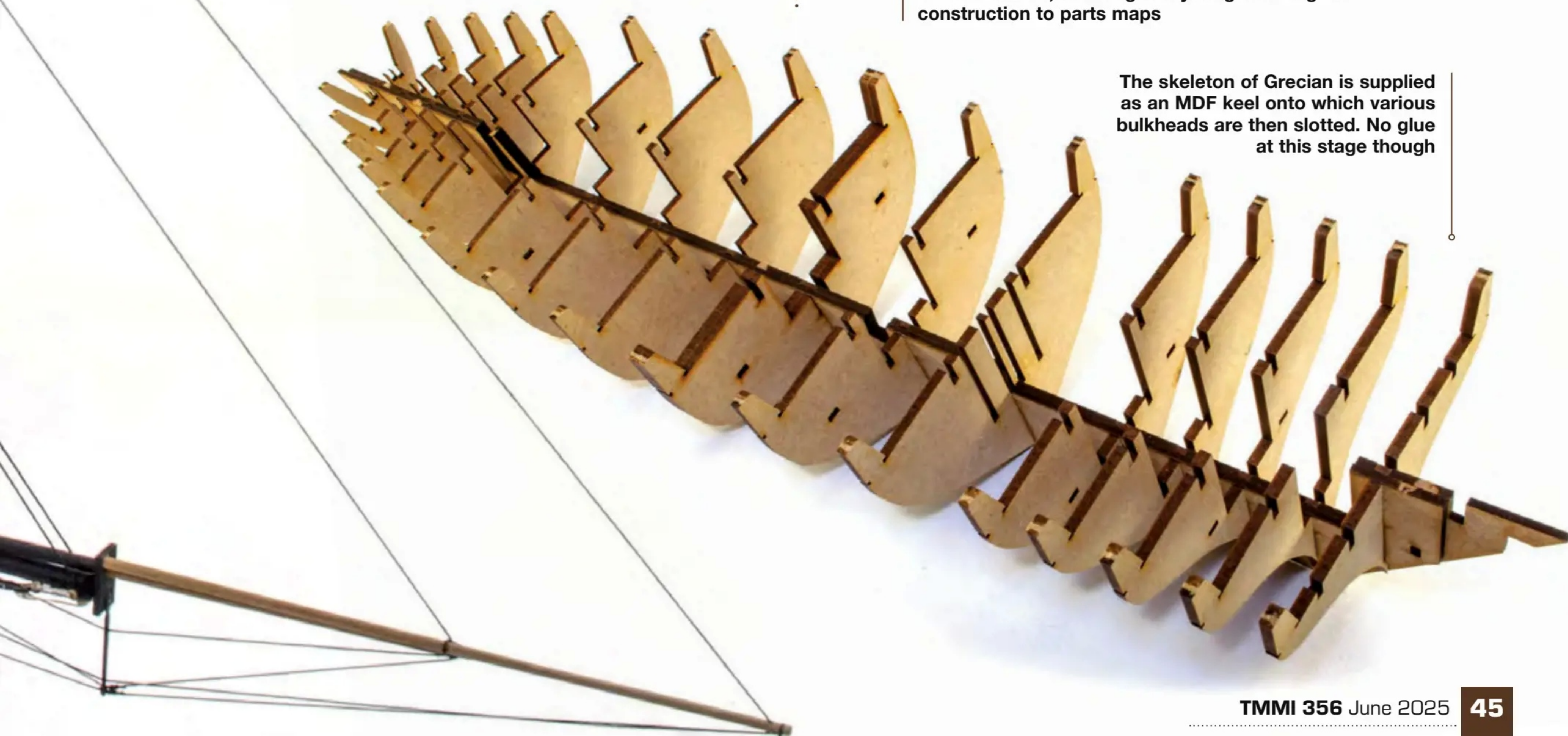
This is Vanguard Models' thirteenth kit in the last four years, but definitely

not unlucky for me as I've had the privilege of building eleven of those models for the kit's manuals. Grecian is a very different kit in that it's a foray into American naval vessels, however, Grecian would likely have looked identical under British service. Grecian, like other Vanguard kits, is a timber kit, but using the precious fruit timber, pearwood, instead of the cheaper/compromise options of most other manufacturers. Grecian is built around an MDF core; I know the material can be looked down on by some as not suitable for models, but they would be totally wrong. The grade of laser-cut MDF used in this kit has extremely high tolerances which are necessary for the multitude of slots that comprise the ship's skeleton. ▶



Just one of the many plan sheets that accompany the Grecian kit, detailing everything from regular construction to parts maps

The skeleton of Grecian is supplied as an MDF keel onto which various bulkheads are then slotted. No glue at this stage though



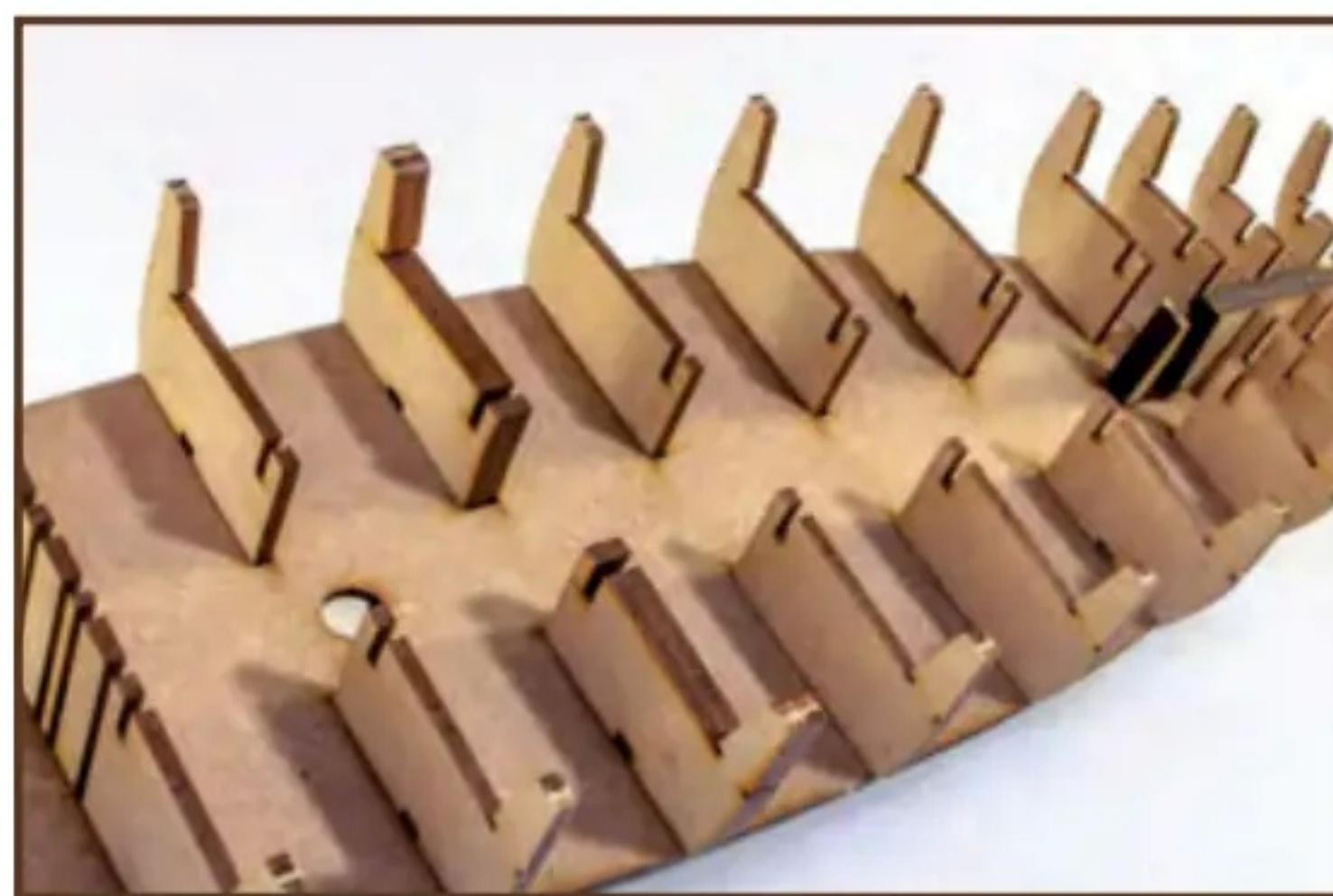
WORK BEGINS

When Chris sends me a prototype kit to build, what I get is usually a couple of sets of parts, the fittings such as carronades, cannon etc., and any other components cast in resin. Many of the parts of kits such as these, once manufactured overseas, are now made in-house using an 8K resolution printer. I don't get sent any instructions, after all, that's my job! What I do get is a pen-drive of the photos taken by Chris Watton, founder of Vanguard Models, at each stage of the initial test kit build. It's then up to me to determine if the construction sequence is correct and, if necessary, to make any changes when compiling the manual. This can also lead to me requesting changes to parts.

The single-piece keel is fitted out with a number of bulkheads which simply slot, as opposed to having to be glued, into the keel. These, along with the parts for the entire frame, are made from laser-grade MDF and are cleanly cut and numbered. The bulkheads then have keel doublers slotted over them, which are pegged through the initial keel. This, in effect, locks each bulkhead into place but still allows a little movement to joggle the next part into position before again pegging. Fitting two MDF sub deck sections and pegging the bulkheads creates a hull that can be spun around without fear of any bits falling off. With the sheer number of slots in a kit such as this, I find brushing slightly diluted wood glue into these areas is more than enough to completely secure everything. I quite like Titebond III for this purpose. The rest of the hull framing is then built up with further slotted beams.

WALKING THE PLANK

I must admit planking isn't my favourite task (it's always the stern tuck that seems to test my patience and skills), but here the hull shape lends itself to making things relatively easy. Also, reassuringly, the fact is on completion, Grecian's hull will be entirely painted/coppered, meaning any blemishes resulting from a less than faultless

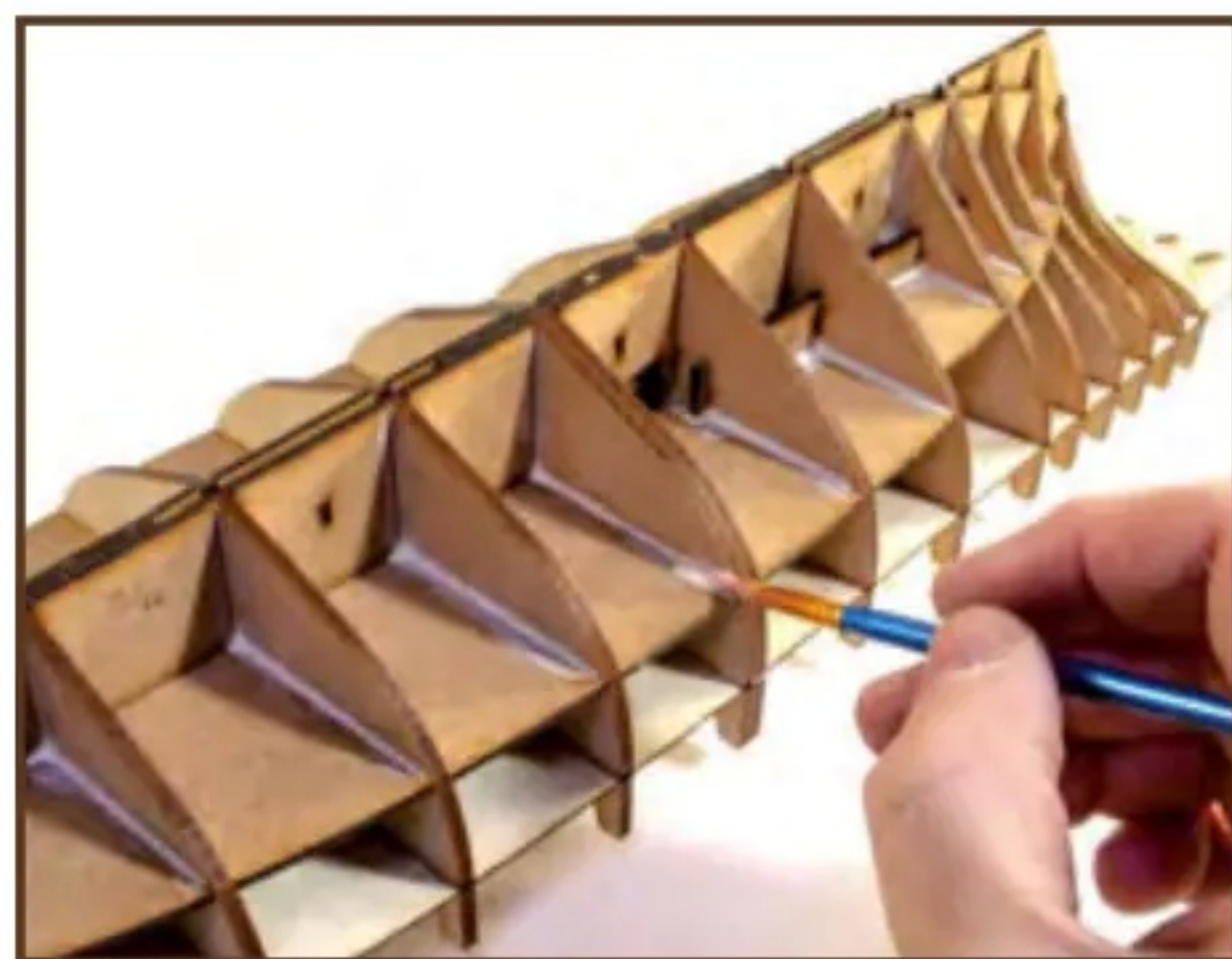
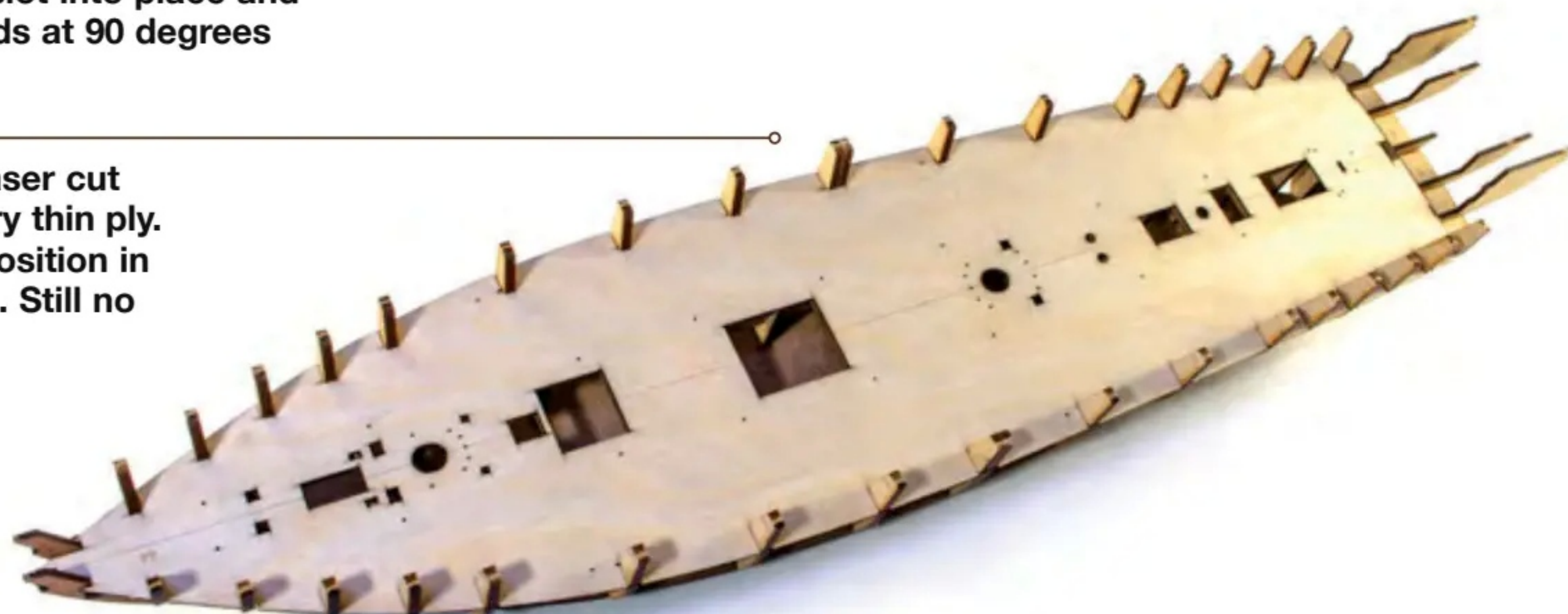


Two sub-decks now dry slot into place and help to align the bulkheads at 90 degrees to the keel



Two longitudinal beams now slot above the bulkheads, providing a base for the upper deck and these are supplemented by a number of cambered deck beams

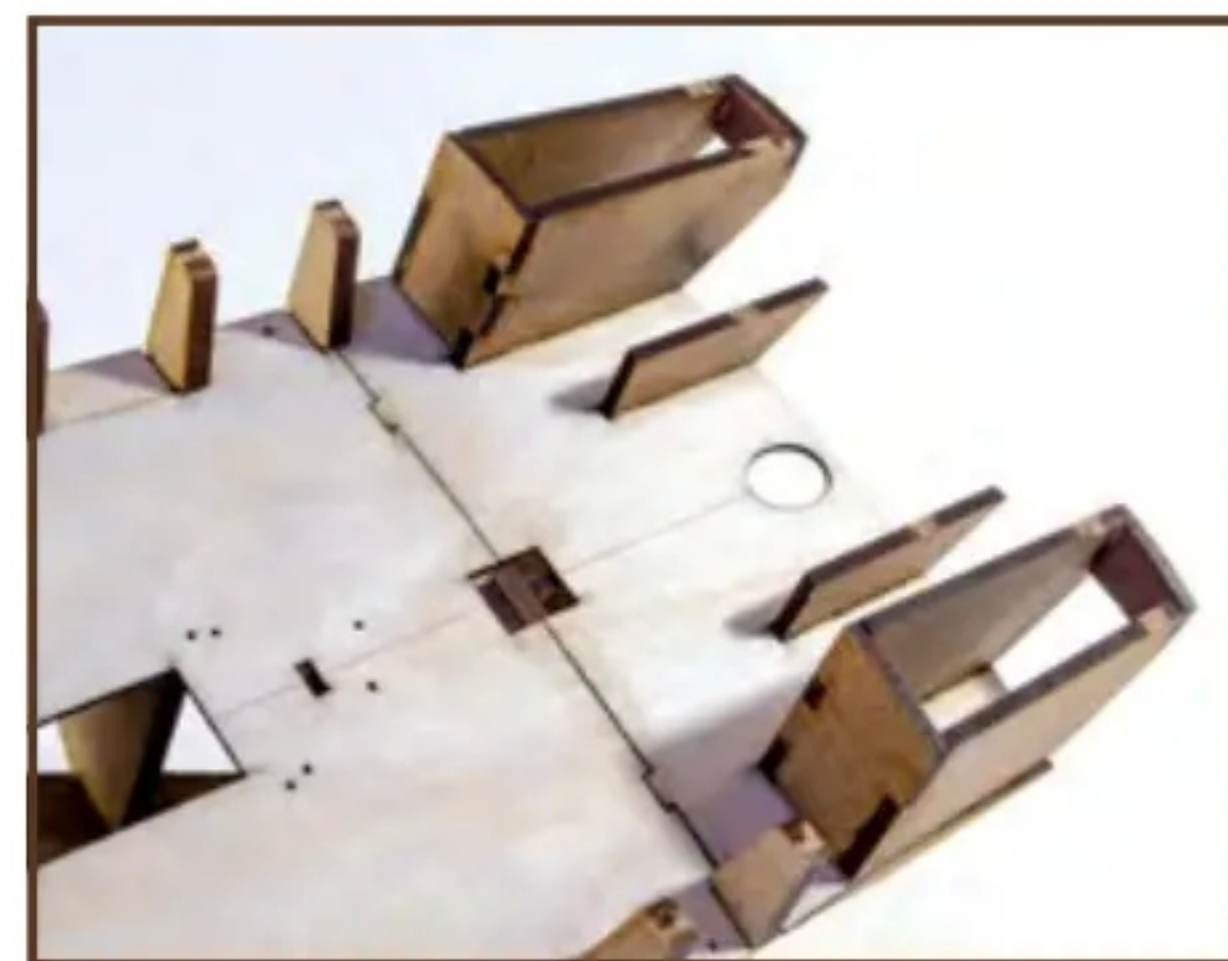
The initial main deck is laser cut from a single piece of very thin ply. This literally snaps into position in notches in the bulkheads. Still no glue at this stage!



