

H.M.S. LEEDS CASTLE
 1/350 Scale

HMS Leeds Castle (P258) was a Castle class Patrol Vessel built by Hall & Russell of Aberdeen. She was laid down in October 1979 and launched 29th of October 1980 by Lady Speed, wife of the then Navy Minister, Keith Speed.

The ship was one of two ships of the class, designed for offshore patrol and fishery protection duties. They were faster and had better sea keeping qualities than the Island class they were to replace. The *Castle* class also had a large flight deck aft, that was capable of landing on a Sea King rescue helicopter or support helicopters should the need arise.

HMS Leeds Castle was commissioned in to service on the 27th October 1981 and the following year became involved in the Falklands conflict. Her duties being as a dispatch vessel, operating between the British territories of Ascension Island, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Following the Falklands conflict, *Leeds Castle* and her sister ship, *Dumbarton Castle*, were used in three year rotations as Falkland Islands guard ship and patrol vessels.

When they were in home waters they carried out fishery protection duties, as well as being refitted and upgraded with the latest equipment. *HMS Leeds Castle* was decommissioned in 2005 following her final deployment to the Falkland Islands, being relieved by *Dumbarton Castle* which served until 2007 before being replaced by a new class of vessel, *HMS Clyde*.

In 2010 Both ships were refurbished and sold to the Bangladesh Navy, where they still serve as the *Dhaleshwari* and the *Bijoy*.

Specifications

Length : 266 feet (81m) Beam : 37 feet (11.5m) Displacement : 1,427 tonnes Speed : 18 knots Max 12 knots Cruise Complement : 45 + 25 Marines

Armament

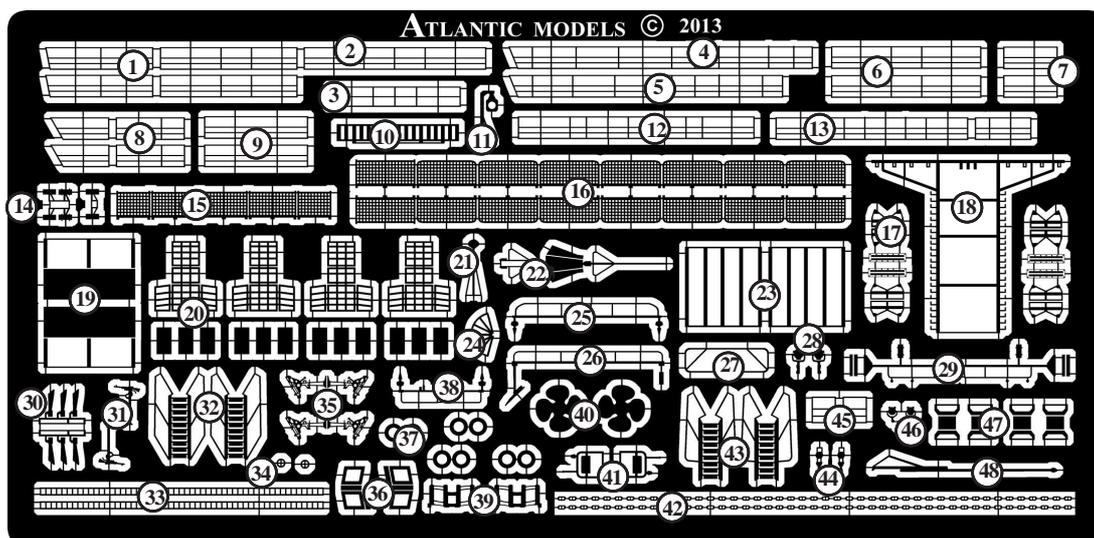
1 x 30mm Oerlikon/BMARC L/75 KCB Gun 4 x General Purpose Machine Guns on single pedestal mountings

General Precautions

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

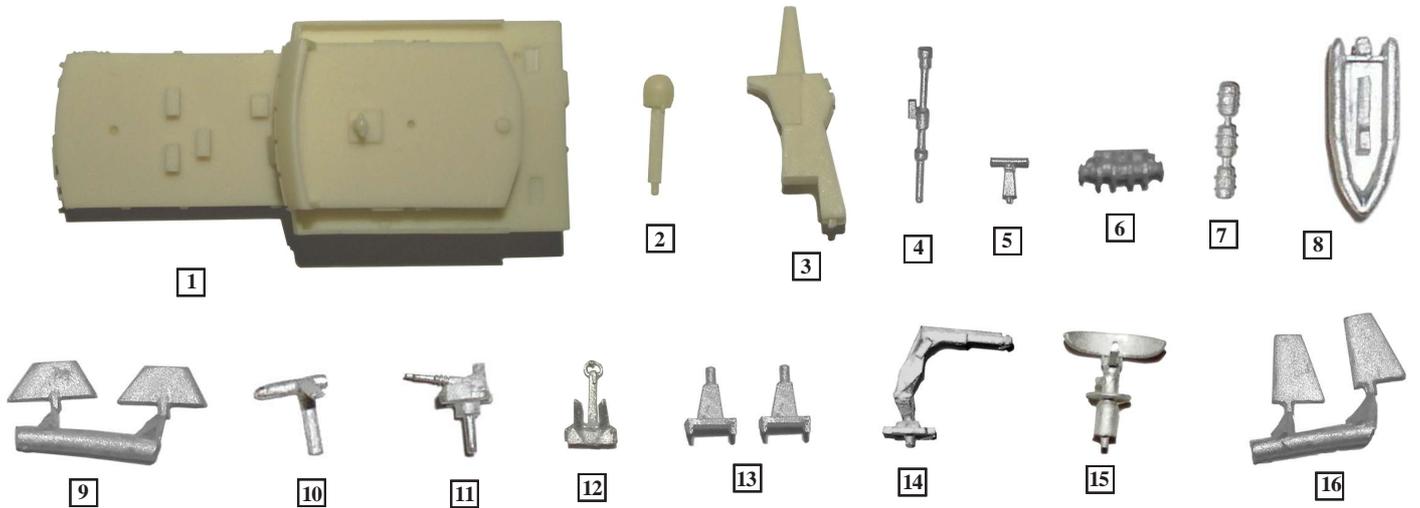
1. Resin dust can be harmful if inhaled. It is recommended that you wear a suitable dust mask when drilling or sanding resin parts.
2. Cyano adhesives (super glues) are generally used to assemble this type of kit. Care must be taken when using this type of adhesive as it will bond in seconds. Follow 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 METAL PARTS



