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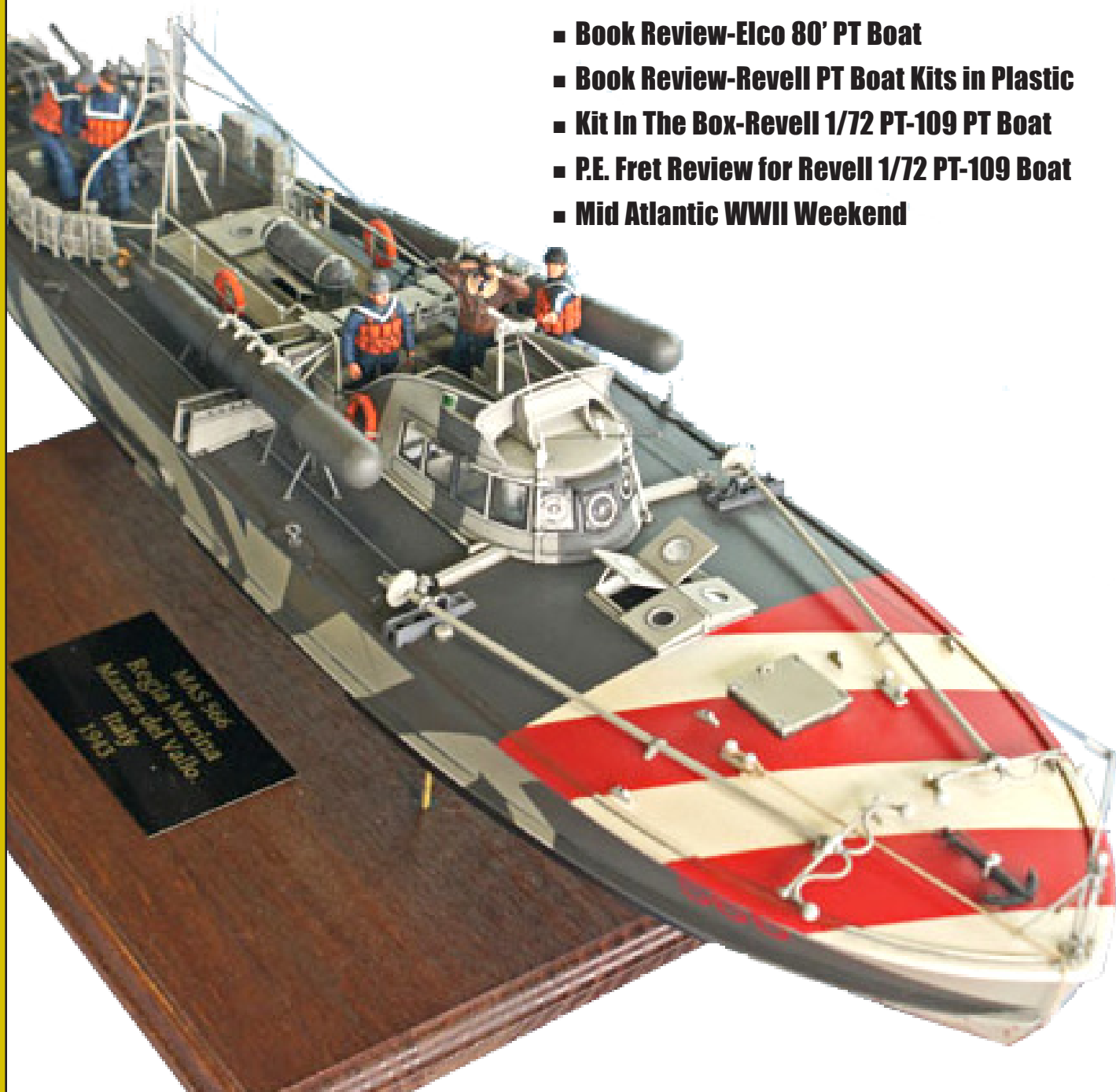
RED, WHITE & SPRUE

Volume 21 Number 8

★ LISMS NEWSLETTER ★

August 2014

- Book Review-Elco 80' PT Boat
- Book Review-Revell PT Boat Kits in Plastic
- Kit In The Box-Revell 1/72 PT-109 PT Boat
- P.E. Fret Review for Revell 1/72 PT-109 Boat
- Mid Atlantic WWII Weekend





Next meeting date:
Monday, June 16th
7:30 pm to 10 pm
Levittown Public Library
 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown, NY.

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Model: **Taken at NorEastcon 43**
 Photo: **Steve Martens**



Steve asked me to have this piece ready because he will have to do the newsletter with Al early. Therefore I will not be able to report about the IPMS Nationals to you unless I can send out an e-mail later on. I will not be at the August meeting (stop applauding!) but it will go on as scheduled. Bring down what you wish, be kind to fellow modelers, and please don't destroy the premises. Haha!

Added to our Show Calendar is the annual Toy Soldier Show sponsored by John Stengel, The Marx-Man. It is held at the Andria Hotel & Conference Center in Bay-

side, NY. See the Show Calendar for the address and web link.

