



**SPRUE**



**EXAMINER**



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2011 IPMS/USA Website of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year

2010 IPMS/USA Webmaster of the Year

2011 / 2009 IPMS/USA Region 6/ Webmaster of the Year

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA Region 6/ Chapter of the Year



**21<sup>st</sup> Century Toys- 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale Bf-109F-2/4**

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

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Never has a product caused so much uproar in the modeling community as these models from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Toys.

Remember when you were a little boy or girl and dad sat you down to build a model airplane? Remember how nice those Monogram kits were with working features, like the SBD with dropping bomb? You thought it was so cool then, what happened? You grew up and now your models cost \$30-\$150 and they aren't "toys" anymore.

The fun that was model building was lost to the past. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Toys, with the help of Wal-Mart, is bringing back your youth and the joy of model building to you and the young ones of today.

So what is the big deal? Well here is the deal according to me.

First off, how can you go wrong on any model kit in 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale that only costs \$9.97? How they do that I don't know but they've gone and done it. What you get for the money? You get an unassembled 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale kit that includes a pilot figure, a decal sheet and a heck of a lot of fun.



I guess if you wanted a Bf-109F-2/4 you could buy the \$30 Hasegawa kit and the \$50 Aires F conversion and you would have to buy the decals too. You get my drift. This is the only F model available from the box. There are some things that have to be taken care of but most of it is well within an average modelers ability. Fill here, scribe there. I will not go into it but I've shown a few of the areas that need attention.

(continued on page four)



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## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

CalMex XXVII, IPMS Swamp Modeler's, Lake Charles, Louisiana	1.25.14
<a href="http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html">http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html</a>	
ModelFiesta 33, IPMS Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	2.15.14
<a href="http://www.alamosquadron.com">http://www.alamosquadron.com</a>	
RiverCon III, Red River Modeler's, Shreveport, Louisiana	3.8.14
<a href="http://www.ipmsredriver.org">http://www.ipmsredriver.org</a>	
MCMA 2014 Showdown, Metroplex Car Modeler's Assc., Farmers Branch, Texas	3.8.14
<a href="http://www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.html">http://www.themcma.net/Club_Contests.html</a>	

### Local Club Meetings

Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading Club, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	11.30.13
Austin Armor Builders Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	12.4.13
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	12.5.13
CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	11.21.13
<a href="http://www.centexmodelers.com">http://www.centexmodelers.com</a>	

### Other Events

Build 'N Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	11.23.13
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### *IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative*

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities.

The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country.

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is: [www.models4troops@gmail.co](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.co)

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

### *ASMS Officers & Chairpersons*

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

**Message from the Prez...****Mike Poole**

**F**all has finally fallen in Austin. There's an 80 degree nip in the morning air, the leaves will soon be changing, and the local deer and turkey populations are growing understandably nervous. I've taken this quiet time between the shows and holidays to pull three or four of my favorite kits out of the stash for a quick fantasy build. That's when I take all the parts out of the box individually, look at each step of the instructions making mental notes of how I'll tackle each one, then re-wrap and replace every piece exactly the way it was before and return the box to its location, aligned on the shelf in the exact order it was before. Why do I do this instead of starting it? Perhaps it's because I'm afraid I'll lose interest before finishing it and already have too many started. Maybe I don't yet feel my skills meet what's needed for this one and don't want to screw it up. Or, maybe I just don't have time for a big project right now. Sound familiar? So if not now, when? I try to regularly remind myself Ebay is full of rare model listings being sold by the sons of owners who "just loved this kit so much he never built it". I've recently decided there is *no* kit that is so awesome I should wait. I'm just going to get on with it.

Speaking of getting on with it, ASMS is always looking for members to help out in any way you feel like contributing. If you see an area that could use some attention, speak up. Randy is on the lookout for volunteers to help with contest coordination. Maybe you're interested in learning some html to help Mike with the website. Maybe you have a cool idea for a fundraiser or event you would like to organize. Perhaps you've considered an officer position but want to check it out before you commit. ASMS affords folks opportunities to improve real skills while helping others in the organization and promoting our hobby. I'll admit, the pay isn't much but think of all that psychological income you'll be earning. It improves our resilience as an organization too by making it easier to temporarily fill the breach should an unexpected event arise.

That reminds me. We have an expected and eventful meeting planned for November 21st. Randy and his family have again offered their abode as venue for our annual Christmas party on December 14. Last year was a hoot and this one will be even better. We also have further show details to finalize including next year's theme and more discussion about improving our show name. Ron will be presenting a clinic of some of his awesome building techniques and there will surely be further bench talk over victuals at one or more of the public houses after the meeting. See you then,

*Mike***Fiddly Bits****Frank Seibert**

**S**ave The Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013. That's the date for our annual Christmas Party/White Elephant kit exchange. This soiree will be held at the home of Randy Bumgardner and details are forthcoming. Keep an eye on your mailbox!

Photos from our contest are now available for your viewing pleasure on our website: [www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org). A special thanks to Jeff Forster and Milton Bell for doing yeoman's duty by taking all those photos. Not to mention the superb work performed by their respective scribes; Ben and Rick. A special 'attaboy' to Milton for putting the whole mess together. Lest I forget, thanks to Mike 'Hollywood' Gilsbach for posting it all to our website.

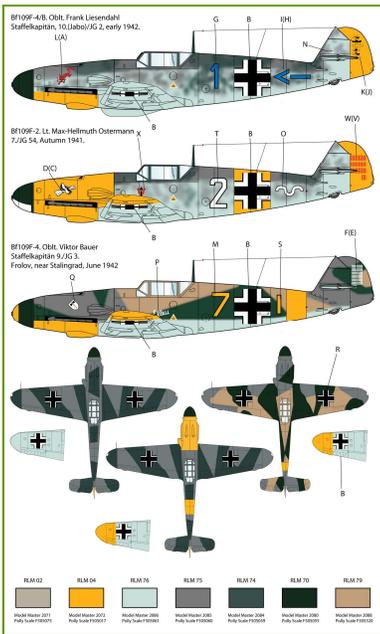
Build N Bull day will be the 23rd of November at King's Hobby Shop. This is the monthly build day and all are invited, member or not. This time however is a bit different. Plans are 'a foot' to have a potluck lunch. So if your coming to model build day, bring a dish to share for a pre-Thanksgiving repast. Marc Hobbs is supplying the turkey. Start time is 10ish!

