



Full Review

Squadron Models

Haunebu II German Flying Saucer

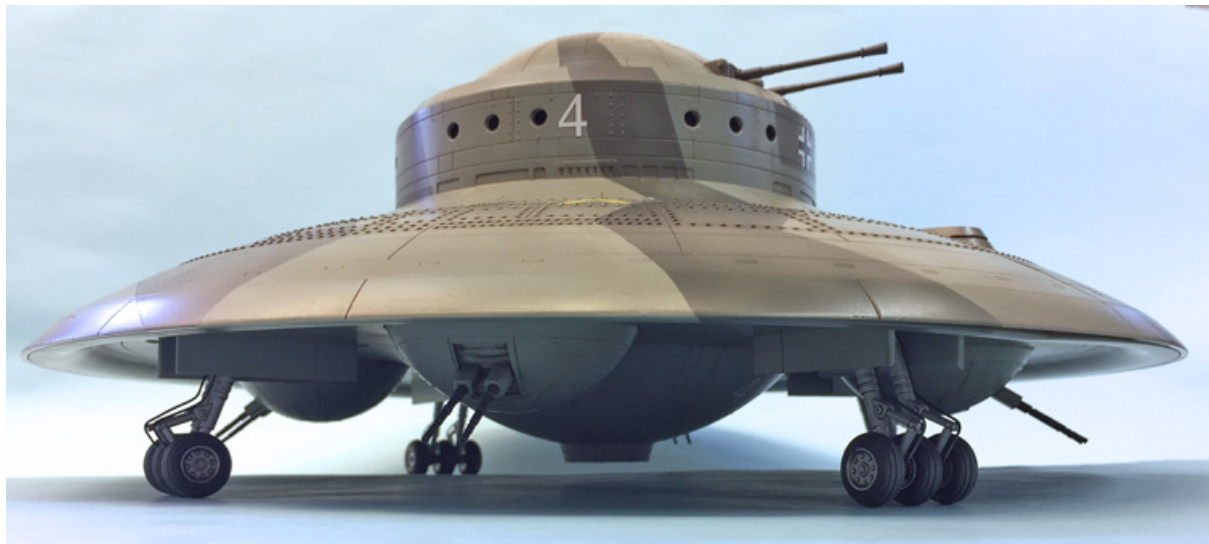
1:72 scale

by

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Haunebu II

German Flying Saucer



This is a brand new kit from Squadron Models and what a choice they have made! This model is sure to please sci-fi and Luftwaffe '46 fans, (me) so cannot be bad.

History (extracted from the instructions)...

In 1942, the enlarged Haunebu II of 26 meters diameter was ready for flight testing. The craft was powered by an electro-magnetic engine. This engine used an energy converter to create rotating electro-magnetic fields that influenced gravity and decreased mass.

This saucer had a crew of nine and could also achieve supersonic flight of between 6,000-21,000 km/h with a flight endurance of 55 hours.

Both it and the further developed 32 meter diameter Do-Stra had Victalen heat shielding applied to the two hulls.

It was armed with 2 x 110mm cannon in a main rotating turret and 8 x 80mm cannon in four ball turrets.

Seven of these craft were constructed and tested between 1943-44

by Dornier.

The craft made 106 test flights.

And if you don't believe any of this you can check it all out on Google.

The Squadron Models Kit...

The kit comprises of 125 parts, and comes in a very big box which will be useful to transport the model to shows.

The box artwork is splendid and I identified the type face as 'Germania' (hardly surprising) which I will use to print out a descriptive label for displaying the model at shows.

The finished craft comes out at about 355mm diameter.

The kit is supplied with Cartograf decals.

Quality...

The moulding is first class and the fit is very good considering the size of some of the components. This is partly due to the pin and socket location for most of the parts which ensures a sound joint and no error in positioning.

The circular control cabin wall is orientated by the use of tabs and slots onto the cabin deck which is in turn located to the upper saucer by pins and sockets.

The ten page instruction manual is quite unique with the front cover title 'Streng Geheim' which translated means 'Strict Secret' or more normally 'Top Secret'.

The assembly instructions are shown as photographs of parts and assemblies and there are only 18 steps to a completed model.

The painting guide takes the form of a three colour splinter scheme and is shown in a side, top and bottom view.

The kit includes a detailed control cabin with internal wall detailing, three control consoles with seats for nine crew members and the Anti-Gravity generator unit.

The control cabin could be detailed further with conduits and cabling as desired.

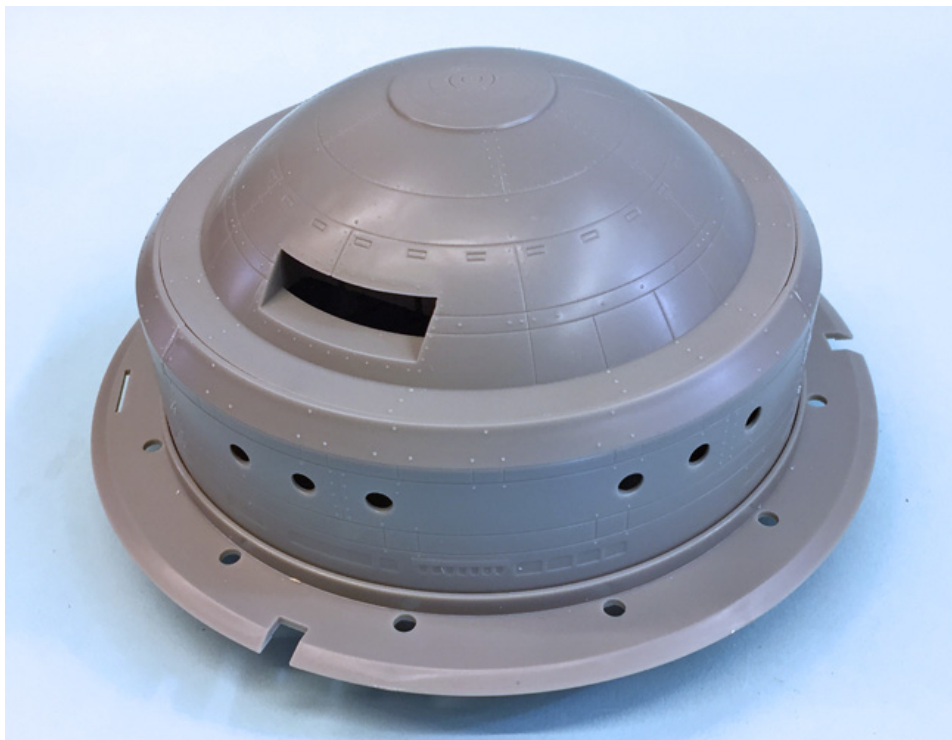
There are four sets of triple wheeled landing gear with doors, a boarding ramp, four lower ball type twin 80mm gun turrets and twin 110mm cannons mounted in an upper gun turret positioned on top of the control cabin.

