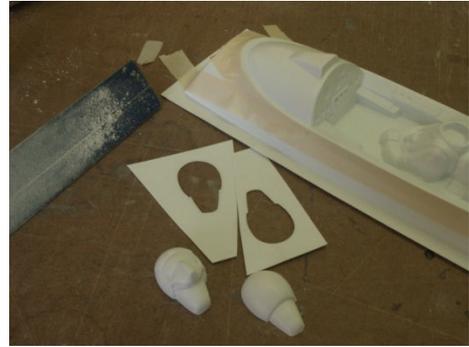


To start your Top Gun L-39 cockpit up grade sand the back of the pilots heads until the material around the edges become thin then with light pressure with a hobby knife cut them free from the parts sheet. Apply model cement in the shape of the head to a non porous surface and dip one half of the head in the cement to give the edge an even coat of cement. Bond the halves together aligning at the bottom edge of the helmet first. ( Neck alignment is not as important as the helmet since it will be hidden.) Allow the heads to dry overnight before sanding the seam.



Use tape to mask the area that the canopy will contact when finished to reduce the rough sanding job needed for a good bond later. Cut the flange from the rear instrument panel and bond it in place as well as the head rest plates. Note, the plates will require a crease bent into them over the edge of the work surface to an angle that suits your taste. Lightly apply primer to the cockpit tub. This material is thin to keep it light and can become soft if a heavy coat is applied. Two light coats is much better than one heavy one. Apply a coat of flat black to the instrument panels then use a small sharp tool to scratch the dial markings to the instrument faces. Apply a drop of epoxy in the instrument face recesses to give them the glossy glass look and allow gravity to do the job of smoothing the surface. (

prop up the tub so the dials are horizontal) Use the model paint you prefer to color your cockpit details, most common brands have been tested and do fine. Tips on painting the pilots can be found on the website under

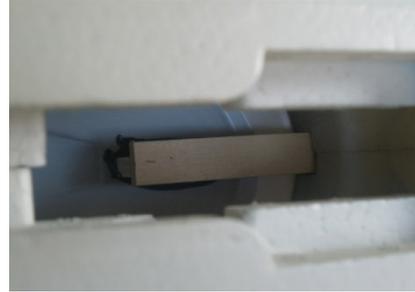


instructions and the tips can be applied to the cockpit as well. The air hose is painted automotive wire and is not included. The heads are bonded in place with model cement, in order to position the head turned or looking downward some of the collar will need additional trimming. After the head is in place and the cement is dry apply silicone for additional security.



Rough sand the backside of the instrument glare shield to prepare it for the "attachment stick" that engages the fuselage. Apply epoxy thickened with micro balloons ( baking soda works too) to the stick and the cockpit tub. Insert the stick into the hole in the fuselage and seat the cockpit tub in place on the fuselage. Flip the assembly upside-down and make sure the bond is being made by peeking through the forward wheel well.

To find the spot to drill the hole for the latch pin. Mark the end of the latch pin with ink or a soft led pencil. Hold the latch back and install the cockpit tub. release the latch and the mark will be transferred to the cockpit tub.



Trim the canopy along the molded lines and check it's fit to the tub with the tub installed on the model. Sand the inside of the canopy edge avoiding the window areas. Clean the canopy one last time and check the cockpit for any details you may have forgotten.



Apply epoxy to the cockpit tub and place the canopy on the tub. Practicing this step a few times before actually doing it will help to get it right the first time. Cutting the corner of a sandwich bag makes a handy way to mix and apply the epoxy.



Tape off the windows on the canopy then trim the portion of the cockpit tub used as an "epoxy bib". eave about 1/8 inch of the tub around the edge to leave a thin looking panel line. Prime and paint. if you can't find the perfect color match for your model foam safe paint will allow you to overlap colors like the green below making the mismatch is less noticeable. The tan color used below is not foam safe paint and must be applied to the canopy only.

