

Boeing P-8 Poseidon based on the
Revell 144th 737-800



By Paul Gasiorowski

The P-8 Poseidon design is based on the Boeing 737-800. While reading an article in Aviation Week & Space Technology Jan 12, 2009 and International Air Power Vol. 25 Winter 2009, I decided this would be a nice aircraft to try and model. Since the Internet and the articles gave enough information and pictures I decided to use Revell's 144th 737-800 kit as the basis for modification.

I ordered the kit and associated photo etch parts (Extra Tech) from Squadron. The first thing I had to do was fill in all the windows, except for a few on each side based on the photos (real) and artist's conception. I used Elmer's Carpenters Wood Filler (White). I attached strips of styrene to the inside of the airframe to give the filler some support. I also taped off the windows on the top and bottom so I wouldn't have filler all over the place and in the seams. I let this dry for a day or too and then sanded it down and repeated the process to fill in any spots that I missed. Then I added the front nose gear box and main gear box to the right side of the fuselage. Since I wasn't going to have a clear windshield I added some weight to the top of the nose gear box. I added some styrene to the top of the rudder to simulate the ECM pod as shown in the artist's

conception drawing. I painted the fuselage with a base coat of chromate green to point out any big flaws where I added the filler and made the corrections as necessary



Working on the engine pods I added the photo etch fans to the inside and painted the insides metallic. Putting aside the engine pods I went to work on the wings. I glued the main gear box to the lower wing and added the appropriate photo etch parts. I tested the best way to attach the wing assembly, either as I piece or added the bottom wing first. The testing indicated by adding the lower wing first and then the top sections the gaps would be minimal, so that's the process I used.

The wings on the 737-800 uses winglets, but the P-8 uses something called strakes at the end of the wings. So I took some .30 styrene and shaped it to what the strakes looked like on the conception drawings, keeping in mind the overall wingspan. I also notched out part of the strakes to add the running lights when I was done.

I left off all the landing gear at this point since they seem very fragile and then could be added later. The gear doors were photo etch along with some other pieces of photo etch that went on the landing gear or in the wheel wells.

The Poseidon also indicated it would carry Harpoon missiles externally. I modified some missiles and racks from a 144th F14 Tomcat and F-15 Eagle to get the desired effect.

The appropriate attach points were drilled out and the missiles would be added after the aircraft was painted. The only modification to the 144th missiles was to round of the noses to make it look like a harpoon and adjust the length on some of them to 15 scale feet.



I painted the aircraft with Model Master Dark Gull Grey Acryl FS 36231. I then followed it up with 2 couple of coats for Future. I scrounged decals for the National Insignia and Navy from some other decal sheets. The decals around the doors were from the decal sheet that came with the kit. I did not try to mask the original windscreen but used the kit supplied decal for this, since you couldn't see in the cockpit anyway. Then used a coat of Model Master Flat Acryl to seal the decals and eliminate of the shine of the Future.

The front landing gear had broken off at this point and I used a landing strut from a 144th F-15 Eagle, which worked just fine. But I did add a support behind the nose gear (piece of a straight needle) to give it the extra support it would need. The wheels were painted flat black with a touch of grey added to the paint. The hubs were painted aluminum by spraying some Model Master metalizer into a cup and using a brush to paint the hubs. I added the wheels to finish off the model. At this point I added the 4 hard points and attached the missiles.

It was an easy build, but it could have used more photo etch antennas, since I'm sure the production model will have many all over the aircraft. So I added another one off model to my collection.