The hull can now be flipped over, and wood glue brushed into all of the joints

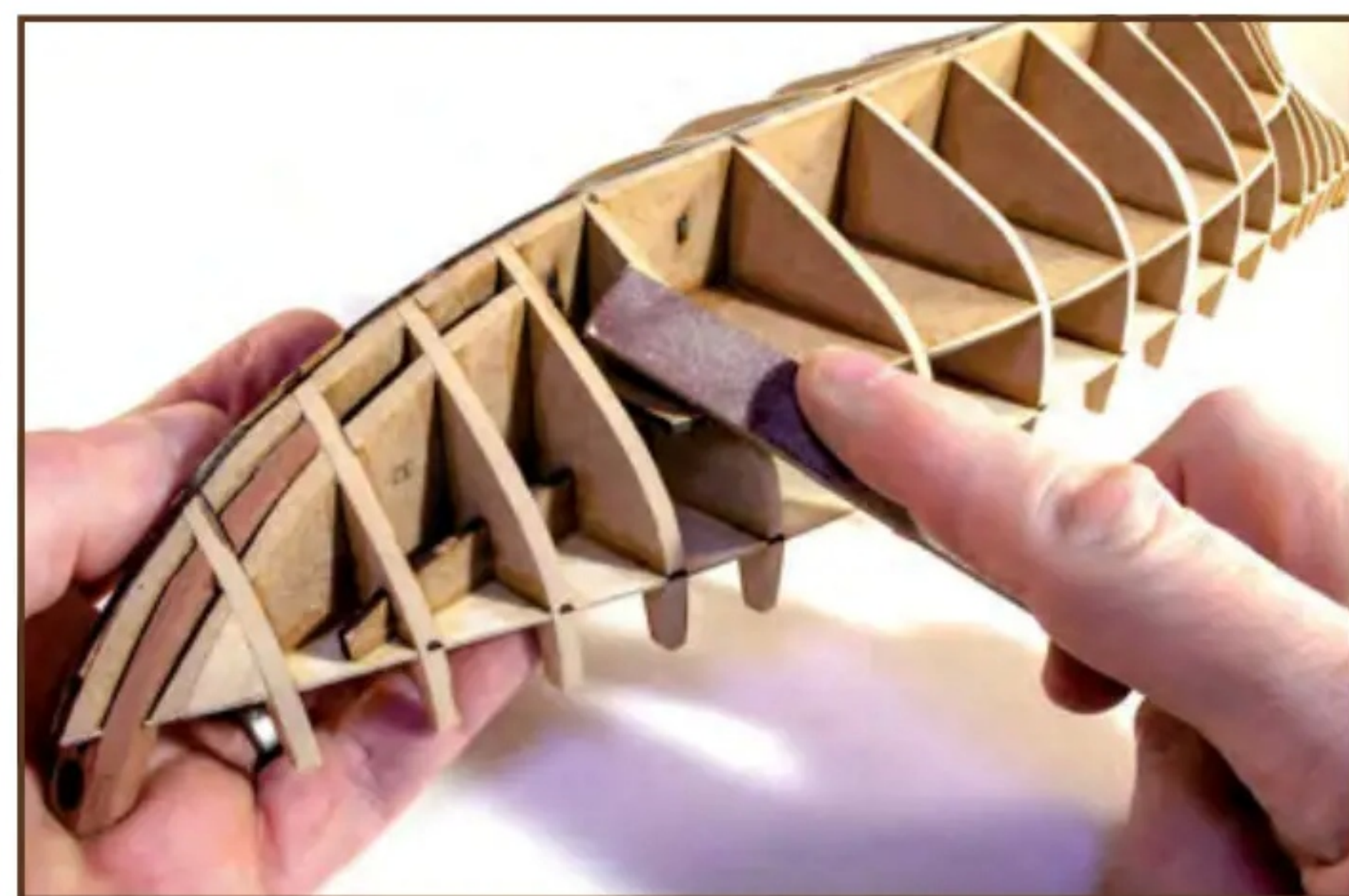


Some filler blocks are added to the stern, which will provide a base to plank to

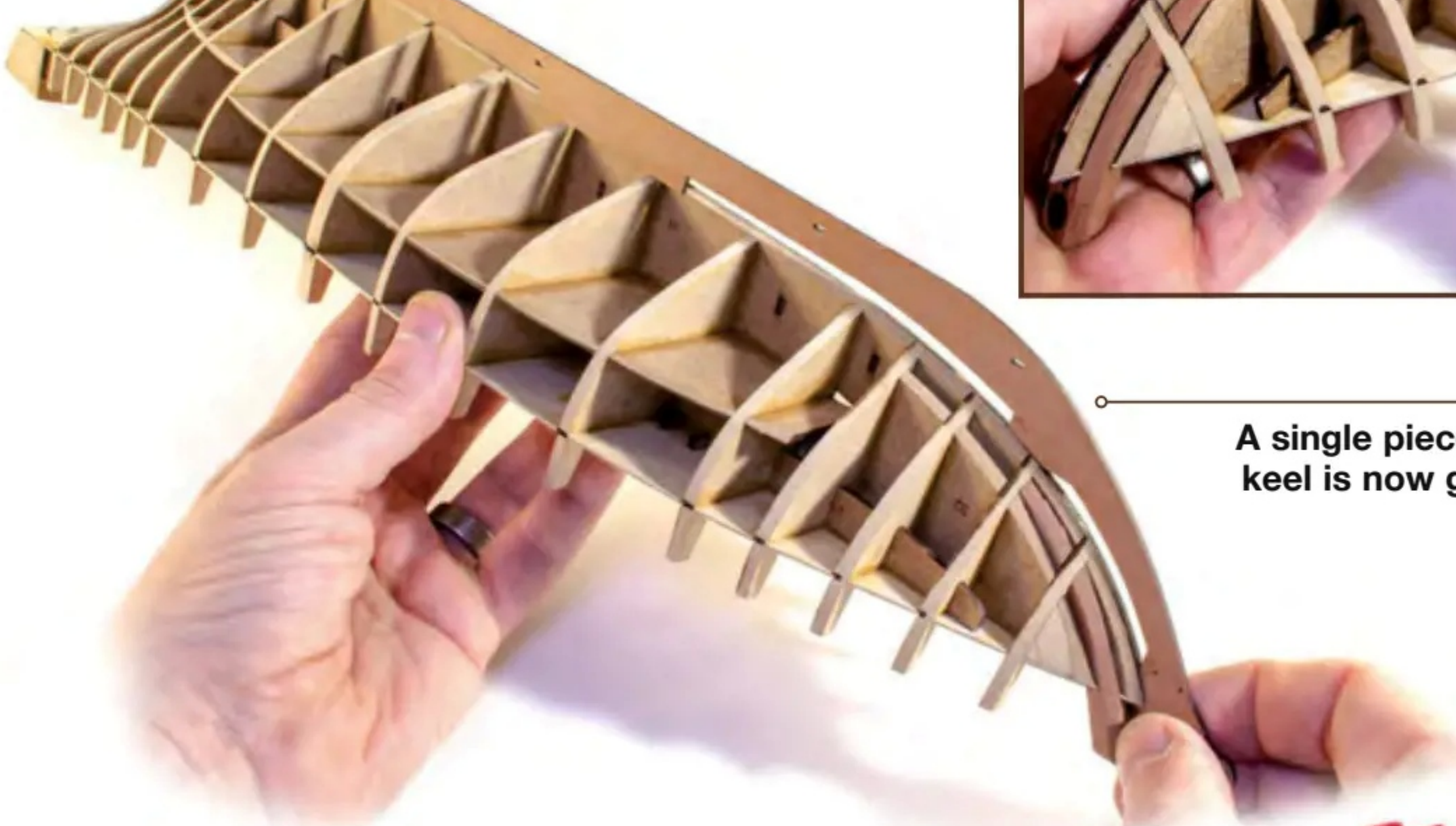


The rear closet frames are now constructed

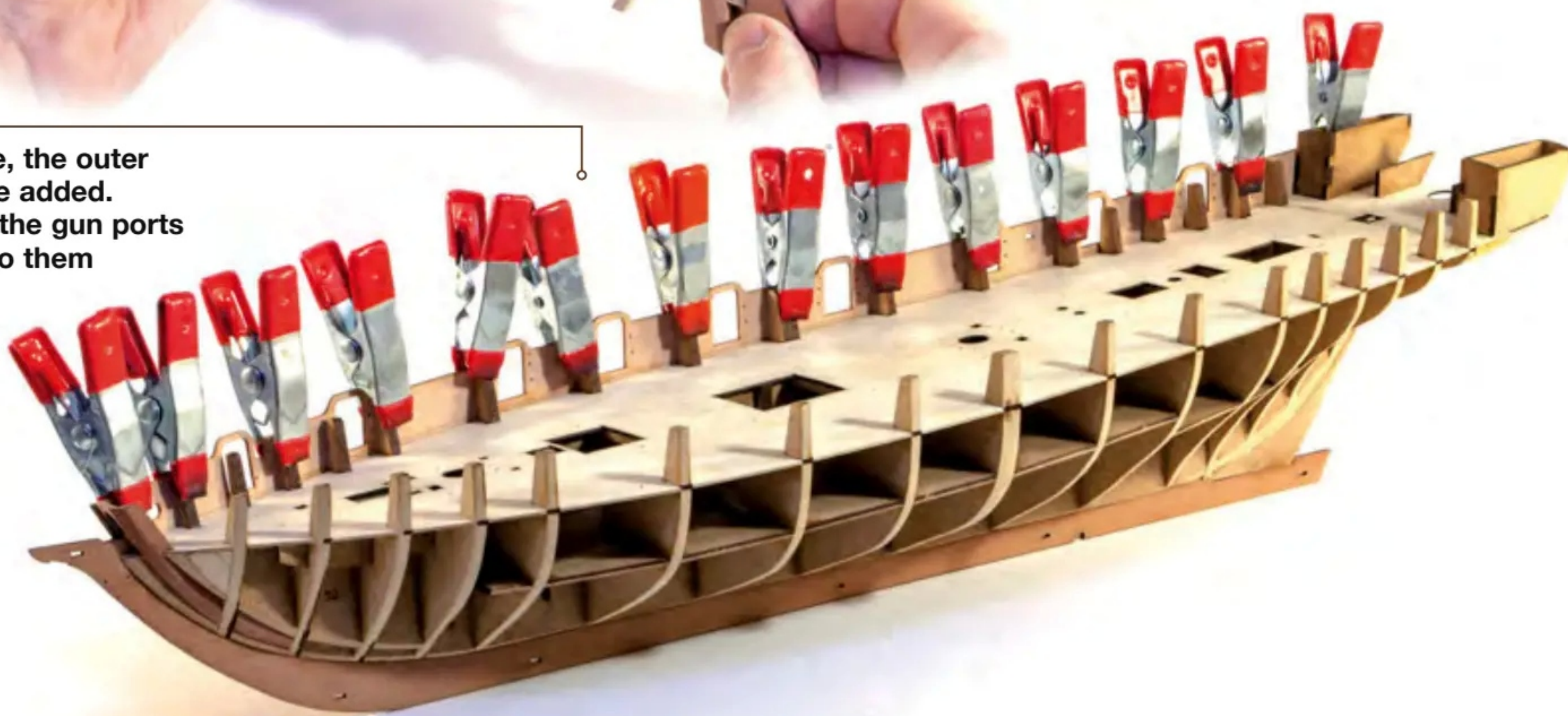
Before any planks can be added, the entire hull is sanded smooth so the planks will lie flat along the bulkheads



A single piece pearwood lower keel is now glued into position



At this stage, the outer bulwarks are added. These have the gun ports laser-cut into them



performance can easily be hidden. One of the things that initially attracted me to this hobby was the amazing amount of detail that can be incorporated on the decks of model ships, and the gun deck on Grecian is a superb example of this.

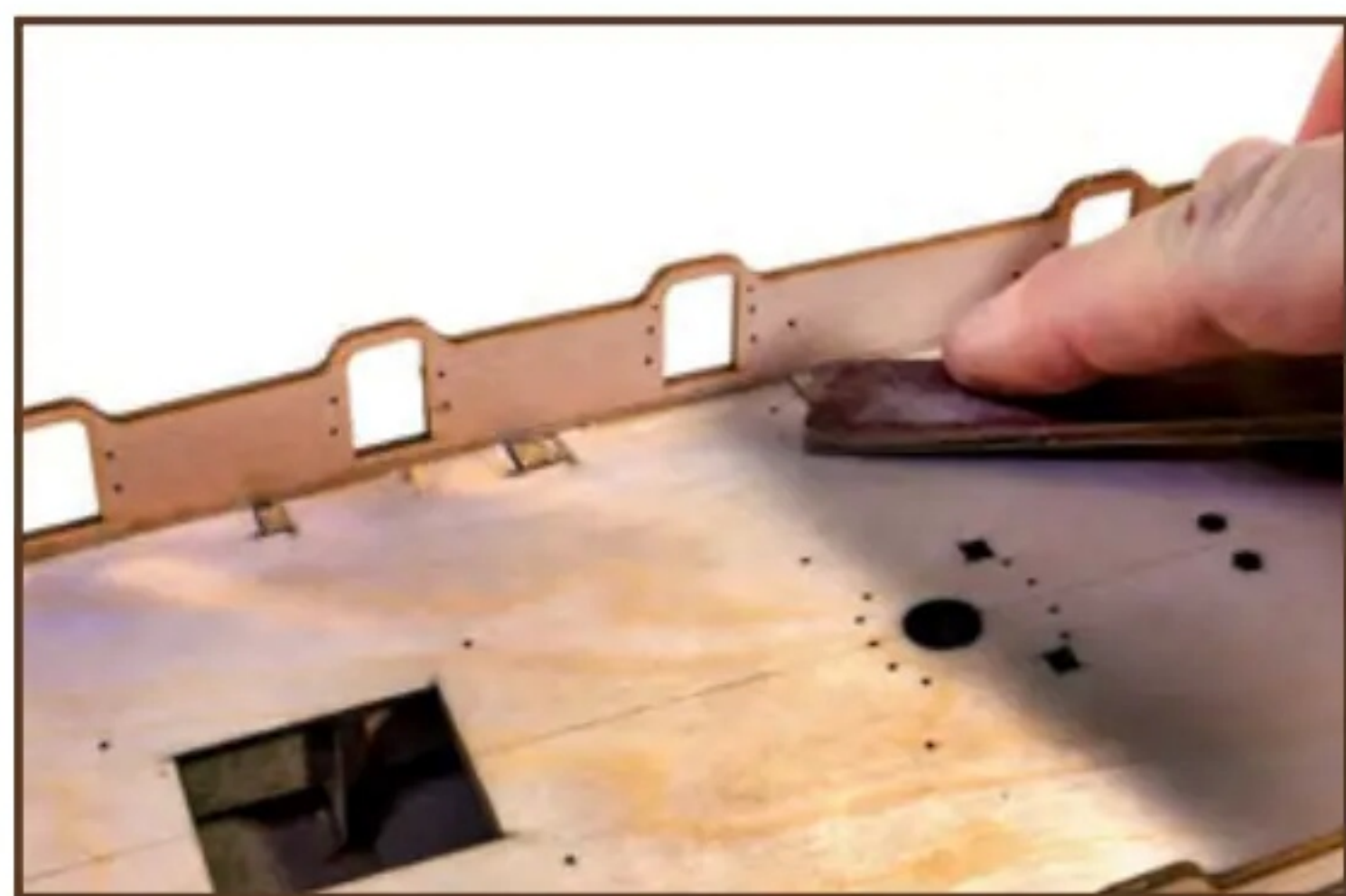
COPPERING AND PAINTING

This is certainly one of the most attractive hulls I've ever painted, and one where on completion there's no trace of the building material colour left on show. Painting starts with airbrushing the outside bulwark in white, using AK's 3rd Gen acrylics and some judicious masking, to avoid any overspray. This was then masked off and the remainder of the exterior, extending down to below the waterline, was then airbrushed in black. The deck then needed to be carefully masked while the inboard bulwarks were airbrushed in AK's Deep Green, over the top of a coat of Tamiya Flat Green. Lastly, black paint was used to line the outer and inner bulwarks uppers. After peeling off my masking tape, just a few areas needed touching up. The ugly area of the hull's underside remained, but the copper would soon take care of that.