A spiffy thank-you to Cool n' Eclectic in Lakeline Mall/Austin for their donation to the door prize table at our recent model show. The framed print of the pin-up babe was much sought after. Visit their website at: [www.coolectlectic.com](http://www.coolectlectic.com)

*Frank*

For a more in depth about what is required go to Brett Green's *Hyperscale* review of the kit at: [http://www.hyperscale.com/reviews/kits/21cent22103reviewbg\\_1.htm](http://www.hyperscale.com/reviews/kits/21cent22103reviewbg_1.htm)

The kit itself consists of 69 parts molded in light grey plastic and clear plastic. The clear parts include three piece canopy, position lights and gun sight. There are no sink holes and only rivets in places where it makes sense. There are two *21<sup>st</sup>* CT logos on two parts but those are easily removed. There are no injection marks and no sprue gates to remove.



Heck this is sounding better than a limited run kit, but wait there is more. You will note that the clear parts are actually hinged to work. That could cause a problem if they didn't fit that great but they do. The instruction sheet is so easy to understand that it 'ain't' funny.

The decal sheet printed by *Microscale* (if I'm not mistaken) is very nice and colorful. You get a choice of three aircraft, "Blue 1"

fighter bomber,

"Yellow 7" a segmented desert scheme based machine, and "White 2" a yellow nosed fighter from the Eastern Front. All very colorful and beautifully produced.

The decals include enough national markings and stencils for one aircraft. OK, let me get this straight, you get a 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale decal sheet made by a well known decal manufacturer for three aircraft and the kit still costs less than \$10. Last time I checked the decals from *Microscale*, *EagleCal*, *Aeromaster* and a number of others all cost around \$9 each. HMMM!

But wait, there is still more. Act now and you get a seated pilot figure sculpted by well know figure sculptor Mike Good. WHAT? How can they do that? I don't know but they have. The seated figure is better than some figures I have in my collection made of resin or white metal. The figure is without a doubt one of the finest figures in this scale. Some assembly required though. Oh, that's right it is a model. You have to add the arms. If assembled properly your pilot will actually grasp the control stick and throttle. Amazing how

that works. Still impressed? I was. Figures can cost you up to \$35 themselves. Oh, by the way, he will fit nicely in a *Hasegawa* kit.

How does it build up? Glad you asked. Here is what I found out. (Shameless plug about to follow.) Using the techniques in the Master Class Model Building Videos "Building the Messerschmitt Bf-109G-6" ([www.masterclassmodels.com](http://www.masterclassmodels.com)) you can complete this model and make a contest winner if that is what you after.)



The cockpit is quite complete. You could add additional fuel lines and some other small fiddly bits but right out of the box the cockpit is very nice. You don't get seatbelts with the kit. I used *Eduard* pre-painted ones and they look

great. The *Eduard* belts are the only aftermarket I used on this kit.

Everything else is supplied and just painted. I sprayed flat black in the shadows. Then *Model Master* RLM 66 was sprayed over the entire interior. Bits and pieces were picked out with hobby paints. Weathering was done with a black wash and *Model Master* RLM 02 dry brush. Some silver pencil and a #2 pencil brought the cockpit to life. The results speak for themselves. Very nice and this still only costs \$9?



I've seen interiors of \$50 kits that don't look as good. Hey this kit is actually pretty nice, can my *Cutting Edge*, *Master Details* or *MDC* cockpit set fit in there? Why yes it can and with very little work. Just sand the detail off the side wall and you are in business. FYI, if you are building an F-2 your cockpit should probably be painted RLM 02 and not RLM 66. The change over occurred in the production run so it is your call on what interior color to use.

Assembly of the fuselage halves happens rather quickly. If you don't watch out you may actually have fun here. Don't

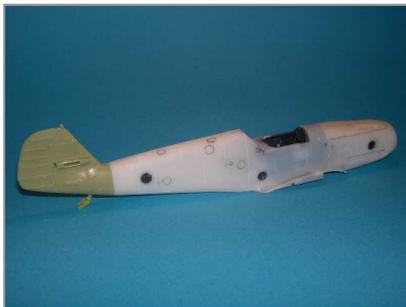


forget to install the tail wheel before you close up the fuselage or you'll be sorry.

A word of advice: if you are doing an F you should open the panel that is behind the tail wheel. The

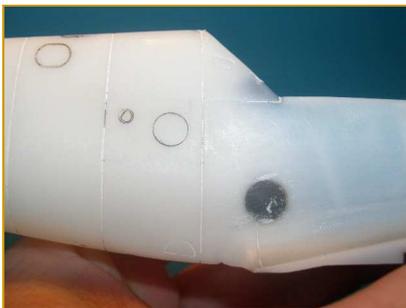
tail wheel will still mount even if you remove this. I elected not to and I will be quite happy with the results. You be the judge.

The cockpit can be installed from below. Now you will notice the large holes in the fuselage, this is where the supplied screws go.



Screws?!?! This is a model kit right? Yes it is. Need I remind you that *Tamiya* uses screws to put together their large scale planes, i.e. F-4, so this is not that far off. You are supplied with plugs to go over the screws. Mine fit fine. Yes, I did have to fill them with superglue but once smoothed over no problem. Do you need to use the screws? Nope. I didn't use mine. They help but aren't necessary.

I glued my tail units to the appropriate fuselage half before joining the halves. This ensured that the panel line was the same width as the others and made for less filling. I filled the appropriate areas with super glue and accelerator.



Adding the smaller parts is quite easy. Don't forget to add the gun cover to the front and remove the scoops on the side. Some filler will be needed to smooth the cover in to be "accurate". It is quite easy. I

elected to scribe some panels that make an F an F, most noticeably the fuel filler port below the fuselage.

The wings are just as easy. The slats are workable. (Okay,

that is a toy like feature.) I elected to cement mine closed. Issue taken care of. You could make a cover for the slats that would look really nice but I didn't mind them up. I elected to leave the wing tip lights off until later. The wings are different from the *Hasegawa* ones in that the flaps are molded shut.