It's been many years ago that Monogram released a 1/48 scale F-101B VooDoo and a separate release of an RF-101 VooDoo. I even saved these in my kit collection over the years despite the raised panel lines which have been deemed a no-no to current building design. The past two years I had these kits in my hands drooling to build them, but a whisper in my ear, whoever it was (Howard Garcia?), kept telling me to wait and pick out one of the other 1,120 kits unbuilt. So this company, Kitty Hawk, emerges with the release of a McDonnell Douglas F-101A/C kit. Ah, my wait is over! I looked up kit reviews of it as we all should before buying any new aircraft kit, only to be disappointed. As with all in the box reviews, you should take them at face value. That's all they are. They always observe the clear parts clarity. Crisp molding, recessed panel lines and rivets, how many sprue trees there are and what parts are on them, decal markings and if a photo etch fret is included. The real reviews are the "builds" of the kit and then consider if the cost is worth spending. What I found disturbing in 3 reviews was a wide spread of the MSRP. One had \$85.00, another \$75.00, and another \$54.00. So I went to four major mail order websites to compare prices, and they were all over the place too. I found Ebay selling it as cheap as \$45.00 plus a \$9.00 shipping fee. So what is the real MSRP so we know if we price shoppers are getting a good price for the kit?

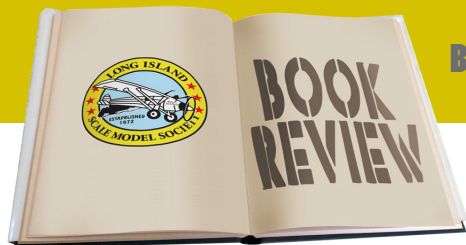
Reading on in the F-101 build were wing root gaps that had to be dealt with, more so if you were doing a silver scheme. The rounded nose doesn't quite fit the slight oval fuselage structure, so the builder had to file the nose shape to fit. The refueling probe doesn't give you the option of closing it up with a separate part, so you will have some major filling and contour work if you do. The decal serial numbers don't seem to be correct but who really cares. Only true historical picky people might notice if they have a USAF serial code book in hand. Judges at shows don't have them to check, thank G_d. Point of all this is don't buy kits out of the gate! The price of kits are too high to be disappointed. If you belong to the IPMS Reviewer Corps to get these new kits free to build and do your own kit review for them, your money stays in your pocket. The time, materials, picture taking, and written article time you spend on it may or may not be disappointing.

See you in September with pictures of the 2014 National Convention. Again mentioning, the 2015 National is in Columbus, Ohio. I was there when they hosted last time and it was great. If at the same convention site, try to go! I'll dig up my pictures and show them at one of the meetings.

Keep on modeling!

Bob

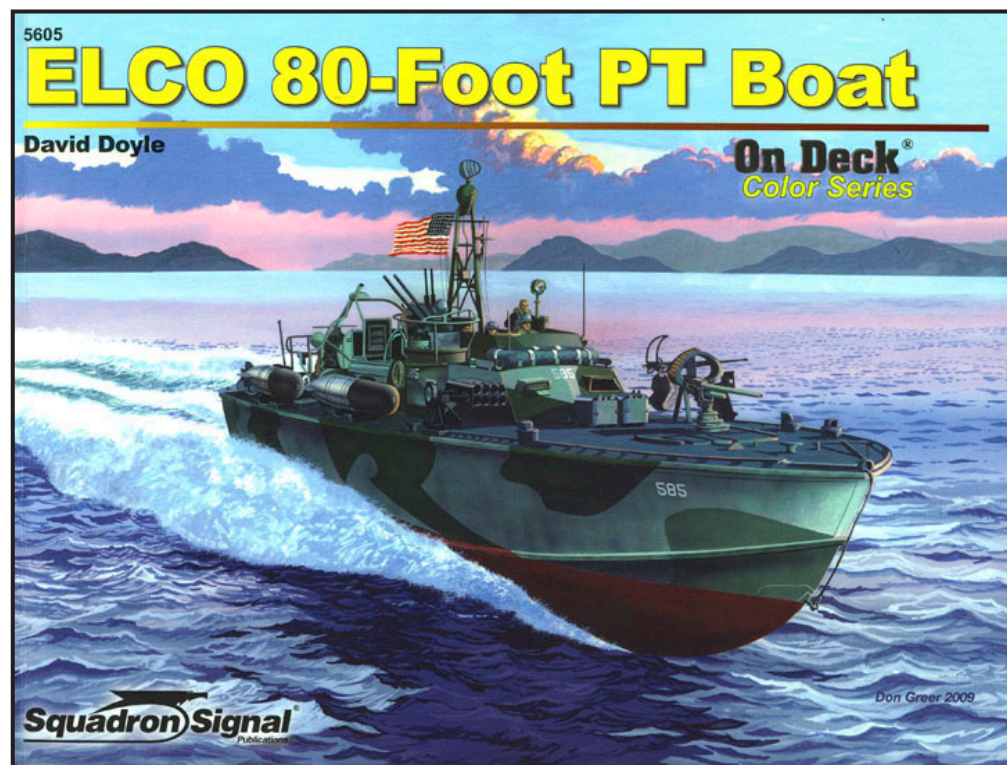




ELCO 80 Foot PT Boat

on Deck Color Series, by David Doyle, Published by Squadron Signal, 2009, 80 pages, SB

Reviewed by Steve Muth




you would want with photos of every nook and cranny.

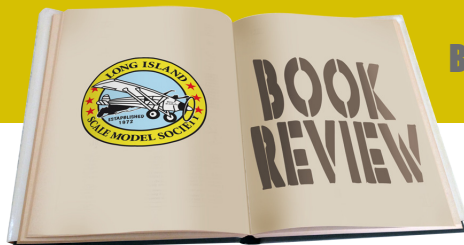
There are three photos of JFK's boat as it was being transferred and secured to the transport SS Joseph Stanton at the Norfolk Navy Yard. It is obviously in the standard gray scheme of the time (August 20th, 1942).

