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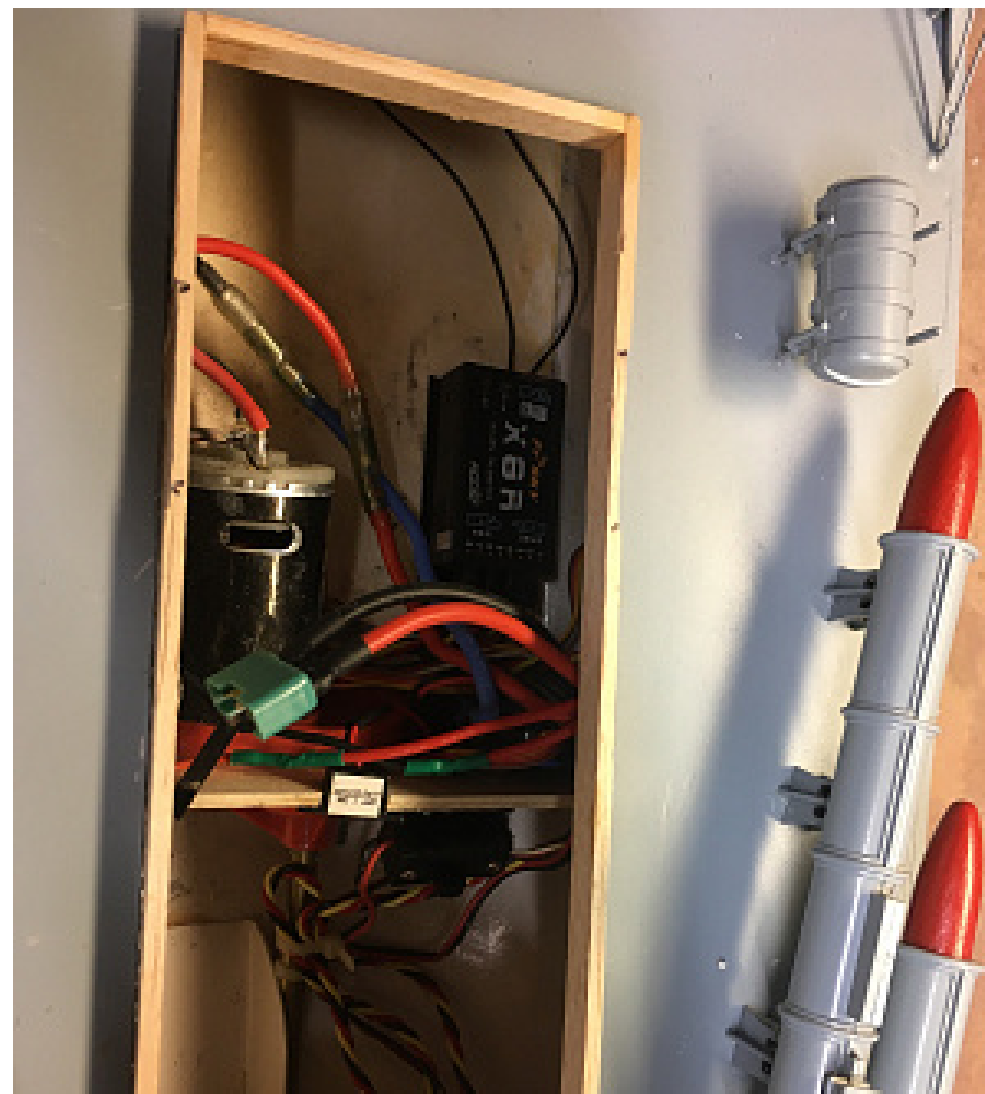


