



History

HMS *Abdiel* was laid down on 29th March 1939 at JS White & Co of Cowes, Isle of Wight. She was launched 23rd April 1940 and completed 15th April 1941. Designed primarily as high speed mine laying craft, capable of laying offensive minefields along enemy coastlines, *Abdiel* and her sisters found many other important roles which had not been foreseen, such as the carriage of personnel and stores into areas where speed and evasion were of the essence.

A total of six of these fine ships were built and served with distinction throughout World War 2. HM Ships *Abdiel*, *Latona*, *Welshman* and *Manxman* were the first with *Apollo* and *Ariadne* being later and differing slightly as they employed the lessons learned from the first ships.

HMS *Abdiel* saw service sooner than expected when her trials were interrupted so that she could lay minefields off the coast of France around the Brest areas in March 1941. Attempts to complete her trials were abandoned in April for operational reasons, and she found herself being deployed to the Mediterranean, carrying much needed stores and personnel to Malta. From there she went on to be based at Alexandria, from where she operated until the end of the year, laying offensive minefields as well as being used for every other form of troop and store carrying task and also being employed on the evacuation of Crete.

In January 1942 *Abdiel* was required further east as the Japanese advanced through Asia. She was sent to lay offensive minefields around selected anchorages, whose denial to the Japanese was considered vital. She also laid several smaller defensive minefields around key ports to help protect them from seaward attacks. During this period, *Abdiel* found herself accidentally grounded, damaging her starboard propeller and shaft. After docking at Durban for assessment, she had to return to Britain for repairs in July 1942. By December, *Abdiel* was ready for sea again, and she returned with a full load to the Mediterranean. She worked throughout the first half of 1943 laying minefields around Italian and Sicilian waters with her sister HMS *Welshman*, until *Welshman* was torpedoed by a U-Boat and lost, then *Abdiel* had to continue operations alone.

On the 9th September 1943 *Abdiel* was part of a cruiser force carrying troops to occupy Taranto. They arrived safely and anchored in the Mare Grande prior to disembarking the troops. At about 0015 on the 10th a magnetic mine laid by the Germans the night before, exploded under the *Abdiel*, breaking her back and causing her to sink in about two minutes. 6 Officers 42 Ratings and 120 Army personnel were tragically lost with her.

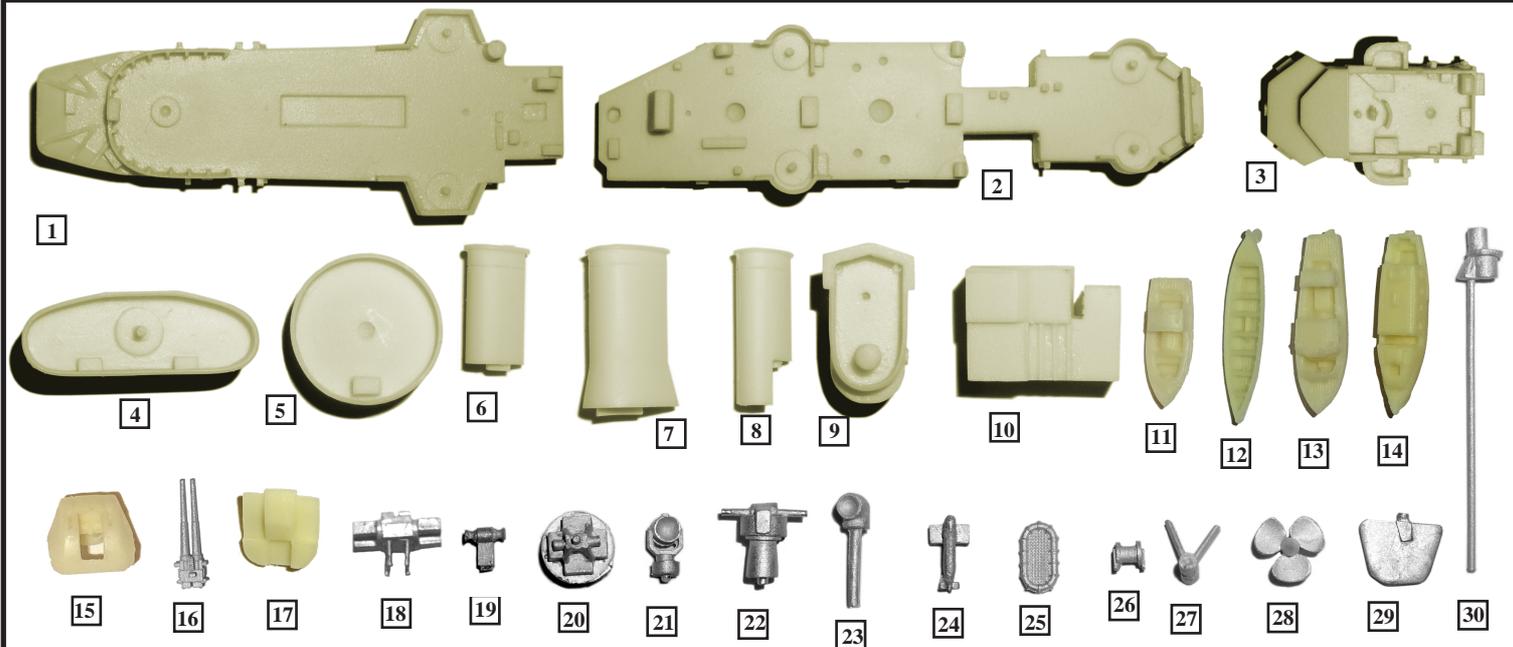
Specifications

Length. 418 ft (oa) Beam. 40 ft Draught. 13ft (fwd) 15ft 3in (aft)
Displacement. 2650 tons standard 4000 tons deep Endurance. 4000 miles at 15 knots 1050 miles at full speed
Maximum Speed. 39.75 knots Complement. 236 Officers and Ratings

Armament

6 x 4in QF MkXXVI in 3 twin mountings, 2 forward 1 aft. 1 x 4 Barrelled Pom Pom on MkVII mounting
2 x 0.5in Vickers Quad Machine Guns on Forward Sponsons removed in 1942. 7 x 20mm Single Oerlikons fitted in 1942.
150 to 156 Broad Gauge Mines. 15 Depth Charges through a single rail.

Resin & White Metal Parts Identification



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Forward Superstructure | 7. Middle Funnel | 13. 25' Fast Motor Boat | 19. Deck Winch x 2 | 25. Carley Raft x 8 |
| 2. Aft Superstructure | 8. Aft Funnel | 14. 25' Admiralty Motor Cutter | 20. Crane Base x 2 | 26. Cable Drum x 2 |
| 3. Bridge Superstructure | 9. Aft Deck House | 15. 4" Gun Shield x 3 | 21. Searchlight x 2 | 27. Propeller Shaft 'A' Frame x 2 |
| 4. Searchlight Platform | 10. Wireless House | 16. 4" Twin Gun Barrels x 3 | 22. Mk3 Gunnery Director | 28. Propeller x 2 |
| 5. Pom Pom Platform | 11. 16' Fast Motor Dinghy | 17. 4 Barrel Pom Pom Base | 23. Ventilator Cowl x 6 | 29. Rudder |
| 6. Forward Funnel | 12. 27' Whaler | 18. 4 Barrel Pom Pom Mounting | 24. Paravane x 4 | 30. Foremast Pole |

