KUMA球磨

ITEM 77080

TAMIYA

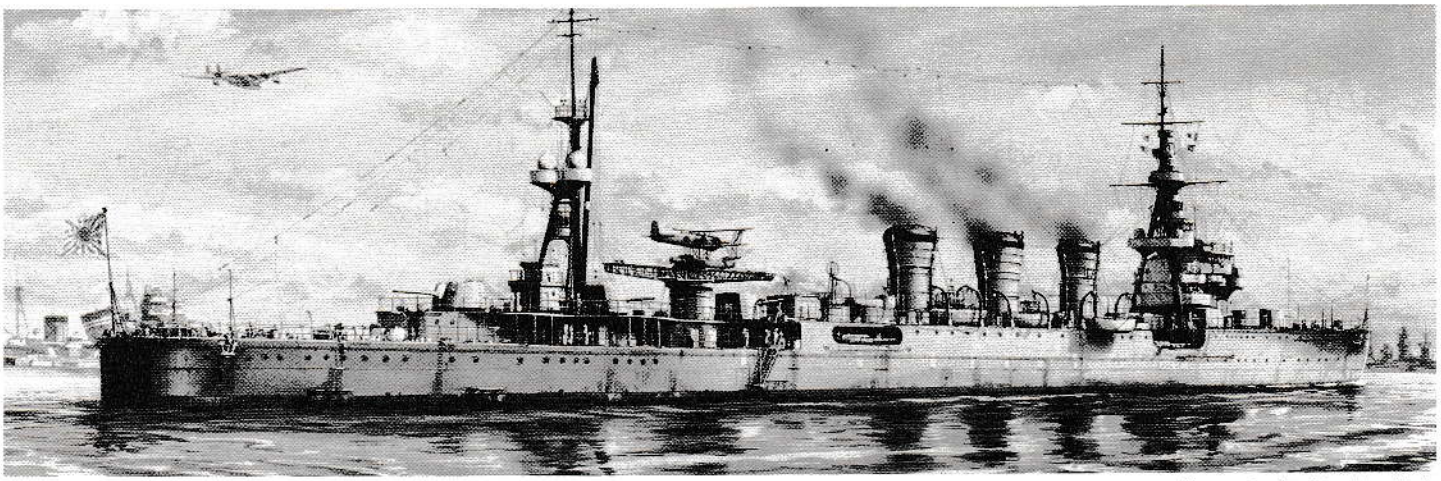


Illustration by Kihachiro Ueda

WATER LINE SERIES

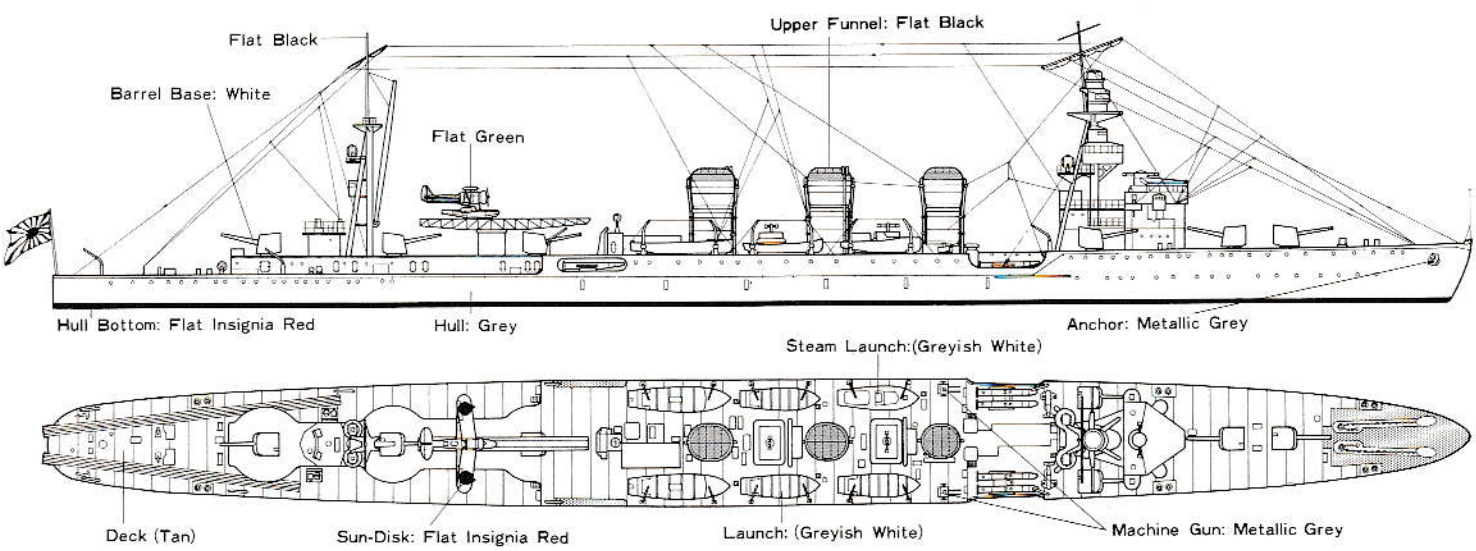
Light Cruiser KUMA

After World War I, all the navies of the world vied with each other in constructing large and powerful battleships on the so-called great-warships-and-big-guns principle that great battleships equipped with big guns should play the leading part in naval battles. The Japanese Navy planned to organize the "Eight-Eight Squadron", the world's strongest squadron consisting mainly of eight powerful battleships of 35,000-47,000 ton class and eight battle cruisers. The Eight-Eight Squadron also needed cruisers for escorting the main-strength ships. The Japanese Navy was then constructing the Tenryu and the Tatsuta of 3,500 tons under the plan of building six ships of the Tenryu type and three new light cruisers of 7,200 tons. Since the Tenryu type was considered insufficient in performance, however, the plan was changed and it was decided to construct five light cruisers of the 5,500-ton type including the Kuma. The Nagara type and the Kawachi type were subsequently added to the 5,500 ton type category and in all fourteen 5,500-ton light cruisers of three types were constructed. During the Pacific War, they showed activity in various duties as the main body of Japanese light-cruiser squadrons.

In 1917 was adopted a fundermental policy that the Tenryu type should be increased in size, improved in cruising ability and speed, strengthened in armament as well as bettered in commanding equipment and comfortability. The first vessel Kuma was laid down in the Sasebo naval dockyard on 29th August, 1918, launched in July of the next year and completed in August of 1920. The displacement in normal condition was 5,500 tons and the speed was 39 knots. The spoon-shaped bow, three funnels, tripod mast, bridge of simple construction, 14 cm single-barrelled guns, etc. formed a unique style different from the majestic style which was common to subsequent Japanese warships. The Kuma is said to have been a typical Japanese light cruiser constructed in the Taisho era (1912-1926). The main armament consisted of seven 14 cm single guns—two in front of the bridge, one on each side of the