

SHIRATSUYU

JAPANESE NAVY DESTROYER

白露

ウォーターラインシリーズ
日本駆逐艦
(しらつゆ)

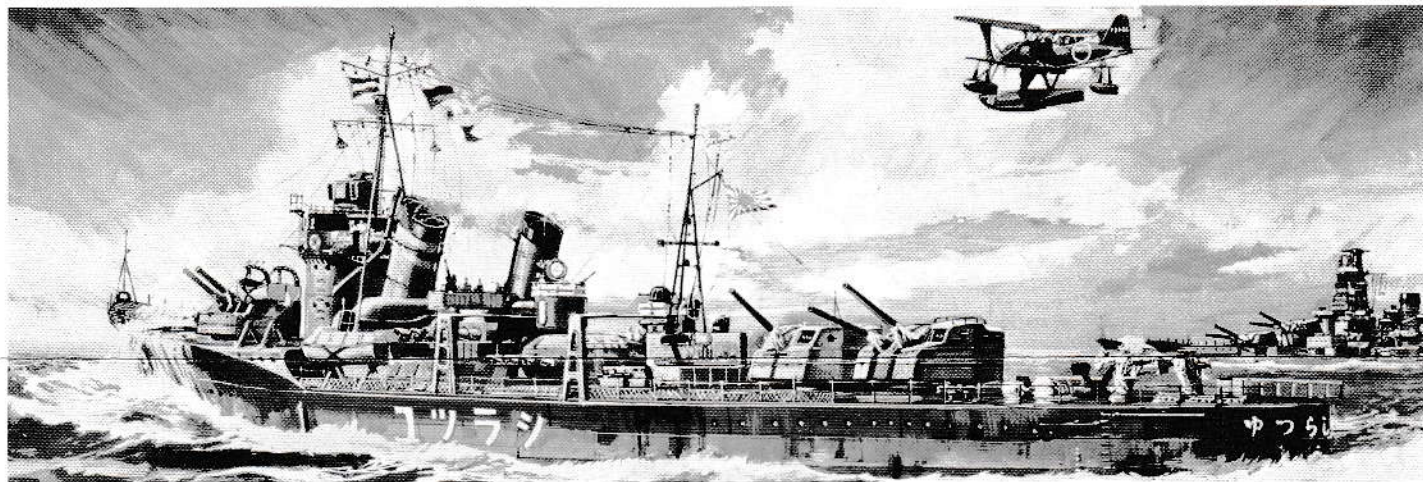


Illustration by Shigeru Komatsuzaki

WATER LINE SERIES

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SHIRATSUYU

In 1929, a new destroyer of the Fubuki class appeared with far superior firepower and performance compared to other destroyers of the time. Like its predecessor, the Hatsuharu class destroyer had an armament as powerful as that of the Fubuki class, but it was transposed onto a smaller hull. Thus the introduction of such powerful vessels of the Hatsuharu class, and the torpedo boat of the Chidori class built around the same time, received the same fervour and attention as the Fubuki class. The Hatsuharu and the Chidori classes both exhibited serious stability defects. In March 1934, the Yukaku, a boat of the Chidori class, capsized. The Shiratsuyu, having been laid down in the Sasebo naval dockyard on November 14th, 1933 was expected to have been completed as the 7th vessel of the Hatsuharu class. However, construction was suspended after the capsizing to reconsider the original design. It was decided that the hull should be redesigned, the armament should be the same as that found on the modified Hatsuharu type and the powerplant should remain unchanged. The

redesigned hull was 2 m longer, 42 cm deeper in draught and 60 cm shorter in beam than the Hatsuharu class. In addition to the forementioned modifications care was also taken with the positioning of the armaments and the powerplant. Ballast was removed and replaced by thickening the bottom plate of the hull to ensure greater safety and strength. It was the first time that conventional high tension steel was replaced by better quality DS steel and electric welding techniques were also employed.

The main guns mounted on the Shiratsuyu were the same as those mounted on the Hatsuharu class. The Shiratsuyu also possessed 61 cm torpedo tubes. These numbered one less than the original Hatsuharu configuration, but two more than the redesigned version. It was the first time that quartet torpedo tubes were installed on any Japanese naval vessel and was a standardised feature thereafter.

