



SPRUE EXAMINER



A Salty Dog Building Tamiya's 1/72 Seiran Submarine Based Bomber

by Milton Bell IPMS #16702

Tamiya's Aichi M6A1 Seiran is certainly not a dog. Far from it. When they released the 1/48 version a few years back I grabbed one and never even did any dry fitting. It's still in the bag so to speak. I guess I avoided it because it would have been a longer project than I wanted.

And a Salty Dog? Well, you may be a bit young to remember salty dogs. They were a popular drink back when. If I remember correctly, they were a mixture of grapefruit juice, vodka and salt over ice, sort of an early Margarita kind of drink that we made in the dorm room or apartment. They were salty and against the rules. I liked salty dogs.

Salt plays a big part in building my Seiran. Now that Tamiya has released an aircraft-carrying submarine, the I-400 in 1/350 scale, lots of modelers are aware of the plan Japan hatched early

(1942) in the war to deliver fast seaplanes to target areas via big submarines. Eventually, Aichi developed a special aircraft for the mission. Each sub carried three aircraft in special watertight containers, wings and tail surfaces folded, with a 250 kg/or 800 kg bomb attached. Floats were carried separately. Aircraft could be assembled in short order and launched via catapult from the surfaced sub. Two submarines, the I-400 and the I-401 were enroute to attack targets at the Ulithi atoll when on August 15 they were notified that the war had ended and they were ordered back to Japan. The original goal had been the Panama Canal and other military targets on the west coast.

It was a daring scheme but one that almost worked. It had the potential of being a very effective and terrible weapons system.

A land-based trainer, Nanzan, was developed by Aichi and Tamiya also produces two kits of it. Its cut-down vertical stabilizer offers the same flight characteristics as the float-equipped Seiran.

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2007 Show Schedule

Emerald City Modelers, OZCON 2007, Wichita , KS	August 11, 2007
IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Show, El Paso, TX	August 12, 2007
IPMS/USA, 2007 National Convention, Anaheim, CA	August 22-25, 2007
IPMS/Fort Worth, SuperCon 2007, Arlington, TX	September 8, 2007
IPMS/Metro Oklahoma City, Soonercon, Moore, OK	September 29, 2007
CASM, 6th Annual Contest, Little Rock, AK	September 29, 2007
IPMS/Acadiana Modelers Society, GatorCon 2007, Lafayette, LA	October 27, 2007

Editor's Notes...

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer picnic and auction. We can never thank the Kachrois family enough for hosting these parties. So once again on behalf of everyone in the club, *muchas gracias, Mike y Sally!*

This month Milton is back on the cover with his Tamiya 1/72 Aichi M6A1 "Seiran" floatplane. We also have a how-to by **Mike Deliduka** on mixing Future Floor Polish with Flat Base to create different grades of clear coat for your models. Mike wrote this article for IPMS/Orange County (CA) some time back, and I'm fortunate to obtain his permission to reprint it here for us.

During the last week of July, I received a bit of sad news from **John Vanek**, our IPMS region coordinator: he has announced his resignation due to family reasons (see page seven). Our region is now actively searching for a replacement. If you are interested in nominating someone to fill John's shoes, please contact Milton, our local IPMS contact, or **Dick Montgomery** (dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net), IPMS Director of Local Chapters (DLC).

Our meeting this month is on **August 14th** at the usual Yarbrough Branch Library. The program scheduled is "**Individual Track Link Clinic**" by **Shawn Merrell**. Please note the library is now closing 15 minutes early, so we have to start the meeting at **7:00pm sharp** in order to leave by 8:30pm. The good news is our reservation for the room now starts at 6:30pm. If you arrive a bit earlier, there is still plenty of time to chitchat and sell/swap before we conduct our official businesses.

Eric

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is affiliated with the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) as the Republic of Texas Chapter. ASMS meets the second Tuesday of each month except December. Dues for full membership are \$20 yearly. Subscription to the newsletter *Sprue Examiner* is \$15 yearly. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Kenny's Korner
(until I can think of something better)

First off, my apologies for not being able to meet with anyone concerning the show. It will be corrected, and we will move on.

I hope everyone enjoyed the picnic last month. Kathy and I both had a great time. Thanks to everyone who participated. I think we all got some great deals at the auction and it seemed that all had fun.

