



Vol. 17, No. 6

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

June 2009

# SPRUE EXAMINER



## Natural Metal Finish On A Mirage III

by  
Tim Robb, IPMS # 34705

Somewhere in the past, perhaps at an ASMS summer picnic auction, I picked up an old Fujimi 1/50<sup>th</sup> scale Mirage IIIC. It had a sticky note on the box that read "bought in Naha, Okinawa 1967." Maybe you're the one who put this into the auction. Anyway, I built it. I thought maybe a 1/50<sup>th</sup> scale model would not be too noticeably different in appearance mixed into my 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale collection, but I thought wrong there. It looks out of place. Maybe it wouldn't to everybody, but it does to me. So now that it's finished, I don't care for it.

In order to hide the crude and inaccurate interior, I schemed to install a pilot figure. All the pilot figures in my spares box are 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale, so the guy I stuffed in there looks kind of like Andre the Giant. The canopy is way thick, and the scribing on it doesn't match the scribing on the

fuselage. The wheel wells aren't there at all. The gear struts have no detail. There are no high speed drop tanks, only the big fat ones. The finished model sits too nose high on its landing gear.

Honestly, this kit really isn't suitable for making a nice scale model out of. But in addition to this one, I had two of the old Minicraft Mirage III kits also. So I used them for the novice modeler meeting at my house as the kit to build for the "Scale Model 101" class.

The Minicraft kit is labeled as 1/48<sup>th</sup>, but it isn't. On first look it appears to be exactly the same as the old Fujimi kit. The sprues are laid out exactly the same. But there are subtle differences; the nose is in different shape, and the canopies are not interchangeable. The gear struts are also slightly different. But overall, it is just another poor kit only suitable for a ten year old to build in two days and then blow up with firecrackers in two seconds. Since then I have bought the nice Eduard 1/48<sup>th</sup> Mirage III CJ, so I'm looking forward to building that one.

*(continued on page 4)*

ASMS is on the Internet

@

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**Phil Brandt**      **Kachoris Family**

**Dennis Price**      **Ion Tesu**

**John Seaman**      **Rick Willaman**

**Upcoming Events****Model Shows**

IPMS KC Slammers, Heartland Model Car Nationals, Overland Park, MS	June 13-14
Squadron EagleQuest XVIII (formerly MasterCon), Lewisville, TX	June 25-27
IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Mall Show, El Paso, TX	August 9
<b>IPMS National Convention 2009, Columbus, OH</b>	<b>August 19-22</b>

**Air Shows**

Air Fair Fly-In, Pioneer Flight Museum, Kingsbury, TX	June 20
Celina Balloon Festival, Celina, TX	June 27-30

**Local Events**

Evening Band Concert - Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, TX	June 20
Pacific Combat Living History Program - Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, TX	July 4-5

**Support Our Troops!**

In support of the initiative to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones in Iraq, IPMS/USA has elected to have **SFC Steven DeLong** as the point of contact for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please send it to: **Baghdad Hobby Club, c/o SFC Steven DeLong, HQ, MNC-I (FSC), 18th Airborne Corps, APO, AE 09342.**

SFC DeLong can also be reached via e-mail at: [steven.delong@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:steven.delong@iraq.centcom.mil)

**ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10**

<b>Mike Kachoris</b> president, <a href="mailto:mjk005@excite.com">mjk005@excite.com</a>	262-3404
<b>Rick Herrington</b> vice president, <a href="mailto:lehr3@sbcglobal.net">lehr3@sbcglobal.net</a>	259-8565
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<b>Kathy Roady</b> vendor liason, <a href="mailto:asmsvendors@swbell.net">asmsvendors@swbell.net</a>	260-2907
<b>Milton Bell</b> IPMS/USA coordinator, <a href="mailto:mbell6@austin.rr.com">mbell6@austin.rr.com</a>	454-2395

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. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

## Mike's Montage...

All through history, many people volunteered their time or expertise in helping others that were less fortunate or didn't have the means. For example, volunteers with the Red Cross help with disaster victims, the USO supports our troops, and local volunteers helping the elderly all the way down to children.

