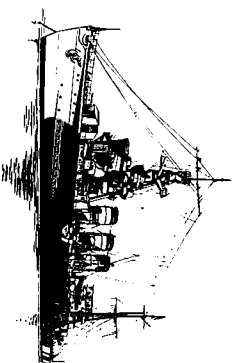


TAMA 多摩

JAPANESE LIGHT CRUISER



ITEM 31317

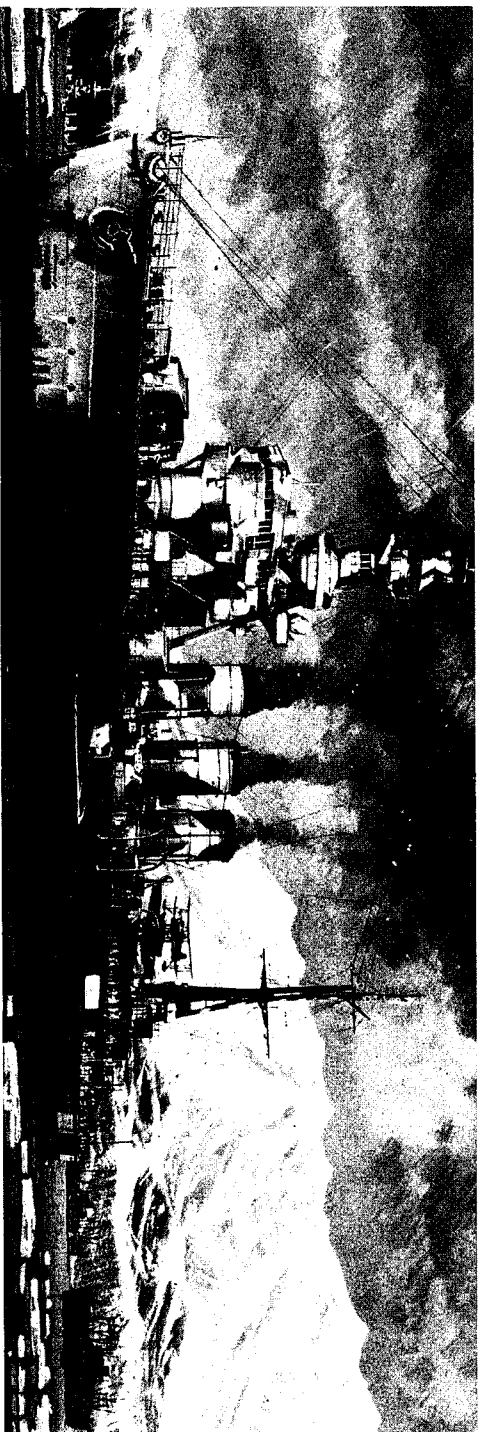


Illustration by Kiyachiro Ueda

WATER LINE SERIES

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TAMA

At the beginning of the Taisho era (1912-1926), the Japanese Navy started to organize the "Eight-Eight Squadron", a strong squadron consisting of eight powerful battleships of the 35,000 to 47,000 ton class and eight battle cruisers. Fourteen light cruisers of the 5,500 ton type were constructed and joined the squadron to escort the main strength ships. The light cruisers were classified into three large groups: the Kumata type, the Nagata type and the Sendai type. The Tama was classified as the second vessel in the first Kumata type group. The spoon-shaped bow with its gentle curves, the high broadside, the upright triple funnels, small bridge, tripod mast and 14 cm single guns gave the Tama a rather old fashioned appearance in comparison with the cruisers constructed in the Showa era (1926-1989). In those days, however, the Tama was a superior ship with a modern design. The standard displacement was 5,500 tons and the waterline length was 158 metres, which was larger than any of the Japanese cruisers of the time. At the time of completion, the engine output of 90,000 hp was higher than any other warship Japan had constructed, including the battleships Nagato and Mutsu. The powerful engine, combined with a competently designed hull gave the Tama a top speed of 36 knots. Apart from naval destroyers, the Tama was the fastest of all Japanese warships. The armament, too, was above average and consisted of seven 14 cm main guns, two 8 cm high angle guns and four 53 cm double torpedo tubes. The Tama was also the first Japanese cruiser to carry a seaplane. A catapult was not initially employed and the plane had to be put on the sea by me-

ans of a derrick to take off.

