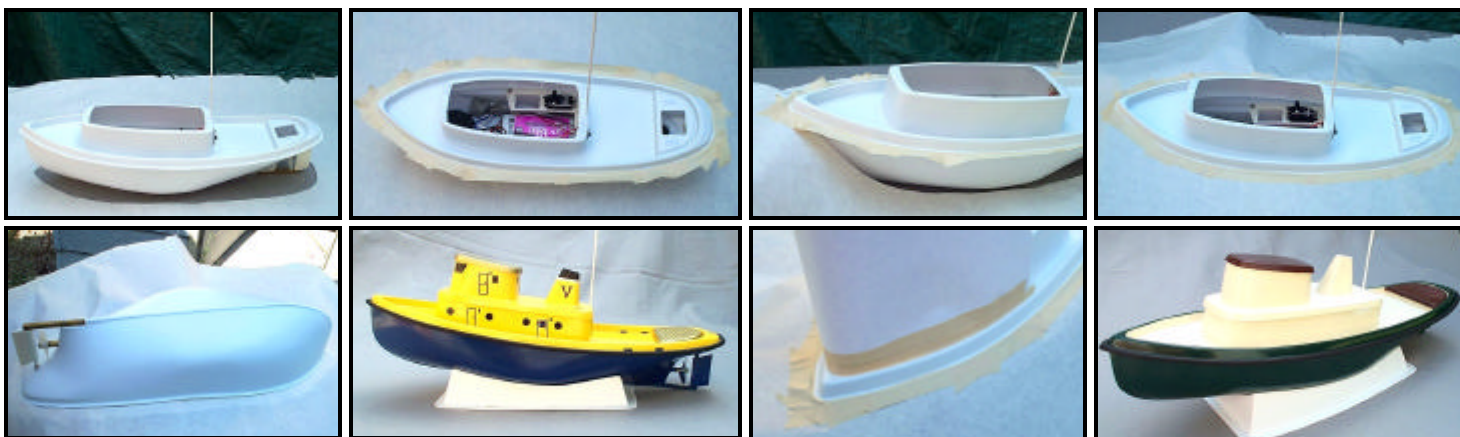


PAINTING TIPS: It will take 2 to 3 coats of most hobby paints to give a good even color. Never try to get full coverage with the first coat. It will run every time! You should be able to see through the first coat. **The best tip about any kind of spray paint is to let the paint “flash” between coats.** A coat of paint has “flashed” when it is dry to the touch. Don’t touch the boat. Touch the masking paper or somewhere where a fingerprint won’t show in case you touched it too soon. Hobby enamel will take 5 to 15 minutes to flash depending on the temperature. Different colors can take different times to flash. A coat that has flashed properly will support the next coat and prevent it from dripping. The second coat will take longer to flash than the first. Be patient! Practice on a scrap stood on it’s end. Your goal is to get coverage without runs. Avoid spraying enamel on very humid days. Humidity can cause the paint to “blush” leaving a cloudy appearance to dark colors. After the spray paint has dried **three days**, you can apply the decals. “Non-toxic” model paints are safest to brush on, for the painter and the boat.

PAINTING THE HULL: Remember step 63 where I said to trace the Deck & Cabin onto paper for painting? If you are painting the Deck one color and the Hull another, you can mask between them on the flange that the Rub Rail slips onto. Cut out the traced line. Set the boat onto the cutout. Remove the rub rail. Put masking tape around the flange. Lift the paper to the masking tape



If you want your bulwark (that raised railing around the deck) to be the same color as the Hull, you can mask at the inside of the bulwark. After painting the Deck & Cabin let the paint dry 3 days. (Read the can. The tape will stick without damaging the paint in about a day but painting over uncured Hobby Enamel will cause the paint to wrinkle.) Put a length of masking tape along the inside of the bulwark as shown above. Put masking tape along the edge of pieces of paper to make “masking paper”. Attach the masking paper to the tape. Holding the boat in one hand, or on a cleverly constructed support, you can spray the Hull and Upper Bulwark at the same time. Stand the Hull upside down on it’s cabin to dry. The hull is Stern heavy. You may have to secure the battery in the Hull or put in a temporary weight to keep the inverted Hull from falling over. The antenna can hang over the edge of the table. Mask the Drive Dog & Shaft Bearing near the Prop to keep paint from gumming them up. If you paint the Boat Stand, let it cure 3 days before using it. Otherwise, it may stick to the boat. A couple of strips of felt along the top of the Boat Stand will prevent sticking and scratching the hull.

DECALS: Apply only after the paint has fully cured. Place the boat on it’s stand. The stand holds the boat at a bow-up angle just like it sits in the water. Make sure that doors or square openings are vertical to this position. Otherwise, if you placed the door decals parallel to the floor, they would be angled toward the stern when the boat is in the water. Cut out the desired decal from the assortment. Separate the paper backing from the front tissue. The decal will adhere to the front tissue. Place the decal on the hull and smooth it with your fingernail. Peel off the front tissue paper. The decal set includes several types of Doors, Portholes, Scuppers (deck drains), exterior weatherproof Lights (small ovals), Ladders, Ladder Rungs, retracted Anchors, and two V’s for “Vac-U-Boat” to put on the Stack. The hinge-side of the doors point toward the bow of the boat. You will find left and right doors in the set. See our website for examples.

WATERPROOFING - FLOTATION: If the water is choppy or you are playing competition games with the boat, it is a good idea to put plastic packaging tape over the rear hatch opening between the Velcro® pieces to better waterproof the hull. There is plenty of room in the Bow for flotation. An inflated Ziplock® bag with the opening pressed and taped closed, makes a nice form-fitting float.

REPAIR: In swimming pools, long hair can wind up on the prop shaft between the Drive Dog and the Stern Tube Bearing. If this happens, the shaft will bind and slow or stop turning. To repair, insert needle-nosed pliers through the rear hatch opening and lightly grasp the Motor-Shaft Coupling End to block the shaft rotation. Use a 1/4 inch wrench to loosen the Prop Nut several turns. Unscrew the Prop & Drive Dog 3-4 turns by turning the Prop. Remove the hair and re-tighten the Prop with Drive Dog & install the Prop Nut. Don’t store the boat in direct sunlight. This will shorten the life of the plastic.

MAINTENANCE: Before running, place a droplet of light oil between the Drive Dog and the Stern Tube Bearing. Rotate the prop to distribute the oil & wipe off the excess. **After running,** tilt the boat toward the Bow and blot out any water that was hiding under the floor. Leave the Pilot House off for a while to allow any moisture to dry. Discharge the boat battery to 6 volts. Storing the battery discharged helps to prevent it from developing a “memory”. **Once a year** you can refill the Stern Tube with the Super Lube. To access and relube the Stern Tube, remove in this order: Rudder Arm, Skeg, Rudder, Motor Tray, Dogbone, Motor-Shaft Coupling on the Prop Shaft. Slide out the Prop Shaft. Squirt new Stern Tube Grease into the Stern Tube from the outside. Catch the overflow with a napkin on the inside. Push the Prop Shaft into the Stern Tube catching the additional grease that will be pushed into the boat. Reassemble all parts. You will have to find the flat on the Prop Shaft by “feel” when you reinstall and properly space the Prop Shaft’s