

River Class Off Shore Patrol Vessel

H.M.S. FORTH

1/350 Scale

HMS Forth is the first of a class of five vessels, built for the Royal Navy, designed to be globally deployed to carry out anti smuggling, counter terrorism and counter piracy tasks. The design of these ships was based on the earlier Amazonas class Corvettes that Bae Systems had built for the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard but were then taken up by the Brazilian Navy after the contract was cancelled.

Several design improvements and modifications were incorporated in the new design, which was to become known as the Batch 2 of the River class of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

HMS Forth was laid down at the Bae Systems shipyard at Govan in Glasgow on 10th October 2014 and with what was to be a different style of launching in September 2016, she was floated off a submersible barge in the Clyde.

Following contractors sea trials during mid 2017, Forth was earmarked to replace HMS Clyde as Falkland Islands Guardship.

She was formally accepted by the MOD in January 2018 and arrived at Portsmouth Naval Base on 28th February. After her commissioning in April 2018, several faults were found that were serious enough to warrant her being dry docked for a period of more than three months. Once the repairs had been carried out, HMS Forth went through her operational sea training in June 2019, before deploying to take up her permanent station as Falkland Islands Guardship, arriving at the East Cove Port on 13th January 2020.

In February 2023 HMS Forth transited to Gibraltar for a refit, being replaced in the South Atlantic by her sister ship HMS Medway for the duration. During the refit Forth had the new dazzle camouflage paint scheme applied like that being worn by her other sisters Tamar and Spey. She returned to her duties in the South Atlantic in September 2023

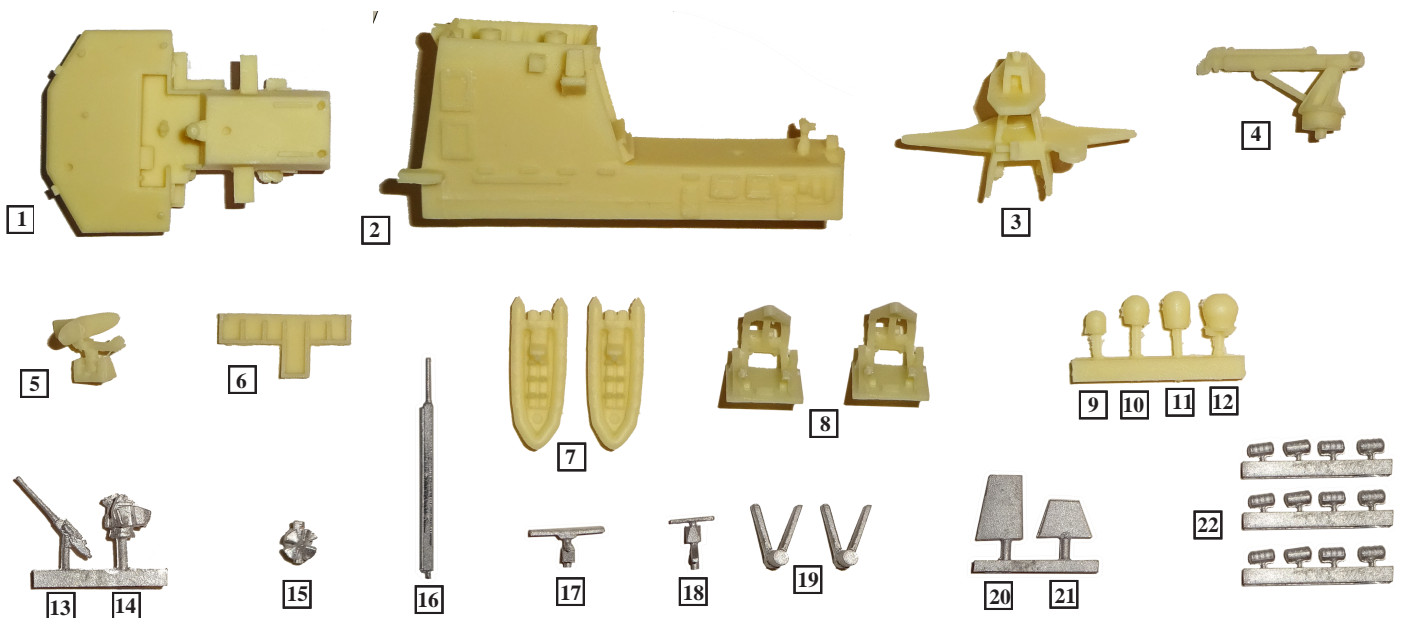
Specifications

Length 296ft 11in (90.5m) Beam 42ft 8in (13m) Displacement 2000 tonnes Speed 25 knots Range 5500 n/miles
 Complement 34 Officers and Ratings minimum, plus 50 Royal Marines as required.

Armament

1 x 30mm DS30 Cannon 2 x General Purpose Machine Guns 2 x 7.62 Mini Guns or 2 x Browning .50 cal Heavy Machine Guns
 Flight Deck capable of operating up to a Merlin sized helicopter, though no permanent aircraft are carried.

Resin and White Metal Parts



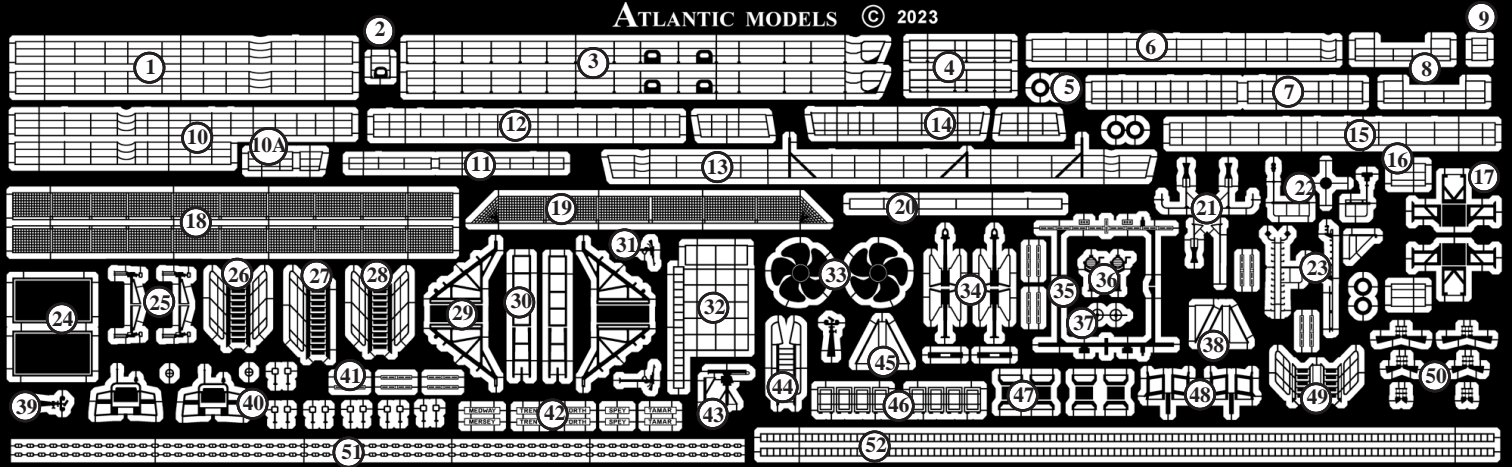
1. Bridge
2. Funnel Superstructure
3. Mast
4. 16 Tonne Crane
5. Scanter 4100 Radar Antenna
6. Bridge Deck Overhang
7. Atlantic 24 RHIB

8. RHIB Boat Davits
9. Bridge Roof Radome
10. Funnel Radome
11. Fwd Radome Port
12. Fwd Radome Starboard
13. 30mm DS 30 Oerlikon Barrel
14. 30mm DS 30 Mounting
15. Bow Thruster Propeller

