

## Radar Dome Suspension and Support Assembly

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As for the dome base and suspension, Graupner really cut corners there. I was able to base my construction arrangement from several photos of the original boats. It might not be exact, but close, and certainly much closer than Graupner. I have no layout drawings as it was a cut and fit job and I drew my sketches right on the plastic parts.

### Make the Tubular Frame

I used .030 diameter (inch) styrene rod, not brass, for the tubular frame and styrene sheet. I cut all of the following little pieces with each end angled to mate with the other pieces just like you would do on full sized tubing.

Cement each of the three sides together so it looks like a "W" with horizontal top and bottom pieces. (Call it three subassemblies with pieces "A")

Make the hexagon shape, then the other round pieces. Call this "B."

Make three top and bottom pieces "C."

Make six internal braces "E."

Make a disc out of styrene sheet "D" to fit inside the hexagon. Cement in place inside the hexagon.

### Assemble the Frame

Cement the three frames "A" together using "B" to fit in place and "C" from the end of each "A" frame to the next. Do this upside-down on a copy of the Graupner drawing with wax paper on it to avoid sticking to the plan. Add the internal braces "E."

Make the six tabs to space the dome up some (not on the Graupner plan). "F." Cement in place.

### Suspension System

Make six "shock absorbers" "G" out of styrene tubing. Put the rod in a drill to turn the smaller diameter like on a lathe. Run a small diameter rod through the center so I had a short stub sticking out each end.

Make six boomagang shaped pieces "K," one leg longer than the other. Make three top cross pieces "H" and three middle pieces "I" and three pads "K."

Cement all of this together using magnets on a steel base to hold all together. This took quite a bit of time and a steady hand, and was the most time consuming part of the whole project.

Everything is a little flimsy at this stage so I added tiny brackets, two per shock end. By the time I cemented it to the main mast plate it became much sturdier - to my surprise.

