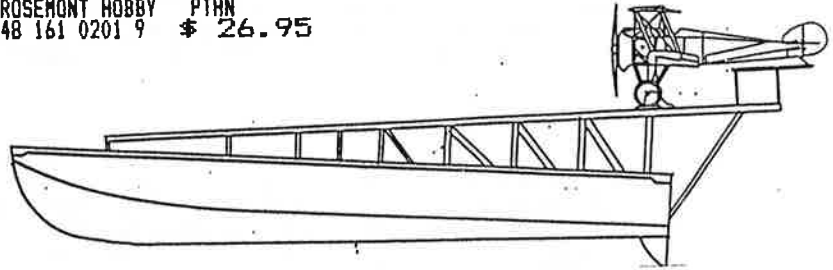


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## RNAS SOPWITH CAMEL LIGHTER

In the final days of September 1916 , Commander Porte of the Royal Naval Air Station, Felixstowe proposed a scheme to extend the operating radius of the America and Felixstowe flying boats. His proposal was the use of lighters to tow the aircraft at speeds of up to 25 knots behind destroyers. In order to launch and retrieve the aircraft provision for trim tanks were added to the lighters design. Thus enabling the rear of the lighter to be partially submerged allowing the aircraft to be floated on or off, and then raised clear of the water for towing.

By June of 1917 the first lighter was built and tested successfully. Sea trials were held in September of 1917 and aircraft on lighters were towed successfully up to 32 knots in calm weather. An order for 50 lighters was then placed by the Royal Navy.

In the summer of 1918 the suggestion of providing flying off platforms for the launching of Camel aircraft was considered. a prototype was built and tested but at first proved unsuccessful. On improvement of the design a Camel was successfully launched under tow by Lt. SD Culley on July 31, 1918.

As the lighter was designed only for the towing and launching of the Sopwith Camel, the pilot would fly his patrol and meet the destroyer at a predetermined rendezvous. On returning to the destroyer the pilot would ditch the camel in the sea, to have it hoisted back on board the lighter by means of a portable derrick.

Approximately 12 lighters were modified for Camel launching. The study of photographs show that there were various changes and modifications on each of the lighters.

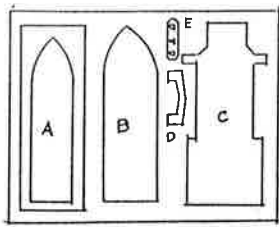
At least one patrol of a lighter launched Camel resulted in the destruction of a German Naval Zeppelin.

### References :

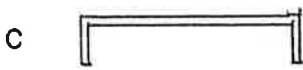
Cross & Cockade Journal Great Britain Vol. 12 # 2 1981  
Cross & Cockade International Vol. 26 # 2 , 1995

Molds & Masters & Instructions : William Marencik  
History : Barry Stettler  
Resin Parts : Tim Crofoot

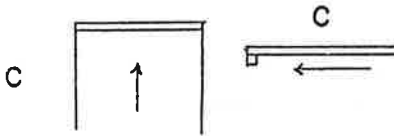
Bd



CUT ALL THE PARTS FROM THE CARRIER SHEET FROM THE SAME SIDE.



WHEN CUTTING THE FLIGHT DECK FROM THE CARRIER SHEET, SAND ONLY THE THICKNESS OF THE CARRIER SHEET OFF. LEAVING THE SIDES ON THE DECK.



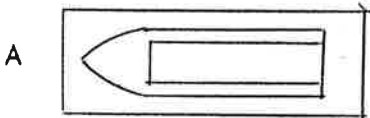
GLUE 80 X 80 THOU. STRIP UNDER THE EDGE OF THE FLIGHT DECK AND CUT EVEN WITH THE ENDS OF THE DECK.



WHEN CUTTING OUT THE HULL, LEAVE THE REAR OF THE HULL ON UNTIL YOU SAND THE THICKNESS OF THE CARRIER SHEET OFF.

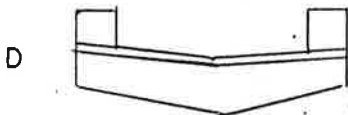


THE DECK AND TUB ARE ONE PIECE.



