



Notes for this review:

For the general background of the Kongo class, please see the review of the Kajika Kongo. This kit uses many of the same components as the Kajika kits of Kongo and Hiei; the differences between the kits are noted under each section and summarized at the end of the review. All the photos in this review are of the Haruna kit.

Background – Home built Battlecruiser:

The contract signed with Vickers in 1910 to build the *Kongo* stipulated that there was to be a technology transfer to Japanese industry so that they could build the follow-on units of the class. Working groups from Japanese industry came to Vickers Barrow and worked alongside their British counterparts in order to learn the latest British shipbuilding and armour production techniques, and to determine how best to outfit their yards.

This program was very successful and in March 1912 while *Kongo* was still on the stocks, Kawasaki Kobe laid the keel for *Haruna*, the third of the four *Kongo* class battlecruisers and the first large dreadnought to be built in a private Japanese yard. Named for a mountain northeast of Tokyo, *Haruna* was launched on Dec 14, 1913 and accepted into service on April 19, 1915. Her 37 month completion time compares

very favourably with *Kongo's* 32 months, considering how much modernization and scaling up had to be done by the Japanese yards to build such large warships.

Seven of the 14" guns were manufactured in Japan using components imported from Vickers, one gun was imported complete from Vickers. The plates for the main side armour belt were produced in Japan; the rest of the armour plate was imported from Vickers. In contrast to *Hiei*, the 36 boilers were of the Yarrow large tube type and gave *Haruna* 80,476 SHP, the best of the four *Kongo* class. She was also the only one of the class fitted with Brown-Curtis turbines.

As might be expected, *Haruna* was externally very similar to her sister ship *Hiei*. The most noticeable difference was that the main gun turrets were rounded on the front and sides as opposed to the angular shape of *Hiei's* and *Kongo's* turrets. Like *Hiei*, *Haruna* never carried the single 14pdr guns that were fitted briefly on the top of *Kongo's* 14" turrets.

Haruna's service in World War One was limited to patrols off China and in the South Pacific. An offer from the Royal Navy in 1915 to lease the four *Kongo* class battlecruisers was turned down; their possible impact on the subsequent Battle of Jutland remains a tantalizing 'what if' for naval historians. *Haruna* was damaged in mid-1917 by a mine suspected of having been laid by the German raider *Wolf*.

In September 1920, a faulty fuse ignited the gunpowder charges in the breech of the starboard gun of No. 1 14" turret. This flash fire detonated the shell loaded in the gun, wrecking it and a portion of the armoured turret roof; seven crew members were killed.

Haruna underwent a major modernisation from July 1926 to July 1928, being fitted with bulges, more horizontal armour, and new engines. She was rated as a battleship on completion of the work. From August 1933 to September 1934, she was reconstructed again as the prototype for the modernization of the rest of the Japanese battle fleet. Lengthened and fitted with more armour and new boilers, she emerged as a fast battleship capable of 30 knots.

At the beginning of the Pacific War, *Haruna* and *Kongo* were assigned to cover the landings in Malaya where they took part in the hunt for *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse* before those two ships were sunk by aerial attack. In company with *Kongo*, she bombarded Christmas Island on March 7, 1942 and then took part in the Indian Ocean raid in April 1942, the only time in World War II that the four *Kongo* class battleships operated together.

She participated in the Battle of Midway as part of the screen for the aircraft carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Soryu*, and *Hiryu*. She suffered slight damage from dive bomber attack, and after the loss of the four carriers returned the survivors to Japan.

On the night of October 13, 1942 in company with *Kongo*, she shelled the US Marine positions on the island of Guadalcanal. 'The Night the Battleships Shelled' has become legendary for its sheer terror and violence with 920 14" shells expended, leaving aircraft and shore installations wrecked or heavily damaged; it was the most effective use of Japanese battleships during the entire Pacific war.

She screened the carriers again during the Battle of Santa Cruz in October 1942 and at the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944; suffering damage to the after 14" turret and quarterdeck as the result of an air attack during the latter battle. As part of the Central Force, she engaged in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944 where she came under intensive air attack and engaged the escort carriers of Task Unit 77.4.3 off the coast of Samar. *Haruna* was lucky to come through the intense multi-day engagement with only minor damage.

After running aground at the Lingga Roads anchorage in November 1944, *Haruna* returned to Japan for repair. Subject to intensive air attacks by the US fleet in March and July 1945, she was sunk while at anchor on July 28. Her wreckage was raised and scrapped in 1946, the only one of the four *Kongo* class to meet that fate.

The Kit:

This features *Haruna* as built and how she appeared from 1915 to 1920. This is **not** a simple re-packaging of the *Kongo* or *Hiei* kits; it accurately reflects the differences between *Haruna* and the other two ships.

Packaging:

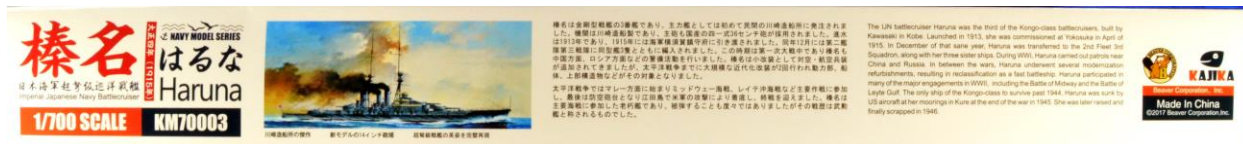
The kit comes in a well-constructed box featuring a painting of *Haruna* at speed with an impressive amount of smoke coming from the funnels and canvas dodgers fitted to the bridge railings.

The sides of the box contain a condensed ship's history and pictures of the *Hiei* kit and the upcoming kit of *Kirishima*.

The kit comprises 363 parts on six sprues with all parts moulded in medium grey and individually sealed in plastic bags. The hull, waterline plate, forecastle deck, quarterdeck, and bridge parts are single pieces not attached to any sprue. There is no photo-etch.

Kongo's masts are on their own sprue and are in a small box; those for *Haruna* are on the new sprue with other parts that was developed for the *Hiei* kit.





