





April 2011



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# Ace T-90 Build **By Richard Herrington**

he T-90 is the latest generation of the T-72 family of Main Battle Tank (MBT) first appeared in the early 1970s. The most unique feature of this tank is the application of Nakidka — a radar absorbent material (RAM) based camouflage that reduces infrared, thermal, and radar signatures of the tank. Since 2006. Nakidka has become the standard "signature reduction package" for all Russian Federation MBTs.

I've always been a fan of Russian modern armor, and the only kits I've built in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale are DML's. This was back in the 1980s when Dragon was just starting out. Their kits had pretty good details for back then. The fit, however, was another matter (hence the term "Do Me Later").

Ace is an Ukrainian company that produces 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale modern Russian armor subjects. I picked up a kit of the T-90 from King's Hobby for around \$15 bucks. The box art looked great. The tank looked like an

interesting build being festooned with reactive armor blocks and anti-missile sensors.

I was expecting some Russi challenges with this kit as most of us do when we buy a Russian or ex-Soviet Bloc manufactured model



kit. I was not disappointed. There are lots of flash and seam lines to deal with as well as sink holes in prominent places.

The build is harder than it should be in some areas, like the side skirts. In order to make the T-90 version, you have to cut off the front fenders and attach two other kit-supplied fenders. Unfortunately you have to cut up the side skirts to make them fit correctly with the new fenders.

The treads are unusable, unless you want to spend several days cleaning individual track links with copious quantities of flash. I ended up using a set from another kit. I also ended

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Upcoming Events	Marth 1			
Model Shows				
IPMS/Houston, Modelmania 2011, Stafford, Texas	April 30			
IPMS/Baton Rouge, Cajun Modelfest XXVI, Baton Rouge, LA	April 30			
IPMS/NCT, Scalefest 2011, Mesquite, Texas	May 21			
ReaperCon 2011, Denton, TX	May 19-22			
HMSNEO, Tulsa Show 2011, Tulsa, OK	June 3-4			
IPMS/Metro OKC, SOONERCON 2011, Moore, OK	June 18			
Squadron EagleQuest XX, Grapevine, TX	June 23-25			
Local Club Meetings				
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, San Marcos Public Library	April 16			
Centex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, TX	April 21			
Austin Armor Builders Society, APL Old Quarry Branch	May 4			
Other Events				
Muster Day, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX	April 16-17			
Air Power Expo 2011, NAS Forth Worth JRB	April 16-17			



Central Texas Airshow, Temple, TX

#### Support Our Troops!

The Iraq Model Network is an initiative for providing model kits, supplies, and reference materials to our service men and women serving in the combat zones of Iraq.

Any individual, chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please visit the IPMS/USA website (www.ipmsusa.org) and click on the Support The Troops page link.

# **ASMS Officers & Chairpersons** for 2011-12

Tim Robb, President (512) 392-0611, tim.robb@mccoys.com

Ron McCracken, Vice-President 748-3455 rmccrack@austin.rr.com

Angela Forster, Treasurer 331-4644, agforster@aol.com

Mike Gilsbach, Secretary 258-2952, mike@gilsbachdesigns.com

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem 249-9184, asmsnews@austin.rr.com

Eric Choy, Show Coordinator 249-9184, asmsnews@austin.rr.com

Mike Gilsbach, Webmaster 258-2952, mike@gilsbachdesigns.com

Milton Bell, IPMS/USA Coordinator 454-2395, rmbell36@gmail.com

Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the second Thursday of each month except for December. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family). The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

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up using the fuel drums from another kit as none came with it. If I had thought of it, I could have ordered a Revell T-80 and used the tracks from it as they are virtually the same. I probably could have also used some detailing parts from the Revell's kit. This was not going to be a contest winner no matter what I did to it, so I slogged on.

The turret parts fit pretty well. I found most of my reference material on YouTube. It is surprising how much information one can obtain on modern armor.

The decals ended up being crummy. Three marking options are provided, all Russian Federation of course.