The upper gun turret is removable to expose the control cabin interior.

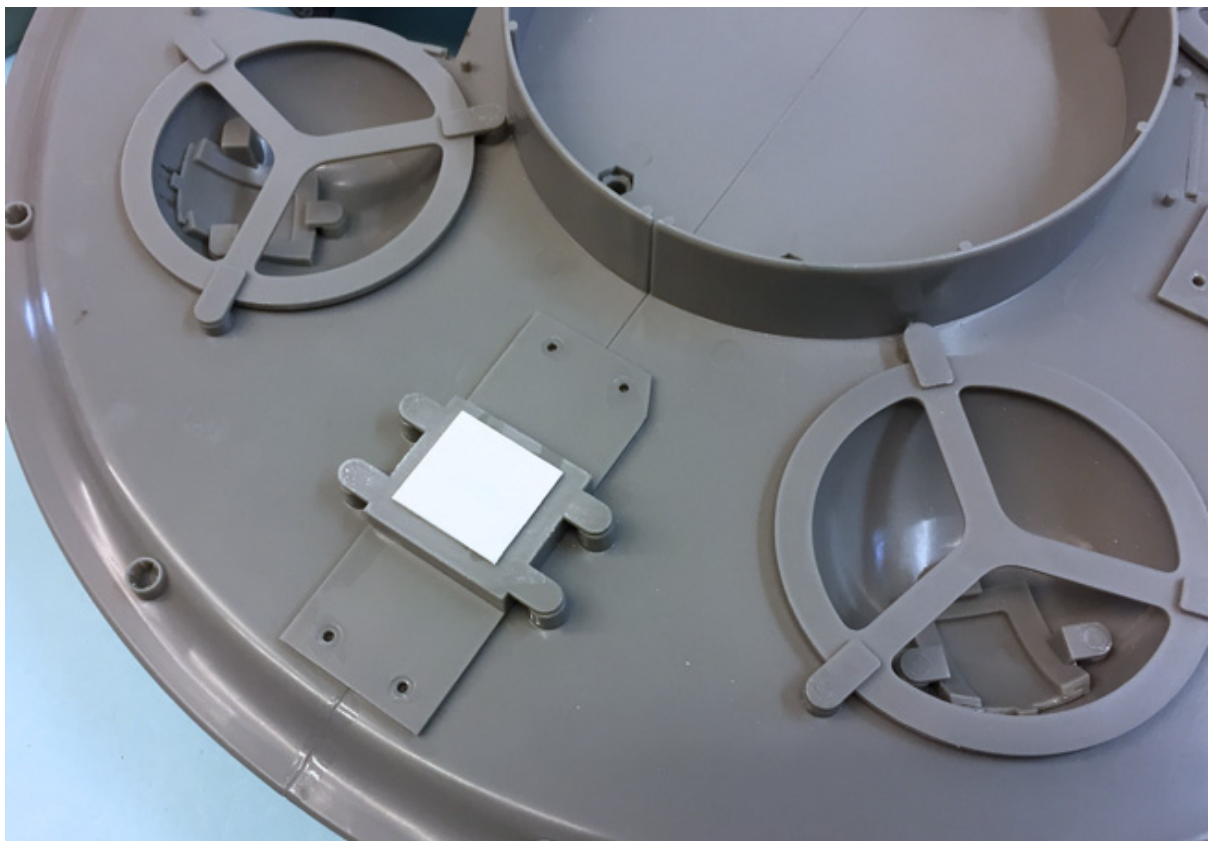
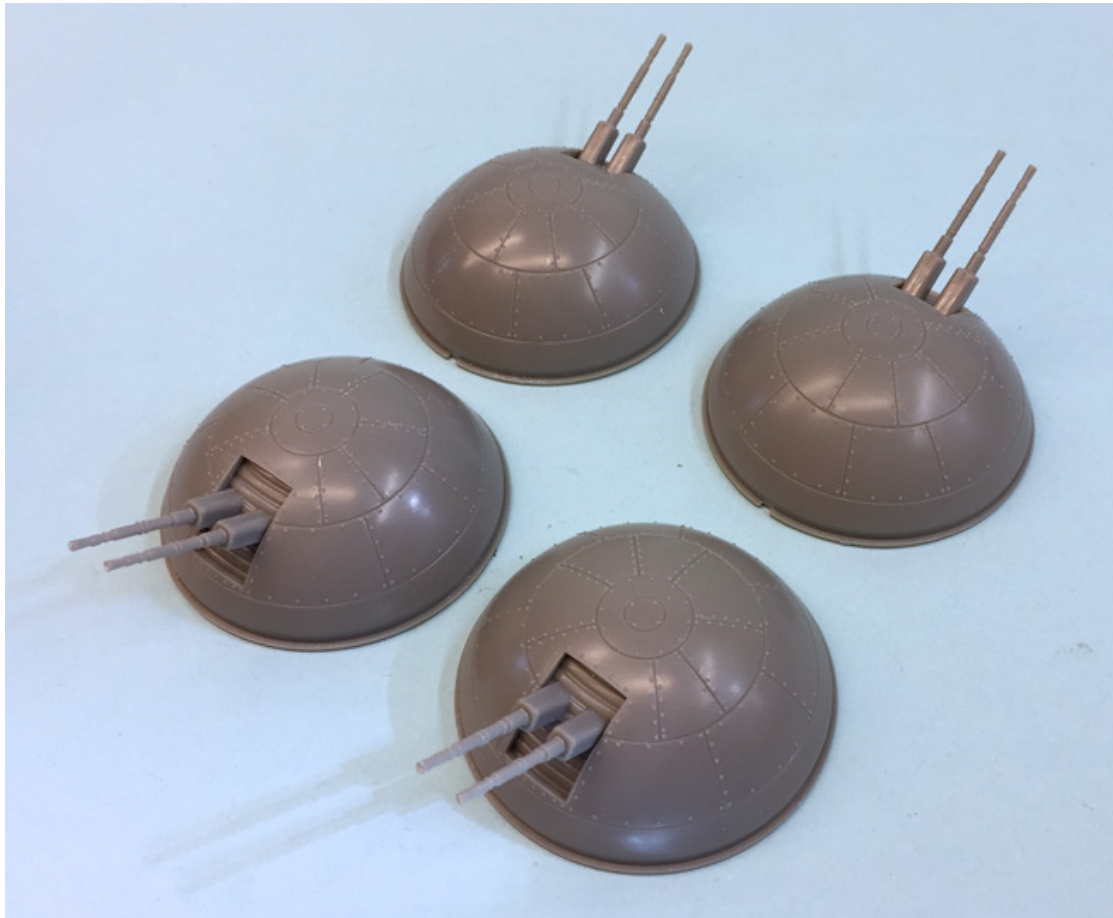