---- Box Art ----



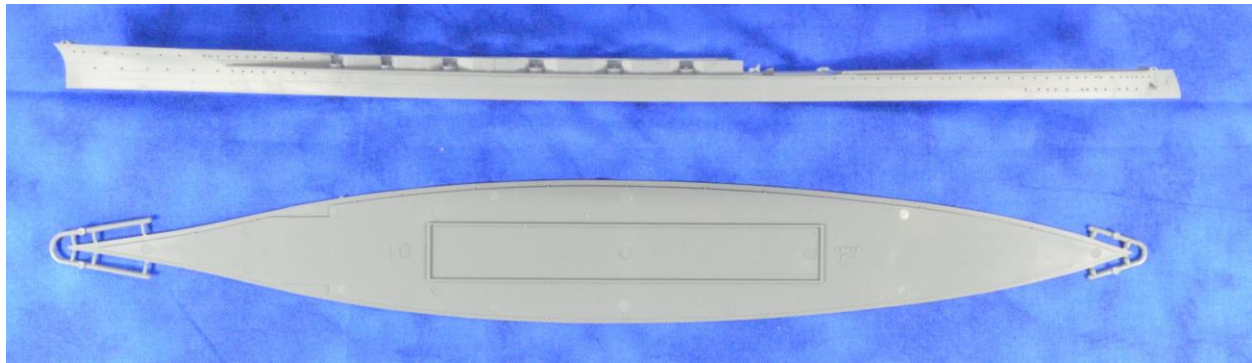
---- Contents of box ----

Hull:

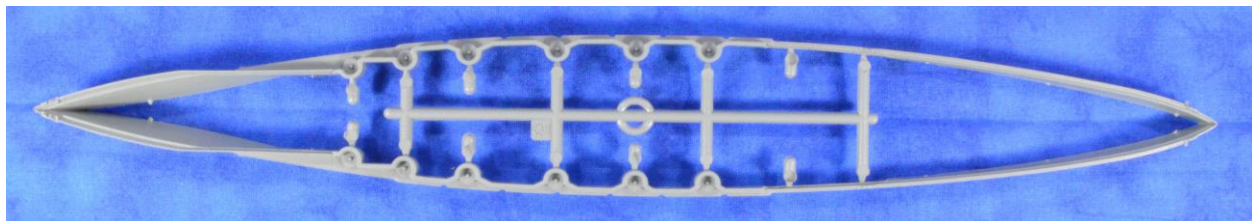
The starboard and port hull sides are in one piece and scale out just four feet short of the actual length of 705 feet. There is just a waterline plate – no lower hull is included.

The hull is loaded with exquisite detail: the many doors have hinges, the portholes have ‘eyebrows’, the armour belt amidships is well defined, there is clearly defined hull plating running fore and aft, the secondary casemates are crisply moulded, and there is a torpedo net shelf. Raised lugs run along the length of the hull for attaching the torpedo net booms.

Haruna’s hull is the same as the Hiei hull. Kongo’s hull has ladder rungs just aft of the anchors; these are not present on the Haruna hull. At the stern, Haruna has more portholes, while Kongo has doors for square ports which are not on Haruna. Kongo’s waterline plate is molded in red, Haruna’s in grey.



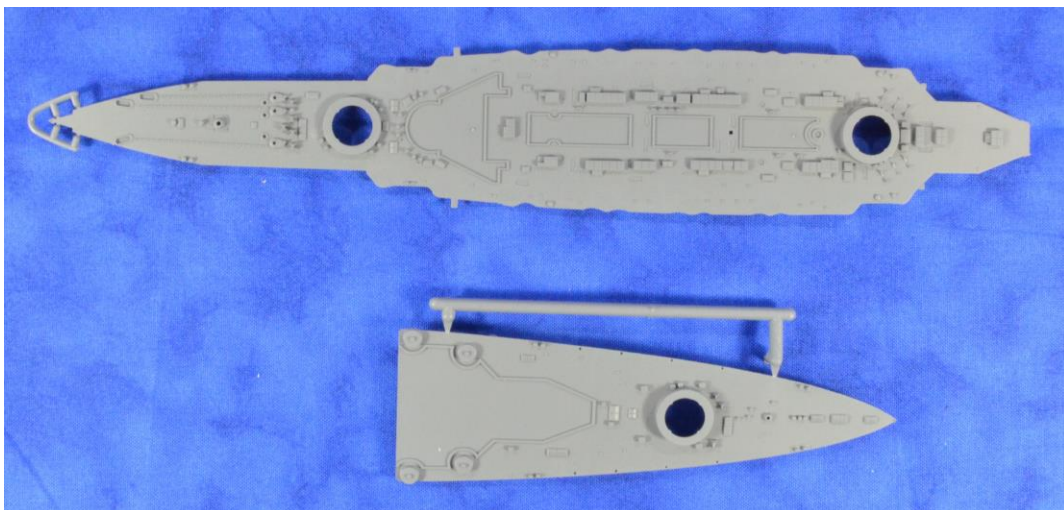
----- Hull and waterline plate -----



----- Hull from above -----

Decks:

The main decks are in two pieces. The forecastle deck has bulkheads already attached where it overlaps the quarterdeck and the level of detail is quite amazing. Individual deck planks, anchor chains, cable reels, ready-use ammo lockers, coaling ports, bollards, capstans, and boat chocks are all present in very precise detail. The fit between the two pieces is extremely precise; the bulkheads feature portholes and doors.