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|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Railings (Gun Desk Sides) | 13. Railings (Mast Top) | 25. Mast Top Yards (Front) | 37. Life Belts |
| 2. Railings (Gun Deck Front) | 14. Mast Top ECM Sensors | 26. Mast Top Yards (Rear) | 38. Mast Top Yards (Top) |
| 3. Railings (Radar Platform) | 15. Flight Deck Safety Nets (Stem) | 27. Bowman Radio Antenna | 39. Life Belt Racks (Upper) |
| 4. Railings (Bridge Roof Stbd) | 16. Flight Deck Safety Nets (Side) | 28. Searchlights | 40. Propellers |
| 5. Railings (Bridge Roof Port) | 17. Boat Cradles | 29. Mast Lower Yardarms | 41. Boats Roll Bars |
| 6. Railings (Railings Decoy Platforms) | 18. Wire Antenna Spreader | 30. Flight Deck Floodlights | 42. Anchor Chain |
| 7. Railings (1st Floor Landings) | 19. Decoy Platforms | 31. Machine Gun Mountings | 43. Inclined Ladders (Lower) |
| 8. Railings (Boat Deck) | 20. Boat Fuel Can Stowages | 32. Inclined Ladders (Upper) | 44. Crane Hooks |
| 9. Railings (Antenna Enclosures) | 21. Sensor Antenna | 33. Vertical Ladder Stock | 45. Railings (Lower Ladder Landing) |
| 10. Accommodation Ladder (Stowed) | 22. Bridge Front DF Antenna | 34. Boats Steering Wheels | 46. Signal Lamps |
| 11. Helicopter GPI Lamp | 23. Bridge Wing Supports | 35. Rangefinder Sights | 47. Life Raft Canister Racks |
| 12. Railings (Bridge Aft) | 24. Antenna Array | 36. Life Belt Rack (Lower) | 48. Jack Staff |

RESIN & WHITE METAL PARTS

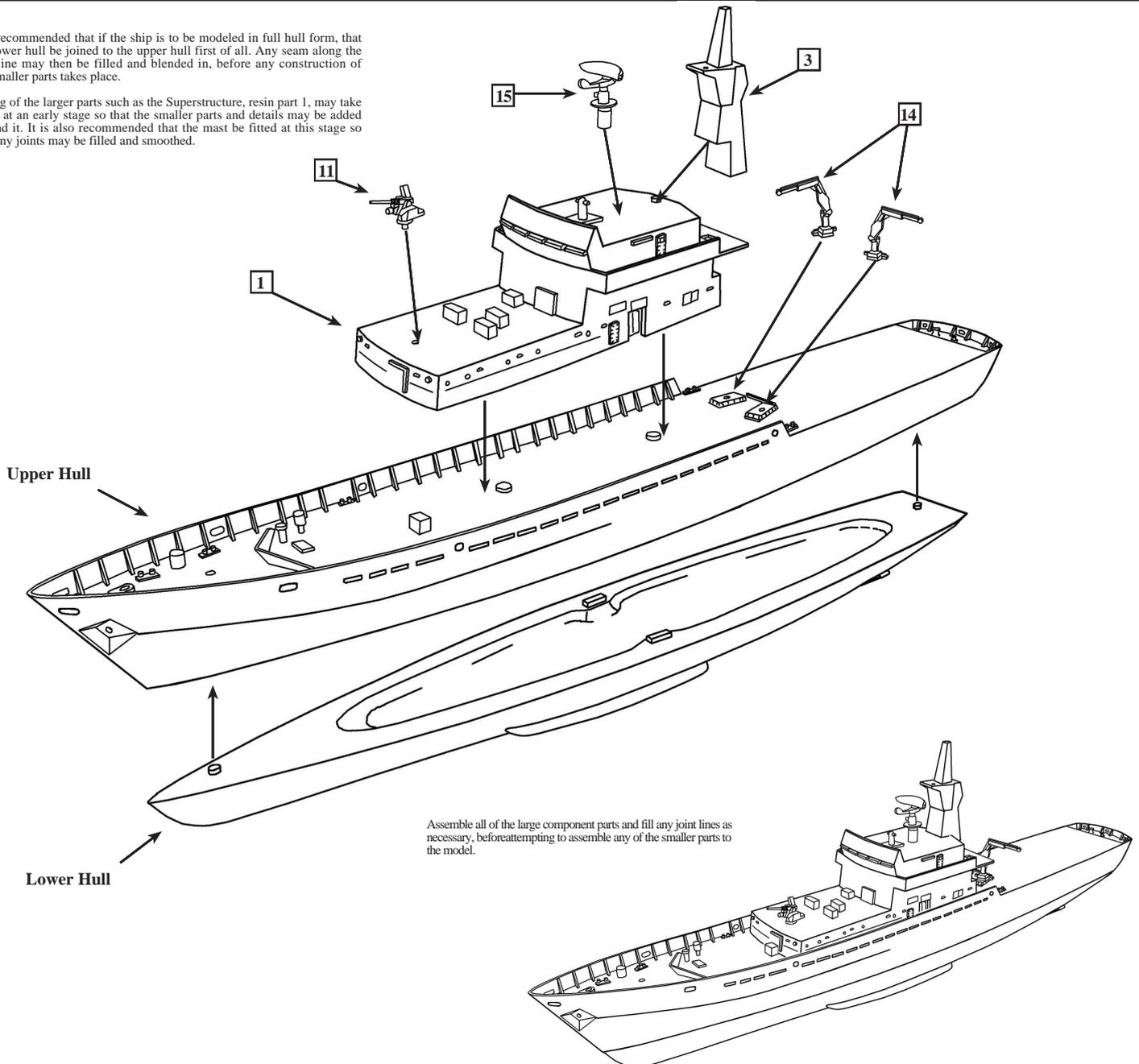


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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Superstructure and Bridge Unit | 5. Navigation Radar Antenna | 9. Stabiliser Fins | 13. Whip Antenna Bases |
| 2. Radome on Pole | 6. Windlass | 10. Propeller Hub and A Frame | 14. Boat Cranes x 2 |
| 3. Mast / Exhaust Uptake Unit | 7. Lifraft Cannisters x 2 | 11. 30mm Oerlikon Gun Mounting | 15. Long Range Radar Antenna |
| 4. Mast Top Pole | 8. 18' Avon Sea Rider RHIB x 2 | 12. Anchors x 2 | 16. Rudders |

MAIN STRUCTURAL PARTS

It is recommended that if the ship is to be modeled in full hull form, that the lower hull be joined to the upper hull first of all. Any seam along the join line may then be filled and blended in, before any construction of the smaller parts takes place.