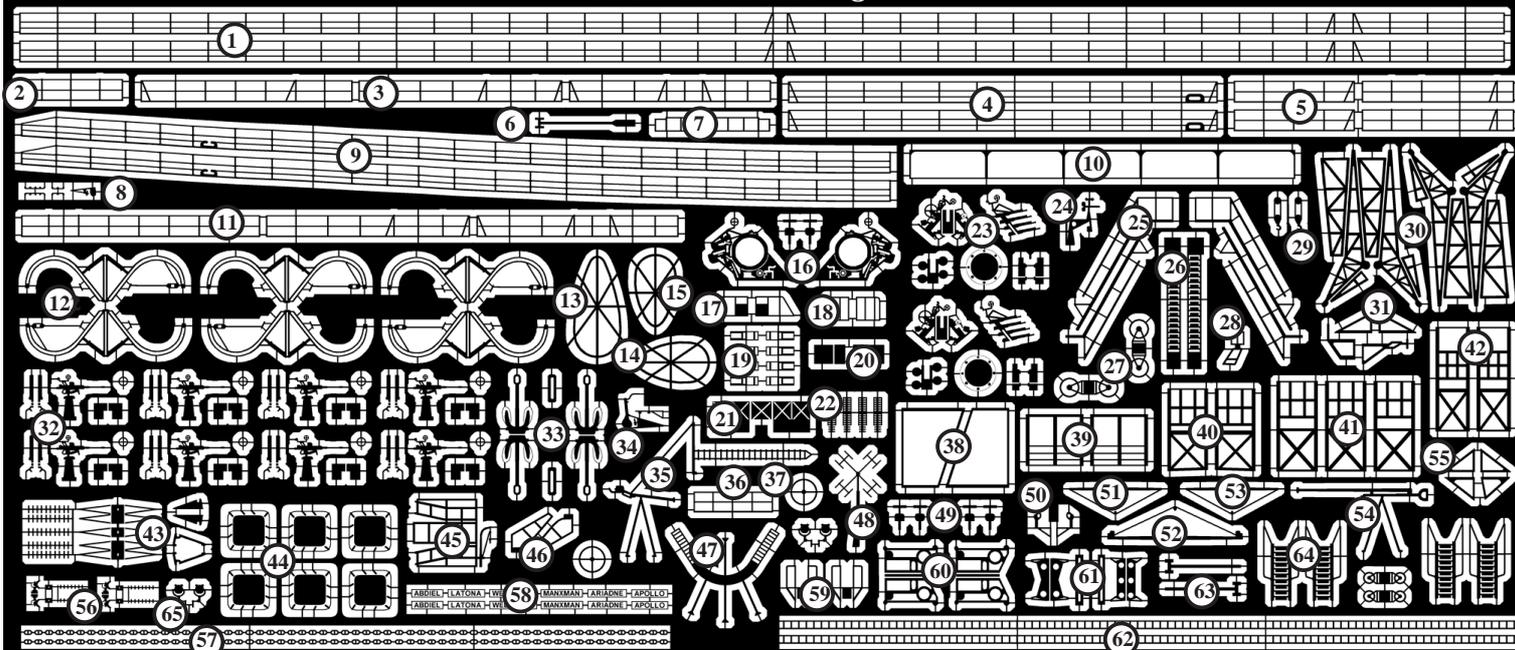
General Precautions

When assembling a Resin / Photoetched metal kit, certain precautions must first be taken.

1. Resin dust can be harmful if inhaled. It is recommended that you wear a suitable dust mask when drilling or sanding resin parts.
2. Cyano adhesives (super glues) are generally used to assemble this type of kit. Care must be taken when using this type of adhesive as it will bond in seconds. Follow the advice on the container.
3. Wash resin parts in a solution of warm soapy water before assembly. This will remove any residual mold release agents and ensure a good key for painting.
4. Soak photoetch parts in a suitable solvent, such as white spirit, to degrease the surfaces prior to painting.

Photo Etched Parts List

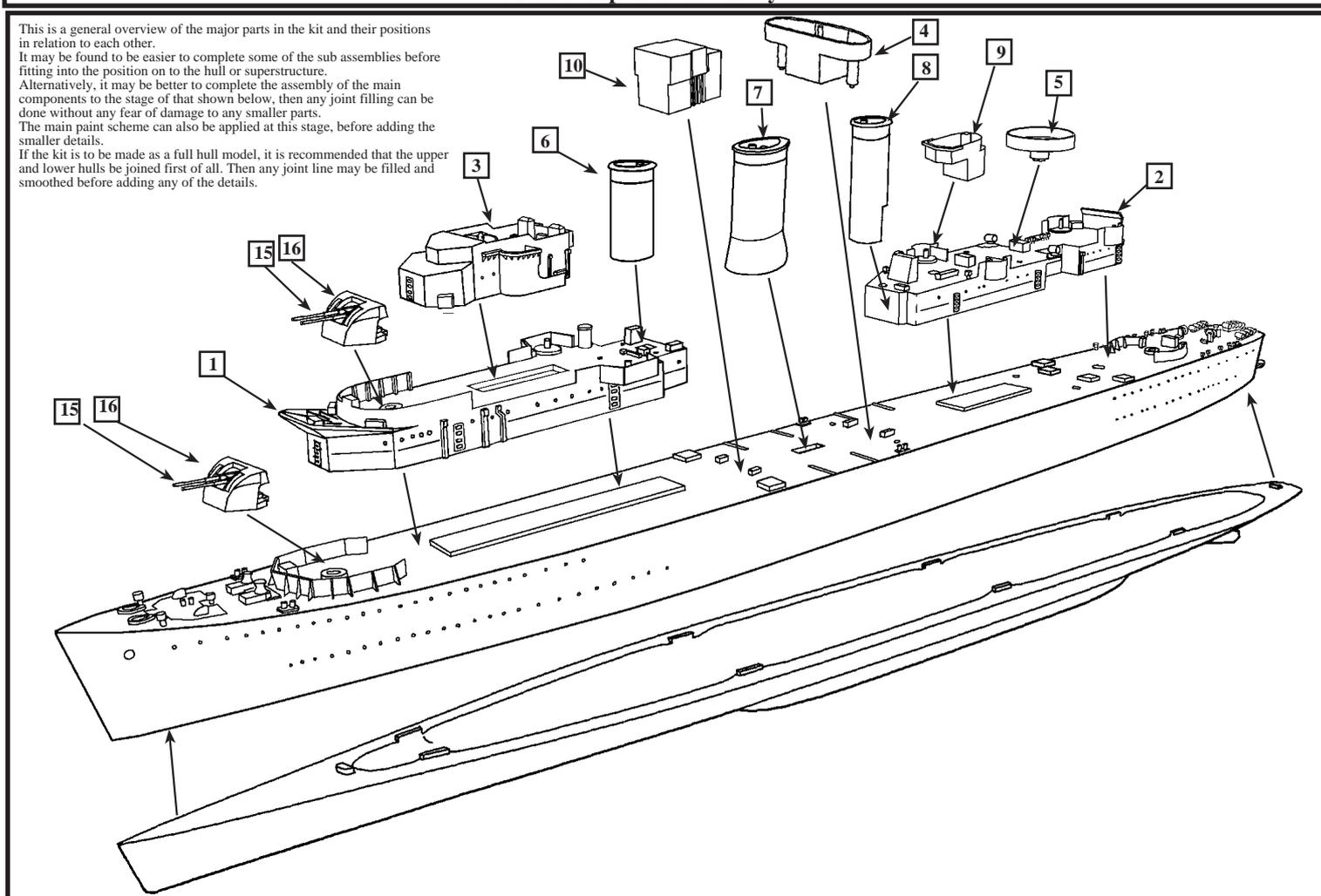
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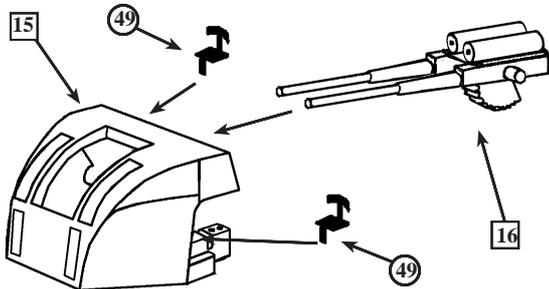
HMS Abdiel Fast Cruiser Minelayer 1/350 Scale

