

THE THORNOYCROFT COASTAL MOTOR BOAT

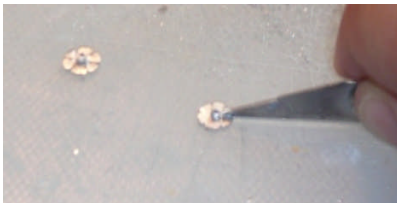
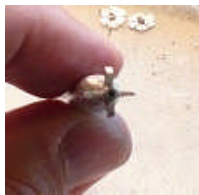
The Thornycroft Coastal Motor Boat (CMB) was a unique and delicate craft designed as a shallow draft, high speed attack craft. CMBs were involved in an attack on the German High Seas Fleet at Zeebrugge, the sinking of the Bolshevik heavy cruiser Oleg off Kronstadt and an audacious attack of the Red fleet in Kronstadt harbor itself. The last battle essentially kept the Red navy out of the Baltic for the remainder of the Russian Revolution. Other areas of action included use in the Caspian Sea in support of anti-Bolshevik forces.

There were several models of CMB each firing one to two torpedoes and the method of firing torpedoes was truly unique – one the high attack speed was attained (giving off a huge spray and deafeningly loud engine noise) an explosive charge propelled the torpedo out of the stern of the ship. The CMB then had to execute a sharp turn to get out of the way of the torpedo as it charged towards its target. While the CMB's primary theater of action was Europe, it can easily be used in any conflict from 1916 through WWII.

CONSTRUCTION - TORPEDO

Clean all metal pieces of flash and fill any gaps in the resin. Smooth the rear of the torpedo and drill a hole in it to accept the propeller guide.

Using a pair of tweezers glue the torpedo fins in place, pointed end towards the front, about 1mm from the rear of the torpedo. Placing them East-West and then North-South is an easy way to get a uniform look.



Score the propellers with an X-Acto knife where the 6 indentations are located by pressing down on the blades carefully but firmly.

With a thin saw, *carefully and slowly* saw the individual propeller blades free. Going slowly, making small cuts and supporting them closely with your fingers will make this successful.





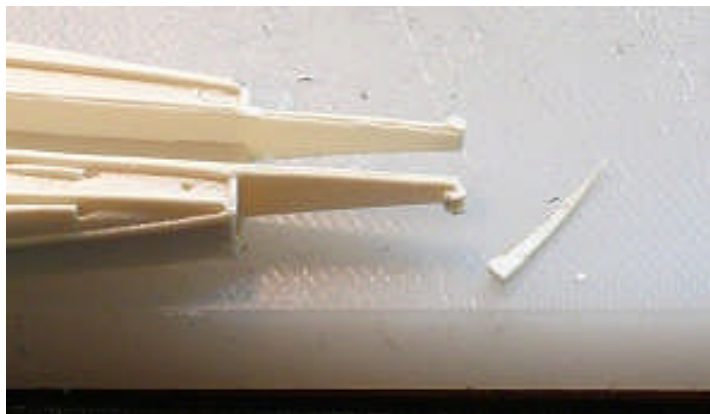
With a fine set of tweezers rotate one set of propellers clockwise and the other counter clockwise.

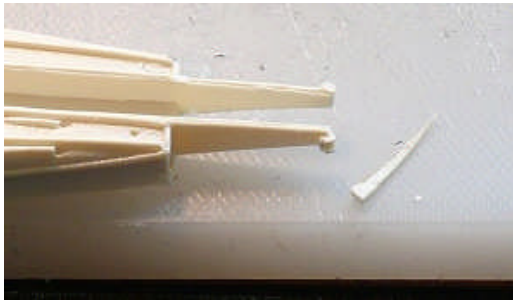
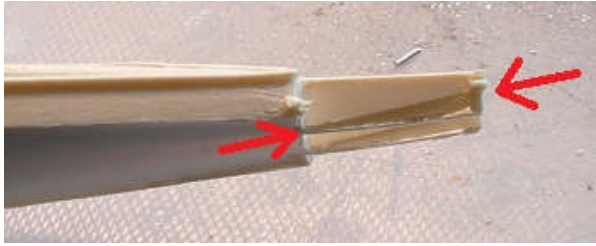
Trim the propeller guide so that it is long enough to go through the two propellers and into the rear of the torpedo. Test to make sure everything fits before gluing both propellers onto the shaft and then into the torpedo itself.



