



Multipurpose Amphibious Assault Ship U.S.S. IWO JIMA (LHD-7)

Mit der U.S.S. IWO JIMA (LHD-7) stellt die US Navy 2001 das siebte Schiff der „WASP-Klasse“, eine Klasse von modernen Amphibischen Mehrzweck-Angriffsschiffen, in Dienst. Diese Schiffe sind Nachfolger der „TARAWA-Klasse“ und können bis zu 40 Fluggeräte (Hubschrauber & Senkrechtstarter), zahlreiche Kampffahrzeuge sowie bis zu 1.894 Truppen des Marine Corps befördern. Des Weiteren beherbergt der fuhbare Dockraum am Heck mehrere Landungsboote, die die Kampffahrzeuge und Truppen an Land bringen. Die Hauptaufgabe dieser Schiffe besteht darin, Landungsunternehmen der Marine zu unterstützen. Aber auch für Rettungseinsätze oder humanitäre Hilfsmissionen stehen sie zur Verfügung.

Die Planungen für die Schiffe der „WASP-Klasse“ begannen um 1980, wobei auch auf die Pläne der „TARAWA-Klasse“ zurückgegriffen wurde. Auch wenn beide Schiffsklassen amphibische Angriffsschiffe sind, gibt es bei der „WASP-Klasse“ Detailveränderungen, die sie zu einer eigenständigen Schiffsklasse mit eigener Kennung (LHD = Landing Helicopter Dock) machten. Der Grund dafür liegt in der wesentlich gesteigerten Dockkapazität. Die U.S.S. IWO JIMA wurde von Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, gebaut und am 12. Dezember 1997 auf Kiel gelegt. Der Stapellauf fand am 25. März 2001 statt. Nach Indienststellung lief sie im März 2002 zur Unterstützung der Operation Enduring Freedom aus. Heute ist sie das Flaggschiff der im Atlantik operierenden 2. US-Flotte. Das Schiff ist 257,2 Meter lang, 33,5 Meter breit und hat ein über die gesamte Länge durchgehendes Flugdeck. Lediglich eine Insel, wie sie auch Flugzeugträger besitzen, ragt darüber hinaus und beherbergt Kontrollräume sowie den Antennenwald mit sämtlichen elektrischen Anlagen an zwei Masten. Das Flugdeck ist aus gehärtetem HY-100-Stahl gefertigt, um Senkrechstartern eine sichere Landefläche zu bieten. Unter dem Flugdeck befindet sich im hinteren Drittel ein geschütztes Hangardeck für die Bordflugzeuge und -Helikopter, die durch zwei seitliche Aufzüge auf das Flugdeck befördert werden. Unter dem Hangardeck sind die hinteren 82 Meter vom Welldeck belegt, das nach hinten durch ein Tor abgeschlossen wird. Damit Landungsboote ein- und ausfahren können, besitzt das Schiff Ballasttanks, die Seewasser aufnehmen und das Heck zusätzlich um fast 3 Meter auf 11 Meter absinken lassen. Richtung Bug, an das Welldeck anschließend, befinden sich rund 2.000 Quadratmeter Frachtraum für die Kampffahrzeuge. Die U.S.S. IWO JIMA erreicht eine Geschwindigkeit von 20 Knoten. Die Besatzung besteht aus 104 Offizieren und 1.004 Matrosen. Das Lazarett bietet Platz für 600 Verletzte, die in sechs Operationssälen versorgt werden. Die Hauptbewaffnung besteht aus Startern für Luftabwehraketen des Typs RIM-7 Sea Sparrow und RIM-116 Rolling Airframe Missile. Zusätzlich sind Nahbereichsverteidigungssysteme des Typs Phalanx CIWS installiert. Zur Verteidigung gegen kleine Boote besitzen die Schiffe 25-mm-M242-Bushmaster-Maschinenkanonen und cal .50-Maschinengewehre.

Im Welldeck kann die U.S.S. IWO JIMA drei Luftkissenboote des Typs Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) oder alternativ zwei Landing Craft Utility (LCU) mitführen. Auch bis zu 61 Assault Amphibious Vehicles AAV7 können mitgeführt werden. Die Kampffahrzeuge setzen sich meist aus M1A1 Abrams und M60 A3 Kampfpanzer, LAV-25 Radpanzer, HMMWV's und MTVR-Trucks zusammen. Die Luftflotte besteht aus CH-46 Sea Knight (12), CH-53E Sea Stallion (4), AH-1W Super Cobra, UH-1 Huey, AV-8B Harrier II (6), MV-22A Osprey.

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In 2001, with the U.S.S. IWO JIMA (LHD-7), the US Navy put into service the seventh vessel of the „WASP Class“, a class of modern multi-role amphibian assault vessels. These ships, relaying the old TARAWA Class, can carry up to 40 helicopters and V/STOL (vertical/short takeoff and landing) aircraft as well as up to marines. Furthermore, this „floating dock“ carries several landing crafts to bring vehicles and personnel to the landing beach. The main mission of these units is supporting the landing operations of the US Navy. But they can also be used for humanitarian or rescue operations.

Planning for the new ships of the WASP class began in 1980, taking account of the design of the TARAWA class. Even if both classes concern multipurpose amphibious assault ship, some new details of the WASP class decided for the creation of a new class with its own designation, (LHD = Landing Helicopter Dock), the reason being the greatly increased docking capacity. The U.S.S. IWO JIMA was built by Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi, starting on December 12, 1997, and launching on March 25, 2001. After going into service in March 2002 she put to sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Today she is the flagship of the US Second Fleet operating in the Atlantic. The ship is 257.2 metres long, beam 33.5 metres, with a flight deck over the total length. There is one lateral bridge, as on usual aircraft carriers, with the control tower and the various antennas fitted on two masts. The flight deck was built using hardened HY-100 steel, to make a strong landing surface for the vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) aircraft. Under the flight deck, the hangar bay, occupying on third of the total length, houses all aircraft and helicopter, with two aircraft elevators servicing the hangar bay and flight deck. Under the hangar bay is an 82 metres well deck, with a watertight door aft. To allow the landing craft to exit and home, the ship is fitted with ballast tanks, which fill with sea water and lower the ship by 3 to 11 meters in the water. Toward the bow, behind the well deck, is a 2,000 square metres vehicle hold. The U.S.S. IWO JIMA can sail at 20 knots. The ship's company included 104 officers and 1,004 enlisted personnel. IWO JIMA has medical facilities for up to 600 casualties, with six operating rooms. The main armament includes starters for antiaircraft RIM-7 Sea Sparrow and RIM-116 Rolling Airframe missiles, and short range Phalanx CIWS systems. Close protection against boat attacks is given by 25 mm M242-Bushmaster automatic guns and classical 50 cal machine guns.

In her well deck, the U.S.S. IWO JIMA can take three landing craft air cushioned (LCAC) or two landing craft utility (LCU), and up to 61 Assault Amphibious Vehicles AAV7. The combat vehicles are mainly M1A1 Abrams and M60 A3 battle tanks, LAV-25 wheeled armoured vehicles, HMMWV and MTVR trucks. The aircraft and helicopters are mainly CH-46 Sea Knight (12), CH-53E Sea Stallion (4), AH-1W Super Cobra, UH-1 Huey, AV-8B Harrier II (6) and MV-22A Osprey.

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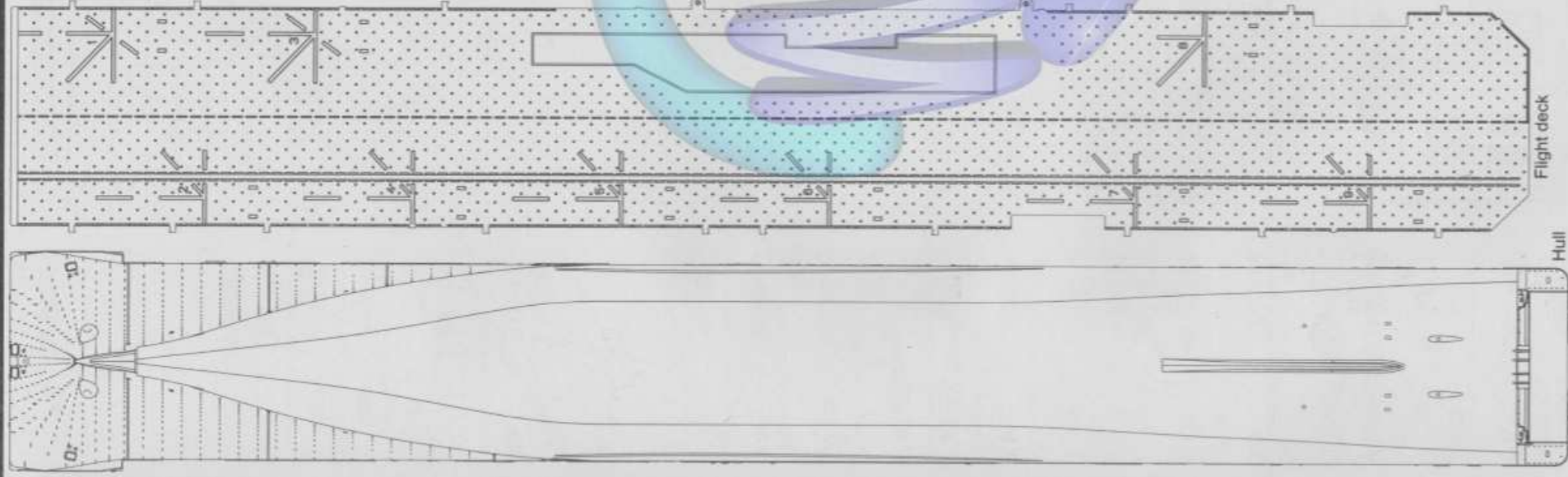


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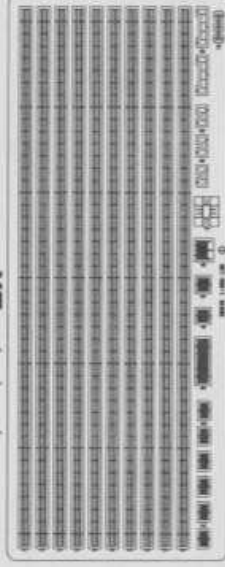
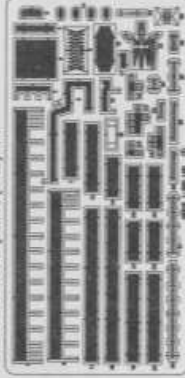


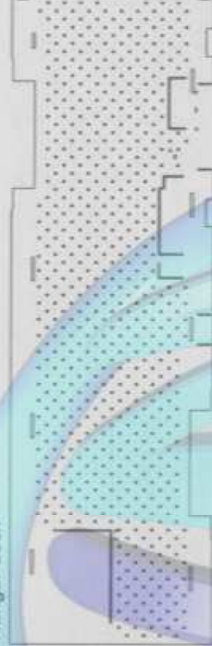
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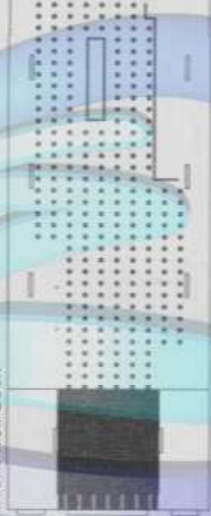
Stand



Hangar deck



Front well deck



A

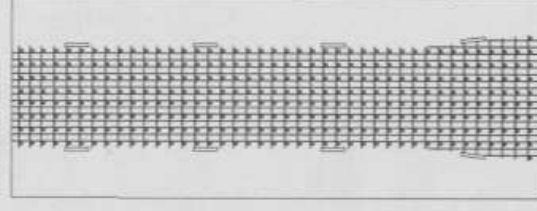


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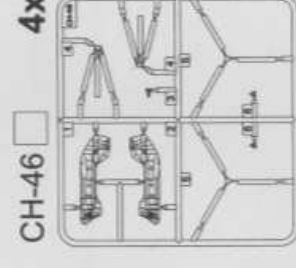
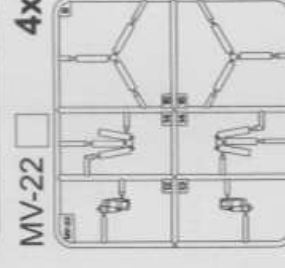
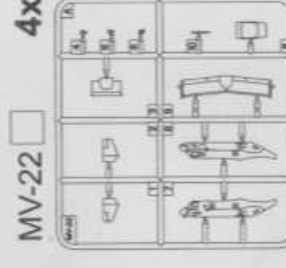
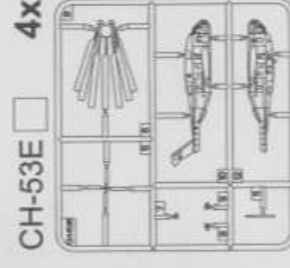
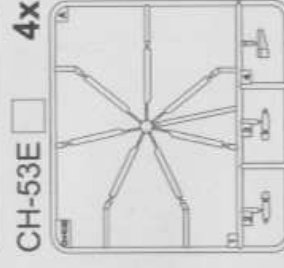
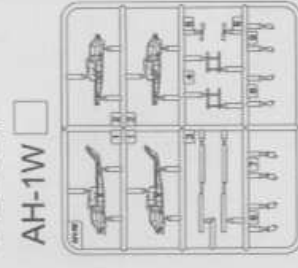
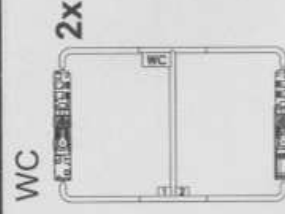
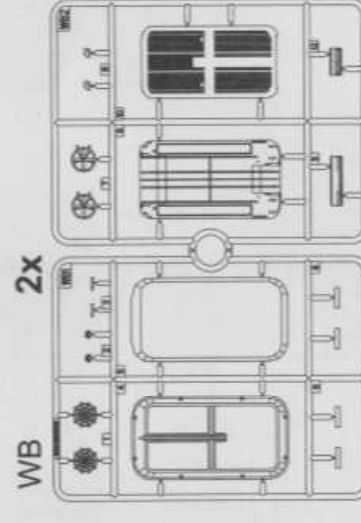
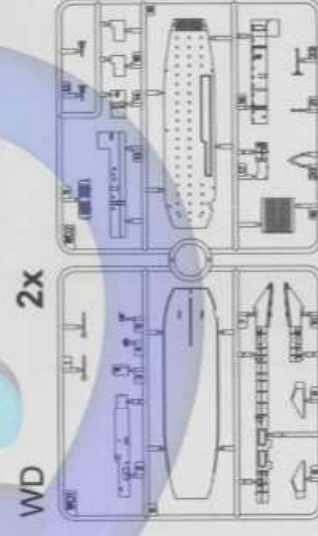
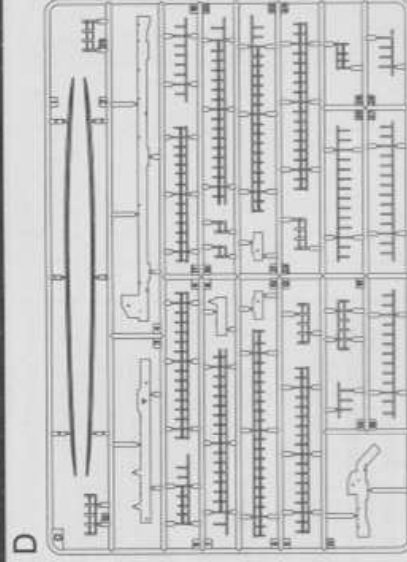
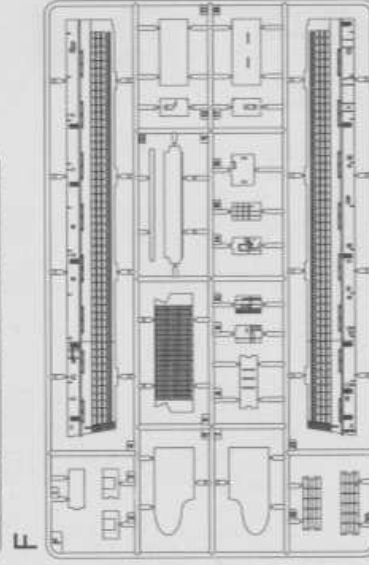
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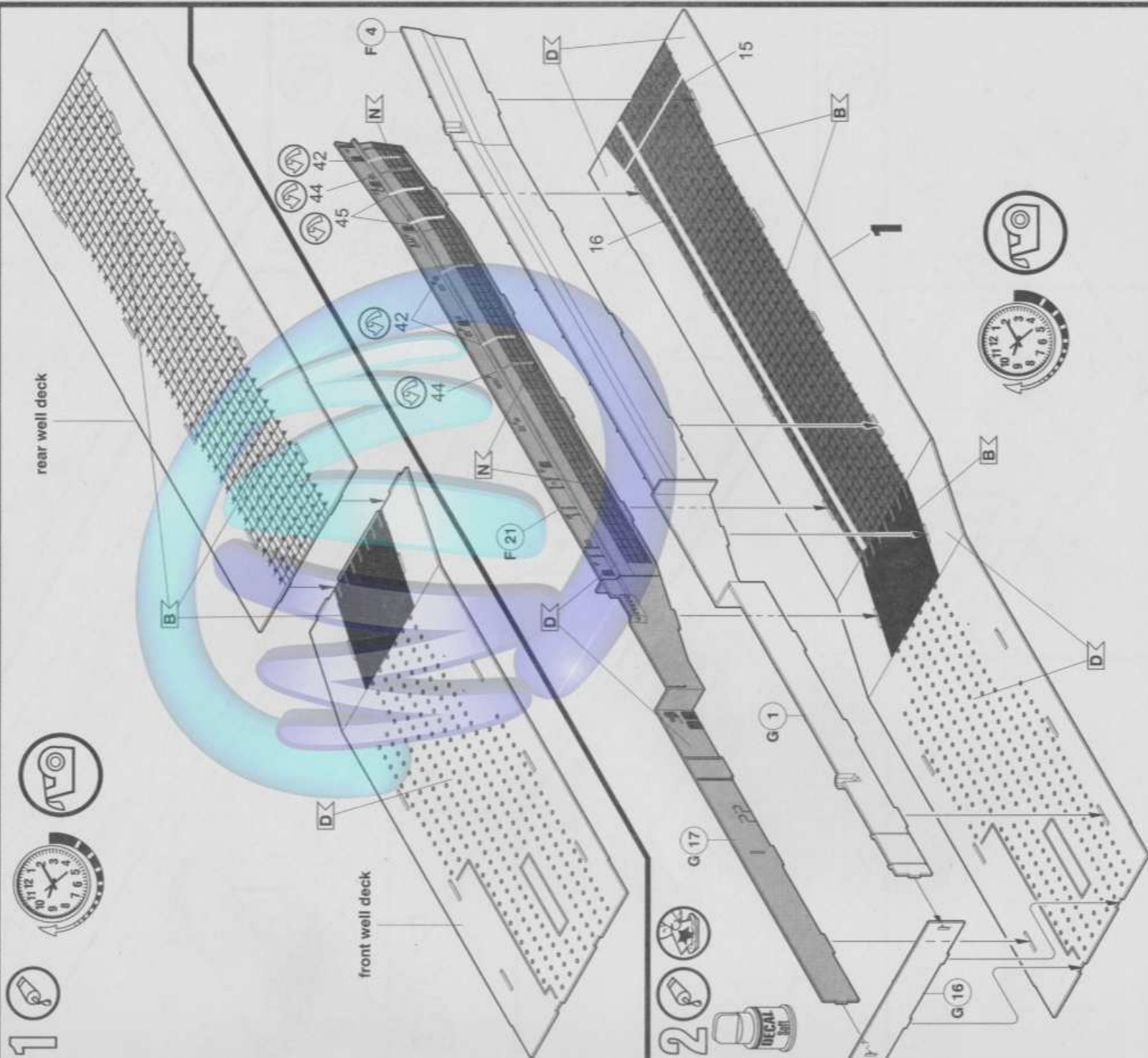
Rear well deck

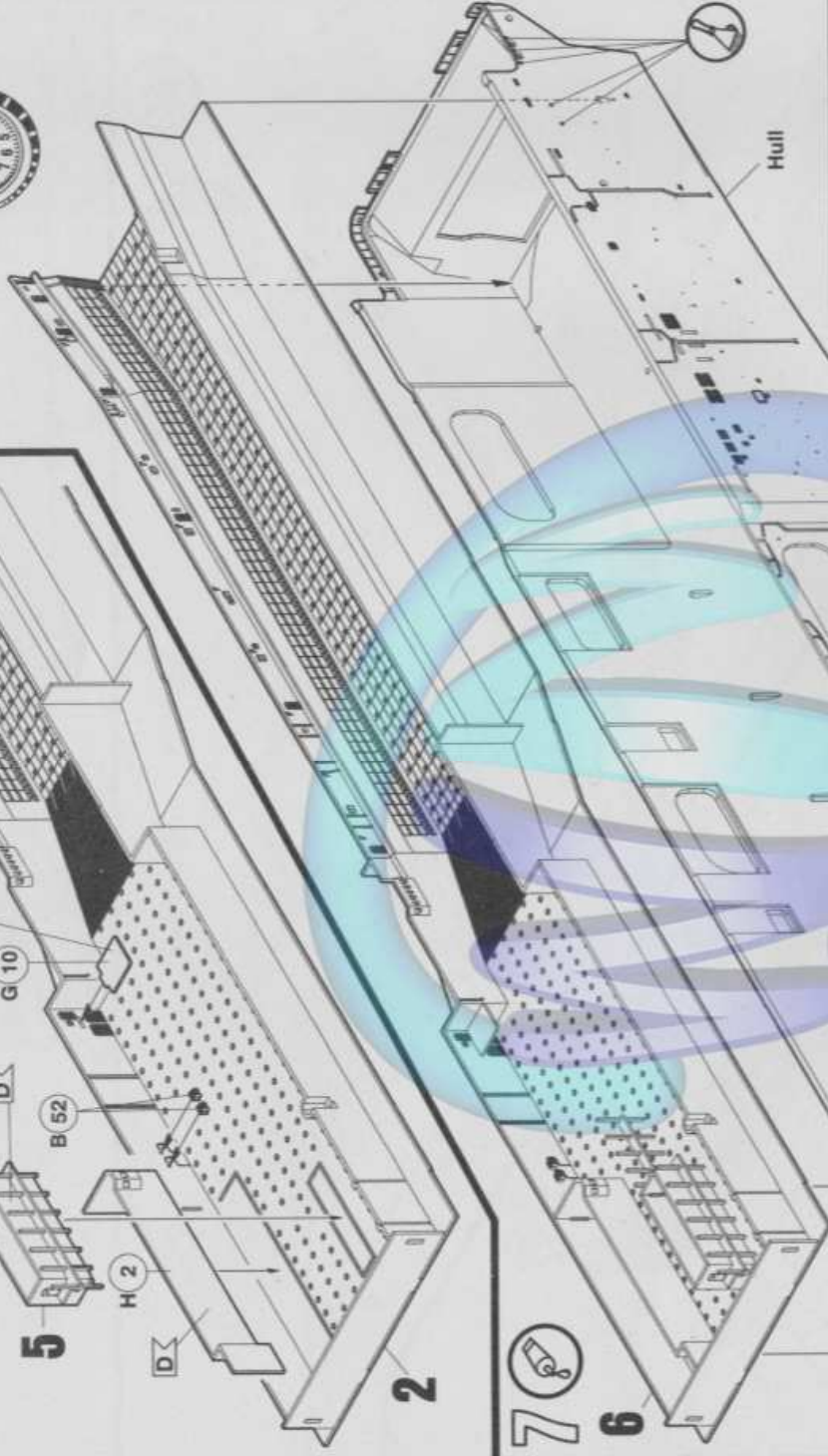
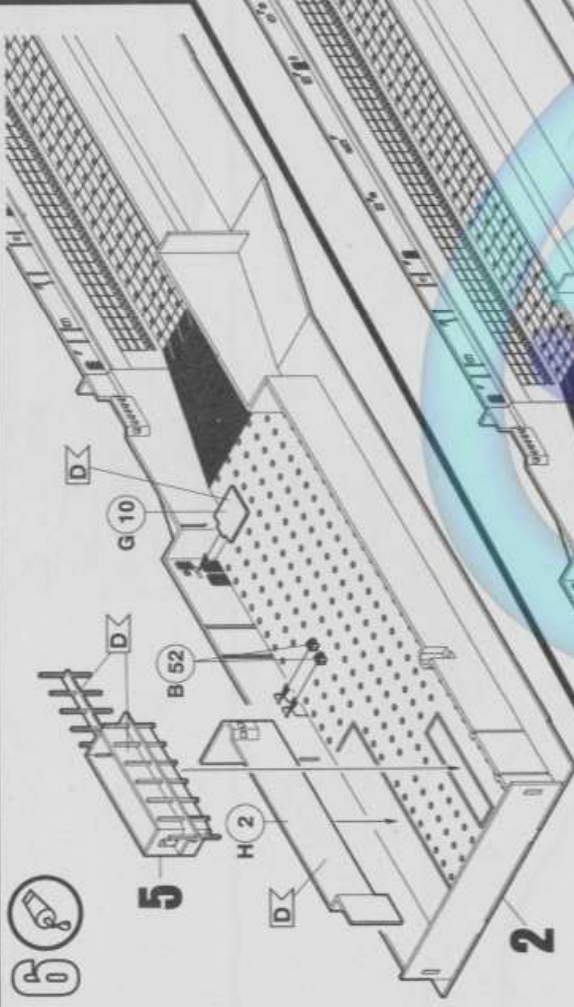
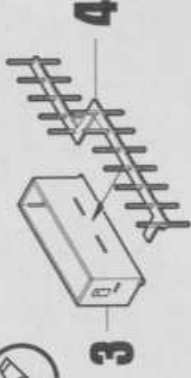
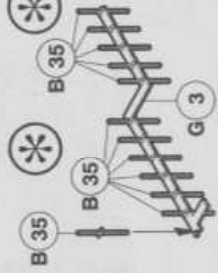
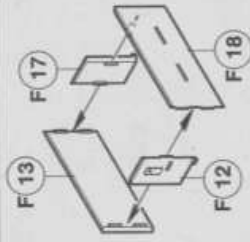