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Railings (Main Deck Middle) | 17. Pom Pom Rear Railings | 33. Anchors | 49. 4" Gun Layers Seats |
| 2. Railings (Aft Superstructure Rear) | 18. Pom Pom Forward Railings | 34. 25' Adm Motor Cutter Rudder | 50. Funnel Sirens |
| 3. Railings (Aft Superstructure Stbd) | 19. Pom Pom Ammunition Box Sides | 35. Ensign Staff and Stern Boom | 51. Fore Mast Upper Yardarm |
| 4. Railings (Stern) | 20. Pom Pom Fwd Splinter Shields | 36. Director Access Platform Railing | 52. Fore Mast Lower Yardarm |
| 5. Railings (Forward Superstructure) | 21. Pom Pom Rear Splinter Mats | 37. Searchlight Lens Cross | 53. Main Mast Yardarm |
| 6. Large Stove Pipe | 22. Pom Pom Ammunition Belts | 38. Fore Mast Tripod Braces | 54. Jack Staff |
| 7. Bridge Windscreen. | 23. 0.5" Quad Vickers MG Assembly | 39. Fwd Oerlikon Platform Supports | 55. Main Mast Starfish Brackets |
| 8. 25' Fast Motor Boat Parts | 24. Wind Direction Vane | 40. Forward Carley Raft Racks | 56. 282 Radar Yagi Antenna |
| 9. Railings (Fo'c'sle) | 25. Accommodation Ladder Rails | 41. Mid Carley Raft Racks | 57. Anchor Chain |
| 10. Pom Pom Platform Supports | 26. Accommodation Ladder Steps | 42. Aft Carley Raft Racks | 58. Ships Name Plates |
| 11. Railings (Aft Superstructure Port) | 27. Cable Reels (Large) | 43. 285 Radar Yagi Antenna | 59. Funnel Siren Access Platforms |
| 12. Boat Davits | 28. Bridge Front DF Antenna | 44. Mine Stowage Hatches | 60. Taut Wire Measuring Gear |
| 13. Funnel Cap Grill (Centre) | 29. Crane Hooks | 45. Depth Charge Rails | 61. 16' Motor Dinghy Cradles |
| 14. Funnel Cap Grill (Forward) | 30. Mine Handling Cranes | 46. 'A' Gun Training Stops | 62. Vertical Ladder Stock |
| 15. Funnel Cap Grill (Aft) | 31. Fore Mast Starfish Brackets | 47. Director Access Platform | 63. Small Stove Pipes |
| 16. Pom Pom Mounting Sides | 32. 20mm Oerlikon Single | 48. 291 Air Warning Radar Antenna | 64. Inclined Ladders |

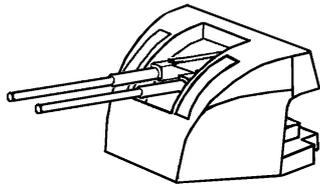
Main Component Assembly



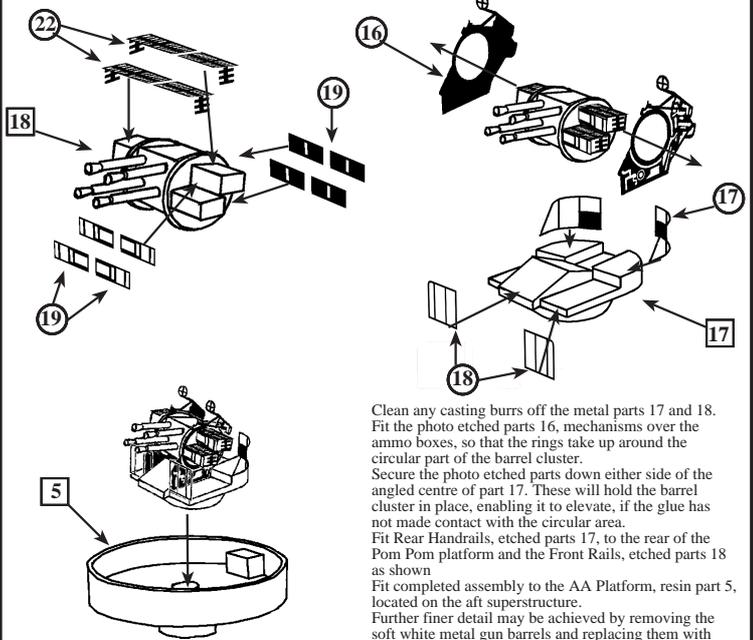
Twin 4" HA/LA Gun Mounting



Fit the gun barrels metal parts 16, into the gun shield 15, so that the lugs on the sides of the gunfit into the recesses on the mounting inside the shield.
Fold the gun layers seats, etched parts 49, to shape and fit to the forward ends of the fusing boxes.

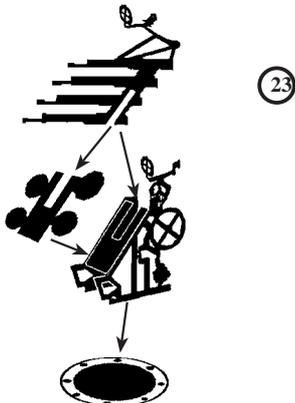


4 Barrelled Pom Pom Assembly



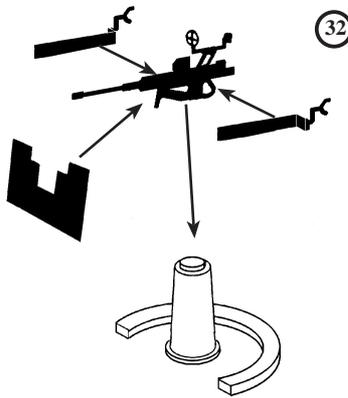
Clean any casting burrs off the metal parts 17 and 18. Fit the photo etched parts 16, mechanisms over the ammo boxes, so that the rings take up around the circular part of the barrel cluster.
Secure the photo etched parts down either side of the angled centre of part 17. These will hold the barrel cluster in place, enabling it to elevate, if the glue has not made contact with the circular area.
Fit Rear Handrails, etched parts 17, to the rear of the Pom Pom platform and the Front Rails, etched parts 18 as shown.
Fit completed assembly to the AA Platform, resin part 5, located on the aft superstructure.
Further finer detail may be achieved by removing the soft white metal gun barrels and replacing them with turned brass gun barrels if desired.

0.5" Quad Machine Gun



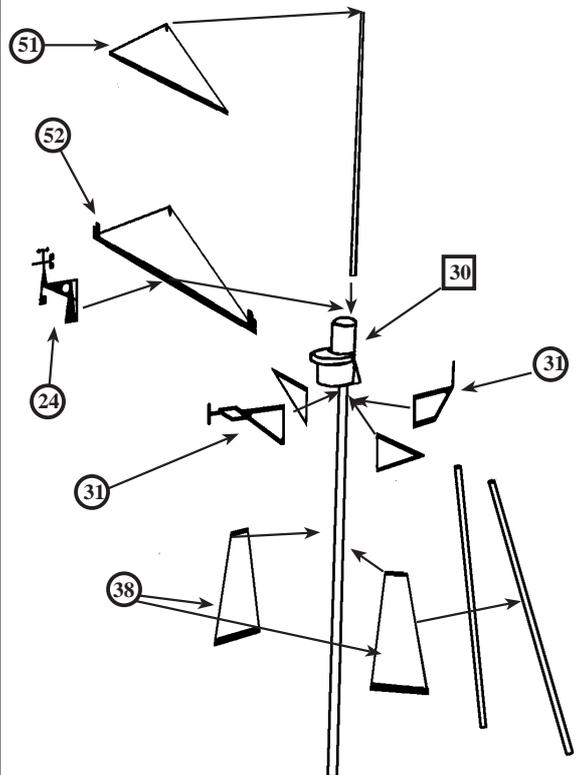
Assemble the half inch quad mounting by folding the side panels of the centre section so that they are parallel. Fix down to circular base. Fit the four offset magazine images so that they match the slot on the centre section. Fit the slot on the barrels section so that it slides over the slot on the centre section, with the barrels facing forwards as shown above. These mountings were fitted in the early years of service and removed in 1943.