This is another excellent reference from Squadron Signal with a lot of clear period photographs in color and black and white. Many different configurations are covered with detail photos of particular use to modelers. The "piece d'resistance" is the walk around of the preserved PT-617 at the PT Boat Museum at Battleship Cove, Falls River, Massachusetts. This boat is the only fully restored ELCO PT boat on display anywhere in the world and is on the National Historic Register. It was nicknamed "Dragon Lady" but did not see combat in WWII. After being used for training it was used as a diving platform in Florida. After restoration by PT Boats Inc, it was put on display at battleship Cove in 1986. The walk around is as detailed as

Some sources claim it was painted green, as the other boats in the same squadron, at the time JFK assumed command.

There were many ELCO PT boat configurations in weaponry, electronics and armament but all shared the same hull and basic superstructure. This book illustrates many of these variations along with several of the camouflage schemes which varied from gray to green and many wavy color combinations of grays and greens. All had a rusty red bottom while some had a black trim line bordering the red.

If you plan to build a PT boat or are just interested in this charismatic boat then this is the book for you. Recommended. 

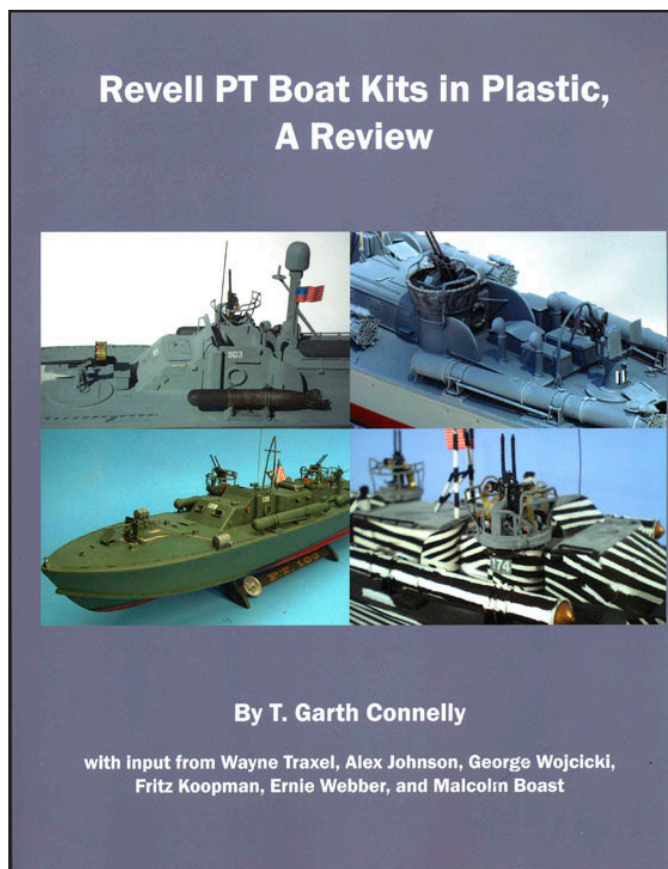


Revell PT Boat Kits in Plastic, A Review

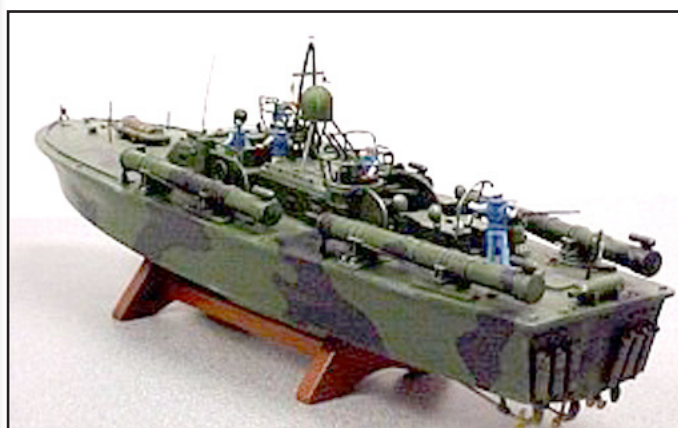
by T. Garth Connelly, Published by Chris Daley Publishing

2012, 137 pages, SB

Reviewed by Steve Muth



This is a useful but odd book on PT boat builds. There are 11 builds described in a variety of styles and depth. They are all by different authors and there is no attempt to weave them together. Some are very specific in the how and what was done and some are very vague and more general in nature. All contribute something, either by reference to obscure (to me) facts about the actual boats or to details relating to the kit and/or aftermarket parts. There are many photos but reproduction is spotty at best. Some photos of the models are in color.



Described are builds of the 1/72 scale Revell PT-109, -117, -167, -171, -174, -190, -212, -330, -461, 503, -556 and one Higgins boat. These all represent variations of the basic 80 foot PT boat as built by Elco during and after the war. The differences are discussed what needs to be done to the kits to make them more accurate. There are many photos illustrating various alternative fits for these boats. The PT-109, PT-171 and PT-174 are perhaps the best build descriptions but all have something to offer. In line with the adage that "one picture is worth a thousand words" there are a plethora of detail photos of real boats.

After the build descriptions (pages 3-115) there is a section on detail photos and alternate fits for a Higgins boat (pages 116-125). Pages 126 – 132 discuss camouflage and pages 133-134 describe aftermarket accessories. Then, there are two pages of bibliography and a web site list.