All in all, unless you want to remember the good old days of cleaning flash, filling sink holes and fighting a kit just to make it fit, I'd stay away from Ace's T-90 kit.

Rick



H ave you built a car model lately? Need an incentive to build one? Our prez Tim Robb spotted a good one, and he wants to share it with everyone: **Stacey David** of Speed Channel's GearZ fame wants your model on his TV show, and he is teaming up with Revell for a Model Car Championships contest.

Coinciding with many of the vehicles built on GearZ, the theme of the contest is "Hot Rod." Any contestant can submit up to five photos of one built Revell or Monogram Hot Rod model (see list of eligible models on **www.revell.com**) before May 15, 2011 to enter the contest. Not unlike any IPMS competition, there are two categories: box stock and unlimited. Judging is based on creativity, adherence to the theme, fit/finish, and the use of color.

The winning prizes include your model featured on GearZ, \$100 gift certificate, an Iwata airbrush and compressor, assortment of Testors products, a year subscription to Scale Auto and Model Cars magazine, GearZ apparel, and one year's worth of new releases from Revell (maximum 12 kits).

For more details, please visit www.revell.com/contest/ revellgearz.html.

Editor



# Time is on my side, Part I by Ben Morton

I have often given thought to doing a modeling article for the newsletter. After some careful deliberations, I've finally come up with something that I hope you'll find amusing.

Most building reviews give the reader particulars about the quality/finesse of moldings, markings available, ease of assembly, etc. Invariably, authors also include the amount of time that it took them to complete the kit. Such and such kit took 32 hours or 300! I wanted to actually sit down and time myself, start to finish, and see how much time I was wasting — I mean devoting to a particular kit.

The subject for this exercise is Revell's 1/144<sup>th</sup> scale F-

104G Starfighter (kit #04060). As with all other reviews, I won't be leaving out the particulars of the model. Included in the kit are 39 parts on three sprues with an additional sprue holding a one-piece canopy. The decal sheet has extensive markings and data for one *Luftwaffe* aircraft of Jabo G34, 1984.



The fuselage, which is in three sections, is so engineered that the various panel lines on the real aircraft are mimicked in the molding process. Those crafty Germans! The quality of the moldings and the detail thereof is excellent. The cockpit is composed of four parts with a decal provided for the instruments, which is more than adequate in this scale. The relief details on the undercarriage and in the wheel wells are also nicely done. You have the option of positioning landing gear.

The recessed panel lines on the parts are, to my eye, spot on. There is even a flame holder molded into the exhaust nozzle. Something not often seen on other kits. Gentlemen, start your engines — I mean clocks (this is going to take forever!)

After a careful and prolonged perusal of the instructions, I was off to cutting things from the sprues, checking the fit of parts with one another, and sanding here and there.

Next I turned to the assembly area, which, as luck would have it, was very near the area where the parts were detached from the sprues. After assembling and painting the cockpit, the forward fuselage and aft fuselage section were attached. The main landing gear consists of a wheel well "pallet" to which the main landing gear is attached. This was inserted into the aft fuselage section. Neato! Everything else got stuck, I mean glued, together. Separate inlet covers, wings, horizontal stabilizer, wheel well covers, wing and drop tanks, and the odd fiddly bit came together through the magic of scale modeling into a harmonious whole — or something like that!

From here it was off to the paint shop, which coincidentally — wait for it — is in close proximity to the assembly area (little to no time lost with transportation hassles). I suppose this is one of the beauties of working in this scale. Unless of course you consider the odd part flying off into the infinite and hopefully rematerializing by your right foot a transportation issue. Because if it were to land next to your left foot, one would have to get up, move the chair that one was sitting on, bend over, and retrieve said part from said floor. In which case it would be a transportation issue!

Now that construction was sorta kinda complete, it was off to the paint shop. Which was — all together now — very near the assembly area! If you can't have some fun with your hobbies, what's the point?



This was my first wraparound camo scheme and as such may not have turned out exactly as I planned. But that's what the back of the display case is for. Which is very near...