Hull

Flight deck



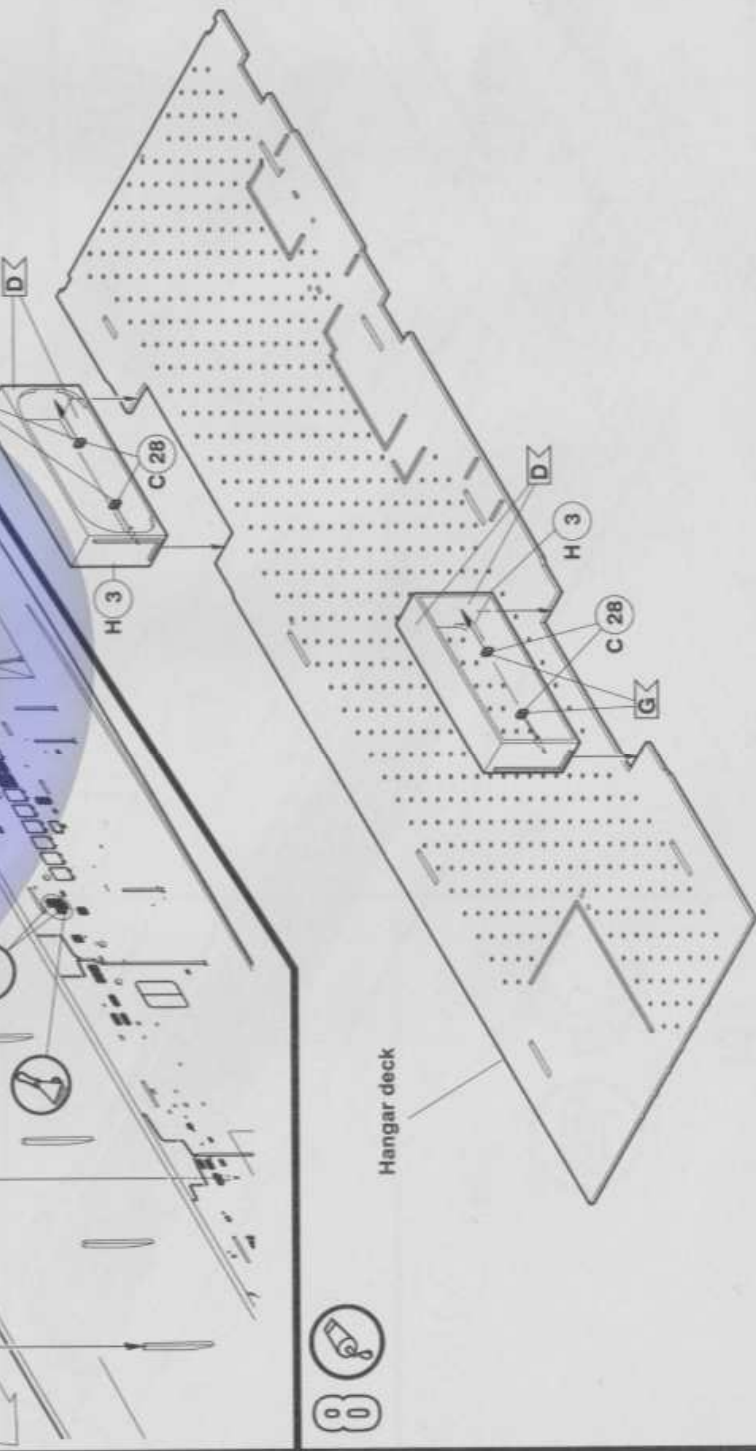




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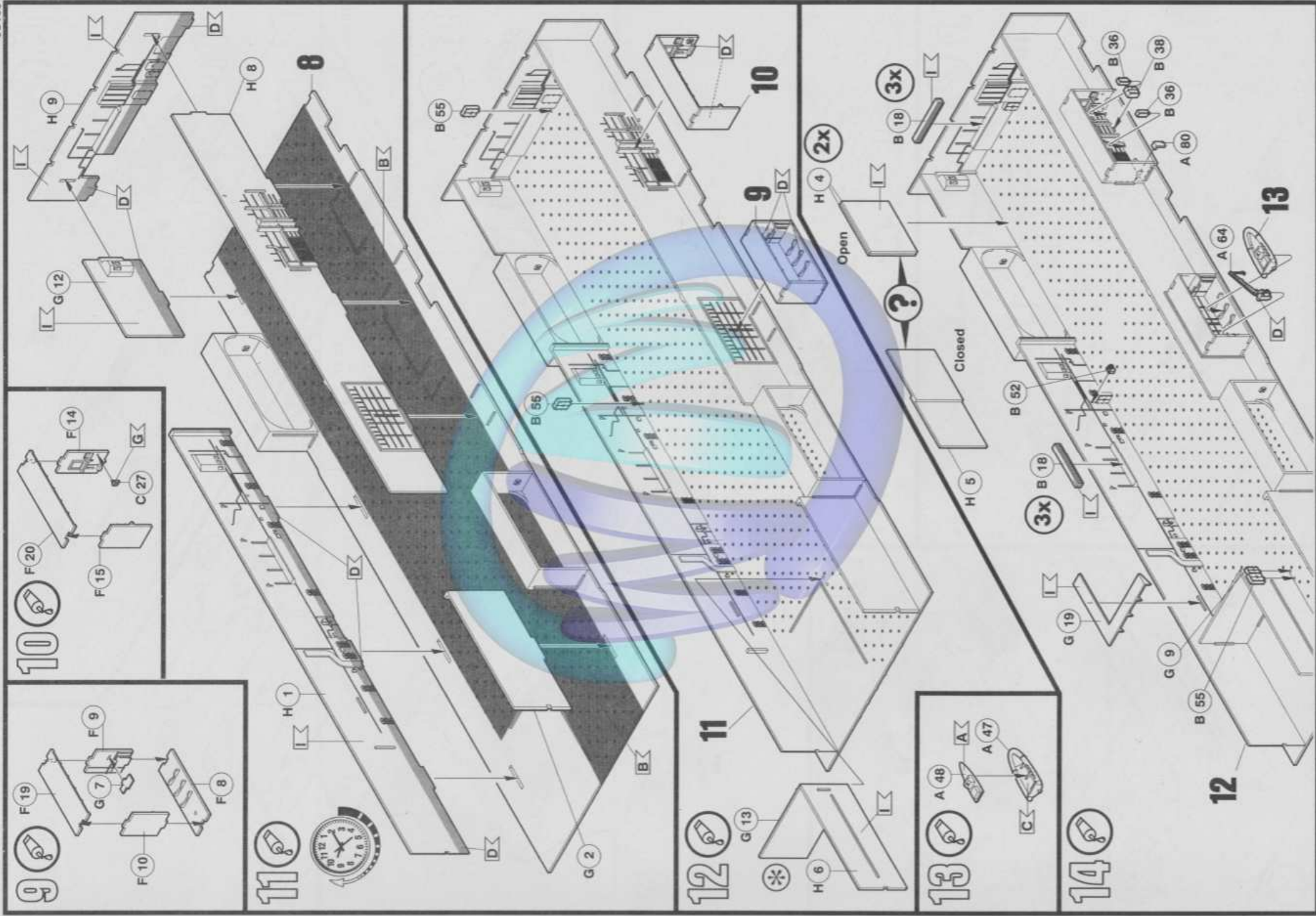
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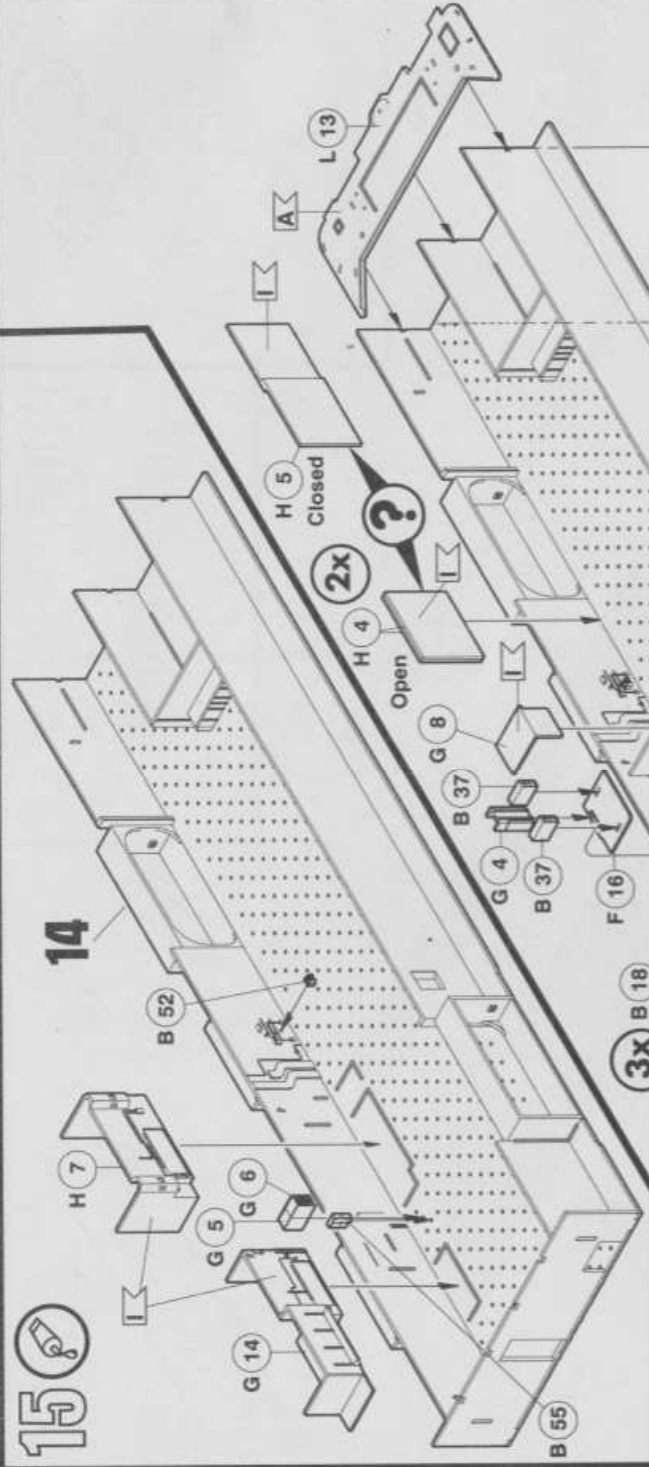
Hangar deck



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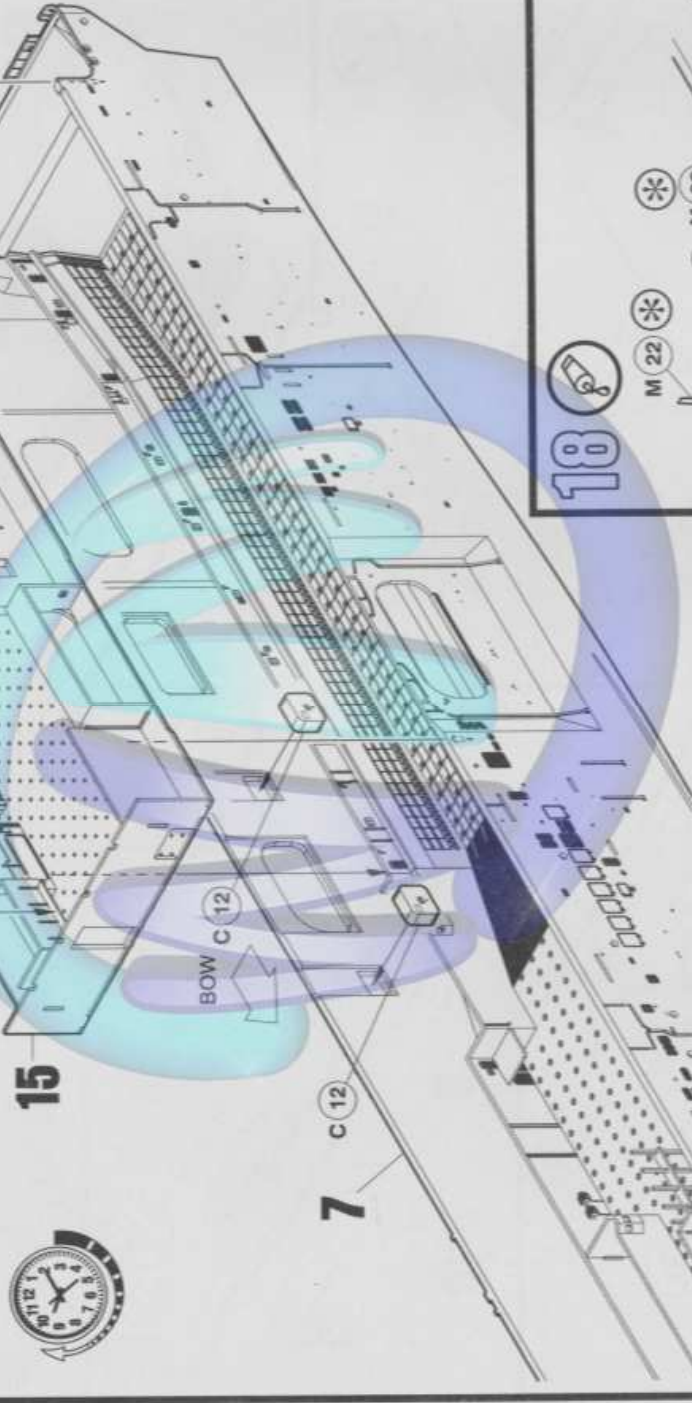
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C 12

BOW

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M 22

M 3

M 23

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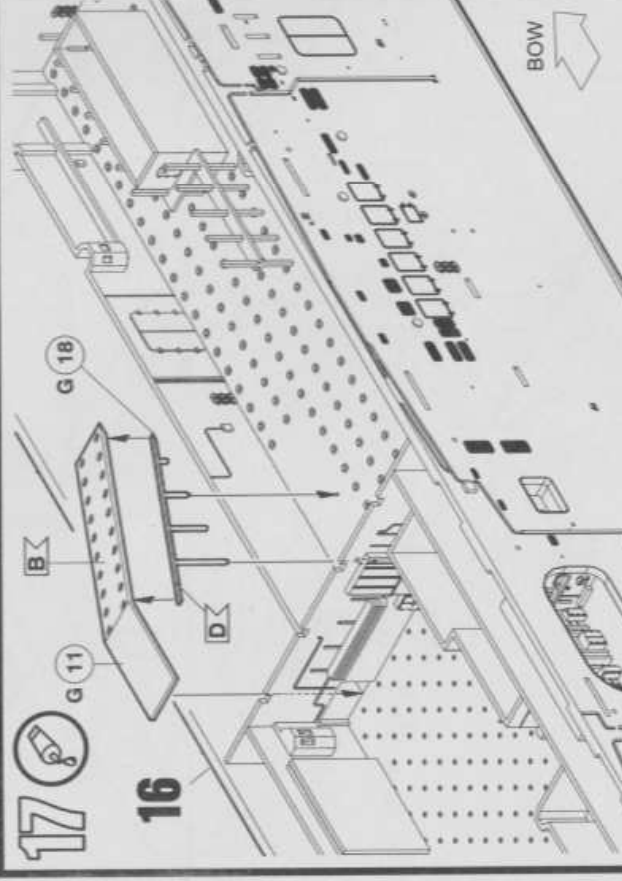
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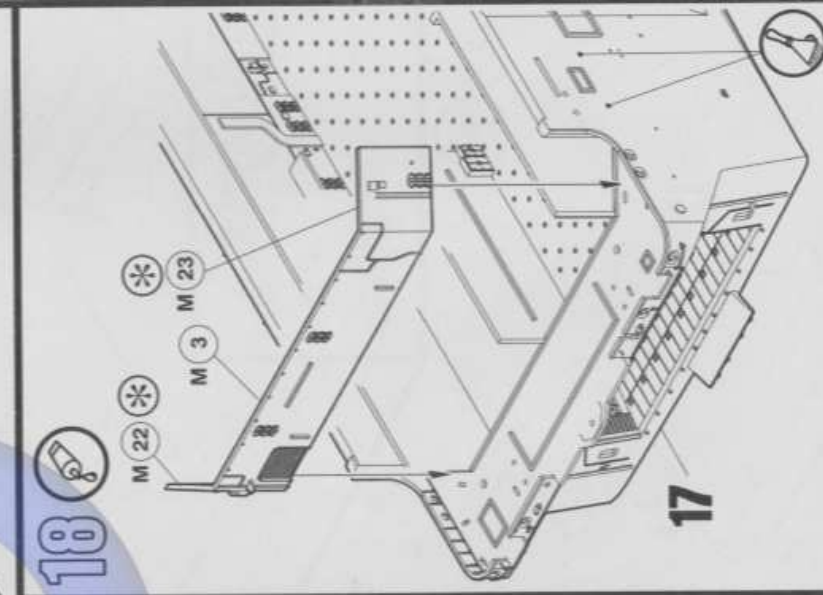
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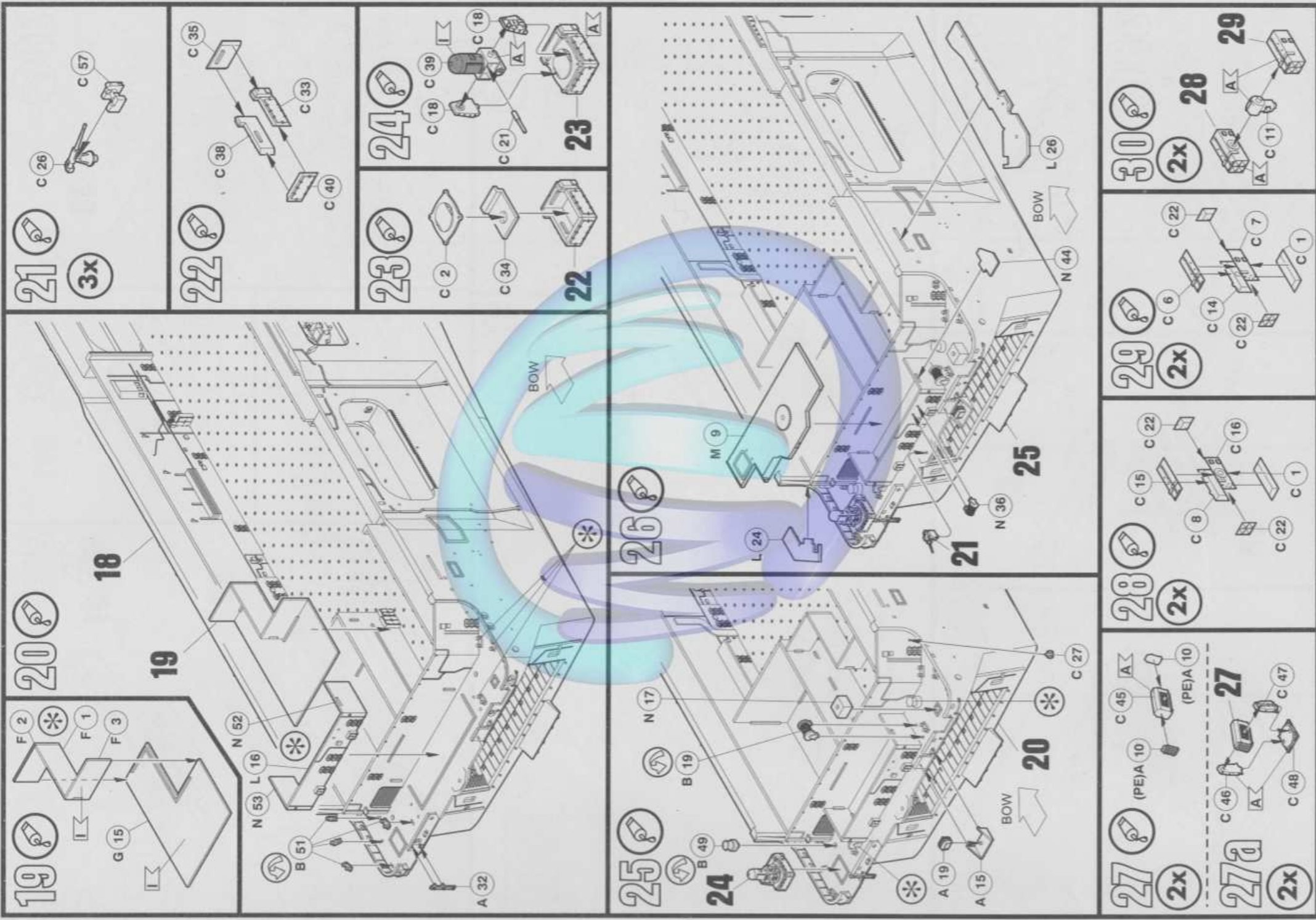
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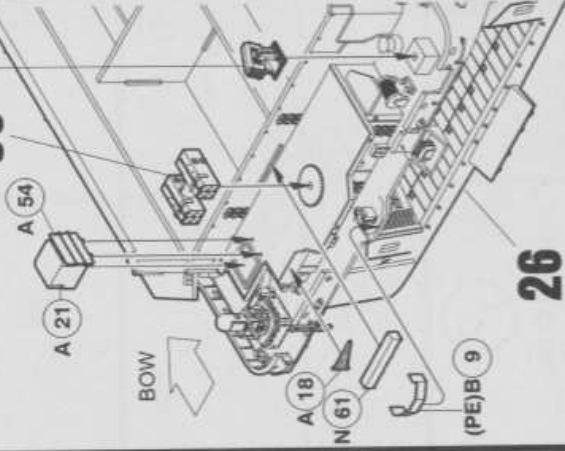




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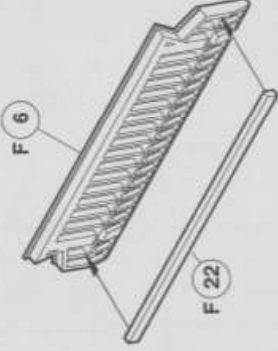
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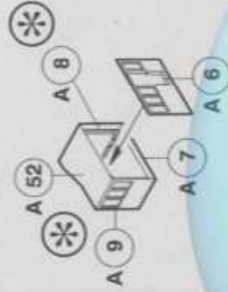