This is actually nice as it will make this stand out from the other kits. I filled the seam with superglue and accelerator as per usual model kit. The trailing edges are a little thicker than the *Hasegawa* offering. You could thin them down but I didn't find mine to be objectionably thick.



Offer the wing up to the fuselage and you will be amazed at the good fit. How come the major kit manufacturers can't get that right? I ran a bead of *Testor's* liquid glue along the seam and everything was set. There is a *21<sup>st</sup> CT* logo that has to be removed on the bottom side. I had a slight step at the back of my wing to fuselage attachment, but it was easily taken care of with superglue and filler. You will have to fill the plug where the wings mount to the fuselage.

Don't forget to fill the gondola mounts if you aren't going to use the guns. There are some small panels to fill as well. Oh, I almost forgot on the top of the wing you will need to fill the outboard panel line for an F. The G had this stiffened and a corresponding panel line in its production.



The horizontal tail had another *21<sup>st</sup> CT* logo that has to be removed. They fit very nicely with *Testor's* glue.

Wait a minute! Hey, I'm ready to paint this thing. It all happens really fast.

Wash with a grease cutting detergent and then it was off to prime and check for anything that was askew. Touch ups were done with superglue and accelerator and we were ready to paint.

I added the canopy at this time. The fit was so nice that I just closed the canopy and painted over it. I used the masks from a *Kagero* book and they fit as if designed for it.



There are three schemes to choose from. As I didn't have a desert based scheme in my collection I elected to do this one. Pre-shading was

done with *Model Master* RLM 66, as well as the canopy framing. Tamiya Flat Yellow was laid down on the identification markings. Just shoot yellow, and white, straight from the bottle. You will get complete coverage without a lot of paint build up.

Masking these areas off with *Tamiya* tape it was time for *Gunze* RLM 78 on the bottom. Then I moved on to the *Gunze* RLM 79. The flight control surfaces were lightened up with a drop or two of flat white.

It was tough to not stop there as I really liked the look of the airplane in its desert scheme, but there was more to be done. I then free handed, like the real painters did, the RLM 75. I had to use a *Model Art* book on the Bf-109F as 21<sup>st</sup> CT only shows one side of the camouflage. There were slight variations between aircraft so check your sources or just use mine as a template. After that had dried I painted the RLM 71 Black Green using *Gunze*. A little touch up here and there and then it was time to test those decals.

After a gloss coat, the decals went on great. They are opaque and fit perfectly. The swastika is actually provided as two halves so if you want to



add it you can. I will add mine later if I want it. I used *Solvaset* and the decals performed flawlessly. I wish they all worked as well. Sealing the decals with another gloss coat and then a coat of flat it was time for a little weathering.

A wash of Burnt Umber artist oils, then some chipping, followed by the exhaust stains with red brown and flat black heavily thinned. I then sprayed a little *Tamiya* buff heavily thinned to get a worn look on everything and to blend it all together and I was done. Everything was given one more coat of flat and that was it.

Remove the masks and admire the handy work. I did score a panel line on the canopy sides as per the F model. This was done with a sharp blade and *Dymo* tape. The results look really good. Add an antenna from EZ line and I was done in a very short amount of time. A little less time than it took me to build a *Hasegawa* kit.

Some things I didn't do. I didn't round out the intake as I did paint the tropical filter, which is beautifully cast open. I wanted the option of putting it on as the mood took me. I did not add a drop tank or bomb. Oh, did I mention that this is the first time a bomb has been available in this scale for this aircraft? I didn't use the gondolas.

Again, I ask how do they do it? Are there down sides to this kit? Yes, there are some compromises that have had to be made but everything can be either lived with or modified.

It is a model airplane kit priced for you and your kids, maybe grandkids. They could enjoy building a big boys airplane and you could enjoy building a great kit at the same time. Remember when adults interacted with kids, not plopping them down in front of the television? Have fun with these kits.



Where can you find them? You can find them at your local Wal-Mart in the toy and model department. Wal-Mart is in charge of the distribution so what one has the other may not so you will have to look around.

When I went to my local Wal-Mart last night and asked the sales lady she said that one guy came in and bought the entire

shelf. Nothing to do but try someplace else. So far in the range is the Bf-109F-2/4, Macchi 202, Zero, Stuka and Corsair. If you liked the pre-painted kits of these models then you will love to get your hands on the unassembled models.

If you are intimidated by a complex paint scheme or mottling and don't want to practice on a \$35 kit that you put a lot of work into. Why not build this kit and test yourself on it?

You'll find out just how much fun modeling is or was suppose to be. Remember when modeling was fun? Now get out there and build something for the fun of it.

Remember modeling is fun!

Floyd

[Editors' Note: All photos courtesy of Floyd S. Werner Jr. In addition to Wal-Mart these kits may be found at Toys R Us and Target (online only) as well as on Ebay.]

## Support Your Local Hobby Shop



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## From The Desk of Dick Montgomery...

The *Support The Troops* program at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas has, happily, reached its conclusion.

While we are still accepting donations, only a small portion of them will find their way to Brooke. We still deliver donations but we will end our twice monthly 'Build Night' with the *Wounded Warriors* before the end of this calendar year.

The IPMS/USA *Support The Troops* program is still going strong but donations are now being sent to other programs around the country rather than to me for Brooke Army Medical Center. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is:

[www.models4troops@gmail.com](mailto:www.models4troops@gmail.com)

Jon is accepting any and all donations and is sharing them with all the active programs around the country.

On a personal note, I truly appreciate the support that Austin Scale Modeler's Society has shown me during the 4 years we've been running the *Support The Troops* program at Brooke.

We are talking kits, tools, and magazine donations in the 1000's of items and they have each and ever one made our program at Brooke a success.

With the drawdown and with fewer troops overseas we have found that the number of *Warriors* at Brooke are, thankfully, dwindling and it is our sincere hope that the facility will find itself without 'participants' in the near future. No wounded to serve...wouldn't that be great?

Also, I want to thank the Austin club for continuing to run the 'clip' regarding the Brooke program in the Sprue Examine newsletter. Many of our donors contacted us due to that 'clip'.

On behalf of IPMS/USA, I extend our appreciation for the support for this program displayed by the Austin Scale Modeler's Society.

Thanks again!

