



SPRUE EXAMINER



Building Revell's Golden Hind

by
Richard Eaton

Introduction

I recently got a chance to relive a wonderful build of my youth when I found a 1965 molding of the Revell Golden Hind. I built this kit in my earlier years and just loved it. It is currently out of production, but it is still readily available and not terribly expensive.

The kit is very impressive both in its detail and excellent assembly instructions. The bright color scheme is molded in relief in the plastic easing painting. The rigging instructions are top notch. Even if you don't know a lanteen from a sprit sail, there are easy to follow details that build up to a convincing rigging scheme.

If you are into ships of this era or just want to get a feel for sailing ship building, read on.

The Kit

The molding on this kit is very crisp, and there are a significant number of details provided in a kit of this age and scale. Judging from the five crew members provided, the kit scales roughly out to around HO (1/87). Parts are molded in hard brown styrene. There is no flash, and only a few ejector pin marks, or sink marks on visible surfaces. There are some mold separation marks to deal with throughout, but they clean up easily.

Two types of rigging threads and a nice large sheet of vacuformed sails is provided. I chose not to use them. There is one sheet of decals (still good) and a sheet of flags. A six page double sided booklet contains a nice history and thorough directions.

Prep and Painting

Painting and rigging make or break a kit like this. I went through the instructions and painted most parts in their base colors while they were on the sprue. I used light earth brown for the

(continued on page 4)

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IPMS/Alamo Squadron, ModelFiesta XXVI, Live Oak, TX	February 17, 2007
IPMS/MCMA, Showdown 2007, Irving, TX	March 17, 2007
IPMS/Houston, Modelmania, Stafford, TX	March 24, 2007
IPMS/Tulsa Modelers Forum, 20th Open Contest, Tulsa, OK	March 24, 2007
Baton Rouge Scale Modelers, Cajun Modelfest XXII, Baton Rouge, LA	April 21, 2007
IPMS/ASMS, Austin Scale Model Show, Austin, TX	April 28, 2007

Editor's Notes...

First, a quick recap of the result of last month's election. **Kenny Roady**, our lost king from yesteryear, is once again back on the throne as our president. **Dave Edgerly**, a familiar face and elected for the first time, is our new vice president. **Bill Delk** and **Ion Tesu** both return for their second terms as secretary and treasurer. Congratulations to all of them, and I hope this new management will continue the success of our last one.

In case you haven't heard, part of our website got "deflowered" by evil hacker last month (luckily, our photo gallery is safe). Mike Gilsbach, our webmaster, had to erase all previous registered members and start the forum section all over. If you haven't logged on since January 17th, please register again next time you're on the web or you will not be able to gain access to the members only section of our site.

This month the KTFM column went on forced vacation, and the puzzler was called in to replace its usual spot. The truth is I have exhausted all the returned questionnaires I sent out since last year. I thought this column is a good idea for the new members to get to know the old ones, and the old ones to remind each other how "mature" they are (I hope I won't get in trouble for saying this!). So if you wish to see it continue, and we haven't shone the spotlight on you yet, please e-mail me your questionnaire or ask me for a copy at the meeting.

Our meeting this month will be on **February the 13th** 7:00pm at the usual Yarborough Branch Library. The good doctor John Seaman will conduct a clinic on **biplane rigging** for us.

Eric

ASMS Officers for 2007

Kenny Roady , president, kar66@swbell.net	260-2907
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Austin Model Show Coordinators

Kenny Roady , asmscon@swbell.net	260-2907
Kathy Roady , vendor Liason, asmsvendors@swbell.net	260-2907

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 Corner

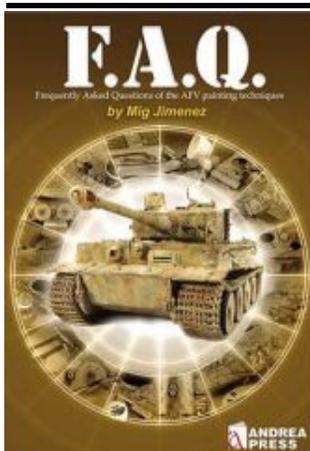
Here we are again. I thank you all for your confidence in me and for giving me another chance to be the "Prez". The one thing I'd like to talk about this month is the upcoming show. As you know, the show will be on Saturday, April 28th at the Crockett Center. We have the venue set, we have invited the vendors, and we're working out all the extra equipment we will need. The one thing that will make or break this show is involvement of all of our members.

Y'all have done a great job in the past. I am asking now that you keep it up. This is not Kenny's show; it is ASMS' show. It is your show. On the day of the show, every member is critical. Whether you take money at the gate, register models, man the door prize table, or run errands and help vendors setup, your participation is going to leave a lasting impression on all of our guests. The good will of our guests will make our show an even bigger event in the future. So, volunteer for a job. Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty. Invest in your show.

