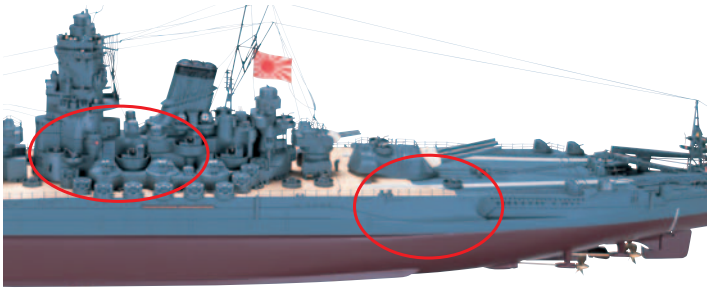
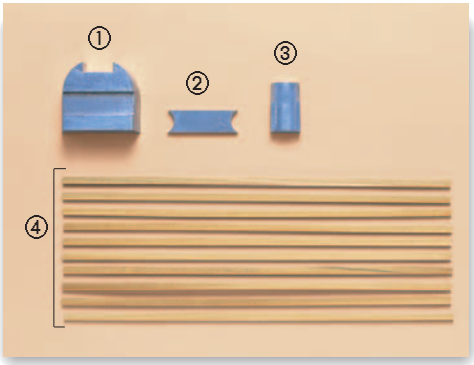
The base of the bridge and strakes

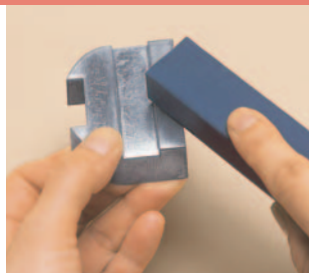




① Base of the bridge
② Base of the bridge
③ Base of the bridge
④ Strakes x 10

THE BASE OF THE BRIDGE

1 Smooth 1 to 3, first using the metal file and then the sandpaper grain no. 240 to eliminate irregularities in the shape. A sanding block can be useful for the flat parts, as shown in the photo.



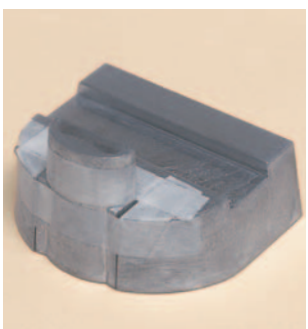
Recommended tools and materials

- Fast-drying wood glue
- Metal file
- Sandpaper (grain no. 800 and no. 240)
- Craft knife
- Pencil
- Putty
- Metal primer
- For metal: Super Glue Gel or Two-part epoxy glue
- Battleship grey model-making spray paint
- Wooden spatula

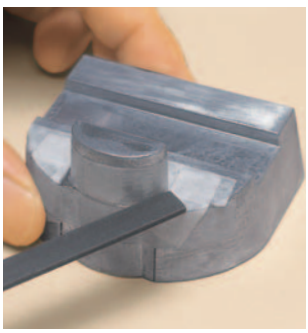
2 Piece 3 must be very smooth, even in the hollows and on the projections. Use a corner of the sandpaper folded in half.

3 Put together 1 and 3 without gluing, referring to Step 7 for the finished item, and paying particular attention to the part circled in red in the photo.

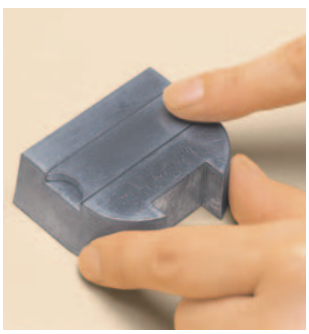
4 If, in the part circled in red in the previous step, 1 sticks out more than 3, eliminate the unevenness by using the metal file and sandpaper. Before proceeding, cover the parts not involved with adhesive tape to avoid damage.



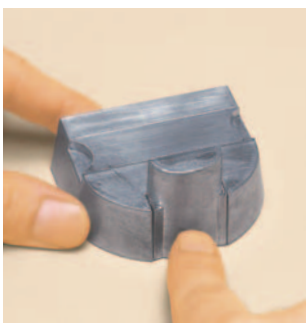
5 If the protruding part is small, smooth superficially, first with the metal file and complete with the sandpaper. Smooth 1 and 3 around the curve of 3, being careful not to damage them.



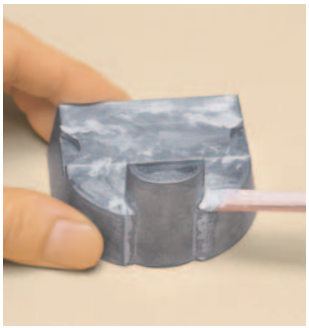
6 Place 1 as is shown in the photo, then insert 2 in the upper groove and fix it with metal glue. If you find difficulty in inserting it, try turning the piece over. If it is still difficult, adjust the width by smoothing with the metal file.



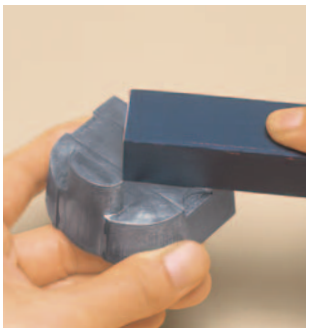
7 Place what was assembled in the previous step as shown in the photo. Insert 3 into the vertical hollow and fix it with metal glue.



