

# WHITE ENSIGN MODELS

## HMS PORTCHESTER CASTLE

# 1/350

Castle Class Corvette

Resin & Photoetched Metal Kit in 1/350 scale

# 1/350



### History

Laid down on 17 March 1943 at Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson's Yard at Wallsend on Tyne, launched on 21 June 1943 & completed on 8 November 1943, she was one of the fastest builds of her class. *HMS Portchester Castle* was one of the first Castle-class corvettes to be commissioned, & she completed her trials & work up by the end of December 1943.

It isn't clear what the ship was doing during January 1944, but in February *HMS Portchester Castle* was allocated to the B7 Escort Group on trans-Atlantic convoy duty. She remained with that group until April, when she was transferred to the B4 Escort Group escorting convoys to Gibraltar.

Later in the year there were enough Castle class corvettes available to make up single-class Escort Groups that would provide anti-submarine patrols & convoy escorts in the Western Approaches & around the coasts of the UK. *HMS Portchester Castle* was absorbed into the 30th Escort Group as a result.

Two days after joining the 30th Escort Group, *HMS Portchester Castle* sank *U-484* near Tory Island. This was the first occasion that a U-Boat had been sunk entirely by a ship using a Squid Mortar unit. Two months later she & other members of the group sank *U-1200* off Cape Clear.

*HMS Portchester Castle* was taken in hand by the dockyard for a lengthy refit from January until the 1 May 1945 & saw no further action. Later in June 1945 she was transferred to the West Africa command where she performed Air Sea Rescue duties until October. During her time off West Africa she was involved with the sinking of the liner *Edinburgh Castle* that had been used as a base & accommodation ship in Freetown. To avoid the cost of returning the ship to the UK, she was towed out to sea & sunk using gunfire & depth charges.

From there *HMS Portchester Castle* moved to Gibraltar to perform similar duties until early in 1946, when she was withdrawn from service & laid up in reserve at Harwich.

In April 1951, *HMS Portchester Castle* was brought out of reserve & re-commissioned on 15 May 1951 for service in the 2nd Training Squadron based at Portland. While there she took on one of her most famed roles as the fictional frigate *HMS Saltash Castle* in the film, *The Cruel Sea*. She continued to display her pennant number F362 during the filming, which was done at Portland & in the English Channel.

*HMS Portchester Castle* was again withdrawn from service in June 1956 & laid up until 1958 when she was sold for scrap. She resisted to the last, breaking away from her tow from the tug *Brigadier* on the night of 15-16 May, but having re-established the tow *HMS Portchester Castle* arrived at Troon on the 17 May 1958 for breaking.

### Specifications

Length: 252 feet Overall    Beam: 36.5 feet    Draft: 13 feet 2 inches    Displacement: 1,010 tons    Complement: 110 Officers & Men  
Propulsion: 4-cylinder triple-expansion of 2,980 IHP driving a single propeller.    Cruising Speed: 15 kts    Max Speed: 17 kts

### Armament

1 x 4" HA/LA Gun Mount    2 x Twin 20mm Oerlikons in Powered Mountings    2 x Single 20mm Oerlikons on Pedestals  
1 x Triple-Barrelled Squid Mortar Mk1 with 81 Projectiles    1 Set of Stern Mounted Depth Charge Rails, &  
2 x Depth Charge Throwers for which only 15 Depth Charges were carried on deck at the stern.

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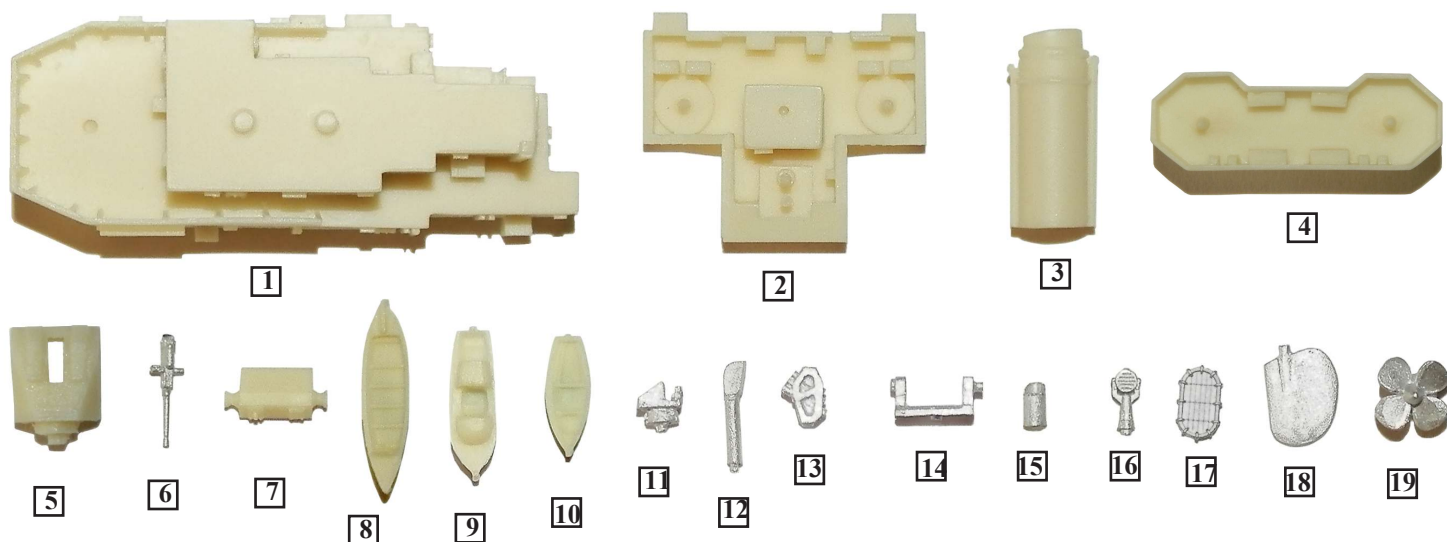
Unit 5, Cobnash Industrial Estate, Kingsland, Leominster, HR6 9RW, U.K.    Tel. 01568 709149 or Fax 01568 709182  
E-mail: [info@whiteensignmodels.com](mailto:info@whiteensignmodels.com)    Website: <http://WhiteEnsignModels.com>

## WARNING

This kit contains a mixture of resin and photoetched metal parts, of which some of the resin parts have been attached to sprues for ease of casting.

Care must be taken when detaching the parts from the sprues, to remove the flash without causing damage. When cleaning off the excess material using files or abrasive paper, we recommend that a mask is worn as resin dust can be an irritant if inhaled.

