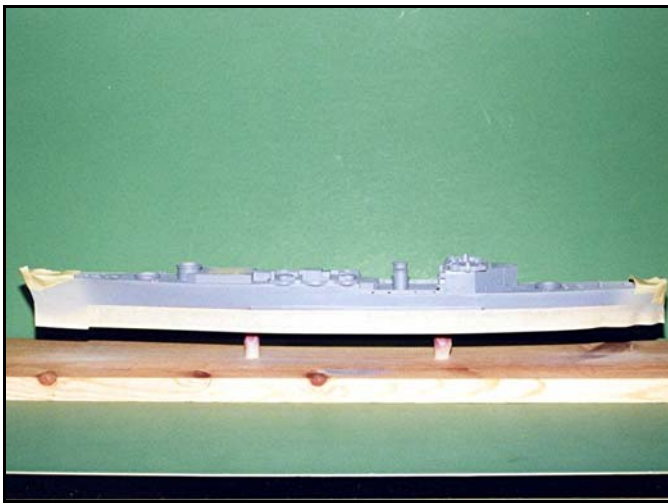




**MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
MIKE ASHEY'S PAINT LAYERING TECHNIQUE
FOR
SHIP MODELS**

Airbrushing camouflage patterns onto ship models is a challenge, but if you take the time to plan the application of colors as you build up the model you can simplify your efforts. Start with the base colors such as the lower hull and the boot strip and then work your way up to the deck and superstructure. Lighter colors should be applied first, then work into the darker colors so that you are painting darker colors over lighter ones. As you mask and airbrush simply add additional masking tape over new areas than need to be airbrushed. When you are done airbrushing you will have multiple layers of masking tape to peel off revealing multiple colors.

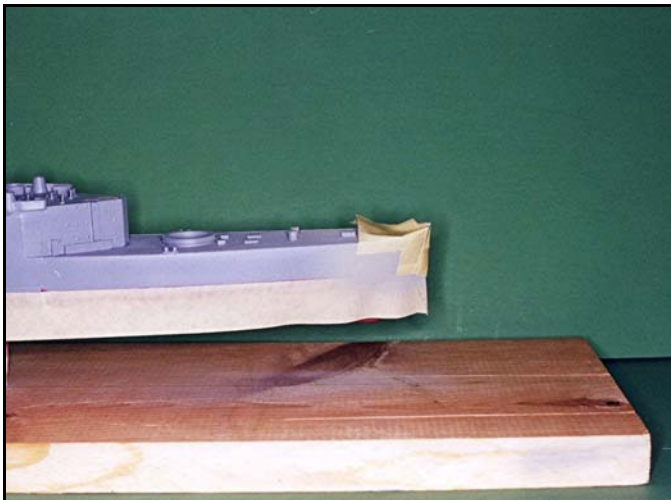
If you used gloss colors or gloss colors mixed with flat colors, you can lighten up the dried paint by airbrushing a coat of Testors clear dull coat. Remember to always use sharp blades when cutting masking tape so that you will have clean, sharp edges on the tape.



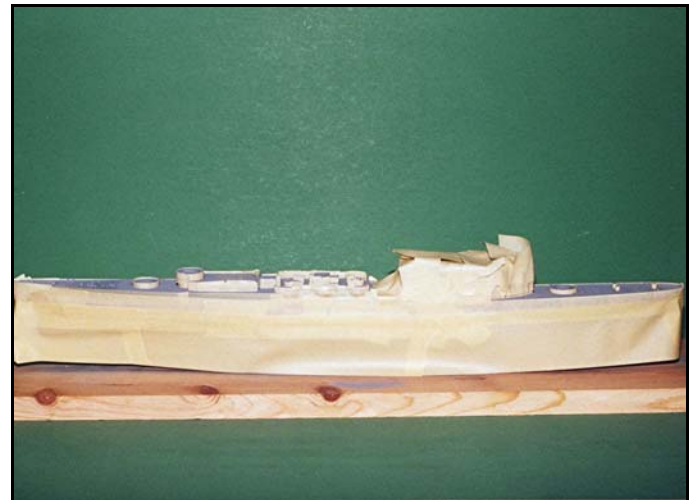
I painted the lower hull red and the black boot strip and then I masked the lower hull. The bow and stern areas were airbrushed light gray and then masked off.



The bow masking has a very specific pattern that I traced onto a piece of cardboard. I then traced the pattern onto masking tape and then carefully cut out the pattern.