16. Mast Top Pole
17. Sharpeye Radar Antenna
18. Navigation Radar Antenna
19. Propeller A Frame Bearings
20. Rudder x 2
21. Stabiliser Fins x 2
22. Life Raft Canisters

Photo Etched Metal Parts

ATLANTIC MODELS © 2023

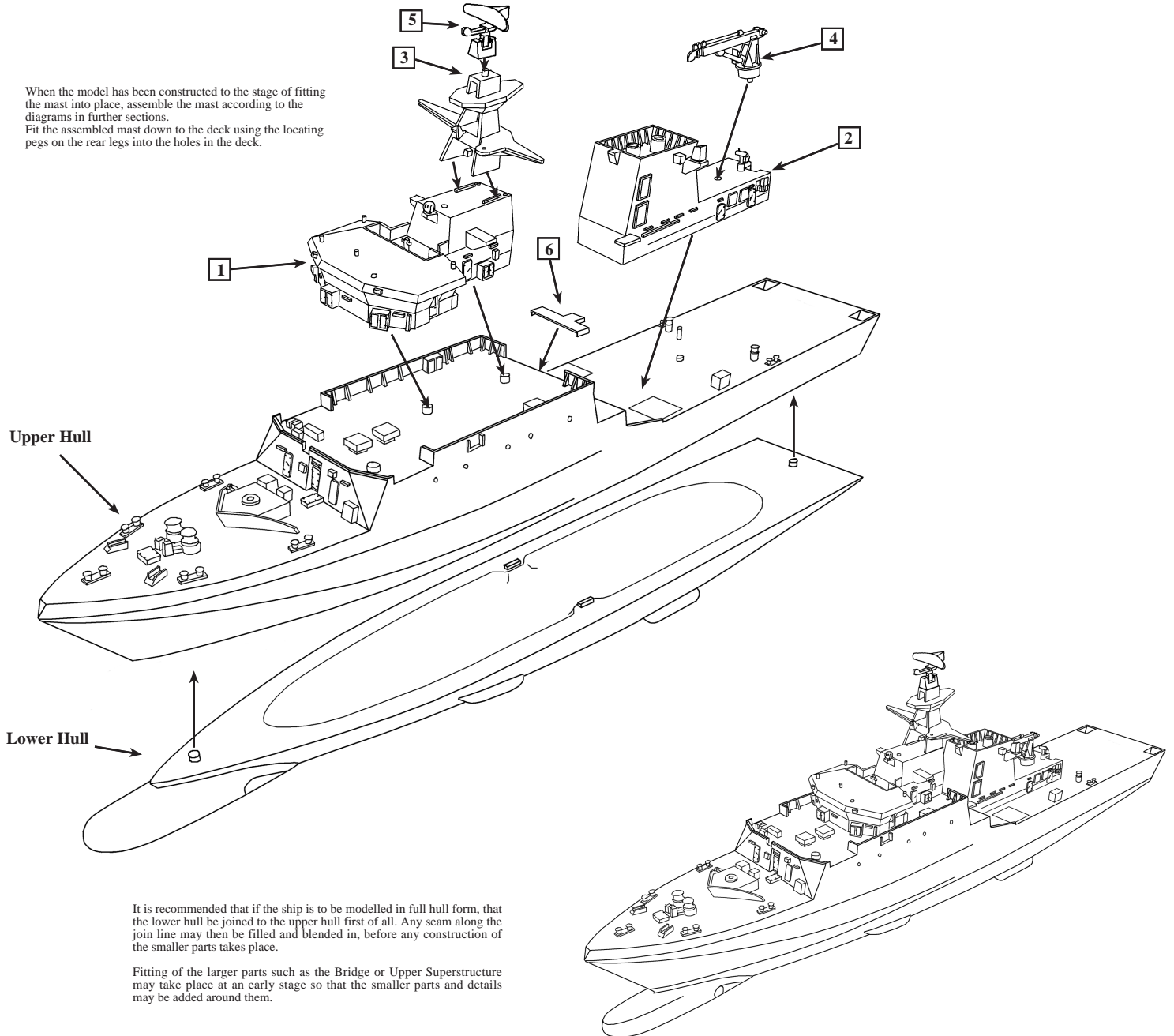


HMS Forth (Batch 2 River Class OPV) 1/350 Scale

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Railings (Boat Deck) | 12. Railings (Mast Mid Platform) | 23. Mast Top Pole Sides | 34. Anchors | 45. Mast Top Pole Braces |
| 2. Railings (Fo'c'sle Stem) | 13. Railings (Crane Deck) | 24. Aft Berthing Well Covers | 35. Approach Light Frame | 46. GPMG Enclosures |
| 3. Railings (Fo'c'sle) | 14. Railings (Mast Deck) | 25. Mini Gun Mountings | 36. Signal Lamps | 47. Life Raft Single Racks |
| 4. Railings (Fwd Life Raft Cans) | 15. Railings (Mast Top Platform) | 26. Inclined Ladder Funnel Port | 37. Capstan Handwheels | 48. Life Ring Ejector Rack |
| 5. Life Rings | 16. Railings (RHIB Platform) | 27. Inclined Ladder Flying Bridge | 38. Radar Antenna Braces | 49. RHIB Platform Ladders |
| 6. Railings (30mm Platform) | 17. RHIB Access Platform | 28. Inclined Ladder Hull Step | 39. Fire Hose Point | 50. Mast Side Sensors |
| 7. Railings (Bridge Deck Overhang) | 18. Flight Deck Safety Nets | 29. Life Raft Canister Rack Sides | 40. RHIB Fittings | 51. Anchor Chain |
| 8. Railings (Radome Platforms) | 19. Stern Safety Nets | 30. Life Raft Canister Rack Front | 41. Approach Light Bars | 52. Vertical Ladder Stock |
| 9. Railing (Flying Bridge Access) | 20. Flying Bridge Windscreen | 31. GPMG Mountings | 42. Ships Name Plates | |
| 10. Railings (Deck Step Lower) | 21. Mast Yardarms | 32. Caged Vertical Ladder | 43. Nav Radar Antenna | |
| 11. Railings (Bridge Deck Front) | 22. Mast Top Pole Yards | 33. Propellers | 44. Ladder Fo'c'sle Step | |

Main Structural Parts

When the model has been constructed to the stage of fitting the mast into place, assemble the mast according to the diagrams in further sections.
Fit the assembled mast down to the deck using the locating pegs on the rear legs into the holes in the deck.



It is recommended that if the ship is to be modelled 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.

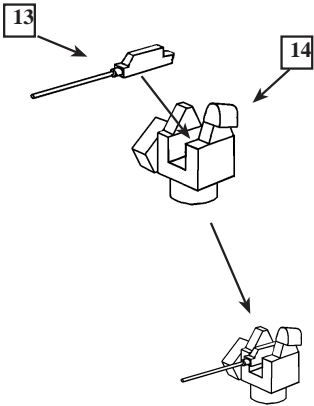
Fitting of the larger parts such as the Bridge or Upper Superstructure may take place at an early stage so that the smaller parts and details may be added around them.

General Precautions

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

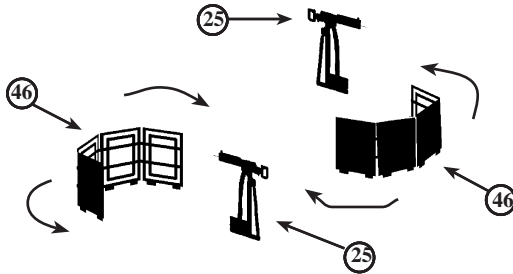
1. Resin dust can be harmful if inhaled. It is recommended that you wear a suitable dust mask when drilling or sanding resin parts.
2. Cyano adhesives (super glues) are generally used to assemble this type of kit. Care must be taken when using this type of adhesive as it will bond in seconds. Follow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

30mm DS30 Gun Mounting



Assemble the DS30B Cannon mounting as shown above by locating the rear part of the gun, metal part 13 in between the angular mounting brackets.