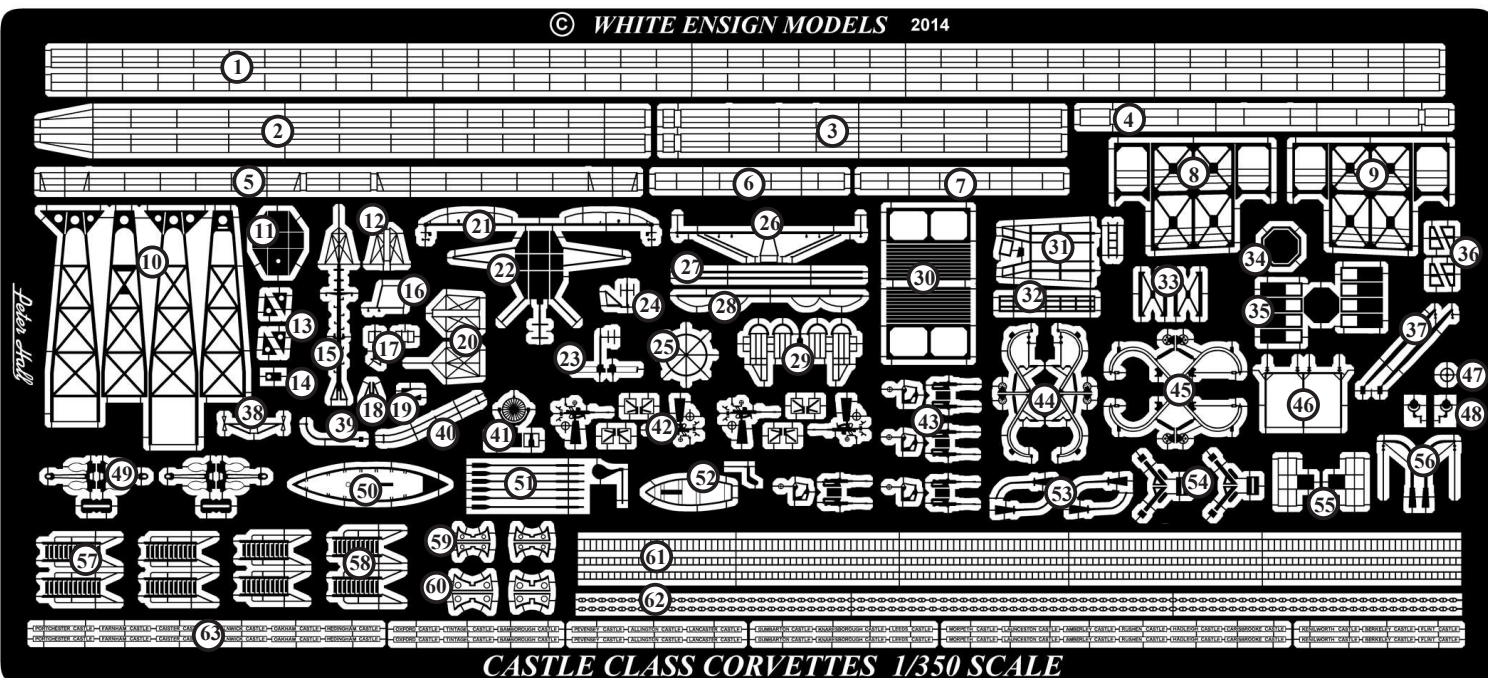
### RESIN PARTS IDENTIFICATION



- |                        |                        |                                     |                       |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Main Superstructure | 6. 4" HA/LA Gun Barrel | 11. Twin 20mm Oerlikon Mounting x 2 | 16. Searchlight       |
| 2. Bridge              | 7. Anchor Windlass     | 12. Cowl Vent x 4                   | 17. Carley Floats x 6 |
| 3. Funnel              | 8. 27' Whaler          | 13. Squid Barrel Cluster            | 18. Rudder            |
| 4. AA Gun Platform     | 9. 20' Motor Cutter    | 14. Squid Mounting Base             | 19. Propeller         |
| 5. 4" Gun Shield       | 10. 16' Dinghy         | 15. Crow's Nest                     |                       |

### PHOTOETCHED PARTS IDENTIFICATION

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### CASTLE CLASS CORVETTES 1/350 SCALE

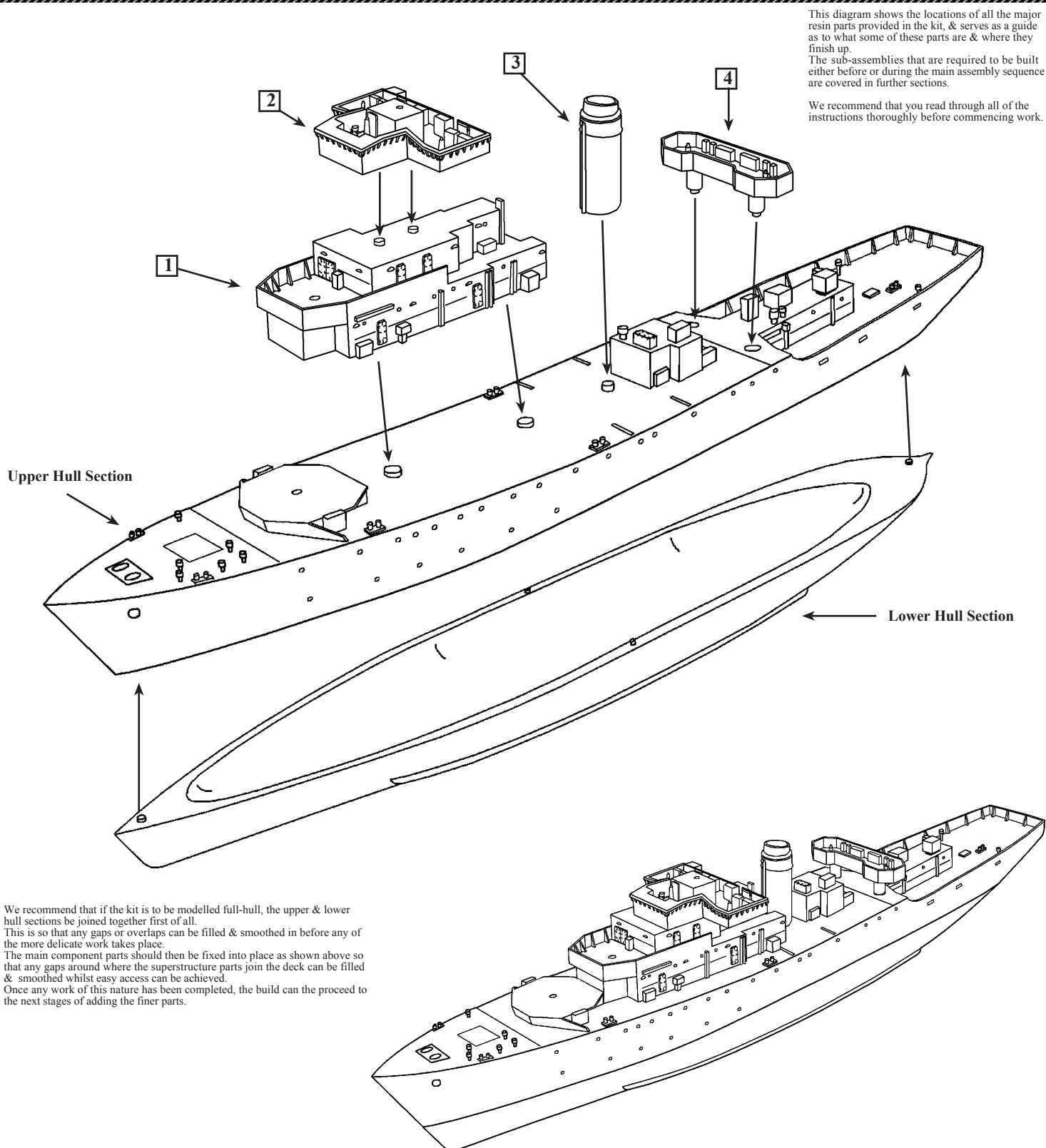
General Instructions for working with Photoetched Metal

- Do not remove the etched parts from the fret until you are ready to use them.
- Before assembly, soak the etched parts in a suitable solvent, such as white spirit, to de-grease the surfaces for painting.
- Cyanoacrylate adhesive (super glue) or contact adhesive such as Elmers white glue may be used. These can be applied with a pin or piece of stretched sprue.
- When removing parts from the fret, place the fret on a hard surface, such as a smooth ceramic tile, in order to prevent parts bending whilst cutting through the holding tabs. We suggest using a #11 type of modelling knife blade for this purpose.
- When shaping or bending a part, a straight edged blade such as a chisel blade #17 or #18 will give a good sharp corner, or alternatively a small pair of smooth jawed pliers may be used.
- If a part is bent incorrectly, lay it on a hard flat surface & roll it flat with a cylindrical object such as a modelling knife handle.
- We suggest that rails are pre-measured, where practical, using a pair of compass dividers & then tacked to the deck edge every third or fourth stanchion with a small drop of glue. When a section is complete, run a thin line of glue along the inside edge to attach it firmly to the deck.