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Robbe PT15

by Cashrc



25th Oct 2019

Robbe PT15

Hi y'all. Did a little trading with my buddy Larry Buchwalter a few months back, came home with a just started Robbe Paula III and a NIB Robbe PT15. I don't have a military boat in my fleet, and, since I've wanted one of these kits for quite a while now I decided to start building on her last week. I've made a few changes, laid the rudder servo on its side instead of standing up. To me it's more secure that way. I had to make up a servo mount from scrap balsa and ply. However, where it mounted made it difficult to install or remove the servo arm as the hatch edge of the deck would be in the way. I mounted the servo with Allen head servo screws, and an Allen head screw retains the arm. I also enlarged the aft hatch, which gives me room to service the servo if needed. I also cut downs the stock battery tray to save room, and mounted it off just off center. I'll either be using a 6 cell pack or 2 cell LIPO for power. Speaking of power, this kit came with both the fittings kit and a Robbe navy geared drive. I've decided to use the gearbox, shaft and prop, but I'm ditching the EF76 motor for a silver can Mabuchi 540, my resining being that the stock motor has a lot of torque, but might fall on its face on 6 cells (the plans originally called for an 8 cell 9.6 volt pack). I think the 540 will do fine, but I might try to dig up a Graupner Speed 600 and use that. I'm still open on power. Anyway, the hull is built, gearbox and rudder servo installed, rudder linkage and rudders mounted. This boat will challenge my skills, as it's not quite as easy to build as some of the other Robbe kits I've built. There's lots of details, but fitting the deck to the hull in this boat was...well, it was a job. It looks okay, everything is straight, but I do need to do some filling and sanding to make it really right. I have pics of what I've done so far, any questions or comments fire away! Cash



31st Jan 2020

Oops!!!!

Hi y'all. Some of you have probably read in the North Texas Shipwrights thread of the loss of the superstructure to the PT15. The first test runs seemed to be a little down on power, and she would occasionally dig her bow in on a turn. I thought a little more power and some aft weight should do the trick. However, I upgraded power before rebalancing the ship. That was my first mistake. I also didn't use strong enough, or the right amount, of magnets to hold the hatch down..I used craft store magnets, which in retrospect weren't up to the task. Anyway, when I launched her with the new power plant she was torquing over pretty hard, and didn't respond to the helm as well, plus was still diggin in. Instead of bringing her back, I kept playing around to see if I could eas into the throttle and possibly "tame" her. Turned too tight, she dug her bow in, spun, heeled over and off came the superstructure. It floated for a few minutes, we tried to push it in but in the end it sank with all hands.? Now, I have to admit this was pretty disconcerting, even to the point that I've been pretty critical of my building and operating skills thus far. I get like that, takes a few days to walk it off. So..for the time being she's in dry dock, with the receiver and esc removed. I'm going to build a couple more models then come back to her. My plan is to fabricate a simple screw down and taped hatch so I can take her out sans superstructure and run tests on her, playing with power, prop and balance till I'm satisfied. Between test runs I'm going to try my hand at building the superstructure from scratch, using styrene sheet as my main building medium. I think I can make a go of it, might have to fudge a minor detail or make a slight alteration to suit my skills, but I do have the plans so there's that. Stay with me y'all, think I'm going to need some helpful advice and a little emotional support as well. Cash

27th Oct 2019

More hull work

Nothing exciting this go-around. I added the rub strips to the hull, and the aft platform. I found that I inadvertently used the 3mm rub strip material for the inner deck supports!!! And, what makes this worse, is that I measured the abs beforehand, and I sweater it looked 4mm on the ruler, which is the size called for to reinforce the hull/deck joint. Sooooo....I used some 1/8th spruce and hard balsa stripwood with the remnants of the 3mm abs that I had left, and it turned out fine. I also applied a little Tamiya filler at the hull/deck joint and gave that a good sanding when dry. I'll give the upper hull and deck a light coat of primer possibly tomorrow, that will help show any blemishes that need to be addressed before the hull is painted.