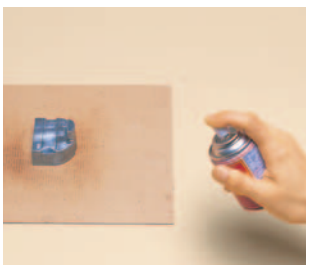
8 Apply putty into the gaps left between the pieces, pushing it in firmly with the end of a wooden spatula.



9 When the putty is completely dry, smooth with no. 240 sandpaper. In drying, the putty may shrink and leave hollows. In this case, repeat the operation. By touching with the tips of your fingers, you can check for any irregularities.

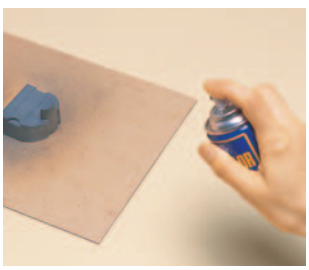


10 The base of the bridge will be painted after assembling all the pieces, but it is a good idea to apply a first coat of metal primer on the assembly completed in Step 9. Spray in a uniform way from a distance of 30cm.



When using the metal primer, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

11 When the primer is completely dry, put on a light and even coat of battleship grey model-making spray paint, keeping the canister about 30cm away. Let it dry thoroughly.

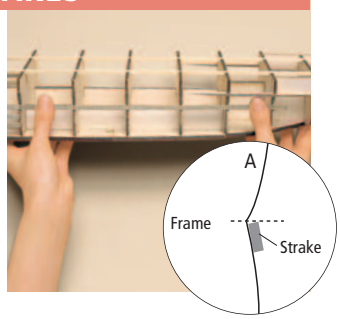


When using spray paint, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

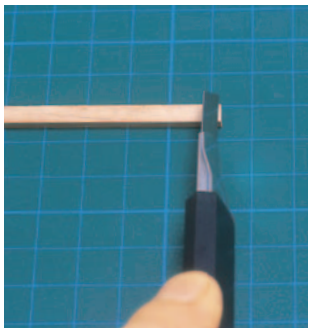
12 Spray the piece several times and from different angles. Let it dry well.

THE STRAKES

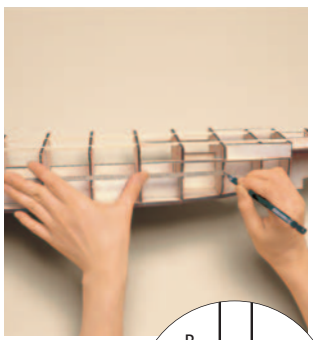
13 Now take a strake 4 and place it on the port side of the stern frames, without gluing. The top edge of the strake must coincide with the groove of frames 9 to 14 (Fig. A). The left end must align with the side of the 9th frame and with the right one of the previous strake.



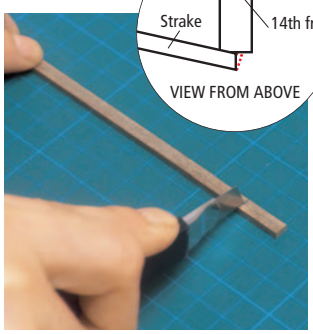
14 Make the end of the strake fit perfectly with those placed during the previous stage of assembly, then take it and shape the left end diagonally with the craft knife.



15 Take the strake and put it in the position identified in Step 13. This strake must be glued from the 9th to the 14th frame. Holding it firmly, make a pencil mark which corresponds to half the thickness of the 14th frame.



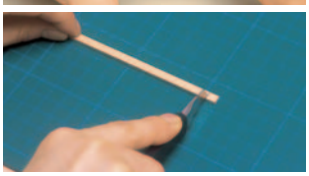
16 Take the strake and cut it at the mark. Using the knife on all four sides, you can cut it perfectly. The section should be slightly slanting, so that when glued the strip forms a right angle with the 5th frame, as shown in Figure B.



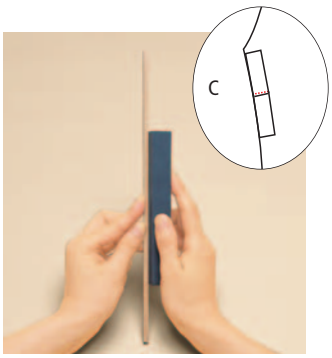
17 Before gluing the strip, make it more flexible by moistening it with water and bending it, as shown in the photo. Let it dry thoroughly.

18 Fix the strake with fast-drying wood glue in the position identified in Step 13. Hold the strip in position while the glue dries.

19 Place another strake between the 8th and 13th frame, just below the one you glued in the previous step. Then, make a pencil mark at the point which coincides with half the thickness of the 13th frame, as done in Step 15. Cut the strake at the mark, following the procedure in Step 16.



20 Smooth what will be the contact surface of the strake using sandpaper grain no. 800 (for convenience wrap it round a block of wood). Shape it so that no gap remains between the second and the first strake (Fig. C).



21 Once the strake is finished, fix it with fast-drying wood glue in the position defined in Step 19. It will stick more firmly if you apply glue on the sides of the two strakes as well as on the sides of the frame.

22 The third strake must be glued from the 9th to the 14th frame, like the first. Following the procedure described in the previous steps, cut, smooth and fix with fast-drying wood glue.

