

MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
KIT REVIEW OF THE HOBBY BOSS 1/350 SCALE
USS ALASKA, CB-1

Hobby Boss is affiliated with Trumpeter, however the engineering and the parts in this kit are a departure from how Trumpeter usually does their ship kits. This kit has a 1 piece hull, a 2 piece deck, a 40 page well illustrated instruction book, a color sheet, 15 sprues of parts, 2 clear Seahawk float planes, 4 brass photoetch sheets, anchor chain and the typical Trumpeter kit stand.

The sprues are well packaged and sealed in clear bags as well as the deck sections and the hull. There are 2 Sprue J's and 6 Sprue K's. The 6 Sprue K's are packaged in two's and wrapped in protective foam sheeting. The photoetch is approximately .006 inch brass and each sheet is sealed on both sides with clear plastic sheet to prevent tarnishing. My kit had a warped side keel however the plastic is thin enough so that as it is attached to the hull the warp can be corrected.

This kit review is not an in box review as I have removed all the main superstructure parts and taped them together, which allowed me to check the fit of part halves and how sub-assemblies fit together with each other. The pictures and captions also have tips on working with some of the assembled superstructure parts. All the 12 inch turrets were damaged at their bases where the tree attachment points are, but there is an easy fix for this, which is presented in this review. I recommend that you remove both the 12 inch and 5⁷/₃₈ turrets from the 6 sprue K's until you are ready to assembly them.

KIT NOTES

The level of surface detail on the parts is excellent.

The 40mm bases are in 2 levels, upper and lower, which allows the assembled part to sit at the correct height above the deck splintered shield. However the guns splinter shields are a bit thick. The 40mm bases and the gun size and appearance are a departure from previous Trumpeter kit designs.

The 20mm guns appearance and level of detail are better than previous Trumpeter kits.

The 5"/38 turrets are 1 piece with small detail parts added. Here again this is a departure from previous Trumpeter turrets.

The MK-37 radars are well detailed.

The anchors are 3 pieces with a separate stem which allows you to properly position the anchors against the hull.

The anchor locations on the hull and the chain locations on the deck are opened up.

The life rafts are a bit shallow in depth, but nicely detailed.

There are multiple rope reels and each one consists of 4 parts. There are also slight indentations in the deck for positioning.

The wood deck detail is superb.

There are binocular stands and photoetch arm rests—nice touch!

The photoetch railings are designed to be an exact fit, however I did not remove them to check the fit.

The photoetch sheets have multi-layer etching.

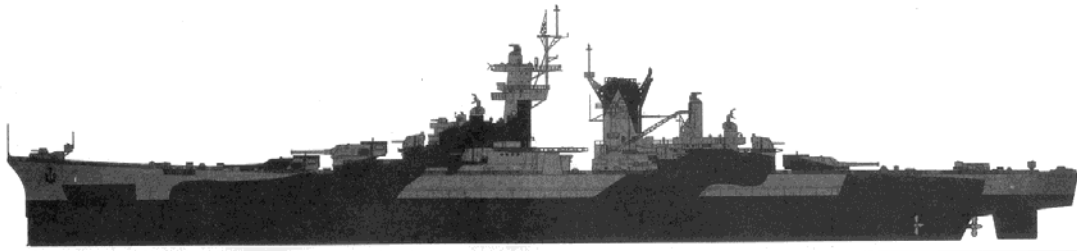
The photoetch parts that need to be folded have good fold lines or fold tabs.

The 40 page instruction booklet has beautiful 3-D drawings of each stage of assembly and they are well detailed.

There are some very tiny parts that will be difficult to handle just like the Dragon smart kit 1/350 scale ships.

This kit has a high parts count, however the separate parts, the level of surface detail and the design engineering that went into this kit are excellent.

Clearly the designers of this kit wanted to achieve a high level of detail so that when completed the kit has a museum quality appearance. I believe they out did themselves!



USS Alaska CB-1

アメリカ海軍 大型巡洋艦アラスカ CB-1 美国海军“阿拉斯加”号大型巡洋舰CB-1

PLEASE READ BEFORE OPERATION!

- * Tools recommended as below: (Not included)
Adhesives; Paints; Side Cutters; Sharp Edged Pliers; Modeling Knife; Modeling File; Nippers; Drill; Scissors; Sand Paper; Soft Cloth; Cyanoacrylate Glue.
- * Make sure to read this instruction listed below before assembling.
- * The kit contains the small parts, they can be dangerous if swallowed by mistake, so keep them away from reach of children.
- * Cut the all parts off carefully and remove the waste parts into the garbage can.
- * More caution and care should be needed for cutting and handling the photo etched parts.
- * Make attention that some parts should be attached the decal when assembled.
- * During assembling, please tear up and throw away the plastic bags, or may cause the dangerous if wearing over head by children's mistake.
- * When using the adhesives and paints, please do not use them in the closed room or near the fire, also must be very careful to protect your eyes, face and clothes.
- * Adult supervised when assembled by children under 14 years old.

装配前请仔细阅读:

- * 推荐使用的模型工具(请自备):
专用模型胶水, 专用模型油漆, 水口剪刀, 长嘴钳, 刀片, 锉刀, 镊子钳, 钻, 剪刀, 软布, 砂纸, 瞬间快干胶等。
- * 用水口剪刀或刀片小心切下所有塑胶零件和蚀刻片零件, 不要遗失小零件。
- * 切取蚀刻片时应特别注意防止利边划伤手指。
- * 用模型锉刀小心锉平所有零件表面的注射浇口。
- * 用适量的强力快干胶水粘合蚀刻片零件和金属轴, 切忌过量, 否则可能导致可动零件被粘住。
- * 注意某些零件表面需在装配时同步贴水上贴纸。
- * 制作时应远离幼儿并将包装及时收妥, 谨防小孩玩耍而引起意外。

The method to apply the decals

1. Cut off the decal from the decal paper and put it into the warm water 40°C for 10 seconds.
2. Take the decal from the water and put it on a piece of clean cloth.
3. Remove the decal slowly from the paper to the targeted location by a wet finger.
4. Use a piece of dry and soft cloth to press it gently on the decal until it getting dry and no bubble existing.

水贴纸的使用方法:


- 一. 把相关的印花从水贴纸上剪下, 放入40°C左右的温水中浸10秒。
- 二. 然后将印花放在干净的布上。
- 三. 拿上印花纸, 手指蘸水将印花移到适当的位置。
- 四. 用软干布轻压印花直至水干, 气泡消失。

									
cyanoacrylate glue 强力胶	weight 配置	make hole 钻孔	cut / remov 切除	option 选择	no cement 不涂胶水	decal 贴纸	bend 弯曲	repair 填补	install it first 先装

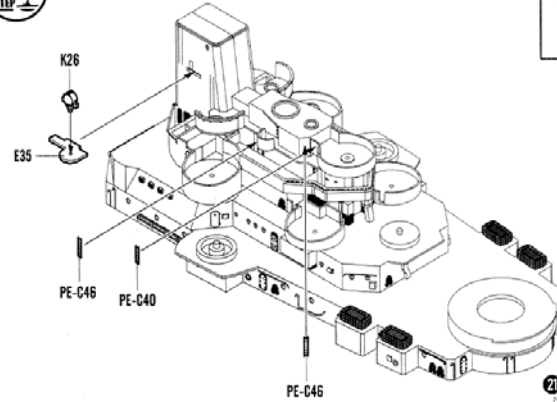
The instruction booklet is 40 pages and details both plastic and photoetch assemblies. Here are 3 examples of the level of 3-D drawing detail which is typical of each page of the instruction booklet.

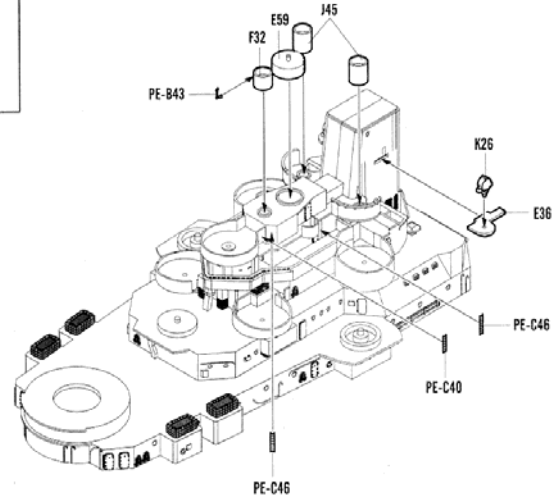
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STEP

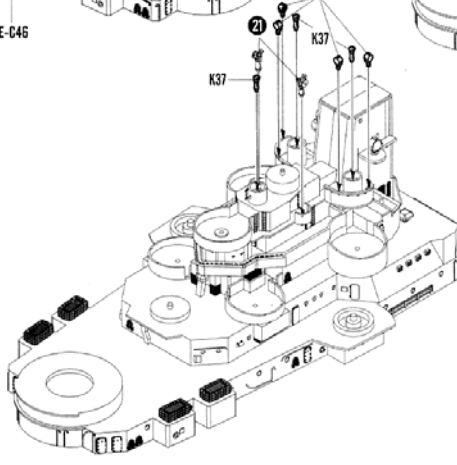
21



制作4套
Make four



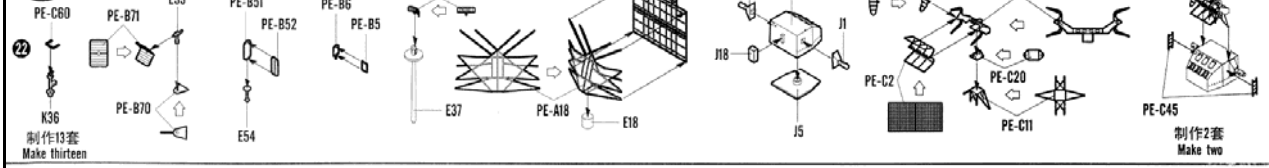




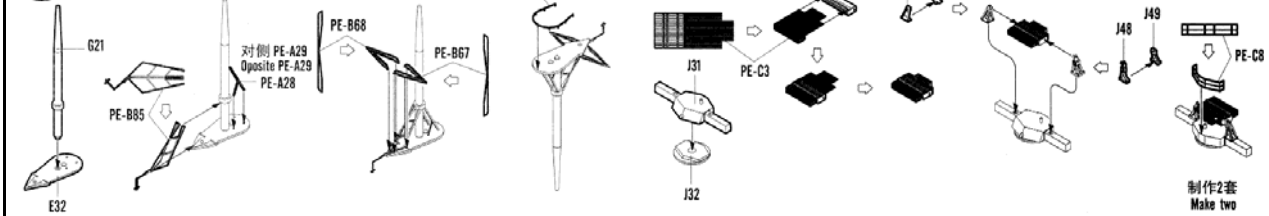
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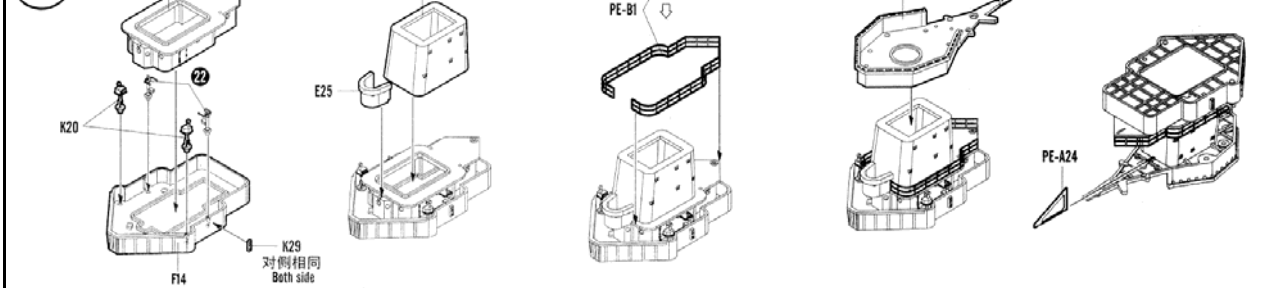
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STEP