Fitting of the larger parts such as the Superstructure, resin part 1, may take place at an early stage so that the smaller parts and details may be added around it. It is also recommended that the mast be fitted at this stage so that any joints may be filled and smoothed.

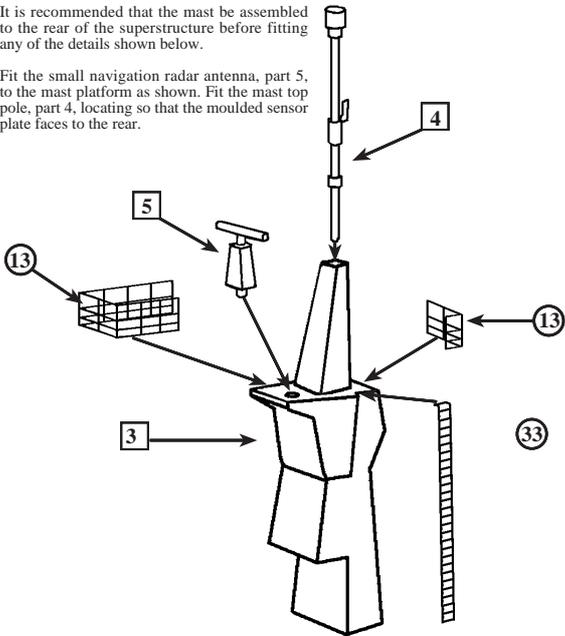


Assemble all of the large component parts and fill any joint lines as necessary, before attempting to assemble any of the smaller parts to the model.

MAST UPTAKE ASSEMBLY

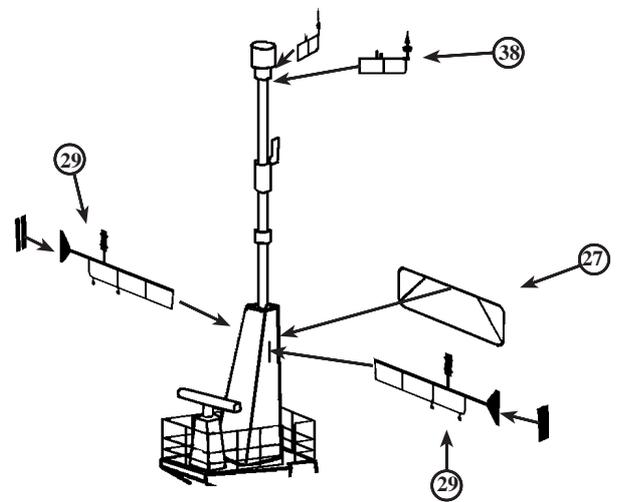
It is recommended that the mast be assembled to the rear of the superstructure before fitting any of the details shown below.

Fit the small navigation radar antenna, part 5, to the mast platform as shown. Fit the mast top pole, part 4, locating so that the moulded sensor plate faces to the rear.



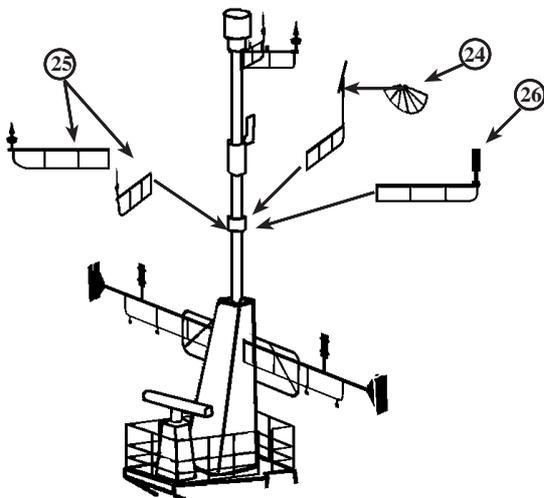
Shape and fit the railings, etched parts 13, to the top platform. The two parts of the railings join together at the starboard aft corner of the mast platform. This leaves a gap on the port side to allow an access opening for the vertical ladder, etched part 3.

MAST TOP LOWER YARDARMS



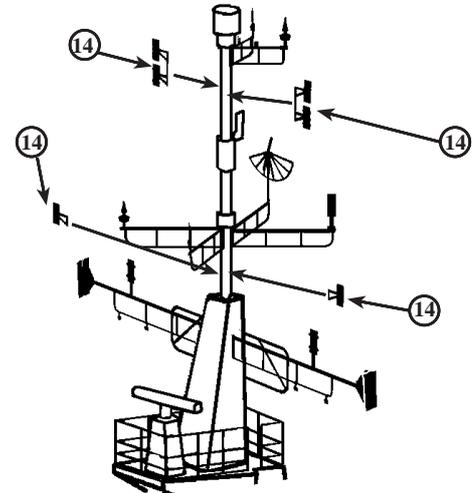
Measure down 4mm from the top of the plated mast and mark on each side. This is the location height of the yardarms, etched parts 29. Fit the end plates provided to each of these yardarms. Fit the Bowman antenna, etched part 27, centrally to the rear of the plated mast, so that top rail is along the same line as the top rail of the yardarms. Fit the two small yards, etched parts 38, to the top of the pole mast so that they are angled 45° to the rear.

MAST TOP MIDDLE YARDARMS



Fit the yardarms, etched parts 25 and 26, to the pole mast as shown above so that they are angled to 45° to the fore and aft line. These locate directly under the lower bulge on the mast pole. Fit the shield array, etched part 24, so that the central fork locates to the underside of the dipole at the vertical pole joint.