A useful book if you plan to build a PT boat but not as general boat building book. 🛥



1/72 PT-109 PT Boat

by Revell #0310, \$15.00

Reviewed by Steve Muth



This is “an oldie but goodie” from 1963. I know, some of you weren’t even born yet! It was also about the time I got to building plastic models (A Lindberg Me 262A). It has been re-released many times over the years and in many different guises but it is still very good, with decent detail and is accurate. And... it has the appropriate three screws as opposed to the single screw of the Lindberg PT-109 (although the single screw lends itself to radio control).

Molded in dark green, there are 84 styrene parts including three and a half figures and a stand. The moldings are quite good even though they are over 50 years old. There are no sink marks and little flash, however, the deck planking is grossly overdone. The deck was planked but the fit was tight and may even have been covered with a canvas that

was painted down. The propeller shafts are still plastic (The original release featured steel shafts) as they have been since 1965 when Revell switched from steel to plastic. It would be a simple matter to use steel for the shafts. Although there is considerable detail, particularly for a 1963 vintage kit, there are a few areas that would benefit from an update. The torpedo tubes, split length wise, will undoubtedly be oval when completed. They could easily be replaced with 9/32 tubing cut to right length and fitted with the front and rear pieces of the plastic tubes. The 20mm deck gun is nicely rendered but the two twin 50 Caliber machine guns are poor and lack detail. Some people have replaced them with four 50 cal M2 guns from AeroClub. The life raft appears to be an inflatable type but PT boats were fitted with

continued on p6

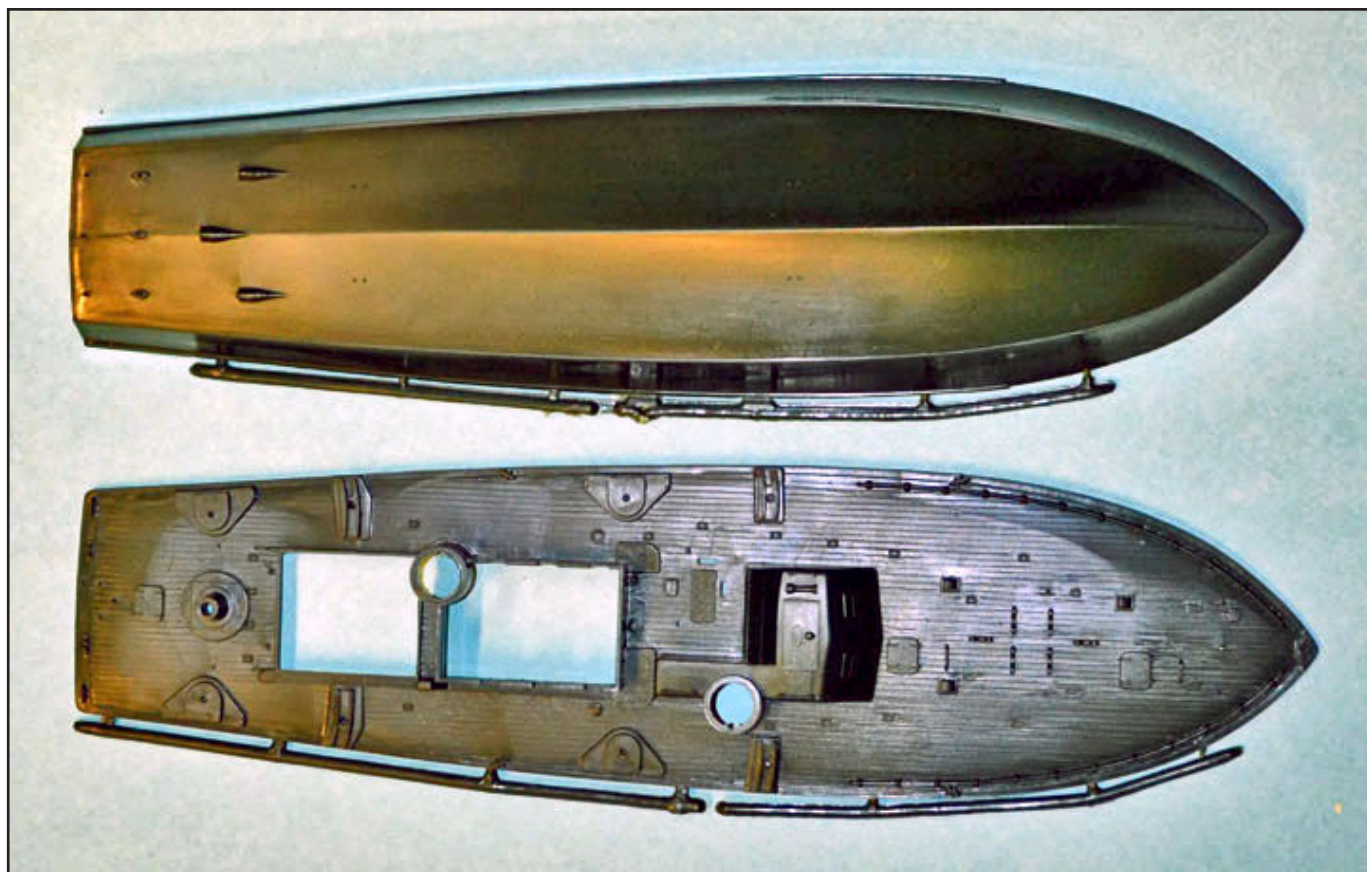


balsa wood Carley floats and were painted the deck color. They were NOT yellow neoprene. An inflatable raft would not be appropriate for a combat vessel that would be susceptible to combat damage. The kit has a radio mast but these were folded down during combat operations, and was removed altogether on JFK's boat (along with the searchlight). The toe rails on the forward deck are molded to the deck without the space between the rail and the deck.