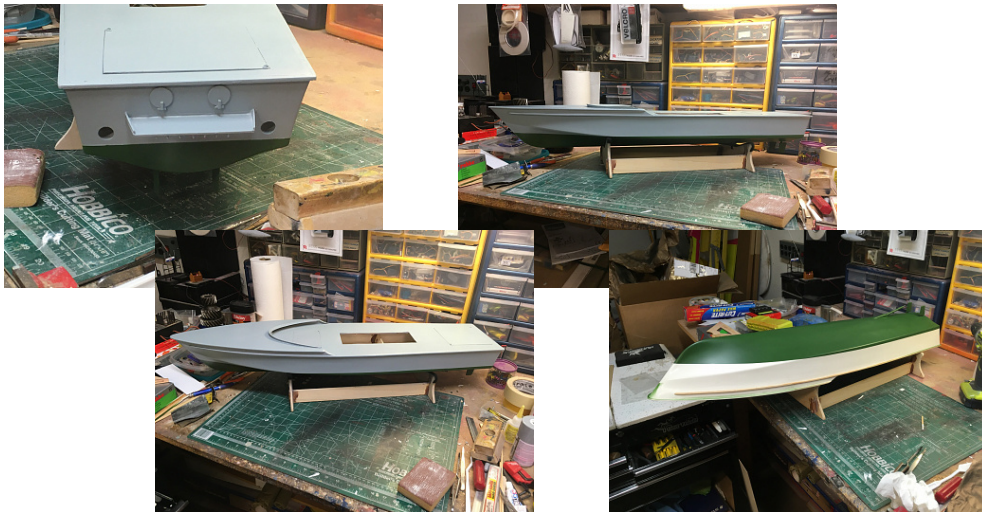


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28th Oct 2019

Yee-ha!!! Paint!

Got the hull where I could get some paint on it, used Tamiya's Luftwaffe light green and Medium ghost gray. I did the waterline first, then a light primer topside to help find any blemishes, then sprayed the gray. It came out pretty good, still have a couple of touch ups but I'm happy for now. Next up is going to be the superstructure and guns...



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27th Dec 2019

Almost splash time!!

Hi everybody! Well, I'm feeling better, and did quite a bit of work on the PT. She's almost ready, need to button down the guns, add the prop, leak and ballast check and she's done. Both guns are built and installed, and mixed so I can have both swing at the same time or independently. Took a few pics and I have a function check video to show off the guns. Next update should be the maiden. Cash



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20th Dec 2019

Under the weather...

Hi y'all. Well, the PT15 got a bit stalled as I was a bit under the weather for the last week, and I also didn't want to progress further until I decided how to "drive" the guns. There was/is a nasty little bug going around the dealership that had many of us sick. No fever, but congestion, lack of energy, coughing up crud, etc. it was enough to slow me down considerably, but not keep me from work. I didn't run boats this past Sunday as I stayed in bed till well past noon. Anyway, I'm on the mend, still have a bit of this but most of the symptoms are gone, with the exception of coughing up some congestion from time to time. Annoying, but it is what it is. As far as the guns go, I've decided to try to direct drive them with a pair of 180 degree servos vs doing the whole pulley and offset servo gig. I'll lose a little movement, but I'll gain a much simplified install. More than likely I'll be working on her after Christmas, and I'll have pics then. Cash

5th Nov 2019

Superstructure, or my love/hate affair with plastic

Hi y'all. Past few working sessions on the PT15 have been spent building the main superstructure. This is probably one of the hardest parts of the build, in my opinion. I just builds...weird. The main body is of some clear plastic, not abs, don't think it's Lexan either...it's also a little on the brittle side. Anyway, once the main body has been cut out, the builder gets the joy of adding the door buckets, the aft superstructure, the fwd entryway, and all the inner supports, bulkhead and reinforcements. I found that either epoxy or Stablit is the way to go here. Once I had that built, I decided to go ahead and build the aft ventilators and install them. I need to lightly sand the whole structure with very fine sandpaper, I have some 1000 grit on hand for that, then touch up my joints if need be and mask and paint. I'm not real happy with it, the aft cabin is a little swaybacked, but the way it's glued in don't know if I can adjust it. I think itll look good once it's painted and detailed, most people won't notice it but I know it's there....?