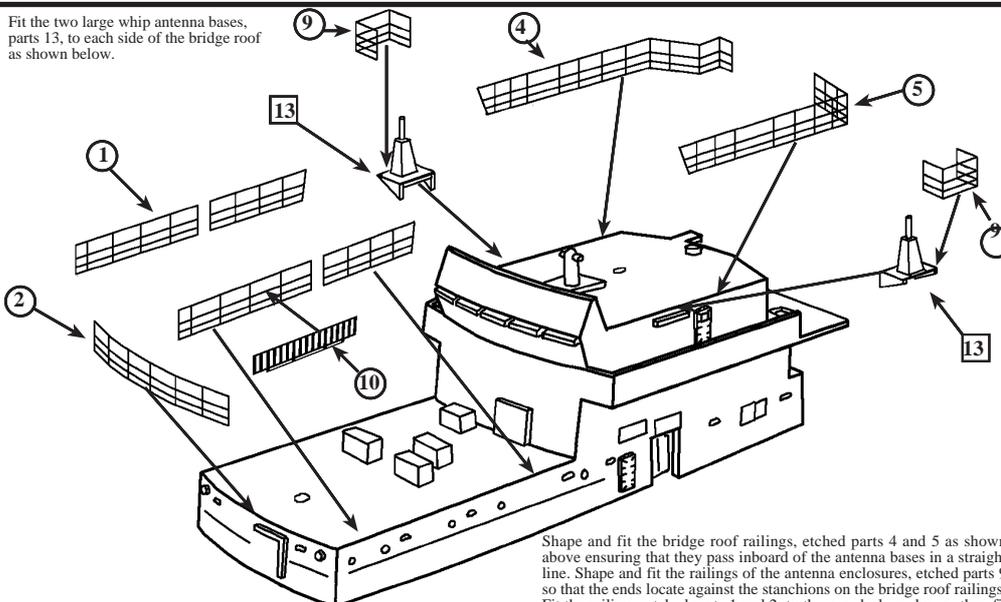
MAST TOP SENSOR LOCATION



Fit the sensor arrays, etched parts 14, to each side of the top mast pole. The double banked sensors fit on to the upper part of the pole directly below the small yardarms. The single sensors fit to the lower part of the pole below the middle yardarms.

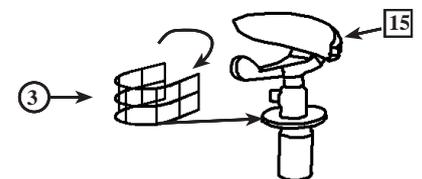
SUPERSTRUCTURE RAILINGS LOCATION

Fit the two large whip antenna bases, parts 13, to each side of the bridge roof as shown below.



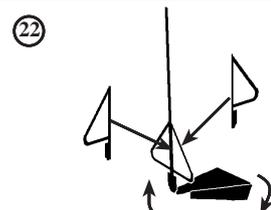
Shape and fit the bridge roof railings, etched parts 4 and 5 as shown above ensuring that they pass inboard of the antenna bases in a straight line. Shape and fit the railings of the antenna enclosures, etched parts 9 so that the ends locate against the stanchions on the bridge roof railings. Fit the railings, etched parts 1 and 2, to the gun deck as shown, then fit the stowed accommodation ladder, etched part 10 on to the port forward side railing as shown.

LATE FIT RADAR ANTENNA



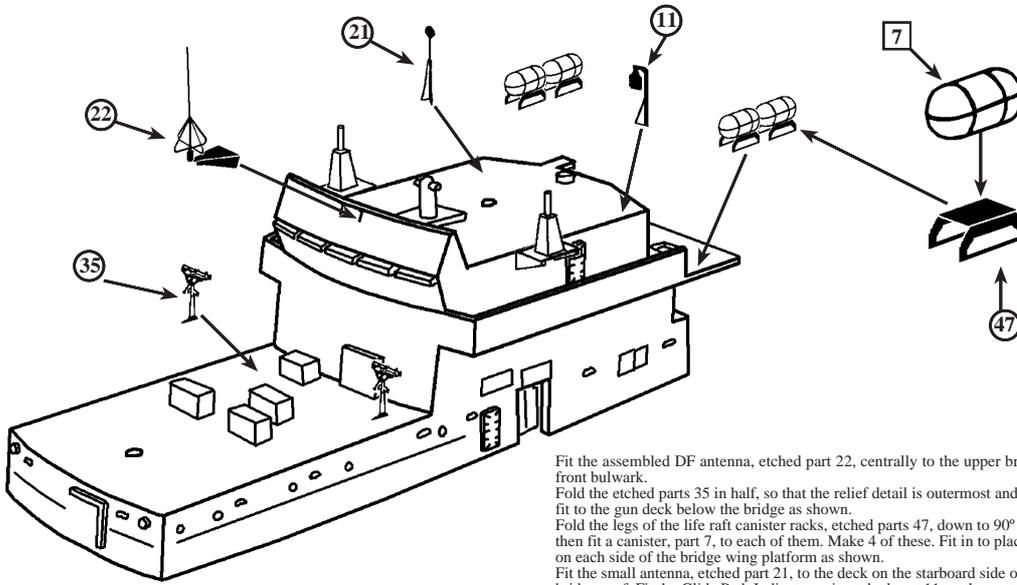
Gently curve the railing section, etched part 3 around until the outer ends meet. Fit the railing to the circular platform below the radar antenna. This radar antenna was fitted to the Castle class late in their career, and is supplied as an optional part.

DF ANTENNA ASSEMBLY



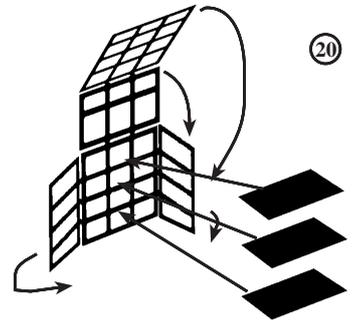
Fold down the sides of the support bracket on etched part 22, to 90° then fold the DF antenna 90° upwards. Fit the two shaped parts to the central vertical bar so that the DF antenna forms a cross when viewed from above.