YOU WILL SEE THE OUT LINE OF THE DECK IN THE CARRIER SHEET. CUT FOLLOWING THIS OUTLINE, LEAVING THE REAR OF THE INTERIOR TUB ON AT THIS TIME.

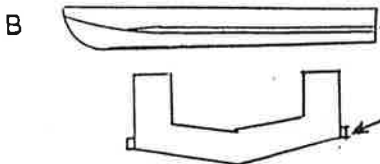
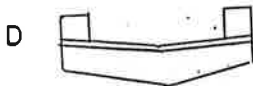
THERE IS NO CARRIER SHEET THICKNESS TO SAND OFF, BUT YOU SHOULD STILL SAND THE DECK SMOOTH.



CUT OUT THE TRANSOM AND SAND THE BACK SIDE SMOOTH. WHEN GLUING THE HULL, INTERIOR TUB AND TRANSOM TOGETHER, YOU WILL NOTICE THE TUB IS 1/16 INCH LONGER THEN THE HULL. THIS IS SO THE TRANSOM WILL FIT UNDER THE TUB TO SUPPORT IT. AFTER THE GLUE HAS SET, TRIM THE TUB FLUSH WITH THE OUTSIDE OF THE TRANSOM.

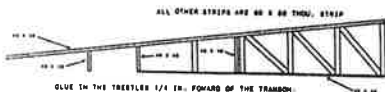


GLUE THE DECK/TUB ONTO THE HULL, THEN GLUE ON THE TRANSOM.

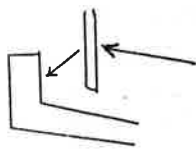


CUT THE HULL SIDE STRAKES AS PER THE DRAWING AND GLUE ONE TO EACH SIDE AND FORM TO THE CONTOUR OF THE HULL SIDES.

ADD THE STRIPS PROVIDED TO BOTH SIDES OF THE HULL. DRILL OUT THE PORT HOLES WITH A 3/32 DRILL, CENTER THE DRILL ON THE PORT HOLE DISK, THIS WILL LEAVE A SMALL LIP AROUND THE PORT HOLE, CREATING A RIM.



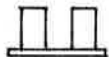
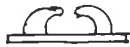
WITH THE STRIPS PROVIDED BUILD THE TRESTLE OVER THE PLANS ( MAKE TWO ) LEAVE OFF THE PARTS MARKED " A " AND " B " UNTIL LAST. GLUE " B " SO THAT IT IS FLUSH WITH THE OUTSIDE OF THE OTHER UPRIGHTS. PART " A " WILL HAVE TO BE CUT TO LENGTH AND FITTED INTO PLACE . GLUE THE TRESTLES INTO THE TUB AGAINST THE SIDES AT THE POSITIONS MARKED.



IT IS DIFFICULT TO HAVE NICE SQUARE EDGES ON ALL OF THE PARTS SO, TO MAKE THE TRESTLES FIT INTO THE TUB YOU WILL HAVE TO ROUND OFF THE LOWER EDGES TO FIT SNUG AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE TUB.

GLUE IN THE TRESTLES 1/4 IN. FOWARD OF THE TRANSOM.

ADD CLEATS AND BOLLARDS AS SHOWN ON THE SCRAP VIEW.

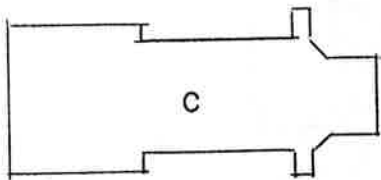
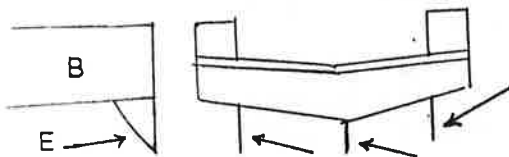


CLEAT

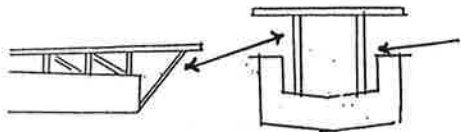
BOLLARD

LEAVE THE HULL TOW RINGS OFF UNTIL THE MODEL IS READY FOR PAINTING. BEND A STRAIGHT PIN ( NOT PROVIDED WITH KIT ) TO FORM AN EYE HOOK. DRILL HOLE AND GLUE INTO HULL SIDES.

