



MiniBrass

RMS TITANIC | RMS-HMT OLYMPIC | HMHS BRITANNIC
B-DECK | C-DECK | D-DECK | HULL PROFILES

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

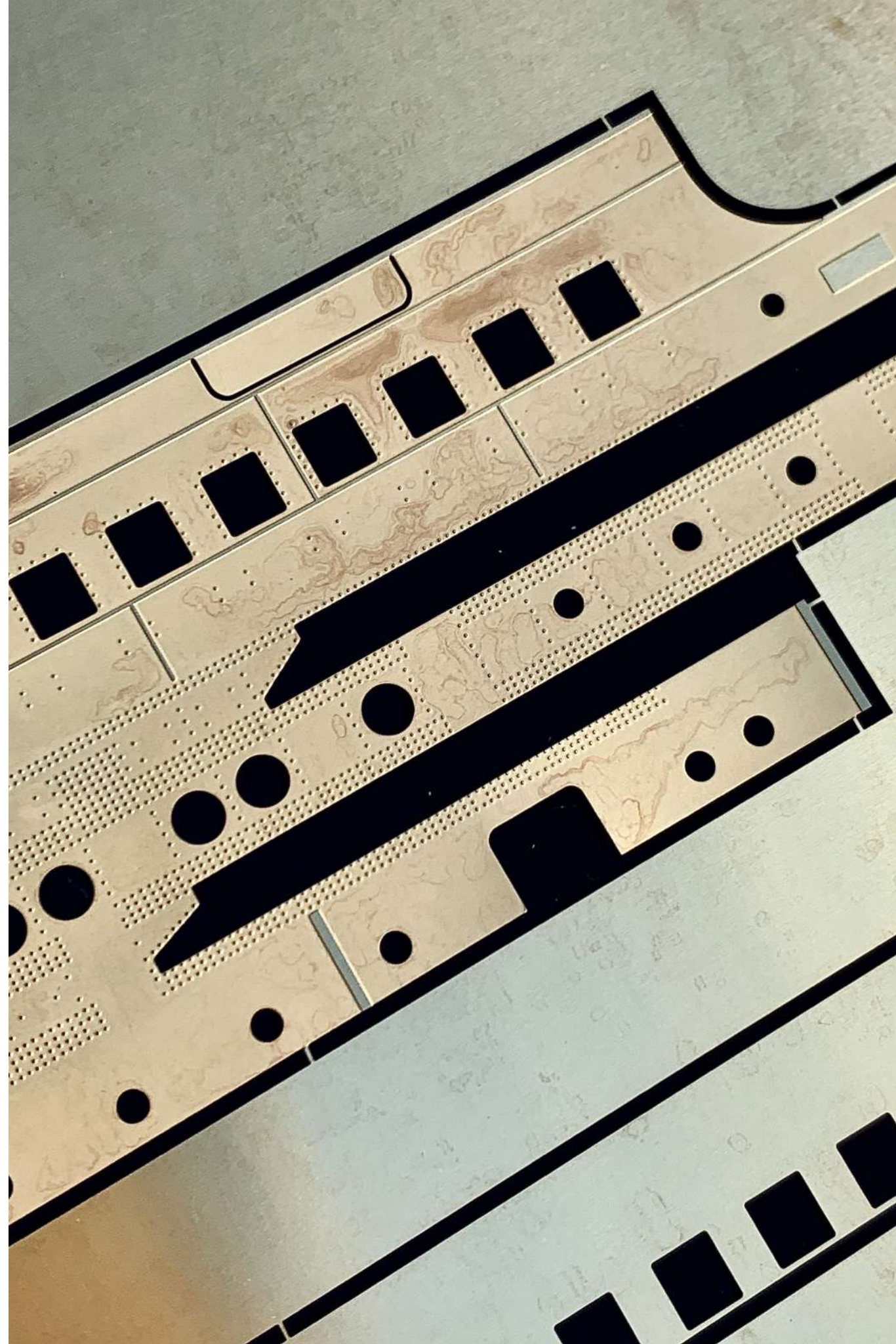
This photo etch set is created for the Trumpeter 1:200 scale Titanic model. Although Trumpeter has released the most detailed Titanic kit to date, it is not without its flaws. Some modelers have chosen to go to great lengths to correct these mistakes as they realize that the Trumpeter kit is a great base to build upon.

It is with this in mind that I have created this photo etch set. The purpose of the set is to fully and accurately represent the hydraulic rivet pattern of Titanic. Every single rivet is accounted for and placed in its correct location. The etched parts also corrects many of the errors Trumpeter has made in regards to window and porthole locations and dimensions. This becomes clear once you start working with the PE and notice that the windows and portholes do not line up with Trumpeter's. Consequently, the kit hull needs to be modified to make the PE achieve its full potential but the end result will be worth all the hard work.

As you work through these instructions you may notice that this is an extensive set with a lot of parts. My recommendation is that you treat it as kit in its own right. Take your time to get this right as this PE can lift your model from a basic plastic kit to a museum quality piece. The more determined you are to do a good job with the assembly the better the chances are you will succeed.

The instructions at hand present one of several ways that the PE can be used. The method described is the easiest option and will allow you to build the kit in accordance with Trumpeter's instructions. With that being said you have the option of going your own way and excluding the plastic sides of the kit (parts N1, P1, N2 and P2) from your build. Whichever way you decide to go, my hope is that these instructions will be of great benefit to your build.

For technical questions regarding the assembly of the PE, help can be found in the Facebook groups "Trumpeter Titanic 1/200th model ONLY building tips and tricks" and "RMS Titanic Model Research and Tech".



GENERAL INFORMATION

The set consists of a total of three 30 x 30 cm sheets of 0.2 mm etched brass. The sheets are pictured to the left and will be referred to as Sheet #1, Sheet #2 and Sheet #3 in this instruction manual. Below is a breakdown of all the parts.

Parts A, B, C and D

The main parts of the photo etch set are marked as part A, B, C and D on the sheets. These are the parts that contain all the rivets, plate laps, windows, portholes, etc. It is highly recommended that you keep these parts attached to the sheets until the other pieces have been attached to them. This is because large areas of etched brass that contain a lot of embossed detailing have a tendency of curling once removed from their attachment points. The curling might make the PE parts difficult to work with and increases the likelihood of accidental damage or bending of the parts.

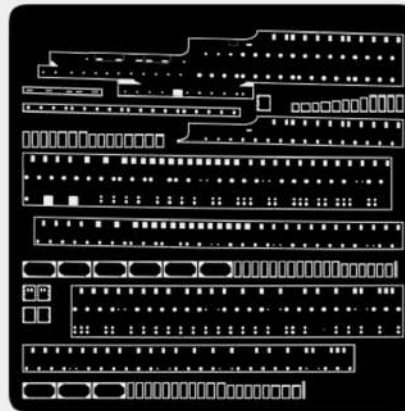
Back plates

There are several backplates on the sheets that will be attached to the back of parts A, B, C and D. These plates serve the purpose of strengthening parts A-D but most importantly, they add an inner frame to the windows on B-deck and the 19 x 24 in portholes on C-deck and D-deck.

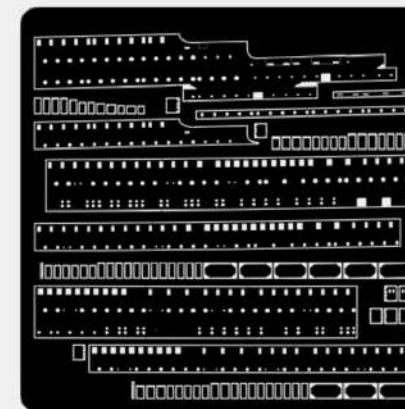
Doubling plates

There are a total of 180 doubling plates included in the set; 90 for each side of the ship. Each doubling plate is unique in terms of rivet pattern, shape and sheer. It is therefore important that you follow the instructions to assemble the doubling plates in their correct location.