bridge, two before the rear mast and one behind the rear bridge. In addition, eight 53 cm torpedo tubes and two 8 cm high-angle guns were mounted and also mines could be carried. One plane was on board the ship. At first, the plane was housed in a disassembled state and had to be reassembled and put on the sea to take off; but later a catapult was employed. When the Kuma was remodelled at the beginning of the Showa era (1926-), the funnels were equipped with a rain-cover and swelled at the top, the shape of which constituted a characteristic feature of the light cruiser. To reinforce anti-aircraft armament, the two 8 cm high-angle guns were replaced by four 25 mm machine guns. After playing an important role as the flagship of the 3rd Flotilla, the 4th and the 2nd Expeditionary Squadron, the Kuma became the flagship of the 2nd Submarine Flotilla in 1932. The Kuma was the first light cruiser to serve as the mother ship of a submarine flotilla and was very favourably commented upon. The Kuma subsequently showed activity as the main strength of the 3rd Squadron and the flagship of the 4th Squadron in Chinese waters. At the initial stage of the Pacific War, the light cruiser became the third vessel of the 16th Flotilla, the 3rd Squadron and participated in the offensive against the Philippines, showing activity in the invasion of Vigan, Lingayen Bay, Cebu, Zamboanga, the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor. After that, the Kuma had to engage in transportation, a plain but important duty. After repeating transportation of army reinforcements to Rabaul, New Guinea and Andaman from the autumn of 1942 to the autumn of 1943, the Kuma engaged in transportation to Surabaja and Mergui from the end of 1943. The last duty imposed on the Kuma was to serve as a target in torpedo firing practice for the 551st and 732nd Air Groups. After completing the first practice, the Kuma left Penang with the destroyer Uranami on 11th January, 1944 for the second practice. At 11.45 a.m. the Kuma was hit by two torpedoes from an enemy submarine on the starboard quarter off Mukahead point of Penang, and depth bombs carried on board exploded. At 11.57 p.m. the Kuma sharply listed to the starboard and sank by the stern to the bottom of the Straight of Malacca.

