

# 'H' Class Fleet Destroyer

## H.M.S. HESPERUS

### 1941

Resin & Photo Etched Metal Kit in 1/350 scale

#### History

Laid down on 6th July 1938 at John I Thornycroft Shipbuilders Ltd, at Woolston, Hampshire as part of an order from the Brazilian government for six ships to the same basic specifications as that of the British "H" class Destroyers, the Jurueña was launched on the 1st August 1939, whereby shortly after was purchased with her five sisters from the Brazilian government and became known as the Havant class. They were hastily completed with modifications that required the removal of 'Y' gun mounting and additional depth charge stowage provisioned for anti-submarine duties.

Jurueña was re named by the Royal Navy as HMS Hearty and commissioned on 22nd January 1940. So hastily had these ships been completed that they had not been fitted with the standard gunnery rangefinders and director control towers that were to be found on ships of similar classes, but instead only had a rangefinder tower fitted behind the bridge. Later in 1941 the ship had a combined DCT rangefinder fitted, but the remainder of the class eventually received the RDF 270 in the distinctive lantern array, and also had an upgrade of up to six 20mm Oerlikon AA weapons when they were re fitted for escort duties.

Initially the Hesperus and her five sisters, Highlander, Hurricane, Havant, Havelock and Harvester formed the 9th Destroyer Flotilla and they took part in the Norwegian campaign early in the war. Then the Flotilla took part in the evacuation of France which resulted in the loss of the Havant off Dunkirk. The Flotilla was engaged in anti submarine duties later in 1940 and Harvester and Highlander sank U32 in October 1940.

HMS Hesperus was attached to Force H for a period from April 1941 but her AA Armament was considered too weak for operations in the Mediterranean, and so on 7th July she was transferred to the Newfoundland Escort Force. In August 1941 Hesperus was one of the destroyer force escorting HMS Prince of Wales carrying prime minister Winston Churchill to his meeting with US President Franklin D Roosevelt.

Hesperus along with her sister Harvester sank U208 on 7th December 1941. The U Boat was detected on the surface so Hesperus's captain ordered to ram. The damage caused buckling to plates that were temporarily repaired in Gibraltar and more permanently later in Falmouth. The U Boat was finally sunk by depth charges and gun fire and 40 of its crew picked up.

The five remaining Havants were then designated to be leaders of Escort Groups B1 to B5 with Hesperus leading B2 Escort group. Whilst on convoy duties on 26th December along with the Destroyer Vanessa sunk U 357 again by ramming. This time serious damage was done to the ships bottom which took three months to repair. Hesperus rejoined her group on 17th March 1943 and promptly sank U191, on 24th April this time with a hedgehog that had been fitted in the place of A Gun mounting. HMS Hesperus and the 14th Escort Group was to remain on escort duties until the end of WW2. She was involved in the escorting of surrendered German submarines from Loch Aish to Lough Foyle. Hesperus and Havelock were then given the duties of escorting the Norwegian government back to Oslo on the 27th of May and she remained there until 1st of June.

In mid June 1945 HMS Hesperus started a new career as an aircraft target, providing training for new pilots and continued in that role for nearly a year. HMS Hesperus was put in Category C Reserve from February 1946 and approved for scrapping. She was broken up in Grangemouth in May 1947

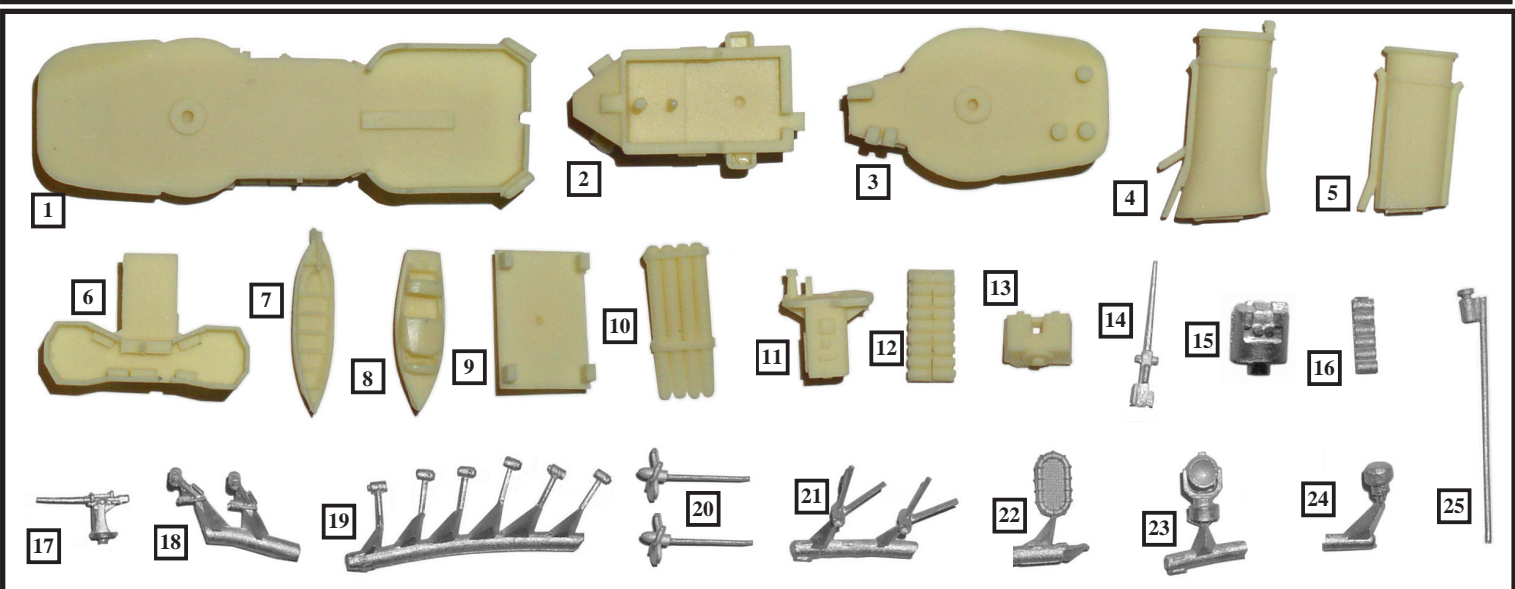
#### Specifications

Length 323 ft/ 98.45 mtrs overall. Beam 33 ft/ 10.5 mtrs. Displacement 1340 tons standard 1859 tons full load.  
 Range 5,530 nautical miles at 15 knots Complement 145 Officers and Men

