



2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year
2009 IPMS Region VI Website of the Year



Vol. 18, No. 3

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

March 2010

SPRUCE EXAMINER



New Date & Location for 2010 Meetings

A SMS monthly meetings in 2010 are now on a new date at a new (actually rather old) location. We now meet on the **third Thursday of each month** back at the **Austin Yarborough Branch Library** (2200 Hancock Drive. See map on last page).

So mark your new calendar and be sure to show up on the right day at the right place! 

Editor



Double Dip on the Dark Side

Building Two 1/48th Me.262s

by Tim Robb, IPMS #34705

This project started last year after I received the most recent Revell release of the Monogram 1/48th Me.262 at our Christmas party white elephant exchange. That's a heck of a note, isn't it? Receiving a model kit of an evil Nazi warplane as a Christmas gift. I haven't built a lot of models of Nazi subjects. In fact, this is just my second foray to the dark side. But since I already had the old Monogram kit, which is the same kit in an earlier boxing, I decided to build both of them at the same time. I didn't finish either one in time for last year's white elephant contest. But no matter, I have now seen them through to completion.

The only difference I could tell between the two kits is the decals and an upgraded instruction

sheet in the newer release. The newer Revell release includes a decal for the instrument panel that the older boxing does not have, and I did use it to see how it would compare to the hand painted article in the older Monogram issue. The kit part has nicely raised detail that is just right for spraying with the basic color, drybrushing, picking out various color details, and dropping your favorite clear gloss treatment over the instrument faces.

The Revell release decal is sized very well to fit the kit part. With both finished, there is little to choose between them, they both look good. I am not even sure which one is in which model. The overall cockpit detail is good for a plastic kit right out of the box. All I did with them was add seatbelts.

The kit also features a gun bay which can be posed open. I chose to open it up on one kit only

(continued on page 4)

ASMS is on the Internet
@
www.austinsms.org

Upcoming Events

Model Shows

IPMS/Houston, Model Mania 2010, Stafford, TX
IPMS/NCT, Scalefest, Irving, TX

Apr 24
June 5

Local Club Meetings

Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin Public Library Yarborough Branch
Central Texas Scale Modeling Society, Harker Heights Activities Center
Lone Star Military Miniature Society, San Marcos Public Library

Apr 7
Apr 15
Apr 17

Other Events

Brent Mullin's Open House, College Station, TX
Wings Over South Texas, NAS Kingsville, Kingsville, TX
CAF Bluebonnet Airshow, Burnet, TX
Alamo Liaison Squadron Bluebonnet Picnic, Cannon Field, San Antonio, TX
American Heroes Celebration, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
AirFair 2010, Pioneer Flight Museum, Kingsburg, TX

Mar 19-20
Mar 27-28
Apr 10
Apr 17
Apr 17-18
May 8

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 the following contact point for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:



SFC Fleming, Leighton O.
MNC-I Sensor Management NCOIC
DSN 485-3344
leighton.fleming@us.army.mil



For more info, please contact IPMS/USA 1st VP John Noack (jnoack@ipmsusa.org).

ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10

Phil Brandt	Eric Choy
Rick Cottingham	Bill Delk
Jeff & Angela Forster	The Kachoris Family
Adela Huerta	Larry Jones
Pat Olsen	Dennis Price
Lindsay Renfroe	Ion Tesu
John Seaman	Rick Willaman

Mike Kachoris president, mjk005@excite.com	262-3404
Rick Herrington vice president, lehr3@sbcglobal.net	259-8565
Angela Forster treasurer, agforster@aol.com	331-4644
Eric Choy secretary & editor, asmsnews@austin.rr.com	249-9184
Mike Gilsbach webmaster, mike@gilsbachdesigns.com	258-2952
Milton Bell IPMS/USA coordinator, mbell6@gmail.com	454-2395

Mike's Montage...

Last month I had the opportunity to submit a job application for a new job. I made it past the review process and got an interview. Dressed sharp and looked confident, I had a good idea that the job was mine. I felt the interview went well afterward; I answered all the questions truthfully, and I even kidded around with the interviewers (I said this would be the last time they would see me all dressed up instead of my usual self in uniform!).

