

Boston Whaler “The Skimmer” (Vietnam War Version)



1/35th Scale Kit Instructions



Variations



Boat Specifications

The "Skimmer" was a small patrol/utility craft primarily used by the U.S. Army and Navy during the Vietnam War. The Skimmer was a commercial design built by the Boston Whaler company of Massachusetts. Several versions of the Boston Whaler were used in Vietnam, but the most common was the 16' Nauset hull adapted for combat with several weapon options and various control stations. Some boats had no weapons mounted at all and at least one version was modified for use by the US Navy's Task Force-116 (TF-116) operating out of the Binh Thuy Navy Base had four weapon stations containing three M-60 Machine Guns and a Mk-18 Grenade Launcher.

Displacement: approx. 2100 lbs – loaded

Length: 16.7 feet

Beam: 6.2 feet

Draft: 9 inches

Propulsion: One 85hp outboard gasoline marine engine

Speed: 28+ kts

Capacity: 3-7

Weapons: Personal small arms, M-60 GPMG + Mk18 Honeywell GL



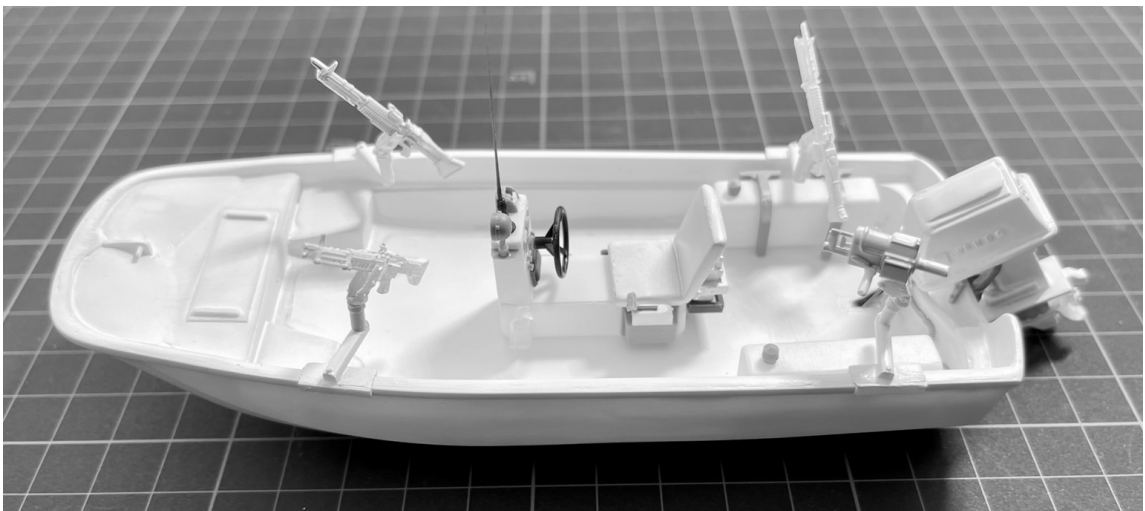
1/35th Scale Kit Features

The Skimmer Kit includes two versions that you will need to decide which one you want to build.

