

During the early part of the Second World War, the shortcomings of the heavy bombers operating in the Pacific area became readily apparent. Neither the "Flying Fortresses" nor the "Liberators" possessed the range or the payload capabilities that were necessary to enable them to bomb the Japanese mainland.

Aware of the continuing development of a new American "Superbomber," allied military leaders planned a series of amphibious landings designed to liberate strategically-located islands that were under Japanese control. These islands were destined to become sprawling staging areas for a vast airborne armada of Boeing B-29 "Superfortresses." Although initially deployed to remote Chinese airfields, the liberation of the Marianas Islands during the summer of 1944 signaled the beginning of the massive "Superfortress" build-up. Operating from hastily-constructed airfields on the sun-drenched islands of Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, waves of heavily-laden Twentieth Air Force B-29s initiated the strategic bombing campaign that would cripple the Japanese war effort. B-29s also planted thousands of anti-shipping mines in Japanese coastal waters, and destroyed innumerable tons of vital supplies.

On the morning of August 6th, 1945, a single B-29 dropped the world's first nuclear weapon on the city of Hiroshima. The awesome explosion heralded the dawn of the nuclear age, and the end of the war for Japan. Following the Japanese surrender, the B-29s were retained as the United States foremost strategic bomber.

Many "Superfortresses" were fitted with in-flight refueling receptacles, and achieved true global capabilities. Aging B-29s served valiantly with the fledgling Strategic Air Command until they were replaced by more advanced successors.

The sleek and graceful contours of the B-29 "Superfortresses" were beautiful to behold. Their massive size dwarfed contemporary bombers, and to create a single B-29, materials and production facilities sufficient to build eleven P-51s were utilized. The "Superfortresses" were fitted with two pressurized crew compartments that were designed to improve aircrew comfort on fatiguing long range missions. Nearly twenty thousand pounds of ordnance could be carried aloft in the cavernous twin bomb bays. Four powerful Wright "Cyclone" engines, each fitted with dual exhaust-driven turbochargers, were nestled in streamlined nacelles. The "Superforts" were heavily armed with ten machine guns mounted in four remote-control turrets, and two additional machine guns and an awesome twenty millimeter cannon were fitted in the tail of the aircraft.

During their lifespan, nearly four thousand "Superfortresses" were manufactured by five massive assembly plants. In the early 1950's, B-29s returned to combat in the war-torn skies over Korea. Today, a handful of these impressive veteran warbirds are preserved to commemorate the immense contributions that these aircraft made to heavy bomber development and the history of strategic bombing.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Read through the instructions and study the assembly drawings to become familiar with all parts of the model. Also refer to the PAINTING and DECAL directions. Do not rush the assembly — serious mistakes can be avoided by working carefully.

As your B-29 may be built to any one of three versions, you must decide on which version you want before you begin. Refer to last three pages.

The assembly procedure is written for all three versions. The assembly of a specific version is helped by the LARGE titles in the steps. Where NO title is used, the assembly is identical for all three versions.

Each illustration in the assembly procedure indicates color to be used and where the paint should be applied. It is best to paint most of the parts before cementing them. Carefully read the painting suggestions and refer to the box cover and to the airplane illustrations on the last three pages. These suggestions will be helpful in building your model.

Each plastic piece is identified by a number stamped either on the part or a small tab near the part. The instructions will indicate by number which pieces are needed in each step. DO NOT detach parts from the trees until you are ready to use them.

After cutting off the required part, trim away any excess bits of plastic that are not part of the usable piece. Use a sharp knife, such as a modeling knife, available at your hobby counter. Check the fit of each piece before you cement it in place. USE ONLY CEMENT SPECIFIED FOR USE WITH STYRENE PLASTIC.

Apply cement quickly and carefully to the very large pieces so cement does not dry before the parts are joined together. DO NOT use too much cement to join the parts. All plastic cements contain solvents that dissolve the plastic forming a weld between the parts. Too much cement can soften and distort the plastic, spoiling your model's appearance. The tip of a toothpick is helpful in applying cement to small or confined areas. Keep fingers clean of cement so that the outer surfaces of the parts are not marred when handling them.

B-29

1/48 SCALE
KIT 5700

MONOGRAM[®]

SUPERFORTRESS

PAINTING

It is best to paint most of the parts before cementing them. The large outside surfaces such as wings and fuselages may be painted after assembly. Only ENAMEL or PAINT FOR PLASTICS should be used.

A small pointed brush is best for painting small parts. Larger areas are best covered with a soft brush about 1/4 inch wide. Allow time for paint to dry thoroughly before handling parts. Scrape paint away from areas which will be cemented because cement will not hold to paint.

Clear windshield and nose details can be easily and neatly done by using one of the dull finish acetate mending tapes. Cut a strip about five inches long and stick it to a piece of glass or plastic, paint this strip the color indicated in the assembly steps. Allow the paint to dry thoroughly. Using a straight edge and a razor blade cut strips from the tape the same width as the detail ribs. Lift up the strips and apply over each rib. Another method of achieving realism is by masking the entire clear piece with transparent tape. Use a sharp knife and very carefully cut the tape from any area that is to be painted. Paint the exposed parts and allow to dry thoroughly. Remove the remaining tape from the clear piece by lifting it with the tip of your knife. Either method will result in an extremely realistic clear part.

FIGURES

Refer to the box photos for the colors used in painting the five figures. Paint a figure as though dressing it. Paint the basic uniform, then the various equipment. The very small, delicate details are usually saved for last.

DECALS

When applying decals, refer to the illustration of the specific version you have assembled. The letters shown on the illustration are in reference to those on the decal sheet. These lettered decals are used on all versions. Larger decals are easily identified for position.

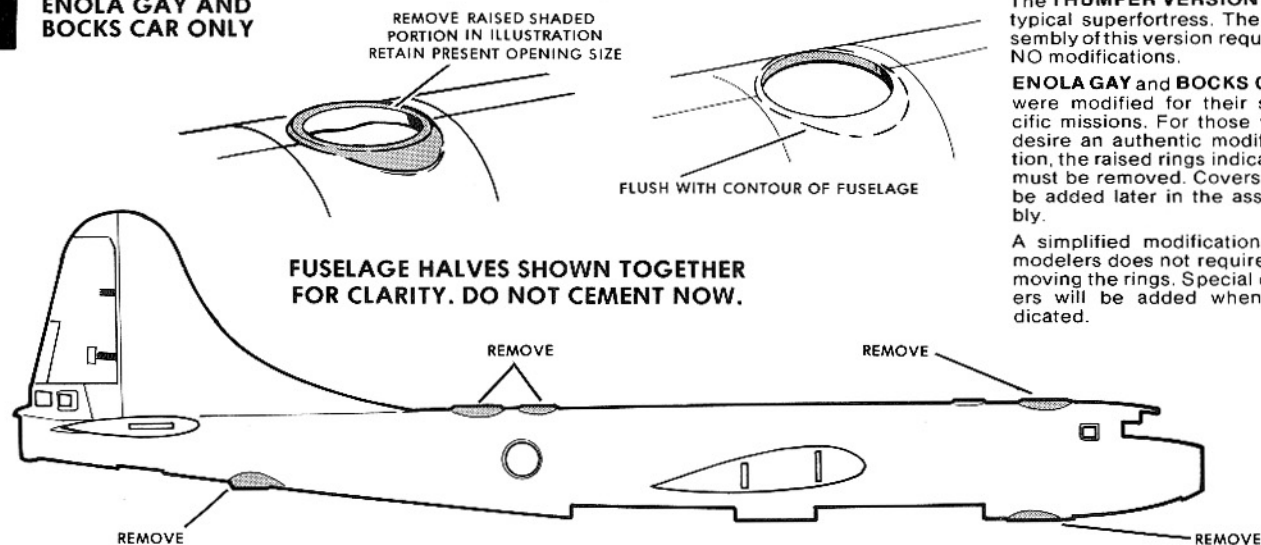
For a neat job, carefully follow the application instructions on the back of the decal sheet. Work with one subject at a time. Before they are completely dry, decals should be firmly pressed against surface contours.

For better paint and decal adhesion, it is advisable to wash the plastic parts trees in a mild detergent solution. Rinse and let dry. After washing, handle the parts carefully to avoid skin-oil which may affect the adhesion.

Monogram Models would like to thank Mr. Harl Brackin of Boeing Historical Services, Mr. James Davis of Tucson, Arizona's Pima Air Museum, and the National Air and Space Museum for their assistance and

significant contributions to the creation of this model. Our appreciation also to Mr. Robert Mikesh, Gen. Paul Tibbets, Mr. Fred Olivi and Mr. O. V. Tyler for their contributions to this project.

1 ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR ONLY

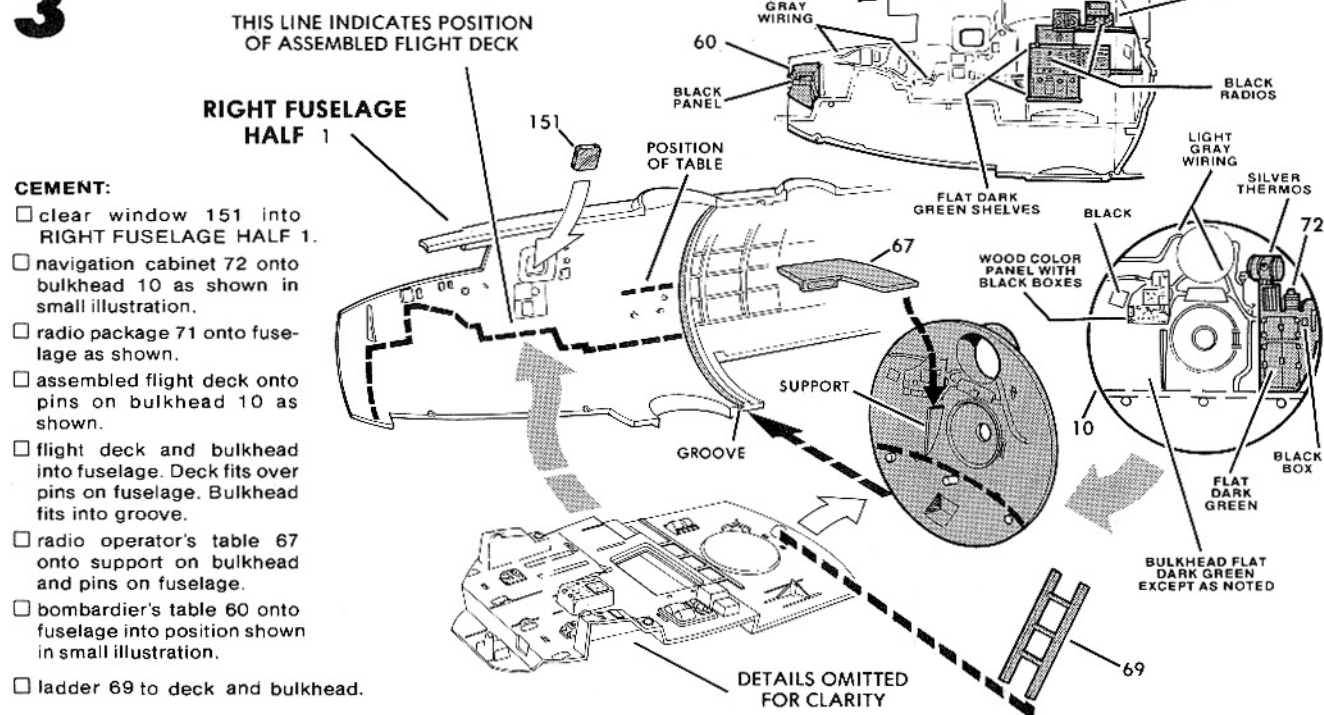


The THUMPER VERSION is a typical superfortress. The assembly of this version requires NO modifications.

ENOLA GAY and BOCKS CAR were modified for their specific missions. For those who desire an authentic modification, the raised rings indicated must be removed. Covers will be added later in the assembly.

A simplified modification for modelers does not require removing the rings. Special covers will be added when indicated.

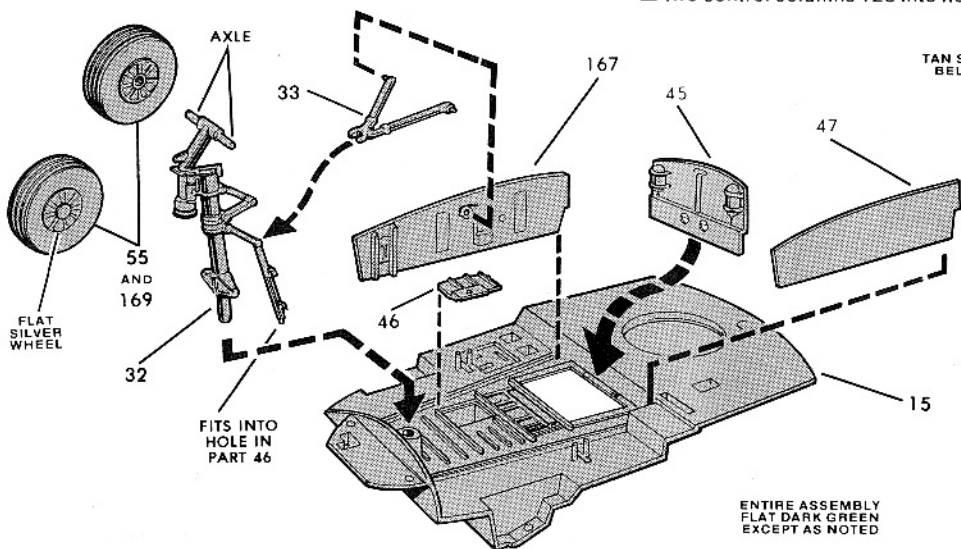
3



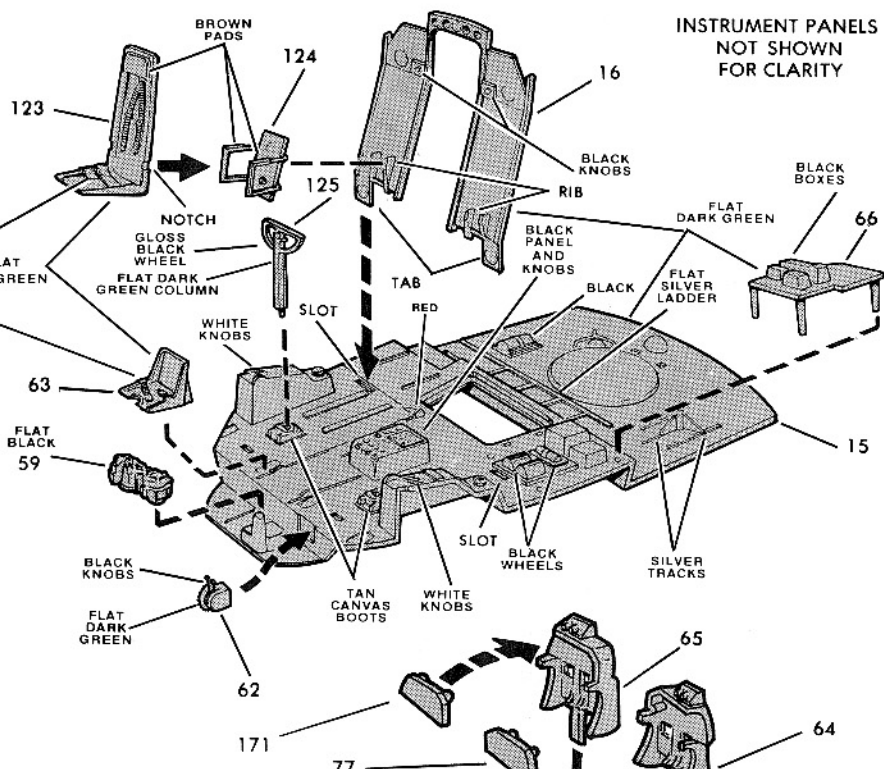
2

CEMENT:

- cover 46 into flight deck 15 as shown.
- rear wall 45 into deck.
- sides 47 and 167 into place.
- wheel halves 55 and 169 together — then cement onto axle on nose strut 32. Repeat for another wheel.
- strut into hole in flight deck and cover.