A week went by, and I didn't hear a word. Then the next week I got the rejection letter. Needless to say I was bummed and disappointed. So after a day of self pity, I started thinking of other ways to prepare for the interview and reevaluated what I should have done differently to change the outcome.

The same goes true when you enter a model in the local model show/contest. You put your sweat ("in hot lights"), tears ("when we make a mistake building it"), and sometimes even blood ("those X-Acto blades can be sharp") into that pile of styrene. You think to yourself that the model looks great. Then at the awards ceremony your name isn't called. What happened? I thought my model was a sure thing. Surely you are disappointed, but instead of drowning yourself in sorrow, you should find out what went wrong. Ask the judges or even your fellow modelers for their input on what needs to be improved. Just like life, the road to winning holds a lot of disappointments and reevaluations too.

Above all, try not to take the whole contest thing too seriously. Always remember that this hobby is for fun and relaxation. 

Mike

VP Rick Herrington Resigned

Members of ASMS,

My mother's health has taken a turn for the worse. As a result I am having to move in with her to help with her care. She lives in Kerrville, TX which is about 2 1/2 hours from Austin.

Because of this I will not be able to continue as Vice President of ASMS. I hope to be able to make it to some of the meetings during this time but am not sure how much free time I am going to have.

Thanks for everything and I will be in touch. 

Rick

(Editor: We were saddened by the health situation of Rick's mother, and we wish her a speedy recovery.)



2010 Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November

Tim Robb
Ron McCracken
Eric Choy
Mike Kachoris
Ken La Ronde
Phil Brandt
Mike Broussard
Karl Leidy
Angie Forster



The next program "Seam Filling and Other Construction Tips" will be presented by **Tim Robb** in the March meeting.

If your name is on the list and you know your program topic already, please notify your editor (**Eric Choy**) or webmaster (**Mike Gilsbach**) so it can be published in this newsletter and on our website. 

Editor

MARIANAS THUNDERBOLTS
Victory Film Productions presents

THE BATTLE OF THE MARIANAS:
1944. Troops and supplies are unloaded under heavy fire from the USS Shrike. Several flights for the 7th Army Air Force. 77m.
318TH FIGHTER GROUP ON SAIPAN:
July 1944. Admirals Nimitz, King and Spruance meet aboard USS Indianapolis, Scores down Japanese Field and 318th FG. COLOR. 78m.
LONG RANGE P-47N MODELS JOIN THE 318TH ON SAIPAN:
April 1945. 51m.
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MOVES TO IE SHIMA: 37m.
May 1945.
CAPTAIN PHIL RASMUSSEN FILM: 1945. COLOR. 2m.
318TH FG GUN CAMERA FILM: 1945. Nr. Shima. COLOR. 8m.
ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE ENVOYS IE SHIMA: August 1945. COLOR. 4m.
TET: 2 Hour, 26 mins.

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VICTORY FILMS

MARIANAS THUNDERBOLTS

THE 318TH FIGHTER GROUP

WORLD WAR II



Victory Films
The 318th Fighter Group
MSRP \$29.00

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

The latest release from Victory Films deals with P-47 Thunderbolts in the Pacific. Not the normal place you expect to see the big gas guzzling fighter, but it was used there very effectively. Both P-47D and P-47N were used in the Marianas. The run time of this release is an impressive two hours and 26 minutes.

(continued on page 9)

(Double Dip on the Dark Side continued)

because these models will reside next to each other in my display case, and I think they will be more interesting to view if they are posed differently from each other.

On the open gun bay model I did nothing more than paint the kit parts basic colors and then treat them with washes and dry brushing. This model was the first of the two to be finished as I found the open gun bay model was easier to complete. The gun bay doors don't fit very well in the closed position, and I had some seam work to do there on that model.

Likewise the kit comes with one engine, and the modeler is given the choice to open the access panels on one nacelle to reveal the engine. The engine looked to me like it would need some extra detailing to look really good. I didn't feel like doing that so passed on that opportunity.

Overall the fit of the kits is fair to okay. The panel lines are raised, and the clear parts are nice and clear but a bit thick. Just what you expect from an older Monogram kit.