SUPERSTRUCTURE FITTINGS



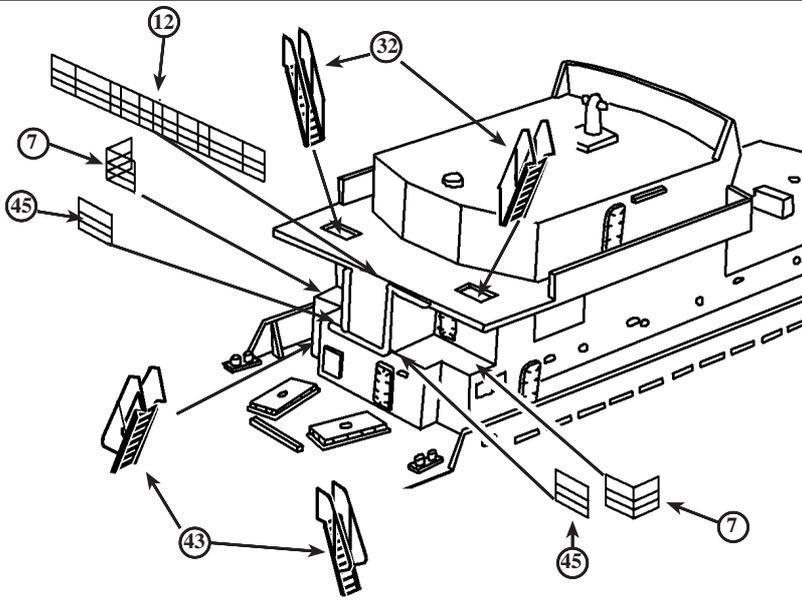
Fit the assembled DF antenna, etched part 22, centrally to the upper bridge front bulwark.
 Fold the etched parts 35 in half, so that the relief detail is outermost and fit to the gun deck below the bridge as shown.
 Fold the legs of the life raft canister racks, etched parts 47, down to 90° then fit a canister, part 7, to each of them. Make 4 of these. Fit in to place on each side of the bridge wing platform as shown.
 Fit the small antenna, etched part 21, to the deck on the starboard side of the bridge roof. Fit the Glide Path Indicator unit, etched part 11, to the port side of the bridge roof.

FUEL CAN STOWAGES



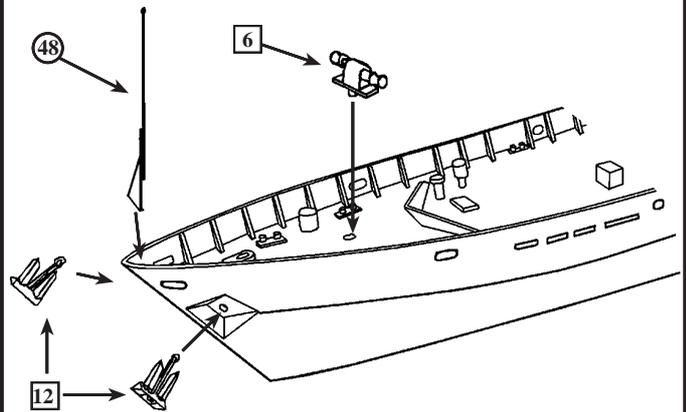
Fold the sides of the fuel can rack, etched part 20, to 90° so that they are parallel.
 Fit the shelves in to place along the horizontal bars as shown above and secure in to place.
 At this stage, dummy fuel cans may be made from plastic strip, painted red and fitted to the shelves.
 The top and front frames may then be folded over and secured into place.
 Make 4 of these.

SUPERSTRUCTURE ACCESS LADDER ASSEMBLY



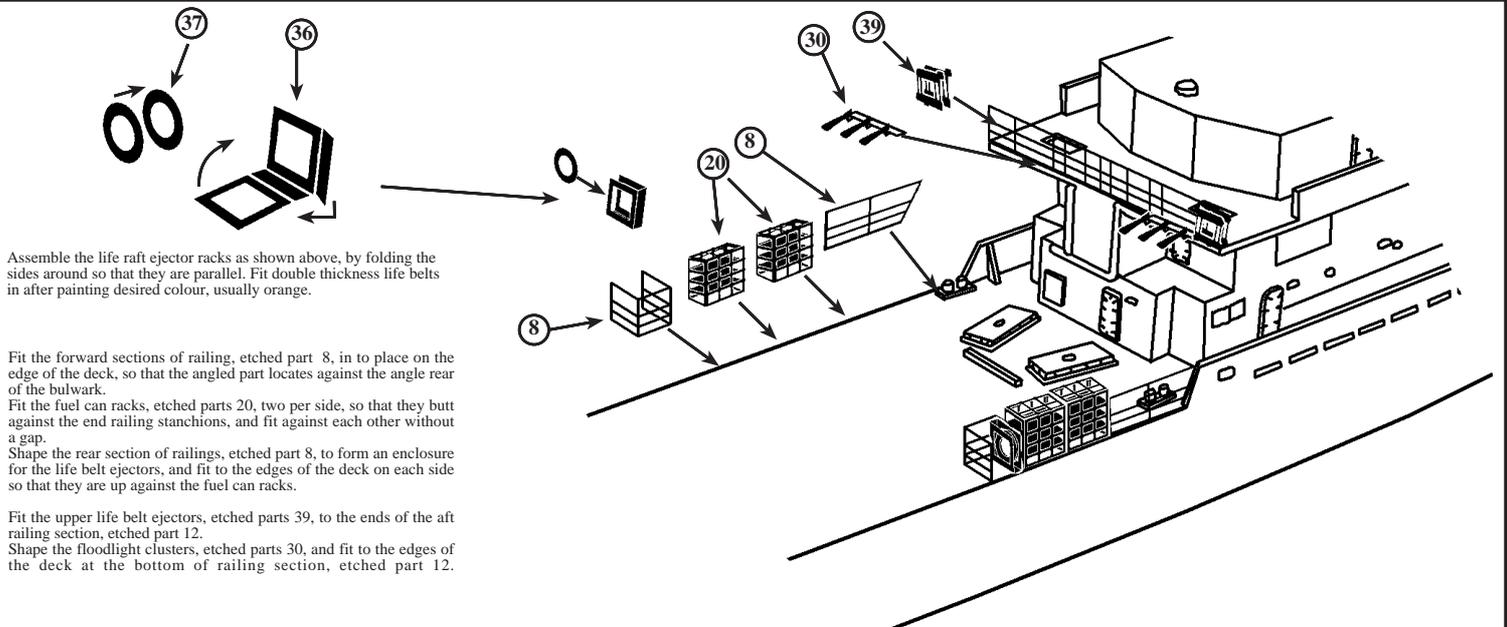
Shape the ladders, etched parts 32 and 43, by folding up the handrails to 90° on each side and then turning each step to the required angle to make them horizontal. Fit the steps 32, down through the access openings in the upper deck so that the hook at the bottom of the handrail fits to the edge of the opening. The ladder feet should touch on the deck below. Fit ladders 43 to the alcoves on the level below as shown. Shape and fit the railings, etched parts 7 and 45 to edges of the ladder landing.

