

Modifying Graupner's© Wiesel Patrol Boat Kit

(Drawing Document)

By Lew

August 19, 2010 (revised Xxx xx, 201x *more info will follow in the future*)

Graupner's decision to make a kit of the German Navy's Zobel-class "Schnellboot" was a good one. These boats have a unique design – the classic high speed hull of WW-II torpedo E-Boats with old style open gun turrets combined with an array of modern antennas and radars electronics. Unfortunately, for the modeler looking for a well detailed accurate model, this kit falls short.

Disclaimer

Graupner© is a registered trademark of Graupner GmbH & Co. KG. There is no intent to discredit or abuse the name of this fine company. The only reason for this document is to assist model builders of a Zobel-class schnellboot to build a handsome model. There is very little information available elsewhere.

When I purchased this kit in 1975, Graupner's advertisement in *Model Boats Magazine* stated "Superbly seaworthy & maneuverable – and highly authentic. A true 1/40th scale model." They now (their web site in 2008) call this a "quick build" kit.

Forward

This document was created for the detail modeler wanting to modify the Wiesel kit to provide an accurate model. Herein I have provided documentation to modify the kit. It is up to the builder to use some or all of this information as well as any other information they might have. (More about this is below.) Finding the information was not easy, and took place over a period of many years. Most of the information came from the internet in the form of pictures, some from other documents. Also note that because sketches for parts were made based on relative sizes taken from photos, accuracy is not guaranteed. Where possible, photos taken from different angles were used to confirm the size, shape, and location of the parts.

Graupner's Wiesel kit (no. 2145) has a number of problems: Accuracy; lack of detail, and missing items. Some of the "lack of detail" problems are due to vacuum molding, while others from shortcuts. Some of the kit's details are wrong. Some of the missing items were on all of the boats, and some on specific boats.

Many missing details should be added to complete the model to reflect the original boats "as built." One example is the NBC washers found all over the boat. Other details should be added to reflect a typical day the boat is "ready for duty." Examples are line (ropes), bumpers, spars, etc.

Note that there were some minor differences in the ten Zobel class boats. This document is for the S-32 Wiesel, NATO number P6093, but much of it applies to others in this class as well. Those modeling one of the other boats will need to obtain information on that particular boat.

