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## Dumas Higgins PT boat

by Cashrc



3rd Jan 2021

## Dumas Higgins PT boat

Hi y'all. I've decided to go ahead and start on my Christmas present, a Dumas Higgins PT boat. This kit has an abs hull, a plastic deck, vac formed cabin, and numerous wood and metal fittings. Like most Dumas kits it does NOT come with running gear, nor shaft tube or rudder. However, I have those things in my "stock", plus I've decided on a 1700 kv 36mm o.d outrunner. I've used this particular size and power motor on several other boats of roughly the same size, so it should serve me well here. The hull needs to be trimmed, then the deck is assembled and installed. The deck is in 2 halves, split right down the middle. I glued it together, then added the reinforcements. The hull "droops" a few degrees from level around 1/3 back from, and to the bow, and the deck follows that. The reinforcements have that designed in, and when they are glued to the deck it builds that curve right in, and once trimmed, it fits almost perfectly. The deck was bonded to the hull with medium ca, and what little gaps I had were filled with ca and then top filled with putty. I used a rudder assembly and stuffing box from Cornwall models. The rudder is from Radioactive, the stuffing tube a Caldercraft Fineline unit. I used the kits pine rudder support block and drilled it for the rudder tube, once I had it all sorted out I installed the rudder tube and block, run the nut down on the tube till just snug, and once I had it all lined up I snugged the nut another quarter turn and epoxied it all in place. I cut the slot for the tube just a wee bit oversized, but no problem there. I used the kits skew to get the angle right, tacked it in place, checked alignment then ca'd it all in place. I then made a scab plate to help cover the slot inside, and epoxied the plate and tube. I made a bulkhead motor mount from scrap plastic sheet. I put the coupling on the shaft, and "painted" the motor end with a red marker, and used that to mark my center on the bulkhead. I then drilled that out, and used that to line up my motor mount holes. I went ahead and installed the motor, added a reinforcement to the bulkhead, and tacked it in place to check my alignment with the shaft. Once I was satisfied I ca'd it in place then coated the joints with filled epoxy. It lined up true, and when I test ran the motor it was very quiet, no vibrations nor binding. I also built up the hatch, and added the chine strakes. Next up is a final sanding of the hull, then I'll start building the above deck details and cabin. Cash



19th Apr 2021

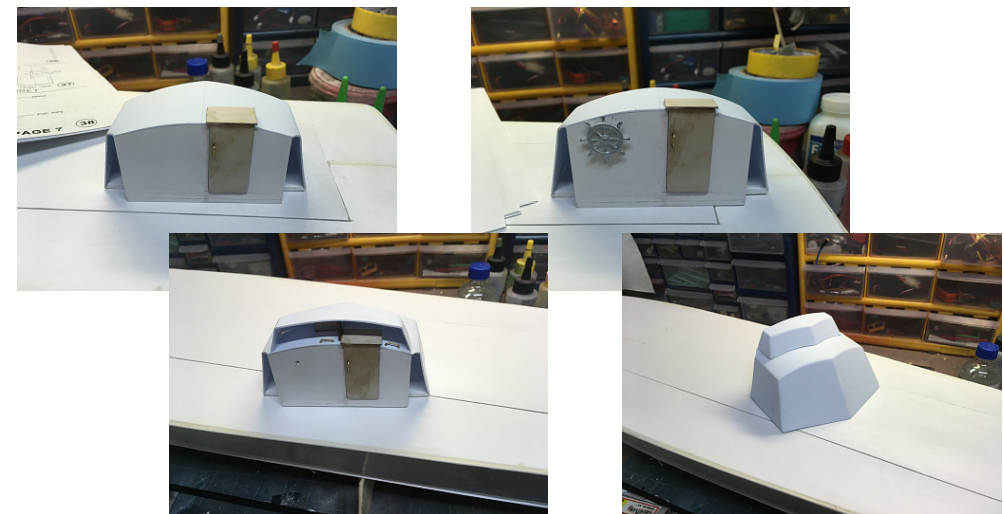
## Video with big Jupiter and the PT

Hi y'all. I'm posting a video from this weekend, first half is Larry's big 50 inc KnK Jupiter, the second half is the PT212. I'm happy to say that even though she turns better port than starboard, I'm quite pleased with her. Now, I can have a bit of fun with her and concentrate on tweaking ballast/power/handling?

