

Voyager Model Upgrade Set (PE 35150) for Trumpeter Pz.Sfl IVa Dicker Max (TRU 00348)



By Scott Conner

First off, I would like to thank Sprue Brothers for letting me review this upgrade set. Secondly, and it makes me laugh, but the name on the box set says it is for the “Dick Marks,” not “Dicker Max.” You don’t think someone was having a little fun with the translation, do you?

This will be an out of the box review, the main reason being that I do not have the Trumpeter or Dragon kits. This upgrade set comes in a very sturdy, CD-like box that contains resin replacement parts, numerous photo-etched sheets, brass tubing, ABS rods, brass bolt heads, and copper cable. It makes a very good first impression! The instructions are three pages, printed in color, on both front and back, making it very comprehensive. Interesting that the instructions use the correct vehicle name.

The resin parts are well made with no air holes. The parts fall into three categories: radio parts, gun cleaning rod end with dust cover, and replacement hinges for the transmission covers. There are four radio

parts, which include the radio itself, power unit, and two other parts that I could not identify. The gun-cleaning rod end is self-explanatory. The hinges are separate and could quite easily be made workable, if you like that kind of stuff like I do. I wondered why they needed to be replaced on the kit, but without the kit it would be hard to speculate.

There are eleven photo-etched sheets in this set! Yes, eleven. Some are small, but three are huge and they are very jammed packed. The only thing not there are the fenders, and they come in set PE 35151. I will not go into what everything is, but I will say that Voyager has gone very "Aber" with this set. Some of my favorites of the photo-etched parts include: a wooden box with simulated wood grain, replacement ammo storage boxes, lots of storage boxes of various types and sizes, bicycle chain travel lock, along with the customary straps, clamps, chains, and other basic photo-etched stuff.

The brass tubing is for replacing the ranging poles. A small piece of ABS rod will need to be inserted at one end for the connectors. The smaller brass rod is for replacing the gun-cleaning rod. It already has the connector piece included. Why not have all of them that way?

The larger ABS plastic rods are to replace the stored ammo. They will need to be cut to size. A photo-etched end-cap is supplied. This is a very nice touch.

The brass bolt heads are conical in shape and are bolt replacements to secure the towing shackles to the chassis. You get 12 of these and each tow shackle needs six. They are very tiny and I can see these getting lost quite easily, but they are very cool none-the-less.

The copper cable is replacement for the kit supplied tow cable. It is very flexible and should be quite easy to work with. Nothing at all like string, or steel or picture hanging wire.

The instructions, as mentioned, are three 8.5 x 11-inch pieces of paper. Each page is jammed packed with what to do and what makes this easier is that they are color-coded. Kit pieces are black outlined, photo-etched pieces are blue, and resin and metal pieces are orange. This keeps it very easy to follow and all steps are alphabetized.

The biggest compliment I can give this set is that it makes me want to go out and buy the Trumpeter kit because this set is so cool and complete. The amount of stuff you get is amazing. The set lists for around \$40, and that seems reasonable for what you get. I would once again like to thank Sprue Brothers for supplying this set for review.