The resulting modifications meant the Shiratsuyu had sufficient durability with the firepower equivalent to that of a Hatsuharu class vessel, but its displacement exceeded 2,000 tons. The Hatsuharu class had been built to a total displacement of 1,500 tons due to the limitations imposed by the Naval Reduction Treaty, thus the extra 500 ton displacement increase was a natural consequence of the redesign. The engine power rating of 42,500 hp mounted in the Shiratsuyu was the same as that in the Hatsuharu class and limited the cruising speed to 34 knots, but increased the range to between 4,000-5,000 nautical miles at a

speed of 18 knots. It is no exaggeration to claim that the Shiratsuyu was one of the best destroyers in the world at that time. All other nine vessels designated to the Hatsuharu class to be built thereafter were redesigned in the basis of the Shiratsuyu's specifications. These ten vessels were classified as destroyers of the Shiratsuyu type.

The Shiratsuyu was completed on August 20th, 1936 and joined the 27th Destroyer Flotilla in the Pacific War theatre. It participated in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the transport operation for the reinforcement of Guadalcanal, the Third Battle of Solomon and the Battle off Bougainville. Battle-scarred and damaged, the Shiratsuyu fought on bravely. On June 15th 1944, the destroyer collided with the oil tanker Seisho Maru off Mindanao and sank.

Specifications

Standard displacement : 1,685 tons
Waterline Length : 107.50 m
Horsepower : 42,000 hp
Speed : 34 knots
Armament : Five 12.7 cm main guns
Torpedo tubes : Eight 61 cm tubes
Date of completion : August 20th, 1936 at the Sasebo naval dockyard

PAINTING

Hulls of the Japanese warships had been consistently painted in the same deep grey with a slight blue-tinge for a long period extending from the end of 1903, when the colour was formally adopted for wartime purposes in anticipation of the Russo-Japanese War. The colour was termed the "wartime painting colour," and is roughly that used on present day warships of the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force. There was, however, one exception to this rule of painting, as aircraft carriers were painted in light green towards the end of the second world war. Camouflage painting in

alternate shades of dark and light grey was also employed.

The bottom of the hull below the waterline was painted in maroon or a brownish-crimson colour. Decks of destroyers and light cruisers were covered with iron plates painted in the same colour as that of the hull. Decks of the heavy cruisers were covered in one of three different ways; either iron-plated, linoleum or boarded. In the latter two cases the decks were left unpainted. Decks of battleships and flight decks of most carriers too, were covered with boards and not paint-

ed.

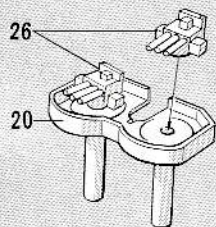
The funnel top was painted black. The rear tripod mast was also painted black corresponding to a line drawn from the upper blackened limit of the funnel plus nine metres up the mast. The lower painted limit of the mast corresponded to a line drawn from the lower blackened limit of the funnel.

The Imperial Crest of the chrysanthemum was painted gold whilst the canvas covers of the turrets and launches were a neutral grey.

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.

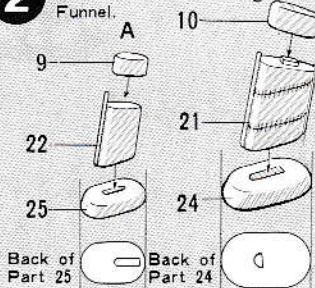
✂ Name Plate

1 Construction of MG Turret

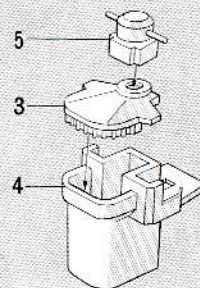


2 Construction of Funnel

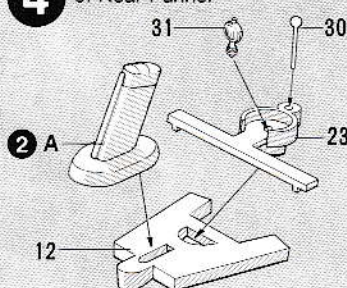
Be carefull with the angle of Funnel.