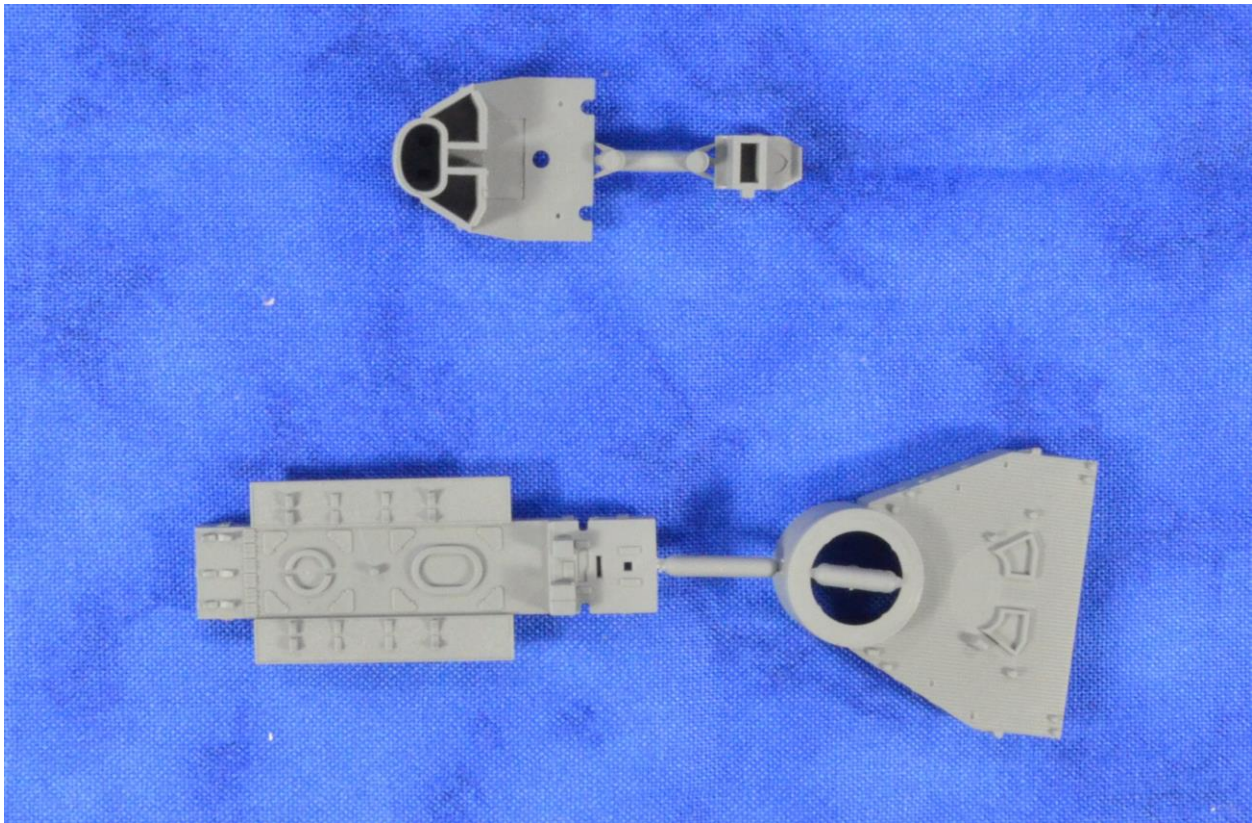
----- Forecastle deck (above) and quarterdeck (below) -----

Superstructure:

Like most World War I era ships, there is minimal superstructure: bridge, amidships boat deck and funnel casings. The bridge is made up from seven pieces, the boat deck has twelve supports to be fitted underneath, and the after funnel casing consists of two pieces.

All of these parts are detailed on every face: hatches with hinges, portholes with 'eyebrows', boat chocks, bollards, deck planks, and slots or raised edges for fitting other pieces.

The bridge configuration is identical to Hiei's. In comparison to Kongo, the navigation bridge is atop the conning tower, the searchlight platform extends aft to the foremast, and the boat deck is not as wide.



----- Bridge pieces and boat deck -----

Weapons:

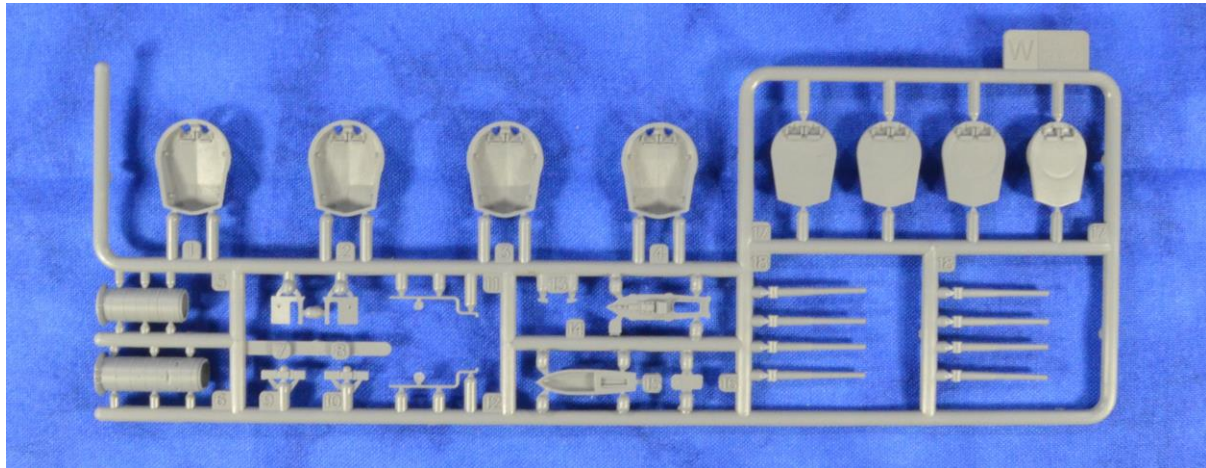
Haruna was fitted with 8-14"/45, 16-6"/50, and 4-3" guns when first completed. All these weapons are present in the kit.

The main 14" turrets are in two pieces and have separate barrels. The super-firing turrets have separate rangefinders; the lower turrets have no rangefinders. They all feature raised armour plates, rivet detail, and ladders between the gun barrels. The gun barrels themselves are tapered, have a thicker section towards the breech and are hollowed out at the muzzle.