## PHOTOETCHED PARTS IDENTIFICATION

- |  |                                   |                                |                                       |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Stock Railings                      | 16. Ensign Gaff                   | 32. Depth Charge Rails         | 48. Signal Lamps                      |
| 2. 3-Bar Railings (Foc'sle Deck)       | 17. Bridge Front DF Antenna       | 33. Gun Platform Cross Braces  | 49. Anchors                           |
| 3. 3-Bar Railings (Foc'sle Deck Aft)   | 18. Topmast Array Braces          | 34. Radar Lantern Base         | 50. 27' Whaler Thwarts                |
| 4. 2-Bar Railings (4" Gun Deck)        | 19. Type 25/M Aerial              | 35. Radar Lantern Assembly     | 51. Whaler Oars & Rudder              |
| 5. 3-Bar Railings (Aft Superstructure) | 20. Mast Top DF Antenna (Early)   | 36. Carley Float Racks         | 52. 16' Dinghy Thwarts & Rudder       |
| 6. Railings, Mast Platform (Early)     | 21. Yardarm (Late Platform)       | 37. Loading Booms              | 53. Loading Davits                    |
| 7. Railings, Mast Platform (Late)      | 22. Mast Top Platform (Late)      | 38. Type 253 Aerial            | 54. Depth Charge Throwers             |
| 8. Bridge Platform Support (Stbd)      | 23. Type 242 Antenna              | 39. Squid Loading Davit        | 55. Leadsman's Platforms              |
| 9. Bridge Platform Support (Port)      | 24. ESM Antenna (Late)            | 40. Squid Loading Rails        | 56. Depth Charge Davits               |
| 10. Lattice Mast Assembly              | 25. Funnel Cap Grille             | 41. Type 277 Radar Antenna     | 57. Inclined Ladders (Superstructure) |
| 11. Mast Top Platform (Early)          | 26. Yardarm (Early)               | 42. Single 20mm Oerlikons      | 58. Inclined Ladders (Hull Step)      |
| 12. Mast Top DF Antenna                | 27. Yardarm Doublers              | 43. Twin 20mm Oerlikons        | 59. 16' Dinghy Cradles                |
| 13. Mast Platform Braces               | 28. Yardarm Footropes             | 44. 27' Whaler Davits          | 60. 27' Whaler Cradles                |
| 14. Topmast Pole Base                  | 29. Flare Rocket Launchers        | 45. 25' Motor Cutter Davits    | 61. Vertical Ladder Stock             |
| 15. Topmast Array (Late)               | 30. Superstructure Side Platforms | 46. Wire Antenna Spreader Mast | 62. Anchor Chain                      |
|  | 31. Depth Charge Rail Frame       | 47. Squid Mounting Handwheel   | 63. Ships' Name Plates                |

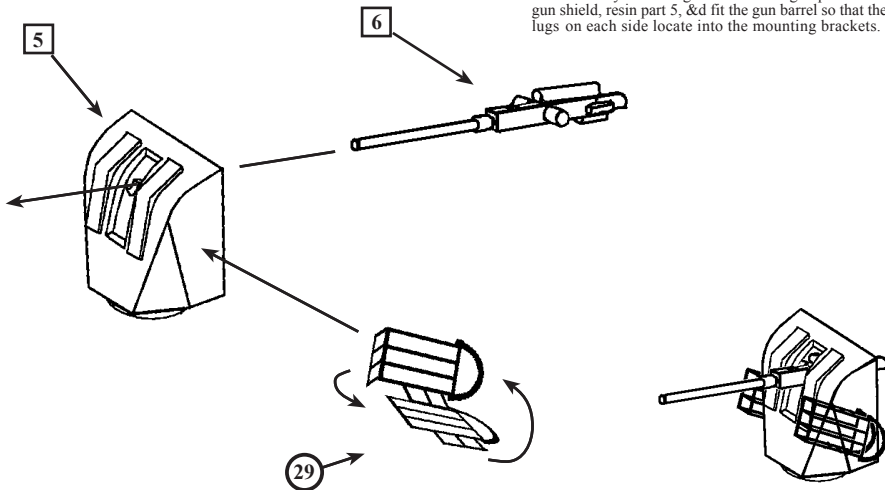
## MAJOR COMPONENT LOCATION





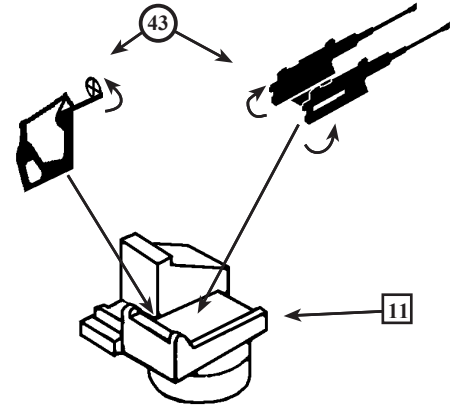
## 4" SINGLE HA / LA GUN MOUNT

Clean out any remaining flash from the gun port on the gun shield, resin part 5, & fit the gun barrel so that the lugs on each side locate into the mounting brackets.



Fold the Flare Rocket Racks, etched parts 29, to shape as shown above. Fit the completed assemblies to each side of the gun shield as shown.

## TWIN 20MM OERLIKON DETAILS



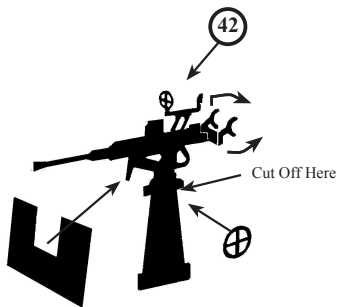
Fold up the twin gun bodies on etched part 43 to 90° so that they are parallel as shown above, then fit to the gun mount, resin part 11. Fit the gun sight mechanism to the rear of the shield box as shown. Make 2 of these gun mounts.

## SINGLE 20MM OERLIKON DETAILS

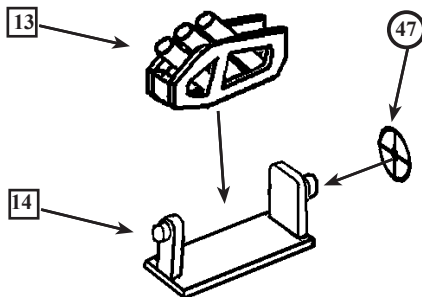
Assemble the single 20mm Oerlikons, etched parts 42, by first twisting the shoulder braces around to 90° then bending the arms back so that they are parallel.

Fit the shield into position centrally on the spigot below the barrel. As there are mounting pintles cast onto the deck of the gun platforms, the lower part of the assembly will need to be removed. **This should be done first before any of the assembly steps are done.** Cut the etched pintle at the point shown below.

At a later stage of the ship's career a pair of single 20mm Oerlikons were mounted on each side of the deck at the stern. For this option the etched mounting pintles will need to be retained.