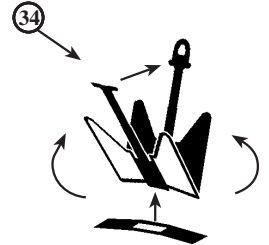
Mini Gun Enclosure Assembly



Fold the panels on the gun enclosures round so that the two side panels are parallel, with the relief etched detail on the inside face. Make two of these. The enclosures can be used to contain the 7.62 Minigun mountings, which are fitted to the stern, inboard of the aft mooring wells.

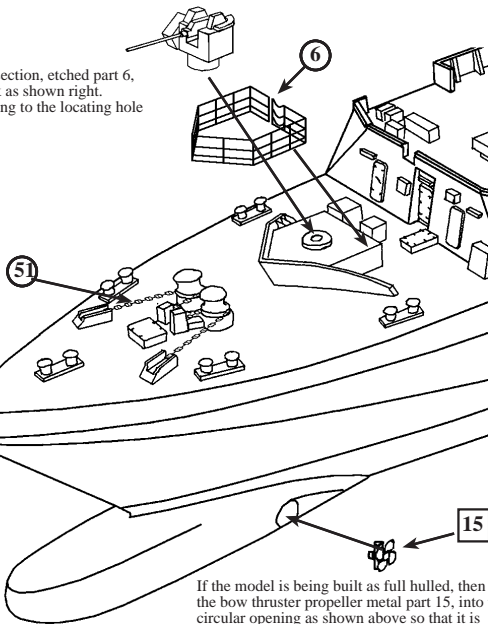
Anchor Assembly

Fold the Anchors, etched parts 34, in half so that the relief detail is outermost. Fit the tipping plate to the base of the anchor so that the lug passes through the slot in the plate. Drill out the Hawse Holes in the sides of the bow using a 1mm drill bit, then fit the anchor shanks into the holes so that the anchors fit flush against the sides of the hull.



30mm Platform Railings Location

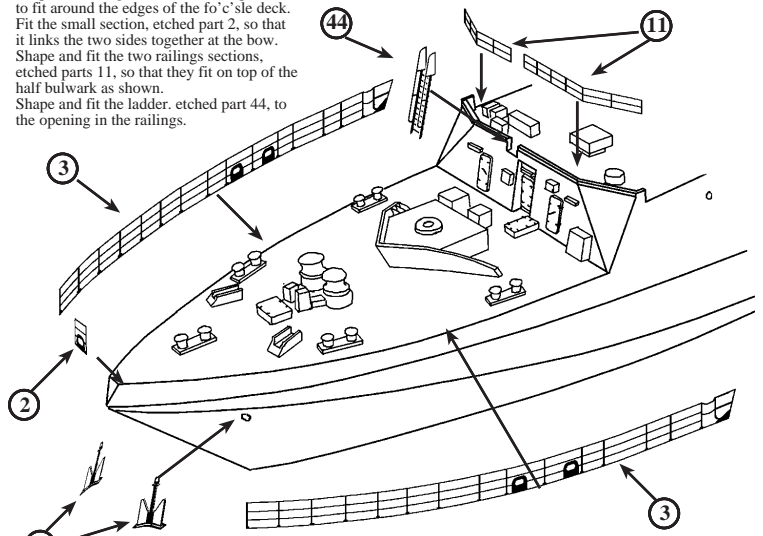
Shape and fit the railing section, etched part 6, to fit around the gun deck as shown right. Fit the 30mm gun mounting to the locating hole on the gun deck.



If the model is being built as full hulled, then fit the bow thruster propeller metal part 15, into the circular opening as shown above so that it is centrally positioned.

Fo'c'sle Fittings Location

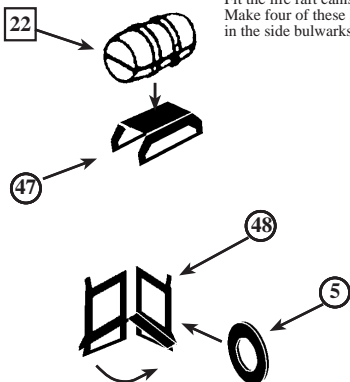
Shape the railings sections, etched parts 3, to fit around the edges of the fo'c'sle deck. Fit the small section, etched part 2, so that it links the two sides together at the bow. Shape and fit the two railings sections, etched parts 11, so that they fit on top of the half bulwark as shown. Shape and fit the ladder, etched part 44, to the opening in the railings.



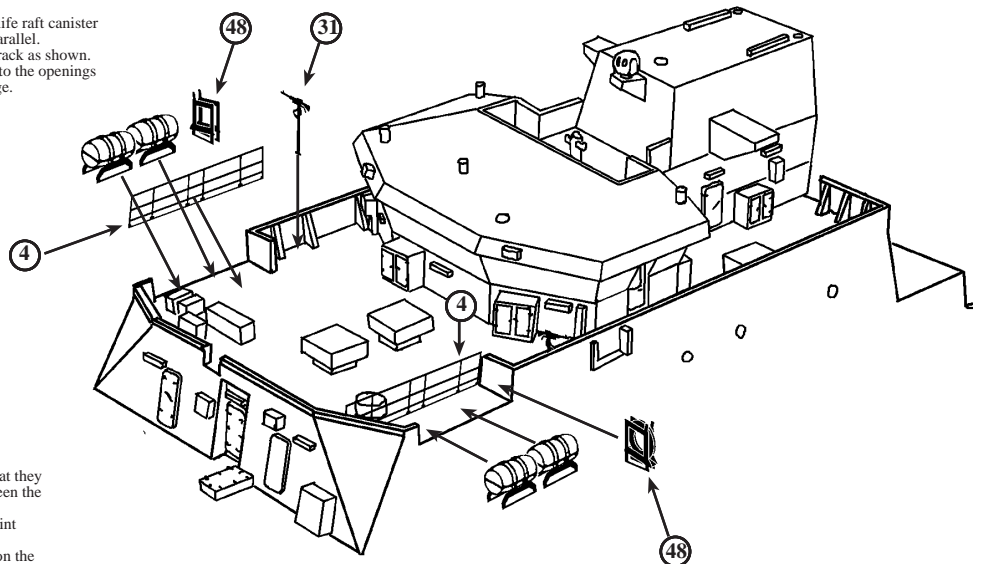
Drill out the hawse pipe holes on each side of the bow, using a 1mm drill bit, then fit the assembled anchors so that the shanks are inserted into the holes and the anchor flutes are flush with the ships side.

Forward Life Raft Fittings Location

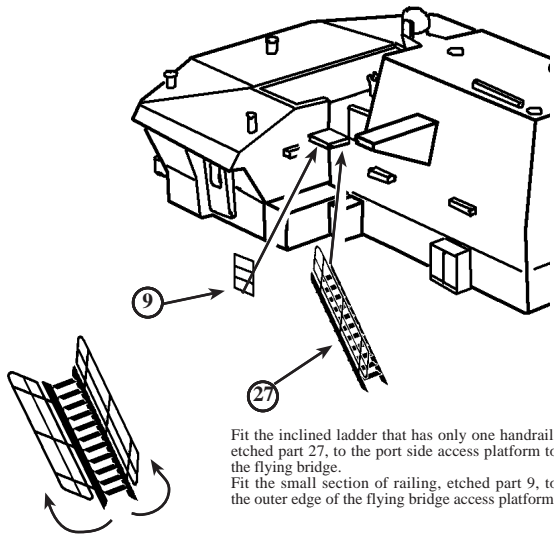
Fold down the front and rear feet of the life raft canister racks, etched parts 47, so that they are parallel. Fit the life raft canister to the top of the rack as shown. Make four of these and fit them in pairs to the openings in the side bulwarks forward of the bridge.