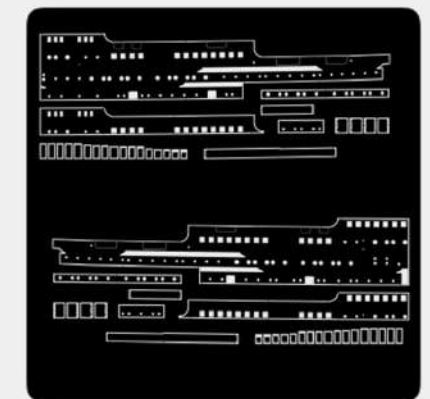
SHEET #1 - PORT SIDE



SHEET #2 - STARBOARD SIDE



SHEET #3 - PORT & STARBOARD SIDE

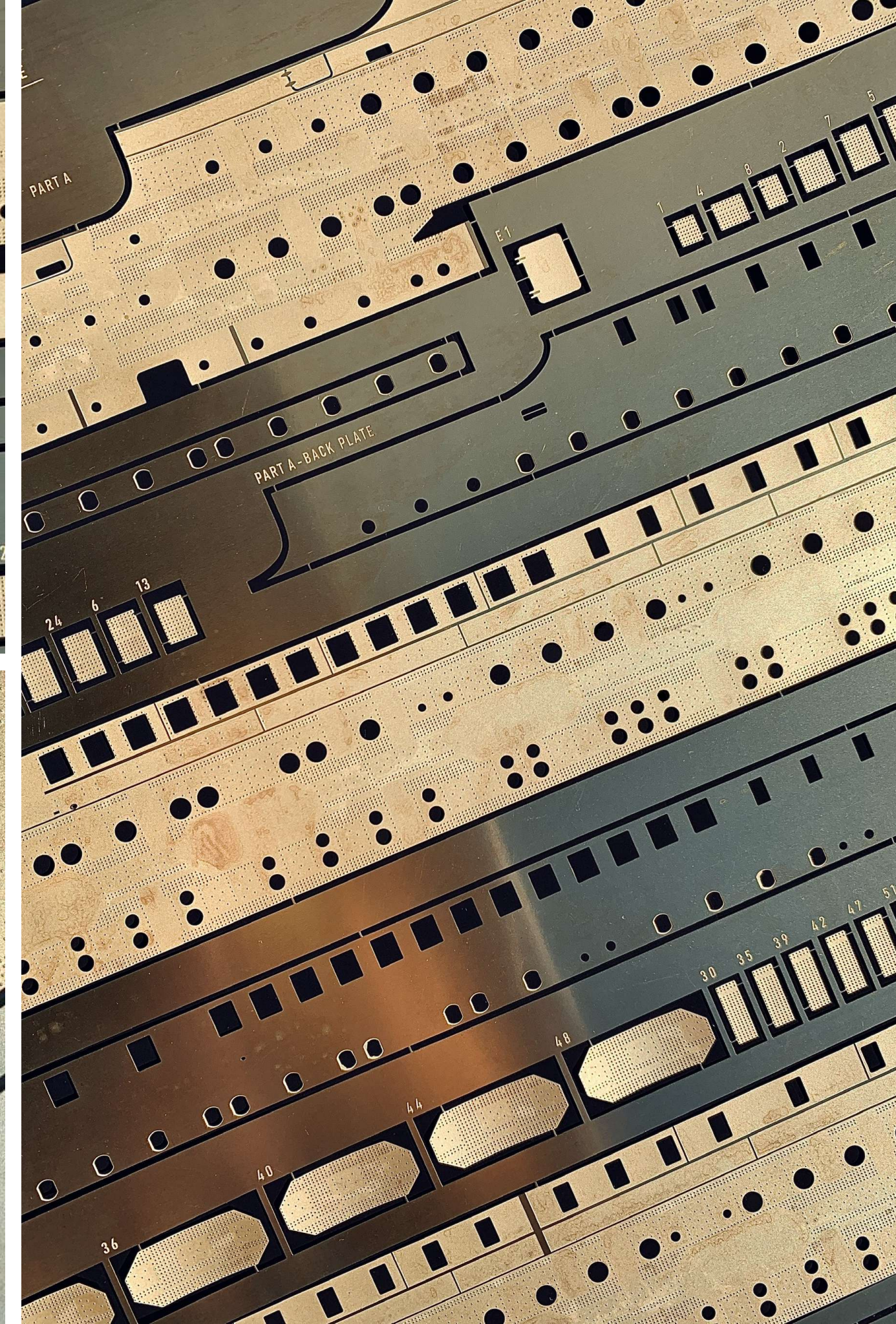
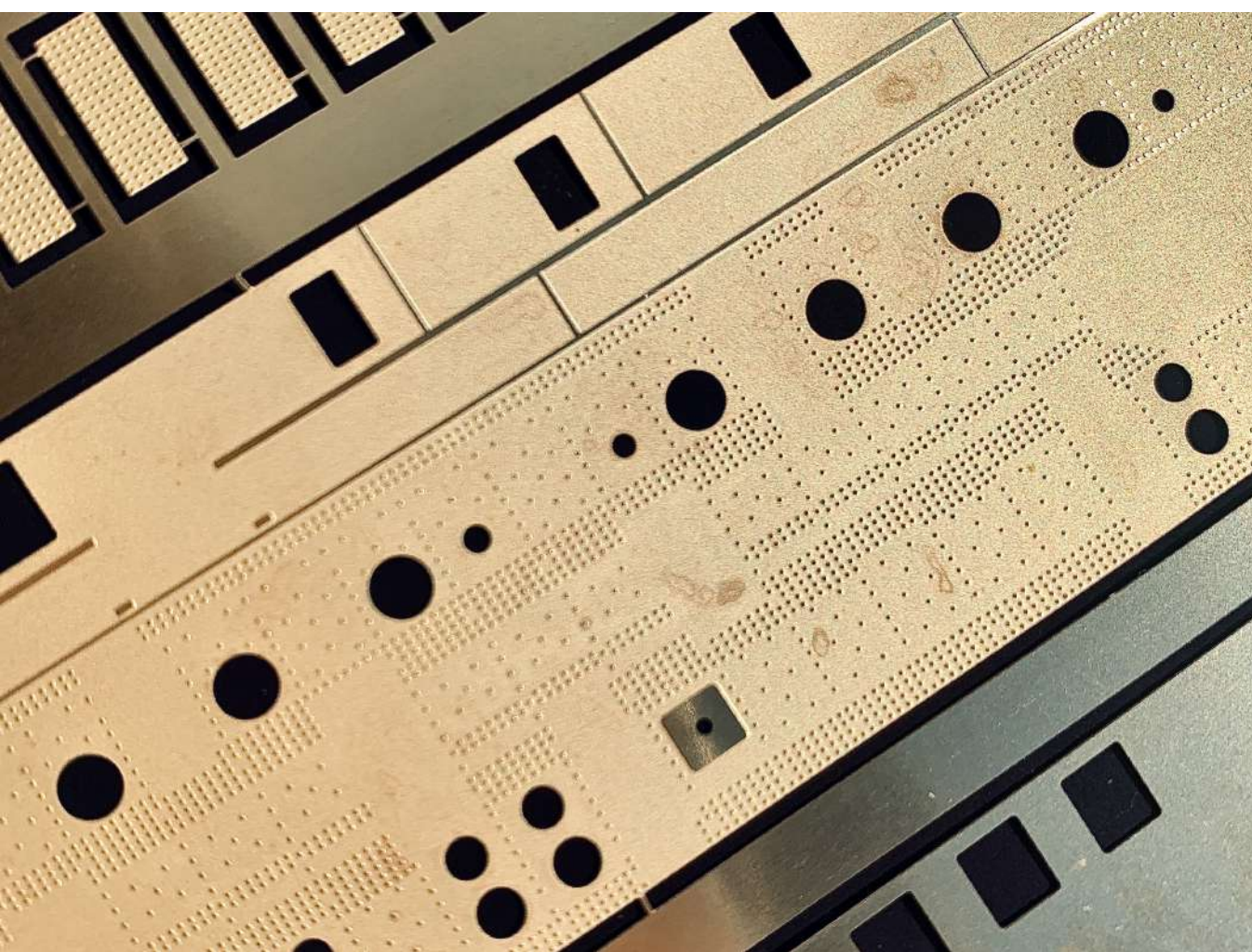
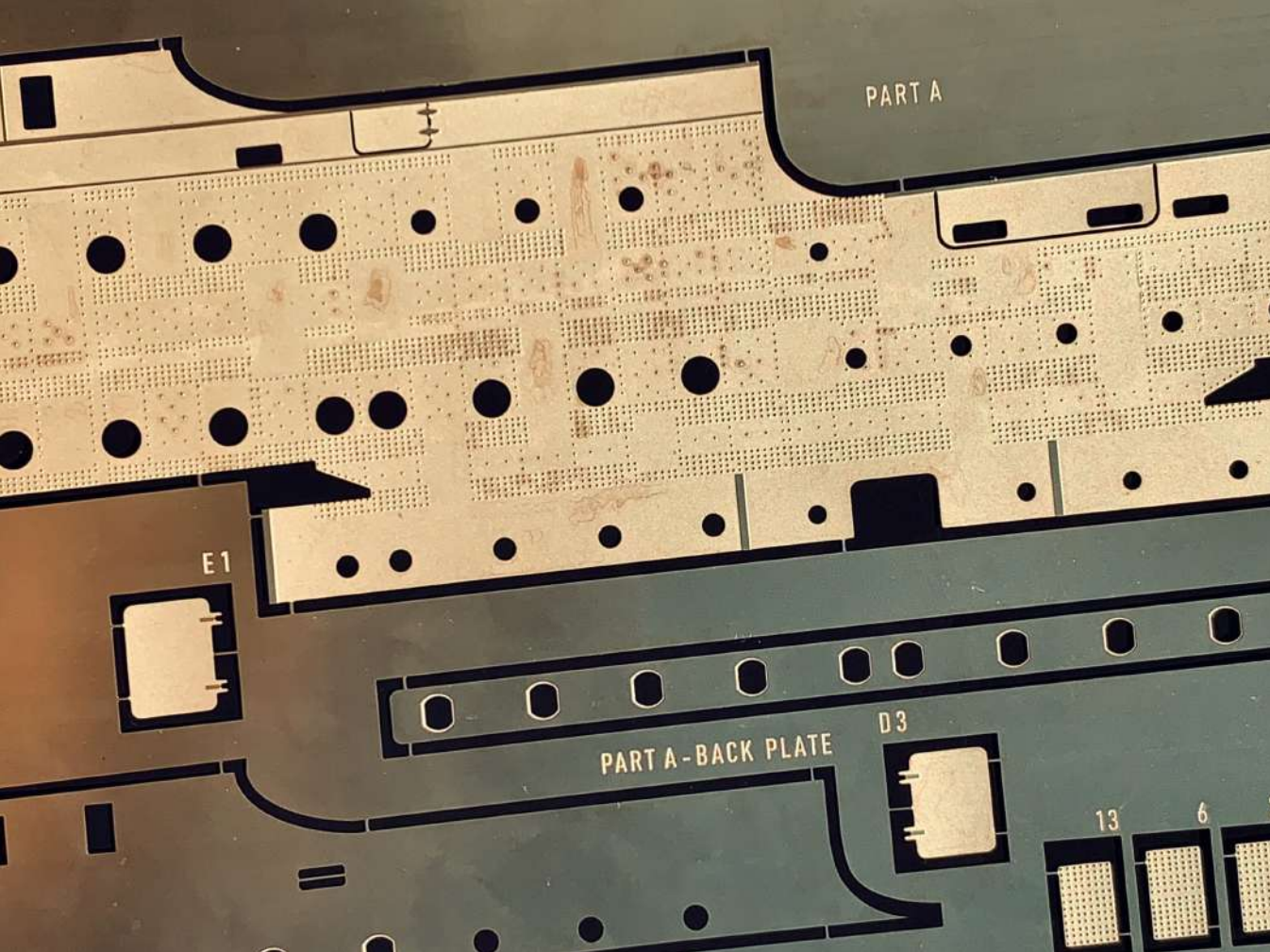


Doors

All doors on B-deck, C-deck and D-deck are included in this set. There are also a few E-deck doors included as well. The majority of the doors are etched separately and need to be attached to Parts A-D. The doors on B-deck and C-deck can only be modeled closed whereas the doors on D-deck and E-deck can be modeled both open or closed depending on the modeler's chosen configuration and desire.

