MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS

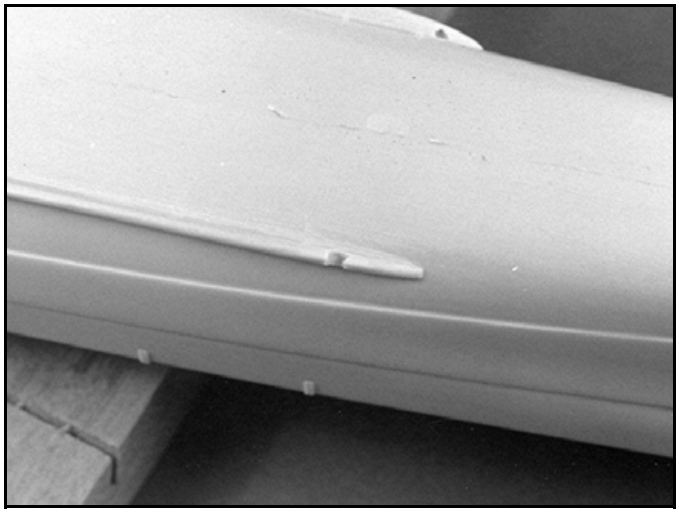
PRESENTS

FIXING RESIN CASTING FLAWS

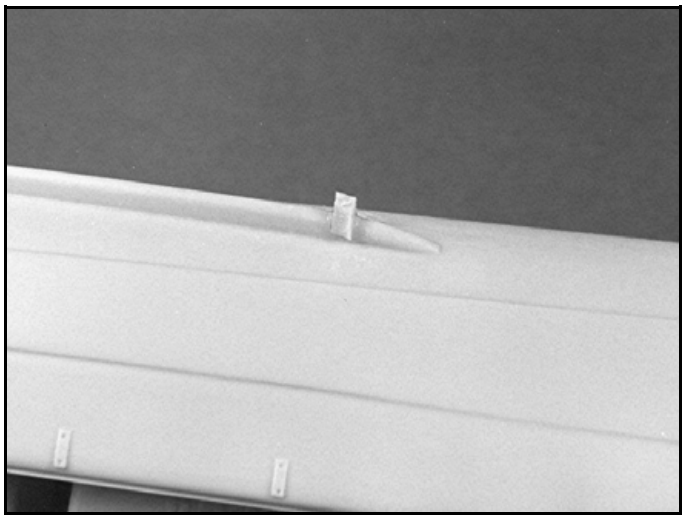
BY

MIKE ASHEY

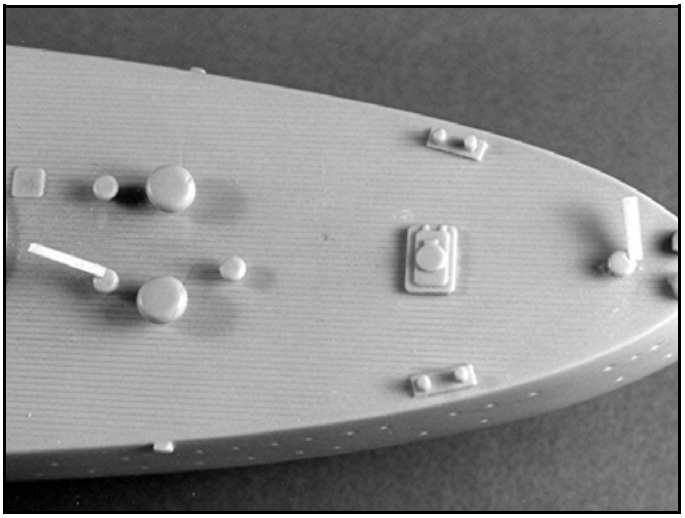
Resin kits have come a long way over the years and while the quality of most kits have improved there are still kits that have those pesky casting voids. Voids are caused when air bubbles get trapped inside the molds when the resin is poured into them. The first step in dealing with voids is to clean up the parts, wash them with dish soap and a soft toothbrush and examine the parts for flaws and voids. All you need to fix resin voids is super glue, Evergreen or Plastruct strip, sheet and rod, various grades of sanding sticks and sharp number 11 X-Acto blades.



