

Imperial Japanese Navy, Pacific War Fleet Submarine C-3 Class I-53



Image by: Tom H. Johnson ©2009, Rochester, New York

A. Overall view of the Lindberg I-53 1/72 scale submarine. **B.** Conning tower, with flag and “press-on” decal for the boats number. **C.** Kaiten miniature submarines attached to the I-53 late in the Pacific War. **D.** Shown to advantage are the torpedo tubes (note miniature stand for hold such a large model!)

Lindberg 1/72 model kit built November, 2009 by John R. Groves. Kit assembly was generally routine, except for some difficulty attaching the “mini-submarine” straps.

The finished model is nearly 5 feet long and requires a large space for assembly. Unlike smaller projects, the I-53 was a “walk-around” type of task. Often during construction the model would be inadvertently struck by the builder!

Placed within other 1/72 submarines, such as, the USN Gato Class and the German U-boat, this I-53 submarine makes an impressive addition. Needless to say, one has to be prepared for allotting a large exhibit area if they intend to build the I-53.

Overall this unusual project, assembling the world’s largest plastic model was enjoyable. I would recommend it to any modeler with some experience.

John R. Groves, November, 2009