

# KD Perkasa P150

Built by Fran Oakey



Perkasa was one of four motor torpedo boats built by Vosper for the Malaysian navy in 1967, the other boats were, 151 KD Handalan, 152 KD Gempita and 153 KD Pendekar. The “KD” stands for Kapal Diraja and translated means Royal Ship the equivalent to our HMS. The boats were 96ft long with the main power being supplied by three, Rolls Royce marine Proteus, gas turbines driving through reverse/reduction vee-drive gearboxes to fully cavitating propellers and diesel engines providing the power for cruising and manoeuvring.

For long-range operations these boats were fitted with plastic fuel tanks instead of the aluminium tanks on the earlier boats. This increased the amount of fuel that could be carried and eased the problems of tank removal or replacement. The topsides and upper deck was covered with Cascover nylon to protect the wood from the heat and damp of the tropics.

The boats were armed with two 40mm Bofors one fore, one aft and up to four torpedoes but for long range operation two of the torpedoes were replaced with the long range fuel tanks. The torpedoes were carried on side launch chutes instead of tubes and the Bofors were locally controlled.

The 1:24 scale model was built from the Precedent kit with most of the kit fittings being discarded. A number of the fittings used on the model were supplied by Precision Controls with the rest being scratch built from a combination of balsa, plasticard and “StripStyrene”. On the prototype the deck was clad with “cascover nylon”, this finish has been simulated on the model using a lightweight glass cloth fixed to the deck with a clear varnish then painted deck green.

The armament fitted on this model is two 40mm Bofors, because the text in the instruction manual says that the full size had two Bofors. However one photograph of the P150 (KD Perkasa) clearly shows the boat stern gun to be a twin 20mm Oerlikon. The front Bofor has been fitted with a servo and slow progressive drive electronics controlled from the transmitter. Only two torpedoes have been fitted to the model, the space for the other two being filled with the long-range fuel tanks.

The model is powered with a Graupner Speed 900 motor driving a 50mm diameter plastic propeller. Three props drove the full size boat but the model has only one screw, this was done to keep the weight of the finished model down, in order to achieve a realistic speed. The motor is powered from a 24v battery, two 12v packs in series, originally NiCds were used but latterly LiPos have been used. The motor speed is controlled with a Robbe Maxi 540 MP speed controller. Two rudders are fitted to the model, as per the prototype. The radio control uses three channels, one for steering, one for speed control, and one channel is used to operate the front Bofor.