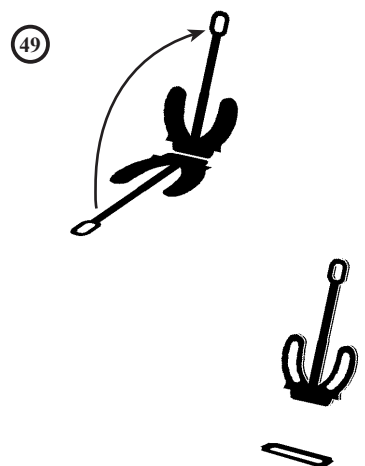
## SQUID MORTAR ASSEMBLY



Fit the triple-barrelled squid mortar unit, white metal part 13, into the mounting base, white metal part 14, as shown above. The barrel unit may be rotated to the desired angle before securing into place.

Fit the hand wheel, etched part 47, to the spindle on the broader end of the mounting base.

## ANCHOR ASSEMBLY



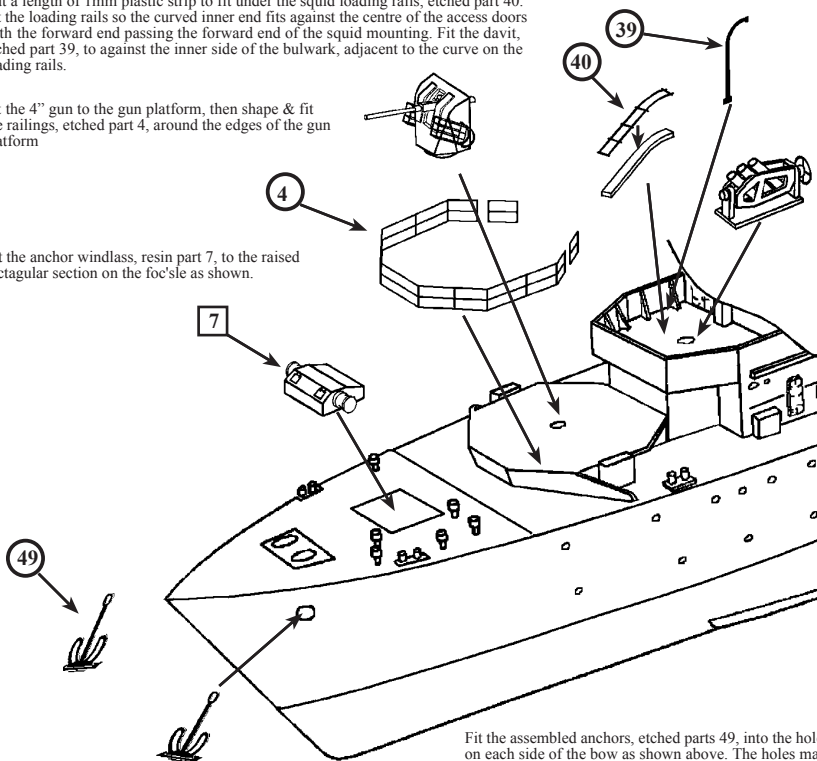
Fold the anchors, etched parts 49, in half as shown above & secure into place, with the relief-etched detail outermost. Fit the lower part of the anchor through the slot in the tripping plate & secure into place. Make 2 of these.

## FOC'SLE & 4" GUN PLATFORM FITTINGS

Cut a length of 1mm plastic strip to fit under the squid loading rails, etched part 40. Fit the loading rails so the curved inner end fits against the centre of the access doors with the forward end passing the forward end of the squid mounting. Fit the davit, etched part 39, to against the inner side of the bulwark, adjacent to the curve on the loading rails.

Fit the 4" gun to the gun platform, then shape & fit the railings, etched part 4, around the edges of the gun platform

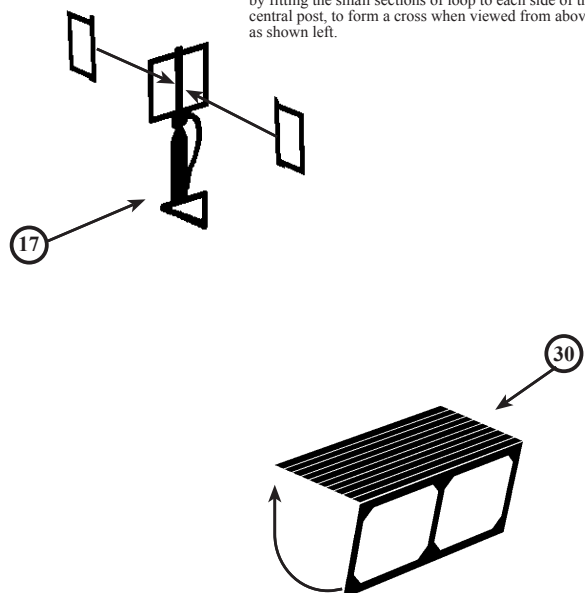
Fit the anchor windlass, resin part 7, to the raised rectangular section on the foc'sle as shown.



Fit the assembled anchors, etched parts 49, into the holes on each side of the bow as shown above. The holes may need to be drilled out further, to meet the hawsepipes cast onto the deck.

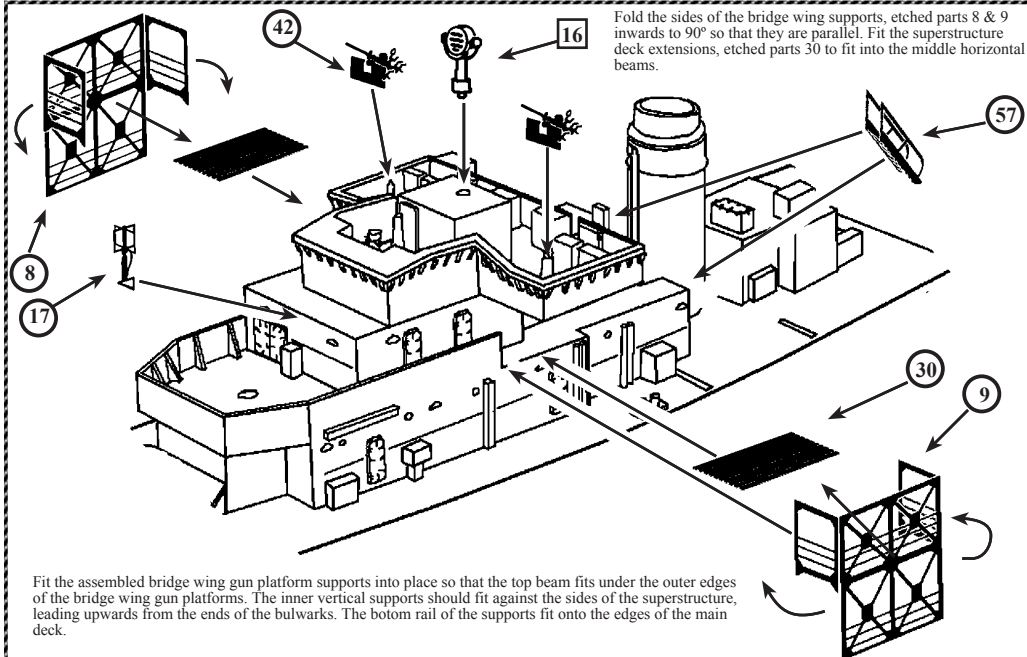
## BRIDGE ANTENNA & PLATFORMS

Assemble the bridge front DF antenna, etched part 17 by fitting the small sections of loop to each side of the central post, to form a cross when viewed from above, as shown left.

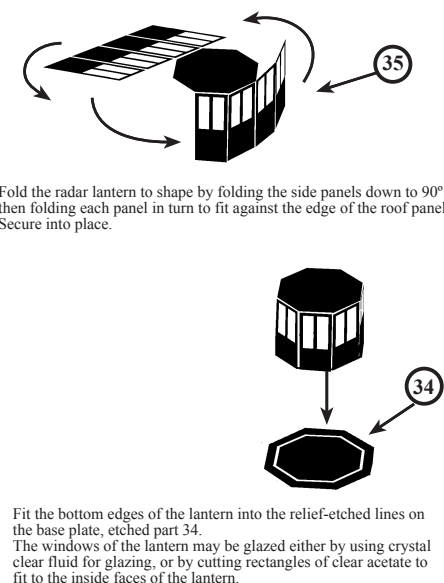


Fold the platform support frame on etched parts 30 completely underneath & secure into place on the plain side of the platform. Make 2 of these.