Even in our club, we have members contributing articles to our newsletter, the elected officers and the committee chairperson volunteering their time to put on our annual show, and a few members promoting our hobby by helping neophyte builders to become better modelers and members of our club.

You might be thinking what I am getting at. My point is everyone can be a volunteer in one aspect or another, big or small. Our annual show is approaching soon, and we need everyone to show their support by signing up for the many duties that are needed to put on a great show.

p.s. Trophy packages for our show are still available. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Kenny or Kathy Roady at [asmscon@swbell.net](mailto:asmscon@swbell.net) or [asmsvendor@swbell.net](mailto:asmsvendor@swbell.net).



Mike

## ReaperCon 2009 Recap

by Bob Bethea

Last month Kevin Delashmit and I headed north to attend our first **ReaperCon**. Held inside their headquarter/factory at



Denton, **Reaper Miniatures** is a leading maker of fantasy and sci-fi games and gaming accessories. Their 25mm fantasy figures are universally known in their end of the hobby as "minis," much to the disgust of **Doug Cohen**, who adamantly prefers the term "figures."

In 2008, several outsiders, including Doug Cohen and **Rick Rutter**, visited and viewed the fun. Their input caused the organizers to make several significant changes in this year's show. First, a category for historical figures of all scales was created to lure mainstream modelers to participate. Second, fantasy figures produced by companies other than Reaper were allowed to enter the contest. Last but not least, the judges this years had adopted the Open Method to judge all the contest entries. There were the traditional three categories: "Painters" where only the painting is counted; "Open" where the sculpting, conversion, and the basework are considered; and "Ordnance" for motor vehicles, tanks, planes and other bloodless items.

Shep Paine's super successful recipe for awarding each entrant at his highest level of expertise was used instead of the IPMS style multiple category contest with only first, second, and third awards.

Kevin and I went along with local "historical" figure painters, Doug Cohen, Rick Rutter, Arthur Berning, Anders Heintz, and Brian Mikulencak. The most interesting aspect of the ReaperCon for us was the inclusion of multiple seminars on each day of the show. The instructors included world famous "mini" painters and a lot of the company's best sculptors. The classes were limited to about ten people and lasted two hours, with a little fudging at times. Some were demos and Q&As, and some were hands-on. The way to sign up for the seminars was to get tickets on the Internet ahead of time, or to be at Reaper at 8:30 am each day to pick up a card allowing your entry. The cost for each class was \$20 to help allay travel costs of the speakers. To me, it was well worth every penny.

I attended two painting classes, one with my favorite mini painter in the world, **Jennifer Haley**, and the other with world renowned French master, **Jeremie Bonamont Teboul**. I took away an overwhelming respect for their work and a lot of tips that have helped me immensely. I also took a terrific sculpture class from **Gene Van Horne**. He taught me about the necessary tools and media as well as his "seven kinds of folds" technique, not to mention numerous other ideas. We even did some hands-on work with Duro and found that sculpturing looks a lot easier than it actually is.

Figures for the contest started arriving on Friday, and they were judged by teams of five, including Rick and Doug, on Friday night. Late arrivals on Saturday were judged that day. During all this time, the factory was abuzz with mini fans. Drove of them participated in over four wargames while others took advantage of the "make and take" opportunity where you could pick up one of the provided Reaper minis and use their paint and brush to finish it out. Wow...what a nice time sponge.

The awards were attended by over a hundred folks. Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals were awarded in the three categories, Open, Painters, and Ordnance. Additionally, they had Bronze, Silver, and Gold "Sophie" trophies for the best Reaper product entries in the show. Sophie is Reaper's incubus masco, a buxom babe with bat wings.