7th Jan 2021

## Cabin started.

Hi y'all. Started on the cabin a day or so ago, it's really just 2 pieces of vac formed abs with some wood and brass for details, and pvc floor and aft wall. It looks very simple, and essentially it is, but it could be really easy to flub it. The only hitch I had was the way the aft wall went into place. It's supposed to butt against the floor and glue to the upper, curved aft end of the main cabin molding. It's shown that way on the plans, and called out in the instructions. Now, I cut the cabin out close, but not directly on the cut lines, that way I can have a little room for error, and once everything is in place I can sand flush. There was now way in hades that the cabin wall would fit as directed, as doing so would have the wall lean forward by 10 degrees or so, and you would have to press down on the cabin top to mate with the upper edge, deforming the cabin as a result. So, I did what "looked right" glued the cabin wall on the upper edge of the floor and it fit 90 degrees and up against the roof almost perfectly. I'm kinda wondering if there was a running change in the kit that wasn't adressed in the plans or instructions. Anyway, it turned out pretty decent, needs a little filler and sanding and then it's off to the gun turrets. Cash





10th Jan 2021

## Gun Turrets!! Or how I learned to hate tiny pieces of plasticard

Hi y'all. Well, the next step in the construction of the cabin assembly is the gun turrets. They are cut from supplied pvc pipe, and the bottoms are sanded at an angle so they lean towards the bow a bit. This compensates for the slightly bow high attitude the boat has, especially under power. The turrets look deceptively simple, which means they're actually a pain in the rump. Let me explain... The turrets are cut and sanded, marked port and starboard, then 2 rings of plywood are glued on top. Simple, easy-peasy. Then the fun begins. You see, there's tiny triangular supports under the rings glued to the rings and the pipe. Now, there's a template to mark the turret..oh look, it's not one support in order, they are in PAIRS!! Now, it's my boat, I could have left them off, most people wouldn't miss them. But I would know, and I suspect some, if not most of y'all would catch it too. So..I hemmed and hawed and tried to think of an easier way to do this, then I had it. Instead of trying to cut matching triangular parts from .5 mm sheet, I decided to cut rectangular pieces, glue them in place, then cut and sand them to shape where they sit. It worked!! They're not perfect, but good, I'm happy with the result. The tubes are then drilled for railings that will be installed later, and the gun mounts, which I bent, glued in place and soldered. That's all I have done this morning, took me about 4 hours to get from pvc pipe to gun turrets. I might be able to do a bit tomorrow, if I do I'll post it that evening. Cash



16th Apr 2021

## Better!!! Much better

Hi y'all. I had decided that after work today I'd go down to the Cottonwood Creek Baptist test pond (to be known hereafter as CCBTP) and run the PT. Sometime before I left for home, it started to rain..!!?##\$\$!! It let up as I pulled in the driveway, so I ran in, said hi and bye to wife and daughter, grabbed said boat and TX and headed to the pond. I didn't have the battery centered, but it's started to rain again so I made a few passes, and she's a lot better. I would lose signal about halfway to the fountain, this time it was good all the way there and back. It turns left well, turns right ok, I still have a hard roll to right at full power and hard rudder, but it's manageable now. The wind was up and it was sprinkling heading to rain so I called it quits after 5 minutes but I'm on the right track. Now it's a question of trim and balance, and I'm pretty sure I'll have to adopt my handling of this boat to its idiosyncrasies. But, for now, I'm good. If we don't get rained out I hope to have more progress made this Sunday at Josey Ranch. Cash