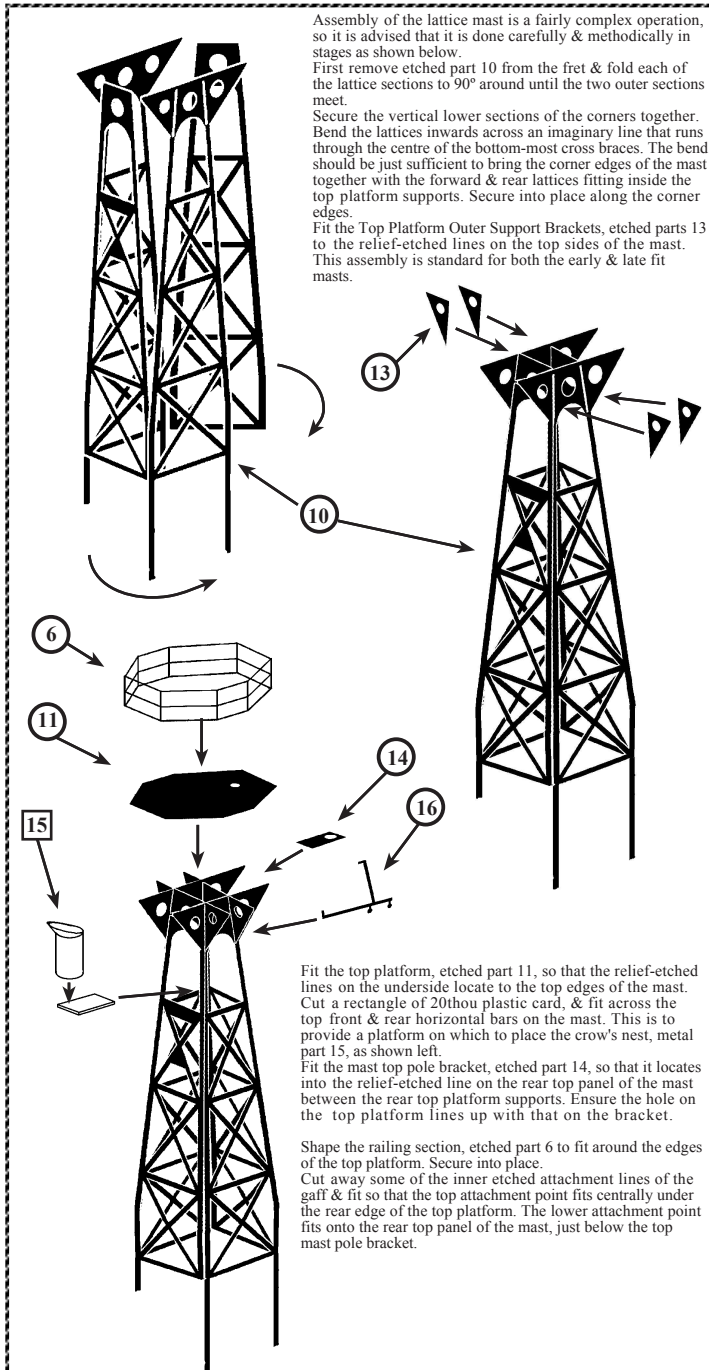
## BRIDGE WING GUN PLATFORM SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY



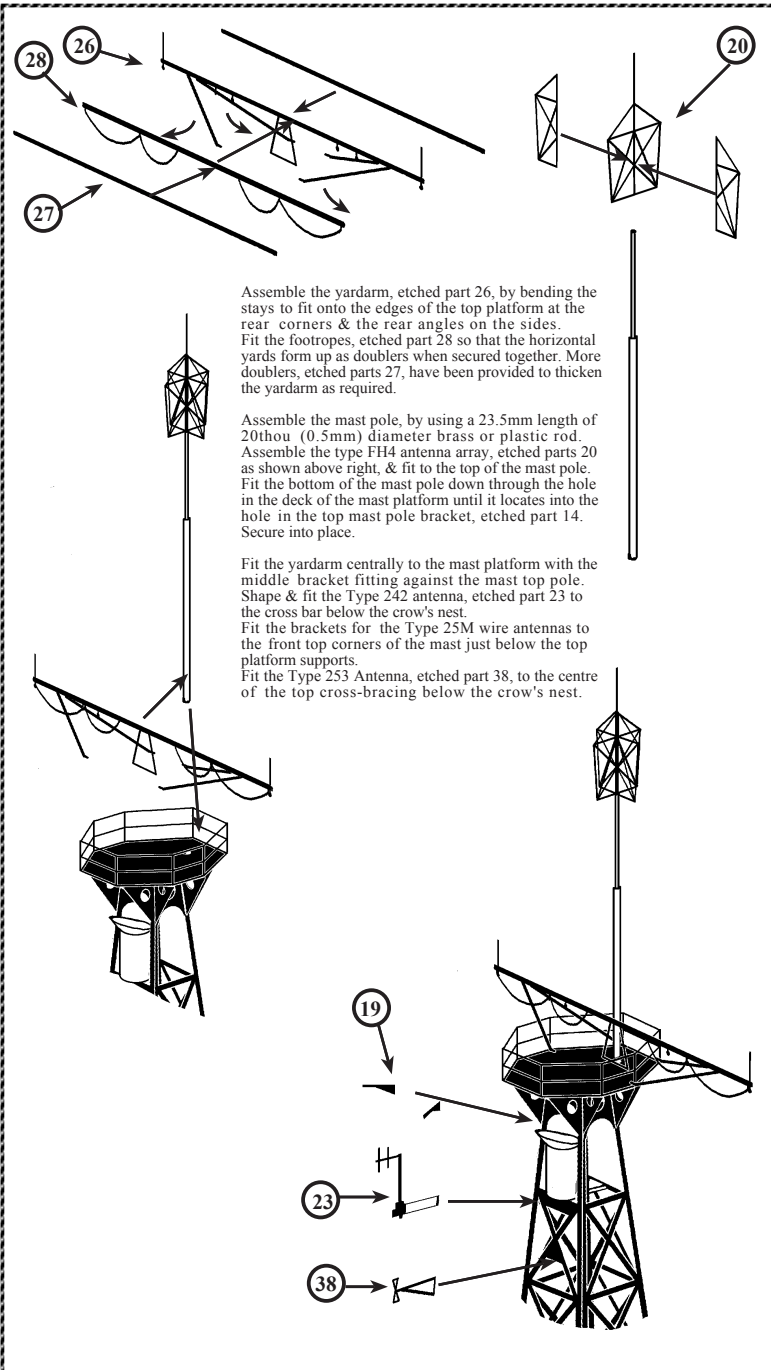
## RADAR LANTERN ASSEMBLY



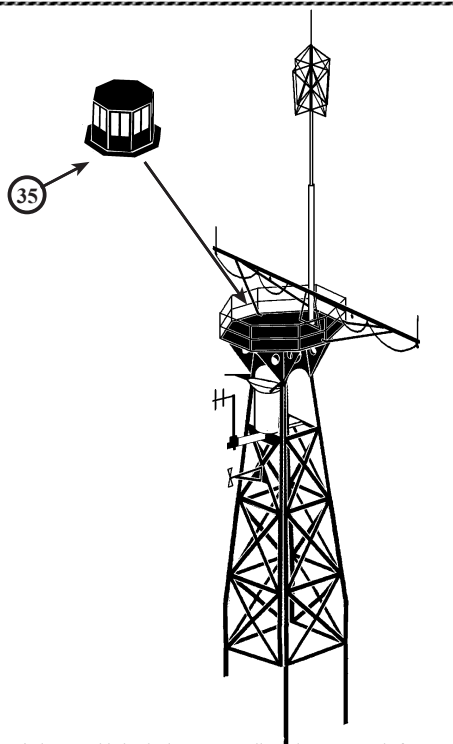
## LATTICE MAST ASSEMBLY



## MAST TOP ANTENNAS & YARDARMS

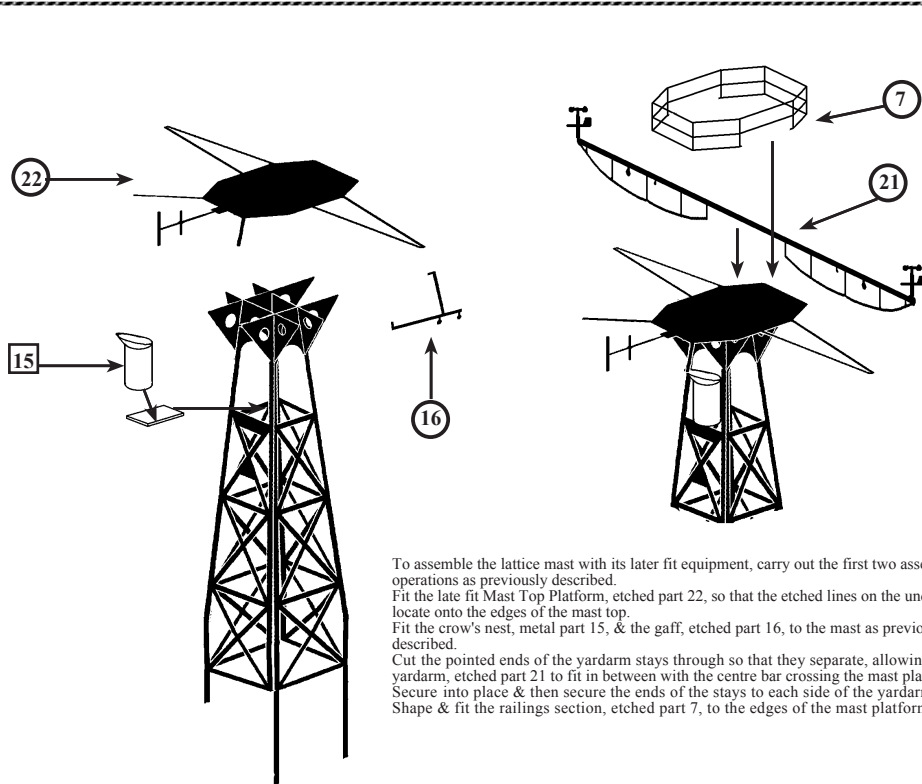


## RADAR LANTERN LOCATION



Fit the assembled radar lantern centrally to the mast top platform as shown above. The completed mast is now ready for fitting to the top of the wireless house roof at the rear of the upper superstructure

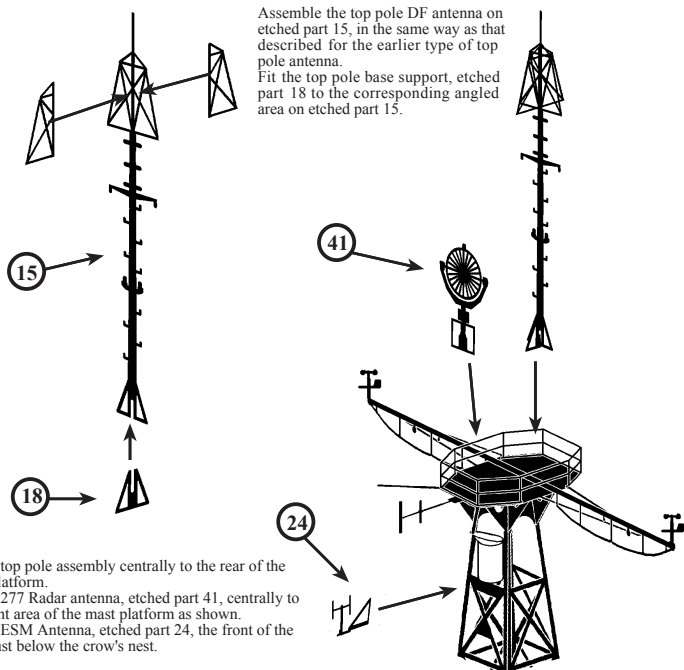
## TOPMAST PLATFORM ASSEMBLY (LATE FIT)



To assemble the lattice mast with its later fit equipment, carry out the first two assembly operations as previously described.  
Fit the late fit Mast Top Platform, etched part 22, so that the etched lines on the underside locate onto the edges of the mast top.  
Fit the crow's nest, metal part 15, & the gaff, etched part 16, to the mast as previously described.  
Cut the pointed ends of the yardarm stays through so that they separate, allowing the yardarm, etched part 21 to fit in between with the centre bar crossing the mast platform. Secure into place & then secure the ends of the stays to each side of the yardarm. Shape & fit the railings section, etched part 7, to the edges of the mast platform.

## TOPMAST ANTENNAS (LATE FIT)

Assemble the top pole DF antenna on etched part 15, in the same way as that described for the earlier type of top pole antenna.  
Fit the top pole base support, etched part 18 to the corresponding angled area on etched part 15.

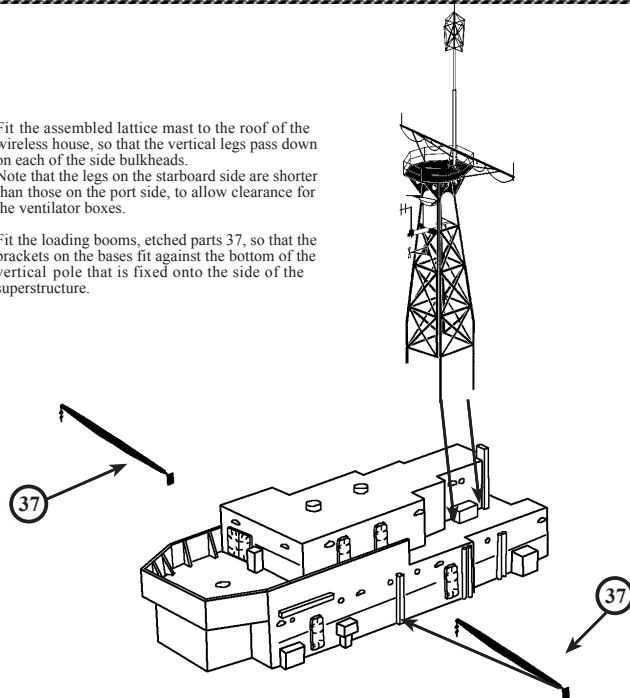


Fit the top pole assembly centrally to the rear of the mast platform.  
Fit the 277 Radar antenna, etched part 41, centrally to the front area of the mast platform as shown.  
Fit the ESM Antenna, etched part 24, the front of the mast just below the crow's nest.

