

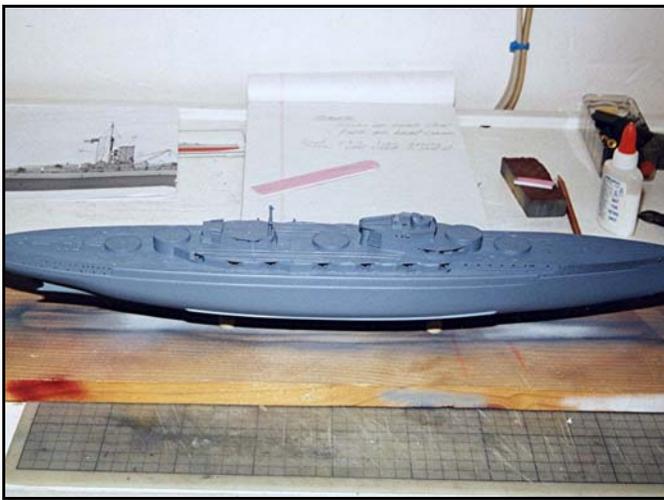


**MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
AIRBRUSHING A WOOD DECK.
BY
MIKE ASHEY**

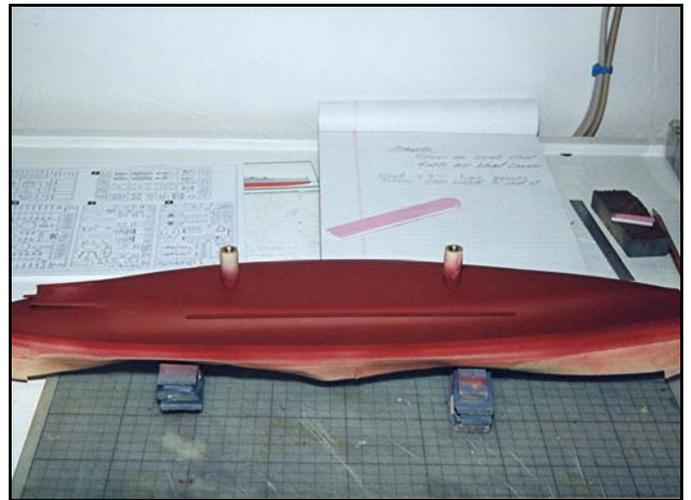
Painting a wood deck has always been a challenge for ship modelers. There are so many protrusions on a ship deck that many modelers prefer to hand paint them. This article presents a technique for using your airbrush to paint wood deck surfaces. Vertical surfaces such as superstructure areas and round surfaces such as turret bases are easy to mask but what about those small square and rectangular protrusions like ammo boxes, storage lockers, chocks and bitt bases? This is especially challenging when these deck details have tiny vertical surfaces.

The answer is that you mask and airbrush those surface details after the deck is painted.

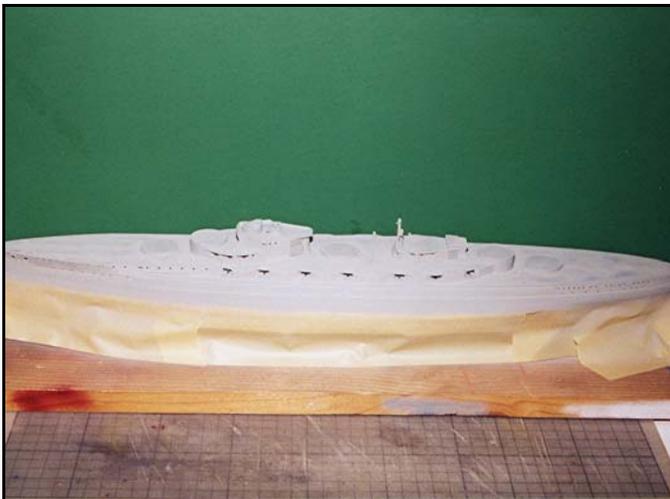
Good masking technique in combination with good paint mixing and airbrushing can yield great results on ship models.



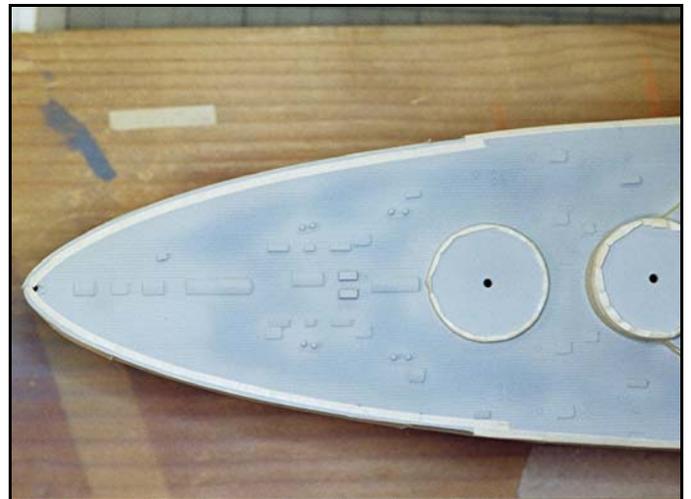
The entire assembled model should receive a coat of primer. The primer provides a good adhesion coat for the finished paint colors.