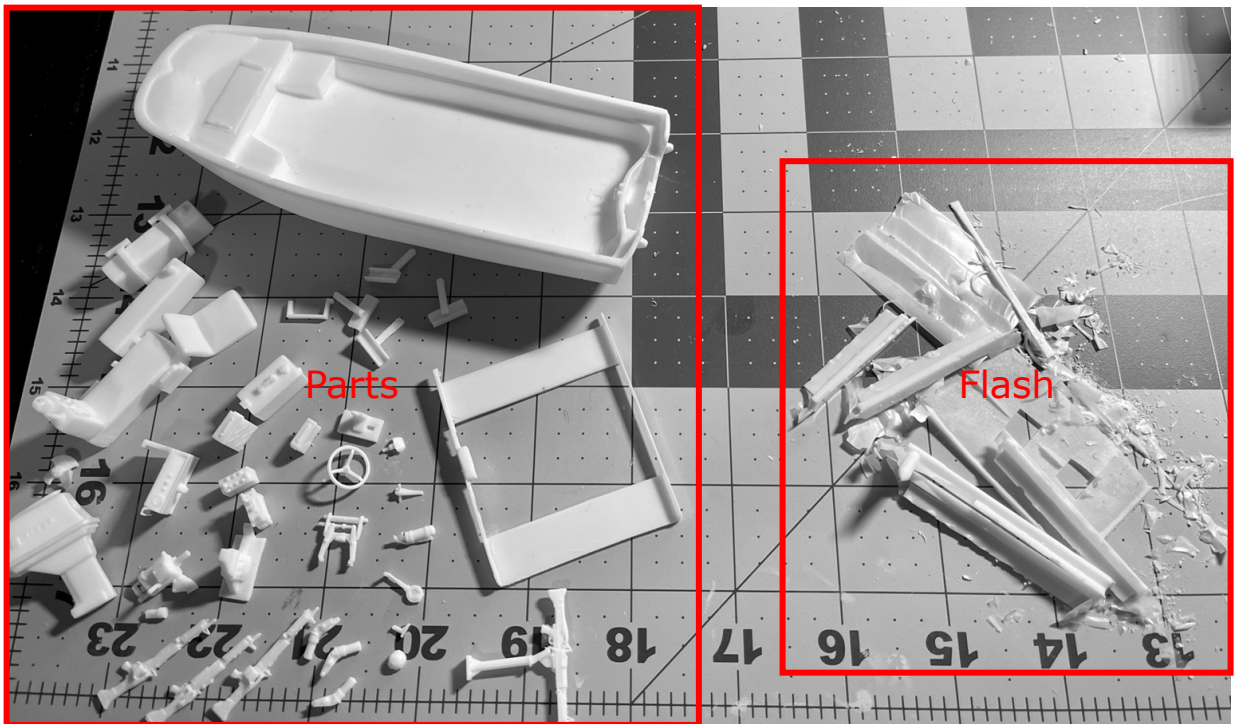
Version 1 is the most common boat used in Vietnam that had a commercial steering console and bench style seats. Many of the standard versions didn't mount any weapons but some did have an M-60 Machine Gun mounted on the bow.



Version 2 below is an uncommon variant of the Boston Whaler that was operated by the Brown Water Navy at Binh Thuy South Vietnam and had four weapon stations, a center mounted control station, and dual fuel tanks mounted to the sides.



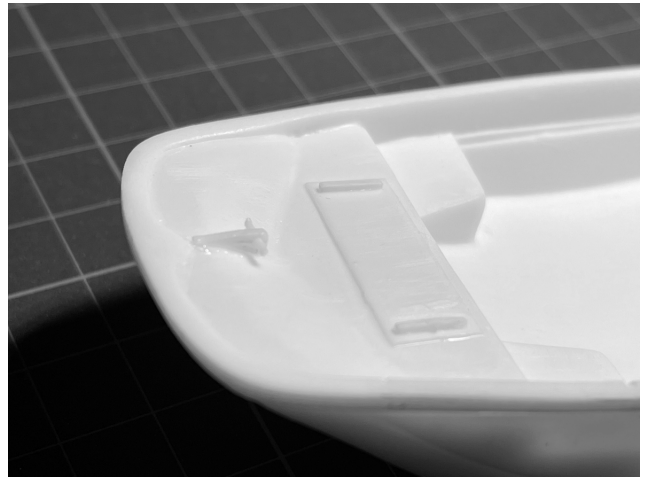
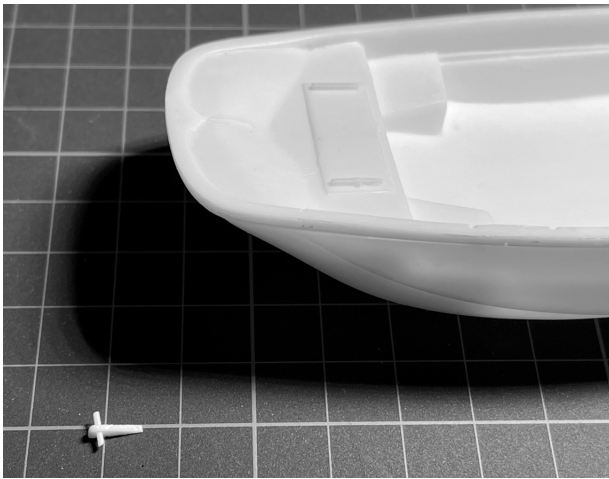
Assembly Steps



Step 1. Remove all the casting flash from the parts and discard the flash.