We historical folks were proud of our accomplishments. Kevin took a Bronze in Painters with his 90mm *Landesknecht*. Brian took Bronzes with his Focke Wulfe 190 in Ordnance and with his 1/35<sup>th</sup> Russian Scouts

Photo of the Sophie trophy on [www.reapermini.com](http://www.reapermini.com)

in Open. I got Silver medals in Open for my Cowboy bust and in Painters for my Dark Sword Archer. Arthur received a Gold medal in Ordnance for his M24 Chaffee. Rick received a Gold medal in Open for his Marine Sgt. Gutt, and Anders earned a Gold medal in Open with his 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlander.

Doug received a Gold medal for his entire display, which included a 25mm piece titled "Bring Out Your Dead" (after the Monty Python movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*). It was very inventive with a cart hauling covered bodies and townfolks staring, including a buxom wench in an upper window (check out photos on [www.timelinesforum.com](http://www.timelinesforum.com)). It won a Gold Sophie as well as Best Of Show. The only thing missing was his quote of Julius Caesar, "veni, vidi, vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered).



Doug Cohen and his Gold Sophie.  
Photo by Reaper Miniatures.

We had a ball with the venue, the nice people, the comradeship, the contest, the classes, and the opportunity to dip into a new figure painting culture. I highly recommend this show to anyone. The Reaper folks seemed to enjoy having us as well, and they were eager to see us return next year. They need not worry for their show date is already on my 2010 calendar! 

Bob

#### (Natural Metal Finish On A Mirage III continued)

But wait, the article is titled "Natural Metal Finish on a Mirage III," not "Let's Bash the Old Out of Date Mirage III Kit." I read Phil Hale's article on building a Hawker Hunter T.7 in a recent IMPS Journal in which he described his technique for natural metal finish. I decided to give it a try.

His technique calls for priming the model all over with Tamiya acrylic Gloss Black and then painting with Floquil Brite Silver.



I used that technique on this Mirage, and I like the results. This is easily the shiniest silver finish I have achieved so far, and I had no trouble at all with the silver paint pulling up when masked. I used standard cheap masking tape and stuck each strip to my wrist before applying it to the model to reduce the tack.

Because of the glossy primer coat, the silver does rub off easily if the model is handled too much. I am rather ham handed, so I had this happen in places. But it was very easy to fix; on fuselage areas I just sprayed on a little more of the Floquil Brite Silver, and on wing leading edges I dry brushed it on. In both applications, the silver finish repaired easily and perfectly.

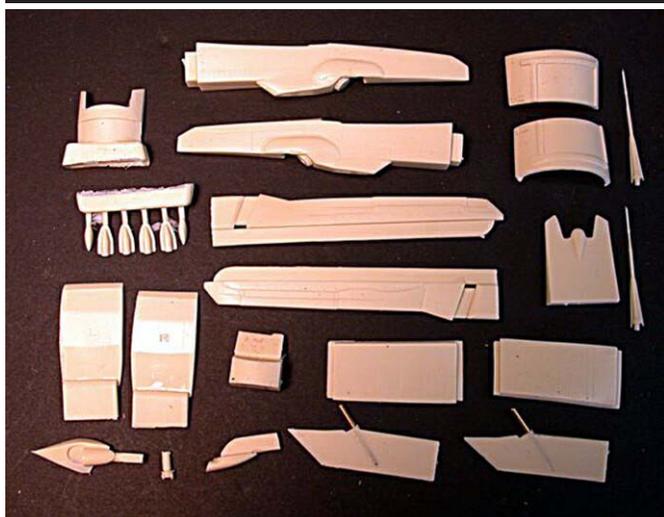
I put the decals on this model right over the silver finish without any clear gloss base coat. They settled down just fine and look good. I also did not seal them in with any top coat.

So while I'm disappointed with the finished model, I like the silver natural metal finish and did learn a "new to me" technique for NMF that turned out very well. I'll use this NMF technique again for sure.

Go build a model, but not this one. 