Misc

In addition to the parts mentioned so far there are also a few other pieces that are etched separately, namely: the safety bars for the forward well-deck wash ports (for part A); the expansion joint details (for part B & C); the inner plating (for part D); and extension of E-deck (for part D).



TIPS & TRICKS

Tools

The following is a list of tools that is recommended to have at hand when working with this photo etch set. Most of these tools are essential when building models in general so if you do not own a specific tool it might be worth the investment for the rest of your build as well.

1. An X-Acto knife with #11 or #22 blade or PE scissors (essential)
2. Diamond files for photo etch (essential)
3. A china marker or another pick-up tool (essential)
4. Pliers (essential)
5. Magnifiers (optional)

Cleanup

Never remove PE parts from the sheet by twisting or turning the parts. This will damage them. Always cut off parts using a sharp knife or PE scissors. To get the parts looking accurate, the tags need to be filed or cut off.

There might be a few areas here and there on the sheet where cutouts of windows or portholes have not been etched through completely. This is normal when etching large sheets with a lot of detail and is commonly referred to as flash. To get a good final result these areas can be cleaned up using a diamond file.

Cleaning the parts

Before parts can be used properly, they should be cleaned as you do with any other model part. This should be done to remove the residue left from the

etching process and is essential in helping paint and glue adhere to the parts. Please keep in mind that the riveted parts of the etch are very susceptible to fiber pick-up from cloths and other tissue-like cleaning tools. Fibers can be quite difficult to be rid off once they get stuck between the rivets. It is therefore recommended that you let these parts air dry instead of wiping them dry.

Adhesives

You will need to use adhesives that bonds well with PE. Usually the recommendation is to use CA glue or epoxy glue. There are many different variants to choose from: thin; thick; slow settings; instant bond; etc. Your choice should be based on your skill level, experience of working with PE and the specific part of the set you are working with. For instance, a small doubling plate is easy to glue on with a thin instant bond CA whereas on a larger piece you might find yourself needing a few extra seconds or even minutes to make adjustment before the bond is made.



Painting

It is highly recommended that you use metal (etching) primer before painting. This will ensure that your final coat of paint adheres to the parts properly. An airbrush will be necessary to get a nice final finish. It is always better to do several light coats instead of one thick coat, especially on parts like these where you have a lot of fine details.



BACK PLATES

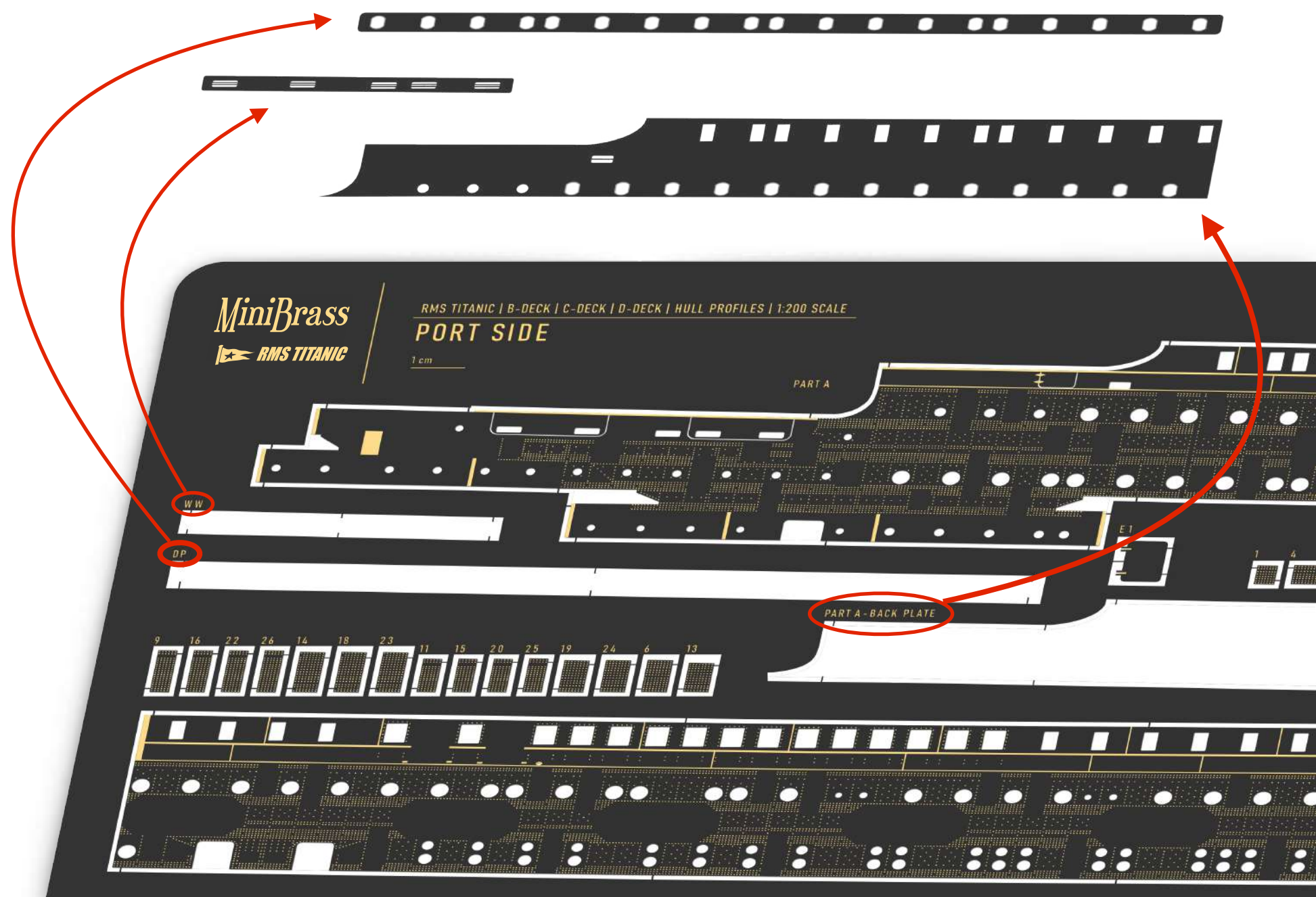
SHEET #1 - PORT SIDE

Begin assembling Sheet #1 by installing all back plates for Part A in their correct location. Follow the steps below.

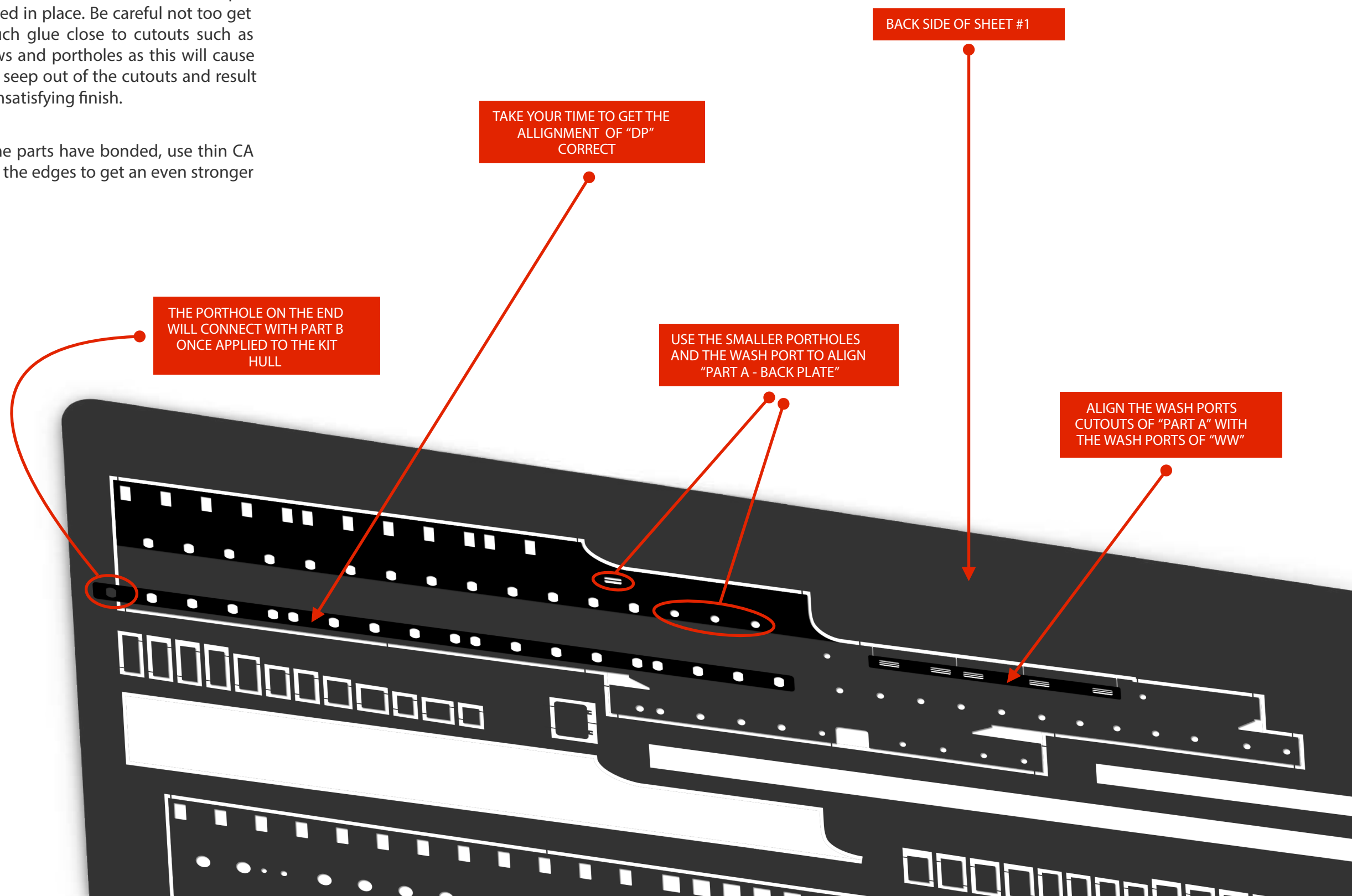
► Cut away the the following parts from the PE sheet:

- Part A - Backplate
- WW
- DP

► Use a diamond file or PE scissors to remove any remaining tags and clean the parts.



- ▶ Turn Sheet #1 over, with its back side facing up.
- ▶ Glue the parts in place. Use enough glue to get an even distribution once the part is pressed in place. Be careful not to get too much glue close to cutouts such as windows and portholes as this will cause glue to seep out of the cutouts and result in an unsatisfying finish.
- ▶ After the parts have bonded, use thin CA around the edges to get an even stronger bond.



► Apply the remaining two back plates in the same manner:

- Part B - Back Plate
- Part C - Back Plate

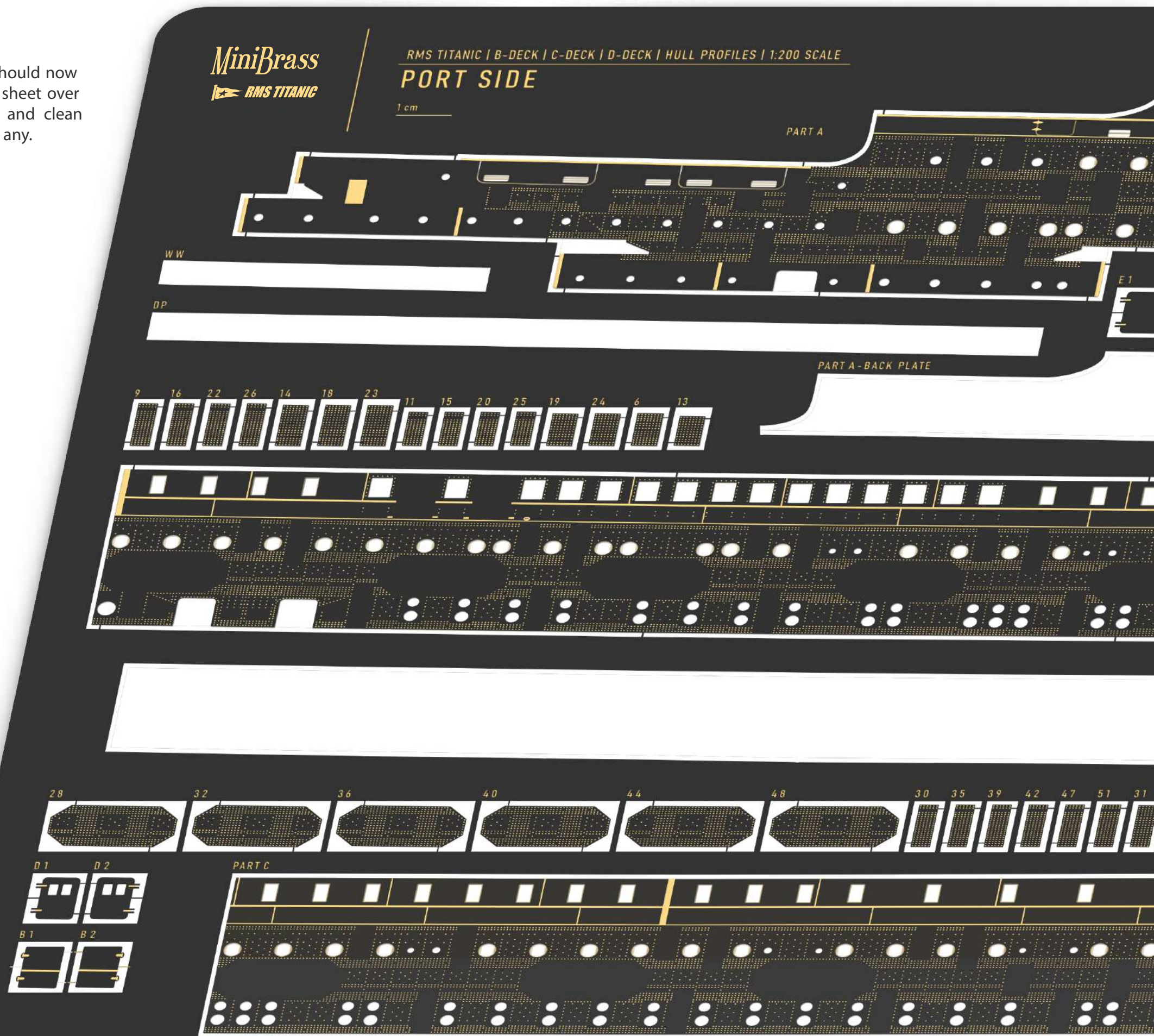
BACK SIDE OF SHEET #1

"PART B - BACK PLATE" IS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE BACK SIDE OF "PART B"

USE THE SMALL PORTHOLES TO ALIGN THE PIECES CORRECTLY

"PART C - BACK PLATE" IS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE BACK SIDE OF "PART C"

- The back plates for Sheet #1 should now be securely in place. Turn the sheet over with its front side facing up and clean away any excess glue if there is any.



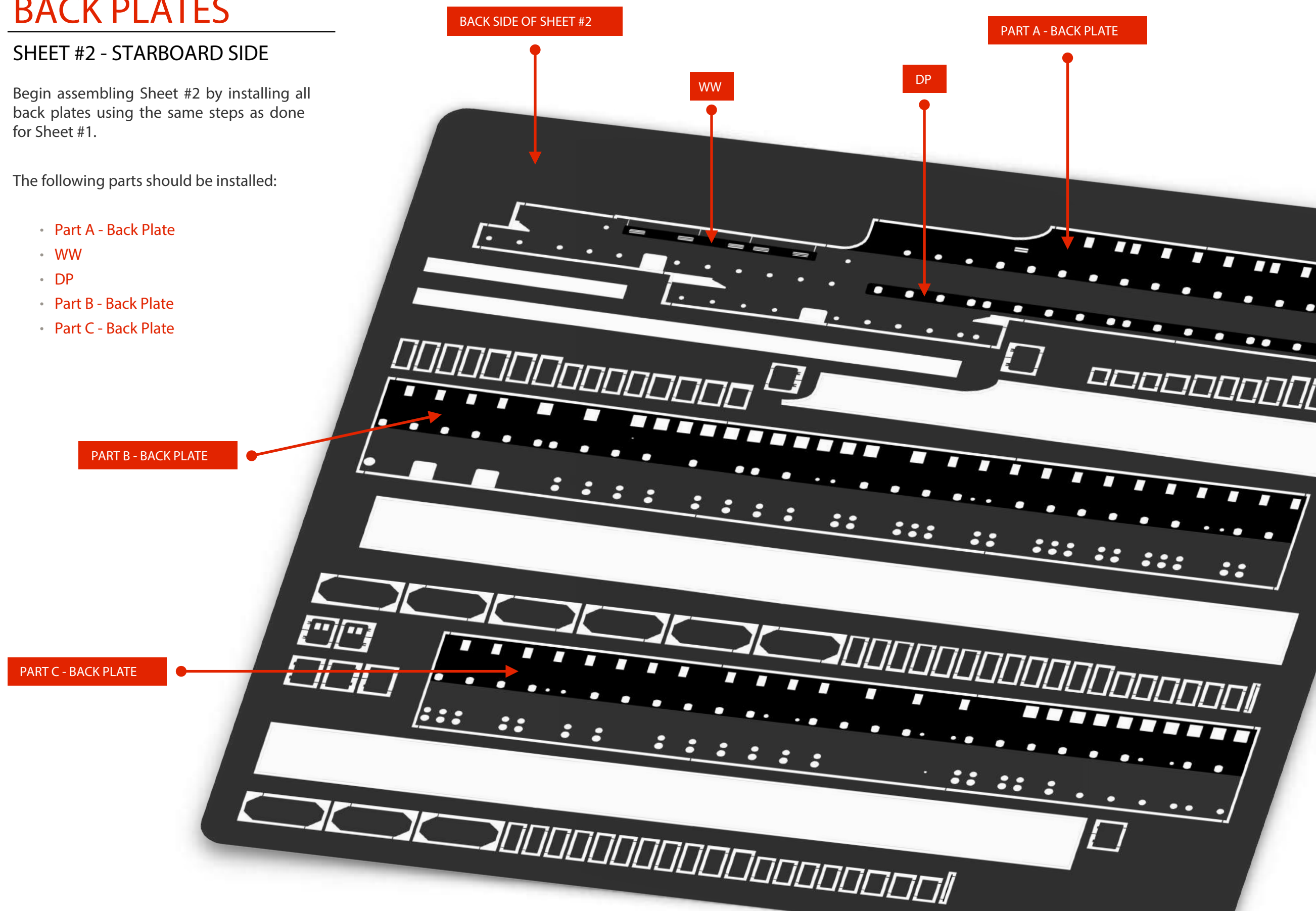
BACK PLATES

SHEET #2 - STARBOARD SIDE

Begin assembling Sheet #2 by installing all back plates using the same steps as done for Sheet #1.