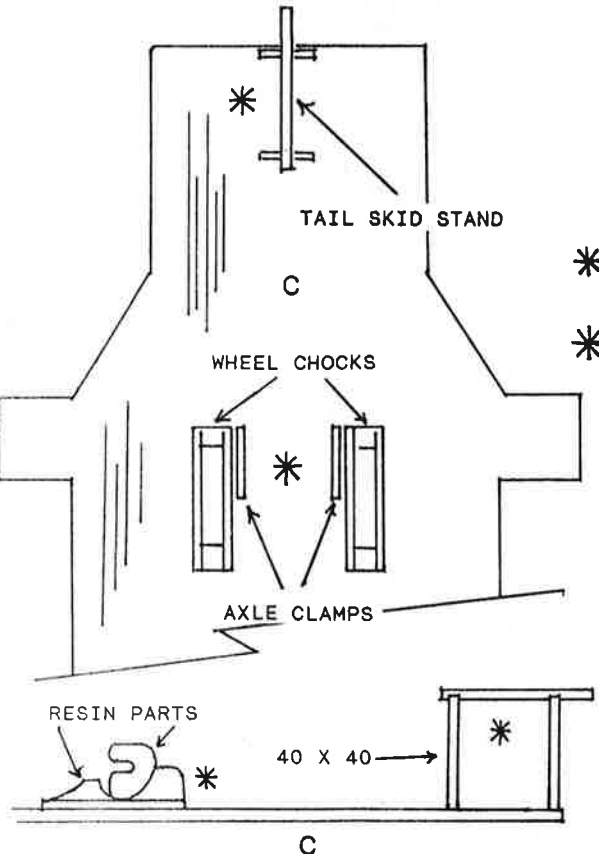
ADD THE 3 FINS TO REAR BOTTOM OF THE HULL AS SHOWN ON THE SCRAP VIEW. THE TWO OUTER FINS ARE SPACED ONE INCH FROM THE CENTER FIN.



THE FLIGHT DECK CAN NOW BE MOUNTED ( WE RECOMMEND PAINTING THE TRESTLES AND THE TUB BEFORE MOUNTING THE FLIGHT DECK )



THE 2 BACK BRACES ARE MADE FROM 80 X 80 THOU. STRIP AND ARE GLUED ON 5/8 IN. FROM THE REAR OF THE FLIGHT DECK AND ATTACH TO THE INSIDE EDGE OF THE TRANSOM.



MAKE 2 LADDERS 1/4 IN. WIDE X 1 IN. LONG WITH THE RUNGS SPACED 1/8 IN. APART. MAKE WITH 40 X 40 THOU. STRIP. THEN CUT TO FIT.

THE JOISTS ARE ALSO 40 X 40 THOU. STRIP. MOUNT THE FLIGHT DECK HARDWARE AS NOTED ON PLANS.

\* THE BEST WAY TO LOCATE THE FLIGHT DECK FITTINGS IS TO ATTACH [DRY FIT] THEM TO YOUR A/C'S LANDING GEAR AND POSITION THE A/C ON THE DECK AND MARK THEIR POSITIONS.

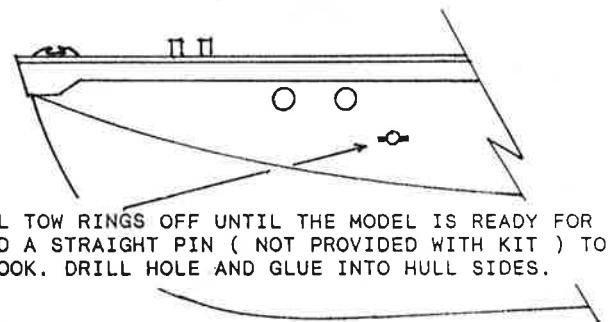
\* MAKE THE TAIL SKID STAND FROM 40 X 40 THOU. STRIP. HEIGHT IS DETERMINED BY THE TYPE OF A/C USED.

POSITION THE BRITISH RONDELS AS SHOWN, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FLIGHT DECK.

THE STAND IS CUT OUT FROM THE PATTERNS SHOWN.