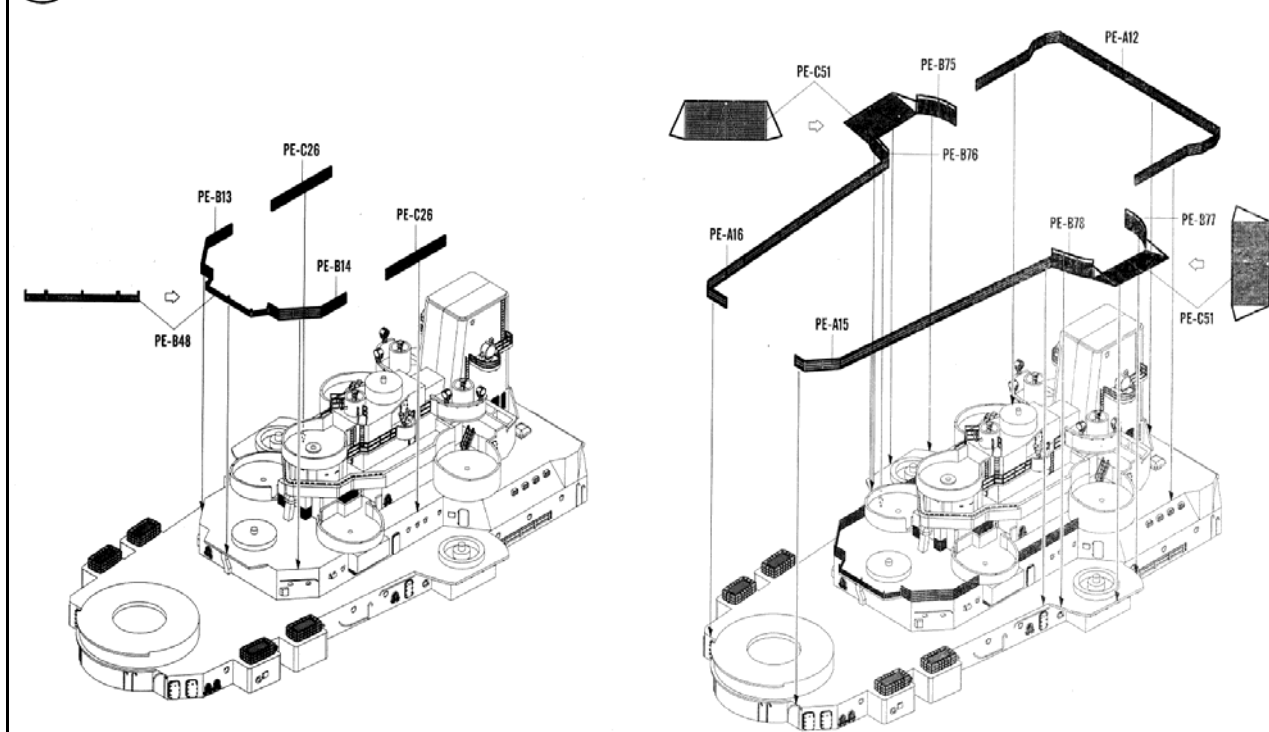
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STEP