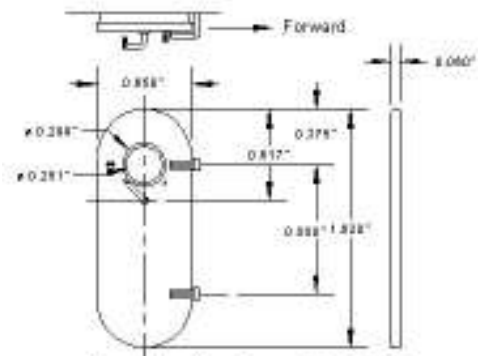
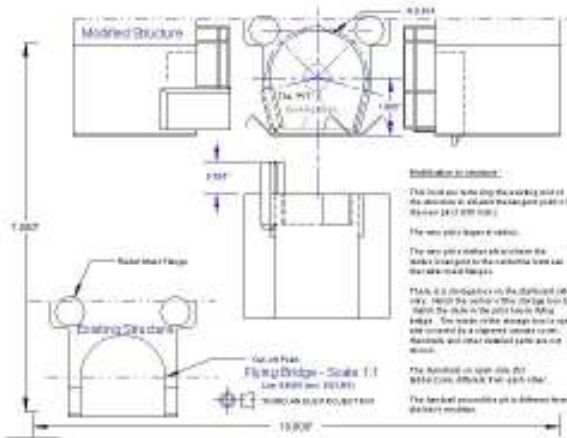
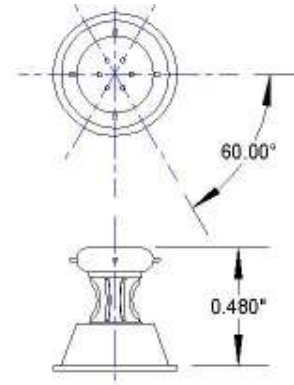
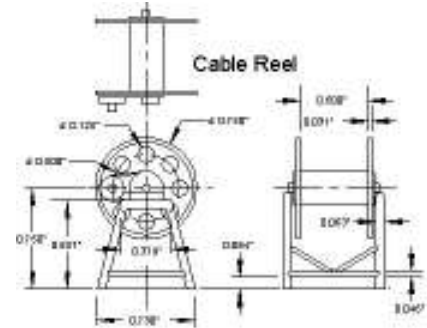
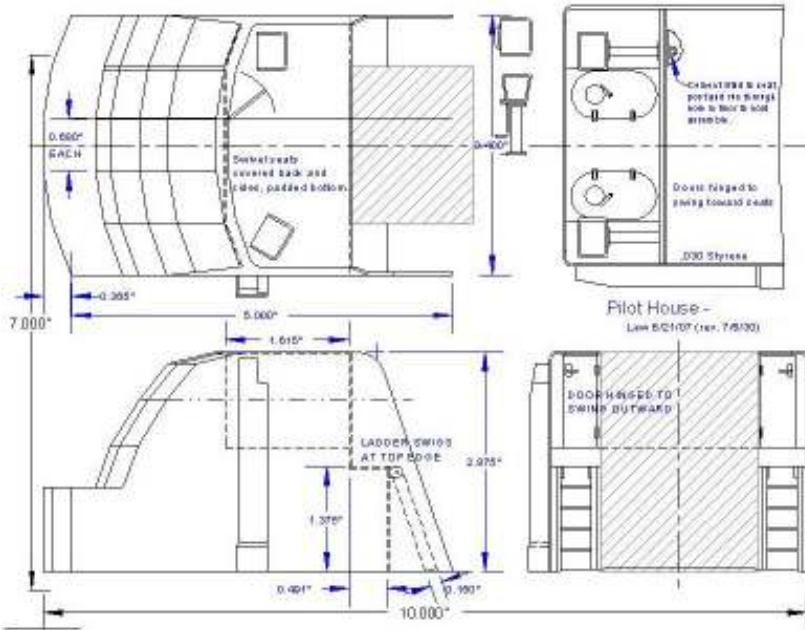
Kit builders can be defined in several categories: Those wishing to make a very accurate model down to those wanting to add some key items. Being where you are in building the kit is a big impact on these decisions. If you already built the kit you might not want to hack it up and start over. If you haven't started yet, you might plan on taking the accurate course. (*I was in the process of building the kit, so I did not feel that making major modifications of the whole deck layout would be worth the time. However, I did rebuild several parts from scratch including the forward superstructure.*)

The part numbers in the Wiesel kit follow the sequence of assembling the model. I will follow Graupner's use of part numbers as well as their figure numbers (on the photographs) in order to make modifying the kit easier. New parts will be indicated as "new" followed by the name of the part. ...So, let's get started!

Drawings

(Not to scale)

Note: The pilot house only has one hatch, on the right side. See my model for correct configuration.

