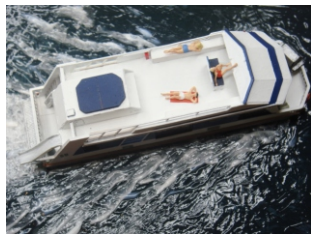




\*Figures, scenery, bottles and beer cans not included



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**Kit: N-7301**

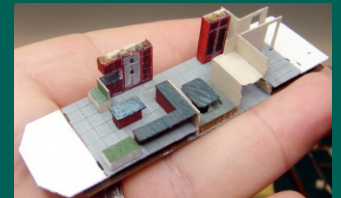
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Rail and Tie Craftsman Kits

1:160 N Scale

## Firefly Houseboat



*Includes interior details*

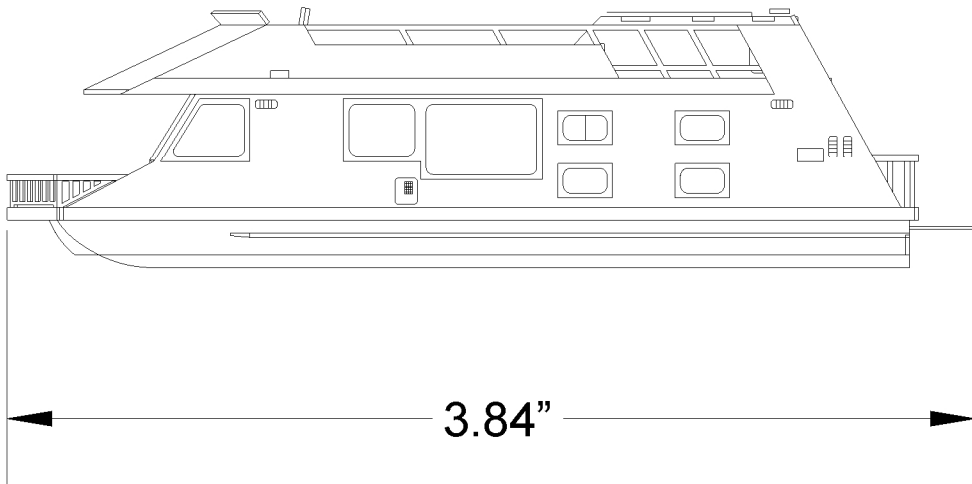
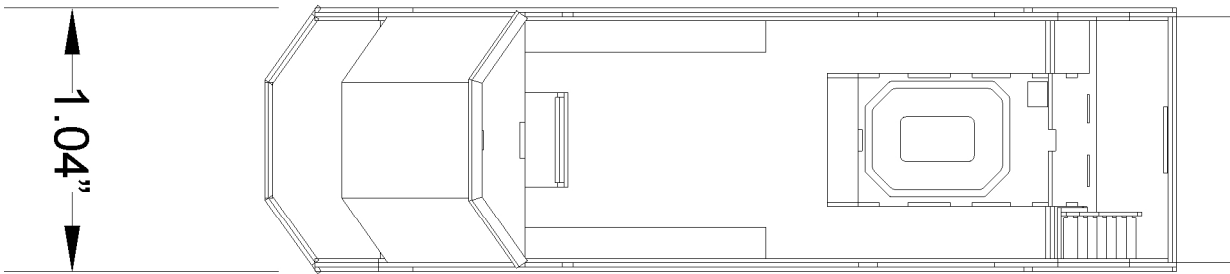
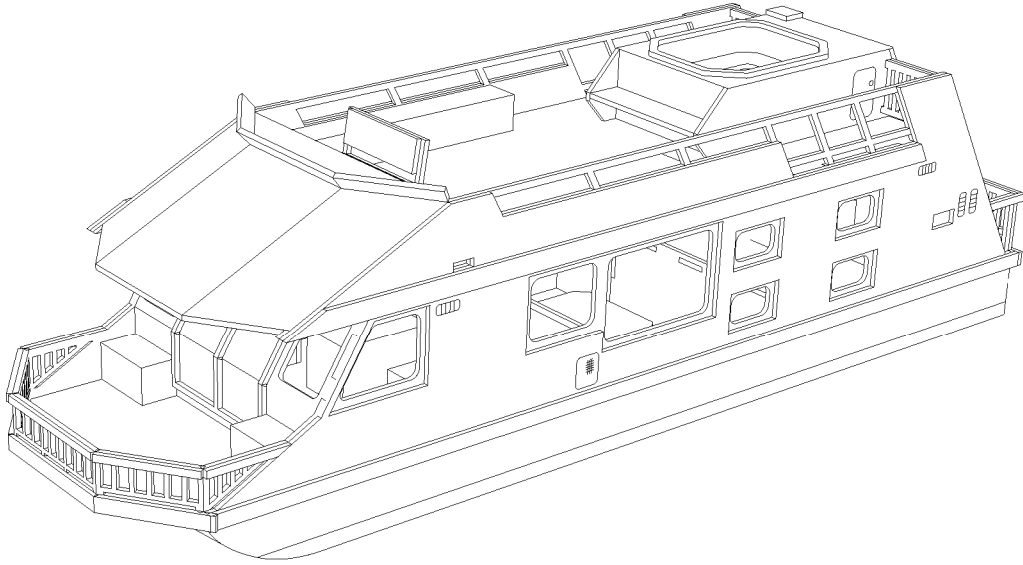
- High quality N scale boat:  
3.6" long by 1" wide by 1.2" tall
- Waterline model
- Assembly & painting required
- Paint, glue, and hobby tools required for assembly  
are not included
- Scenery and figures not included

WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD - Small and sharp parts  
Not for young children

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**Kit: N-7301**

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## Firefly Houseboat in N Scale (1:160)

This Three Buoys Houseboat is typical of the many hundreds of houseboats that can be found on lakes and waterways all over North America from the 1980's to present day.

The Firefly is at home in dock or out on the lake with her crew enjoying the sun and water. With the many options of figures available from a number of suppliers, it is easy to replicate a typical party rental boat or a more relaxed and calm owner's boat. We have chosen the party boat in our example shown. Details such as the bimini top, hot tub, and interior walls and interior components make this a very unique model kit.