ANCHOR LOCATION



Drill out the anchor hawse-pipes using a 1mm diameter drill bit, so that the shank of the anchor may fit up inside, allowing the flutes of the anchors to sit flush in the recesses on each side of the bow.
 Fit the Windlass, part 6, to the locating hole in the fore deck as shown.
 Etched part 42, is anchor chain, which may be cut to the desired length with one end fitted around the inner drums of the windlass and the other fitted into one of the hawse-pipes. This is done for both sides. Alternatively the anchor on one side may be omitted and extra length of anchor chain passed from the hawse-pipe to the surface of the water, if a diorama of the ship at anchor is being modelled.

BOAT DECK FITTINGS



Assemble the life raft ejector racks as shown above, by folding the sides around so that they are parallel. Fit double thickness life belts in after painting desired colour, usually orange.

Fit the forward sections of railing, etched part 8, in to place on the edge of the deck, so that the angled part locates against the angle rear of the bulwark.

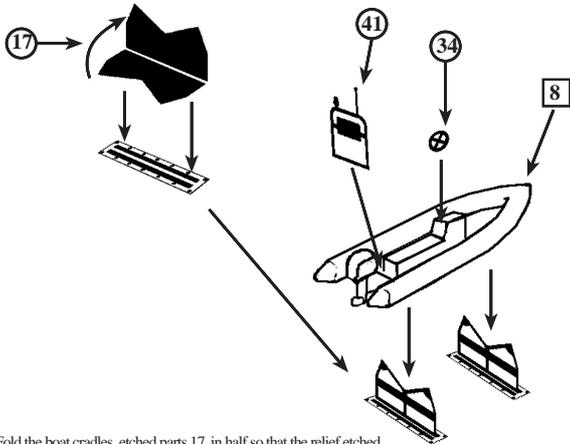
Fit the fuel can racks, etched parts 20, two per side, so that they butt against the end railing stanchions, and fit against each other without a gap.

Shape the rear section of railings, etched part 8, to form an enclosure for the life belt ejectors, and fit to the edges of the deck on each side so that they are up against the fuel can racks.

Fit the upper life belt ejectors, etched parts 39, to the ends of the aft railing section, etched part 12.

Shape the floodlight clusters, etched parts 30, and fit to the edges of the deck at the bottom of railing section, etched part 12.

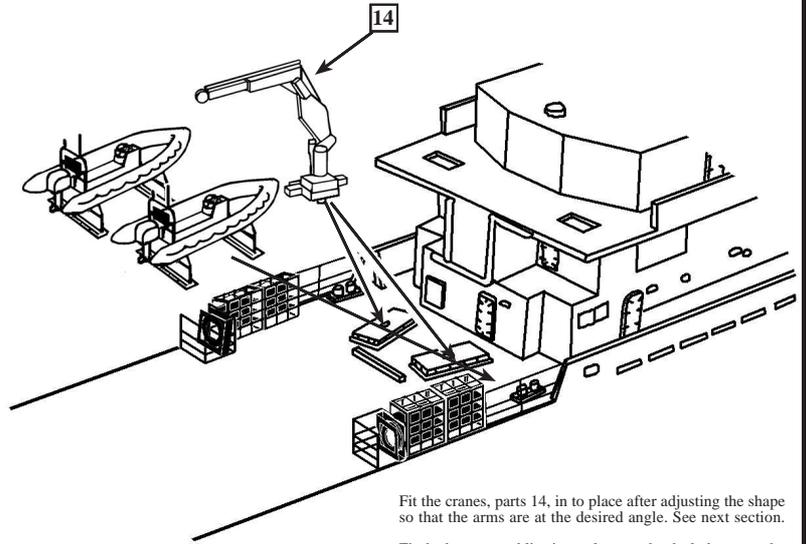
BOATS AND CRADLES ASSEMBLY



Fold the boat cradles, etched parts 17, in half so that the relief etched detail is outermost, and secure in to place. Fit the lower edges of all the cradles in to the etched slots on the base plates as shown above.

Fit the boats in to the cradles before fitting to the deck, so as to ensure correct spacing. Fit the self righting gear frame, and the steering wheel as shown right.

BOATS AND CRANES LOCATION

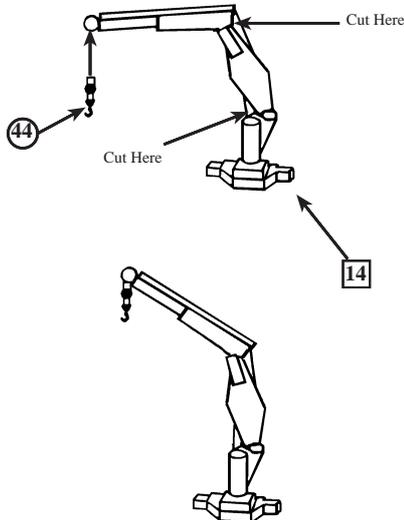


Fit the cranes, parts 14, in to place after adjusting the shape so that the arms are at the desired angle. See next section.

Fit the boat assemblies in to place on the deck, between the cranes and the fuel can stowage racks. The boats may fit at a slight angle following the line of the crane bases.

CRANE DETAILS

If it is desired to change the angle of the crane jib arms, the metal material of the kit parts allows a certain amount of bending, providing that not too much stress is placed on the joint. Cut in to the metal with a sharp knife at the places shown below.

