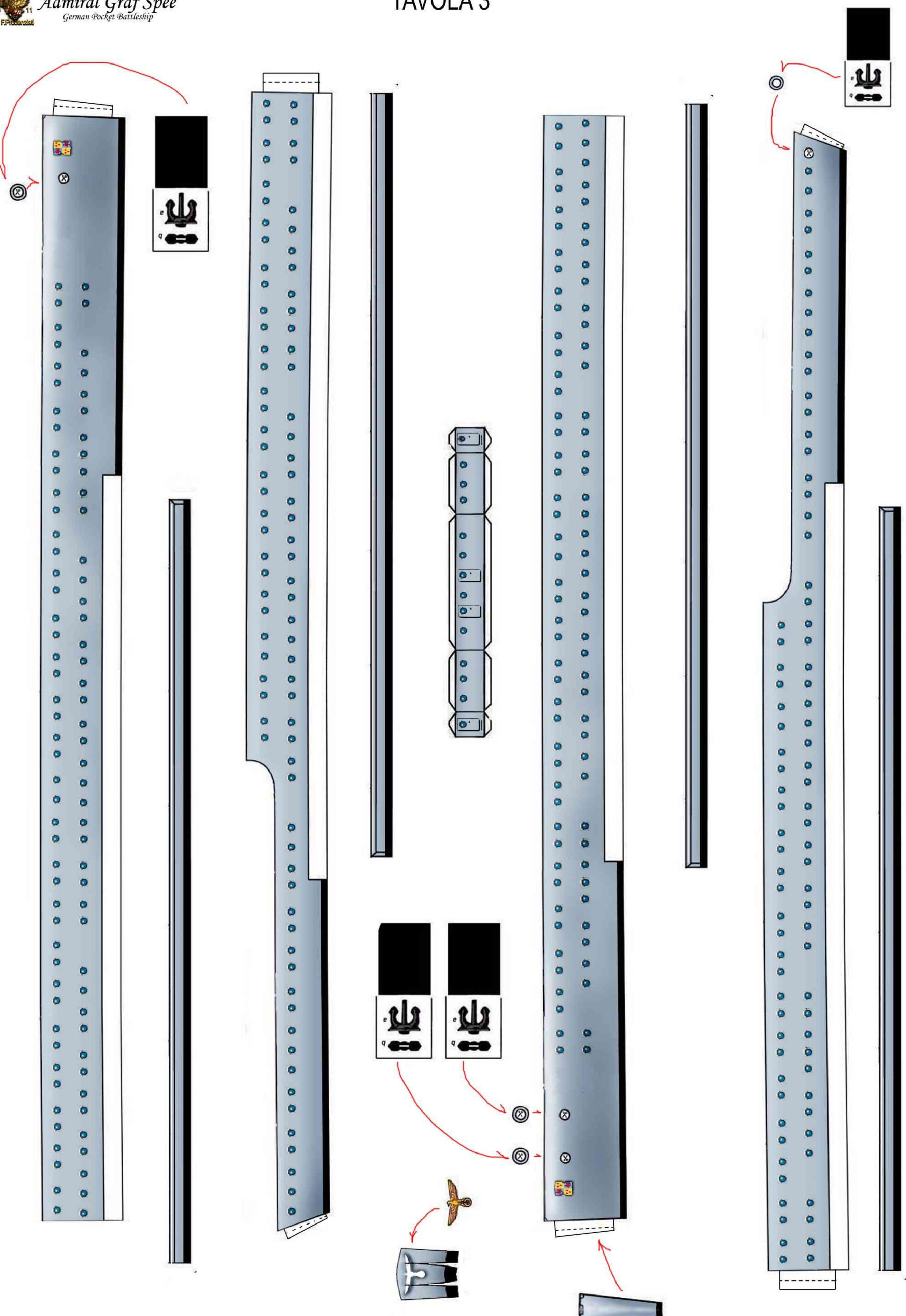
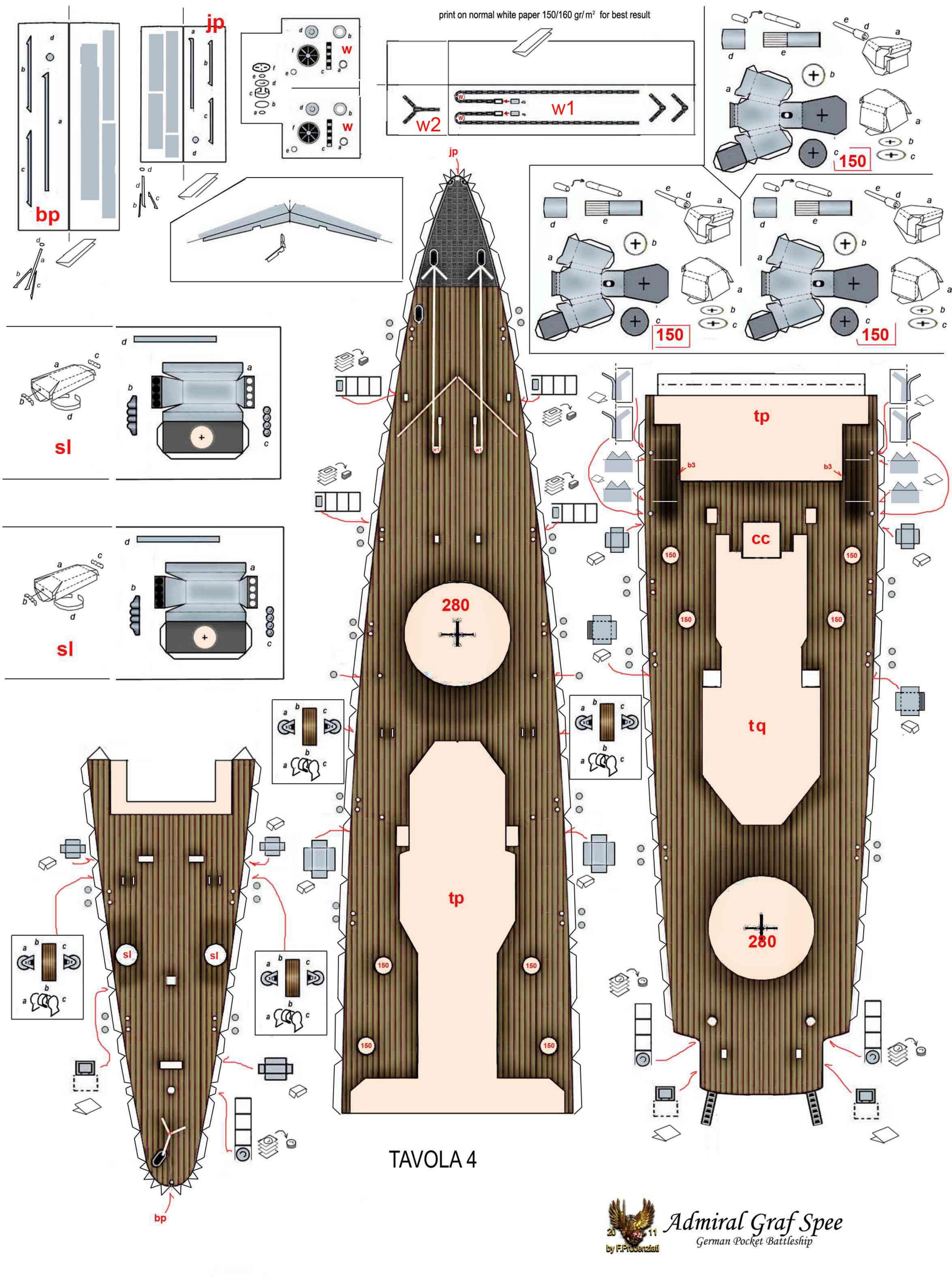
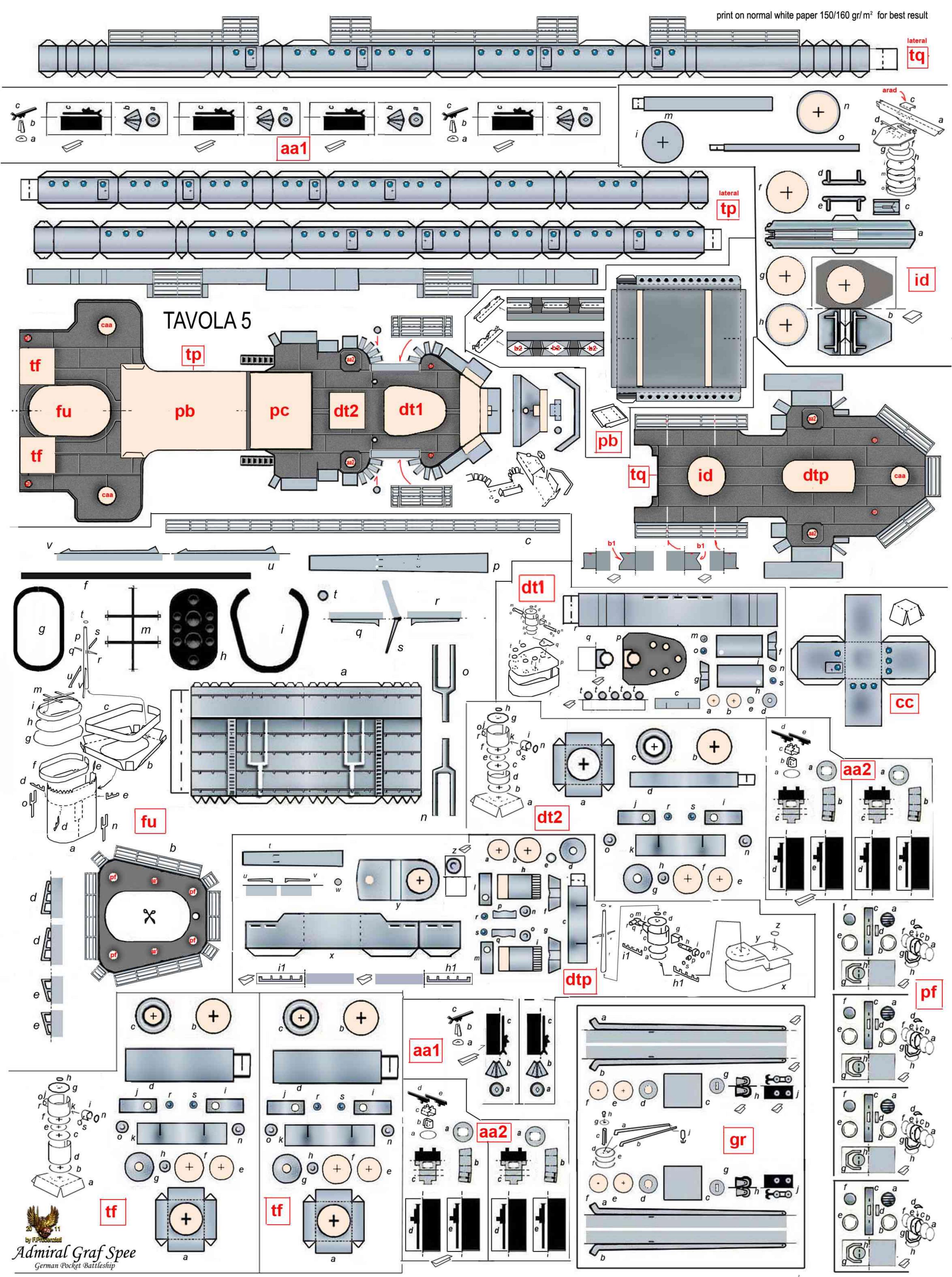


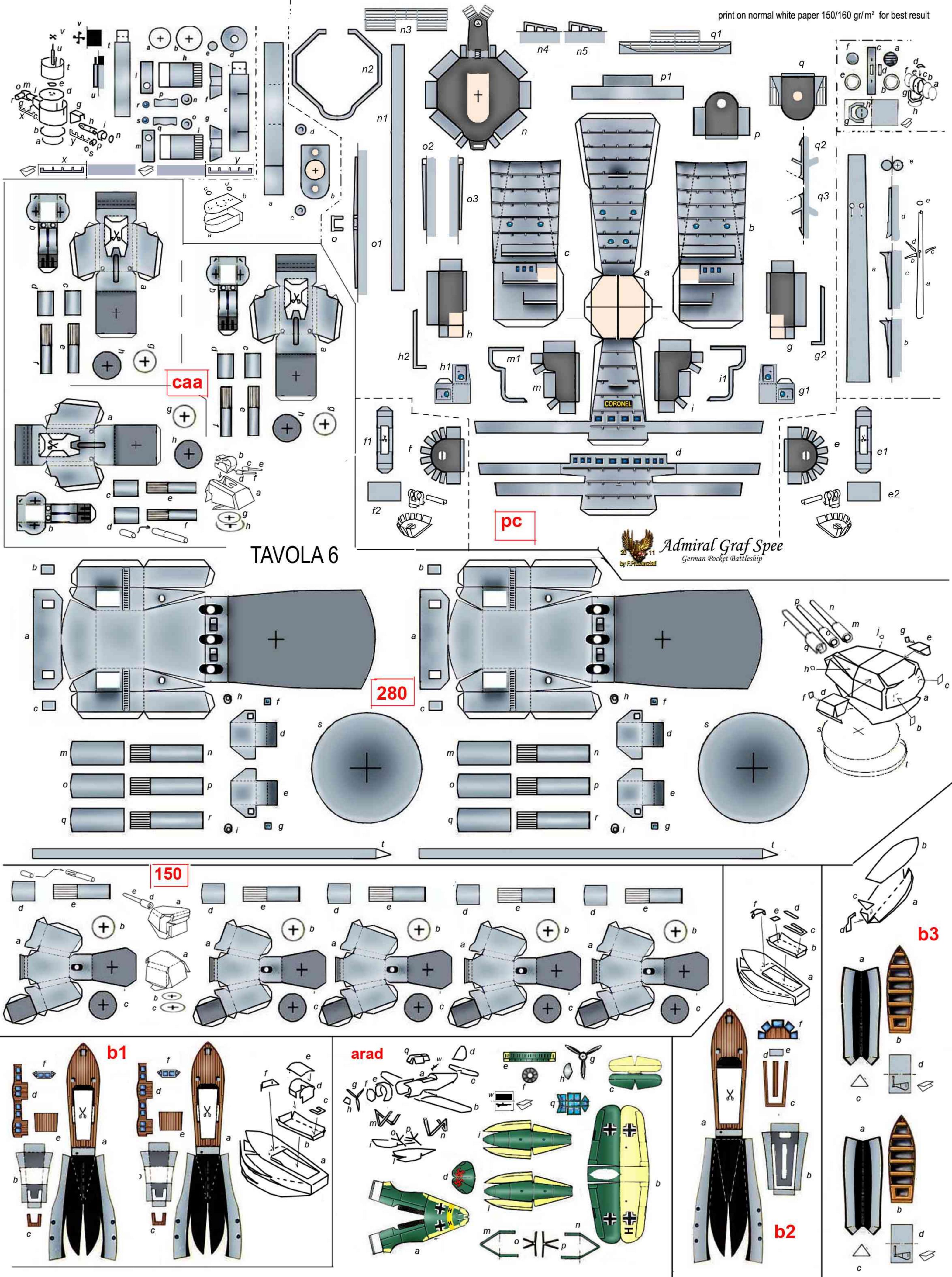


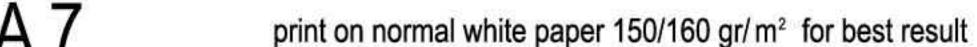
TAVOLA 3

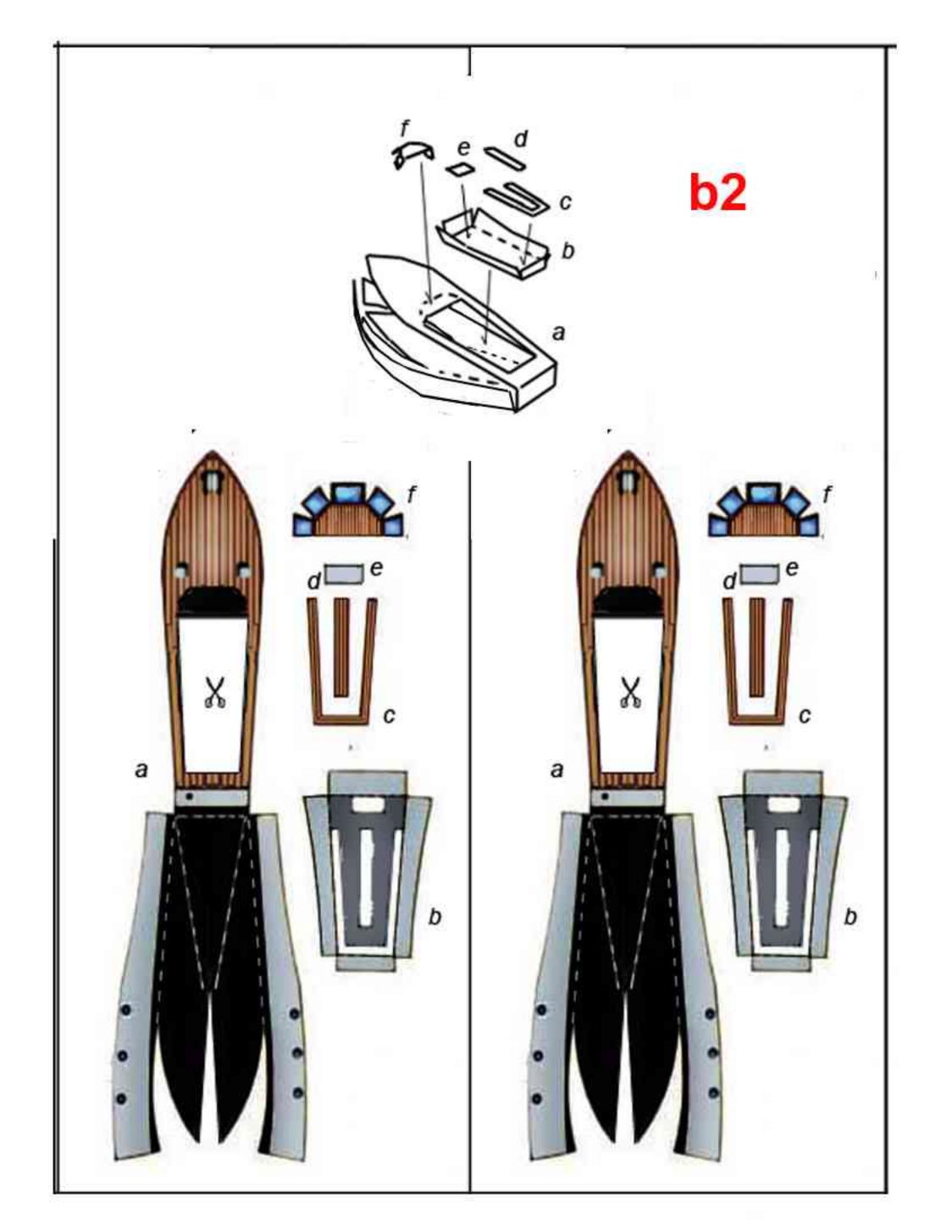


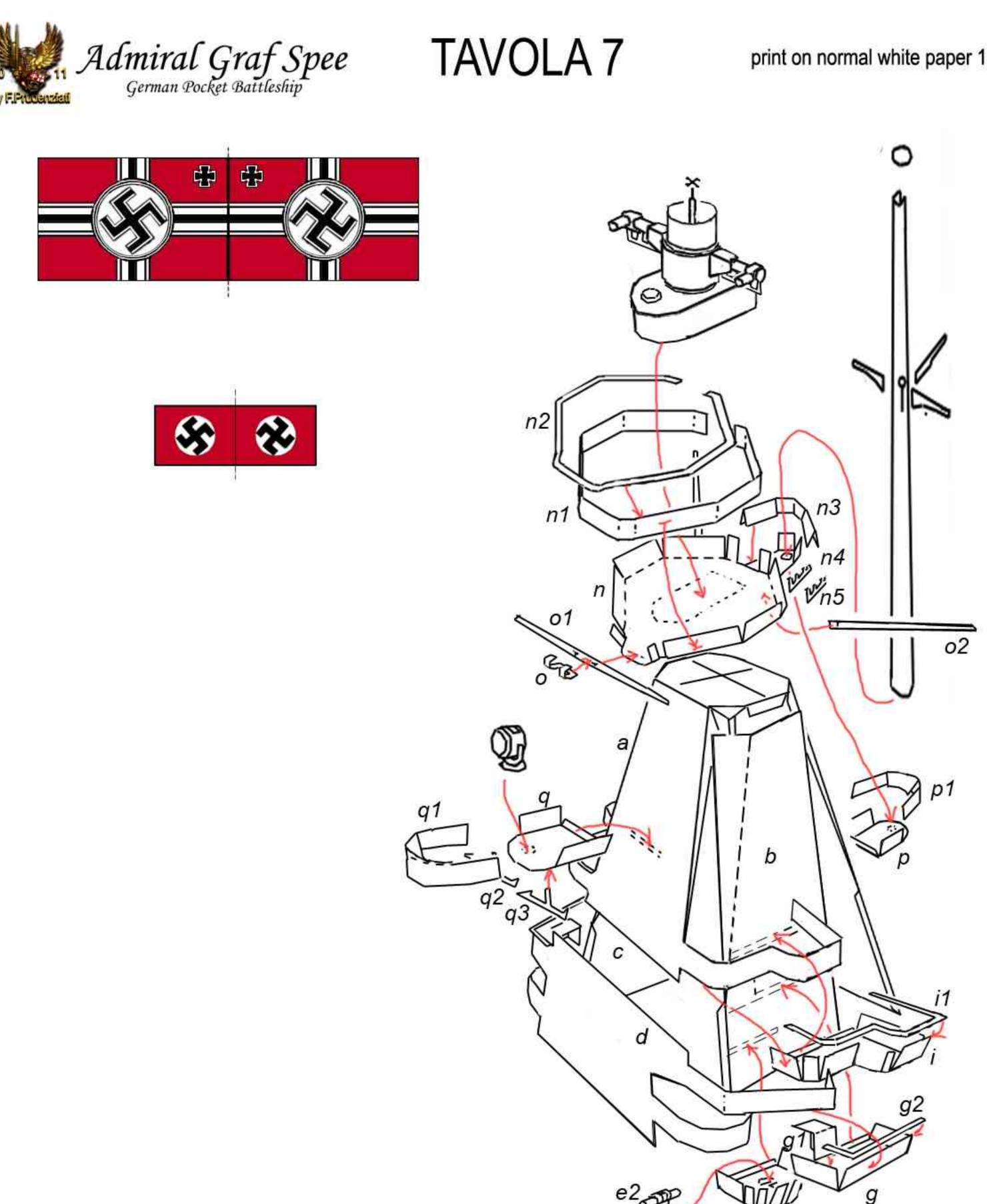












Admiral Graf Spee was a Deutschland-class cruiser. Launched in 1934, she was named after the World War I Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee who died—along with two of his sons—in the first Battle of the Falkland Islands on 8 December 1914. She was the second vessel to be named after him, the first being the incomplete World War I German battlecruiser SMS Graf Spee. The launching took place on 30 June 1934 with Admiral Erich Raeder delivering a pre-launch speech, and the christening performed by Gräfin Huberta von Spee, daughter of the late Vice Admiral von Spee.

Before Admiral Graf Spee was given her official name, she was referred to as Panzerschiff C and Ersatz Braunschweig, as she would be replacing the old battleship SMS Braunschweig in the fleet inventory. She cost 82 million Reichsmarks to build.

After World War I, replacement capital ships for the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) were limited by the Treaty of Versailles to 10,000 t (9,800 long tons) and 41 ft 6 in (12.65 m) 11 inch (280 mm) guns.[5] Electric arc welding was used in her construction instead of conventional rivets, thereby saving considerable weight by not requiring overlapping steel plates.[6] Furthermore, Graf Spee was powered by a series of eight interconnected diesel engines, an unconventional configuration at the time that also contributed to weight saving. The weight saving allowed her to carry a main gun of much larger caliber than a heavy cruiser of the time, while remaining near the displacement limit of the Treaty of Versailles,[7] hence the classification by the British of her and her two sister ships— Deutschland (later renamed Lützow) and Admiral Scheer—as Panzerschiffe (literally, "armored ships"; they are often called "pocket battleships"). A year after Graf Spee's loss, the Kriegsmarine reclassified her sisters from "pocket battleships" to heavy cruisers.

Unlike steam engines, raw low-grade bunker fuel needed treatment before it could be used in her diesel engines. A separating system routinely pre-cleaned the fuel and deposited it in six ready tanks situated close to the engines. The separators used high pressure steam produced in a boiler room lying between decks, aft of the funnel and above the armoured deck.