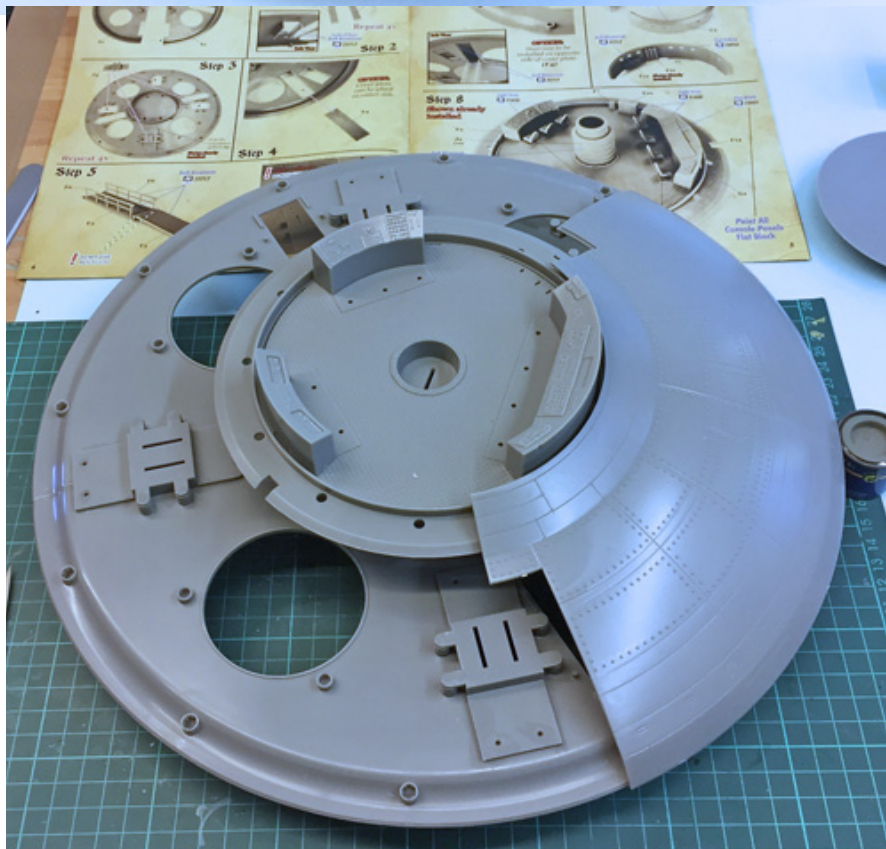
During assembly the upper and lower saucer need not be glued together which makes possible the fitting of the four lower gun turrets after painting if required.

There is a set of replacement guns available in resin from True Details but I am not



keen on resin guns as they seem to snap with me, however if Master Barrel made a set from brass I may have been tempted.





Lower saucer assembly...

This is covered by steps 1 to 6.

The two halves of the lower saucer are held together with the lower saucer dome and two of the four undercarriage leg location plates.

The dome is cemented into position first.

The undercarriage bay doors are fitted into position and the four location plates then cemented to the lower saucer which will retain the doors.

A single cover plate is fitted to the lower saucer allowing the loading ramp to be fitted into the other.

The loading ramp can be fitted after painting the lower saucer.



Upper saucer assembly...

This is not really covered anywhere, but Step 11 shows the three upper saucer pieces assembled.

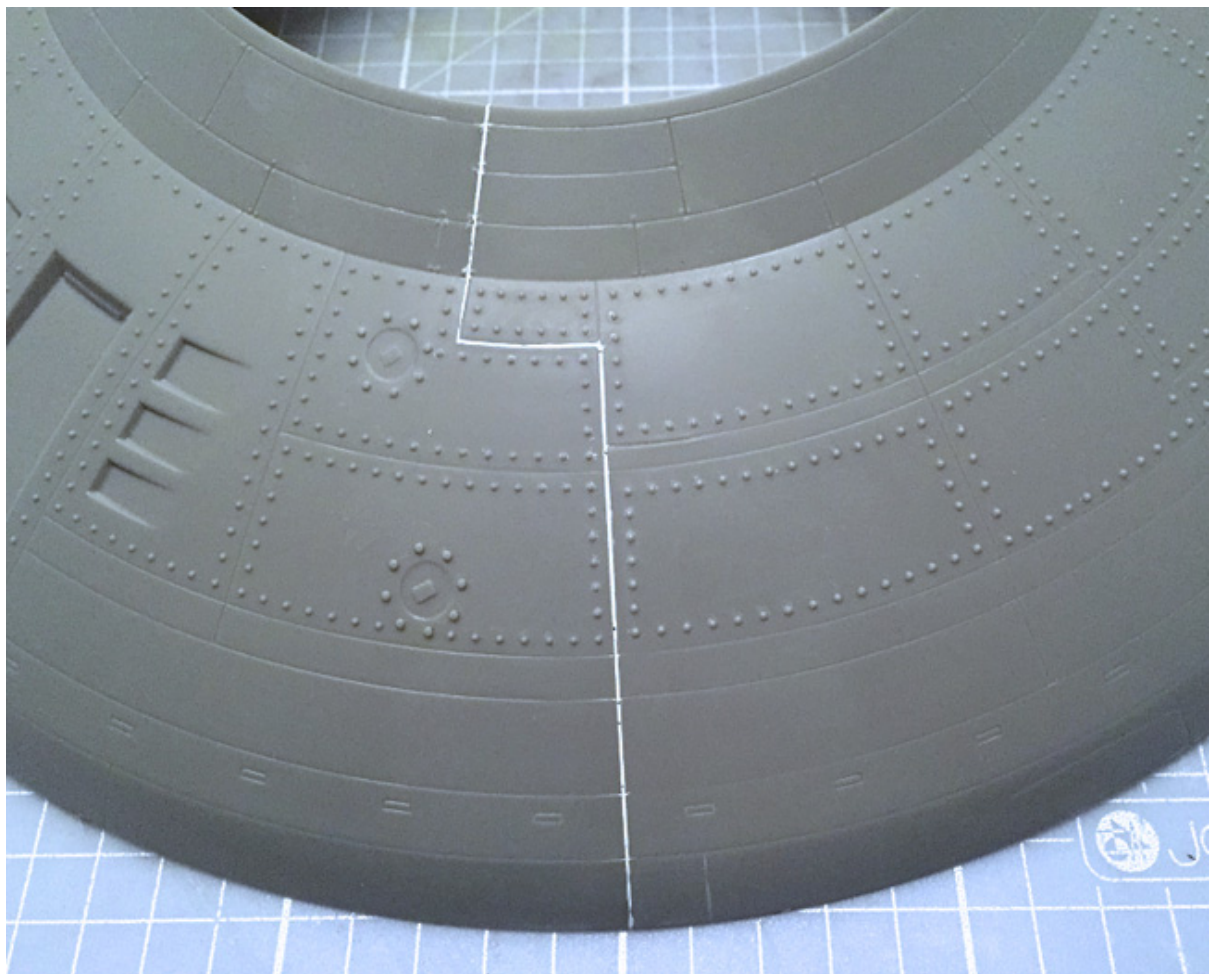
This was the only assembly which required some filler along the seams.