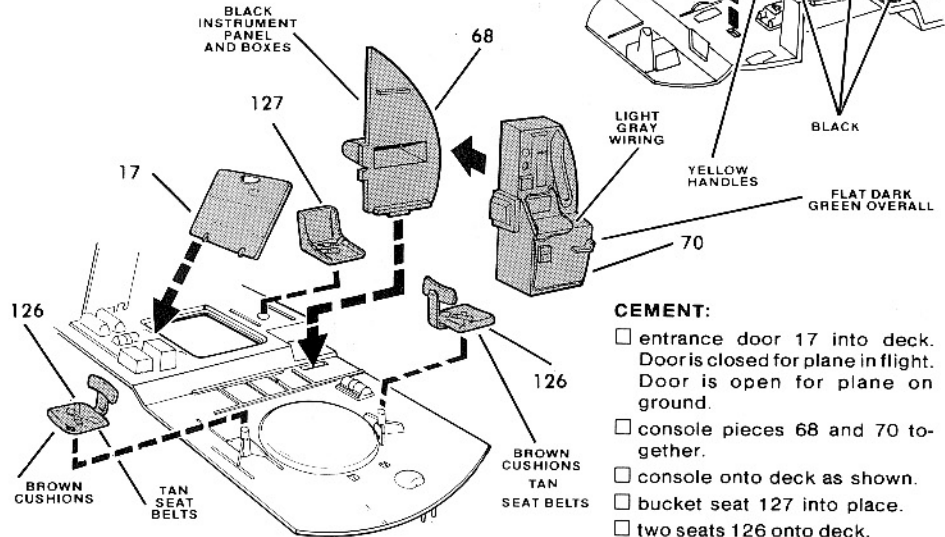


- drag strut 33 to nose strut and into holes in sides as shown.
- bomb release 62, seat 63 and sight 59 into place as shown.
- panel back 77 to instrument panel 64.
- instrument panel into flight deck.
- panel back 171 to instrument panel 65 — then cement into flight deck.
- two control columns 125 into holes as shown.



CEMENT:

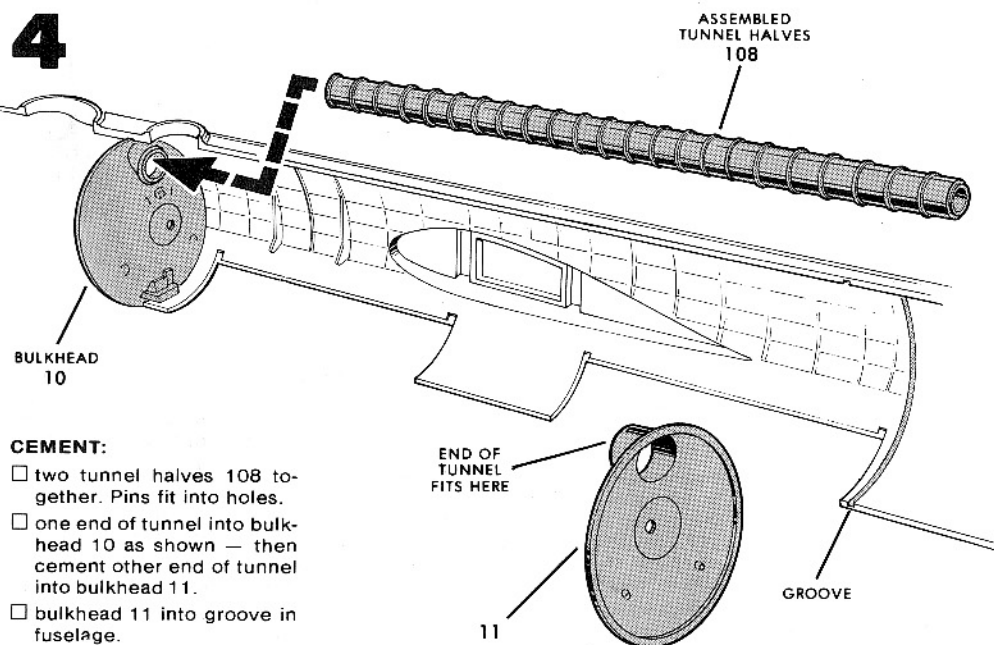
- armor plate 16 into flight deck.
- seats 123 against supports 124. Notches in seat fits onto arms on support.
- both seats onto ribs on armor plate.
- navigator's table 66 in holes in deck.



CEMENT:

- entrance door 17 into deck. Door is closed for plane in flight. Door is open for plane on ground.
- console pieces 68 and 70 together.
- console onto deck as shown.
- bucket seat 127 into place.
- two seats 126 onto deck.

4

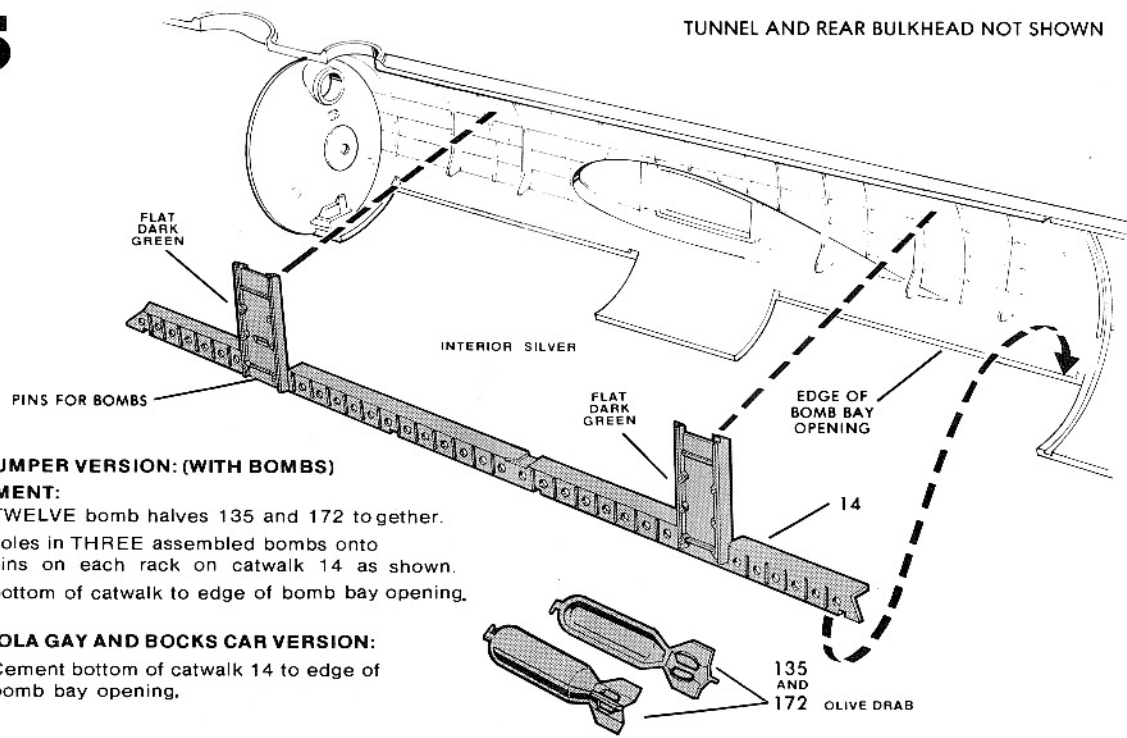


CEMENT:

- two tunnel halves 108 together. Pins fit into holes.
- one end of tunnel into bulkhead 10 as shown — then cement other end of tunnel into bulkhead 11.
- bulkhead 11 into groove in fuselage.

5

TUNNEL AND REAR BULKHEAD NOT SHOWN



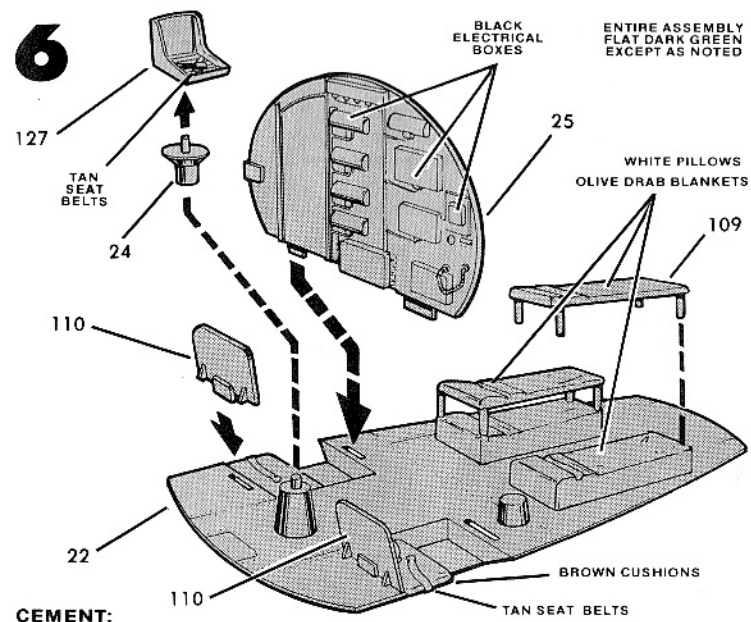
THUMPER VERSION: (WITH BOMBS)

- CEMENT:**
- TWELVE bomb halves 135 and 172 together.
 - holes in THREE assembled bombs onto pins on each rack on catwalk 14 as shown.
 - bottom of catwalk to edge of bomb bay opening.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Cement bottom of catwalk 14 to edge of bomb bay opening.

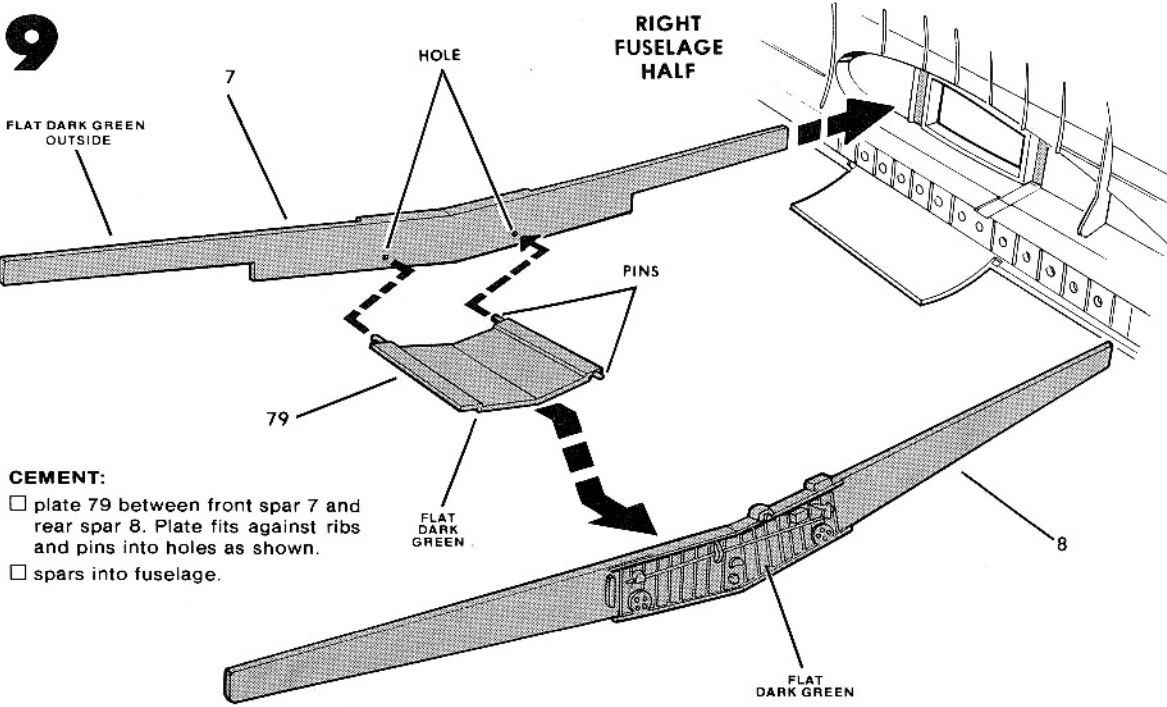
6



CEMENT:

- two beds 109 into notches in waist gun compartment floor 22 as shown.
- two seat backs 110 into floor.
- bucket seat 127 to seat support 24 - then cement support into floor.
- armor plate 25 into floor.

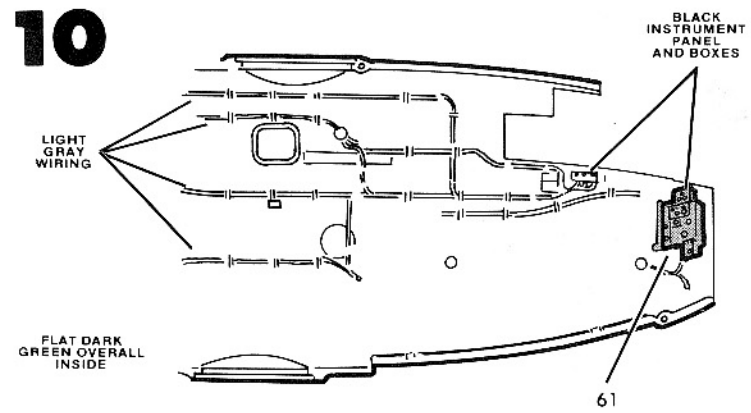
9



CEMENT:

- plate 79 between front spar 7 and rear spar 8. Plate fits against ribs and pins into holes as shown.
- spars into fuselage.

10



THUMPER VERSION:

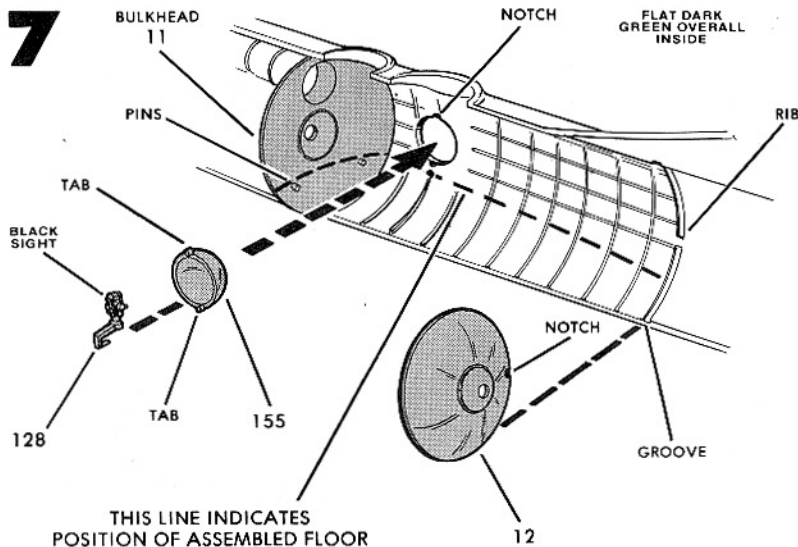
CEMENT:

- clear window 151, 157, catwalk 166, bomb halves 135 and 172, clear blister 155 and gun sight 128 into LEFT FUSELAGE HALF 2 as assembled in RIGHT FUSELAGE HALF.
- bombardiers' instrument panel 61 into place as shown.