20mm Oerlikon



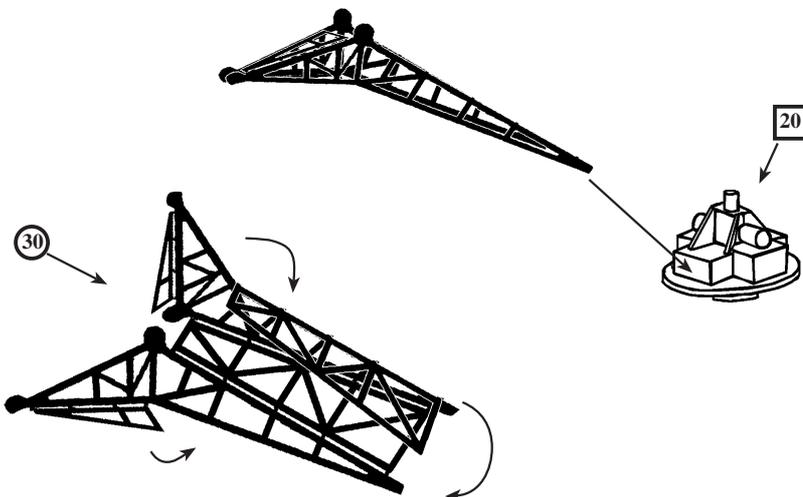
Assemble the 20mm Oerlikon mounting as shown above. The etched metal mounting pintles should be removed from the lower part of gun mounting before any assembly begins. Locate these into positions on the gun platforms on either side of the forward superstructure as shown in the section below.

Fore Mast Assembly



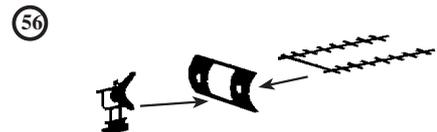
Cut a 19mm length of .5mm (20thou) diameter brass rod and file it to a taper for use as a top mast pole. Drill a recess into the top of the crow's-nest on metal part 30 in which to fit the top mast pole.
Cut two 35mm lengths of .75mm (30thou) diameter brass rod two form the rear tripod legs. Attach these under the bell type housing behind the crow's-nest. Fit the assembled mast into the locating holes between the bridge and the forward funnel, before fitting the tripod braces, etched parts 38, in place. This will ensure the correct positioning of the legs at deck level.

Crane Assembly



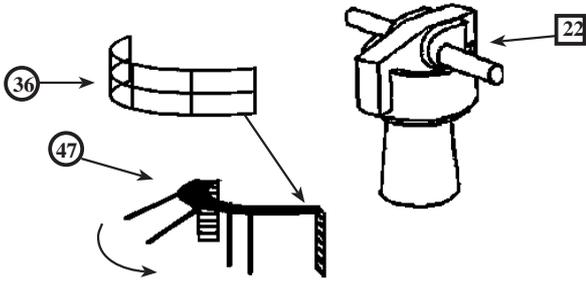
Fold the two crane jibs, etched parts 30, around to form a box lattice assembly which will take the form of the crane jibs. Secure the mating edges with super glue. Fit the completed jibs on to the crane bases as shown right.

282 Yagi Antenna Assembly



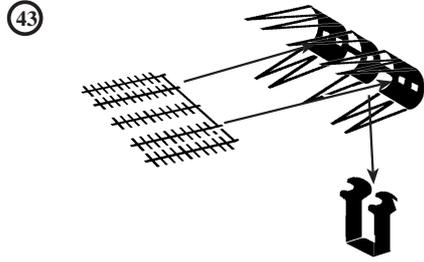
Assemble the yagi radar antennas by curving the rectangular dishes of etched parts 56 as shown. Fit the dipoles in to the holes in the centre of the dishes so that they are parallel. Fold the mounting bracket in half so that the etched detail is outermost, then attach centrally to the two joining bars between the radar dishes.

HACS MK 3 Director Assembly



Fold the support legs and vertical ladders to 90° on the HACS Director catwalk, etched part 47. Curve and fit the safety rail, etched part 36, as shown. Note. This catwalk does not fit directly on to the director, but sits on the bridge deck by its support frame, just in front of the director.

285 Yagi Antenna



Assemble the 285 Fire Control antenna by folding a gentle curve on to the rectangular reflectors then folding over the stays so that they face forwards. Fit the set of dipoles centrally on to the reflector faces, locating the pegs into the slots. Nip the pointed ends of the stays together so that they trap the centre bar of the dipoles between them. Fit the mounting arms to the spindles between the reflectors. The complete assembly then fit on to the top of the main gun director part 22, so that the points face over the front of the director.

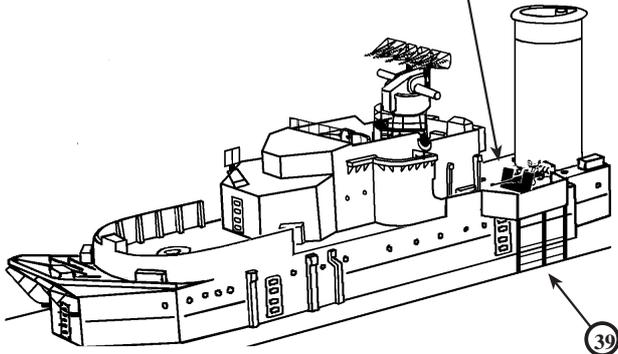
Fore Mast Location

As previously stated, the foremast should be located and fixed in place in the locating holes in the deck between the bridge and forward funnel, before fixing the tripod braces, etched parts 44, in place. This will ensure that the braces fit correctly to the tripod legs and at the correct height.

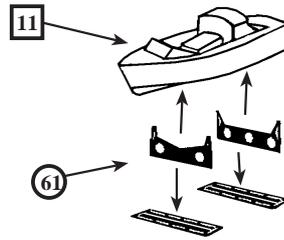
It may be found that it is easier to assemble the mast into the deck, starting with the tripod and working up. This should not be a problem as the top part of the mast is clear of any obstruction. It may be as well to leave fitting the Mk3 director in place, until after the mast is assembled.

Fit the forward gun sponson supports, etched parts 53, to each side of the forward superstructure as shown below.

A stock of vertical ladder section, etched parts 62, has been provided to fit to the mast from the deck up to the crows nest. These ladder sections can also be cut to length and used on the sides of the superstructure and sponsons where fitted.



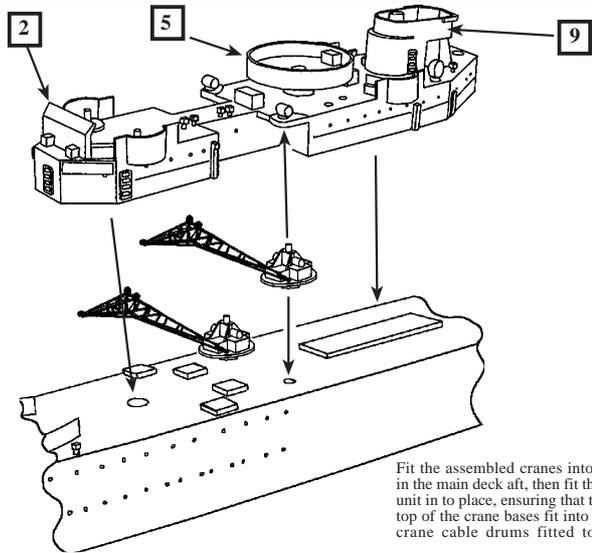
Motor Dinghy Assembly



Assemble the motor dinghy cradles as shown and fit in place to the underside of the boat.