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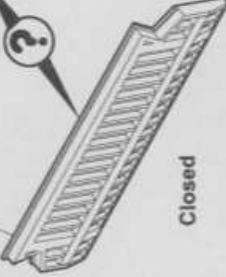
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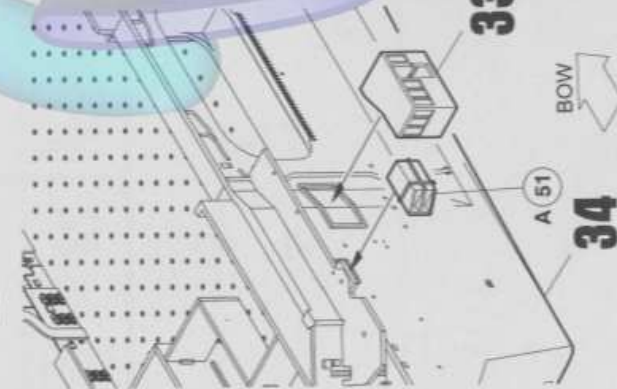
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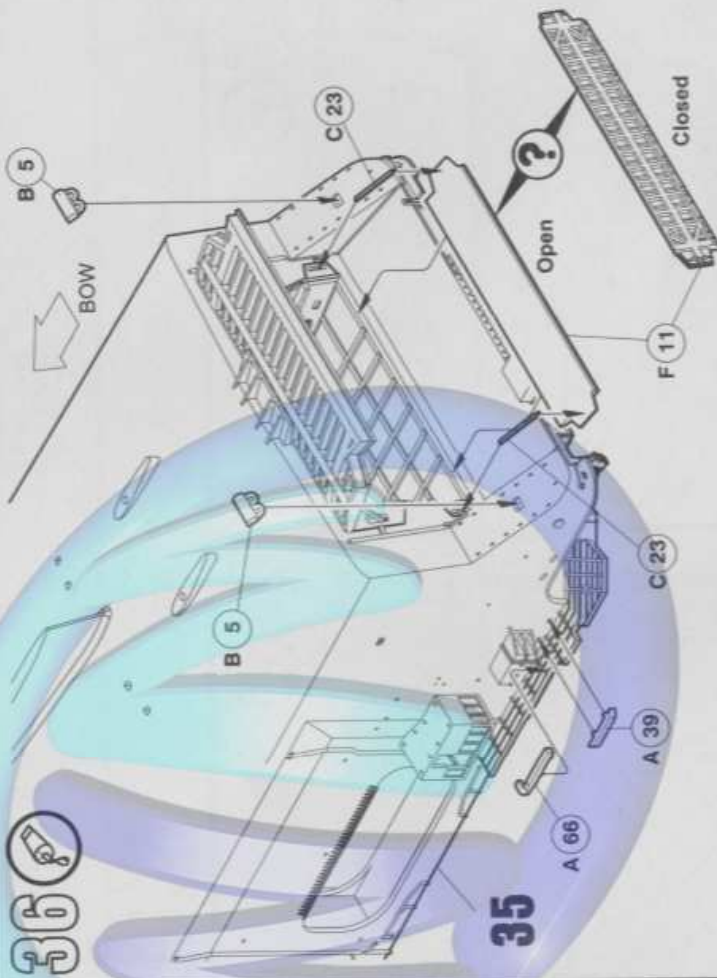
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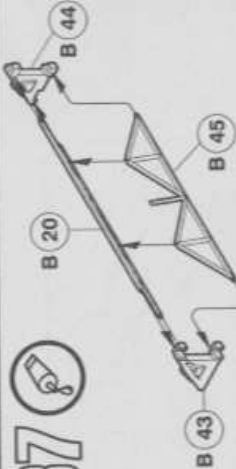
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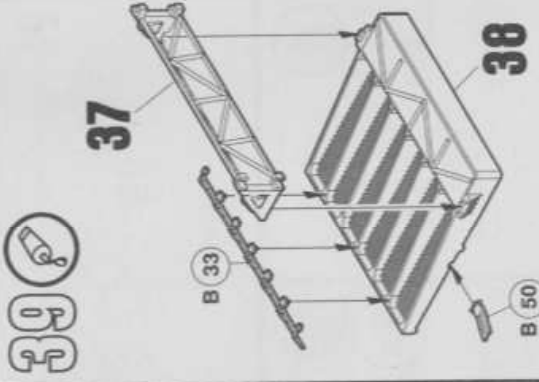
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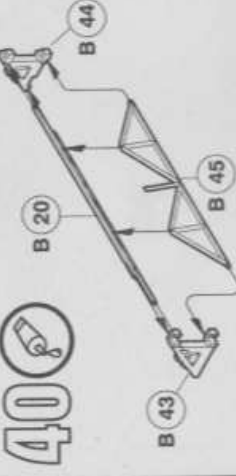
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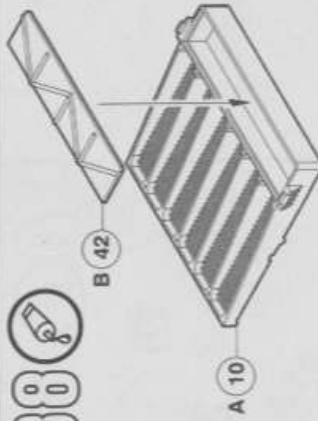
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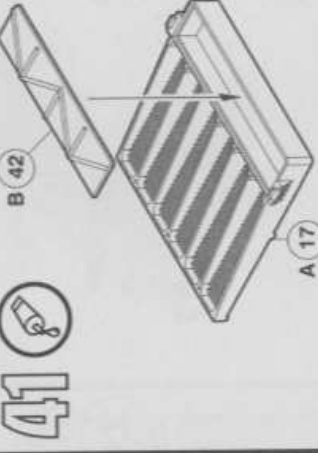
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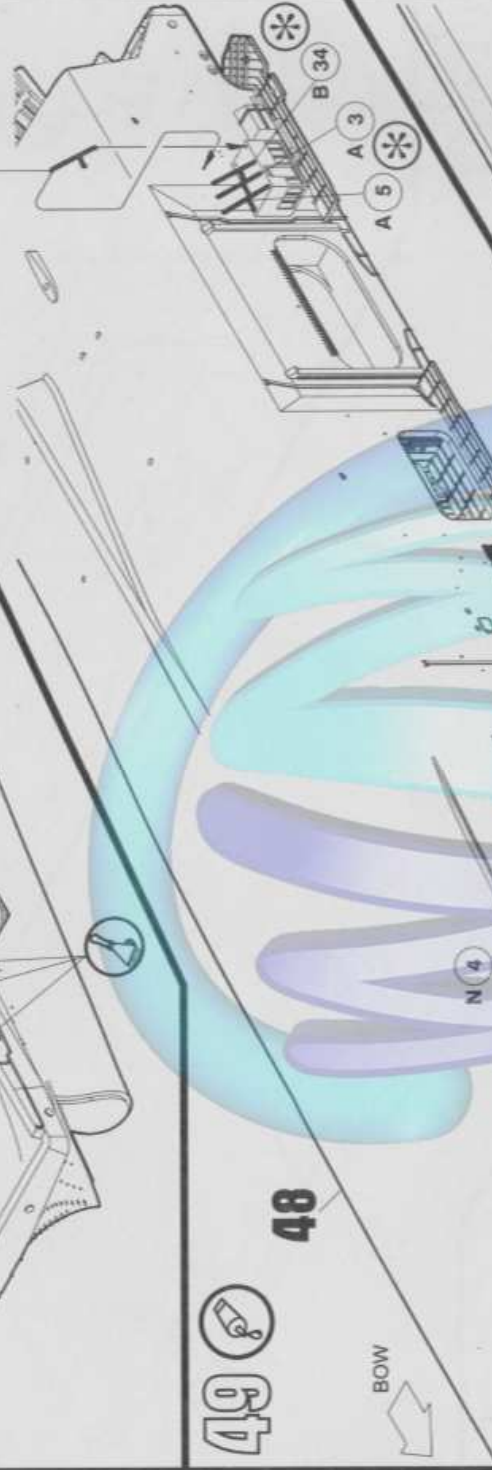
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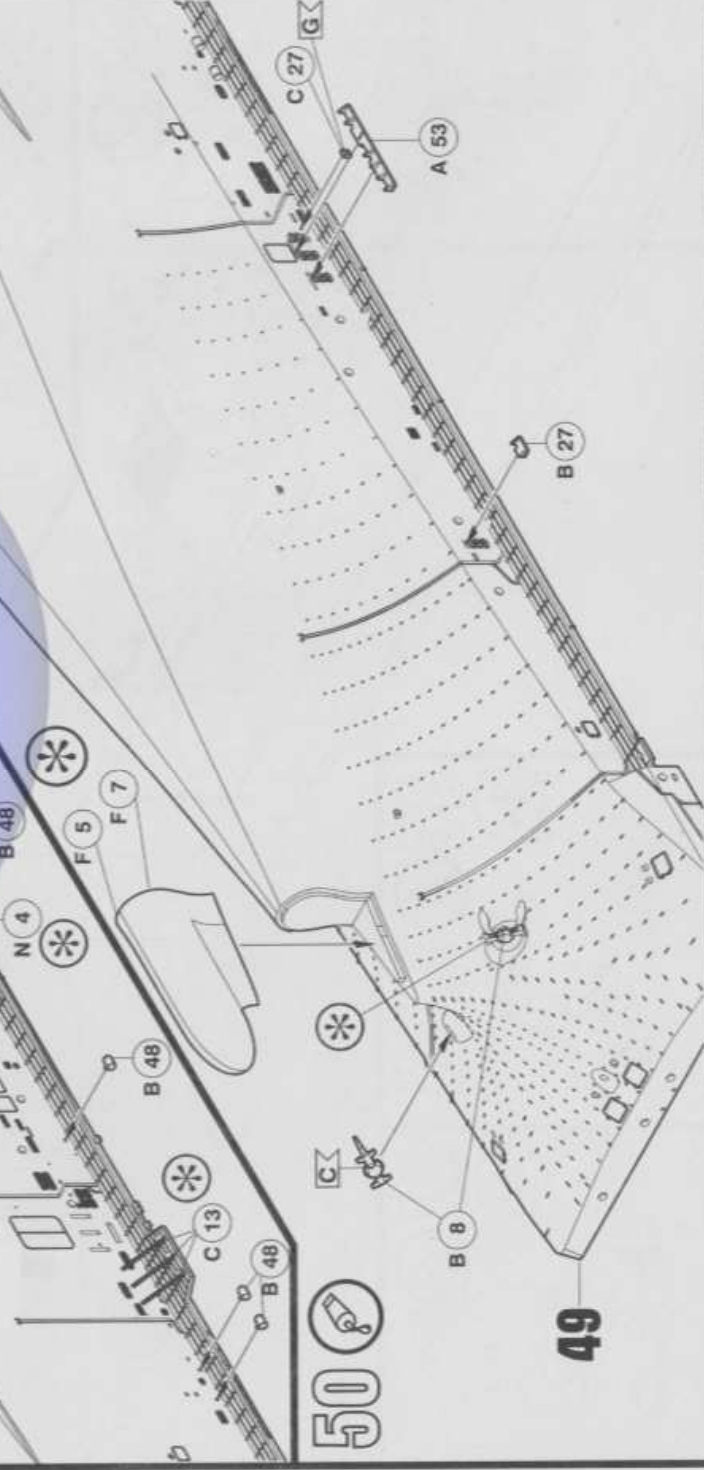
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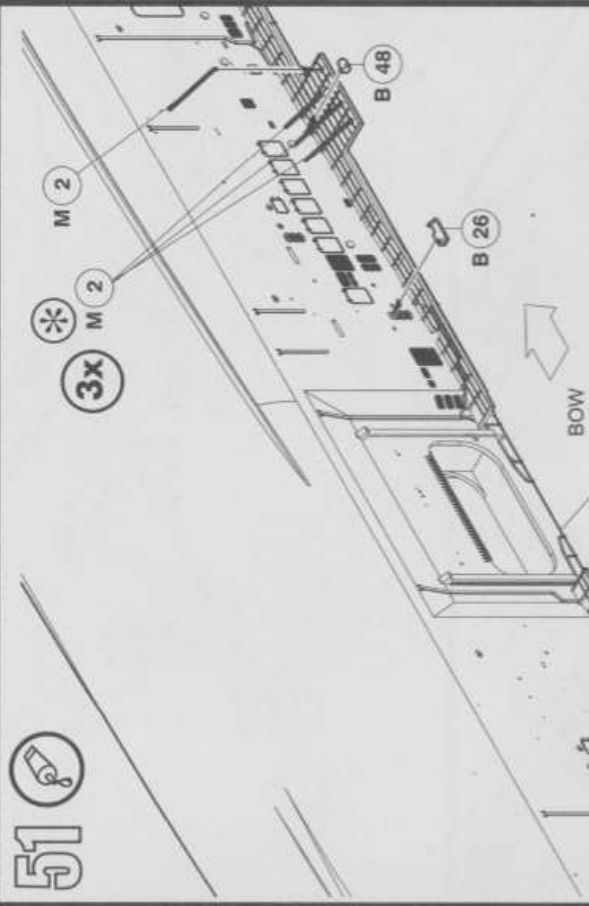


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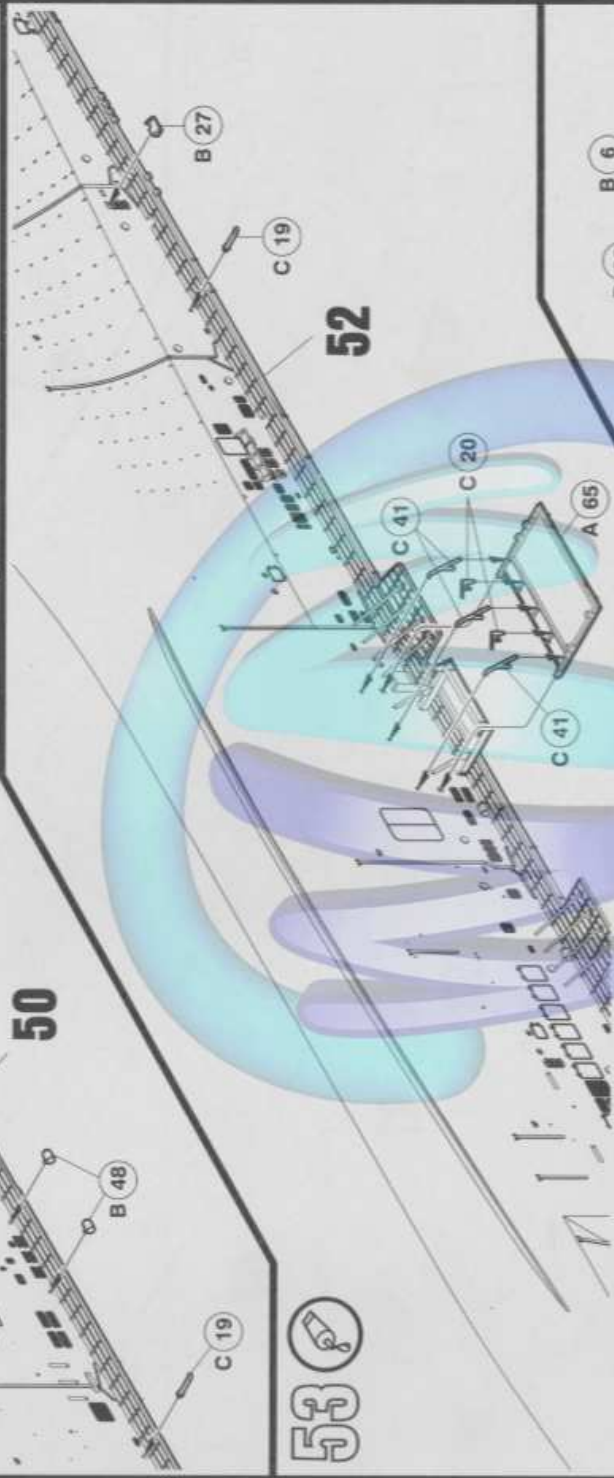


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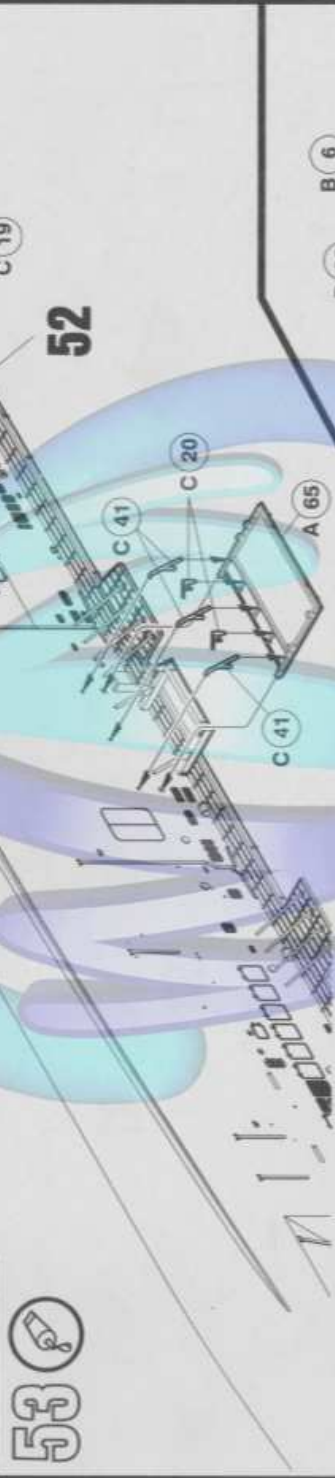


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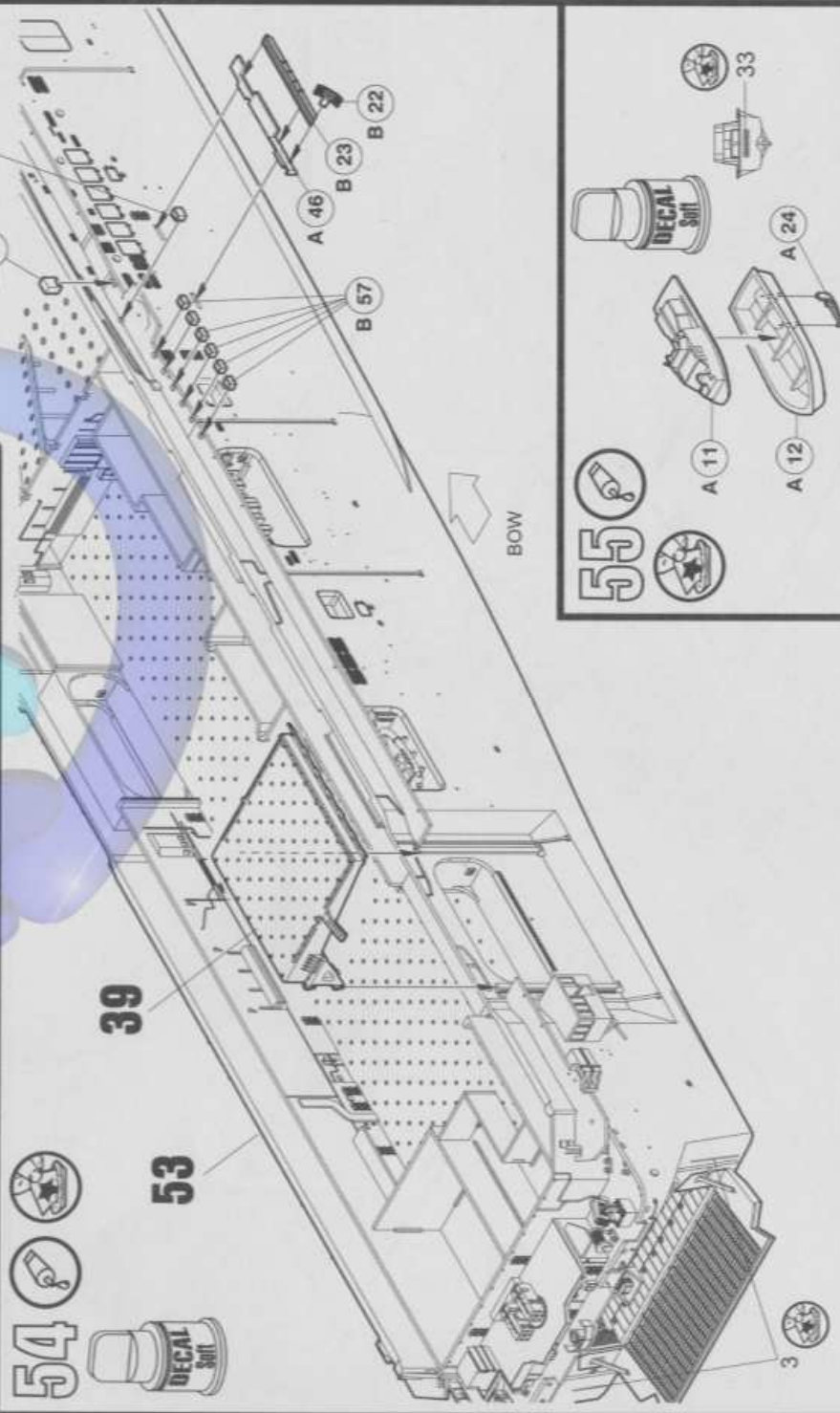
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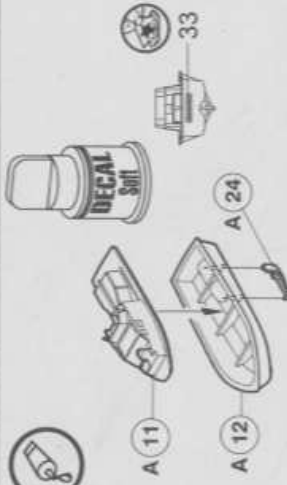
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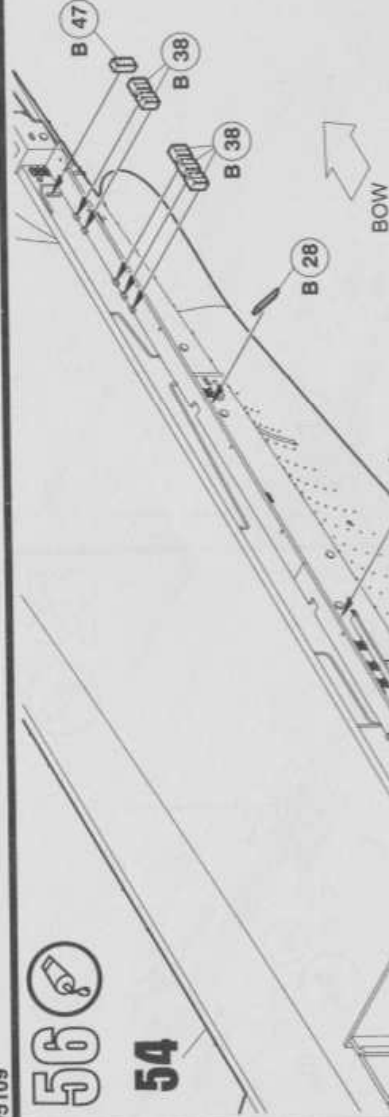


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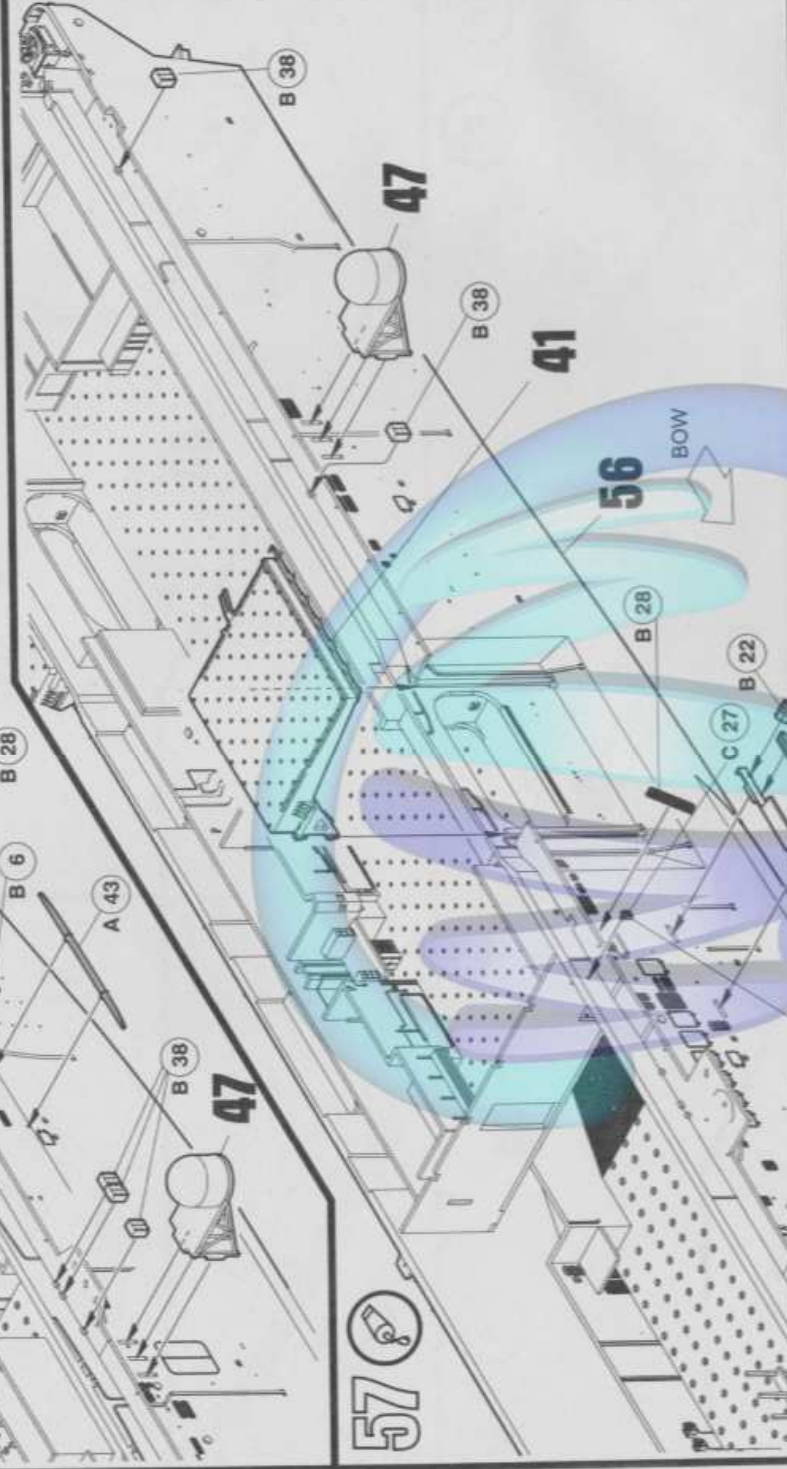