- RIGHT AND LEFT FUSELAGE HALVES together. Apply cement in notches for wing spars. When using **tube cement**, hold fuselage halves together with pieces of tape until cement dries.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Assemble as THUMPER version but **DO NOT USE** clear blister 155, gun sight 128 and bomb halves 135 and 172.



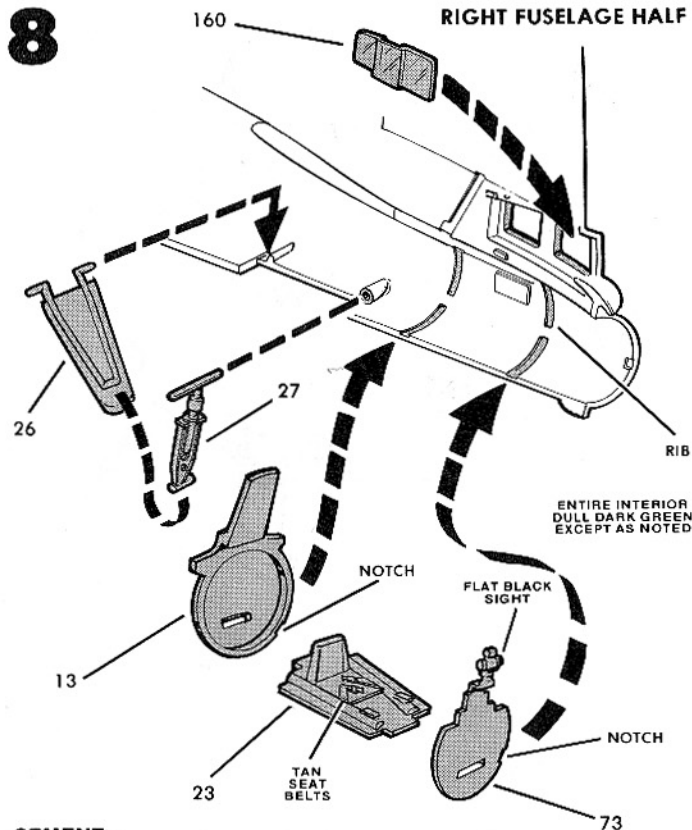
CEMENT:

THUMPER VERSION:

- clear blister 155 into opening.
- gun sight 128 to fuselage.
- assembled gun compartment floor (FROM STEP 6) onto pins on bulkhead 11 and side of fuselage. NOTICE taper of floor and fuselage.
- bulkhead 12 into groove with notch in bulkhead fitting over rib in groove.

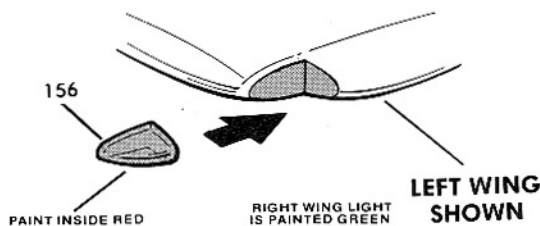
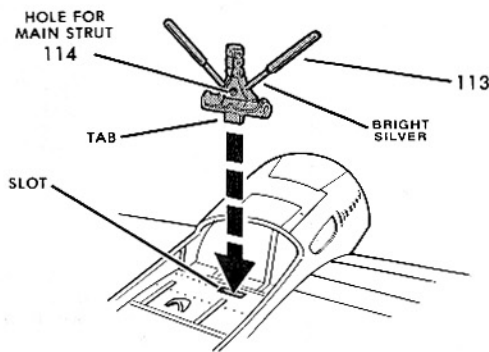
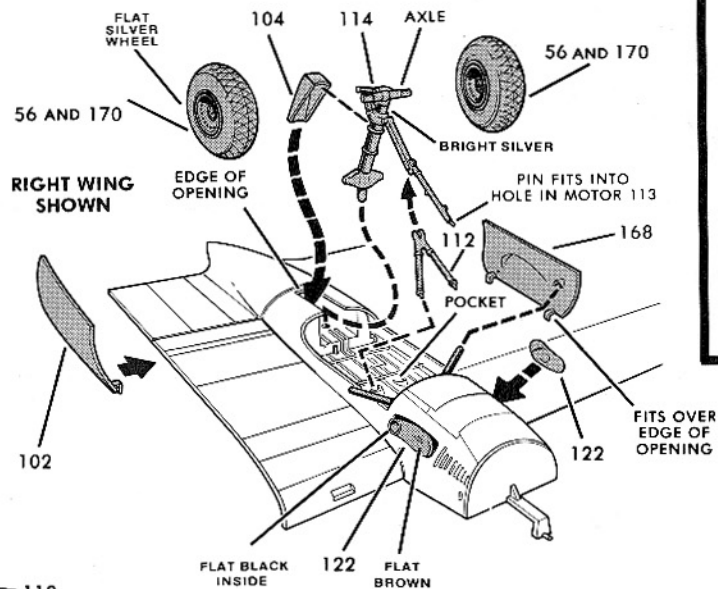
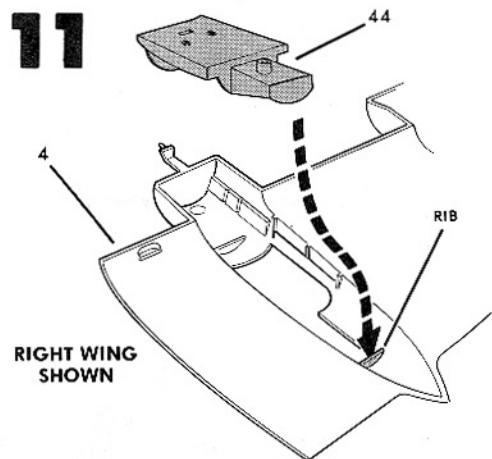
ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Follow assembly procedure as for THUMPER but DO NOT add the clear blister 155 or gun sight 128 to fuselage.



CEMENT:

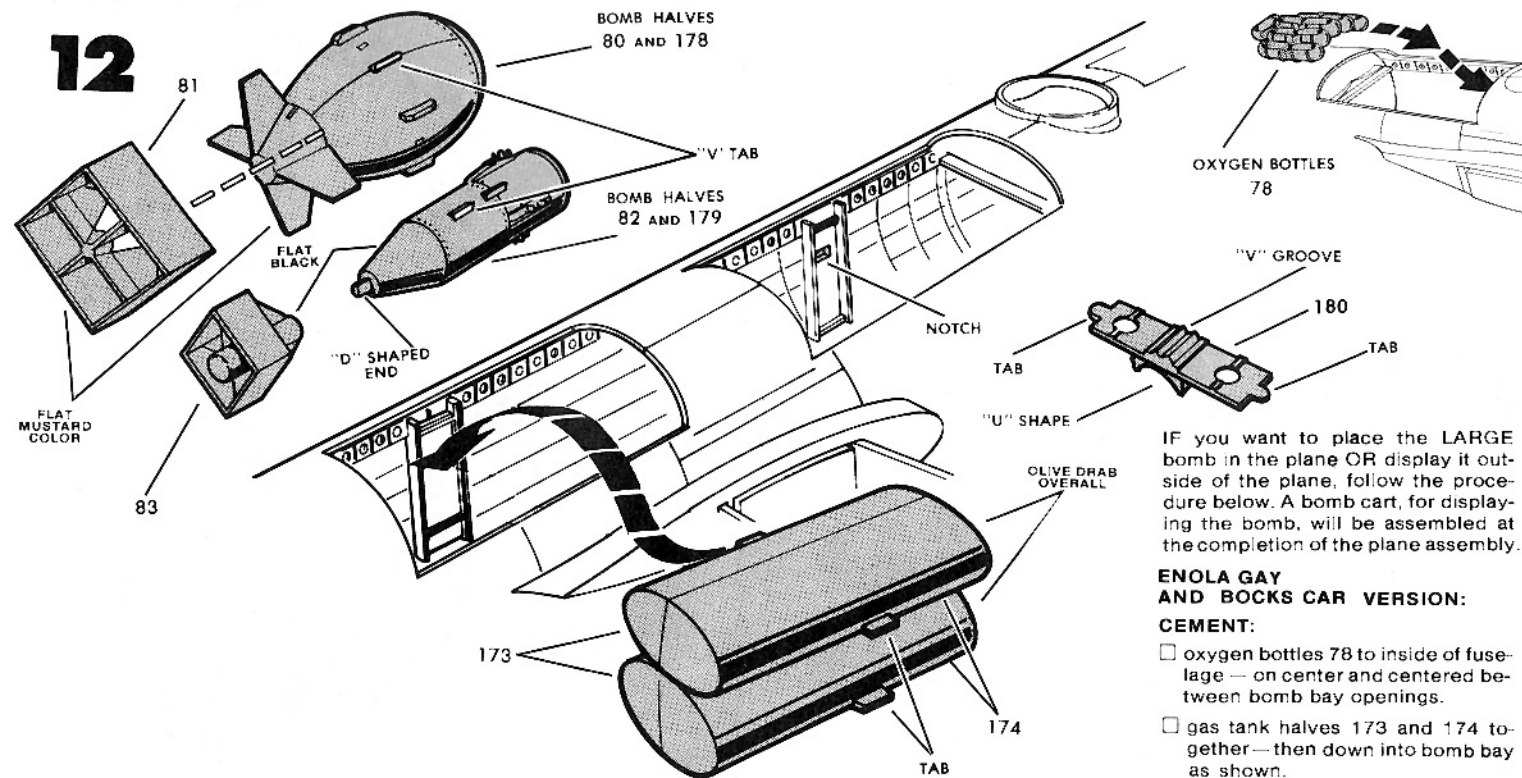
- clear window 160 into place.
- floor 23 between bulkhead 13 and armor plate 73.
- assembled floor into fuselage.
- tailskid front 26 into fuselage — then cement tailskid back 27 into fuselage and onto skid front.



CEMENT:

- wheel plate 44 against rib in RIGHT WING BOTTOM 4.
- retracting motor 113 into slot in plate.
- strut 114 into plate and into hole in retracting motor.
- retracting screw 112 to strut and into pockets in wheel plate.
- door 102 and 168 to edge of opening as shown.
- two superchargers 122 into nacelle as shown. Repeat for other nacelle on same wing.
- extension door 104 to strut and edge of opening as shown.
- wheel halves 56 and 170 together — then cement to axle on strut. Repeat for another wheel.
- RIGHT WING TOP 3 to RIGHT WING BOTTOM.
- REPEAT ENTIRE ASSEMBLY for LEFT WING using LEFT WING BOTTOM 163, wheel plate 43 motor 113, strut 114, retracting screw 112, doors 102 and 168, four superchargers 122, extension door 104, wheel halves 56 and 170.
- Cement LEFT WING TOP 162 to LEFT WING BOTTOM.
- Cement clear position light 156 to LEFT WING and light 161 to RIGHT WING.

12

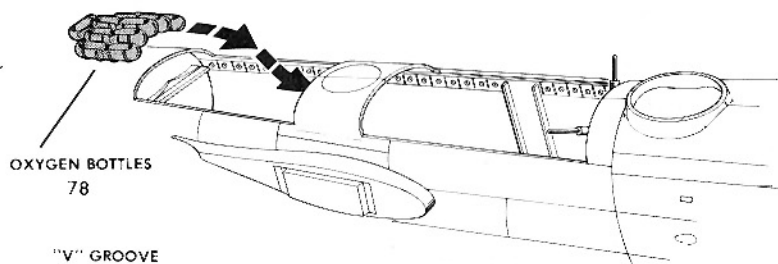


IF you want to place the LARGE bomb in the plane OR display it outside of the plane, follow the procedure below. A bomb cart, for displaying the bomb, will be assembled at the completion of the plane assembly.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

CEMENT:

- oxygen bottles 78 to inside of fuselage — on center and centered between bomb bay openings.
- gas tank halves 173 and 174 together — then down into bomb bay as shown.



ENOLA GAY:

CEMENT:

- LITTLE BOY bomb halves 82 and 179 together.
- "D" shaped hole in tail 83 onto "D" shaped end on bomb.
- "V" tab on bomb onto "V" groove in bracket 180.
- tabs on bracket into notches in bomb rack.

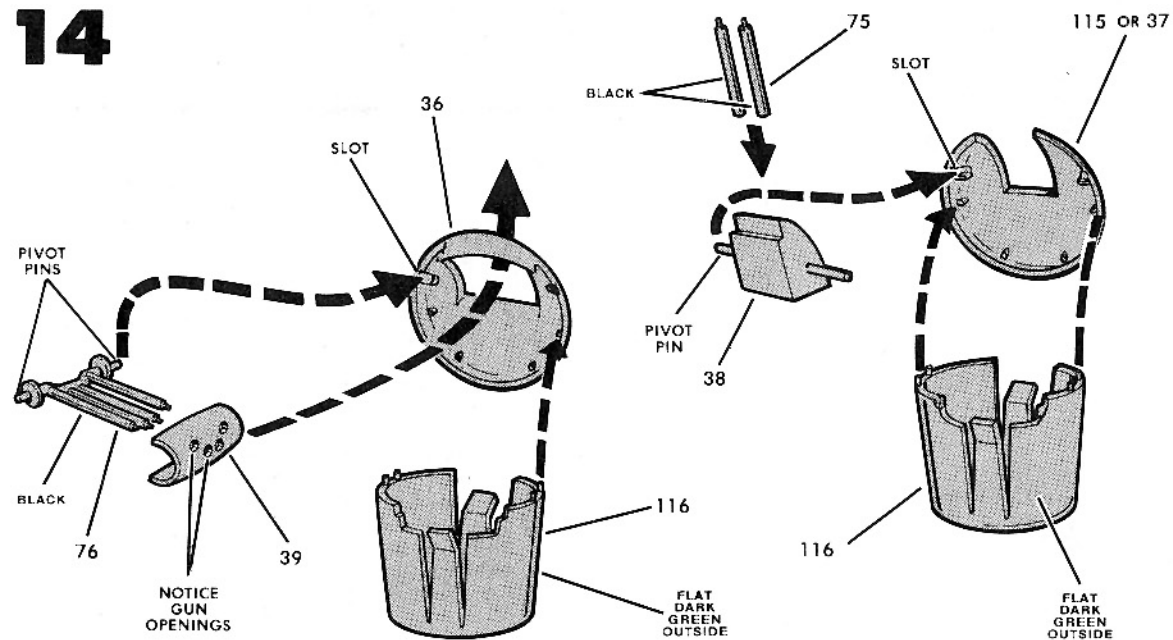
BOCKS CAR:

REMOVE BOTH TABS FROM BRACKET 180.