30
STEP

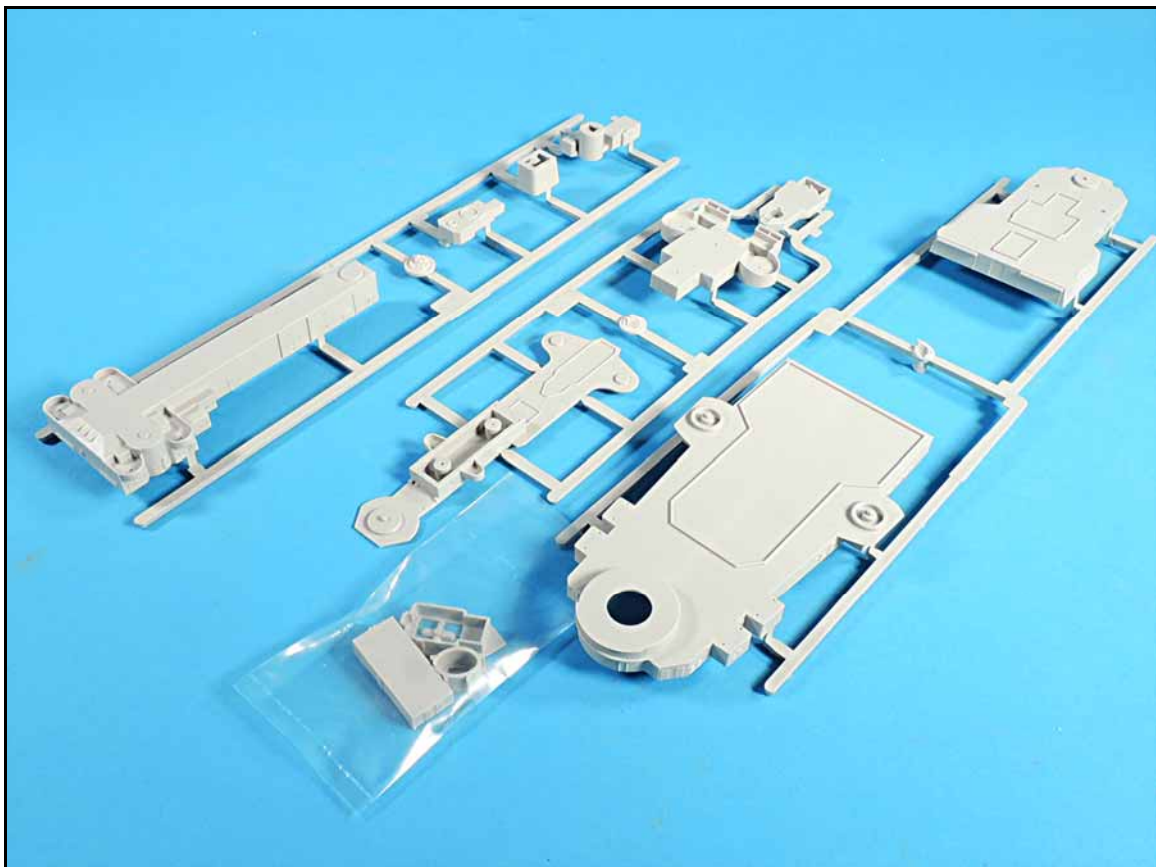


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STEP

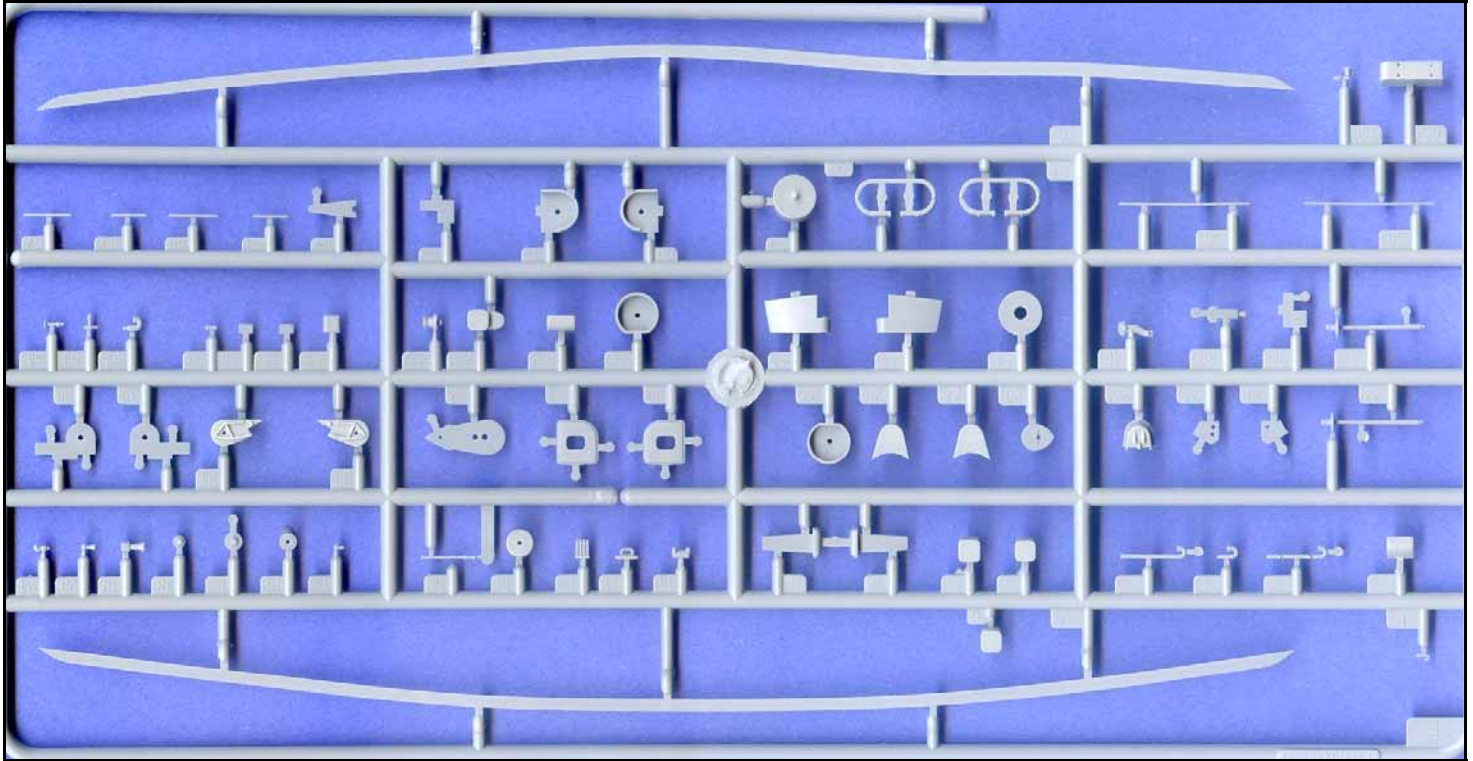




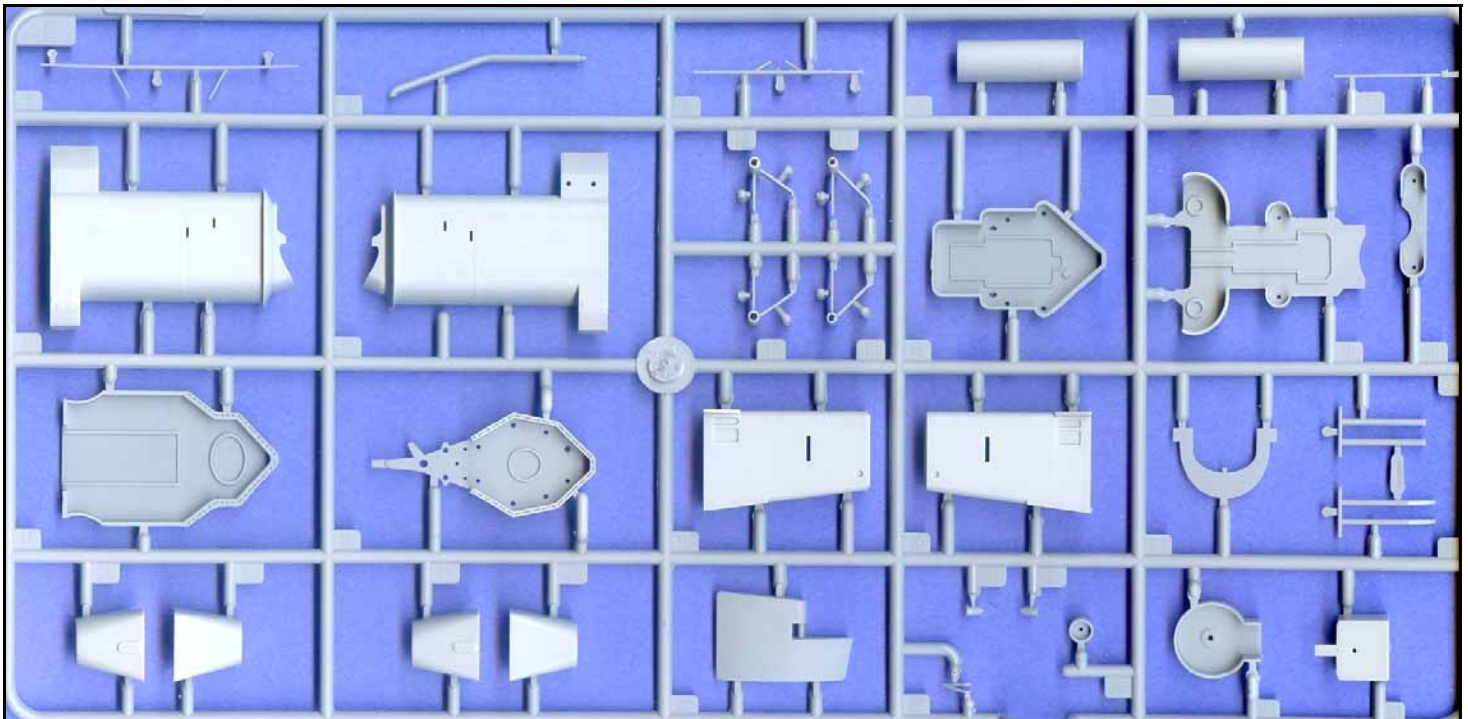
A color sheet depicting the ships colors is also included. These color sheets are standard for Hobby Boss and Trumpeter kits.



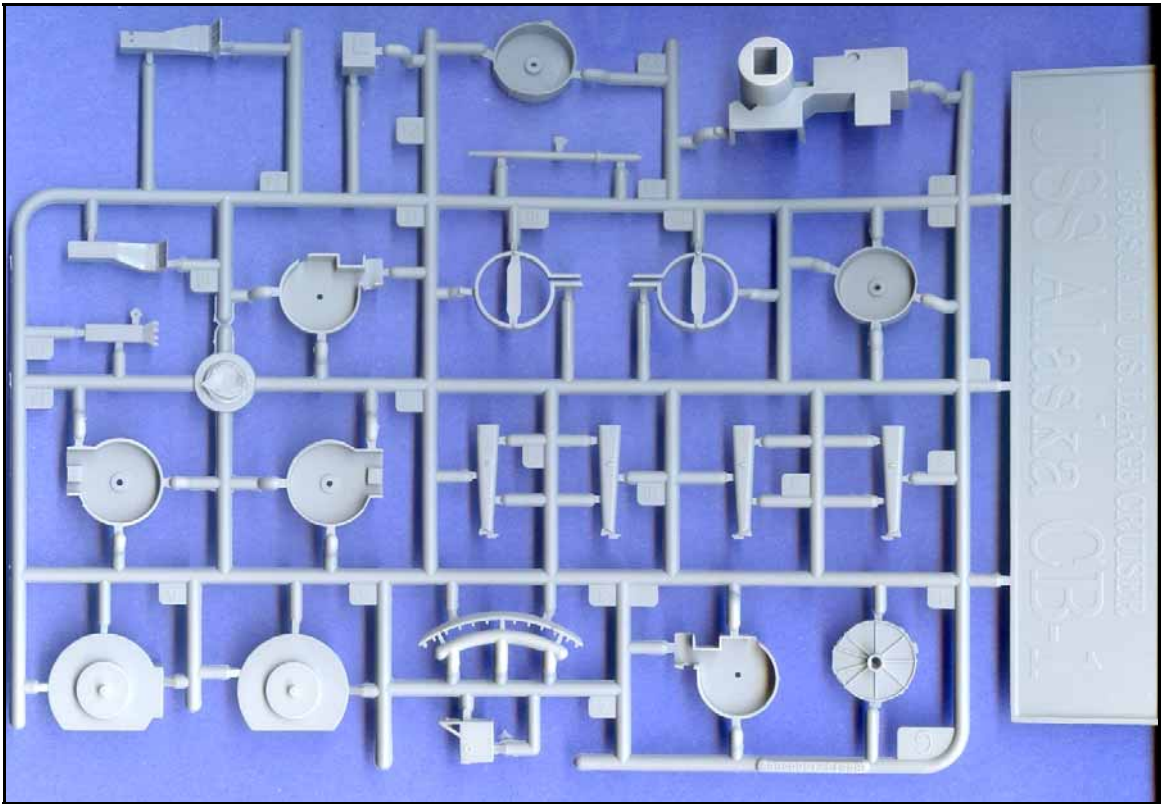
The superstructure parts are very well cast thanks to slide molding. These parts are a departure from other Trumpeter kits where superstructure sections are 3 sides and a top. Shown are sprues A, B, C and the small bags of parts are labeled “D” parts.



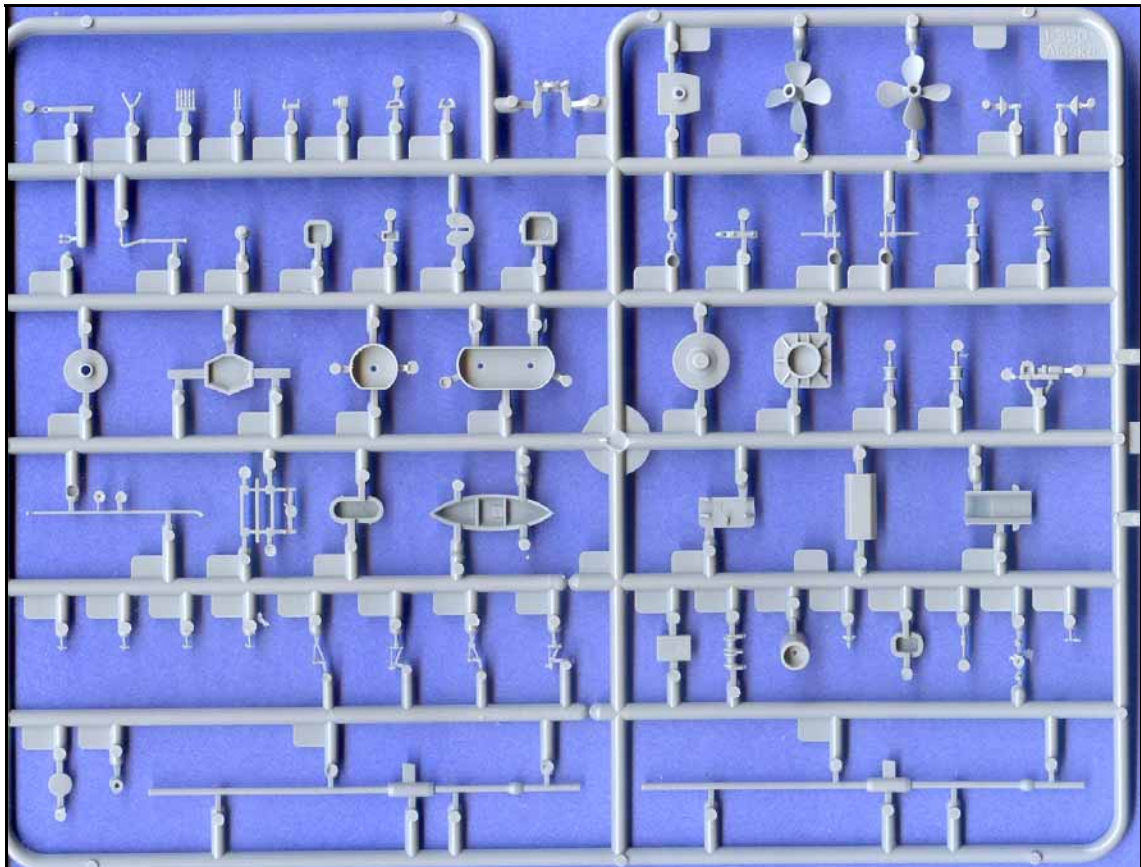
The injection molding on sprue “E” is perfect except for the slightly warped side keel. This part is thin enough so that you can attach one end, and straighten out the warp as you work your way down the side of the hull attaching the keel.