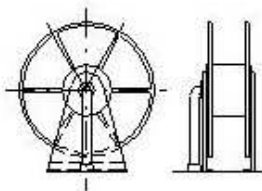


Superstructure door - Scale 2:1

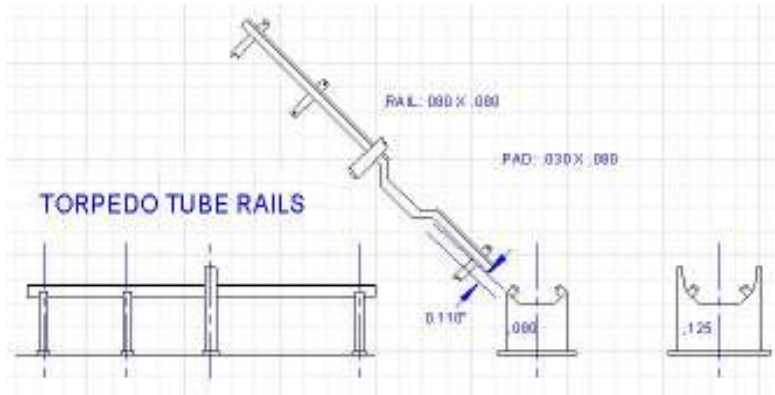
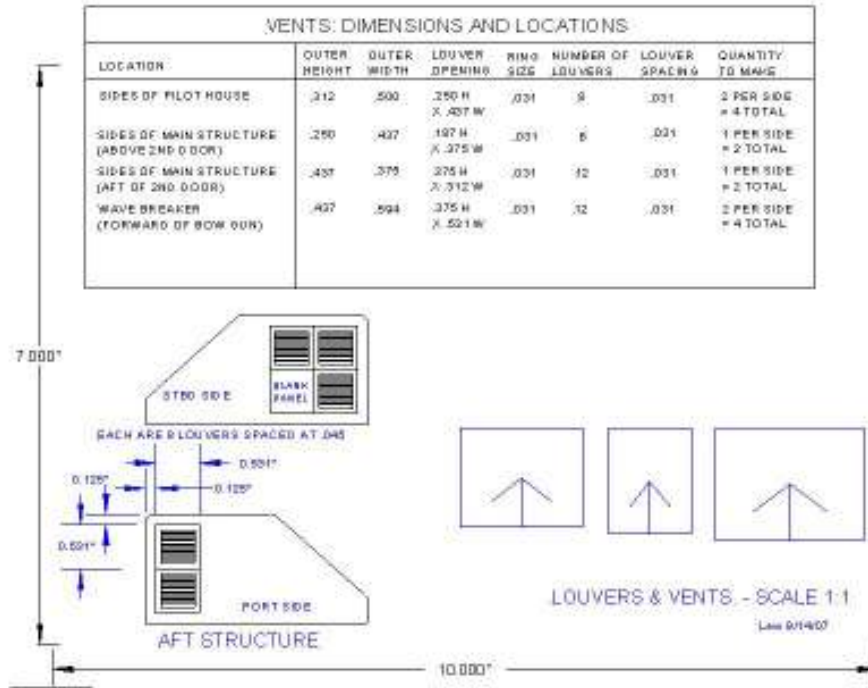
Lew 5/21/07