CEMENT:

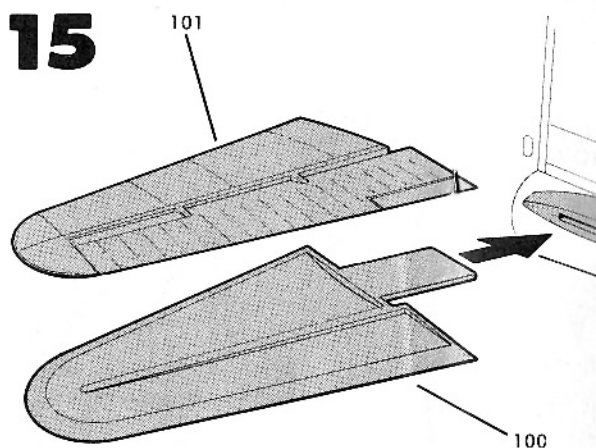
- FAT MAN bomb halves 80 and 178 together.
- tail 81 on bomb and fins.
- "V" tab on bomb onto "V" groove in bracket.
- "U" shape on bracket to tunnel with bomb centered in bomb bay.

14



- Cement two gun barrels 75 into holes in gun retainer 38.
- Place (do not cement) pivot pins on retainer into slots in turret 37.
- Cement turret retainer 116 to turret. DO NOT GET CEMENT NEAR PIVOT PINS. When cement has dried, guns may be raised and lowered.
- Repeat assembly for TWO additional gun turrets.
- Cement guns 76 into gun retainer 39.
- Place (do not cement) retainer into opening in turret 36 as shown with pivot pins on guns into slots in turret.
- Cement turret retainer 116 to turret. DO NOT GET CEMENT NEAR PIVOT PINS. When cement has dried, guns may be raised and lowered.

15



CEMENT:

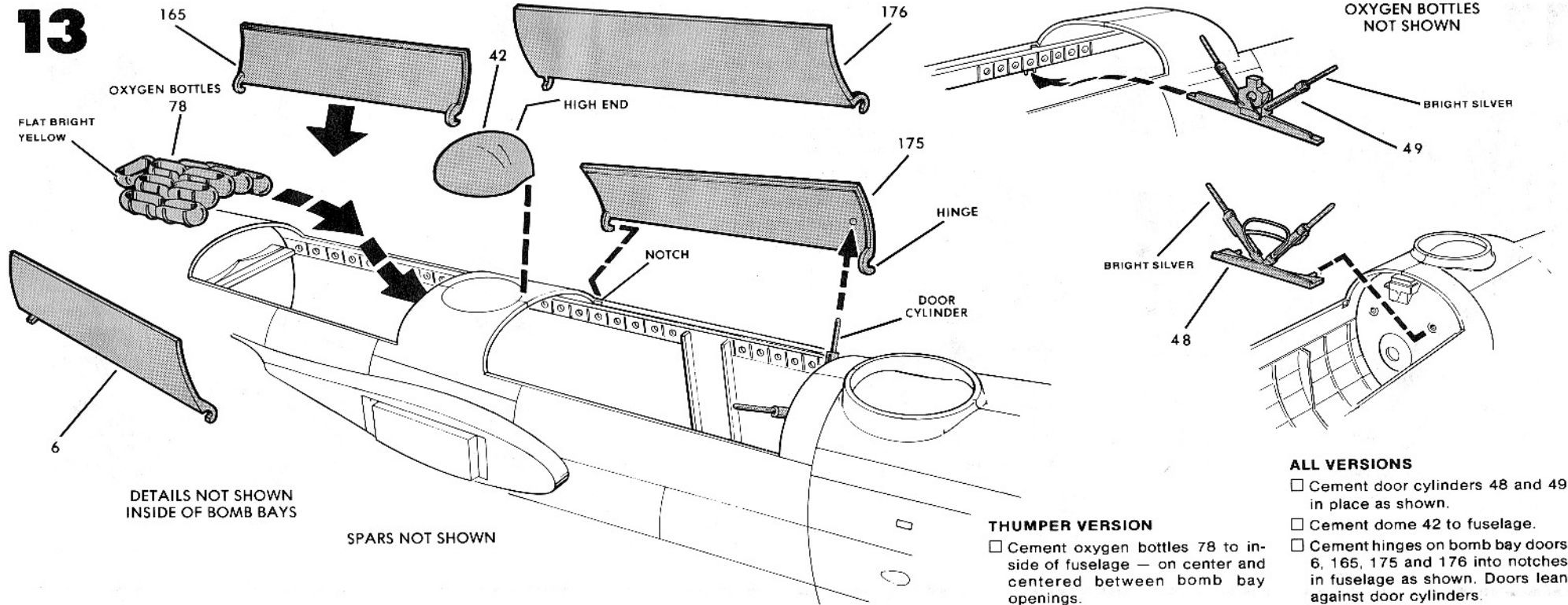
- stabilizer halves 100 and 101 together — then cement into fuselage as shown. Repeat for other side.
- clear window 152 into place.

THUMPER VERSION:

CEMENT:

- large gun 74 into hole in tail 35 as shown.
- two guns 75 into holes.
- tail to end of fuselage.

13



DETAILS NOT SHOWN
INSIDE OF BOMB BAYS

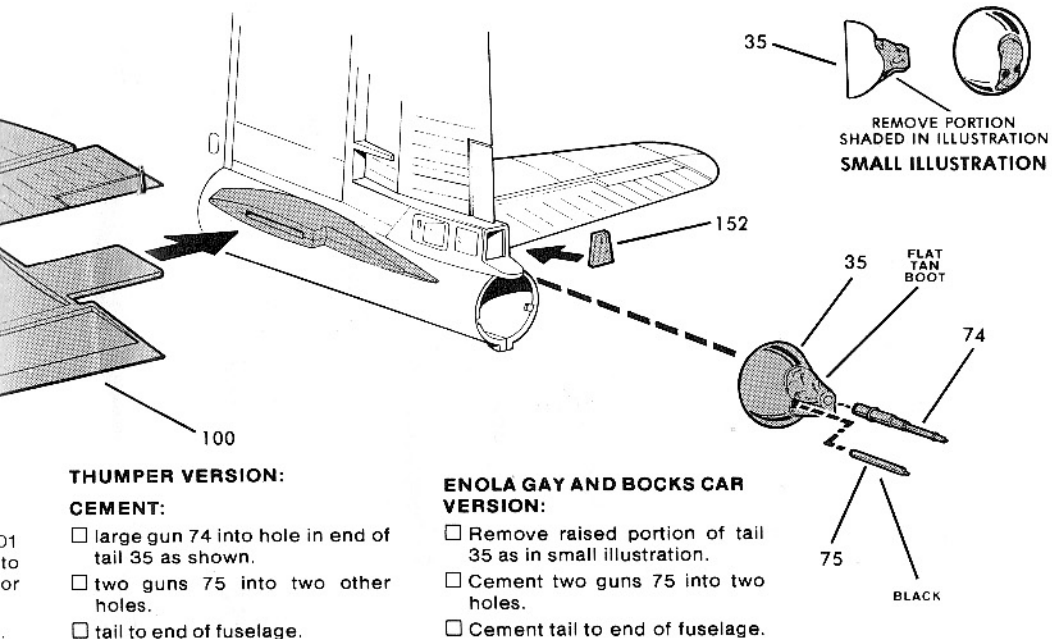
SPARS NOT SHOWN

THUMPER VERSION

- Cement oxygen bottles 78 to inside of fuselage — on center and centered between bomb bay openings.

ALL VERSIONS

- Cement door cylinders 48 and 49 in place as shown.
- Cement dome 42 to fuselage.
- Cement hinges on bomb bay doors 6, 165, 175 and 176 into notches in fuselage as shown. Doors lean against door cylinders.



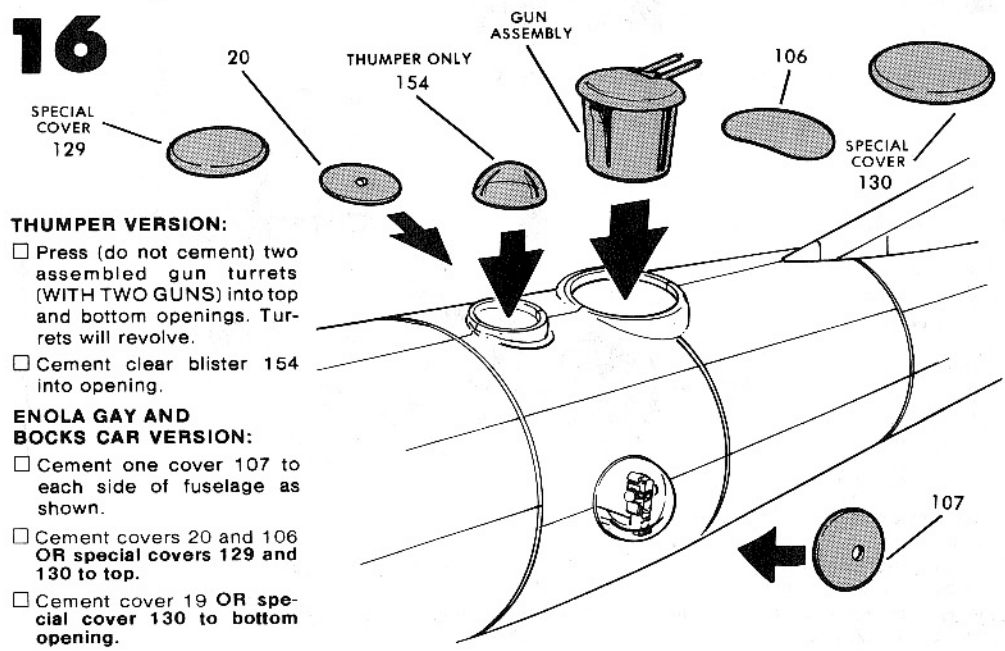
THUMPER VERSION:

- CEMENT:**
- large gun 74 into hole in end of tail 35 as shown.
 - two guns 75 into two other holes.
 - tail to end of fuselage.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Remove raised portion of tail 35 as in small illustration.
- Cement two guns 75 into two holes.
- Cement tail to end of fuselage.

16



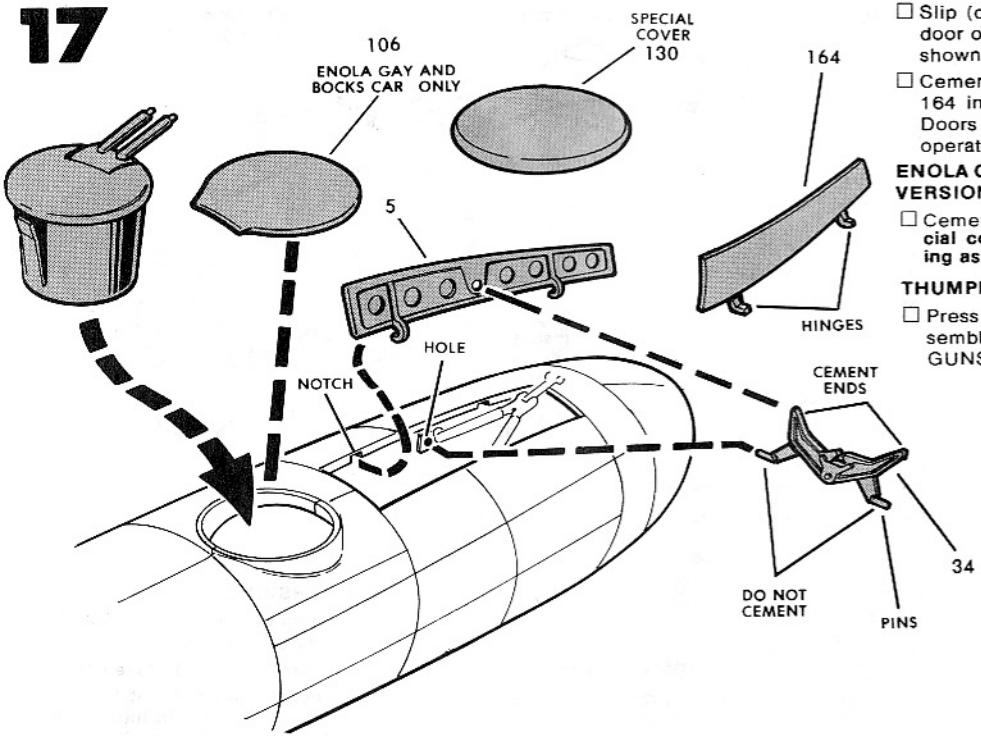
THUMPER VERSION:

- Press (do not cement) two assembled gun turrets (WITH TWO GUNS) into top and bottom openings. Turrets will revolve.
- Cement clear blister 154 into opening.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Cement one cover 107 to each side of fuselage as shown.
- Cement covers 20 and 106 OR special covers 129 and 130 to top.
- Cement cover 19 OR special cover 130 to bottom opening.

17



- Slip (do not cement) pins on door operator 34 into holes as shown.
- Cement hinges on doors 5 and 164 into notches in fuselage. Doors lean against ends of operator.

ENOLA GAY AND BOCK'S CAR VERSION:

- Cement cover 106 OR special cover 130 over opening as shown.

THUMPER VERSION:

- Press (do not cement) an assembled gun turret (WITH TWO GUNS) into opening in nose.

NOSE GEAR NOT SHOWN

18

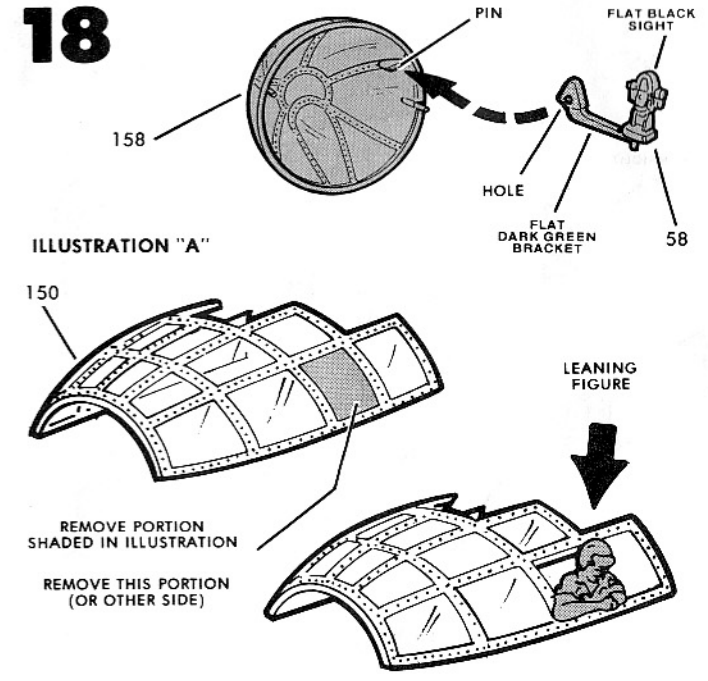
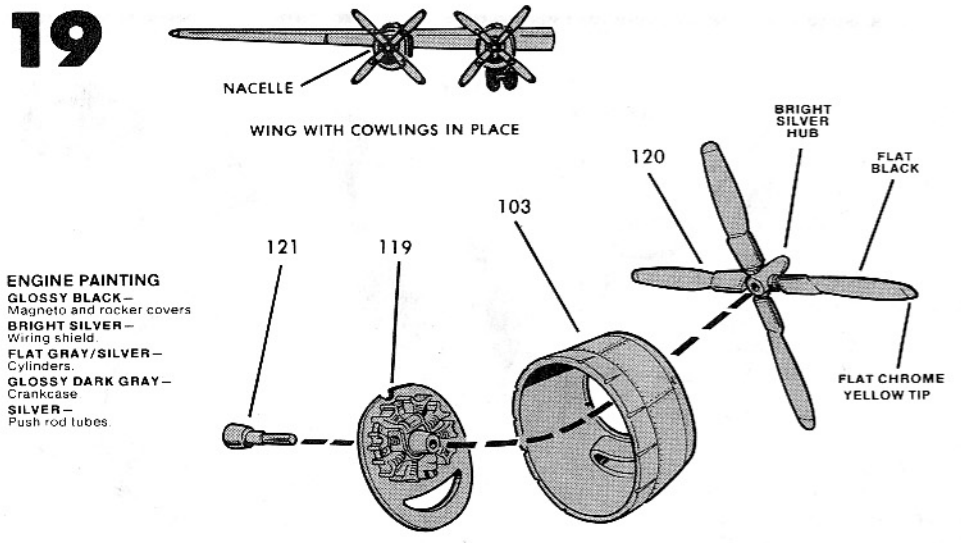