The Tama was laid down in the Mitsubishi Nagasaki dockyard on August 10th, 1918, launched February 10th, 1920 and completed on January 29th, 1921. The Tama was immediately incorporated into the 4th Flotilla to join her sister ship, Kuma. The Tama was transferred to the 3rd Flotilla together with the Kuma at the end of 1921 and became the flagship of the 3rd Flotilla at the end of 1923. The 3rd Flotilla was a main strength unit following in the wakes of the 1st, 2nd and 4th Flotillas of battleships, so the Japanese Navy obviously pinned high hopes on the new light cruiser. The Tama was further improved in the early Showa era with the addition of a catapult and the bridge cover of cloth was replaced with a fixed steel structure. The superstructure around the bridge was also modified and the rear mast was replaced with a tripod type.

The onset of the Pacific War saw the Tama as the flagship of the 5th Squadron. It assumed the role of patrolling the North Seas together with her sister-ship the Kiso. The Tama was again refitted. The displacement now exceeded 7,000 tons and the high angle guns were replaced with two 25 mm AA double machine guns. In June 1942 the Tama, along with the Kiso, participated in the invasion of Kiska Bay and on June 8th helped marines land there. It was a successful mission with no loss of life. Returning to Japan, the Tama and the Kiso were deployed to convey troops to Attu Island beginning October 29th, 1942. During this operation, along with the heavy cruisers Nachi and Maya, the light cruiser Abukuma, the destroyers Wakaba, Hatsushimo, Kamihari and Inazuma in March 1943, the Tama encountered a U.S. flotilla consisting of two cruisers and four destroyers. In the ensuing Battle of Attu, the Japanese ships damaged the heavy cruiser Saito, Lake City and other U.S. vessels, while the Tama was damaged by two direct hits. After subsequent missions of evacuating Kiska and in transportation duties to Rabaul, the Tama became under the control of the Combined Fleet in June 1944 and became the flagship of the 11th Torpedo Boat Flotilla in August. Antiar-

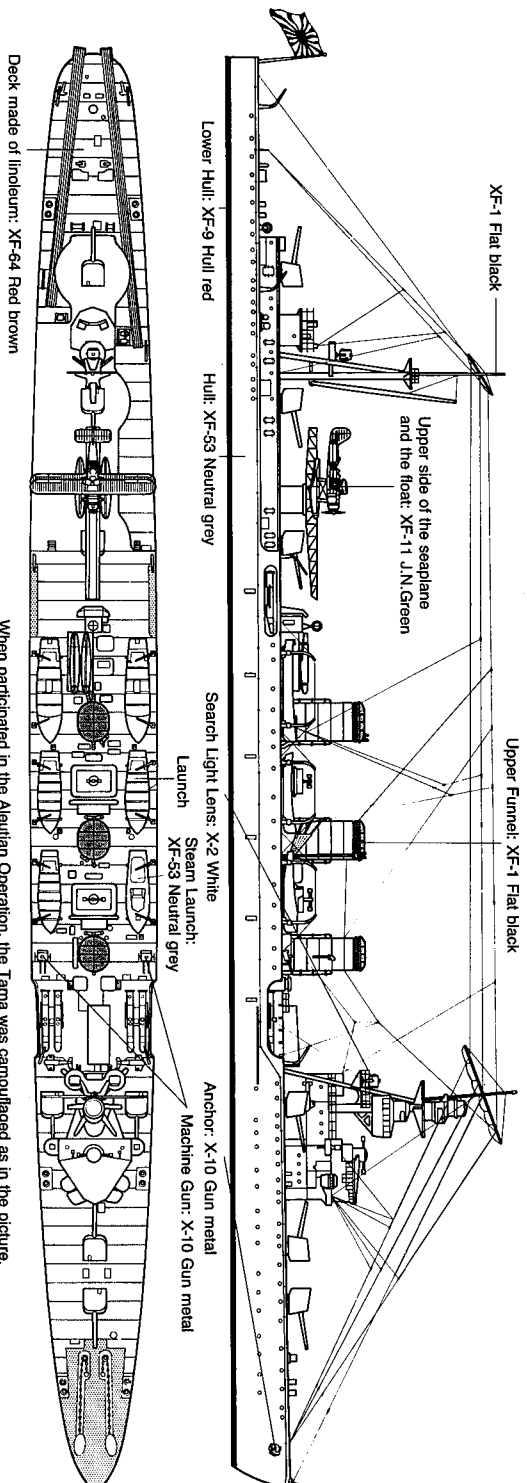
craft armament was also dramatically increased to two 12.7 cm high angle guns, forty-one 25 mm machine guns and six 13 mm machine guns. This gave the Tama a more threatening appearance.

