

**WARRANTY AND RETURN POLICY:** All Vac-U-Boat Hull Kits are sold direct from Vac-U-Boat. If you purchased this from a dealer, contact that dealer on any matter of return. If you open and inspect this kit and for any reason you do not wish to keep it, return all of the parts to their bags and repack the kit into it's box along with a copy of the receipt. (Keep an original for your records.) Mail to me via the United States Post Office, Parcel Post with "Delivery Confirmation". Please do not use any Express Mail carrier or send COD. I cannot be responsible for such higher-than-necessary shipping costs. Upon receipt of the complete kit, I will reimburse you the original cost plus the cost of the return postage shown on the package and mail those funds to the name and address on the receipt copy. I will replace any defective part found during the assembly or operation of the boat for a period of three months after the purchase date. This warranty does not cover damage caused by abuse, misuse, improper spray paints, alteration or accident. It does not cover consequential damages. You may have other rights, which vary from state to state. **Caution: Never leave the boat in a hot car. It will melt!**

**CUTTING PLASTIC: Adults only!** A sharp pair of sewing scissors is best to trim around the parts. Cut through sharp corners in the plastic with a hobby knife. While H.I.P.S. is tough, it will tear. When cutting out holes, as in the top of the Cabin and through the rear hatch, score the opening with the tip of the hobby knife. (Just a deep scratch.) Then trace the score 2 or 3 more times and you will cut through the plastic. As you cut through the plastic, hold the knife at a side-angle to keep the blade from binding in the cut. Don't hurry. Draw the blade slowly along the plastic to prevent overcutting. Think about where the blade would go if it slipped. (Like, into your leg or arm!)

**GLUE:** You will need about two ounces of 6 or 15-Minute Epoxy. 30-Minute Epoxy has superior water resistance but I have found that the 6 or 15-minute kind works fine for this model. Epoxy is used for the rudder shaft, skeg screws, tray screws, rudder bearing & ballast weights. Where specified, a filler should be added to make the epoxy less brittle, increase the volume, and to thicken it. Dry plaster, talcum powder, or micro-spheres all work well. Mix the two parts of the epoxy together first. Then, add the same volume of filler material and fold them together until blended. Medium CA (super glue found at hobby stores) is best for gluing the H.I.P.S. together when attaching the Internal Tray to the Hull, Deck & Cabin to the Hull, and Pilot House Roof to the Pilot House. If you are inexperienced with CA Glue, those small metal tubes of Model Cement found where plastic model cars are sold, either the regular kind or the "non toxic" type will work. Model cars are made of the same type of plastic as this boat. However, because the sheet plastic is so thin, it will melt more easily if you use too much glue. CA provides the strongest seam with less chance of weakening or melting the plastic but must be used in a well ventilated area. Both CA and Model Cement are permanent. If you think you will ever want to separate the upper and lower hulls, then glue them with epoxy. You will have to scuff the surfaces of plastic to help the epoxy bond to the plastic. Gentle prying will separate the parts. Experiment with the glues using the scraps of H.I.P.S. included in the box. These scraps are for mixing epoxy and testing glues or paints you wish to use. Glue them together and then try to tear them apart. Save the rubber bands for use when assembling the kit.

**PAINT:** Use spray paints that are safe for plastics. The short cans of "Hobby Enamel" found at any hobby or large discount store are best. When buying them, if the lid isn't sealed, remove the cap to see if someone "test sprayed" the can. If it has any paint residue on the spray nozzle, don't buy it. It is likely clogged because it was not properly cleared by inverting the can and spraying the paint out of the nozzle. (See the can's directions.) No sanding is necessary. Hobby Enamels will bond with the H.I.P.S. well as long as the plastic is clean. Don't get grease or oil on the plastic as it can repel the paint. If in doubt, wash your hands with liquid detergent before handling the plastic. Buy a can of Clear Hobby Enamel when you are getting the colors. It makes a great top coat on dull metallic or dark colors that don't gloss on their own. Test the colors on the scraps to see if a coat of clear is necessary. NEVER USE LACQUER OR AUTOMOTIVE PAINTS ON H.I.P.S. PLASTIC. It will soften the plastic and greatly shorten it's life span and may completely melt the plastic. Avoid all tall spray cans like Krylon® or other "household enamels". They will damage the thinner areas of the sheet plastic. Don't be fooled by test spraying auto paint onto the scraps. They are thicker than the model parts and will be less affected. Krylon® "Short Cuts" Hobby/Craft Enamel Paints work fine. Avoid the short cans of lacquer you will find at hobby stores. Ask for hobby enamel. I have listed additional painting tips at the end of the manual.