I painted both models with Model Master enamels, and applied the kit decals over a gloss coat of Future Floor Polish. The decals from the newer issue Revell boxing are a nicer quality than the Monogram original. Both decal sheets are a little thicker than aftermarket decals, and the little bitty numbers and stencils aren't printed as finely as stencils on aftermarket decals are. With a little work in spots and a little scraping to remove some minor silvering the kit decals worked out.

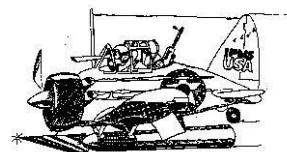
By the way, these are my first efforts at *Luftwaffe* mottle camouflage schemes. I painted them with my old standby Paasche H single action airbrush. I need more practice here, but maybe these are not terrible for first efforts.

The kit is older now and not up to the latest Tamigawa standard, but it still builds up into a handsome model. Since it is lower priced, it is a good value. I enjoyed the builds, and these models are fine additions to my 1/48th collection.

Go build a model — or two! 

Tim





Modelfiesta 29 Recap

This year Alamo Squadron's Modelfiesta 29 went smoothly without a hitch. The number of vendors was a record high: close to 150 tables were sold. On the attendance side, there were 161 contestants with 560 model entries and 600 general admissions.

Despite the perfect weather condition, not many ASMS members made it to the show at the Live Oak Civic Center. But for those who did and entered in the contest, they all went home with trophies. Among the biggest winners are Ron McCracken and Jim McDaniel (see winner list on page 8). Jim even managed to capture the show theme award with his two Bf.109s!

Congratulation to everyone who won at the show.



Check out this excellent 1/32nd LVG. Ron O'Neal built this WingNut Wing kit straight out-of-the-box, and it placed first in the Origin to 1937 Aircraft category.



Most excellent 1/48th Macchi 202 "Folgore" by Arturo Dominguez of Monterrey, Mexico. It won the Best WWII Axis Aircraft award.



Nicely done 1/72nd C-119C Flying Boxcar. Unfortunately it did not place in the Multi Engine Prop category.



It's nice to see a finished 1/700th model of IJN Ryujo. This infamous Fujimi kit is a tough kit to build.



"Breaking Surface" is the title of this Mobius 1/128th Mini-Flying Sub model. Check out the realistic water effect.



Miguel Hernandez from Monterrey, Mexico did a fantastic paint job on this Alien bust.



Jim Rice of San Antonio won the Best Figure award with this 54mm British Officer.



A well deserved first place win for Tom Ferris' Panzer IIc in the 1/35th Axis Tank category.



Strange looking "What If?" 1/35th Panzer Dozer.



Pete Beccerra, Jr.'s "Knock, Knock" finished second in the Armor diorama category.



A scratchbuilt 1/25th 1989 Fleetwood Tioga Arrow RV with amazing interior details. Road trip, anyone?



Paul Berena kitbashed Tamiya and AMT kit parts to build this cool looking 1/24th Mercedes-Benz Gull Wing Truck.



Impressive 25 ship collection by the members of IPMS/NCT. It placed second in the Club/Group Entry.



The Best of Show Award went to Doug Cohen's "A Dash For The Timber," a vignette based on Frederic Remington's famous painting of the same title.

Here's a list of ASMS members who won. Many thanks to Alamo Squadron's speedy posting of the winners on their website.

Name	Place [Category]	Subject
Milton Bell	1 st [1/72 Multi Engine Prop] 3 rd [1/48 Multi Engine Prop]	PRU Mosquito B-25J
Bob Bethea	1 st [Historic ≥120mm] 1 st [Vignettes] 3 rd [Armor Diorama]	ACW MA Infantry Terror of the Seas Ardennes Attack
Eric Choy	1 st [Fantasy Figures] 2 nd [1/48 Armor]	Okko Geisha Girl Jagdtiger 88
Bill Johnson	1 st [1/72 Armor] 1 st [Artillery & AT Guns]	T-55 .50 Cal w/ Mount
Ron McCracken	1 st [Vacuforms/Conversions] 2 nd [1/72 Single Engine Jet] 3 rd [1/72 Multi Engine Jet] 3 rd [1/72 Single Engine Prop] 3 rd [1/72 Multi Engine Prop]	Boeing DH-4M-1 Douglas F4D-1 B-47E Brewster SB2A-4 Lockheed A-29
Jim McDaniel	1 st [Actual Missiles/Rockets] 2 nd [1/48 Single Engine Prop] 2 nd [1/48 Multi Engine Jet] 3 rd [Aircraft Origin to 1937]	Bell X-1 SBD-3 Late Me.262 A-1A P-26A
Pat Rourke	1 st [Armor Box Stock] 3 rd [Softskins]	Erastz M10 Zis-44 Ambulance