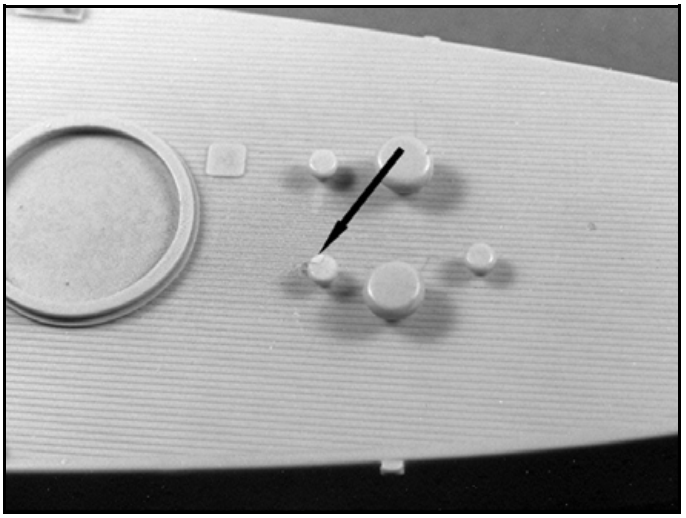
This void is typical of the type you can find on a ship model. This one has a nice round shape so you can use a section of plastic rod or square off the inside area and use a rectangular shape.



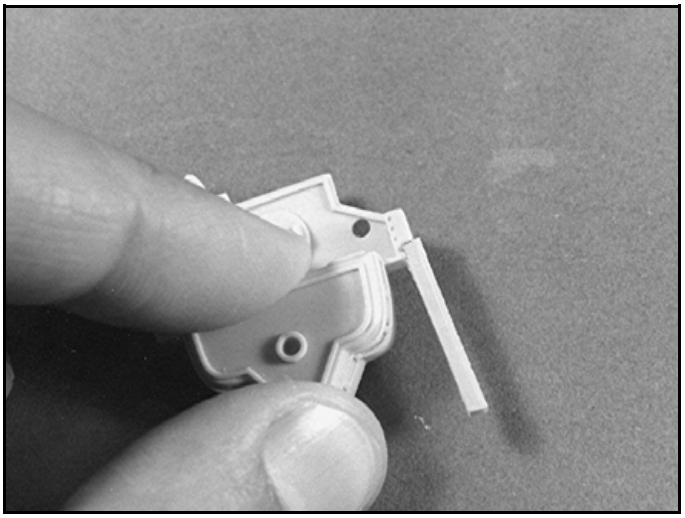
I decided to square off the inside areas and insert a piece of evergreen strip. A drop of super glue was placed on both sides. The plastic was then carefully trimmed and sanded to blend into the rest of the side keel.



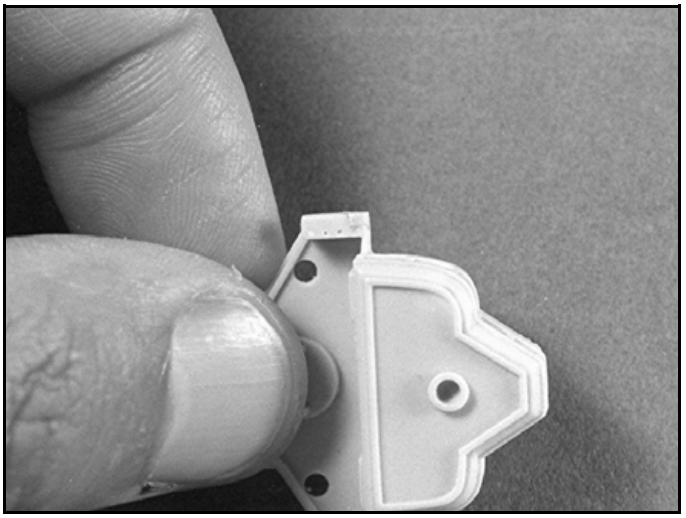
These voids were slightly modified using the tip of a number 11 X-Acto blade to square off the interior edges. A drop of super glue was placed in the voids and Evergreen strips were inserted into the openings.



