

The “Away, Boarders!” rules are specifically designed to recreate battles between gunboats on the Great Lakes (and Lake Champlain). There are not many commercial models of these gunboats available to wargamers (the lack of which my paper models are intended to alleviate). Recognizing that not every wargamer has the tools, or the skills, or the desire to build 3D models, I have put together a set of 2D flats and counters to be used with the rules. These were made from photos of the completed 3D models, which you can see on my Flickr page at:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/war_artisan/sets/72157608059900475/

By following these simple instructions, you can put together an entire fleet of gunboats in just a couple pleasant hours.

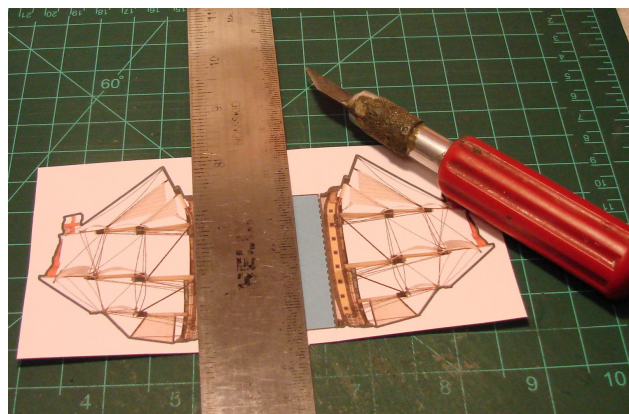
CONSTRUCTING THE FLATS

1. First print out the sheets of flats on cardstock. 67 pound works well; it will go through most printers without problems, and it becomes quite rigid when doubled over with white glue in between. Print the sheets as a full-page, letter size. After printing, it is highly recommended that a matte protective spray coating is applied to the printed sheets before any further steps are completed.

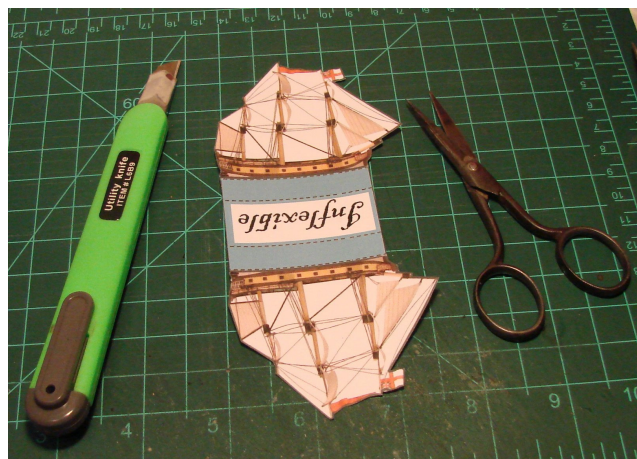
2. Separate the flat to be constructed from the sheet.



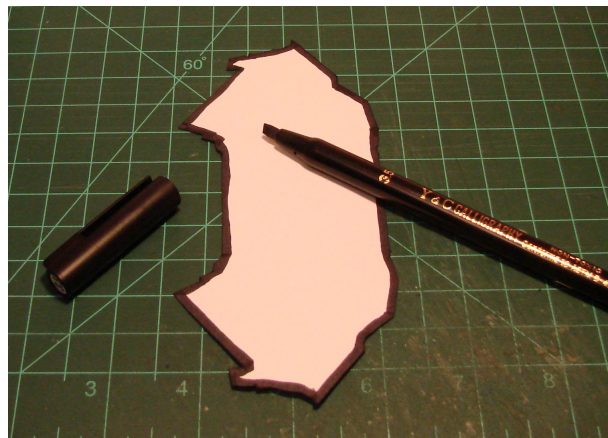
3. Score along the four dotted lines that run along the width of the blue base.