### Supplied Kit Components:

- 3 sheets of laser cut and engraved stabilized Resin Impregnated Board (RIB) for crisp, high resolution detail
- 1 sheet of RIB window frames
- 1 sheet of laser cut clear window glazing
- 1 laser cut basswood components sheet
- 1 sheet of laser cut paper for the curved lower bow
- Paper graphics sheet
- Kit assembly instructions

### Suggested Tools and Supplies:

- X-Acto type knife with fresh blades (#11 style is best)
- Tweezers
- Fine sandpaper (400+ Grit)
- Masking tape or clear adhesive tape
- Probond, Elmers white glue or Scotch Quick-Dry Adhesive (I like the Scotch adhesive as it dries with little residue and has a great fine applicator tip)
- CA glue for immediate bond of small hard to place parts
- Model putty or glazing/spot putty
- Acrylic or enamel paint (note that some enamel paints can make the Resin board slightly more brittle, so take care on very fine parts like window muntins etc)

We hope you enjoy making this kit as much as we did providing it to you. If you have any questions, please contact us at [sales@inter-action.ca](mailto:sales@inter-action.ca).

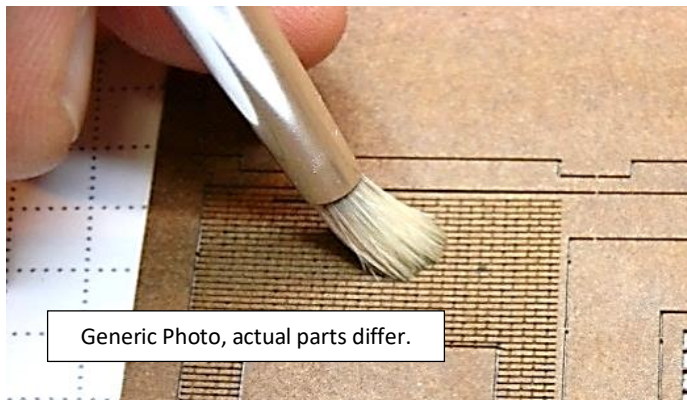
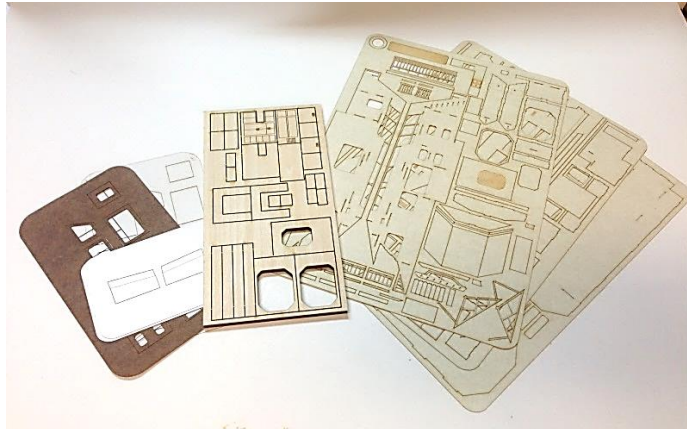
The following instructions and photos will provide the basics for assembling this detailed kit. We have tried to make the steps as straight forward as possible, but please note that you might want to change the order of assembly to suite your own technique and modifications that you might make along the way. As usual it is best to familiarize yourself with all the parts and instructions before you start on this craftsman level kit.

**NOTE: If you would like to view these instructions in full colour, please feel free to download a full colour copy at [www.interactionhobbies.com](http://www.interactionhobbies.com) and click on the link for "Instructions" near the top of the page.**



Your kit comes with sheets of laser cut 015" thick RIB, laser cut clear window material, and basswood components.

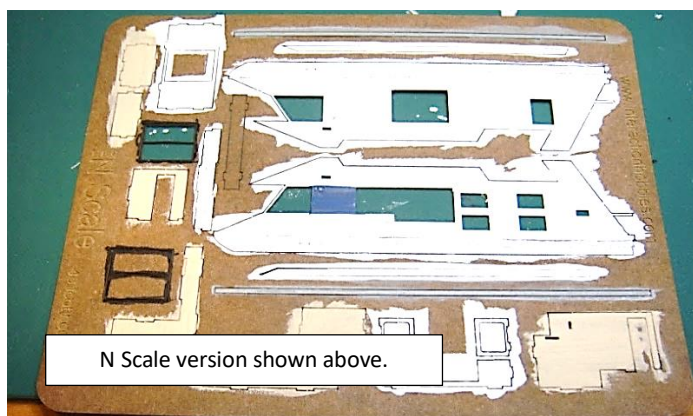
You will also find some tissue for the bimini and some plastic extrusion for the slide.



Generic Photo, actual parts differ.

- 1 Start by cleaning out any contaminants and remaining dust that may be in the cracks of the engraved details in sign, walls etc.

This is done by using a stiff bristle brush and gently dusting the nooks and crannies. Don't be too aggressive as the material can be brittle and fine detail may be broken or removed. Avoid touching very fine details like window muttons etc.



N Scale version shown above.

- 2 Painting the parts while still attached to the sheet is an easy way of getting quick and easy coverage for your model and to minimize warping.

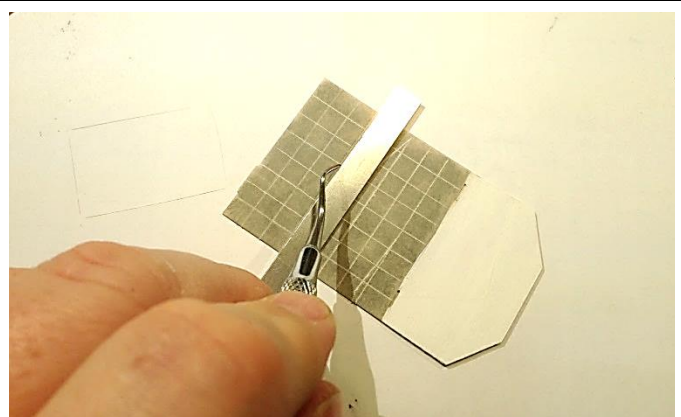
I primed the parts sheets with a light coat of flat white Krylon, though your favorite primer will work. I also like to use the "ZIG Woodcraft" paint markers available from many of the craft stores like Michaels, though any acrylic or enamel based paint works well.

Make sure you consider which side is out or in so you can color the inside panels where required.

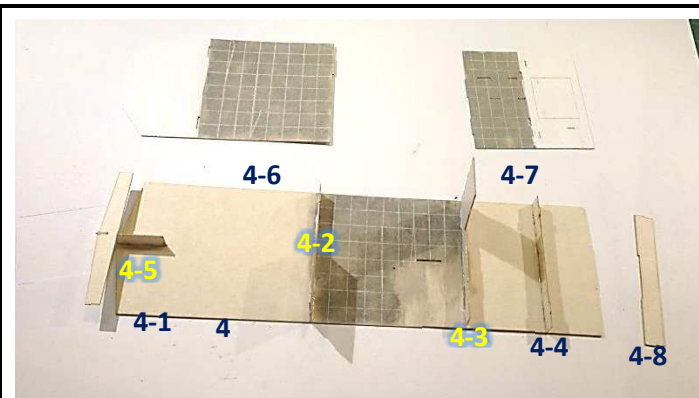


This shot gives you an idea of what the inside of the houseboat looks like for detailing purposes.