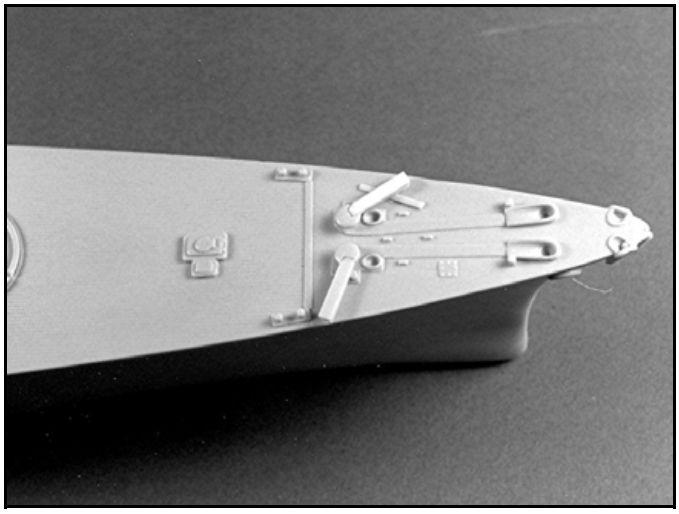
After the glue dried I trimmed off the excess plastic strips and then carefully and gently shaped the plastic to conform to the shape of the vents.



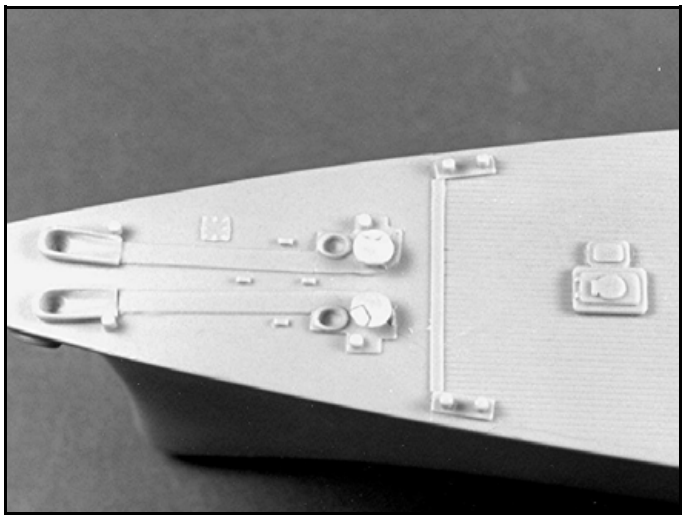
Here the voids were on the corner of the flag box. Having a good supply of Evergreen plastic strips allows you to select a size that will fit almost perfectly into any void area.



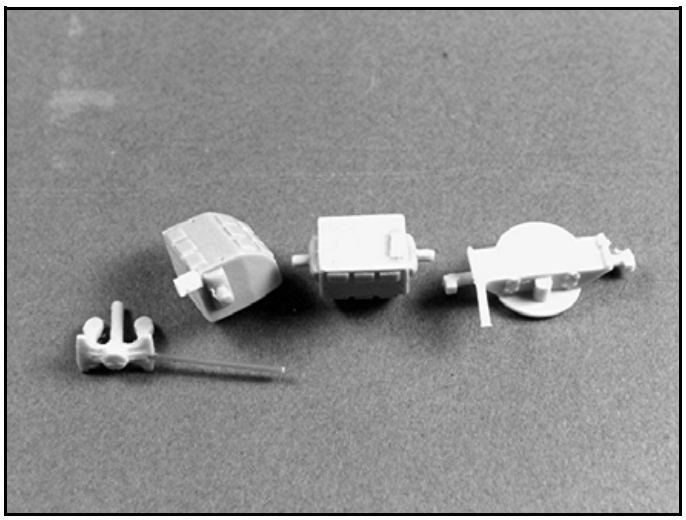
Remember to always square off the interior area so that the plasic strip will fit snugly into the opening. This makes it easier to shape and contour the plastic.