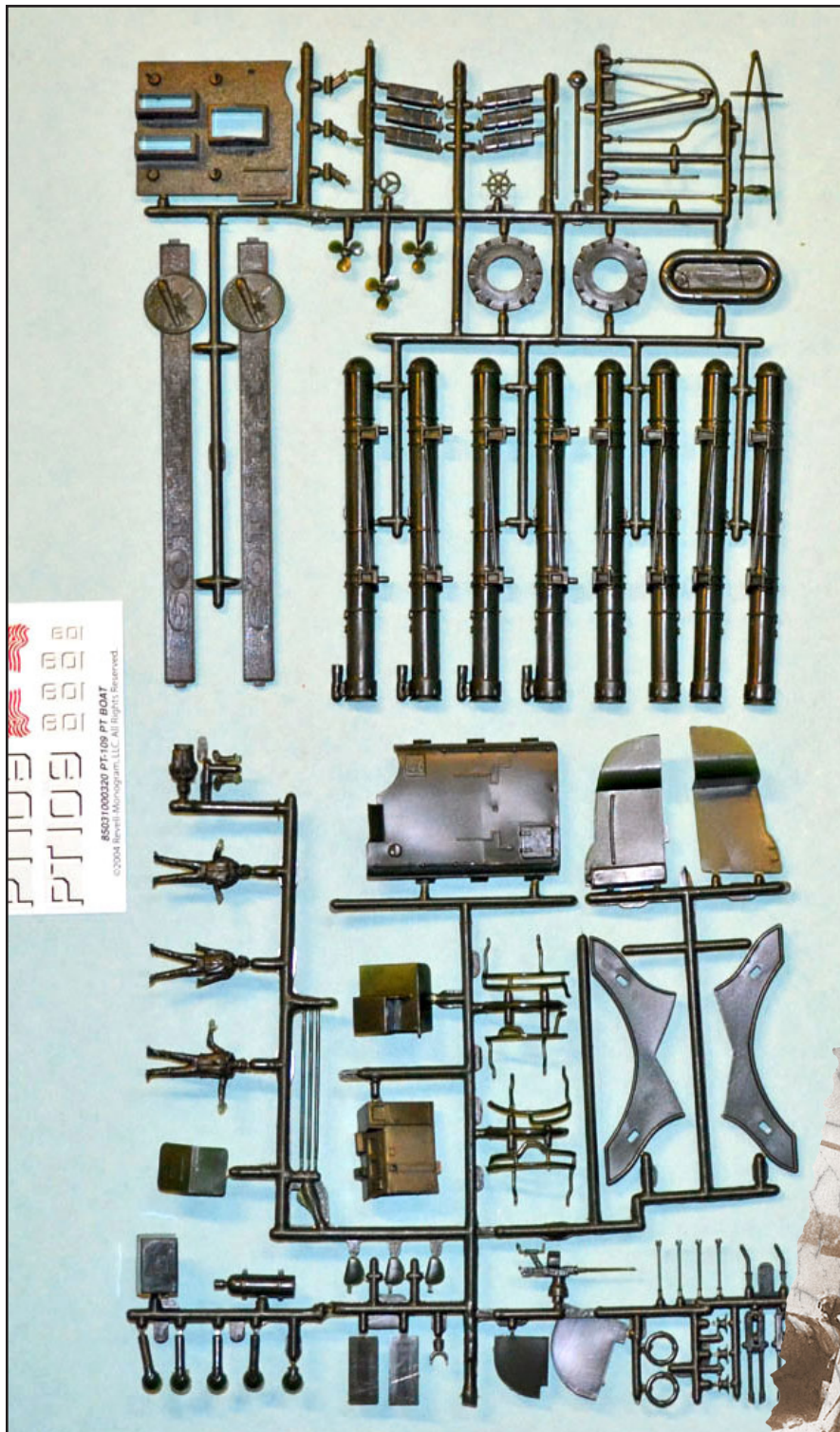
For the rest White Ensign Models makes a very comprehensive two fret P.E. set for the PT-109 and useful on a variety of other releases based on the same molds. Although

a bit pricey it is excellent and brings the kit up to modern standards. A nice model can be built out of the box but an outstanding model can be built with the white Ensign P.E. frets. It also gives a lot of information on mods and updates, particularly regarding the chart house and running lights.

All in all, a very nice kit. Particularly given its price and 1963 vintage. It is far superior to the Lindberg 1/32 kit which has a single screw and is more suitable for a radio control conversion. Recommended for all skill levels and kids over 10. 🍌



Parts photo of hull of Revell PT-109



Parts photo of two sprues from the Revell PT-109 kit.