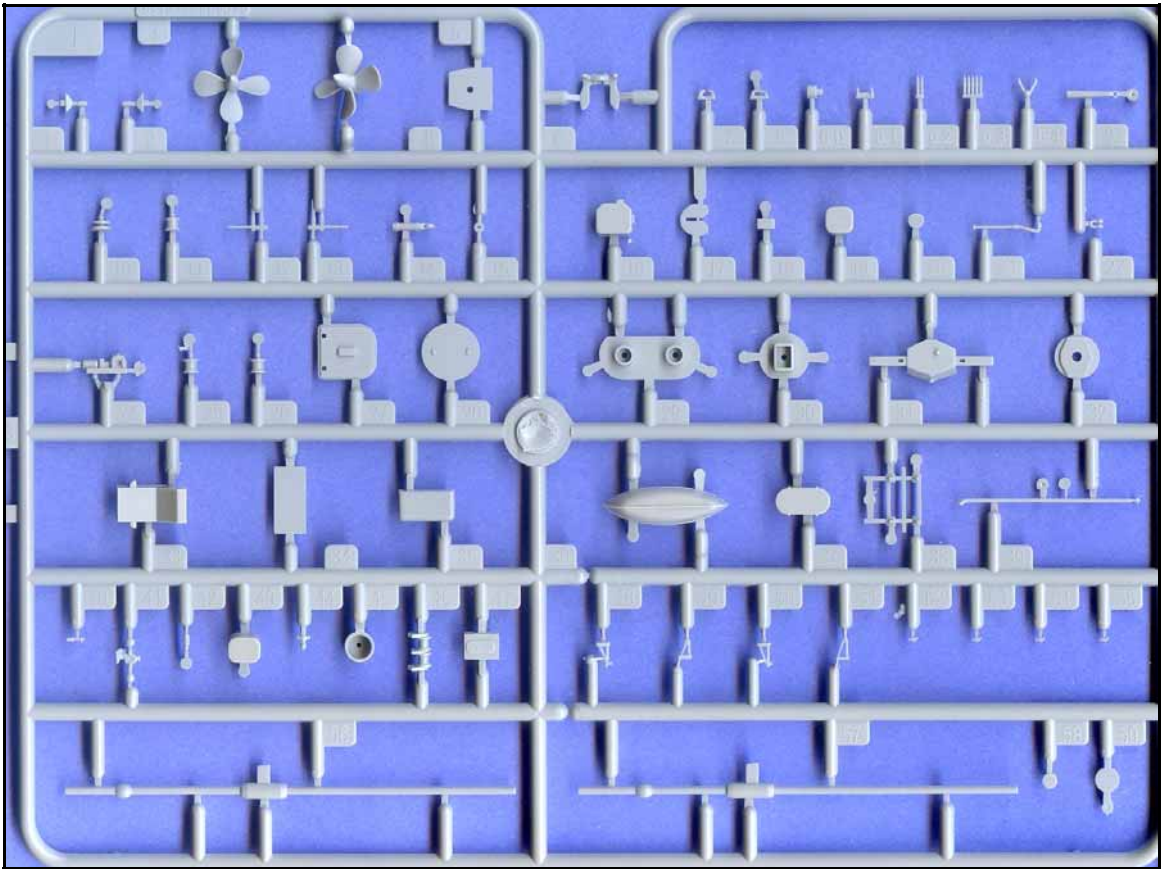
Superstructure parts are typically left and right sides while deck layers have a lot of molded on detail. This is sprue “F”. Also, the smoke stack is hollow and the inside area has a lot of added details so paint the inside area flat black. The smoke stack alone has approximately 49 parts and is almost a model onto itself.



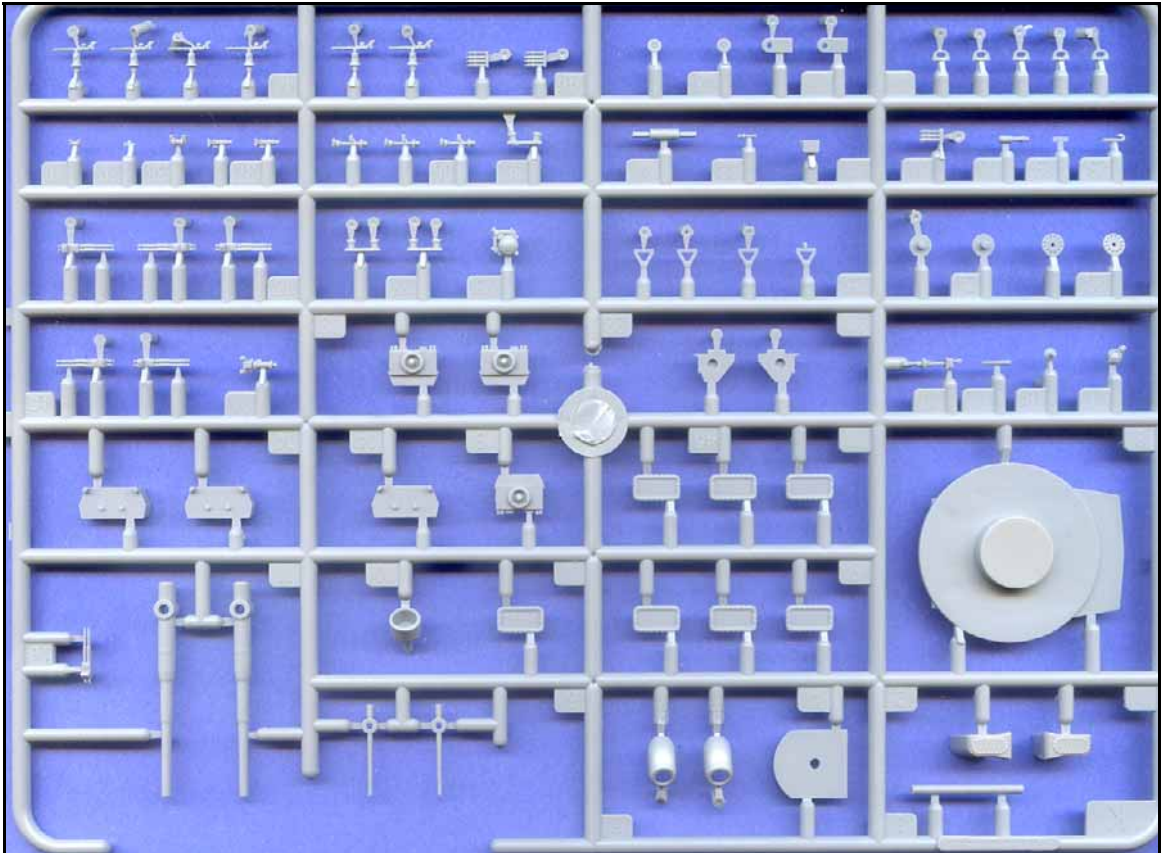
Sprue "G" has a lot of the 40mm gun tubs.



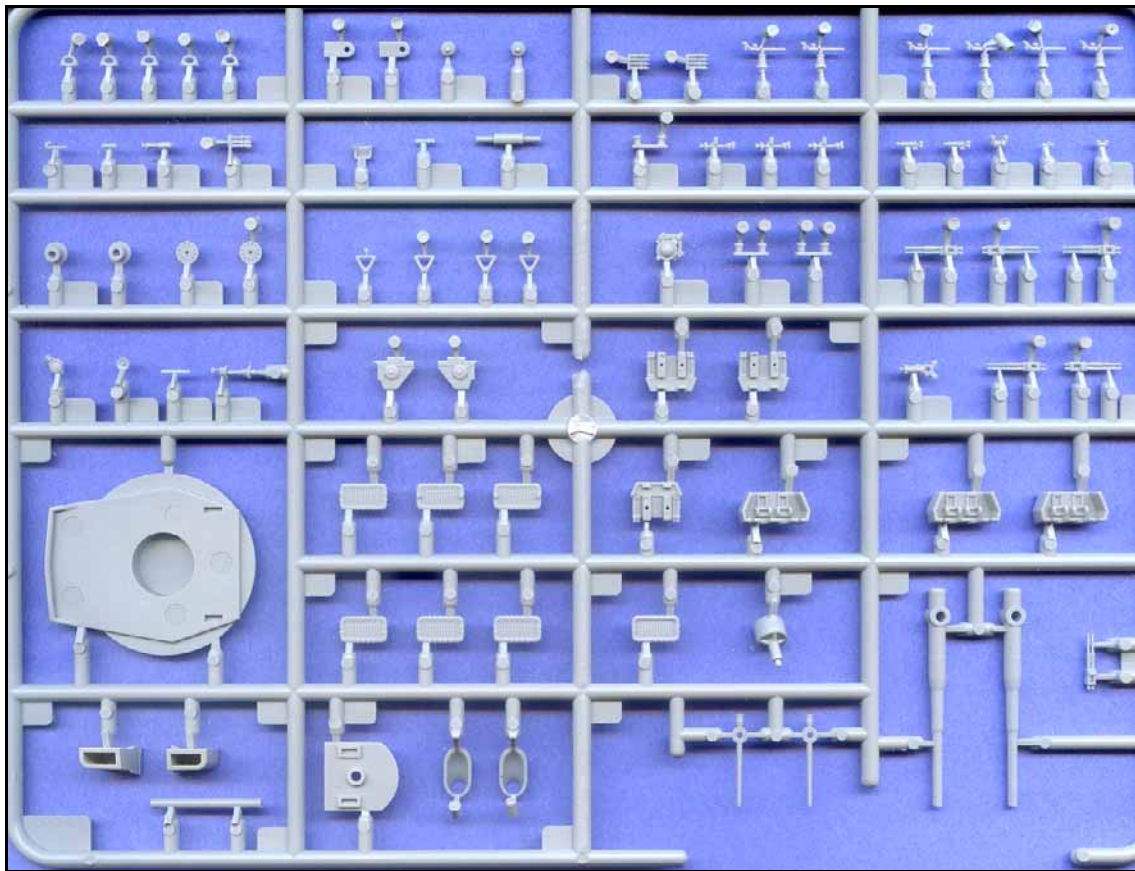
This is side 1 of sprue "J". There are two of these supplied in the kit. Note the tiny parts.



