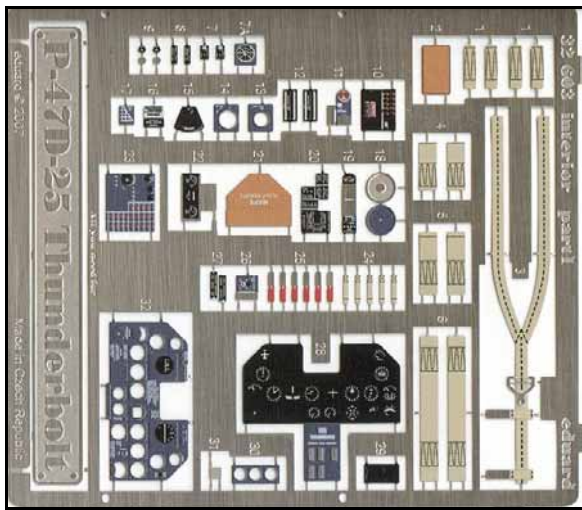


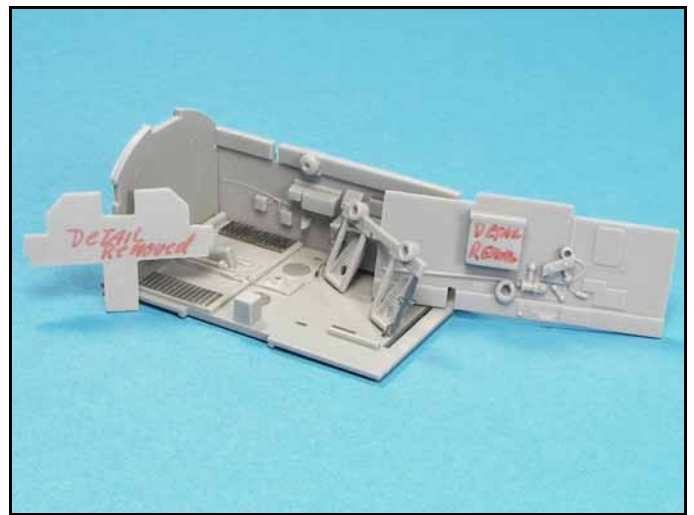
USING EDUARD'S  
PREPAINTED SELF ADHESIVE  
PHOTOETCH DETAIL SETS  
BY  
MIKE ASHEY

Eduard has improved their line of pre-painted seatbelts and cockpit detail sets with yet another innovation — self adhesive parts. The level of detail on these pre-painted photoetch parts is just incredible and they enhance a cockpit to an unprecedented level of realism and accuracy. To have a successful experience with these detail sets, study the Eduard instructions, the detail parts and the kits parts. Pre-plan your assemblies, go slow, cut off only the parts that you need and always check your work during the assembly process. Use sharp X-Acto blades for cutting out photoetch parts and fine grit sanding sticks to remove any stubs from the parts. I used flat faced needle nosed pliers for bending photoetch and I get these fine working tools from a jewelry and bead supply store. Use super glue for assembly and to hide any glue overflows paint the dried glue with Testors clear flat Dullcoat.