#### Armament

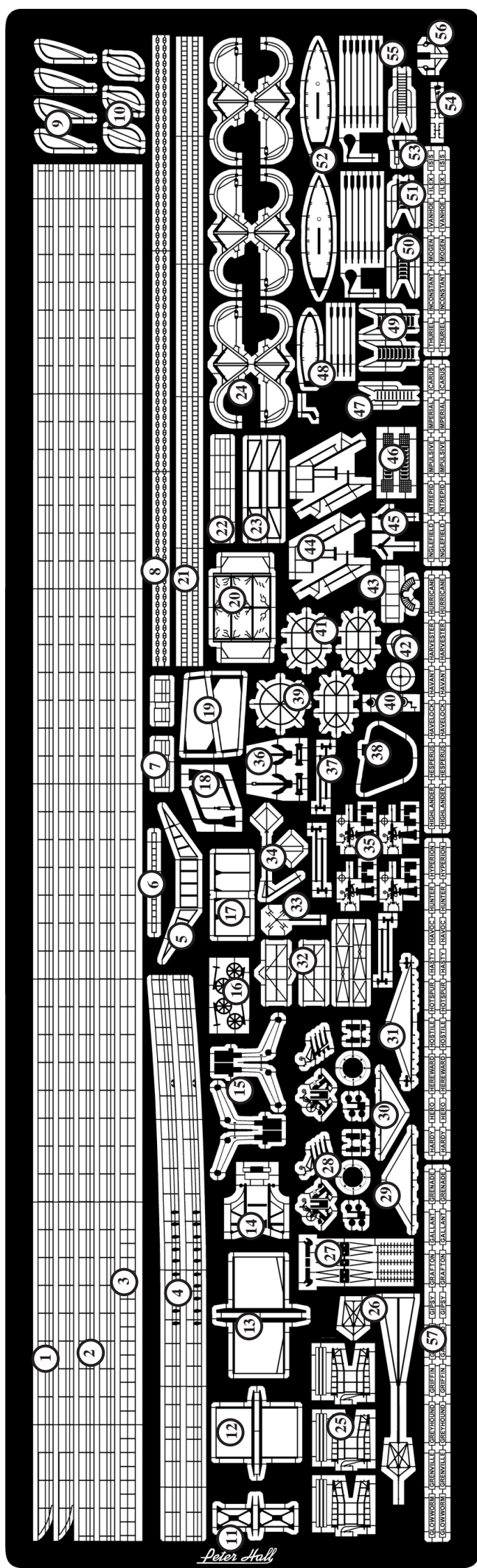
Three Single 4.7 inch QF Mk IX mountings Eight 0.5 inch Vickers Machine Guns in 2 Quad Mountings  
 One single 3" QF Mk2 gun mounting  
 Four 21 inch Torpedoes in 1 Quadruple Mounting Eight Depth Charge Throwers with 24 Reloads  
 Three Stern Rails of 6 Depth Charges each with 18 reloads

#### Resin and Metal Parts Identification



- |                             |                                  |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Forward Superstructure   | 9. 3" AA Gun Platform            | 18. Depth Charge Throwers x 8    |
| 2. Bridge (Late Version)    | 10. Quadruple Torpedo Tubes      | 19. Depth Charge Thrower Reloads |
| 3. Aft Superstructure       | 11. Searchlight Platform         | 20. Propellers and Shafts        |
| 4. Forward Funnel           | 12. Depth Charge Stowage Rack    | 21. Propeller 'A' Frames         |
| 5. Aft Funnel               | 13. 4.7" Gun Shields x 3         | 22. Carley Rafts x 4             |
| 6. Midships AA Gun Platform | 14. 4.7" Gun Barrel x 3          | 23. Searchlight Projector        |
| 7. 27' Whaler x 2           | 15. Director Control Tower (DCT) | 24. Asdic Dome                   |
| 8. 25' Motor Boat           | 16. Depth Charges on Rails x 3   | 25. Fore Mast Pole & Crows Nest  |
|                             | 17. 3" AA Gun Mounting           |                                  |

## Photo Etched Parts Identification



- 1. 3 Bar Railing with Hull Step Curve
- 2. 3 Bar Railing Stock
- 3. 2 Bar Railings
- 4. Upswept Focсле Railings
- 5. Breakwater
- 6. Bridge Windscreen
- 7. Hull Step Railings
- 8. Anchor Chain
- 9. Depth Charge Davits
- 10. Loading Davits
- 11. AA Gun Platform Supports
- 12. Signal Platform Supports (Havelock)
- 13. Signal Platform Supports (Glowworm)
- 14. Stem TSDS Frame
- 15. TSDS Gear Davits

- 16. TDS D Winch Brake Wheels
- 17. Carley Raft Rack Supports
- 18. Torpedo Loading Davits
- 19. Tripod Main Mast Frames
- 20. Bridge Roof Awning
- 21. Vertical Ladder Stock
- 22. Rangefinder Platform Railing
- 23. 12 pdr Gun Platform Supports
- 24. Boat Davit Assemblies
- 25. Depth Charge Stern Rails
- 26. Tall HF/DF Antenna Mast
- 27. 285 Guntery Radar Antenna
- 28. 0.5" Quad Machine Gun Mountings
- 29. Main Mast Yardarm

- 30. Fore Mast Upper Yardarm
- 31. Fore Mast Lower Yardarm
- 32. 286 Radar Antenna Assembly
- 33. 291 radar Antenna
- 34. Diamond HF/DF Antenna
- 35. Single 20mm Oerlikons
- 36. Anchors
- 37. Stove Pipes
- 38. Rudder
- 39. Funnel Cap Grills (Glowworm)
- 40. Signal Lamps
- 41. Funnel Cap Grills (Havelock)
- 42. Searchlight Lens Cross
- 43. Funnel Siren Platform