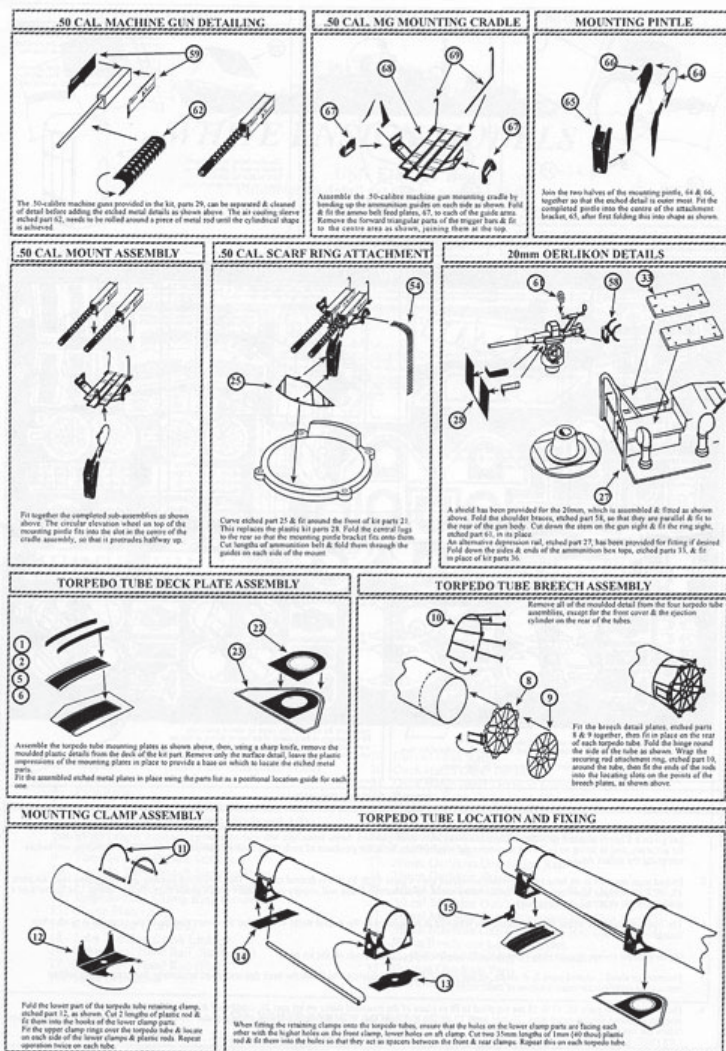




P.E. Fret Review of White Ensign Models

1/72 PT-109 Set. £35 English Pounds

Reviewed by Steve Muth



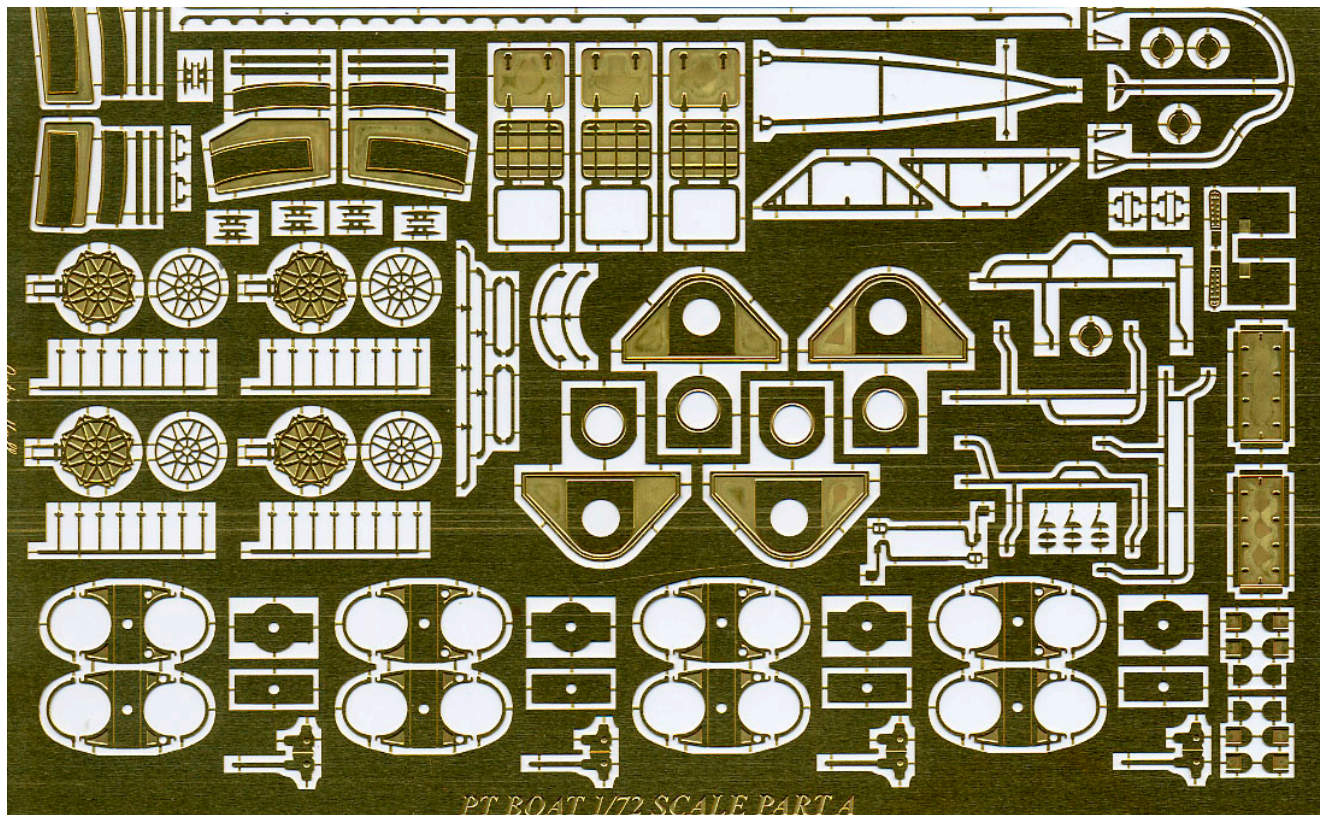
A partial list of some of the more significant upgrades are:

1. Torpedo tube details.
2. New foot rails for the bow.
3. Various grab rails on the roof.
4. Deck hatches.
5. .50 caliber gun details – barrels, side plates, mounting details, etc.
6. 20mm deck gun details.
7. Chart house door.
8. Control console details including throttles, instrument cluster and steering wheel.
9. Butterfly valves for the muffler bypasses.
10. Depth charge racks.
11. Cockpit exterior fittings and vents.

