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› Academy TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill 1/48 Scale Airplane Model Kit Instruction Manual

ACADEMY HOBBY MODEL KITS TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill

Academy TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill 1/48 Scale Airplane Model Kit Instruction Manual

Model Number: TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the assembly, painting, and decaling of your Academy TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill 1/48 scale airplane model kit. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning assembly. This kit is designed for modelers aged 10 and above, with adult supervision recommended for younger builders.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Small Parts:** This kit contains small parts which may pose a choking hazard. Keep out of reach of small children.
- **Sharp Tools:** Assembly requires the use of sharp tools such as hobby knives and tweezers. Exercise caution to prevent injury.
- **Adhesives and Paints:** Use model cement and paints in a well-ventilated area. Avoid prolonged inhalation of fumes. Follow manufacturer's safety guidelines for all chemical products.
- **Eye Protection:** Consider wearing eye protection during cutting and sanding operations.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Your Academy TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill model kit includes:

- Plastic injection molded parts for the TBM-3 Avenger aircraft.
- Clear plastic parts for canopy and windows.
- Cartograf premium quality decals for USS Bunker Hill markings.
- Instruction sheet (this document).

TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED (NOT INCLUDED)

To complete your model, you will need the following:

- Hobby knife or sprue cutters
- Plastic model cement (liquid or tube type)
- Fine-grit sandpaper or sanding sticks
- Tweezers
- Model paints (acrylic or enamel, as per color guide)
- Paintbrushes or airbrush
- Masking tape (for painting)
- Decal setting solution (optional, but recommended)

SETUP

1. **Workspace Preparation:** Set up a clean, well-lit, and well-ventilated workspace. Protect your work surface with a cutting mat or newspaper.
2. **Part Identification:** Familiarize yourself with the parts on the sprues by comparing them to the parts diagram in the instruction sheet. Do not remove parts from the sprues until they are needed.
3. **Test Fit:** Before applying any glue, always test fit parts together to ensure proper alignment and fit. Trim or sand as necessary.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the steps below in sequence. Refer to the diagrams for part placement and orientation.



Figure 1: The Academy TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill model kit box art, depicting the aircraft in a dynamic flight pose. This image provides an overall impression of the finished model.

1. Cockpit Assembly

1. Assemble the pilot's seat, control stick, and instrument panel. Paint these components according to the color guide before gluing.
2. Glue the assembled cockpit components into the cockpit floor.
3. Attach the rear gunner's station and radio equipment to the cockpit floor.



Figure 2: Detailed views of the model's interior, including the cockpit and fuselage sections, highlighting the intricate plastic injection parts. This image assists in the precise assembly of internal components.

2. Fuselage Assembly

1. Glue the assembled cockpit into one half of the fuselage.
2. Attach any internal bulkheads or bomb bay details to the fuselage halves. The bomb bay doors may be assembled open or closed.
3. Carefully join the two fuselage halves together. Ensure proper alignment and use tape or clamps to hold them while the glue dries.

3. Wing Assembly

1. Assemble the upper and lower wing sections for both left and right wings.
2. Attach the landing gear bays and any internal wing structure.
3. Glue the assembled wings to the fuselage. Ensure the correct dihedral (upward angle) of the wings.

4. Landing Gear and Propeller

1. Assemble the main landing gear struts and wheels. You can choose to build the model with landing gear extended or retracted.
2. Attach the tail wheel assembly.
3. Assemble the propeller blades and spinner. Attach the propeller to the engine cowling.

5. Final Details and Armament

1. Attach the horizontal stabilizers and rudder to the tail section.

2. Add external details such as antennas, pitot tubes, and exhaust stacks.
3. Assemble and attach the chosen armament (bombs, rockets) to the wing pylons and bomb bay.



Figure 3: A side profile of the fully assembled and painted TBM-3 Avenger model, showcasing the overall shape and external details. This view is useful for checking the general assembly and proportions.

PAINTING AND DECALING

Painting

1. **Surface Preparation:** Ensure the model surface is clean and free of dust or grease. A light sanding with fine-grit sandpaper can help paint adhesion.
2. **Primer:** Apply a thin coat of primer for better paint adhesion and a uniform base color.
3. **Base Coats:** Apply thin, even coats of your chosen base colors. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly before applying the next. Refer to historical references or the box art for accurate color schemes for the USS Bunker Hill aircraft.
4. **Detail Painting:** Paint smaller details such as landing gear, propeller, and cockpit interior.
5. **Protective Coat:** Once painting is complete and dry, apply a gloss clear coat to prepare the surface for decals. This helps prevent 'silvering' of decals.

Decaling

1. **Cut Decals:** Carefully cut out each decal from the sheet as needed.
2. **Water Application:** Dip the decal in lukewarm water for 10-20 seconds until it slides freely on its

backing paper.

3. **Placement:** Slide the decal onto the desired position on the model. Use tweezers for precise placement.
4. **Positioning:** Gently blot away excess water with a soft cloth or cotton swab. Adjust the decal's position while it is still wet.
5. **Setting Solution (Optional):** Apply a decal setting solution to help the decal conform to surface details and eliminate air bubbles.
6. **Final Coat:** Once decals are dry, apply a final clear coat (gloss, satin, or matte) to seal them and protect the paint finish.



Figure 4: Multiple views of the completed model, emphasizing the application of Cartograf premium quality decals and the accurate reproduction of the TBM-3 Avenger. This image serves as a reference for decal placement and overall finish.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and appearance of your finished model:

- **Dusting:** Regularly dust the model with a soft, dry brush or a can of compressed air.
- **Handling:** Handle the model by its sturdy parts (e.g., fuselage, wings) to avoid damaging delicate components like antennas or landing gear.
- **Display:** Display the model in a stable location away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity to prevent fading, warping, or decal degradation.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Assembly Issues

- **Parts Not Fitting:** If parts do not fit together smoothly, gently sand the mating surfaces. Ensure no excess plastic (flash) is present.
- **Gaps Between Parts:** Small gaps can be filled with plastic putty or stretched sprue, then sanded smooth.
- **Decal Silvering:** This occurs when air is trapped under the decal. Ensure a gloss surface before decaling and use decal setting solution. Prick tiny bubbles with a sharp needle and apply more setting solution.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	ACADEMY HOBBY MODEL KITS
Model	TBM-3 USS Bunker Hill
Scale	1:48
Material	Plastic
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	9.92 x 13.54 x 3.86 inches
Item Weight	12 ounces
Included Components	Parts to build a plastic model kit
Age Range (Description)	Child, Adult

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Warranty Information

This product comes with a **90-day warranty** against manufacturer defects. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support

For questions regarding missing parts, manufacturing defects, or assembly assistance, please contact your retailer or the manufacturer, ACADEMY HOBBY MODEL KITS. Refer to the contact information provided on the product packaging or the official brand website.