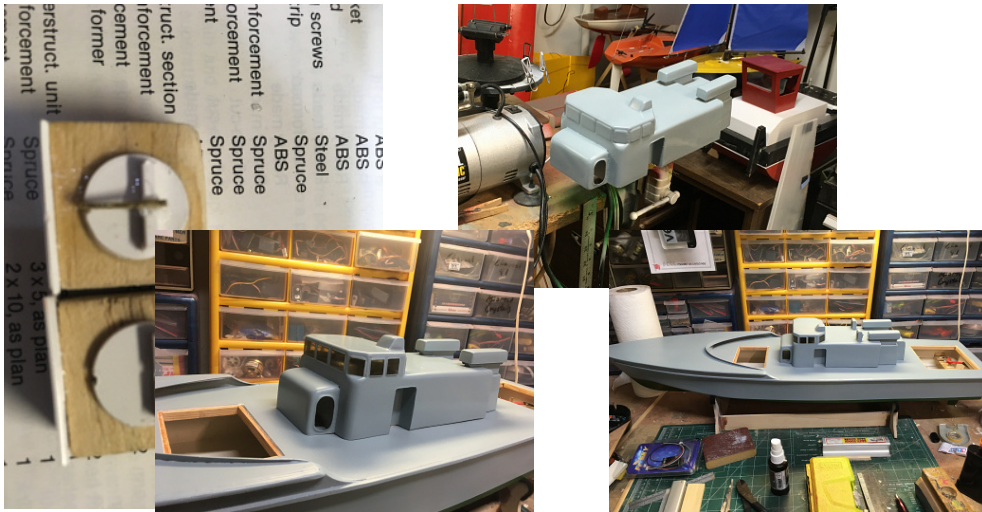


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7th Nov 2019

Painted superstructure

Hi y'all..got the superstructure masked and painted tonight..need to touch it up a bit but overall I'm pleased with it, didn't muck it up as bad as I thought. Now I have just over 140 more small parts to build, paint and install!! Yay?!



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8th Dec 2019

1st gun almost done

I did a little more work on the first gun this morning, turned out ok. Don't know if I'm going to take it much further as I might end up getting a pair of resin or plastic Bofors gun kits and using those instead. I'll build up the second gun to match, then go from there. Cash

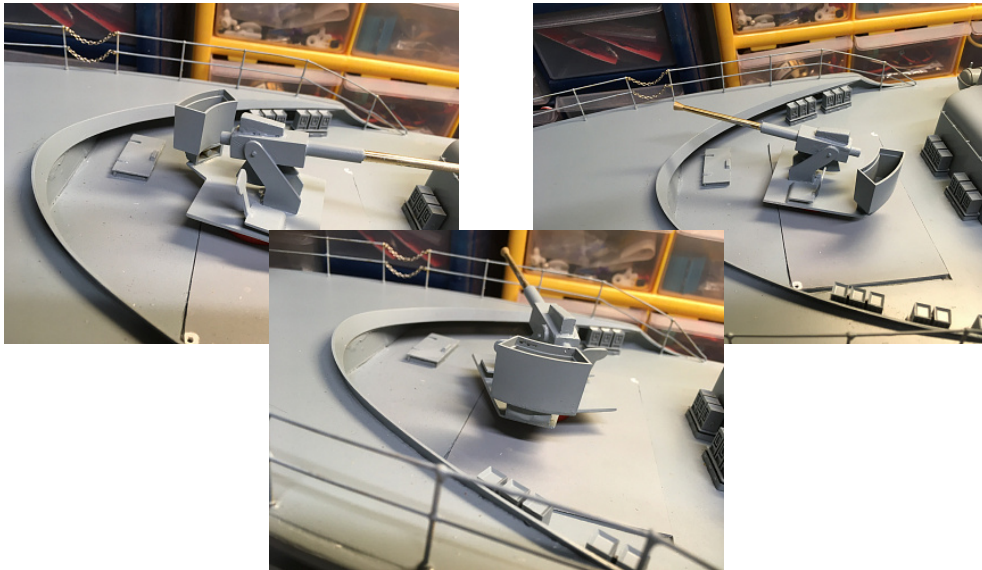


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6th Dec 2019

1st gun roughed in

Here's a couple of pics of the 1st gun, bear in mind it's not finished and needs some detail sanding and another couple coats of paint, plus a few more details. It's built up from a brass barrel, wood, abs and bits of wire. I really wish Robbe had gone to a styrene kit of parts for the guns, but they didn't. I figure the decision making process sounded like this: "Hey, Gerhardt, here's the plans for the gun moldings for the new PT were putting in production soon, waddya think?" "Well, Kurt, that looks sehr gut, but the boss says we have to use up existing stocks before making any new moldings." "Soooo....we have to design a gun from bits of wood, brass, and abs?" "Ja".?