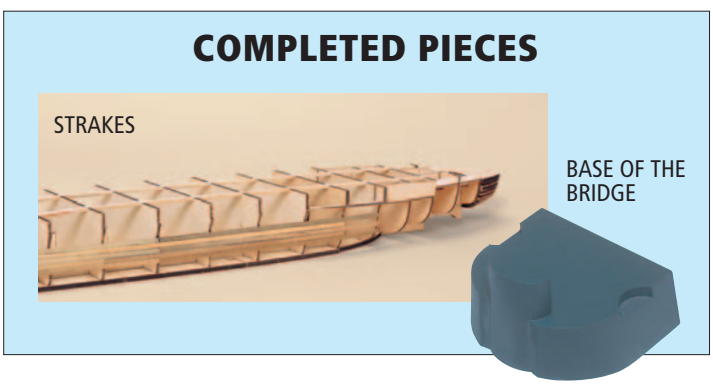
23 Following the instructions in Steps 19 to 22, glue the fourth strake from the 8th to the 13th frame.

24 Now glue the fifth strake below the fourth one just fixed, from the 9th to the 14th frame.

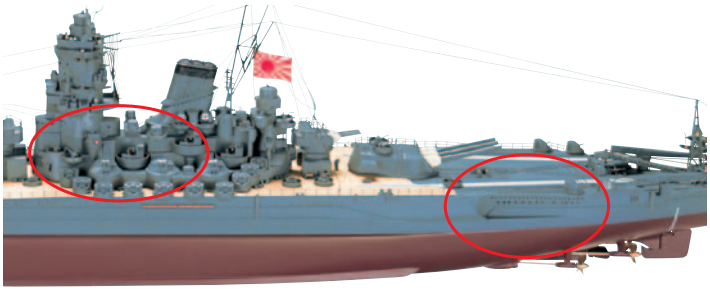
25 Following the instructions in Steps 13 to 25, fix the remaining five strakes on the other side. The first piece must be glued as described in Steps 13 to 18, going from the 9th to the 14th frame.

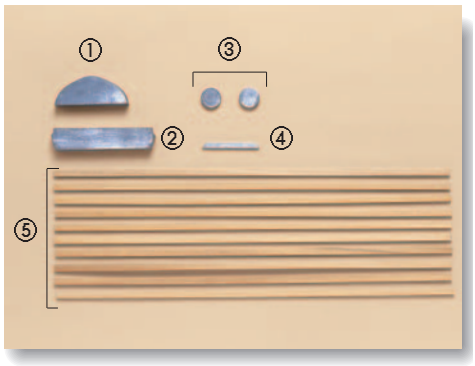
26 The other four strakes must be fixed on each side, between the 8th and the 9th frame. The strakes of the starboard and port side must be symmetrical.

COMPLETED PIECES



The base of the bridge and strakes





① Base of the bridge
② Base of the bridge
③ Base of the bridge x 2
④ Base of the bridge
⑤ Strakes x 10

THE BASE OF THE BRIDGE

27 Smooth pieces 1 to 3, first using the metal file and then sandpaper grain no. 400 to eliminate any irregularities. A sanding block can be useful for the flat parts, as shown in the photo.

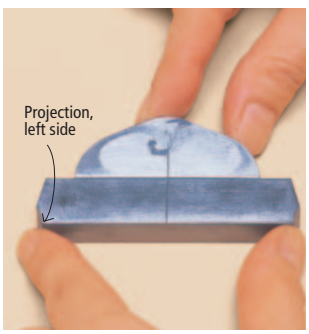
Recommended tools and materials

- Fast-drying wood glue
- Metal file
- Sandpaper (grain no. 400)
- Craft knife
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Putty
- For metal: Super Glue Gel or Two-part epoxy glue
- Metal primer
- Model-making spray paint (battleship grey)
- Wooden spatula

28 If 1 has any hollows, apply putty with a wooden spatula and, when it is completely dry, smooth with sandpaper to make the surface even and flat. If only one application of putty is not enough, repeat the process.

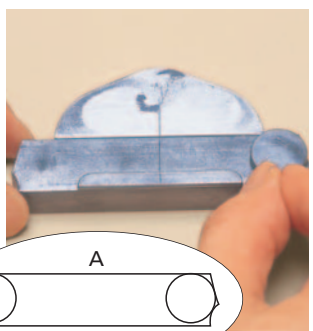
29 Make a vertical pencil mark on the midline of 1, 2 and 4, as shown in the photo.

30 Glue 1 and 2 with metal glue, so that their respective midlines are aligned with one another. Be careful to fix 2 in the correct position – with the end with the projection to the left, as shown in the photo.

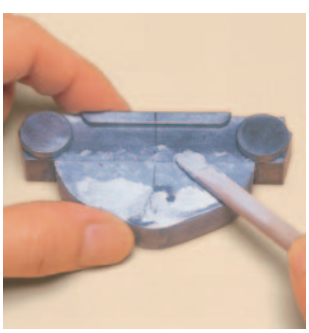


31 Place the assembly as shown in the photo of Step 30, then with metal glue fix 4 on 2, matching the midlines drawn previously.

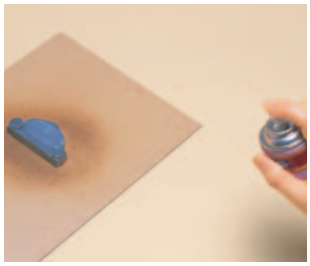
32 Take the assembly as shown in the previous step and fix one of the two pieces 3 on the top right with metal glue, mounting it towards the outside as shown in Figure A. Similarly, fix the other 3 on the left end.



33 Apply putty on the points of contact of 1, 2, 3 and 4, levelling the surface of the assembly and correcting any irregularities. Once the putty has completely dried, smooth the surface with sandpaper.