5th Apr 2021

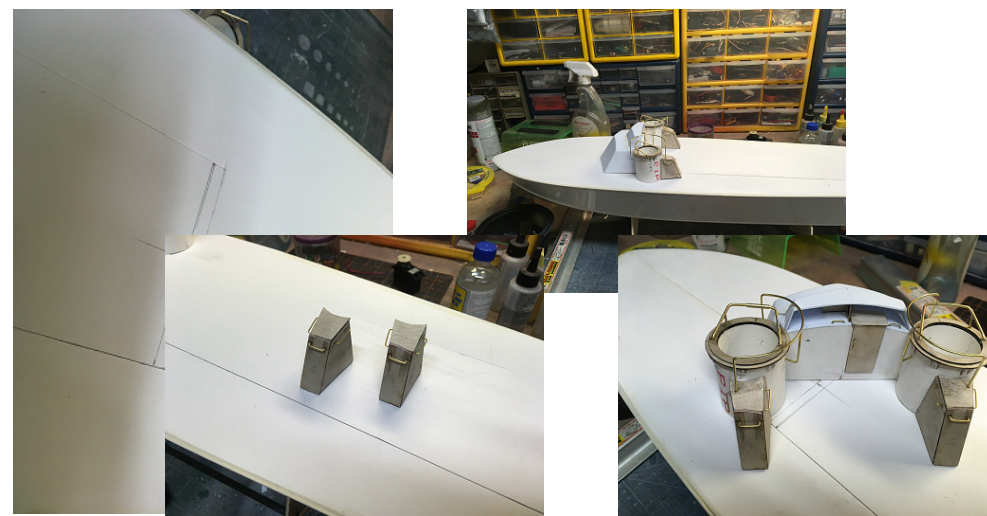
## One problem down one to go

Hi!! So...this morning I took the PT to my local test pond, conveniently located on our Church's property. I looks as if I have the ballast about right, although with a 7 cell pack she rides a bit too bow high, but perfect on a 6 cell. Turns sharply to port, not quite so much to starboard, you have to be a little more careful with rudder and power than to port...but, quite acceptable? However, I could only do tests close in for a short period of time as I lost all range about 70 feet from the bank...and to make matters worse, the wind took her under the fountain ?. She stayed dry enough for me to walk around the pond and picker back up in range and "walk" her back. I decided I had enough, upon inspection the receiver was relatively dry in spit if the fountain bath. I concluded that I was just going to try another receiver, as I uninstalled the rx I tugged on the antenna slightly and it came right out!! I've concluded that I had a sketchy intermittent signal the whole time. The receiver in question is a FlySky GR3C bound to a Radiomaster 16S multi-protocol transmitter. I've had no problems with another of these receivers mounted in my PBR. Anyway, I have other receivers to use, but I found a waterproof version of the same receiver for 14.00 shipped from Amazon, so that's what's going back in the PT. I will get that installed and do a proper range check and another pond test, once I'm satisfied with the range I can finalize my trim, but in spite of all the drama Saturday I fell that I have made progress in that regard. I'll update as soon as I can. Thanks for all the help and comments, especially concerning PT boats turning radius both full size and scale. It's been a big help? Cash