I started by masking or rather stuffing wet facial tissue into cracks and crevices that I didn't wish to repaint: cockpit, wheel

wells, etc. Then it was on to priming with a rattle can and base coating. Beginning with the lightest shade of green and progressing to black for this particular scheme, the camo scheme appeared as if by magic. And with my

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modeling skills it is magic that it comes out as well as it does, sometimes! Now if I'd only gotten an orange cutting pad I could find that fool airplane on my desk, I mean assembly area. Which you'll all remember is very near...

It is hard for me to gauge the amount of time doing assembly stuff as opposed to painting stuff as I tend to paint as I go. The odd exhaust nozzle, wheels, etc. I do know that I spent 25 minutes trying to paint the nose cone white and still didn't get it right. I really hate painting things white!

It took me three hours, 55 minutes, and 14.96 seconds, approximately, to get the model to this point . Seems like forever! There was an interesting dynamic at work when I first began this project. Whilst timing myself, I found that I was a bit frantic and felt that I might be missing a step or procedure that I would normally do if I wasn't "under the gun." Suffice it to say I shan't be timing myself again any time soon.

# A Plea From the Prez By Dick Montgomery

**IPMS/USA President** 

If you have yet to visit the IPMS website and view the recently posted E-Board minutes (April 2011) you will find two significant items of business mentioned.

The first item is the list of candidates for E-Board. The nomination process for the upcoming E-Board election has come to an end, and there are some new faces on the list. The downside to this list is that only one office has more than a single candidate. IPMS is led and staffed by volunteers, and my hope is that there would be more interest among the membership in taking on one of these very important roles. The upside is that the individuals whose names appear are all proven leaders in their local chapter or at a national level, and thusly, bring significant experience to bear. The only seat which has multiple candidates is the Director of Local Chapters position. Both candidates have experience as Regional Coordinators and both are, to put it plainly, nice guys.

The second item is the mention of Amendment 2011-01 by Ron Bell. You may have visited the forum and read some of the posts regarding this very important amendment. This change is greatly needed, and I ask you to vote in favor of the amendment. Please consider that it was written by Ron Bell, who is the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (in charge of all things regarding the National Convention at the national level) and is the single most knowledgeable

towned as some interest d has

This concludes Part One; stayed tuned as our intrepid hero finds himself facing a pack of ravenous jackals, a raging forest fire, and otherwise insurmountable odds to complete the task at hand.

Happy Trails! 🛩

Ben



person on the planet when it comes to National Conventions and how the Society should approach this annual event.

The amendment will update the Constitution to reflect the changes that have taken place over the last 45+ years. The amendment will also provide a flexible, dynamic, and realistic platform which will make the Convention process easier for the host chapter and for the Society as a whole.

A ballot will be included in the upcoming Journal and the plan is to have all six E-Board seats as well as the Amendment question on the same ballot. You will also be able to cast your vote on-line through the IPMS website. The on-line site will be active at or about the same date as the Journal with the ballot begins showing up in your mailboxes.

The most significant point is that, whether you favor or oppose the amendment, you vote. Not voting accomplishes absolutely nothing. No good comes from this abysmal level of non-participation. When you view the ballot, you will see a Yes/No/Abstain option. Please mark one of those three options. It Is Important!



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# OOB Review: Spacemonkey Models 1/24<sup>th</sup> V-2/A4 rocket kit

# Review by "Bondo" Phil Brandt, IPMS 14091

Kit SMM001 available from Spacemonkey Models (www.spacemonkeymodels.com or www.rocket.aero.com) \$59.95 plus \$9.95 USPS Priority Mail (within the US), \$15.95 (elsewhere 1st Class Int'l Parcel Post)

It all began with an enigmatic email ("watch for a package") from Georgetown (TX) friend, modeler and aviation/rocket aficionado, James Duffy, who, until now, has been "just" the honcho of rocket.aero. The local outfit that creates archival quality DVDs of esoteric aircraft and rocket subjects such as the B-58, BOMARC, Me-163 and F-107.

