

Background – Imperial German Navy Torpedo Boat:

In Germany, development of torpedo boats began in 1887 with construction of *D1* and *D2* of 230 tons. Development of the type proceeded rapidly and by the outbreak of war in 1914 over 200 boats had been placed in service.

German destroyers were not named but were given numbers prefixed by a letter indicating which yard they had been built in: 'G' indicates the Krupp Germania Yard in Kiel.

SMS G-39 was one of four ships in the Large Torpedo Boat (*'Großes Torpedoboot'*) *G-37* class of 1913. Fitted with three single 88mm guns, two twin and two single 500mm torpedo tubes, she was 261ft long, displaced 1,051 tons, and was capable of 36 knots. 24 mines could also be carried.

Commissioned in August 1915, she was the leader of the First Torpedo Boat flotilla and formed part of the escort to the Battle Fleet under the overall command of the cruiser *Rostock* during the Battle of Jutland in 1916. She took no part in the battlecruiser actions, but at 1900 she closed with the severely battered *Lützow* and took aboard Admiral Hipper, transferring him to the *Moltke* at 2130.

G-39 survived Jutland and the rest of the war and was interned with the High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow, being scuttled there on June 21, 1919. She was raised by Cox & Danks on July 3, 1925 and broken up.

The Kit:

This kit features G-39 as she appeared in May 1916 at the Battle of Jutland in overall black.

Packaging:

The kit comes in a standard $8.5'' \times 3.75''$ box that opens at the ends and features a drawing of the completed model on the top, painting instructions on the side, and assembly instructions on the bottom.

The kit comprises 42 parts on 1 sprue sealed in a plastic bag; the hull, waterline plate, and deck are single pieces not attached to any sprue. All parts are moulded in medium grey.



----- Box Art -----

Hull:

The one piece hull is 113mm long and scales out perfectly to the actual length of 261 feet. A waterline base plate is included, there is no lower hull.

The hull features cut-outs for the anchors, a raised plating strake, portholes with rigoles ('*eyebrows*'), and bollards. The forecastle deck is moulded in place with hatches, hawse pipe openings, and breakwater.

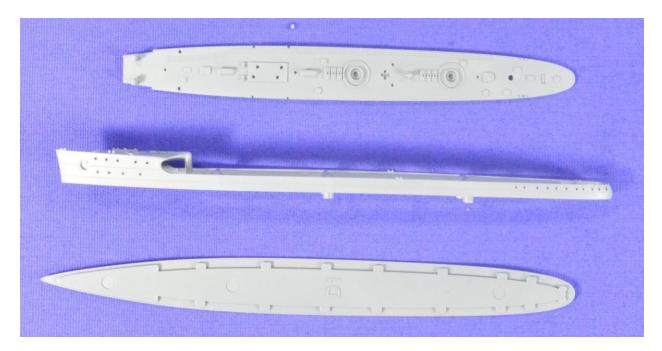
----- Hull and waterline plate -----

Deck:

The main deck is a single piece with moulded in mine rails, skylights, mounting rings for the torpedo tubes, and hatches.



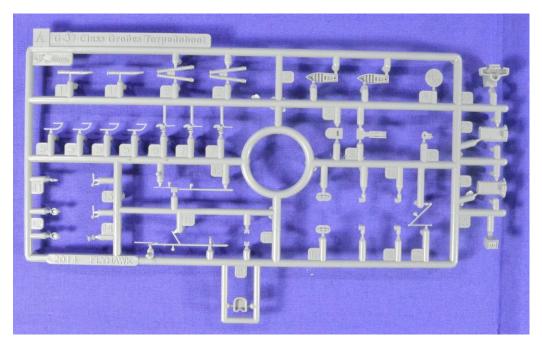
----- Main deck -----



----- Main deck, hull, and waterline plate -----

Detail parts:

All the parts are on the one sprue and include masts with yardarms and platforms, 88mm guns, single and twin torpedo tubes, boats, bridge superstructure, single piece hollow funnels, separate funnel caps with grills, searchlights, davits, and smaller fittings. All the parts are well detailed, the guns and torpedo tubes feature raised detail and the funnels have raised ribs.



----- Detail parts -----

Decals:

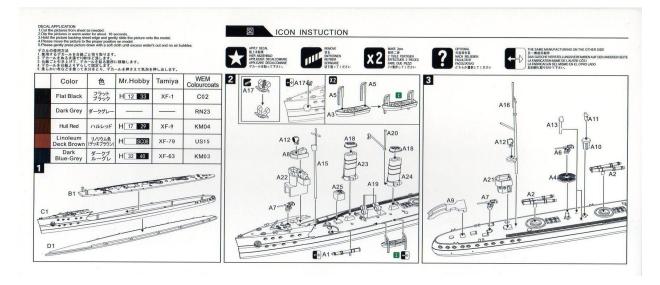
The decal sheet has 4 Imperial Navy flags



----- Decals -----

Instructions:

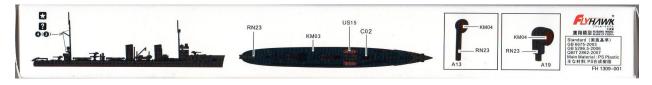
The instructions are on the back of the box and consist of three steps with two sub-assemblies.



----- Instructions -----

Colour scheme:

There is a colour diagram on the side of the box and a colour reference for the Mr. Hobby, Tamiya, and White Ensign Colourcoats ranges is on the instruction panel. The use of a strong light is recommended to pick out the details of the colour scheme as the actual diagram is printed quite dark. Note that the hull is to be painted black; there is no indication given on the diagram.



----- Colour guide -----

Overall Impression:

I believe this kit was originally included with the Flyhawk *Lützow* Limited Edition kit and is now being made available as a separate release. It is well up to Flyhawk's usual excellent standards with precise moulded-in detail, no flash, and no lines that result when two mould halves are used to make a single component.

This unique little gem will be a quick and easy build – highly recommended.

References:

- Jutland to Junkyard by S C George. Patrick Stephens 1973
- Jutland 1916 by Angus Konstam. Aurum Press 2016
- SM Torpedo Boat B110 Warship Profile 27 by Professor F. Ruge. Profile Publications 1972
- Warships of World War I by H.M. Le Fleming. Ian Allan 1961

Review kit courtesy of Flyhawk Models