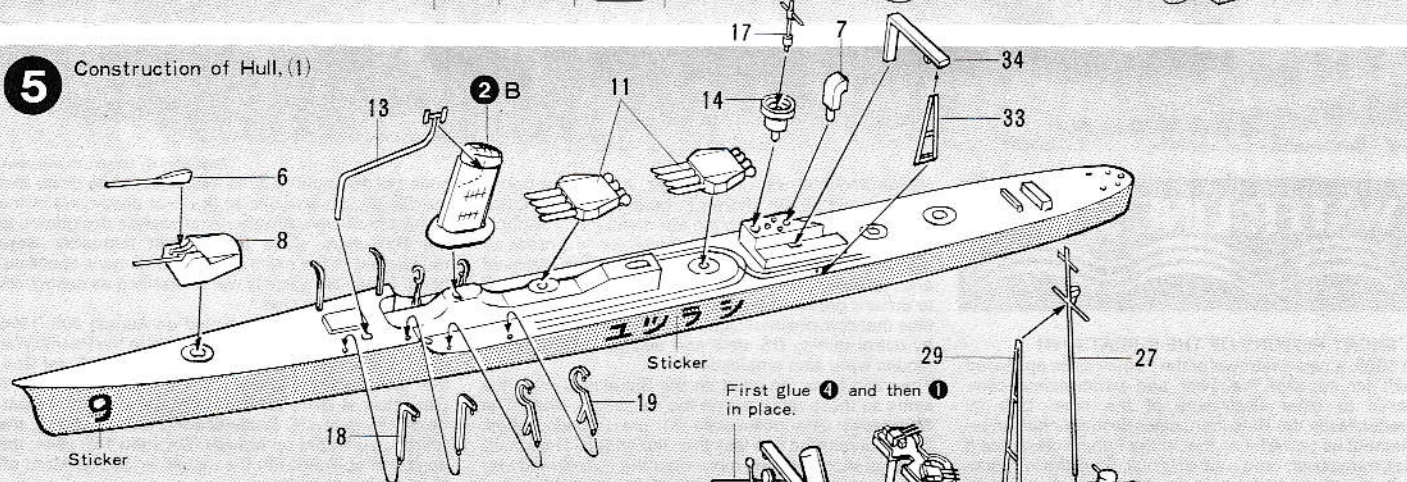
3 Construction of Bridge



4 Construction of Circumference of Rear Funnel

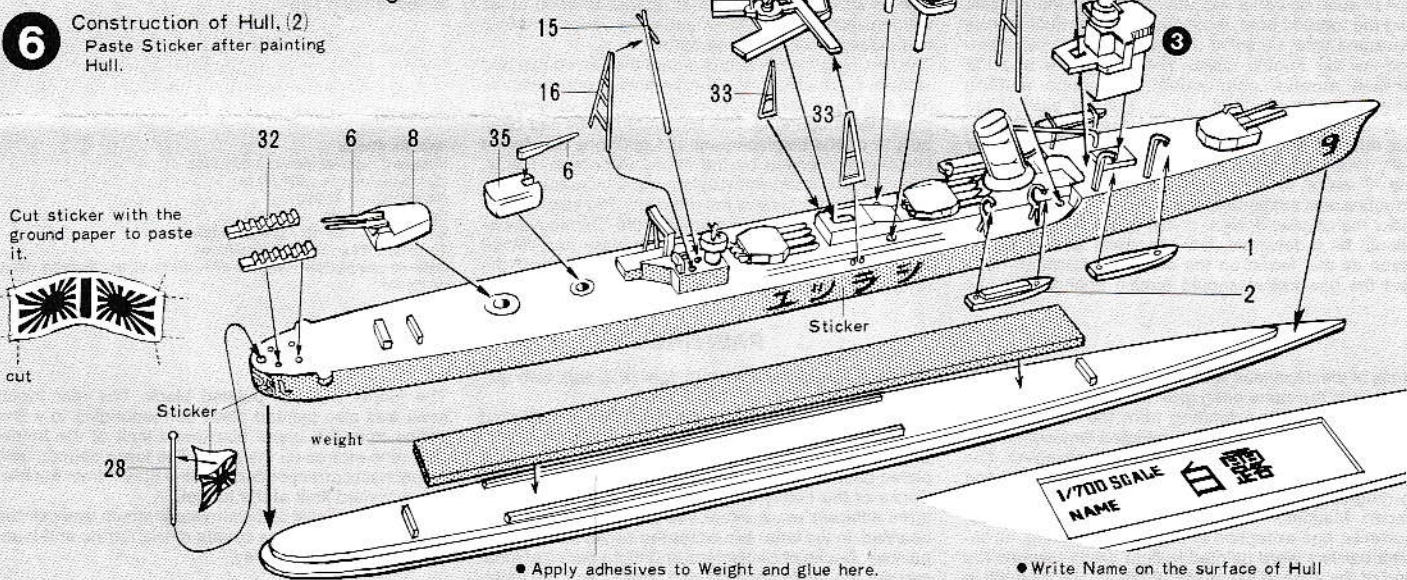


5 Construction of Hull, (1)



6 Construction of Hull, (2)

Paste Sticker after painting Hull.



● Apply adhesives to Weight and glue here.

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