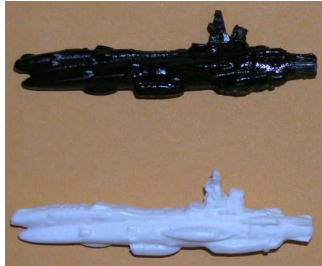


I managed to acquire several resin cast Star Blazers ships. The resin ships hold the detail remarkably well. There are two types of resin, white and black. I have an Arizona in each of these resins and several other ships in the black resin. The detail on both Arizonas were exceptional and equivalent to the metal cast miniatures. They were practically void free. The black resin does have a glossy sheen to it.



I started work on both ships using my standard set of tools, X-acto knife, small files, emery boards, tweezers, drill bits (including a set of very small bits), pin vise, and cleaning basket. A good hardware store or hobby store should have most of these items. All trimming, cutting, and drilling of the resin and cast metal parts are done first. The resin was easier to sand, drill, and cut than the equivalent metal miniatures. In addition, working with the resin did not stain your fingers silver like when you work with the metal ships and pieces. I drilled two major holes, one for the base and one for the main engine exhaust port. To reduce the chance of the drill bit walking, I used the knife to create a starter divot in the resin. The models had relatively few sprues to remove. Sanding of the seams were easily accomplished with the files and emery board. Sanding of the black resin resulted in the loss of the glossy finish in those areas. Fear not! A coat of primer and paint will take care of the problem. If there are any voids, a dab of putty easily took care of them. After this preparation, all resin



and metal cast pieces got a hot water and dish washing soap bath for 10-15 minutes in a cup to remove any mold release film. Soap that has a degreaser works best. After the soak, the parts get rinsed in warm-hot water. Small parts go into the cleaning basket to avoid loss down the drain. A cloth can be placed over the drain as an additional precaution. The parts were allowed to dry for a few hours on a napkin or paper towel.

The next step was assembly. For my ships, I use steel wire for the base which is glued into a hole drilled into the bottom of the ship. Some people favor using super glue accelerators to speed the drying of the glue. Others don't use it and wish to spend the time positioning and aligning parts. The turrets were glued on next. The black Arizona looked so cool with the black hull and silver turrets that if I had some skull and crossbones decals, I would have slapped them on the sides and let it go at that. The evil fins were cut off the sprues with a knife. Try to do this on a hard surface to minimize the bending of the fins. If the fins do bend, use the butt of the knife to flatten the fin against a hard surface. A needle nose pliers can help flatten fins also. I am one of those lunatics who need to trim my fins. I take the metal files and file down the nubs left by the sprues on the sides of the fins. I also file the base of the fin to make sure it will be flat and make good contact with the hull. Some of the smaller fins were custom cut from larger fins. The larger fins were glued directly to the hull while some of the smaller ones were glued into a small drilled hole. Always work with your fins far away from the table edge. If you drop your fin over the edge, you are more likely to find it in your foot than with your eyes.

At this stage your ships are ready to prime and paint just like any other miniature. After the final coat of paint, I put a couple coats of Krylon clear gloss to seal and protect the paint from wear.

