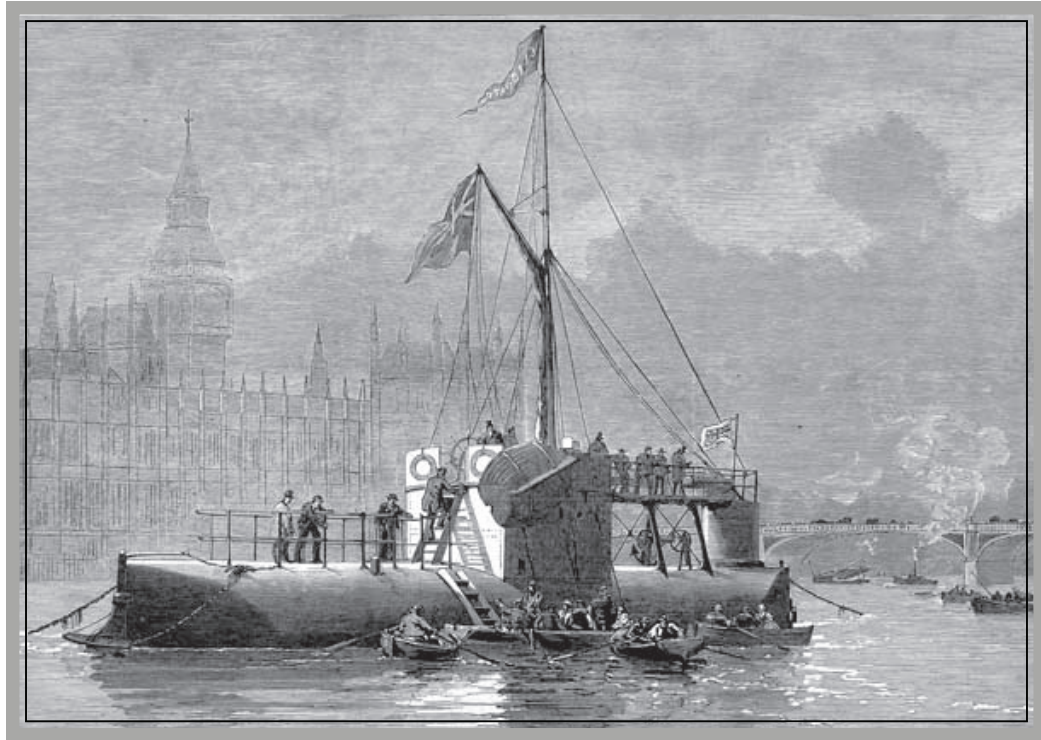


WALDEN CLASSIC PAPER MODELS

"Some Assembly Required"



“CLEOPATRA”

1878 BRITISH OBELISK TRANSPORT BARGE

Kartonbau.de Exclusive Edition



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HISTORICAL NOTES

The “Cleopatra” was designed and built in 1877 to transport an obelisk from Alexandria to London. This obelisk had been presented to the English nation in 1819 by Mehmet Ali, the viceroy of Egypt, in commemoration of the victories of Lord Nelson in the Battle of the Nile and Sir Ralph Abercromby in the Battle of Alexandria. The English government, while appreciating the gesture, declined to finance the transport of the gift.

Over the years, several schemes were devised to get the obelisk to London, none of which came to fruition. However, in 1877 the necessary elements to undertake the project, namely brains and money, came together in the shape of the engineer John Dixon and the distinguished and very wealthy Sir Erasmus Wilson. John Dixon devised a plan for a 92 foot long, cylindrical barge that would completely encase the obelisk, to be towed to England by a tug boat. Sir Erasmus, who was a devoted freemason and so had a certain fondness for obelisks, agreed to put up 15,000 pounds (about 2 million U.S. Dollars in today’s money) to finance the project.