The Tama last saw action in the Battle of the Philippines on October 25th, 1944. On 20th October, the Tama, now a member of the Ozawa Fleet, left the Inland Sea of Japan escorting the aircraft carrier Zuihaku, Zuho, Chiyoda and Chitose. At approximately 8:20 a.m. on 25th October, enemy planes commenced their attack on the fleet. The Tama was hit by a torpedo which slowed her down and she fell astern of the fleet. With a trail of oil at her stern, the Tama decided to limp back to Japan at the vulnerable speed of 6 knots. At 9:01 p.m., the Tama was hit by three torpedoes launched from a U.S. submarine at the short range of 800 metres. Overwhelmed by the odds the Tama ended its twenty year existence and sank beneath the waves.

The picture represents the Tama lying at anchor in Attu Island in 1942 after successfully occupying Kiska Bay in the Aleutian Operation. Note the camouflage white and dark grey colouration, blending with the surroundings of the northern latitudes. Behind the front bow is her sister ship, the Kiso and to the stern lies the seaplane tender ship Kimikawa Maru, behind which lies the transport ship Sakito Maru.

Specifications

Standard Displacement : 5,100 tons
 Normal Displacement : 5,500 tons
 Waterline Length : 158.53 m
 Horsepower : 90,000 hp
 Speed : 36 knots
 Armament : Seven 14 cm guns and two 8 cm AA guns. Eight 53 cm torpedo tubes
 Aircraft : Navy type 95 Reconnaissance seaplane (Dave)
 Date of Completion : January 29th, 1921 at the Mitsubishi Naval Dockyards, Nagasaki



When participated in the Aleutian Operation, the Tama was camouflaged as in the picture.

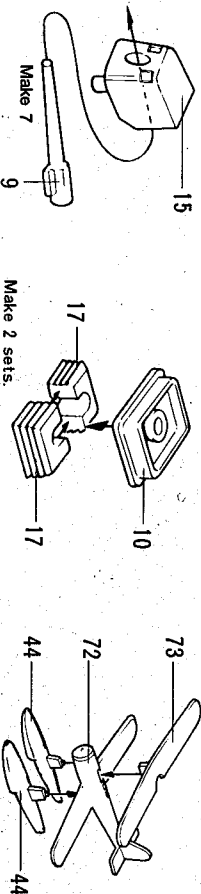
TAMA 多摩

Name plate

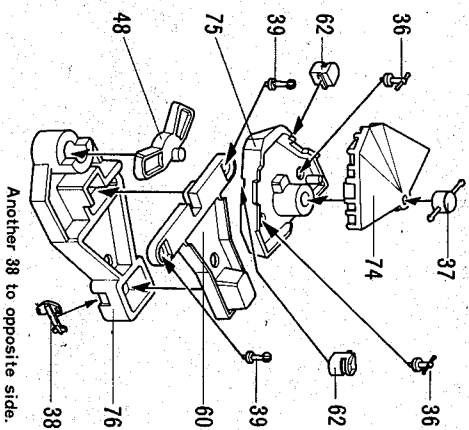
Read Before You Start Your Assembly Work:
 ★When cutting Parts off the runner, be sure to do so carefully with the aid of a pair of nippers, a knife or the like.
 ★When gluing two parts together, always try to apply adhesives sparingly onto both surfaces.

