

# Tips & Tricks

**PAINTING TIPS:** It will take 2 to 3 coats of most hobby paints to give a good even color. Never try to get full coverage with the first coat. It will run every time! You should be able to see through the first coat. The best tip about any kind of spray paint is to let the paint “flash” between coats. A coat of paint has “flashed” when it is dry to the touch. Don’t touch the boat. Touch the masking paper or somewhere where a fingerprint won’t show in case you touched it too soon. Hobby enamel will take 5 to 15 minutes to flash depending on the temperature. Different colors can take different times to flash. A coat that has flashed properly will support the next coat and prevent it from dripping. The second coat will take longer to flash than the first. Be patient! Practice on a scrap stood on it’s end. Your goal is to get coverage without runs. Avoid spraying enamel on very humid days. Humidity can cause the paint to “blush” leaving a cloudy appearance to dark colors. Most hobby enamel’s instructions say to recoat within 2-3 hours or after 48 hours. Most are dry enough in an hour (warm weather) to mask and repaint without the masking tape peeling off the paint. Paint a scrap at the same time you paint the boat. When dry for about an hour, try your masking tape on the scrap first. If it works well, then mask the hull you are painting. It really takes 48 hours to fully cure. If you recoat after the 2-3 hour deadline, but before 48 hours, your new coat may wrinkle the uncured coat. After the spray paint has dried three days, you can apply the decals. “Non-toxic” model paints are safest to brush on, for the painter and the boat.

**DECALS:** Apply only after the paint has fully cured. Cut out the desired decal from the assortment. Separate the paper backing from the front mounting tissue. The decal will adhere to the mounting tissue. Carefully align the decal on the hull and press into place, smoothing it with your fingernail. Peel off the front tissue paper. It is almost impossible to remove the decal without destroying it, so make sure it is where you want it before pressing it into place. The decal set includes several types of Doors, Portholes, exterior weatherproof Lights (small ovals), Window frames for the Pilot House, and two V’s for “Vac-U-Boat” to put on the Stack. Use masking tape or other methods to align the doors and windows so they will be square and properly spaced from the floor. On the Pilot House, install the rear decal first with the bottom of the decal aligned with the bottom of the Upper Pilot House, and centered. Then install the two sides, aligning them to the center of the steps. Finally apply the front window decal. Use an empty door frame decal to trim the side center windows. This creates the Pilot House doors, with windows in their top half.

**WATERPROOFING - FLOTATION:** If the water is choppy or you are playing competition games with the boat, it is a good idea to put plastic packaging tape over the rear hatch opening to better waterproof the hull. There is plenty of room in the Bow for flotation. An inflated Ziplock<sup>®</sup> bag with the opening pressed and taped closed, makes a nice form-fitting float.

**REPAIR:** In swimming pools, long hair can wind up on the prop shaft between the Drive Dog and the Stern Tube Bearing. If this happens, the shaft will bind and slow or stop turning. To repair, lightly grasp the Motor-Shaft Coupling End to block the shaft rotation. Use a 1/4 inch wrench to loosen the Prop Nut several turns. Unscrew the Prop & Drive Dog 3-4 turns together, by turning the Prop. Remove the hair and re-tighten the Prop with Drive Dog & install the Prop Nut. Don’t store the boat in direct sunlight. This will shorten the life of the plastic.

**MAINTENANCE:** Before running, place a droplet of light oil between the Drive Dog and the Stern Tube Bearing. Rotate the prop to distribute the oil & wipe off the excess. After running, check the inside of the boat for any water. Leave the 2nd Deck off for a day to allow any moisture to dry. Depending on the type of battery you have, you might discharge it if you will not sail for a month or more. Once a year, if necessary, you can refill the Stern Tube with the Super Lube. To access and relube the Stern Tube, unclamp the motor, remove the Coupling End from the end of the Prop Shaft, pull out the prop shaft. Squirt new Stern Tube Grease into the Stern Tube from the outside. Catch the overflow with a napkin on the inside. Push the Prop Shaft into the Stern Tube catching the additional grease that will be pushed into the boat. Reassemble all parts. Tighten the first Coupling End set screw against the flat of the shaft, then tighten the other. Be sure to properly space the Coupling End from the end of the Stern Tube to prevent binding of the shaft.

**Now go find some water and have fun!**

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