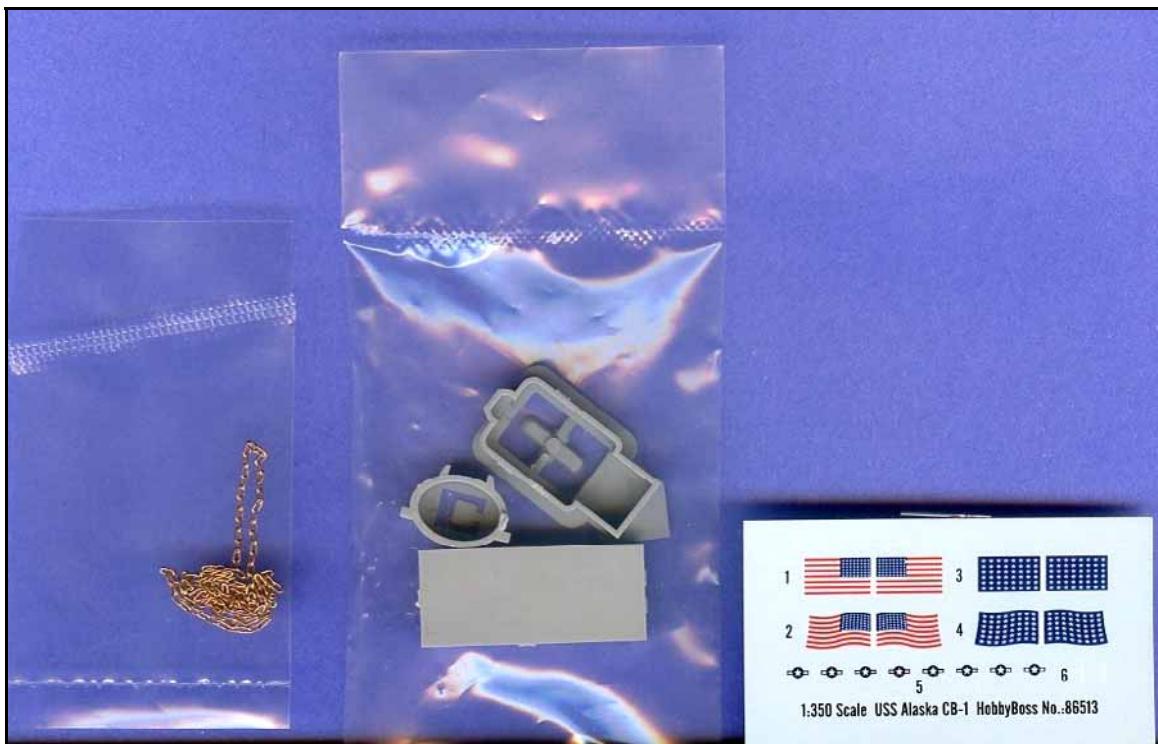
This is sprue "J", side 2.



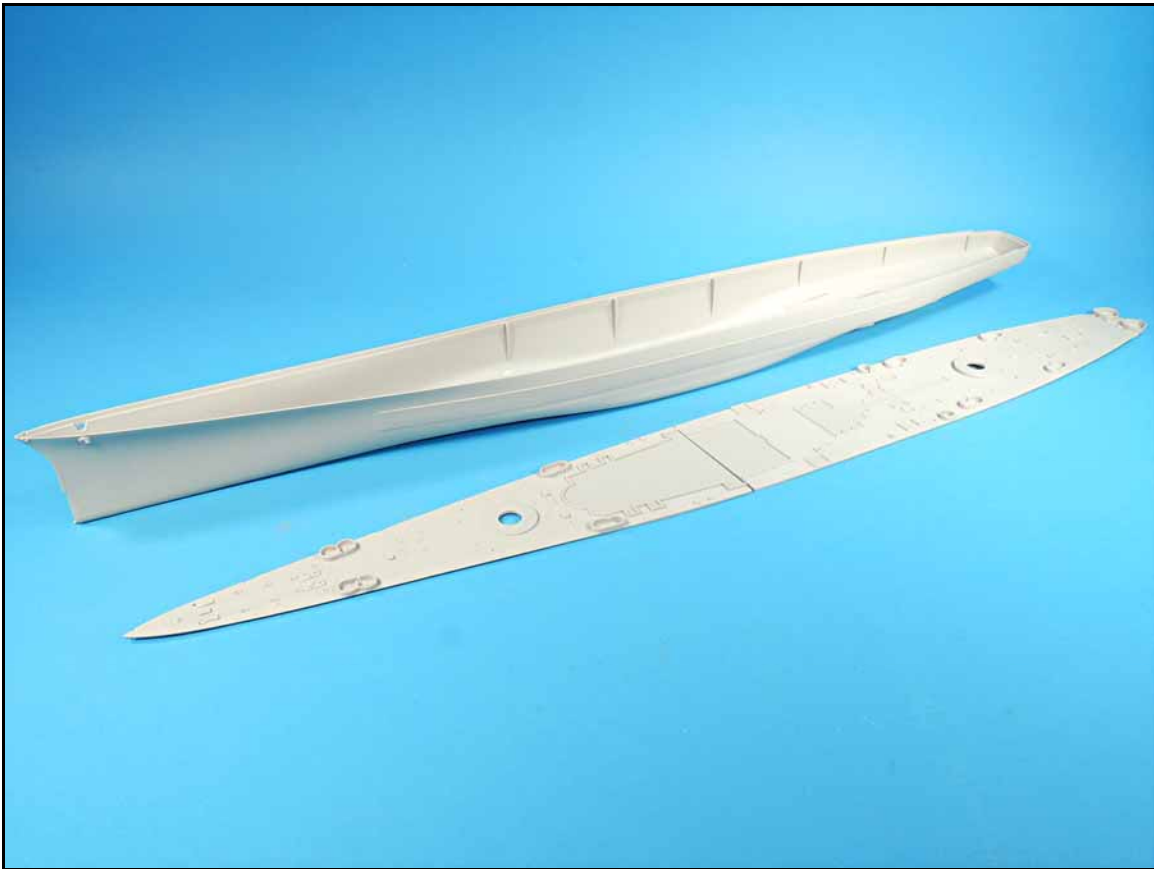
This is sprue "K" and there are 6 of these supplied in the kit. This is side 1. Also, the left and right ends had turrets attached, which I cut off because the 12 inch turret bases were damaged.



This is sprue "K", side 2.



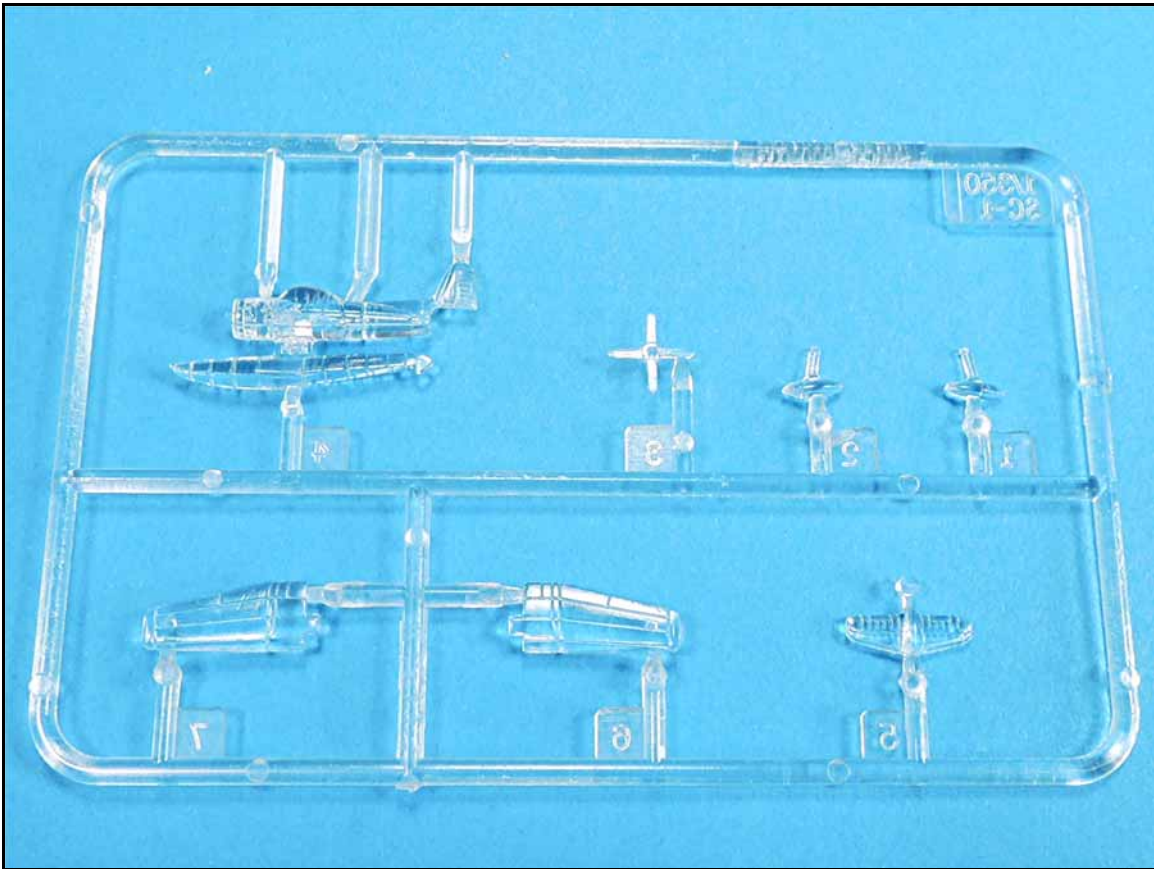
The anchor chain is located in the same bag as the display base. The bag of superstructure parts are the "D" parts. The decals are nicely done.



The Alaska's hull is one piece, which is another departure from the typical Trumpeter kits where the hull is split at the water line. The deck is in two sections and the seam is in a good location that requires minimal work on the seam and some minor re-scribing of the deck detail.



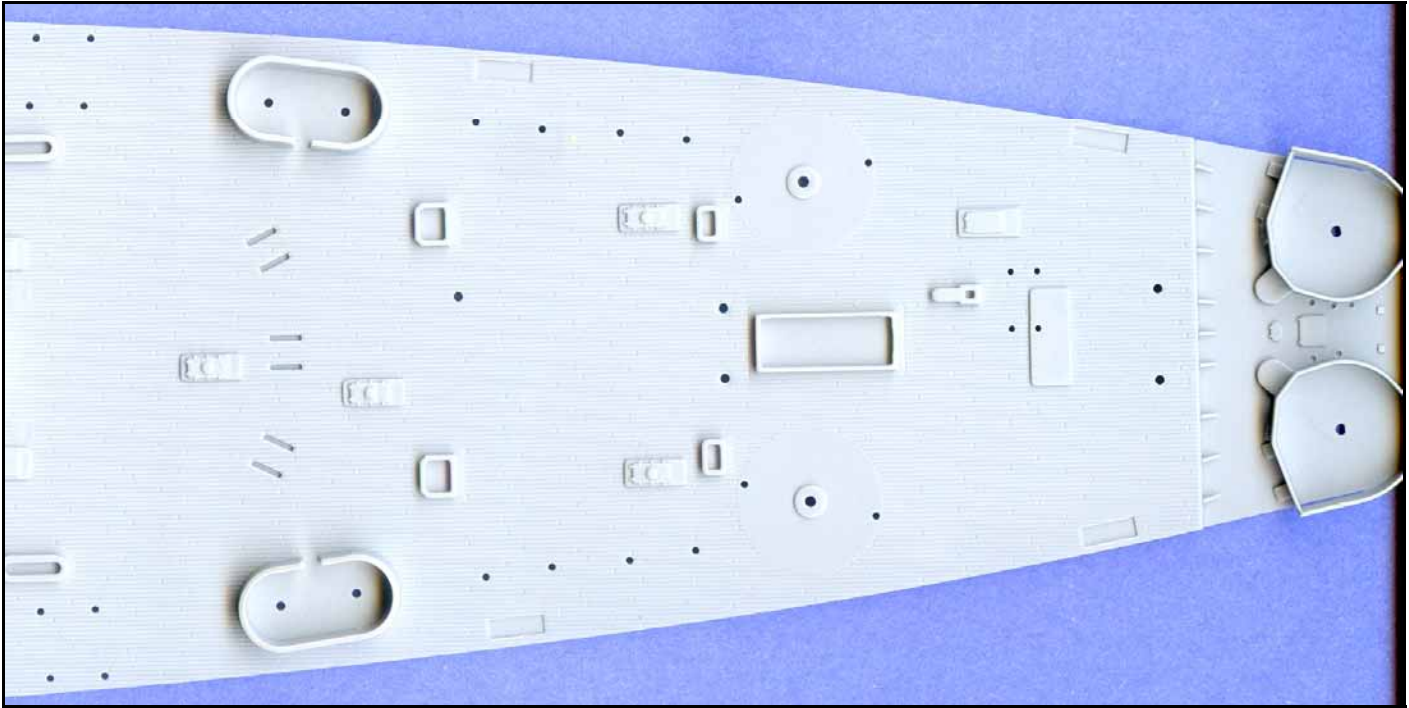
The display base is a typical Trumpeter design.