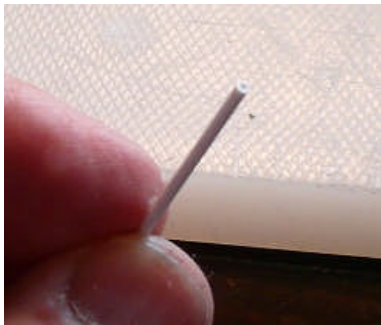
MOTOR BOAT

Take a small drill and widen the hole on the port stern to accept a metal wire that will hold the flag. The two raised bumps just in front of that hole are where the wires from the wheel assembly go. **DO NOT DRILL ON AN ANGLE INITIALLY** but drill straight down into the model at a spot just after where the raised bumps end. After going down for a bit, you can angle the drill more forwards and under the raised bumps. This will prevent the resin from cracking or breaking while drilling.





Casting requirement required extra material on the undersides of the stern torpedo guides. These can be cut off with a small pair of scissors near to the thicker portion of the guide and then filed down to match.



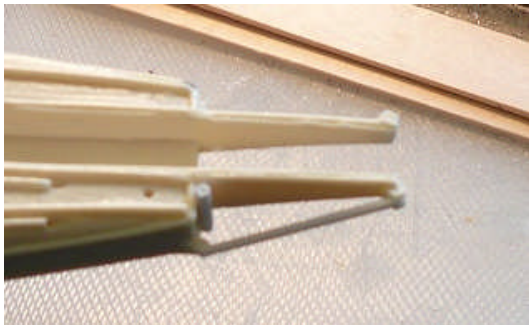
Take the small 10mm piece of plastic rod and drill a small hole into the end. This will help the wheel assembly fit better.



Using thin tweezers glue this into place at the port stern of the ship vertically so the top clears the stern of the CMB.



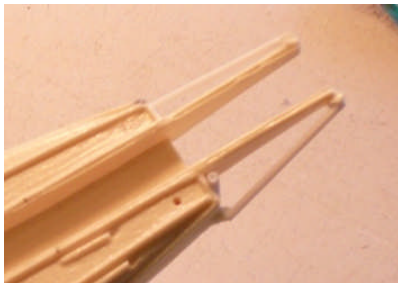
Holding the wheel assembly in place, measure and cut the extra wire off the assembly. Glue into place; clamps (available from Micro-Mark) hold this together well.



Using the long pieces of plastic, line these up from the attachment on the side of each stern to the rear of the torpedo guides. A small amount of trimming may be required to make the rear most part fit nicely into the open holder. If the torpedo guides are off center, like my model, you can adjust the length of the plastic rod to make the guides straight.



In this case, several tongue depressors placed into the torpedo channel helped straighten things while setting overnight.

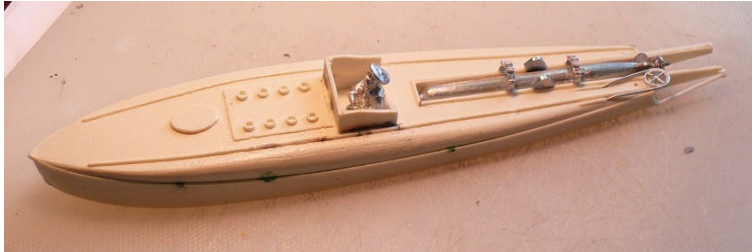


The completed torpedo guide assembly.



From each end of the torpedo channel measure app. 2.4cm and mark the channel sides with a pencil. Midway between these marks place a third mark. Glue the hook shaped torpedo channel gear with the open hook to the front on the center marks. Glue the curved semi-circle gear on the outside two marks.

Glue LT Augustus Agar, VC in the left-hand side of the cockpit.



The best way to get the torpedo into and out of the channel is up from below the model. The final picture shows the torpedo launched from the stern of the ship – only Mad Dogs and Englishmen could produce such an odd design that was very successful!



The CMBs used in the Baltic were painted a light gray.

Rear-Admiral Walter Cowan, in charge of the Baltic squadron, instructed Lt Agar and his men to wear Royal Navy uniforms and to fly the white ensign during their actions against the Bolsheviks. Photos from the time show Lt Agar in his dark navy jacket with rank insignia, light colored trousers and a white topped cap, as per Royal Navy uniforms of WWI. A search online of the white Royal Navy ensign can be glued to a metal wire and set into hole near the port stern of the CMB (just in front of the wheel assembly.)