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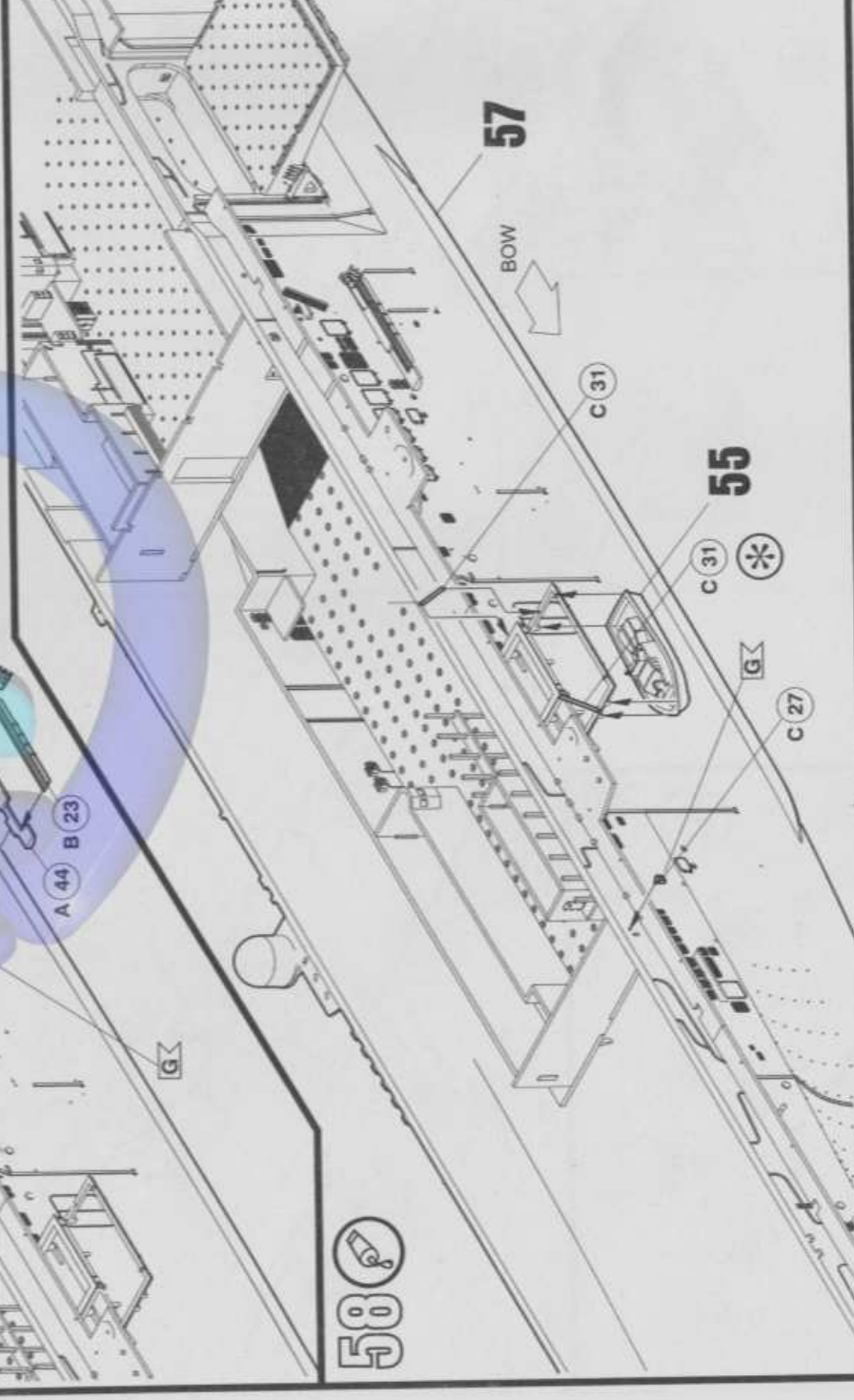
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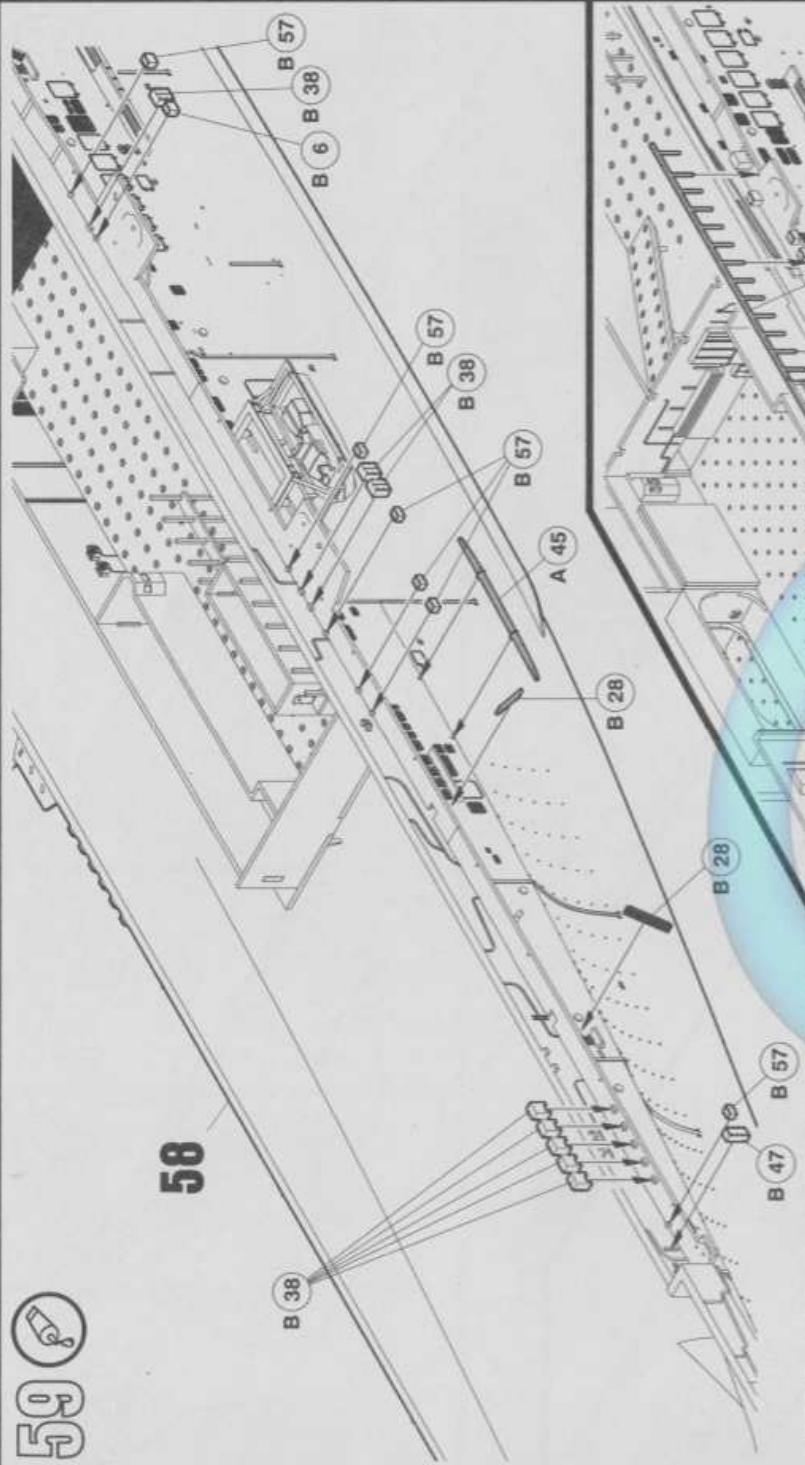
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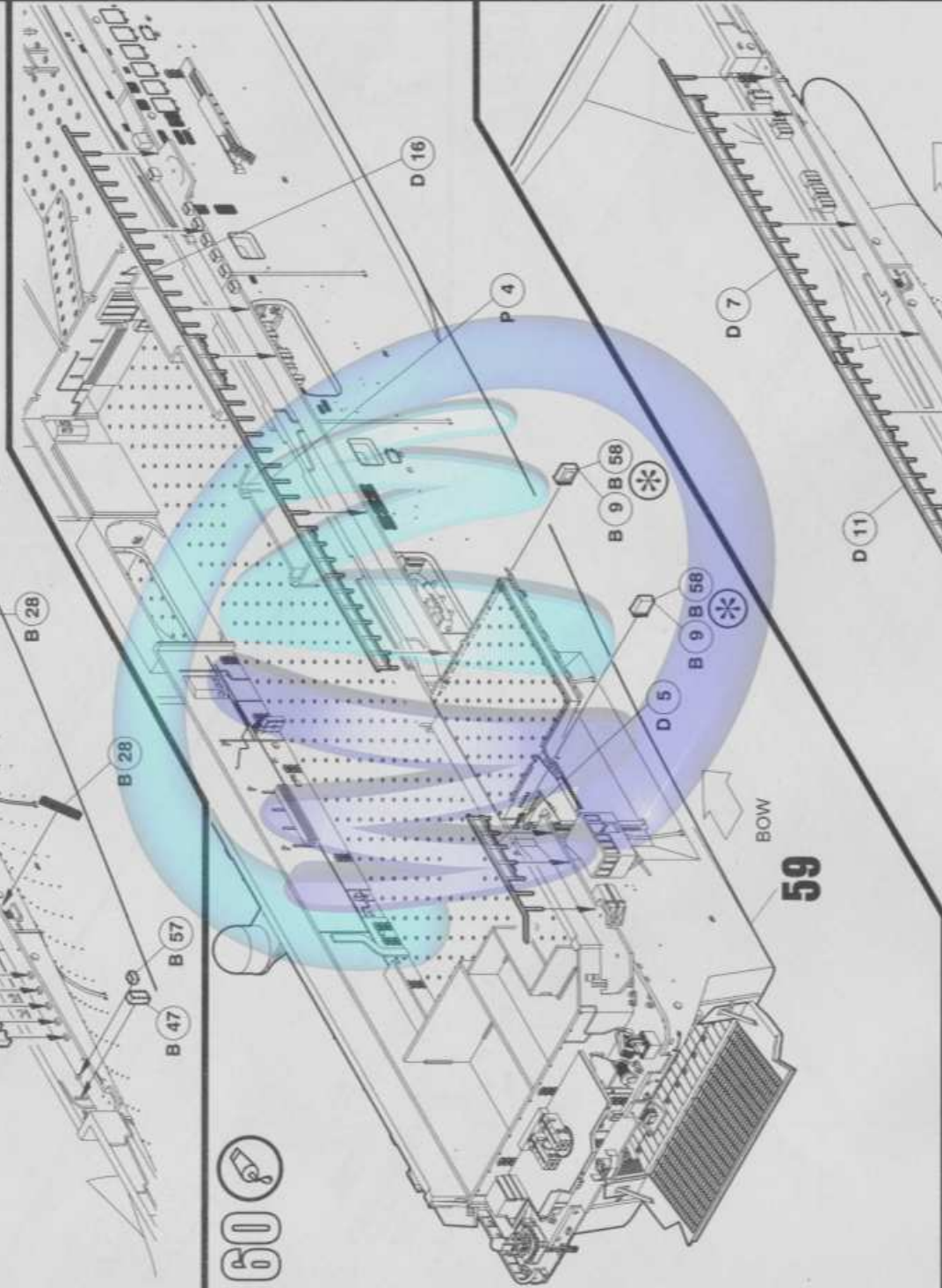
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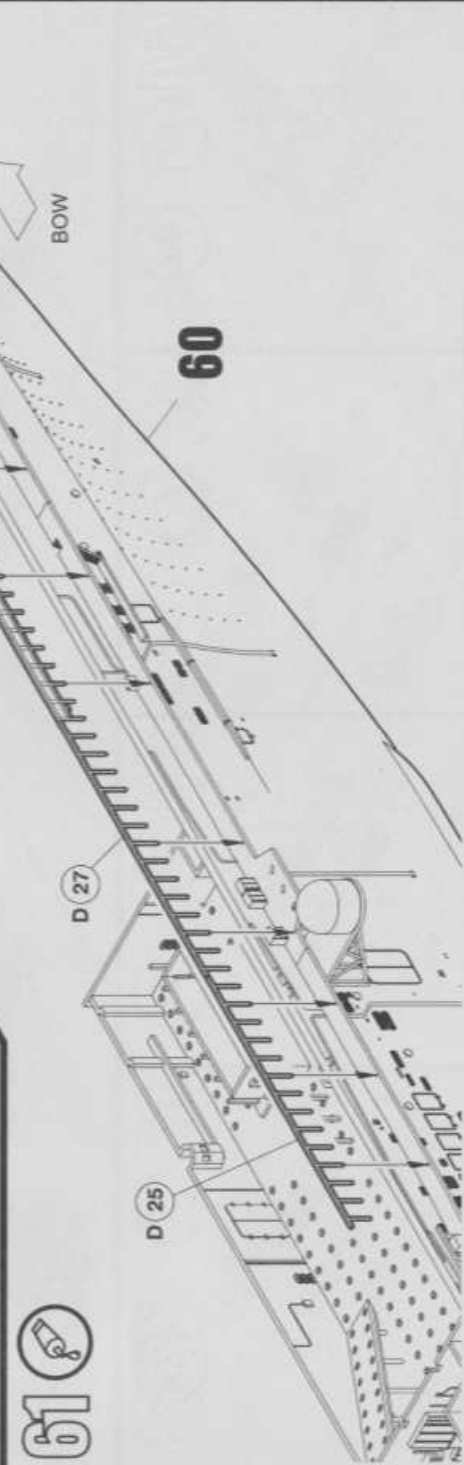
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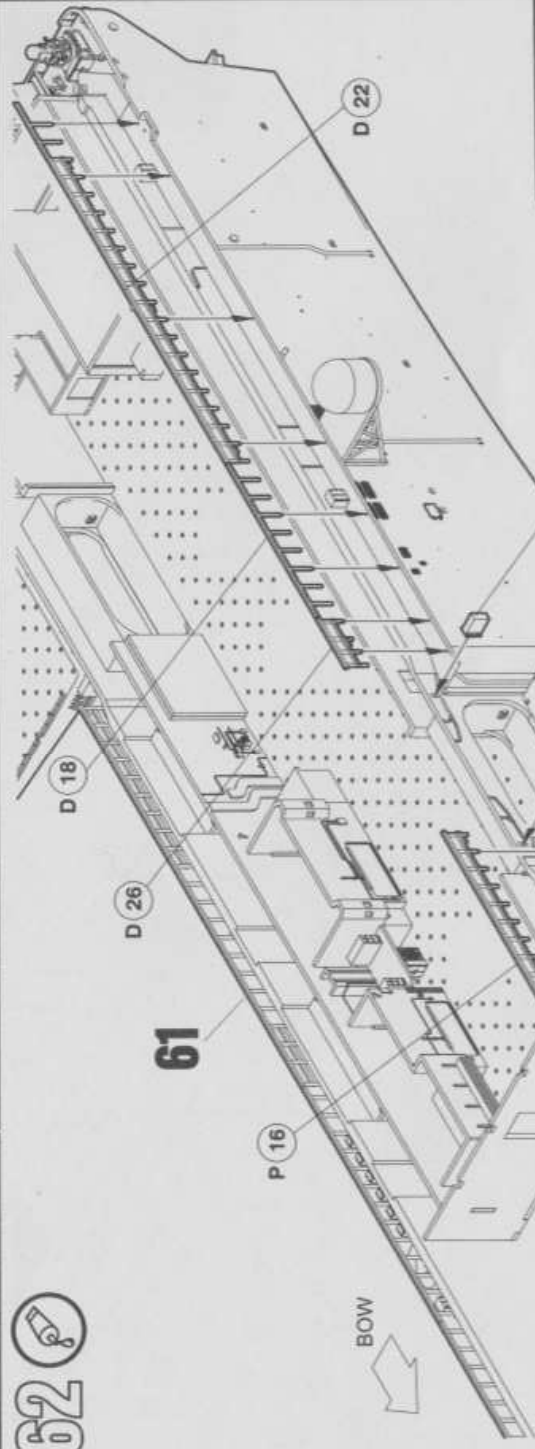
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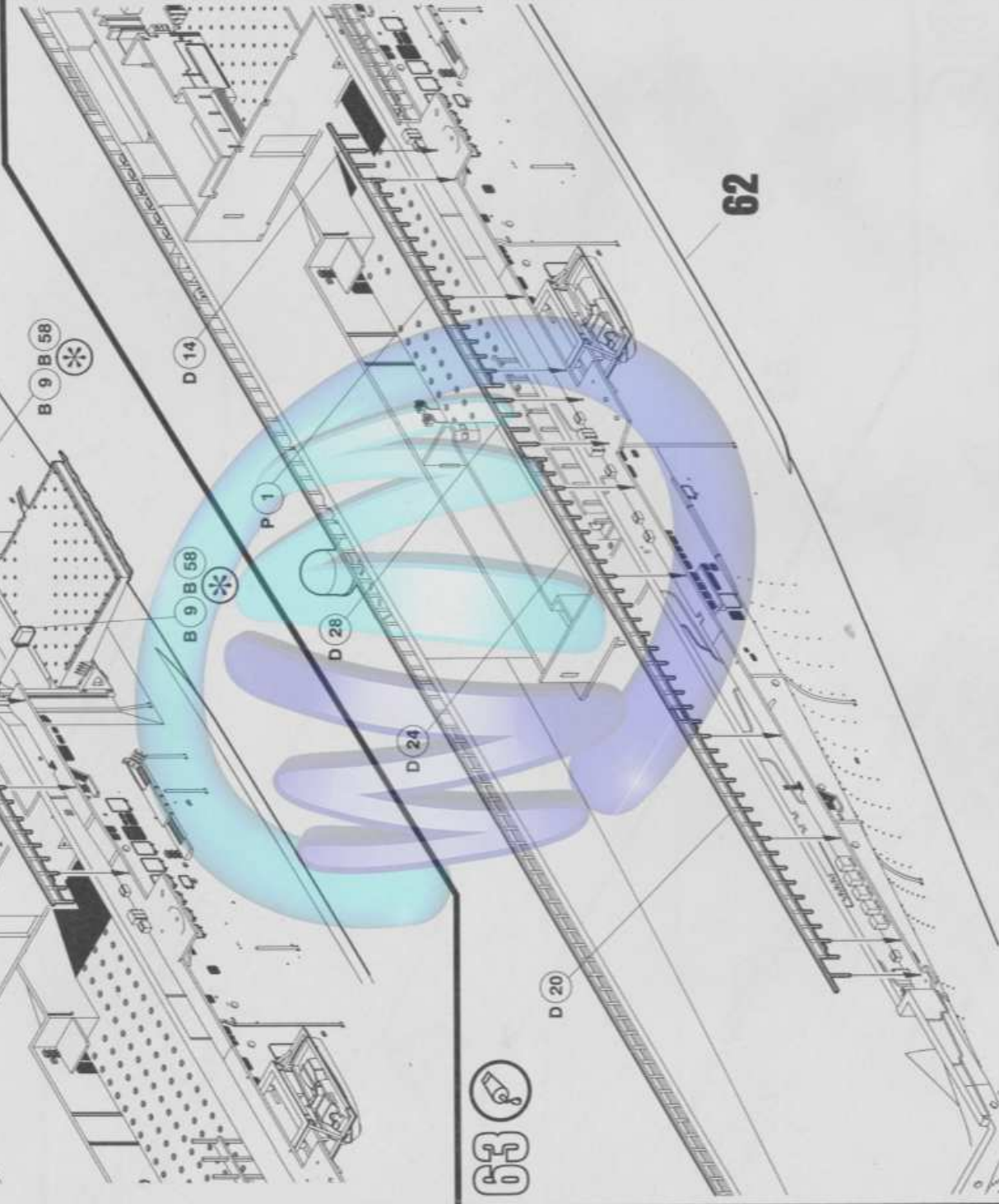
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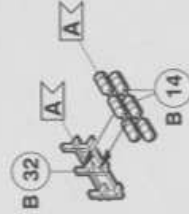
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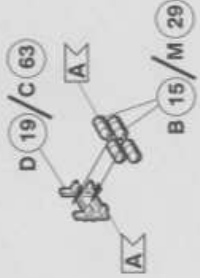
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4x



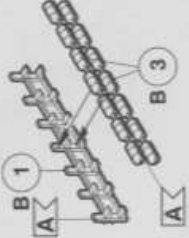
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7x