Tim





**Zactmodels 1/32<sup>nd</sup>  
Revell MiG-29 Correction Set**

[www.zactmodels.com](http://www.zactmodels.com)  
USD \$105 + \$4 shipping

OOB Reviewed by  
"Bondo" Phil Brandt, IPMS #14091

Almost two decades ago, Revell released 1/32<sup>nd</sup> MiG-29 kits of the "Fulcrum A" and the UB two-seat trainer. The kits were decent for the early 1990s: excellent molding, crisp details and petite engraving. Since then, only the cockpit of the single-seater has received upgrade attention, courtesy of nats-level modeler Talal Chouman and his (now OOB) TAC Scale Dynamics firm. TAC Scale's resin cockpit tub, seat and instrument and side panels added welcome complexity to an admittedly plain stock interior. Unfortunately, no resin cockpit has to date been offered for the UB trainer.

The recent Trumpeter release of 1/32<sup>nd</sup> MiG-29M and K kits — both 1:1 versions may or may not see widespread operational use — has greatly heightened the quality bar, but that still leaves owners of the older kits twisting in the wind.

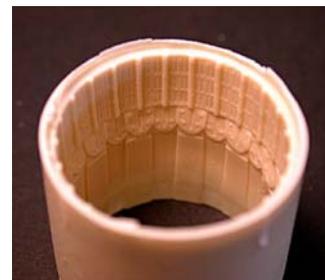
The most glaring error in the two elderly Revell releases was the painfully undersized diameter afterburner can assemblies and the incorrect aft engine nacelle structures leading to said burners. Both Revell kits offer a hokey transition piece that steps down the engine nacelle cross section to join with the undersized cans. Over the years, various articles, especially in Bloke model mags, detailed innovative homebrew fixes (one used Kodak 35mm film cans!). The scratchbuilding seemed to work — anything was better than the "stepdown" transition piece — but it took 'til 2009 for a definitive solution to these annoying discrepancies... and more.



Enter Chris Wilson "Zactoman," honcho of Zactomodels. Having relocated to rural Preston, Idaho in the past year, Chris is back producing his primo quality resin sets of badly needed 1/32<sup>nd</sup> jet (A-7, F-100, Flanker, and now Fulcrum) upgrades/corrections.

**First Look**

The Fulcrum set includes what you'd expect in a seriously priced product: 41 large and small resin pieces, plus a small PE fret and some plastic strip, beautifully detailed inner and outer afterburner cans, turbine wheel/flameholder assemblies, new mid- and aft engine nacelles, new chaff dispensers, new nose cone, closed intake FOD doors, closed aux air doors, IRST, aft canopy frame structure, small air scoops, pitot boom, etc. Auxiliary resin disks are used as dies into which the PE afterburner flameholders are pressed to form the correct conical shape.



I can't say enough good things about the fit, finish and detailing of Zactomodels resin components. They're exceedingly smooth, glossy in fact, bubble and flash-free, and the engraving is perfectly matched to that of the kits for which they're meant.

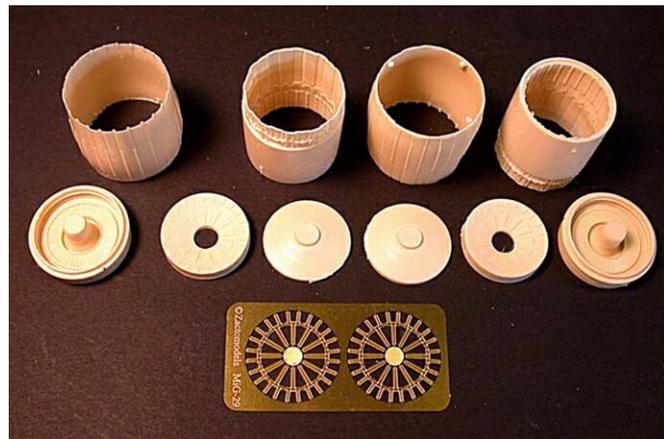
**Instructions**

The informative B&W multi-page instructions are very well drawn and plainly portray the various operations necessary to install the new parts and modify existing ones (such as minor changes to wing and stabilator shapes). It's obvious that Zactoman has done his homework.