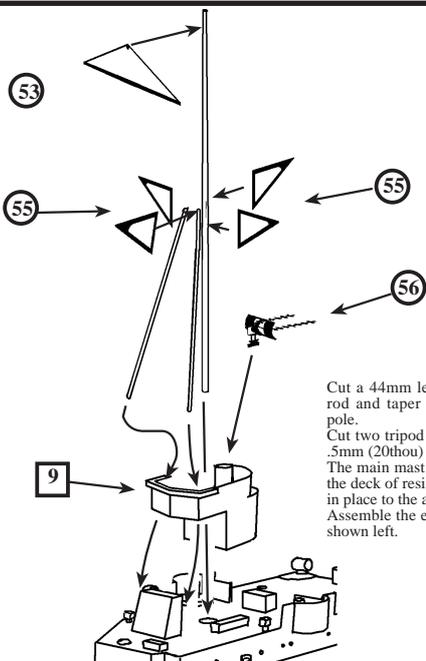
It is recommended that the boat be painted after fitting to the cradles, to ensure that the glue sets the cradles in place correctly.

Crane Assembly and Location



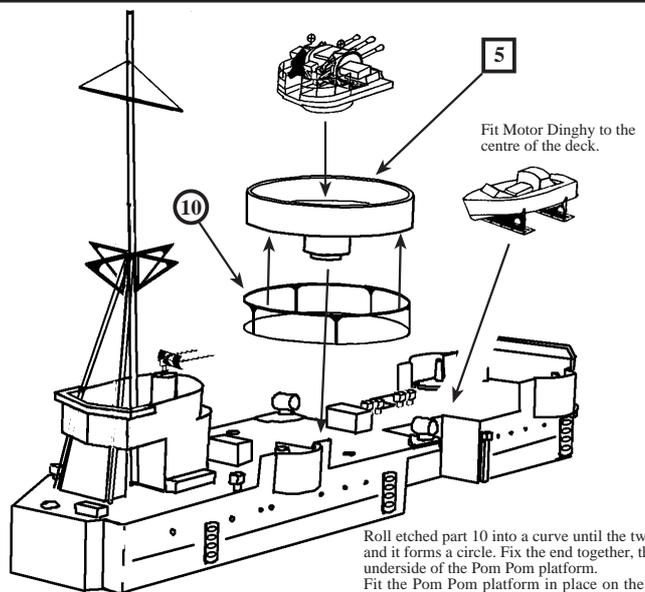
Fit the assembled cranes into the locating holes in the main deck aft, then fit the aft superstructure unit in to place, ensuring that the locating pegs on top of the crane bases fit into the holes under the crane cable drums fitted to the deck above.

MAIN MAST ASSEMBLY



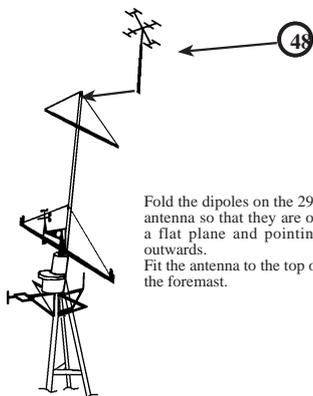
Cut a 44mm length of .75mm (30thou) brass rod and taper at one end for the main mast pole.
Cut two tripod legs to a length of 23mm from .5mm (20thou) diameter brass rod.
The main mast poles pass through the holes in the deck of resin part 13, which should be fixed in place to the aft superstructure.
Assemble the etched parts to the main mast as shown left.

AFT SUPERSTRUCTURE FITTINGS



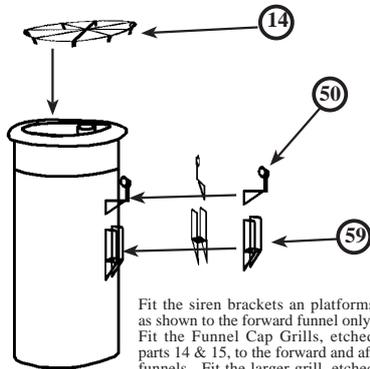
Fit Motor Dinghy to the centre of the deck.
Roll etched part 10 into a curve until the two ends meet and it forms a circle. Fix the end together, then fit to the underside of the Pom Pom platform.
Fit the Pom Pom platform in place on the deck of the aft superstructure, then fit the 4 barrelled Pom Pom.

291 Radar Antenna



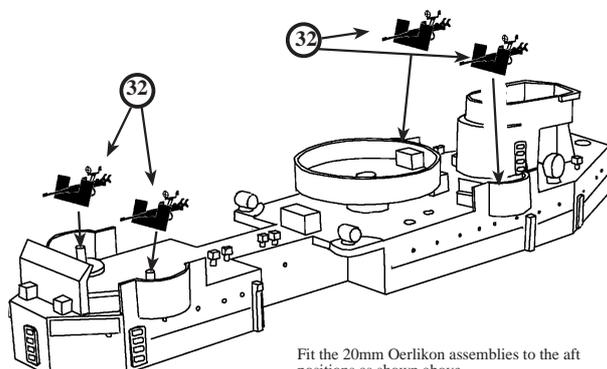
Fold the dipoles on the 291 antenna so that they are on a flat plane and pointing outwards. Fit the antenna to the top of the foremast.

Funnel Assembly



Fit the siren brackets and platforms as shown to the forward funnel only. Fit the Funnel Cap Grills, etched parts 14 & 15, to the forward and aft funnels. Fit the larger grill, etched part 13, to the centre funnel.

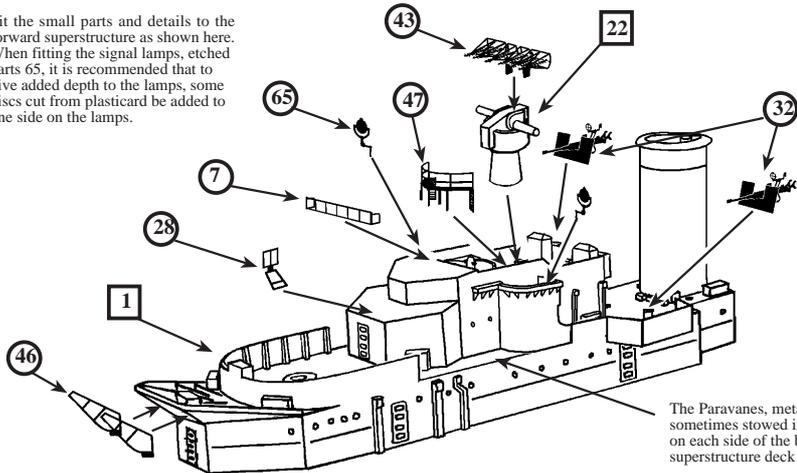
AFT 20MM LOCATION



Fit the 20mm Oerlikon assemblies to the aft positions as shown above.

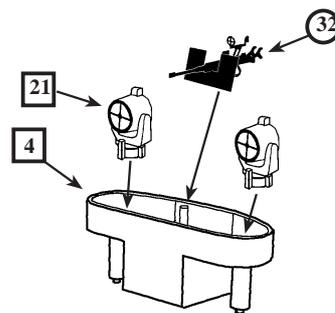
Forward Superstructure Parts Location

Fit the small parts and details to the forward superstructure as shown here. When fitting the signal lamps, etched parts 65, it is recommended that give added depth to the lamps, some discs cut from plasticard be added to one side on the lamps.



