

Gato & Balao – Torpedo Shutter Styles

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RESEARCH NOTES

Information comes from photos, yard contracts, plans and “logical speculation”. For example, boats in the same contract range are presumed to be the same. Often there is only complete bow and stern photo evidence for one boat, but a checkerboard of bows and sterns for others in the same range.

Many otherwise good shots are worthless because a sailor or crate obscure just the wrong part of the picture. Many beautiful bow shots show a flooded-down boat, obscuring the shutters. Or the bow wave blocks them. Some pictures are so dark as to be almost silhouettes. There are a few rare perfect ones, but not enough!

The list in this document is at construction/during WWII. 1945 refits could have been radically different.

Things to remember:

- This list is not exhaustive
- Some boats were updated during or after their career (different at different times)
- COBIA (Revell’s main research) presently has Balao style shutters and not the spoon style depicted in the kit – she may have changed from initial construction or Revell may have used “less than stellar” quality info and practices
- COD has spoon style shutters, but instead of rounded, they are made from angles
- There are ALWAYS exceptions - CHECK your boat and specific time period

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BOW

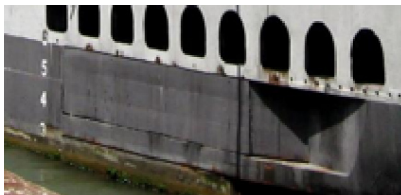
“**Valley Shutter**” (V) - a long, scoop-like concave shutter, from bow piece through entire shutter door. A holdover from Tambor, *generally* an early shutter.



“**Spoon Shutter**” (S) - a flat shutter body, but a spoon scoop at the hinge end, meeting a spoon scoop at the bow. The main flat was reinforced with a strengthener. The Revell Gato kit depicts these, though in a mishapen and totally inaccurate way. The kit is also modeled after the *USS Cobia*, which presently has *Balao style shutters*! (These may have been added later, the launching photos of *Cobia* are inconclusive). The spoons seem to be the rare type of shutter, limited to Mare Island boats and a few odd others.



“**Balao Shutter**” (B) - a flat shutter body with a flat, angled piece where the spoon used to be, meeting a flat-angle at the bow. Obviously easier to build, and probably quicker.



STERN

“**Valley Shutter**” (V) - a long, scoop-like concave shutter, like a flatter version of the Bow Valley shutter. The hull indented at the tube edge, melding with the valley of the shutter.

“**Flat Holes**” (V) - a flat (but slight curve to conform to hull) shutter, flush. Row of holes down the center.

No Shutter (N) – many boats did not have stern shutters. These generally are EB, with a hull that “outdents” over the tube edge.

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KEY -

YARDS:

EB Electric Boat
MAN Manitowoc
MI Mare Island
PORT Portsmouth
BOS Boston Naval Yard
CRA Cramp Shipyard

BOW = "SHUTTER"
V = VALLEY
S = SPOON
Ssq = SPOON Square
B = BALAO

STERN = "SHUTTER"
V = VALLEY
FH = FLAT with Holes
N = NONE

BLACK = PHOTO CONFIRMED
GRAY = PROBABLE
GRAY w? = CONFLICTING INFO, other style ruled out

BOATS BY NUMBER

BOAT	COMM	YARD	BOW	STERN	PIC
SS212 Gato	Dec 41	EB	V	V	
SS213 Greenling	Jan 42	EB	V	V	
SS214 Grouper	Feb 42	EB	V	V	
SS215 Growler	Mar 42	EB	V	V	
SS216 Grunion	Apr 42	EB	V	V	
SS217 Guardfish	May 42	EB	V	V	
SS218 Albacore	Jun 42	EB	V	V	
SS219 Amberjack	Jun 42	EB	V	V	
SS220 Barb	Jul 42	EB	V	V	
SS221 Blackfish	Jul 42	EB	V	V	
SS222 Bluefish	May 43	EB	S	N	
SS223 Bonefish	May 43	EB	S	N	
SS224 Cod	Jun 43	EB	Ssq	N	
SS225 Cero	Jul 43	EB	S?B	N	
SS226 Corvina	Aug 43	EB	B?		
SS227 Darter	Sep 43	EB	B		
SS228 Drum	Nov 41	PORT	S	V	
SS229 Flying Fish	Dec 41	PORT	SorB		
SS230 Finback	Jan 42	PORT	SorB	V	
SS231 Haddock	Mar 42	PORT	SorB		
SS232 Halibut	Apr 42	PORT	SorB		

SS233	Herring	Apr 42	PORT	S?	
SS234	Kingfish	May 42	PORT	S	V
SS235	Shad	Jun 42	PORT	S	V
SS236	Silversides	Dec 41	MI	S	V
SS237	Trigger	Jan 42	MI	S	V
SS238	Wahoo	May 42	MI	S	V
SS239	Whale	Jun 42	MI	V	
SS240	Angler	Oct 43	EB	B	
SS241	Bashaw	Oct 43	EB	B	
SS242	Bluegill	Nov 43	EB	BorS	
SS243	Bream	Jan 44	EB		
SS244	Cavalla	Feb 44	EB	B?	
SS245	Cobia	Mar 44	EB	B?	
SS246	Croaker	Apr 44	EB		
SS247	Dace	Jul 43	EB	S?	
SS248	Dorado	Aug 43	EB	B?	
SS249	Flasher	Nov 43	EB	B	N
SS250	Flier	Oct 43	EB	B	N
SS251	Flounder	Nov 43	EB	B	N
SS252	Gabilan	Dec 43	EB	B	N
SS253	Gunnel	Aug 42	EB	V	N
SS254	Gurnard	Sep 42	EB	V	N
SS255	Haddo	Oct 42	EB	V	N