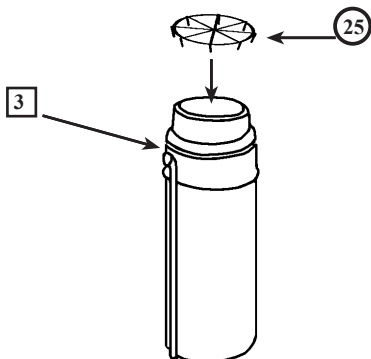
## MAST & LOADING BOOM LOCATION

Fit the assembled lattice mast to the roof of the wireless house, so that the vertical legs pass down on each of the side bulkheads.  
Note that the legs on the starboard side are shorter than those on the port side, to allow clearance for the ventilator boxes.

Fit the loading booms, etched parts 37, so that the brackets on the bases fit against the bottom of the vertical pole that is fixed onto the side of the superstructure.

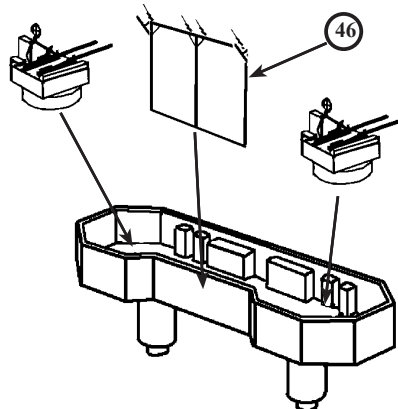


## FUNNEL CAP GRILLE



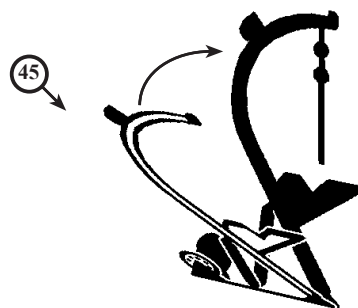
Remove the funnel cap grille, etched part 25, from the fret & trim the short outer legs so that they are equal length.  
Bend the short legs down & slightly inwards so that they become the attachment feet around the top rim of the funnel. Secure into place on the funnel as shown.

## AFT GUN PLATFORM ASSEMBLY



Fold the small signal yards on the outer poles of the wire antenna spreader, etched part 46, to an angle of 45° forward. Fit the antenna spreader bottom rail to the bulwark of the aft gun platform as shown. Fold the wire insulators forward to the required angle to fit the wires from the mast yards.

## BOAT DAVIT ASSEMBLY



The assembly of the boat davits is quite simple. Fold the etched parts 44 & 45 in half so that they are double-thickness, with the relief-etched detail outermost, & secure into place.  
Cut the boat fall at the bottom so that it may be threaded into the boat when fitted.

### MAIN DECK RAILINGS & SHIP'S BOAT LOCATIONS

Fit the boat davits into place on the raised strips on each side of the main deck abreast of the funnel. Measure the distance of the falls & mark each point in the bottom of the boats. Drill through the boats at these points vertically with a 0.4mm drill bit. Thread the falls on the davits through the holes drilled in the boats & secure the boat into place on its davits.

The 16' dinghy, resin part 10, fits into cradles, etched parts 59 & is located under the port side 20' motor cutter, between the davits.

Fit the Carley raft racks, etched parts 36, to the deck just ahead of the aft AA gun platform on each side. Fit two Carley rafts, metal parts 17, to each set of racks. Also fit two Carley rafts to the roof of the galley, which is the small deckhouse to the rear of the funnel. Shape & fit the inclined ladders, etched parts 57 to the various parts of the superstructure as required.

Shape & fit railing sections, etched parts 2 & 3 to the edges of the main deck as shown right

Fit the Carley raft racks, etched parts 36, to the deck just ahead of the aft AA gun platform on each side. Fit two Carley rafts, metal parts 17, to each set of racks. Also fit two Carley rafts to the roof of the galley, which is the small deckhouse to the rear of the funnel. Shape & fit the inclined ladders, etched parts 57 to the various parts of the superstructure as required.

Shape & fit railing sections, etched parts 2 & 3 to the edges of the main deck as shown right

## DEPTH CHARGE THROWER ASSEMBLY

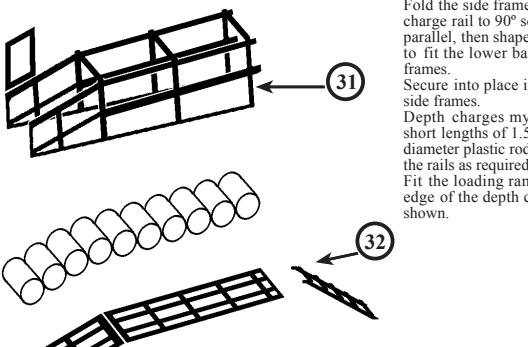
  

The diagram illustrates the assembly of a depth charge thrower. It features three main components: a main body (part 54), a footplate, and a plastic rod. The main body is shown in two states: first, being folded in half, and second, being fitted with the footplate and the plastic rod. Arrows indicate the direction of assembly and the placement of the footplate and rod.

To assemble etched parts 54, fold the main body of the thrower gun in half, so that it is double-thickness. Fold top plates outwards to 90° so that the depth charge can be located easily. Fit the base of the gun body to the footplate as shown above right. Make depth charges by cutting short lengths of 1.5mm (60thou) diameter plastic rod & fitting to the tops of the throwers.

To assemble etched parts 54, fold the main body of the thrower gun in half, so that it is double-thickness. Fold top plates outwards to 90° so that the depth charge can be located easily. Fit the base of the gun body to the footplate as shown above right. Make depth charges by cutting short lengths of 1.5mm (60thou) diameter plastic rod & fitting to the tops of the throwers.

## DEPTH CHARGE RAIL ASSEMBLY



The diagram illustrates the assembly of a depth charge rail. It features three main components: a side frame assembly, a row of depth charges, and a loading ramp. The side frame assembly, labeled with a circled '31', consists of two parallel rails connected by cross-braces, with a loading ramp attached to one end. Below this, a row of eight cylindrical depth charges is shown. At the bottom, a separate loading ramp, labeled with a circled '32', is depicted. An arrow points from the ramp towards the depth charges, indicating its placement.

Fold the side frames of the depth charge rail to 90° so that they are parallel, then shape the rail frame to fit the lower bar on the side frames.

Secure into place in between the side frames.

Depth charges may be cut from short lengths of 1.5mm (60 thou) diameter plastic rod & placed on the rails as required.

Fit the loading ramp to the rear edge of the depth charge rails as shown.

Fold the side frames of the depth charge rail to 90° so that they are parallel, then shape the rail frame to fit the lower bar on the side frames.  
Secure into place in between the side frames.  
Depth charges may be cut from short lengths of 1.5mm (60 thou) diameter plastic rod & placed on the rails as required.  
Fit the loading ramp to the rear edge of the depth charge rails as shown.

## DEPTH CHARGE RAILS & THROWERS

31

56

Cut a rectangular opening in the rear bulwark off centre to starboard, of a corresponding size to fit the aft opening of the depth charge rails. Fit the depth charge rails in place on the quarterdeck.

Fit the depth charge throwers to the quarterdeck, outboard on a line taken across the deck hatch. Fit the depth charge davits, etched parts 56 on the inboard edge of the depth charge thrower.

Spare depth charges can be made but cutting short lengths of 1.5mm (60thou) diameter plastic rod & fitting them onto lengths of stretched sprue. These can be fitted to small holes drilled in the deck if desired.

Cut a rectangular opening in the rear bulkhead off centre to starboard, of a corresponding size to fit the aft opening of the depth charge rails. Fit the depth charge rails in place on the quarterdeck.

Fit the depth charge throwers to the quarterdeck, outboard on a line taken across the deck hatch. Fit the depth charge davits, etched parts 56 on the inboard edge of the depth charge thrower.

Spare depth charges can be made but cutting short lengths of 1.5mm (60thou) diameter plastic rod & fitting them onto lengths of stretched spare. These can be fitted to small holes drilled in the deck if desired.