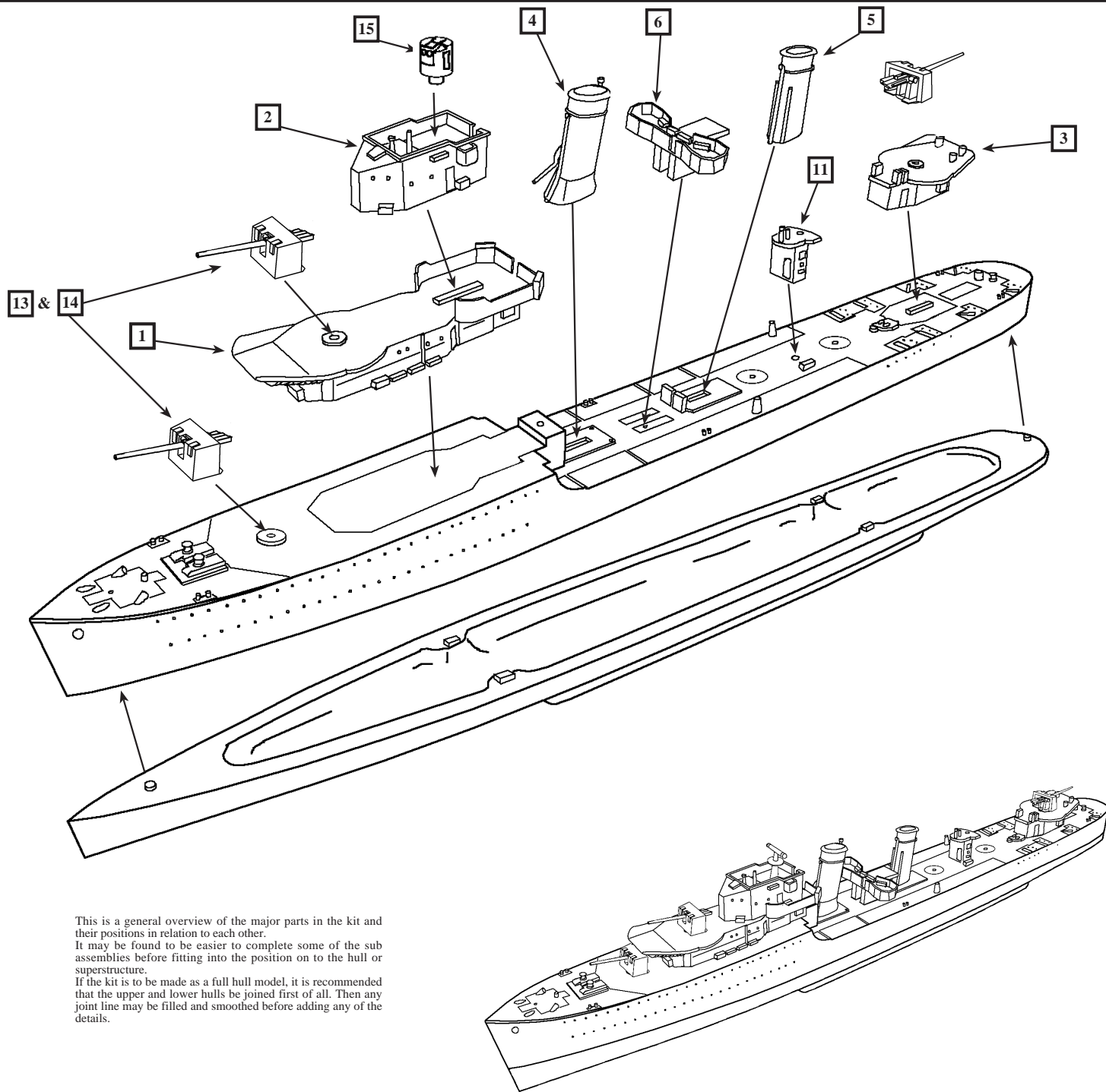
- 44. Accommodation Ladder Rails
- 45. Bridge Semaphores
- 46. Accommodation Ladder Steps
- 47. Inclined Ladder ( Gun Platform)
- 48. 16' Dinghy Fittings
- 49. Inclined Ladders (Focсле Step)
- 50. Inclined Ladder (Bridge)
- 51. Inclined Ladder ( Signal Deck)
- 52. 27' Whaler Sea Boat Fittings
- 53. Aft Superstructure Ladder Landing
- 54. 25' Motor Boat Fittings
- 55. Inclined Ladder ( Aft Superstructure)
- 56. Funnel Sirens
- 57. 'G' Class Name Plates

### General Precautions

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

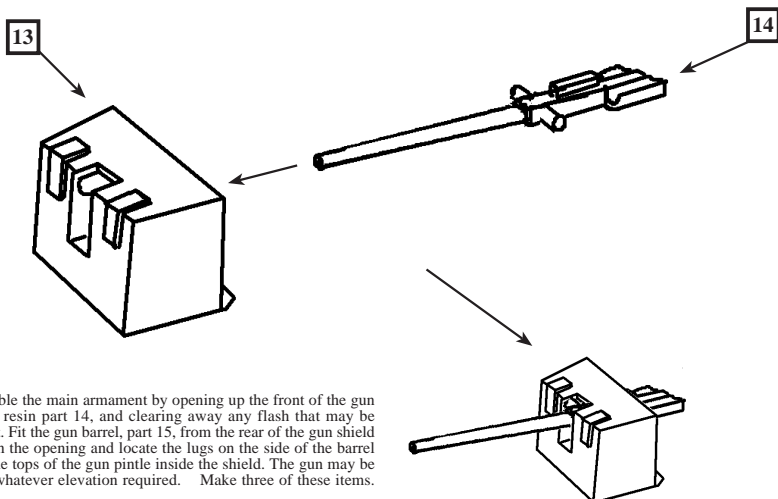
1. Resin dust can be harmful if inhaled. It is recommended that you wear a suitable dust mask when drilling or sanding resin parts.
2. Cyano adhesives (super glues ) are generally used to assemble this type of kit. Care must be taken when using this type of adhesive as it will bond in seconds. Follow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

## Main Parts Location Diagram



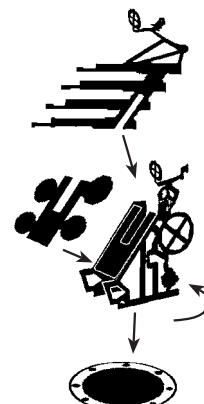
This is a general overview of the major parts in the kit and their positions in relation to each other. It may be found to be easier to complete some of the sub-assemblies before fitting into the position on to the hull or superstructure. If the kit is to be made as a full hull model, it is recommended that the upper and lower hulls be joined first of all. Then any joint line may be filled and smoothed before adding any of the details.