Dick M

## Web At Night:: Rewind

Compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne

The following websites were sent in by none other than Rafael Power via Milton Bell. Now, you might be asking yourself. Who is Rafael Power and why does that name sound familiar?

Well, I'll tell you...Rafael started this column back in the day in our newsletter and turns out he is still searching the web (presumably at night) for interesting and fun places to go 'surfing'. My thanks to Rafael and Milton for forwarding this information to me. S'amuser!

Richard Ferrière, a developer of CAD software for designing model planes and sailplanes, has a website that promotes his software, of course. There are also some links to other aspects of French aviation that will appeal to almost anyone. There are lots of three-view drawings, vintage aircraft photos and some interesting walk-around collections: case in point being a collection of photos of a Stampe SV-4A. Not your usual bill of fare.

There is also a link for Buck Danny. For the unacquainted, this was a France/Belgium comics series about a military flying ace and his trusty sidekicks. Not unlike the Blackhawk's series done in U.S. by DC Comics. The Buck Danny series ceased production in 2008 and is renown for having had better realism in the drawings of the aircraft and more accurate depictions of air force procedures than other 'comics' in the genre.

<http://www.richard.ferriere.free.fr>

Next on the list is a website devoted to French aviation. The site is broken down into collections of photographs from distinct periods in France's aviation history.

There are a series of photos of aircraft utilized by the French during their various 'overseas adventures': French wings over Algeria, and ...over Indochina. There is also a nice collection of current combat aircraft deployed by their air service as well as those aircraft made use of by the French Navy.

<http://www.frenchwings.net>

For those of you who may like to use alternative markings on your aircraft models and may have a fondness for all things 'down under', ADF Serials is a website chock full of serials, photos, unit histories and summaries of aircraft operated by The Australian military and to a lesser extent those

of New Zealand.

With a complete unit listing and accompanying photos of the various aircraft operated by those units this is the place to go for that type of information.

There is also a bit of a tutorial about just what is meant by 'serials'. I chant spoil your fun by going into that now. If you like kangaroos or kiwis on your aircraft this is your new home.

<http://www.adf-serials.com>

If you're inclined toward ogling photos of finished models, have I got a good one for you. Kit Manic is principally a model kit review site but has lots and lots of photos of completed models.

There is an update section to keep you abreast of all the news (foreign and domestic) about the model industry and its 'goings on'. Additionally, there are tabs for kit reviews, photos of completed kits, works in progress/tutorials, and a series a of articles that round out the website.

Under the *articles* tab there is a show report from Brazil about a model show in Santa Maria. It might be a rather long trek to go check it out in person but why bother when all you need do is 'click' the ole mouse.

<http://www.kitmanic.com>

Jean-Michel



### Monthly Program Schedule by Ron McCracken, Vice President

Month	Presenter/Subject
November	Ron's Awesome Building Techniques
December	Quarterly Contest/ White Elephant

If you are interested in making a presentation at our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at:

[rmccrack@austin.rr.com](mailto:rmccrack@austin.rr.com)

## Tamiya's 1/35 M561 Gama Goat by John Seaman

**T**amiya's 1/35 scale M561 Gama Goat came as a surprise to most modelers. It certainly was not what I expected next from Mr. Tamiya. But it does fill a gap in modern armor modeling and, I think, will be well received. King's Hobby Shop was kind enough to offer me a test shot of the new kit a few weeks back. The production kit has just been released as I write this.



Designed by Roger Gamaunt, the Goat's development history stretches back to the late 1950's, with conceptual drawings going back as far as 1947. The Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), forerunner of the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), funded project "Agile" in 1959 to develop a new tactical vehicle with superior off-road agility. Chance/Vought contracted with Gamaunt in 1959 to begin work on the project, a new venture for the venerable aerospace company.

Ultimately, Chance/Vought's investment in Gamaunt's design paid off, as Ling-Temco-Vought (LTV) won the design competition that grew from project Agile. In 1968, Consolidated Diesel Electric was awarded the contract to actually produce the Goat.

The vehicle was expensive (\$55K each in 2010 dollars) and complicated. It had six-wheel drive, an articulated frame, and simultaneous front and rear steering. It was also amphibious, though purportedly barely so. Over 15,000 Goats were eventually built, with deliveries ending in 1973. They served with the U.S. Army and Marines from 1969 into the 1980's. As far as I can tell, they were largely withdrawn from service by the late 1980's. Several variants were fielded in addition to the standard cargo version, including a mortar carrier, a counter-mortar radar system, an ambulance, and a communications vehicle.

It is not hard to find reference photos of Gama Goats online. One set of useful walk around shots can be found on the Prime Portal site: [http://data3.primeportal.net/trucks/hans-hermann\\_buhling/m561\\_gamma\\_goat/](http://data3.primeportal.net/trucks/hans-hermann_buhling/m561_gamma_goat/)

Squadron/Signal has just released a new "Detail and Action" on the Goat, by David Doyle. There is a nice developmental history on the Vought Heritage website: <http://>

[www.vought.org/special/html/sgamaa.html](http://www.vought.org/special/html/sgamaa.html)

The *Tamiya* kit comprises three major parts sprues, a clear sprue, a decal sheet and polycaps. It does not include covers for the tractor cab or carrier bed. The production kit is in *Tamiya*'s familiar dark green plastic. My test shot used the gray styrene seen in the photos.

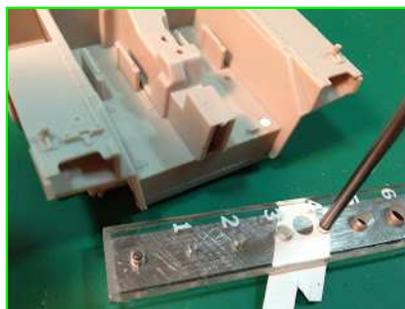
Assembly begins with the forward chassis, adding fender wells and suspension springs. As expected, there are some mold seams to be cleaned up on the springs, and the locator tabs for the fenders need to be filled. I plan to have a bit of accumulated dirt and grime, so I merely scraped the latter smooth.



The front and rear suspension assemblies are up next. Minimal clean-up here. Just the odd mold seam to scrape. Everything "clicks" together very precisely, as expected from a *Tamiya* kit. The front and rear suspension are attached to the tractor chassis.