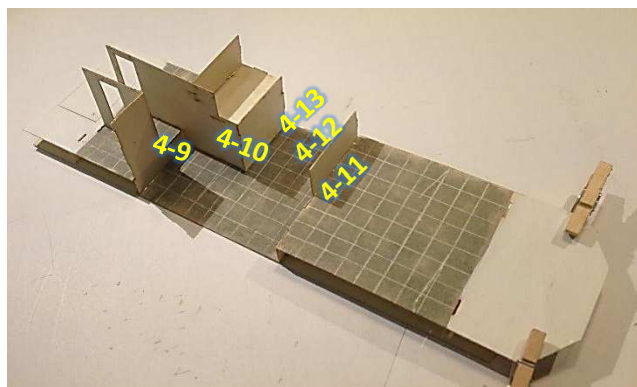
- 3



I decided to give the floor in my model a tiled floor. I mottled on some grey and tan paint and then scribed the tile squares onto the floor panels. Note that I did not do the forward deck as this is fiberglass on the full size ship.



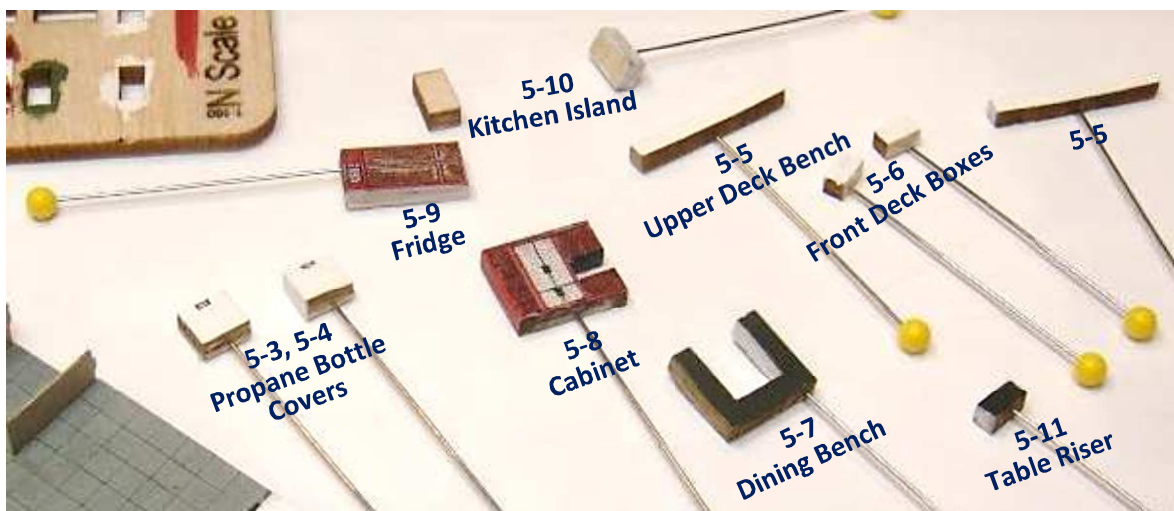
4



Start assembly by gluing the risers to the lower floor panel. You can also glue in the stern wall when you get the aft deck on the risers. Take your time to get everything glued straight and square. Errors in this step will multiply later on.

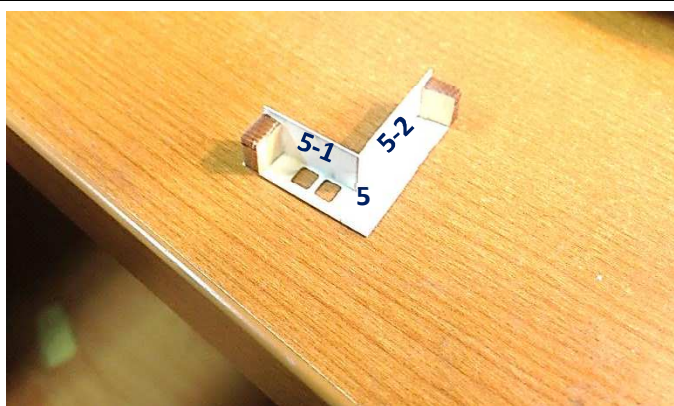
Next install the bathroom wall and bedroom walls. You could also install a mattress made from a scrap of balsa that would sit on top of 4-12.

5



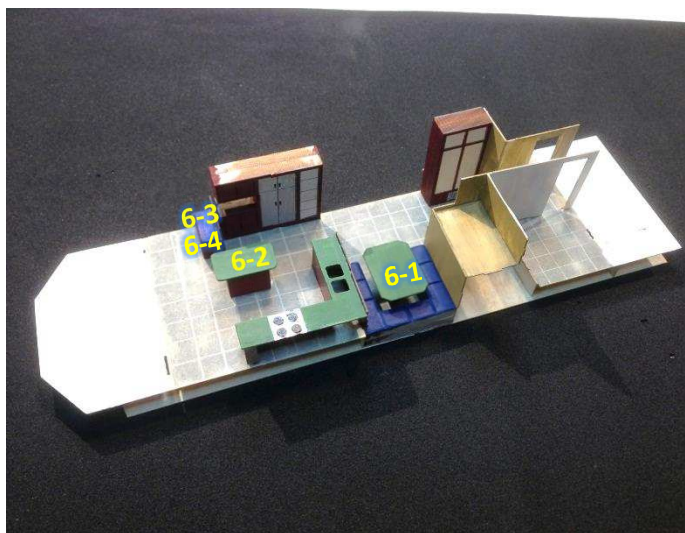
Using the basswood parts, double up the parts as shown for thickness. Sand and paint your desired interior colors.