I had no idea James was diversifying into model kits, but days later a large, sturdy box arrived at the *El Rancho Loafo* from Spacemonkey Models, labeled "V-2/A4."



At 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale, the V-2 makes an impressive, if relatively simple, model. The rocket body proper is blow-molded (yes, just like the myriad lineup of product containers at your favorite supermarket, but this may be a first for display model kits) with injected fins, nose cones, vents, etc. The one-piece rocket body and fins all have appropriate seams and

panel delineation. Orientation of 24 tiny fasteners (that the modeler gets to cut from supplied 1.5mm half-round stock and glue into a circumferential molded-in slot in the rocket body) is accomplished with a handy pre-printed paper strip that is cut out and taped around the rocket body.



Four color schemes for American-used V-2s and decal locations for each are portrayed in a large glossy, color photo foldout; on the back are B&W pix of all assembly steps.



The glossy decals are very complete, in perfect color register, with sharp resolution... and they're thin.



James is an ardent researcher of the subjects he addresses — his cover letter included in the kit says that he's put ten years research into the V-2 and two years into producing the model. It should come as no surprise to anyone who has viewed a rocket.aero DVD that a significant value-add

to this kit is the full color foldout showing all four versions of the rocket as used by the U.S. post WWII and the wealth (265 minutes!) of archival data included on the accompanying DVD, "The V-2 in America".



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Subjects covered on the DVD are:

- "The V-2 in America" an original short film covering early years of V-2 research at White Sands.
- "Blossom" upper atmosphere research project.
- "Bumper" WAC flights (the first ever from the Cape Canaveral facility).
- V-2 assembly, testing and launches from Germany (Peenemunde).
- USAF film, "Guided Missiles".
- "The Cape", a 1963 film of the early years at Cape Canaveral.
- "Laboratories Beyond the Sky": V-2 flights at White Sands.
- "Operation Sandy" the Navy's launch of a V-2 from the USS Midway.
- "Project Backfire", a British film on the first V-2 research launch at Cuxhaven.
- V-2 assembly and launch campaign footage from White Sands.
- A special "Modeler's Notes" audio track.

#### Conclusion

All in all, Spacemonkey has made a professional, quite decent initial foray into model kit production. The welcome historical material is unique to a kit in this price range. Some type of display arrangement, whether just a base, or something such as the OD trailer shown in the color photo of a camouflaged V-2 at the USAF Museum, would be another plus for this large model. Perhaps later; but until then it's off to Scratchbuild City.....

If V-2 kit sales go well, James advises, he'll press into the second Spacemonkey project — I suspect he's already started — the name of which I can't reveal, but it's an exciting and, for sure, different one!

My thanks to James Duffy for the review sample.  $\overset{\sim}{\overset{\sim}{\overset{\sim}}}$ 



# Lifelike Messerschmitt Bf.109

Marseille Special with his Kubelwagen

Stock # 72-018, MSRP approx. \$12.00 Stock # 48-035, MSRP approx. \$15.50 Stock # 32-009, MSRP approx. \$19.25

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

Hans-Joachim Marseille, the virtuoso of aerial marksmanship, is favorite subject for modeling in all scales. With new information being presented in the Airpower Editions by Jim Kitchens and John Beaman, we now have some of the best research on his aircraft available. Based on this information Lifelike now



provides markings for his four Bf.109F-4/Trops and his personal *Kubelwagen* OTTO.

Previously if you want to build Marseille's *Kubelwagen* in any scale, you have to buy the Sweet  $1/144^{\text{th}}$  Bf.109 kit just to get the markings in  $1/72^{\text{nd}}$  and  $1/48^{\text{th}}$ , which isn't cost effective if you don't care to build the little model. Now you can build it with all the colorful creatures placed around the name. For the  $1/32^{\text{nd}}$  sheet there are decals for the  $1/35^{\text{th}}$  scale Tamiya *Kubelwagen*.