I must admit that modeling has not been at the forefront of my thoughts recently. I did resolve to set aside a day every week to disconnect from the world (of work) and relax a little. I have started a new kit. Now, for those of you keeping track, I haven't finished any of the kits I had started earlier. Just so you know that the universe is still intact, and hell is still hot — it's a dry heat, though.

Anyway, I decided that gluing something is better than sitting and letting my brain decay in front of the tube (this applies to LCD, DLP, and other forms of brain decaying light waves as well). Laziness is a habit, and habits can be broken. You must resolve to do it, and then do it. Fix a goal in mind, and then just do it (brought to you from our friends at Nike). I did listen to a very enjoyable movie while I was modeling, but I didn't see much of it. I will bring my model to the meeting in whatever state it is in at the time. Please pray with me that it will be finished. Bring your model to the meeting in whatever state it's in. I'd love to see it, and I'm sure everyone else would as well. See you on Tuesday.

Now, just go build something!

Kenny



Luftwaffe at War
Volume I
Gathering Storm
1933-1939
by E.R. Hooten
MSRP \$29.95
ISBN 1-903223-71-7

Reviewed by
Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
IPMS #26266

Classic Publications is a name synonymous with quality historical publications, and this new series of books is no exception. Lavishly illustrated with the people, planes and maps of the Luftwaffe, this book tells the story of Germany's air service from the end of the First World War up to the opening campaign of WWII in Poland.

This soft bound book contains 95 pages with over 200 photos and illustrations. The photos are mostly black and white, and the illustrations include aircraft and geographical situation maps. This book differs from the Jagdwaffe series in that it concentrates on the geopolitical situation that affected the birth of the Luftwaffe and not so much on the aircraft. While the illustrations of the aircraft are identical to the Jagdwaffe series and somewhat smaller in size, this is not a bad thing as the profiles still look great and are quite useful.

The book begins with the end of hostilities of the First World War and the expansion, yes expansion, of Germany's air force. We are treated to the likes of Goering, Kesselring, Richtofen, Milch, and the rest of the higher echelons. It is interesting to see the political infighting that took place between leading characters of the Luftwaffe. It makes you wonder what would have happened if Walter Wever, the Chief of the General Staff and a firm supporter of strategic bombing, did not die in a plane crash in 1936. Would World War II have turned out differently?

The book is written in an easy to read manner, which is very nice when dealing with politics. I especially like the section on the Spanish Civil War. The text and photos made it easy to explain and understand the whole concept of the civil war and the build up to the conflict.

This book is highly recommended for those who want to round out the history of the Luftwaffe. I personally can't wait for the rest of the series to come out. Together with the Jagdwaffe series, you'll have a very good reference set of the subject matter.

I obtained my copy through www.aeroplanebooks.com. They were friendly and quick. Let them know you hear about this fine book from here.

Floyd

DVD Review:
Flightline Series
BOMARC
rocket.aero, \$15
www.rocket.aero
118 minutes
All regions NTSC

Reviewed by
"Bondo" Phil Brandt
IPMS #14091



Background

Driven by the Cold War, American missile development in the early Fifties moved at a furious pace, and Boeing's rocket launched, ramjet powered, surface-to-air missile BOMARC (IM-99 "Sentinel") joined other systems such as the Army's

(continued on page 10)

(Salty Dog continued)

The Kit

The 1/72 Seiran has most of the features of the larger 1/48 version but they are included in fewer parts. The kit-supplied dolly frame is in one piece not two and the boarding ladder is missing from the smaller scale kit. The wing does not feature separate flaps. The most unfortunate feature of the kit is the one-piece canopy which pretty much hides a nicely detailed cockpit for the pilot and gunner/radio operator. More on that later. Schemes for the Seiran are pretty much IJN Dark Green over IJN Light Gray Green although there is a much published photo that shows a Seiran with trainer orange undersides and a very worn upper surface of Dark Green with orange showing through. Numbers for several aircraft are included in the kit and I simply used tail numbers that were conveniently located on the decal sheet.

The dolly supplied in the kit is plastic although the real thing is metal and wood. If it's anything like the Rex dolly stored at the Nimitz Museum of the Pacific in Fredericksburg, the parts that contact the floats are padded and covered in canvas-like material. The main wheels have black, solid rubber tires over steel wheels. The walkways on either side of the float are wood as is much of the platform.

Construction

There are no mysteries about building the Seiran. I do have some suggestions that may make the job a bit easier.