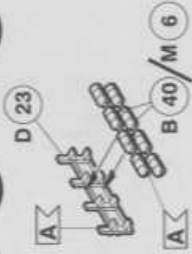
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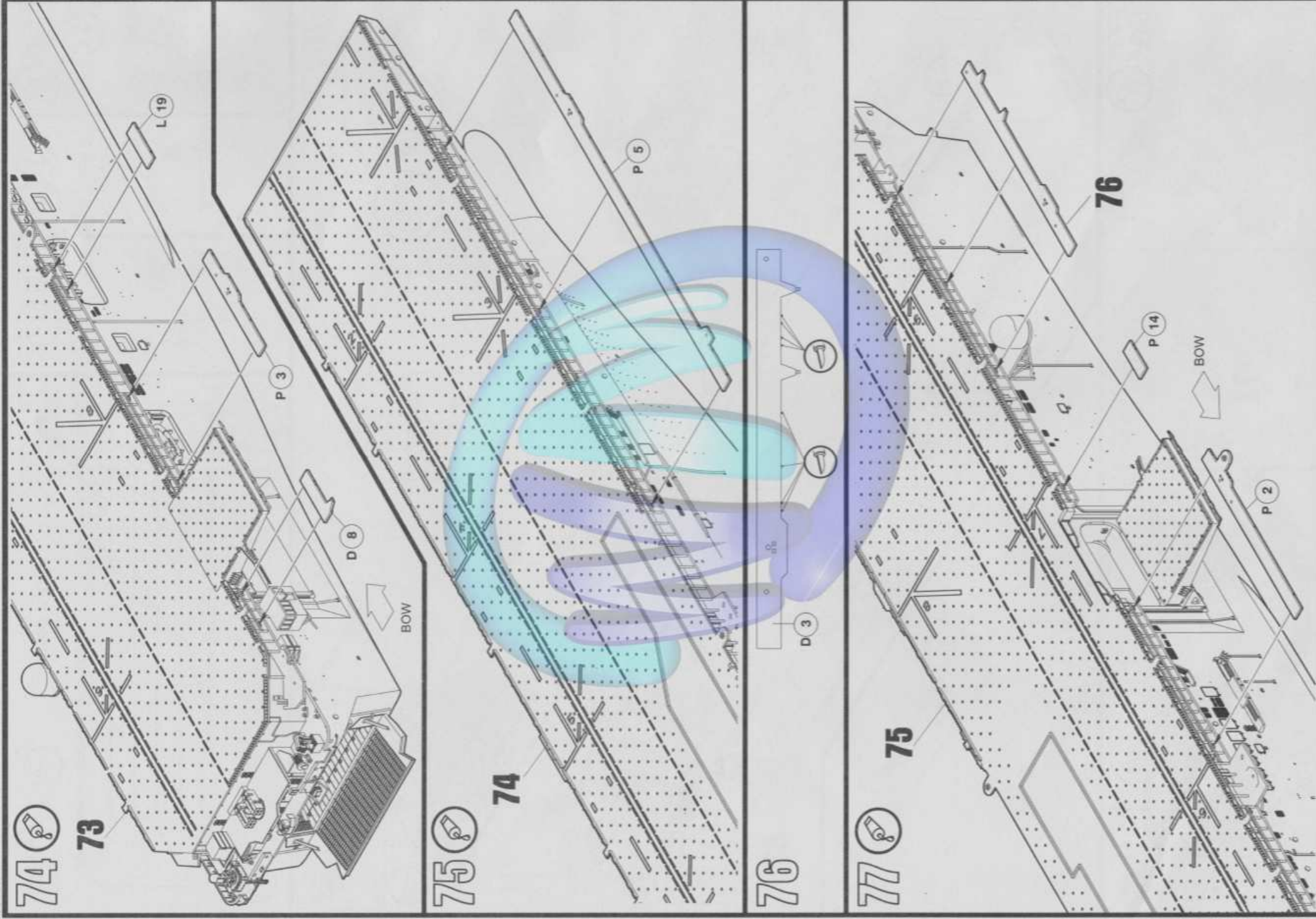
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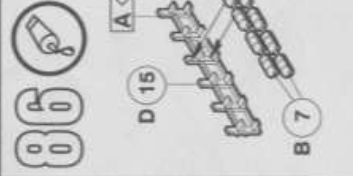
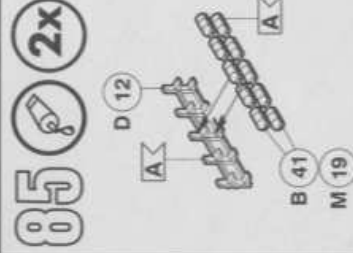
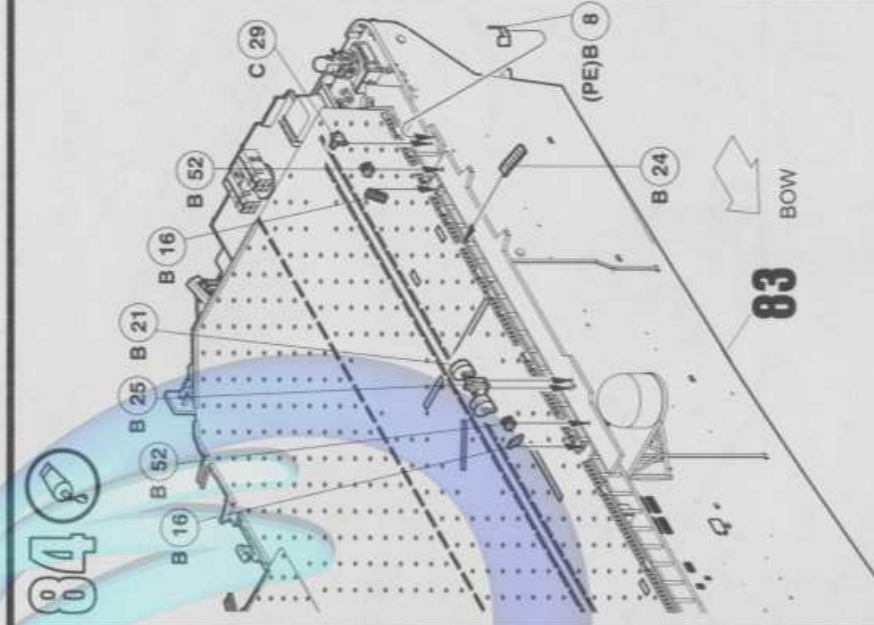
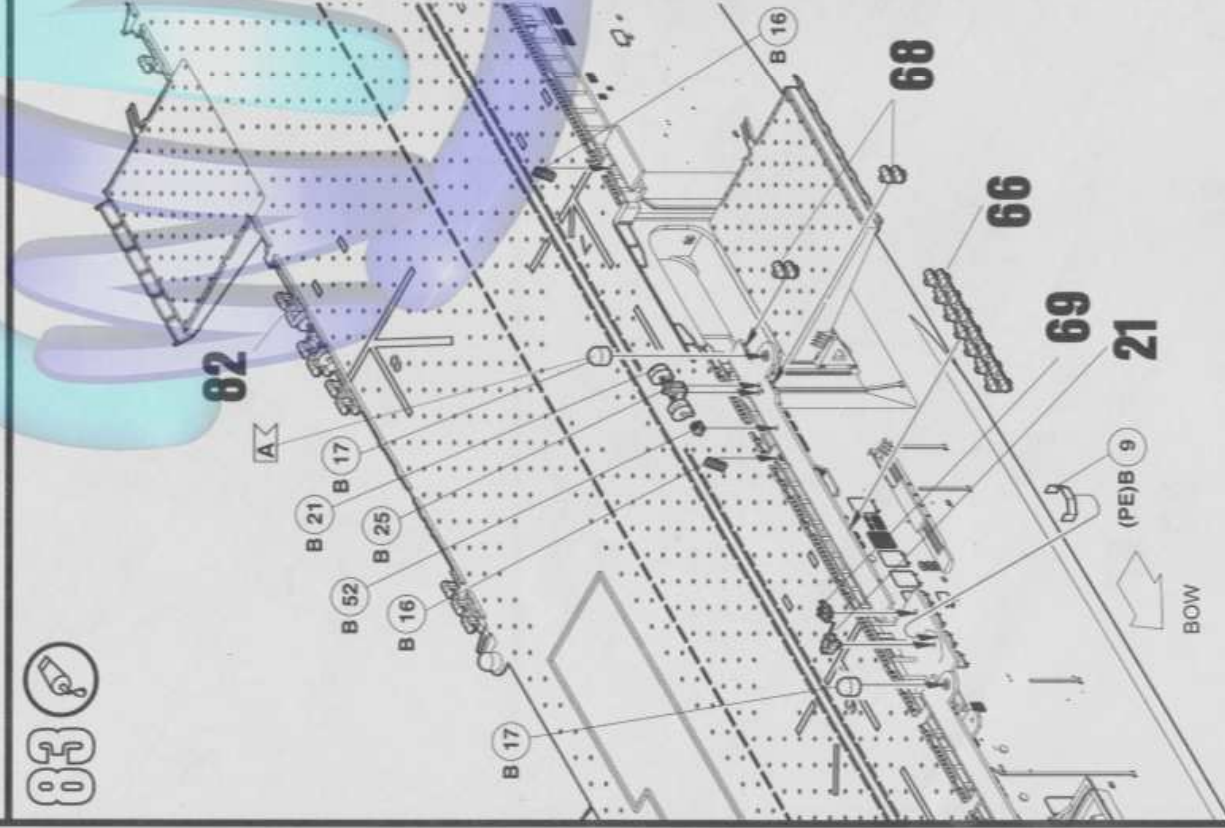
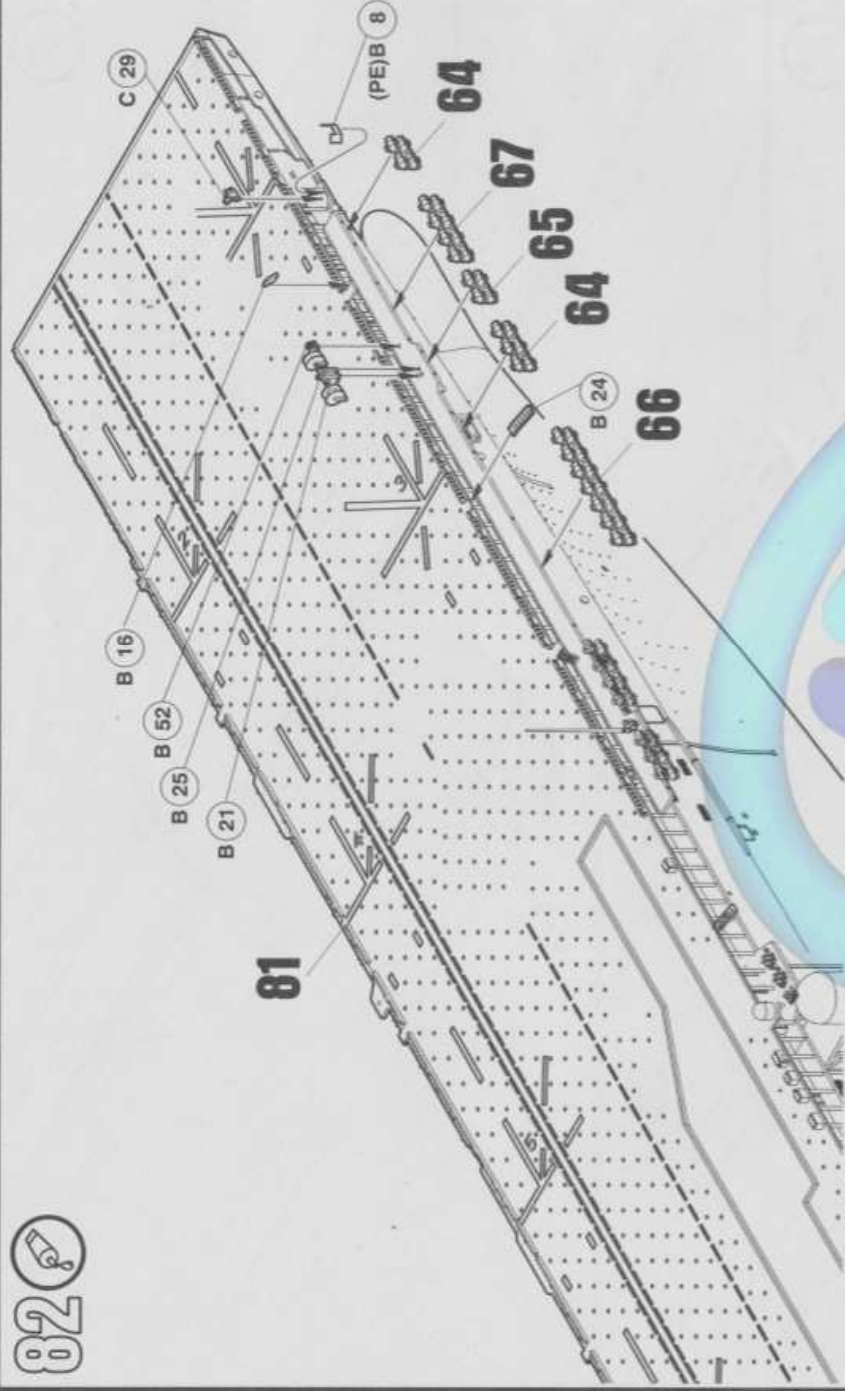


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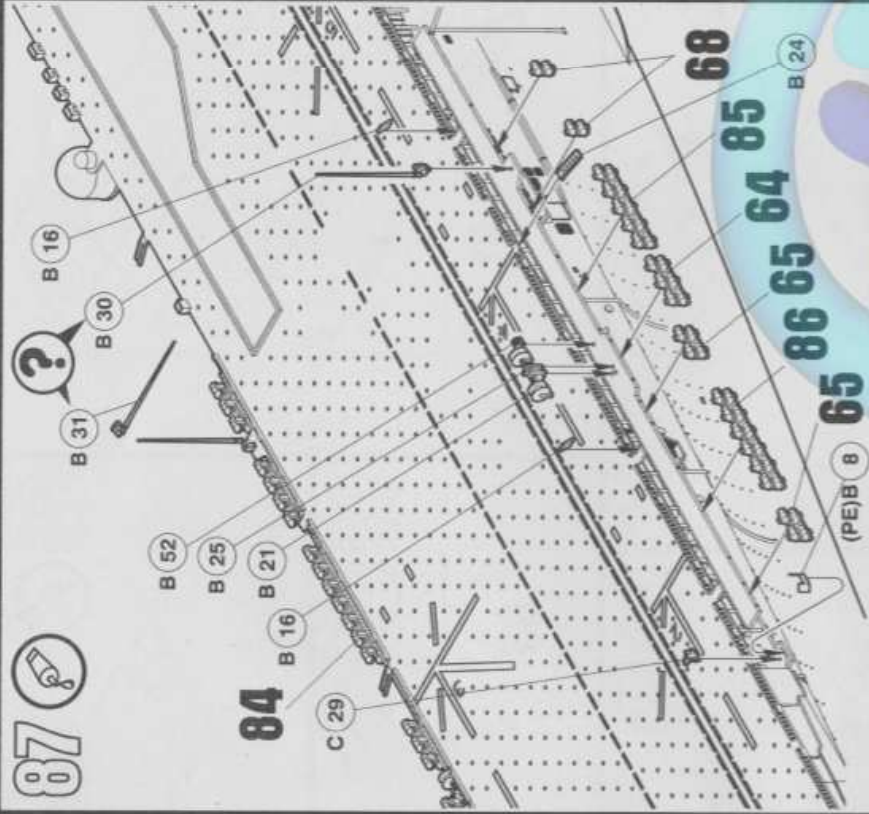
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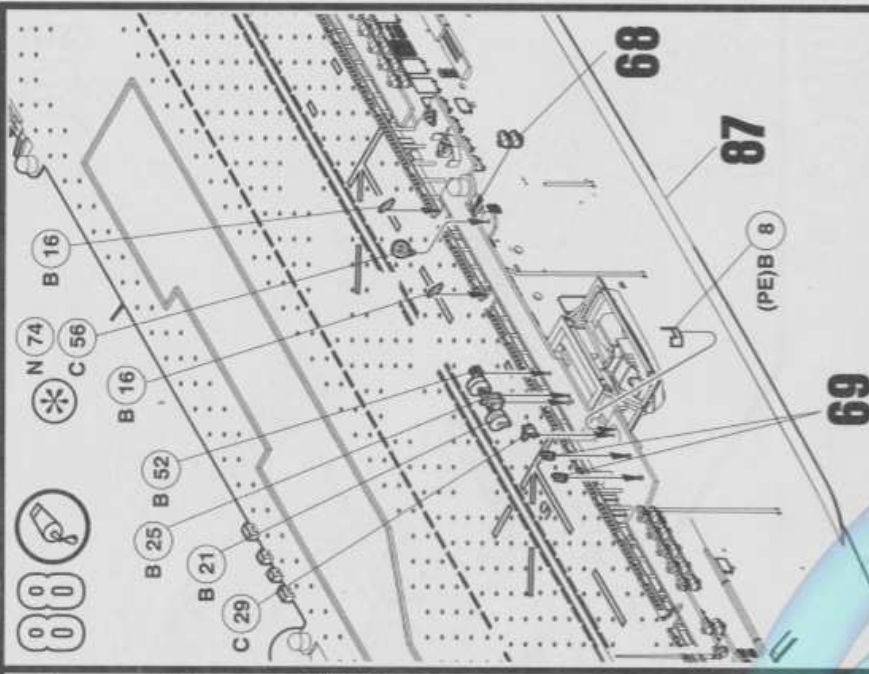




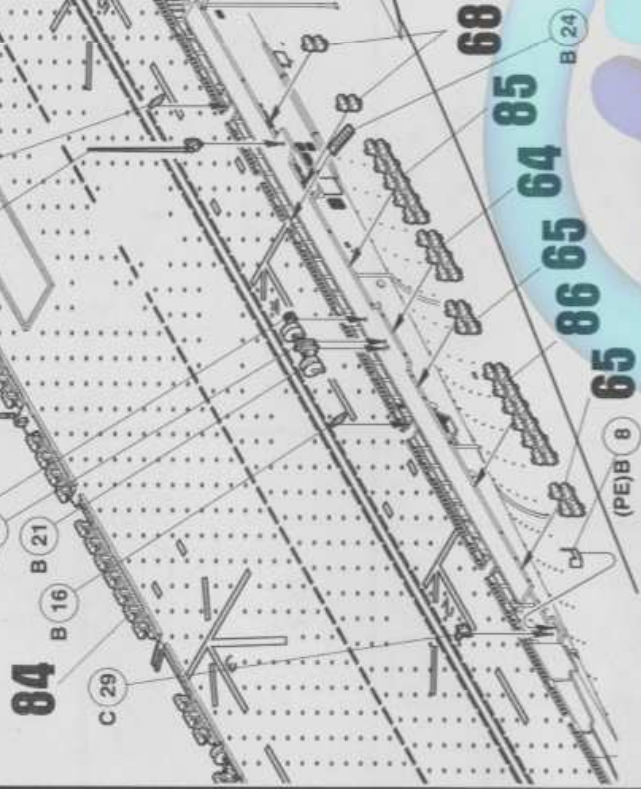
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84



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(PE) B 8

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85

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(PE) B 8

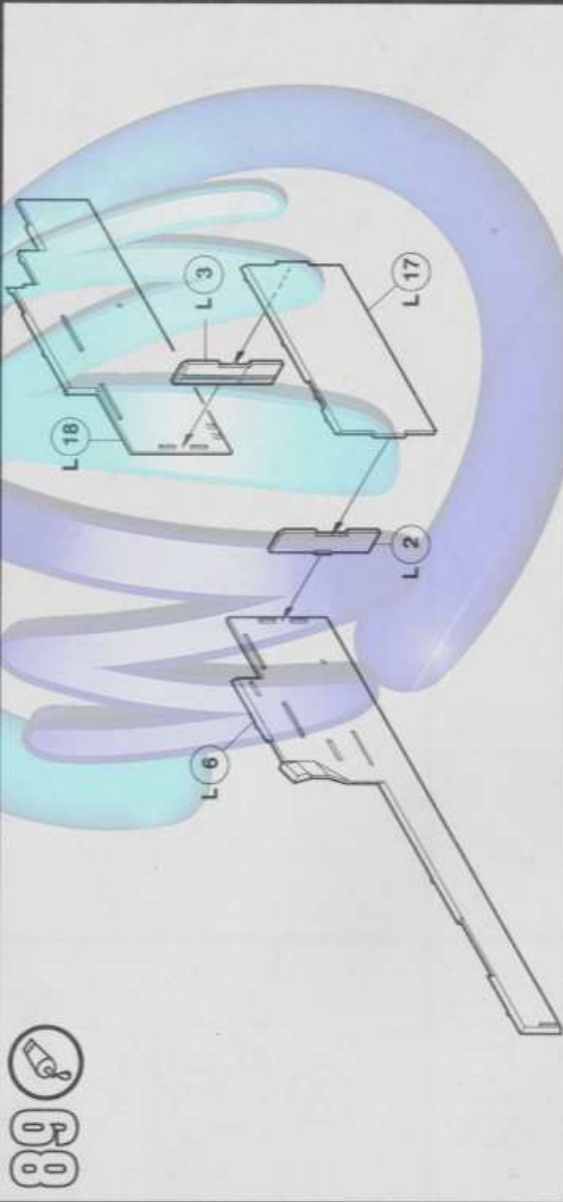
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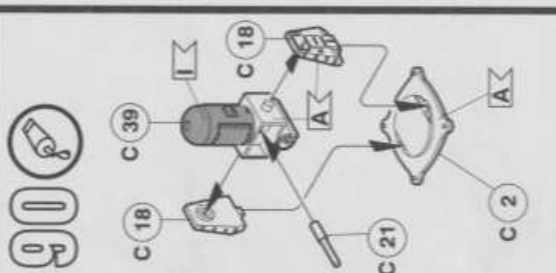
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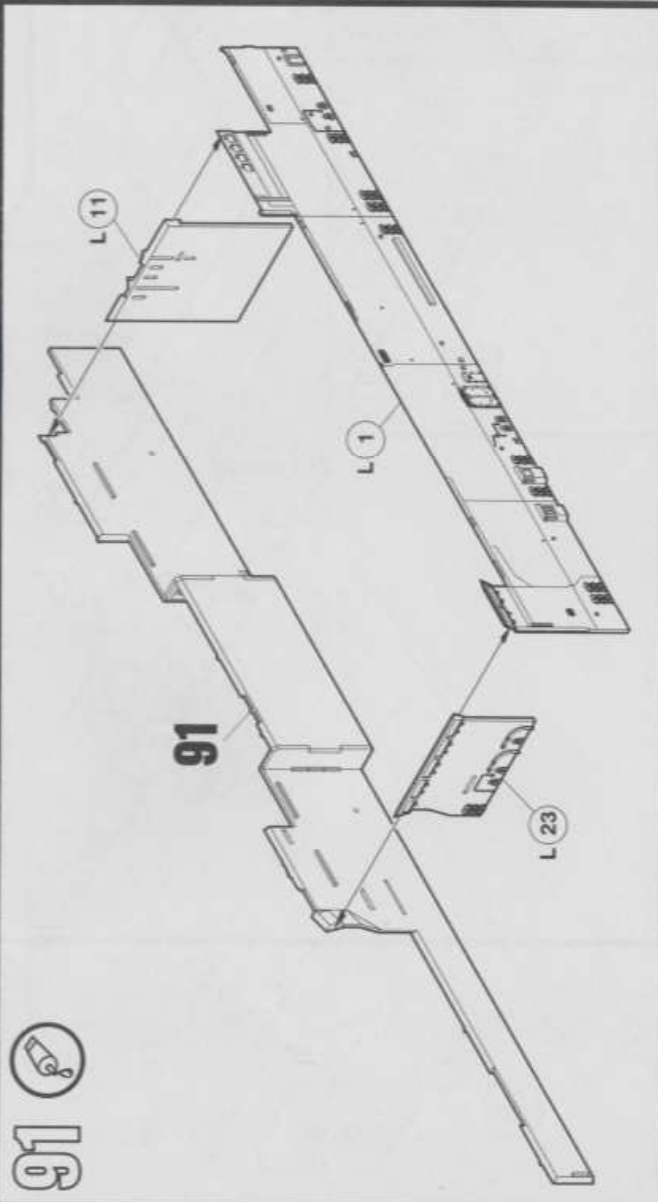
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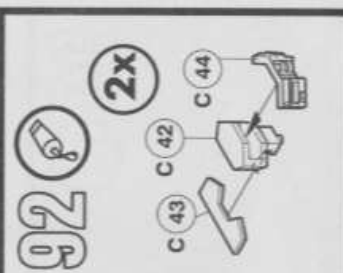
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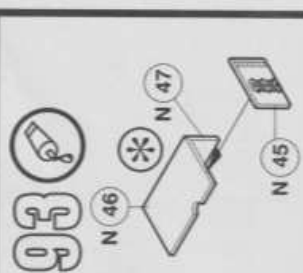
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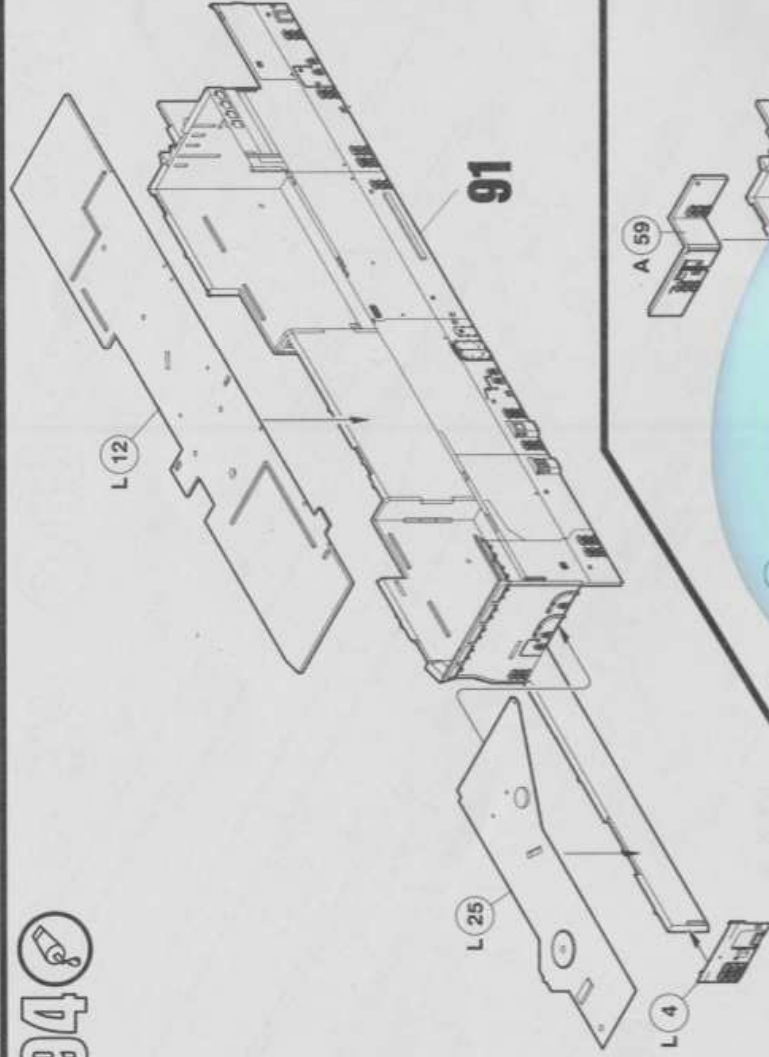
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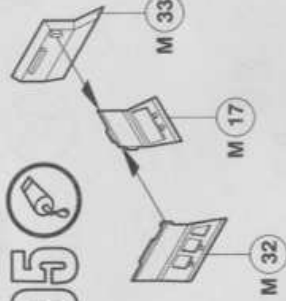


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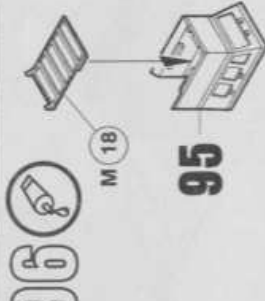


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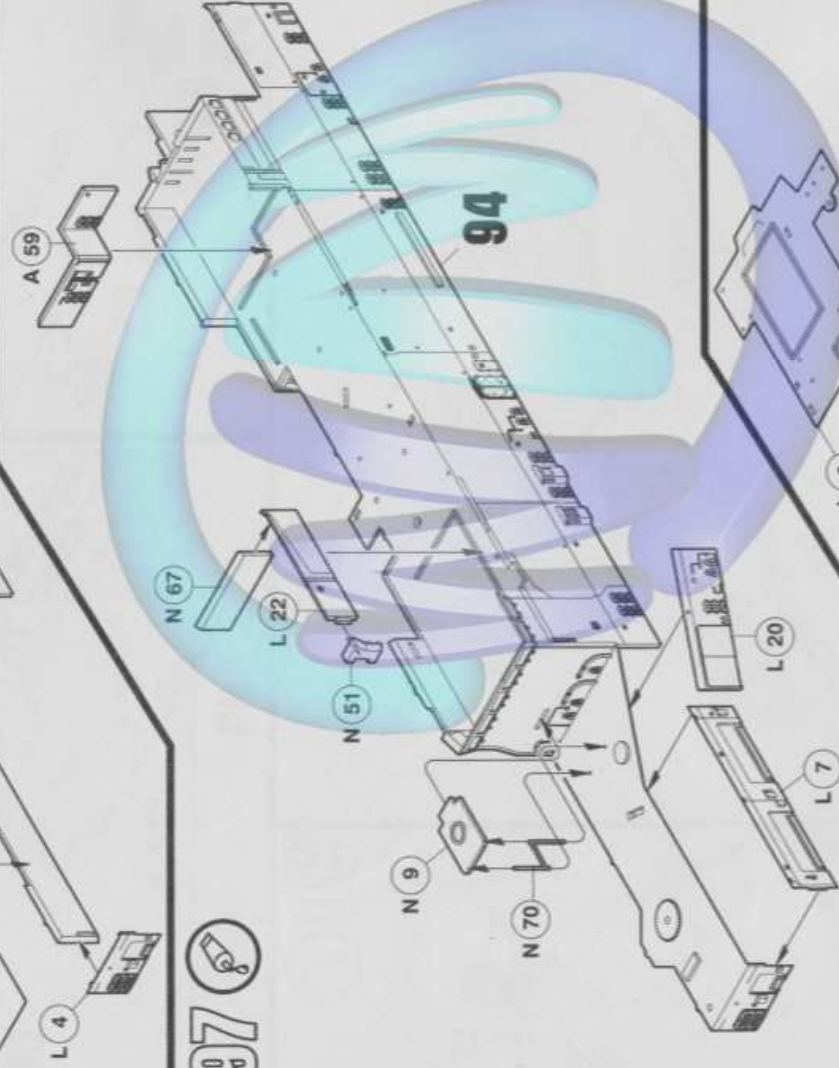