The barge was built and shipped in sections to Alexandria, where the obelisk lay buried in sand on the beach. As the monument was unearthed, the barge was assembled around it. The giant cylinder was then

rolled into the sea. A deck house, rudder and mast were fitted and the little ship was dubbed *Cleopatra*. On September 21, 1877 the tug *Olga* towed *Cleopatra* out into the Mediterranean. All went well until disaster struck on October 14, 1877. The ships were caught in a storm in the Bay of Biscay. *Cleopatra* rolled wildly and became utterly untenable. Six volunteers from the *Olga* manned a boat to rescue *Cleopatra*’s crew of five and her captain, but the boat capsized and all six were lost. *Olga* sent another boat which at length succeeded in taking off her crew. The barge was cut loose and quickly disappeared from sight. The *Cleopatra* was believed lost until the Glasgow steamer *Fitzmaurice* spotted her floating upright and apparently undamaged. Taken into the Spanish harbor of El Ferrol, *Cleopatra* underwent repairs. The tug *Anglia* was sent to retrieve her, and she left El Ferrol on January 15, 1878. She arrived at Gravesend, at the mouth of the River Thames, on January 21, 1878.

Amid great fanfare the obelisk, now known as “Cleopatra’s Needle” was erected on the Thames embankment on September 12, 1878, almost a year after the voyage had begun. To extract the obelisk, the ugly, little barge that had attracted so much public attention was, of course, dismantled and unceremoniously sold for scrap.

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Note: The parts page should be printed on heavy paper rather than traditional model card. (28-32 lbs.)

The Hull

- Separate parts 1a and 1b at the cut marks near the stern.
- Cut glue tabs of a suitable length from the grey field on page 6 Round 1a and 1b lengthwise to form the main hull and the stern sections. Close the seams with the glue tabs, colored side inwards.
- Fold parts 2 at the center line. To attach these parts to the hull section, I recommend you fix first one side and let it dry, then the other, then the top and bottom. After these glue points have dried, apply glue from the inside to seal the seams. Use the small marks on the edges of 2 and parts 1a and 1b to line parts 2 up correctly. You may wish to use small glue tabs to help in positioning.
- Cut out bulkhead 1d and glue ring 1c. You may wish to double 1d for extra stability. Carefully sand the edges of 1d so that it fits snugly into 1a. Push 1d all the way into 1a, but do not yet apply glue. Next, fit glue ring 1c into 1a. Dry-fit first, then apply glue to 1a and insert the glue ring up to the center line. Let dry. Next, apply glue to the inner edge of 1c and pull 1d forward against it. Let dry thoroughly.

- Incise the small black marks on parts 4a and 4b, then fit 4b squarely into 4a. Mount the rudder to the stern section of the hull with glue.
- Attach bilge keels 5 to the markings on 1b. The bilge keels should slant downward by about 30 degrees.

Girders and Bulkheads

- Cut out bulkheads 6a – 6j. For those using circle cutters, center marks have been supplied. Cut out the white square centers. Make sure to cut on the line, so that no white remains in the center. This will ensure a proper fit for the obelisk. Doubling of these parts is not recommended, however, you may wish to stiffen them with acrylic floor wax (“Future”) or CA glue. The bulkheads should fit snugly into the hull, but should have enough play to be removed easily.
- Double parts 7 to 1mm. Cut out the small slits. Color the sides of parts 7 to match the surface. These will fit into the grooves in the bulkheads. You may wish to stiffen the doubled parts 7 as well. Let everything dry thoroughly, then assemble. Take care to keep the proper order of the bulkheads, else the obelisk will not fit! Note that parts 7 are extending longer at the stern end. Make sure the structure is square and the outer edges of parts 7 are flush with the edges of the bulkheads. After the structure has dried, glue the extensions of parts 7 at the stern end of the structure into the stern hull assembly, butting against bulkhead 1d. You may need to sand the outer edges slightly to accommodate the thickness of glue ring 1c.

Obelisk

- To check proper assembly of the inner structure, you may wish to assemble the obelisk at this point rather than at the end. Part 26 is scored from the front at all fold lines, then gathered at the seams. You may employ glue tabs if you wish.