6

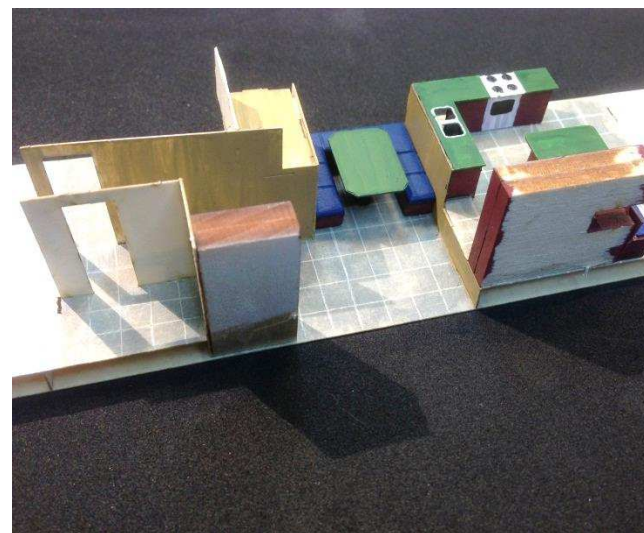


Assemble the countertop as shown above and use some scrap balsa or basswood blocks to form the counter ends.

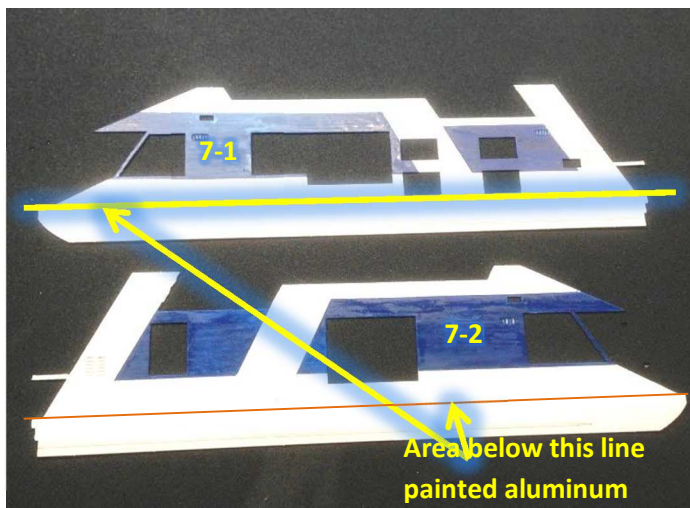
7



Install the assembled interior components as shown. Then glue in the table tops 6-1 and 6-2 in place. Glue in 6-3 and 6-4 drivers seat and back.

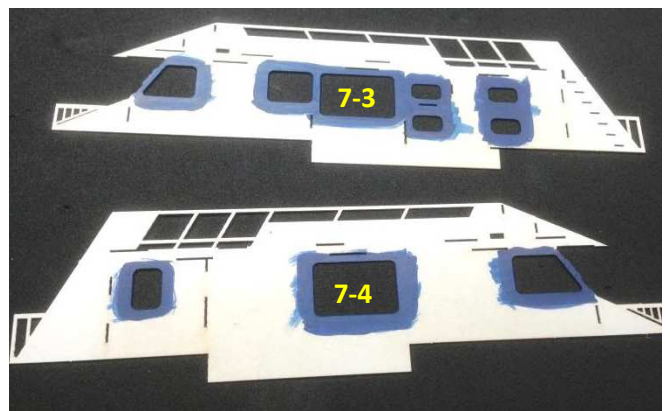


Note that I filed in some cushions on the dining bench and then painted them blue.

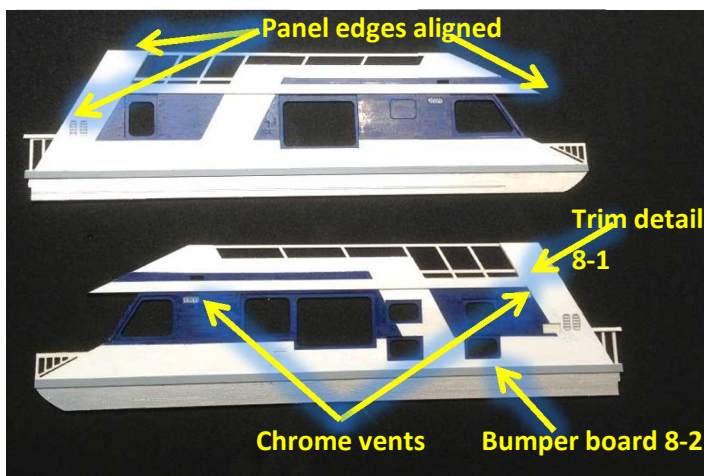


Paint your outside wall panels to your desired color and design. Here we have followed similar lines to the prototype boat. Also paint the hull aluminum.

8



The inner wall panels get a similar treatment as well as painting the interior face a buff color.



Now glue the outer and inner panels together taking care to align them properly. Paint the vents and then paint and glue on the bumper boards and the trim detail on each side assembly.

9

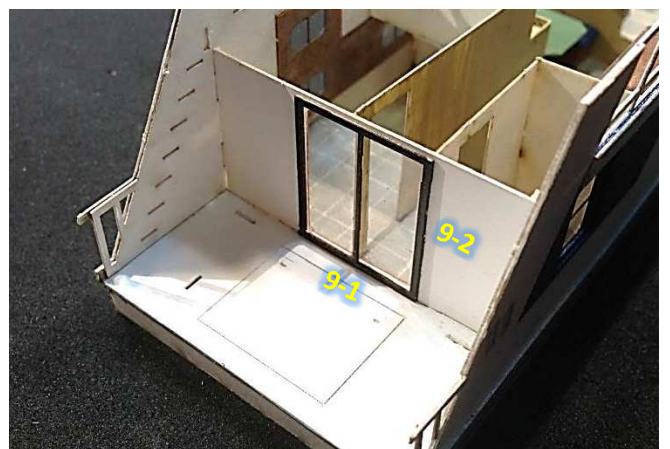


Before gluing the wall assemblies to the floor assembly, glue in the glazing (not shown) to the inside of the walls, centered on the window openings).



Glue in both wall assemblies so that the slots and tabs line up and the walls are flush with the bottom of the hull. The inner wall should sit just above the interior floor. NOTE: The photo does not show the glazing.