ILLUSTRATION "A"

ILLUSTRATION "B"

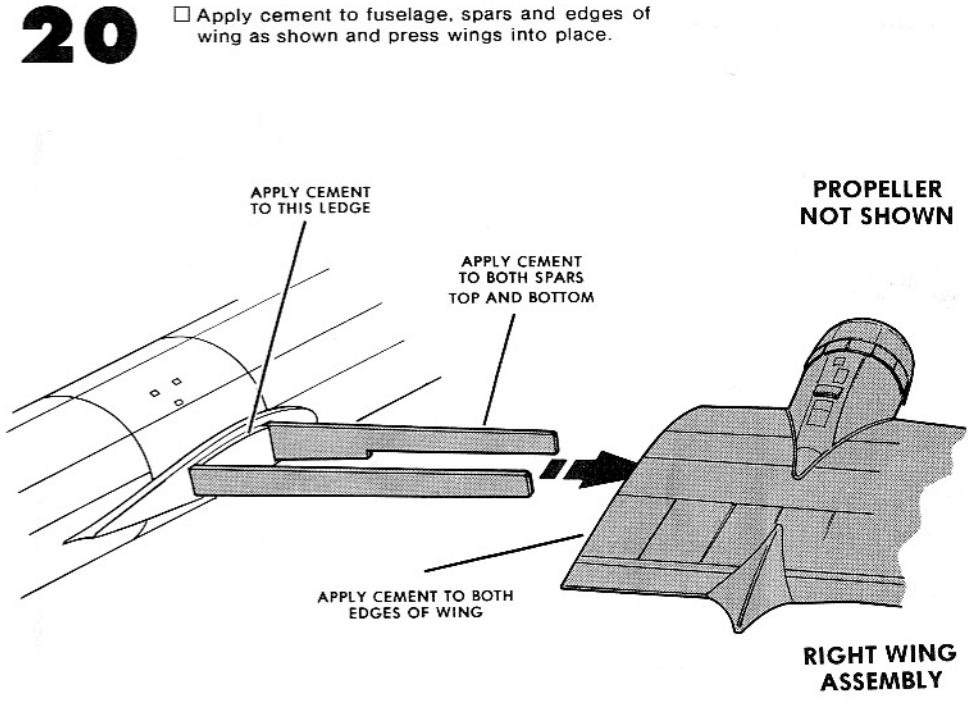
19



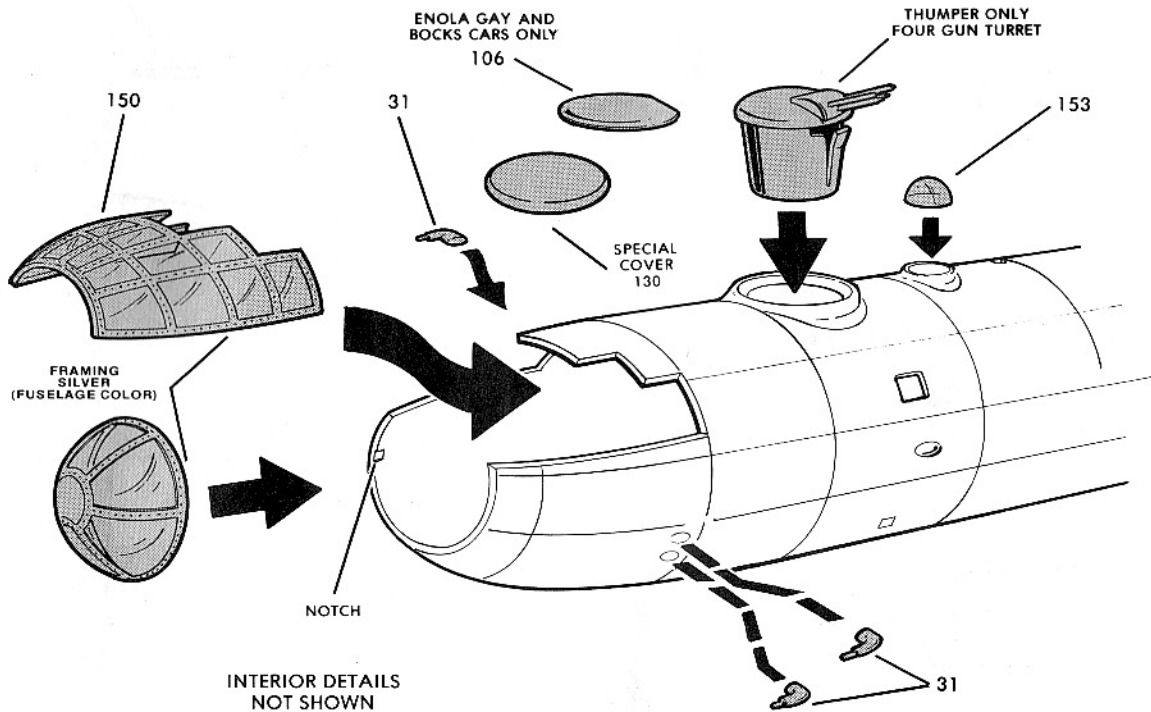
ENGINE PAINTING
GLOSSY BLACK—Magneto and rocker covers
BRIGHT SILVER—Wiring shield
FLAT GRAY/SILVER—Cylinders
GLOSSY DARK GRAY—Crankcase
SILVER—Push rod tubes.

- Cement engine 119 into cowl 103.
- Slip (do not cement) bearing 121 through hole in engine.
- Press (do not cement) propeller 120 onto bearings.
- REPEAT for other THREE ENGINES.
- Cement cowlings onto nacelles on wings.

20



- Apply cement to fuselage, spars and edges of wing as shown and press wings into place.



BEFORE CEMENTING THE CLEAR PIECES INTO POSITION, PAINT THE RAISED LINES. REFER TO PAINTING DIRECTIONS FOR CLEAR NOSE PIECES.

OPTIONAL — ALL VERSIONS

A leaning standing figure with folded arms MAY BY CHOICE be added to the cockpit area as follows:

Carefully clean out area in clear windshield 150 as indicated in illustration "A."

Cement windshield into place.

Slip feet of figure through hole in windshield. Feet may be cemented (OR PLACED WITHOUT CEMENT) onto the flight deck. Arms of figures rest on edge of opening. SEE ILLUSTRATION "B."

NO FIGURE ADDED TO COCKPIT AREA:

Cement windshield 150 into place.

CONTINUE ASSEMBLY:

CEMENT:

- hole in gun sight 58 onto pin on inside of nose 158 as shown.
- nose to fuselage. Pins on nose fit notches in fuselage.
- clear blister 153 into place.
- two pitots 31 onto side where indicated by raised lines. One pitot 31 is located on opposite side of plane.

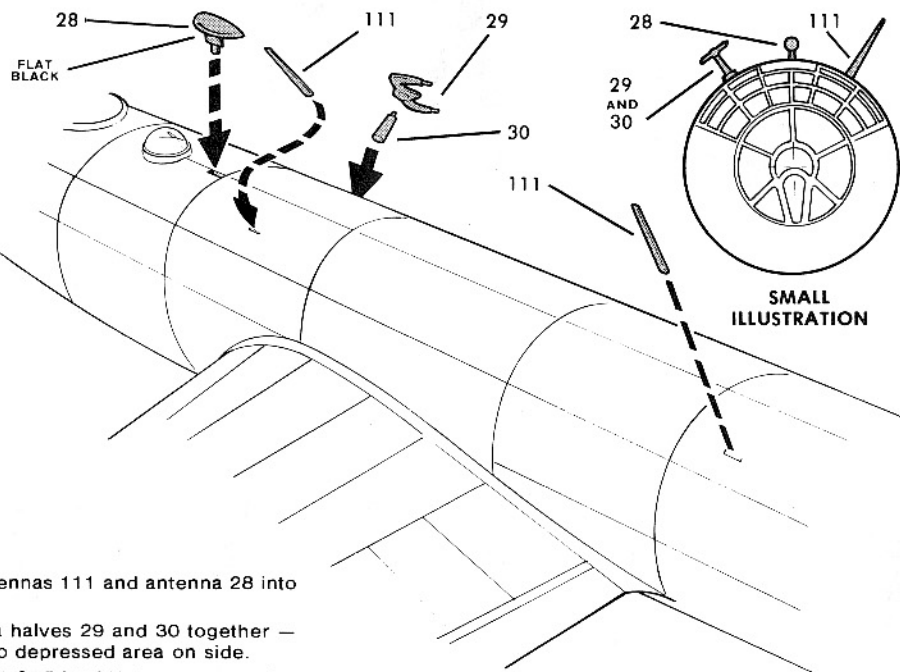
ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

- Cement cover 106 OR special cover 130 over opening.

THUMPER VERSION:

- Press (do not cement) assembled gun turret (WITH FOUR GUNS) into opening. Turret will rotate.

21



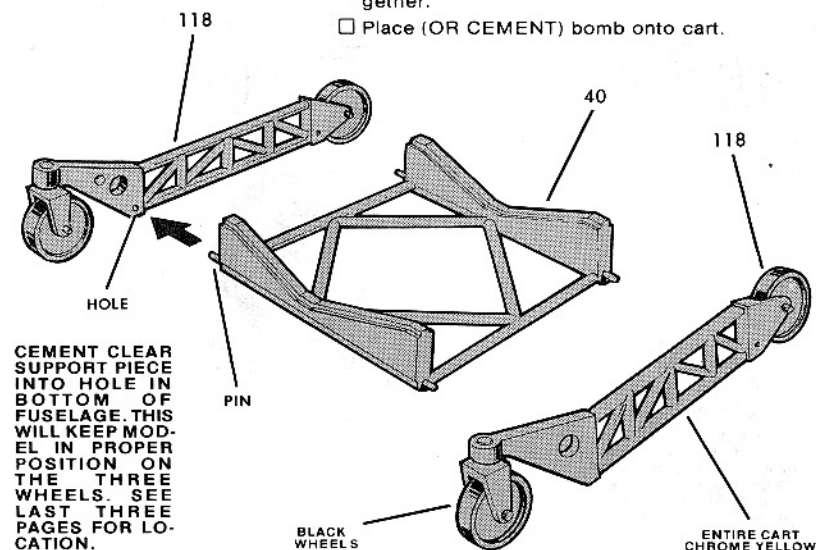
- Cement two antennas 111 and antenna 28 into place as shown.
- Cement antenna halves 29 and 30 together — then cement into depressed area on side.
- SEE SMALL ILLUSTRATION for proper angles of antennas.

22

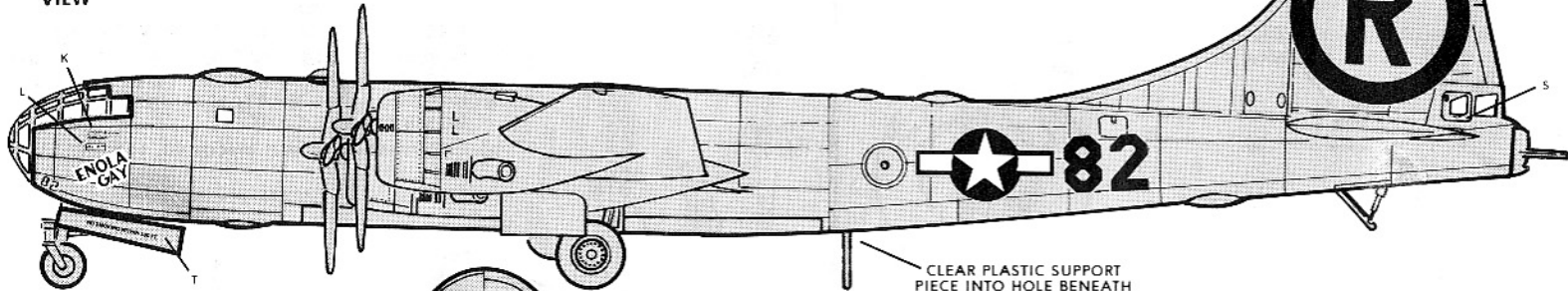
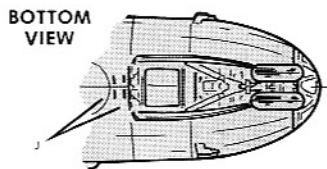
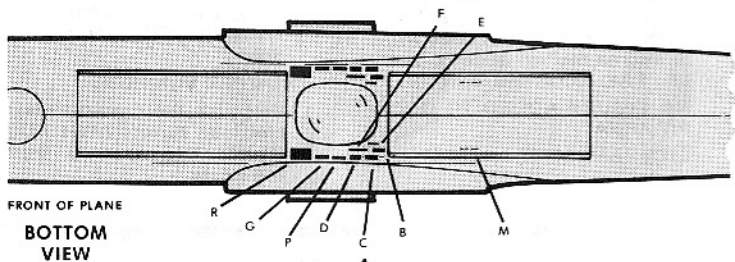
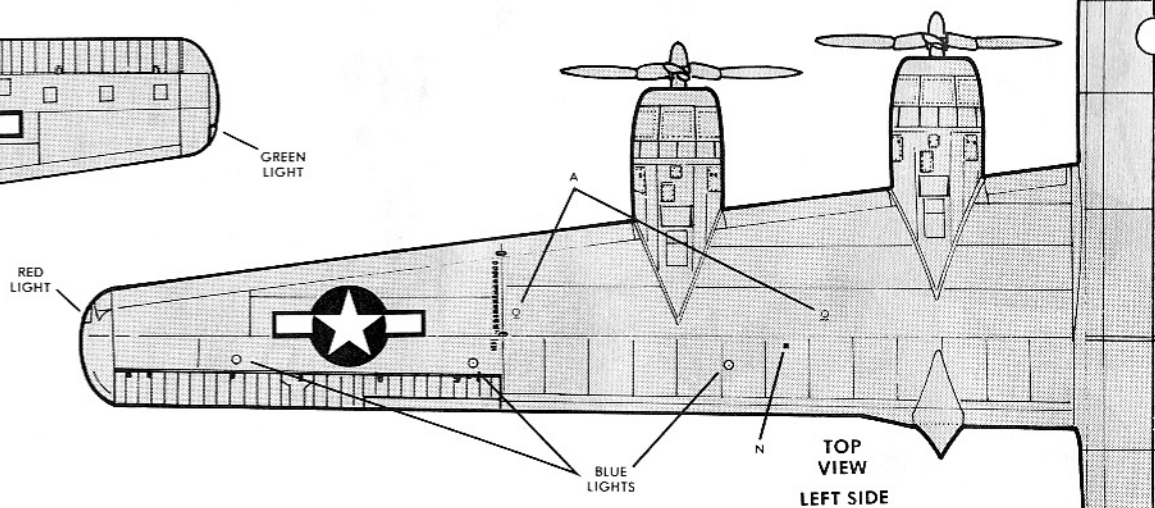
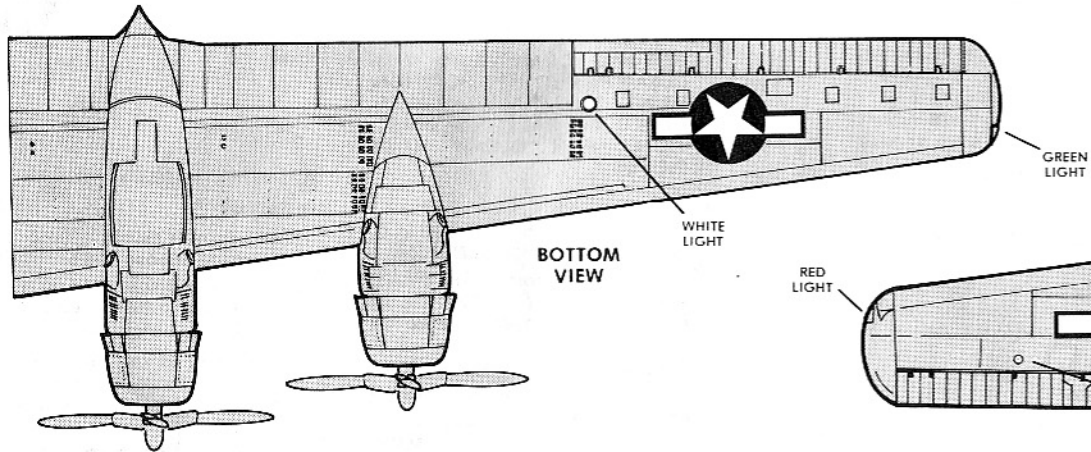
ENOLA GAY AND BOCKS CAR VERSION:

IF YOU DECIDED (IN STEP 12) NOT TO HAVE THE LARGE BOMB IN YOUR PLANE — ASSEMBLE THE BOMB CART AND DISPLAY THE BOMB ON THE CART.