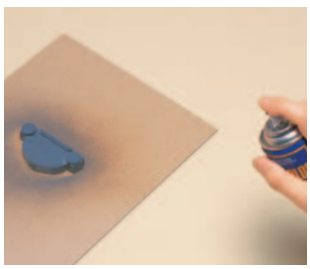


34 Now go to the painting stage. First, evenly spray metal primer on the assembly from a distance of about 30cm.



When using metal primer, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

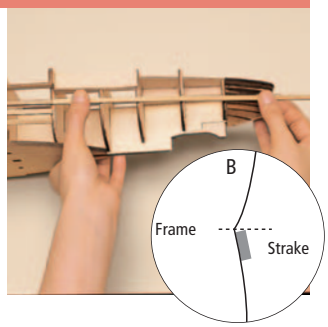
35 When the metal primer has completely dried, spray a thin coating of battleship grey model-making spray paint, from a distance of about 30cm. Wait for it to dry and repeat the process several times, changing direction each time.



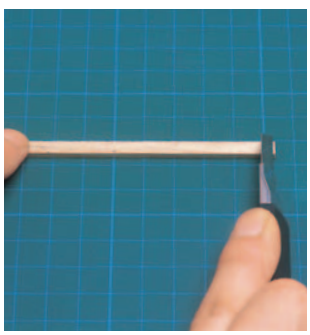
When using spray paint, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

THE STRAKES

36 Take the hull and, following the strake fixed during the previous assembly, insert another (without gluing) between the 14th and 18th stern frame on the port side. Its upper end must be flush with the neck of the frames (Figure B).

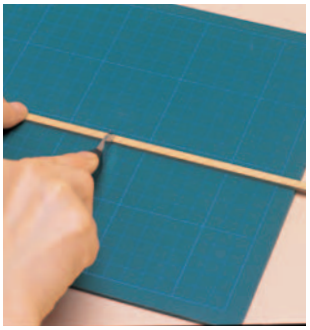


37 Adjust the shape of the strake so that it tightly fits the strake previously placed. Then thin the left end by tilting the point of the knife, as shown in the photo.

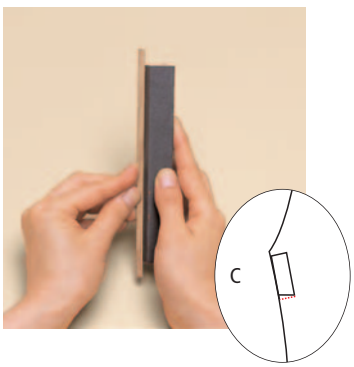


38 Place the newly finished strake at the point already identified in Step 36 between the 14th and the 18th frame, but without gluing. Holding it firmly, make a pencil mark corresponding to the mid point of the thickness of the 18th frame.

39 Take the strake and cut at the pencil mark with a knife. By cutting all four faces with the craft knife, the operation will be easier and more precise. The section should be slightly slanting so that once glued the strake forms a right angle with the 14th frame.

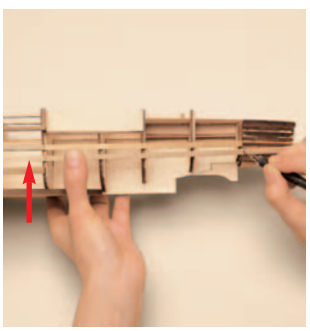


40 Using a sanding block, smooth the lower face of the strake so that when you glue it to the frames it is parallel to the bottom (Figure C).

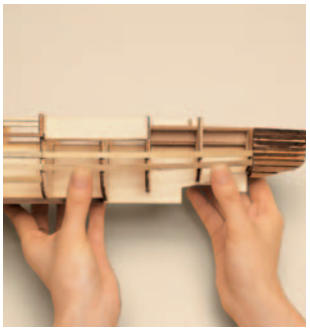


41 Use fast-drying wood glue to fix the strake in the position shown in Step 36.

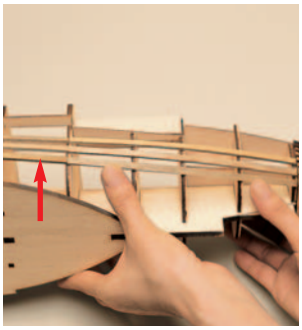
42 Alongside the strake indicated by the red arrow, place another without gluing it between the 14th and 18th frame. As the width of the frames diminishes towards the stern, you have to 'force' the strake so that it comes into contact with the frames. Make a pencil mark on the strake, corresponding to half the thickness of the 18th frame.



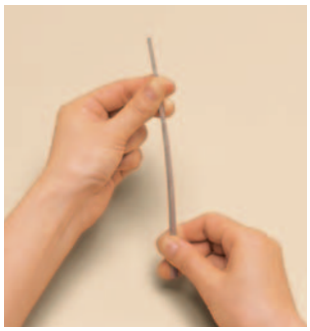
43 Smooth the upper and lower faces of the strake with sandpaper as described in Step 40, and fix it with fast-drying wood glue in the place identified in Step 36.



44 Immediately below the strake just fixed, and following that indicated by the red arrow in the photo, place another strake without gluing, following the instructions in Steps 42 and 43.

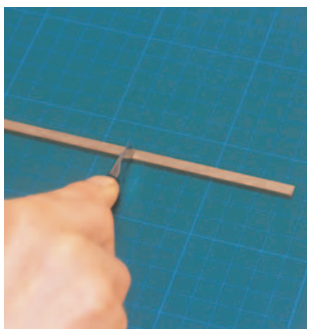


45 To shape the strake to fit the frame more easily – particularly at the level where the hull narrows in the stern area – wet the strake with water, then bend it to the necessary shape. Allow it to dry before putting it in place.