Deck House and Superstructure

- Score and fold 9a at the score lines. Apply parts 9b, 9c, and 9d to the back of part 9a to form the interior of the railing. Glue the vertical seam of 9a to form a box. You may wish to use glue tabs or reinforce the inside of the deck house with cardboard if you wish.
- Cut or punch the hole for the mast in deck 10. Gently round part 10 lengthwise, then glue in place to butt against the inside railings.
- Score and fold companionway 12 into a box. Glue it to the deck, doors facing towards the stern. Glue the finished deck house to the hull. Making sure it is straight.
- Double parts 13 onto the colored section, then cut out. Attach the ends of parts 13 with the steeper angle to the hull at their position markers. The other ends are fixed against the deck house.
- The assembly of parts 14a - 14c into stairs is evident from the diagram A. The stairs are fixed to the back of the deck house.
- Parts 8a and 8b are shaped into cylinders. Slide 8a over the bottom of 8b so that the bottom edges are flush with each other. Cap 8b with 8c. Make sure the handle on the manhole cover faces the seam of 8b. Glue this assembly onto the larger circular marking at the bow end of the hull, seams facing toward the deck house.
- Double parts 15 onto the colored area, then cut out. You may wish to stiffen these parts as described above. Double spar deck 11 onto 11b and fix parts 15 to 11b at the white markings. Make sure parts 15 are at right angles with the spar deck.

- Glue the spar deck into place as follows: The front edge rests on the edge of cylinder 8b. The rear dovetail fits against the front edge of the deck house. Note that there is a step between the deck house deck and the spar deck. Glue the bottom ends of supports 15 on their markings on the hull.

Railings

- To model realistic railings, you can either use the paper railings 20 and 21 as they are, or use them as templates to make wire or string railings, or replace them altogether with photo etched parts. Railing 20 is fitted to the spar deck, railing 21 to the hull behind the deck house.

Equipment

- Form part 16 into a cylinder and cap it on both ends with parts 16b. Glue stands 16c to each end and mount the finished cable drum as shown in the diagram A.

- Anchor 17 is fitted on the hull with the stock end resting against the front left support 15.

- Shape part 18b into a boat hull by gathering the part at the seams. Fit 18c into the stern end and cap with deck 18a. The Boat is attached to the deck house with a dab of glue, as seen on the cover page. You may wish to do this after the rigging is complete.

- Shape 19a into a short cylinder and cap top and bottom with 19b. Glue this bollard on the small circular mark at the bow.

- Life preservers 22 are fitted as follows: 2 on the outside railings at the rear of the deck house, on either side of the opening. 2 on the outside railings at the front of the deck house on either side of the opening. 2 on the outside railing on each side of the spar deck, at equal intervals.

- Wheel 23a is cut out, colored on the back side and fitted with a stand 23b on each side. It is mounted on the deck house as shown in diagram A.

- Position lights 24a and 25b are folded upwards at the lines to form a pan that is colored on the inside and white on the outside. You can color the outsides grayish if you wish. Position lamps 24b and 25b are doubled to 1mm and painted gold. They are glued to the inside corners of the parts 24a and 25a, respectively. Alternatively, a 1mm high section of toothpick or other suitable material can be colored and used. The position lights are fitted to the deck house on supports made from thin wire, according to the template.

Mast, Sails and Rigging

- The mast and gaff can be made from toothpicks or kebob skewers cut to length and sanded into shape according to the template. Note that the mast goes through the hole in the main deck and is footed on the hull.

- The sails 30 and 31 are folded at the center lines indicated by score marks. Insert a thin thread into the fold before gluing the sails together. Attach the thread to the mast with small glue points. The same goes for the flags 27, 28 and 29.

- A basic rigging plan is shown in diagram C

Stand

- Score the beam at the fold lines and glue at the seams. Double each stand support to the colored backs. Assemble as shown in diagram D. If you wish to make a stand from real wood, you can use the parts as templates.