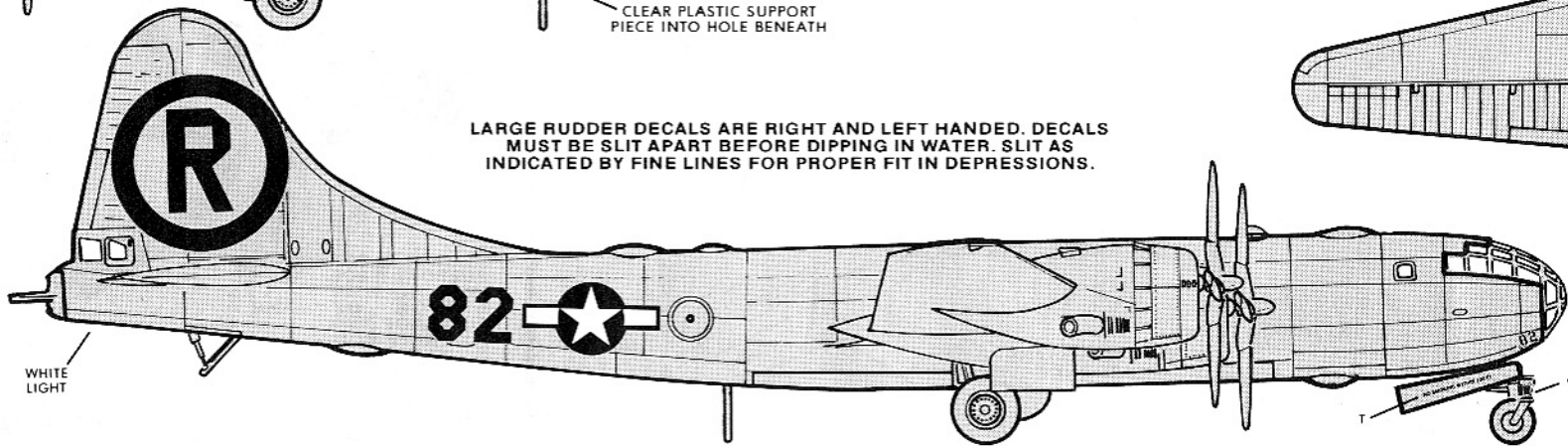
- Cement bomb cart pieces 40, 118 and 118 together.
- Place (OR CEMENT) bomb onto cart.



CEMENT CLEAR SUPPORT PIECE INTO HOLE IN BOTTOM OF FUSELAGE. THIS WILL KEEP MODEL IN PROPER POSITION ON THE THREE WHEELS. SEE LAST THREE PAGES FOR LOCATION.

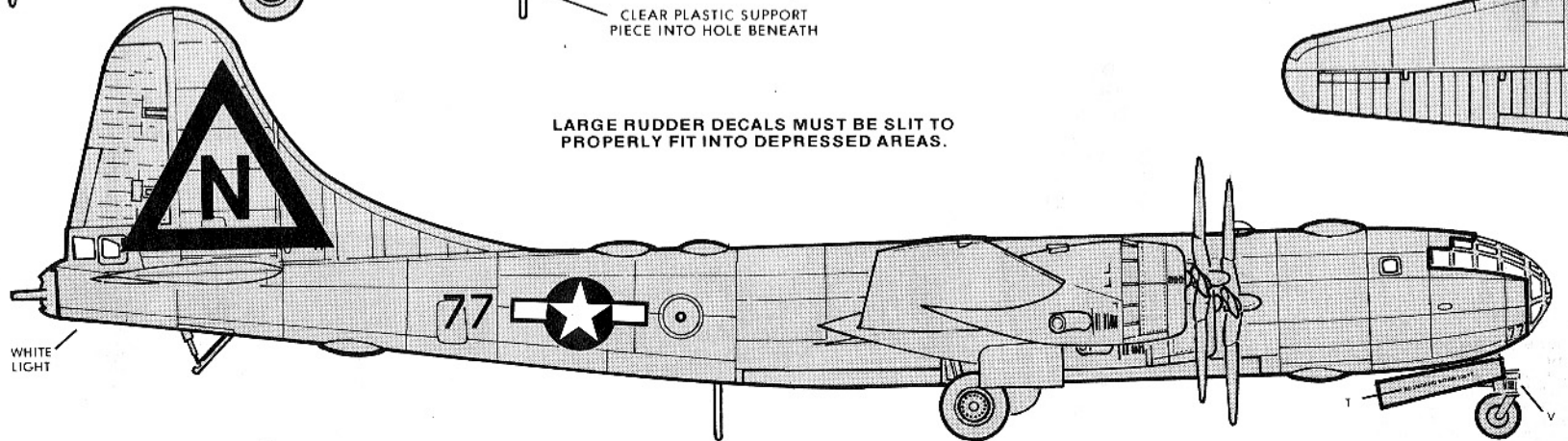
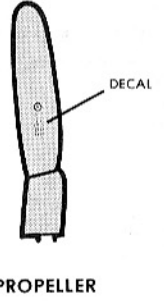
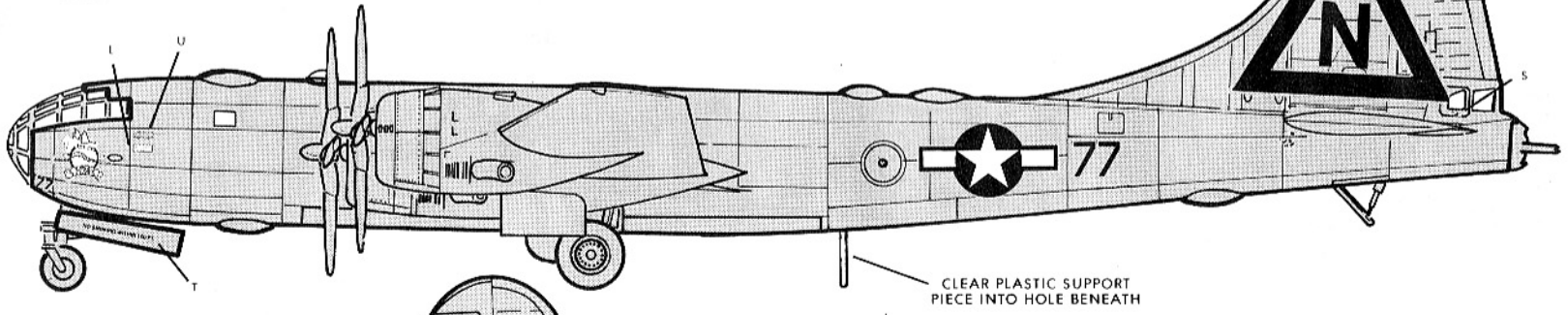
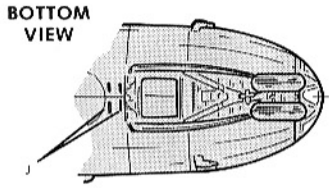
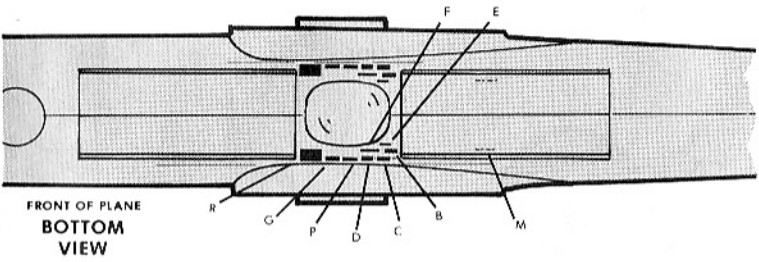
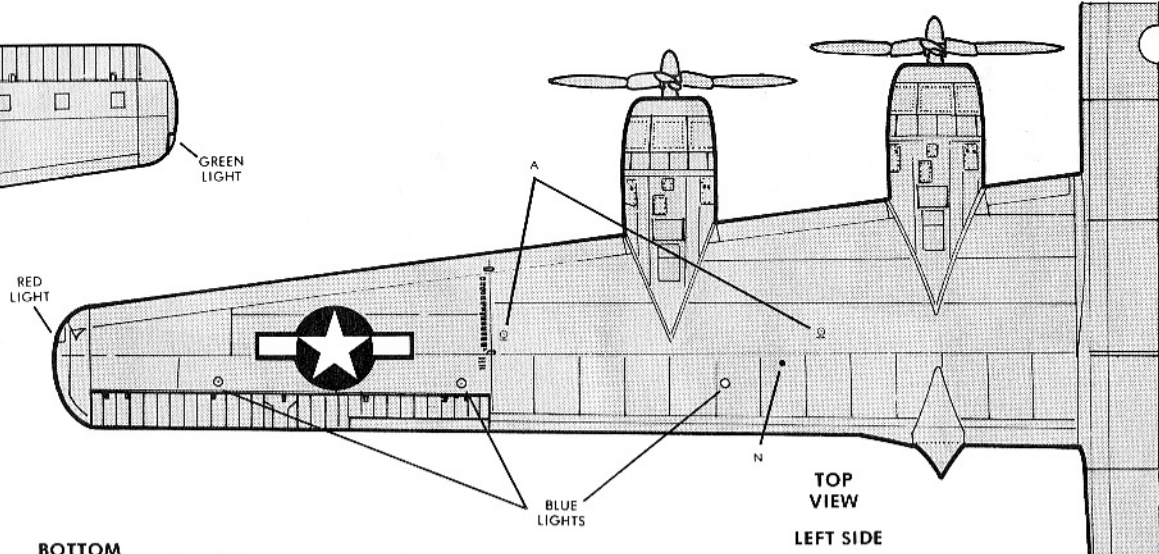
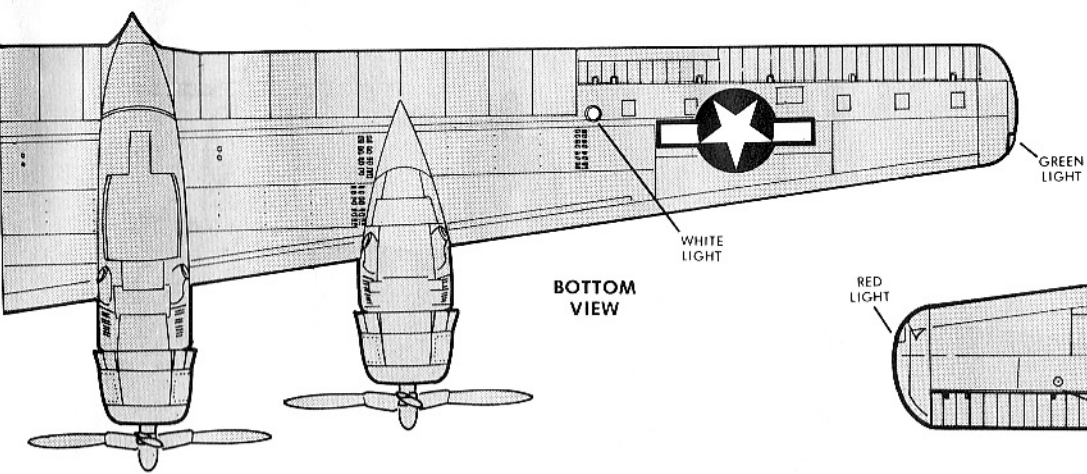


LARGE RUDDER DECALS ARE RIGHT AND LEFT HANDED. DECALS MUST BE SLIT APART BEFORE DIPPING IN WATER. SLIT AS INDICATED BY FINE LINES FOR PROPER FIT IN DEPRESSIONS.