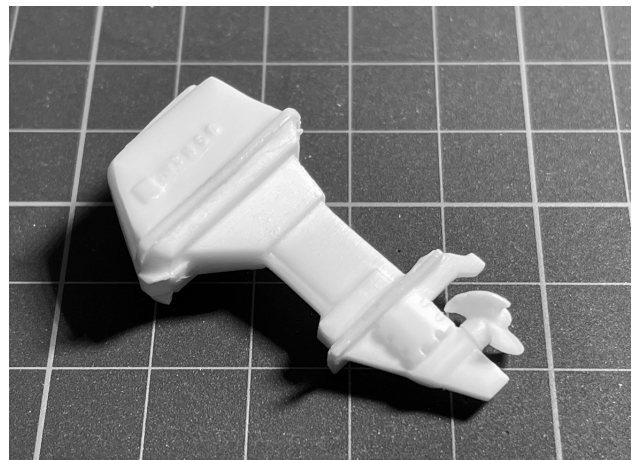
Step 2. Locate these parts, which are common to all Skimmer boat versions.



Step 3. Attach the forward rope tie-down as shown above.



Step 4. Attach the outboard engine mount as shown above.



Step 5. Assemble the outboard motor. You can either leave as is (left) for a Waterline display or full build (right) that can be displayed tilted back.

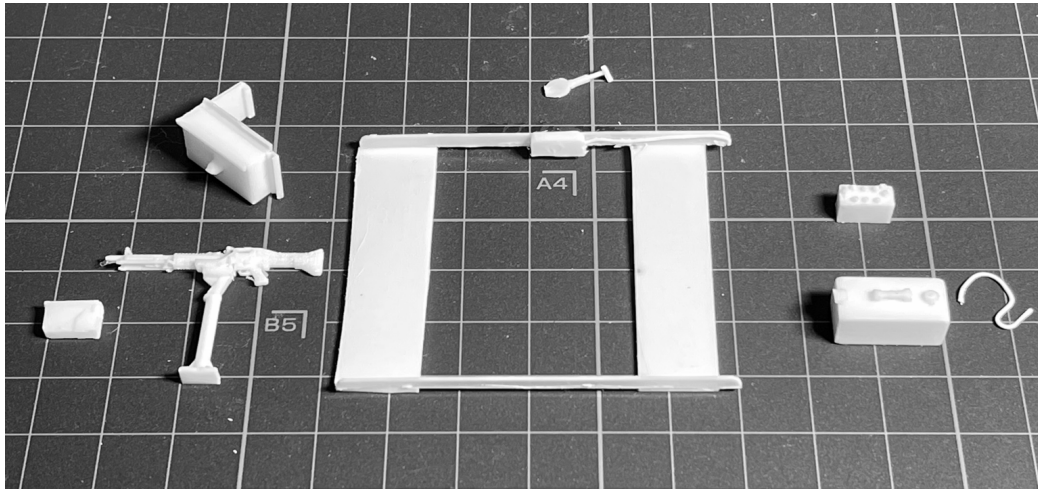


These three parts are required to build the full engine (left) and how it will look if tilted back out of the water (right).

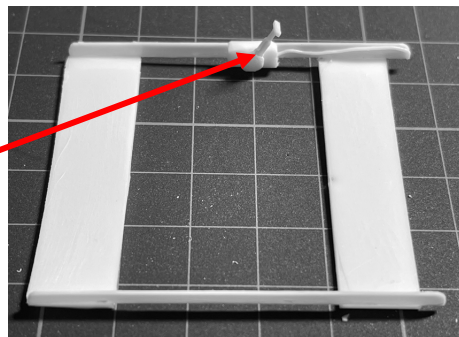
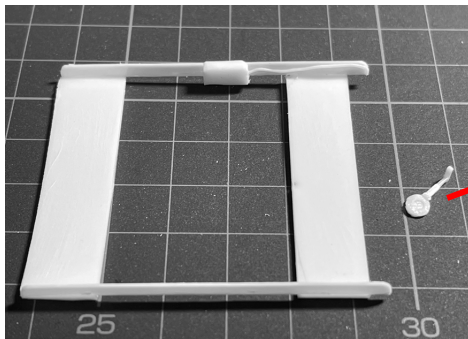


Place the fuel and battery cables to the engine in this general fashion.