**AFT AA GUN & COWL VENT LOCATION**

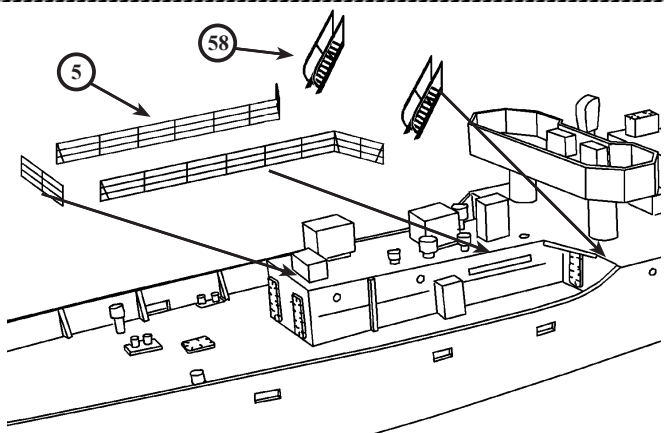
The diagram illustrates the installation of the aft AA gun and its cowl vents. It shows a perspective view of the gun platform and a side view of the deck. Callout 12 points to the cowl vents, and callout 33 points to the gun platform.

Fit the cowl vents, metal parts 12, to the locating holes in the deck forward & aft of the gun platform. The cowl vents may be positioned to face in any desired direction as they would be on an actual ship. Fit the assembled twin 20mm gun mounts to each side of the gun platform after first removing the cast-on single-mount pintles.

Fit the cowl vents, metal parts 12, to the locating holes in the deck forward & aft of the gun platform. The cowl vents may be positioned to face in any desired direction as they would be on an actual ship. Fit the assembled twin 20mm gun mounts to each side of the gun platform after first removing the cast-on single-mount pintles.

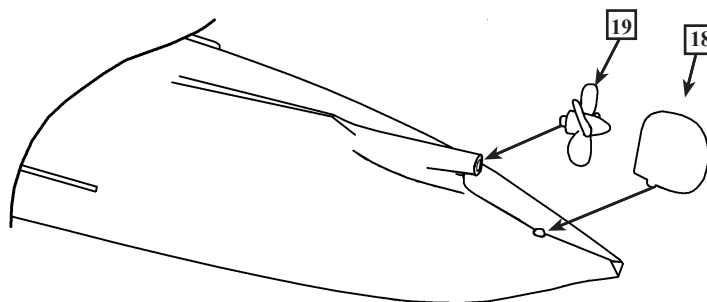


## AFT SUPERSTRUCTURE RAILINGS



Shape & fit the railings, etched parts 5, to the edges of the aft superstructure deck as shown. Note that there should be a gap between these railings & those etched parts 3 as fitted earlier, to allow for access of the quarterdeck step ladders, etched parts 58.

## PROPELLER & RUDDER FITTING



If the lower hull is being used to make a full-hulled model, fit the propeller, metal part 19, into the locating hole in the rear of the skeg-mounted shaft.  
Fit the rudder, metal part 18 to the locating hole on the centre line under the stern.

## COLOUR CHART AND PAINTING GUIDE



WEM CC RN10  
White



WEM CC RN 08  
Western Approaches  
Blue



WEM CC RN19  
Anti Fouling  
Red



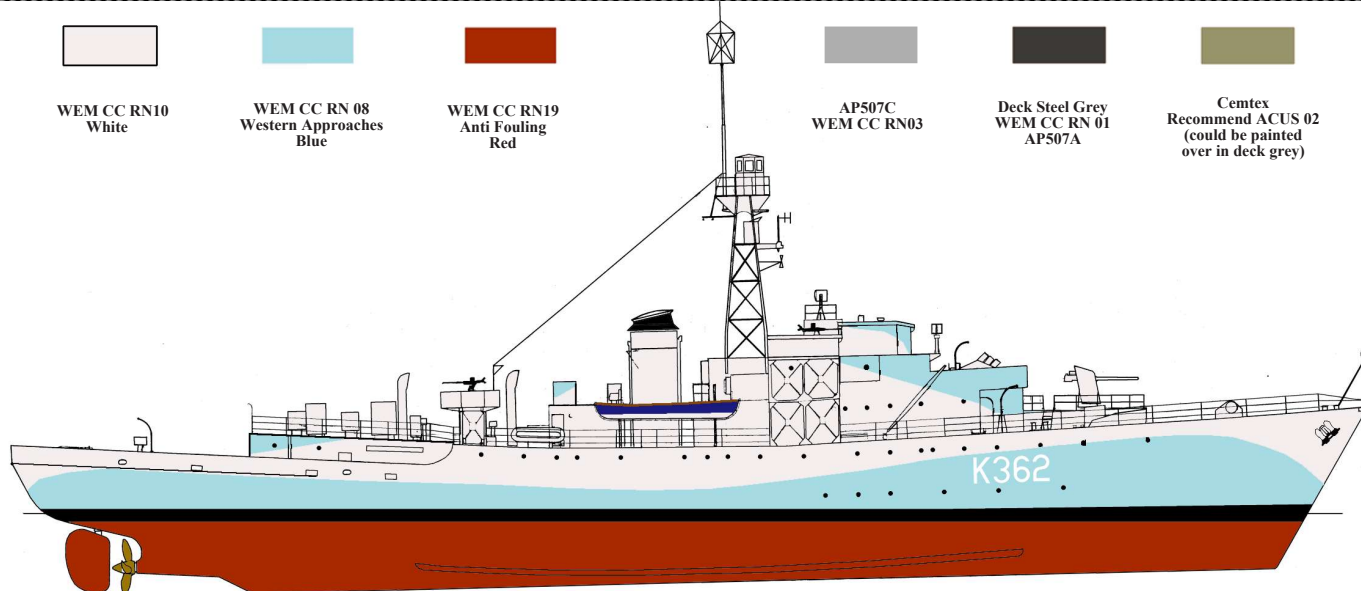
AP507C  
WEM CC RN03



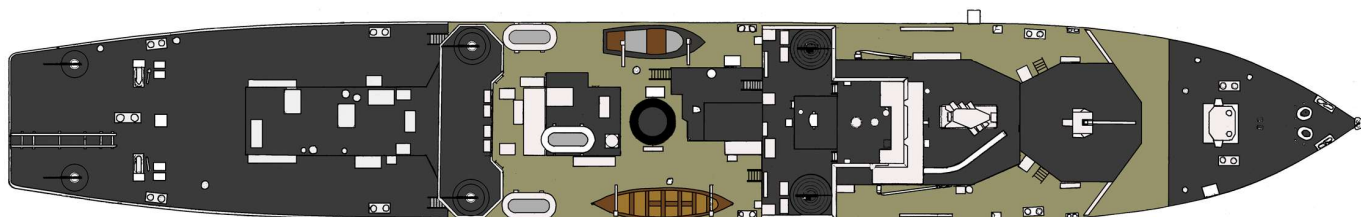
Deck Steel Grey  
WEM CC RN 01  
AP507A



Cemtex  
Recommend ACUS 02  
(could be painted  
over in deck grey)



HMS PORTCHESTER CASTLE 1944



Other colours used are as follows.

**Matt Black (C02):** Funnel Caps & Grilles, Machine Guns & Light AA Weapons, Hull Boot Topping, & Anchor Chain.

**Bronze.** Propeller

**Dark Grey (RN01):** Depth Charges

**Mahogany (US15)**

**or Natural Wood:** Decks and Thwarts of Ships Boats

Fit the smaller Pennant Numbers to the transom as shown



HMS PORTCHESTER CASTLE 1953