The tractor rear panel, along with its complex articulation frame and universal joint are up next. Although the instructions show the universal joint (part B37) it was not to be found on any sprue in my test shot. I've since seen it on photos of the production sprues. It will be difficult to see on the finished vehicle, so I did not bother to fabricate a substitute.

The rear panel is attached to the forward chassis next. The instructions call for the exhaust pipe to be added, but I'll wait to do that so as to make weathering it easier.



The crew cab receives our attention next. There are a few ejection pin marks to be filled on the floorboard. I did so with my punch and die set. Curiously, *Tamiya* chose not to include clutch, brake, or accelerator pedals.

These are not hard to add but, for an open-cab vehicle, they are quite visible and should have been included with the kit.

A decal is provided for the instrument panel, but there are no raised bezels or other details within the rectangular frame

housing the instrument faces. More on this later.

Another omission is a prominent heating duct that is visible on the passenger-side floorboard.

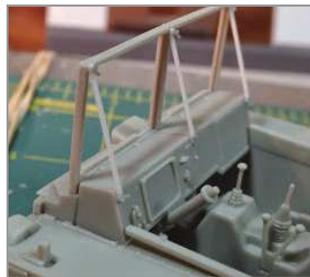


I added this by heating a piece of plastic rod, bending it to shape, then wrapping it with stretched sprue to achieve an “accordion” effect. The passenger seat will cover the butt-end. I postponed adding the various gear shift levers and knobs.

Very nice decals are provided for data placards. I will add them after painting.

Two options are given for the windshield, attached or removed. I chose the former as I think it makes for a more interesting vehicle. However, the support struts, clearly shown in the box art, are not included. They won't be hard to add with plastic rod.

The two side-mounted fuel tanks are constructed next and attach the steering wheel column. The front of the crew cab, the dashboard, fuel tanks, and a few small details were added.



At this point I decided to add the missing support struts. I've seen them attached with bolts in photos, but decided to use wing nuts for a little more interesting visual effect. I installed the gears and levers called for earlier in the instructions as well.

Here you can add the driver and the steering wheel. The former is not well detailed, so I omitted him. The latter I will save for later.

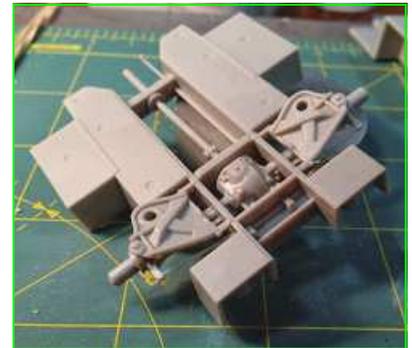


Wheels and the front bumper are next. *Tamiya* provides the wheels in plastic, to be attached using polycaps. The wheels are two-part affairs requiring a little cleanup. I'm sure someone will offer resin replacements, but the kit wheels are really just fine. The bumper has three ejector pin marks but they are easily removed. I attached it later.

The engine cover is up next. It consists of three pieces: two sides and a one-piece top, front, and back. Delicate hand-holds are added. Fit is excellent. It's beginning to look like a Goat!

One option calls for a front-mounted winch, along with rear-view mirror and headlight details. I decided to attach the vulnerable mirrors later. I also left the lenses off until after painting.

We next turn to the carrier unit. The tie-rods and other suspension elements molded into the lower part of the carrier tub are quite delicate. Although well protected on the sprue, you will need to be careful removing them and in subsequent handling. By the way, those are not ejector pin marks. I have seen those circular depressions in photos of the real vehicle. Rear suspension elements are added in this step.

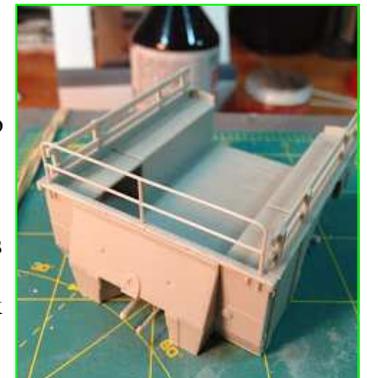


The carrier's rear panel and tailgate are constructed. The tailgate has some easily-removed ejector pin marks on its inside face. The pioneer tools are reasonably well detailed and attach to the tailgate.

The carrier's lower pan and upper tub are mated along with the rear panel. The instructions call for attaching the tailgate at this point, but I left it for latter to facilitate painting.

The carrier's side and front panels are added next. Fit is reasonable, with but a few slight gaps to fill underneath. The railings on the front panel are very delicate and will require careful handling.

Some builders may want to refine the fender well detail, adding wiring and eliminating the odd ejector pin mark. The large wheels and tires will hide most of this so I opted for the stock results.



At last, everything comes together. The carrier attaches to the tractor using a poly-cap and the joint is flexible.

Diorama builders should be able to articulate the vehicle as desired.



There are three painting and marking options available with the kit. Option A, shown on the box-art, is a Goat in the 82nd Airborne, Grenada, 1983. It is in the four-

color camouflage scheme from that era. This requires color mixing if you are using *Tamiya* acrylics, and the instructions provide mixing ratios.

Option B is a 3rd Marine Division Goat, stationed at Camp Fuji (no date given). It is in overall olive drab and the instructions suggest using *Tamiya's* TS-28, "olive drab II". Option C is for a U.S. Army Goat from an unknown unit, circa 1978. It too is in overall olive drab. I chose Option B.



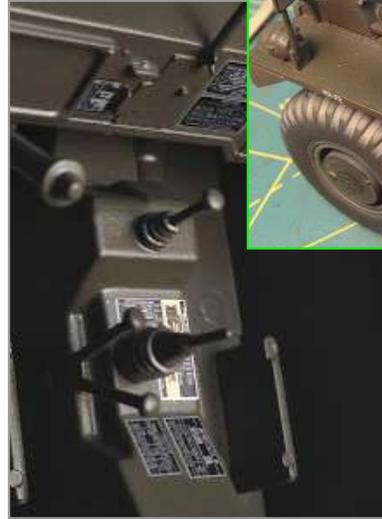
Weathering came next. I literally chipped the paint in some places, using a toothpick. This is the advantage of *Gunze* acrylic over *Tamiya*. The undercoat is tough and the overcoat is not! The chipped places reveal the slightly darker undercoat.