Fold the two sides of the life belt ejector rack, etched part 48, around so that they are parallel, then fold down the rectangular centre plate so that it fits between the two sides as shown above. Fold the life belts, etched parts 5 so that they are double thickness, then paint them orange, before fitting them into the ejector racks. Fit the ejector racks to the rear of the life raft canisters so that they locate on the bulwarks as shown right.



Flying Bridge Access

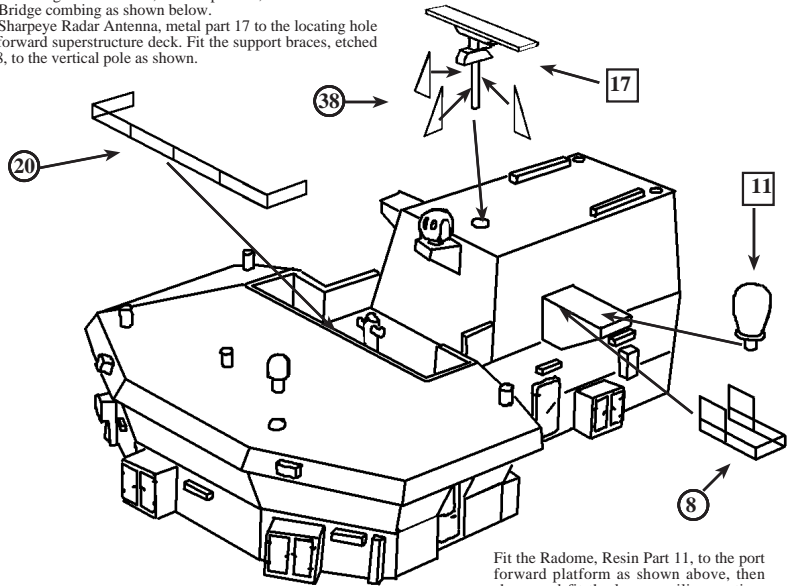


Fit the inclined ladder that has only one handrail, etched part 27, to the port side access platform to the flying bridge.
Fit the small section of railing, etched part 9, to the outer edge of the flying bridge access platform.

To prepare the Inclined ladders for fitting, fold up the sides with the handrails to 90° so that they are parallel.
Twist each individual step so that it is horizontal, using needle point tweezers.

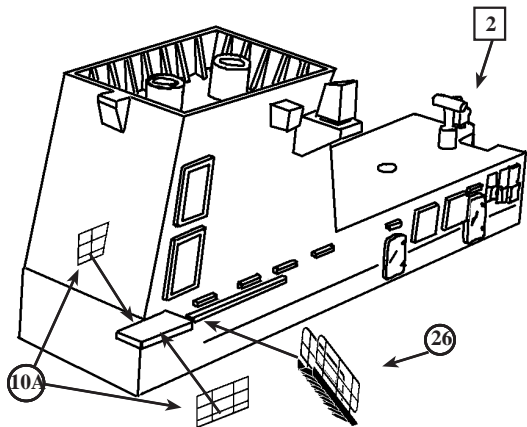
Bridge Fittings and Sharpeye Radar Assembly

Shape the Bridge Windscreen, etched part 20, to fit around the Flying Bridge combing as shown below.
Fit the Sharpeye Radar Antenna, metal part 17 to the locating hole on the forward superstructure deck. Fit the support braces, etched parts 38, to the vertical pole as shown.

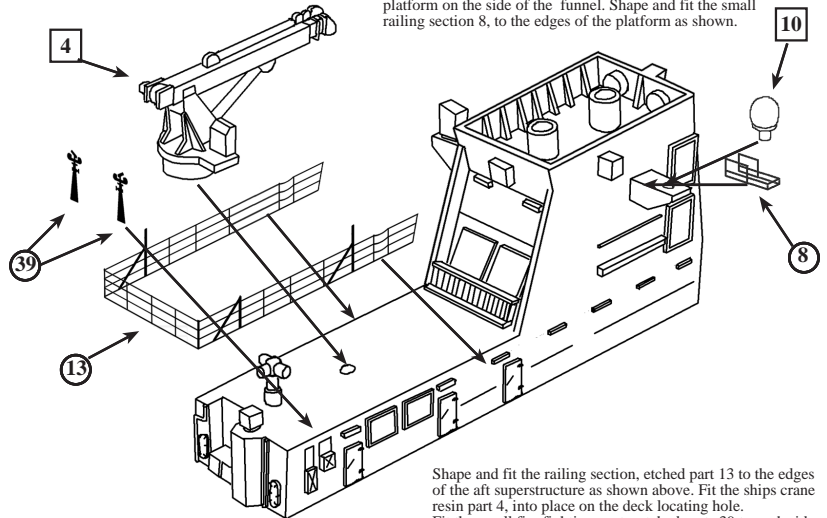


Fit the Radome, Resin Part 11, to the port forward platform as shown above, then shape and fit the longer railing section, etched part 8 to the edges of the platform.

Funnel Superstructure Fittings Location



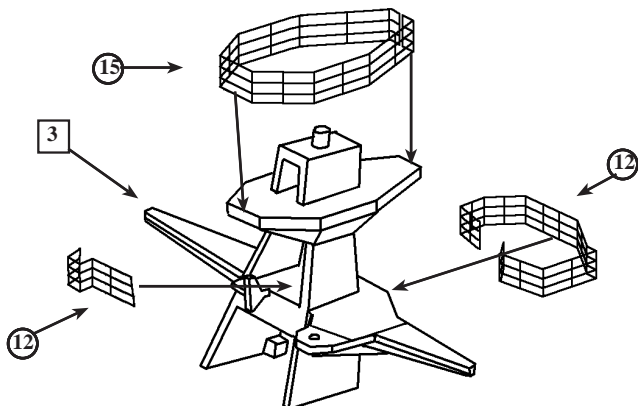
Fit the two small sections of railing, etched parts 10A to the edges of the hull step access platform. These are a continuation of the hull step railings etched parts 10. Fit the inclined ladder, etched part 26, to the rear edge of the access platform.



Fit the small radome, resin part 10 to the larger starboard platform on the side of the funnel. Shape and fit the small railing section 8, to the edges of the platform as shown.

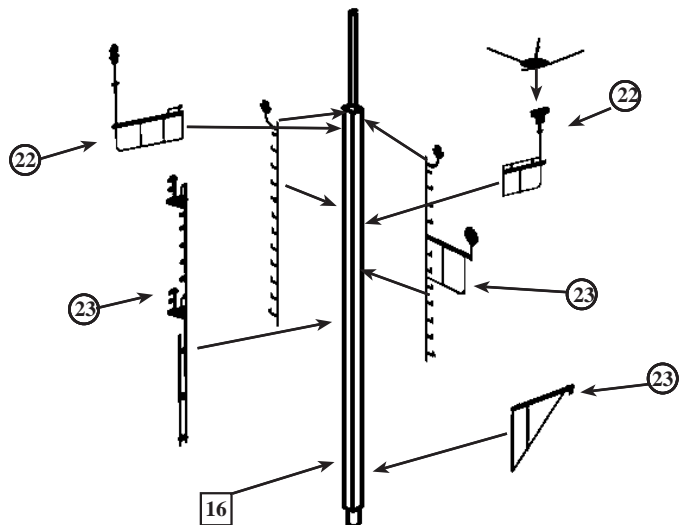
Shape and fit the railing section, etched part 13 to the edges of the aft superstructure as shown above. Fit the ships crane resin part 4, into place on the deck locating hole.
Fit the small fire fighting posts, etched parts 39 to each side of the central fire fighting post. The tops of these should be painted red.

Mast Railings Location



Shape the long railing section, etched part 15, to fit around the edges of the mast top platform. Shape the longer railing section, etched part 12, to fit the lower mast platform as shown. It is recommended that the shaping starts on the starboard side and worked around to the port side with the final folds cutting in behind the Nav Radar position.
Shape the small section of railing from etched part 12 to fit the mast front opening as shown.