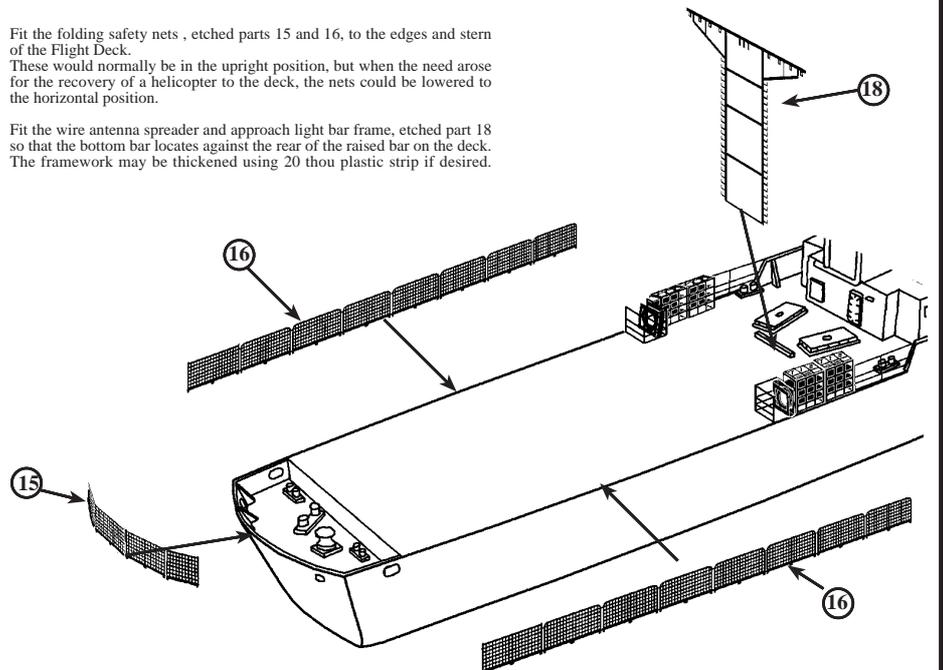


Gently bend the arms of the jib to the required angle, filling the cut in the metal until the gap is taken up. Fit the crane hooks, etched parts 44, to the ends of the jib as shown.

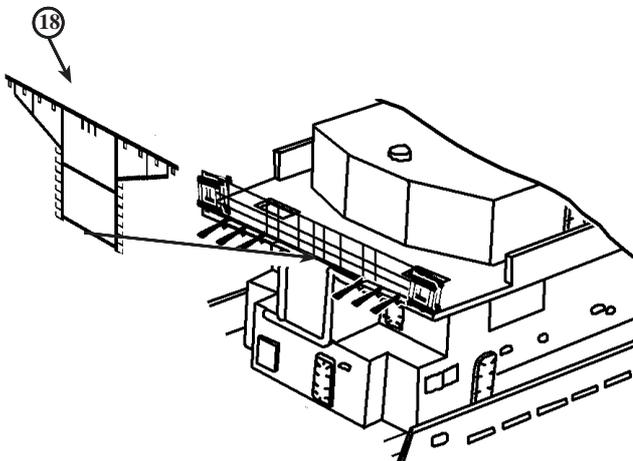
FLIGHT DECK FITTINGS

Fit the folding safety nets, etched parts 15 and 16, to the edges and stern of the Flight Deck. These would normally be in the upright position, but when the need arose for the recovery of a helicopter to the deck, the nets could be lowered to the horizontal position.

Fit the wire antenna spreader and approach light bar frame, etched part 18 so that the bottom bar locates against the rear of the raised bar on the deck. The framework may be thickened using 20 thou plastic strip if desired.

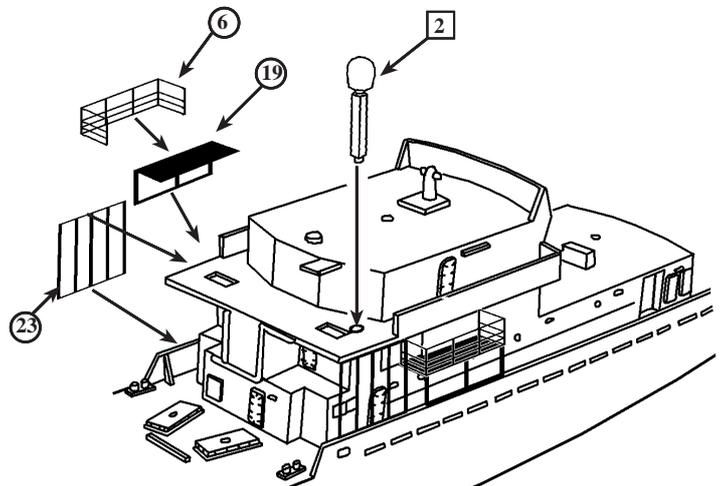


DUMBARTON CASTLE WIRE SPREADER



HMS Dumbarton Castle, differed slightly, in that her antenna spreader and floodlight bar were on a shorter frame that was fitted to the rear edge of the bridge deck. This can be achieved simply by cutting away the two lower sections of etched part 18 and discarding them. The framework can then be fitted as shown above if the Dumbarton Castle is being modelled.