Boston Whaler Version 1 (V1)



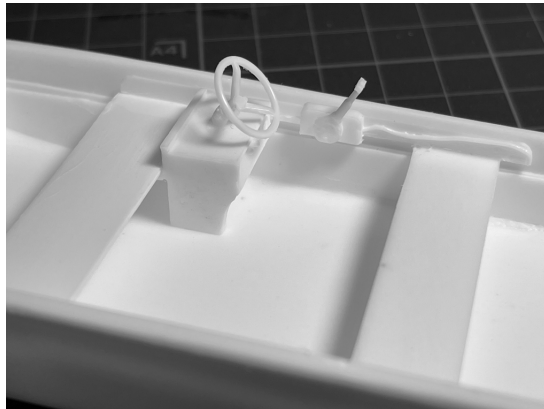
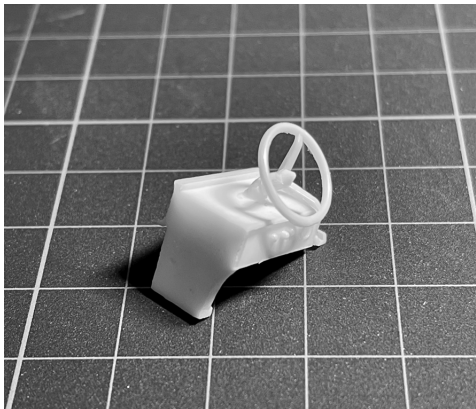
These are the parts you need to make version 1 of the Skimmer.



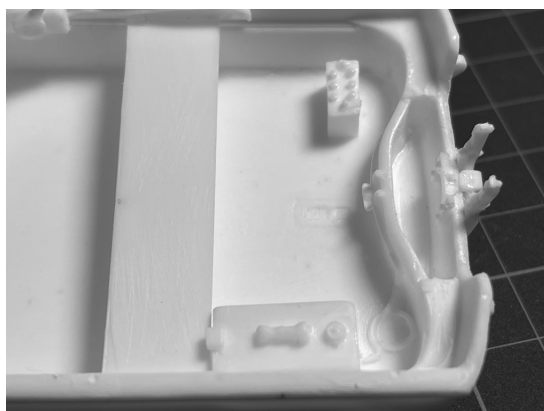
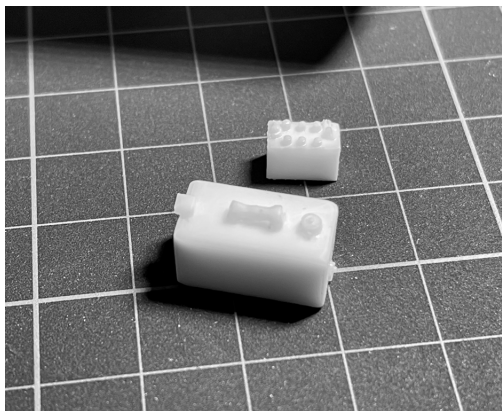
Step 6 (V1) attach the throttle handle to the bench seat array.



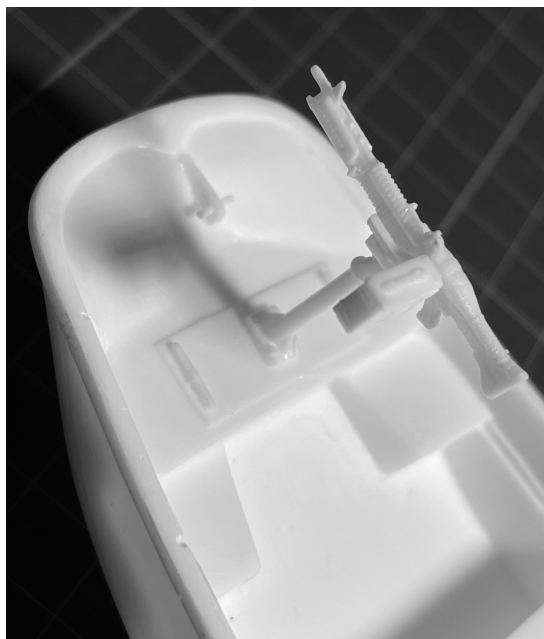
Step 7 (V1) attach the bench seat to the hull as above.