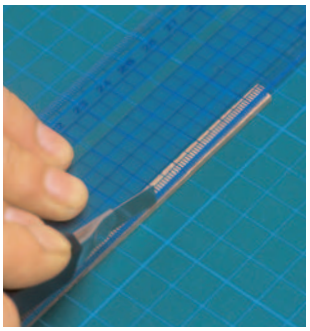
46 Place a strake from the 13th to the 18th frame in the space between the first and the second strake just fixed, but without gluing it. The right end of the strake will be longer than the available space, so place the piece on the strakes below and make a pencil mark on the strake corresponding to half the thickness of the 18th frame.

47 Adjust the length of the strake with the craft knife, following the procedure in Step 39.

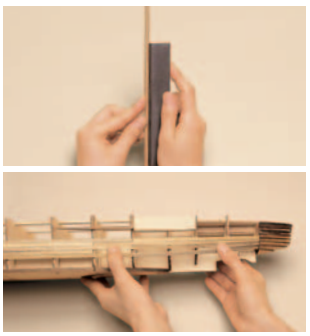


48 Reposition the strake in the place indicated in Step 46 and mark with a pencil the part to be trimmed, so that it can be fitted correctly.

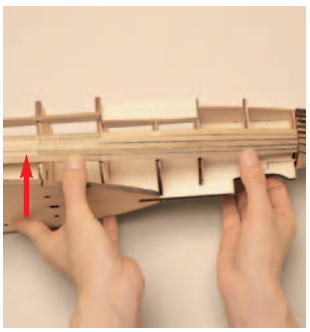
49 Remove the strake and shape it with the craft knife, cutting gently several times along the line marked in the previous step.



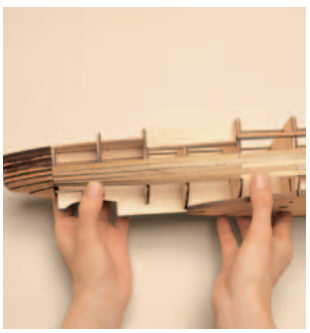
50 Replace the strake on the hull and, if it does fit properly, smooth it with the sandpaper. If that is not enough, cut it and smooth it again. Once adjusted, fix the strake in the place with fast-drying wood glue.



51 Following the procedure in Steps 46 to 50, fix another strake between the 13th and the 18th frame alongside the strake indicated by the red arrow in the photo.

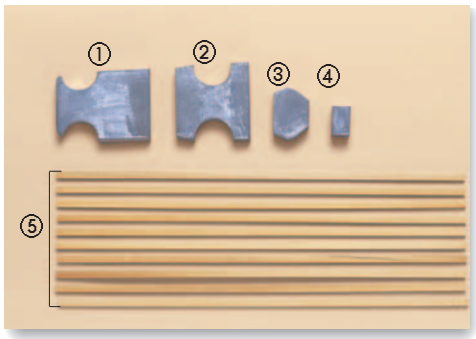


52 Following the instructions in Steps 36 to 51, fix the remaining strakes. The strakes must be symmetrical on both sides of the hull.



COMPLETED PIECES

The base of the bridge and strakes



① Base of the bridge
② Base of the bridge
③ Base of the bridge
④ Base of the bridge
⑤ Strakes x 10

THE BASE OF THE BRIDGE

53 Smooth pieces 1 to 4, first using the metal file and then the no. 240 grain sandpaper, to eliminate irregularities. A sanding block can be useful for flat parts, as shown in the photo.

Recommended tools and materials

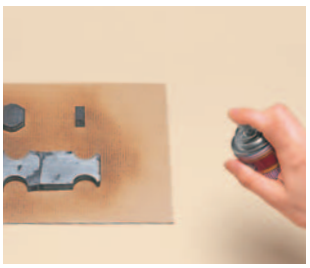
- Fast-drying wood glue
- Sandpaper (grain no. 800 and no. 240)
- Craft knife
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Metal file
- Putty
- For metal: Super Glue Gel or Two-part epoxy glue
- Metal primer
- Model-making spray paint (battleship grey)
- Wooden spatula

54 Fix 1 and 2 with metal glue. As shown in the photo, 2 must be glued to 1 on the short side. This assembly is the second level of the base of the bridge.

55 Using a wooden spatula, insert putty into the gaps between 1 and 2. Correct any irregularities in 3 and 4 with putty.

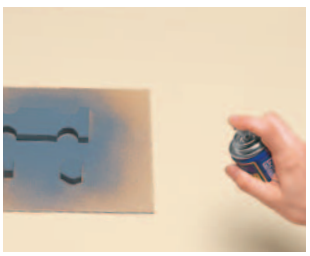
56 When the putty has completely dried, smooth with no. 240 sandpaper to obtain the desired surface. In drying, the putty may shrink and leave hollows. In this case, repeat the operation. By touching with the tips of your fingers, you can check for any irregularities.

57 The base of the bridge will be painted after mounting all the pieces, but it is a good idea to apply a first coat of metal primer on the assembly completed in Step 56 and on pieces 4 and 5. Spray from a distance of 30cm.



When using metal primer, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

58 When the primer is completely dry, put on a thin and even coat of battleship grey model-making spray paint, keeping the canister about 30cm away. Let it dry thoroughly.



When using model-making spray paint, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

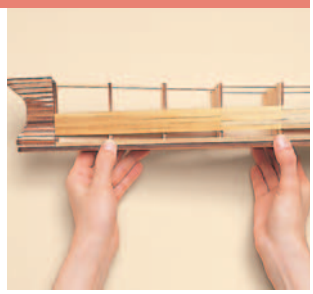
59 Hold the base of the bridge assembled in Step 12 as shown in the photo. Fix 4 to the protruding part with metal glue.