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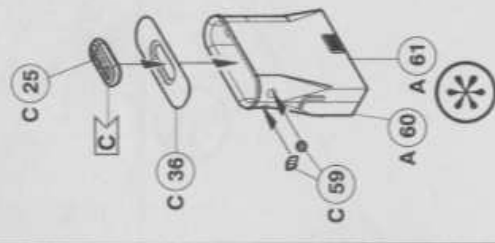
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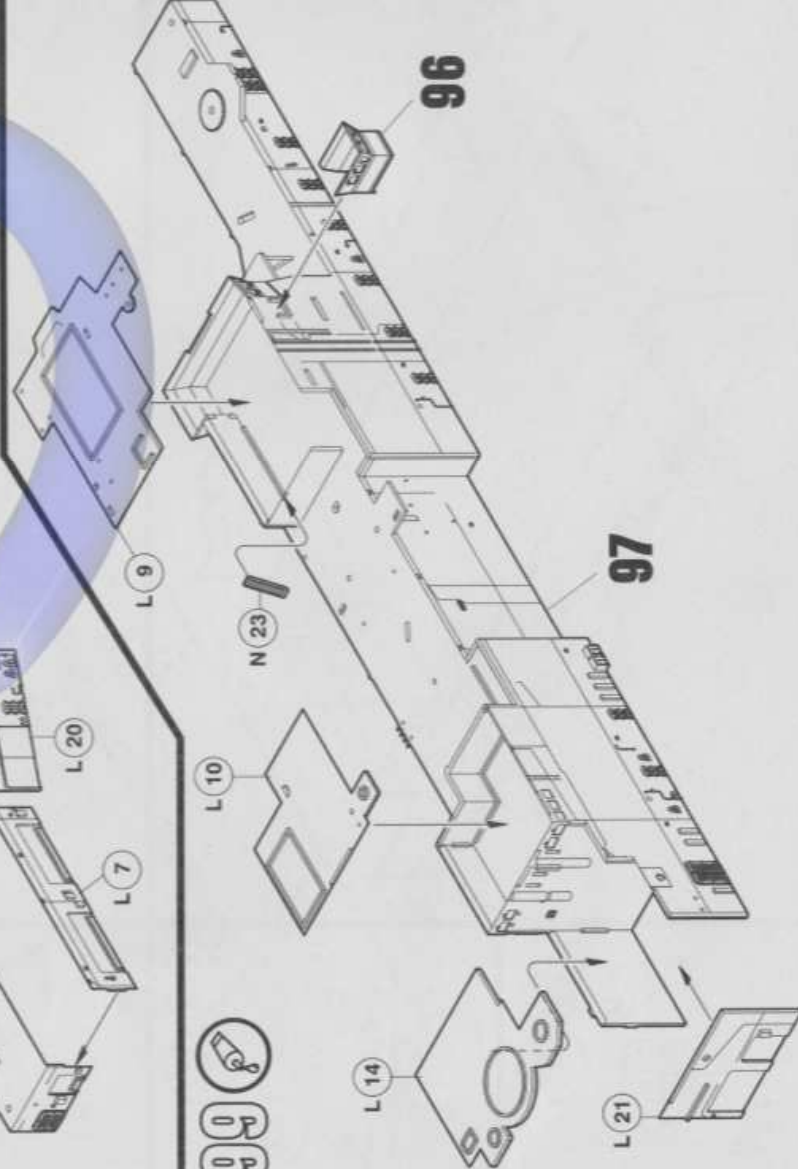


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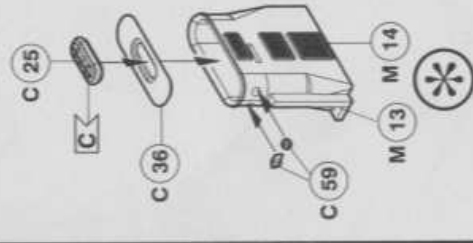
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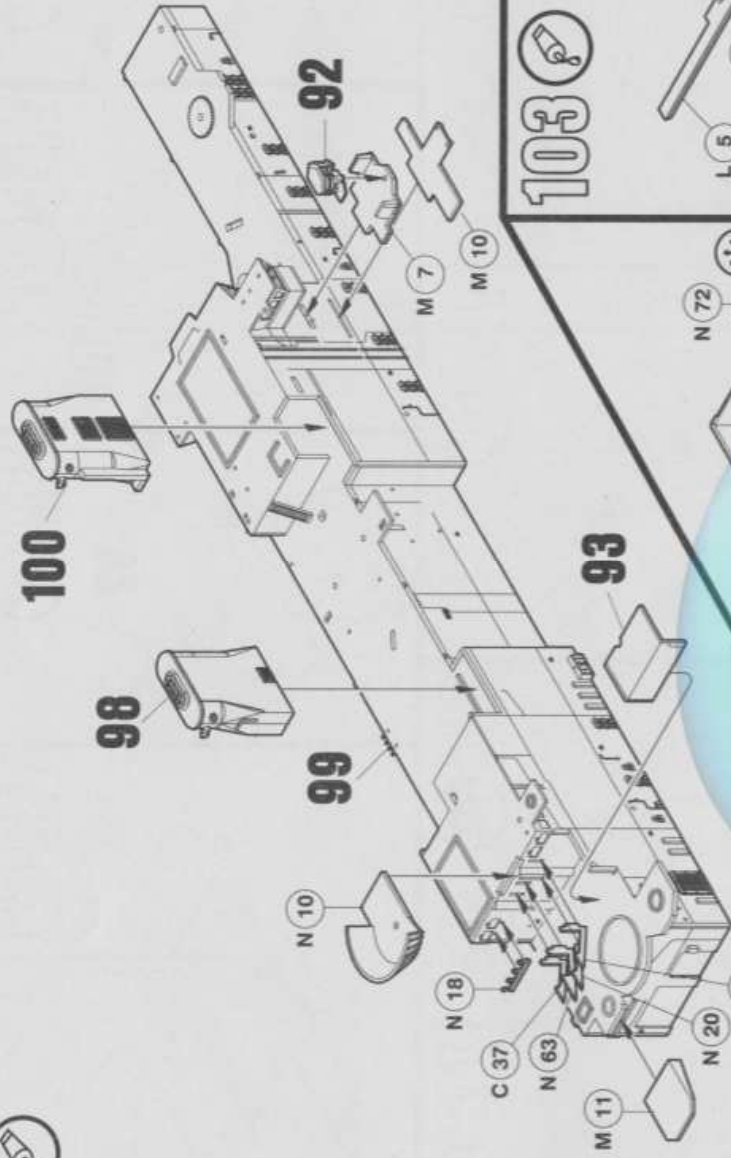
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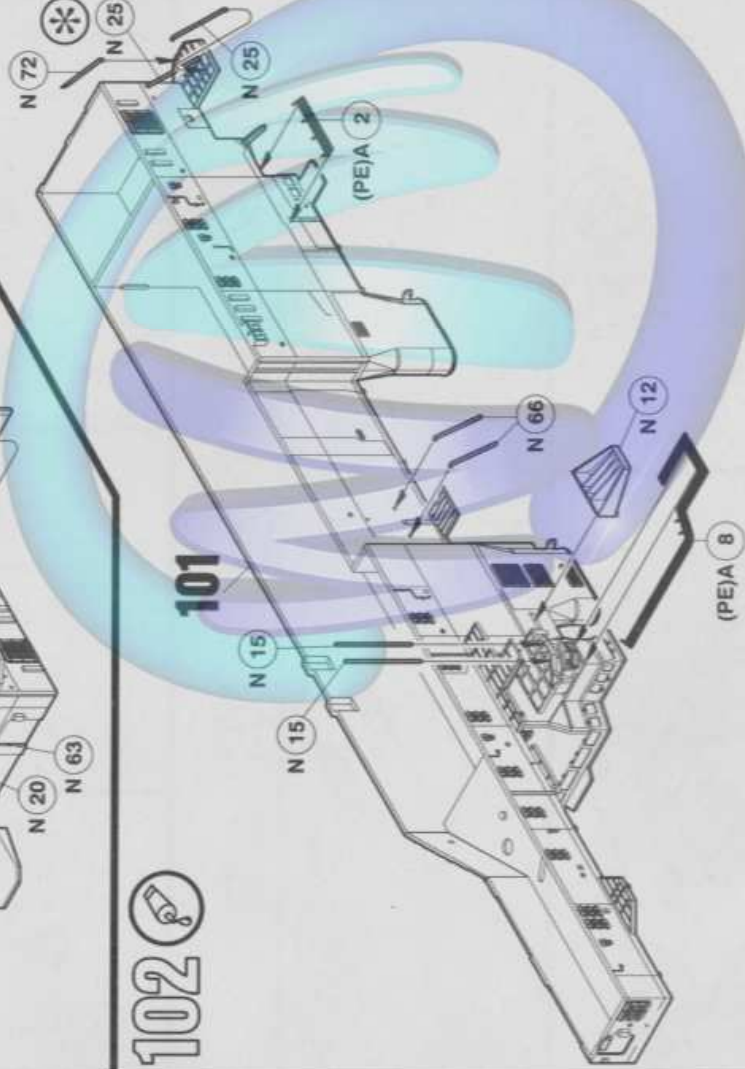
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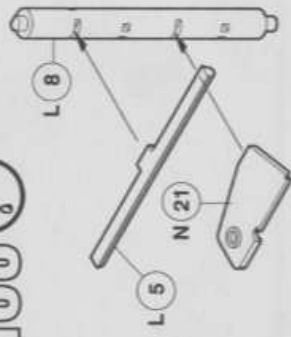
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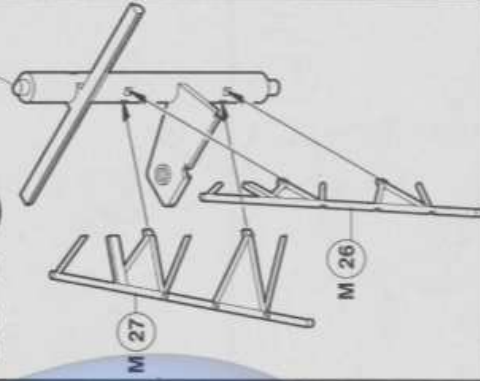
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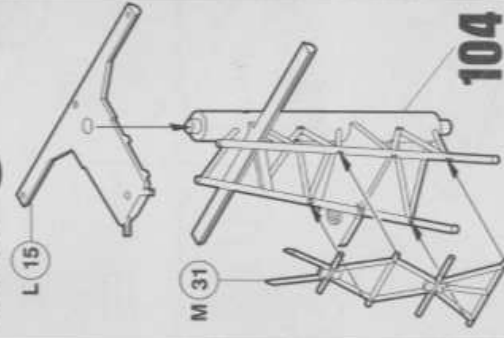
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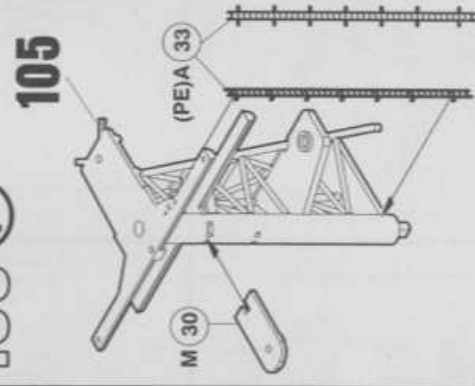
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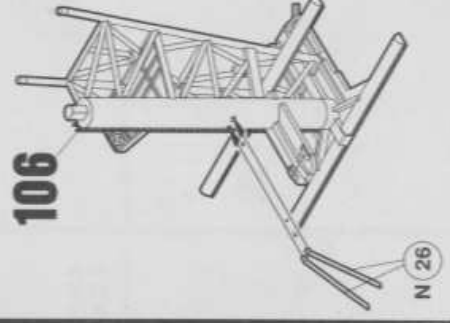
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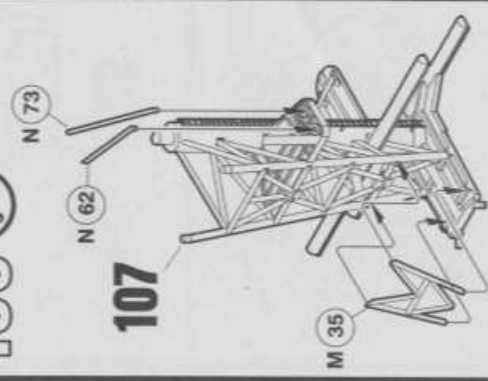
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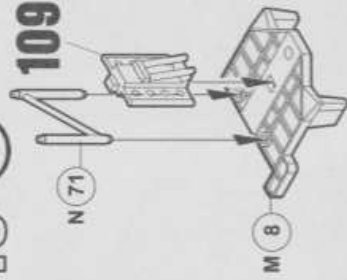
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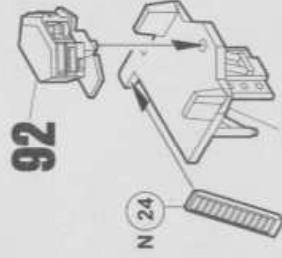
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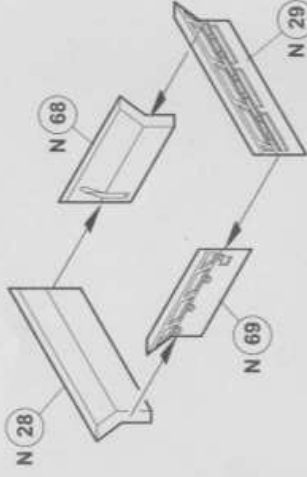
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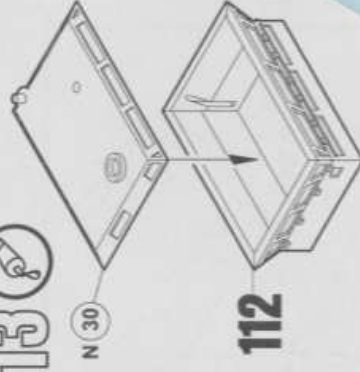
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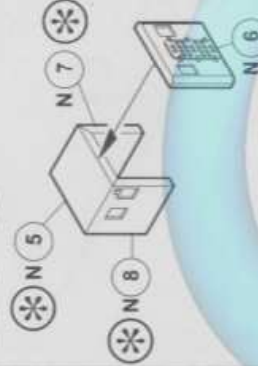
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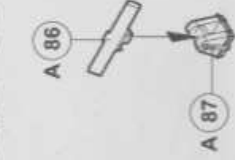
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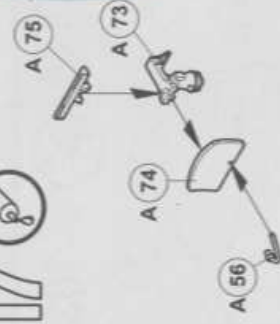
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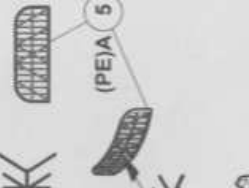
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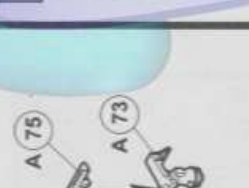
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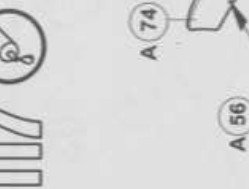
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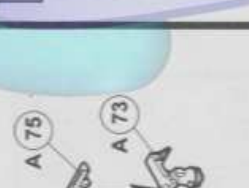
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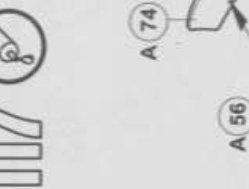
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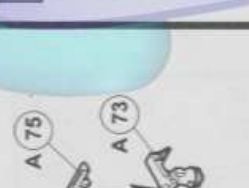
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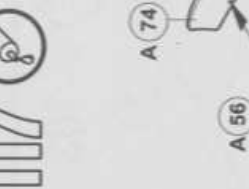
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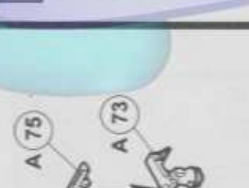
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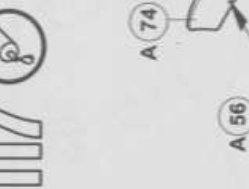
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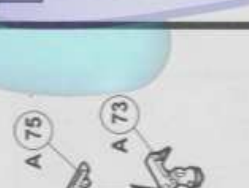
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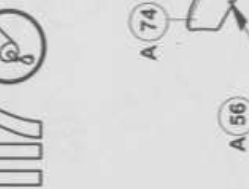
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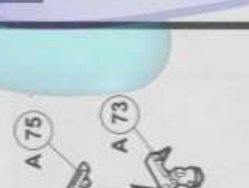
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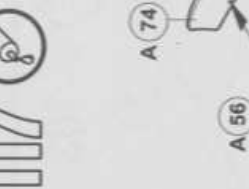
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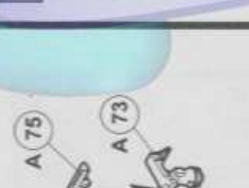
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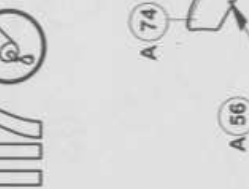
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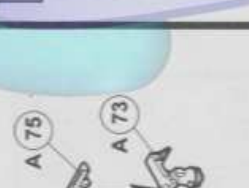
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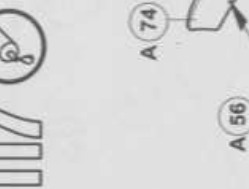
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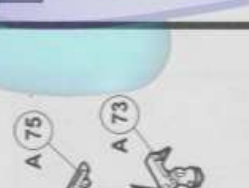
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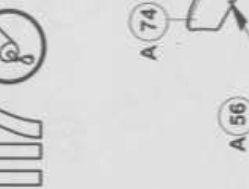
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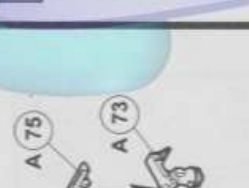
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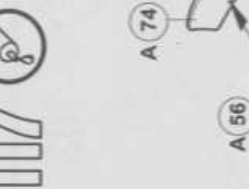
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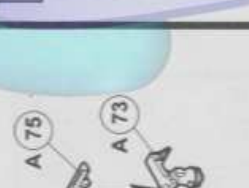
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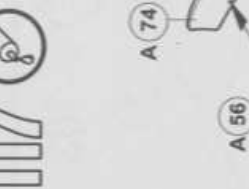
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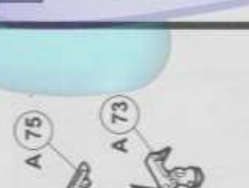
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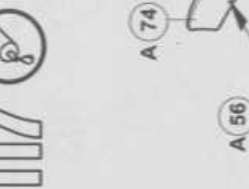
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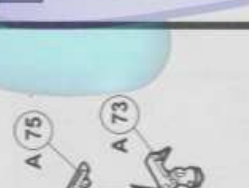
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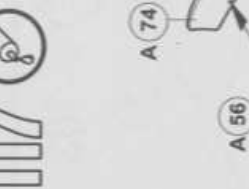
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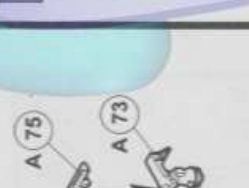
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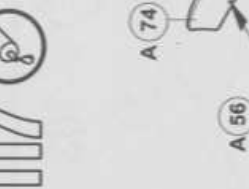
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205



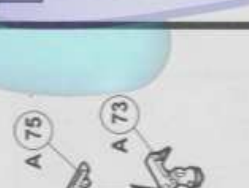
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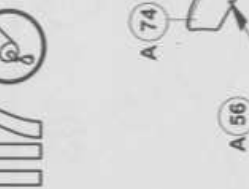
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211



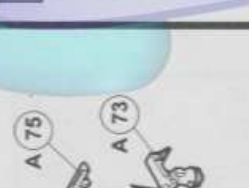
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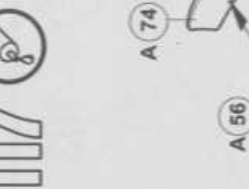
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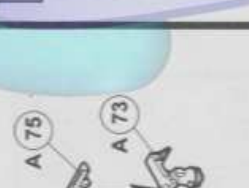
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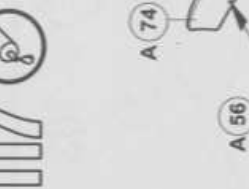
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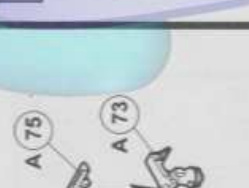
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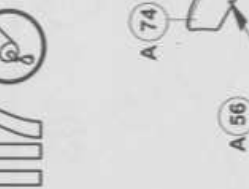
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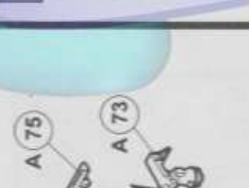
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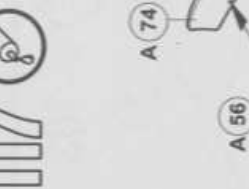
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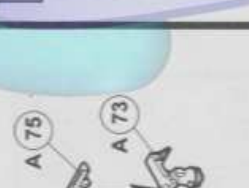
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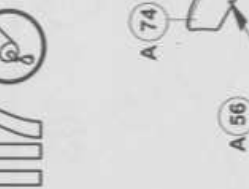
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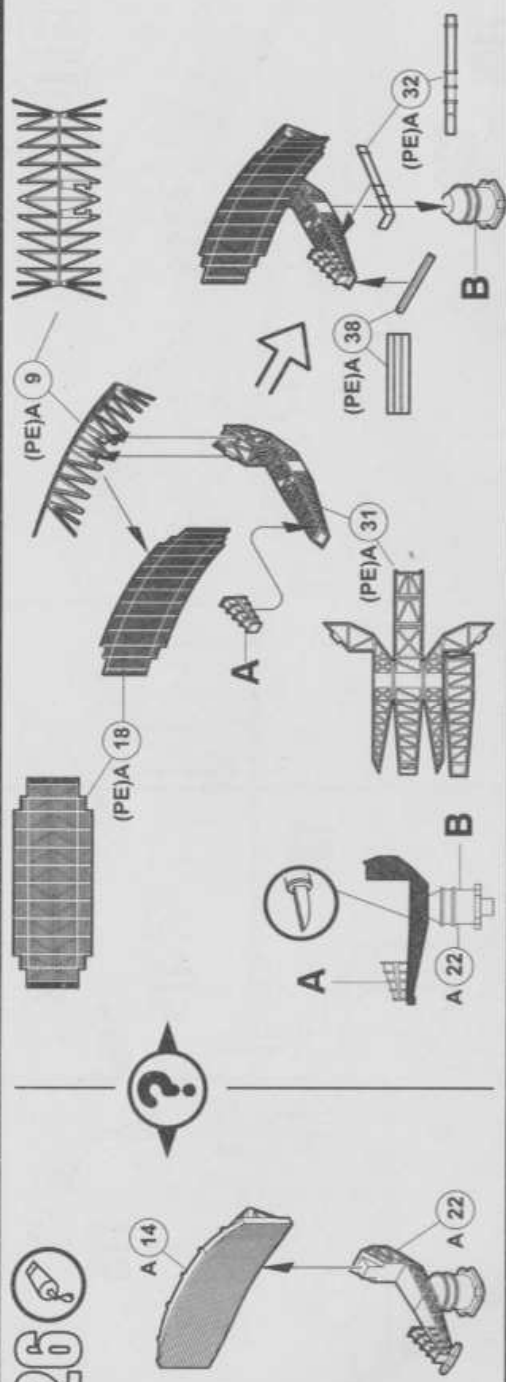