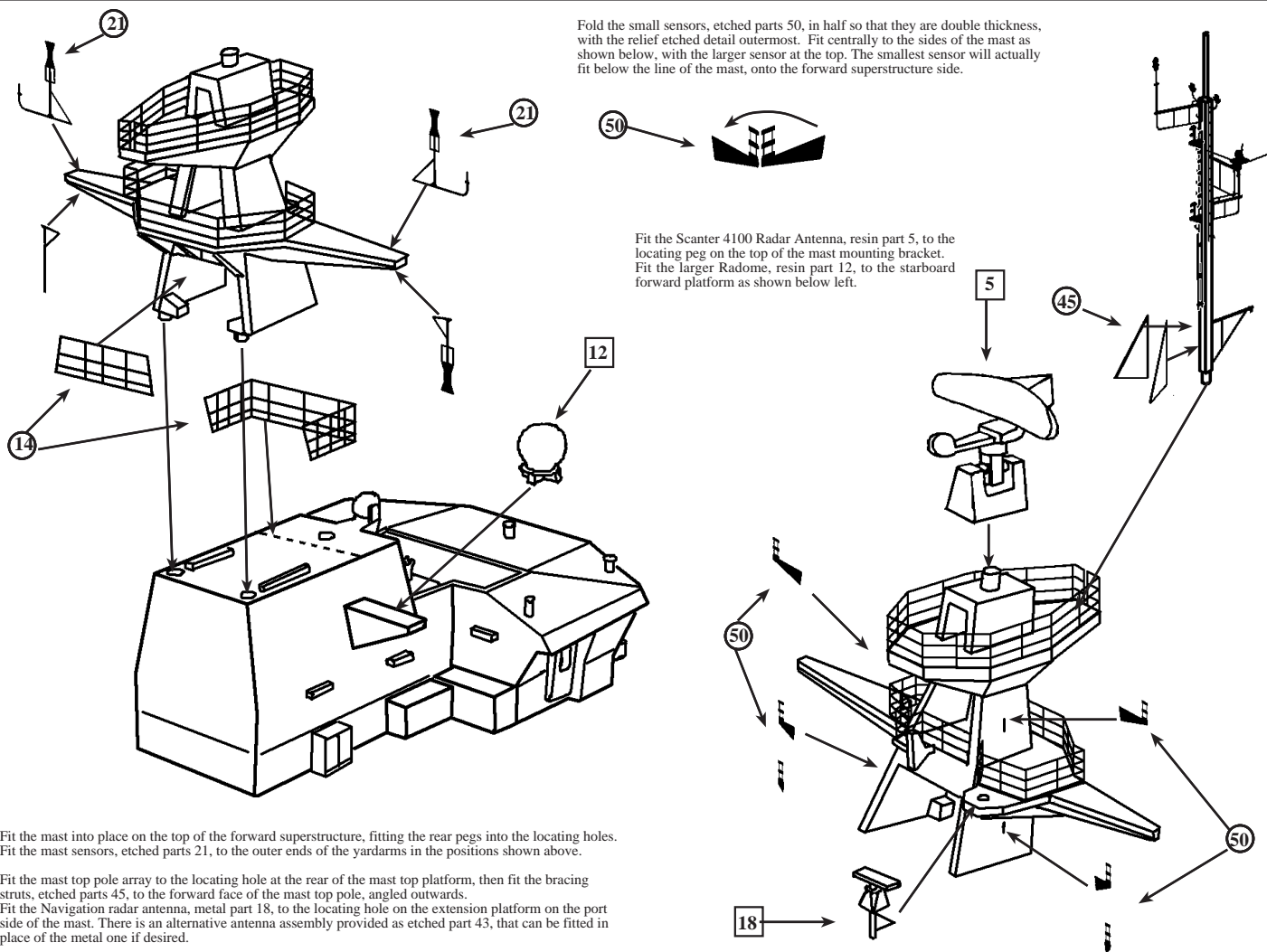
Mast Top Array Assembly



It is recommended to assemble the mast top pole array in this sequence using etched parts 22 and 23. First fit the side lengths of stepped protrusions, the small yardarm to the port side. Fit the front yardarm of etched part 22 to the top of the mast pole as shown, then fit the front long section of 23 directly below the yardarm. Fit the rear yardarm of part 22 so that it is directly aft of the lower light fitting on the front section. Fit the rear Gaff to the base of the top pole, then fit complete assembly to the locating hole on the mast top platform.

Mast Fittings Location and Assembly

Fold the small sensors, etched parts 50, in half so that they are double thickness, with the relief etched detail outermost. Fit centrally to the sides of the mast as shown below, with the larger sensor at the top. The smallest sensor will actually fit below the line of the mast, onto the forward superstructure side.



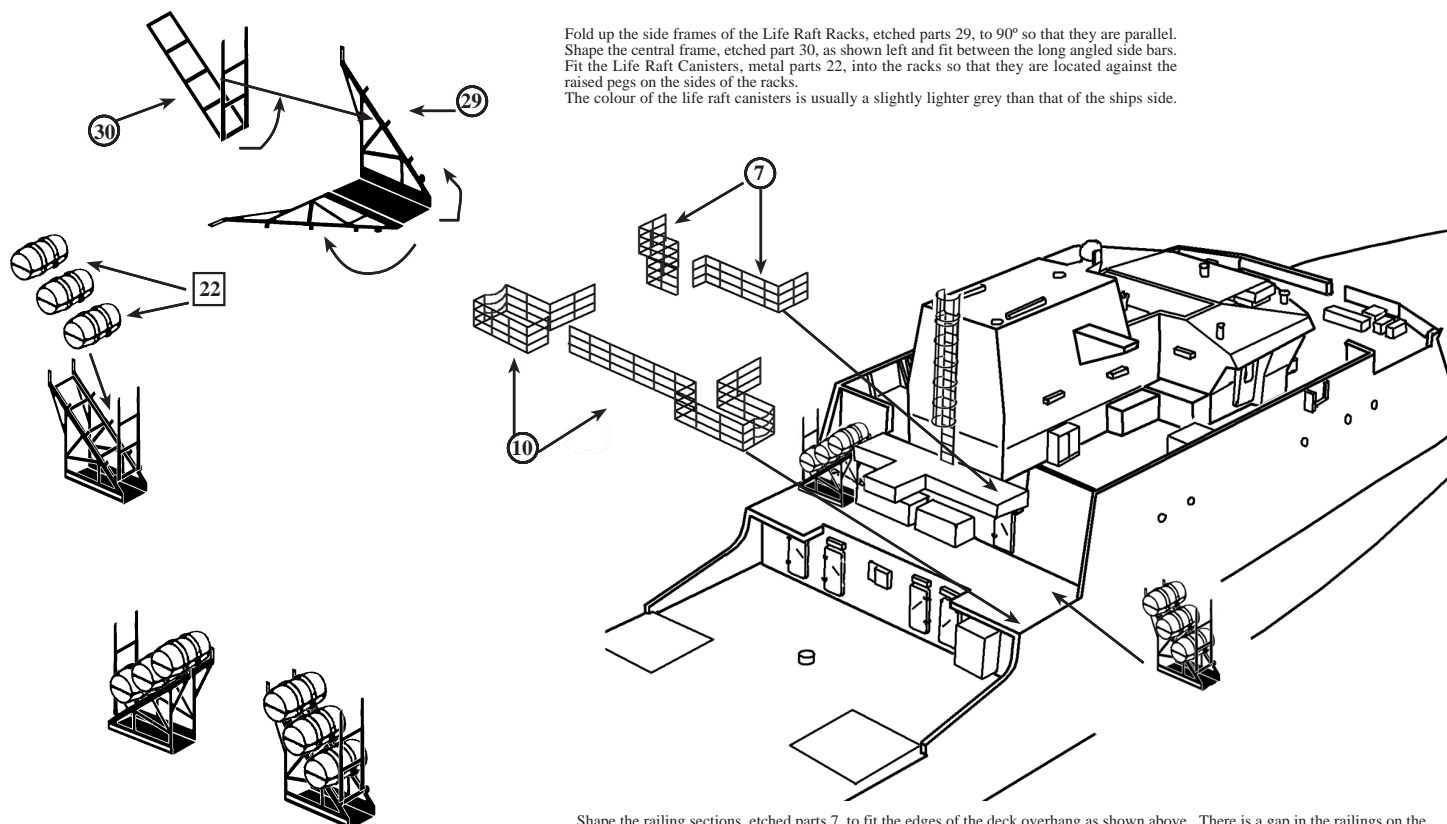
Fit the Scantar 4100 Radar Antenna, resin part 5, to the locating peg on the top of the mast mounting bracket. Fit the larger Radome, resin part 12, to the starboard forward platform as shown below left.