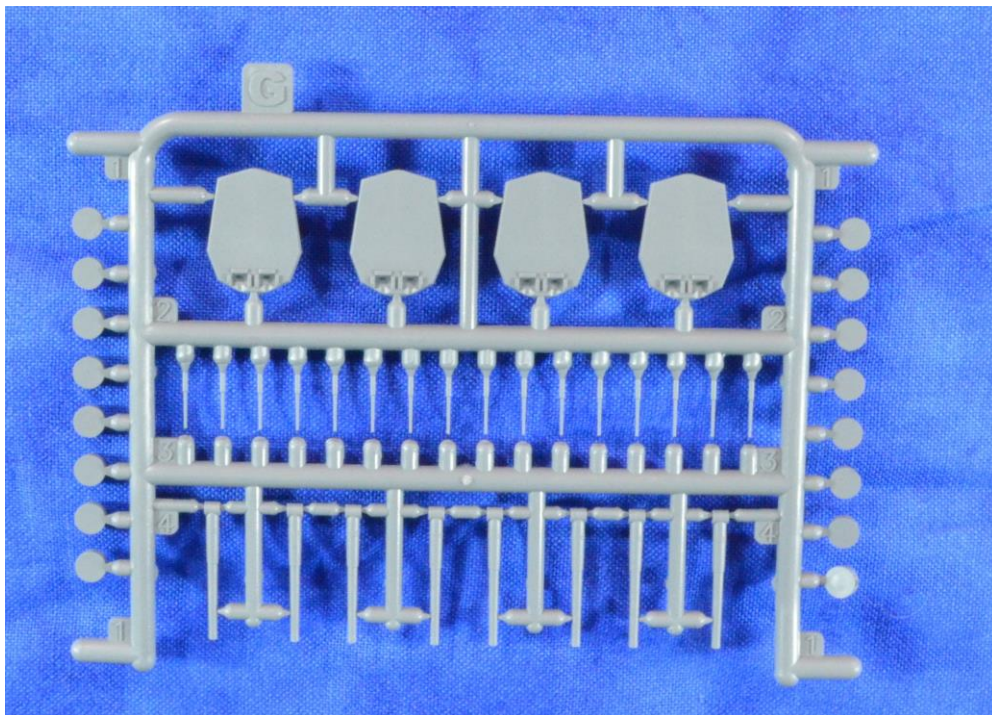
The 6" guns are in two pieces, a casemate mounting with detailed sighting ports, and separate barrels. The barrels are remarkably thin and have a very fine taper, equal to the best of the machined gun barrels commercially available.

The 3" guns feature plenty of raised detail.

The 14" turrets are different than those supplied for Kongo and Hiei; they are gently rounded at the front and sides while those for Kongo and Hiei are angular. They are supplied on a new sprue. The positioning of the 3" guns on the forecastle deck matches that for Hiei, those for Kongo are fitted in different positions.



----- New rounded 14" gun turrets with barrels and the new fore and middle funnels -----

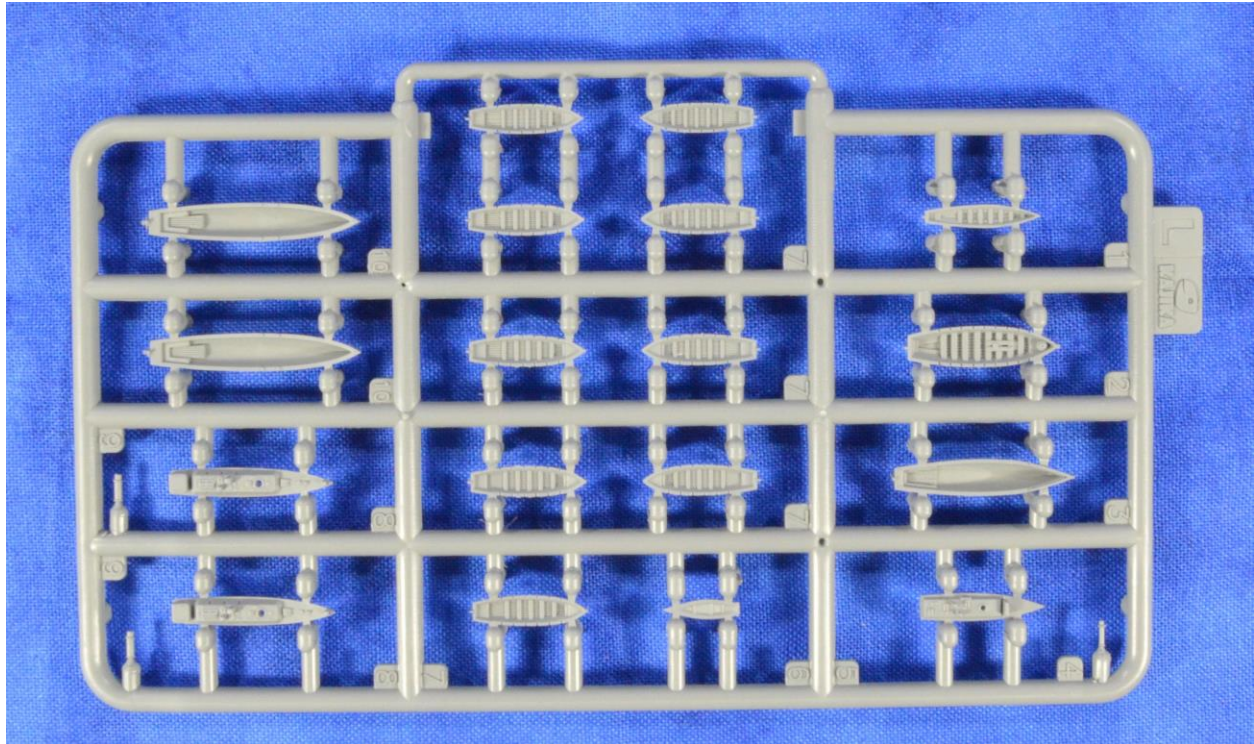


----- 6" gun turrets and barrels with the angular turret bottoms for Kongo and Hiei-----

Boats:

There are twelve open boats and three steam launches, each one featuring very precise deck planks. The open boats have cut-outs for the oars and the steam launches have detailed skylights, deck fittings, and separate funnels.

The boat layout is slightly different from Kongo's and Hiei's.