The picture on the case represents the Kuma coming into Yokosuka port at slow speed in 1939 or 1940. A Type 95 Scout Seaplane is carried on the catapult. Note the distinctive shape of the funnels equipped with a rain-cover. A heavy cruiser of the Atago class and the battleship Yamashiro are seen in the background. 97 Taitei is flying in the air.

Standard displacement: 15,100 tons
Water line length : 158.53 m
Breadth maximum : 14.17 m
Horsepower : 90,000 Speed : 36.0 knots
Guns : Seven 14 cm main guns and two 8 cm AA guns.
Torpedo tubes : Eight 53 cm tubes
Aircraft : Nakajima Type 95 Reconnaissance Seaplane (Dave)
Date of conversion : 31st August 1919 at the Sasebo naval dockyard



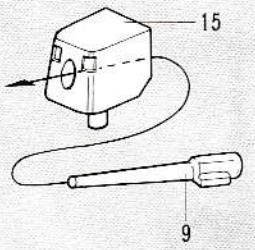
TAMIYA PLASTIC MODEL CO. 3-7, ONDAWARA, SHIZUOKA-CITY, JAPAN.

KUMA 球磨

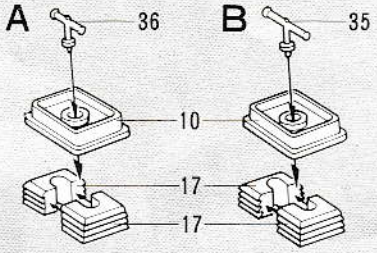
Name plate

(Read before Your Assembly Work
★Parts should be cut off the runner carefully with either a pair of nippers or a knife.
★Too much adhesives won't do. Instead apply just a little onto both parts to be glued together.