I'd only tackled a coppered hull once in the last twenty years. For this model, I would use a roll of 6mm wide self-adhesive copper tape. A couple of bench sessions later and I had around 800 tiles to apply! Fortunately, I found this gentle repetition to be quite therapeutic. These were cut on an RP Toolz Mitre cutting tool, which made the job extremely easy.

FITTING OUT

This is probably my favourite part of a build as I find populating a previously empty deck very rewarding. It gives everything a true sense of scale and proportion. Grecian's decks are first fitted out with a series of coamings and gratings (all left in natural wood for the upper decks). Various bits can then be added, including the bulwark cleats and racks for both belaying pins and cannon/carronade shot. It really doesn't take much



The bulkhead ears above deck are now removed and sanded flush with the deck



A laser-engraved limewood deck is now glued over the ply deck, hiding the remains of the MDF bulkheads

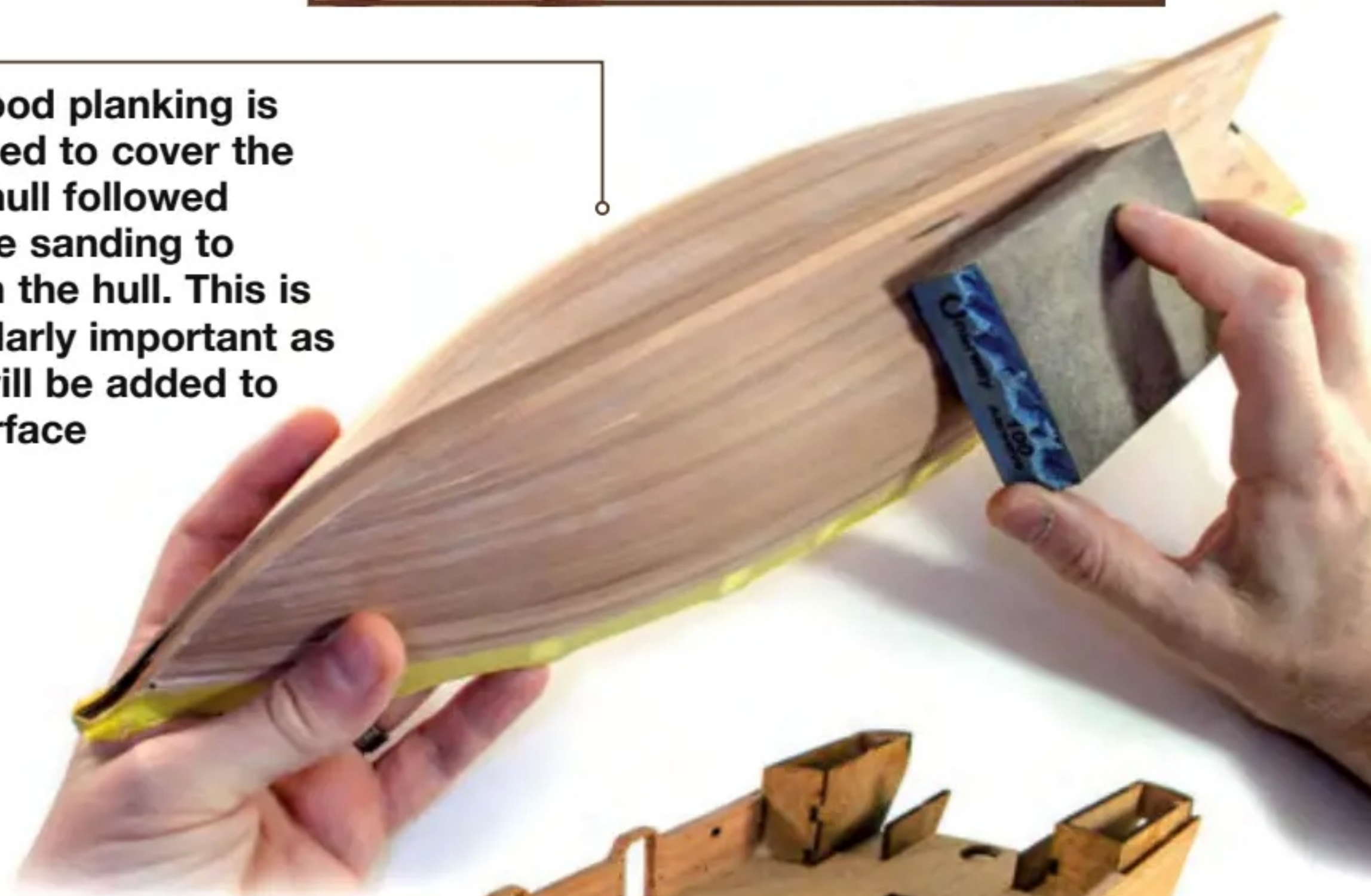


Sandpaper is used to entirely smooth the hull planking, prior to the next pear layer being added



I can now fit the rudder post. You can also see how the planks run into the lower stern

Pearwood planking is now used to cover the entire hull followed by more sanding to smooth the hull. This is particularly important as paint will be added to this surface



Extra details are now added to the exterior, such as the 'wales'. These are extra planked sections which run the full length of the hull



Finally under some paint. The model was entirely painted using AK's 3rd Gen Acrylics, thinned 50:50 with water and airbrushed

❶ work before things start looking busy.

Constructing all the individual assemblies, such as the carronades, capstan, binnacle, skylight, ship's wheel and ladders, involves a reasonable amount of work. Although, to be honest, I'm not sure if I should call it work, as in my opinion, as fitting your parts as they are assembled, starting with the ladders, to the model is so much fun.

IT'S ALL IN THE RIG

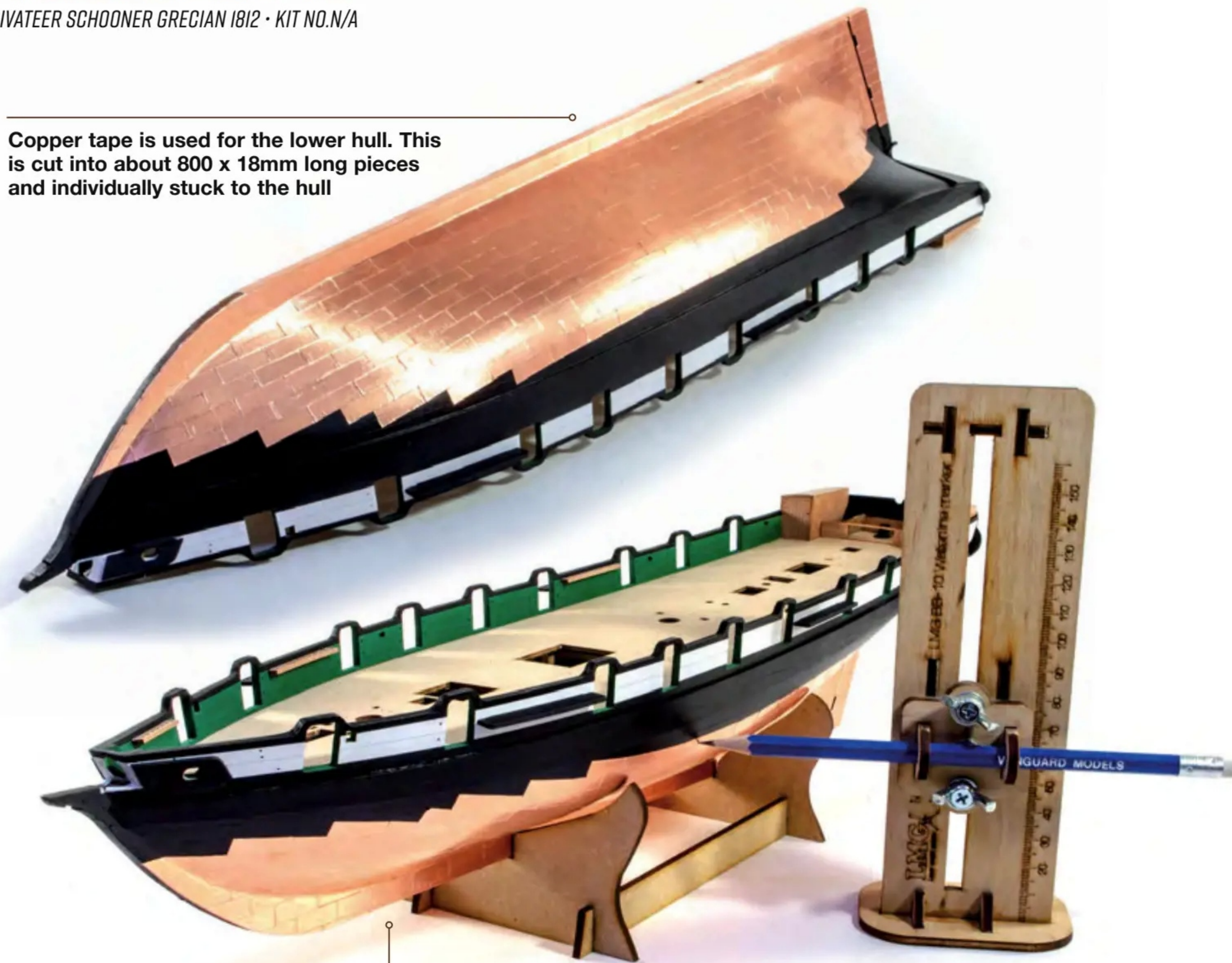
Rigging instructions are very comprehensive and covered over four whole plan sheets. That might sound daunting, but Grecian really is so very easy to rig and is designed so that a relative beginner can do this. If you're adept at other types of model discipline, then transference of those skills will be a great start. Before any rig could be added, Grecian's bowsprit and two masts needed to be built. These are built up from sections of dowel, some of which need a very slight taper. To taper, I usually just spin the parts between my fingers and use a sanding block to remove the material.

Rigging Grecian took me about a week in total, and that's with me also having a day job. Various sizes of rigging cord are supplied, and unlike some kits, this rigging material isn't at all fuzzy. I use a combination of both CA and dilute PVA to seal the various knots etc. The dreaded 'ratlines' (the rope steps) are rigged with the aid of a card template which sits behind the vertical lines. Each line is secured with clove-hitch knots. They are actually quite easy to add, and I just needed to make sure that I didn't add any extra sideways tension on the vertical ropes, or they would pull out of shape. Dilute PVA is brushed over all those knots and when dry, I use my DSPIAE cutters to trim off all the ends.

CONCLUSION

This is a stellar quality kit and provides a near entry-level model for any aspiring model shipwright. It will teach you some very basic skills while at the same time presenting you with every possible chance of successful completion. The

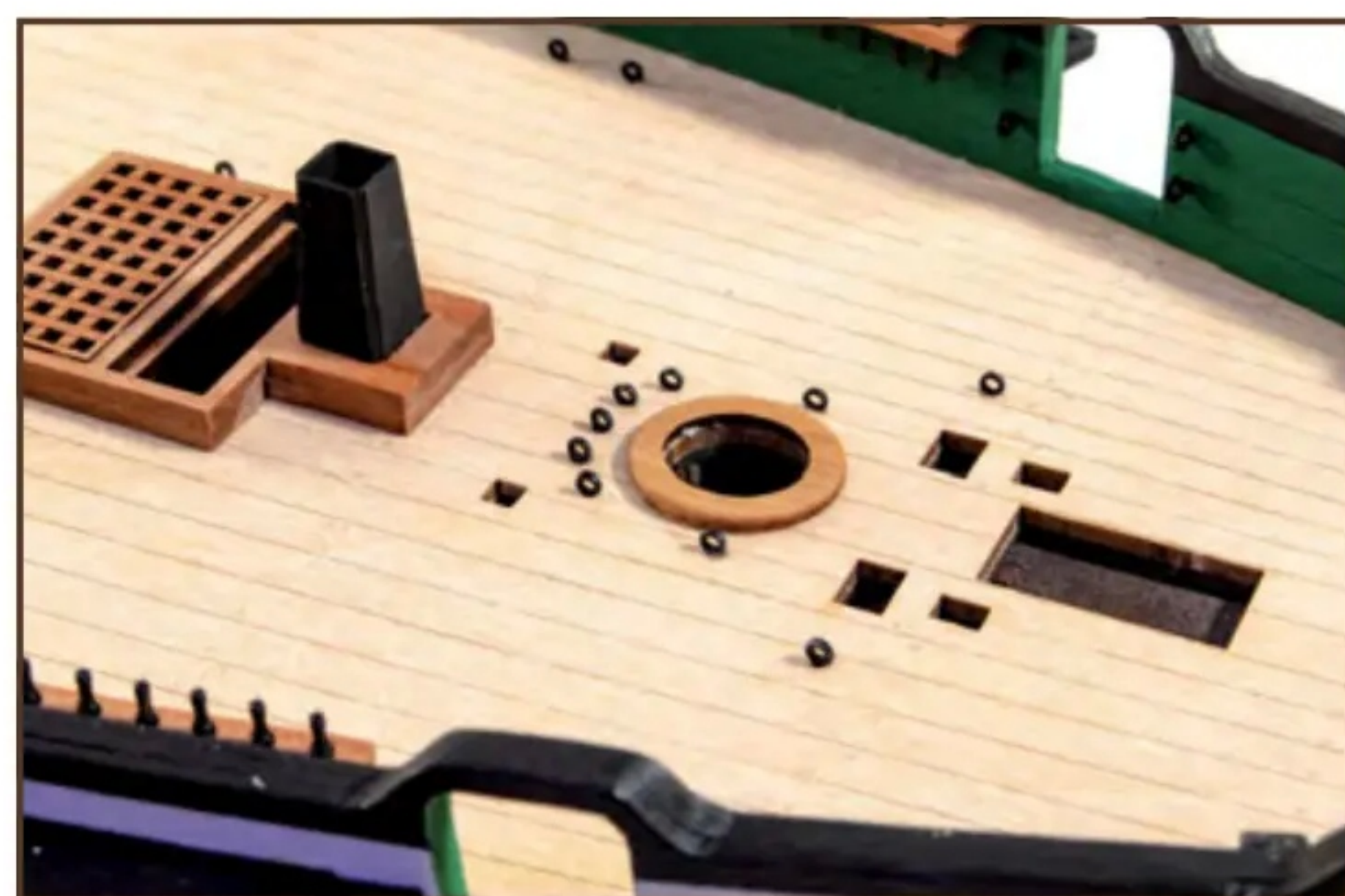
Copper tape is used for the lower hull. This is cut into about 800 x 18mm long pieces and individually stuck to the hull



A waterline is drawn along the copper and the excess copper peeled away above the waterline



This kit provides custom-made Eduard decals for the stern. These are applied with a decal setting solution



All of the various deck assemblies can now be made and fitted, including gratings, ladders and skylights etc., plus other small details such as the mast bases and PE eyelets for rigging

materials are excellent, too. You rarely get kits in pear wood, let alone for beginners!