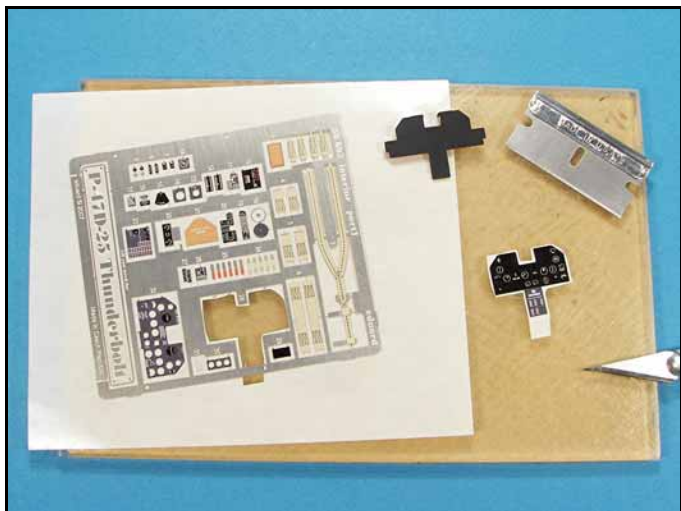
To demonstrate how to work with Eduard pre-painted photoetch parts I used their detail set for the Hasegawa 1/32 scale P-47D. There are two other articles that are associated with my P-47D project. The first one is the article on building the kit. The second article is titled “Mike Ashey’s Paint Layering Technique For Aircraft ” and it presents the painting techniques I used on the P-47. Also, check out the aircraft gallery section to see finished photos of the 1/32 scale P-47D.



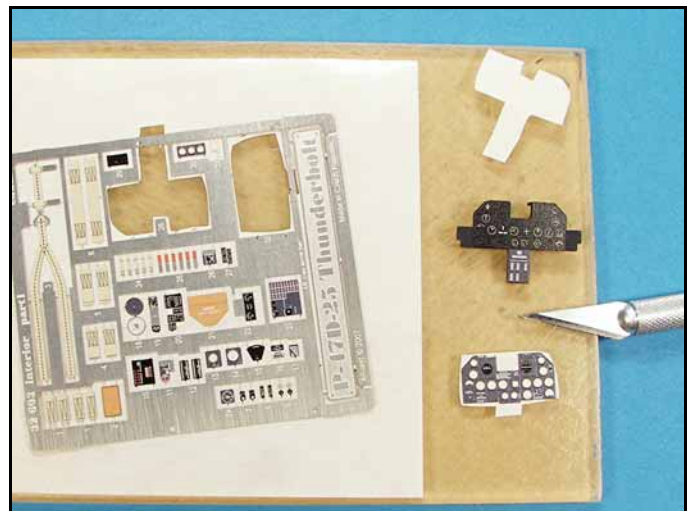
This is the Eduard pre-painted photoetch self adhesive set for the Hasegawa 1/32 scale P-47D. The detail set also comes with another sheet of unpainted photoetch detail parts and excellent instructions.



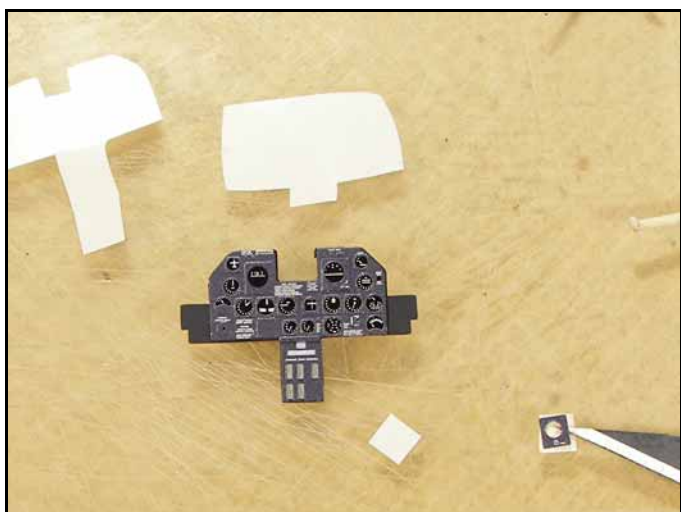
I removed the surface detail on the console and on some of the boxes on the side panels. I also added the unpainted photoetch details to the cockpit floor and to the rudder pedals.



