Use Etch Buddy to fold photo-etched (PE) detail parts that are supplied “in-the-flat.”

How it works:
Etch Buddy consists of two machined aluminum plates which grip a flat PE part at the fold line. A thin blade is slipped under the open end of the PE part and lifted…thereby folding it exactly where you want it. The top plate has machined “fingers” that fit narrow spaces to form a variety of shapes.

Step-by-step instructions:
• From the fret sheet, remove the PE part that you want to fold. (We recommend the Micro-Mark #84903 Photo Etch Scissor to do this job).
• Slightly loosen the 3 thumb nuts to allow the top plate to lift off the base plate (a spring under the top plate lifts it).
• Select the finger on the top plate that best suits the PE part you want to fold. Insert the PE part under the finger and align the fold line with the groove on the base plate.
• Tighten the thumb screws to clamp the part in place between the top plate and the base plate.
• With the PE part securely clamped, slide the included blade under the PE part. Lift the back edge of the blade to fold the PE up to the desired angle. Tip: After the fold has been started, reposition the blade so that it fits neatly into the groove in the base plate.
• Loosen the thumb nuts and slide out the folded part. To make additional folds (for example, to form a tray), reposition the PE part under a suitable finger on the top plate and repeat the process.
• To fold long/wide parts, remove the 3 thumb screws completely and remove the top plate. Reverse its orientation (do not flip it over) and reinstall. You can now use the long edge to position and clamp the PE part on the fold line. Use a thin straight edge, such as a metal scale ruler, to fold long pieces.

This is a high-precision tool, so time and care is essential for the best results. The more the tool gets used, the better you’ll be at forming PE parts.

Micro-Mark always recommends wearing eye protection when using the Etch Buddy or any other tool.