Above all, remember, it is all in good fun. This is a hobby. Enjoy yourself. Show off your handiwork. I am always amazed at the quality of all the modelers in this club. From the youngest to the oldest, I always learn something new and, most importantly for me, am greatly inspired by the models you bring to the meetings. Share this with the people who think that models are toys. Let them see the art form that is scale modeling. Build something, bring it, show it, meet new people and have fun.

Now go build something.

Kenny



F.A.Q. Frequent Asked Questions of the AFV Painting Techniques

by
Mig Jiménez

Andrea Press, \$79.95

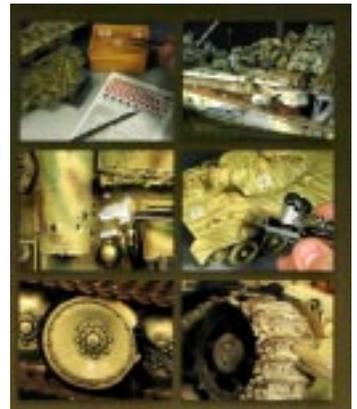
Reviewed
by
Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

Very seldom do I buy "how-to" books; they are either too wordy with few before/after photos or too vague in describing the techniques as if the authors did not really want to share their "kung-fu" with the readers. But once in a while a good one does come along and blows the competition "out of the water". IMHO, this new title from Mig Jiménez is such a case. I dare say this book should be in every AFV modeler's library along with Shepard Paine's *How To Build Dioramas*, François Verlinden's

Verlinden Way series of books, and Tony Greenland's *Panzer Modelling Masterclass*.

Being the creator and proprietor of his own model accessory company, at first I was leery of Jiménez's intention of writing this title to promote his products. But after my initial reading, I am glad to report that such is not the case at all, and this is not an infomercial for MIG Production. Very few of the techniques described involve using his pigments exclusively. The book is intended for any average equipped modeler to utilize his/her existing tools on the workbench (plus maybe borrowing a few frugal items from the kitchen and the sink!) without having to spend a fortune acquiring new tools and materials.

Printed in full color on glossy paper (250 pages), this book is comprised of two parts. The first part is the tutorial. It begins with the tools and materials one needs for building AFVs, followed by a few basics on model construction and texture building tips. Then it dives right into the said core of this book: painting and weathering techniques.



No stone is left unturned by the author in the tutorial here. Everything a modeler needs to know about paint schemes, priming, camouflages, zimmerit, washes, filters, fading, paint chips, rust, stain, dust, mud, smoke, exhaust, etc. are all presented here. A small section on diorama building tips is also included. Interestingly, the author concludes the tutorial part with some philosophical thoughts on who we modelers are, where is modeling going, how competition and contest affect us, and what kept us from sleeping at night!

The one thing that separates this tutorial from others in the pack is its delivery method of each technique: instead of reciting it in words with a few before/after shots, the author uses nothing but photos to illustrate step-by-step how it's done. This "follow-the-picture" approach is supposed to be easier to follow, and it enables the whole process of the topic to be shown from start to end. Some topics do get a bit (or overly) involved, and they take a few pages to explain. For example, painting a fuel drum is a 14-step process, and it takes two and a half pages to cover it!

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I believe most of the time this approach works out well. But in a few instances, I came across the photos of steps that I had no idea what the author is trying to convey. This is where I encountered a problem with this book: minimal, if not all, lack of caption for the photos. But it's not a major one. Simply adding a few words to accompany each photo will clear up a lot of confusion. I hope this can be addressed maybe in the subsequent edition.

(continued on page 9)

(Building Revell's Golden Hind continued)

hull and Testors wood for the decking. I planned to add a dark brown wash over everything and dry brushed highlights later. I then masked the hull and sprayed the lower part and upper painted works flat white. There is no distinct waterline molded in, so take care in establishing one.

Once dried, I then hand painted the extensive color motif on the upper hull. I used the kit suggested scheme, though I have never seen two paintings (or kits) with the same pattern. Using a fine round brush, I first applied the dark gloss blue on the lower banding and upper diamonds. I then applied the reds as indicated. Again there are clear demarcations molded into the plastic. I know you are probably think this is daunting. But just take it in sections. It is great therapy!



I finished up with the gloss gold details and then a few spots of black. Some touch up and things started to sharpen up. I then painted the raised planking in a dark chocolate brown. I painted the beautiful crest of arms on the aft bulkhead as directed.

I generally created a symphony in brown as I painted railings and gratings in dark brown, fittings in lighter brown and the ship's boat a series of washed white and browns. The deck planking is very well molded. The details just flew out with a dark brown wash. The masts were painted a light brown and detailed with darker browns and flat black. I sprayed cannon barrels and other metal fittings flat black and lightly dry brushed with steels to bring out details.