WATER LINE SERIES

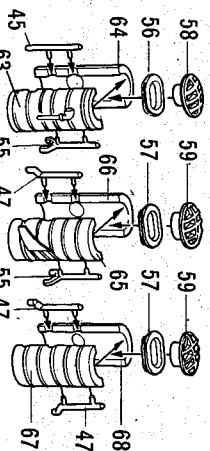
1 Construction of Main Guns 2 Construction of Ventilators 3 Construction of Seaplane



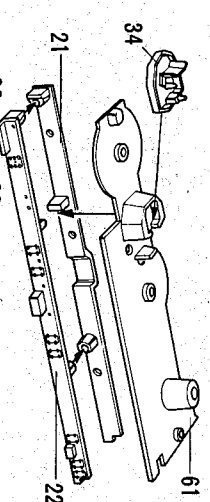
4 Construction of Bridge



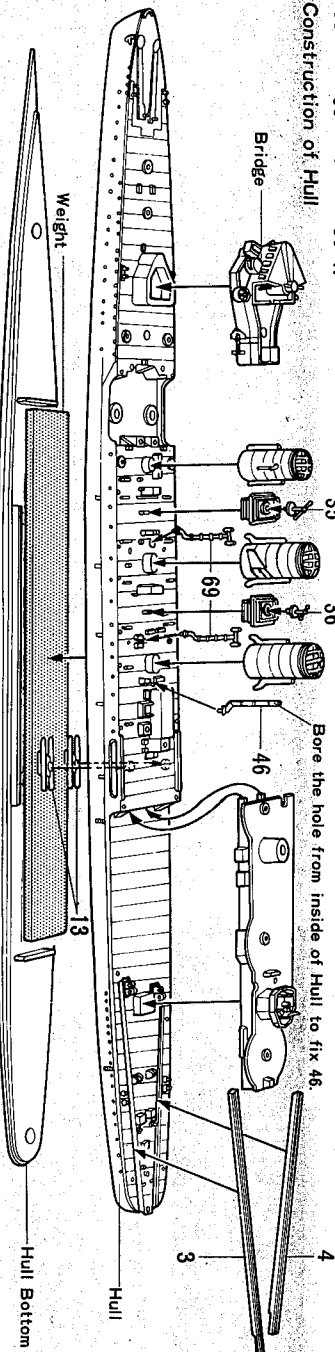
5 Construction of Funnels



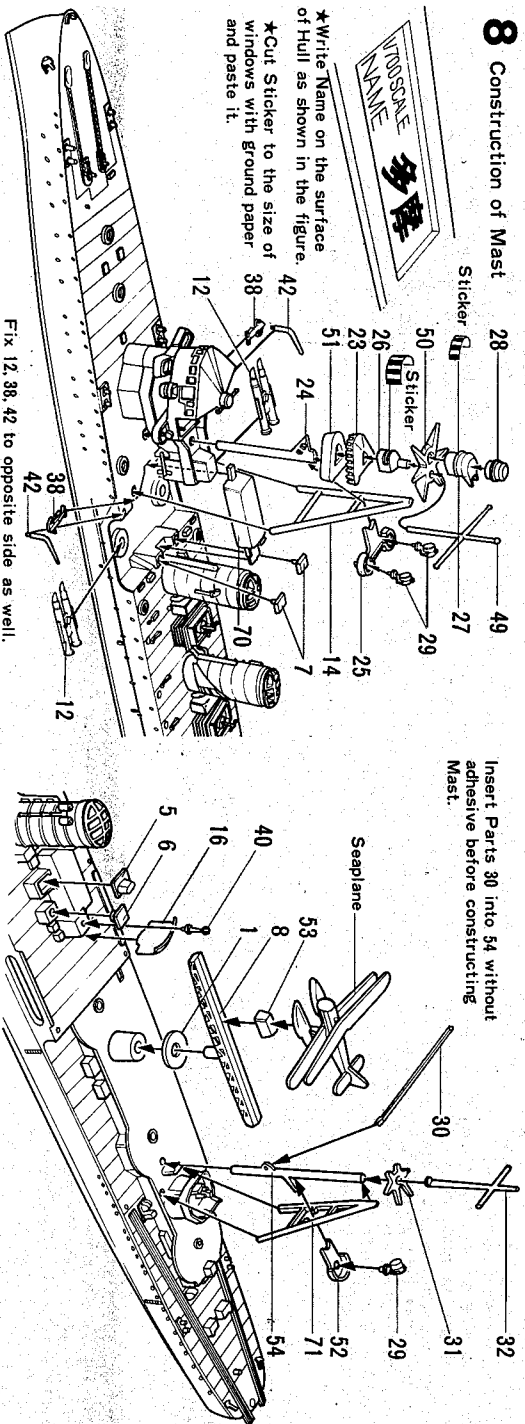
6 Construction of Shelter Deck