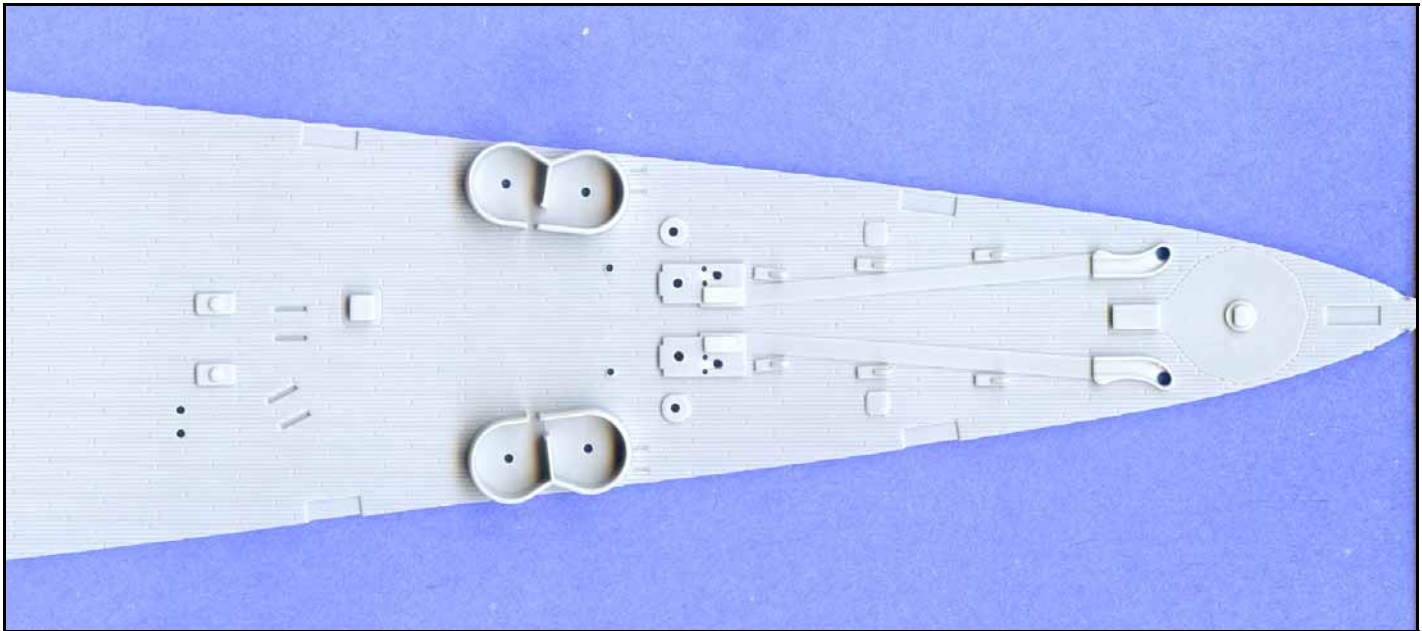
The Seahawk float planes are nicely cast but the surface detail is hard to see because of the clear plastic. Once they are primed it will be easier to work with these parts.



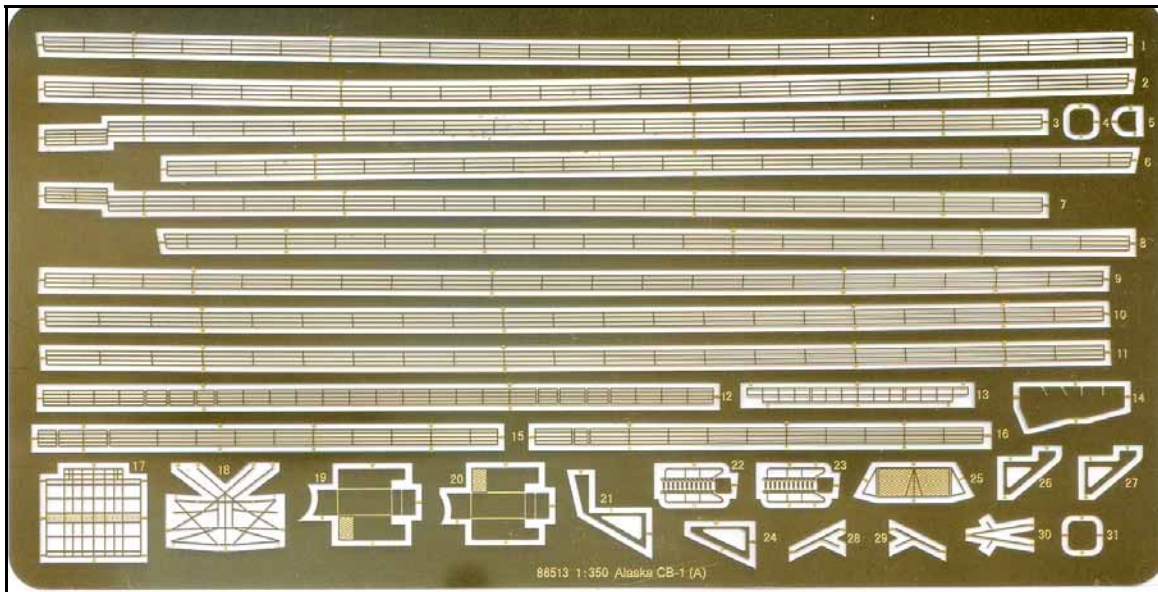
Here is how Sprue "J" is packaged. There is foam wrapped around two sprues and the turrets hang outside the protective wrapping.



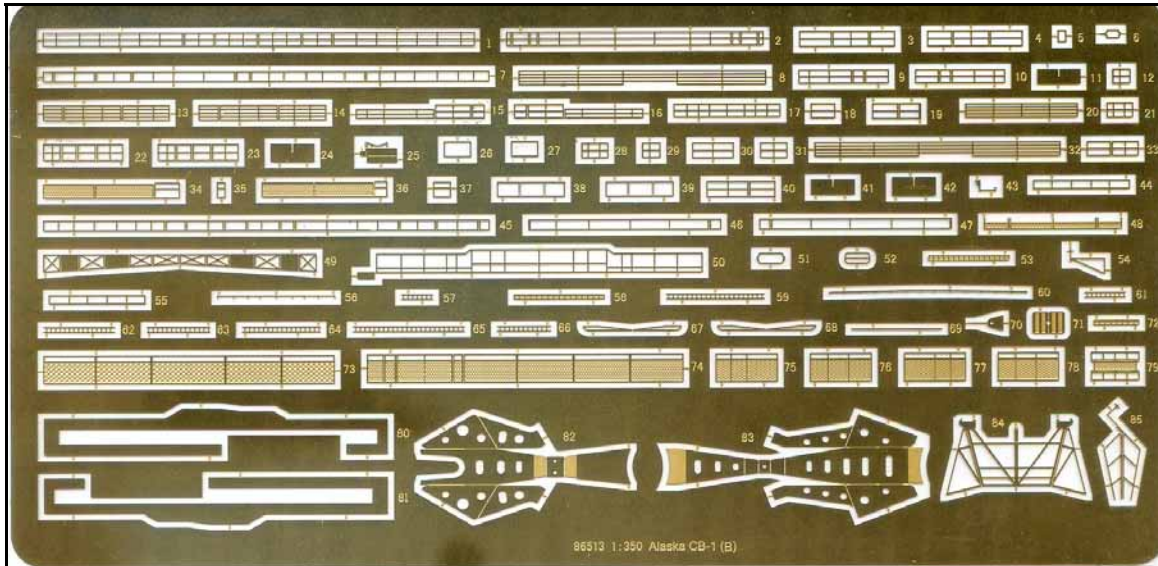
Here is the stern area and the wood deck detail.



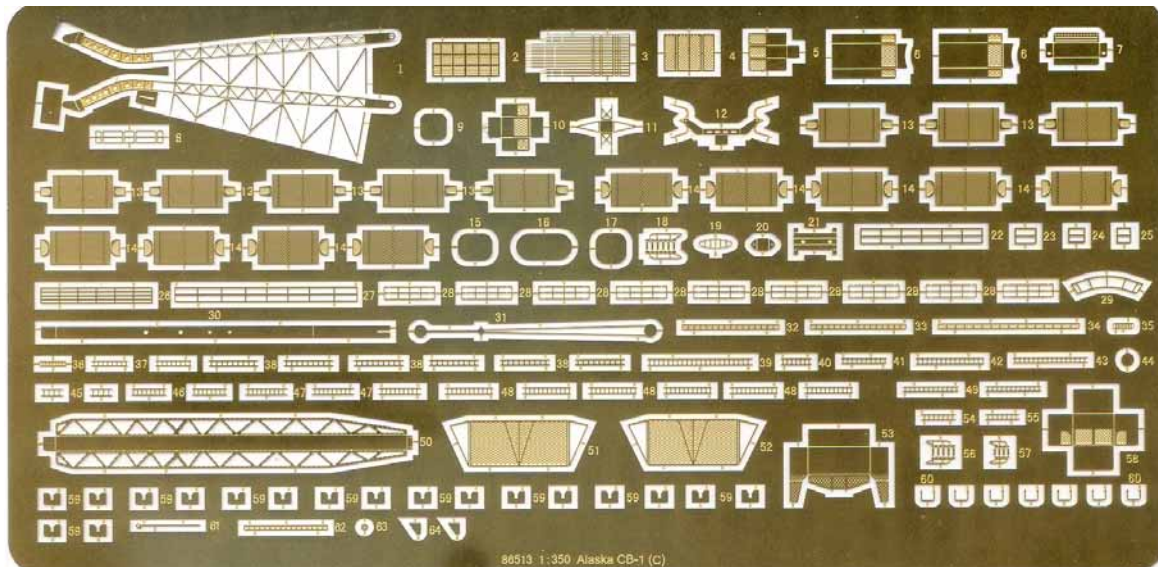
The forward deck has the chain holes in the deck opened up as well as the anchor openings at the bow.