Step 8 (V1) attach the steering wheel to the console and mount console onto the back of the front bench-seat as shown above.

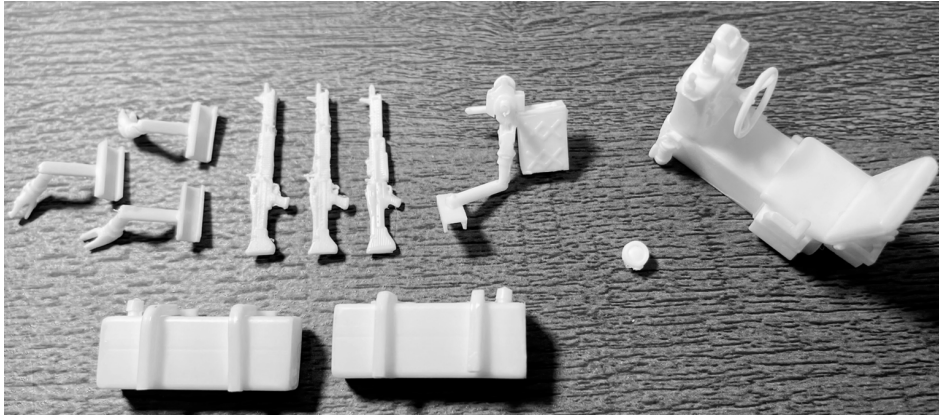


Step 9 (V1) locate the gas tank and battery parts and place them on the stern of the boat in this general arrangement.

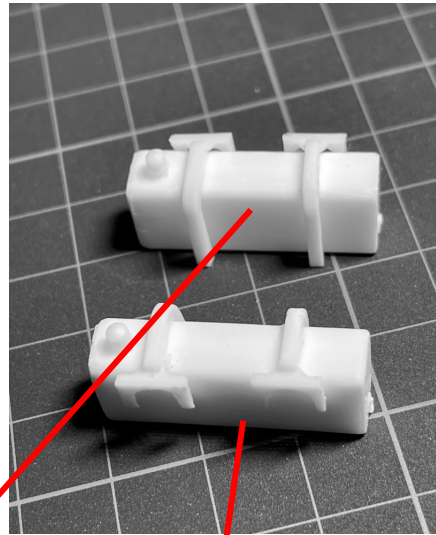
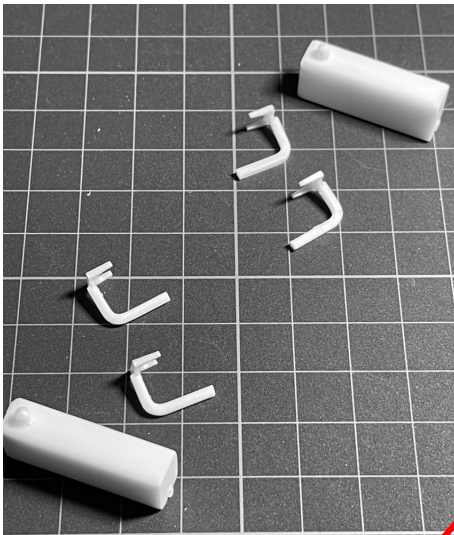


Step 10 (V1) Attach the ammo can to the left side of the M-60 MG and glue mount to the front of the boat (this step is optional).