First of all, the 1/48 scale kit comes with a piece of metal to be installed in one of the floats to keep the nose down. The 1/72 kit has no weight; you supply it. It isn't much of a tail-sitter but it sits best on the dolly if there is some weight in a float.

Another thing about the floats. The kit fits like, well, like a Tamiya kit so very little filler is needed. The floats plug into slots on the wing bottom and align perfectly. It would have been so much easier if I had painted the floats and the wing bottom before attaching the floats. Next time I'll remember.

The Salty Dog

Many of the Japanese aircraft recovered at the end of WWII showed lots of wear. Dependable paint must have been hard to come by and they probably used whatever came close to the specs. I read that navy aircraft in particular had a good red oxide primer applied under the color coat. The Aichi Val that resides at the Fredericksburg museum was almost weathered down to the bare metal but still had an overall pink hue due to the just a little of the primer remaining. I've heard that when the relic was delivered to the museum it still had green paint but that has all gone away. I wanted to show a Seiran that was beginning to show extreme weathering but was still probably air-worthy.

To achieve this I primed the completed kit—cockpit plugged and masked of course—with Mr. Surfacer thinned with Mr. Color Thinner. Over this I applied a coat of Alclad Semi Matt Aluminum finish. After it was dry I painted the orange-yellow wing stripes and when dry, masked them. Then I got ready to



apply a coat of red oxide. For this, I chose a Polly Scale color. But first I got out the salt shaker and a cup of water. Tim Robb used this technique on his Ki-84 Frank and it looked good to me. Why not use it in 1/72 scale. So, I painted on a little water and sprinkled on some salt. Some stuck some didn't. Then I painted on the water on specific panels and areas that would get some foot traffic or equipment wear, such as the float sides and tops. Sometimes I got too much salt or not enough. When I was satisfied, and the salt dried, I gave the whole kit a coat of red oxide. Then I repeated the salt process, first on the bottom, followed by a coat of Tamiya IJN Gray Green. Then more salt over previous salt for the topside and a coat of IJN Dark Green.



Follow me? That's three coats; one of primer and two of paint, and two applications of salt. When all was dry, I went at the salty lumps and bumps with an old toothbrush. That didn't cut all the salt loose so I went to the sink and gave it a good bath. That got the salt moving! I discovered that a lot of the salt simply dissolved and made salty puddles and the effect of individual grains was gone. Still, I got most of the effects I wanted—metal showing through primer and primer showing through the dark green and underside light gray green. I painted the prop warning stripes on the floats using a decal as a template to make a mask from Tamiya tape.

The dolly was painted and then assembled. The basic color was RAF dark earth followed by streaks of dark brown to suggest



wood grain. Then I added a coat of Tamiya clear yellow. Weathering was burnt umber dissolved in naphtha. MIG pigments added bits of grime and mud as well as occasional rust spots.

The Canopy

Believe it or not, the kit was not a problem until I decided to show the cockpit open. The windscreen is separate so that wasn't a problem. I decided to vacuum form a new canopy over the kit part. This would allow the first section to be shoved back to show the pilot's seat and compartment. I could also open the third and fourth sections to expose the very nice rear machine gun and other details. The only problem was that my vac-forming material was hotter than the kit canopy could stand so I ended up with a back vac copy and a deformed kit part. At this point I spoke fluent French!

A nice feature of these little kits is their relative low price. The Nanzan was "only \$12" and is a nice kit. It has no floats but all I needed was a canopy. This time I cast a copy in resin that had all the detail I needed and it worked perfectly. I found the ruined kit part and saw that I could salvage sections two and three so with a micro saw I set to work. In no time I had all the parts I needed.



The aft section of some Aichi aircraft featured a revolving canopy that simply rotated along a long rod to expose the machine gun. That was the idea I had but having the parts in hand, I discovered I had nothing to mount the new rotating section to. So, it is shown raised and the third section is—"sshhh, don't tell anyone"—missing.



Bill Cronk, a fine modeler from up in Tennessee Colony, who took home several trophies from our last show, showed me his technique for canopy framing. He used this on his natural metal Val that had such a bright and spotless finish. He used pinstripe tape to frame the canopy. I tried it and it worked pretty well. I really hate to mask over thin vac-formed canopies and using tape is a real time saver.