Loading ramp assembly...

Steps 5 and 6

This item consists of a main ramp with hand rails and a smaller ramp.

It can be displayed lowered or raised.



Control cabin assembly...

Steps 7, 8 and 9.

The three cabin wall parts have locating tabs and are cemented together using the control cabin floor slots to orientate the cabin walls in the correct order just in

case unless you forget to mark the parts when removing from the sprue, which I did.

I did not fit the three control consoles, anti-gravity generator propulsion unit, nine seats and two small detail parts in position until last as this makes painting of these parts and the cabin deck much easier.



The cabin floor was sprayed with Humbrol no. 123, a dark grey and dry brushed up with Xtracolour oily steel.

Step 9 shows the position of the complete control cabin which can be fitted after painting.

Ball turret assembly...

Step 10

After some research into these craft I found evidence that the four ball turrets were in fact components of the propulsion system and would not have carried guns.

However I was happy to go along with the ball turrets as they certainly look the part and I quite like things that stick out from surfaces of sci-fi craft.

The four ball turrets were assembled with the gun breeches and retaining yolk but I chose to leave off the gun barrels until final assembly as I am sure they would have been damaged during painting.

The four turrets can now be fitted into the cut-outs if desired and then secured with the circular retaining rings.

I did this but they can also be fitted after painting before the upper and lower saucers are cemented together.

Upper turret assembly...

Step 13, 14 and 16

This consists of two parts, the cabin dome and roof.

They can be cemented together and then painted.

I left the twin cannon breech and guns until final assembly as this again makes painting easier.

Landing gear assembly...

Step 16

The landing gear consists of four pairs of legs with three wheels per leg.

After cleaning up the legs I added brake cables from copper wire to each leg.

The legs locate firmly to slots in the lower saucer but again these are best painted and assembled with the wheels and added on final assembly.

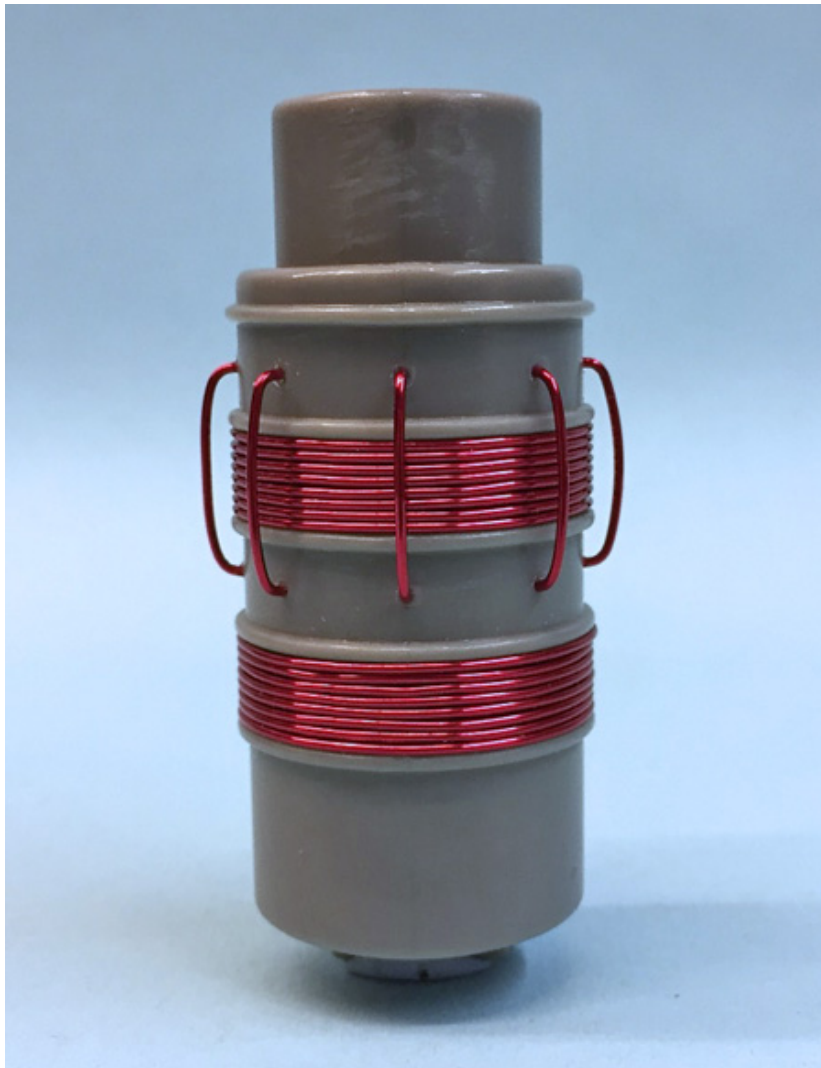


The legs were sprayed with Humbrol no.11 Silver and when dry washed with thinned Tamiya Smoke (X-19). The brake cables were painted matt black. I brush painted the oleo legs with Humbrol Metalcote Polished Aluminium.