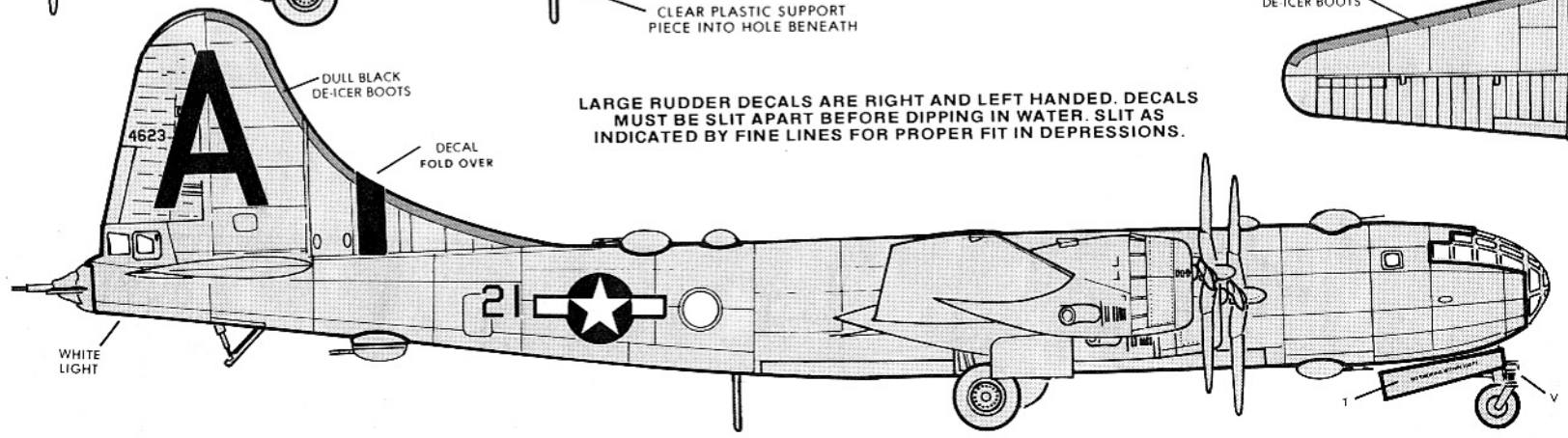
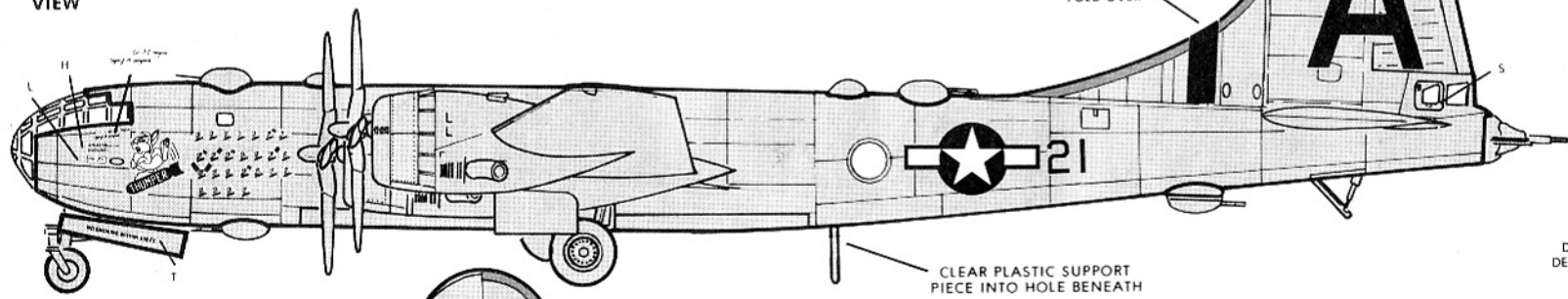
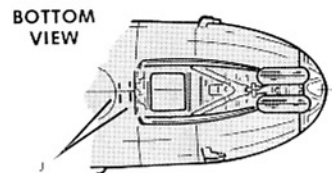
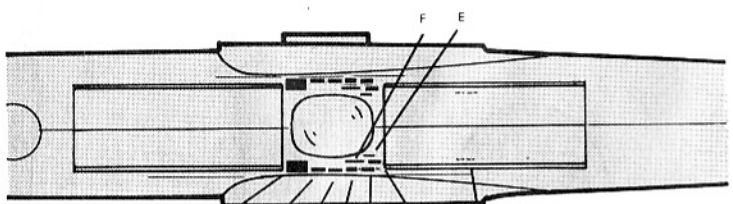
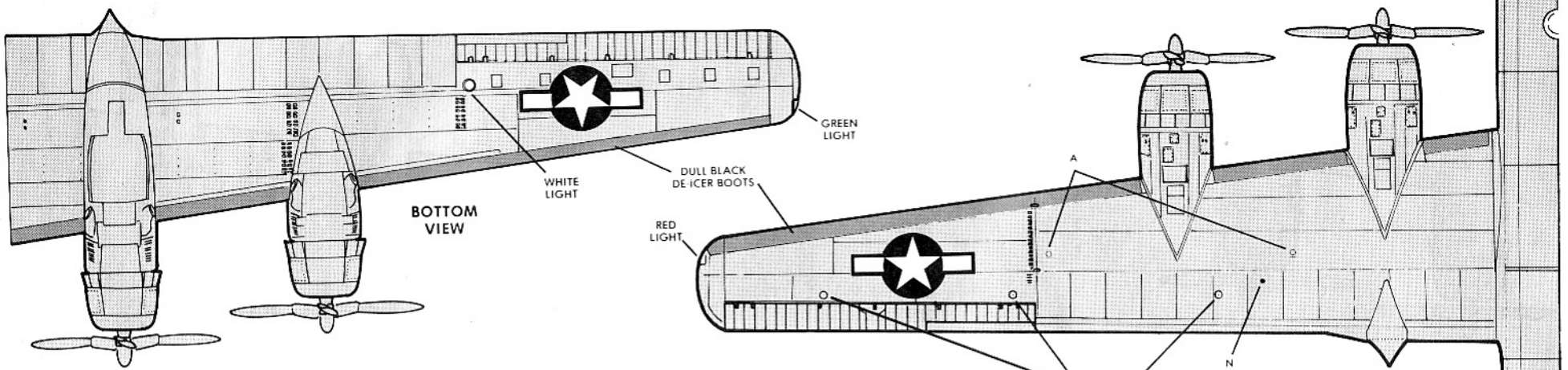


ENOLA GAY

The "Enola Gay" was personally selected from the Martin Aircraft assembly line by the Commander of the 509th Composite Group. This specially modified aircraft was a B-29-45-MO.



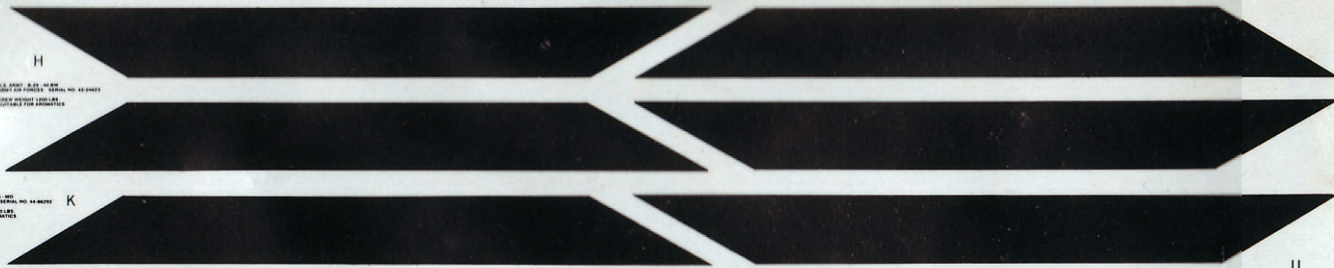
BOCKSCAR
 "Bockscar" was a B-29-35-MO assigned to the 393rd Bomb Squadron, 509th Composite Group. This aircraft was one of fifteen aircraft that were specially modified to accomplish the nuclear mission.



LARGE RUDDER DECALS ARE RIGHT AND LEFT HANDED. DECALS MUST BE SLIT APART BEFORE DIPPING IN WATER. SLIT AS INDICATED BY FINE LINES FOR PROPER FIT IN DEPRESSIONS.

THUMPER
Assigned to the 497th Bomb Group, 73rd Bomb Wing, "Thumper" was typical of "Superfortresses" employed in the strategic bombing of Japan. This aircraft was a B-29-40-BW constructed by the Wichita Division of Boeing Aircraft.

200
82



NO SMOKING WITHIN 100 FT.
NO SMOKING WITHIN 100 FT.

NN



4623
4623

77

RIGHT SIDE



ENOLA
GAY
A V

R



77

77

77

77

77

77

77

RIGHT SIDE

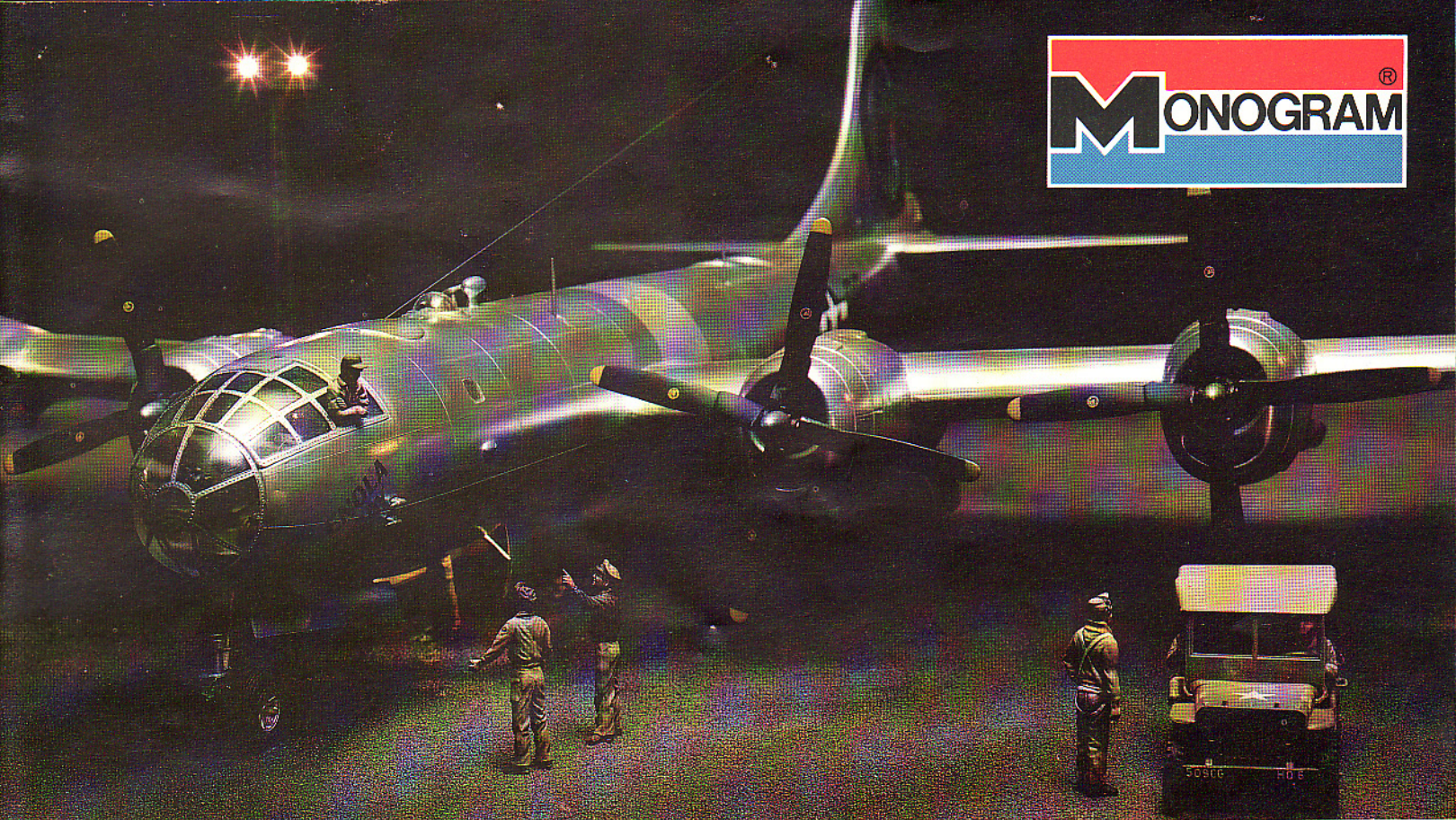
B
C
D
E

ni

B-29 SUPERFORTRESS 5700-0300

Copyright © 1995

U.S. AIR FORCE



ABOVE — In a few moments, interested onlookers and armament personnel will move away from the gleaming "Enola Gay," and the auxiliary hardstand lights will be extinguished. You can see the aircraft commander in the open cockpit window, exchanging last minute quips with two squadron members standing on the airfield. The "Enola Gay" was a B-29-45-MO assigned to the 509th Composite Group.

Diorama created by Sheperd Paine

B-29 SUPERFORTRESS DIORAMA

BELOW — The ground crewman in the foreground is preparing to extinguish the kleig lights on the portable light cart. This ingenious unit was created by mounting the upper section of an HO light unit on the chassis of the trailer included with the 1/48th scale Bandai Jeep kit. Additional braces were added with Plastruct L-Beam.



As Allied Forces doggedly engaged Imperial Japanese troops positioned throughout the vast South Pacific, American scientists labored under the utmost secrecy to create an awesome weapon that was the culmination of the highly-classified "Manhattan Project." The two nuclear weapons were salvaged on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by two gleaming "Superfortresses" assigned to the 509th Composite Group. Unified late in 1944, this unit was formed specifically to operate as the world's first nuclear bombardment group. The 509th was led by Colonel Paul Tibbets, an energetic veteran of the intense strategic bombing campaign over Europe. Though many of the aviators assigned to the unit were combat veterans, months of arduous specialized training was needed to develop the skills that were needed to deliver the mysterious "super weapon." The destructive force of the world's first thermonuclear devices was revealed to the aircrews of the 509th during a tension-filled briefing after their arrival on the island of Tinian. This small atoll in the Marianas Islands was the staging area for the B-29s and personnel of the 509th Composite Group.

The mechanical failures and enemy fighters that plagued Twentieth Air Force "Superfortresses" were unacceptable if the rigorous nuclear missions were to succeed. Fifteen factory-fresh B-29s were modified to suit the exacting requirements of the 509th's classified mission. Devoid of armor plate and most external armament, the modified aircraft were significantly lighter. Up-rated Wright "Cyclone" engines fitted with fuel-injection improved cruising speed and mechanical reliability.

This diorama depicts the last moments prior to engine start of the Second World War's most historic flight. The aircraft commander, Colonel Tibbets, can be seen in the open cockpit exchanging last minute small talk with two members of the ground crew. It was a few moments past 0200 hours on the humid tropical morning of August 5th, 1945. The dawning of the nuclear age was but a few hours away.



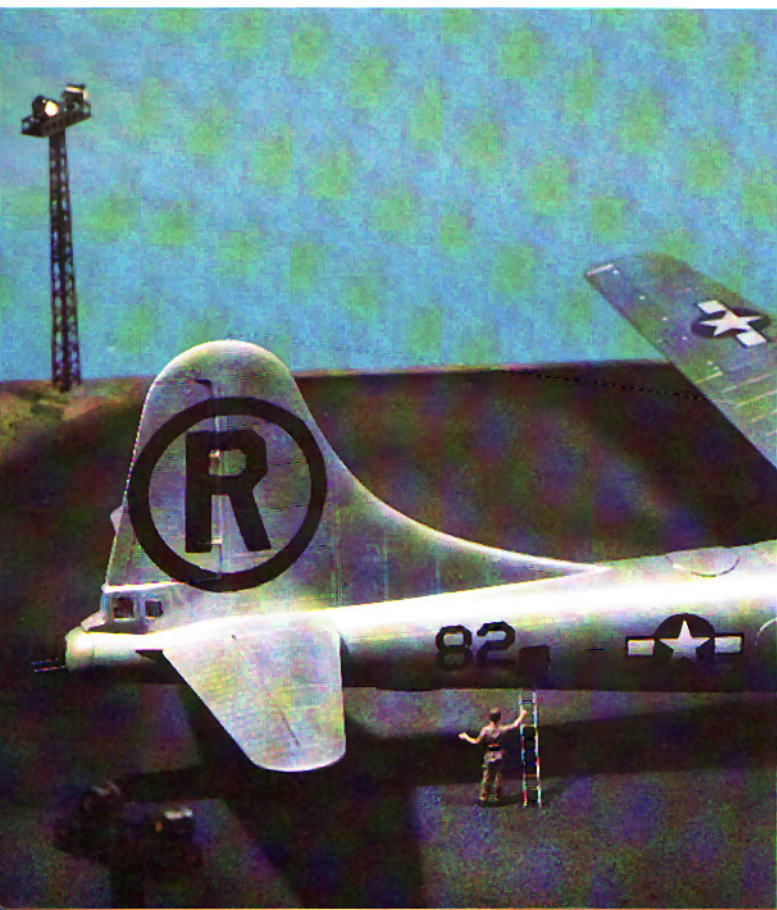
ABOVE — The 1/48th scale Jeep in the detail photo above is a Bandai kit. It is ideal for aviation diorama and includes separate figures and a general-purpose trailer.