60 When the glue is dry, insert putty in the gap between the base and 4, as shown in Step 55. When the putty has dried, smooth with grain no. 240 sandpaper to obtain the desired surface. Spray the paint again on any flaking parts, following the instructions in Step 58.

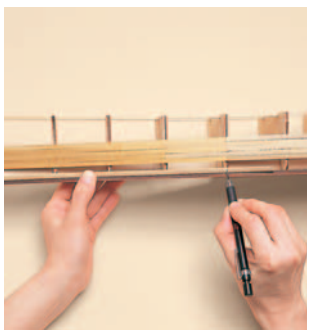
61 After letting the paint dry, place what was assembled in the previous step as shown in the photo and fix 3 in front of 4 with metal glue. The short side of 3 must be glued to the centre of 4.

THE STRAKES

62 Now take a strake and place it on the bottom of the port side of the bow frames, without gluing. The left edge of the strake must be stuck to the bow block, while the bottom must rest on the bottom board.

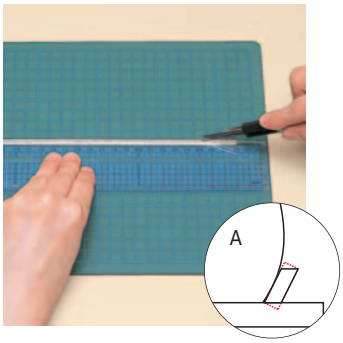


63 This strake must be glued from the 1st to the 5th frame. Holding it firmly, make a pencil mark corresponding to the central point of the thickness of the 5th frame.

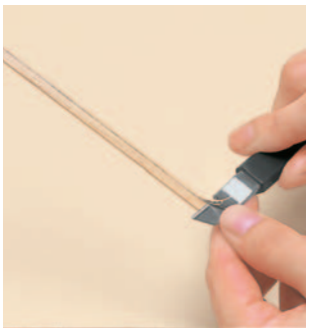


64 Cut the first strake at the pencil mark with a craft knife. By cutting all four sides, the operation will be easier and more precise. The section should be slightly slanting, so that when glued the strake forms a right angle with the frames.

65 Adjust the sides of the strake as shown in figure A. First of all, blunt the lower part so that it fits the bottom of the ship. To do this, place the strake as shown in the photo, place the ruler on it at the point where the levelling starts and make a slight cut following the ruler.

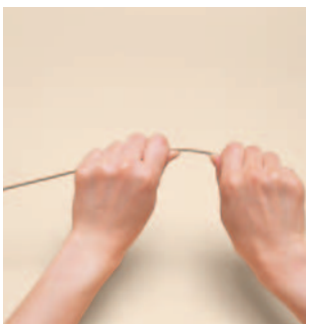


66 Hold the strake as shown in the photo. Gradually thin it along the cut, as if sharpening a pencil.

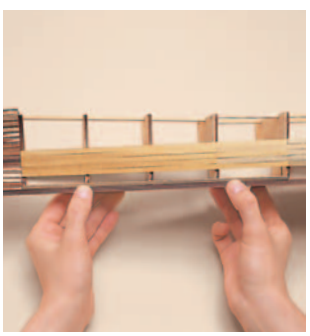


67 Now smooth with sandpaper grain no. 800, checking now and again the fit with the bottom of the ship. Do the same thing for the upper side, which must be parallel with the bottom board of the ship.

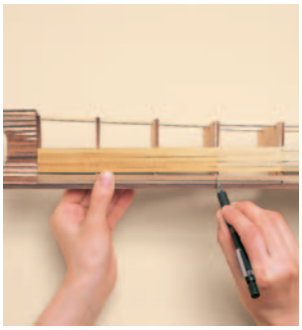
68 After shaping the strake, bend it in your hands before you glue it, as shown in the photo. It will bend more easily, and without danger of breaking, if you wet it with water beforehand. Wait until it is completely dry before placing it.



69 Fix the previously bent strake with fast-drying wood glue into the position identified in Step 62.



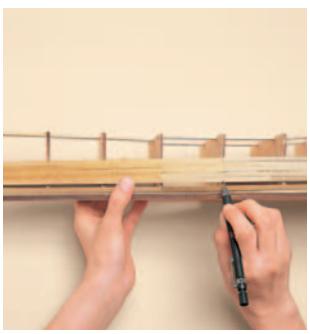
70 The second strake must be fixed from the 1st to the 4th frame. First, place it so it lies next to the strake placed in the previous step. Make a pencil mark at the point which coincides with half the thickness of the 4th frame and adjust the length as done in Step 64.



71 Now deal with the edge butting up to to the first strake, as described in Steps 65 to 68. Smooth well so that there are no gaps between the two edges. Then fix it with fast-drying glue in the position described in Step 70.

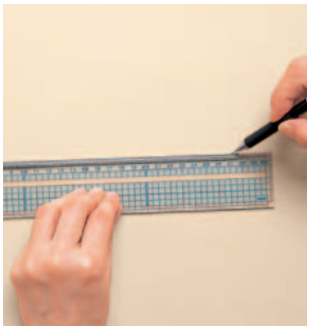
72 The third strake must be fixed from the 5th to the 9th frame, to the right of the first strake. Proceed following the instructions in Steps 63 to 69. Following the instructions in Steps 70 and 71, glue the fourth strake from the 4th to the 8th frame above the third strake.