The wheels were sprayed all over with Revell no 9 anthracite and then when dry, thinned Humbrol Metalcote polished aluminium paint was flowed into the rim and hub. When all was dry the hubs were treated to a coat of Tamiya smoke.

The four sets of landing gear were then assembled using two legs and three wheels each, the centre wheel being located between the legs.

Anti-Gravity Generator unit...



Step 8

This is a simple two part item so I chose to add detail in the form of wound electrical induction coils and external induction loops.

I sprayed the AG unit satin black and dry brushed it up with Xtracolor oily steel.

Painting and decaling...

The camouflage scheme shown in the instructions show a Haunebu which was stationed in Antarctica during 1944, but I would have thought that any craft operating in this location would have a lighter scheme to avoid detection.

However I decided on a splinter camouflage scheme as suggested in the instructions but without the total camo scheme on the underside.

Instead I would have the topside camo overlapping slightly on the underside.

So now we have an upper and lower saucer assembly, a control cabin section and the upper gun turret roof which all require the camouflage spraying.

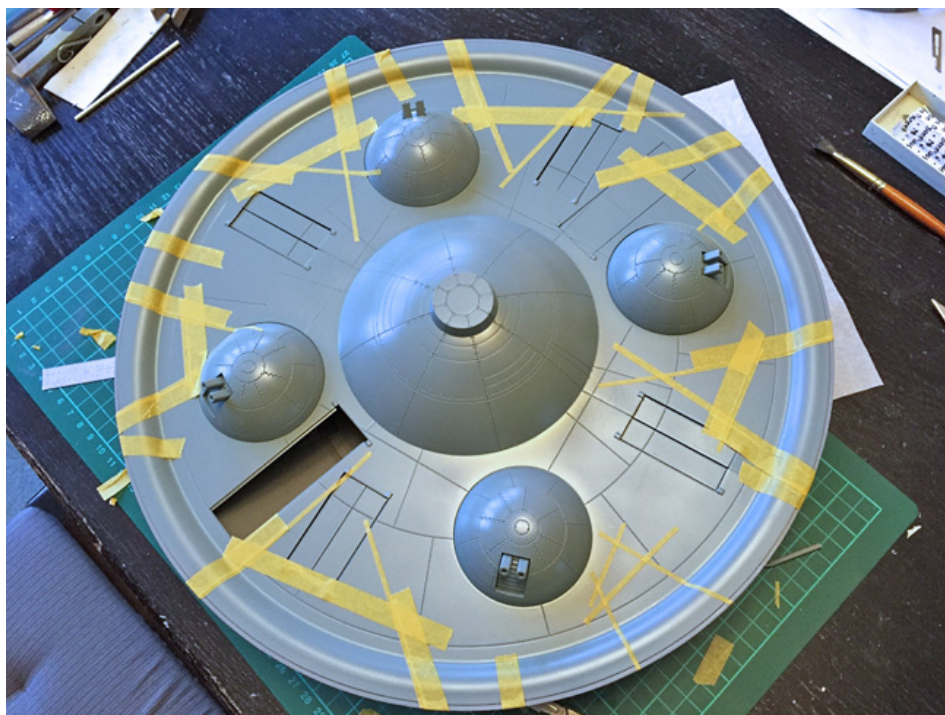
To start with I sprayed the four parts with Xtracolor RLM65. This took some time and almost an entire tin of paint! For spraying I thin Xtracolor paints 1:1 with white spirit.