I added a thin black wash in some areas, along with some fuel stains on the tanks. After airbrushing an acrylic flat coat, I panel-faded with *Mig* pigments, lightly sealing with more flat as I progressed. The underside received clumps of pigment using *Mig's* Fixer, resulting in fairly durable "dirt" buildup.



I blended the underside weathering with an extremely thin airbrushed coat of *Tamiya* buff (XF-57). I

continued this light dusting up onto the lower sides of the vehicle. With my fingers, I rubbed graphite onto various edges of the vehicle to simulate worn areas. This darkens the olive drab and gives it a slight sheen.



The tires, which had been painted *Tamiya* rubber black (TS-82), received the *Tamiya* buff treatment as well. I

followed this by a rub-down (with my fingers!) using *Mig's* black soot pigment, leaving the buff color in the tires' recesses. After adding the clear parts and a few other odd details, I had my Goat!



*John*

*[Editor's Note: This article was pilfered from King's Hobby Shop blog posting. Please visit the blog for some other photos of John's building process. Thanks to King's Hobby Shop for allowing me to use this article.]*

**Suisoft Scale Model Kit Database**  
**by David Goudie, IPMS #6340**  
 MSRP: \$29.99 US

Now, for a little something different. Several months ago I purchased a copy of Suisoft's Model Kit Database after seeing mention of it on the web.

Starting off with the free trial version, in the form of a quick download, the usefulness soon became apparent. I was happy to purchase the keys to unlock my trial copy to the full version.

For those of you with a penchant for acquiring models and then "stashing" them for the day you will pull them out of the pile and build them this software can be a curse or a godsend.

The curse is the sheer amount of data you can record and the time it takes to enter it; especially if you wish to backtrack to the bottom of your stash and enter all you have to your current purchase.

The godsend is also the sheer amount of data you can track for each model acquisition. Fortunately, the amount and details about each model purchase to be recorded is up to you and your conscience.

Here is what you get in the full package:

- A very simple to use interface:
- Detailed data entry fields.
- Flexible data sort fields for future searches.
- Ability to attach photos of kit box art.
- Ability to attach photos of build progress.
- Ability to add kit notes, reference notes such as paint colours, accessories used or available, etc.

In the fixed data fields you can make additions as needed to the choices. As an example there is a drop down menu for manufacturers. You are given a selection of common manufacturers but you can click on an add icon and add one not on the list.

The ability to generate and print "canned" reports with selecting the data you wish to include also is an option.

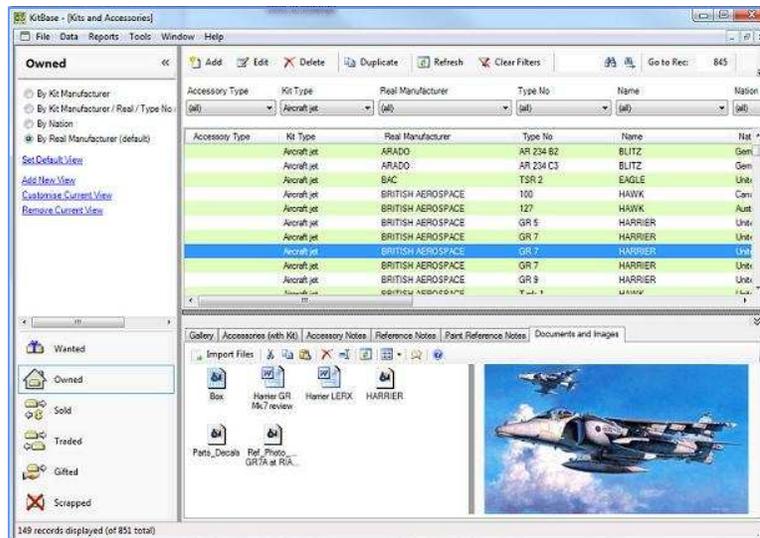
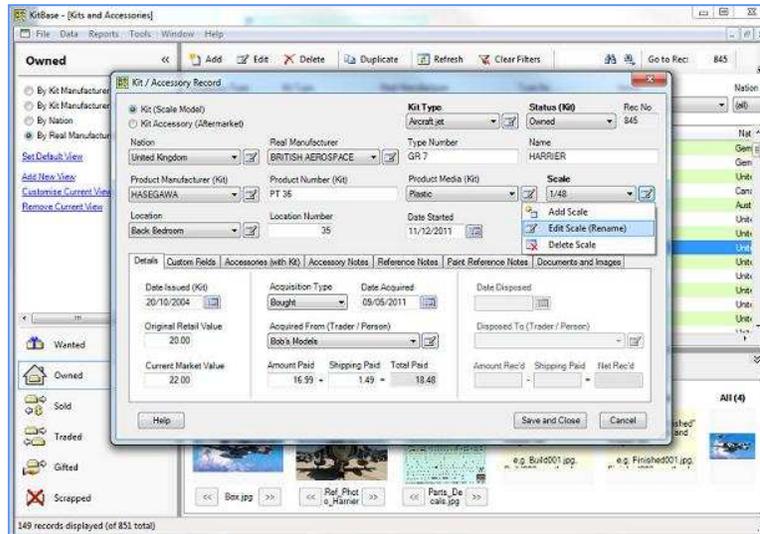
This is a simple to use database with a very low learning curve. Even with little computer or database experience.

I do believe that the user will find it functional, easy and truly helpful. Consider giving the free trial a try.

Thank you for reading this review.

*David*

<http://www.suisoft.co.uk>



**White Elephant Contest**

Our club's quarterly contest are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. December 19th is the date for our last contest for 2013. The theme is: White Elephant. This is the kit you receive at our annual Christmas party / kit exchange.

## Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Golzar Shahrzād, Mike Poole,  
Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington

*Shipping News*

Here's the stuff. *Warship Pictorials* has a new book out on the USS Midway(CV41). If it's anything like their others it should be a good.

Again, starting with the small stuff (1/700th scale), *Airfix* has the RMS Titanic.