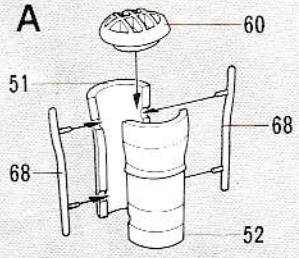
1 Construction of Main Guns



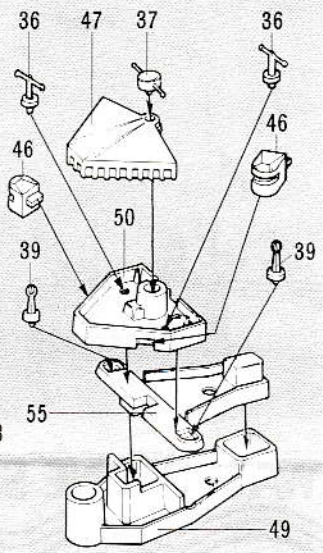
2 Construction of Range Finders



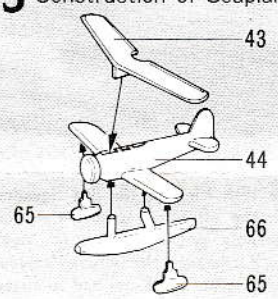
3 Construction of Funnels



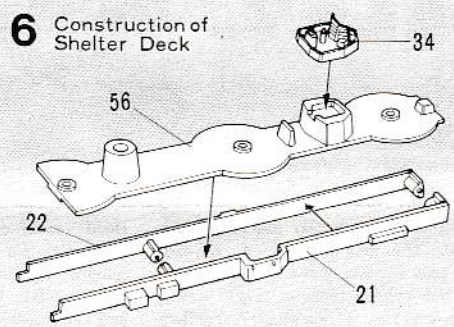
4 Construction of Bridge



5 Construction of Seaplane

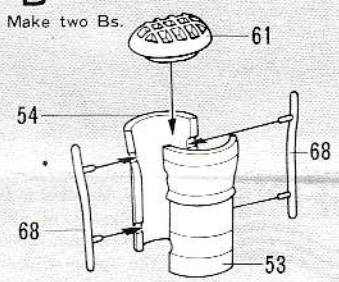


6 Construction of Shelter Deck



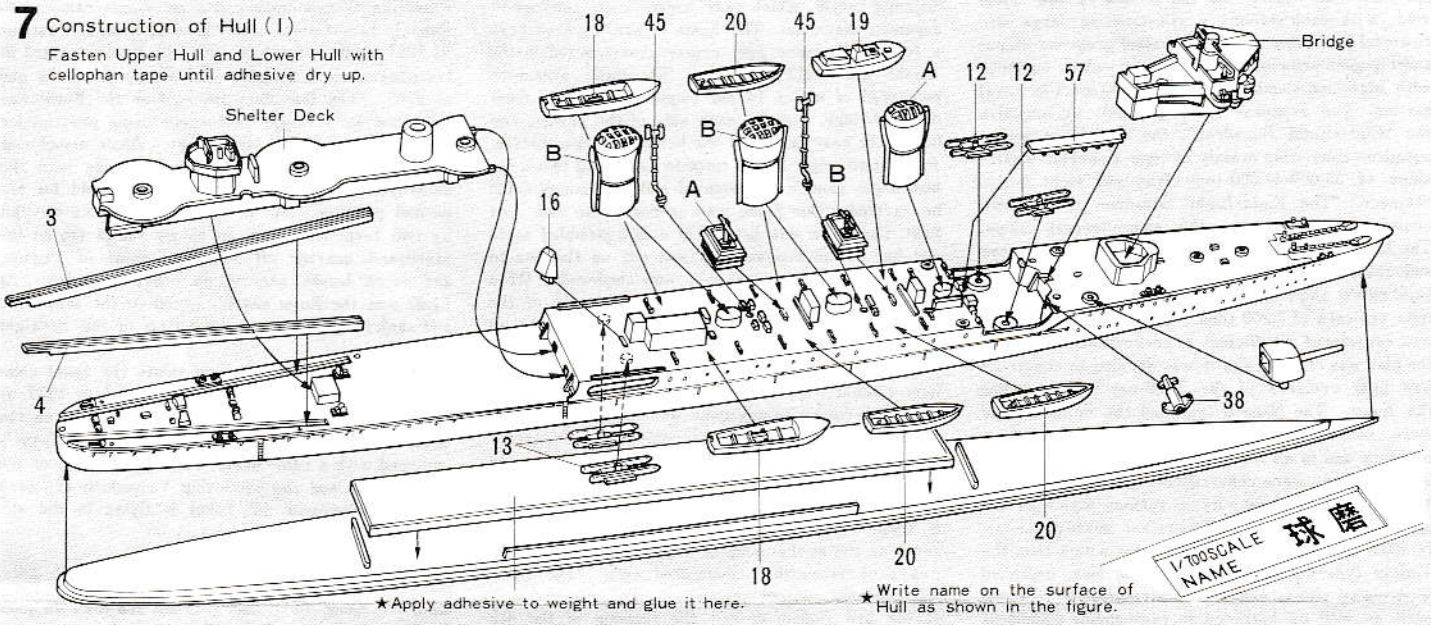
B

Make two Bs.