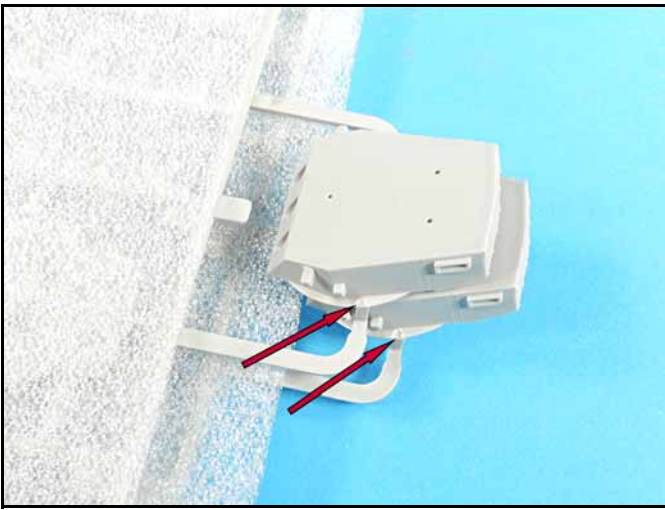
Here is brass photoetch sheet "A".



Here is brass photoetch sheet "B".



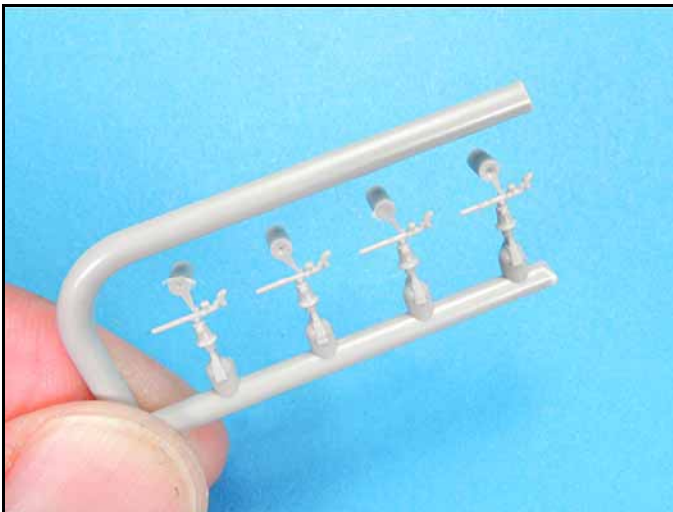
Here is brass photoetch sheet "C". There are 2 of these sheets.



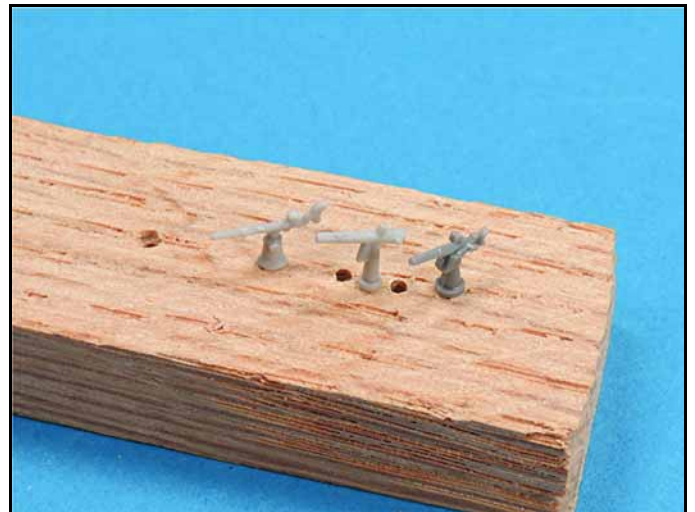
All the 12 inch turrets were damaged in my kit. The plastic is very thin at the base of the turret and it fractured at the tree attachment point locations.



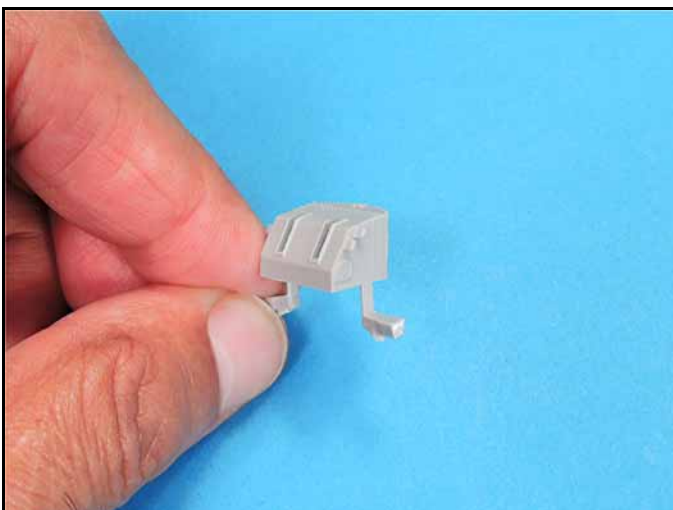
Since the damaged area is flush with the turret base the simple fix is the carefully cut off the damaged area. The turret underside has the same curve as the thin top half. The turret on the left has been modified.



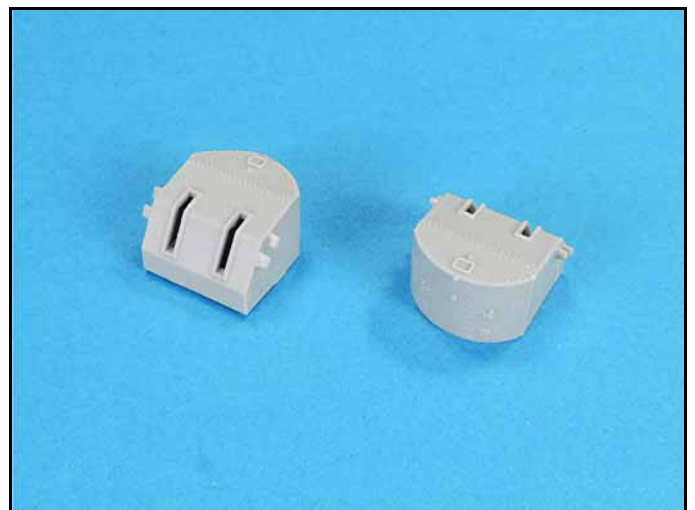
The Alaska 20mm guns are the best I have seen for any Hobby Boss/Trumpeter kit.



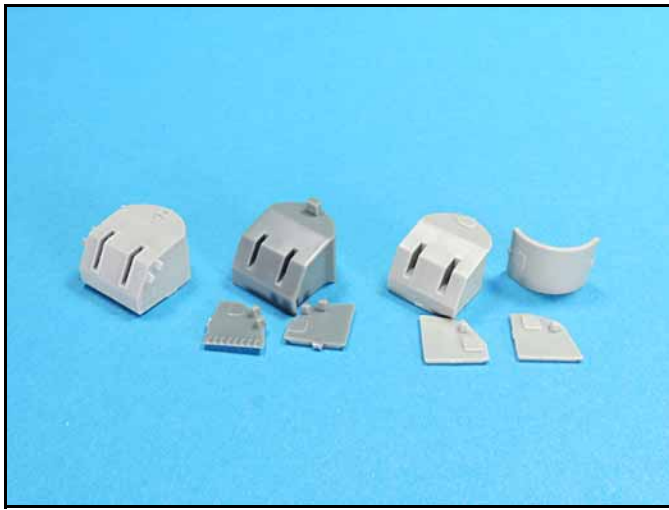
The 20mm on the left is from the Alaska Kit. The one in the center is from the Trumpeter North Carolina and the one of the right is from the Tamiya Missouri.



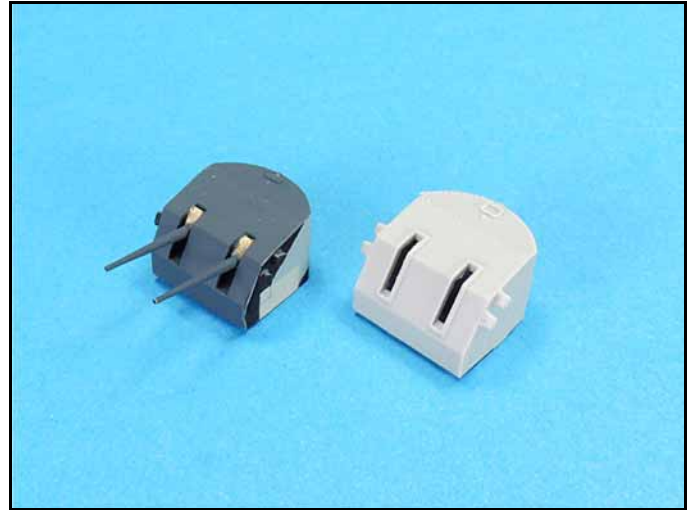
The tree attachment point on the twin 5³/₈ turrets are in a great location.



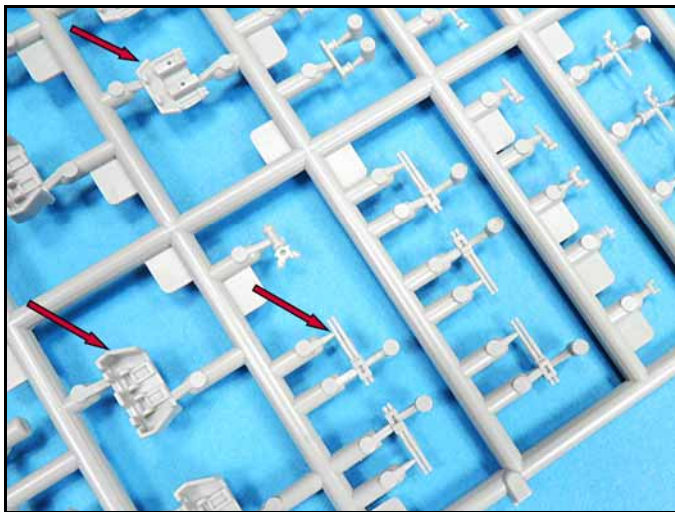
The Alaska 5³/₈ turrets are well detailed.