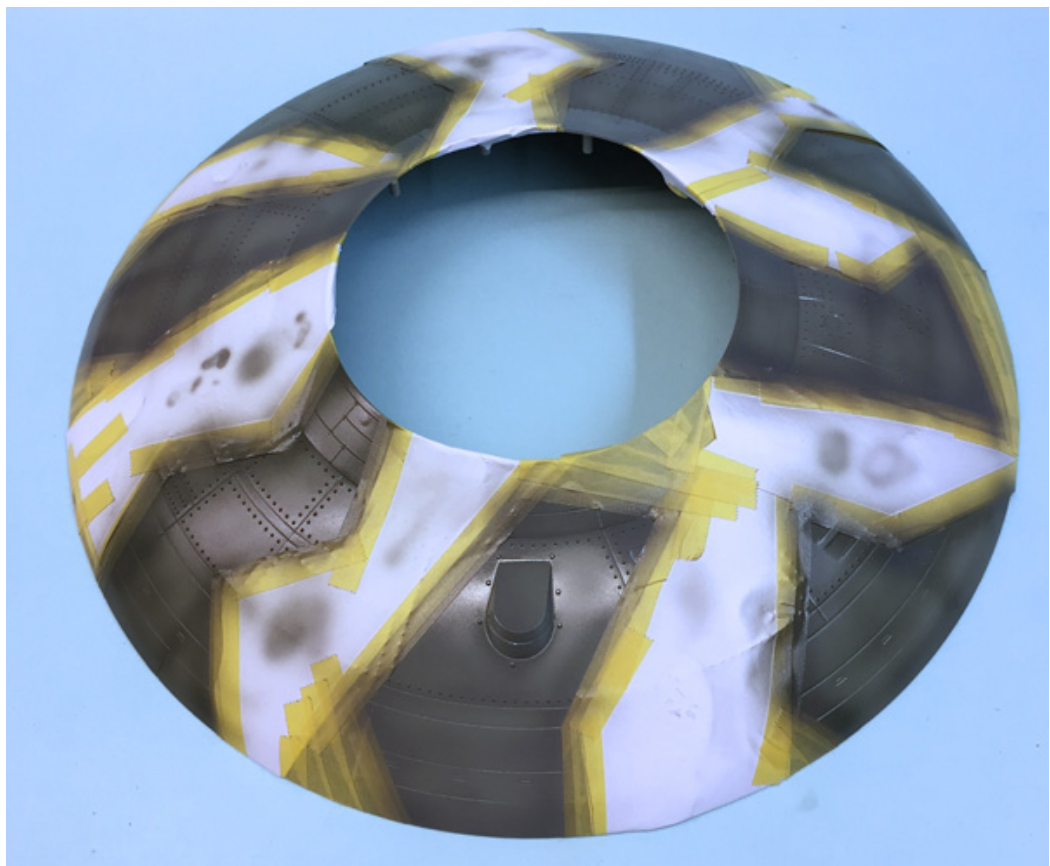
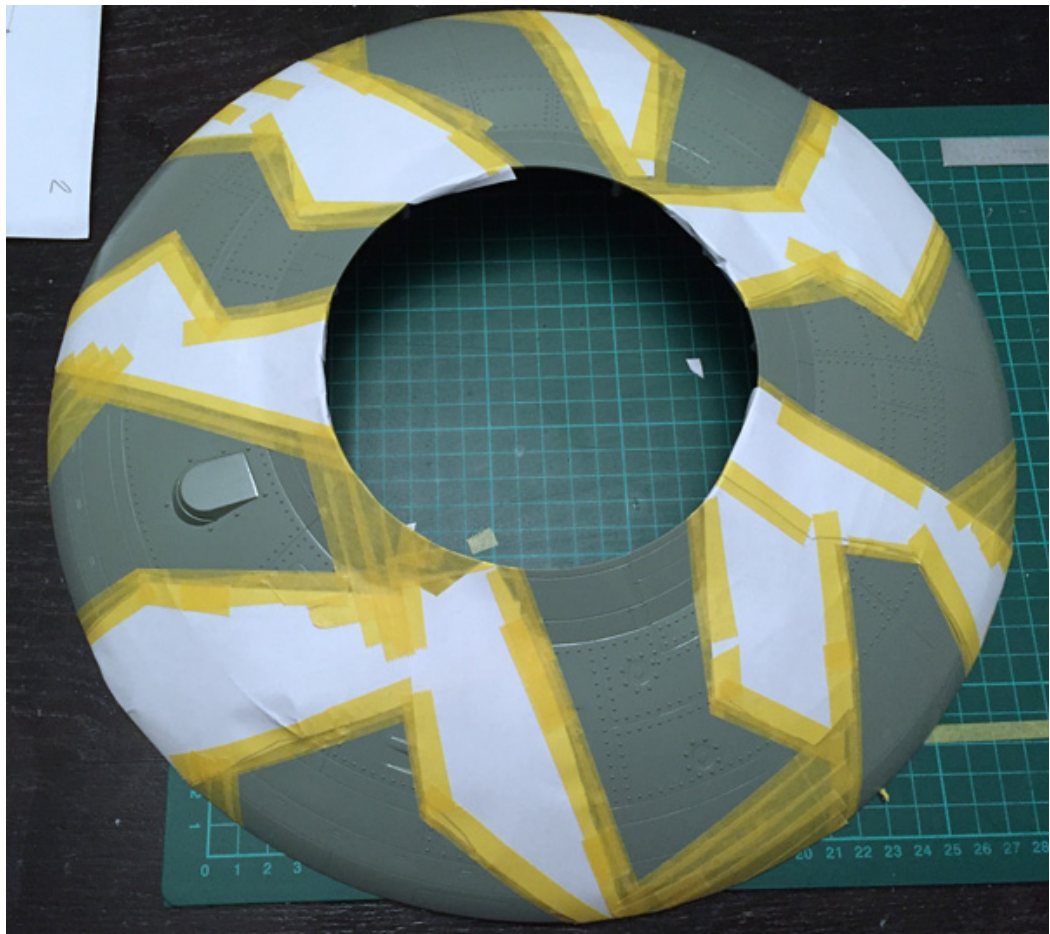
I then sketched out the upper camo scheme, based on the kit painting guide, which would have a splinter scheme of RLM 74 and RLM 75 over the RLM65.

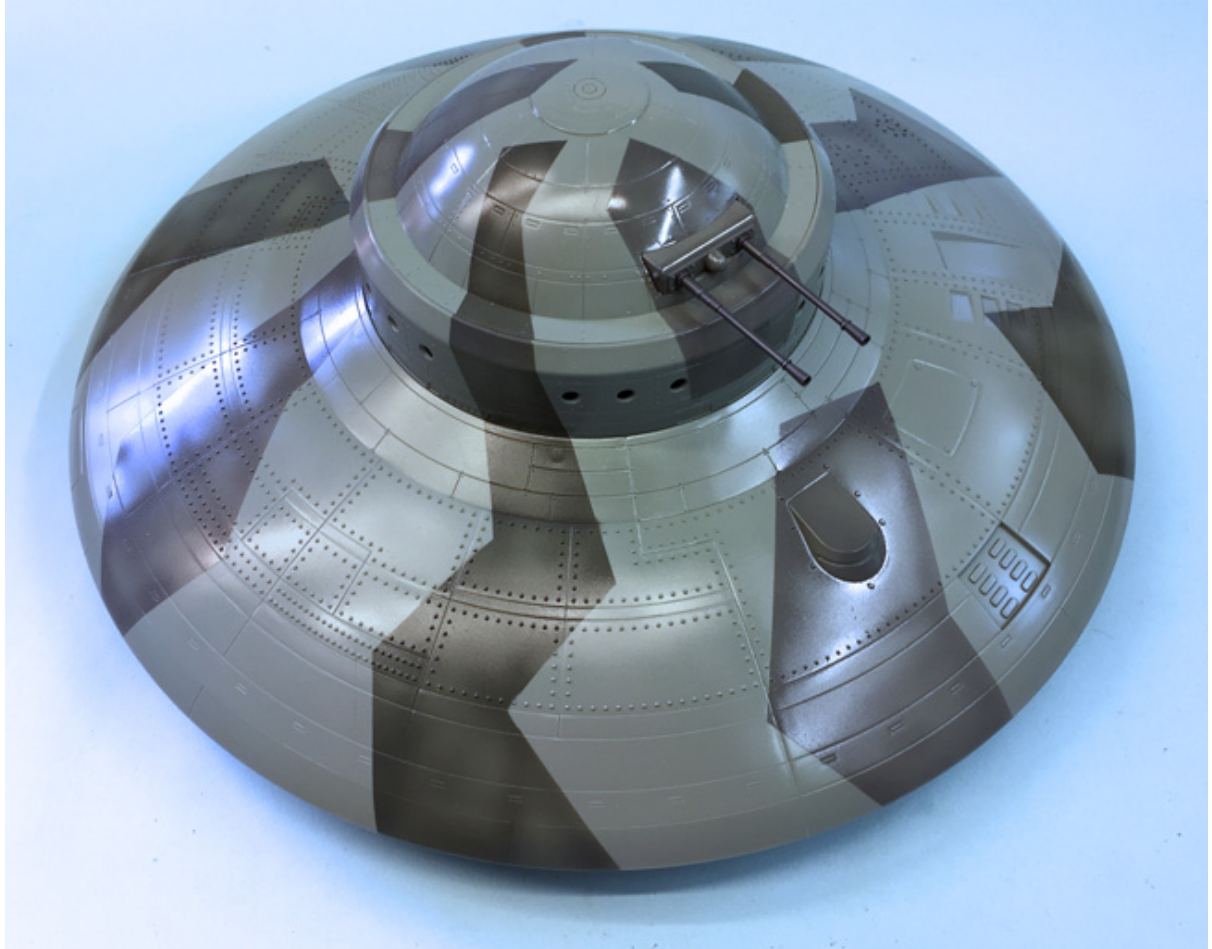
I started the masking with the upper saucer using Tamiya masking tape and cut paper shapes to cover larger areas.