Assembly

This kit goes together easily with good fit. I began with the multitude of deck fittings on the main deck. I did not secure the ship's boat as indicated as called for to ease later parts placement. This is a good point to touch up and details the main deck fittings.

The next step calls for assembling the hull main deck, stern and rudder. The massive rudder is in two parts and requires filling and sanding. I also filed and sanded the hull seam along the keel.

Once happy with the fit of things, I clamped things down and applied cement.

The forecandle and bowsprit were assembled as directed. Be sure to add the rigging details shown in notes A, B and C because once the forecandle deck is in place you would be hard pressed to back fit.

A thick anchor rope is provided. I wind that around the anchor post and feed it out the bow. The gammoning tie around the bowsprit really adds realism when wound correctly. Once the "prerigging" was done, I finished assembling the bow components and left off the figurehead deer for now.

In the next step, I assembled the large and small cannon and put them in place on the deck. The cannon barrels rest on a two piece base. These I touched up and dry brushed to bring out the nice details. I then placed the cannon in the ports and applied the cannon rigging. This gets a tad tricky in some of the closer fittings. I was glad I left off the ship's boat at this point.

Next, I assembled the aft quarter and poop decks and fittings. Note that the aft decking rests within the wide deck ribs in the hull but not on top of them. I touched up the deck ribs with deck color after assembly. I then assembled the aft gallery components. Here I added the kit decals as directed. I prayed that they would not disintegrate due to age. They went on fine. I oversprayed the decals with some Dullcote. I then went over the aft portions touching up and detailing before installing the gun ports and the huge and nicely detailed anchor.



Use care in separating the shrouds as they are delicately molded. I had pre-painted the shrouds flat black and, once assembled, I dry brushed them with steel to bring out details.

The fore, main, and mizzen mast went on next. The masts are in several parts so use care in alignment. I detailed each mast at this point before adding them to the ship. Then I added the pre-painted ships ratlines. The ratlines are the angled webbing that support and provide access to the crow's nests. The instructions have you place all the yards (spars) in place at this point, but I recommend leaving them until the rigging is done.

By now you are probably getting sick of all this nautical terminology. But fear not; the instructions explain all components.



Rigging

The instructions provide a simple standing rigging scheme that is relatively easy and will provide a good looking model. If that's what you are into, fine. The last five pages of instructions give a detailed running rigging that I had to do. Rather than bore you with a blow by blow account, I'll just give you my tips on turning a great model into an accurate one.

1. The kit comes with a multitude of blocks (as in block and tackle). Clean up the blocks and widen the holes for easier rigging. Tie off all the blocks in place on the masts and yardarms as directed BEFORE placing the parts on the model. Use a minute amount of CA to lock the ties you make.

2. Once all the blocks are in place, the rigging is much easier. Generally, secure the rigging thread at the pin rail, cleat, or kevel on the hull first. Then just thread the line up and through the various blocks and tie at the terminus. Secure with CA, and make the lines as tight as possible tightening as you go.



- 3. Take your time and do the rigging in multiple sessions.
- 4. It doesn't take a genius or psychopath to rig a ship (or a biplane for that matter).
- 5. Once the rigging is in place, tighten the cotton thread by applying a bit of water with a Q-Tip. As it dries it will tighten up a bit.

Conclusion

This kit is a real joy to build and a great education. The instructions and build teach you a lot about sailing ships. This kit is out of production but still readily available at meets and on-line auctions.

Heller and Airfix still have a Golden Hind kit in production. I have seen the Airfix kit in 1/72. It is larger than the subject of this article and has good detail in the plastic, but it lacks the nomenclature and rigging details of the old Revell.

Wrapping up this baby I almost felt like 15 again. Now I am ready for another three master! Arrrgggg!

Richard



References

I know of no references for the actual ship. I don't think anyone knows exactly what she looked like. If you want to read about the amazing career of this ship and her master Sir Francis Drake, this website <http://www.mcn.org/2/oseeler/drake.htm> is a good place to start.

**Your 2007 Dues
are DUE!**

ISRACast 1/48 F-16I "Sufa" Conversion Kit (revised)

Kit #48015, \$55 (includes shipping)
www.isradecal.com

OOB First Look

by

"Bondo" Phil Brandt, IPMS #14091

My admiration for the small Israeli nation and, specifically, for the IAF goes back to 1968 when Boy MAC Nav Bondo strode off his huge C-133A Weenie Wagon onto the Lod (Tel Aviv) Airport tarmac. That night at the hotel bar we listened to a jazz quartet's rendition of Hava Nagela and shared war stories with an Israeli fighter pilot (a Six Day War participant) who, in his best Brooklyn Yiddish accent, smilingly asked us, "So how's your war going?" The next morning saw us on a fascinating tour of Israeli Aircraft Industries. Later, as we waited in the Lod terminal to go out to preflight our big hummer, we must've fallen in love every five minutes with the truly attractive young ladies, many in military uniform, strolling by. But, Bondo digresses...