There are no sails included for this kit, but models such as this are rarely fitted with them as it takes away from the builder's craftsmanship and hides all those beautiful details. I hope this has given you a little taste of what you can look forward to, and in closing, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to Vanguard Models for involving me in yet another of superb projects. I am definitely a lucky guy! I can't praise this kit highly enough. Grecian is complete and looks absolutely gorgeous with her raked masts. Even as a static model, she looks extremely fast. ●



This kit provides the modeller with various weapons load-out options. Here are the ship's carronades with wooden carriages and 3D-printed barrels. Two different regular cannon options are also included

**VANGUARD MODELS 1:64 THE
BALTIMORE PRIVATEER SCHOONER
GRECIAN 1812 KIT NO.N/A**

Materials:

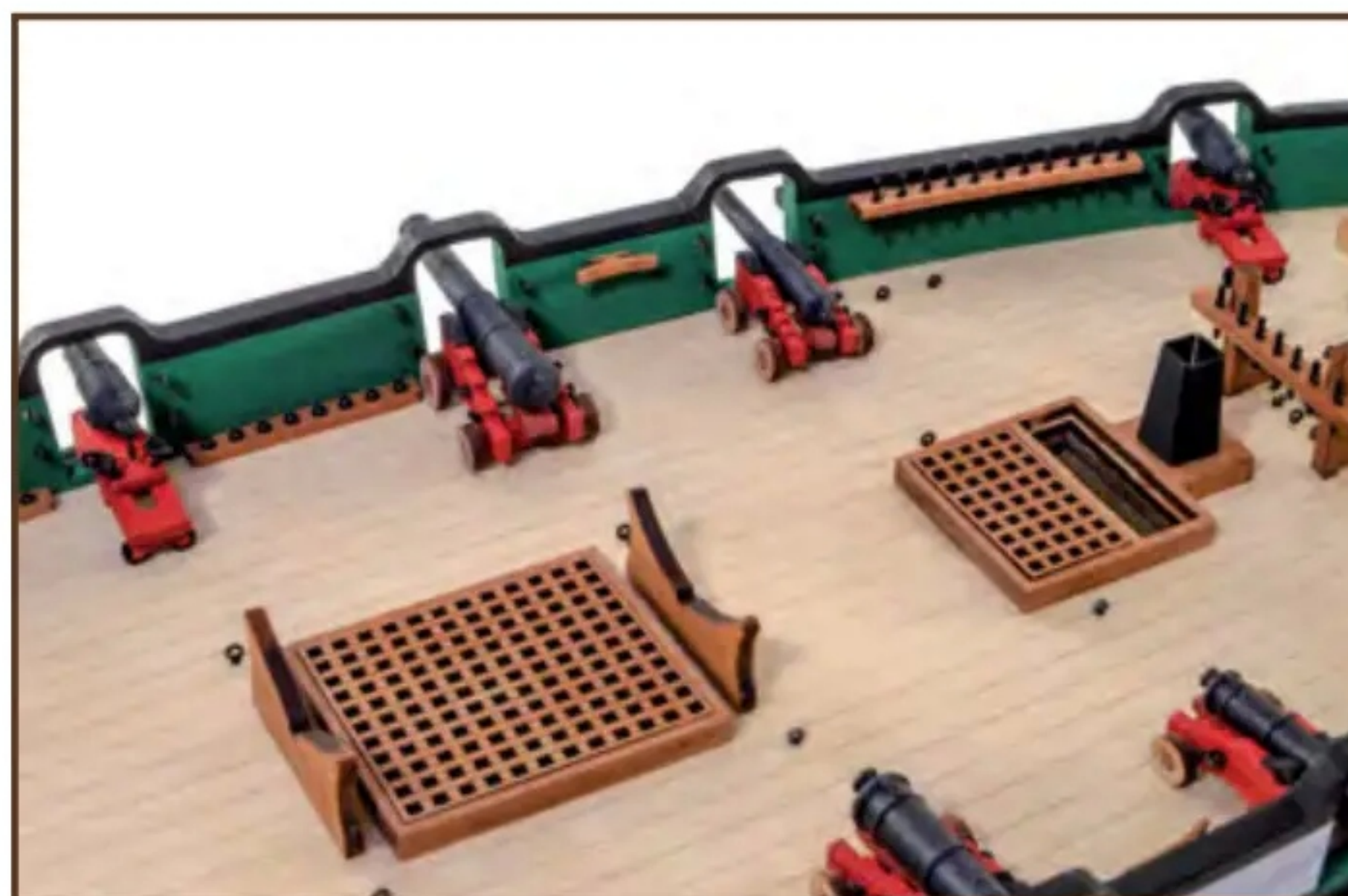
- Laser-cut and engraved parts in MDF and pearwood
- Laser-etched and cut lime wood deck with treenail detail
- Three sheets of photo-etched brass
- High-resolution 3D-printed parts
- Double planked hull in limewood for first planking and pear wood for second planking
- Walnut dowel for mast, gaff, and boom
- Multiple sizes of both black and natural rigging thread along with all necessary blocks and dead-eyes
- Eduard-printed custom waterslide decal for Grecian's stern, with options for both white and ochre

Paints used:

AK Interactive: 3rd Gen acrylics

Availability:

Vanguard Models: www.vanguardmodels.co.uk



The carronades are first fitted, utilising a small platform with extends outwards of the hull. Cannon are now also fitted to the hull. You can see two different size of cannon here, among the carronades



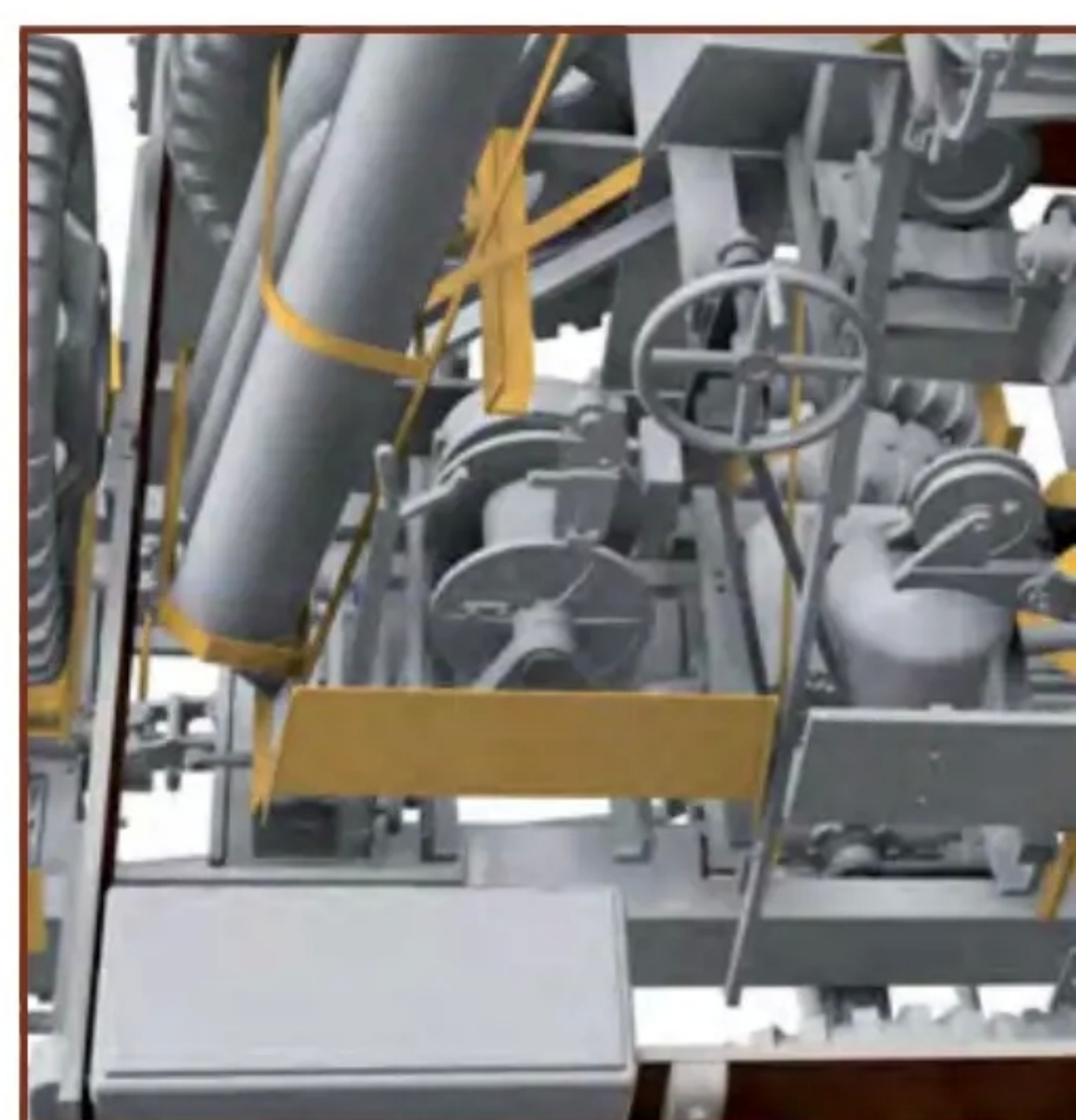
To assist the modeller, the ship's boat is provided as a 3D printed item with wooden parts for the rudder and seats. The little boat is seen here, lashed down to two cradles sat on the deck

More rig is fitted, including the rope steps (ratlines) and mast 'stays'



KIT PREVIEW

THUNDER MODEL 1:35 US HEAVY WRECKER WARD LAFRANCE MODEL 1000 SERIES 2 • NO.35010



HAULIN' THEM HIC

Thunder Models' new 1:35 Ward LaFrance US WW2 Heavy Wrecker is a deliciously complex model that will keep you busy for weeks!

The Ward LaFrance M1 (M1000) Heavy Wrecking Truck – alongside the Kenworth M1A1 – was the US Army's standard wrecker during WW2 and into the Korean War. The trucks were designed for the recovery and maintenance of heavy equipment such as tanks, right down to Dodge weapons-carriers, Jeeps and so on, and were ubiquitous across all fronts during the Second World War. Primarily associated with US Army deployment, the M1000 also served in British and Commonwealth units and this recent release from Thunder Model comes with serial number decals for two such vehicles, post D-Day in Europe and painted in 'Mickey Mouse' camouflage as depicted on the box top. The third markings-option is for a US machine deployed in Sicily, 1943, post Operation Husky. From an aesthetic point of view, it's a great-looking vehicle, arguably all the more so with the hard-topped cabin of the M1000 version. In British

service and in Mickey Mouse camo, it looks even better! Thunder Model is well known for thoroughly detailed, high parts-count vehicle kits and the Ward LaFrance certainly falls into that category. It comes with full engine, gearbox and drivetrain and a good number of the model's components are consumed during this stage of assembly, but as you might imagine, the crane tower and associated equipment is built up from lots of small mouldings too. The six sprues of grey polystyrene are impeccably formed with no flash or sink-marks in evidence and the surface detail is beautifully executed. Three frets of photo-etched brass provide parts such as fillets and stiffener plates between cross-members in the chassis, bumper brackets, cross-braces in the crane tower and other areas where scale thickness needs to be on show.

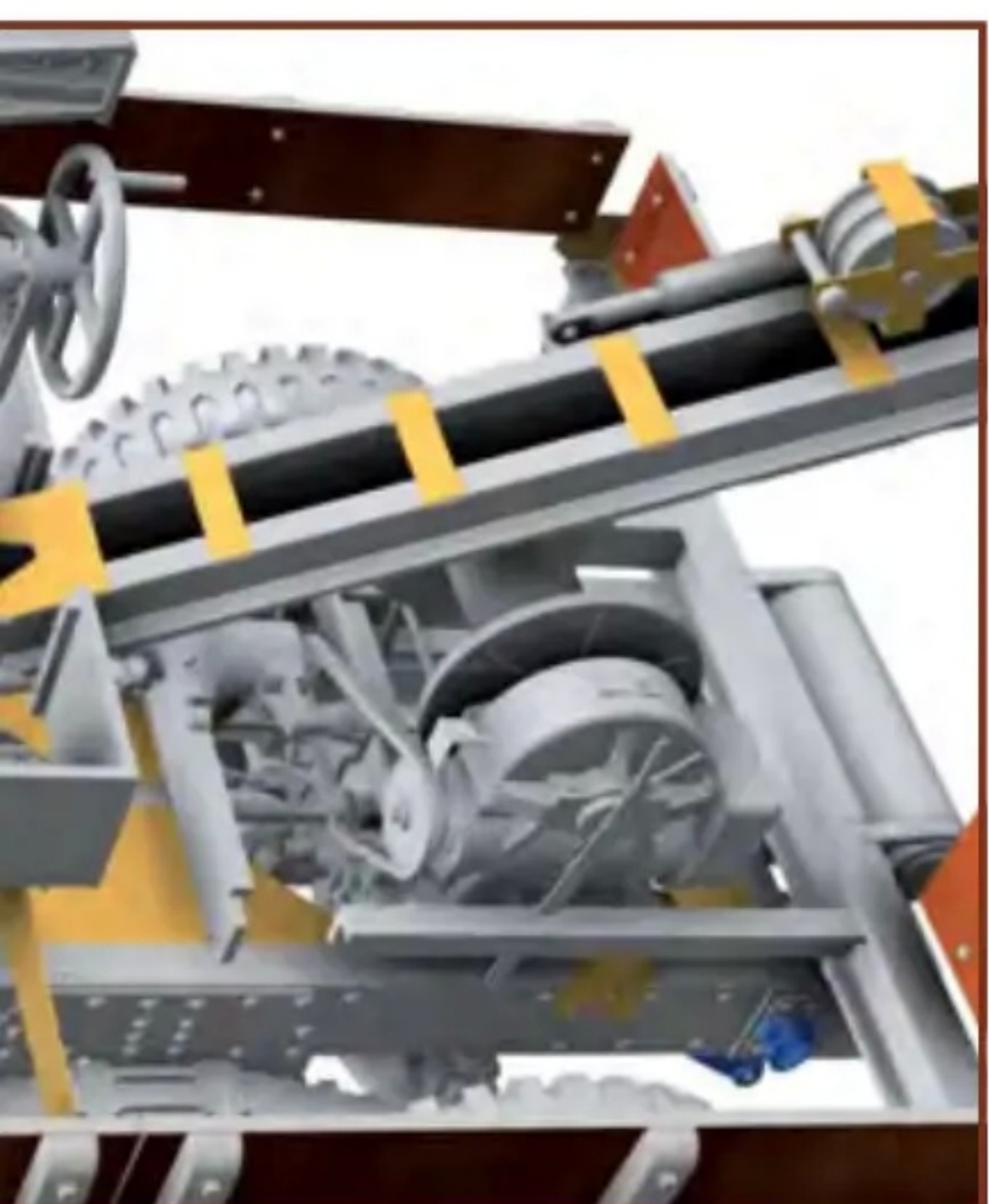
In any crane truck, there will always be lots of cable and for a scale model, it's essential that the material used in as close to scale as possible, and free

from fuzziness. Thunder has come up with the goods here, providing a skein of appropriate cord, hopefully with plenty of spare! Some copper chain is also included, as is a handful of 3D parts that appear to be cleats.

The only 'negative' we could see is the radiator guard which comes as an injection-moulded component and is thus a little on the hefty side, but by no means a deal breaker. A few moments with a No.10A Swann Morton scalpel blade to gently thin the ribs and it'll look fine. Fat Frog Models offer a 3D guard (pictured right) if you need ultimate refinement. Overall then, this kit looks stunning in the box, with masses of very fine detail and enough parts to keep even the most prolific modeller busy for weeks. ●

Availability;

Thunder Model: UK import and distribution: www.albionhobbies.com
Fat Frog grille set: www.hobbyeasy.com



HOME

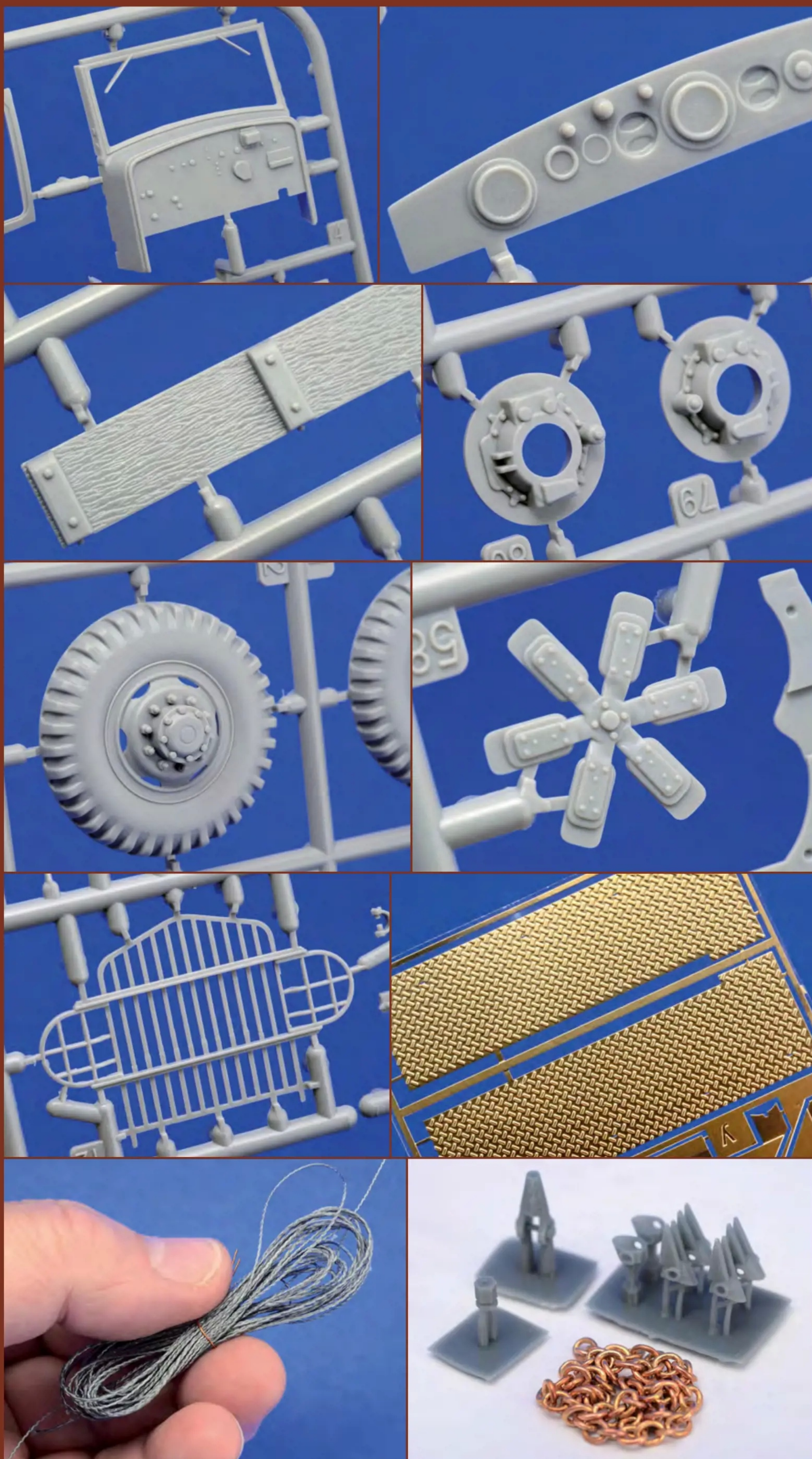
Heavy Wrecker Ward LaFrance
1000 series 2 Grille

1/35



for Thunder Models

DE35029



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RESKIT

www.reskit-models.com

Tamiya's sublime 1:48 F-35B Lightning II comes in for some hyper-detailing attention from ResKit of Kyiv, with three engine nozzle sets, each designed to depict the aircraft's three main flight modes: vertical landing, short takeoff and flying/parked. All parts are formed via 3D print with exquisite levels of refinement and delicacy and great care will be required when removing the printing supports. The detail on the nozzles is extraordinary!

