

Kit Review

by Richard Leininger

Subject: SSN-21 Seawolf Attack Submarine

Manufacturer: Trumpeter

Scale: 1/144

Model Type: Styrene

Recommended? Yes

Let me start off by saying that the Trumpeter Seawolf Submarine is an impressive model by sheer size alone. If you

have been building tedious models with numerous fiddly small parts and are looking to give your eyes and brain a break from the tedium, then this kit is for you. It is BIG. 1/144 scale big. In a modern nuclear submarine model, that equates to just over 29 inches in length and 3 ¼ inches in diameter. There are no small parts here. All 45 of them can be seen without a magnifying glass. The hull is divided into three sections along its length. Each section has a top and bottom half, which means if you want to do a waterline model it would be easier, although the actual

waterline is above the half hull line so cutting would probably still be necessary. I decided to do mine with a full hull because after spending \$33 I just couldn't bring myself to throw away all that plastic. Which brings up another problem. Displaying this behemoth. I decided to do my own wooden display board and wooden cradle and discard the pathetic injector pin covered one supplied in the kit. The easiest way for me to sum up review of this kit is to list the good points and bad points. So here they are:

Good Points

- Great subject, no other injection kits available at this time.
- Great scale, it's big and impressive if you have the shelf space.
- Good molding detail.
- Good instructions, but you could probably build this one without them.
- Good decals.
- Pretty good fit on most parts.



Bad Points

- Usual Trumpeter soft plastic.
- Rough textured plastic, which will make decal placement without silvering difficult.
- Main top half of hull is 1/16 inch longer than bottom half making either the fore or aft section not fit without additional work (I chose to leave the aft section not fit and fill with strip styrene).
- Could use better instruction on painting, so you are going to have to do some research.
- Very poor display stand, too small and covered with ejector pin marks (throw it away).

- Poor connection for periscopes, could use a more positive connection for easier alignment.

So there you have it. All in all, not a bad kit, but then again, not a great kit either. So if you have been wanting a Seawolf for your submarine collection I would recommend this one because with a little work it will turn into a very impressive model.