10

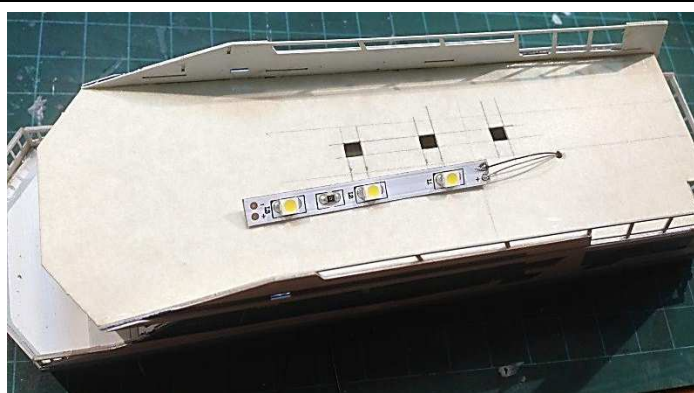
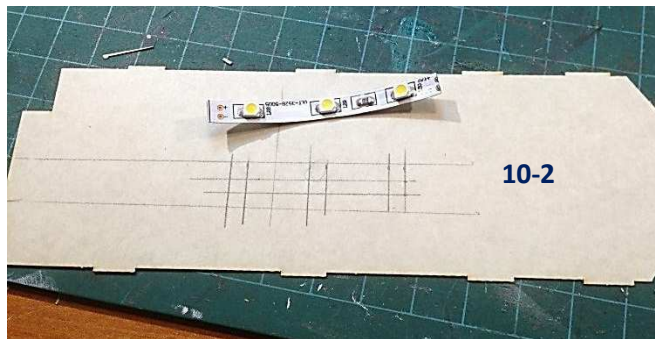


Glue in the aft cabin door glazing and frame 9-1 to the aft cabin wall 9-2 and install in the slots in the boat wall and floor.



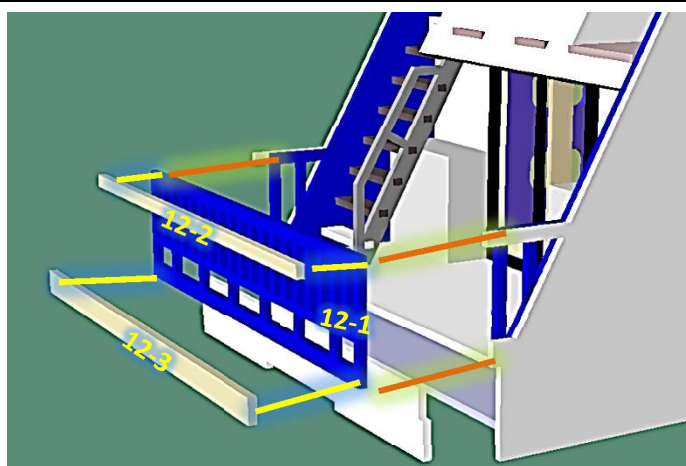
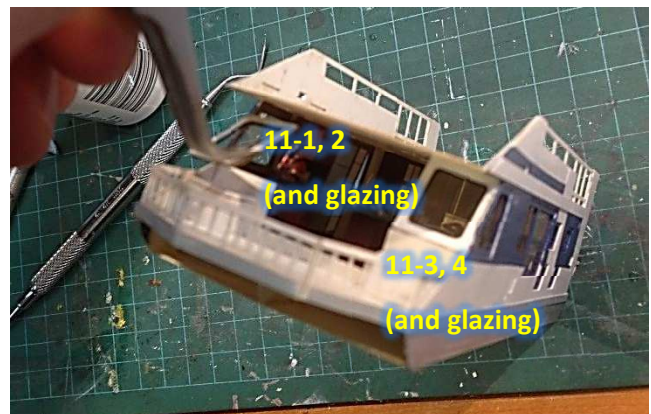
Install the front lower wall section 10-1 into the slots in the floor of the boat. Add any extra interior details that you want.

- 11 I elected to install some lighting for the main cabin. This is done by marking the location where you want the lighting to go. In this case we are using 12V strip LED's.



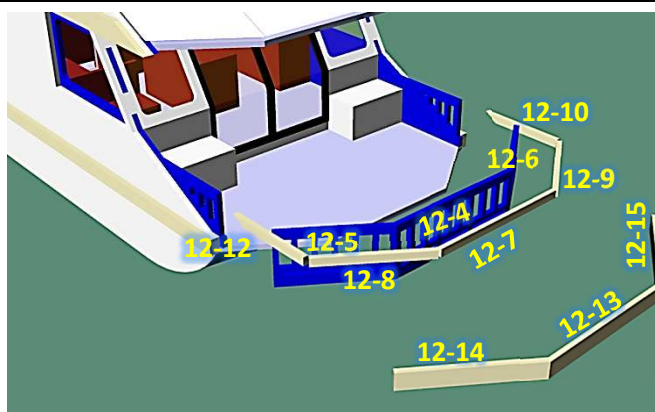
After cutting the holes for the LED's to show through, install the lower roof 10-2 into the slots in the inside walls as shown. Glue or tape your lights to the roof and route the wires as appropriate through the roof and lower floor of the boat.

- 12 Assemble the 2 front window walls, window frame and glazing and then glue into the front lower wall as shown. Note that the window assembly will slope up and aft to meet the roof



Glue the aft railing and railing doubler to the boat. Also glue the bumper board in place.

- 13



Do the same for the front deck and glue the front railing , railing doubler and bumper boards in place.

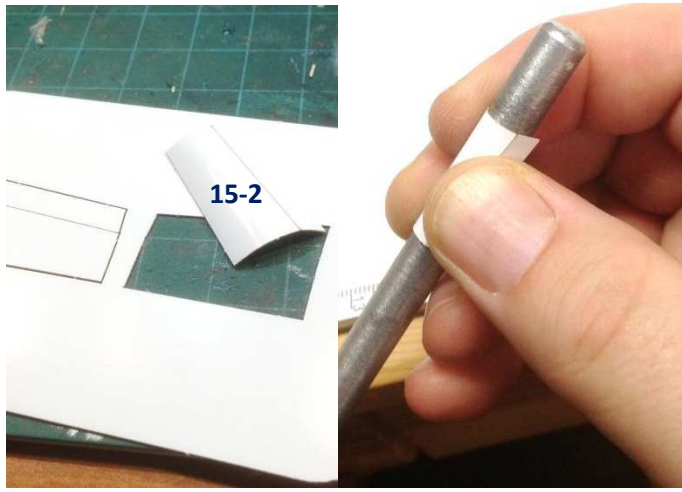


Bend the front door glazing along the crease line. Do the same for the frame and glue over the glazing. Apply a small amount of glue to the outer edges of the glazing and install the door assembly in place over the opening. Glue in the storage lockers as shown.

- 14

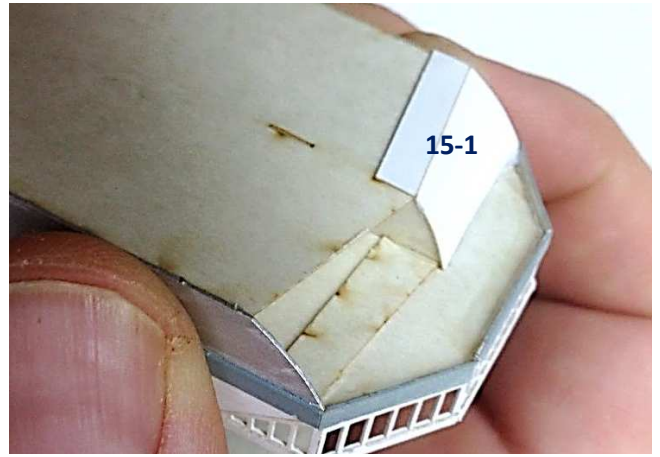


Glue the propane lockers in place on both sides of the aft door.