The following parts should be installed:

- Part A - Back Plate
- WW
- DP
- Part B - Back Plate
- Part C - Back Plate



BACK PLATES

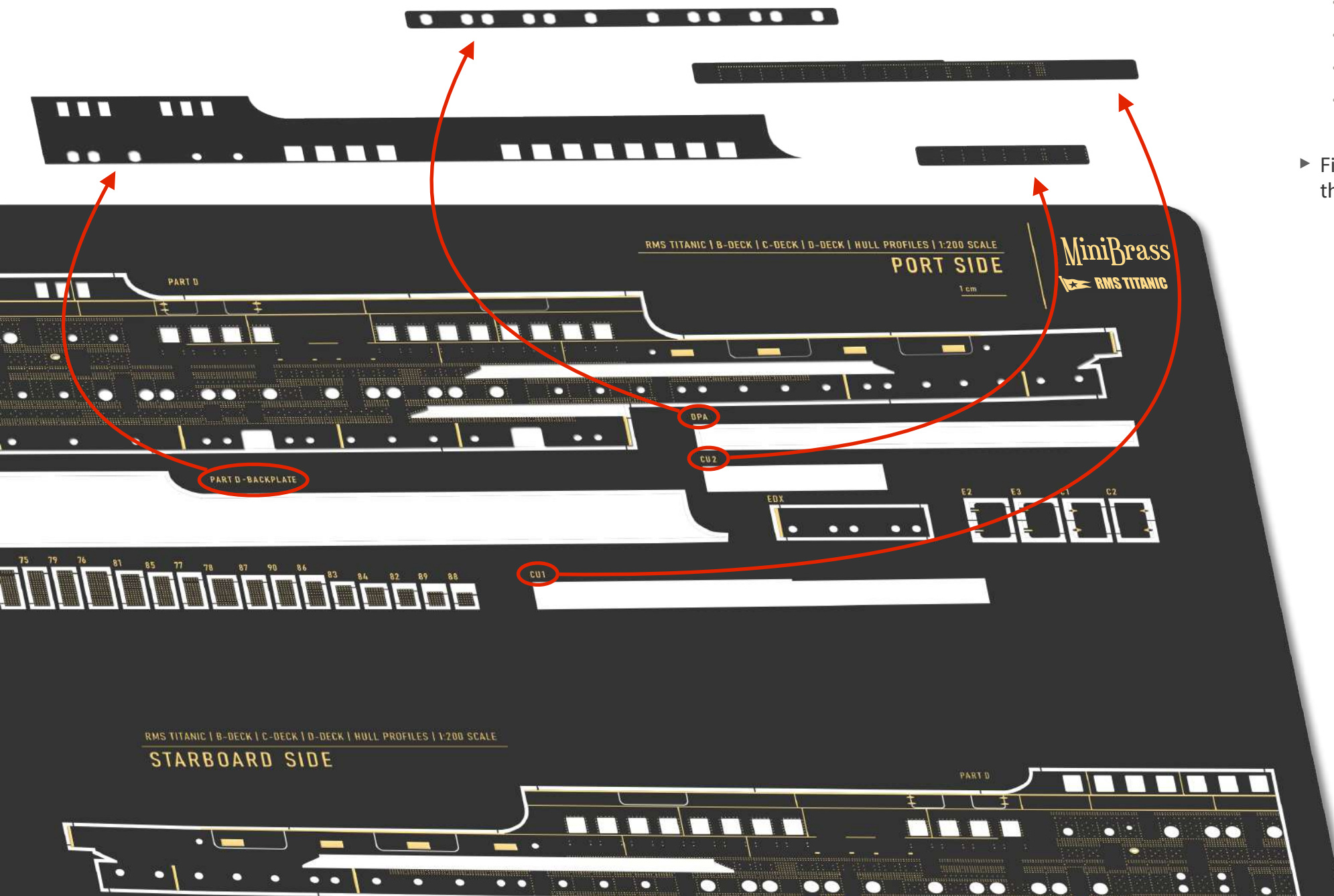
SHEET #3

Start the assembly of port side of Sheet #3 by installing all back plates in their correct location.

► Remove the following parts from sheet #3 port:

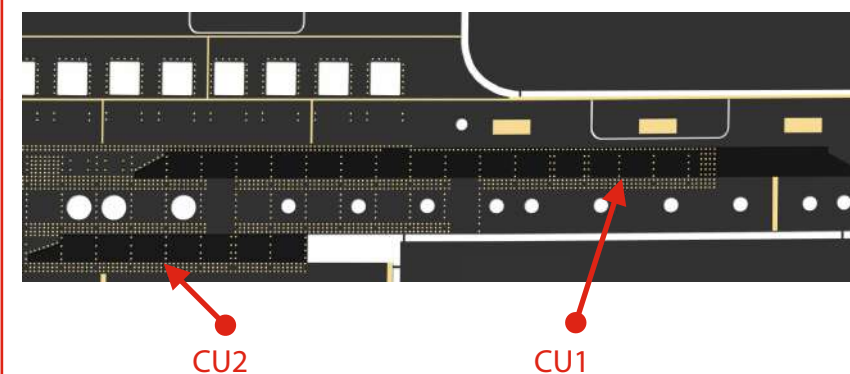
- Part D - Back plate
- DPA
- CU1
- CU2

► File away any remaining tags and clean the parts.



- ▶ Turn sheet #3 over, with its back facing up.
- ▶ Glue the parts in place. Use enough glue to get an even distribution once the part is pressed in place. Be careful not to get too much glue close to cutouts such as windows and portholes as this will cause the glue to seep out and result in an unsatisfying finish.
- ▶ After the parts have been glued on, use thin CA around the edges to get an even stronger bond.

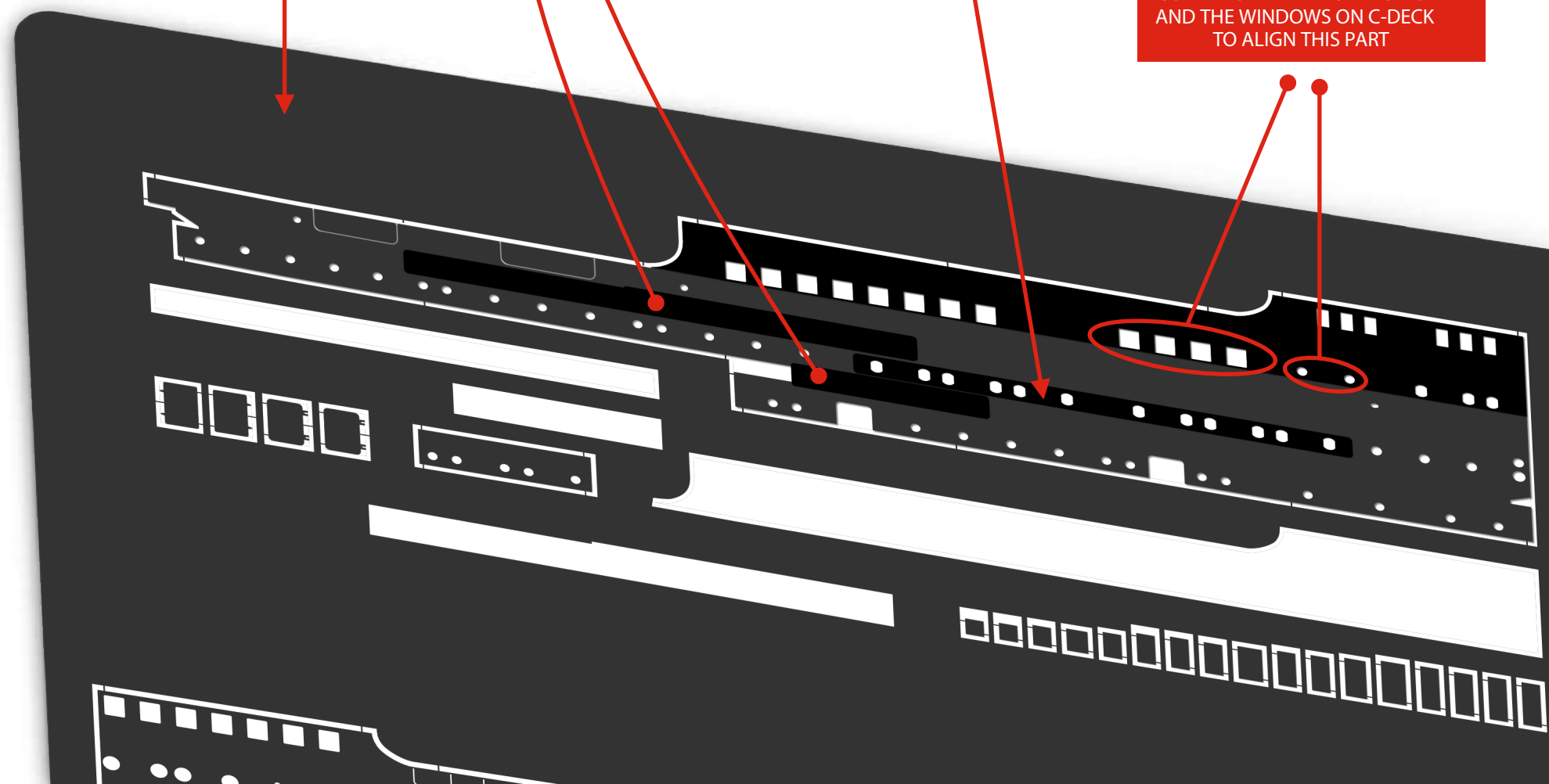
Make sure the rivet pattern on the front side of CU1 and CU2 matches the rivet pattern of Part D in accordance with the graphic below:

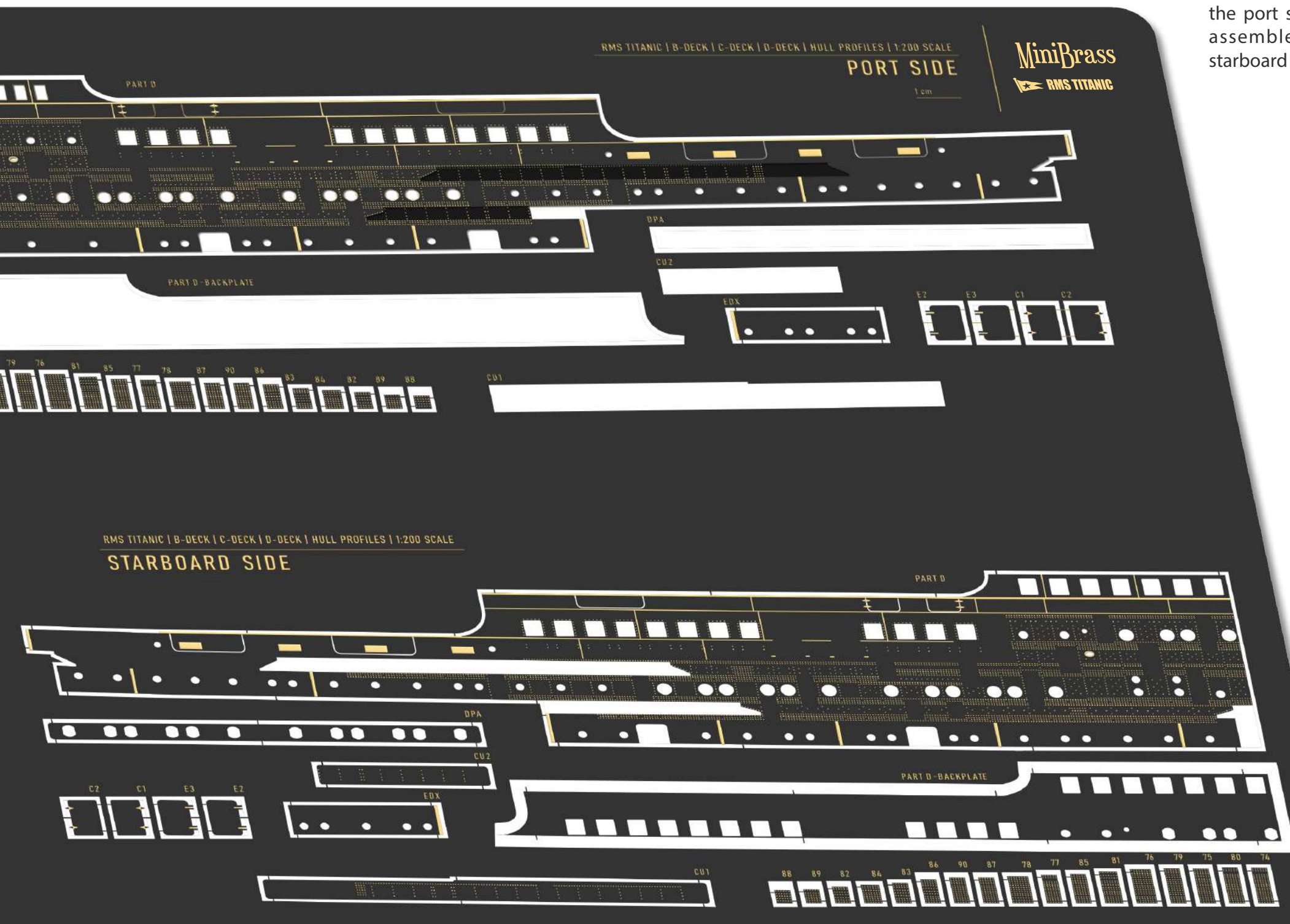


BACK SIDE OF SHEET #3

TAKE YOUR TIME TO GET THE ALIGNMENT CORRECT ON THIS PART

USE THE SMALLER PORTHOLE AND THE WINDOWS ON C-DECK TO ALIGN THIS PART





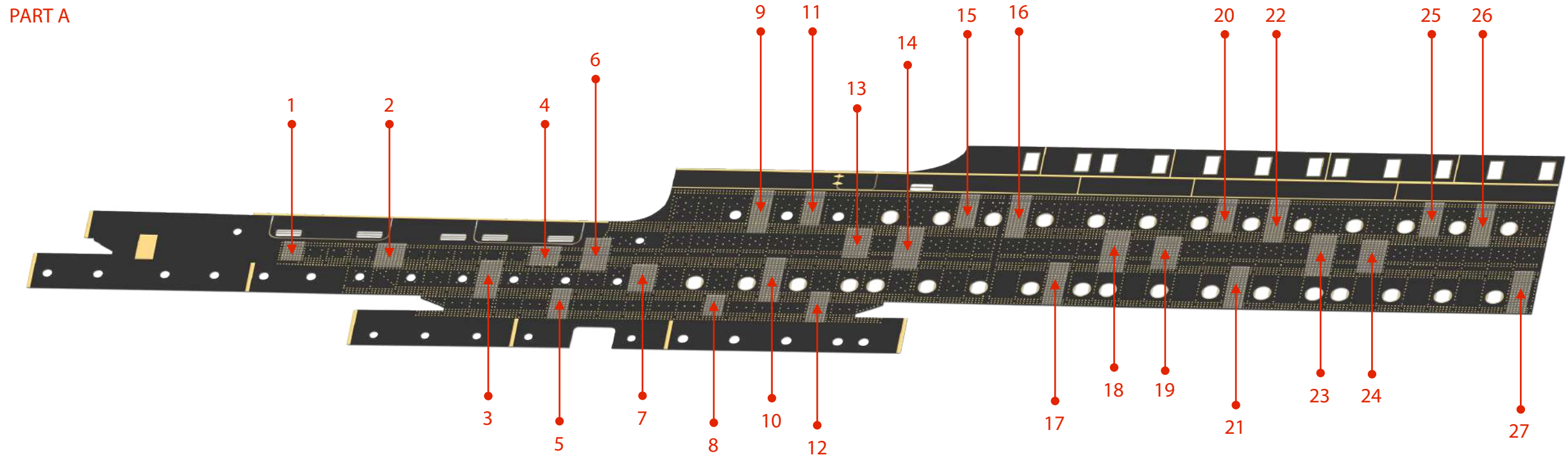
- The back plates for the port side of Sheet #3 should now be securely in place. Turn the sheet over with its front side facing up and clean off any excess glue if there is any.
- The starboard side of Sheet #3 has the exact same back plate configuration as the port side. Repeat the same steps to assemble the back plates for the starboard side.

DOUBLING PLATES

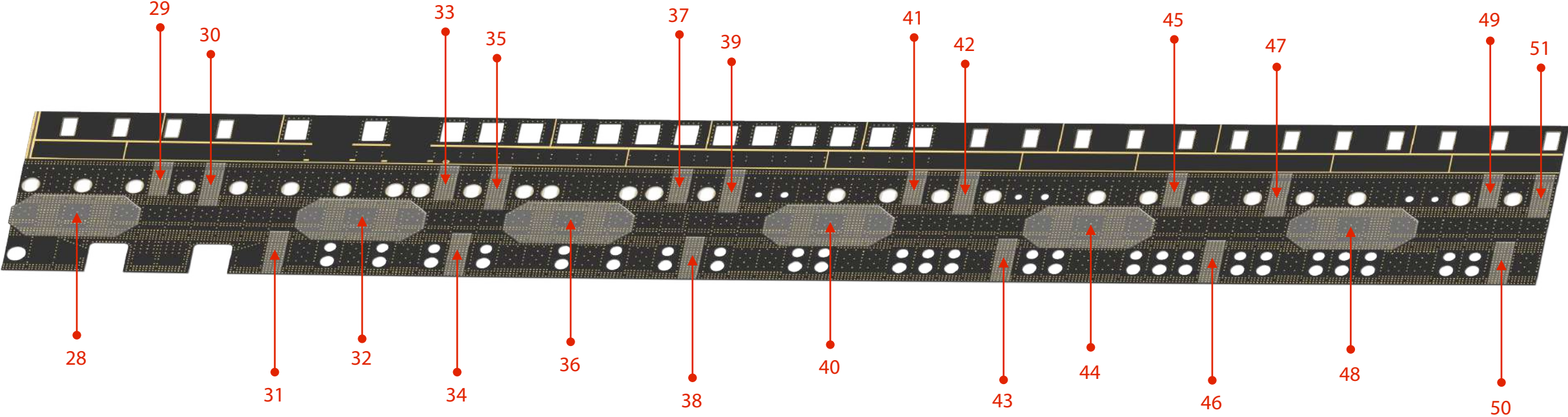
SHEETS #1 & #3 - PORT SIDE

Use the artwork guides on the following pages to assemble the doubling plates for the port side of the ship (sheet #1 and #3). To avoid mixing the doubling plates with each other, always work with one doubling plate at a time. Do the following steps for each doubling plate:

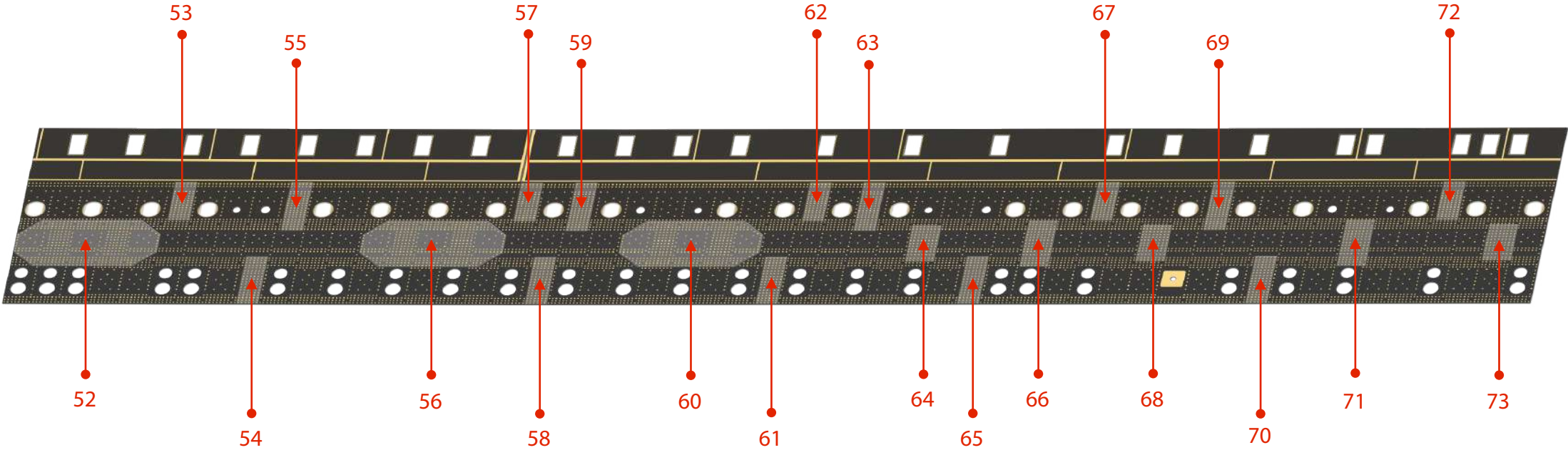
- ▶ Remove the doubling plate from the sheet.
- ▶ Remove any remaining tags and clean the part.
- ▶ Glue the doubling plate to the correct location using the artwork guide. Pay attention to the rivet pattern to get a correct alignment.

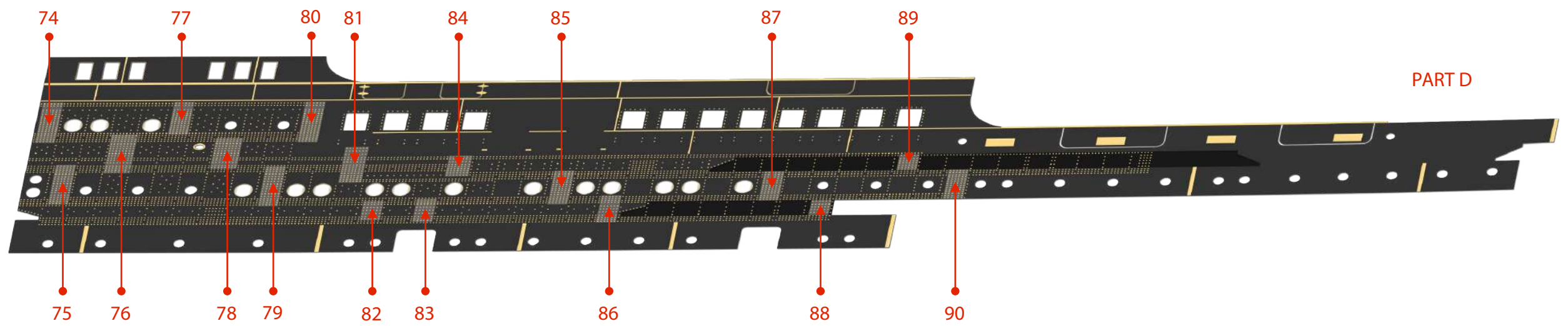


PART B



PART C





DOUBLING PLATES

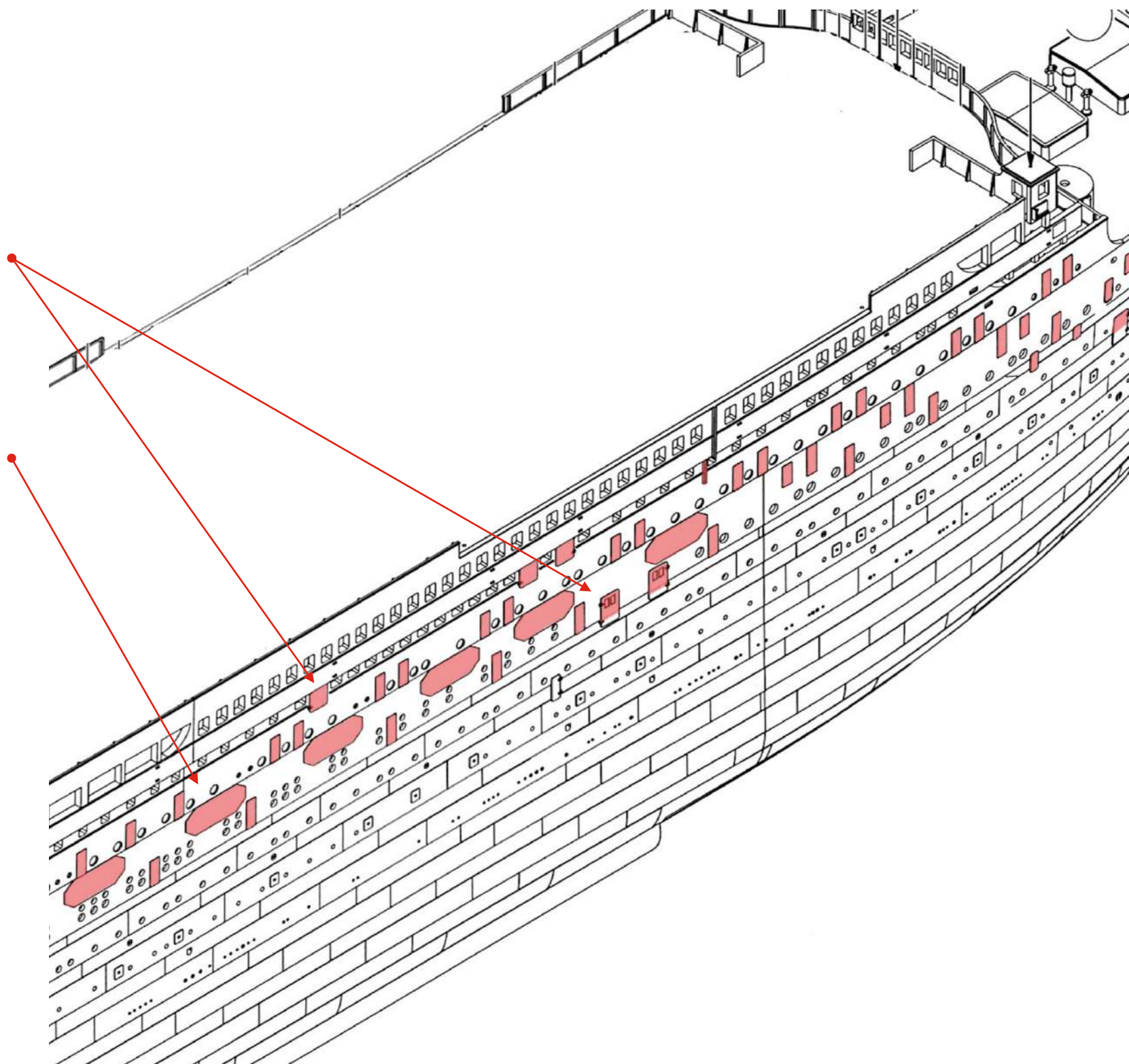
SHEETS #2 & #3 - STARBOARD SIDE

The starboard side of the ship has the same configuration of doubling plates as the port side. Repeat the same steps for starboard. Use the port artwork as a guide as you work with the starboard doubling plates.

PREPARE THE HULL

Prepare the hull and kit parts P1, N1, P2 and N2. The steps below should be taken to ensure a good fit. Start with the port side of the ship and then repeat the same steps for the starboard side.