White glue secured the canopy sections. Markings were from the kit with the exception of the painted warning stripes on the floats and the Hinomarus were from an old IPMS sheet that featured two colors of red; fresh and faded. I used the faded brick-red insignias over the white disc. The decals were old and had a few chips so they fit in just fine. The white decals for the drift sight on the horizontal stabilizer were "weathered" with 600 grit wet-dry paper as were the white float alignment marks for the floats.

Altogether it was a fun project even if it did take a few unexpected turns. Now I'm closer to doing the 1/48 version. All the 1/72 scale kits from Tamiya that are based on their larger versions have been top notch. If you are an aircraft modeler and haven't tried one, you should.

Milton



Using Future Floor Wax in Modeling

by
Mike Deliduka
IPMS # 45047



This article is an addendum to my presentation on the use of Future Floor Polish on plastic models. It contains a mixing ratio of Future to Flat Base for creating different grades of clear coat for models that are not supposed to be very shiny, particularly military equipment. One reminder I'd like to make is **when mixing Future always use an acrylic-based Flat Base!** Future is an acrylic product, and the best results will only come from mixing it with another water soluble agent. **Tamiya Flat Base* (X-21)** is my preferred product to be used with Future.



The following list will give you an idea on how to mix Future to achieve the results you're looking for:

Full Gloss

100% Future + 0% Flat Base

This is the mix you use initially to coat the model before applying decals. **Do not dilute with water! Spray it straight through your airbrush.** Future dries within 30 minutes of application, however, allow 24 to 48 hours to set for best results.

Full gloss is also used for show automobiles, some cruise liners, and commercial airliners.

Semi Gloss

There are several grades of semigloss that can be used here. The first one is:

90% Future + 10% Flat Base

This grade is used mostly for street automobiles that are everyday use, some cruise liners, as well as some commercial vehicles. It can be used for some early airliners as well.

80% Future + 20% Flat Base

This grade is generally for commercial vehicles, warships, commercial ships, and some military aircraft, typically those with a bare metal skin. For complete accuracy, check your references for any exception to this rule.

Flat

60% Future+40% Flat Base or 55% Future+45% Flat Base

This grade is for military vehicles, camouflaged military aircraft, and commercial construction equipment, as well as wooden ships. Older automobiles can also sport this base coat as well to show heavy usage, lack of care, and age.

For simplicity, I have also placed all this information in the following table for ease of reference:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Future</u>	<u>Flat Base</u>	<u>Uses</u>
Full Gloss	100%	0%	Show automobiles, commercial airliners.
Semi Gloss	90%	10%	Street automobiles, commercial vehicles, early airliners, cruise liners.
Semi Gloss	80%	20%	Commercial vehicles, bare metal military aircraft, warships, commercial ships.
Flat	60%	40%	Military vehicles, camouflaged.
Flat	55%	45%	Military aircraft, commercial construction equipment, wooden ships, and older well-used autos.

One thing to remember is the grade of the flatness varies sometimes from vehicle to vehicle and aircraft to aircraft, etc. What may look good on one model may not be the right sheen on a similar model. For example, one bare metal aircraft could be shined to a 90-10 grade of shine, while another bare metal aircraft may be covered with a more flat-appearing aluminum skin. Therefore I have not given exact measurements for mixing the Future and Flat Base. Many times a specific mix can look wrong, but by tweaking the mixture a bit, your results will better reflect the appearance you are trying to achieve. This is why I kept the "recipes" pretty general to allow you the flexibility of mixing your base to the consistency you feel is right for the subject you are working on.

For those who model Sci-fi subjects, consider the use of the vessel or mech you are building. What kind of activity would it see? How well would it be cared for? What kind of environment is it most likely to operate in? What kind of finish would you think the race that operates it mostly likely use?

Some general rules of thumb for Sci-fi could be:

- Spaceships and starships would generally sport more glossy than semigloss.
- Starfighters may be more flat, due to their use in space, as well as in many different types of atmospheres.
- Sci-fi armor would follow the same rules as real armor, since it would see lots of combat and be treated as tanks and APCs of today are treated.

If anyone has any question, feel free to contact me (mike@deliduka.com). I'll be happy to help in any way I can.

Mike

**Editor: WARNING! Flat Base X-21 is a "flattening" agent for Tamiya's color products. It is NOT a clear coat. DO NOT shoot it straight onto your models!*



Williams Brothers 1/72th C-46 Commando is back!