11th Jan 2021

## Cabin assembled

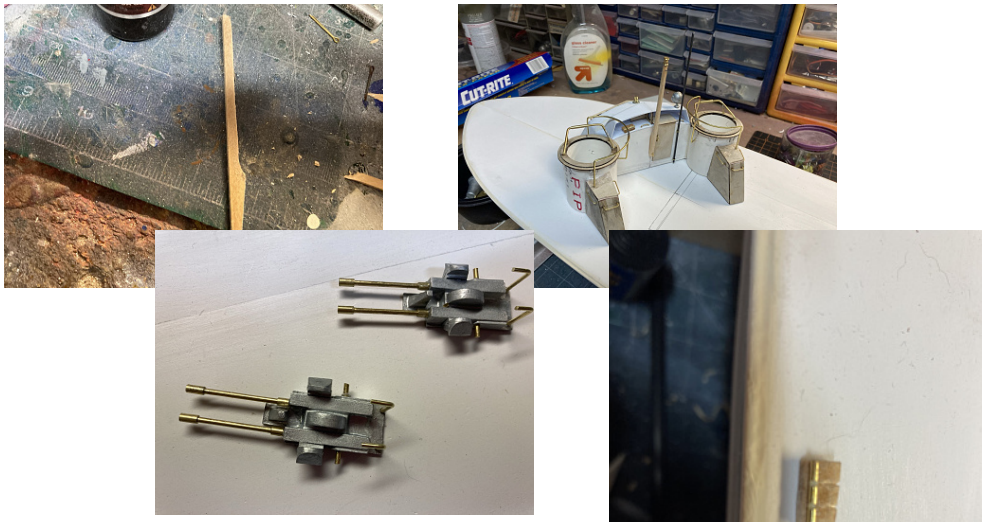
Hi y'all, I'll keep this short. I built the final superstructure for the cabin assembly, they are made from laser cut thin ply and 1/8 stripwood, then handrails are made up and glued in place. Then, it's...time..to..assemble the cabin. The cabin is located on the hull. The aft 1/4 inch of the cabin lays over the hatch, from what I understand the hatch is slid forward under the cabins aft edge and pressed into place. Anyway, once I had my cabin in place I drew location lines on the hull, reset the cabin and taped the fwd edge down..this allowed me to lift the cabin up and place wax paper between it and the deck without losing alignment. I then had to glue the turrets to the cabin, and the lockers to the turrets. I would love to say that everything fit perfectly, but not quite. In fact, once you have it all tacked together with CA, the instructions quite clearly state to "fill any ugly gaps" I had a couple? Anyway, it looks pretty decent, once I finish sand and primer she'll look better and be ready for some details and paint. Then it's off to the guns and torpedos.. Cash



24th Jan 2021

## Cabin mostly done, guns built.

Hi y'all. Got the cabin for the Higgins mostly done. I added the mast, antenna, throttles, handrail and other details. I gave it a ligh coat of primer, which helps me find any gaps that need filling, and lo and behold there was a gap between the starlord gun turret and the aft locker that Errol could fit thru?..so I filled that and set the cabin aside. Then it was time for the gun turret guns, the twin .50 brownings that occupy the turrets either side of the cabin. The guns are built from cast metal fittings and brass tube and rod. One word about the fittings. The are not the usual soft whit metal fittings like you see in Deans kits, but they are cleanly cast with very little flashing and the are HARD. My usual drill bits just barely scratched the surface, so I had to go out and buy some cobalt bits. That did the trick! An hour or so later I had 2 guns assembled and ready to paint. I still have to build the torpedo tubes, aft gun, and assorted deck details. Cash



2nd Apr 2021

## One more thing

Oh..forgot to add that I can throw the rudder side to side, and she'll rock side to side never changing course. Think I'm too light...( the boat, not me?)