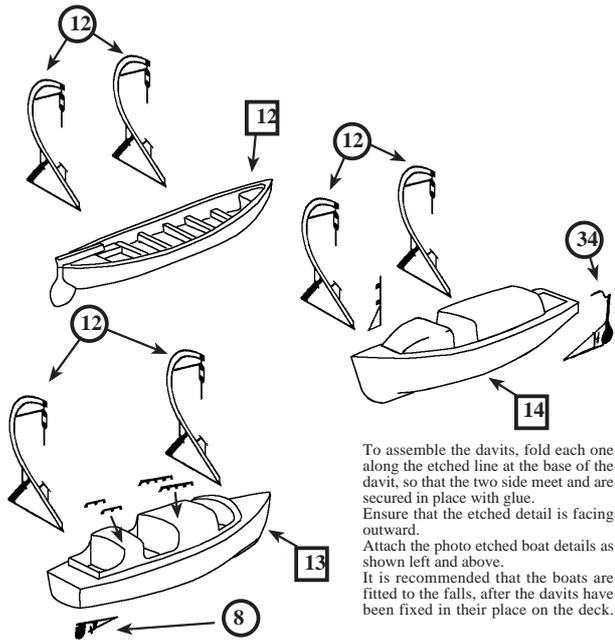
The Paravanes, metal parts 24, were sometimes stowed in pairs pointing aft on each side of the bridge and on the superstructure deck at this point shown.

Searchlight Platform



Fit the searchlights and 20mm Oerlikon in place after the Searchlight Platform has been fitted into position between the centre and aft funnels.

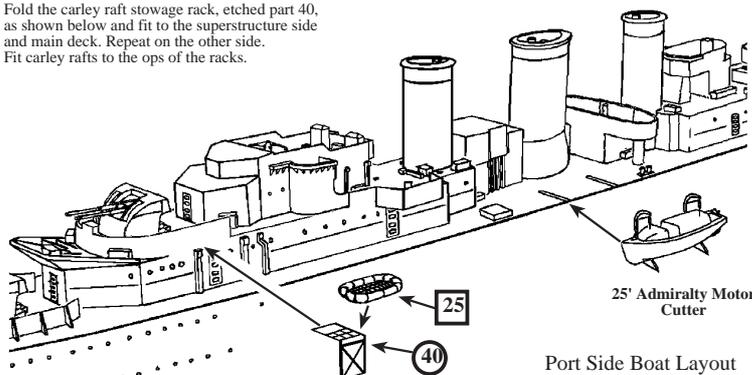
Sea Boats Assembly



To assemble the davits, fold each one along the etched line at the base of the davit, so that the two side meet and are secured in place with glue. Ensure that the etched detail is facing outward. Attach the photo etched boat details as shown left and above. It is recommended that the boats are fitted to the falls, after the davits have been fixed in their place on the deck.

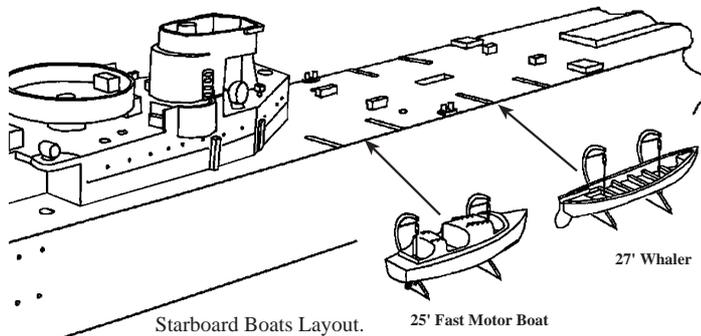
Boat Location

Fold the carley raft stowage rack, etched part 40, as shown below and fit to the superstructure side and main deck. Repeat on the other side. Fit carley rafts to the ops of the racks.



Port Side Boat Layout

Its is recommended that the boat davits, etched parts 12, be secured in position in the slots on the main deck provided, before fitting the boats to the falls.

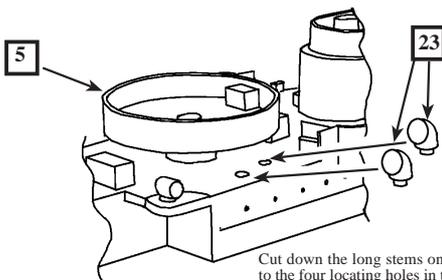


Starboard Boats Layout.

25' Fast Motor Boat

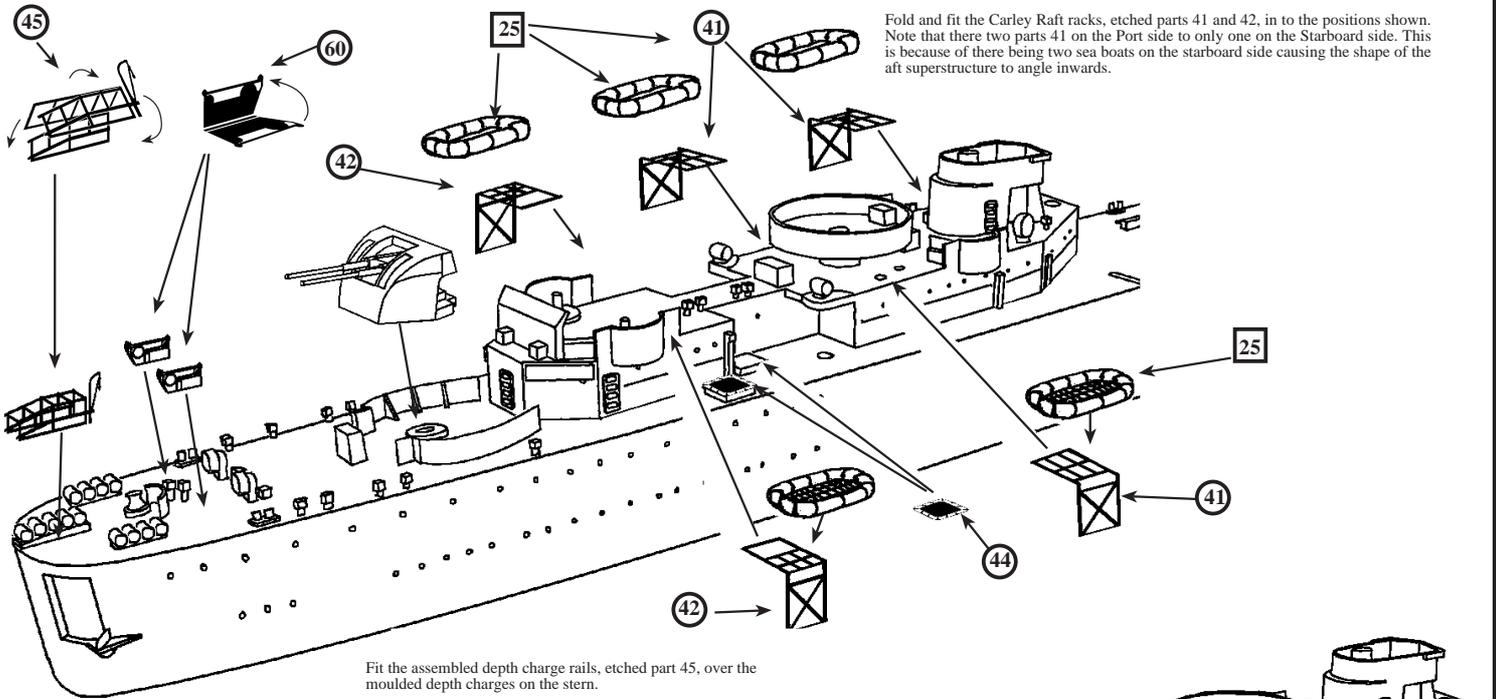
27' Whaler

COWL VENT LOCATION



Cut down the long stems on the ventilator cowls and fit to the four locating holes in the deck under the Pom Pom platform.