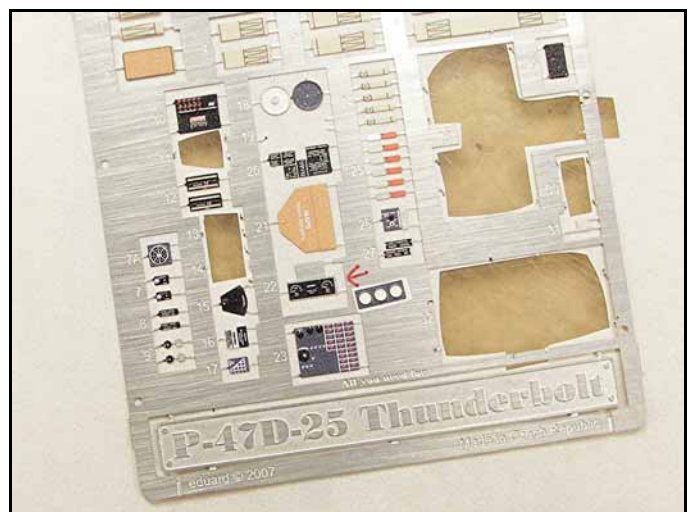
The photoetch sheet has a wax paper packing to protect the adhesive. Cut out each part with a sharp blade and leave paper tabs on the parts so you can easily peel them off. I painted the kits console flat black.



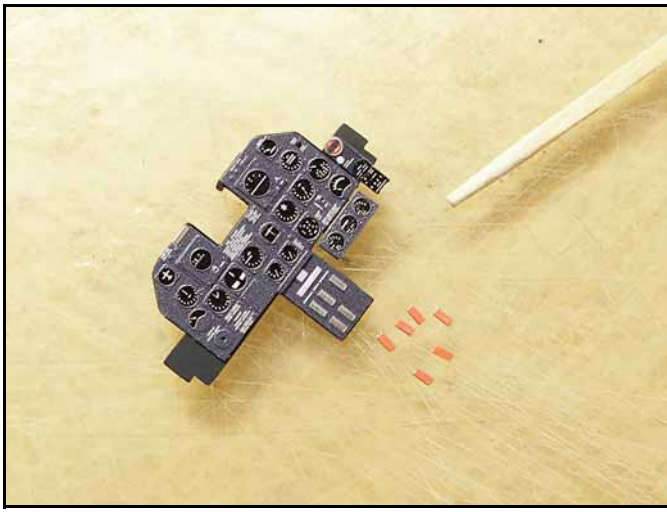
I peeled the paper off and lightly layed the part on top of the kit's console. I carefully positioned it and then pressed down to activate the adhesive. Next I cut out the consoles second layer and positioned it on top of the first layer.



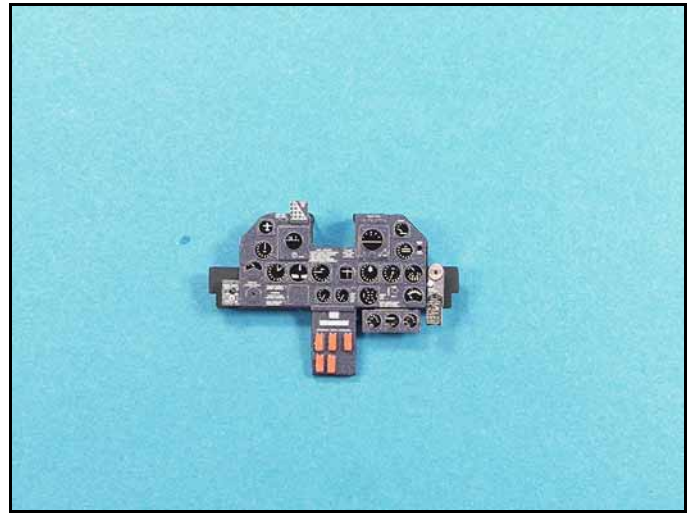
It is important to get the holes on the second layer lined up with the instrument faces before pressing the part down. For small parts, I use the tip of an X-Acto blade to peel off the paper. I use a toothpick to position small parts.