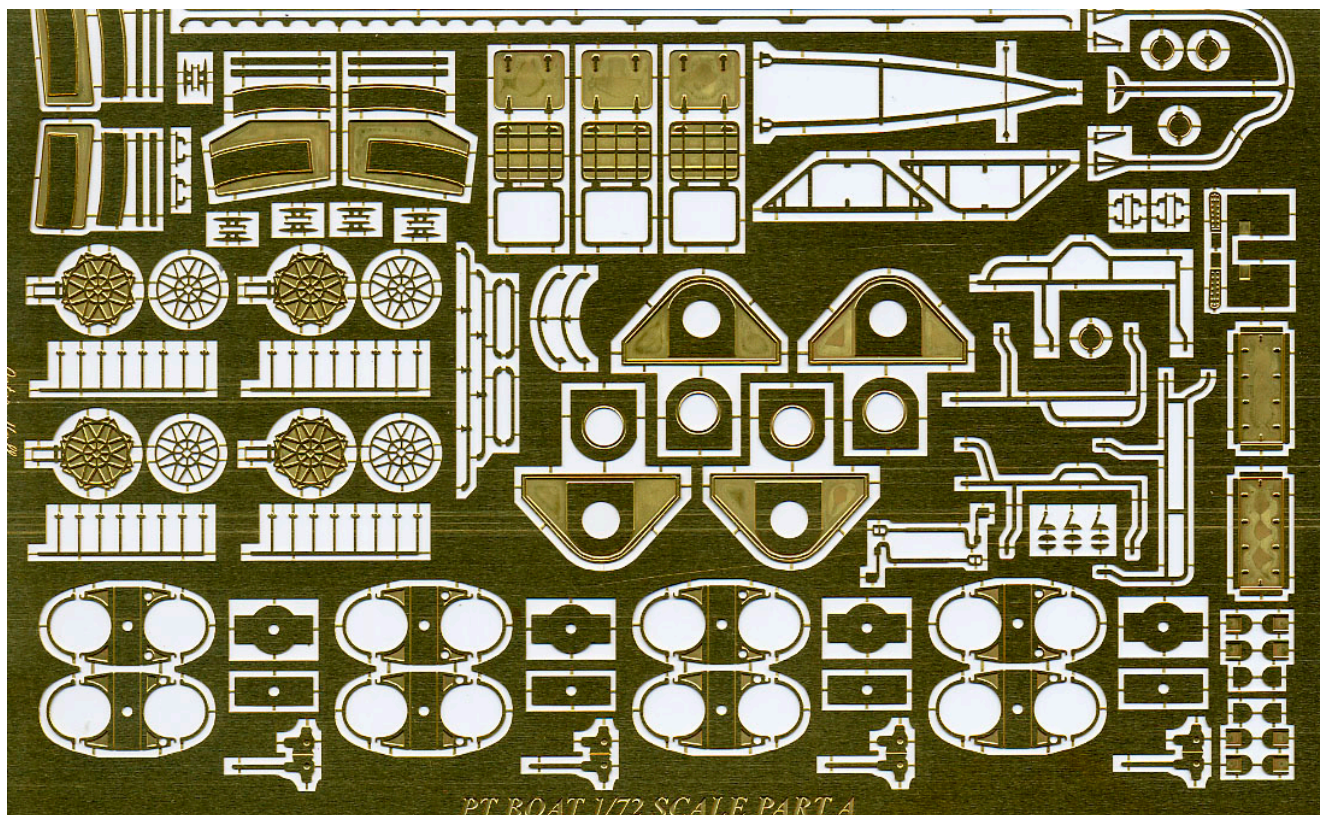
There is a four page instruction sheet with an illustration of each fret with part numbers and callouts, a half page of General Instructions, and 19 illustrations for each sub assembly with specific instructions for each followed by another 1/3 page of "Other Instructions". Although rather pricey, this is a quality offering by some rather knowledgeable people. Recommended for anyone wanting to detail the Revell 1/72 PT-109 kit.



Dated 2004, this PE set consists of two rather large PE frets in heavy gage brass that goes a long way to help make the 1/72 scale Revell PT-109 into a world class boat model. The larger sheet is 0.010" thick and measures 7 3/8" x 4 3/4" while the smaller is 0.007" thick and measures 5 5/8" x 3 1/2". There are 107 parts, 36 on the larger sheet and 71 on the smaller sheet. Additional resin parts are available to replace some of the styrene parts.



PE fret part A for PT boats White Ensign #7205



PE fret part B for PT boats White Ensign #7205



It happened at Reading Airport

By Steve Muth

The annual Mid Atlantic World War II Weekend took place this year on Jun7, 8 and 9. The weather was great and there were lots of planes and re-enactors with their vehicles and equipment. And, I got to go with my son and grandson on June 8th! It doesn't get much better than that! How often do you get to see a B-24 and B-17 flying together? The American Airpower Museum was represented with their P-47D Thunderbolt and C-17D Skytrain. The Mid Atlantic Air Museum, Reading Regional Airport - Spaatz Field, Reading, PA had their P-61B out in the sunshine and it looked great. Still no outer wings and obvi-

ously still a lot of work remains but it is on its wheels and is all nice and shiny. There were gaggles of trainers and liaison aircraft not to mention a Spitfire XVIII (a bubble top – a beautiful bird!). On the re-enactment scene there were armored cars and half tracks galore not to mention guns of all sorts. There was even a Stug III replica from the Band of Brothers movie. It seemed there was an inexhaustible supply of interesting things and planes.