11th Nov 2019

More superstructure details

Hi everybody. Got some of the details done on the superstructure...looking better, although there's a few flaws. However, I might be a bit of a hack, but I know how to camouflage my mistakes? Some of the detail pieces are supposed to be built up from abs and obechi wood. I COULD have done that, but then you have to fill the wood with a filler, sand, repeat, etc, all on a piece smaller than my fingernail. To me, it was easier to do a "midnight requisition" on some of Grace's old Legos (with her permission of course) cut down to shape and painted. I'm going to get most of the rest of the bigger projects done, then I'll do the tiny fiddly bits like the door hinges and the cabin vents. I also need to start thinking about any additional functions, if any, such as lights or sound.

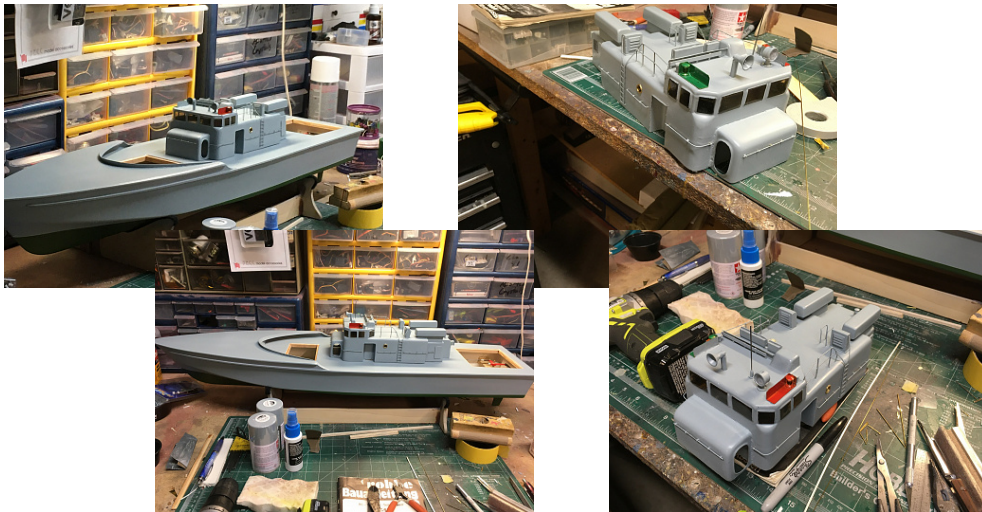


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15th Nov 2019

Railing at the rails!!

Hi all. Did a bit more the past few evenings, got most of the railing installed. I really think next time I build a boat with hand rails and the like I'll build up the superstructure, locate and drill all the holes THEN paint the cabin and install the railings after. I think 20 percent of the time I have in this is correcting any scratches and errant glue dabs that seem to haunt my work. Anyhow, a couple more small details then it's antennas and mast. Cash



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2nd Dec 2019

Ready for guns

Hi y'all..just a quick update, the railings and most of the deck details are done. I need to give the rails another coat of paint, maybe paint the chains (need to decide color, want it to contrast with the light grey) and then I'll start building the guns. Need to decide early on if I want them to traverse, or if I want to add that feature later.



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30th Nov 2019

Torpedos off the starboard bow!!

Hi y'all. I have the torpedos and tubes painted and fitted to the deck, and did the aft railings too. I simplified the torpedo install, there's a number of brass wire clamps you have to make up, paint and install, but after looking at both the box art and other PT15s built, most people omit them, and on the few boats that have them they're hard to see, hidden for the most part. Figured they weren't worth the time and trouble.