The IAF's latest and greatest weapon system is the F-16I "Sufa" (storm). In 2001 Israel ordered 104 of this high-end version of Ft. Worth's venerable Block 50/52 F-16D two-seater, and the first bird was delivered in 2004, with final production to be finished in 2008.

The most visually significant difference in the Sufa is the 450 gallon conformal fuselage tanks, which greatly up the mission range (can you say "Iran"?) and double the aircraft's weapon carriage ability. The other significant profile change is the large dorsal avionics fairing (much like the IAF "Brakeet.").

The Kit



The basis for the conversion is Hasegawa's F-16DJ Block 50 kit (09352). As you would expect for half a hundred bucks, this is a very complete conversion kit: 30 cleanly cast components, a small but detailed PE fret, and two small decal sheets (panels, etc., but not national/unit markings or stencils). Separately available markings and *beaucoup* stencils go for \$25, including a walkaround DVD. Also available (\$30) is ISRADecal

honcho and nice guy Ra'anah Weiss' excellent Sufa book. Bondo looked at it at the KC nats, and it's got more detail on this airframe than one could ever want.



The conversion consists mainly of replacing the cockpit coaming, forward-of-the-windscreen fuselage and instrument panel, plus adding the conformal tanks and avionics dorsal fairing. Also Included are new wheel/tire castings new main/nosegear doors and a wealth of small avionics protruberances.

Instructions

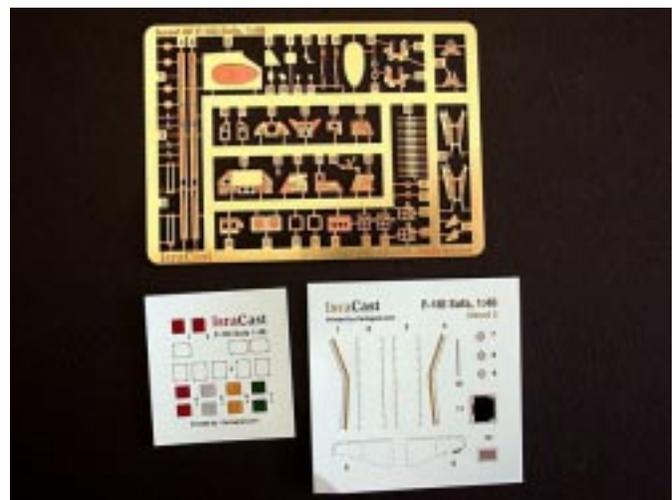
Three excellent pages of B&W close-up photos with a multitude of small part callouts in contrasting white and one auxiliary drawing to show the arrangement of small parts on the wingtip missile pylons. A complete resin/PE/decal part number layout at the beginning of the instructions ensures that no rocket scientists will be required here.

Conclusion

Every Israeli Air Force fan needs to have a model of what will undoubtedly be their go-to airframe for the next generation. It's possible that Hasegawa could, since they've already released the Brakeet kit, eventually do the Sufa, but ISRADecal's very detailed and accurate conversion kit is here now, and it's done by those who really do know.

Two thumbs up!

"Bondo" Phil





Rafael Power



Advances in China's Military (and Scale Models)

Internet is all about information. There are many sources you can tap on the subject of your choice, but you still need up to date information on the area of interest. In the area of scale model building, we seek to know the latest (and primary) techniques/tips, new kit releases, sales, etc. Although I like WWII, Korea and Vietnam era armor, aircraft and ships, occasionally I ponder new and contemporary things as well. This month we'll take a break from strictly scale model sites and have a look at some of the new military hardware in China.

As an example, I am interested in China's new Chengdu J-10 jet fighter. Now that Trumpeter added a 1/72 scale J-10 to its catalog, it's time to collect some info on this still elusive fighter jet. One of the best sources of information source is Defence Talk:

Defence Talk.com

<http://www.defencetalk.com/>

An excellent source of news on defence hardware. DefenceTalk.com is dedicated to global defence news, and it is part of a network of websites which includes <http://www.autotalk.net/>.

Registering to this site is free of charge, and as a member you receive daily news via e-mail on all topics of global defence, such as latest aircraft, warships, armored vehicles, missiles and other weapons and hardware. There are also articles on new aircraft contracts and the status of their development, production or deliveries.