**Conclusion**

Anything Chris Wilson releases is good stuff, well worth the money. This latest set brings those obsolete Revell Fulcrums back to life, ready to stand, without excuses, right next to those state-of-the-art big Trumpeter jets. I eagerly await Zactoman's forthcoming release of his 1/32<sup>nd</sup> full kit of the Northrop YF-23 (pix at the Zactomodels website). 

"Bondo" Phil



## Scalefest 2009 Highlights



Can you spot the Tamiya 1/25<sup>th</sup> T-34/85 parts in this sci-fi model titled "T-34/95?"



Nicely finished DML 1/35<sup>th</sup> T-34 with a 57mm gun.



Don Philips' 54mm "Hold it podnuh, you're on the Ponderosa" vignette.



Like father, like son, Michael Holm can paint just as good as Russ. Two of his Warhammer game pieces were placed in the Military Figures 54mm and smaller category.



Just in time for the new Star Trek movie; a very big scale USS Enterprise NCC-1701A display table complete with light, sound, and music.



Most excellent 1/48<sup>th</sup> Macchi Mc.202.



Angie and Miriam chatted while their husbands shopped.

Here is a list of ASMS members who won at Scalefest:

Name	Place [Category]	Subject
Phil Brandt	2 <sup>nd</sup> [1/72 Multi-Eng Prop]	AC-119K
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [1/72 Multi-Eng Prop]	NC/AC-123K
Eric Choy	1 <sup>st</sup> [Military Figure ≥120mm]	E. Rickenbacker
	2 <sup>nd</sup> [Armor Single-color]	Renault Carrier UE
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [Fantasy Figure ≤54mm]	Geisha Girl
Russ Holm	1 <sup>st</sup> [Artillery]	Barbette 32pd
	1 <sup>st</sup> [Misc Mechanical]	Trebuchet
	1 <sup>st</sup> [Armor Boxstock]	S-35
	1 <sup>st</sup> [Armor Multi-color]	T-34/76
	2 <sup>nd</sup> [Artillery]	Flak43
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [Armor Multi-color]	T-80
Tim Robb	2 <sup>nd</sup> [Civil Aircraft]	Staggerwing
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [Civil Aircraft]	Corben Super Ace
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [1/48 Multi-Eng Jet]	Eurofighter
Pat Rourke	2 <sup>nd</sup> [Armor ≥ 1/25]	Egyptian T-34/85
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [Armor Multi-color]	StuG IV
	3 <sup>rd</sup> [Softskin Vehicle]	Jeep



28 Years Ago (August 1981) ...

**Quality name of modeling game**

Building plastic scale model airplanes is no longer the sloppy and rather haphazard entertainment it used to be. On the contrary, it is today as sophisticated as one cares to make it and in many cases is almost beyond the bounds of normal human accomplishment.

Take, for instance, the mold maker for Hawk Models Inc. In 1967, or thereabouts, he decided to build a model of Lockheed's rather infamous U-2 reconnaissance airplane. Conveniently, he had been the master craftsman behind the highly complex Hawk metal molds that had been used to pump out the 1/48th-scale actual U-2 wingspan is 80 feet, model wingspan is 20 inches) U-2 model by the thousands. Needless to say, he knew a lot about building U-2 models.

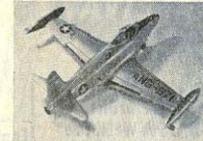
Well, the national competition for the 10,000 plus membership International Plastic Modelers Society was soon to get underway. Mr. Hawk's moldmaker wanted to win. The competition would be inordinately stiff. Building something out of the ordinary would be necessary.

SEVERAL MONTHS were essentially spent in building what became the grand national award winning model airplane. It was, as one might expect, a Lockheed U-2 — but what a U-2. Not only was the painting immaculate and the assembly superb, the detailing was beyond comprehension. Take the recon systems bay, for instance.

All the cameras were there in miniature detail — mounted in their fuselage tray — which in



**arm chair aviator**  
Jay Miller



Model of Lockheed P-80

turn was attached to the fuselage by four tiny cables. Additional sensor gear was mounted on other trays statically situated next to the model on the mounting base.