1st Apr 2021

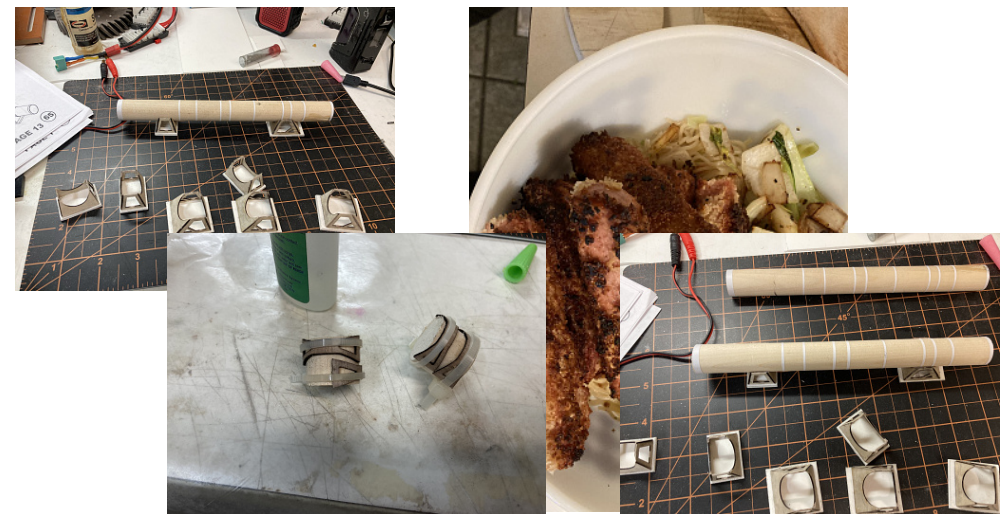
## Needs ballast

Hi y'all. I've been a bit busy with inventory so I'll keep this brief. I maiden'd the Higgins this past Sunday, ran into 2 issues. One, she was way too light, which resulted in a hard to handle and trim boat. She weighed in at 4 pounds 2 ounces, thought I could run her at that weight but she was squirrely, would turn to port okay, but right was shaky, and at one point instead of turning right she dug her bow in and continued straight with a 40 degree list?. What little water that got in the hull was from one of those escapades, and that she'd light on another problem. I had the receiver in the right rear corner of the hull, but low, as I wanted to make sure the servo wiring wouldn't be fouled by the rudder tiller. Sure enough, when she rolled hard right that tablespoon of water would collect there and get the receiver just wet enough to be intermittent. By the time I would get pushed in the receiver would dry out enough to regain control. My buddy Fred used his Vacuboard Vacutow and pushed me in 3 times!! I think he's sending me a bill for salvage?? Anyway, I've made a few changes in the servo/esc leads routing, moved the rx higher up in the hull and sprayed it down with corrosionX. I've also ballasted her to 5 pounds. We'll see how she does. Cash

26th Jan 2021

## D###! The torpedoes!!!!

So...today was my birthday..I turned 60. I'm officially older than dirt. I splurged a bit, had saved up a bit and bought a new kit and radio, plus took the day off. I went out this morning, paid my property taxes??, went to the grocery store, and then about 11 am set about to build the torpedo tubes. The tubes are built up from hardwood dowels that are just shy of an inch in diameter, some sticky back paper, die cut parts and assorted smaller bits. The first thing done is to shorten the dowels to the proper length. Then, the sticky back paper is cut in varying widths for the tube straps, then the mounts are built. Not really that hard just slow tedious work. I got all 4 tubes cut and strapped, and built all 8 mounts and called it a day. There's a bit more to do, plus there's 4 thin ply parts that wrap over the top of the tubes. It's suggested to soak them in water and then wrap around the tube, or something similar and let dry overnight, that way they'll be formed to fit. I used the cut off from the tube body and used zip ties to secure them as they dry? I then shut down my shop, and made myself a dinner of "Spamen", a James May recipe from his book "Oh Cook". I substituted Panko crumbs for the crushed cornflakes, made the spam, ramen, and tossed the ramen with stir fried bok choy and onions. It was good!! Cash