73 Fill the space between the second strake and the strake fixed previously. First, place the left edge of the fifth strake on that immediately above. Make a pencil mark on the point coinciding with half the thickness of the 5th frame and cut as in Step 64.

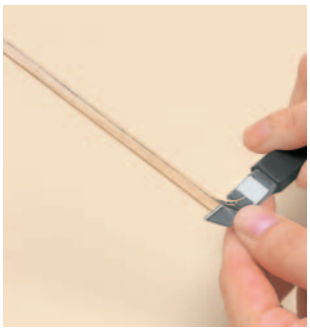


74 Now adjust the width of strake so that it fits well in the notch. First, place the strake on the notch and mark the width required on both edges of the strake. To fully fill the notch, the marks must be slightly wider than the notch itself.

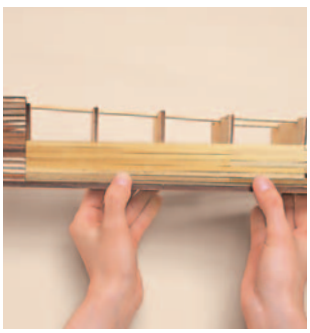
75 Take the strake referred to in the previous step and, using the ruler, join the two points marked with a pencil line.



76 Use the craft knife to make a slight cut along the line drawn, as indicated in Step 65, and smooth roughly as in Step 67.

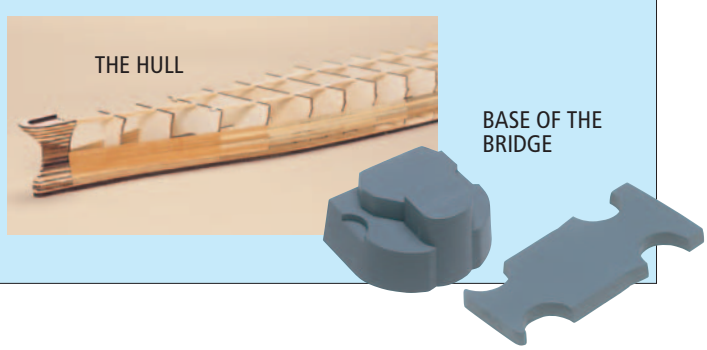


77 When roughly shaped, finish gradually with sandpaper grain no. 800, constantly checking the fit in the notch. When the strake is ready, fix it into the notch with fast-drying glue.

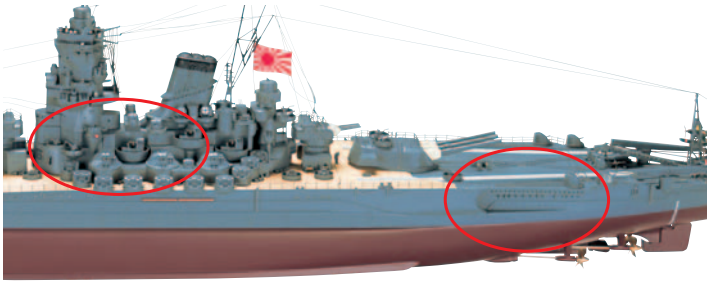


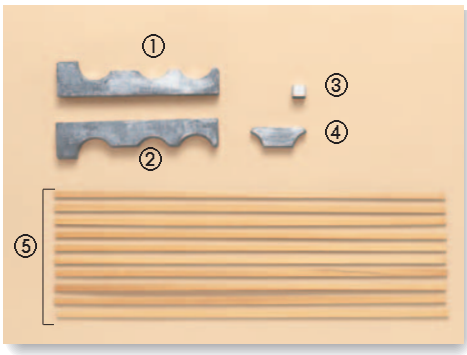
78 Following the instructions in Steps 62 to 77, fix the five remaining strakes on the other side. The strakes on both sides must be fixed symmetrically.

COMPLETED PIECES



The base of the bridge and strakes





① Base of the bridge
② Base of the bridge
③ Base of the bridge
④ Base of the bridge
⑤ Strakes x 10

THE BASE OF THE BRIDGE

79 Smooth pieces 1 to 4, first using the metal file and then the grain no. 240 sandpaper to eliminate irregularities. A sanding block can be useful for flat parts, as shown in the photo.

Recommended materials and tools

- Fast-drying wood glue
- Metal file
- Sandpaper (nos. 240, 400 and 800)
- Craft knife
- Fretsaw
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Putty
- For metal: Super Glue Gel or Two-part epoxy glue
- Metal primer
- Model-making spray paint (battleship-grey)
- Wooden spatula

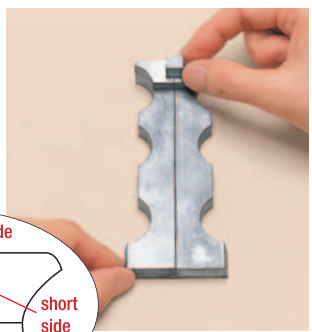
80 Fix 1 and 2 with metal glue, as shown in the photo.

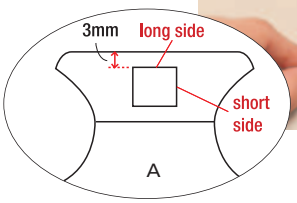
83 Using a wooden spatula, insert putty into the gaps between 1 and 2 and 4. Correct with putty any irregularities in pieces 1 and 2.

81 Hold the base of the bridge assembled in the previous step, as shown in the photo. Fix piece 4 on the top edge with metal glue.