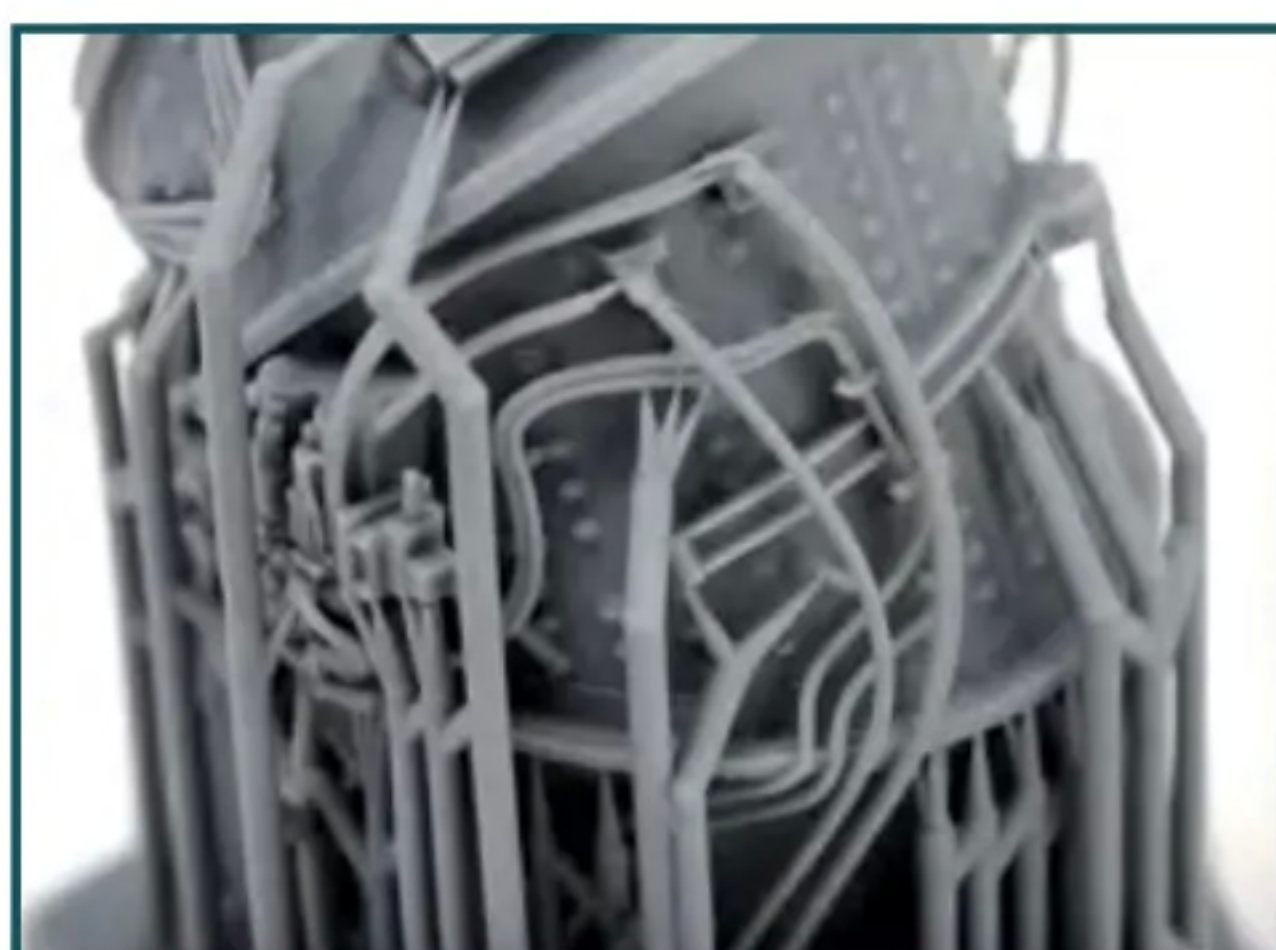
1:48 3D printed aircraft accessories

- F-35B Lightning II exhaust nozzle vertical landing (RSU48-0414) for Tamiya
- F-35B Lightning II exhaust nozzle short takeoff (RSU48-0413) for Tamiya
- F-35B Lightning II exhaust nozzle parked/fly (RSU48-0437) for Tamiya

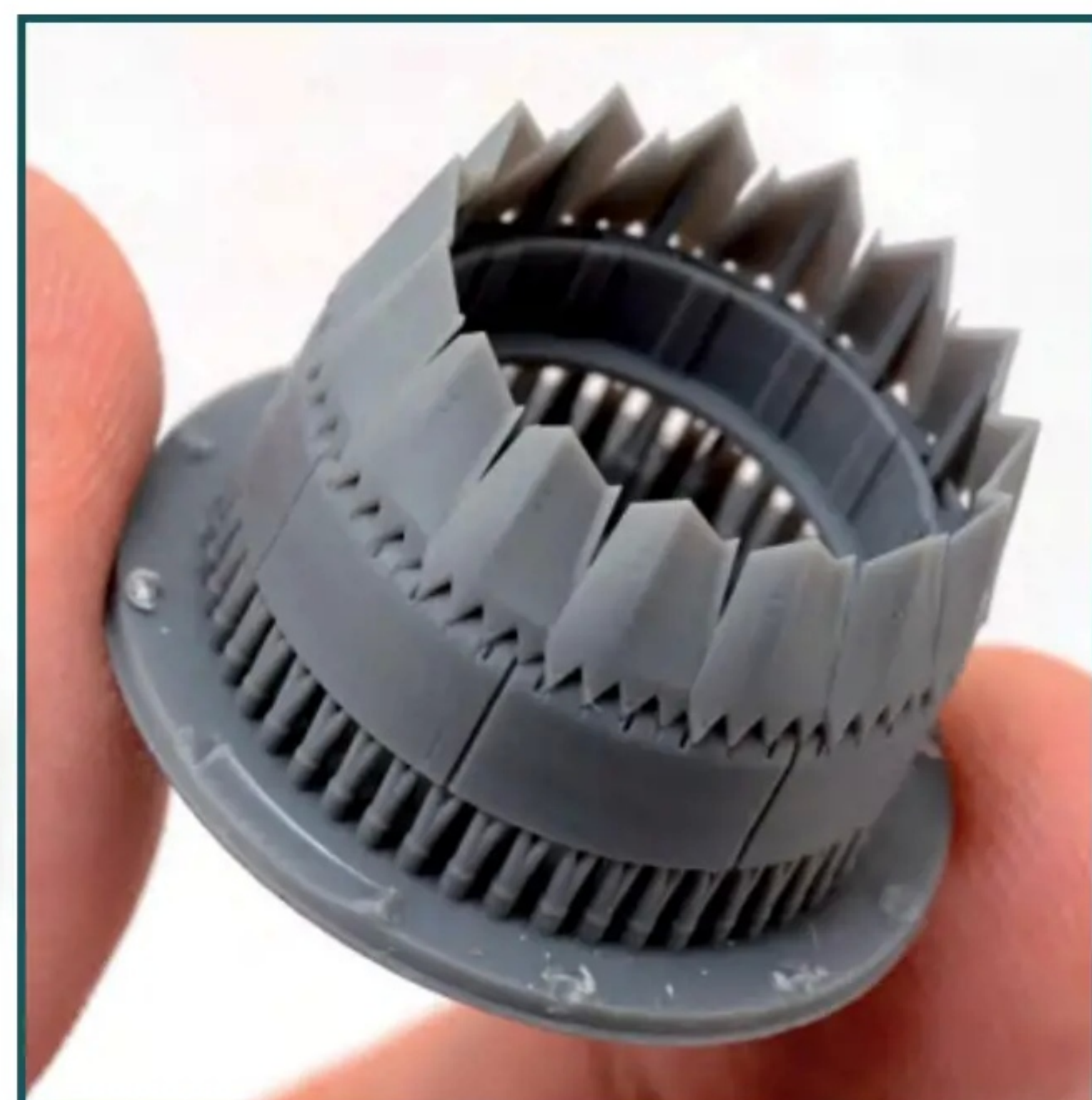
RSU48-0414



RSU48-0413



RSU48-0437





BRENGUN

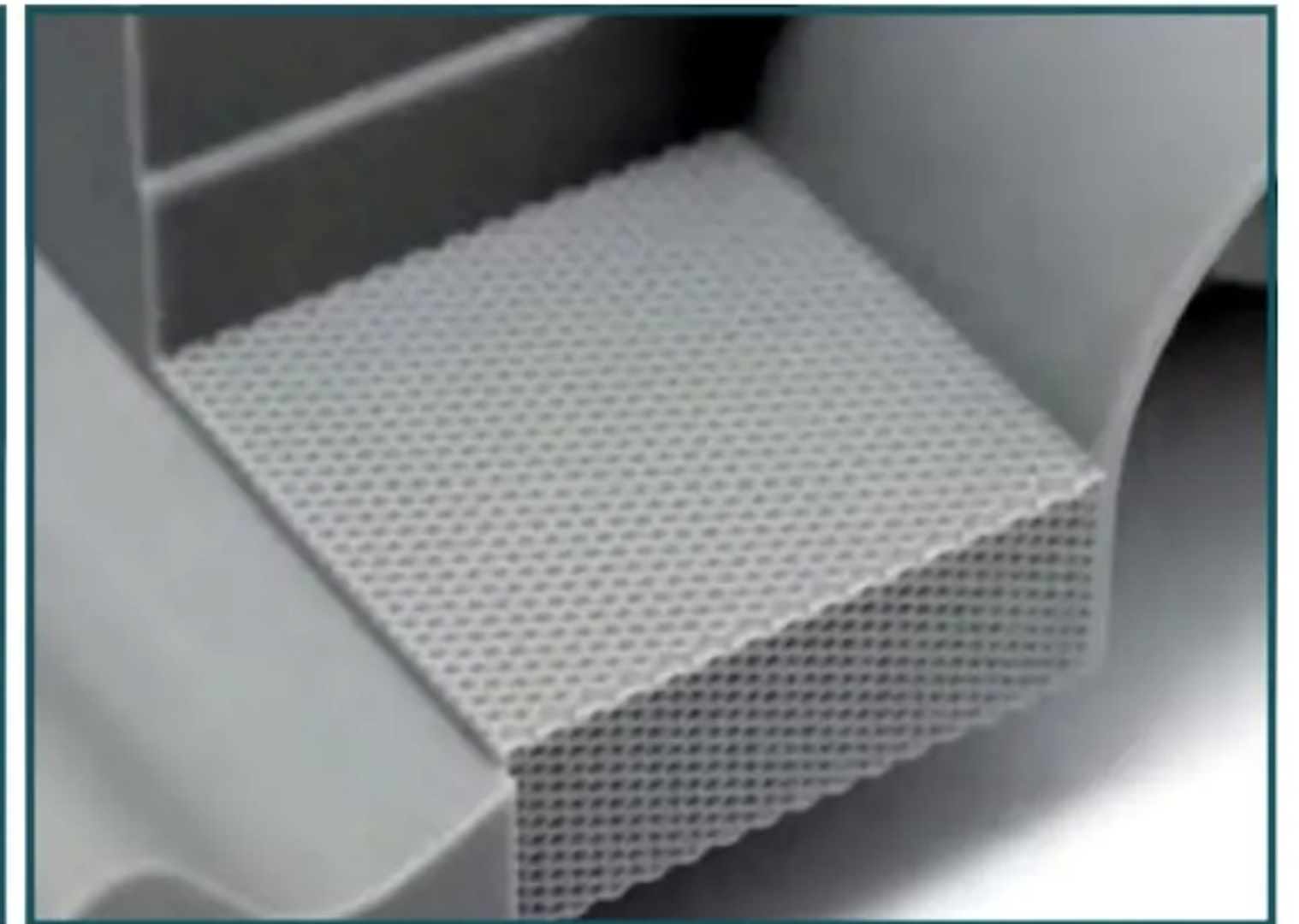
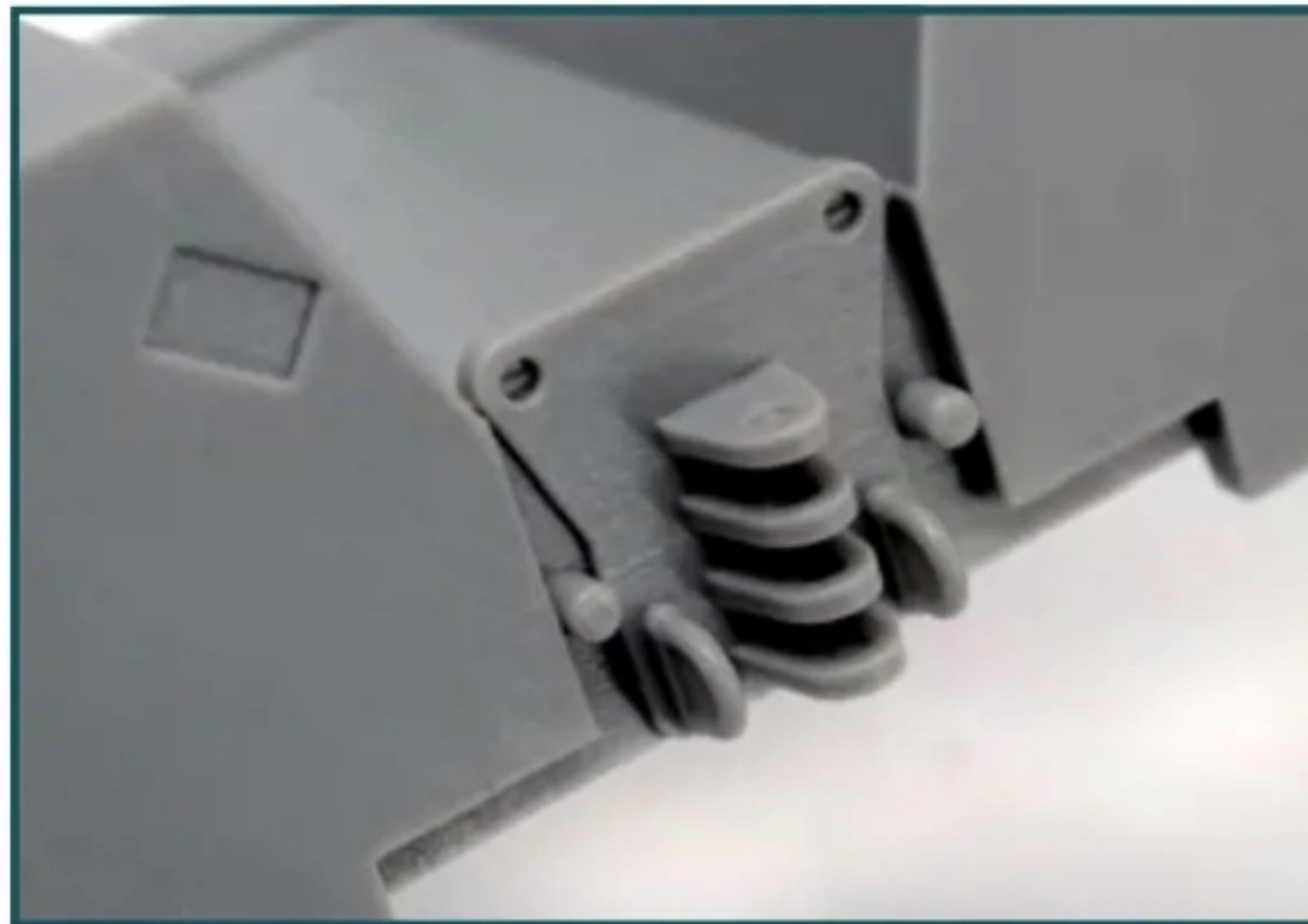
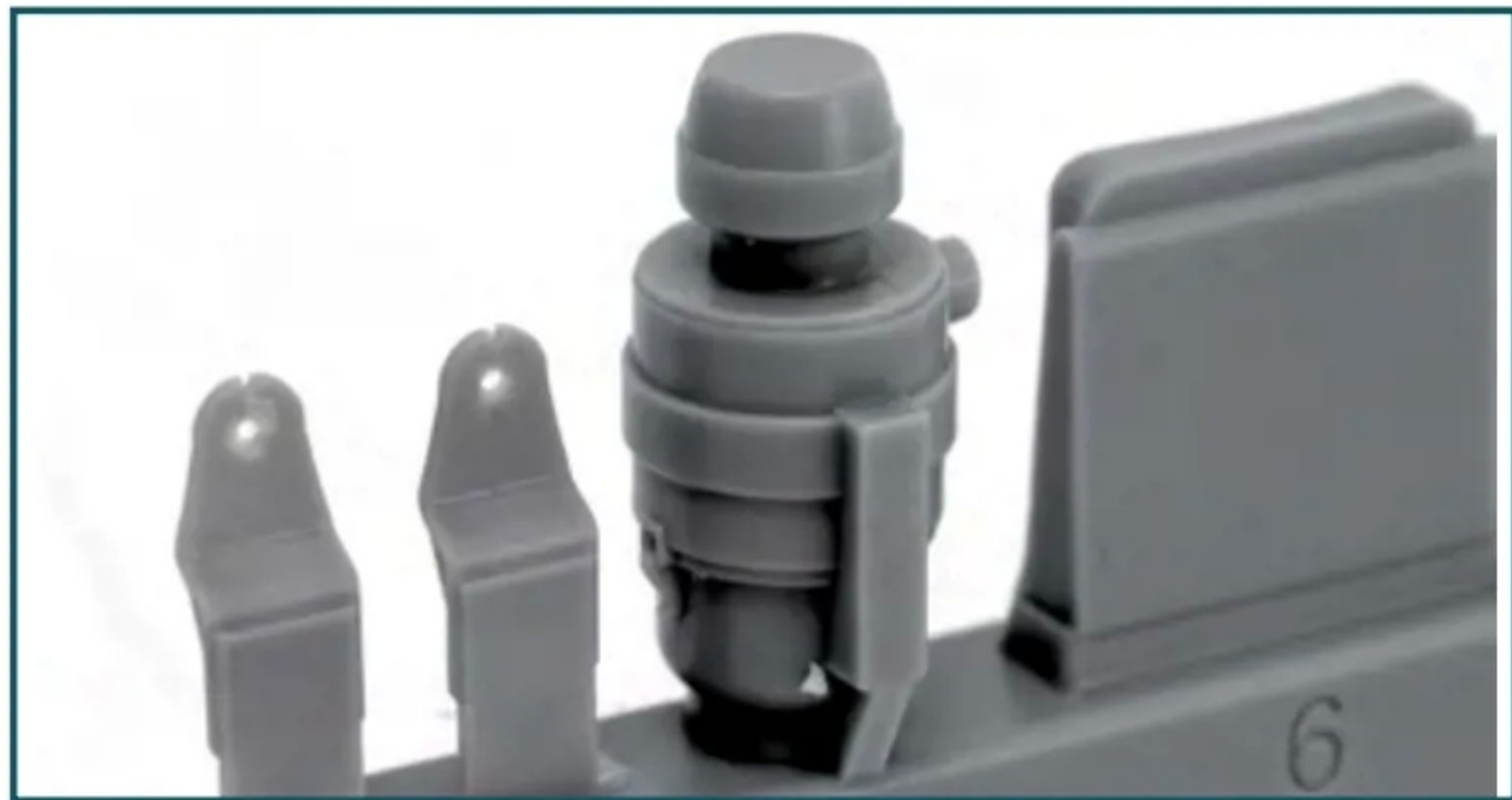
www.brengun.cz

Brengun released their 1:48 kit of the Royal Navy's Douglas Tugmaster carrier-deck tractor a few years back, and now, scaled up to 1:32, it's a beefy little thing in the larger size and packed with detail too. Thirty resin parts build up into the main structures with a supplemental fret of photo-etched brass providing sheet-metal fittings plus the oval mesh grille with the stylish 'Douglas Tugmaster' emblem in the centre. Decals are provided for vehicle '07 RN 83' and '82'. It will look fantastic in a coat of high-visibility yellow paint, chipped, scraped and oil stained to perfection!