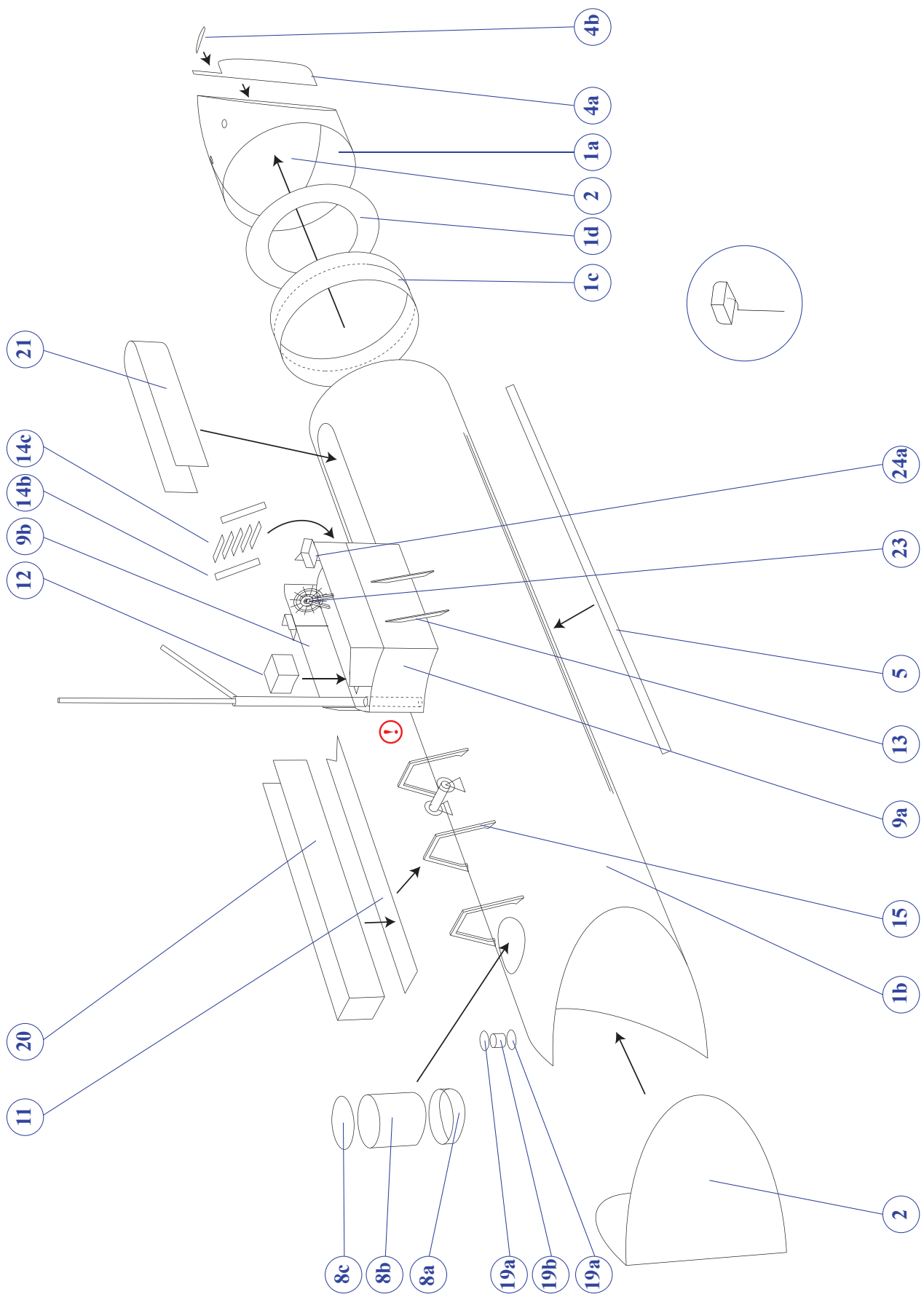


Diagram A