Fit the mast into place on the top of the forward superstructure, fitting the rear pegs into the locating holes. Fit the mast sensors, etched parts 21, to the outer ends of the yardarms in the positions shown above.

Fit the mast top pole array to the locating hole at the rear of the mast top platform, then fit the bracing struts, etched parts 45, to the forward face of the mast top pole, angled outwards. Fit the Navigation radar antenna, metal part 18, to the locating hole on the extension platform on the port side of the mast. There is an alternative antenna assembly provided as etched part 43, that can be fitted in place of the metal one if desired.

Life Raft Canister Rack Assembly

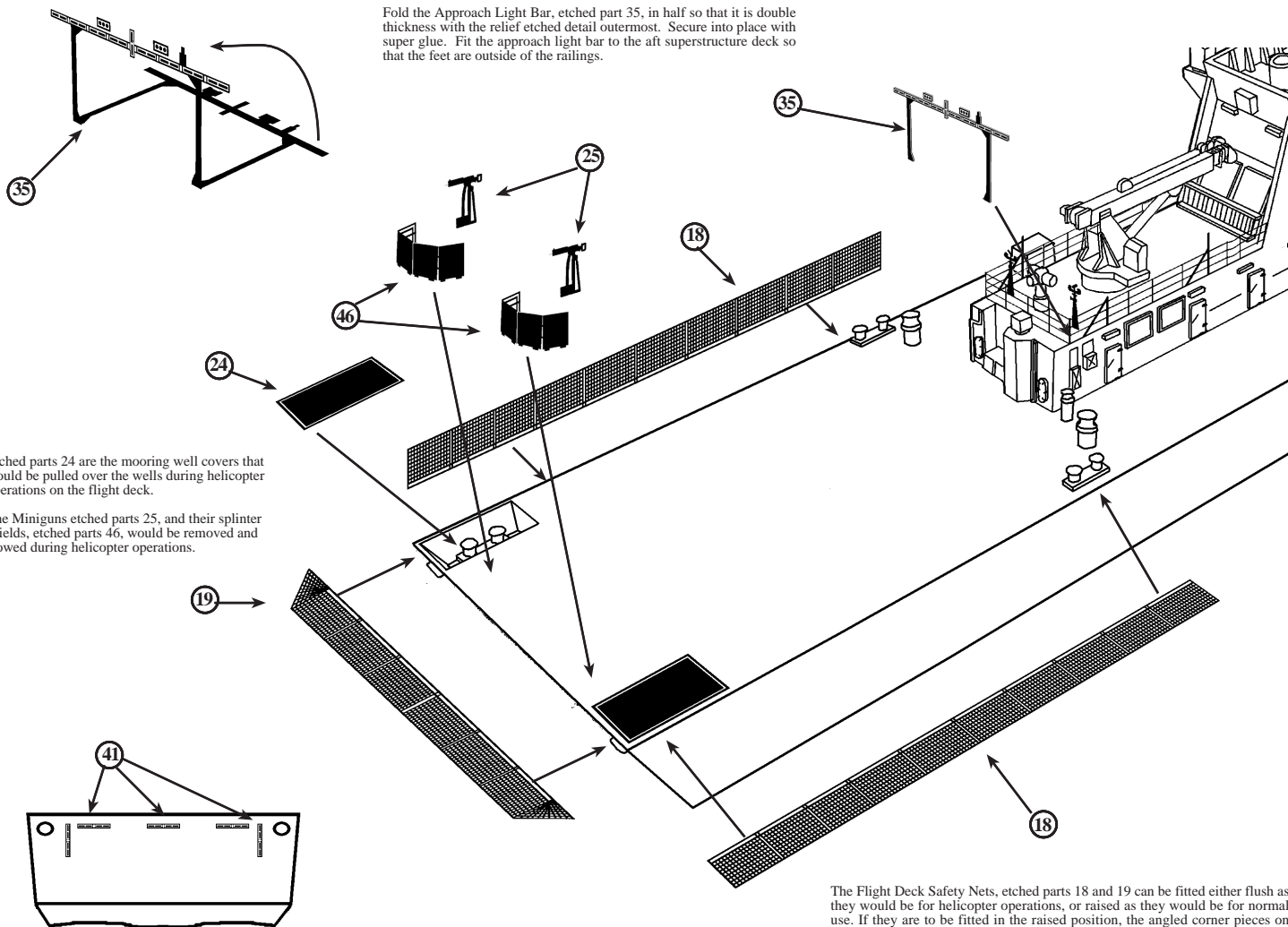
Fold up the side frames of the Life Raft Racks, etched parts 29, to 90° so that they are parallel. Shape the central frame, etched part 30, as shown left and fit between the long angled side bars. Fit the Life Raft Canisters, metal part 22, into the racks so that they are located against the raised pegs on the sides of the racks. The colour of the life raft canisters is usually a slightly lighter grey than that of the ships side.



Shape the railing sections, etched parts 7, to fit the edges of the deck overhang as shown above. There is a gap in the railings on the starboard side of the extension to this platform, to allow an inclined ladder, etched part 28, access down to the deck below. Shape the railing sections, etched parts 10, to fit around the edges of the lower hull step. Allow a gap on the port side for the access platform on the side of the funnel to form a bridge onto the hull step.

Flight Deck Fittings Location

Fold the Approach Light Bar, etched part 35, in half so that it is double thickness with the relief etched detail outermost. Secure into place with super glue. Fit the approach light bar to the aft superstructure deck so that the feet are outside of the railings.



Etched parts 24 are the mooring well covers that would be pulled over the wells during helicopter operations on the flight deck.

