CONSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

Some of the following notes and suggestions are general and may not apply specifically to the particular model you are now about to make. They are given for the assistance of those who for the first time are approaching this absorbing life-long hobby of Micromodel making. Specific instructions where necessary are given on individual cards. ● Micromodels are not toys and should not be associated with Children's cut-out books. These latter often can be assembled in a very few minutes by inserting tongues in slots or pasting down tags ; all very simple, but unrewarding to the serious model-maker, no matter how young. ● Some Micromodels take 60 hours. Don't hurry ; enjoy every minute, then you will build " little gems " as they have so often been called, really worth contemplating and showing with pride. ● Edges to be joined, after cutting with a keen blade, are brought together and fixed using the minimum amount of adhesive. It is a good idea to spread a small quantity on each edge or surface, and then if necessary to draw a sharpened match-stick moistened with the adhesive along the joint whilst the two surfaces are held together. A quick-drying " balsa cement," or Micromodels " Nuglu " which sets more slowly and thus is more controllable, are recommended. Fish glue or photomountant also are appropriate. Give the adhesive time to set, and don't use too much. Whilst adhesive is setting, edges may be held together by winding on a short length of fuse-wire. Fuse-wire has the virtue of bending easily and remaining in position without springing back. The wire can be used repeatedly. Elastic bands also are useful if not too strong. ● Joints, which have been lightly and accurately set in position, should be reinforced with a generous line of adhesive applied with a sharpened match inside. Heavy main structures may be further reinforced on the inside by sticking short pieces of match in appropriate positions. ● Build unit by unit and take as much care with a tiny chimney stack or gable, say, as with a main structure. Make every item perfectly " plumb and true " ; then assemble together, again reinforcing with adhesive inside joints if possible. Avoid excess of adhesive outside ; balsa glistens and looks like ice, and some adhesive, gum for instance, show prominently as solid black when a model is photographed. ● The white line of any exposed cut edge should be toned down with a soft pencil or a touch of water colour. Exposed reverse sides of card should be appropriately tinted. ● Matches sand papered to size often improve a portico or form a window-sill or door-step. Windows may be cut out on the flat, recessed and glazed with cellophane. A very satisfying embellishment which can be added to some Architectural subjects by experienced Micro-modellers is that of embossing (to a greater or lesser degree) selected details on flat wall surfaces. The trick is to use a small screw-driver or other blunt instrument to emphasize a brick, stone or ledge here and there, thus breaking up any too perfectly flat old wall. It can be done on either or both sides of cards in one case by placing illustration side out against a light window, so that detail can be seen, or by pressure here and there (to your artistic judgment) on printed side before cutting out and assembling a model. ● String or cotton coloured and well impregnated with adhesive may be cut to length and attached to buildings to form beading, eaves, water or drain pipes, say. Stained cotton-wool or darning wool forms realistic creeper, shrubs and trees. ● Models are strengthened by several thin coats of cellulose varnish (" Banana Oil ") applied smoothly with a soft brush, or as a spray. Avoid the formation of " tears." A Micromodel sprayer is in preparation to sell at a popular price. ● Other hints will be found in our list of 100 models. Send stamped addressed envelope.

H.M.S. "VANGUARD"

Builders : John Brown, Clydebank. Laid down : 2nd October 1941. Launched : 30th November 1944. Completed : 25th April 1946. Displacement : 42,500 tons nominal (about 50,000 full load). Dimensions : Length 814 ft. (o.a.) ; Beam : 108½ ft. ; Draught : 28 ft. (mean) 36 ft. (max). Guns : 8 15-inch, 42 cal., 16 5.25-inch, 60 40-mm. AA (Bofors), 4 3-pdr. (saluting). Machinery : Parsons single reduction geared turbines. 4 shafts. S.H.P. : 130,000 28kts. sea speed. Boilers : 8 Admiralty 3-drum type. Complement : 1,600 (peace) 2,000 (war).

MICROMODEL makers and, in fact, all craftsmen may care to be guided by the following very sound advice from an experienced worker :

" In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the chief object attained in making a model is the pleasure of exercising skill and demonstrating triumphant accomplishment.

" If by making one swift movement and declaiming a magic word one could call the finished object into being, creation would be worthless. Each small part should be a gratifying model in itself. As soon as one impatiently scamps anything one might as well stop; all interest and pride is gone. The pleasure is in making. Each item should be perfect. A faulty detail will ache like a gnawing tooth until it is re-made, perfectly. Above all, don't hurry and don't try to do a long job all at once."

Unless you are making a scenic display it is advisable to mount the base on a piece of wood to make a solid foundation on which to build the model.

Some Micromodel makers, particularly those who have a fret-saw, will cut out a solid water-line hull, working to the base pattern shown, or to a tracing of it. The wood should be about ⅛in. thick adjusted exactly to thickness, if necessary with one or more layers of paper or card, and sandpaper the edge (at prow particularly) so that printed deck and sides fit exactly.

Proceed next with superstructure units, glueing in positions on deck plan.

Now make up main armament turrets. Pivot if desired on pieces of dowel which are glued firmly to deck. Guns, which are made from carefully whittled matches, should be mounted preferably before turrets are positioned. Make slightly longer than shown on general arrangement elevation, pierce turrets, glue and insert guns at correct angle.

Now add general details, funnels, navigating bridge, etc.