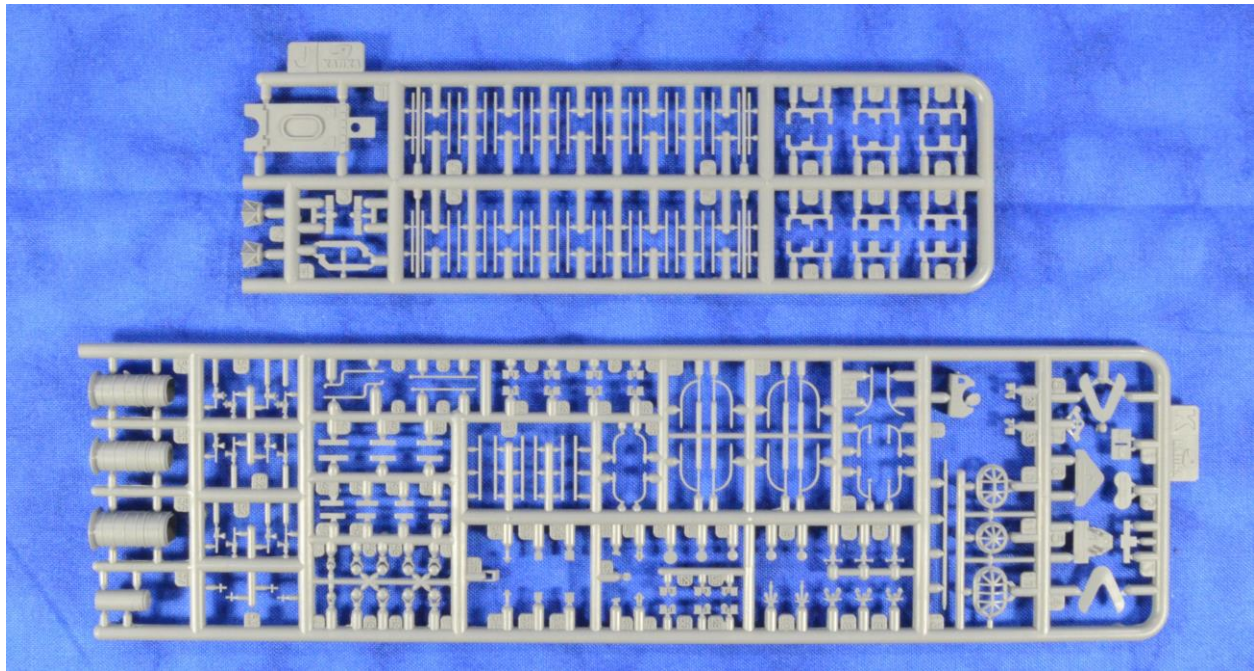
----- Boats -----

Fittings:

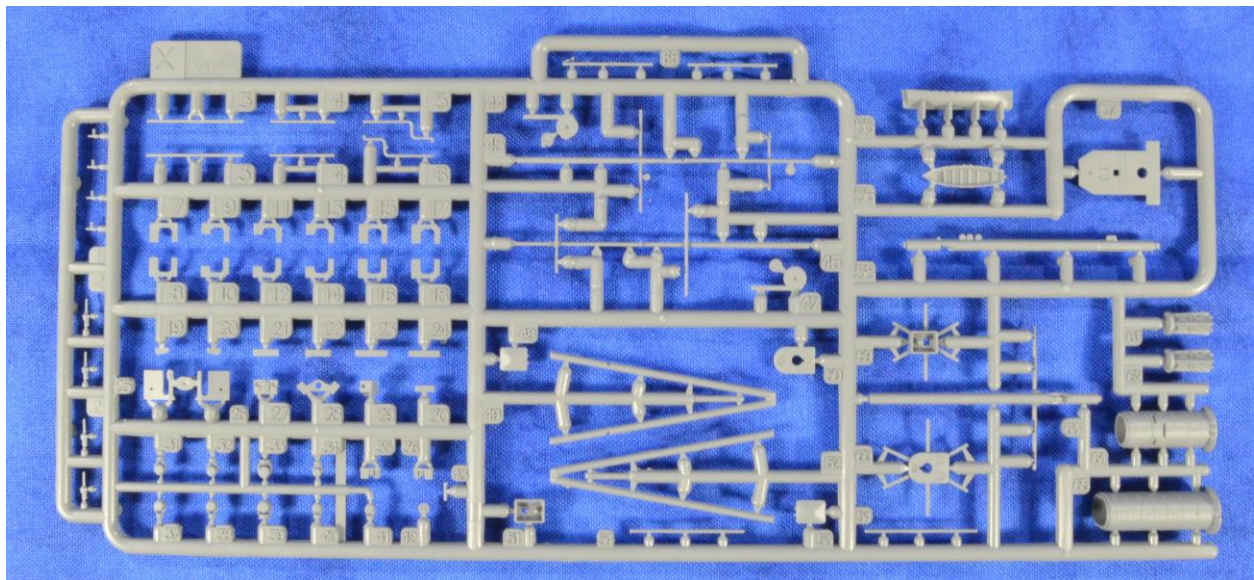
There are many smaller fittings, every piece of which is incredibly detailed. The many winches have detailed motors and components, the anchors have raised detail, range finders have caps on the ends, steam pipes have rings, the davits are extremely thin, searchlights have defined lenses, and the torpedo net booms have rings around them. There are two searchlight platforms with very well executed lattice work, despite being solid instead of hollow. There are even two gash chutes and a stern walk.

The masts and tripod supports are extremely thin and well detailed. The foremast has finely detailed rungs and the mainmast has attachment points for the boom of the boat crane. The yards are already fitted to the topmasts. Each mast has a starfish and control position made up of separate parts. There are also two additional open boats and no less than seven funnels counting the two found with the 14" gun turrets; the instructions make it very clear which three are to be used. The funnels are hollow single pieces with engraved hand rails, separate caps with open grillwork, and separate steam pipes.

In common with Hiei, the fore-funnel is higher and positioned further aft than the one fitted to Kongo. The forward two funnels are different than those fitted to Hiei; the fore-funnel has external steam pipes, these pipes are fitted to the middle funnel on Hiei.



----- Funnels and fittings -----



----- Masts, funnels, and additional fittings -----

Decals:

The decals consist of two Japanese naval jacks.