The wait is over! Williams Bros 1/72th scale C-46 is now back in production. On July 27, Daniel Brett, owner of the new Williams Brothers Model Products, shipped out the first batch of C-46 kits to the distributors from his plant in Taylor, TX. To ensure Central Texas modelers get first dibs on this re-release, Daniel brought some of his stock to the celebration reception held at King's Hobby on the next day. Our "reporter", Milton Bell, was at the scene and took these pictures for us.

While much of the kit parts remain the same, the revised decal sheet (printed by ScaleMaster) includes two new additional markings, both featured in Squadron/Signal's *C-46 Commando in Action*:

1. "Smiley's Airlines", 15th Combat Cargo Squadron, USAAF, Burma, 1945.
2. "Tiger Fleet", 1st Troop Carrier Squadron, 443rd Troop Carrier Group, USAAF, Burma, 1945.

The re-released C-46 retails for \$32.98, and it's now available in hobby shops.



Region 6 Update

by John Vanek, RC6

Greetings, Region Six!

Hope everyone is doing well. Just a couple of things that I would like to remind you about. So I'll get right to it.

First, the **IPMS/USA elections** are currently under way. I know I hear some groaning out there already, but it really is important for EVERYONE to vote. That means all of us procrastinators need to just get it done. There was a ballot included in the May/June Issue of the IPMS/USA Journal. Or for those who prefer to have the instant gratification at 3:30am while working on a project you can go to the IPMS/USA website and vote on-line. The address for that is <http://ipmsusa.org/Election2007/Officers2007.htm>.

I mean come on people, how much easier can it be made for us? So if you haven't done so yet, vote. You can view the candidate profiles on-line. I promise it will only take a couple of minutes.

Second item, **chapter renewal**. I know that it is still July and that it seems like months away (because it's still two months away). But now is the time to start getting your fact sheets up to date. Dick Montgomery keeps all of that info squirreled away on his master computer and will be more than happy to send you a copy if you don't have it. But now is the time to get this done. Last year we did really well as a region and didn't have a bunch of chapters who got dropped. But there were still a couple who didn't make the January 1 deadline.

Let me reiterate the policy here. If you don't have all, and I mean all, of your information correct on to the DLC and RC by December 31, 2007, your chapter will be dropped from the official IPMS/USA list. If you have a contest scheduled, it's not anymore. If you have insurance coverage for your event, that's gone too. You will have to reapply for everything. I'd hope everyone can see that this is not a good thing.

So once we start sending out the packets in October please, I'm begging, get the forms to your next club meeting. Fill them out and get them sent back as quickly as humanly possible. You can even email the forms (just not the check) to Dick and get the process moving a little quicker. Once the check arrives you're done. I'll harass everyone more as the time gets closer.

Now for the last item of business before I'll let you get back to your summertime fun. **I will be stepping down as Region Six Coordinator**. Some have wondered why I would do such a crazy thing. Basically it comes down to not having the time. With changes in my personal life (i.e. getting married, new position at work) I have had to readjust my schedule and what I can reasonably dedicate time to. This is not a decision that I have taken lightly nor is it a surprise to Dick or the Eboard. We

have all discussed this since March, and it was decided that I would remain on board until we found a replacement.

So, with that being said, the floor is open for nominations. If you know someone who would like to serve as the new R6 RC, or if you would like the position yourself, email Dick expressing your interest and he will get all of the necessary info from you to proceed. I will not be part of selecting the new RC other than making my recommendations as an IPMS/USA member. If you have any questions regarding the job please feel free to contact either myself or Dick and we'll be happy to give you an idea of what the job entails. Both the good and the bad. (Although the bad really isn't all that bad.)

I have truly enjoyed serving our region for the last eighteen months and have had an opportunity to meet many of you at shows and events. You're a great bunch of folks, and I look forward to seeing everyone at shows and contests as my schedule permits. If there is anything you ever need me to do for you, just drop me an email and I'd be more than happy to help out. (I don't do windows or sand seams though.)

Thank you to everyone for your help and support. You've made my time as RC one of the most memorable periods in my life. Take care and I'll talk to you later.

JAV

Annual Picnic and Auction Highlights

Over 25 members and their family showed up at our annual picnic last month. We had a few new faces this year: Shawn Merrell and the Herringtons (Rick and Margarita). Everyone gained at least five pounds from the excellent BBQ and side dishes, and the auction raised \$913.00 for the club. Job well done!