For each scale set, two decal sheets are included. The main sheet provides the national markings, the four distinct versions of Yellow 14, and some of the stencils (enough to do one aircraft). The smaller sheet provides the colorful stencils and the characters for the *Kubelwagen*. The decals are beautifully printed in perfect register and with good color saturation. They are extremely thin and will look great on whatever kit that you use.

The 8x10 instruction sheet has side views of the four aircraft that were flown by Marseille. Upper and lower wings are also included. Don't miss the small note on W. Nr. 8673 with its G style propeller. For the *Kubelwagen*, you'll also get the four side views as well.

These are the best decal sheets around if you intend to build any of Marseille's Bf.109F-4/Trops. The addition of the markings for OTTO makes them well worth the price of admission. Don't forget to tell your armor modeler friends who may be looking for something different for their *Kubelwagens*.

Highly recommended.

Thanks to Lifelike for the review copies. You can obtain your copy by visiting Lifelike's website (http:// www16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/). Make sure you tell them where you hear about it.



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# Old Rumors & New Kits

The release of new kits has picked up a bit. It's about time. However, with the uncertain economy, the question is how long it will last. And, if you haven't noticed, the prices of kits are inching upwards. I was shocked to see the kits that I once could find for \$10 were selling for \$20. Now those \$20 kits are going for prices in the \$40 range. No wonder that this is now the hobby for grown-ups (and working) and not kids!

Enough of the soap box. What triggered that was my digging through several boxes in my storage building and finding several "old" kits still with the price tag.

The big Shizuoka Hobby Show is slated to begin on May 12, and it's always fun to see what new kits are shown. So far there is no real news other than some kits we had already confirmed may be shown in real plastic, not just a CAD rendering. That big  $1/32^{nd}$  Skyraider kit from Zoukei-Mura should be getting close to release, but what has many modelers fired up is the P-51D that's to follow. "Will they get it right this time?" is the question we all are asking.



No word at all on what, if any, new kits will emerge from the masters at Tamiya. There are plenty of rumors, the most interesting of which is a possible  $1/32^{nd}$  He.219 since they already have a fine kit in  $1/48^{th}$ . For that matter, I would be happy to see a scaled-up version of their P-51. Surely Tamiya could get it right!

Here's a little note about the industry. In case you haven't heard, Accurate Miniatures has closed their website, or had the last time I looked. Anyway, it was announced that MRC would take over distribution of the AM line. Limited quantities of their kits will be available in April.

Kagero, that Polish publishing house, has a number of handy reference books out on aircraft, several of which contain sheets of decals in three scales or in some cases,

#### Milton Bell IPMS #16702

masks in three scales. They continue that particular series with softcover books titled *Spitfire Mk.Vb*, *Messerschmitt Bf.109 in North Africa*, and *In Defense of the Reich*. There are other titles that cover the subject in more detail but do



not include the extras. Two of their latest are *Thunderbolts of the U.S.*  $8^{th}$  Army Air Force and Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IX/XVI and Other. All these titles should soon be available locally.

Hobbycraft has picked up the molds for some of AMT's better 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale kits, namely the P-40F and the Hawk 75 or Curtiss P-36. They are also showing a "new" RAF/ RCAF Tutor in 1/48<sup>th</sup>. No details available at the moment but it's an interesting little subject.



The Hasegawa twin-bodied 1/72<sup>nd</sup> He.111 *Zwilling* is finally on the way. This awkward-looking joining of two He.111 bombers to make a five-engine glider tow-plane will set you back

about \$80 but if you are a fan of the stranger aircraft of the Luftwaffe, you will want it!

The LHS has a restock of Revell AG's very nice 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Ar.196 float plane. This may well be the kit of the year, especially when you look at the price that's just a tad over \$40. The engraved detail is very fine and consistent and the interior leaves very little for the after-market guys. Still, you know that Eduard has some PE in the works.

Don't forget a couple of models that are still new. The Kinetic S2F "Stoof" is a fine kit of a popular aircraft that has long been neglected. Eduard's new MiG-21 is without question the best kit of



the most produced jet fighter. And it's the first of a series! Both are  $1/48^{\text{th}}$  scale.