To add just that such and so to your SS Normandie ship model, *Admiralty Modelworks* has some photo-etch deck chairs to go along with their resin kit. Rounding out the offerings in this scale, is the HMS Barham battleship(1941) from *Trumpeter*.



*Trumpeter* is also showing the HMS Daring Type 45 guided missile destroyer. This is the next generation destroyer from the Queen's Navy. It is in 1/350th scale.

*Hobby Boss*, also in this larger scale, has the Russian Akula-class Soviet attack submarine.

*Gunze Sangyo* has a RMS Lusitania coming off the ways soon.

This kit is for the more experienced modeler. This kit is in 1/350th scale.



In 1/72nd scale, *Revell* is introducing the German Type 27B Seahund. This kit should be available soon if not already.

Lastly, The Russian Navy Osa-class missile boat is now available. From *Merit International*, this kit can be built as



Seahund

a static display or an R/C model.

Happy Modeling!

Rick

*Automotive*

The *Tamiya* LaFerrari is here and it's pretty awesome!

Not since the *Tamiya* Enzo kit 10 years ago have automotive modelers had such an amazing new model at such a reasonable price (\$45). The kit includes about 180 detailed plastic parts, adhesive metal transfers, paint masks for clear parts, mesh screen for grille openings and transparent red parts for the tail lights.



Though anyone has yet to build it, near-perfect fit is a pretty safe bet with anything brand *Tamiya*. For an additional sum, *Tamiya* also offer photo-etch grilles and a sheet of pre-shaped carbon fiber decals.

This beautifully tooled kit will likely create it's own gravitational field for aftermarket suppliers of detail sets like the Enzo kit before it. The anticipation is so high for added bits some early purchasers are holding off building theirs for fear they might miss out. (Again, just get on with it.)

For a heart-pounding introduction to the full-scale beast check out the "official" LaFerrari Launch Video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRsV6YpLsKA>

*Model Factory Hiro* to discontinue Ferrari kit sales: Citing an ever increasing licensing fee for their abandonment of the Ferrari Brand, the company will concentrate on producing kits of other cars for a while.

With over half of *MFH* intellectual property associated with Ferrari I find it hard to believe *MFH* will never produce another Ferrari model. In the meantime the aftermarket for *MFH* Ferrari kits is sure to go up in value. Get 'em while you can.



Tried and True From American Tools. *Revell-Monogram* have dusted off some old favorites for November. The 1/24<sup>th</sup>, 128 piece, '37 Ford Coupe

comes complete with suspension and "detailed V8".

The website isn't specific what kind of V8 but it's a good bet whether a flathead or modern lump, it's plenty of power for your display cabinet commute. It's out now for around \$25.

Most recall the cute little Volkswagen Beetle from it's American sales peak in the '60's and '70's. Though it gestated from one of the most hateful moments



in European history and had an engine by Briggs and Stratton, most of us still adored this charismatic little putt-putt. The 1/24<sup>th</sup> version features 125 parts, optional left or right hand drive, and a detailed engine and interior. It can be yours now for about \$25.

That's the run down in auto news this month. Here's to wishing a stocking full from the red-nosed, rotund one.

Mike

### Miscellaneous

From *Mark I Models* (Czech Co.) comes an improved former *Eduard* kit. (Turn about is fair play.) In 1/144th scale is a Messerschmitt Bf109G-4/2. They are also

showing an improved FW190A. Not much info available about what constitutes improved but one can dream. I was unaware that *Eduard* had even kitted these things.

Staying with this diminutive scale, *JBR Decals* (another Czech Co.) has some cool markings for your fleet. In 1/144th they have a decal sheets for a MiG-21, Spitfire, MiG-29, Su-25, and F/A-18. For those that may be in search of some roundels, they also have a sheet with Romanian markings.

*Aircraft In Miniature Limited* has some neat accessories for your next diorama or static display. In both 1/72nd and 1/48th, a B-4 Maintenance platform.



In case you have been wondering what to put in that special empty place in your home, *TomyTec* has something that will amaze and delight.

A 1/700th scale Shuttle Launch Pad (LC-39). This limited edition, mixed media (resin/white metal/photo-etch), kit is not for the faint of heart or wallet. Priced at 72,000 yen the base measures 35cm x 29cm. (72,000 yen is about \$730.00 in real money.)



*J's Work* has some new camo masks for you next aircraft model. These guys usually do armor subjects. They carry some aircraft masks but this looks to be a first time for the the latest iteration of digital camo worn by some of the former Eastern Bloc types These masks should be available in the near future. Check them out at: <http://www.jsworkmodel.com>

Golzar

## Aircraft

So, November is upon us and this year is drawing to a close. Thanksgiving is almost here and Christmas is just around the corner. You know what that means - lots of time off for the holiday model building season. What? That doesn't happen in your world well, it does in mine.

This year through a confluence of strange mystical events, a perfect storm of H/R witchcraft and my stinginess with PTO days, I find myself on vacation the last three weeks of the year - and the first week of the New Year. While I'm picking up my jaw from the floor, let me tell you about some cool stuff I just heard about...

First up, for the mini-scale modelers among us, *Sword* has some new releases that will be appearing soon. They are releasing a new 1/72nd scale Nakajima C6N1 Saiun, also known by the Allies as the "Myrt." There will be two versions, each in its own kit.



The first, a basic C6N1, will be available in 4 markings options. The other will be the night fighter version - the C6N1-S - with either a 20mm or 30mm upward firing gun. This kit will come with two markings versions.

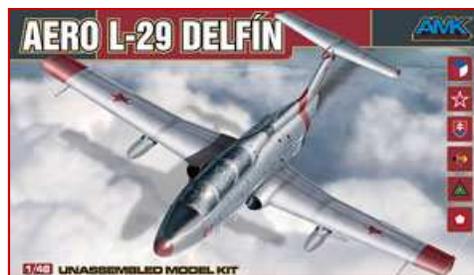


*Sword* is also releasing a new 1/72 Douglas F3D-2 Skyknight with markings for 5 aircraft. The markings option are for the USN and USMC aircraft - 5 from VMF (N)-513 (one of them in that cool all black scheme)

and the other two from VC-4 and VF-14.