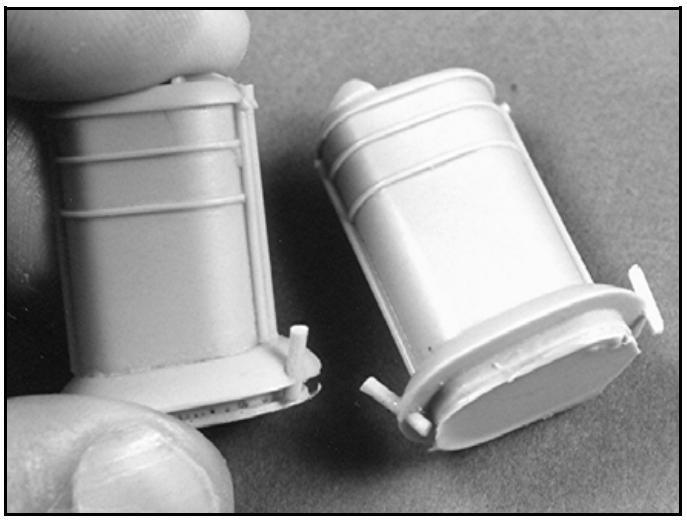
Another good example of voids in a hard to fix place. Here the challenge is to fix the voids without damaging any of the surrounding detail.



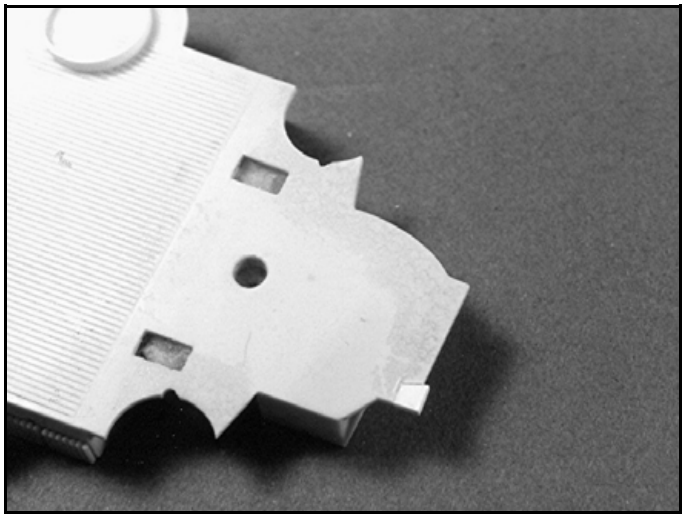
When sanding plastic and resin keep in mind that resin responds quicker to sanding than plastic. This is because resin is a slightly softer material. So delicate sanding is the rule and always check your progress frequently.



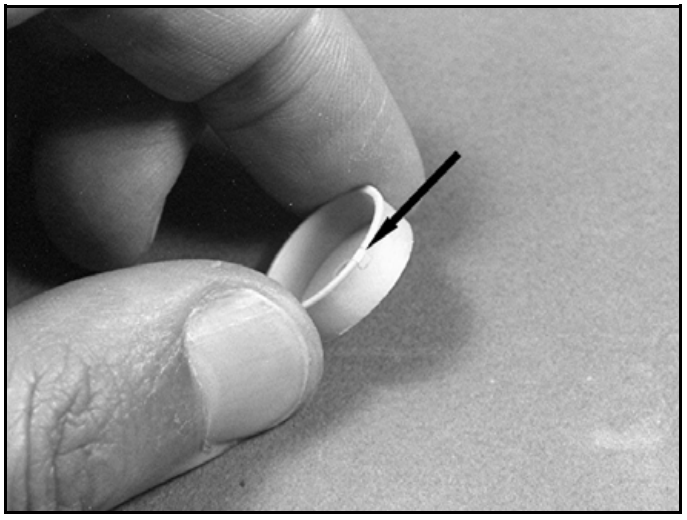
Voids on small parts can be a challenge because of the size of the parts and the minute surface detail. Careful squaring of the void, tiny drops of super glue and small plastic strips usually do the trick.



Some voids can be drilled out and plastic rod inserted into the opening. I like to use combinations of rod, square shapes and rectangular shapes to fill resin voids.



Here is an example of making the interior voids edges straight but not squaring it off. I just matched the interior angle. In this case I had to use a plastic strip with the same thickness as the resin because the area was an overhang.



This void was a challenge because of the rim around the gun tub. In this case I used an number 11 X-Acto blade to carefully shape the plastic and then I sanded the surface smooth.