Special Awards

Jim McDaniel	Bob Davies Memorial Award	P-26A
Jim McDaniel	Show Theme "Double or Nothing"	Winter and Spring Bf.109s



Modeling Day

from Bob Bethea

The next Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day is set for Saturday April 17th, 2010 from 10:00 AM until 4:45 PM. It will be held at the Shady Hollow Community Center on Doe Run off of Slaughter Lane in South Austin.

We would love to have anyone interested in ANY kind of modeling to show up. There are plenty of tables, chairs, and room. Bring along your own extra lighting if the fluorescents aren't enough for you. We have a refrigerator and a microwave available. You're welcomed to bring any food item for yourself or others to share. However, we traditionally order pizza for lunch. Everyone throws in some money so we don't have to leave to eat.

DIRECTIONS:

From MoPac: Take MoPac (Loop 1) south and exit on to Slaughter Lane. Go LEFT (east) for about 1.5 miles, and at the Brodie Lane traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Brodie. Go down into the Shady Hollow Subdivision to Doe Run and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the Community Center is on the right.

From Interstate 35: From either direction take the Slaughter Lane Exit off of I-35. Go EAST on Slaughter Lane (left if you're coming from San Antonio or right if you're coming from Austin) and go about 5.5 miles to Brodie Lane. At the traffic light, turn LEFT (south) onto Brodie. Go down into the Shady Hollow Subdivision to Doe Run and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the Community Center is on the right.

Parking is available on the side and behind the community center. Give me a call at (512) 784-7002 if you get lost. ☺

Bob





(The 318th Fighter Group continued)

The first part of this film is the Battle of the Marianas. This section is highlighted by the tanks, mostly Sherman and Stuarts, used in the fighting. Most of the Marines and Army tanks have appliqué armor, wooden sides, painted camouflage, and fording gear. Interestingly, there is a full color section of film that shows Zeros on Guam in full color. There is also a full color sequence of *Miss Mary Lou*, the well documented P-47D, carrying bombs.

There are plenty of battle sequences. One scene in particular that caught my attention is the footage of a Japanese soldier being shot. Now killing the bad guy is nothing new, but what you don't get to see normally is an up close and personal. The Japanese soldier runs out of his hiding spot, and you can see his face as plain as day when he gets shot. He drops like a sack of potatoes, and the pain is quite obvious as he lies dying.

The next sequence is entitled Marianas Thunderbolts. This shows the entire journey of the 318th FG from getting ready for deployment in Hawaii through the carrier launch of the Thunderbolts to the missions in the Marianas. In Hawaii you see P-47s undergoing maintenance. The nose arts of the aircraft are notable with plenty of cartoon characters and women's names on the cowling. There is even a neat A-24 Dauntless in the line up. This should give the modeler some serious diorama ideas.

Then you are treated to seeing how the aircraft are loaded onto the ship. While the aircraft are transported to Siapan, the combat engineers are busy establishing the airfield. The arming of the Thunderbolts takes place on the ship prior to their being maneuvered for takeoff. There are plenty of good shots of the catapult mechanism as the aircraft are being hooked up. It is impressive to see a catapulted P-47 taking off in less than 50 feet! The big lumbering Jug is right on the verge of stalling.

Once on the island you are treated to some really good shots of captured Zeros. As interesting as the shooting of the Japanese closeup earlier, I have to warn you this sequence has its own shocker: you get to see a man take a shower in full exposure side view! I certainly wasn't expecting that from a 1940s newsreel.

There are plenty of ordnance footage in this film. I was impressed by a sequence of the 38mm rockets prior to being loaded. Included also is the first use of napalm, and you get to see how it is being mix up.

For those who want to see more of *Miss Mary Lou*, she is shown in all her glory on both sides prior to a mission. The mission sequence includes gun camera footage with enemy flak bursts exploding right in front of the aircraft. If the aircraft had been

just a few feet more forward, the explosion could have and probably would have torn up the plane. Exciting stuff! Upon the return from the mission you are shown OD P-61s in the background. There are plenty of battle damage and mechanics working on the Battle Damage Repair.