I sprayed alternate areas with Xtracolor RLM74 and RLM75 keeping the majority of the spray on the edges of the masks and along the panel and rivet lines, leaving lighter areas in places.

When the paint was dry I removed all the masking and then transferred the edges of the camo to the lower saucer and the control cabin wall and upper gun turret roof.







These items were then masked off in a similar fashion and sprayed RLM 74 and RLM 75 as the upper saucer.

When dry all the masking was removed and the areas of RLM 65 were post shaded along the rivet and panel lines with Xtracolor RLM 02.

The ten gun barrels were sprayed with Revell no.9 anthracite. I drilled out the ends of all the barrels first. They were then dry brushed with Humbrol Metalcote Polished Steel.

Decals...

Now for the decals, pretty simple, just the four crosses, four numbers, three swastikas, some white lines, a yellow inverted 'V' and the 'h' Haunebu symbol.

The decals went down very well using some Micro set and Micro soft

I gave the decals 24 hours to harden and then sprayed a coat of Johnsons Klear over the two saucers, the cabin and cabin roof. I dusted the Klear on so as to leave a slight matt texture to the finish which would help with the enamel wash afterwards.

A further 24 hours ensured the Klear was hardened and I then began the Enamel wash. I chose to use a dark brown enamel wash by AK interactive and I thinned this with some Humbrol thinners as I use the wash as a filter as well. The control cabin and roof were washed in a single application.

I apply the wash with a number 3 brush, then spread it around using an 8mm wide flat brush until almost dry. I then use a piece of cloth to wipe over the surfaces removing the excess wash. I find this method leaves a nice filter by slightly staining the surface and also leaves the wash in all the panel lines and recesses.

This was repeated on the two saucers but applying the wash in quarters, spreading around and wiping off with the cloth.

No further coating was applied as the enamel wash leaves the surface with a slight sheen which I like.

Final Assembly...

The four undercarriage leg assemblies were then cemented into position onto the lower saucer which will now allow the lower saucer to stand on its own four legs.

The eight cannon barrels were then cemented into the ball turrets.

Instead of using the eighteen circular transparencies supplied with the kit for the cabin windows, I filled each group of three windows at a time with canopy glue which then dried out perfectly clear.

The cabin floor was then inserted into the upper saucer from the underside, lining up the radial pins and sockets, and cemented into position.

The cabin section will now slot into the cabin floor and was cemented into position from the underside of the upper saucer.

The lower and upper saucers can now be clipped together and if required glued together on the locating studs using white glue.

Finally the cabin roof with the twin cannons can be positioned on top of the cabin.

That completed a most enjoyable build.

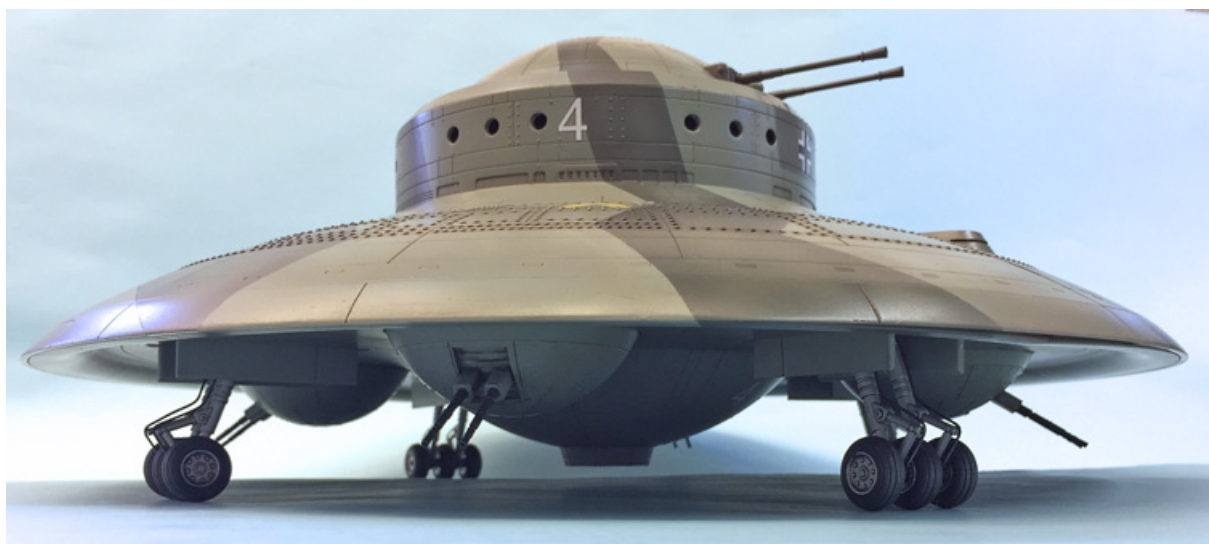
As I have stated previously all the parts fit very well and the build is very straight forward, the biggest job is in the camo painting.