Stern & Quarterdeck Details

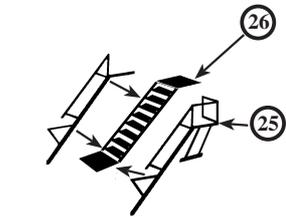


Fold and fit the Carley Raft racks, etched parts 41 and 42, in to the positions shown. Note that there two parts 41 on the Port side to only one on the Starboard side. This is because of there being two sea boats on the starboard side causing the shape of the aft superstructure to angle inwards.

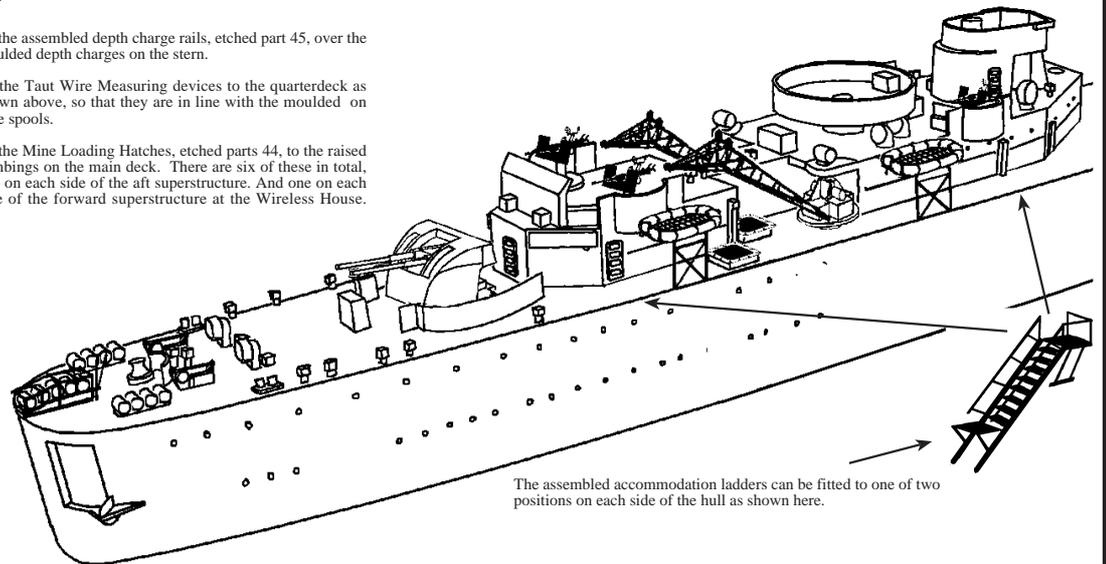
Fit the assembled depth charge rails, etched part 45, over the moulded depth charges on the stern.

Fit the Taut Wire Measuring devices to the quarterdeck as shown above, so that they are in line with the moulded on wire spools.

Fit the Mine Loading Hatches, etched parts 44, to the raised combings on the main deck. There are six of these in total, two on each side of the aft superstructure. And one on each side of the forward superstructure at the Wireless House.



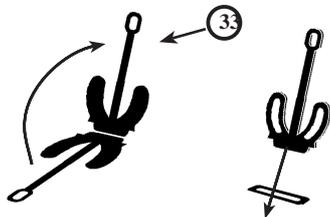
If the ship is to be modelled at anchor, an accommodation ladder may be deployed for the ships boats, on the ships sides aft of the aft funnel. There are enough etched parts provided to make a ladder for each side of the ship, should it be desired.



The assembled accommodation ladders can be fitted to one of two positions on each side of the hull as shown here.

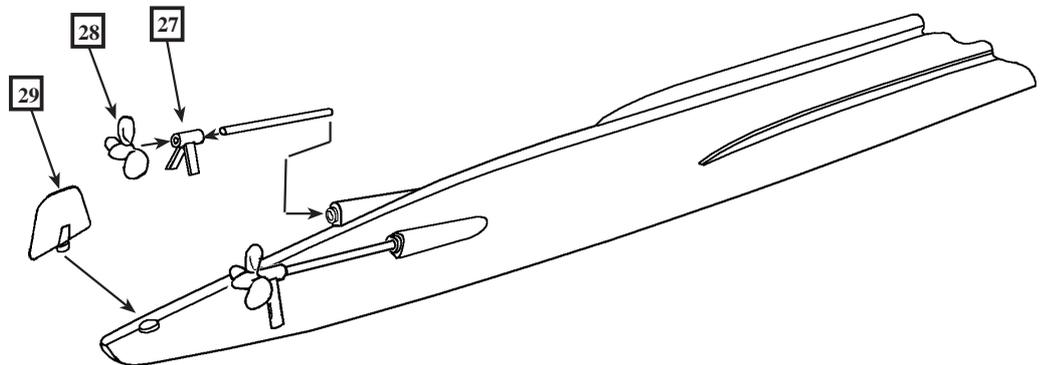
Note:- Wire Cable Reels, etched parts 27, have been provided, however the location and type of these items varied through time as they were added and deleted as required. Research will be necessary to establish the location of these items at the time frame that your kit is being modelled. The ships Nameplates, etched parts 58, were normally fitted to each side of the aft superstructure, but just exactly where has not established at the time of printing. Further research in to this will be helpful.

Anchor Assembly



Assemble photo etched anchors 52 as shown above, by fitting the fluke base into the slot in the tipper palm.
Fit anchors into the hawse pipes each side of the bow, after first drilling out the holes with a 1.5mm drill bit to allow the shank to pass up into the hull. Anchor chain, etched part 5 has been provided for fitting between the capstans and hawse holes on the foc's'le, but sufficient has been provided to allow the ship to be modelled at anchor with a long length of chain extended down to the water.