The next sequence is in full color with an interesting twist. It opens with Admiral Nimitz on board of *USS Indianapolis*, the battleship that delivered the parts for the first atomic bomb to the air base on Tinian. There are Zeros everywhere on the airfield as well as P-47s and L-4s. Full color nose art is always interesting to me, and this sequence has plenty to look at. Also in color are P-61s and the Avengers armed with rockets. Lots of great stuff for modelers and historians here.

Next up is a Long Range Escort sequence from October 1944. Interestingly, it shows the fighters in a three fuel tank set up. The B-24s that participate in the raid also sport interesting nose art. Beautiful air-to-air shots are another highlight with some closeups of the Thunderbolts. Another sequence shows the first P-47Ns on a ten hour escort. There is a battle damaged P-47N as well. Other footage include a low level pass by a B-29 and P-47Ns with some great nose art. The really wide landing gear set is impressive.

Phil Rasmussen from Pearl Harbor fame (one of few pilots who managed to shoot down a Zero with his P-36) is the highlight of the next scene. Also shot in full color are brand new P-47Ns complete with yellow cowlings and tails. In flight the big Jug is really beautiful and is shown up close and personal. Their gun camera footage show the destruction of everything from ships, harbors, and even air to air shooting in August 1945. There is plenty of flak to be seen.

The film ends with the Japanese surrender scene in full color. I've seen stills of this event before, but this is the first time I've watch it in video. The Japanese delegation arrives in a Betty with white painted over the green camouflage and green crosses on the wings and fuselage. It makes a flyover before landing. You also get to see the arrival and the relocation to a C-54 with its Air Apache B-25 escort complete with a parrot nose. Again all in full color.

I highly recommend this and all of the titles from Victory Films. The superb quality as well as the historical significance are well worth the money. You can obtain your copy of this and the other great films from <http://wademeyersart.tripod.com/id69.html>. Tell him you heard about it here. 

Floyd



Know Thy Fellow Member

Name

Ron McCracken

Day job

Software engineer.

I've been building models...

nonstop for 50 years.

Primary modeling interest

US military aircraft.

Main reason why I build models

The satisfaction of creating something.

Other than building models, I enjoy...

Sailing.

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

My father, originally.

My favorite "master" modeler is

I don't really have one.

The size of my unbuilt collection

Somewhere between 101 and 250.

My wife's opinion on my model collection

Positive so far. But I've got a lot of kits to finish yet!

Best excuse for buying yet another model

No excuse needed, but then again I keep my purchases within reason.

Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die

Make sure my heir understands the value so they don't get thrown in the trash.

First model I completed

Honestly I can't remember. My first serious effort, including paints, were Monogram 1/48th SBD. That would have been around 1962 or so.

Longest time I took to finish a model

I started on a Revell 1/96th scale U.S.S. Constitution during my freshman year in college, and I finished it in my senior year.

Best model I built so far

Plank-on-frame Texas Navy Schooner Invincible.

Worst model I ever encountered

Contrail's vacuformed B-36. Gave up on it when the Monogram B-36 came out.

Modeling project(s) I'm working on

Monogram B-36, collection of F-for-FotoRecon types, scratchbuilt Orenco D-2, etc, etc.

Dumbest things I ever did when building models

Well, I've sliced a finger or two. I have the scars to prove it.

Worst thing I did to my model to express my anger/frustration

I have tossed a few in the trash.

Modeling story I like to share with my peers...

In college I got into the habit of simultaneously working on several kits. This was in the pre-cyanoacrylate days, and you needed an alternative project to work on while the glue cured. Otherwise precious modeling time had to be wasted on silly things like term papers.

Over the years, this has evolved, and now I will often shelve a project when I hit a construction snag, until such time as the old subconscious comes up with a solution to the problem.

The result is, I have a shelf full of partly-finished projects.



Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

Randy Barnes, an IPMS/USA member out of the Corpus Christi area, is working with the **Lady Lex Museum On The Bay Association** to redo the museum on **USS Lexington**. He is asking for volunteers to build and donate models for the museum's new display. If you are interested in participating, please contact me ([Mike Kachoris, mjk05@excite.com](mailto:mjk05@excite.com)) or Mr. Barnes (shspr@shsrockport.org) directly.

