

## Dave's Ship painting method

### 1:2400 scale using Humbrol paints

#### Base

Use picture framing card. Cut to size. Cut oversize piece of foil (Bertolli has the textured surface). Lightly scrunch up, then carefully smooth out. Glue onto card with PVA wood glue and trim to size. The edges may require additional glueing down when dry.

Before the PVA has completely dried, slide cleaned up, but as yet unpainted ship onto foil thereby creating a slight bow wave and flattened wake.

When the base is dry, paint the foil surface in solid colour M90 and leave to dry. Leave to dry some more. Paint over with a not too thin wash of M144. When fully dry, touch in white flecks on bow wave etc. Don't overdo it.

Check the effect by placing ship in position now and then until you're happy with the look.

Optionally paint the base edges (or just rear) in national colours for ease of identification. Gloss varnish the whole base with G35.

#### Ship

Clean up casting, straighten masts etc. Glue onto temporary painting base, and base out in matt white. Paint decks in slightly thinned M103, and masts in neat M71. Paint Hull in a succession of various brown washes. Start light, and stop when you're happy. The previous wash must be dry before over washing otherwise it will turn to sludge.

Glue on to finished base.

Lay out sails on a piece of paper and paint mid brown with a dark brown wash over. Using a combination of light greys and Deck/Mast colours as highlights, bring life to the 'billowing' sails. Leave thin lines of brown showing across the sails to simulate ropes and lines.



When dry, glue sails on to masts with super glue gel.

You now have the assembled ship fixed to the finished base. Paint the remaining details on the ship – black lines along the hull, gold or silver or coloured touches and highlight to taste. When you are happy that it's done, paint the sails in matt acrylic and the hull in satin acrylic varnish.

#### Rigging and Flags

Take a length of thin light brown cotton and super glue it to the stern. When dry wind it round and glue to the top of each mast, pulling it taught and letting each one dry before going on to the next. Wind it round the same direction on each mast, otherwise it looks like a zigzag from above. Finish on the bow sprit and cut off surplus. Paint with matt acrylic varnish. This process requires a degree of patience.

1st and 2nd rate ships have a flag on the stern. Before rigging, fold and glue piece of flag sized plain foil over the cotton. Locate the flag in position as you start rigging. When rigging is complete, paint the flag and fold/curl and billow when dry.

Streamers are made by folding and glueing a piece of pre-painted foil over a length of cotton. Cut thin slithers from this piece, and glue the cotton reinforced edge to the mast tops. Cut slithers in a slightly downward direction rather than at right angles as this looks more realistic when finished. When dry, fold/curl and generally flutter to taste.