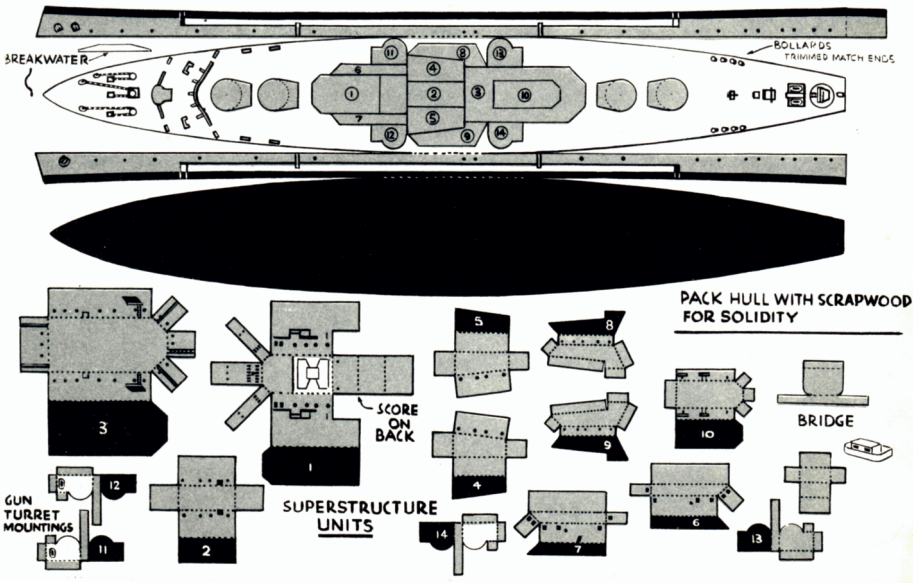
Quite a lot of small details are made from trimmed matches. Work carefully to drawing for correct sizes.

Tripod masts are also made from whittled matches or stout bristles, and yards from very fine bristle or gummed cotton. See that these are correct to size and thickness.

When model is complete give a coat of banana oil, which will add rigidity to the model.

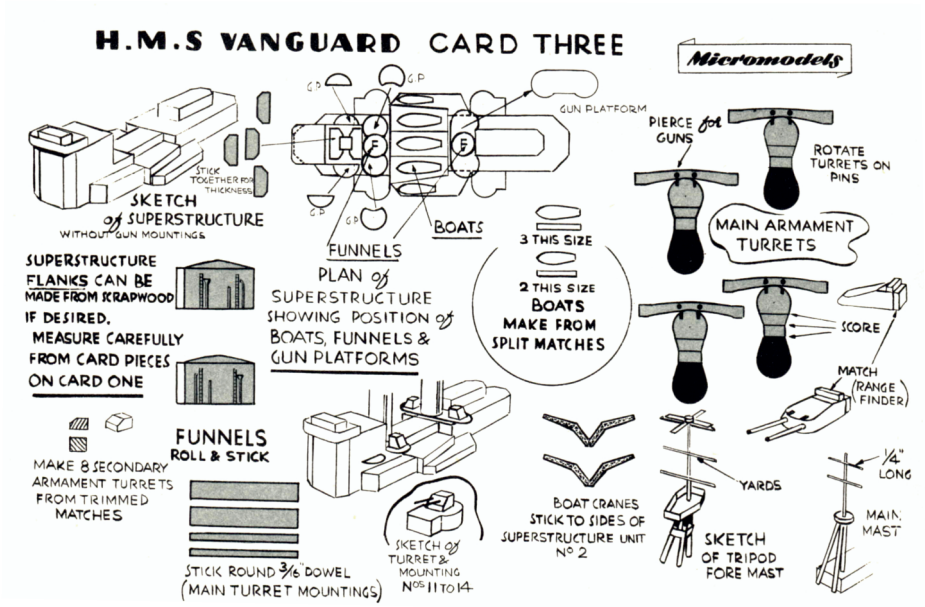
H.M.S VANGUARD CARD ONE

Micromodels

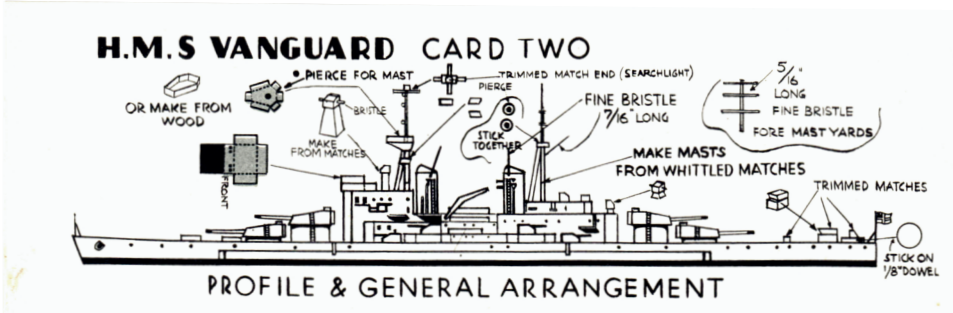


H.M.S VANGUARD CARD THREE

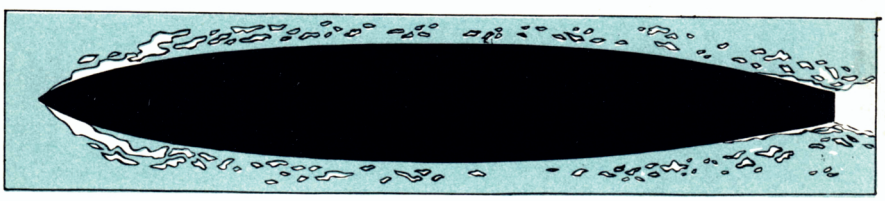
Micromodels



H.M.S VANGUARD CARD TWO



PROFILE & GENERAL ARRANGEMENT



SEA BASE MOUNT ON A PIECE OF WOOD

STICK HULL OF SHIP IN POSITION, MAKING A SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH TO BUILD THE MODEL

Micromodels