But the real clincher, and in fact the one that saved-up the championship, was the airplane's incredibly detailed cockpit. Fear it was all visible — from the ejection seat and control wheel, to the highly complex instrument panel.

Austin is fortunate to have an organization in its midst that has as its sole reason for existence, the art of plastic modeling. Functioning under the rather appropriate title of Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS), this group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Howson Branch Library building at 2500 Exposition. Dues are \$5 a year for senior members and \$2.50 a year for junior. There's even a family rate of \$6.

The ASMS orients its meetings toward the advancement of modeling as a hobby. Approximately 50 Austinites, both young and old, make up the organization at this time. There is currently a drive to increase both membership and interest in modeling.

However, this weekend will offer a more immediate opportunity to associate with ASMS activities as the East Court of Northcross Mall will serve to host the annual ASMS modeling contest. It will be a feast for modelers and those simply interested in modeling. The public is invited attend and participate in the show. Registration for competition models will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday. All contest entries will be on display throughout the following day. If interested in entering a model in the contest, the price is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for juniors.

For further information, contact either Kings Hobby Shop (N. Lamar), Village Hobby Shop (Village Shopping Center), or Kit World (Anderson Lane).

ASMS made the news in the local paper! "Arm Chair Aviator" Jay Miller had a write-up on plastic aircraft modeling, ASMS, and our forthcoming annual contest at the Northcross Mall. The part that pertains to our club reads:

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Many thanks to Bill Delk for sending us this clipping.

## South Texas Shootout

April 17-19, 2009

Photos by G. R. Dennis Price

Text by Eric Choy

The day started foggy and hazy as Dennis and I took off early in the morning to Corpus Christi NAS to attend the annual Shootout. No sooner did we reach the coast, the sun came out to greet us, and we were thoroughly toasted shortly after the planes started to fly.

This year's program featured no less than 18 aerobatic flights and demo events. Among them included US Army Golden Knights, USAF F-15 demo, USN F-18 Super Hornet demo, Heritage Flight, Wing Walking Act, Tora-Tora-Tora reenactment, and a rare appearance of three Grumman F8F Bearcats. Somewhat disappointing was the USN Blue Angels' performance. "Fat Albert" took off without a bang, and the six F-18s also flew slower and lazier than I thought they should. Maybe because of new personnel or it's just too early in the season?

On our way back home after eight hours of fun, we were being asked how the water condition was at the bay. No doubt our "roisserie chicken" faces had people thinking we just spent the entire day fishing on a boat! 🐟

Eric



The US Army Golden Knights parachute team made a grand entrance descent from their Fokker C-31A Troopship.



Real life kitbashing: an E-2 Hawkeye dish on a P-3 Orion! Department of Homeland Security has eight of these AEWs for border patrol and anti-drug duties.



The MiG-17F that appeared the week before at the Burnet Airshow flew down for a repeat performance.



Your editor got caught on Dennis' camera in front of a privately owned Aero Vodochody L-159 Albatros trainer!



Formerly a Canadian Air Force Harvard/Texas, it was converted to look like a IJN Kate torpedo bomber for the Tora, Tora, Tora Reenactment.



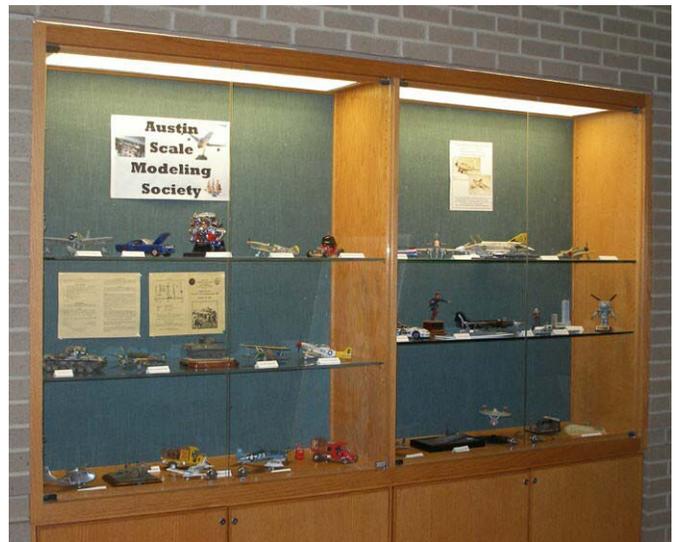
"Look ma, there's a guy walking on that plane! No, make that a girl!" Daredevil Teresa Stokes performed her wing walking act.