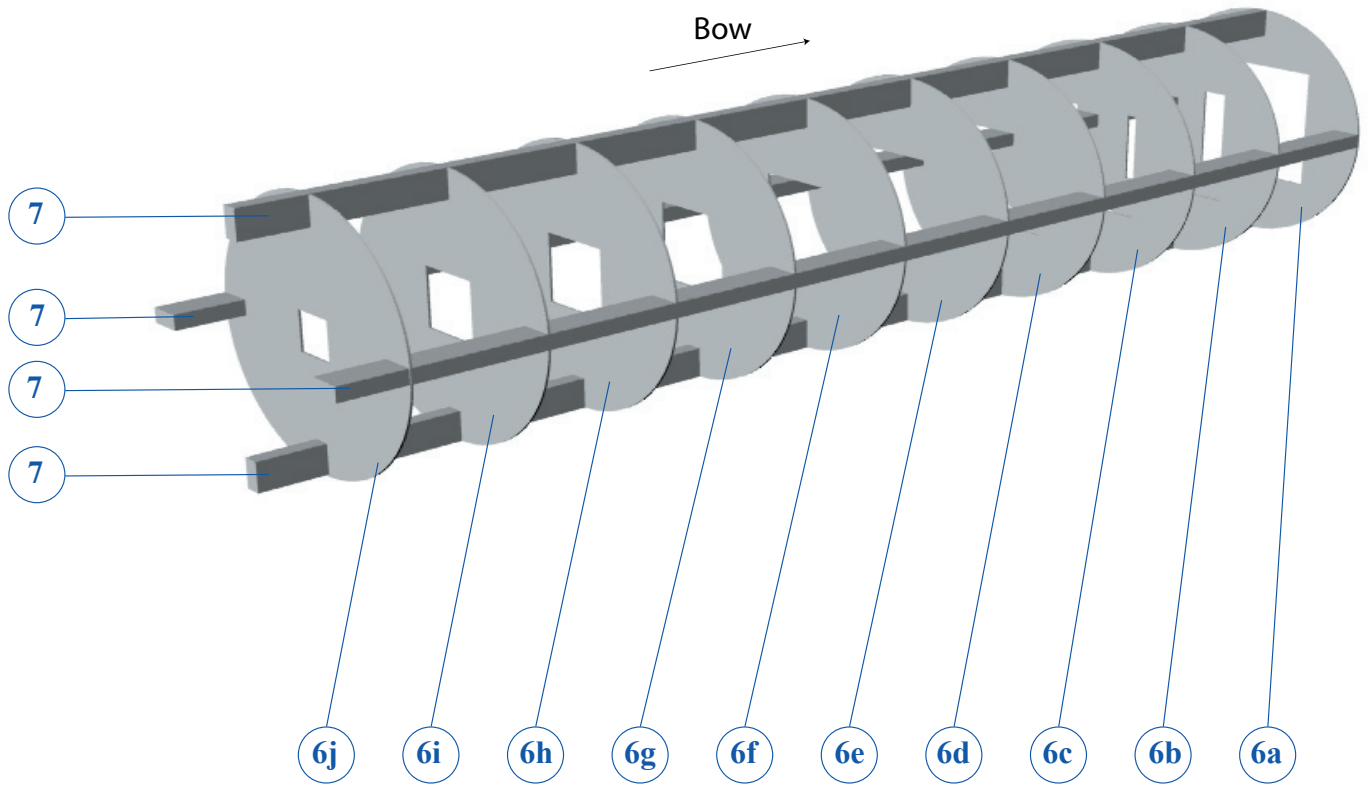
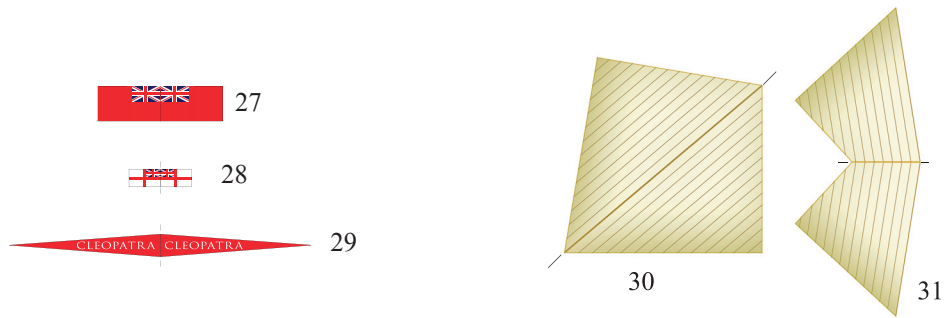