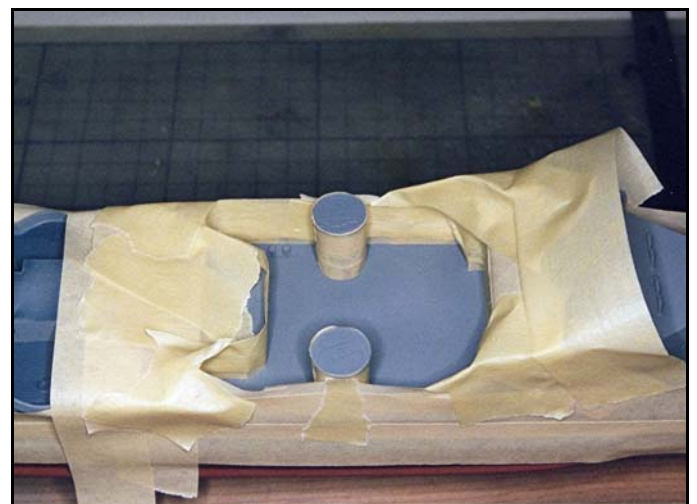
The stern pattern was made the same way. Small sections of addition tape were applied to help square off the edges of the pattern. All vertical surfaces were then airbrushed medium gray.



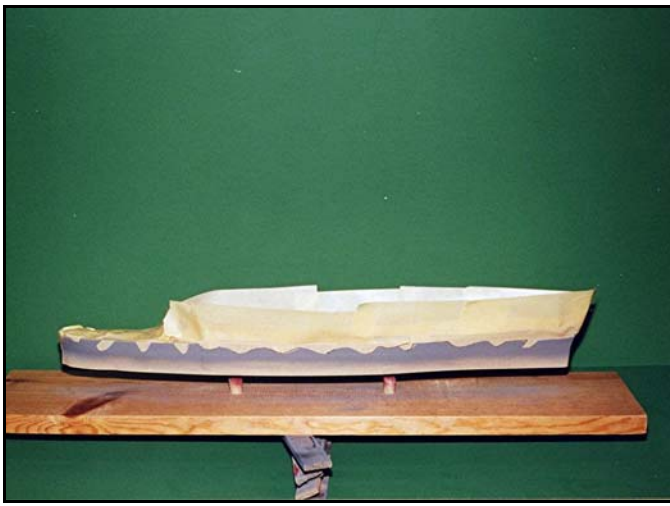
The medium gray surfaces were then masked off in preparation for the deck airbrushing. I added the additional masking tape right over the existing tape applied to the hull.



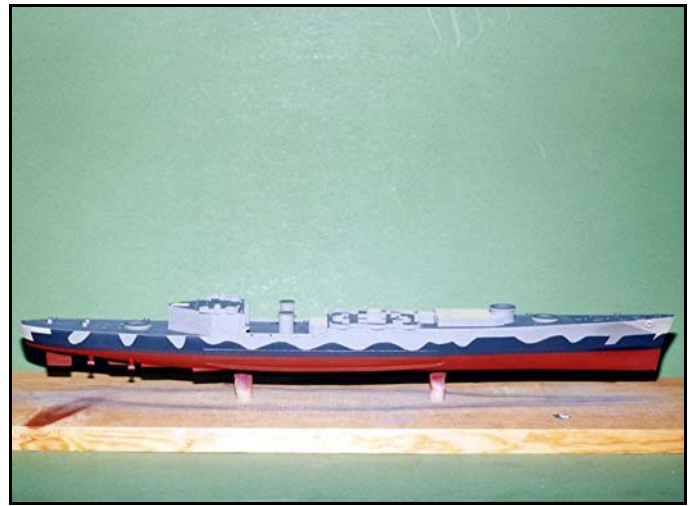
I airbrushed the forward deck surfaces first. Note all the masking tape that was carefully applied to the superstructure sides and the gun splinter shields. I covered the aircraft deck areas as I planned to airbrush it separately.



Here the aircraft deck surface has been masked and it is now ready to be airbrushed. With multiple deck levels and Surfaces, sometimes its better to mask and airbrush them a section at a time.



I used the camouflage pattern drawings supplied with the kit to create cardboard patterns that were traced onto lengths of masking tape. It was important to duplicate the patterns on both hull sides. The hull was painted a navy blue color.