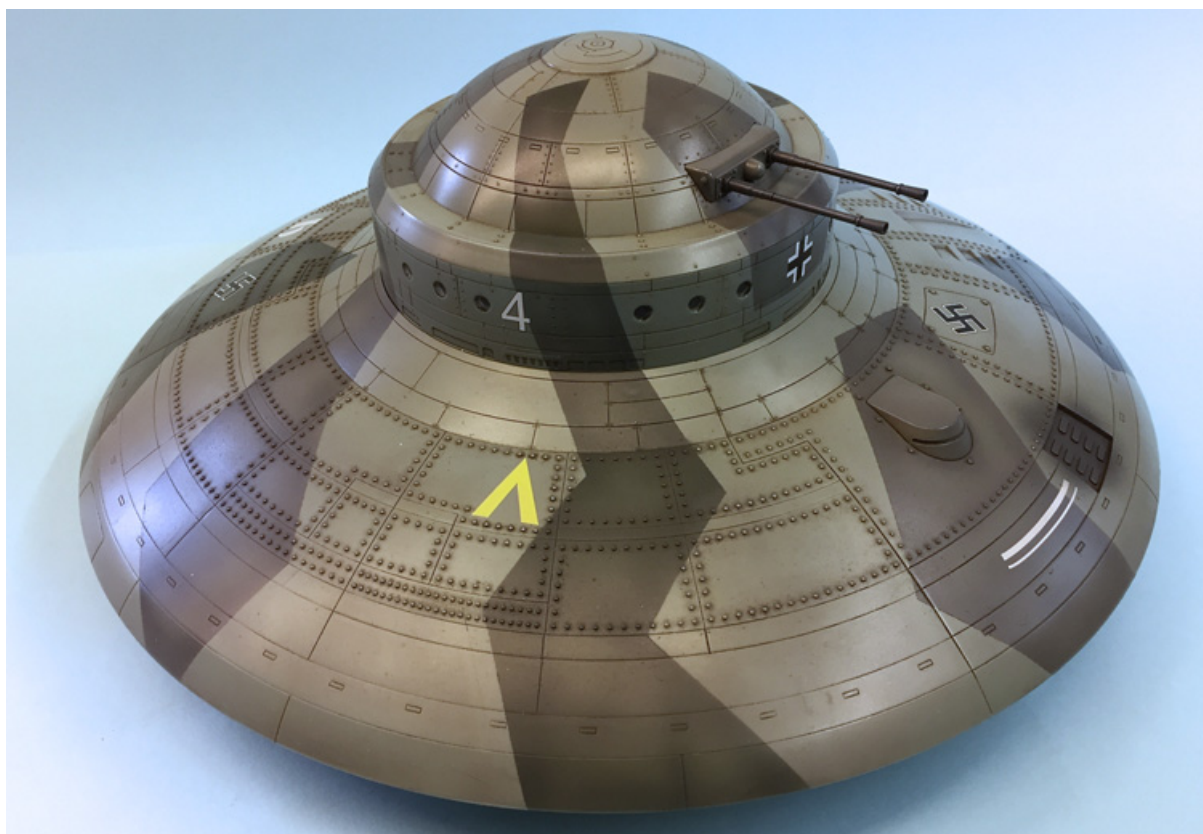
As the model is 1:72 I am building up a 1:72 Kubelwagen and a couple of figures to add to the display to give a sense of scale.

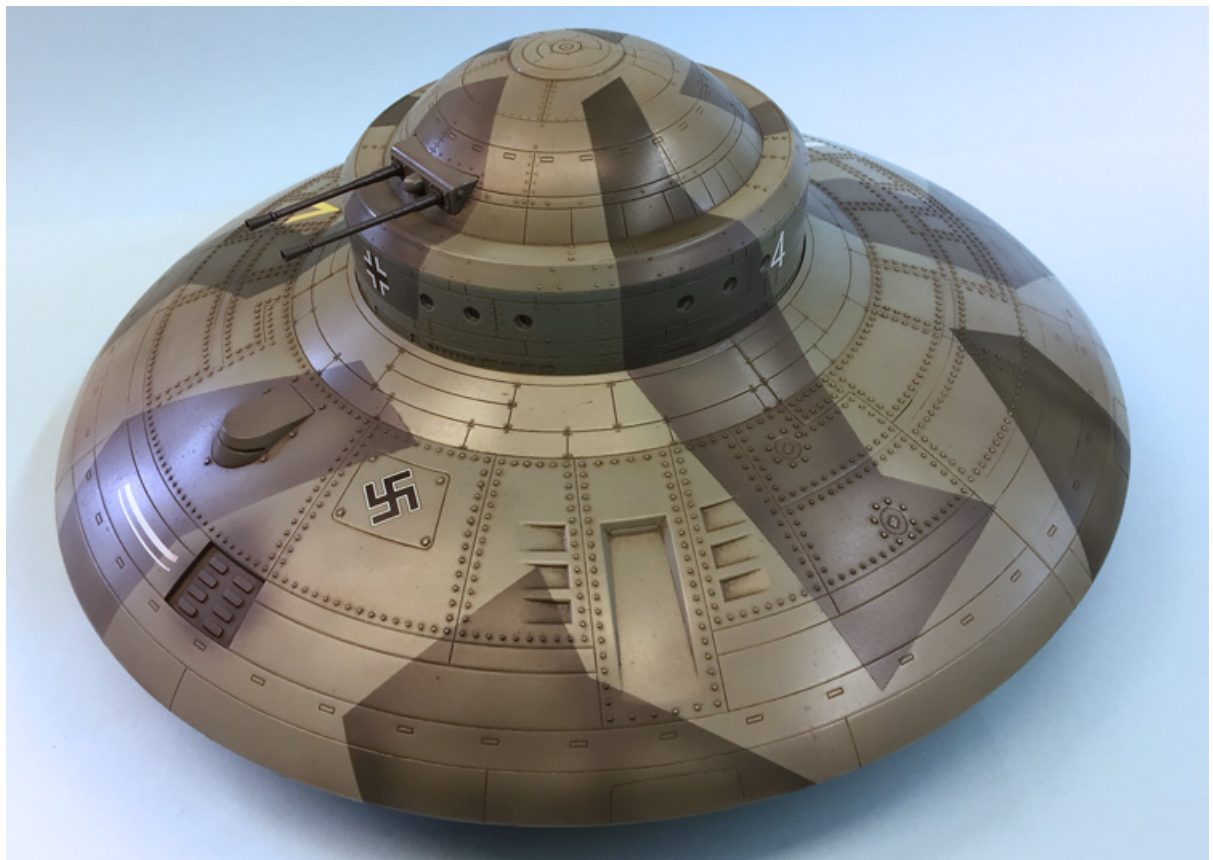
I may also include my 1:72 Revell Horten Ho229 Flying Wing, tiny in comparison.

Hope you like the finished result?

Roger B.







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