LATE FIT UPGRADES

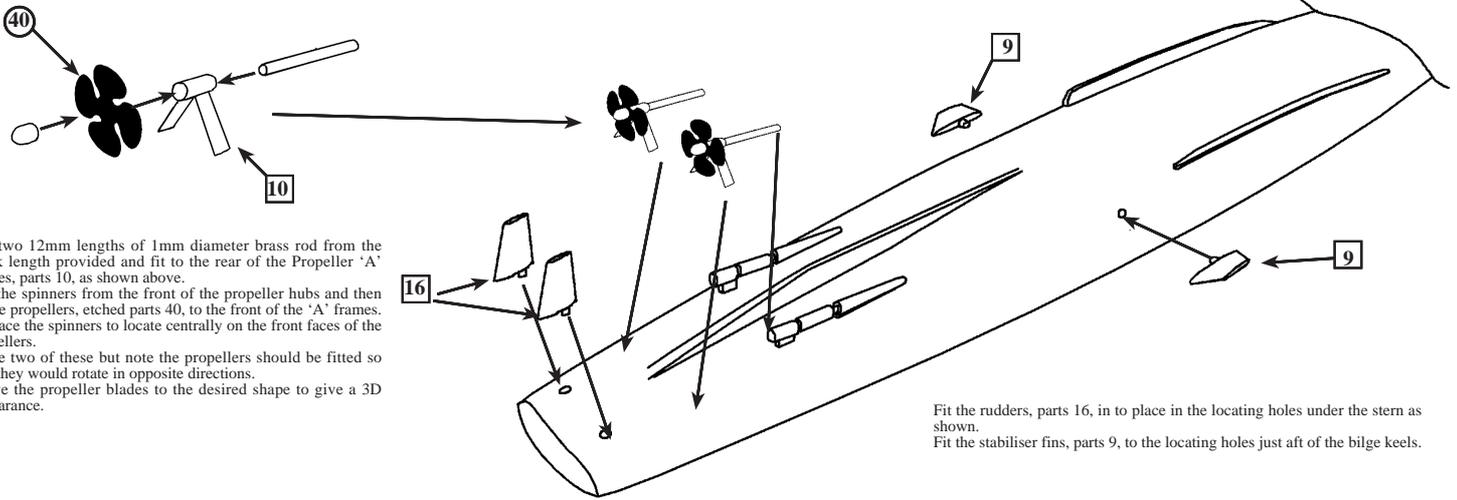


Late fit upgrades included the fitting of the small radome, part two, to the position to the rear of the bridge on the port side. Fit in to the locating hole if desired.

Decoy launcher platforms were also fitted to each side of the superstructure. Fold the support bars on etched parts 19 down to 90° and fit the platform against the superstructure side. The bottom of the supports bars fit to the tops of the bulwarks.

Fit the support poles, etched parts 23, into position under the deck below the life raft canisters. The bottoms of the support poles fit inside the top edges of the bulwarks.

LOWER HULL FITTINGS & RUNNING GEAR ASSEMBLY



Cut two 12mm lengths of 1mm diameter brass rod from the stock length provided and fit to the rear of the Propeller 'A' frames, parts 10, as shown above.
 Cut the spinners from the front of the propeller hubs and then fit the propellers, etched parts 40, to the front of the 'A' frames. Replace the spinners to locate centrally on the front faces of the propellers.
 Make two of these but note the propellers should be fitted so that they would rotate in opposite directions.
 Curve the propeller blades to the desired shape to give a 3D appearance.

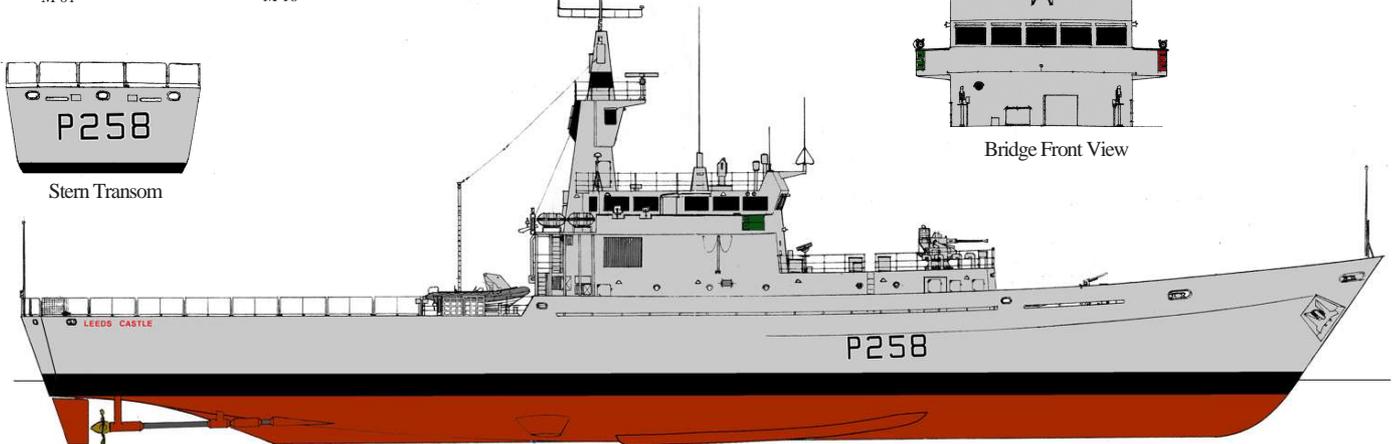
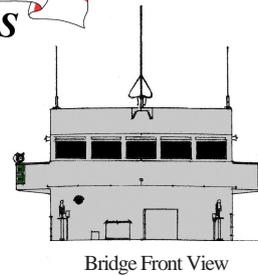
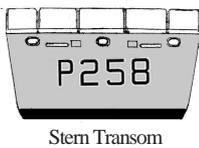
Fit the rudders, parts 16, in to place in the locating holes under the stern as shown.
 Fit the stabiliser fins, parts 9, to the locating holes just aft of the bilge keels.

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fit the 40mm Single Bofors gun, Part 11, which was initially fitted to these ships, to the forward locating hole in the gun deck. During later refits these guns were replaced with the 30mm GMC/Oerlikon mounting, which will become available soon as a separate item from Atlantic Models.
2. Etched parts 31, are General Purpose Machine Gun Mountings that have been provided as additional items should the modeller wish to fit them. The location of these varied between the focsle and the bridge wings, so further research will be needed to establish the location required.
3. Etched parts 28 and 46 are searchlights and signal lamps. The location of these are against the rear sections bulwarks of the bridge wings, and can be seen in the colour profile below. These lamps can be further enhanced by thickening the lamp body with small lengths of plastic rod.
4. Decals have been provided to finish the model with the correct pennant numbers, plus one alternative being HMS Dumbarton Castle. They also have impressions of the bridge windows, which will give a more accurate finished article, than maybe have the modeller struggling with a fine paint brush.
 These decals are removed from the backing card by soaking in warm water and brushing from the card using the usual waterslide method. Decal solvents can be used to further attach the decal more securely. See the colour plan and profile below for the location of these markings and numbers.
 If HMS Dumbarton Castle is to be modelled, then the pennant numbers P265 are used along with the Flight Deck letters DC.

COLOUR CHART & PAINTING GUIDE

All paint references in this colour guide
 are for the highly authentic paints supplied



HMS Leeds Castle 1982