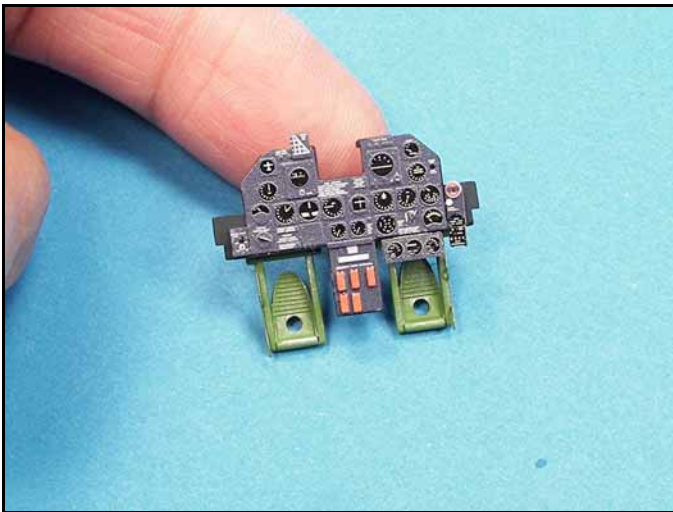
Small photoetch layer parts are best assembled with the lower layer still attached to the parts tree. I cut out the upper layer, positioned it, pressed it down and then cut out the completed assembly.



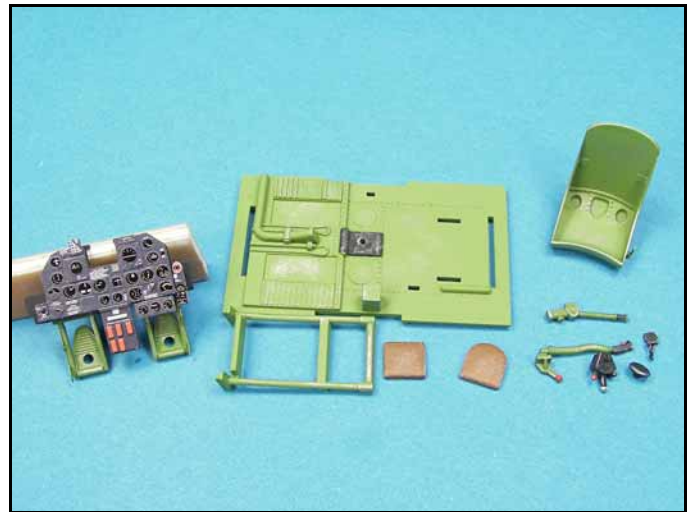
The small red switches were carefully folded and the edges lined up. I applied a tiny drop of white glue to each location on the console. I wet the tip of a flattened toothpick and picked up each part to place it on the console.



The right and left side console parts and instruction plates were added and the entire assembly is now complete. I used my trusty toothpick to pick up the small parts and position them on the console so they would not get damaged.



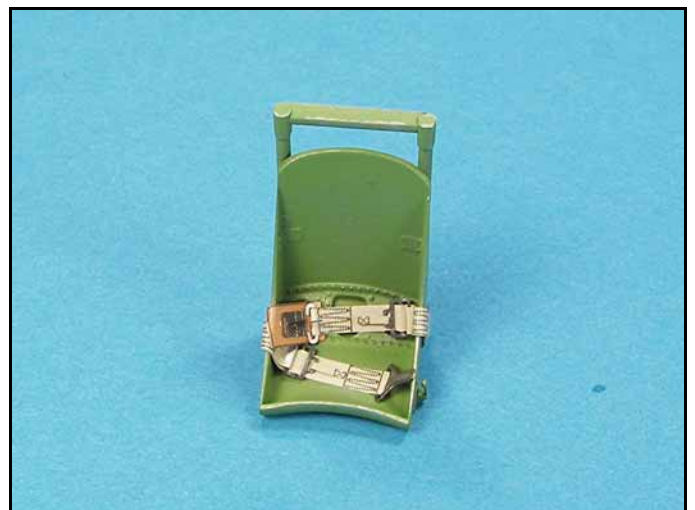
The console has been attached to the rudder pedal assembly and its time to work on the other cockpit parts. Now that's how an aircraft instrument console is supposed to look!