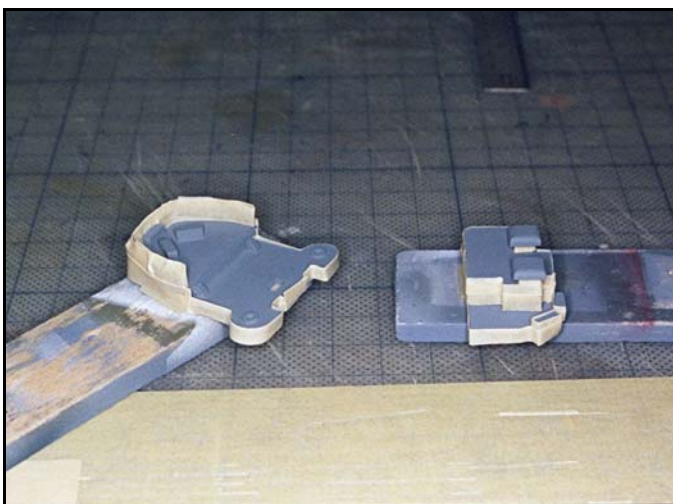
There were five layers of masking tape to peel off revealing six colors on the model. Note how there are sharp demarcation lines between colors. The glossy appearance of the blue will be toned down with Testors clear dull coat.



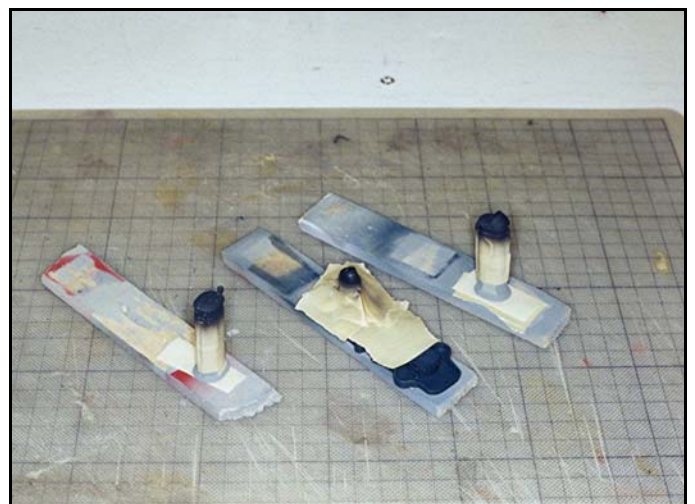
The forward superstructure deck was attached, the sides sanded smooth and then the area was masked so that the vertical surfaces could be painted. The surfaces were primed first and then two coats of finished paint were airbrushed.



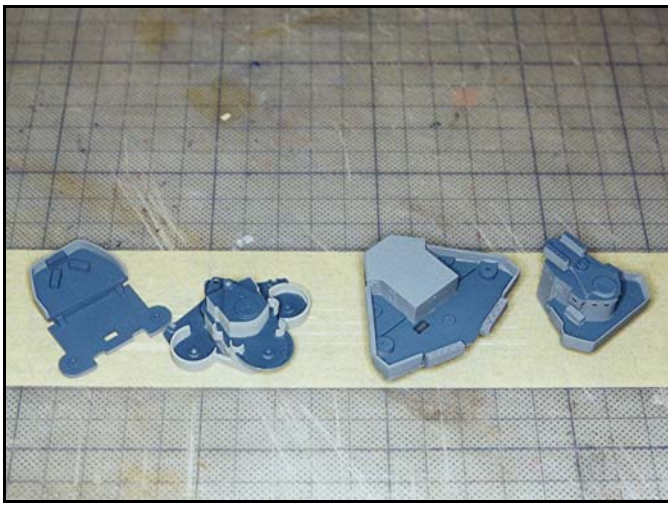
More masking tape was added so that the deck surface of the forward superstructure could be painted. All the masking tape was then removed once the paint was dry.



I then turned my attention to the separate superstructure parts. The vertical surfaces of each deck layer was airbrushed and then masked for airbrushing the deck color.



The smoke stacks also got careful masking attention for the black boots around the upper areas of the stacks and the camouflage pattern on the sides.



Note the sharp the lines between the colors. These parts are now ready to receive their photoetch railings. Then they will be attached to the superstructure.



Each layer was carefully attached and details added as I moved up the forward superstructure.



All the masking preparation, paint mixing and airbrushing pay off as the model starts to take shape.



The mixing of colors to compliment one another, sharp lines between colors and the careful application of small details greatly enhance the appearance of a ship model!