### 4.7" Single Gun Mounting Assembly



Assemble the main armament by opening up the front of the gun shield, resin part 14, and clearing away any flash that may be present. Fit the gun barrel, locate the lugs on the side of the barrel in to the tops of the gun pintle inside the shield. The gun may be set at whatever elevation required. Make three of these items.

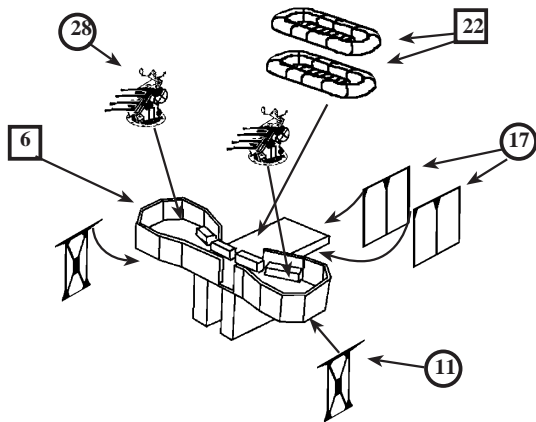
### 0.5" Quad Machine Gun



(28)

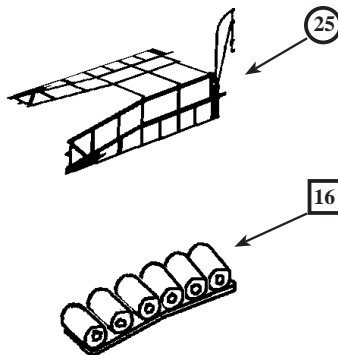
Assemble the half inch quad mounting by folding the side panels of the centre section so that they are parallel. Fix down to circular base. Fit the four offset magazine images so that they match the slot on the centre section. Fit the slot on the barrels section so that it slides over the slot on the centre section, with the barrels facing forwards as shown above. Make two of these.

### AA Gun Platform Assembly



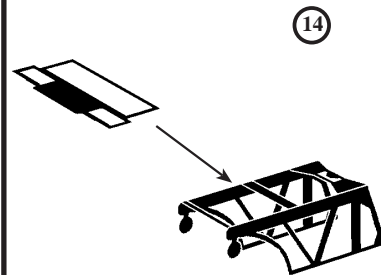
Once the gun platform, resin part 6 has been fitted to the main deck, between funnels, fit the Carley Raft platform supports, etched parts 17 to the underside of the platform. Fit the gun platform supports, etched parts 11 to the outboard positions under the gun platforms. Fit up to a stack of four Carley Rafts on to the platform as shown above. Fit the two assembled quad 0.5" Machine Gun Mountings to the platform.

### Depth Charge Rails



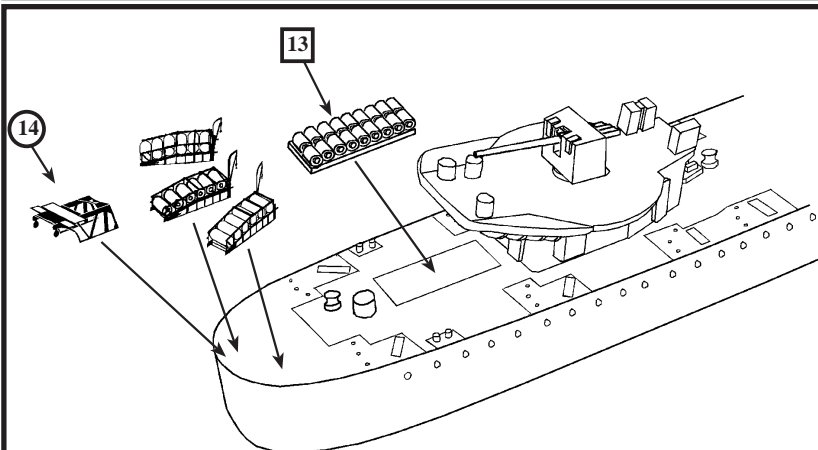
Bend the first three depth charges down to a slight angle to take the shape of the lower rail on the etched rail frame 25. Fold the side of the depth charge rail frames, etched parts 25, to 90° so that they are parallel. Fit the depth charges in between the lower rails of the frame. Make three of these.

### Aft TSDS Frame



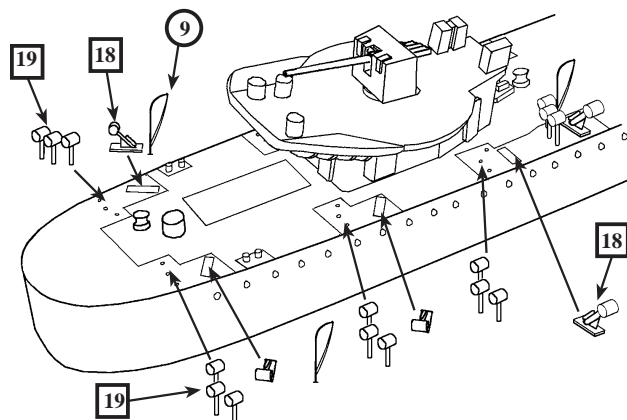
Fold down the sides of the rear TSDS frame to 90° so that they are parallel, then fit the top plate as shown.

### Depth Charge Rail Locations



Fit one depth charge rail set, centrally to the stern, then fit the next two rail sets on each side, angled outwards as shown. Fit the TSDS frame, etched part 14, over the central depth charge rails. This can now be used to mount an ensign staff if desired. Fit the depth charge stowage rack, resin part 13, to the rectangular impression on the deck aft of the superstructure.