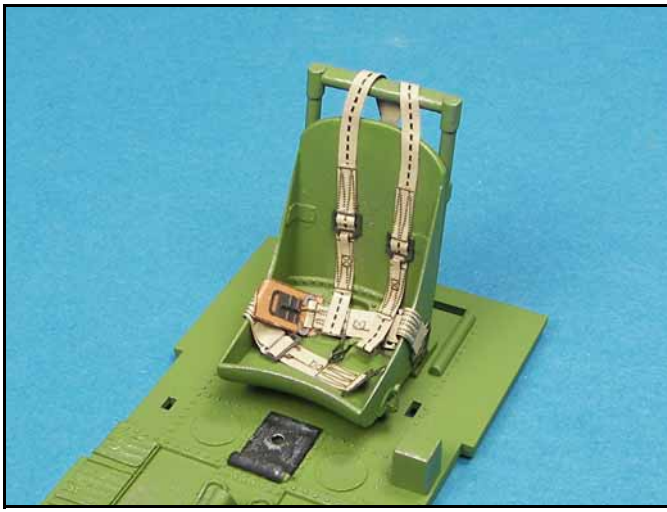
Although the Eduard detail set has lots of replacement parts, I like to use combinations of photoetch and kit parts. The kit's seat and throttle assembly has been modified and detail painted with some small Eduard instruction plates added.



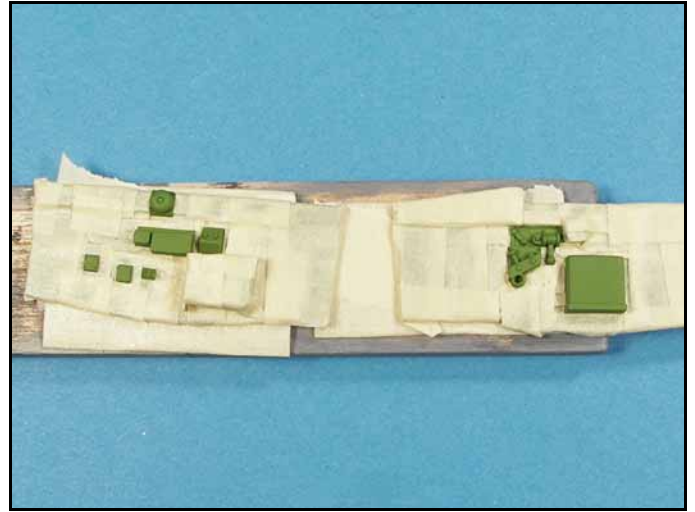
Prepainted seat belts are easier to assemble if you use small strips of tape to hold them in place. Use super glue to attach parts. Any exposed glue gets a coat of Testors clear flat which makes the glue smear disappear.



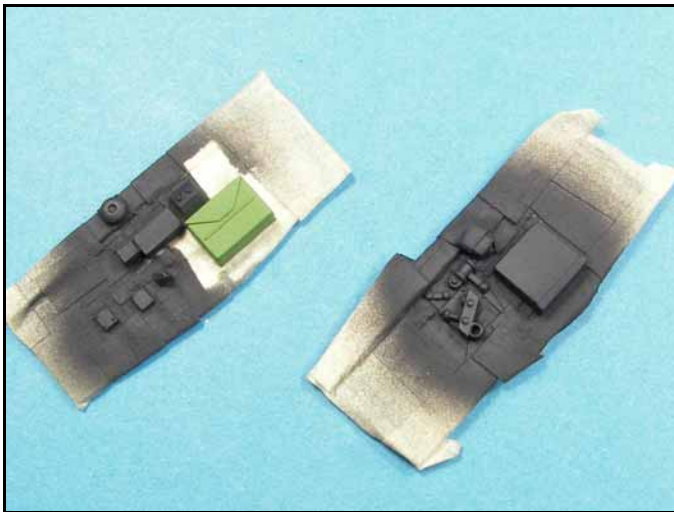
I usually work with the lap belts first. After assembly, I positioned them on the seat and carefully form fit them around the seat's contours. Then I glue them in place with tiny drops of super glue.



