



When I first heard about this book, I immediately asked the publisher, Taschen, to send me a copy so I could build this 53 inch (135cm) paper model of the *Titanic*. Little did I realize just how much work is involved in making this monster! As you can see from the photo here, I'm only about 1/3 done with the ship — I've got the base and the hull assembled and the fore and aft decks glued in. That's about 4 hours of cutting, taping, and gluing. I figure it'll be another 8 to 12 hours for me to finish the model. (And when it's finished, I'll be sure to post a final picture on the GeekDad Community site.)

What I like about this model is that there are two different versions inside — one for beginners and one for more experienced paper model builders. For example, you can actually cut out and create the lifeboats so that they appear as actual boat-shaped models... or you can club out the single long strips that just contain the images of the lifeboats, avoiding the detailed handiwork involved in making the small lifeboats bow outwards and keep their shape.

And while all of the parts in the book are pre-perforated, don't even attempt to tear them out by hand as you'll easily tear something important. Use scissors when possible and just take your time. I only reach for the blades for those really complicated cuts such as circles and small cutouts that scissor blades are just too large to make. Gluing can be a pain, too, so glue a little at a time and not all at once. I even used gator clips (for use with electronic tinkering) to hold tabs in place as the glue dries. It slows me down a bit but it prevents parts from shifting as the glue dries.

So far, I've enjoyed building the model but I really am ready to finish it and see the completed model. When done, I'll be donating it to my son's school if they want it. It makes a great project for parent/child or even a classroom project. Instructions are easy to follow and every part is numbered. The assembly is broken into short sections, so you'll only be dealing with a small number of parts at a time, so don't go cutting out everything first... cut only what you need when you need it and everything will be easy to find later. After you *Build Your Own Titanic*, you'll have a 1:200 scale model that is in no way suitable for the pool or bathtub.