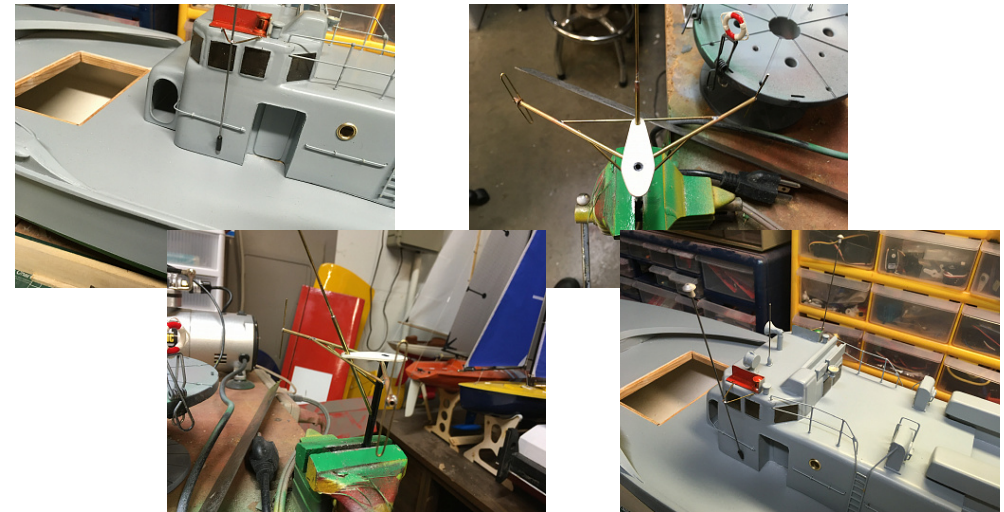


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17th Nov 2019

Aerials and masts

Hi everybody!!! Great weekend so far, drove the Studebaker this morning, saw "Ford vs Ferrari" with my family (great movie btw) and had time to work on the PT. I did the side aerials last night, got the mast about half done today. Now, if you've kept up with this blog you'll find that I just don't like making small detail parts from wood, unless it's supposed to look like wood. The side aerials are supposed to be glued into small pieces of wood that are rounded and fitted to the side of the fwd cabin so that the aerials are about a 20 degree angle. Nope. Not doing that. I have a small stock of various sizes of carbon tube, it was easier and I think, better looking to cut a small piece, sand the angle in, glue that to the cabin and insert the wire for the aerial. Also, Robbe recommends that you put a loop in the aerial end for safety. I used small thrust buttons for rubber model planes glued to the tip. I think that looks better. The mast was started today, I substituted 5mm carbon tube in lieu of the 5mm wood dowel, everything else is kit supplied. I think the superstructure will be done by Monday evening, maybe Wednesday latest.



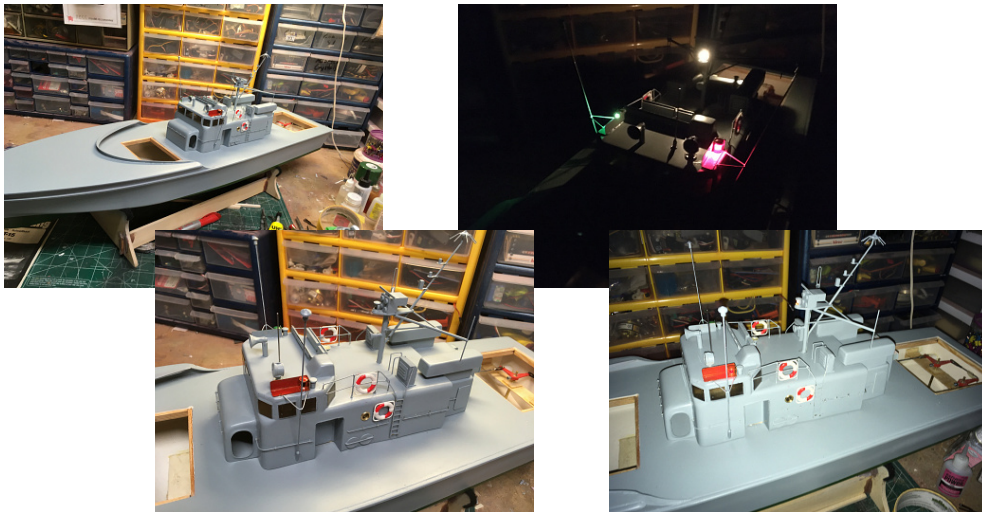
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19th Nov 2019

Superstructure done (for now)

Hi everybody. Will keep this short and sweet, have to hit the hay. Superstructure pretty well done, mast installed and a couple of details added, and I decided to go ahead and install the running lights. She's looking almost shipshape now!!



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24th Nov 2019

Some deck fittings

Hi all. Got a bit more done the past couple of nights. Built and installed one hatch, glued and painted ammo cans and built the life raft canister supports, painted canisters and installed the assembly's. Working on torpedos now.



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