The upper hull area is masked off along the water line and extra masking tape is applied to protect areas from overspray. I like to add a few drops of flat black to the flat red to darken the color.



Next I masked off the lower hull to protect the red and then airbrushed all the vertical surfaces a light gray color. I did not airbrush any deck shapes that were squares or rectangles.



Here I used thin strips of masking tape to set the distance for the steel area between the top edge of the hull and the wood deck. I then added another strip along the edge carefully butting it against the inner strip.



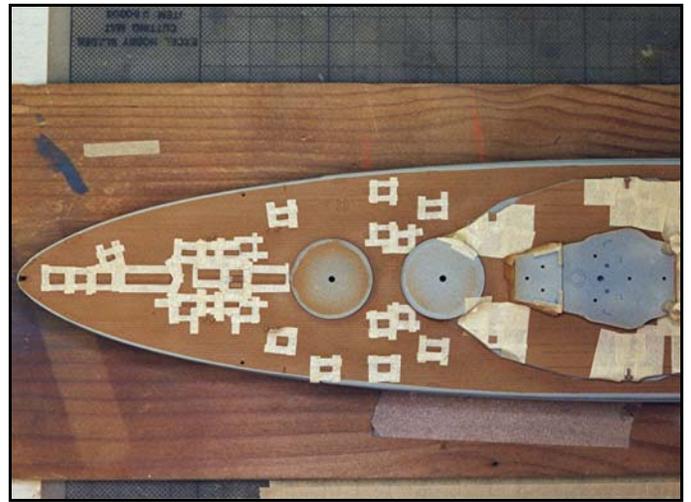
The inner strips of masking tape on the deck were removed and masking was applied to all vertical superstructure sides and any round shapes like the turret bases. The wood decks were then airbrushed.



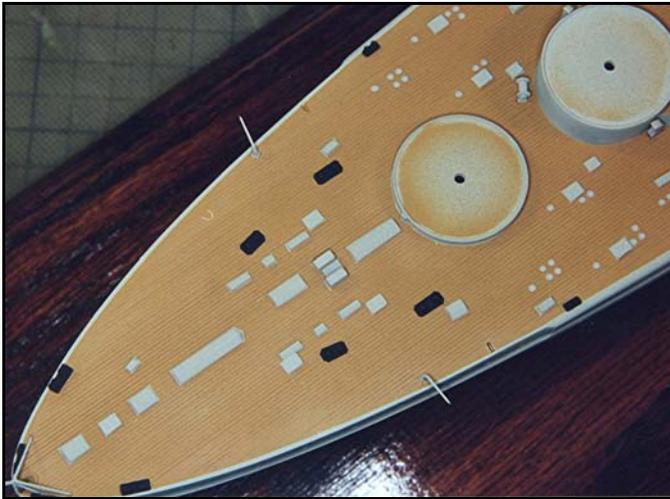
Using small strips of masking tape that were cut with a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade in combination with careful placement of the tape gives you sharp demarcation lines between colors.



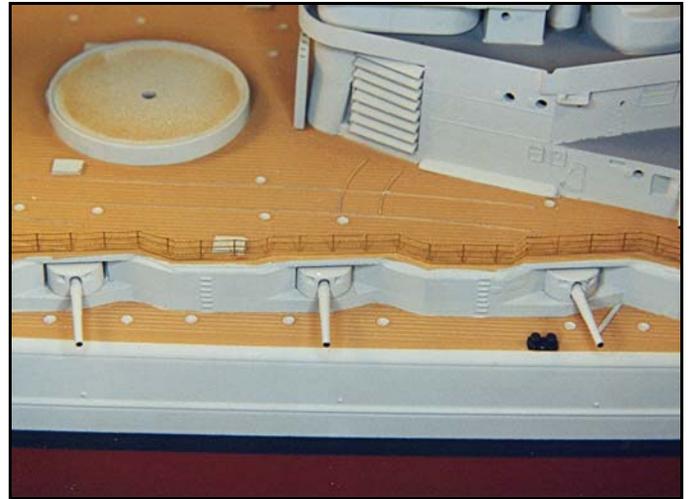
Next I added masking tape strips along the hull for the black boot strip. I used larger strips to protect the surfaces from overspray.



Next I masked around all square and rectangular shapes. Here again use small strips of tape cut with a sharp blade. I covered the surfaces to be painted gray, airbrushed the black color, cover the black and airbrushed the gray.



Covering the entire surface with masking tape during airbrushing prevents any overspray. Notice how clean the finished paint job looks. I like airbrushing my wood decks so that there are no paint brush streaks.



The small round protrusions in the deck on this model were skylights. I used the tip of a round toothpick to add tiny drop of paint to each round protrusion. The raised lip kept the paint inside the circle.