Remove the hull fronts from the carrier sheet and roll them over a pen to curve them.

15

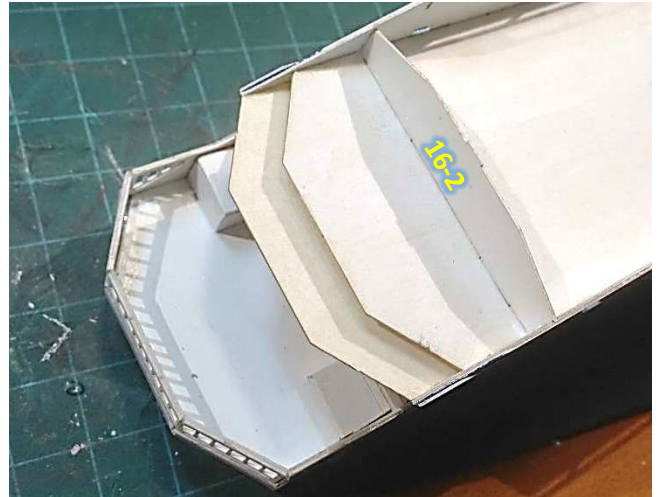


Glue the hull fronts to the bottom and front edge of the front hull support as shown below. You may have to trim the edges to fit.



Install the upper deck floor by inserting the tabs into the slots of one of the walls, then gently push down on the other side to align the tabs into the other wall. You may have to slightly flex the deck or walls to get things to set properly. Then wick a small amount of CA glue into the seam on either side.

16

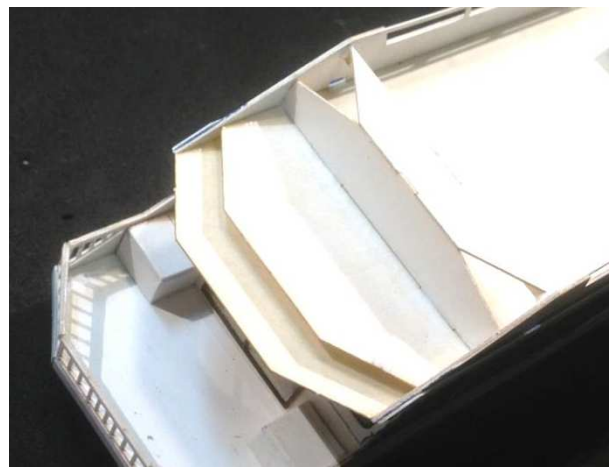


Glue the upper deck bulkhead 16-2 into place as shown. Check the upper deck for straightness and no curve. If there is any warping. Glue in some scrap wood between the upper deck and lower roof to add support.



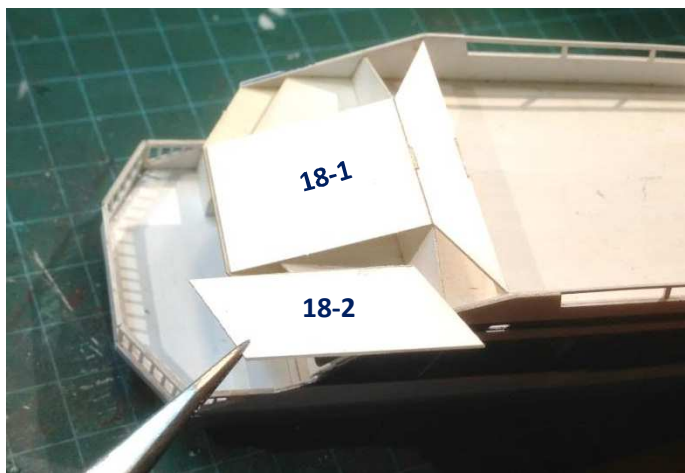
Glue the upper dash together.

17



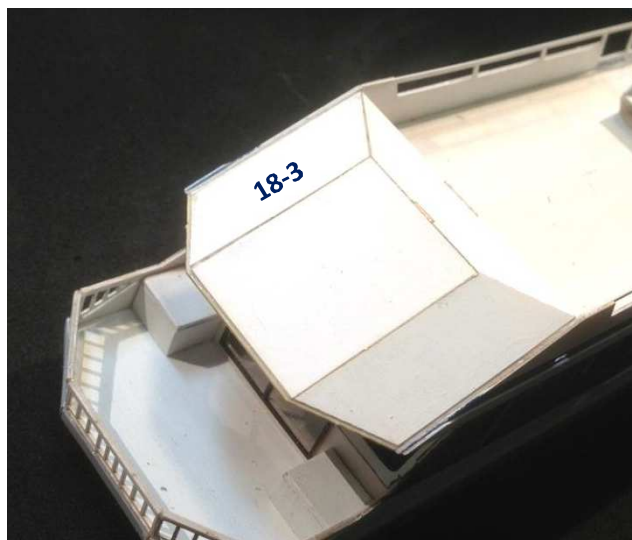
Glue in the upper dash as shown.





Glue the forward deck cover panel 18-1 in place on the centerline as shown. Sand the left and right edges of the 18-2 and 18-3 to fit flush. You may find these parts a bit wider than needed, sand to size.