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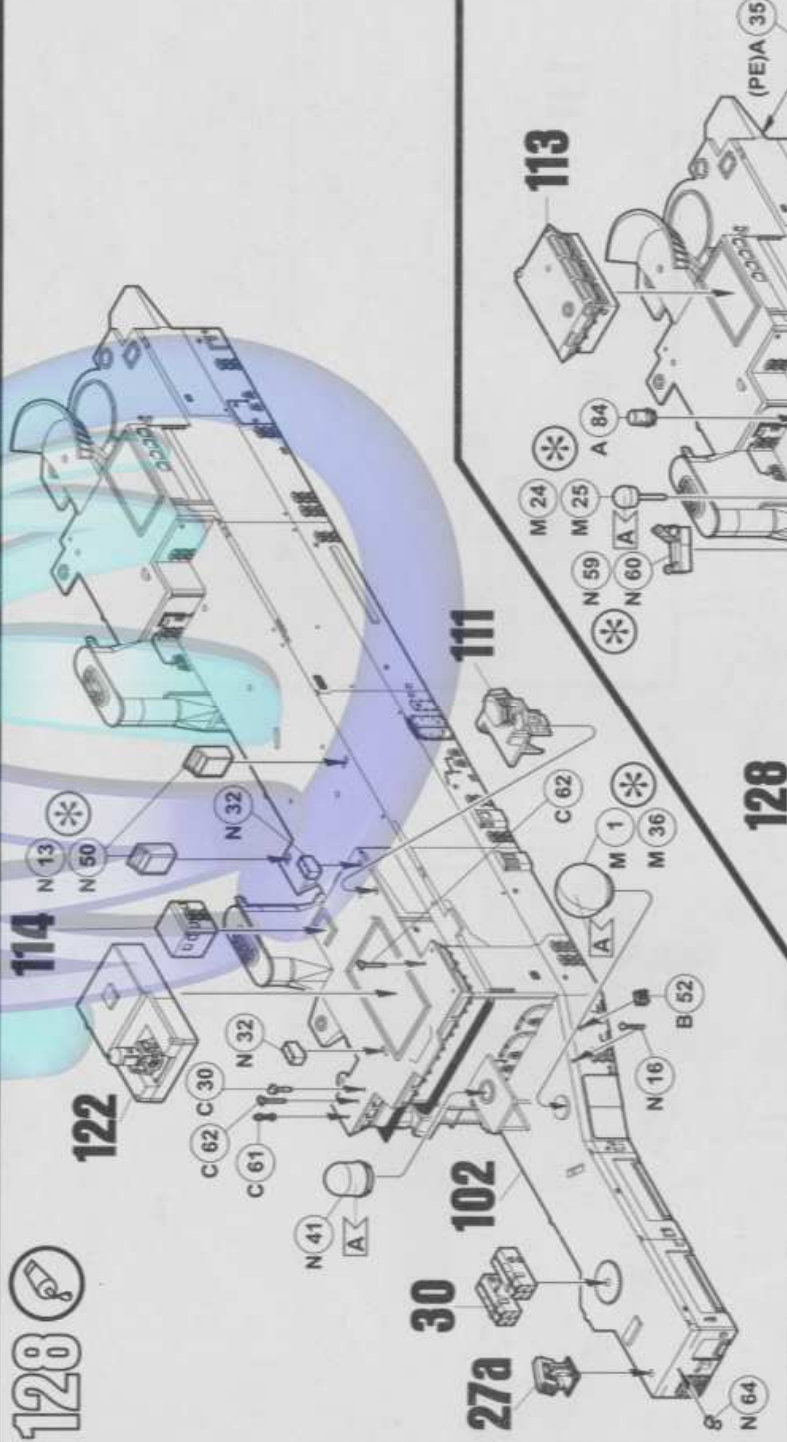
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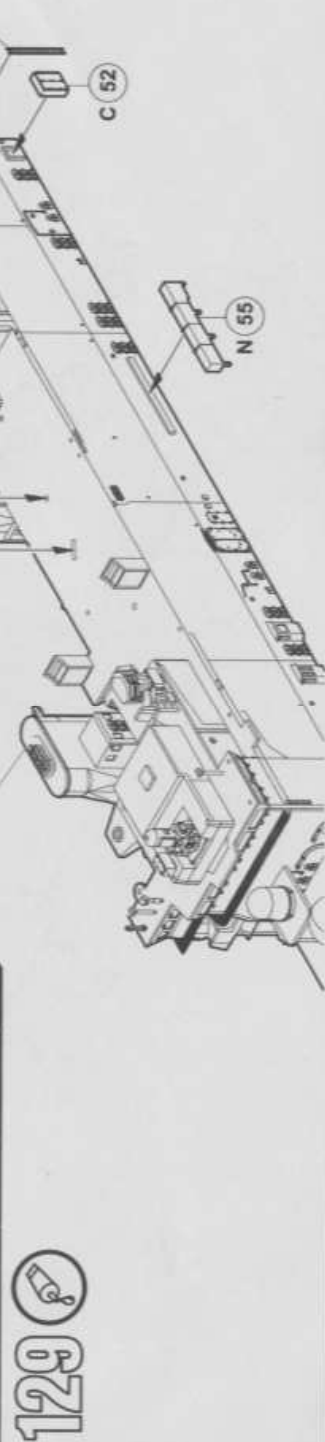
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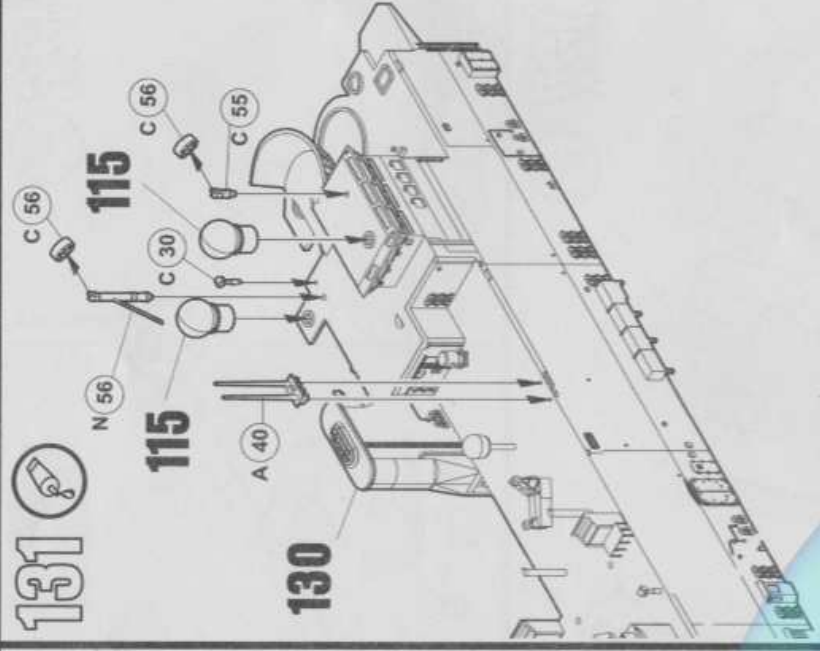
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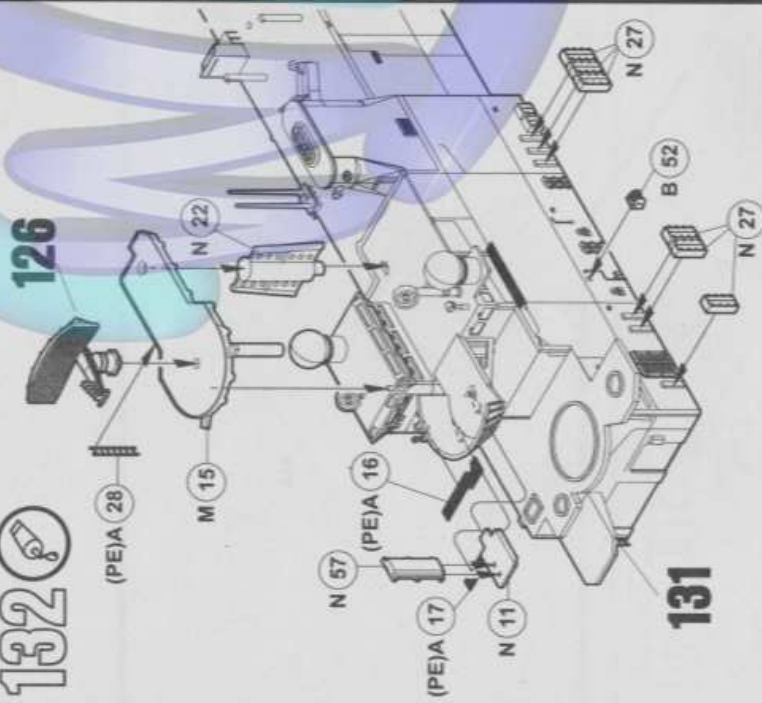
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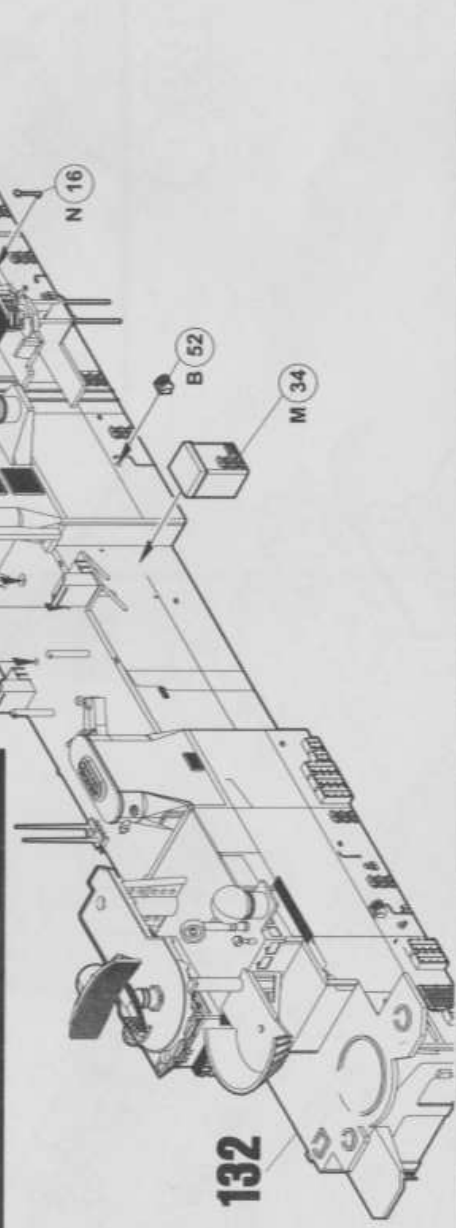


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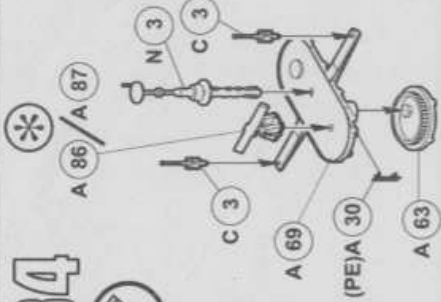
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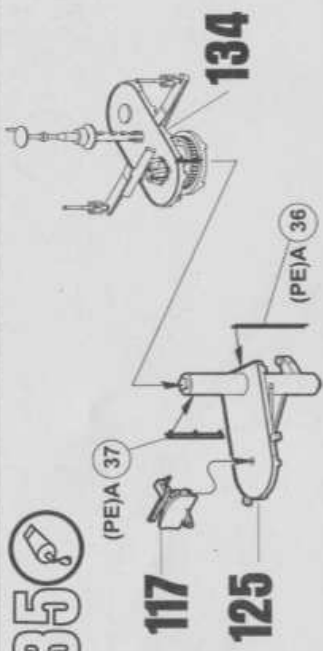
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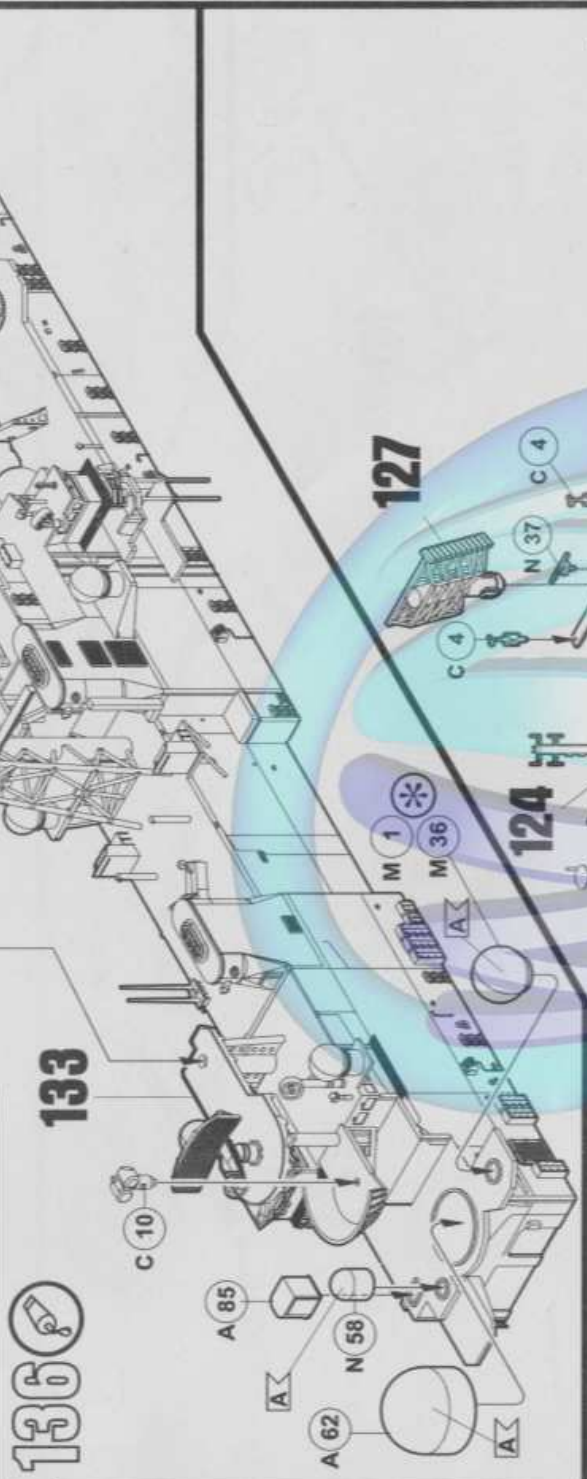
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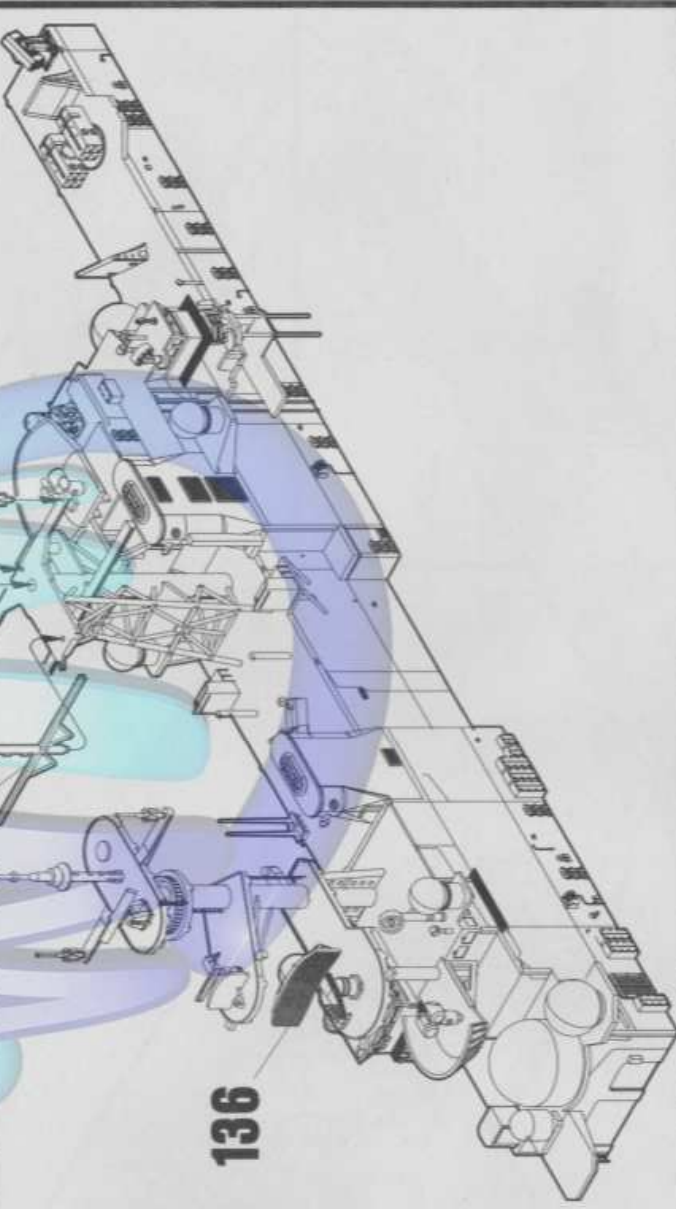
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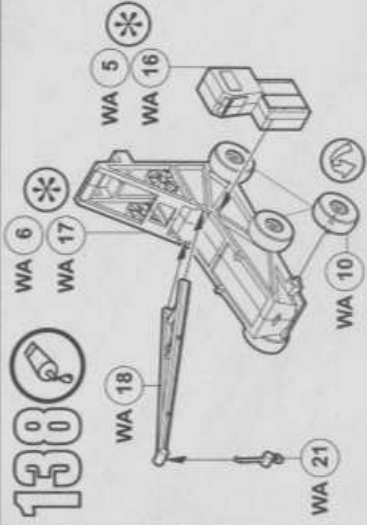
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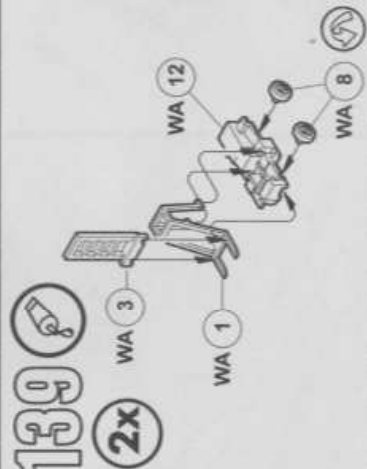
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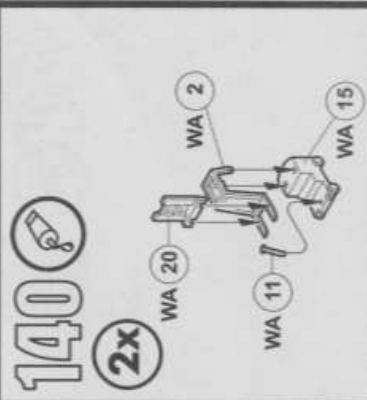
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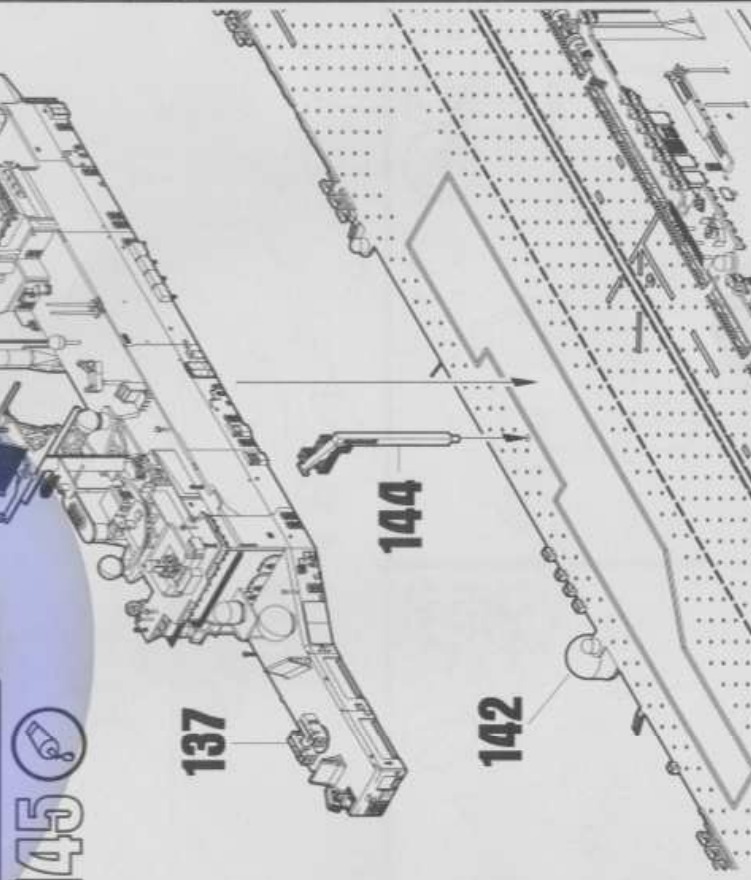
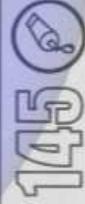