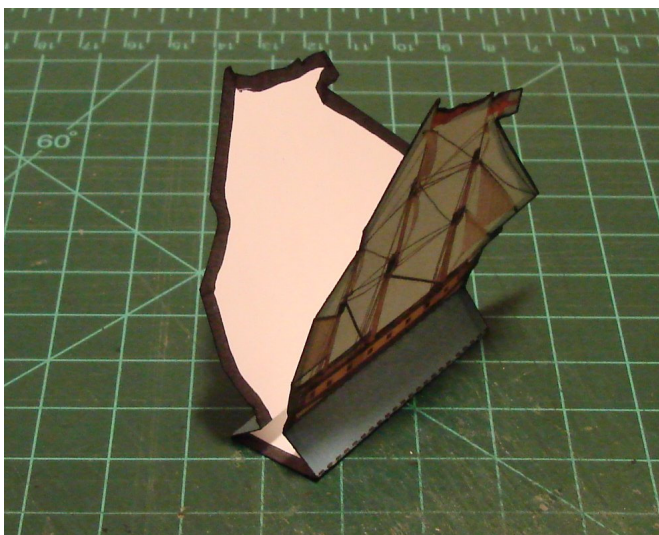
4. Cut out the flat along the dark outline, using a sharp hobby knife or small scissors.



5. Tint the edges black by running a felt tip marker along them, and blacken the back of the part along the edges. This will disguise any minor misalignment that occurs during assembly. Chisel-tip or calligraphy markers work best for this because they can easily reach into narrow corners, but a black Sharpie will do.



6. Crease the part along the scored lines, as shown.



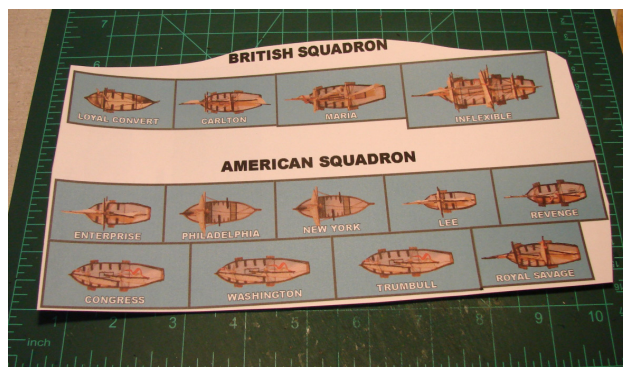
7. Spread white glue on the inside of the base (the center of the folded part) and on one half of the ship outline. Press the part together, being careful to align the edges as closely as possible. Begin at the top and gradually work your way down to the base.



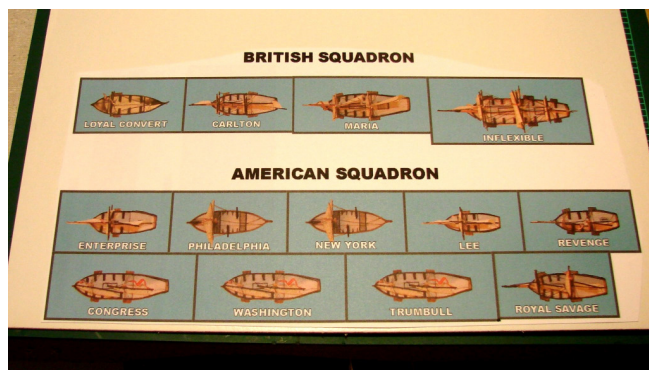
CONSTRUCTING THE COUNTERS

While the flats are very simple, some of you may prefer two-dimensional counters (which are even simpler).

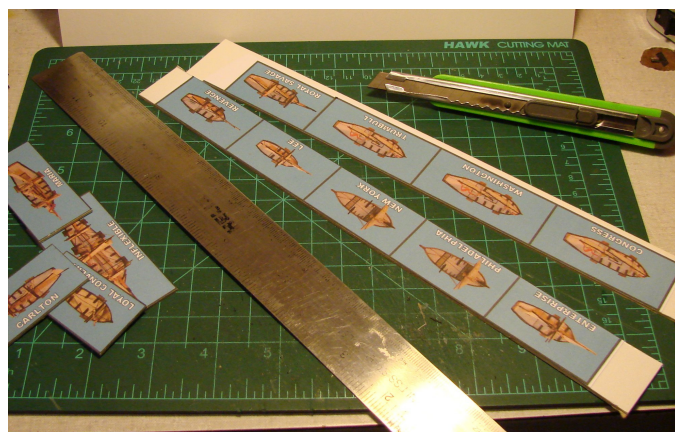
1. To make the counters, print out the sheet and spray it with a matte coating; then cut out the section of the sheet with the counters on it.