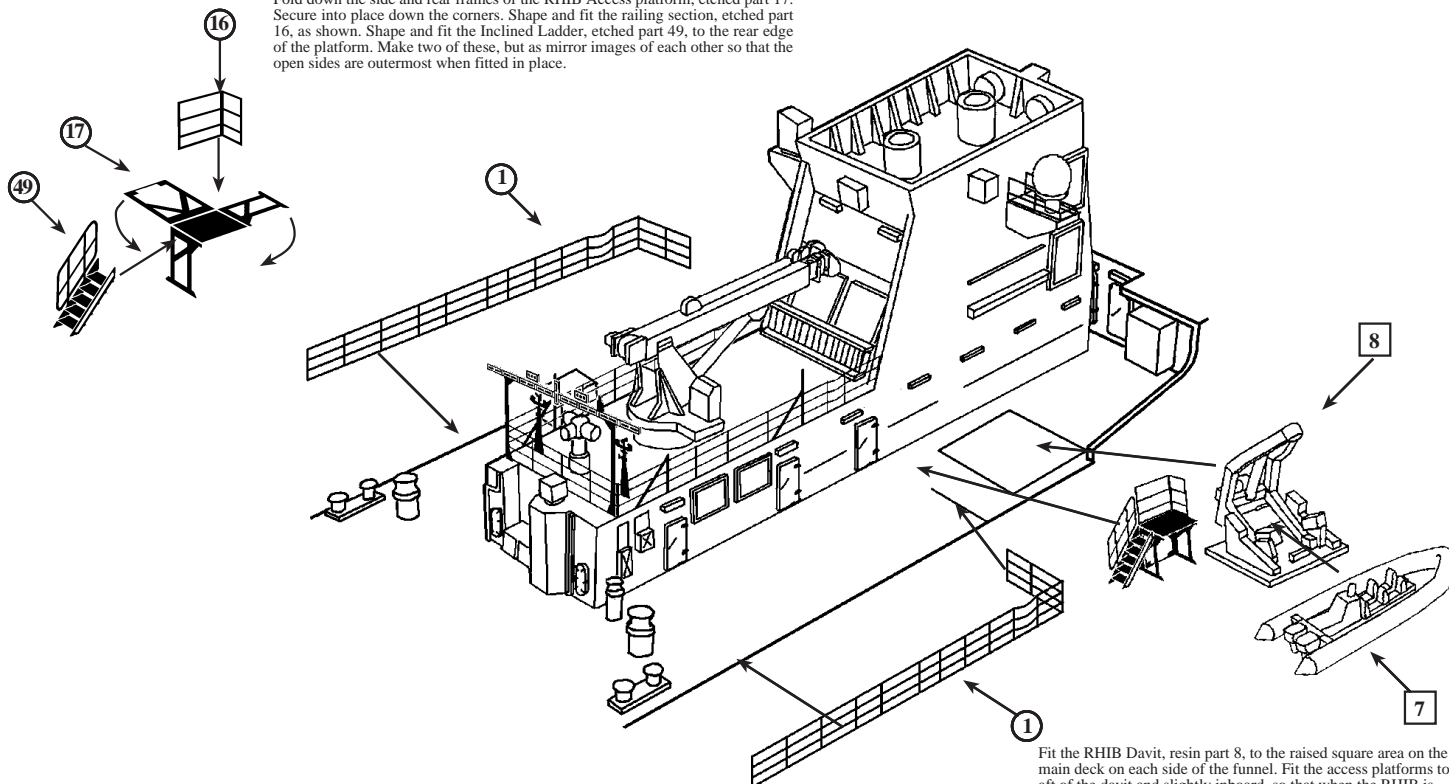
The Miniguns etched parts 25, and their splinter shields, etched parts 46, would be removed and stowed during helicopter operations.

Fit the approach light strips, etched parts 41, to the transom in the pattern shown above.

The Flight Deck Safety Nets, etched parts 18 and 19 can be fitted either flush as they would be for helicopter operations, or raised as they would be for normal use. If they are to be fitted in the raised position, the angled corner pieces on etched part 19 should be removed and the outer stanchions smoothed.

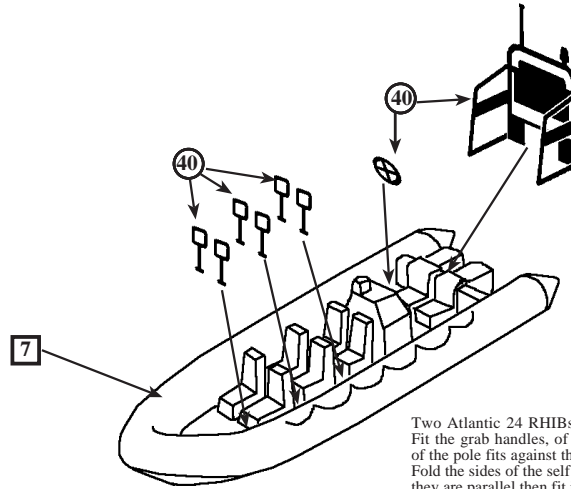
RHIB Davits and Access Platform Locations

Fold down the side and rear frames of the RHIB Access platform, etched part 17. Secure into place down the corners. Shape and fit the railing section, etched part 16, as shown. Shape and fit the Inclined Ladder, etched part 49, to the rear edge of the platform. Make two of these, but as mirror images of each other so that the open sides are outermost when fitted in place.



Fit the RHIB Davit, resin part 8, to the raised square area on the main deck on each side of the funnel. Fit the access platforms to aft of the davit and slightly inboard, so that when the RHIB is fitted in the cradle, the access is at the rear of the boat.

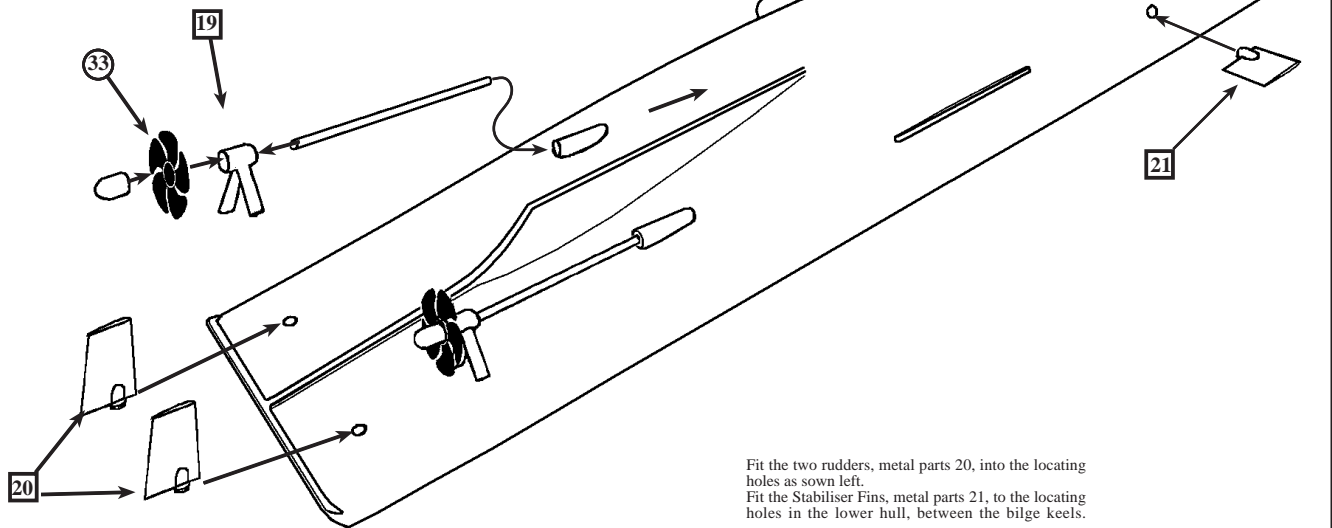
24' Pacific RHIB Assembly



Two Atlantic 24 RHIBs have been included in this kit. Fit the grab handles, of etched parts 40, so that the foot of the pole fits against the front of each of the crew seats. Fold the sides of the self righting roll frame, to 90° so that they are parallel then fit into place at the stern wall. Fit the steering wheel centrally to the console.