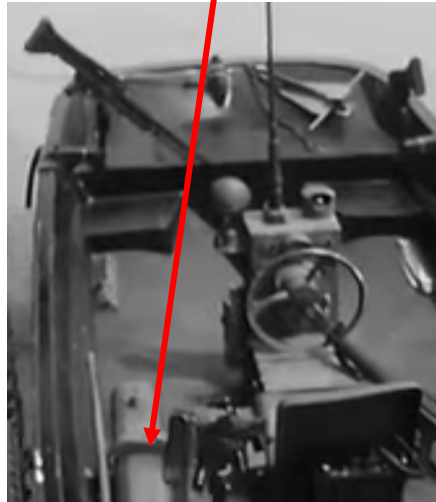
Boston Whaler Version 2 (V2)



The parts above are required to build version 2 of the kit.



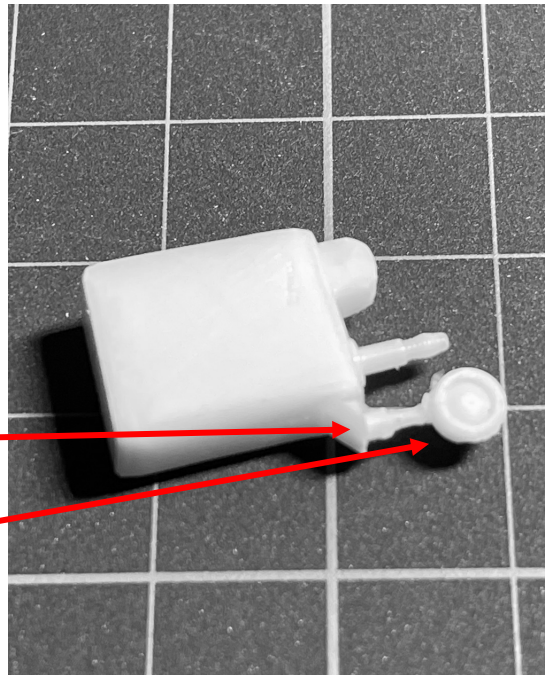
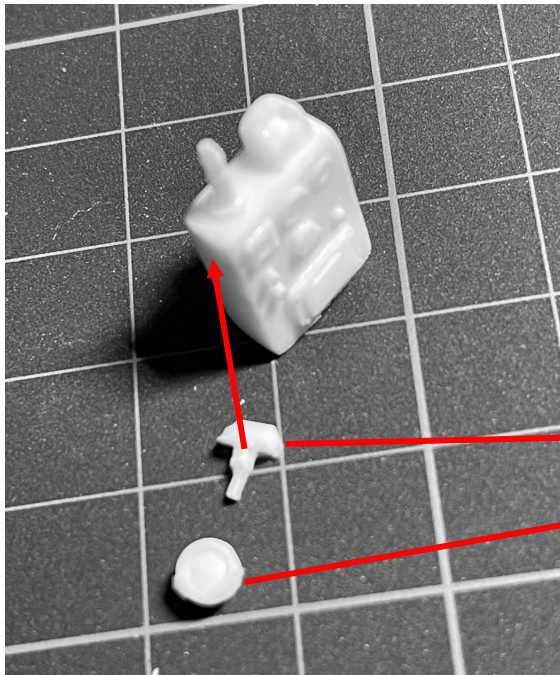
Step 6 (V2) Assemble the fuel tank restraining straps as shown above. You should have a total of 4 restrains.



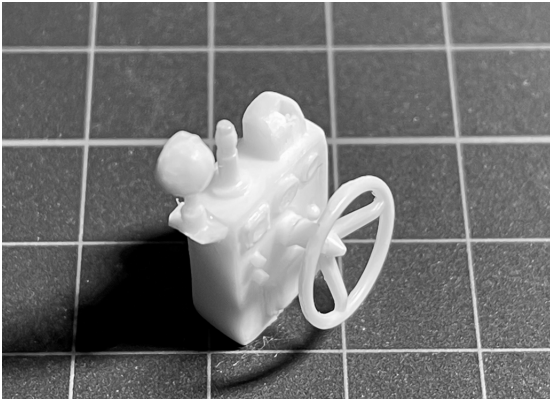
Step 7 (V2) Mount the fuel tanks to the sides of the boat.