84 When the putty is completely dry, smooth with grain no. 400 sandpaper to obtain the desired surface. In drying, the putty may shrink and leave hollows. In this case, repeat the operation. By touching with the tips of your fingers, you can check for any irregularities.

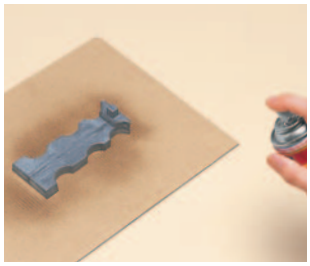
82 Fix 3 on 4, in the position shown in Figure A with fast-dying glue. To make the operation easier, first mark the middle of the longer side on 4 and 3 with a pencil. Then place 3 on 4 by matching the pencil markings.





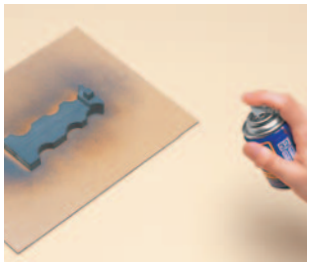
85 If the curved parts of the pieces glued do not join well, then correct with putty, smoothing away the excess. To smooth the curved parts that have been treated with the putty, use grain no. 400 sandpaper wrapped around a cylindrical rod.

86 Apply a first coat of metal primer on the assembly. Spray in a uniform way from a distance of about 30cm.



When using metal primer, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

87 When the metal primer is perfectly dry, put on a thin and even coat of battleship grey model-making spray paint, keeping the canister about 30cm away. Let it dry thoroughly.



When using model-making spray paint, ventilate the room well and follow the instructions on the packaging.

88 Repeat the paint-spraying operation several times and from different angles, allowing the paint to dry completely each time.

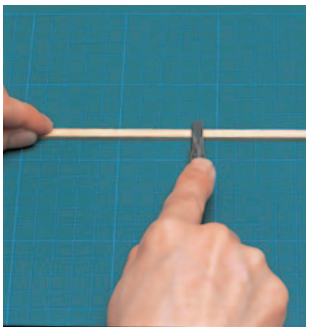
THE STRAKES

89 Place the body of the ship as shown in the photo. Place a strake 5 on the keel, towards the bottom in the stern area. The right end must join the stern block on the 18th frame.

90 Adjust the shape of the strake to make it fit perfectly to the block platform. Blunt the angle by smoothing the end of the strake with a no. 800 grain sanding block.

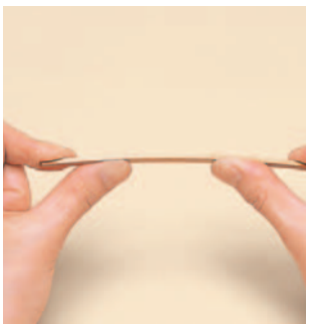
91 Place the strake that you prepared in the position identified in Step 89. Make a pencil mark on the point where it overlaps the bottom of the ship (you should go a bit farther than the precise point so as to be able to adjust it later).

92 Take the strake and cut it at the pencil mark with a craft knife.



93 With a no. 800 grain sanding block, smooth the end indicated in Step 89 to adjust the length.

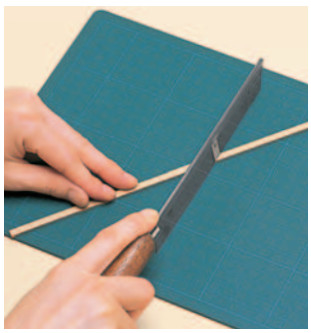
94 After shaping the strake, it is best to bend it in your hands before you glue it, as shown in the photo. It will bend more easily, without the danger of breaking, if you wet it with water beforehand. Wait until it is completely dry before placing it.



95 Fix the previously bent strake with fast-drying wood glue into the position identified in Step 89.

96 Attach a second strake under the one that you have just placed. First, adjust the right end so that it fits properly to the stern block, proceeding as in Step 90. Then make it join well to the first strake and draw a mark where it overlaps the bottom of the ship, as in Step 91.

97 Cut the strake at the mark. Cutting with a craft knife, and then a fretsaw, will make the operation easier.



98 If you use a fretsaw, cut slightly beyond the mark and then sand down the strake to the correct size with sandpaper. Smooth gradually until it fits the bottom of the ship perfectly.

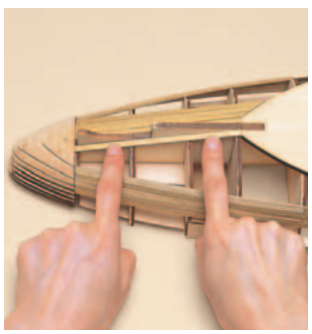
99 After adjusting the shape, deal with the side to be glued to the first strake, working the side with a no. 800 grain sanding block and smoothing the angle to make it fit perfectly.

100 Use fast-drying wood glue to fix the strake in the position shown in Step 96.

101 Fix the third strake below the second one with fast-drying wood glue, proceeding as in Steps 96 to 100.

102 Similarly, fix the fourth strake below the third. You should shape the left end before adjusting the right end of this strake, so that it properly joins to the strakes previously fixed. When ready, fix the strake with fast-drying wood glue.

103 Following the instructions in Steps 89 to 102, fix four strakes on the other side. The first must be fixed to the keel.



104 Below the strake fixed in Step 103, glue three other strakes one after another. At this stage of assembly only eight strakes are used, four per side. The two left are surplus for now, but all the strakes, and pieces of strake, left over must be kept for repairs to be undertaken later.

COMPLETED PIECES