2. Using contact cement or spray adhesive, affix the counter sheet to a piece of heavy cardboard or illustration board.



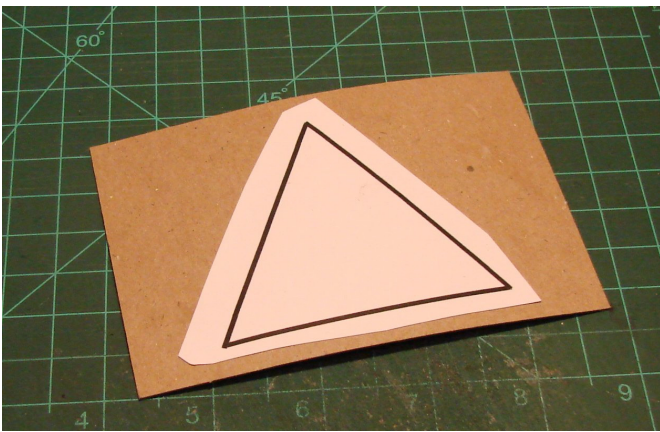
3. Using a sharp hobby knife and a metal straightedge, separate the counters from the sheet, cutting along the middle of the heavy outlines.



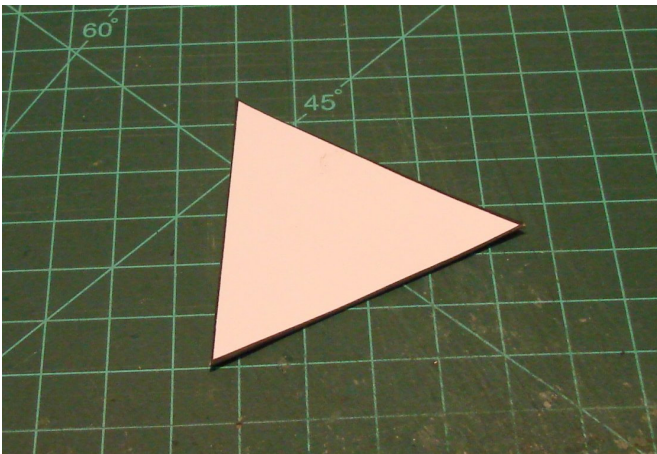
THE FIELD OF PLAY

Fortunately, not much in the way of terrain is necessary for naval wargaming. An open piece of water is usually sufficient, although occasionally a shoreline or island will play a part in a naval scenario. Following the instructions in the "Away, Boarders!" rules for laying out the "points", you can easily convert a piece of tag or crescent board into an acceptable field of battle for your flats or counters. A triangular template of the appropriate size for use with either the flats or counters is included on the sheet.

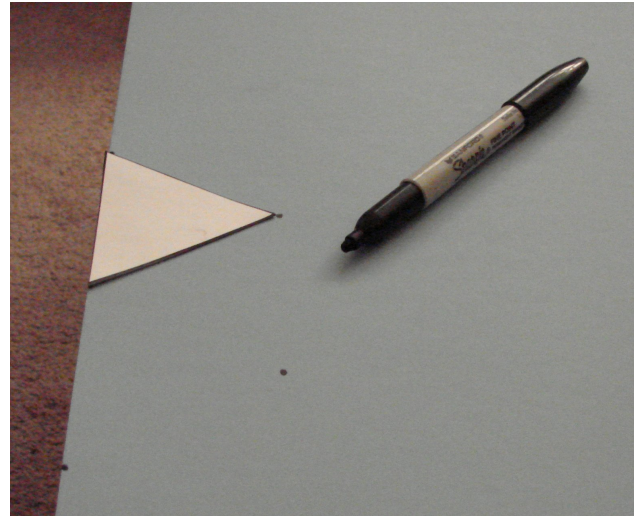
1. Cut out the template, leaving a little extra material all around the edges, and glue it to a piece of cardboard.



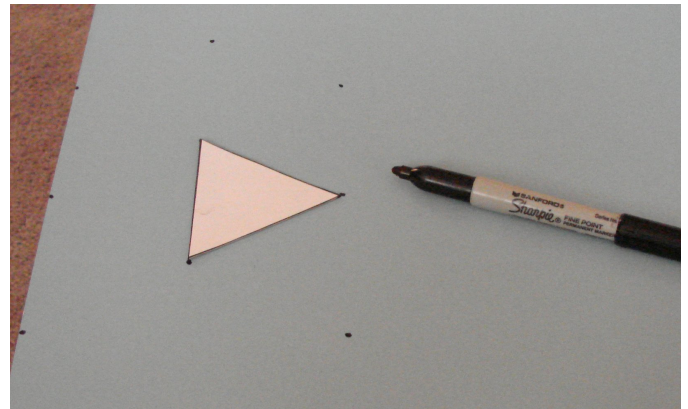
2. Trim the template along the heavy black outline.