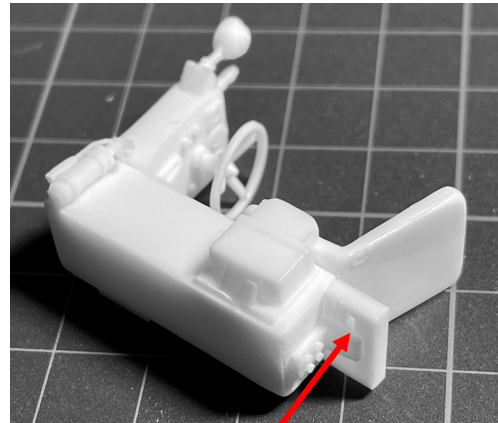
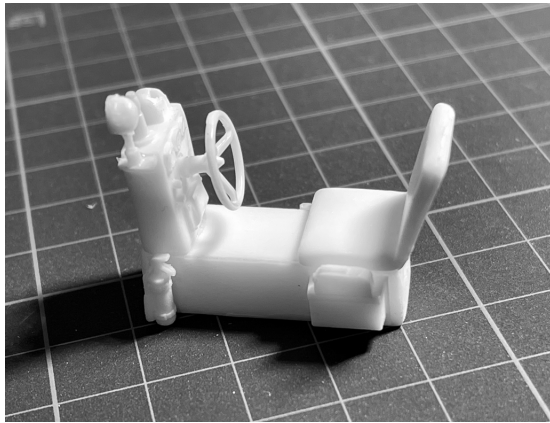
Step 8 (V2) These are the parts needed to assemble the control station.



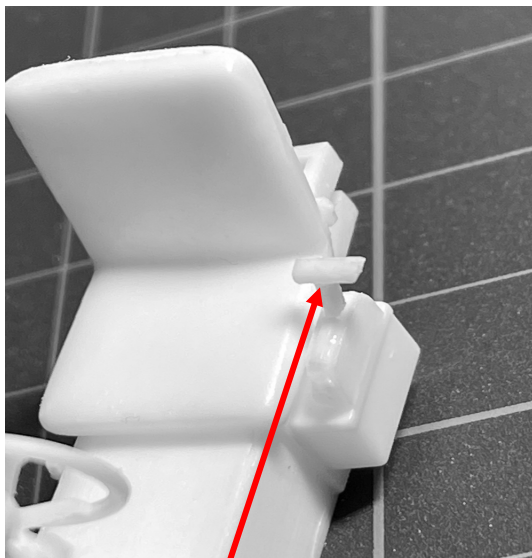
Step 9 (V2) Assemble the searchlight.



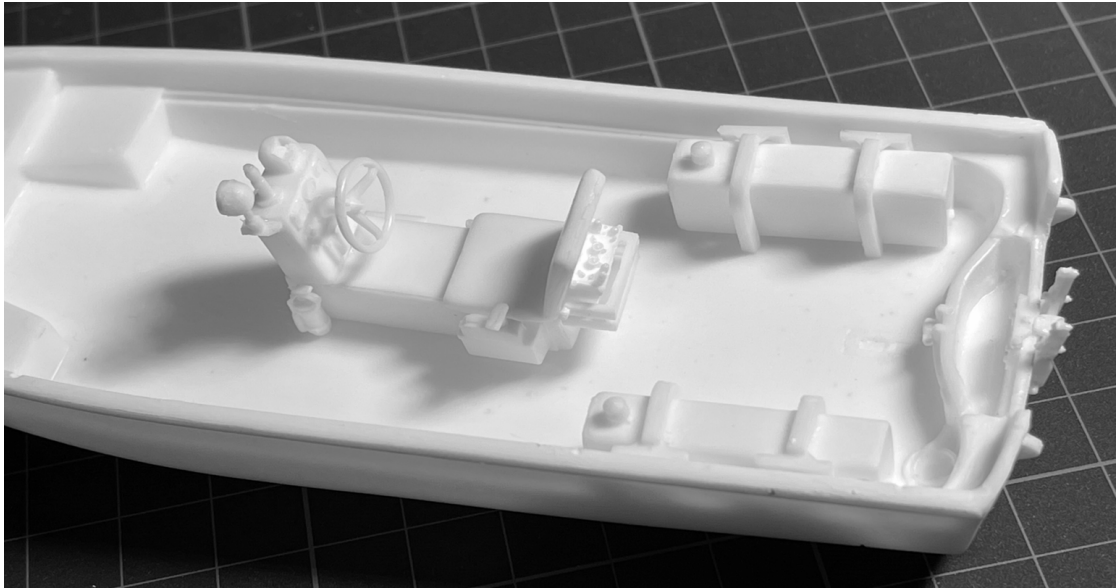
Step 10 (V2) attach the steering wheel to the console and glue the fire extinguisher to the front-left of the bench as shown above.