- ▶ Use a chisel or a sanding block to remove all doors on B-deck and C-deck. As for the doors on D-deck and E-deck, sand them down until they are flush with the outer strake of the deck they belong to. This will leave a lip on the inner strake that will help keep the PE door level.
- ▶ Use a chisel or a sanding block to remove all rivets, doubling plates and other raised details until they are completely flush with the hull. Only the protruding detail should be removed. Do not sand the hull itself as this might affect the fit of the PE.
- ▶ Dry fit the PE parts to make certain they sit flush with the hull. If necessary, make adjustments to the hull or the PE parts to ensure a good fit.
- ▶ Use the PE parts as a template to mark out the location of all portholes. To ensure you get a good scale effect it is highly recommended that you drill holes that are of a wider diameter than the porthole diameter on the PE. By doing so, the thick plastic will not be visible after the PE has been glued on and as a result the porthole will be of the correct thickness scale wise.
- ▶ As for the windows on C-deck and B-deck, the same method as for the portholes should be applied. The more plastic you can conceal behind the PE, the better the end result will be.

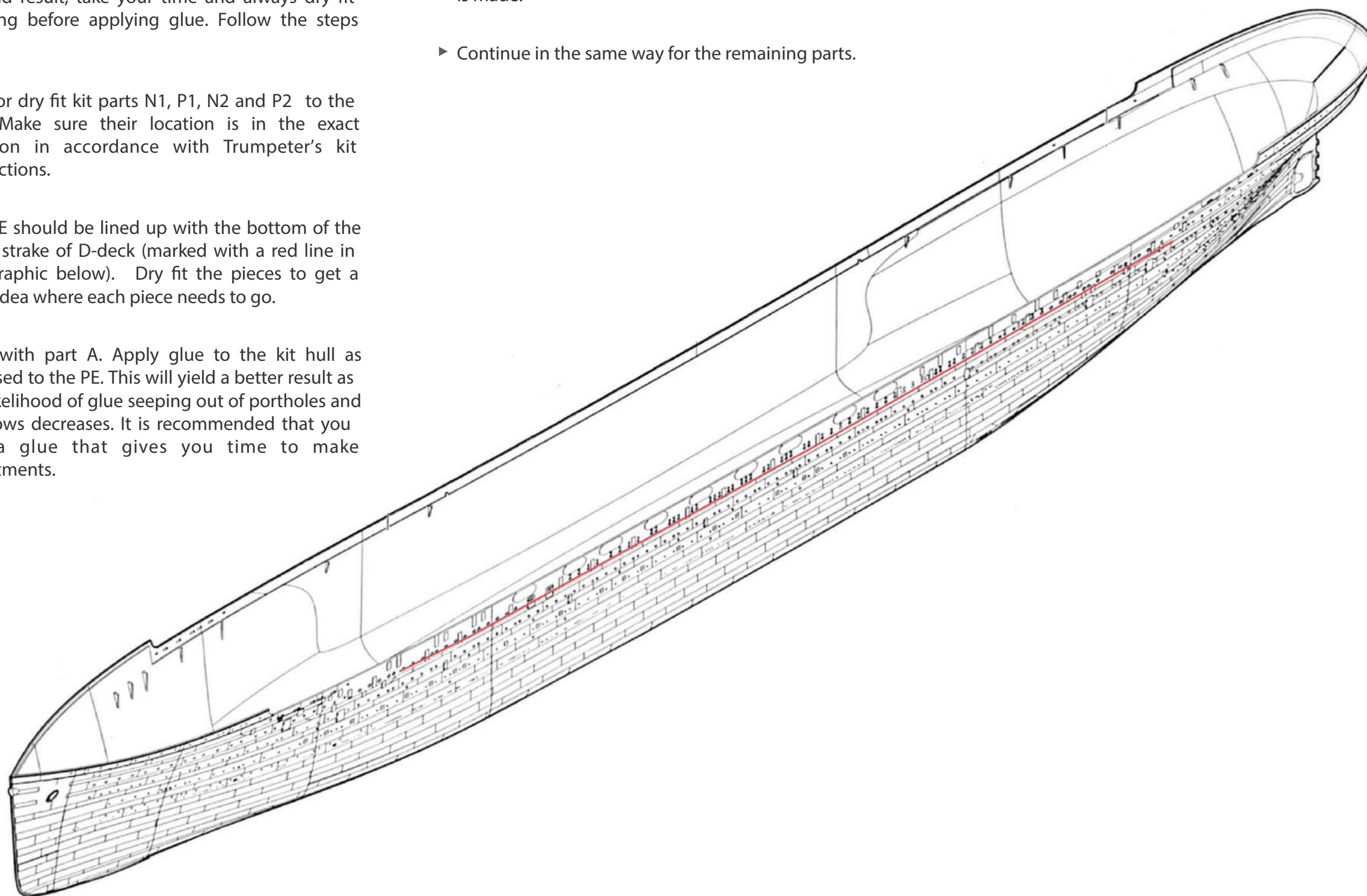


ATTACH THE PE

Attach the PE to the sides of the hull. To ensure a good end result, take your time and always dry fit everything before applying glue. Follow the steps below:

- ▶ Glue or dry fit kit parts N1, P1, N2 and P2 to the hull. Make sure their location is in the exact position in accordance with Trumpeter's kit instructions.
- ▶ The PE should be lined up with the bottom of the outer strake of D-deck (marked with a red line in the graphic below). Dry fit the pieces to get a clear idea where each piece needs to go.
- ▶ Start with part A. Apply glue to the kit hull as opposed to the PE. This will yield a better result as the likelihood of glue seeping out of portholes and windows decreases. It is recommended that you use a glue that gives you time to make adjustments.

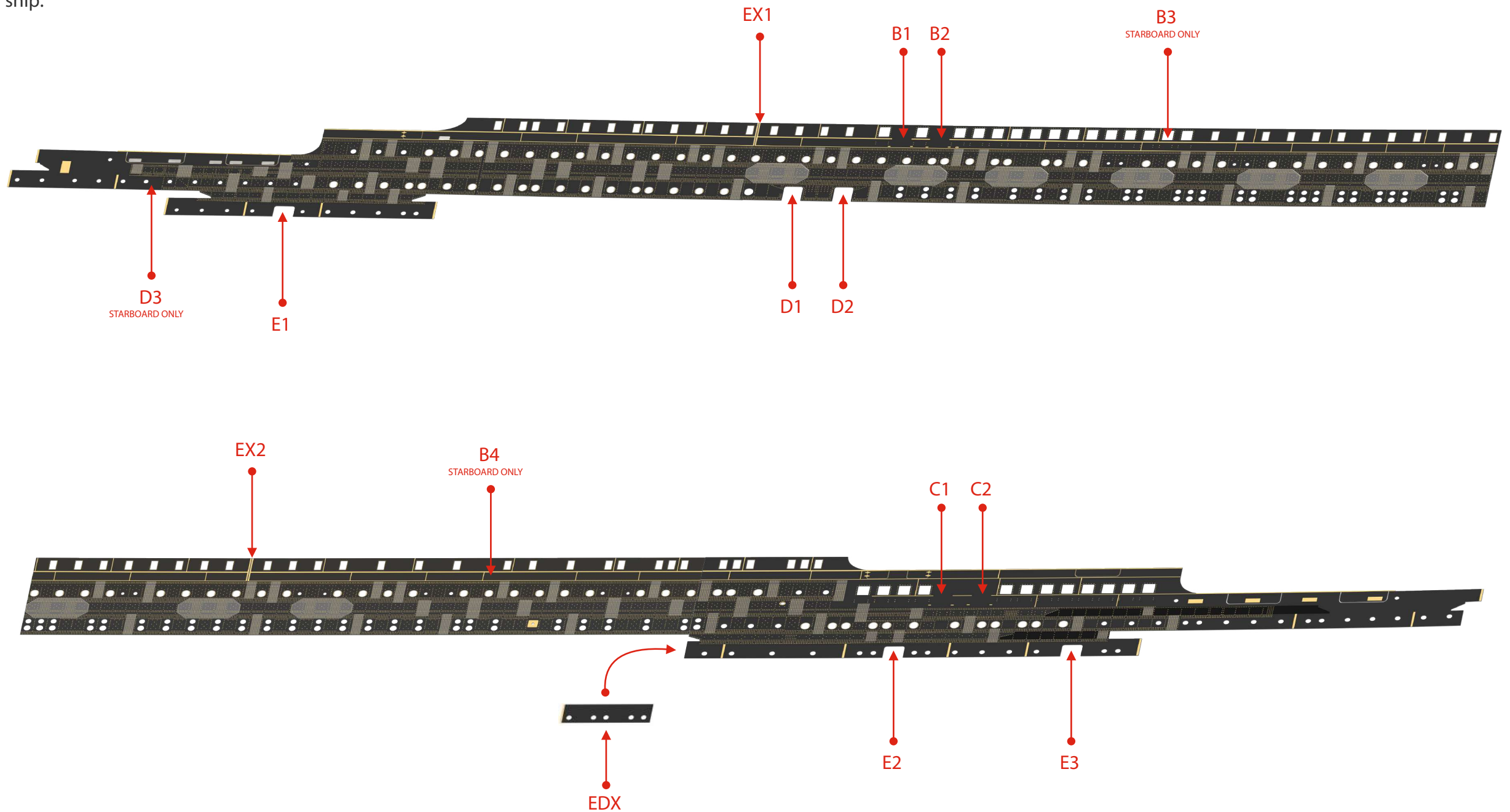
- ▶ Make sure the PE is firmly pressed down to the hull until the glue has cured completely. Depending on the curing time of your glue, using clamps will help keep the PE in place until a bond is made.
- ▶ Continue in the same way for the remaining parts.



DOORS & MISC

ALL SHEETS

The final step in the assembly process is attaching all doors and miscellaneous parts in their correct location. Use the graphic below for reference for both sides of the ship.



PART A - BACK PLATE

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