Hobby Boss has released their version of the Ta.152C-0 in 1/48<sup>th</sup> and I have to say it looks mighty nice in the box. Can't remember the price other that it's "reasonable" in today's market. If you want

to do a nice little civilian airplane, say something from an

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Eastern European country, you might want to check out the Zlin Z-142 in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale, also from Hobby Boss. For rotor heads the Kamov Helix KA-9 also in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> is for you. I've always liked those twin contra-rotating helos.

Hobby Boss has also released a 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale M3A1 White Scout Car from WWII. This is the early version and looks pretty nice. I remember seeing them at the army depot where my dad



worked and then seeing some sold at auction after the war. Like a lot of those old WWII vehicles, many were converted to work in the woods, dragging logs out to the yard where they were loaded onto bigger trucks and hauled off to the mills. There were a lot of strange looking contraptions!

For modern vehicles, you might want to check out the British version of the Hummer, the Land Rover Defender XD "Wolf" V.M.I.K. There's also a new VK.4502(P) late Paper Panzer if that's your fancy.



There is also a new ACE 1/72<sup>nd</sup> P-107 Aviation Tractor. This is a small Russian tracked vehicle used to move aircraft. Not sure if it's "modern" or not. Might be good for diorama work.





In addition to the tractor from ACE, there is also a 1/72<sup>nd</sup> US Army Staff Car, basically a 1941 Ford sedan but something that would spice up a diorama.

Also in  $1/72^{nd}$  is a new M4A1 Sherman with rocket launchers from UM.

The latest 1/35<sup>th</sup> Smart Kit from Dragon is a Sd.Kfz.7/2. This is the smallish (8t) half-track prime mover with a single 3.7cm FlaK36 cannon mounted.



That's about all I have for this month. Don't forget that special June contest just for cars. If you haven't started yours, you better get busy.

Hope to see you all on Thursday evening. Last time I went, there was a fair turn-out and some good Mexican food afterwards at El Arroyo. Now get busy building that model!





# IPMS National Convention August 3-6, 2011

# Latest News

#### Friday, April 8, 2011

Due to an overwhelming response we have added a third vendor room directly adjacent to convention registration and across from the current vendor rooms. There will be a revised vendor layout including the third room posted sometime next week.

If you are a vendor and plan on attending and have not reserved and paid for your tables, you need to contact Randy Fields via email (**vendors@ipmsusa2011.org**) as soon as possible... these remaining tables will not last long.

This will provide the convention with over 70 vendors and upwards of 300 tables for the convention. We would like to thank all of the vendors who have made this possible!

(Editor's note: For more information on this year's Nats, please visit IPMS/USANational Convention home page on the Internet at www.ipmsusa2011.org)  $\approx$ 

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In the latest issue of ...

IPMS/USA Journal March/April 2011 Volume 23, Issue 2

• **Fun With the Hun In the Sun** — Discovering the joys of Wingnut Wings' 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Albatros D.Va, by Charles Landrum;

- A Hoy Matey! Scratchbuilding an 18th Century Anchor Hoy, by Dan Thompson;
- **Elevating A Heavy-Lifter** Superdetailing an S-64E Erickson Air-Crane in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale, by Jerry Wells;
- Seagoing Sopwith Wingnut Wings' 1/32<sup>nd</sup> Pup puts to sea, by Jerry Wells

And much, much more!

# By Modelers - For Modelers

# Join IPMS/USA!

**IPMS/USA** is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas as a local chapter of IPMS/UK in 1964, there are now IPMS branches all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive *The IPMS Journal* six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer **discounts** to IPMS/USA members.

To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to **www.ipmsusa.org** and click **Join IPMS/USA!** 

For any questions or problems regarding your membership application or renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney at **manager@ipmsusa.org**.

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**IPMS** - Houston



Houston's Largest Finescale Model Show

April 30<sup>th</sup>

Stafford Centre 10505 Cash Road Stafford, Texas

For up-to-date info go to: www.ipms-houston.org