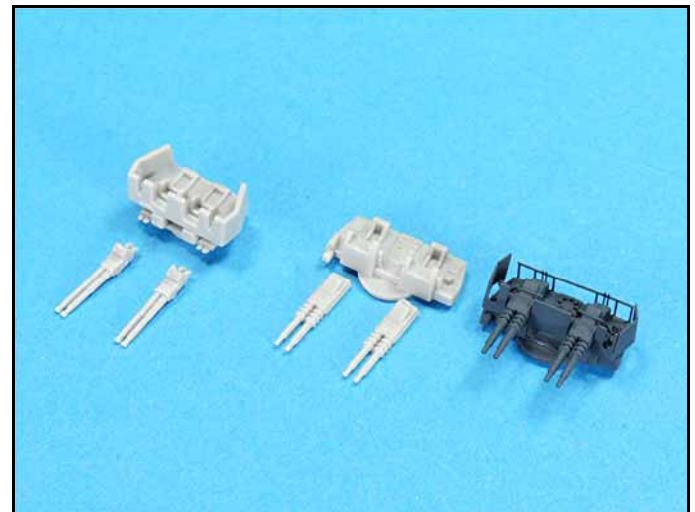
The Alaska 5"/38 turrets are one piece, which is a vast improvement over Trumpeter turrets from their battleship kits, which have 3 separate sides. The turret in the middle is from the Tamiya Missouri.



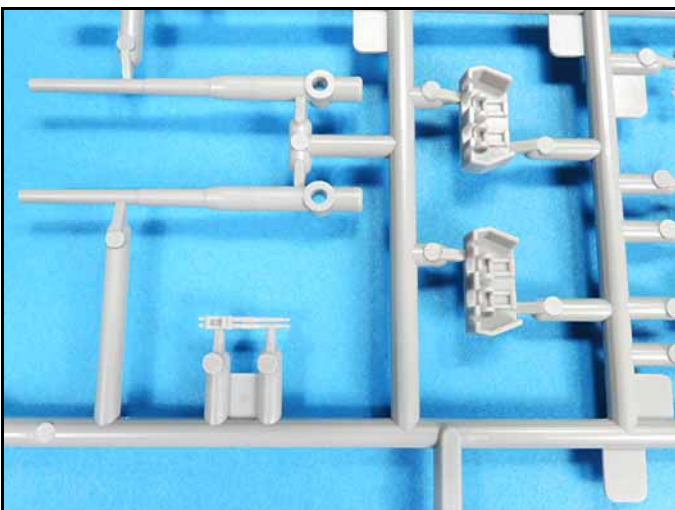
The painted turret is from Voyager models and it is a resin turret with turned brass barrels. The Alaska Turrets are better detailed and have approximately 11 parts.



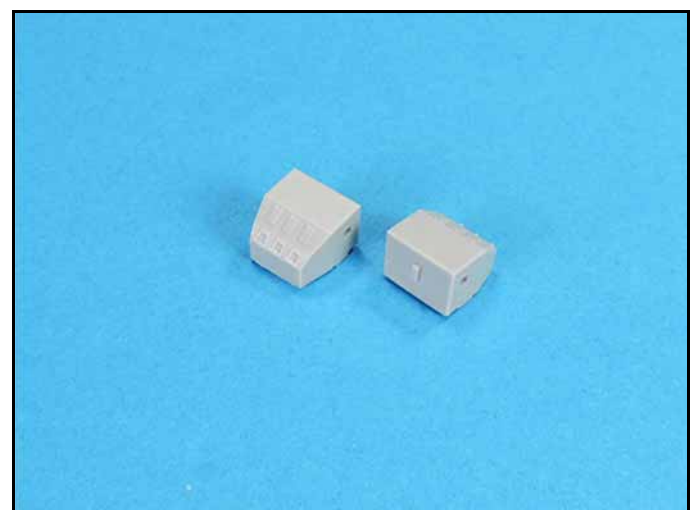
The twin 40mm gun bases are 2 parts and when assembled sit at the correct height above the deck splinter shields. There is a tree attachment point on each barrel so you will have to be very careful when removing these parts.



The splinter shields on the 40mm's is way too thick. The center 40mm is from a Trumpeter Essex class carrier and the painted one has Gold Medal Models photoetch details.



The tree attachment points on the 12 inch barrels have to be cut off carefully and then scraped smooth. Use a Flex-I-File to restore the round shape of the barrel.



The surface detail on the Mk-37 radar bases is nicely done. There are 12 parts for each MK-37.



A comparison in hull lengths between the Hobby Boss Alaska and the Tamiya Missouri.



The forward area of the aft superstructure.



The backside of the aft superstructure.



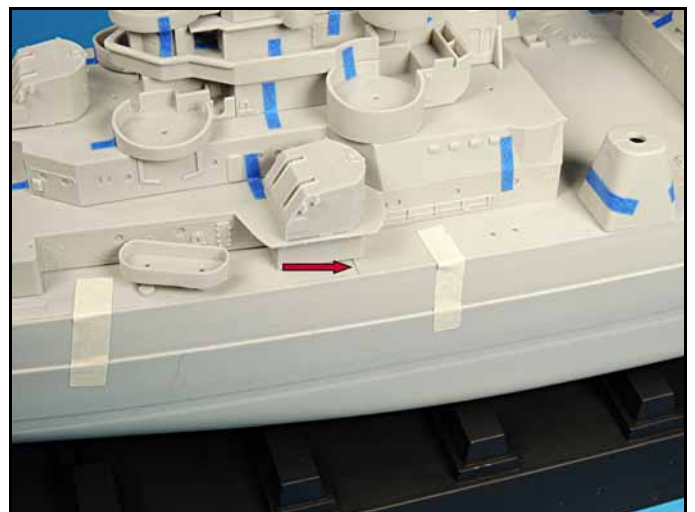
The front area of the forward superstructure.



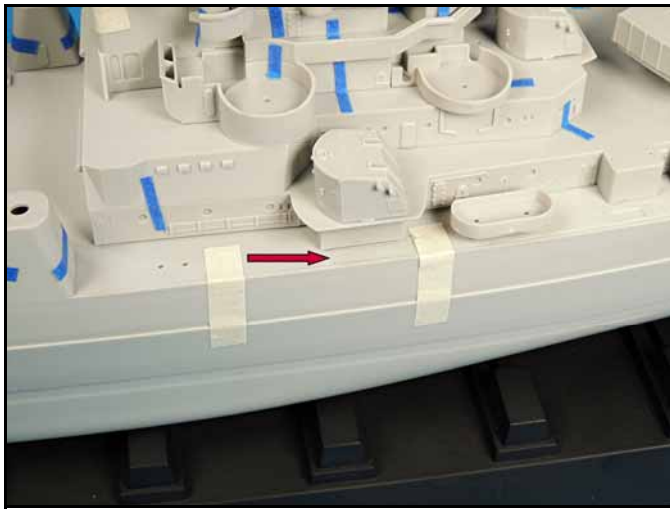
The backside of the forward superstructure.



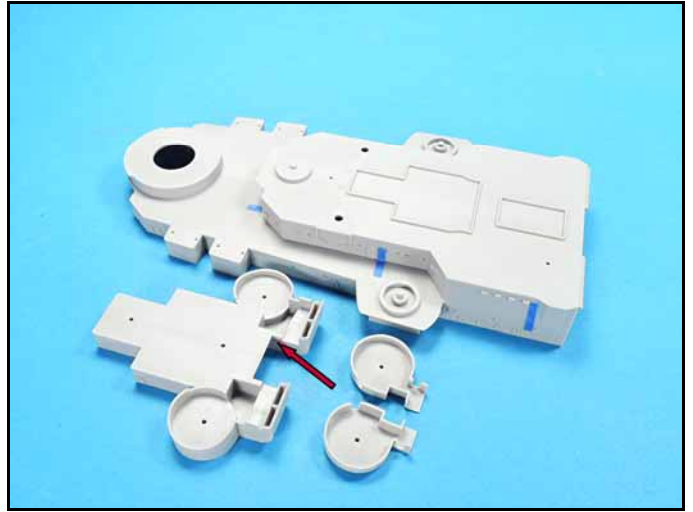
The main deck superstructure platforms for the 40mm guns on the port side will need some tweaking and there is a gap between the superstructure parts on the 02 level which does not look right.



To prevent the deck seams from cracking glue a lip to the underside to strengthen the seam. There is a slight gap on the port side which can be filled with evergreen .010 inch thick plastic strip. Then carefully re-scribe the seam.



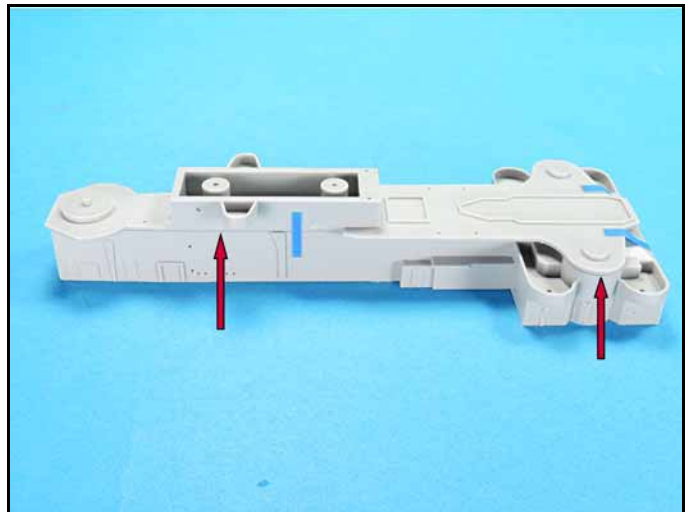
The deck seam on the starboard side is very tight and will just need a tiny bead of super glue.



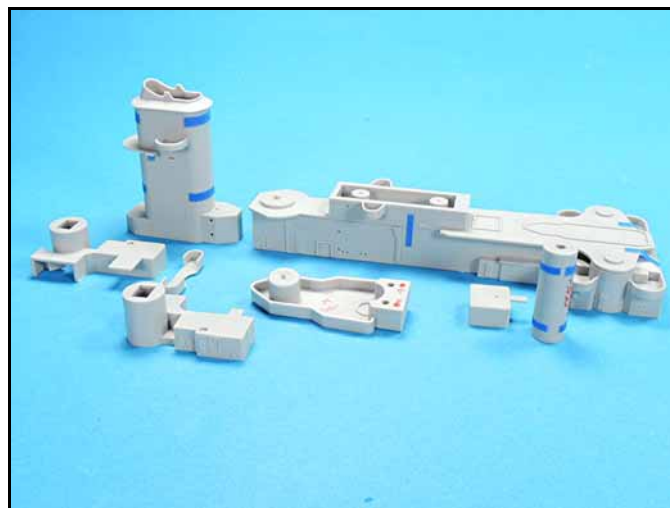
Here are the forward lower superstructure assembly section recommendations. There are also two tiny tabs on the inside area where the arrow is that need to be removed so that the vertical superstructure section will slide into place.



Here are the forward superstructure mid and upper level assembly section recommendations. These recommendations will make it easier to paint them prior to attaching the photoetch railings and attaching the sub-assemblies together.



The long seam on the left of the aft superstructure lower level will be hard to fix. A better way is to hide the seam with some Evergreen .030 inch half round. The seam on the right can easily be filled and scraped /sanded smooth.



Here are the aft superstructure assembly section recommendations.