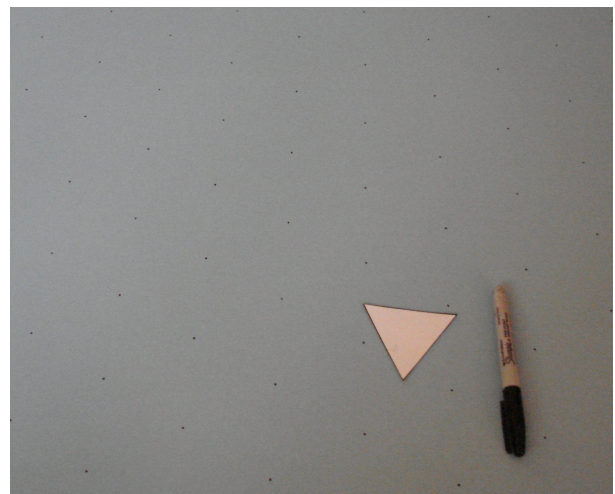
3. I used a piece of light blue Crescent board for this example; tag board, or even heavy paper will do as well. Lay out a row of points along one edge of the board, using the template to measure the space between them, as shown.



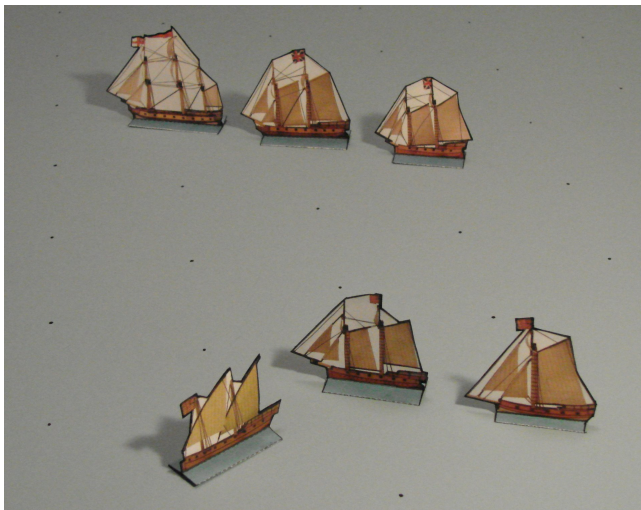
4. Continue adding rows of points, matching two corners of the template to existing points to determine the location of each new point.



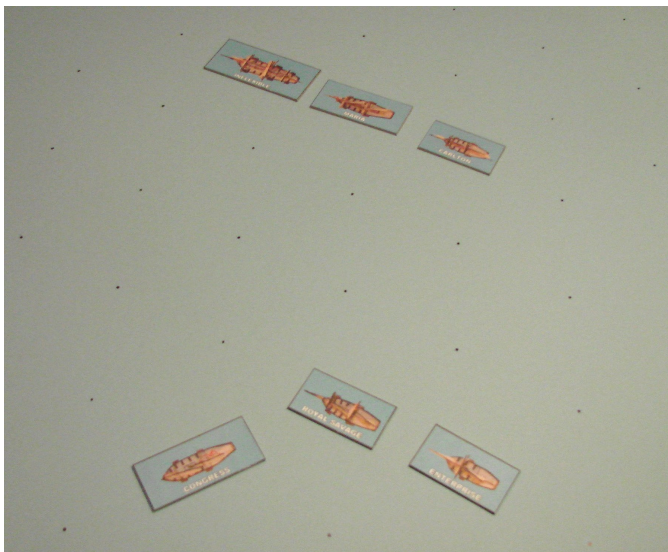
5. Keep adding rows until the board is completely covered. This board is 20" by 40", and took me about five minutes to complete.



With the board complete, the flats will look like this when in play:



Here is the same view, only with counters substituted for the flats:



Get started, and have fun playing "Away, Boarders!"

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