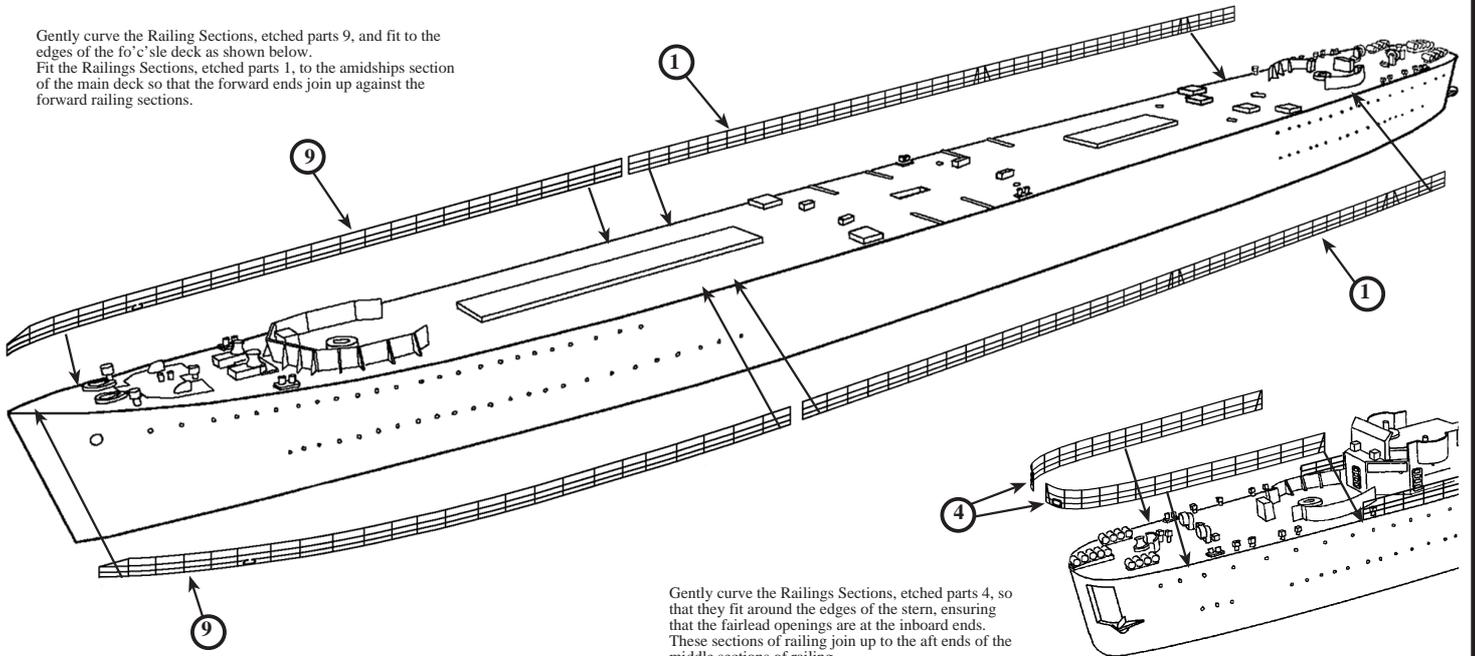
Propeller & Rudder Assembly



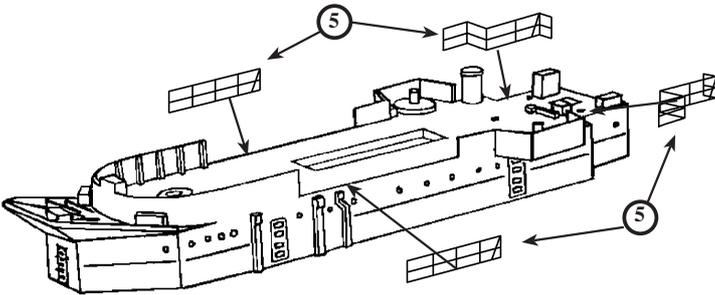
If the ship is being modelled with a full hull, cut two pieces of 1.5mm (60thou) diameter brass rod to 17mm in length. These are for use as the propeller shafts.
Assemble the 'A' brackets, parts 27, to the shafts as shown left after first trimming the legs of the brackets to length so that they sit in the correct position. Fix in to place. Fit the propellers to the other side of the 'A' brackets.
Fit rudder in to the recess provided.

Main Deck Railing Locations

Gently curve the Railing Sections, etched parts 9, and fit to the edges of the fo'c'sle deck as shown below.
Fit the Railing Sections, etched parts 1, to the amidships section of the main deck so that the forward ends join up against the forward railing sections.



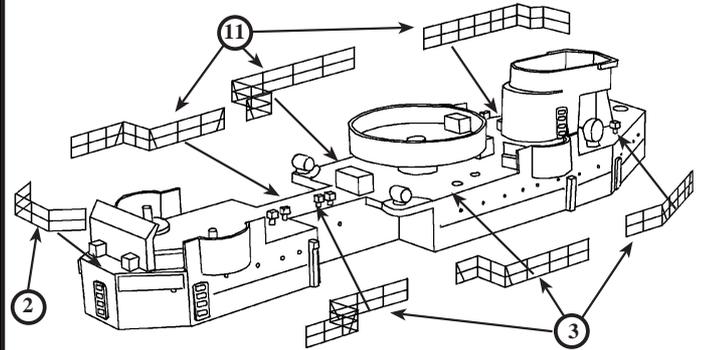
Forward Superstructure Railings



Shape and fit the two aft sections of railings, etched parts 5, to the deck edges at the rear of the forward superstructure. The two straight sections of etched parts 5, fit forward against the splinter shields. There is a gap at the rear of the forward section where the bridge spray shield fits and also the carley raft racks locate.

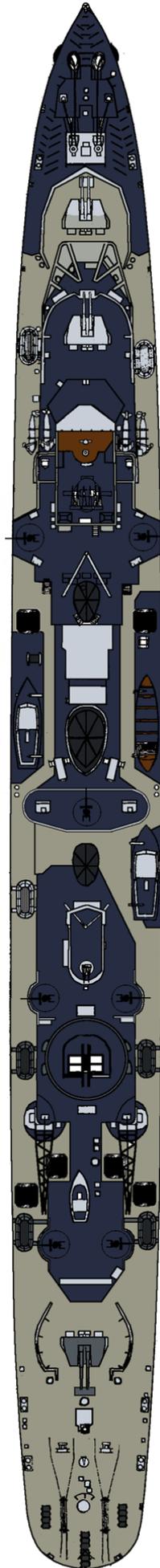
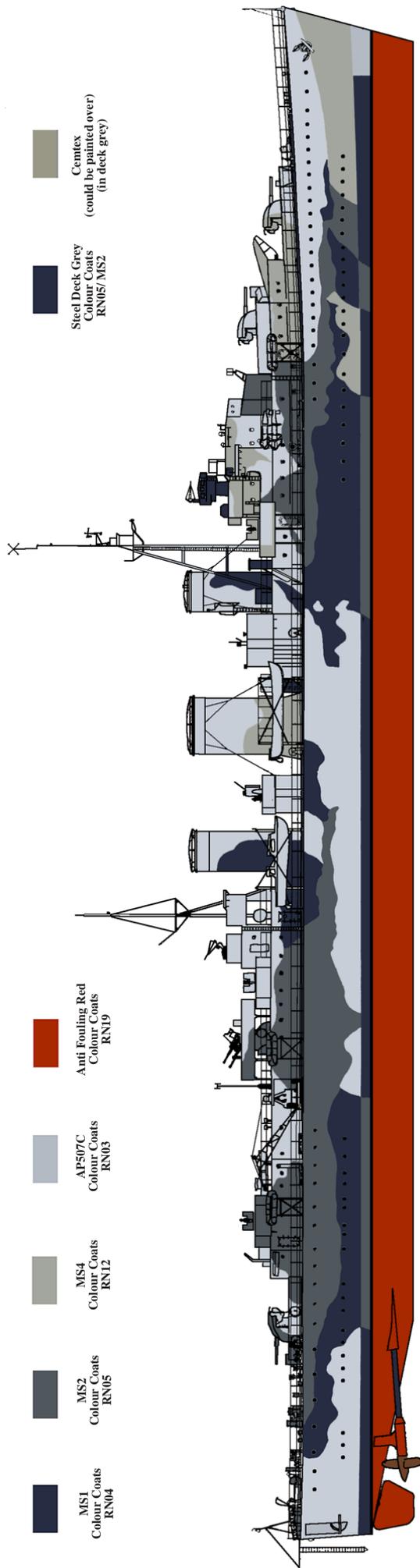
Aft Superstructure Railings

Shape and fit the small railing section, etched part 2, to the small platform at the rear on the aft superstructure.



Shape and fit the railings sections, etched parts 3 and 11, to the edges of the aft superstructure decks. Note, that as the aft superstructure is asymmetrical, the shapes and sizes of the railings on each side are different. It is important that railings etched part 11 are fitted to the port side deck edges and the railings etched parts 3 are on the starboard side.

COLOUR CHART & PAINTING GUIDE



Countershading: Paint the following WHITE:

- A. Underside of blast shields, flag decks, boats, Pom-Pom decks and other platforms.
- B. Lockers, vents, davits, etc.
- C. All darken ship screens, canvas covers for reels, etc.
- D. Lower 1/3 of gun barrels, searchlights, etc.
- E. Masts and crow's nest.
- F. Insides of gun shields.
- G. Stanchions and other small fittings on upper deck.

HMS ABDIEL

1942 Admiralty Light Disruptive Pattern
March 1943

Athwartship vertical surfaces: Either MS 4 or 507C

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