1:32 diorama accessory kit
- Tugmaster tractor (BRL32052)



Photo: Tugmaster Flight Deck Tractor 08RN81 at FAA Museum, UK. © Ian Tong



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New Releases

A SELECTION OF THE LATEST FULL KITS IN PLASTIC, RESIN, METAL AND MORE!



DEF MODEL

www.defmodel.com

DEF Model are constantly coming out with wheel/tyre sets for current kits and older ones too, and they are always worth checking out to see if they offer a set for the model you are working on. Recently released Sd.Kfz.250 halftracks come in for attention in recent weeks, with three on offer from DEF and Vespid's 1:35 MOWAG IV Eagle kit gets sets for German and Danish versions. Incredible detail and perfectly weighted tyre flat-spots are key features, as are the pre-cut self-adhesive painting masks included with each set.

1:35 vehicle wheel upgrade sets

- German Utility Vehicles Mowag Eagle IV sagged wheel set (DW35177) for Vespid/Das Werk
- Danish Utility Vehicles Mowag Eagle IV sagged wheel set (DW35178) for Vespid
- WW2 German Trippel SG.6 sagged wheel set (DW30075) for Das Werk
- WW2 German Sd.Kfz.250 sagged front wheel set (1) (DW30076)
- WW2 German Sd.Kfz.250 sagged front wheel set (2) (DW30077)
- WW2 German Sd.Kfz.250 sagged front wheel set (3) (DW30078)
- WW2 German Sd.Kfz.250/3 Greif sagged front wheel set (DW30079)
- Soviet UAZ-469 Utility Truck sagged wheel set (DW35179)
- German VW Iltis sagged wheel set (1) Fulda (DW35169) for Ace Model
- German VW Iltis sagged wheel set (1) G90 (DW35170) for Ace Model
- Dingo British Scout Car sagged wheel set (DW30074) for MiniArt
- M2/M3 Bradley roadwheel set late type (DW35172) for Academy/Tamiya



Accessories



DW30076



DW30079



DW30074

DW35172



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BRL72210 He-115 (Revell kit)
BRL72211 A-4C conversion (Airfix kit)
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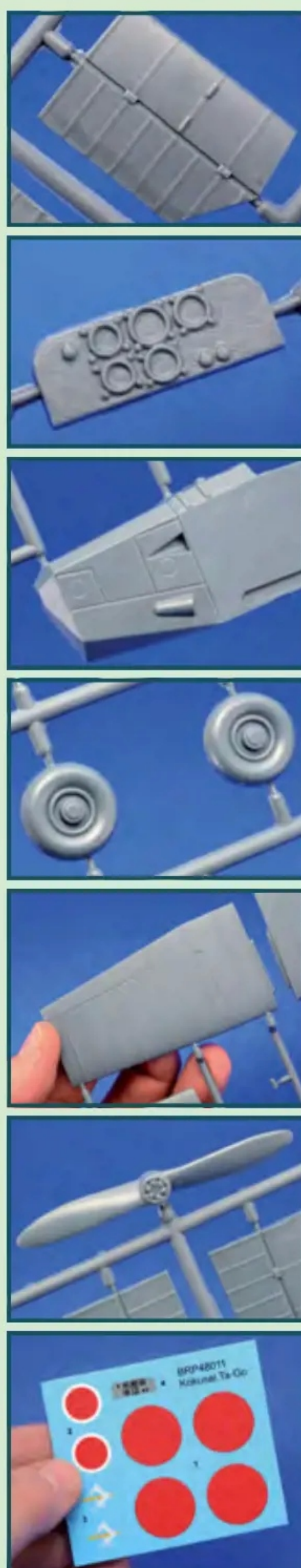
BRENGUN KOKUSAI TA-GŌ

www.brengun.cz and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:48 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO. BRP48011

The Kokusai Ta-Gō was a prototype Japanese Kamikaze aircraft of the Second World. It was developed in 1945 as a small, easy to build aircraft which could be built in large numbers in small workshops and was largely constructed of wood to reduce demands on strategic materials. A single example was completed, which first flew in June 1945, but the end of the war kept it from entering into mass production (Wikipedia). Brengun's new 1:48 kit arrives in an end-opening box containing two sprues of mid-grey/blue polystyrene, plus one small clear frame carrying the windscreen and a decal sheet of four Hinomaru, tail-fin emblems and instrument panel. Emulating the original aircraft, the kit is quite minimalistic in approach, but that doesn't mean it's simplistic, with detail well executed across the airframe. The main wing and tail-plain ribs are perhaps a little too prominent and well defined in appearance and could do with an application of Mr Surfacers 500 followed by some gentle reduction with a foam-backed sanding stick for a more convincing, smoothed-out effect. The cockpit is IKEA-like in its pure functionality, made up from front and rear bulkheads, floor, seat, rudder pedals, control column and instrument panel; the fuselage inner faces provide some moulded-in framework although what appears to represent the throttle could do with enhancement. Brengun's own detail set (BRL48180, to be reviewed next issue) comes with some very useful upgrades for this kit, such as photo-etched/acetate instrument panel, seat harnesses, windscreen frame, propeller-boss plate, tails fins and struts for the bomb, hollow-tipped exhaust outlets and other fittings, plus weighted resin main and tailwheel tyres. The kit is short-run in style so some experience with this type of model will be helpful – be prepared for test fitting and adjustment where necessary – but the subject is fascinating (if tragic) and more than makes up for the extra work required in bringing it all together. **TMMI**

-  Very interesting subject, decent detail throughout
-  Aimed more at modellers with some experience

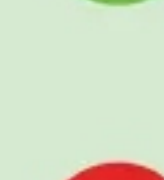


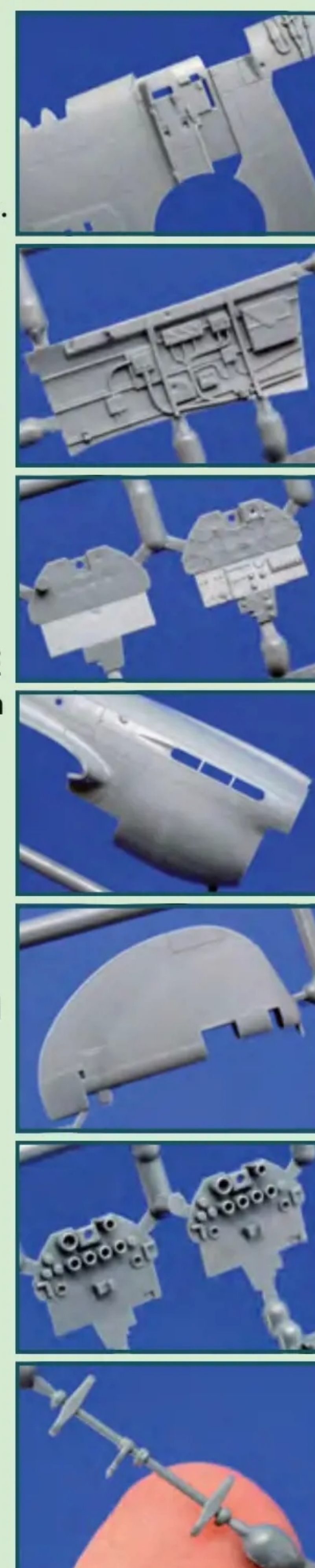
EDUARD PACIFIC STAR P-40E WARHAWK DUAL COMBO LIMITED EDITION

www.eduard.com www.creativemodels.co.uk and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:48 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO. 11185

Eduard's much-hyped, new-tool model of the Second World War US Curtiss P40E Warhawk in the scale of 1:48 has finally arrived at Tamiya Model Magazine in the form of the kit's second boxing, following the special edition Royal Class release of some months ago. In this 'Pacific Star' boxing, the modeller is presented with not one but two models of the Warhawk, along with the photo-etched sets and those must-have pre-cut, self-adhesive canopy masking sheets. No fewer than ten markings-options are included as standard, all for P-40Es serving in the Pacific Theatre of Operation, from seven US Warhawks to a single Royal New Zealand Air Force example plus a brace of Royal Australian Air Force machines. Each kit comes on five sprues of Eduard's blue/grey polystyrene, plus of course a sprue in clear for the canopy parts, airframe lights, gunsights and more. The aforementioned photo-etched set is a pre-coloured item and provides a two-part instrument panel. This works by having a backplate with the dials 'printed' on and clear lenses in place, over which is fitted a front panel with cut-outs for the dials, each aperture surrounded by a raised bezel. When mated accurately, the effect is incredibly convincing. Also on the PE fret are tail fins for the bombs, optional open engine cooling flaps, radiator intake filters, pilot's seat harnesses plus myriad other small fittings. All these goodies are terrific of course, but the real magic is to be found in the moulded parts. Here, Eduard has created what must surely be some of the most refined exterior detail ever seen in a model aircraft kit, with barely-there recessed rivet lines across the entire airframe, most breathtakingly on the undersurfaces around the undercarriage wells. It's fantastic and adds a level of appeal that scale modellers will not be able to resist. It goes without saying that we will be bringing you a blow-by-blow account of this model soon in TMMI. **TMMI**

-  Iconic WW2 American fighter, astonishing airframe detail, impressive markings-options
-  The proof of the model is in the building of course, but this one looks superb



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ICM

KAMAZ-4310 UKRAINIAN MILITARY BOX TRUCK

www.hobbyco.net www.icm.com.ua and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:35

MATERIALS: IM, WS, SVT

ITEM NO.35004

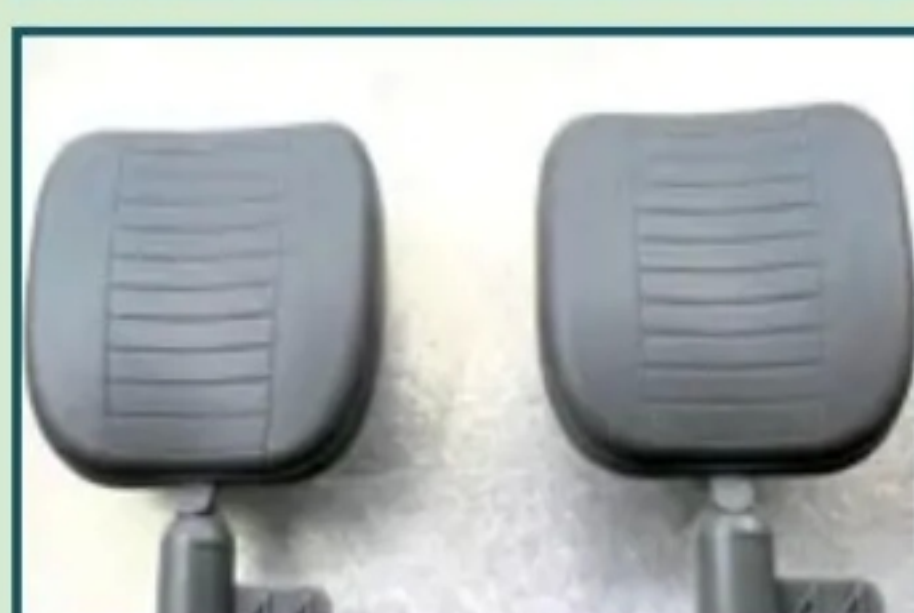
This is a new release of the KamAZ 6x6, designated KamAZ-4310 (produced 1981-95) or up-engined as the KamAZ 43114 (produced 1995-current) which is hard to distinguish from the earlier type. These trucks have a payload of 6 tons and they are used for many purposes. Various KUNG box-bodies could be fitted and the one included in the kit is the K4320D version. These trucks are very commonly seen as part of the Russian and Ukrainian army vehicle fleet and needless to say they have been on the news a lot recently. The kit is very sharply moulded and is fully detailed externally and the chassis is all in place. A nice touch is that the fully fitted-out cab can be tilted forwards to display the complete engine and transmission. The only part getting no detail is the interior of the rear body, although the doors can be left open to display the bare innards, waiting to be filled with whatever the modeller chooses! The colour options are basically shades of green, with a camouflaged vehicle for a more modern setting. The decals are the thing that is new in this kit, providing appropriate markings for Ukrainian vehicles, including the pixelated digital camouflage, making painting much easier. What is very striking about this kit is the absolute quality of the moulding, which gives great fit of parts as well as high accuracy. This KamAZ truck from ICM is an excellent model, with soft vinyl tyres to make assembly even easier. **CLS**



A finely detailed model of a vehicle currently in use in the Ukrainian army



Some suggestion of interior in the KUNG rear body would be useful



ICM

KAISER'S STEEL FIST: FOUR WWI DREADNOUGHTS

www.hobbyco.net www.icm.com.ua and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:700 • MATERIALS: IM, WS • ITEM NO.S021

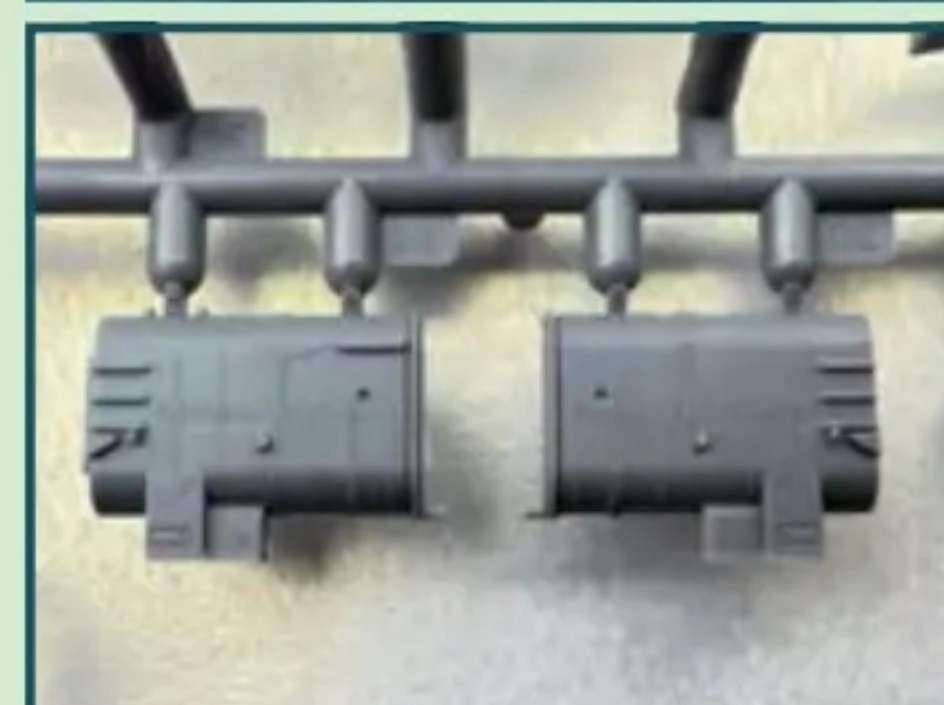
This release from ICM contains four battleships from the German Navy Hochseeflotte that fought the Royal Navy in the North Sea. The III Battle Squadron was a unit of the German High Seas Fleet during World War I. The squadron saw action throughout the war, including the Battle of Jutland on 31 May – 1 June 1916, where it formed the front of the German line. This Battle Squadron took the front of the line in all of the major fleet actions and after the Armistice in 1918, the surviving ships were interned at Scapa Flow. The battleships were all scuttled on 21st June 1919. Of the four ships in this boxing from ICM, three battleships from the III Squadron — König, Kronprinz and Markgraf — remain on the sea floor, too deep to raise and only Grosser Kurfürst was raised for scrap. The four battleships were originally released by ICM individually, but this box contains the four ships together. The ships are all very similar and the instructions make clear the minor differences that need to be selected to make each model. Three are set up as in 1915, with only the SMS König in 1918 configuration. All of the battleships can be built as a waterline or full hull version, with a display stand provided. In 1:700 scale, the models are intricate and very well detailed, although as with any kit there are aftermarket options for etched brass parts. With five turrets (one amidships) the battleships are very impressive and look great individually, but together they are incredible. **CLS**