By clicking on the article title, members access not just the text but any related photos. The site has a large gallery of photos of all types of military topics. That includes little known indigenous Main Battle Tanks built in China, Pakistan and India. Other topics include China's Chengdu J-10 multi-role fighter jet as well as new trends in warships worldwide. This is a good source on details and color scheme reference material; especially if there are no books or other sources available to model builders.

The site also calls on members to upload photos and videos for submission in their galleries. Whether you seek defence news or reference material for model building, this site is recommended!

Downside: the quality of photos and videos can vary from poor to excellent depending on the source.

China's Super Fighter

In all counts, China is moving rapidly into the area of military hardware and manufacturing aircraft, ships and other weapons. This is a step towards almost complete self sufficiency in weaponry and military power. A good example is the Chengdu J-10 multi-mission fighter.

If the J-10 looks like a combination of the F-16 and the Eurofighter, that is no coincidence. Although mainly based on the cancelled Israeli Lavi project, much of the design technology was also incorporated from the F-16. Both the Israeli design and technology as well as a F-16 donated to China by the Pakistani Air Force are evident. That last link accounts for the fact that Pakistan will be the first J-10 export customer under the designation F-10A/B Vanguard.

The J-10 will also be produced in a navalized version as China is now close to launching its first aircraft carrier. The unfinished surplus 67,500 ton ex-Soviet Navy Kuznetsov class aircraft



J-10A Fighter version. (SinoDefence.com)

carrier Varyag will be completed and made operational in approximately 3-4 years.

For photo and detail galleries of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) J-10 visit:

<http://www.defencetalk.com/pictures/showgallery.php/cat/3239>

<http://www.sinodefence.com/airforce/fighter/j10.asp>

For photos of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) ex-Russian Navy Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier Varyag see:

<http://www.sinodefence.com/navy/surface/aircraftcarrier.asp>

www.sinodefence.com 今日中國防務

www.sinodefence.com

Also known as Chinese Defence Today, this site is rich in news and information on the Chinese Armed Forces, their hardware and the organization of the different branches.

The abundant types of Main Battle Tank (MBT) as well as light tanks and armored personnel carriers (APC) are covered in detail with numerous photos. The current MBT Type 96 operated by the PLA and the Pakistani Army is illustrated with information on the various prototype versions up to the current production version. By examining the photos at this site, you can appreciate the progression of PLA tanks from Russian designed T-series to the more western style designs. Yet, some vague vestiges of the Russian features are still evident.

On the aircraft side, the site presents every type of flying machine including fighters, transports, tankers, helicopters, and one of my favorites: the four-engine SH-5 (ShuiHong-5) flying boat. Linked with the aircraft section is the complete guide to all ordnance. All the air-to-air missiles, guided bombs and other free-fall bombs are there.

The PLA Navy is also well illustrated with the new classes of destroyers and frigates with western influences incorporated in their design.

This is a virtual military Sears catalog with each and every land, sea or air weapon represented and described in full detail.



J-10B fighter-trainer from PLA Air Force 44th Division (SinoDefence.com)

Another recommended site!

Downside: no aircraft or armor color profiles or 3-view plans.



<http://www.trumpeter-china.com/>

With all these information sources on China, we complete our tour with their premier model manufacturer. It is clear that Trumpeter has taken the lead in the 1/32 and 1/24 scale big dogs. That has not gone unnoticed by other manufacturers, mainly Hasegawa. Red flags are going up all over in Hasegawa territory and they are burning the proverbial midnight oil because of this. But the other scales are also given their own space at Trumpeter. Even the 1/144 scale scored big in quality and choice of subjects, including two versions of the 1941 and 1944 U.S. Navy Gato Class subs. Move aside Revell! Their Imperial Japanese Navy Kawanishi H6K5 Type 97 Mavis flying boat is a real fine jewel.

In the 1/72 arena, armor and aircraft are well represented with new releases. Get rid of your old FROG kits you have been hoarding all these years. There are two Fairey Gannets in the antisubmarine hunter and trainer versions coming soon.

The new J-10 jet fighter kit looks very good, but there's no sign of a two-seat version yet. I imagine the boys in the Czech Republic are getting ready to mount an all out assault on the cockpit, engine, and afterburner sections as they need some detail.

By the way, can we get a decent 1/72 DC-3/C-47 please?

The mid-sized 1/48 contenders have some excellent kits as well including Curtiss P-40B, RA-5C Vigilante, Westland Wyvern, FW-200 Condor, and an assortment of MiGs and Sukhois to satisfy all interests.

The 1/35 class is loaded with armored vehicles from WWII to today. Russian T-types, German, U.S. Army, British, Swedish, PLA Army, Japanese vehicles and tanks, and a SA-2 Guideline Missile on Transport trailer thrown in for good measure are found in 10 pages in the site. Watch out Tamiya!