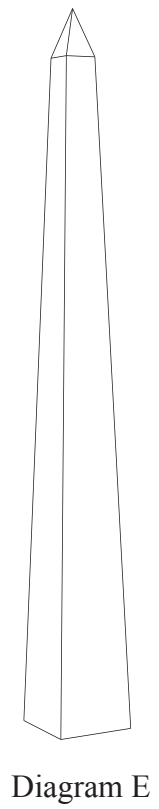
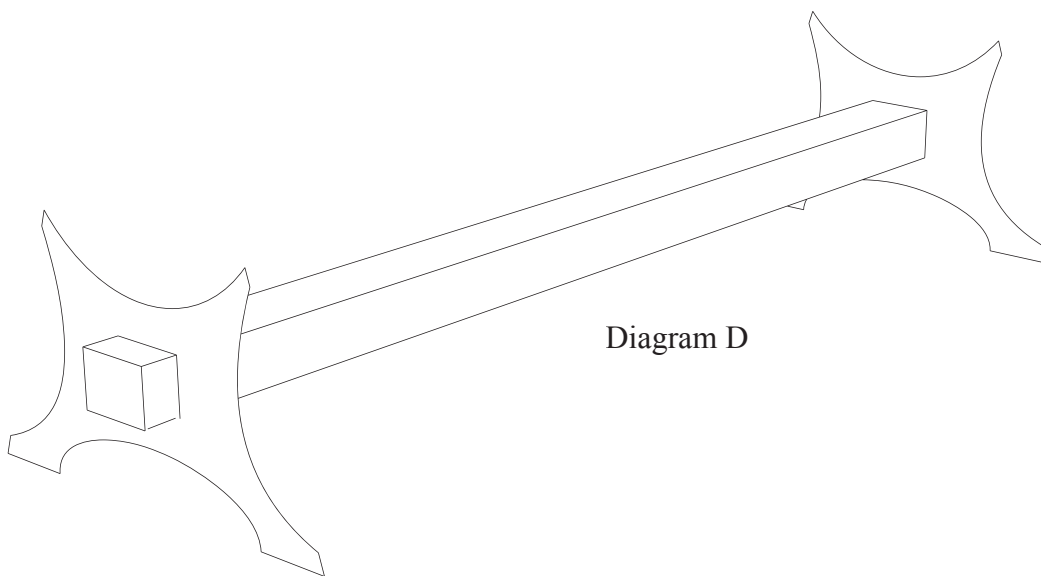
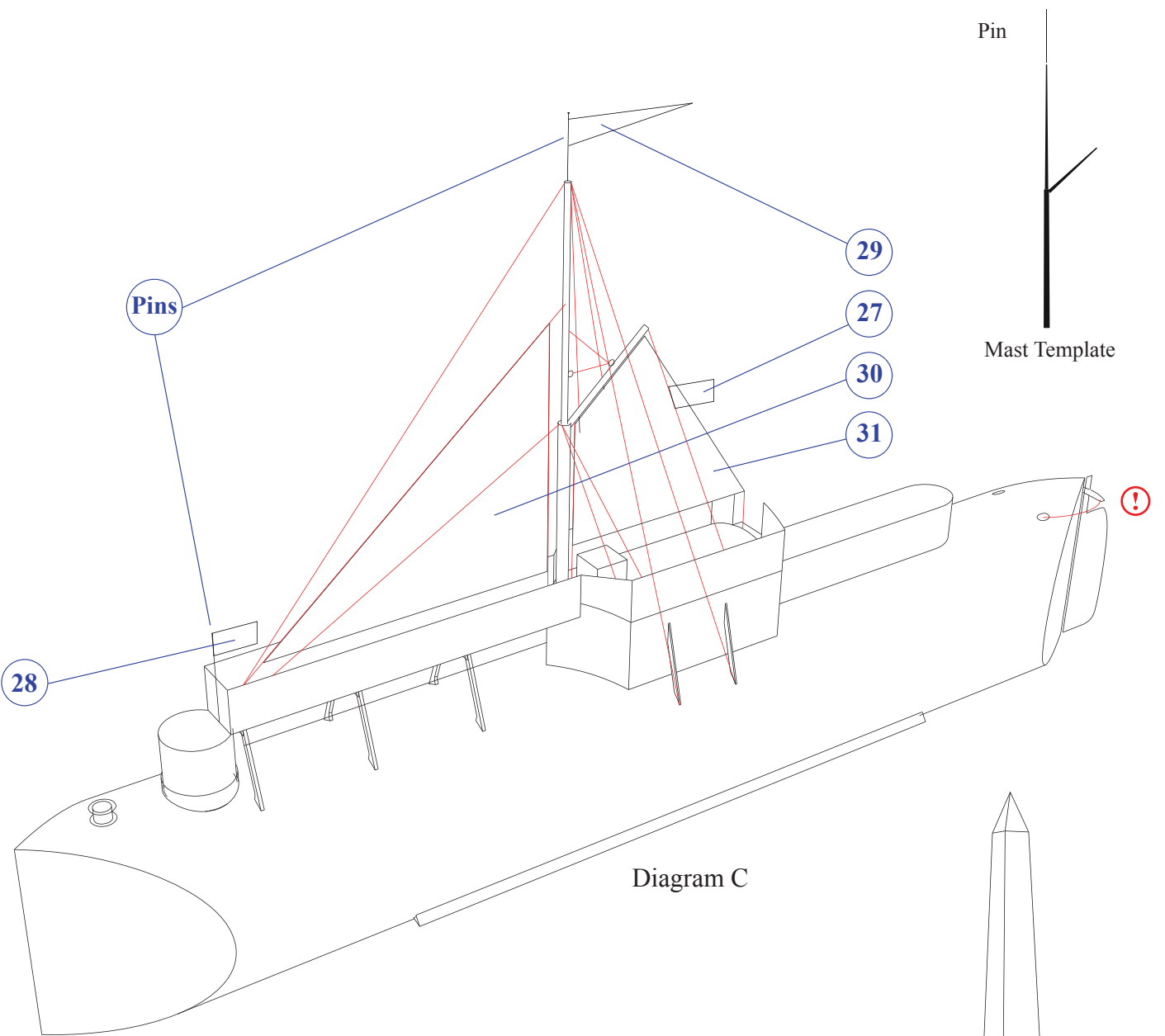