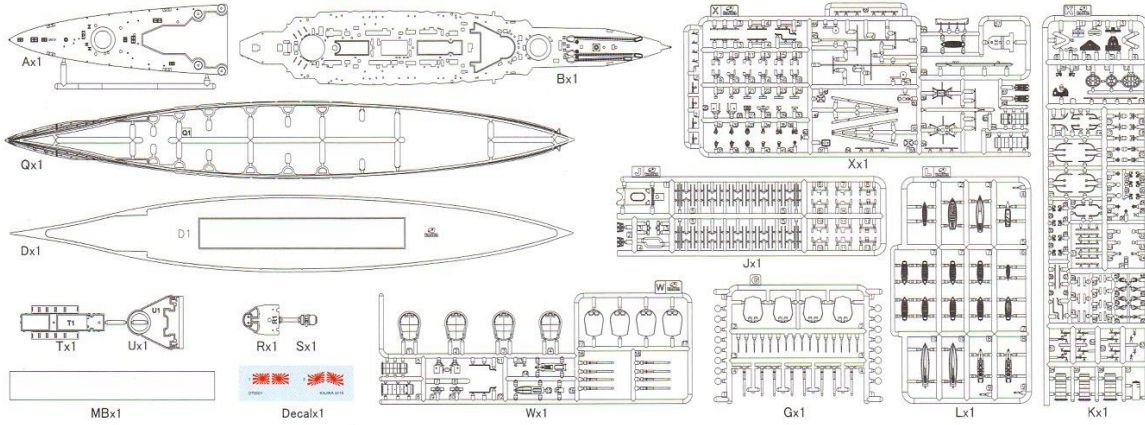
----- *Weight and Decals* -----

Instructions:

The instructions come on a single large, double-sided full-colour page. They are very clear and comprehensive and feature a drawing showing all the included sprues. There are eleven assembly steps with sub-assemblies and exploded drawings as required. Some colour coding is used to assist with the placement of smaller parts; this eliminates a lot of guess work.

榛名 はるな Haruna

大正四年 (1915年)
日本海軍超弩級巡洋戦艦
Imperial Japanese Navy Battlecruiser



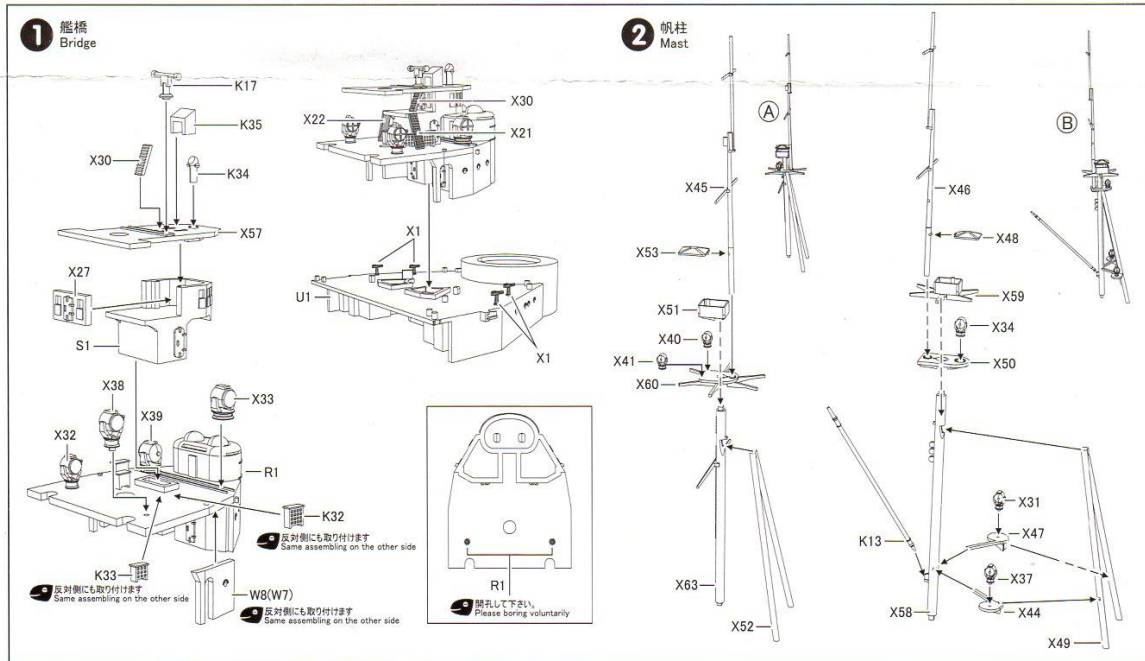
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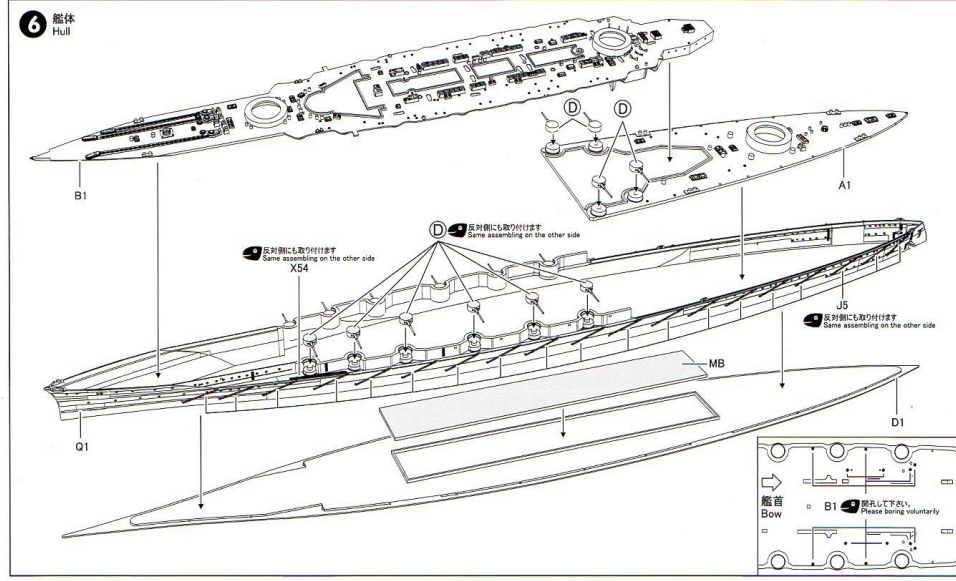
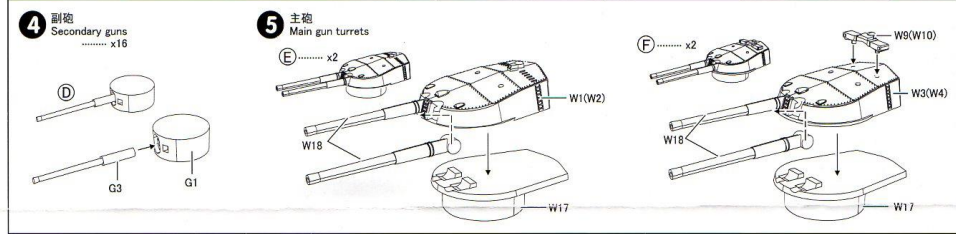
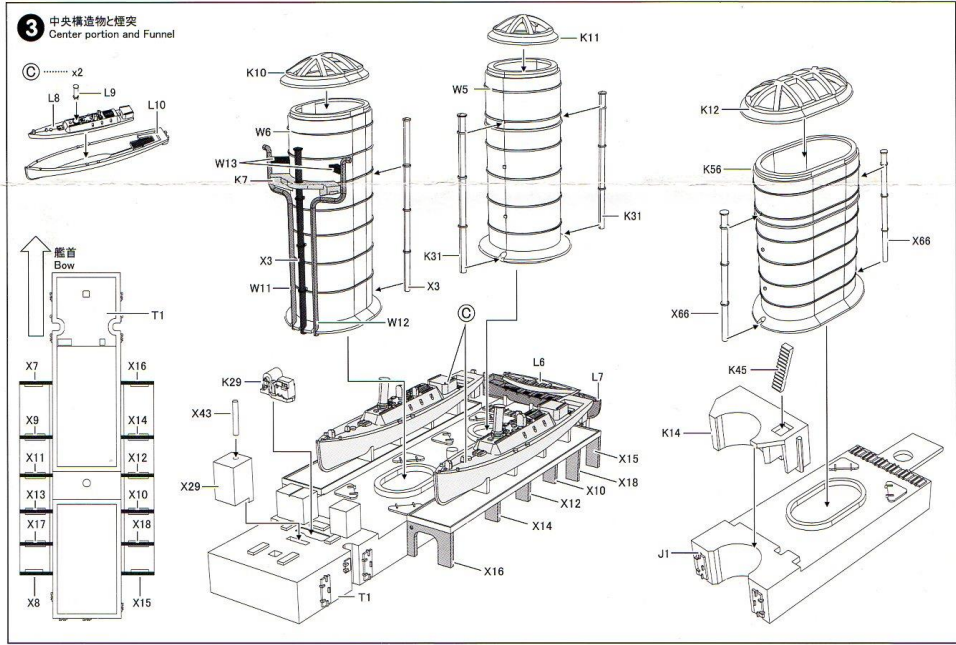
警告!