Like they say in the car commercial: You have to put Trumpeter on your list!

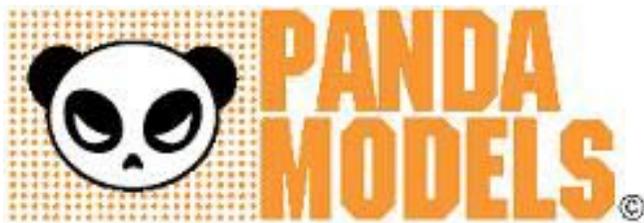
Other model sites to visit:



<http://www.anigrand.com> (Hong Kong)



<http://www.dragon-models.com> (Hong Kong)



<http://www.pandamodels.com>



<http://www.luckymodel.com> (on-line vendor in Hong Kong)

Got to go now. I am dying for some egg rolls. Yum!

Rafael

(Mig Jiménez's F.A.Q. Review continued)

The second part of this book is a gallery of the models built by the author using the techniques described earlier. The models shown here are all top-notch and breathtaking, but I did not particularly find them relevant to why I spent my money on this book for — to learn what it takes to build models like him, not to show off his models to those who have never seen his work before. I prefer more pages devoted to tips and tricks in the tutorial instead.

Although the title suggests this book is intended for armor modeling, I found this book useful for painting non-AFV models too. Aircraft and ships exposed to combat and the elements—not unlike tanks on the ground (except maybe mud)—not to mention paint chips, rust, and oil stains are omnipresent everywhere on any metallic surface. So most of the techniques described in this book are applicable to other areas of modeling interests as well.

Despite its few flaws, I enjoy this book enormously. It covers just about everything you always wanted to know about AFV painting and weathering but were afraid to ask. It's rare that a "how-to" manages to amass so many good techniques and uses a simple pictorial approach to illustrate them. I have no hesitation recommending it to anyone, regardless of what his/her model interest may be. I just wish it could be a bit cheaper...

Two thumbs up. Way up!

Eric



Skybow Airbrush AP-200

Cost: \$140.00

Review by

Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS #26266

Ever wanted the results of an Iwata airbrush but without the Iwata costs? Well, wait no longer! Wings n' Treads is importing Skybow Airbrushes with all the features of an Iwata at a third of the costs.

This double action airbrush has a 0.2mm head with a small 2cc paint reservoir. The airbrush is nicely balanced, and it has the feel of quality to it. I've sprayed acrylics and enamels through it and was able to get great results. There is a handle adjustment feature to limit paint flow so that it can give you consistent paint flow.

In the box you get the airbrush, hose adapter, disassembly wrench and a part listing. The handle has some rubber o-rings around it for your comfort. Disassembly is easy, and clean up is a breeze, just like any other double action airbrush.

The airbrush does not have a cover for the paint cup, but the detail work you can do with this brush typically doesn't take a significant amount of paint. The only downside I can see is you have to buy a separate Iwata hose. This is not a big deal, and even after buying the hose, your cost for a high quality airbrush is significantly less than an Iwata.

I have a rule about tools: I don't mind spending the money on them because they last a long time and can always be used on multiple models. I highly recommend the AP-200 if you are looking for a good quality airbrush.