### Depth Charge Thrower Locations



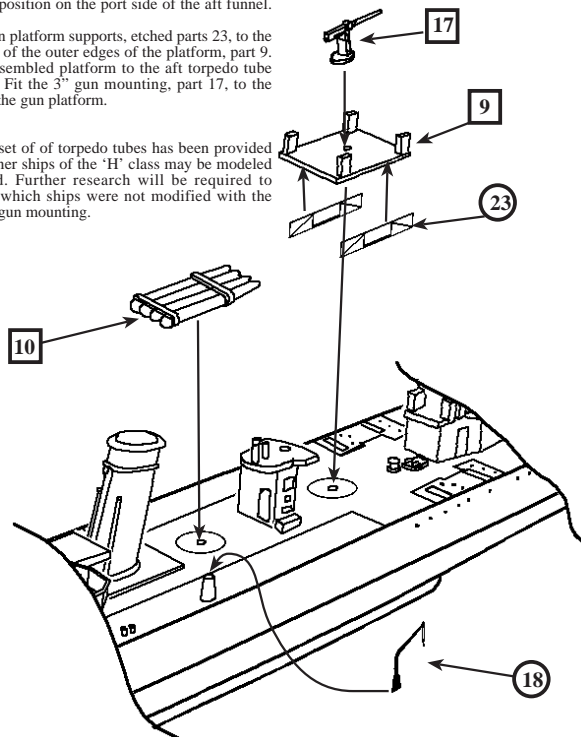
Fit the depth charge throwers, metal parts 18, to the raised molded area on the deck on each side, as shown above. Ensure the throwers are pointing outboard. The aft two throwers on each side are set at an approximate angle of 45°. Fit the reload charges on their rams, metal parts 19, in to the holes in the deck next to the thrower. Fit the loading davits, etched parts 9, as shown.

### Single 3" Gun Platform Assembly

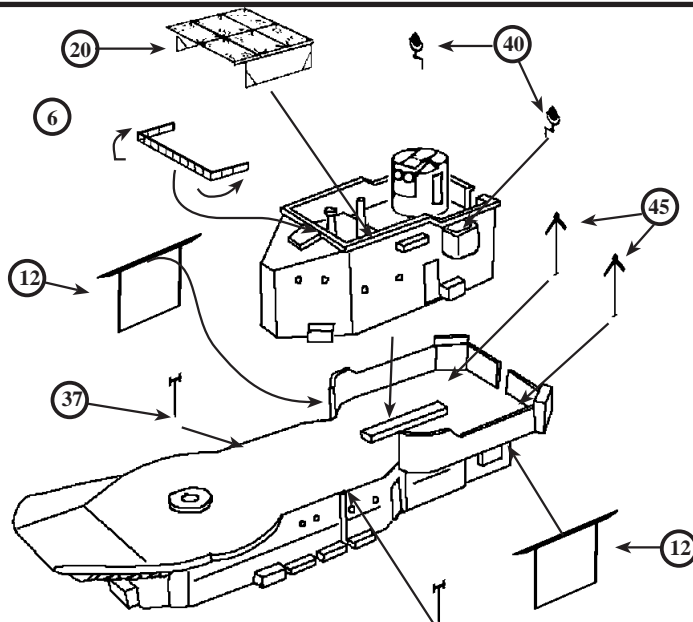
Fit the torpedo tubes, resin part 10, to the forward position and the torpedo loading davit, etched parts 18 to the position on the port side of the aft funnel.

Fit the gun platform supports, etched parts 23, to the underside of the outer edges of the platform, part 9. Fit the assembled platform to the aft torpedo tube position. Fit the 3" gun mounting, part 17, to the centre of the gun platform.

NOTE:  
An extra set of torpedo tubes has been provided so that other ships of the "H" class may be modeled if desired. Further research will be required to establish which ships were not modified with the single 4" gun mounting.

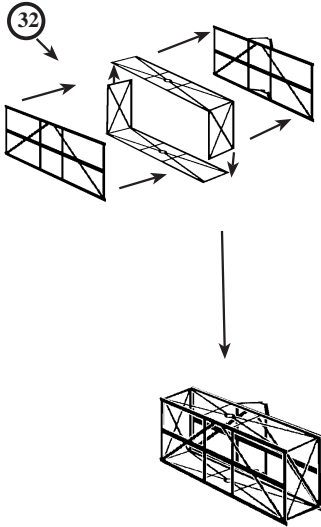


### Forward Superstructure Fittings



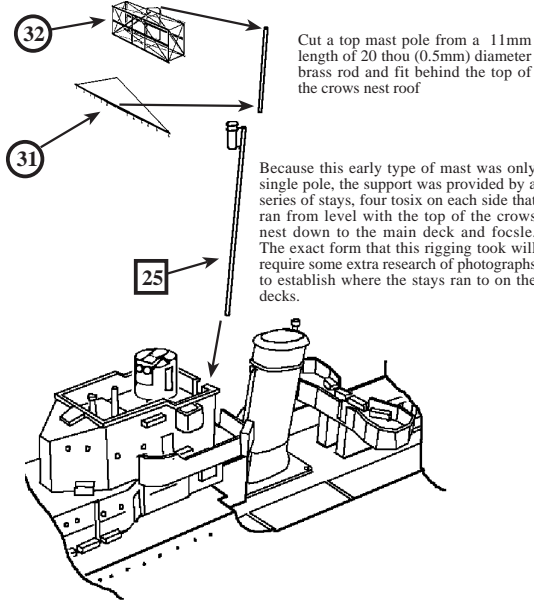
Fit the bridge unit on to the forward superstructure, then fit the signal platform supports, etched parts 12 so that the bottom rail sits on the main deck, and the thicker top bar fits up under the signal platforms. Fold the side frames of the bridge canopy, etched part 20, down to 90°, then fit so that the lower horizontal bars fit along the bridge side combing. This part is optional as this canopy was not always rigged when at sea. Fit the stove pipes to the sides of the superstructure deck as shown. Fit the signal lamps, etched parts 40, to the sides of the small signal platforms on the sides of the bridge. Fit the semaphores, etched parts 45, to the rear of the signal deck on each side. Shape and fit the bridge windshield, etched part 6, to the front of the bridge as shown above.

### 286 Radar Antenna



Fold the outer parts of the centre frame of the 286 antenna to 90° as shown above then fit to the rear frame first. Fold the mounting brackets on the rear frame rearwards. Fit the front frame to the edges of the centre frames so that the antenna looks like the lower diagram.

### Fore Mast Assembly

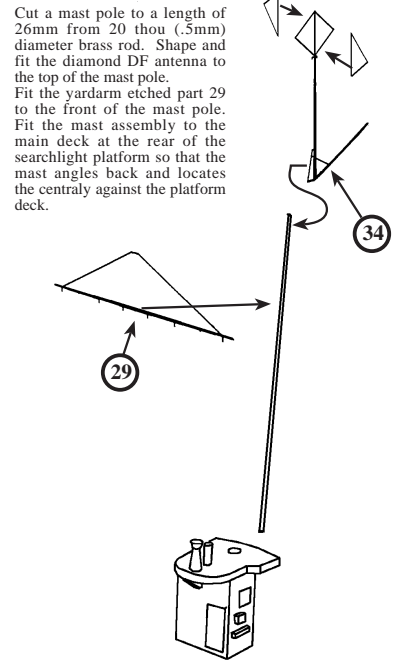


Cut a top mast pole from a 1mm length of 20 thou (0.5mm) diameter brass rod and fit behind the top of the crows nest roof

Because this early type of mast was only single pole, the support was provided by a series of stays, four to six on each side that ran from level with the top of the crows nest down to the main deck and forecse. The exact form that this rigging took will require some extra research of photographs to establish where the stays ran to on the decks.