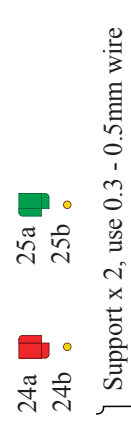
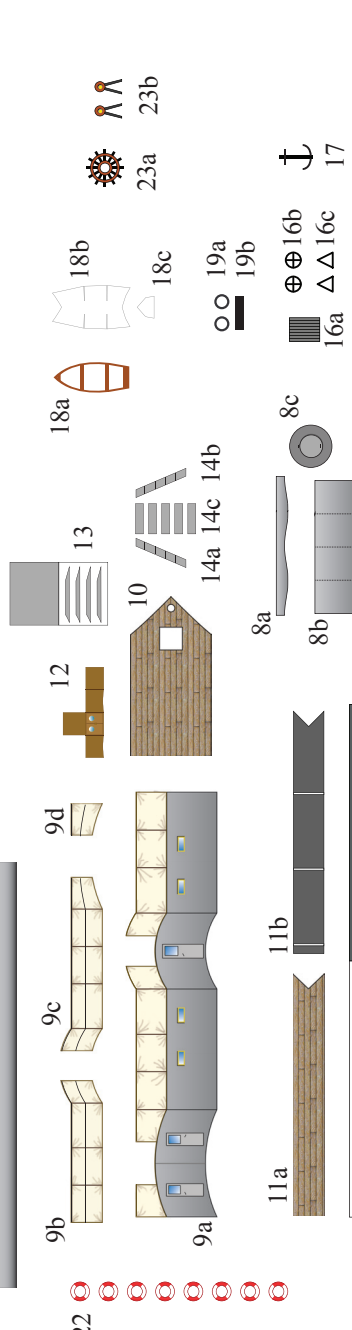
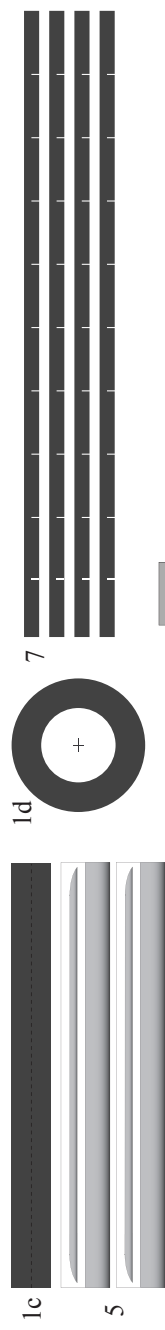
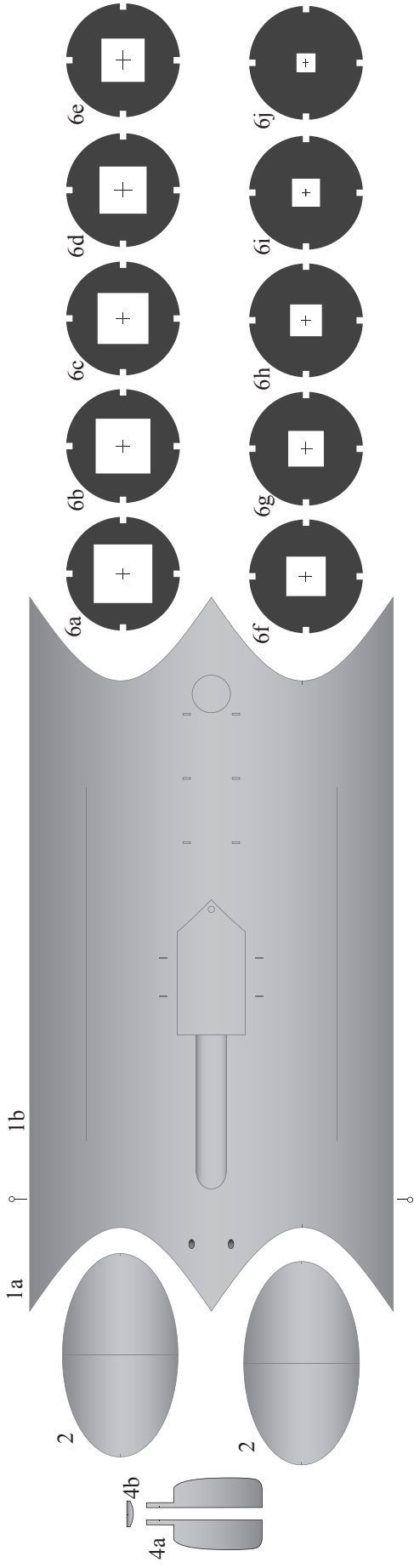
Diagram B

ADDITIONAL PARTS - PRINT THIS SHEET ON THIN PAPER



Use this field to cut glue tabs





} Support x 2, use 0.3 - 0.5mm wire