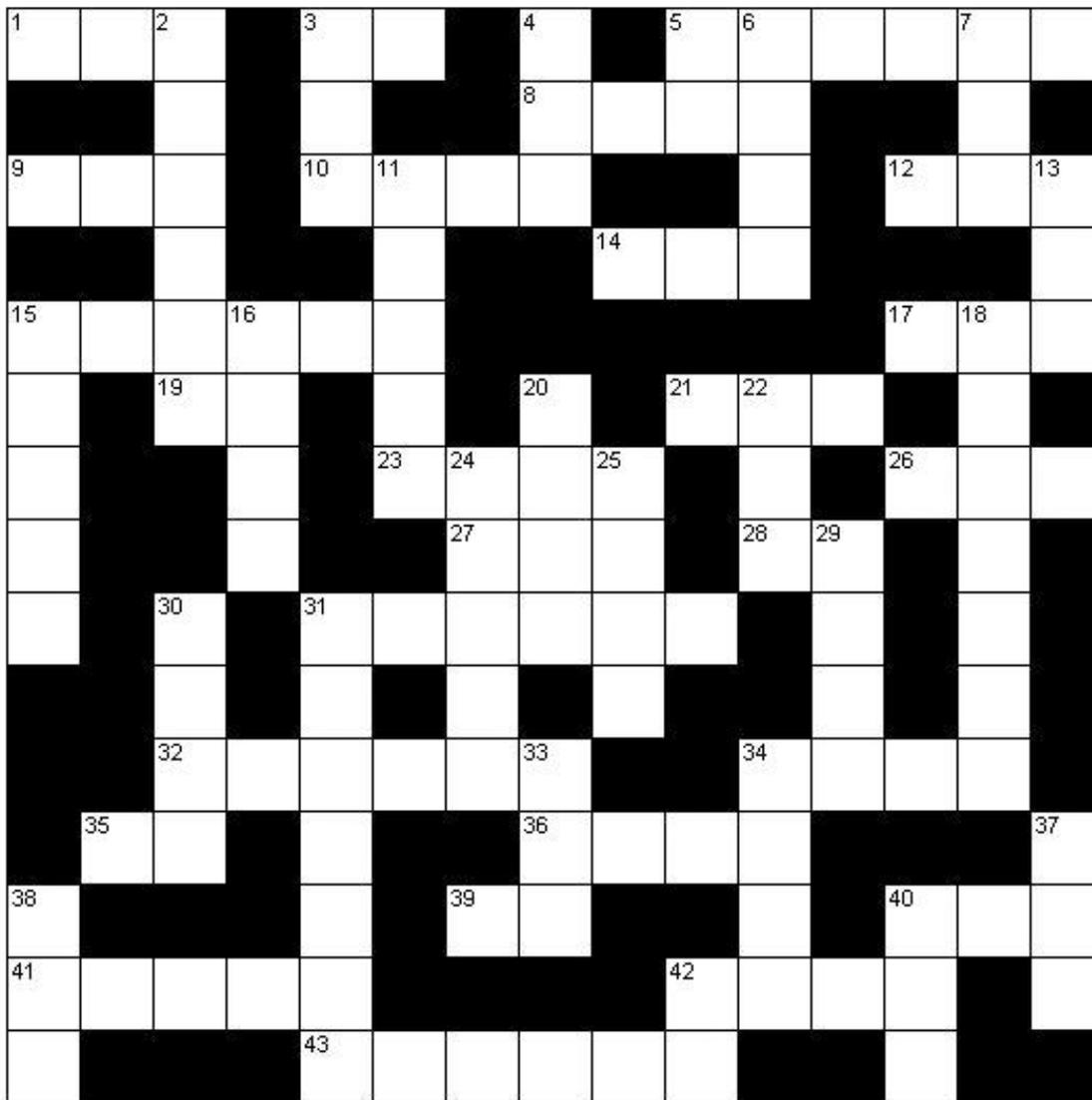
You can order your airbrush from **Wings n' Treads** (www.wingsntreads.com). Make sure you tell them you heard it from me. They also stock replacement parts, such as needles.

Thanks to Wings n' Treads for the review copy.

Floyd

Sprue Puzzler

Solution to the puzzler will be provided in next month's issue.



Trade Names

ACROSS

- 1 Trumpeter's Chinese rivalry
- 3 Flintbone's title
- 5 Bondo's favorite lacquer
- 8 Aircraft modelling mag. from the UK
- 9 Squadron Mail Order alias
- 10 Part of original VLS
- 12 Part of FROG
- 14 Jo-___
- 15 OEM for Squadron canopies
- 17 Named after Royal Navy standard
- 19 Armour specialist from Scotland
- 21 Modern warship Collective
- 23 Hannants' own prefix
- 26 Special Hobby's partner
- 27 Then & Now mag.

- 28 Maquette's partner
- 31 Ex owner of Airfix
- 32 Italeri's Japanese partner
- 35 Canadian mask maker
- 36 OEM for Revell DG airline decals
- 39 72nd scale truck specialist
- 40 US Airfix
- 41 Formerly KP
- 42 Italeri's old rivalry
- 43 Armor specialist from S. Korea

DOWN

- 2 Revell in Mexico
- 3 Old Verlinden diorama label
- 4 Aviation ___
- 5 48th scale TBM/TBF specialist
- 6 Chinese PE Roar
- 7 IDF & Soviet conversion specialist

- 11 Helco's space age welder
- 13 Kalmbach flagship mag.
- 15 Italian metal tracks
- 16 Ultra or Isra
- 18 Bare-Metal's decal Choice
- 20 AMT/___
- 22 Taiwan armor Club
- 24 ___ Ho decal
- 25 Polish Eduard
- 29 Ampersand flagship mag.
- 30 Spin-off from Mexico's Albatros
- 31 Yorkshire enamel
- 33 ___/Azimut
- 34 Sanchez's Two
- 37 Alanger's line
- 38 144th scale design bureau
- 40 Miguel Jiménez's Production
- 42 Ex owner of Airwaves

Old Rumors & New Kits

It's time for the Texas model shows! San Antonio's Model Fiesta kicks off in just over a week—February 17—at the Live Oak Civic Center. And as if you needed reminding, the ASMS show set for April 28 will be here before you know it.