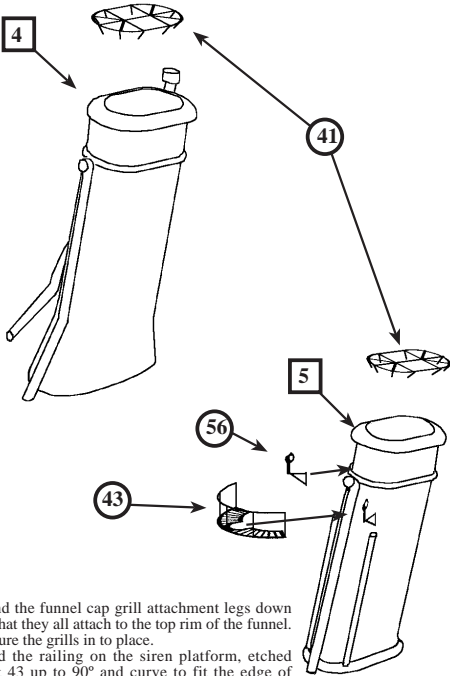
Fit the mast pole, metal part 25 so that the lower end locates into the recess hole in the galley house roof. The mast also locates in to the curved recess in the deck at the rear of the bridge unit signal platform. Fit yardarm, etched part 31, in to a position just aovethe crows nest. Fit the 286 antenna to the top of the top mast pole.

### Main Mast Assembly



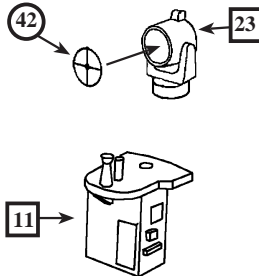
Cut a mast pole to a length of 26mm from 20 thou (.5mm) diameter brass rod. Shape and fit the diamond DF antenna to the top of the mast pole. Fit the yardarm etched part 29 to the front of the mast pole. Fit the mast assembly to the main deck at the rear of the searchlight platform so that the mast angles back and locates centrally against the platform deck.

### Funnel Fittings



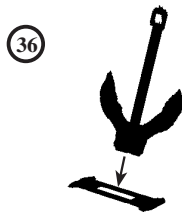
Bend the funnel cap grill attachment legs down so that they all attach to the top rim of the funnel. Secure the grills in to place. Fold the railing on the siren platform, etched part 43 up to 90° and curve to fit the edge of the platform. Fit the platform as shown so that it rest on top of the two short steam pipes. Fit the sirens, 56 just above the platform

### Searchlight Lens



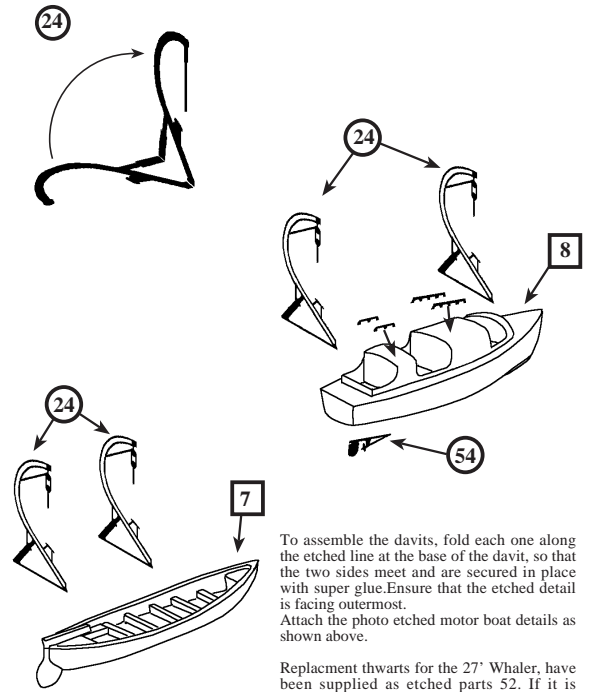
Fit the lens cross, etched part 42, to the front of the searchlight. To get a greater effect from the light, the inside of the lens may be painted with a chrome silver paint. Fit the searchlight to the locating hole in the deck of the platform.

### ANCHOR ASSEMBLY



Assemble photo etched anchors 36 as shown above. Fit anchors into the hawse pipes each side of the bow, after first drilling out the holes with a 1.5mm drill bit.

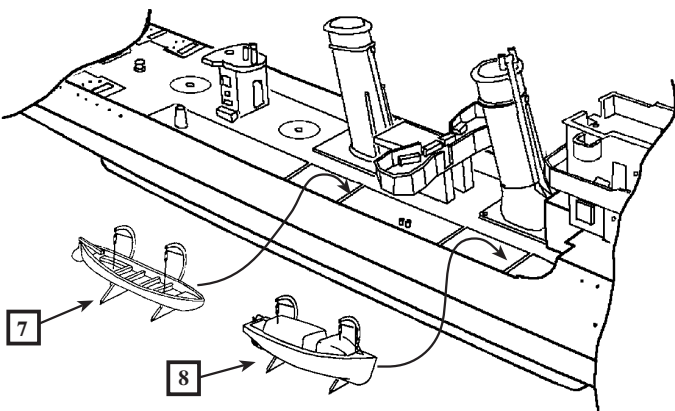
### Ships Boats Assembly



To assemble the davits, fold each one along the etched line at the base of the davit, so that the two sides meet and are secured in place with super glue.Ensure that the etched detail is facing outermost. Attach the photo etched motor boat details as shown above.