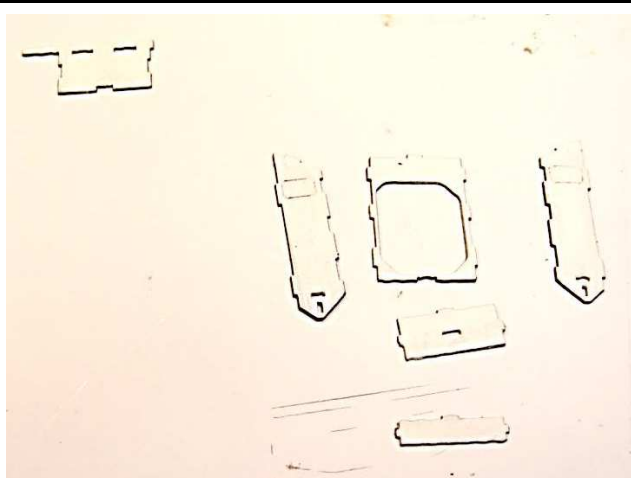
18



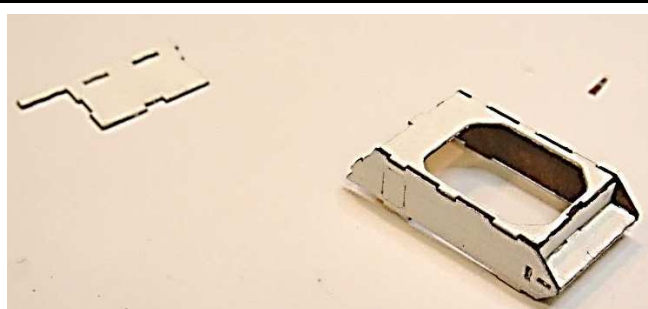
Glue the stairs to the stair rail as shown. Then glue the rail doubler to the outside (right hand side) for the stair rail.

19 Glue in the fascia between the upper deck and roof to close out the stairs area.

Install the stairs by gluing the bottom of the stair rail into the slot on the aft deck. Then carefully work each stair into the associated slot in the inner left hand boat wall. This is finicky work, but patience will pay off!!



20

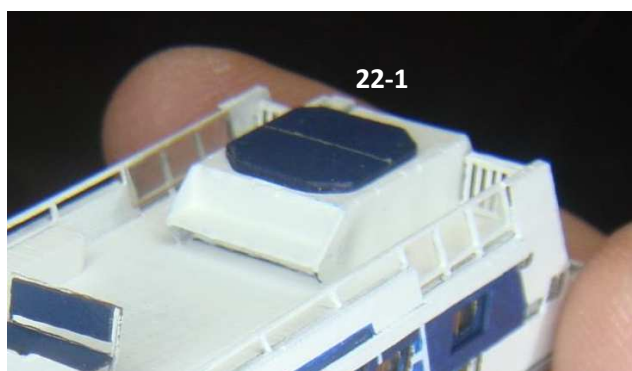


Paint and assemble the hot tub surround. Glue parts 21-1 to 21-6 to assemble as shown.



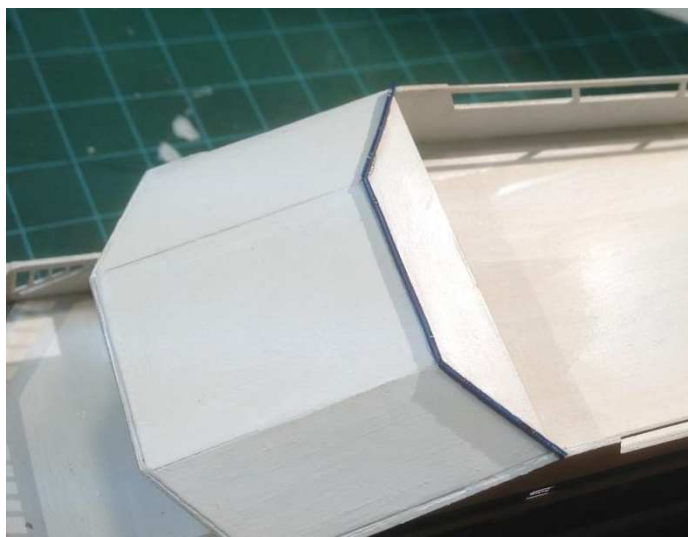
Note that the tab on the aft wall points to the right hand side of the boat.

21



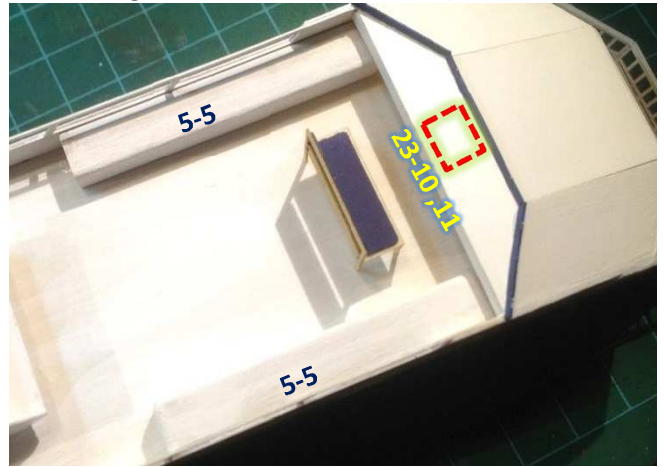
Glue the hot tub cover pieces together. Then glue the hot tub cover in place over the opening.

Glue 22-1 vent in place as shown.

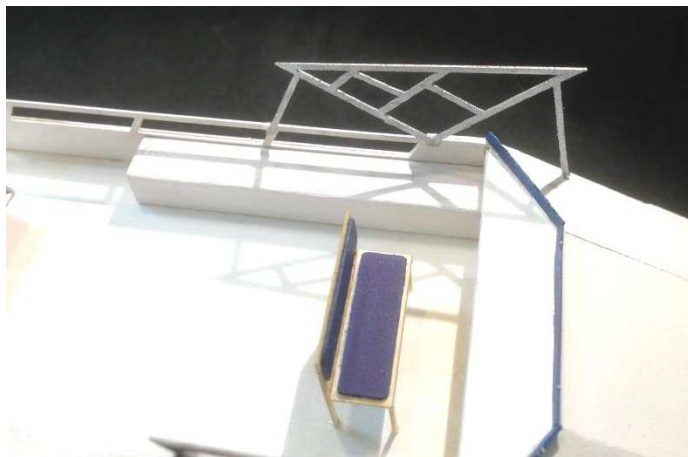


Using some scrap strip (approx. 0.020" X 0.015"), paint the strip, crease it and glue to edge of the upper dash as shown.

- 22 Glue the upper driving bench together and in place using parts 23-4, 5, 7, 8. Glue the bench in place as shown. You can also install the steering wheel 23-10 and driving station 23-11 (not shown).

