USS Oakland

GENERAL NOTES

Before beginning construction of the model, familiarize yourself with the assembly drawings and construction symbols on the parts sheets. The following are the symbols you will see frequently attached to part numbers:

*b - Laminate with card (from sheets such as that used on cereal boxes)
* - Laminate with cardboard thickness 0.5 mm
** - Stick on cardboard about thickness 1.0 mm
*** - Stick on cardboard about thickness 1.5 mm
**** - Stick on cardboard about thickness 2.0 mm

- Incise, lodge, stick together.
- Roll or coil into a tube and stick together.
- Roll tight and stick together.
- Direction of coiling/scrolling
- Cut and remove
L,P - Left-hand part; Right hand part

The model has been designed so that, in most cases, parts will indicate the number of the corresponding part it should be attached to and where.

Recommended glue for use with this kit would be a PVA (white) or UHU. It is not advisable to use other types of glue as they may cause deformation of the paper as it dries.

We make all templates from wire drawings or plans and we paint them using the correct colours.

For a more realistic effect, you may wish to cut out all windows and clear surfaces and glue in their place a clear film such as acetate.

There is also nothing wrong with substituting certain paper parts for another medium such as wire or plastic if you feel this will result in a better effect.

A number of things can be used for rigging and control cables, such as nylon thread or fishing wire.

CONSTRUCTION GUIDE

Hull

Begin by sticking the parts which make up the skeleton of the hull to reinforcing card. Pay attention to the symbols on the parts to see what thickness to use. If you find that the thickness of the card you are using is not exactly as per instructions, there is room for a little leeway but you may have to change the width of the slots to accommodate. Parts labelled with the prefix “A” should be on 1.5mm card and parts with the prefix “D” should be on 2mm card. (This can be made up of two tiers of 1mm card).

Whilst allowing the glue to dry, check the drawings to make sure you have reinforced all the required parts. It’s recommended you start by gluing the skeletal sections below the waterline first (below deck parts “A”), followed by the sections above the waterline under deck “D”. Some fine sanding may be required to get that perfect semi-circle shape to the formers from the waterline downwards. The hull plates will not fit correctly if this is not done and you will not get a smooth transition from the side panels to the deck, which was a feature of this type of American cruiser. Carefully sand the edges of the ribs to give the correct angle to allow the hull plates to butt up smoothly to one another.

Starting from below the water line, glue the hull plates to the ribs. Each hull plate should be glued to the next using a strip of card 3-5mm wide. It’s best to start at the centre, working rearwards to the stern and then forward to the bow. Note: Do not press down hard on the skeleton of the hull or it will
**Quarterdeck and aft deck**

Now we start work on the first level of the deck. Laminate parts F-1 to F-7 onto 1mm thick card and then glue the parts together to form the frame. Once the glue has dried, fit parts 43a and 43b. Now we add the left and right walls to the quarterdeck using parts 42aP + 42aL, 42c. Next we begin work on the bottom board elements, using parts 43c, 43d, 43e, 43f, 43g and 43h. At this point, it may be useful to view historical photographs of the actual ship (either from books or websites.)

Glue together frame parts G-1 to G-5. Before gluing part 44a to the frame, cut out the areas indicated by the scissors. These are where the vents made up from parts 44b, c will go. Glue together parts 45a and 45b. These will form part of a walkway around one of the structures on deck. Ensure when done that the piece is flat. Now glue this to the section 44a, b.

Following the construction drawings, glue together the frame made up of parts H-1 to H-5 and then attach parts 46a, 46b, 46c, 46d, 46e to part 44a.

Glue together parts 47a - d and then glue the whole thing to section 44a. Again following the drawings, assemble the barrier from parts 48a - c.

The final level of the quarterdeck is constructed from parts 49a - 50.

Now build the frame made from parts I-1 to I-5. Next glue together parts 51a and 51b followed by the wall parts 50 and 50a and glue the whole assembly together. Add the remaining parts according to the assembly drawing for this section. Now glue the whole quarterdeck assembly to the designated spot on the main deck.

**Additional Quarterdeck assembly**

Assemble the frame made up of parts J-1 to J-6. Then glue together parts 55a and 55b, followed by left and right walls 54a. Continue with this section by following the drawings. We now take a break from the construction of the quarterdeck and begin work on the aft deck.
Aft deck

Just as in previous sections, assemble the skeleton made up of parts M-1 to M-13. Once dry, glue the elements to it numbered 57a, b, c etc. refer to the drawings. Once completed, fix this section into it’s corresponding space in the quarterdeck.

Referring to the drawings, we can now begin work on the construction of the funnel on the quarterdeck using parts K-1 to K-5 and parts 59a to 59c.

Paste together parts L-1 to L-4 to complete the frame of the funnel stack. Next we glue the skin to the frame using parts 60a, and the vents to the skin using parts 60b and 60c. Refer to the drawings and repeat the process for the other funnel stack. When finished, glue them to the areas indicated on the model.

Follow the drawings and complete the section containing parts P-1 to P-4 as well as the section containing parts 61, 61b etc. Then do the same with parts R-1 to R4 and parts 62 62b etc. Both sections are constructed in the same way and then ,with the aid of the drawings and any photos you may have, fix them to their correct locations.

Additional quarterdeck construction. 127mm gun turret. Build the frame made from parts N-1 to N-6, the frame made from parts O-1 to O-4 and then affix parts 63c to 63h.

Next construct the 127mm turret sections shown in drawings cz.64 to 66. The drawings show how these are constructed so that they are movable once in place.

Next, build the 127mm main gun using parts 67, 67a etc. These have also been designed to be movable if the drawings are followed.

NOTE - make sure you fix the towers in their correct positions as the one nearest the bow is slightly different to the one further aft. It has a higher base to compensate for the angle of the bow.

The remainder of the construction can be completed by following the drawings, gluing the parts as indicated and positioning them on the model in the areas indicated by the markings. Less experienced modellers may not have the patience or skills to add the finer details but this will not affect the overall presentation of the ship.

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Masts and rigging are made by using the template sheet and following the building diagrams.

All that remains is to do any final retouching to the finished model.

We hope you have fun building this model and get a lot of satisfaction from the finished result.