Seldom seen Grumman F8F Beacats flying in tight formation.



Somewhat disappointing but still enjoyable performance of the US Navy Blue Angels.



### Model Display at San Marcos Public Library

Thanks to Tim Robb's effort, ASMS members had a chance to show off their models and at the San Marcos Public Library for the entire month of May. Tim, Milton, Eric, Russ, Rick Herrington, and Rick Willaman all brought their masterpieces down from Austin, and in no time we filled the entire case with aircraft, tanks, ships, automobiles, figures, and sci-fi models. Kudos to patron services librarian Robin Wood also for making the club banner for us. Three cheers to librarian, please!



Starting this month (June), Tim will be conducting a five-week "Scale Model 101" class at the same location. Nine people have already signed up to come learn how to build Monogram 1/48<sup>th</sup> P-47s. No doubt the display case advertisement has paid off handsomely. 



## Old Rumors & New Kits

Summer is unofficially here! School is out, the students have been freed and families are thinking about vacation spots. How about you? Know where you are going are you just staying close to home? Well, if it's the latter, there are some nice model kits out there that you may want to check out. Some new kits are on the way and should be here before school takes up again.

I hope many of you took the time to attend the NCT (Dallas) show up in Grapevine. I had to miss it this time. My beautiful young cousin got married that weekend so I spent Saturday afternoon with family. You have to have priorities and modeling is still a hobby.

Since the last newsletter, the Shizuoka Hobby Show has come and gone. There were no big surprises, and some of us are still waiting on Tamiya's big aircraft model announcement. So far, all we get is speculation (rumor) and disappointment. Could it be that what they showed at Shizuoka is all there is?

Here's what they announced and for some, it's enough. First off, there's a new tool 1/35<sup>th</sup> Matilda but you already knew that. Still, it's worth repeating and the picture of the example at the show is stunning. Then for the ship people there's another 1/350<sup>th</sup> warship, this time in the form of the Japanese Light Cruiser Mikuma.

Usually, armor and vehicle models get scaled down. In the case of the Citroen Staff Car that Tamiya produced in 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale, you can soon have it in 1/35<sup>th</sup>. I assume you can also model it in civilian form. Tamiya also showed a 1976 vintage Tyrell P34 six-wheel Gran Prix car in 1/20<sup>th</sup>. This one is probably a re-pop.

Apparently the real money maker for Tamiya is the series of 1/48<sup>th</sup> armor and soft-side vehicles. They have added several figure sets now that go well with their vehicle series. Their latest is the SPW SdKfz 251/1 Ausf.D halftrack. Looks like a good base for several variants or for the scratchbuilder/resin producer. They also announced a 3.7cm Flak 37 gun with crew, but I've seen no photos of it.

Recently, Tamiya produced kits in conjunction with Italeri, notably the Italian armored car mentioned last month. At the Shizuoka show, they showed two more models with close ties to Italeri, the Reggiane Re.2002 and the BAE Hawk Mk.66, both in 1/48<sup>th</sup>. It's doubtful that either kit will show up on your LHS shelves under the Tamiya label but in the Italeri box. That said, I look forward to building the Re.2002, but from what I've seen of the plastic, there will be a lot of pock-mark style rivets to contend with. I've seen the Hawk kit, and it's very doable. It's a small airplane and will really lend itself to production as a 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale kit.

Tamiya continues with another money-making idea; the double kit. This time you get the Light Utility Truck (Tilly) boxed with

a new version of the excellent Tamiya Mosquito, the NF Mk. II. Sure would like to see some two-stage Merlin kits.