LEFT — The figure seen in the open cockpit window is included in the B-29 kit. The window will have to be drilled and filed to shape to enable you to insert the figure, but work very carefully as clear styrene is extremely brittle and will crack very easily.

Undoubtedly, you will agree that dioramas are an excellent way to display your latest model. A scale model aircraft placed in a realistic setting will surely evoke a great deal of interest from your friends.

NORTH FIELD AUGUST 1945

BELOW — As you will quickly discover, the "Superfortress" model is extremely tall, heavy and somewhat difficult to balance. Although a mounting screw was added to the nose gear assembly, it was decided to reinforce the entire model by opening the rear crew entry and positioning a boarding ladder in the doorway as shown.



This diorama depicts the historic pre-dawn launch of the "Enola Gay" in August of 1945. Like the B-24 "Liberator" diorama shown in a previous Monogram diorama sheet, this creation is based on an actual event in the past that has been documented in books and photographs. The availability of such information will enable you to confirm specific details of the scene that you are modeling. As with any diorama that you create, the advance planning that you do will greatly enhance the effectiveness of your final creation. Most 1/48th scale Monogram aircraft kits contain scale figures that are ideal for dioramas depicting scenes from the Korean and Second World War. Even though these figures are probably the smallest items in your diorama, they are instrumental in making your diorama a fascinating "attention-getter." If you desire, you can reposition the heads, arms and legs of your figures to heighten the interest in your finished diorama. Position your figures so that they are pointing to or looking at objects and activities that you want to emphasize.

Ground support vehicles similar to the tracked tow tractor found in the B-24 kit, and 1/48 scale armor kits available in your local hobby shop, are great for adding to the realism of your diorama. The Jeeps seen in the accompanying photographs are Bandai kits available in hobby shops that specialize in armor models. The figures in the Jeeps were included in the Bandai kit, and are ideally suited for this particular diorama. Consult the construction details for information concerning the portable light unit.

The diorama base was constructed from a 3/4" thick panel of particle board. This is more desirable as a base in that it is less apt to warp than a similar plywood base. Because our base was lighted, 1" x 2" sides were added to conceal the wiring. The edges of the base were trimmed with paper-thin strips of walnut veneer available at your local hardware store. While researching various aspects of the "Enola Gay" flight, our modeler discovered that the sprawling airfield on Tinian was constructed of pulverized coral soaked with heavyweight oil. To duplicate this surface, the base was coated with white glue, and sprinkled with N gauge railroad ballast. When dry, the excess ballast was removed and stains were added



In this view, you will note that two figures have been added to the bomb bay area. Simulating armament specialists, these figures are ideal for camouflaging the electrical wires that lead to the lamp in the forward bomb bay. Note that the figure seated in the Jeep depicts an ever-present military policeman.



As a crewman jokes with the two men in the Jeep, a ground crewman equipped with a fire bottle readies himself for possible trouble during the starting procedure. Fireguards were usually present while starting the massive radial engines. Small details such as this add a great deal of interest to the overall effect of the diorama.

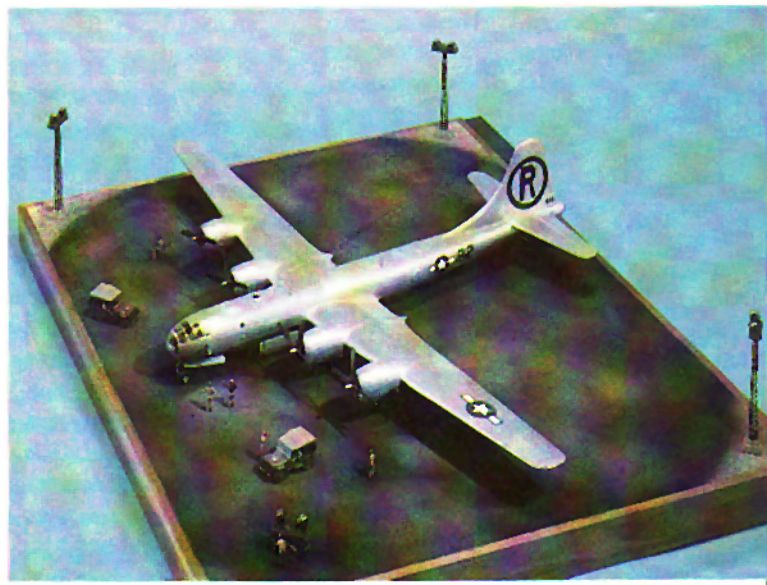
using thinned acrylics to simulate stains from engine oil and hydraulic fluid.

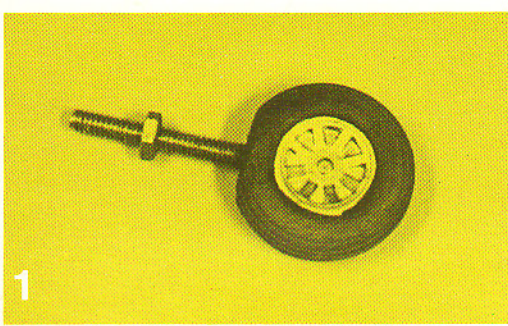
Though the exterior appearance of the B-29 in this diorama follows the changes outlined to model the "Enola Gay," the major modifications to the aircraft are internal. Fibre optics strands, available in many scientific hobby shops, were cut to length and fitted to the interior to simulate cockpit and formation lights. If you are unfamiliar with fibre optics, they are very thin, but durable plastic strands capable of transmitting light. In this application, a single twelve-volt bulb was mounted in the bomb bay, and the fibre strands leading to the cockpit and wing tips were gathered into a single bundle and terminated in front of the light mounted in the forward bomb bay. The mount for the light source was fashioned from two-ply illustration board, and the bomb bay was lined with aluminum foil to increase the intensity of the light source. The aluminum foil also insulates the plastic from the heat generated by the light bulb. The pilot's, co-pilot's, and flight engineer's consoles were drilled with a miniature modeling drill, and the ends of the fibre optics strands were glued in place.

The airfield light towers are made for HO model railroad layouts. They can be purchased wired and ready to mount from hobby shops that carry model railroad components. The operating light towers and fibre optics layout within the aircraft are optional. If you desire to wire your diorama, and are unfamiliar with electrical wiring, ask a model railroader for assistance. The airfield lights and bomb bay lamp are wired in a single parallel circuit that is connected to a small twelve-volt model railroad transformer. The transformer is mounted on the inside of the base, and has an electrical plug that fits into a wall socket. If you desire, an on-off switch and a rheostat that will enable you to dim the lights can be added to the basic circuit. The lighting system utilized in this diorama is optional, and can be omitted if you desire.

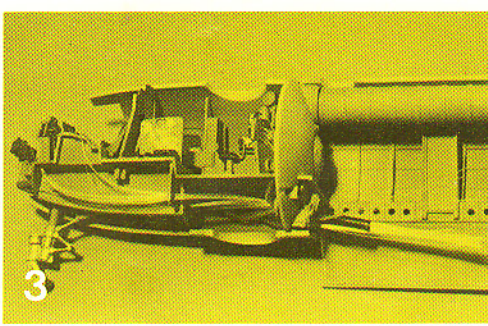
A special problem that you will encounter when building a large, tricycle gear aircraft, such as the B-29, is that the model is usually tail heavy. Quite often, weight can be added to the nose area, but, even that is impractical with glass-nosed bombers. As you will note in the construction details, a machine screw was mounted in one of the nose wheels. Drill a corresponding hole in the diorama base for the screw to fit through. Not only will this type of mounting increase the ease with which your finished diorama can be moved, but if you decide to electrify your model as shown, it will be significantly easier to replace a burned-out bulb in the forward bomb bay.

This overall view of the "Enola Gay" clearly demonstrates an extremely important aspect of diorama construction. Never mount the major item in the diorama parallel to the sides of the base. You can increase the instantaneous "snapshot effect" of the overall presentation by adhering to this guideline. You will also discover that careful planning as you position figures and vehicles will contribute to the success of your finished effort.

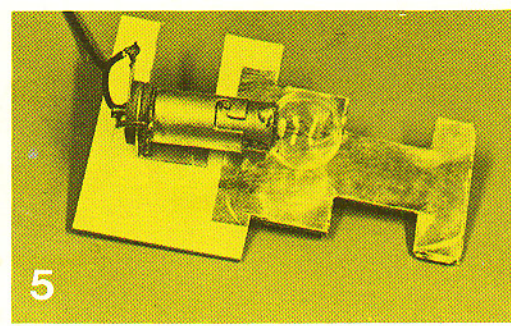




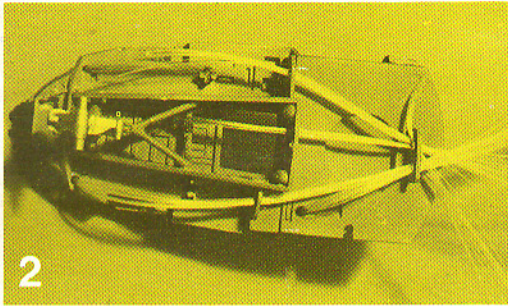
1



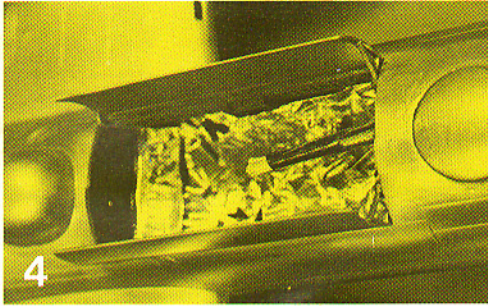
3



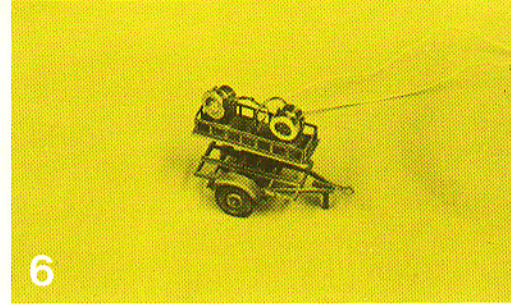
5



2



4



6

1. A long machine screw has been "trapped" between two halves of the nose wheel. The side of the assembled wheel that rests on the diorama surface has been sanded flat to simulate the weights of the aircraft on the inflated tire.

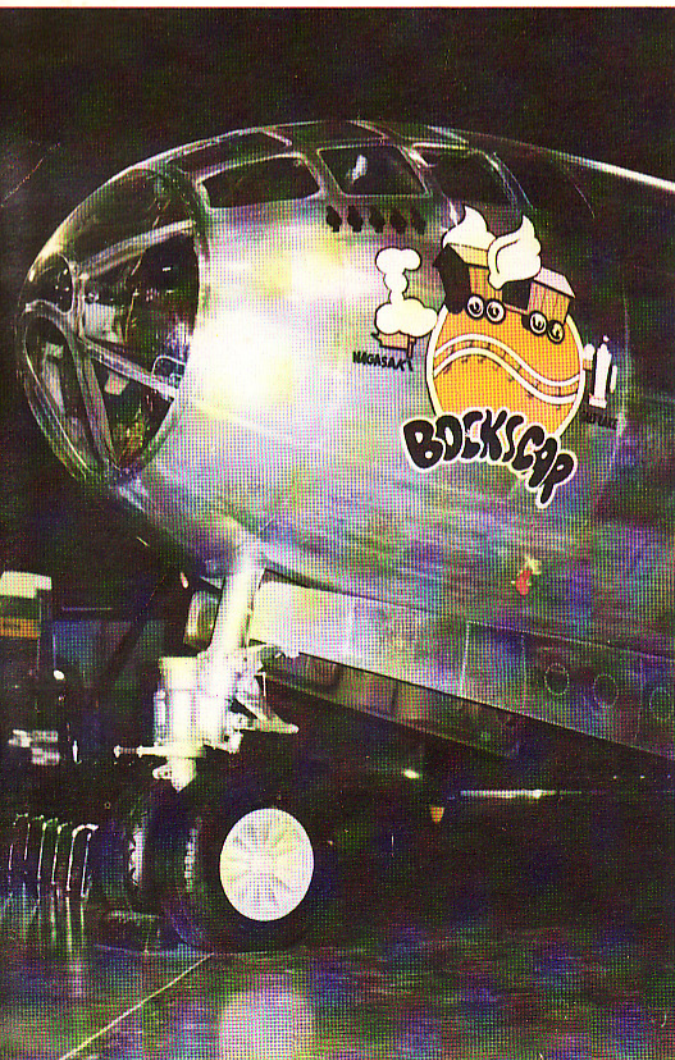
2. In this detail, note that the fibre optics strands are grouped in bundles as they lead aft toward the light source. The supports for grouping the strands are fabricated from sheet styrene and glued to the underside of the cockpit assembly.

3. With the cockpit assembly in place, you will note that the large bundle of fibre optics strands have been taped with black electrical tape and fed through a 1/4" diameter hole drilled in the lower portion of the pressure bulkhead. Trim the fibre strands so that they terminate as shown in photo four.

4. Before inserting the light bulb into the bomb bay, line the bomb bay with aluminum foil. This will increase the effectiveness of the light bulb and reduce the amount of heat affecting the surrounding plastic.

5. The light that fits into the bomb bay is mounted in a standard lamp base designed for low-voltage bayonet bulbs. This lamp base is affixed to a mount scratchbuilt from two-ply illustration board. Avoid sheet styrene as it will undoubtedly warp or melt due to heat build-up within the bomb bay.

6. This scratchbuilt light unit was fabricated from the upper section of an HO light unit, the trailer chassis in the Jeep kit, and Plastruct L angle. The electrical wires were lead down through the chassis, and into a hole drilled in the diorama. Use your imagination to create ground equipment such as this.



During the Second World War, nearly four thousand B-29 "Superfortresses" were constructed, but the inevitable ravages of prolonged combat and technical obsolescence reduced their number to a mere handful of aircraft situated throughout the United States. Many of the remaining B-29s are displayed in aviation museums dedicated to the preservation of aviation history. A visit to one of these institutions will provide you with a unique insight into this famed Boeing heavy bomber.

The aircraft depicted in the diorama described in the preceding pages is currently in storage at the Silver Hill restoration facility that is part of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Though the "Enola Gay" is in storage, aviation enthusiasts hope that it will be placed on public display in the future. Shown in the accompanying photograph, "Bockscar" is the B-29 that dropped the nuclear weapon on Nagasaki in 1945. This aircraft is a popular attraction at the United States Air Force Museum situation adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio. Specially modified to enable visitors to walk through the interior, a B-29 fuselage is also displayed that will be of particular interest to modelers planning to super detail their models. In Windsor Locks, Connecticut, members of the Bradley Air Museum have preserved a B-29A. The Florence Air and Missile Museum located in Florence, South Carolina have two veterans of the Pacific bombing campaign of World War II on display, and a similar B-29 is on the grounds of the Strategic Aerospace Museum located in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Members of the Pima Air Museum are currently restoring yet another twentieth air force "Superfortress." Part of an imposing array of aircraft, this B-29 will be finished in an authentic World War Two paint scheme. Situated on the southern boundary of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson, Arizona, the Pima Air Museum is one of the most rapidly growing aviation museums in the United States.

The B-29 "Superfortress" maintained by the famed Confederate Air Force has the distinction of being the only airworthy B-29 in existence. Located in Harlingen, Texas, a visit to the Confederate Air Force is truly experience. If you are fortunate enough to see their B-29, nicknamed "Fifi," in flight, you will agree that this great silver bird is truly awe-inspiring.