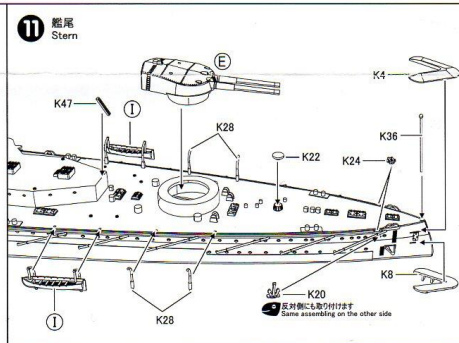
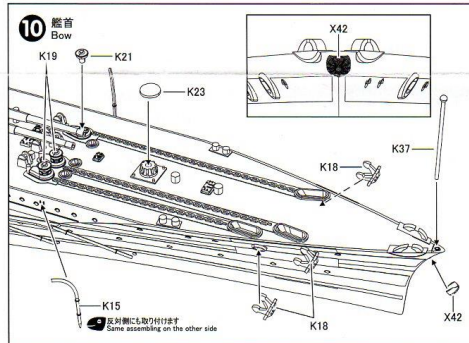
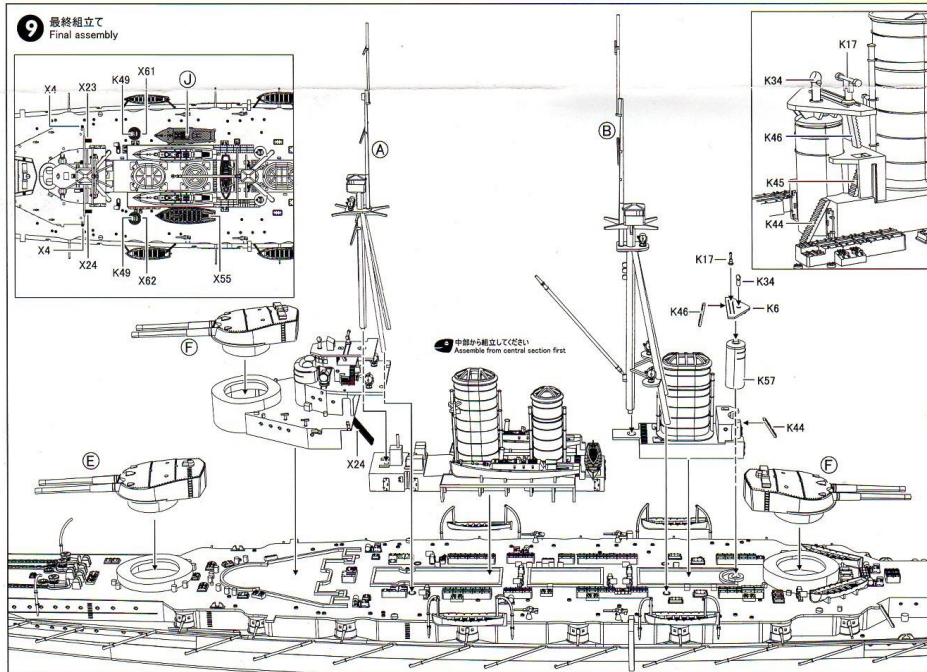
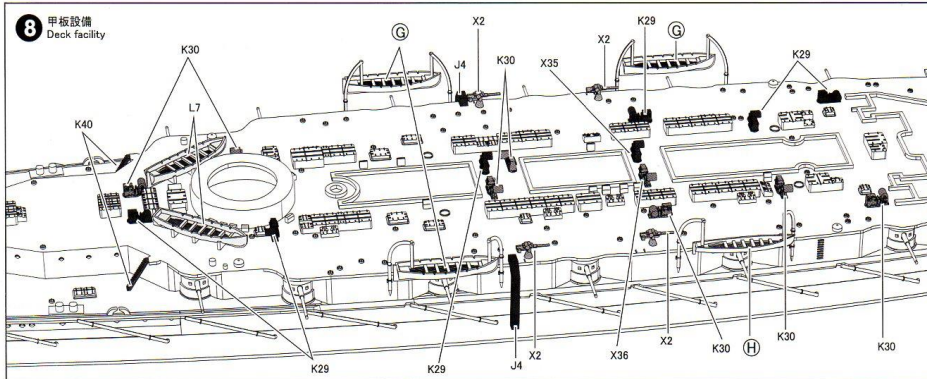
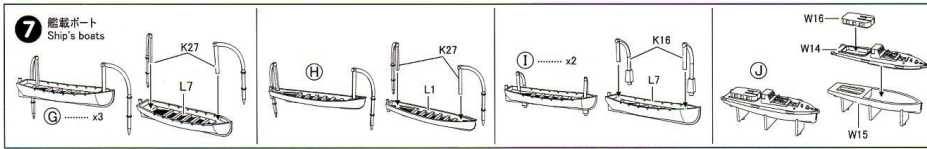
1. 部品は小さなものやとがったものがあります。注意して扱い、キットの組立以外には使用しないでください。
2. キットの内容はパッケージ化異なる部分がございます。
3. 本製品は玩具ではありません。特に小さなお子様のいる家庭では十分ご注意ください。対象年齢12歳以上。