THE SIDES OF THE STAND ARE 3 AND 1/2 IN. X 1/2 IN.

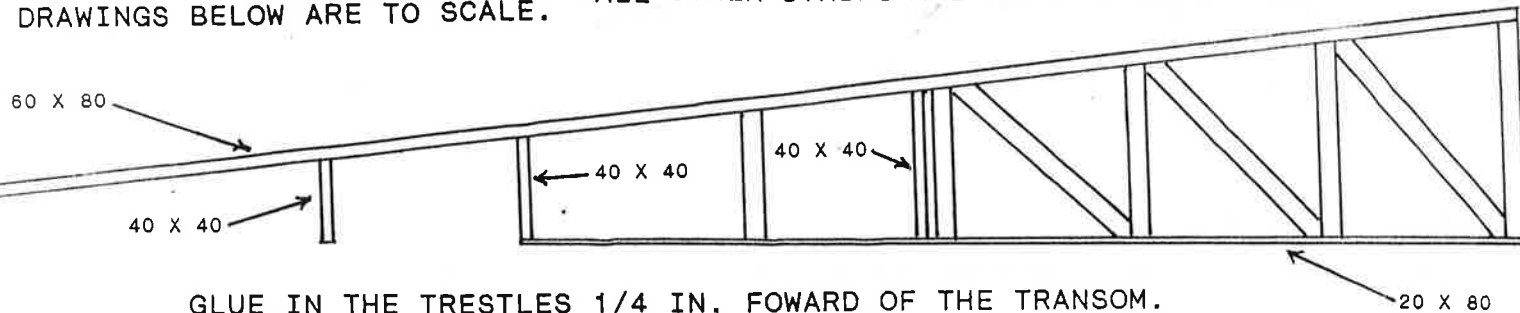
PLASTIC SHEET INCLUDED IN THE KIT PLUS ALL THE STRIP STOCK AND RESIN PARTS.



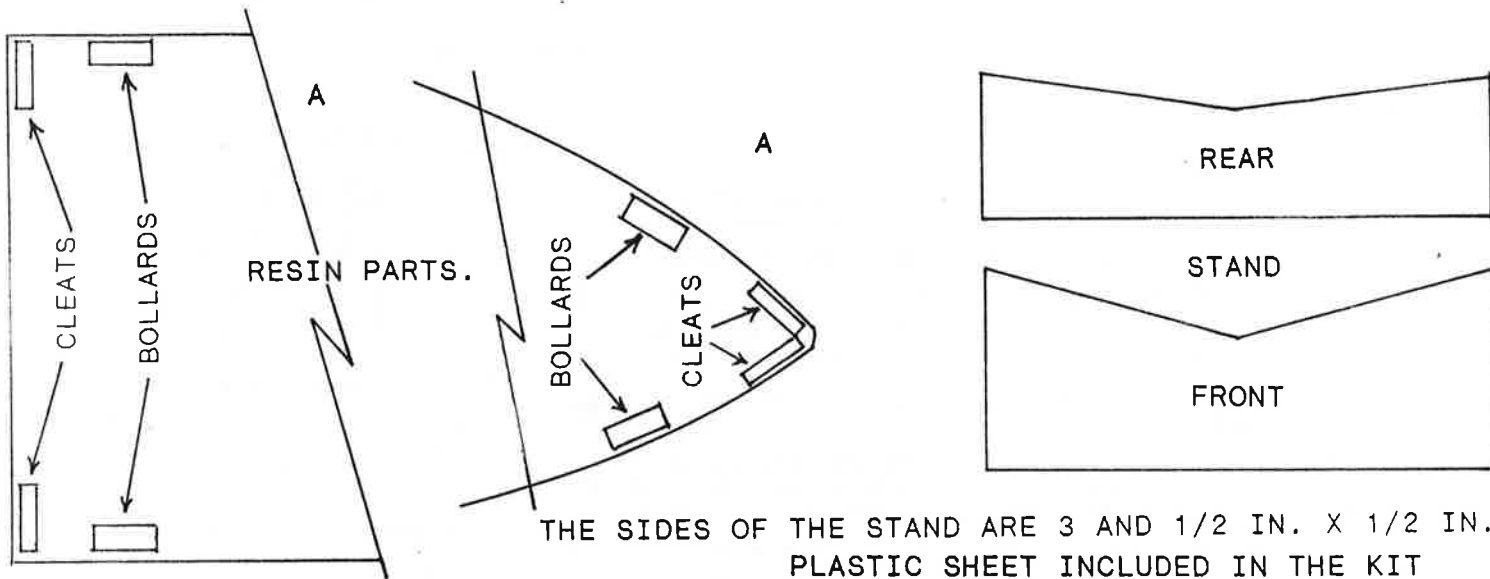
LEAVE THE HULL TOW RINGS OFF UNTIL THE MODEL IS READY FOR PAINTING. BEND A STRAIGHT PIN ( NOT PROVIDED WITH KIT ) TO FORM AN EYE HOOK. DRILL HOLE AND GLUE INTO HULL SIDES.