It has been a good first month for modelers with a number of very nice releases and the Nürnberg show in Germany has given us a glimpse of what to expect in the next couple of years.

First of all however, I found a press release from RC2 Corporation (Racing Champions) that, while not specific, seems to say that AMT car kits will be cut from production. The release states that the company has decided to discontinue its Racing Champions, Joy Ride, Ertl, and AMT die-cast and model kit collectible product lines. The key word here is “collectible”.

The move is designed to rid the company of product lines that are not making the amount of money needed to keep the company growing. Of course if the car kits are cut it will be only a matter of time before someone picks up the tools and production begins again. AMT car kits are pretty popular.

A few months ago we were discussing the possibilities of hosting an IPMS National Convention—perhaps with the help of the San Antonio club. Now it appears that *no* club in the central part of the country wants to be host. The deadline for submitting a bid was January 1. So, the door has been opened for any club in the country to submit a bid for the 2009 convention. This year's convention will be in Anaheim, California, August 22-25. In 2008, it moves back east to Virginia Beach.

So, what happened in Nürnberg? A lot of announcements were made and not all of them “new”. Up front, and one I forgot to mention last month, is Hasegawa's new tool 1/32 P-47D-30 Thunderbolt. So far, all I've seen of the new kit is a photo of the place-holder, a finished 1/48 model! I've not seen a hard date on the kit's release but I would expect it the second quarter of this year.

Hasegawa also lists their P-40K, 64FS #09753 as a new release along with a P-39D/P-400 “Pinup Girl,” and a new P-40N “15,000 Anniversary” markings, and an AH-64 Apache Longbow.

Classic Airframes has a family of Venoms—the successor to the Vampire—and a family of D0-17s. A test shot of the Venom was recently posted on Hyperscale and it looks really good!

Eduard continues to amaze modelers with their growing line of 1/48 kits. At the moment they have three new F6F Hellcat kits announced, two of them for 2007 (Christmas), two new week-end editions of the Mirage III, as well as one for the Fokker D. VII, plus a cooperative effort with AM for the II-2M.

Eduard had parts of their new Me 110 kits on display but no finished test shot nor sprues. A new series of Me 110 kits should be good to have. Most of these items had been announced earlier but the big news from Eduard was a series of 1/48 MiG 21. Of course you won't see them until 2008 but it's not too early to start collecting research data. Their new Fw-190A-5 is available and is as good as the earlier F-8.

HobbyCraft had a built-up shot of their new P-51A in 1/32 scale. We've been seeing pictures of a series of Allison powered ponys on their kit boxes for some time but this is the first real indication that kits are really coming! It looks pretty good but the camera angle sort of distorts the nose,

Trumpeter still has an impressive list of kits, most in 1/32. These include P-40E and M, TBD-1, A-6A and E, F6F, F4F early version, F8F Bearcat, AV-8B Harrier II, F-100F, P-47D bubble-top and razor back, and a couple more Me 262 variants. And don't forget the new F9F early Panther kits that should be out soon.

HobbyBoss, a derivative of Trumpeter, had several 1/48 kits on display including a Mirage III and two A-10 Warthogs. These are simplified kits with fewer than usual parts.

Special Hobby has a big list of new kits that include some of the same subjects as Classic Airframes. Hmmmm. Look for a Sea Venom in 1/48. They have also announced a 1/48 Boomerang, Wirraway, and P-80/T-33.

For 1/48 armor enthusiasts, Hasegawa showed off their new “Follow Me” Jeep while Tamiya had a WWII German Tank Crew Field Maintenance set, a Flakpanzer IV Wirbelwind, a Panzerkampfwagen III Ausf. N, a Russian KV-1B, and a US 2.5 ton 6x6 truck (YES!!)

Italeri had a German PAK 40 AT gun, a Russian ZIS-3 AT gun, and a 40mm Bofors A/A gun, wall with crew. They also announced an Autoblinda AB40 Ferroviaria, a Chevrolet 15CWT, and an Opel blitz coal engine.

I'll try to have more on the show next month but for now, here are the latest arrivals in the local shops.

Osprey has a new book out on the 332nd FG, the Tuskegee Airmen. There's a very nice (BIG) kit of the Elco 80 foot PT Boat that comes with great detail, PE, and metal gun barrels. There's a new AFV Club Centurion Mk 5/2.6 105mm NATO version, a Dragon Sdkfz 184 Ferdinand Premium Edition and a special sale on the Tamiya 1/48 Stug III.

Revell has a 1/72 Transall and Special Hobby's very nice F-2G Super Corsair has finally arrived. If you haven't seen it, Revell's Fw 200 Condor is extremely well done.

See you all Tuesday. Now go build something!

Milton

**Next Meeting
February 13, 2007**

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