7 Construction of Hull (1)

Fasten Upper Hull and Lower Hull with cellophan tape until adhesive dry up.



★Apply adhesive to weight and glue it here.

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

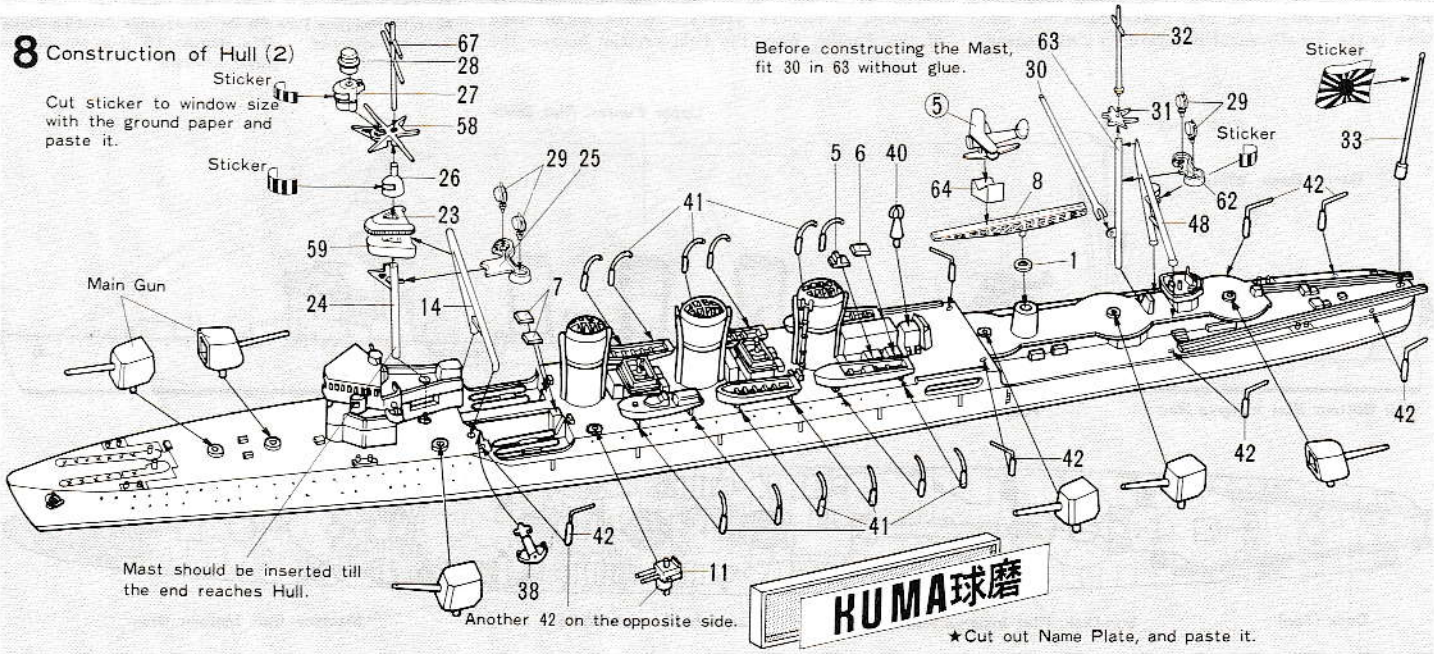
8 Construction of Hull (2)

Cut sticker to window size with the ground paper and paste it.

Sticker

Sticker

Before constructing the Mast, fit 30 in 63 without glue.



★Cut out Name Plate, and paste it.

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