Special thank goes to the Kachoris' for having us at their castle. Here are some pictures taken at the scene.



Pat and Russ entertained the juniors while Tim, Milton and Bruce exchanged gardening notes?



Who let the dog out? Jeff and his canine "girlfriend" Lucy.



Eric was one hungry camper...



Kenny presented the club gift to our host Sally Kachoris.



Bill, Milton and Rick on the pinball machines.



Our official auction showgirl, Melissa Rourke.



Shawn taking a closer look at all the auction goodies.



Mike lost count of what he was bidding on!



Going once, twice... Kenny the auctioneer.



Melissa: Dad, can I have this one?

Know Thy Fellow Member

Name

Ted Paone

Day job

Software Architect

I'm a...

"Reborn" modeler for 30+ years. I carried all my models with me for years and through college. When I moved to Texas, my model gears were right by my side in the car!



Primary modeling interest

Figure and armor.

Favorite era and subject of my primary modeling interest

WWII and pre-WWII armor.

Main reason why I build models

The engineering challenge of using new techniques.

Other than building models, I enjoy...

Woodworking and photography.

I was influenced/inspired to build models by...

My best friend from junior high.

My favorite "master" modeler is

Shep Paine, Bill Horan, Russ Holm.

I consider myself...

A builder as well as a collector.

The size of my unbuilt collection

Somewhere between 101 and 250. On the average, I complete one model per year, but I'm getting faster...

Best excuses I used for buying yet another model kit

"If I don't get it now, it will go off the market." (I learned my lesson when I did not purchase DML's M4A1. It's been discontinued for years.)

Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die

Bury the unfinished ones with me or I'm not going!

First model I completed

1/72nd scale Airfix M4 Sherman.

Longest time I took to finish a model

12+ years for my M1A1 combat car. It was a scratchbuilt conversion from Tamiya M3 Stuart.

Best model I built so far

Tamiya Jeep (new tool).

Worst model I ever encountered

Pre-Tamiya 1/32nd scale white metal M3 Stuart.

I'm currently working on...

1. Italeri M32 ARV
2. Italeri GMC 353
3. Tamiya Jeep Ambulance

Dumbest thing I ever did when building a model

The front frame of my jeep melted when I used a hair dryer to help form the fenders.

Worst thing I ever did to express my anger or frustration while building

Fire, BBQ'd airplane. Wings got a nice droop, went down in flames.

Modeling story I like to share with my peers

During a work trip to Dallas, I was kind of embarrassed when I asked my co-worker to make a stop at Phil's Hobbies. It turned out he was a car/sci-fi modeler, and he was extremely good with an airbrush. Ended up, he outspent me at Phil's.

(DVD Review: BOMARC continued)

Nike family to defend North America's skies. The BOMARC was relatively long-lived, finally bowing out in 1972.

The DVD

Central Texas (Georgetown, TX) DVD producer James Duffy has added another interesting volume to the eclectic rocket.aero stable. Many of the DVD's chapters are necessarily silent archival (B&W and color) film including: construction, maintenance, testing, transport, and even a spectacular launch failure of the BOMARC.

The DVD's "Bonus Section" offers an interesting color film with audio featuring the 1950 "USAF Guided Missile Review" of such systems as the Razon/Tarzon guided bombs, as well as the Rascal, Shrike, Matador, Snark, Navajo and, of course, the BOMARC.

In the audio only "Modelers Notes" portion of the "Bonus Section", James discusses BOMARC model kits then (Monogram/Revell/Aurora) and now (Estes).

At the end of the DVD is a slide show of some 28, mostly color, shots of various BOMARC activities and even a construction plan for a balsa/aluminum, Jetex-powered (solid fuel) flying model.

Conclusion

rocket.aero has done it again! By releasing yet another historical DVD of a fascinating, totally esoteric subject, it's a no-brainer for modelers of all ages to widen their aviation horizons. Recommended.

"Bondo" Phil

Old Rumors & New Kits

Apparently we had a very successful kit auction last month. I can verify that the food and hospitality was excellent and Martha and I really enjoyed the visit. Thanks to Sally and Mike for hosting the event one more time.

Well, Daniel Brett finally got the C-46 kits in the box and stopped by King's Hobby with a good supply. Of course I had to have one and I've done a quick review of it for HyperScale. It's a very nice kit, beautiful box art, and has an improved decal sheet. No doubt it will prove popular since it's the only 1/72 injected kit of the Commando. My first impressions of the kit are about the same as my impressions of the airplane. It's a BIG twin.