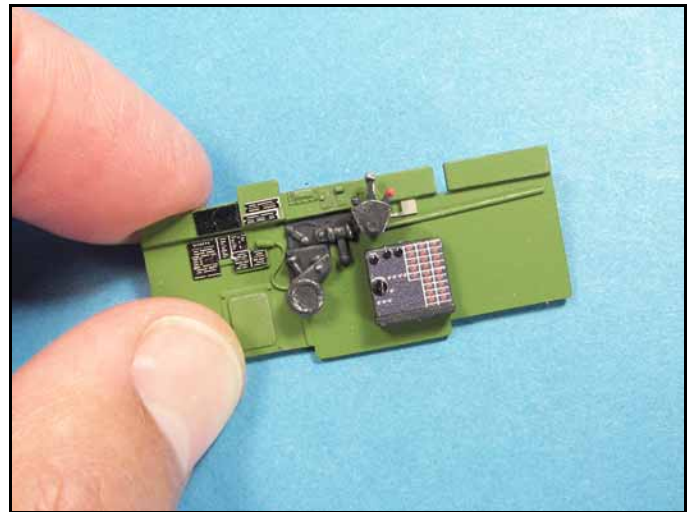
The shoulder belts were then positioned onto the seat Assembly, form fitted into place over the contours of the frame and the seat and glued into place. Note how the belts look like they are draped over the frame and the seat.



I carefully masked the side console details and airbrushed them. I used small strips of tape to mask around the exposed parts.



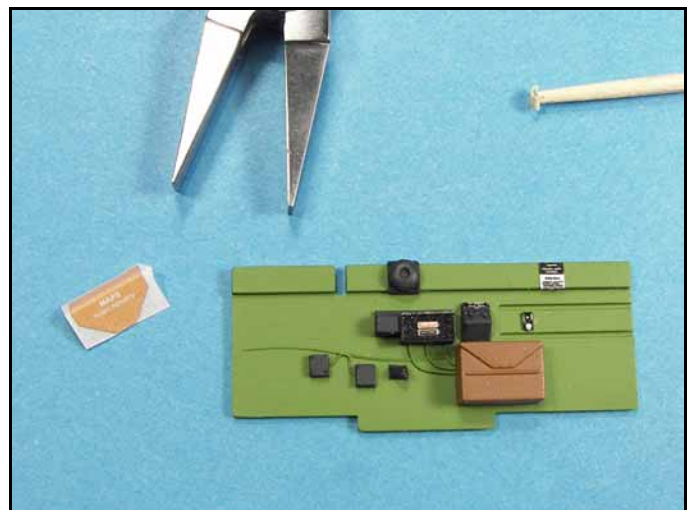
Next I masked over the black painted parts and then airbrushes the map case. Sometimes I add several layers of tape on a part before I am done airbrushing all the colors. I call this my paint layering technique.



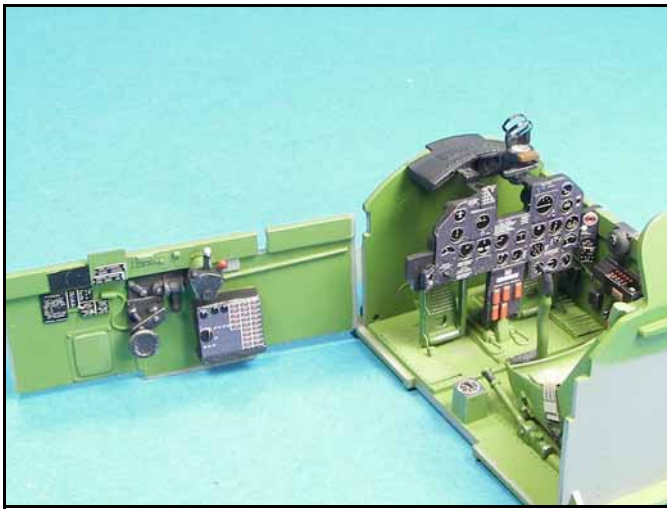
Here is the completed left side of the cockpit. All the pre-painted photoetch parts were carefully positioned with a toothpick. Once the self adhesive glue starts to activate you still have a few seconds for positioning, so work fast!