Mike

International Plastic Modelers Society
IPMS - HOUSTON
Since 1965
FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCALE MODELING

PRESENTS

Houston Area's Largest Model Show

- > Fine Scale Model Contest
- > Make & Takes for Youths
- > Technique Demonstrations
- > Vendors & Manufacturers
- > Guest Speakers
- > Exhibits & Displays

MODEL MANIA
2010
April 24th
Stafford Centre
10505 Cash Road
Stafford, Texas
Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

IPMS-Houston, a not-for-profit organization supporting & promoting the hobby of model building as an activity for the whole family.

Old Rumors & New Kits

Seems like just a few days ago that I was sitting here trying to remember what was new or rumored to be. I guess that's because February is a short month. At any rate, it's March and time for another go at putting a page (or two) together.

The biggest piece of news this month may be the announcement from Wing Nuts that their next four kits have been released. The New Zealand model works, reportedly owned by Peter Jackson, has a fantastic deal on their 1/32nd WWI model kits. The new



releases are a pair of Albatros fighters, a D.V and a D.Va. If you want to try your hand at replicating a wood finish on a fuselage, try one of the D.Va versions. Either version should be a winner and each comes with four decal choices.



The other kits are a Sopwith Pup, RNAS and a Pup RFC. There are some colorful marking choices for either version. If you want to check them out, go to their website. As with the earlier release, they are sold direct and not through a distributor. Each kit sells for \$59 USD which includes shipping and handling. That's a bargain in anyone's book.

On the local scene, I've looked at some impressive new kits. The 1/48th Me.110 D-3 from Cyber Hobby, a part of Dragon Models is very impressive. This may be about the best Me.110 in this scale you can get. It will sure give the Eduard kit a run. It may well be a scaled down version of the Dragon 1/32nd Me.110. The price is reasonable for a large twin engine model.



Roden surprised us with a Fairchild AU-23A Peacemaker, a somewhat obscure aircraft from the Vietnam era. This 1/48th scale kit sold out pretty quickly, so there's

certainly an interest in the subject. This is the gunship version but others are sure to follow.

Italeri has released a nice looking 1/48th kit of the Arado AR.196A. This work-horse German floatplane looks very nice in the box, and I just about guarantee some resin parts are on the way for the interior which looks like the weaker part of the kit. That's not to say that the interior is bad—it's detail is a bit soft and shallow. To tell the truth, you could probably improve it

with some small styrene rod to make the structure look more like the steel tubing used on the real thing. There are markings for four aircraft; two for the *Kriegsmarine*, one for Japan, and one for the French. I would bet the Bismarck's Arado will be the most built of the four choices.



Italeri has also released a new boxing of the Israeli AF *Kfir* C1/C2 in 1/48th. This is the much older Esci kit with new decals and in a new box. Now if someone would just do a resin cockpit for the model we might have a winner. Still, it's a good looking model when built, and it goes together pretty well. I can't comment on its accuracy; I did mine when the Esci kit was new!



And for something entirely different, Italeri has a set of WWII German Aircraft Weapons (bombs in this case) in 1/72nd scale. According to the box, it contains 24 resin parts, decal sheets, and painting guide. I wonder if they will eventually do a set for 1/48th. It's nice to see some choices for those things under the wings.

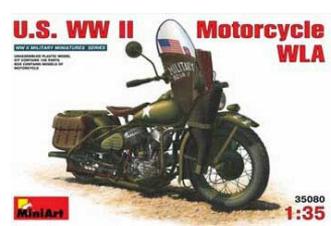
That big 1/24th Mosquito kit from Airfix is still making news. I look forward to seeing one built. No, I'm not working on one. I don't have room for the model, room for the kit, nor even room for the box!

Tamiya's 1/32nd Spitfire Mk. IX has been out for just a few weeks and already it has a near cult following! Some say it's the best model ever produced, and I have to say, based on photos of the model in progress, it's certainly among the best I've seen. Brett Green, who operates the HyperScale site, has already authored a new "How To" softcover book on the kit.