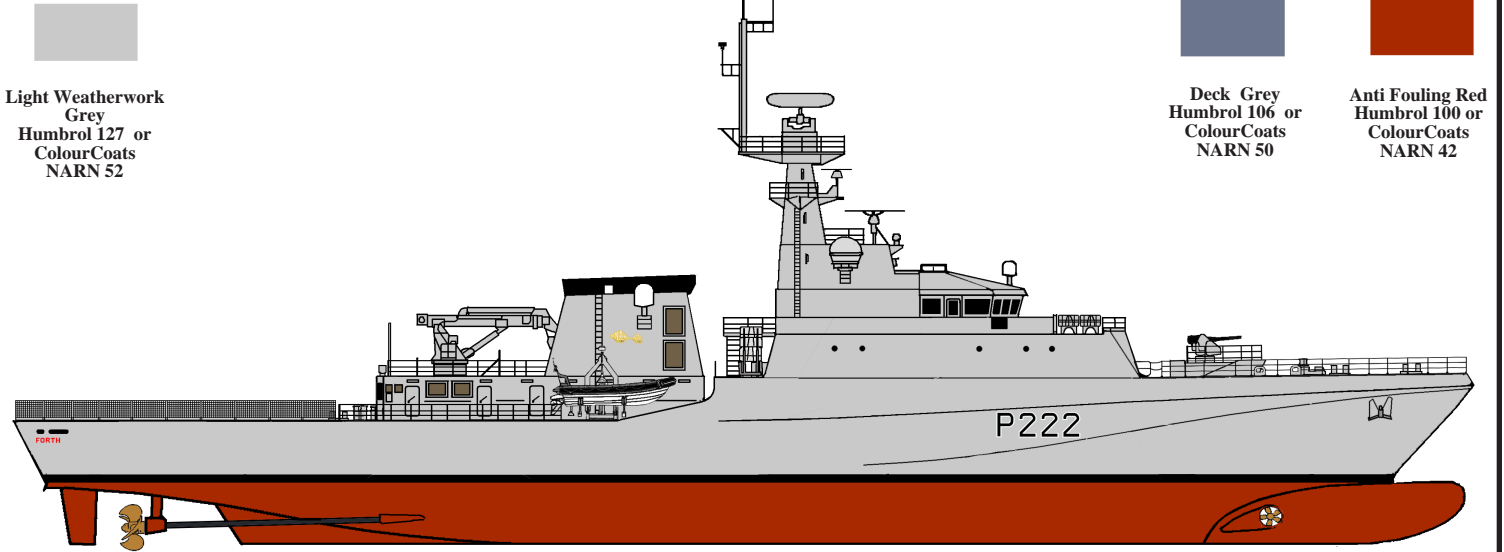
Propellers and Rudders

Cut two 28mm lengths of 1mm diameter plastic rod from the stock provided, to make the propeller shafts with.
Fit the two Propeller A Frames, metal parts 19, to the outer ends of the shafts, having trimmed the lengths of the legs to fit.
Take the propellers, etched parts 33, and gently curve each blade so that the outer narrow part curves to the rear, away from the bearing. Cut the hub from the bearing as shown below, fit the propeller centrally to the A frame part, and then refit the hub centrally to the propeller.



Fit the two rudders, metal parts 20, into the locating holes as shown left.
Fit the Stabiliser Fins, metal parts 21, to the locating holes in the lower hull, between the bilge keels.

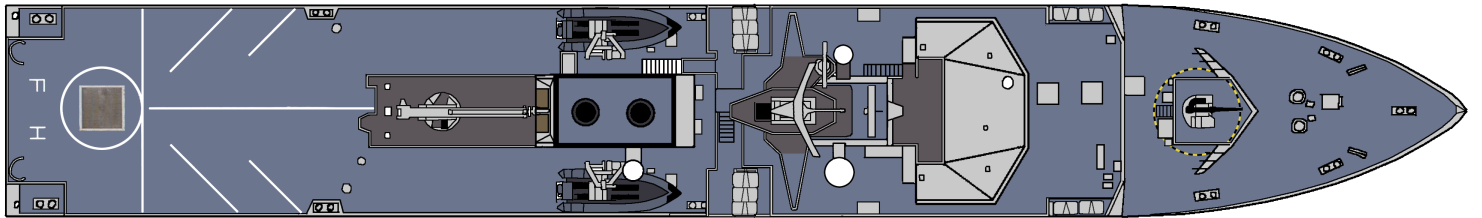
Main Colour Chart and Painting Guide



Light Weatherwork
Grey
Humbrol 127 or
ColourCoats
NARN 52

Deck Grey
Humbrol 106 or
ColourCoats
NARN 50

Anti Fouling Red
Humbrol 100 or
ColourCoats
NARN 42



Matt Black
Humbrol 33 or
ColourCoats
C 02

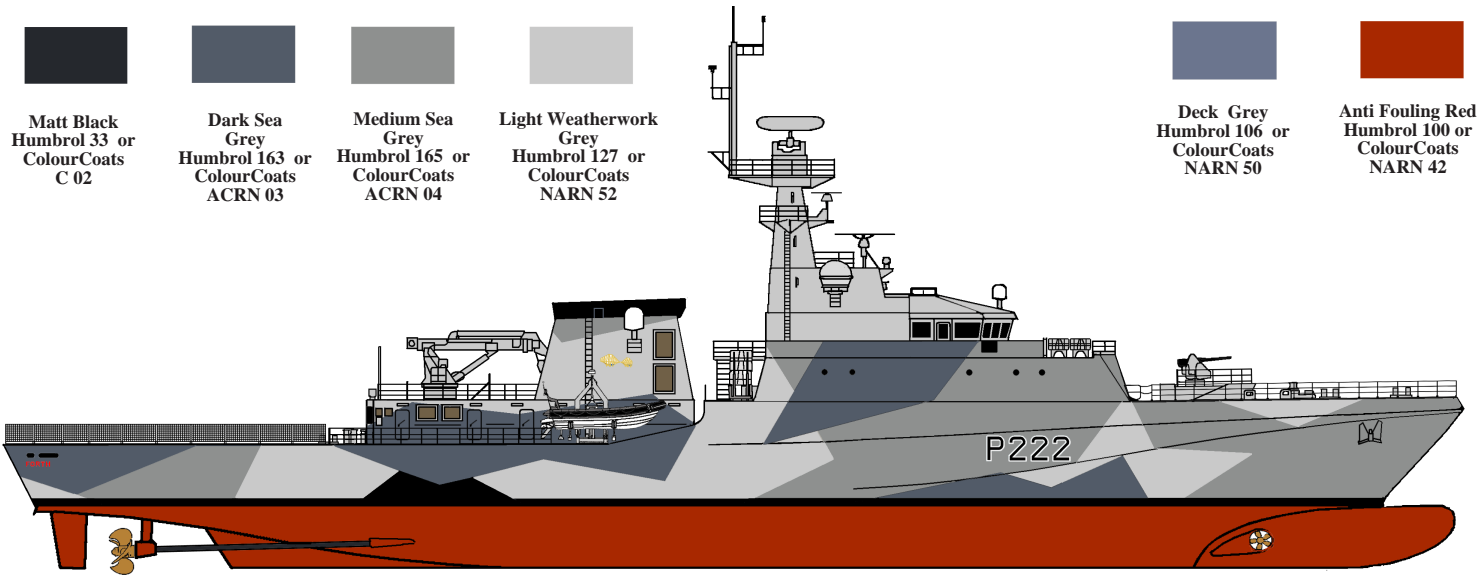
Dark Sea
Grey
Humbrol 163 or
ColourCoats
ACRN 03

Medium Sea
Grey
Humbrol 165 or
ColourCoats
ACRN 04

Light Weatherwork
Grey
Humbrol 127 or
ColourCoats
NARN 52

Deck Grey
Humbrol 106 or
ColourCoats
NARN 50

Anti Fouling Red
Humbrol 100 or
ColourCoats
NARN 42



Transom Camouflage Pattern
and Decal Placement

Other Colours Used :

Matt Black Mast Top, Gun Barrels, Sides and Front of RHIBs
 Matt White Radomes, Radar Antennas.
 Bronze Propellers
 Tank Grey Floors inside RHIBs

The decals provided in this kit allow all five ships of this class to be built. The placement is generally the same for all markings except HMS Tamar which has a large dragon emblem directly below the forward life raft canisters.
 The Flight Deck markings are as follows :-
 HMS Forth P222 / FH HMS Medway P223 / MW
 HMS Trent P224 / TT HMS Tamar P233 / TM
 HMS Spey P234 / SP