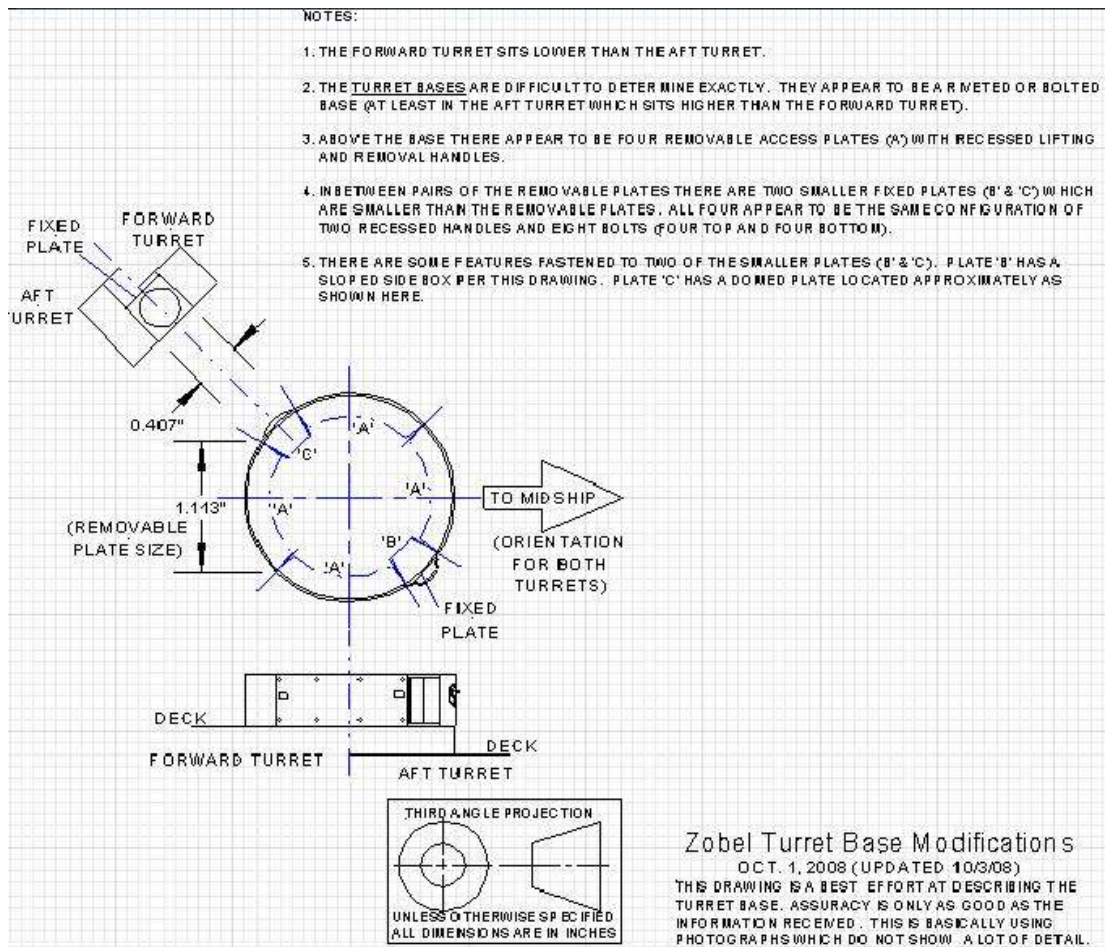
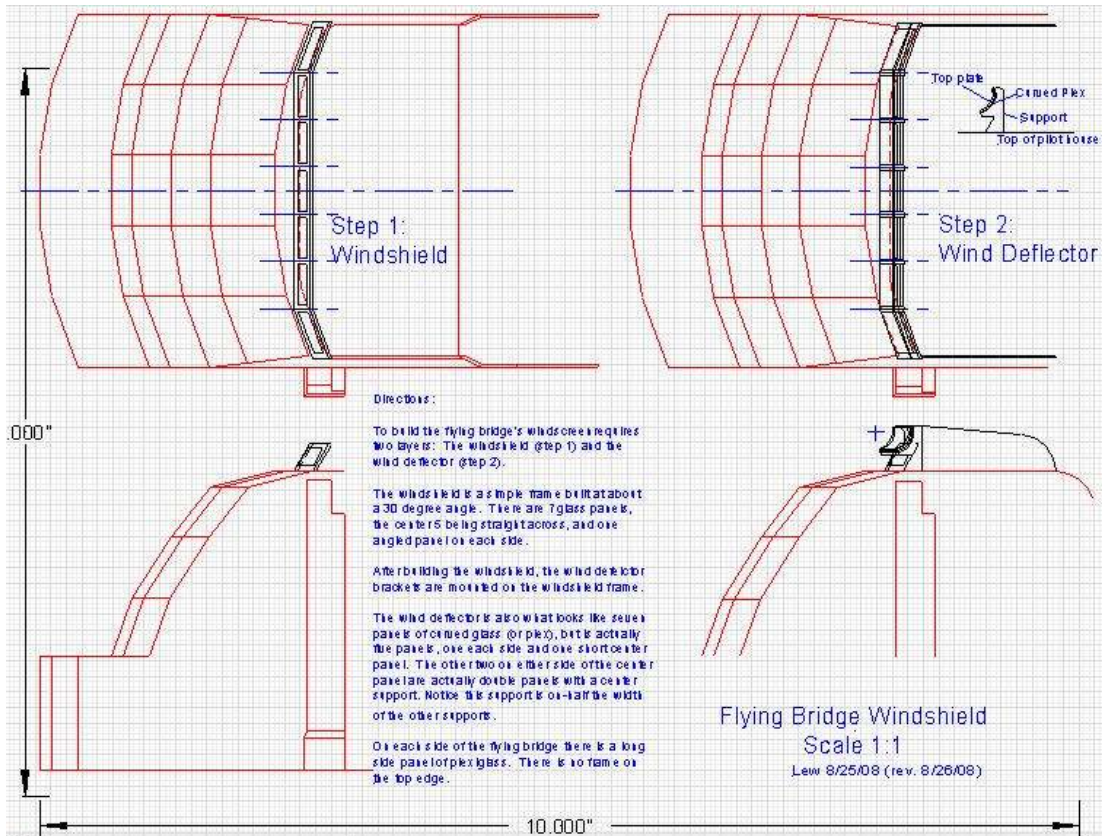
Hinge side faces forward