WARNING!

1. Includes small parts. Not for children under 6 years of age.
2. Products may differ from illustrations.
3. This product is not a toy. Suited for adults and those over 12 years of age.







----- Instructions -----

Colour scheme:

There is a full-colour diagram of the overall dark grey scheme worn by *Haruna* with references to the Mr. Hobby and Tamiya paint ranges.

	Color	色	Mr.Hobby	Tamiya
	Flat White	フラットホワイト	H 11 62	XF-2
	Hull Red	ハルレッド	H 17 29	XF-9
	Red Brown	レッドブラウン	H 47 41	XF-64
	Gold Leaf	ゴールドリーフ	H 9 9	X-12
	Wooden Tan	ウッドタン	H 27 44	XF-78
	Chrome Silver	クロムシルバー	H 8 8	X-11
	Dim Grey	暗い灰色	H 83 32	XF-53:2 XF-63:1
	Flat black	フラットブラック	H 12 33	XF-1
	Steel	スチール	H 18 28	X-10

塗装とデカールの指示
デカールの使用方法:

- 1.マークをはさみなどで切り取ります。
- 2.切り取ったマークをぬるま湯に10秒ほどひたします。
- 3.マークは台紙ごと貼りたい位置に移動して、マーク部分のみをスライドさせて下さい。
- 4.柔らかい布などでマークをおさえて気泡や水分をとってください。

PAINTING & MARKING GUIDE
Decal Application:

1. Cut the pictures from sheet as needed.
2. Dip the pictures in warm water for about 10 seconds.
3. Hold the picture backing sheet edge and gently slide the picture onto the model.
4. Please move the picture to the proper position on model.
5. Please gently press picture down with a soft cloth until excess water's out and no air bubbles.

----- Colour scheme -----

Overall Impression:

This is a superb kit that accurately captures *Haruna* as she appeared when first built. Kajika has taken great care to identify the subtle differences in the three ships and made the required changes to their moulds and instructions. The detailing on every part is extremely fine and precise. There are only a few small parts and most modellers will have no trouble with assembly. The build will be very straightforward, each step is well laid out and there are no complex superstructures, multiple anti-aircraft guns, or aircraft to assemble. The technical level of manufacturing is quite amazing with an outstanding level of detailing. There is absolutely no flash on any of the pieces, no ejection pin markings, and none of those lines that result when two mould halves are used to make a single component. The plastic is quite durable; it stands up to very rough handling without any breakage.

This kit will build into a nice replica right out of the box. The only things that could be added to the kit would be a railing for the stern walk and a rolled up torpedo net for the net shelf, both very minor additions.

Summary of differences from Kongo:

Kongo's hull has ladder rungs just aft of the anchors and square ports at the stern; Haruna's hull has neither of those features. Haruna's navigation bridge is atop the conning tower, the searchlight platform extends aft to the foremast, and the boat deck is not as wide. The 14" turrets are gently rounded at the front and sides, Kongo's are angular. The positioning of the 3" guns on the forecastle deck and the boat layout is different. The fore-funnel is higher and positioned further aft than the one fitted to Kongo.

Summary of differences from Hiei:

Haruna's hull, bridge configuration, funnel placement, and positioning of the 3" guns are the same as the Hiei, while the boat layout is slightly different. The 14" turrets are gently rounded at the front and sides while those for Hiei are angular. The fore-funnel has external steam pipes, these pipes are fitted to the middle funnel on Hiei.

This is a highly recommended kit and will make an interesting addition to any collection. Placing it alongside a model of *Haruna* after reconstruction will show just how much the ship's appearance changed between her as built state and World War II. Placing it alongside any of her contemporary WWI battlecruisers will show just how advanced these ships were when they first appeared.

Well done to Kajika for producing this kit of the third *Kongo* to such an incredible level of detail.

References:

- *The Battlecruisers of the Kongo Class* by Hans Lengerer Warship 2012 Conway 2012
- *Battleships of World War I* by Antony Preston. Galahad Books 1972
- *IJN Kongo Battleship 1912-1944 - Profile Warship 12* by Masataka Chihaya and Yasuo Abe. Profile Publications 1971
- *IJN Kongo Class Battleships* by Steve Wiper Classic Warships Publishing 2001
- *Japanese Battleships 1897-1945* by RA Burt. Seaforth Publishing 2015

Review kit courtesy of Flyhawk Models