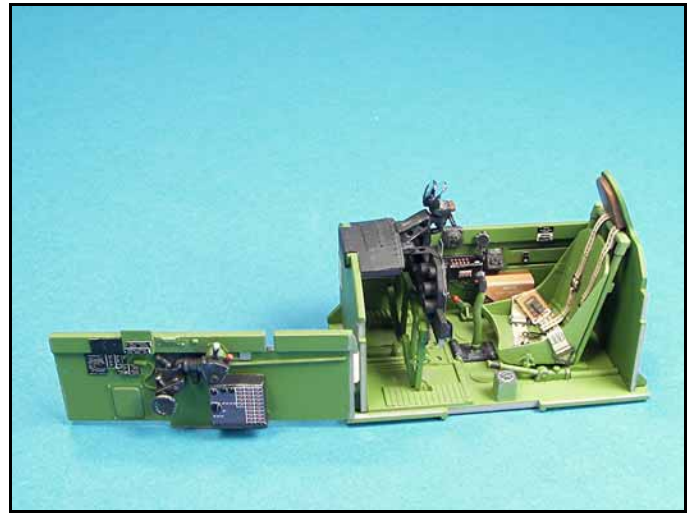
I added masking tape to the inside faces of the pliers to protect the pre-painted parts. After the part was bent I removed the paper backing. The small strip of masking tape on the tip of the toothpick is for picking up/positioning parts.



Use two toothpicks for parts attachment. One for picking up the part and initial placement and one for positioning the part and holding it in place while you pull off the toothpick with the tiny taped face.



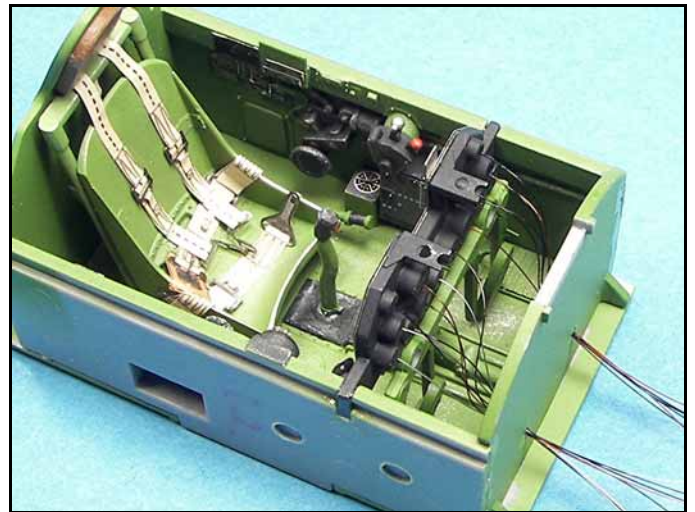
Once all the cockpit subassemblies are complete and detail painted its time to start putting it all together! I like to do one last fit check to be sure that everything looks good.



There is a lot of detail to sandwich into this small cockpit. Note how careful masking, paint selection, airbrushing and photoetch assembly can make all the cockpit detail really stand out.



Although the Eduard detail set had a gunsight I used the kit part which I modified. I also added a photoetch gun sight ring from an old Model Technologies detail set. Check out the finished model in the aircraft gallery!



One last detail to add was the wiring behind the console. I used nylon sewing thread and soft brass beading wire colored with indelible markers to represent the wiring.