7 Construction of Hull



8 Construction of Mast



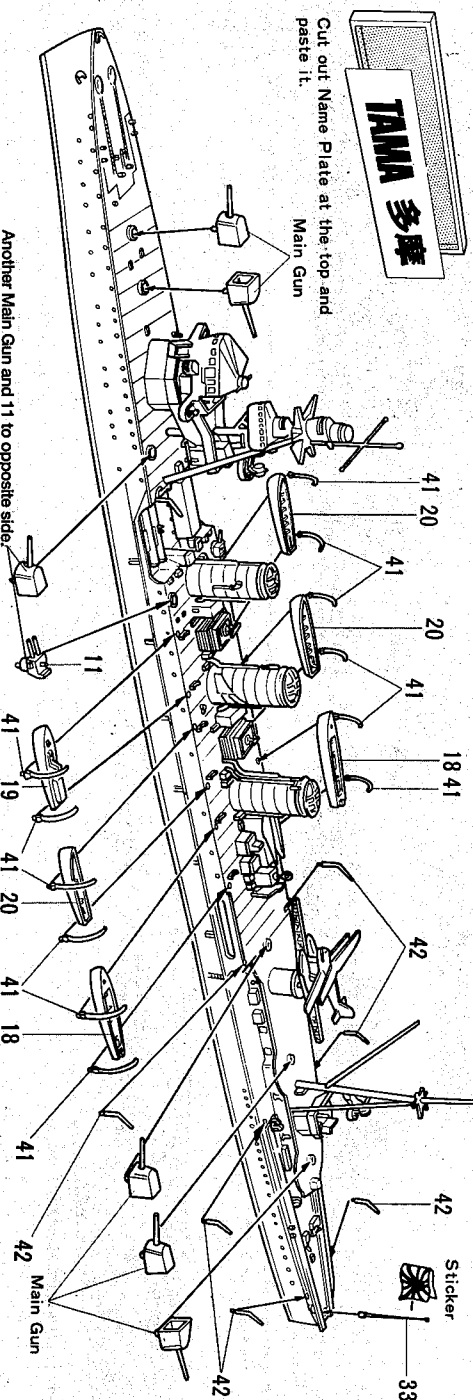
★Write Name on the surface of Hull as shown in the figure.

★Cut Sticker to the size of windows with ground paper and paste it.

Insert Parts 30 into 54 without adhesive before constructing Mast.

Seaplane

9 Fixing of Main Guns and Launches



Cut out Name Plate at the top and paste it.