139

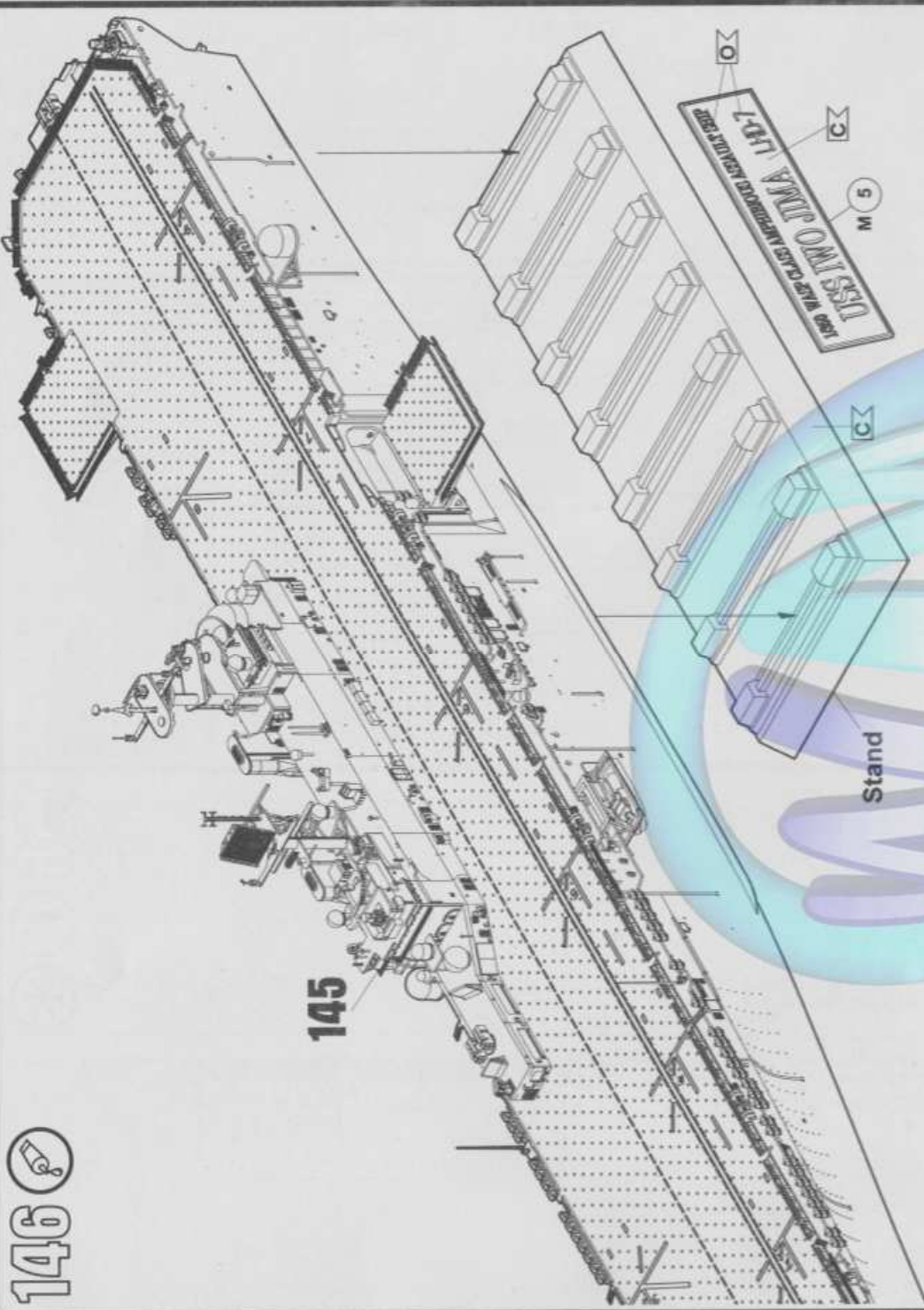


140





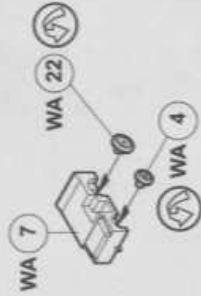
146



147



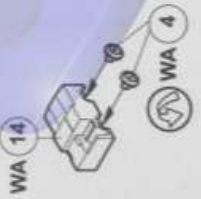
4x



148



2x



149



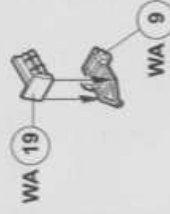
2x



150



2x

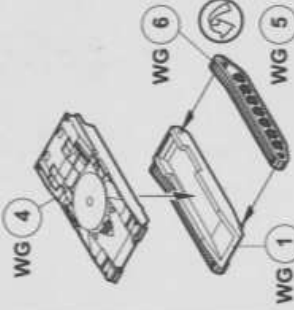


151



2x

M1A1 Abrams

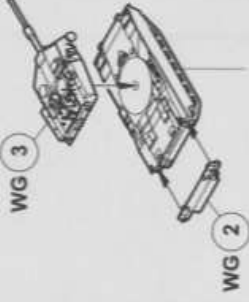


152



2x

M1A1 Abrams

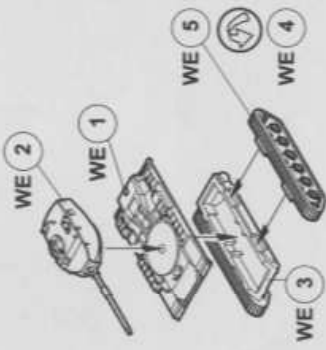


153



2x

M60A3

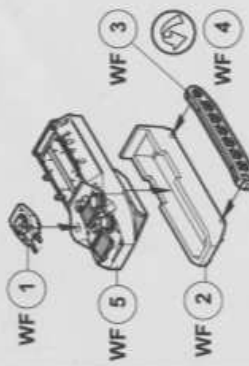


154



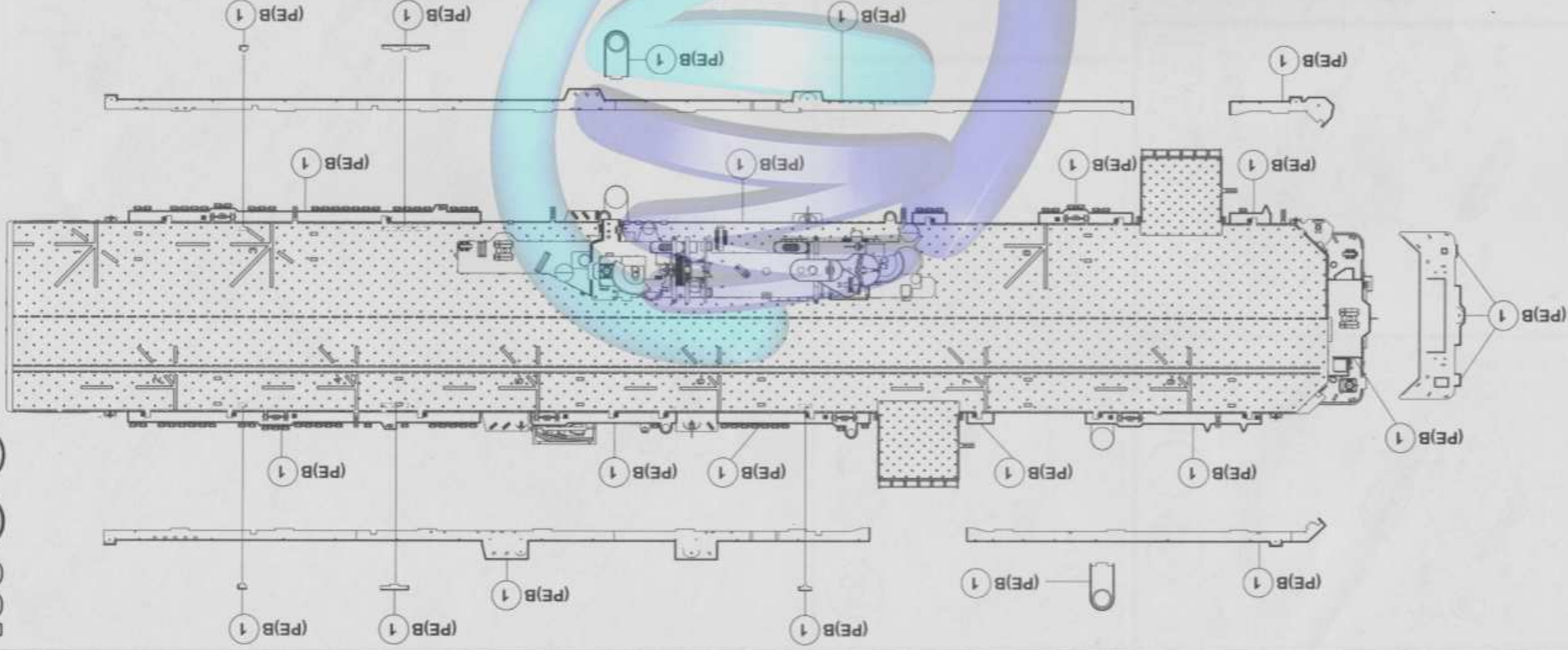
2x

AAV-7

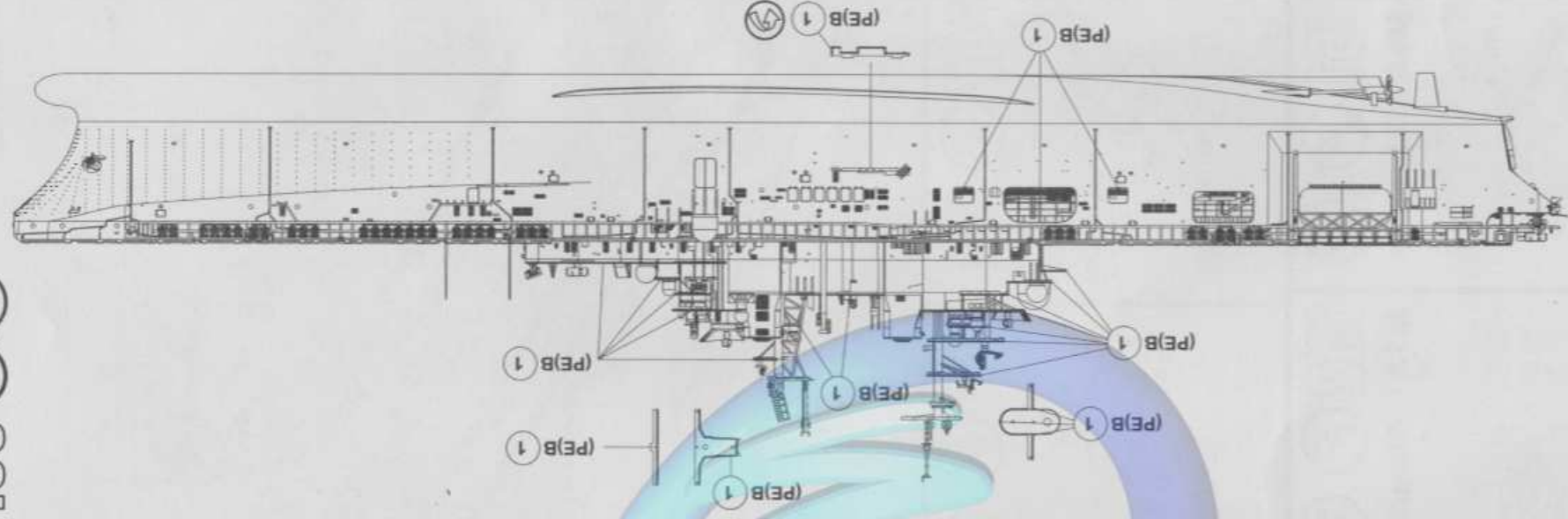


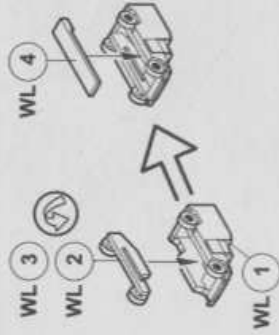
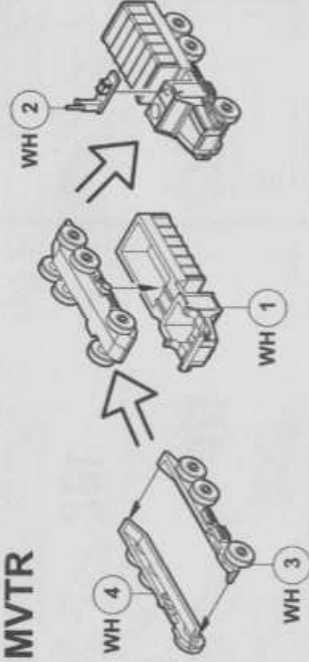
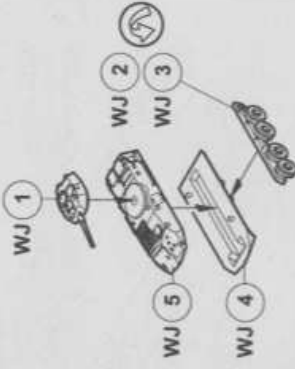
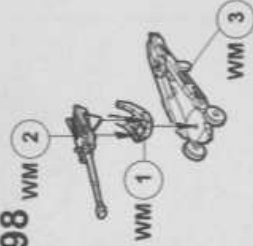
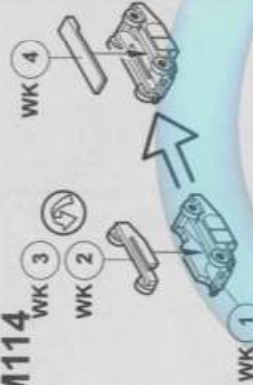
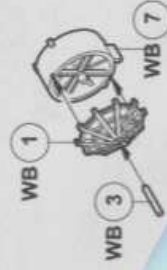
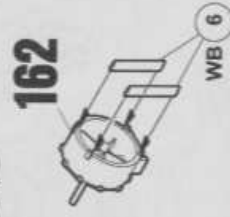
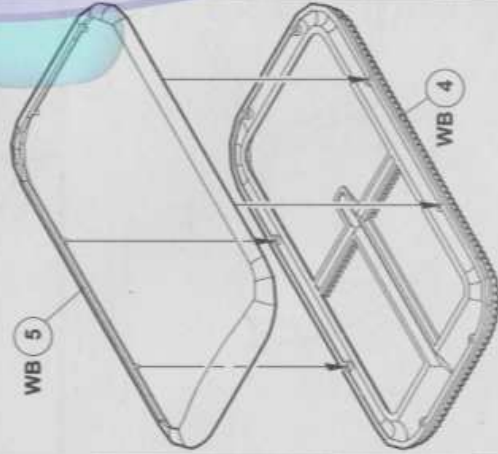
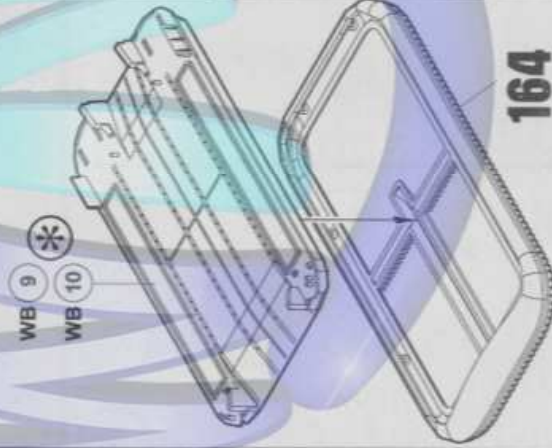
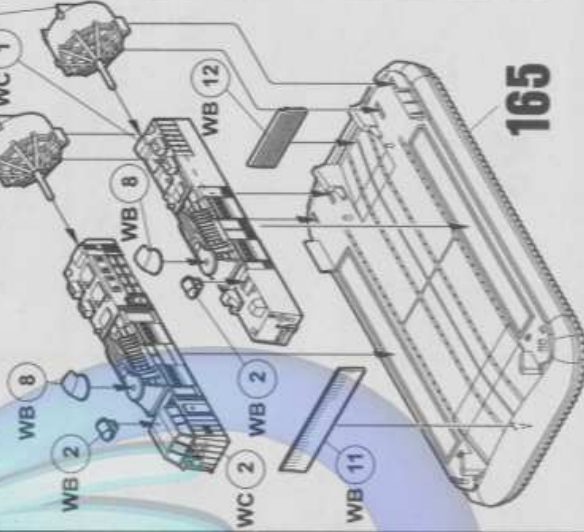
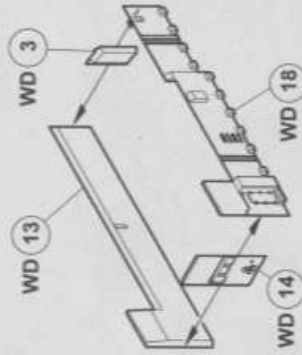
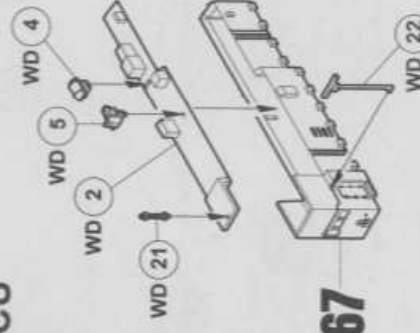
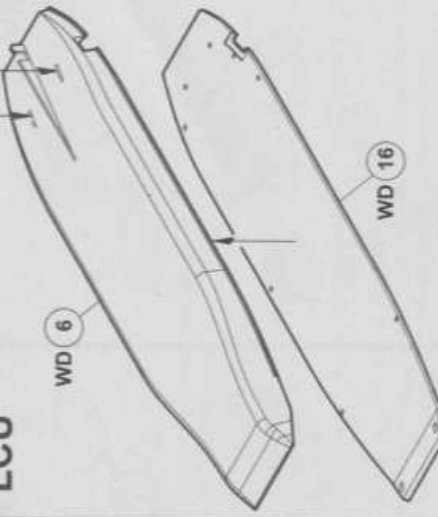
151

155



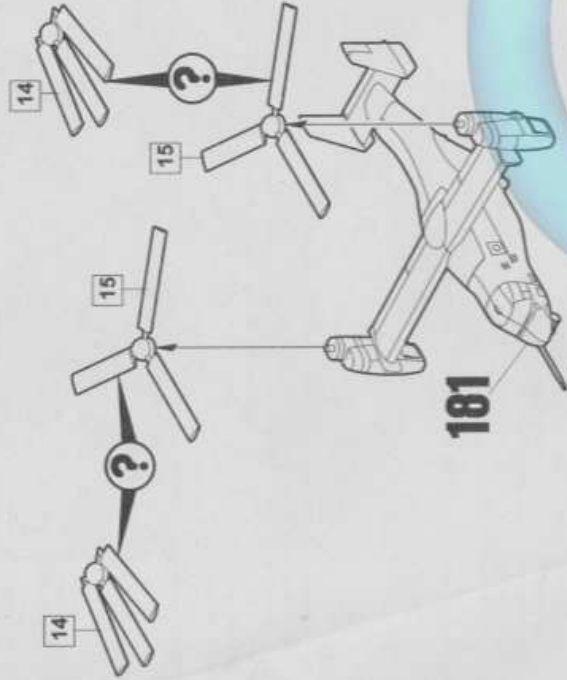
156



157**2x****M1097****158****2x****MVTR****159****2x****LAV-25****160****2x****M198****161****2x****M114****162****4x****LCAC****163****4x****LCAC****164****2x****LCAC****165****2x****LCAC****166****2x****LCAC****163****164****165****167****2x****LCU****168****2x****LCU****169****2x****LCU**

182

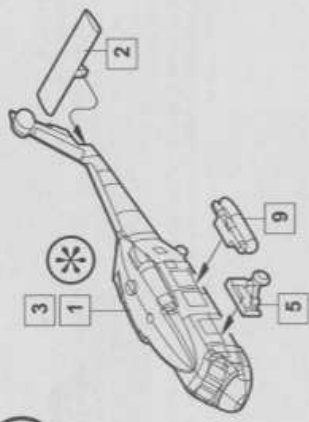
MV-22



181

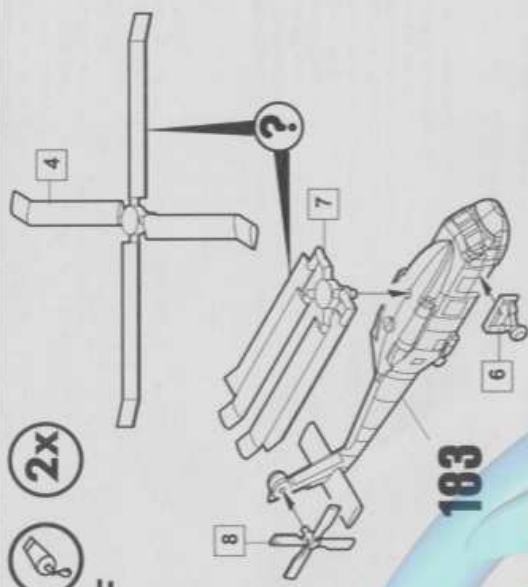
183

SH-60F



184

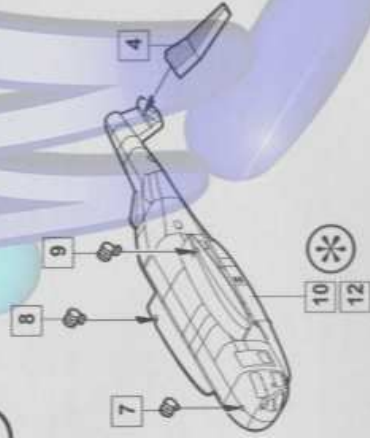
SH-60F



183

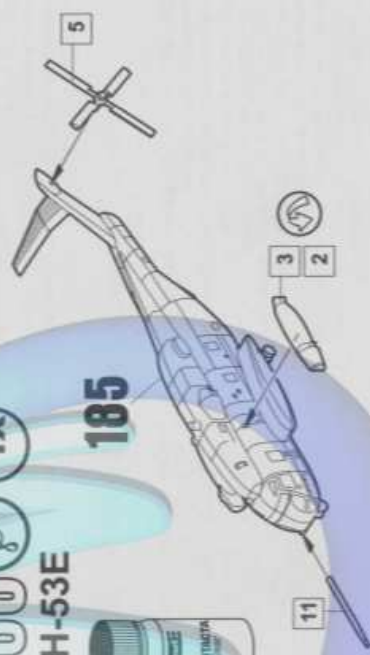
185

CH-53E



186

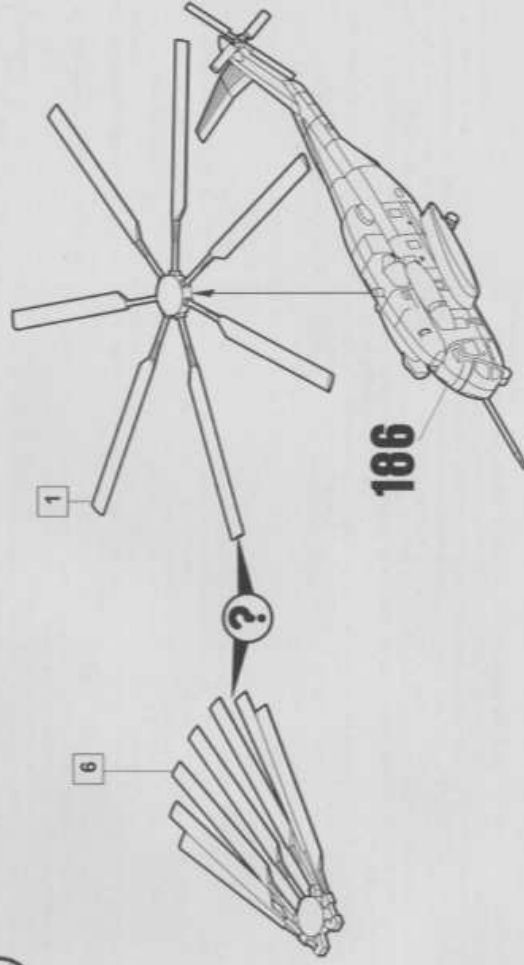
CH-53E



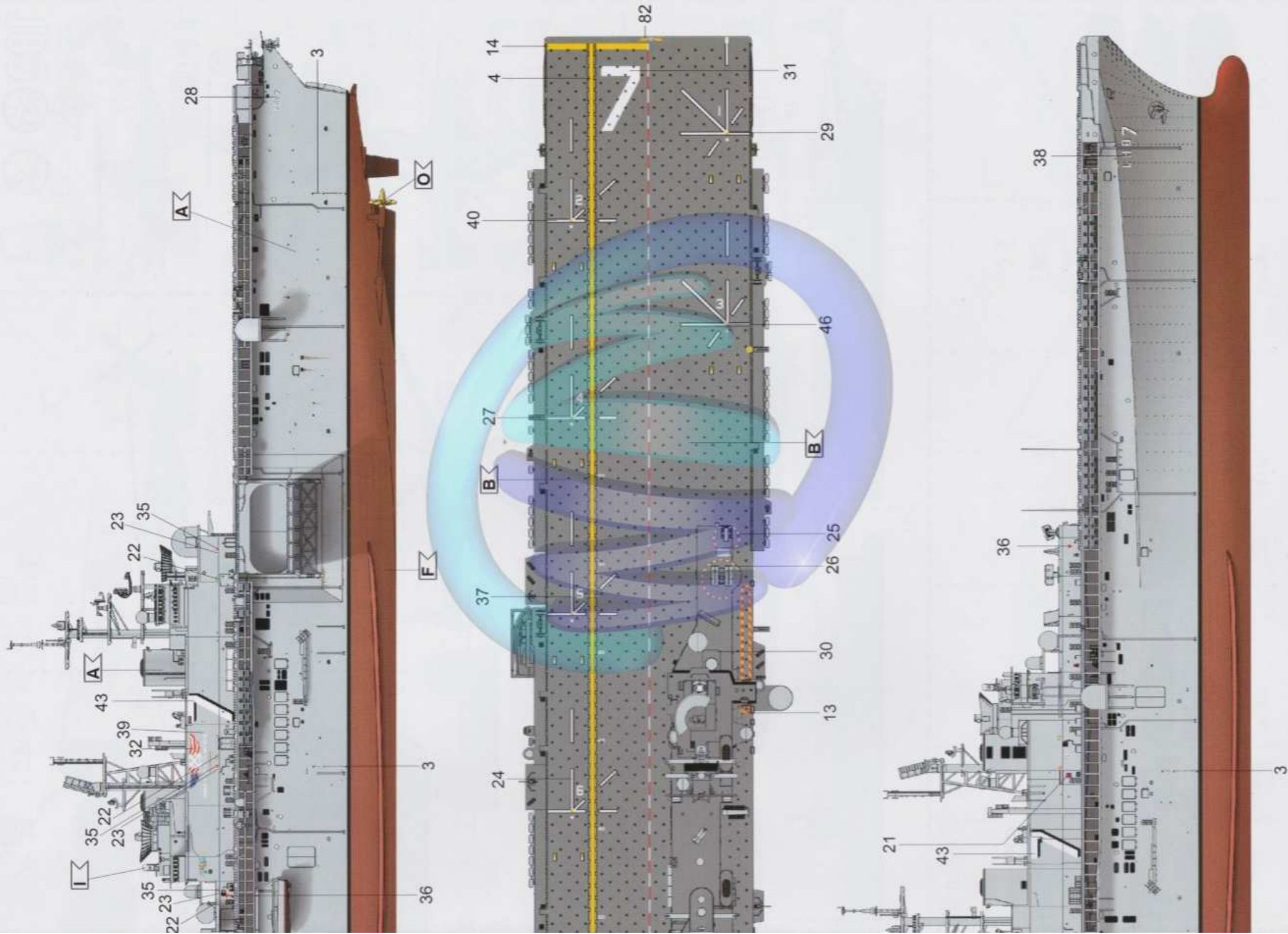
185

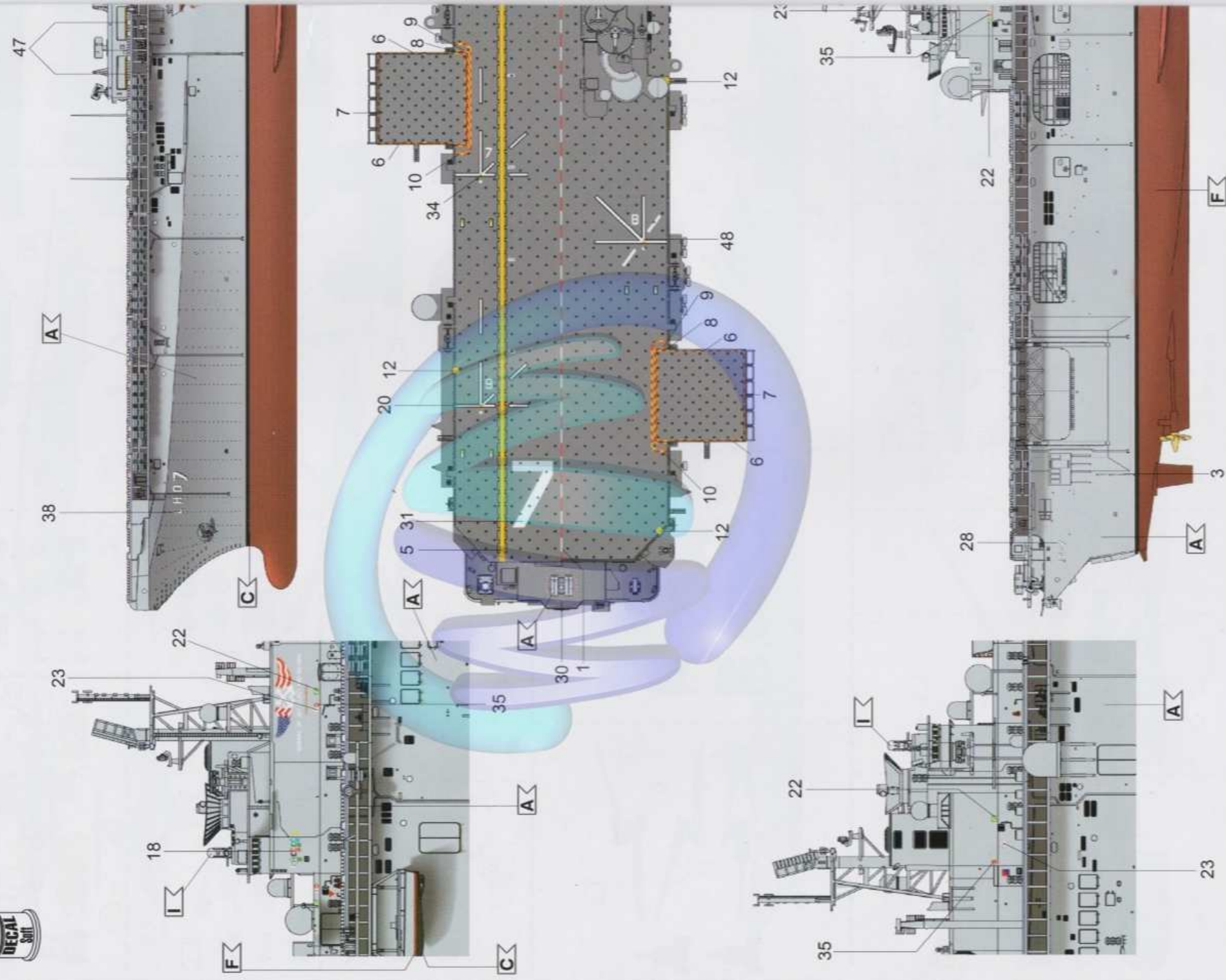
187

CH-53E



186





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DECAL
Soft

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