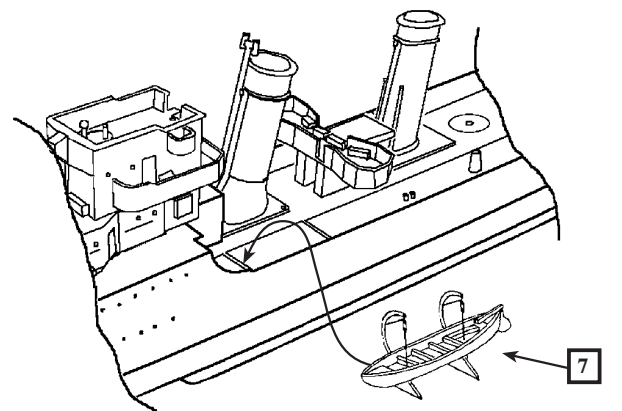
Replacment thwarts for the 27' Whaler, have been supplied as etched parts 52. If it is desired to fit them, the moulded ones must be carefully removed and the boat interior smoothed before fitting.

### Starboard Boat Assembly Location



Fit the ships boats into place on the starboard side so that the feet of the davits fit on to the rails moulded on the main deck.

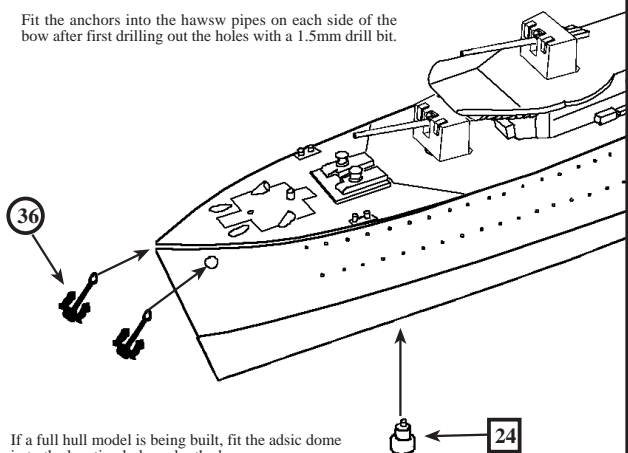
### Port Boat Assembly Location



Fit the single 27' Whaler to the port side position so that the feet of the davits fit on to the moulded rails on the main deck.

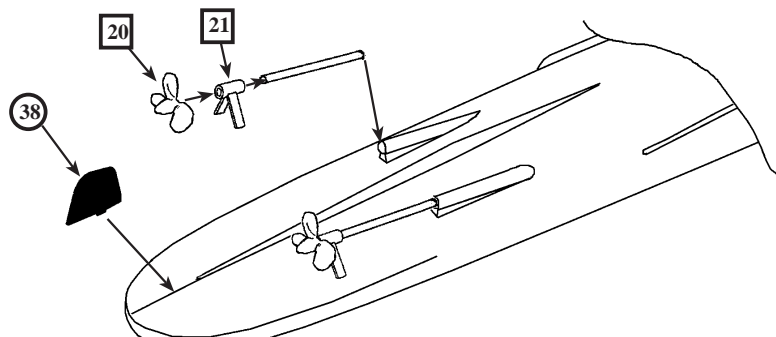
### Anchor Location

Fit the anchors into the hawse pipes on each side of the bow after first drilling out the holes with a 1.5mm drill bit.



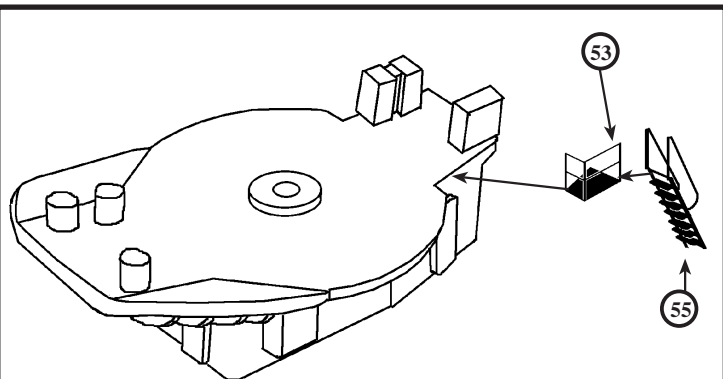
If a full hull model is being built, fit the adhesive dome into the locating hole under the bow.

### Running Gear Assembly and Location



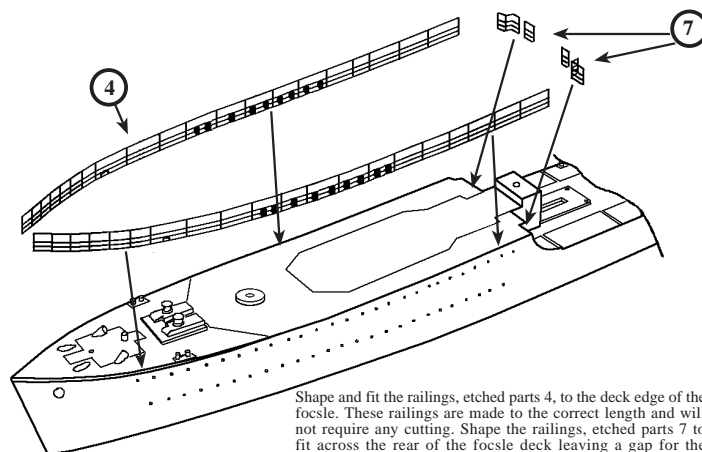
Cut two propeller shafts to a length of 12mm from 40thou (1mm) diameter plastic or brass rod and fit into one side of the propeller 'A' frame, metal parts 20. Fit the propeller 19 to the other side of the 'A' frame. Fit the other end of the shaft into the recess in the hull fitting then fit the legs of the 'A' frame to the hull. These may require trimming to length to ensure that the propellers sit correctly at the same angle. Fit the rudder, etched part 38, centrally to the rear of the lower hull.

### Aft Superstructure Ladder Location



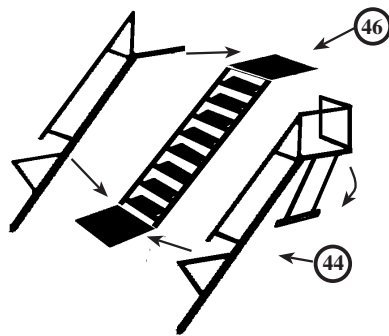
A section describing the assembly of this ladder has been included due to its shape and asymmetric location. Fold up the rails on the ladder landing, etched part 53, to 90° and glue at the corner. Fit the landing to the deck edge on the starboard side of the aft superstructure just forward of the curved gun deck extension. Fold the hand rails of the inclined ladder, etched part 55, to 90° so that they are parallel then fit the ladder so the top edge fits against the open side of the landing.