RECOMMENDED AIRCRAFT KITS - REVELL OR AIRFIX 1/72 SOPWITH CAMEL

DRAWINGS BELOW ARE TO SCALE. ALL OTHER STRIPS ARE 80 X 80 THOU. STRIP

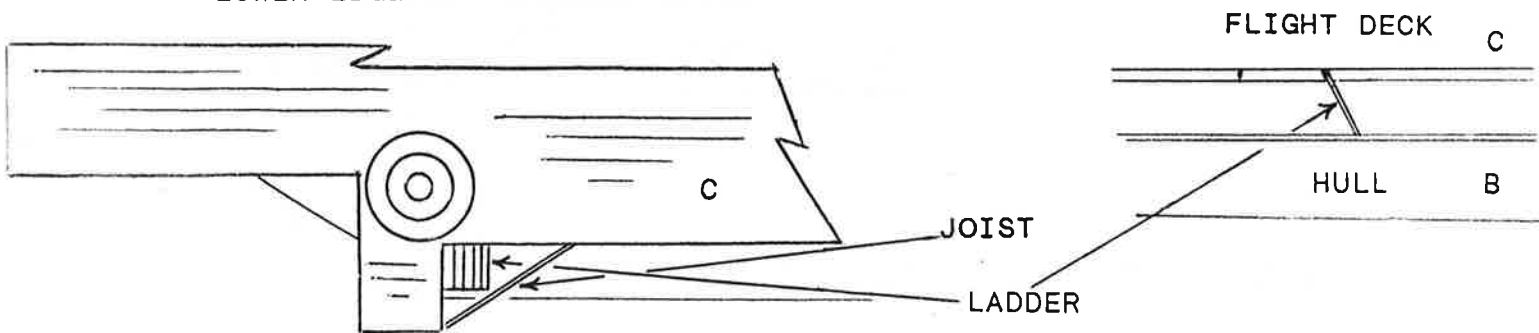


GLUE IN THE TRESTLES 1/4 IN. FOWARD OF THE TRANSOM.



THE SIDES OF THE STAND ARE 3 AND 1/2 IN. X 1/2 IN. PLASTIC SHEET INCLUDED IN THE KIT

STRAKES: MAKE 2 FROM 20 X 80 THOU. STRIP AND GLUE TO THE LOWER EDGE OF THE HULL SIDES.



MAKE 2 LADDERS 1/4 IN. WIDE X 1 IN. LONG WITH THE RUNGS SPACED 1/8 IN. APART. MAKE WITH 40 X 40 THOU. STRIP. THEN CUT TO FIT.

POSITION THE BRITISH RONDELS AS SHOWN, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FLIGHT DECK.

COLOUR SCHEME: ABOVE THE WATER LINE IN MEDIUM GREY. BELOW WATER LINE IN DARK GREY OR BLACK.

PAINTS: MODEL MASTER #1726 OR #1794  
 POLY SCALE #505258 OR #505384  
 MODEL MASTER #1788 OR BLACK  
 POLY SCALE #505382 OR BLACK

MARK THE WATER LINE 13/16 TH'S DOWN FROM THE TOP OF THE HULL AT THE BOW AND 9/16 TH'S AT THE STERN. THE TRANSOM IS ALSO MARKED WITH A WATER LINE.

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