If you have seen or built the original Williams Brothers kit this one will look very familiar. The only real change is an adjustment to the fuselage "floor" to make it fit better. I've tacked mine in place just to be sure and it seems to fit pretty well. I've dipped the cockpit clear parts in Future and will be ready to paint some interior green very soon.

To be honest, there is some minor flash on a few of the parts but any modeler with moderate experience will have no problem removing it. Surface detail consists of fine raised lines except for flight controls.

I just had an email from a kit reviewer who has received the new 1/32 Trumpeter P-47D Razorback and F6F-5N Hellcat. That's a nice thing about being a "real reviewer"—you get advance copies of new kits to build and review. His first impressions were that the kits were really quite good although they will be expensive, at least the P-47 which comes in at \$124, MSRP, and will not be found at my house! The Hellcat is much cheaper. Both kits are expected this week

Trumpeter has also announced a 1/72 Sea Fury and it might be in the shops by meeting time. Judging from the high part count, it should be an interesting build. Perhaps if it's successful we may even see a new 1/48 scale Sea Fury. That would be nice.

Accurate Miniatures' repackaging of four older Monogram kits is expected soon. These include the P-40N and P-51B, both in one box, and the F4B and P6E biplanes in another. Each pair will sell for about \$20. AM has also announced two other kits that will be released in September. They are the P-400 in Guadalcanal markings (ex-Eduard?) and the F2G Corsair racer "Miss Port Columbus" (ex- Special Hobby?) both in 1/48.

Accurate Miniatures' catalog also shows several new versions from their venerable P-51 molds including the XP-51A, F-6C (recce version of the P-51B), a straight up P-51B in new markings, and an F-51C racer. They also list a navalised B-25, the PBJ-1, and show its release as "soon."

Squadron publications has reissued the P-40 "In Action" book with new cover and they are calling it an "all new book." We shall see very soon.

Italeri is still reissuing some of the better AMT kits. This time it's the F7F-3N Tigercat night fighter in 1/48. This series of F7F kits contains some of the best AMT kits produced but they are without the styrene-eating vinyl wheels that caused such panic when the kits were first introduced. It's good to see the Tigercat in stock again.

Eduard's third Fw-190 kit is out and I expect the quality will be just about the same as the two previous releases. This time it's the 190-A6. The A8 and A5 were beautifully done and well engineered. I'm surprised not to see one done and displayed at King's. Guess maybe I'll have to start work on the A8!

The Czech Model Grumman JFR Goose is back in stock. SMO features it on their supplement cover along with the Ginter book and an Aeromaster Decal sheet. This is a good amphib kit.

Dragon's 1/35 kit of the UH-1D Huey with crew is out. It's a Panda rebox and has lots of upgrades.

Trumpeter has released a 1/144 scale USMC Landing Craft LCAC. No other details at this time but it should be interesting. Looks like the price will be about \$36. Trumpeter also has a German Bridgelayer IVb in 1/35 and a really wild looking Panzerjagerwagen—basically a panzer modified to travel the rails. Strange to see a panzer (tank) with a cowcatcher!

Verlinden has a 1/48 rear engine compartment for the Skybow Tiger I. If you missed this detail item first time around now's the time to pick one up. That little Skybow kit is a lot of fun to build but it needs the engine compartment detail.

Mirage has released a couple of 1/400 scale four-stack destroyers including the USS Ward DD-139. You may recall that the Ward was the ship that spotted and fired on the Japanese miniature sub just outside Pearl Harbor. The recovered sub showed a perfect hit on the sub's sail. The companion kit is of the USS Noa DD-343. These kits sell for about \$20.

If you are building the Revell Gato submarine you may be interested in Eduard's Hull Plates and Deck Plates as well as general PE details.

Trumpeter is producing a kit of a long neglected subject; USS Heavy Cruisers. Their first kit will be of the USS San Francisco, CA-38. Scale is 1/350 so these will be decent sized models. It should be out in October.

That's about all for this month. There are lots of good kits coming soon so I encourage you to pick one or two and get to building. See you all on the 14th.

Milton

**Next Meeting
August 14, 2007**

*Austin Scale Modelers Society
Eric Choy
13213 Marro Drive
Austin, TX 78729*