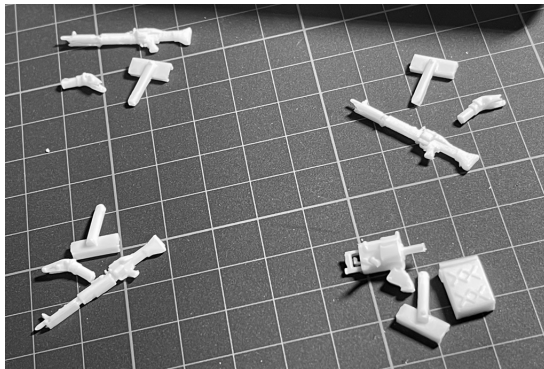
Step 11 (V2) Add the control console and seat to the bench (left). add the radio tray to the rear of the bench (right photo).



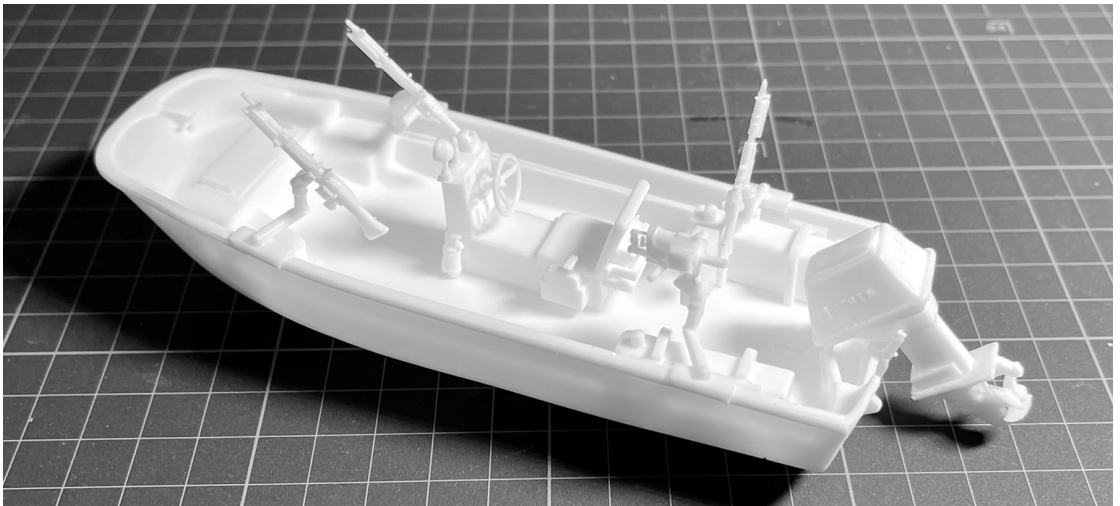
Step 12 (V2) Add the speed control lever to the bench left of the Seat (left photo). Add the radio to the tray (right photo)



Step 13 (V2) glue the control station to the hull as shown above.



Step 14 (V2) Assemble the gun mounts using parts in left photo. and add weapons to the mounts.



Step 15 (V2) Add guns to the Skimmer in this similar fashion.

Painting and Marking Guide



Overall the boats were painted Marine Corps Green or Olive Drab. The floor on most boats were a blue-gray color as seen on most commercial Versions.



The picture on the left shows the colors of Boston Whaler kit version 2. The fuel tanks were a reddish brown color, the floor a dark blue-gray color and the control station was a light olive green color.



The only visible marking on a Skimmer was "CAP 6 PER" stencil that was painted on the port side interior. This warned personnel that only six soldiers could be carried safely.



Sometimes commercial markings of the 85hp Johnson engine was affixed to both sides of the motor cover.



labels are 1:35 scale