In the car category, Tamiya brought out two sleek new 1/24<sup>th</sup> GTs; the Xanavi Nismo GT-R (R-35) and the Motul Autech GT-R. Really pretty markings for the car. And if you like them, there's a new 1/6<sup>th</sup> Kawasaki Z1300 bike.

Hasegawa will have a 1/350<sup>th</sup> scale *Yahagi*, but I've no idea what the release date will be. They will also release an early version of their very nice Pete Model 11 float-plane fighter. Their 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Shoki (Tojo) should be out in July. Hasegawa also plans a series of 1/20<sup>th</sup> Formula I cars (is this a new trend?)

Aoshima plans a new 1/350<sup>th</sup> scale *Myoko* but again, no idea of release date or what the finished model looks like.

Sweet will release a 1/144<sup>th</sup> Rufe near the end of the year, and we can expect a Zero 52 this summer. Knowing the quality of Sweet kits, I'd say both will be winners but I'm really looking forward to the Rufe. I assume the kits will be offered in the usual two per box.

Fujimi will release a McLaren MP 4/6 Honda, a mark that was very popular at the show.

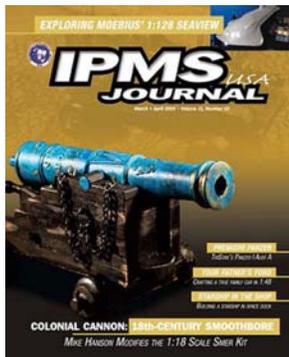
Now, what's new here? Big news in a big box is the 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Me.109E4 from Eduard. This is a great looking kit that builds into a very fine model. And for the small air plane, it's the right scale. You might also check out the Quickboost resin exhausts for the kit.

Eduard has released two more bargain kits in their Weekend special series; the Spad XIII and the F63 Hellcat. As usual with the series, markings for only one aircraft are provided and there is no PE nor resin. So? Buy the PE separately and get whatever decals you choose! Both kits are excellent.

Be sure to checkout the Trumpeter 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Swordfish Mk I, and the 1/72<sup>nd</sup> Tu.22 M2 Backfire bomber in 1/72<sup>nd</sup>. Can't imagine the Swordfish built and on the table. That's going to be a lot of rigging that will probably be functional with wings that big! And for those with limited space, be sure to check out the 1/144<sup>th</sup> Platz F8 Crusaders. Yep, they are two per box! Oh, and there's a new Airfix Canberra too. The B-57B USAF Vietnam version is available now. Ah, life is good!

There are new accessories from Eduard, Quickboost, and others and new publications so keep checking. That's all for June. Don't forget the club's BBQ and kit auction set for July. You should be getting an Evite soon so check the yes box and come on down to Buda. 

MB



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Mar/Apr 2009  
Volume 21, Issue 2

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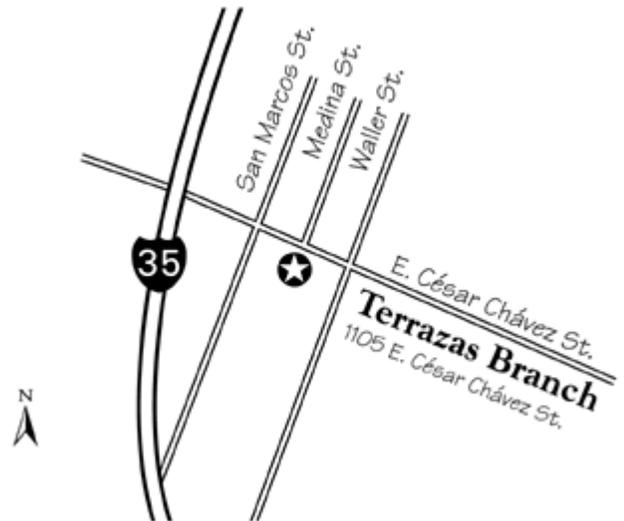
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