Port (window) in forward doors only



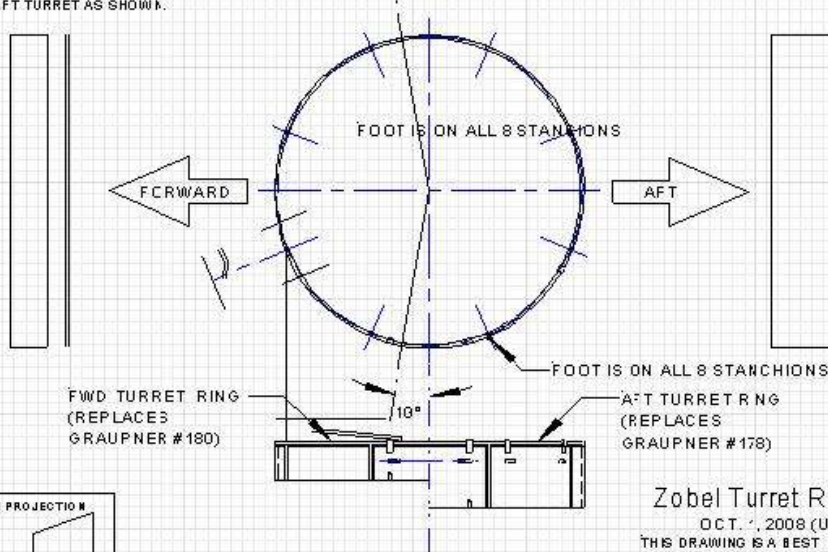
More





NOTES:

1. THE FORWARD TURRET SITS LOWER THAN THE AFT TURRET. THERE IS NO INSIDE TO THIS RING. IT IS FASTENED DIRECTLY TO THE DECK.
2. THE TURRET ARMOR RINGS ARE MADE UP OF A TUBULAR FRAME WHICH IS A MAIN RING WITH 'T' JOINTS THAT GO DOWN TO THE DECK. WHERE THE TUBES MEET THE DECK THERE IS A SMALL FLANGE (SHOWN ONE PLACE ON THIS DRAWING) WHICH HAS A BOLT HEAD TO THE DECK.
3. THERE ARE EIGHT VERTICAL TUBES EVENLY SPACED. (NOTE THAT THE TUBES ARE OFFSET FROM THE AXIS OF THE DECK BY 22.5 DEGREES.)
4. IN BETWEEN EACH TUBE IS A CURVED PLATE SUSPENDED BY TWO STRAPS. THE OUTSIDE OF THE PLATES ARE FLUSH WITH THE OUTSIDE DIAMETER OF THE TUBULAR RING. THERE IS A SLIGHT GAP BETWEEN THE PLATES AND THE TUBES. THE BOTTOM OF THE PLATES ARE HELD IN PLACE WITH T BLACK RUBBER STRETCH LATCH. THE EIGHT PLATES APPEAR TO BE THE SAME.
2. THERE IS ADDITIONAL TUBING (EXTENSION) ON THE FORWARD SIDE OF THE FORWARD TURRET AND THE AFT SIDE OF THE AFT TURRET AS SHOWN.



Zobel Turret Ring Modifications

OCT. 1, 2008 (UPDATED 11/22/08)

THIS DRAWING IS A BEST EFFORT AT DESCRIBING THE TURRET BASE. ASSURACY IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE INFORMATION RECEIVED. THIS IS BASICALLY USING PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH DO NOT SHOW A LOT OF DETAIL