The photos are but a small representation of what was there. I heartily recommend you take it in next year. You won't regret it. 🚗





*Replica Stug III Tank De-
stroyer from "A Band Of
Brothers".*



Replica D3A1 from the "Tora Tora Tora" movie.



*Commemorative Air Forces B-24A "Diamond Lil" performed
admirably in the air show. Awsome! And for a small fortune
you could get a ride.*



A German field car.



*A Black gun on a tan chassis of unknown
origin. No one around to identify it.*



*Mid Atlanitic Air Museum's (MAAM) TBM-3e
"Old Tanker No. 9" also did a lot of flying.*



Mid Atlantic World War II Weekend

An American Armored car of unknown genealogy.



Greg Shelton's Grumman/GM FM-2 did some very nice low passes.



Ron Gertsen and Alex Alexander's Fairchild PT-22 Recruit.



Line up of MAAM's SNJ-4, Bay Aviation's Fairchild PT-19 and MAAM's N2S-1 Stearman.



6 wheeled armored car/scout vehicle.



A British Scout Vehicle.





A German half track, representative of several that were here.



A 30 Cal. Machine gun emplacement.



MAAM's Aeronca L-3C.



Another gun I could not identify but it really looked cool in the black (or very dark gray).



Paul Smith's L-4H Grasshopper taxiing out for a display with several other L Birds.



An allied six wheeled armored car or wheeled tank.



MAAM's P-61B was rolled out for the occasion. It's going to be a first class restoration with the intention of flying it! It will be the only flying example in the world.

Show Calendar Listing for 2014

See Bob DeMaio for details

Date	Event & Location	Website	Day
Sept. 6, 2014	Toy Soldier Show Adria Hotel Conference Center 221-17 Northern Blvd Bayside, NY	http://www.toysoldiershowpromo.com	Sat
Sept. 26 & 27	ARMORCON 2014 Crown Plaza Danbury, CT HYPERLINK	www.militarymodelers.org	Fri-Sat
Oct. 18	HVHMG 26 Elks Lodge 29 Overocker Road Poughkeepsie, NY	www.hvhmg.com	Sat
Nov. TBD	LIARS Freeport Recreation Center Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY	http://www.wix.com/liarsmodelcarclub/liars	Sat
Nov. 15	Long Island Figure Show Freeport Recreation Center Merrick Rd. Freeport, NY	http://www.longislandmodelsoldiers.com	Sat
April 4, 2015	NJIPMS Mosquitocon 1 Pal Drive Wayne, NJ	http://njipms.org	Sat
April 11, 2015	RepLIcon 27 130 Merrick Rd Freeport NY	www.lisms-ipms.org	Sat
Aug. 2015	IPMS National Convention Columbus, Ohio	www.ipmsusa.org	Wed-Sat

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And don't forget to mention that you are a member of the LISMS and appreciate his or her support. Everybody likes a thank you.

Depending upon the size of your purchase, these shops have agreed to provide a possible 10% or more discount if you have our membership card.

Alsand's Toy Soldiers Plus

www.alsandmdseco.com

Alan & Sandy, 848 Long Island Ave. Dear Park, NY 11729, (631)254-2650, Collectibles, Action Figures, Miniature Toy Soldiers, Models, etc.

Baseline Model Inc.

Eric, 250 Little East Neck Rd., West Babylon, NY 11704, (631)376-0060, Military Model Specialist, old and new kits bought and sold. Retail and Mail Orders. Closed Mondays.

Get It On Paper

Gary Weickert, 185 Maple St., Islip, NY 11751, (631) 581-3897, open every Saturday noon to 5 PM. - Vintage Toys & Model Kits, Automobilia & auto Literature. Model kits wanted.

Gold Coast Hobby

www.GoldCoastHobby.com

Charles Gonder, 8 railroad Ave, Glen Head, NY 11545, (516)759-9094, Planes, Boats, Cars & Armor. A full line hobby shop dedicated to customer service.

Men-At-Arms Hobbies

James Katona, 134 Middle Country Rd. (Rt. 25), Middle Island, NY (631)924-0583- Excellent selection of lead miniatures-Historical and Fantasy. Plastic Models, War games & Modeling supplies. Books and Magazines.

The Marx-Man

John Stengel, (718)418-9439 - We carry an array of toy soldiers in plastic and metal, from HO to 54 mm/60 mm. Die cast vehicles and Dragon action figures.

Trainville Hobby Depot

Weekend shows only: website: www.trainville.com and e-mail: info@trainville.com



Photo by Bob DeMaio



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Not an IPMS member? Need to renew your standing? You can clip out and mail in the form, download a fill-in copy from the [LISMS.org](http://www.lisms.org) web site or visit the IPMS store at <http://www.ipmsusa2.org/store> to submit your application on-line.

International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

☐ New

☐ Renewal

IPMS #

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Address:

City/State:

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☐ Junior (17 or younger) \$12.00

☐ Adult 1 year \$25.00

☐ 2 years \$49.00

☐ 3 years \$73.00

☐ Family (1 set of Journals) ! Adult fee + \$5.00 X # of cards?

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Check #:

Amount:

Credit Card:



☐ Master Card



☐ Visa

Card Number:

Exp. Date:

Billing Address
if different:

Name:

Address:

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E-Mail:



Mail Application to: IPMS/USA, Dept. H, PO Box 2475, N. Canton, OH 44720-0475