If you are building the Pacific Coast Spitfire with the C wing, you should check out the cast metal landing gear at your LHS. This is good work in a hard metal and even includes an antenna mast.

If you like big armor models, I'm sure you are aware of Trumpeter's 1/16th King Tiger with the Porsche turret. Again, this is a big model in a big box. Super detailers should have a blast.

For something smaller, check out the MiniArt's U.S. WWII Motorcycle WLA. It's a Harley-Davidson "WL" bike built to Army's specifications. This looks like a well engineered kit of a neglected subject. It's 1/35th scale, so I expect to see one in a diorama soon.



Speaking of dioramas, Tamiya has a set of WWII carrier pilots, plus three deck hands and a Moto-Tug. This is 1/48th scale and the pilots are all in different poses. This would add a lot of interest to any aircraft carrier deck scene from the WWII era. This set sells for about \$29 which for all you get is not bad at all.



Tamiya has teamed with Fine Molds to produce two 1/35th "White Box Specials" to recycle both companies' older kits. The first one is a Japanese Army Type 1 Self-Propelled Gun with four crew members. The tank is of Tamiya origin, and the crew are Fine Molds'. The second one is a Type 95 Light Tank (Fine Mold) with four infantry figures (Tamiya). More possibilities for dioramas.

Hasegawa has a limited reissue of their Ju.88G-6 Nachtjäger. So, if you missed it first time around, now you have another chance. It's a very nice kit.

For you *Luftwaffe* fans, there is another kit recently announced from a company from Ukraine. It's an 1/48th Bf.109 G-6/R3/trop and the company is UM Models. No idea if it's a "new" tool or a "borrowed" bit of engineering.



If you haven't seen it and are even a sometimes fan of the *Luftwaffe*, the big book on the Fw.190 D-9, Vol.2 by Jerry Crandall is worth a look. It's good to have even if you don't have Vol.1.

For the WWII vehicle modeler, Squadron Signal publications has another in the Walk Around series. This time the subject is the GMC 2 1/2 ton truck, the famous "deuce and a half."



For the armor builders, look for Dragon's 1/35th 15cm s.IG.33 Infantry Gun which comes with crew figures. It features a fully detailed breech with two options and a "scale thickness" gun shield with details on both sides. Are they talking PE here? Dragon also has a new early production StuG III Ausf.G with *schurzen* in "scale thickness" which I really take to mean PE. Again, their description of the kit lists numerous details, specially in regards to the gun. I haven't seen it yet but it sounds good.

There are many new decal sheets announced and several can be found at your LHS. While many of them are aimed directly at the newer 1/32nd kits, there are some in good ol' 1/48th. I'm especially impressed by the new sheets for 1/32nd Fw.190 D-9 Dora.

I failed to mention a new issue of the Academy B-29 kit in 1/72nd. This time it is done up as a Korean War bomber, and it should be a fine addition to the aircraft collection from that era.



That's all for now. I hope you are building something. Be sure to bring something along for the "show and tell" portion of the meeting. Until then, go build something!

MB



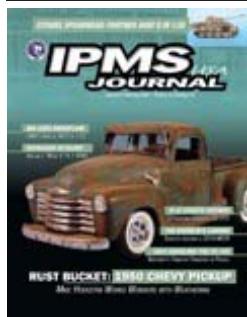
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(Editor: Please excuse your editor's poor taste humor. Your dues are much needed and appreciated.)



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IPMS Journal

January/February 2010
Volume 22, Issue 1

- **Bristol's Mistreated Monoplane** — Building CMR's resin rendition of the M1C Scout, by Harvey Low;
- **SPAD: Singoloposto AD** — Building a "what if?" bare-metal Italian Skyraider in 1/48th, by Rodney J. Williams;
- **Telling A Story With A Well-worn Chevy** — Weathering techniques add character to the story of a pick-up, by Mike Heokstra;
- **RCAF CL-52, X059** — Building the flying test bed, by Steve Bathy;
- **Stalker On The Steppes** — Building DML's 1/35th Panzer Ausf.D as a Kursk combatant, by Steve Taylor;
- **Northrop's Reluctant Raider** — The Trimotor that time - and the Air Force - forgot, by Norm Filer;
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**Next Meeting:
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at
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Austin Scale Modelers Society
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