### Fo'c'sle Railings Location



Shape and fit the railings, etched parts 4, to the deck edge of the focsle. These railings are made to the correct length and will not require any cutting. Shape the railings, etched parts 7 to fit across the rear of the focsle deck leaving a gap for the access ladders etched parts 49.

### Accommodation Ladder Assembly

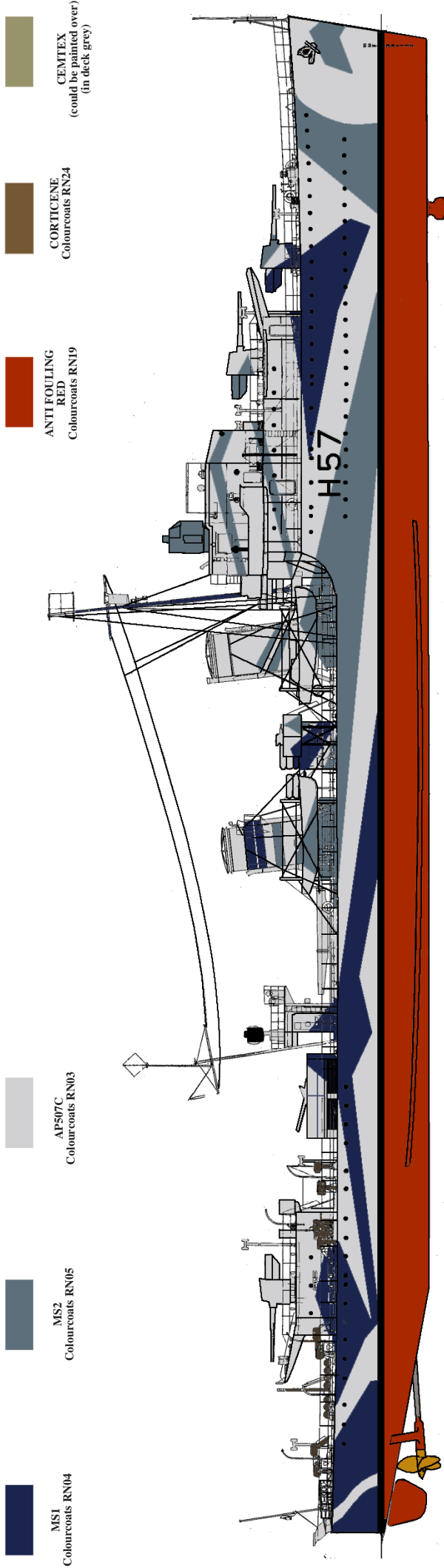


Assemble accommodation ladders as shown above and can be fitted to the ship either side of the main deck, adjacent to the depth charge throwers, if the ship is to be modelled at anchor.

### Other Instructions

- Some photo etched components have been included on the detail set that are for fitting to other ships of the class in various fits. Therefore they will not be referred to in these instructions. These are etched parts 5, 13, 15, 16, 19, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 39 and 48.
- Two sections of railing, etched parts 1, have been supplied with one end shaped to fit against the curved fairing at the side of the hull step. The length of this railing varies according to what equipment is fitted on the quarterdeck, so it will require that each section is cut to the desired length from the opposite end to the curve. Standard 2 bar and 3 bar railing stock, etched parts 2 and 3 have been supplied to fit around the edges of superstructure decks and platforms as required.
- Vertical Ladder stock, etched parts 21, is supplied to be cut to length for fitting against the sides of superstructure components, or to masts and platforms.
- Sufficient anchor chain, etched parts 8, has been supplied to fit round the two capstans from the chain locker pipes to the hawse pipes where the anchors are stowed. Alternatively there is enough anchor chain supplied to display the model at anchor on a diorama base with the chain running through the hawse pipes to the waters surface if desired.
- Inclined ladders are tailored to fit in various locations as follows. Etched part 47 fits from the main deck up to the opening in the front bulwark of gun platform resin part 6. Etched parts 49, fit from the main deck up to the focsle deck at the hull step on each side. Etched part 50 fits from the signal deck to the rear of the bridge. Etched part 51 fits from the galley roof to the signal deck.
- Name plates, etched parts 57, have been included that cover all the names of the ships in the ex- Brazilian 'H' class so that others may be modeled if desired. These name plates are in pairs and are fitted mid way up on the sides of the aft superstructure housing.
- References for ships of this class may be found in publications such as Edgar March's British Destroyers if available. A plan and profile of Glowworm is shown in good detail in the Chatham Blue Print Series publication, British Warships of the Second World War by John Roberts. Historical references can be found in the book Destroyers of World War Two by M.J. Whitley.

## Colour Chart and Painting Guide



**MSI**  
Colourcoats RN/04

**MS2**  
Colourcoats RN/05

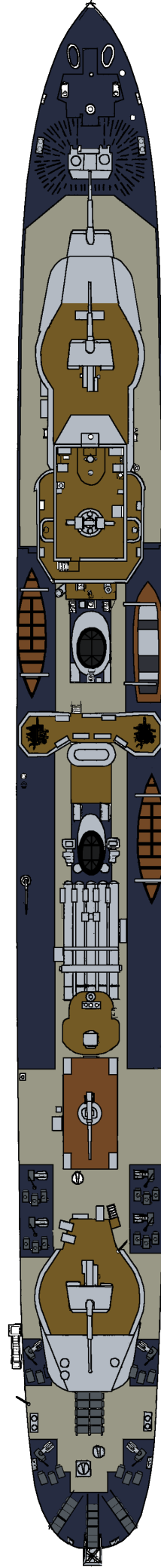
**AP5/07C**  
Colourcoats RN/03

**ANTI FOULING  
RED**  
Colourcoats RN/19

**CORTICENE**  
Colourcoats RN/24

**CEMTEX**  
(could be painted over)  
(in deck grey)

HMS Hesperus circa. 1942



Other colours used are as follows.

**Matt Black** Funnel Caps and Grills, Machine Guns and Light AA Weapons, Hull Boot Topping, Anchor Chain.

**Bronze.** Propellers.

**Dark Grey.** Depth Charges

**Mahogany or Natural Wood.** Decks and Thwarts of Ships Boats

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