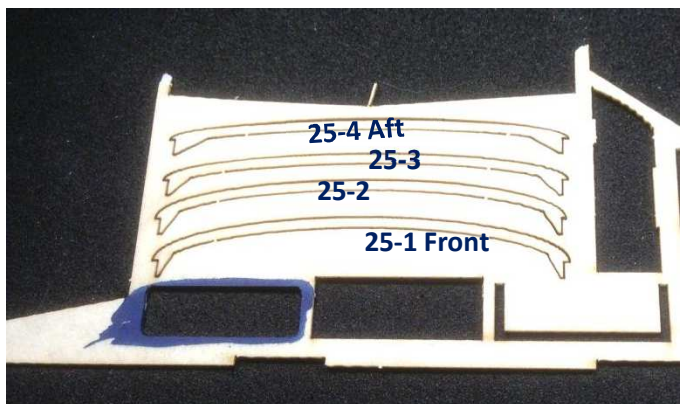
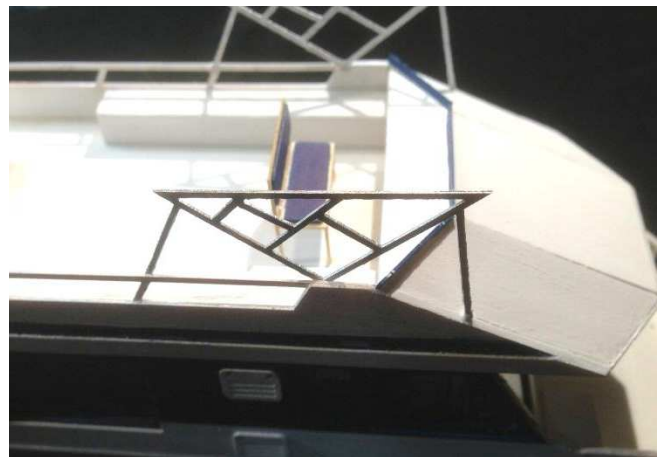


Then paint and glue the two 5-5 side benches in place as shown.



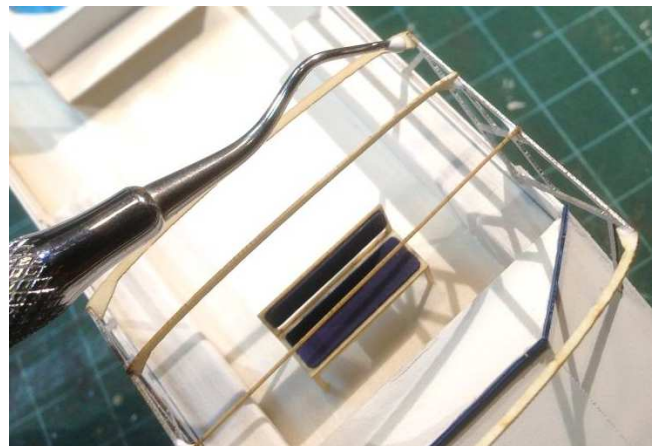
Glue the bimini supports 24-1 and 24-2 to the boat sides.

- 23



The bimini rails have slightly different radii. Make sure you keep them in order to get the proper curve to the bimini.

- 24 Glue the rails in place. The aft rail is glued almost horizontal, and the front rail is glued at the same angle as the forward sloping side support arm. 25-2 and 25-3 are glued straight up.

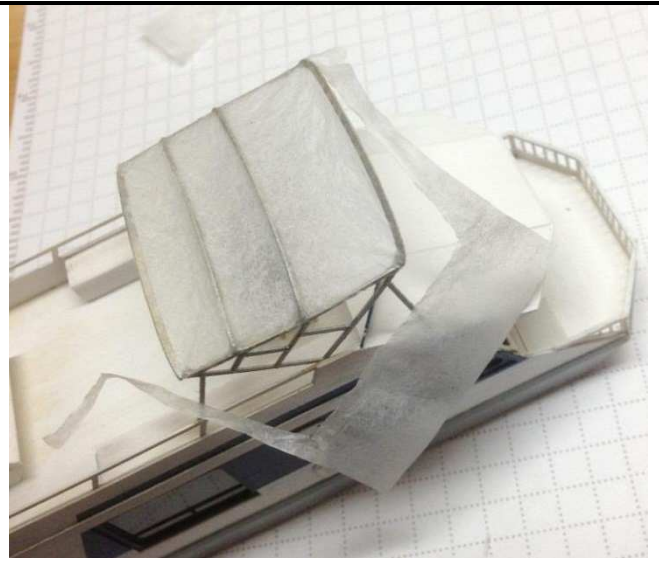


- 25 Once the glued tissue dries, wet the paint brush with diluted white glue and water (or matte medium) and lightly brush the tissue. Just enough to get it fully wetted as it will easily tear. Let the tissue dry and it should shrink out all the wrinkles. Trim the excess tissue with a fresh #11 blade. Lightly paint with acrylic paint and let dry. Again, the wrinkles should disappear.

Installing your figures and details now are easier than after covering the bimini top.

Gently sand the edges of the rails so that the tissue will have a clean finish over them.

Apply glue to the edges of the rails and the top of the side supports and gently stretch the tissue across them. Using a soft, dry brush, keep working the tissue to make it completely stick to the supports and rails. Stretch out as many of the wrinkles as you can.

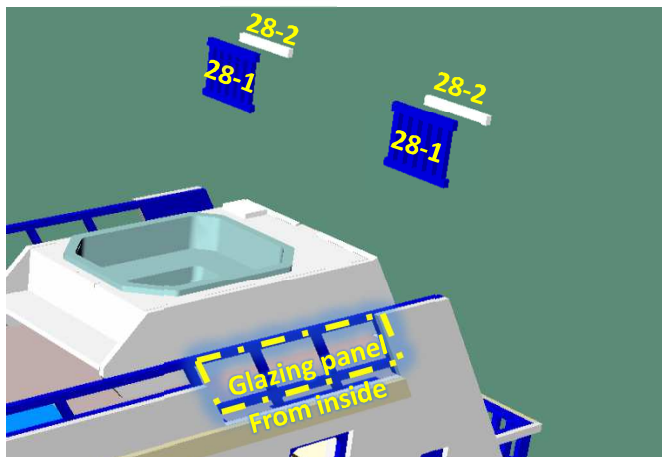


At this point I glued the "Firefly" graphic to the back face of the hot tub surround. Trimmed to the size of the back face.

26



For the slide, use the I beam extrusions supplied, and carve/sand off the flanges on the bottom side of the beam, leaving a C-channel. Then heat the channel in very hot water and gently shape to a "S" shape that will fit from the top of the slide opening on the upper deck to just past the diving platform on the back of the boat (as shown above). Trim the channel to length and radius the corners of the flanges. Glue the slide to the top deck and to the railing as shown above.



Glue the optional railing glazing in place on the inside wall.

Glue the gate to the gate doublers and then install the gates on the upper deck near the aft end of the upper deck sides. You can install these in the open or closed position.

27



Glue the two halves of the diving platform together and paint aluminum. Glue to the back of the boat just below the back bumper board. Glue the swim platform ladder (28-5) as shown.