SS256	Hake	Oct 42	EB	V	N
SS257	Harder	Dec 42	EB	V	N
SS258	Hoe	Dec 42	EB	V	N
SS259	Jack	Jan 43	EB	B	N
SS260	Lapon	Jan 43	EB	B	N
SS261	Mingo	Feb 43	EB	B	N
SS262	Muskallunge	Mar 43	EB	B	N
SS264	Pargo	Apr 43	EB	B	N
SS265	Peto	Nov 42	MAN	V	N
SS266	Pogy	Jan 43	MAN	V	N
SS267	Pompon	Mar 43	MAN	V	N
SS268	Puffer	Apr 43	MAN	V	N
SS269	Rasher	Jun 43	MAN	B	N
SS270	Raton	Jul 43	MAN	B	N
SS271	Ray	Jul 43	MAN	B	N
SS272	Redfin	Aug 43	MAN	B	N
SS273	Robalo	Sep 43	MAN	Ssq	
SS274	Rock	Oct 43	MAN		
SS275	Runner	Jul 42	PORT		
SS276	Sawfish	Aug 42	PORT	B	
SS277	Scamp	Aug 42	PORT		
SS278	Scorpion	Oct 42	PORT		

S279	Snook	Ovt 42	PORT		
SS280	Steelhead	Dec 42	PORT		
SS281	Sunfish	Jul 42	MI	SorV	V
SS282	Tunny	Sep 42	MI	SorV	V
SS283	Tinosa	Jan 43	MI		V
SS284	Tullibee	Feb 43	MI		V
SS285	Balao	Feb 43	PORT		
SS286	Billfish	Apr 43	PORT		
SS287	Bowfin	May 43	PORT		
SS288	Cabrilla	May 43	PORT		
SS289	Capelin	Jun 43	PORT	Ssq	
SS290	Cisco	May 43	PORT		
SS291	Crevalle	Jun 43	PORT	S	
SS292	Devilfish	Sep 44	CRA		
SS293	Dragonet	Jun 44	CRA	S	V
SS294	Escolar	Jun 44	CRA	S	V
SS295	Hackleback	Nov 44	CRA		
SS296	Lancetfish	Feb 45	CRA		
SS297	Ling	Jun 45	CR-BOS	B	
SS298	Lionfish	Nov 44	BO-PT		
SS299	Manta	Dec 44	CR-PT		
SS300	Moray	Jan 45	CRA		
SS301	Roncador	Feb 60	CRA		

SS302	Sabalo	Jun 45	CRA		
SS303	Sablefish	Dec 45	CRA		
SS304	Seahorse	Mar 43	MI	S	V
SS305	Skate	Apr 43	MI	S	V
SS306	Tang	Oct 43	MI	S sq?	V
SS307	Tilefish	Dec 43	MI	S?	V
SS308	Apogon	Jul 43	PORT	B	V
SS309	Aspro	Jul 43	PORT	B	V
SS310	Batfish	Aug 43	PORT	B	V
SS311	Archerfish	Sep 43	PORT	B	V
SS312	Burfish	Aug 43	PORT	B	V
SS313	Perch	Jan 44	EB	B	
SS314	Shark	Feb 44	EB	B	
SS315	Sealion	Mar 44	EB	B	FH
SS316	Barbel	Apr 44	EB	B	
SS317	Barbero	Apr 44	EB	B	
SS318	Baya	May 44	EB	B	
SS319	Becuna	May 44	EB	B	
SS320	Bergall	Jun 44	EB	B	
SS321	Besugo	Jun 44	EB	B	
SS322	Blackfin	Jul 44	EB	B	
SS323	Caiman	Jul 44	EB	B	
SS324	Blenny	Jul 44	EB	B	

SS325	Blower	Aug 44	EB	B	
SS327	Boarfish	Sep 44	EB	B	N
SS328	Char	Sep 44	EB	B	N
SS329	Chub	Oct 44	EB	B	N
SS330	Brill	Oct 44	EB	B	N
SS331	Bugara	Nov 44	EB	B	N
SS332	Bullhead	Dec 44	EB	B	N
SS333	Bumper	Dec 44	EB	B	N
SS335	Dentuda	Dec 44	EB	B	N
SS336	Capitaine	Jan 45	EB	B	N
SS337	Carbonero	Feb 45	EB	B	N
SS338	Carp	Feb 45	EB	B	N
SS339	Catfish	Mar 45	EB	B	N
SS340	Entemedor	Apr 45	EB	B	N
SS341	Chivo	Apr 45	EB	B	N
SS342	Chopper	May 45	EB	B	N
SS343	Clamagore	Jun 45	EB	B	N
SS344	Cobbler	Aug 45	EB	B	N
SS345					
SS346					
SS347					
SS348					
SS349					

SS350

SS351

SS352

SS353

SS354

SS355

SS356

SS357

SS358

SS359

SS360

SS361

SS362 Guavina Dec 43 MAN

SS363 Guitarro Jan 44 MAN B

SS365 Hardhead Apr 44 MAN **B**

SS367 Icefish Jun 44 MAN B

SS369 Kete Jul 44 MAN B

SS381 Sandlance Oct 43 PORT **B**

SS382 Picuda Oct 43 PORT B

SS383 Pampanito Nov 43 PORT **B** **V**

SS394 Razorback Apr 44 PORT B V

SS395 Redfish Apr 44 PORT B V

SS396	Ronquill	Apr 44	PORT	B	V
SS397	Scabbardfish	Apr 44	PORT	B	V
SS411	Spadefish	Mar 44	MI	B	V
SS413	Spot	Aug 44	MI	B	V