A fleet in a box – four models of different battleships



A little tweaking might be needed to get the four models in the same time period



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MINIART

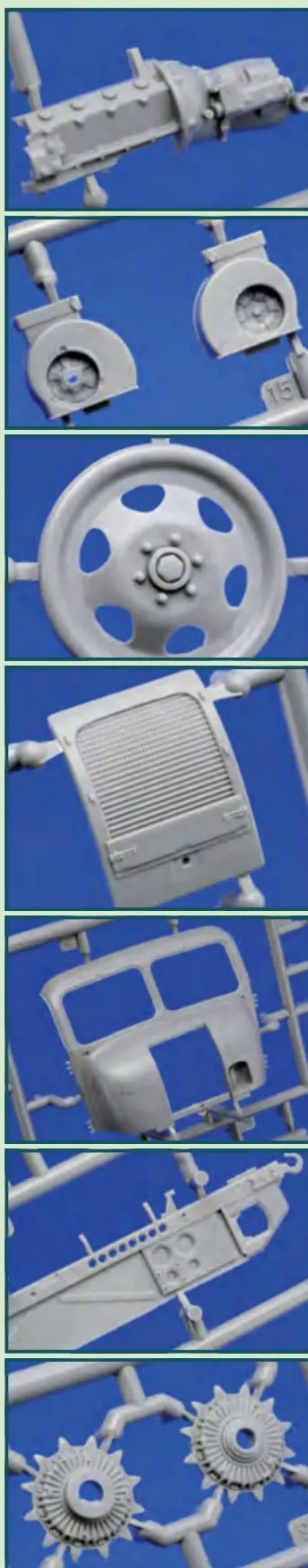
RAUPENSCHLEPPER OST RSO/01

www.creativemodels.co.uk www.miniart-models.com and good retailers everywhere
SCALE: 1:35 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO. 35478

The 'Raupenschlepper Ost' (German: 'Tracked Tractor East', more commonly abbreviated to RSO) was a fully tracked, lightweight vehicle used by the German forces in World War II. It was conceived in response to the poor performance of wheeled and half-tracked vehicles in the mud and snow during the Wehrmacht's first autumn and winter on the Soviet Front. Two variants of this vehicle were built: the basic cargo carrier, and a self-propelled anti-tank vehicle armed with a PaK40 gun, both sharing the same chassis. (Wikipedia). Perhaps the best-known 1:35 replica of the RSO is Italeri's offering which started life nearly fifty years ago in 1976 and was made by the Tokyo-based Tomy model company. It is still a decent kit, albeit of its age. Dragon issued their RSO in 2010 in the form of the 7.5cm PaK40-armed version, following this with the more common tractor variant and it has some significant accuracy issues, as well as being fiddly to build. So, an all-new model of this quirky WW2 German hauler was due and MiniArt have stepped into the fray with this, plus two other models of the vehicle in injection-moulded plastic. First impressions are very positive – the kit's sixteen sprues of grey plastic plus one in clear and a modest PE fret in brass carry some beautifully detailed parts that include a fantastic replica of the Steyr 3.5 litre V8 engine, drivetrain, a delightfully well executed chassis structure. The tracks come in the form of links and lengths of the glue-together instead of snap-together type. They look good and will look fine once painted, weathered and installed; but a fully articulated aftermarket set will add that extra touch of realism. The closer one looks at the parts, the more detail can be observed, such as minuscule foundry marks on cast steel structures plus tiny clips and fasteners in all the right spots. Very impressive indeed. Keep reading for our full build-up feature! **TMMI**

+ A much-needed new kit of this distinctive-looking WW2 tractor. Superb detail throughout

- Glue-together, non-articulated tracks



REVELL

M19 TANK TRANSPORTER

www.revell.de and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:72

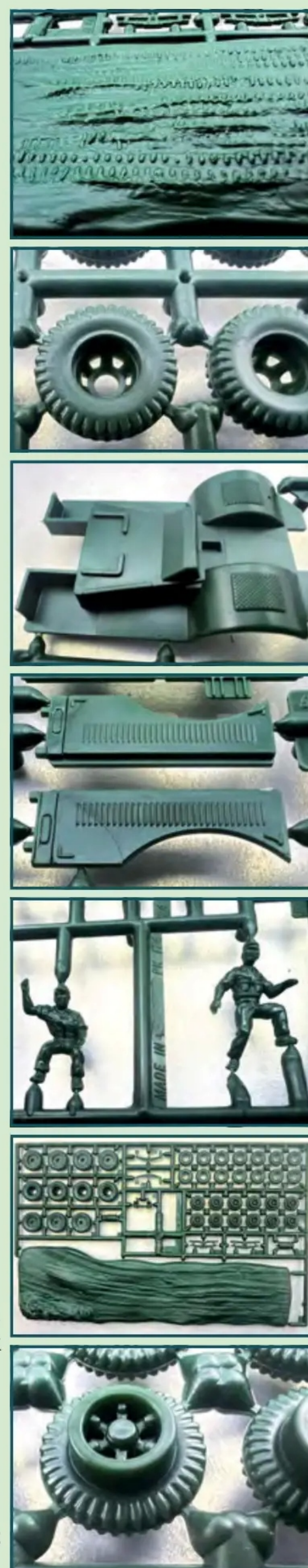
MATERIALS: IM, WS

ITEM NO. 03364

Although this fantastic kit was first released by Matchbox in 1979, this re-release by Revell is certainly not any less amazing in 2025. The mouldings are as good as ever, with sharp detail and no sign of 'flash' on the parts. The Diamond T 980/981 tractor was an instant success, and in combination with the Rogers M9 trailer, this unit was extensively used in North Africa and through into Italy and Northern Europe. The British never had enough Scammell tank transporters, and the US forces similarly lacked Dragon Wagons, so much of the movement of tanks and other loads was taken up by the M19 Diamond T as in this kit. Indeed, decals are provided for British and US examples in WW2, but also for post-war Bundeswehr and Israeli vehicles. The kit is very well detailed and in particular the huge numbers of wheels are moulded with very sharp tyre tread which is far better than in many newer releases. A kit of this type offers many opportunities for adding extra detail, such as stowage in the truck cargo bed, and of course the model is crying out for a tank to go on the trailer! The model comes with a groundwork base and this can be enhanced to create a little diorama. The only downside in this fabulous kit is the lack of windows for the cab, but at least these are all flat glass and can be fabricated from clear plastic sheet. A superb model of an important tank transporter. **CLS**

+ Fantastic detail and great accuracy, despite the age of the original moulds

- Most modellers will want to add windows from clear plastic sheet



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REVELL, GERMANY

SD.KFZ.7 (LATE PRODUCTION)

www.revell.de and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:72 • MATERIALS: IM, WS

ITEM NO.03263

Germany began producing the Sd.Kfz.7 half-track before WW2, and during the war there were numerous changes to ease production and cut the use of precious raw materials. This version from Revell has the metal rear body replaced with a wooden cargo bed, more typical of a truck design. This type was in production in the final stages of the war, and is consequently rare, but all of the features are very accurately captured. The quality of moulding is quite exceptional, with really fine details such as the steering wheel and gear sticks all beautifully reproduced, but the rear body lacks the seating and racks that should be fitted to this version. The standard of the kit is fantastic throughout, with several novel approaches.

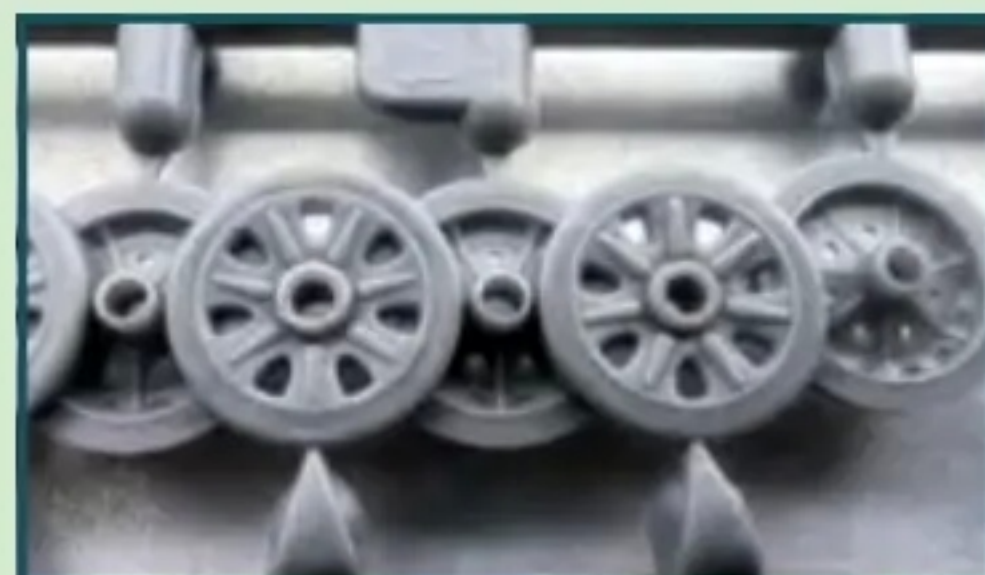
The kit provides lengths of track in plastic that is designed to be slightly softened in hot water before bending around the assembled wheels. This is an unusual technique for accurately reproducing the tracks. The wheels are very accurate, with a tiny amount of flash to be removed in places. For ease of construction, the complex interleaved wheels are provided as partly completed groups, which speeds assembly somewhat. The windows are provided as a sheet of clear plastic that needs to be cut to shape, rather than as moulded pieces, the advantage being that the end result is very thin and realistic. Another stand-out feature is the canvas cover for the cab and rear body, which can be assembled in different combinations. The texture on these parts is extremely realistic. Overall, this kit is really incredible. **CLS**



Fantastic detail, particularly the late version canvas cover that is very realistic.



The construction of the tracks and windscreens may tax novice modellers.



TAKOM WINGS

HO229B

www.modelsforsale.com and good retailers everywhere

SCALE: 1:32 • MATERIALS: IM, PE, WS • ITEM NO.32002

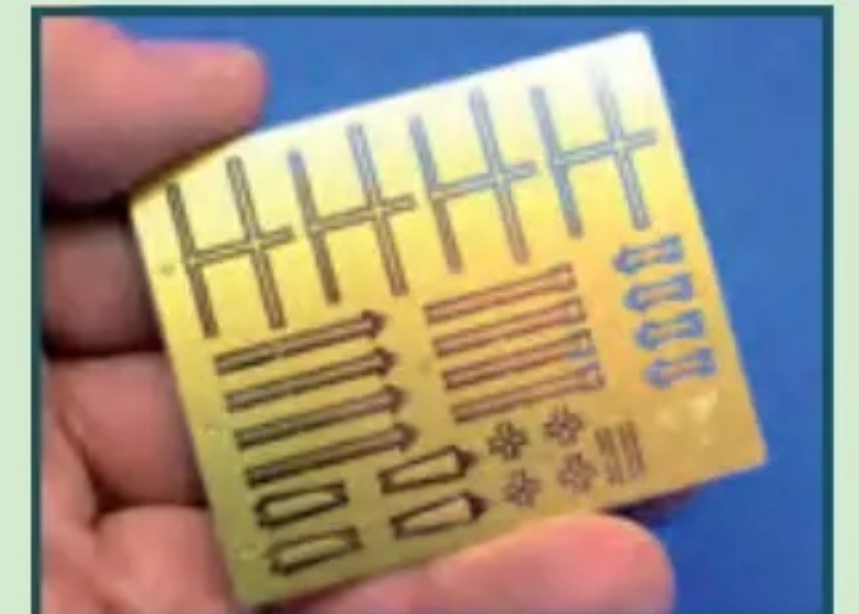
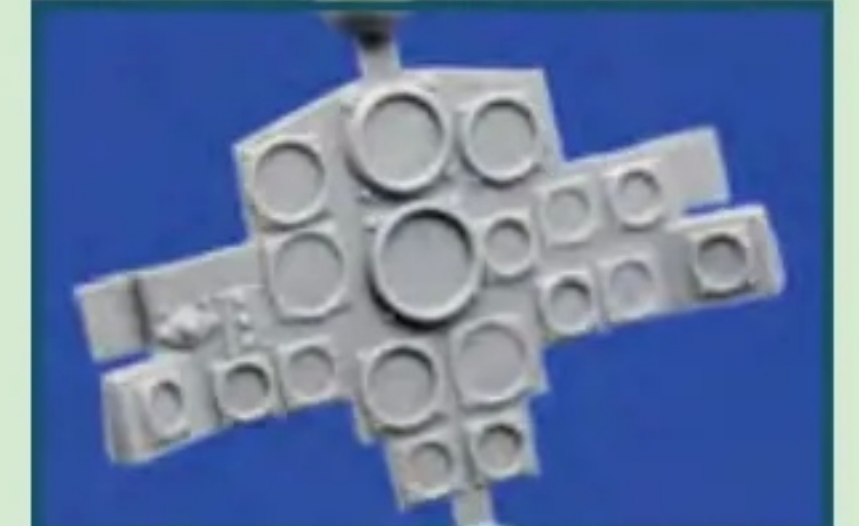
The concept of the Horten Ho229, the World War Two Luftwaffe's 'flying wing', came about in response to a typically fanciful demand made in 1943 by Hermann Göring for light bombers that could carry 1,000kg of bombs a distance of 1,000 kilometres at a speed of 1,000kph. Only jet propulsion could achieve the required speed, but such engines were very thirsty, necessitating considerable effort across the rest of the design to meet the range requirement. The flying wing configuration was favoured due to its high aerodynamic efficiency; in order to minimise drag, the Ho229 was not to be fitted with extraneous flight control surfaces. (Edited from Wikipedia). The Ho229 has been replicated widely in kit-form over the years, with perhaps the most memorable model being from Zoukei Mura in 2014 with the 1:32 release in their 'Super Wing Series' (No.8). Takom have now stepped into the flying wing ring with their offering in the 'Takom Wings' series, also in 1:32, depicting the two-seater Ho229B variant, which of course never existed in reality but was planned. You might think this would be a vast model in 1:32 but is actually smaller than one might imagine and makes it a practical proposal for the average-sized workbench. The large box produces thirteen sprues in grey polystyrene in various sizes, one canopy sprue in clear, which also carries the retro-futuristic crew helmets, plus photo-etched brass parts for the radar array on the nose. The Horten's internal tubular structure is represented nicely, along with a pair of jet engines that are installed before the upper and lower 'fuselage' centre sections are brought together. A pair of pilot figures in high-altitude pressure suits are supplied, to dropped into a nicely done framework cockpit; no radar sets are present in here, despite the presence of the aforementioned array, but this can be excused as it is a model of a machine that never made it to production. Detail is excellent throughout and markings are provided for two nightfighter aircraft. **TMMI**



Enduringly interesting subject with nice detail



All that internal framework is covered up when the model is finished, but not Takom's fault!



BOOK REVIEWS

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LIGHT PANZERS

Thomas Anderson, Osprey Publishing
www.ospreypublishing.com

This new hard-bound title from world-renowned historian and author Thomas Anderson makes a very handy compendium for scale modellers, and fans of Tamiya armour kits in particular, as it looks at the so-called 'light panzers' operated by the Third Reich during the Second World War, a subject that is well represented in miniature form by Tamiya.

All the main types are discussed and whilst not an exhaustive chronicle of any single vehicle, it does give an excellent insight into this class of vehicle, and it will also act as a great source of inspiration for up and coming WW2 German panzer modelling projects. Highly recommended. **TMMI**



PANZER TRACTS NO.4-3 PANZERKAMPFWAGEN IV AUSF.H/AUSF.J 1943 TO 1945

Hilary Louis Doyle, Lukas Friedli & Thomas L. Jentz, Panzer Tracts
www.panzerwrecks.com

The ubiquitous Panzer IV medium tank – specifically the Ausf.H and Ausf.J from 1943 to 1945 – is the subject of this volume in the invaluable Panzer Tracts series, and as with all the other editions in the range it studies the vehicle in impressive depth. Within the book's eighty-four pages (plus covers) we are treated to hundreds of superb quality wartime images of the two variants, which on their own are worth the price of the entry, but coupled with scale drawings and sketches plus, naturally, an authoritative text, it makes a superb one-stop source of information on this important Second World War German tank. **TMMI**