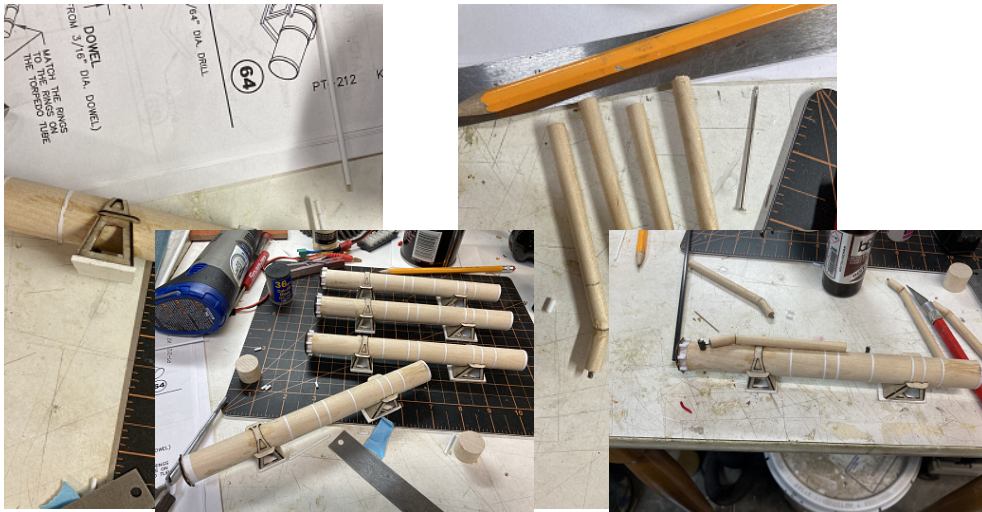


# Model Boats Website!

31st Jan 2021

## Full Speed Ahead!!

?I had a bit of time this morning so I did More work on the torpedo tubes. I'll keep it short, but I added the mounts, clamps and details, and started the manifolds, and got 1 tube assembled. The aft of the tube has a plate to which 8 pieces of plastic rod are glued to. These are cut to 1/4 inch, I found it stair to cut a little long and trim in situ after the glue had dried hard. I think I may have found another error, however. There is a wood "clamp" that is glued to the tube and mount, it wraps over the tube. The plans and instructions call for it to be glued to the aft mount. In the RCGroups build log, I noticed the builder glued it to the front mount as this makes it easier to mount the manifold. I had already mounted the clamps as per the plans and instructions, so it is what it is. I did relive a spot on the clamp so the manifold would sit on the tube properly. Cash



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# Model Boats Website!

15th Mar 2021

## Ready for the Pacific

Hi y'all. Paints done, guns are up and radios installed. She's ready to run as is. I have a few more details to do but I'm going to wait till the maidens done and I have her sorted out. Might be this coming Sunday, or the next. She's at 4 pounds 2 ounces, a little light but I'll take some extra ballast with me. Cash



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# Model Boats Website!

12th Mar 2021

## Paint!!

Just a quick pic of the paint scheme on my PT. I started with a flat olive green and flat green, but they were a little too close in shade, so I took the flat green, added a bit of bright green and yellow, and shot some of the camo in that. I'll add some black and details next.



# Model Boats Website!

14th Feb 2021

## Baby it's cold....in the garage!!

Hi y'all. It's been a bit, but I'm still plugging away. Between work, life and the weather I've been a bit too tired to do much, and as of now we are looking at 3-8 inches of snow, freezing drizzle and lows tomorrow in the single digits...which means my little ceramic space heater is doing good to take the edge off the chill in the garage. However, I've been able to make and install the hatches on the PT. These are simple parts made up of 1 and 2 mm abs and pvc sheet, handles are brass wire and the hinges are cut and sanded 1x4 mm strip abs. I have them built up and installed. I also built up a floor for radio and battery install. Cash



18th Feb 2021

## Did a little over the weekend

Got a bit more done before the storm hit. I did the vents and gas caps, the fwd vents are used as is, the rearwar are lengthened with a bit of plastic tube and supported by a dowel glued inside..it extends from the tube about 1/4 inch and is glued into holes drilled in the deck. I did a dry fit of the cabin and torpedoes to see how she's going to look.rear gun and few other details and it's time for paint!!



21st Feb 2021

## Oerlikon gun and other things.

Hi y'all. The winter storm we had apparently put our dealership behind, so it has been decreed from on high that we are working Sunday? sine the dealership was without power the first of the week, I did my best to keep the house, the girls and the cats warm. My wife agreed that today was a "daddy" day, so I took advantage and got some more done on the PT. The aft Oerlikon gun is built up from metal castings and brass wire and tube. Only real spot that was really challenging was soldering on the shoulder supports so that they lined up. There's supposed to be a cast metal crank handle for the gun, but my kit had 2 ships wheels, so I modified one into a crank. I added 2 screws to help hold the assembly in place on the hatch, got the holes a little too close to the base so the scre heads wouldn't sit quite flush, so I Coates them with a little thick ca...I'll add a little filler later and call it a rough weld? I also soldered up the aft guard that sits just fwd of the gun, and built up the ammo boxes using legos instead of the pine blocks that comes in the kit...just because I could.? A couple of stanchions, the smoke generator and a few cleats and she's ready for paint!! Cash