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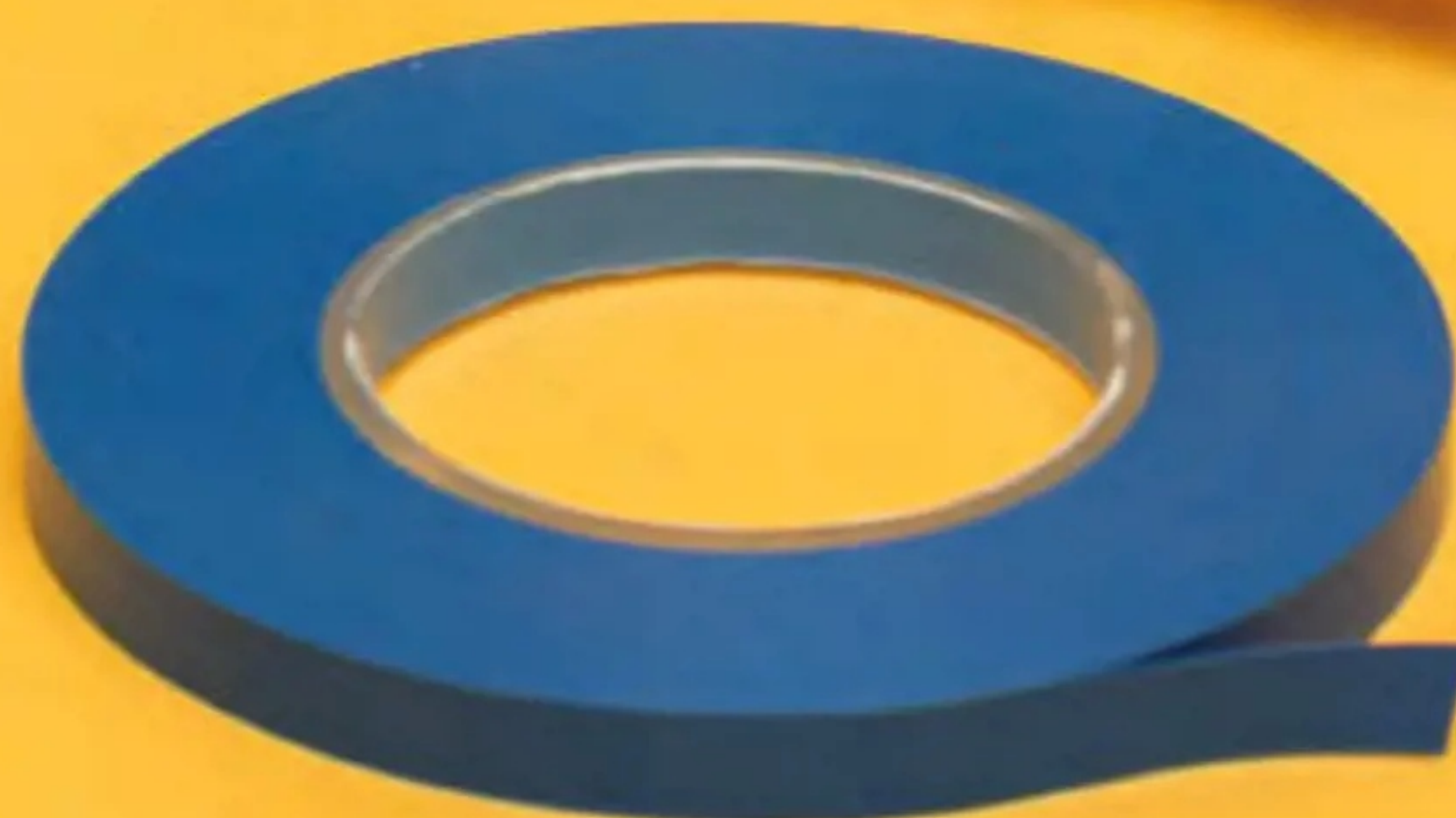
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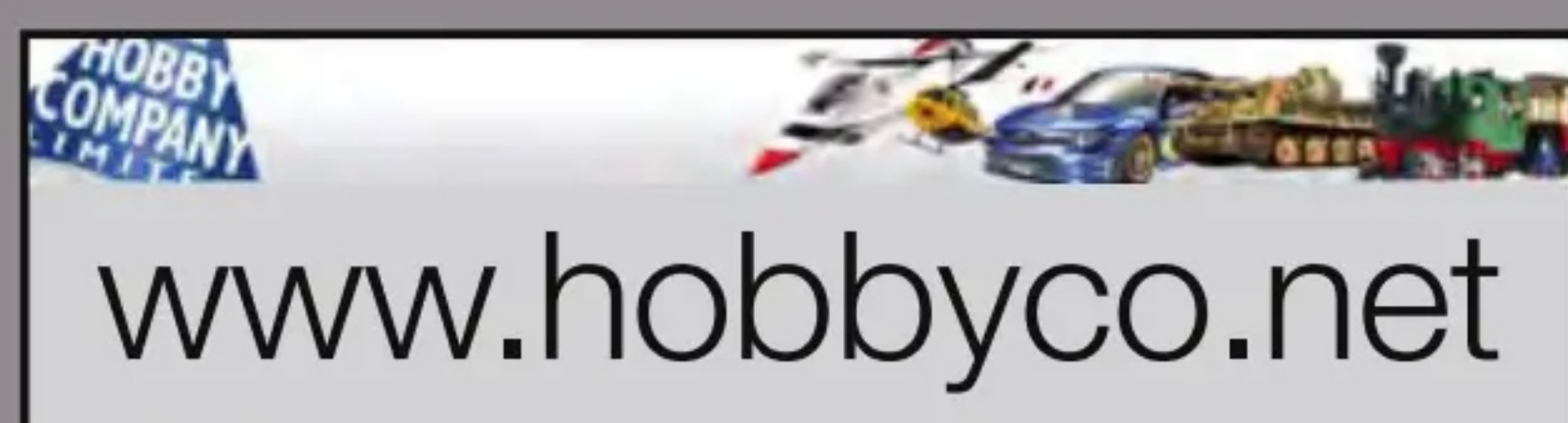


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MY COOL JACKSON (see what I did there?)

Tamiya's creation of an all-new 1:35 kit of the US M36 Jackson tank destroyer is great news for modellers, because this powerfully-armed WW2 panzer killer not only roamed the battlefields of Europe hunting down its prey, but went to serve in the Korean War on the prowl

for T-34 tanks and then, decades later, served in the conflict in the Balkans in the 1990s. That 90mm gun sure could destroy armour, whatever the era. We will, naturally, be giving this kit our usual thorough preview and full build treatments as soon as it arrives at TMMI from Tamiya HQ in Japan... ●



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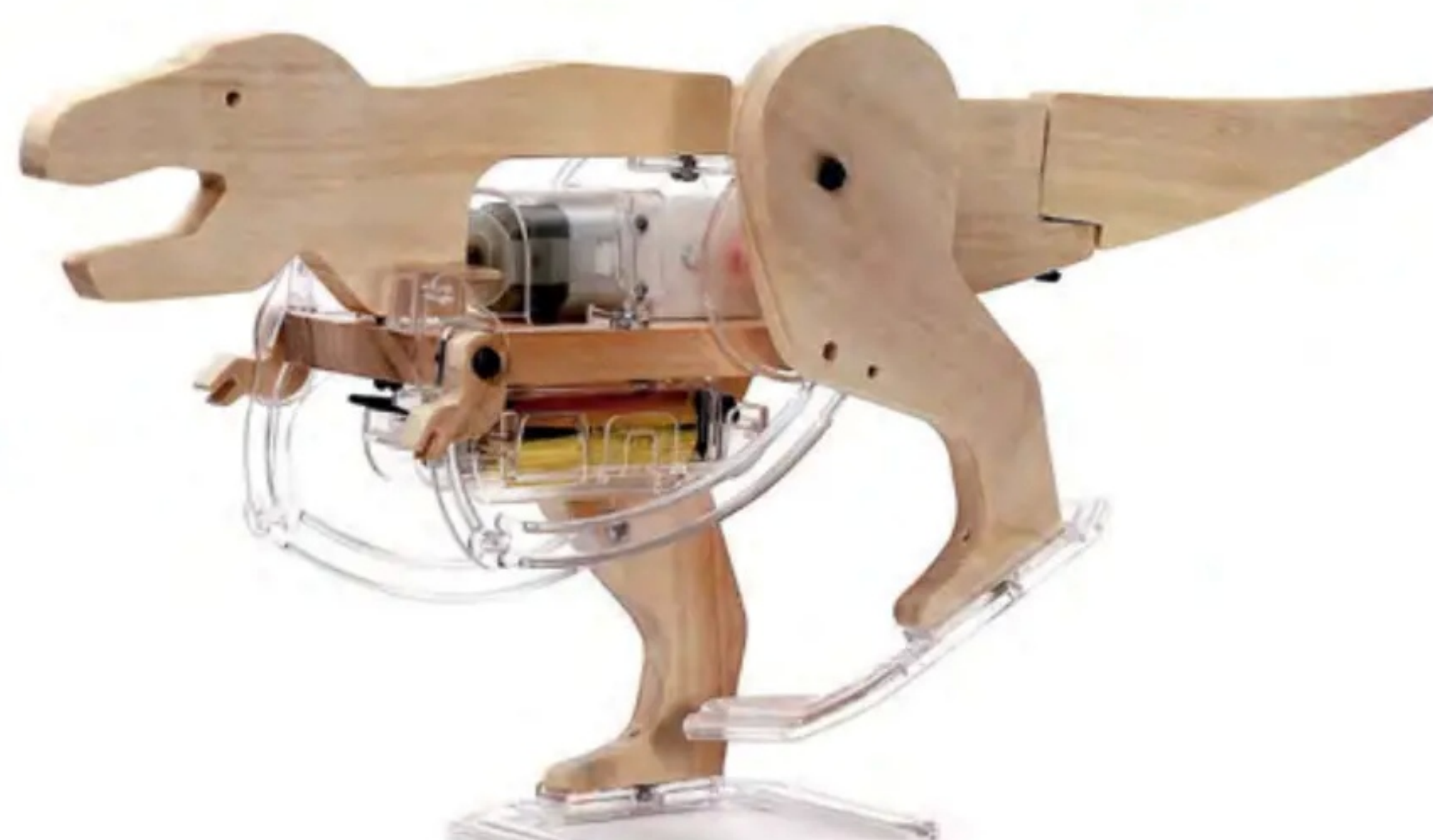
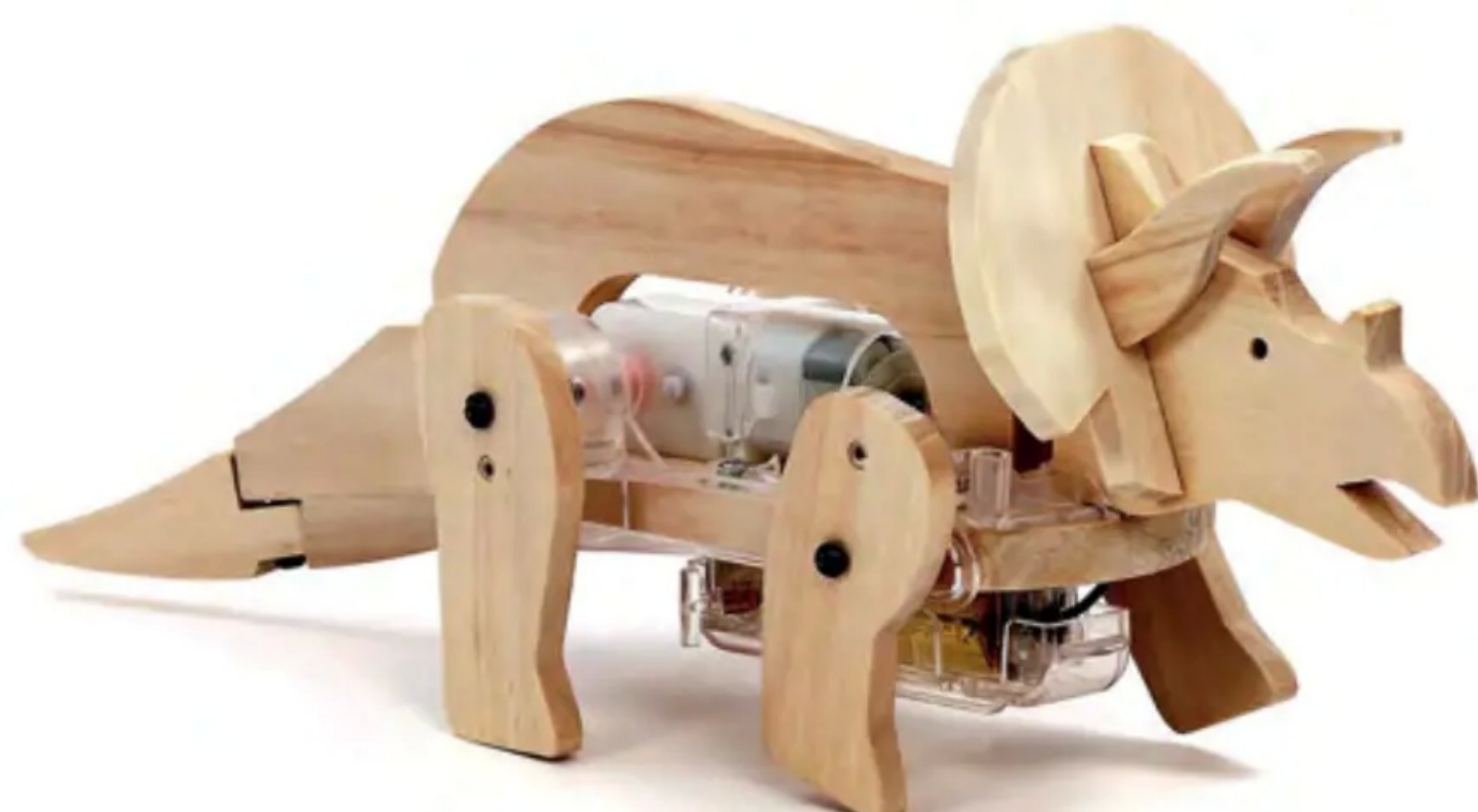


An M36 of the US 9th Armored Division crosses the River Saale, Germany in the Spring of 1945

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tamiya Educational Construction Series Walking Tyrannosaurus, Walking Triceratops

Tamiya's Educational Construction Series has run for several decades and has come up with some fun little mechanical models over that time. Some of my favourite are the dinosaurs from 1993, two of which – the Tyrannosaurus and Triceratops – have recently been given an upgrade of moulded plastic gearbox (featuring built-in motor with cables) plus other, safer plastic parts. The wooden body and leg parts are retained and are a joy to build and run, and maybe even paint up in dinosaur-like colours! www.tamiya.com



1/24
SCALE

《U.S. version》

《Japan version》

TOYOTA GR Supra
CUSTOM



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Custom Star

Toyota's flagship sports car the GR Supra underwent a full model change in January 2019; the RZ was the top grade model in the Supra line-up with a turbocharged 340hp straight six engine powering this classically elegant long nose short deck FR car. That May, Toyota announced the release of customizing GR PARTS for the car including a wide range of carbon fiber aero parts, aluminum wheels, sports muffler and more. Now this tastefully customized car joins the famed Tamiya 1/24 Sports Car Series, giving you the chance to see up close and personal just what makes it tick.

Length: 183mm, width: 85mm, height: 54mm.

Choose between Japan, U.S. and Europe versions of the car.



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Audi quattro



Pioneer of high-speed 4WD

1/24
SCALE

The Audi quattro played a major role in moving four-wheel drive vehicles away from being the exclusive domain of heavy off-road cars. This car employed "quattro" a full-time 4WD drive system featuring the center differential behind the transmission and also opened the door for other 4WD rally cars in the motorsport world. Now, Tamiya welcomes the first generation model of the car from 1980 into 1/24 Sports Car Series! The angular 2-door coupe form with flared fenders is captured in style. The kit features realistic depictions of the inline-5 turbo engine, interior, MacPherson strut front and rear suspension and quattro drive system. Do not miss this chance to add this innovative car to your collection!

★The sporty 2-door coupe form with flared fenders and spoilers is captured in style. ★Features realistic depictions of engine room, suspension and quattro drive system. ★Interior has authentic renderings of details such as seats, dashboard and gear shift. ★Comes with a driver figure.

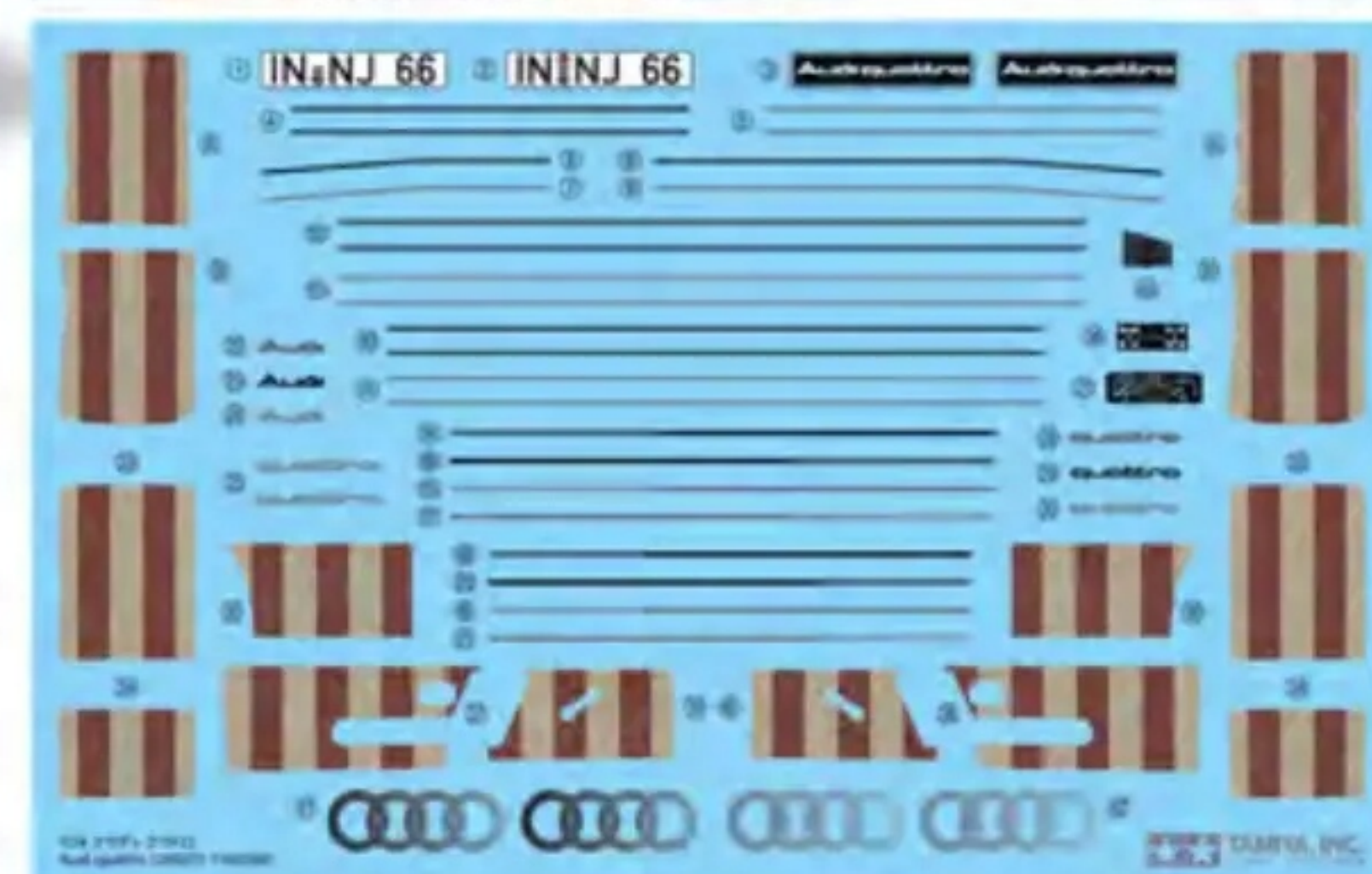


Features a realistic depiction of the inline-5 turbo engine. The engine hood is openable.



Length: 185mm
Width: 79mm

Decals capture stripe patterns on seats, pinstripes and emblems.



1/24 Sports Car Series Audi quattro (Item 24031)

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Car model not included.

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Check Tamiya's homepage for the latest releases! www.tamiya.com

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