*Sword* is also kitting the EF-10B/F3D-2T2, which arrives with 5 markings options as well. There is an F-10B from China Lake in that neat International Orange scheme, as well as 4 USMC schemes: 3 EF-10B's from VMCJ-1, and one from VMFT(N)-20 out of Boca Chica AB.

Next up, we've got another New Kid On The Block, *Avant-Garde Model Kits*. AMK has already released two kits this year, both of which are very nice subjects. Earlier this spring



they released the 1/48th scale IAI Kfir C2/C7, and they will be releasing the Aero L-29 Delfin in the very near future.

This is a surprise of a company for your intrepid author. I've heard rumblings about them, and bright shiny things kept passing by distracting me from learning anything about them. However, their kits look very nice and well detailed.

The really big news is their announced production for 2014, all in 1/48th scale:

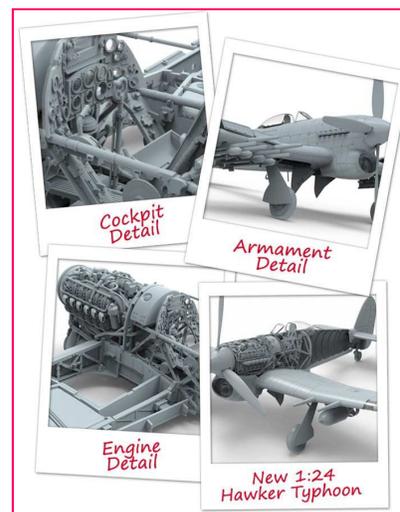
- 1/48 Fouga Magister CM.170
- 1/48 MIG-31 Foxhound
- 1/48 Convair F-106A Delta Dart
- 1/48 F-14 Tomcat Family
- 1/48 Fiat G.91T

Holy Moly! There is something there for everyone or everything for that certain someone. Christmas is just around the corner.

And, lastly, we leave you with that special announcement that set Telford and thus the rest of the modeling world abuzz. *Airfix* announced they will release a 1/24th scale Hawker Typhoon in 2014.

Wow. That's awesome. A nice paring with their 1/24th scale Mossie. The photos from Telford show a very detailed kit with a nicely detailed engine and cockpit. I'll divulge additional information as it's divulged to me.

So, there it is, some new stuff to whet your appetite closing out this year and heading into the New Year.



One piece of advice as Thanksgiving is barreling toward us...don't eat so much turkey. While the rest of your relatives are sleeping off their tryptophan-induced comas you can sneak into the shop and get some work done.

Happy Thanksgiving and 'til next month,

Randy

**Armor**

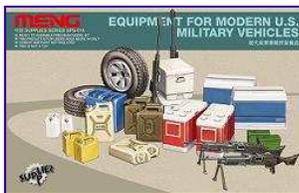
**G**reetings and salutations to all you armor fans and welcome to the armor curious!

Busy times ahead of us and for once I won't start with *Meng* (I'll get to them, don't worry.) A new company, *Takom*, is bringing us a beast from WWI. The mighty St. Charmond.



This is their second 1/35 scale kit and I am hopeful it's just the start of a stampede of WWI (and French) armor!

OK, now lets' get to *Meng*. Probably one of the most exciting companies making models today. First up, is a nice looking set of modern equipment...storage, storage, storage!



And how about this, a set of barricades. Useful for any Iraq/Middle Eastern diorama you want to build.



Let's get to some tanks. Shortly after our last newsletter went out they announced a new T-55 based IDF ACHZART heavy personnel carrier.

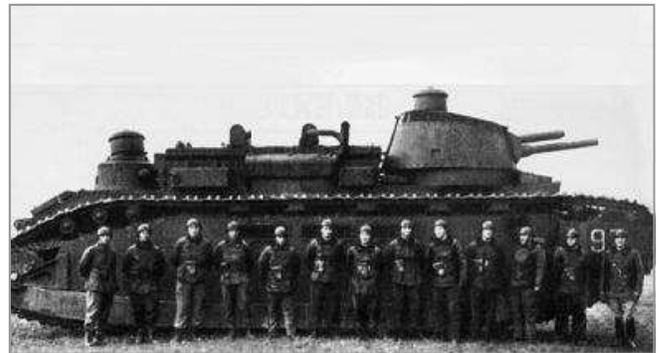


Pretty darned neat!

Also a shocking announcement, another tank in their WWI line, the mighty French Char 2C. This is not actually a WWI tank but appeared after WWI.



It's more of an interwar tank and some where captured by the Germans when they invaded France at the beginning of WWII. The box art does not convey just how big this thing was.



Here is an image that made the rounds on the internet. I would give attribution but I can't find any. This was operationally the largest tank ever fielded, dwarfing even the German behemoths at the end of the war.

Let's see what Bronco is up to... Well, I just showed a huge tank, how about we take a look at one that looks like you get into it the same way your put on a pair of pants? The CV3/33 Tankette Serie II.



This little thing looks awesome. With a full interior, detailed engine compartment, and weapon choices.

I'm pretty excited about this one!

Let's finish up with something completely different. There is a small company out there called DioPark.

They make some really nice plastic plant sets and a superb set of Vietnamese/ Modern style motor scooters. Recently they came out with a nice set of bicycles.



Looks like they are starting to set their eyes on something a bit larger with their newly announced Mercedes.



Now they don't actually call it a Mercedes but that's what it is. These cars are built like tanks and can be found all over the place, from South Africa to

the Middle East. This one comes with some accessories as well and decals to make a police version.

Well, that's it for this month.

*Aaron*

### It Depends... by Ben Morton

As avid readers of the Sprue Examiner are already aware, from time to time I send out the odd question or two to the membership. And, I get odd response back.

Notably, when the question was posed about the strangest plastic molded model kit you had ever seen. That was fun and enlightening. Mike Poole's entry of the plastic model kit of a machine for making plastic models still remains the contest winner.

Which brings me to the latest query posed to the assembled multitude: What level of detail do you use/add when building a model?

The initial impulse for asking this question was to see what the rest of the club members were doing, as a matter of course, when they started building a new kit.

Did, say the armor guys, always add a metal barrel, do members that historically build aircraft almost always add after-

market dodgad's (cockpits, wheels, etc.)? Are ship modelers almost required to add photo-etch ship railings to their models?

These and other pertinent questions coursed through my feeble brain "as I sat and pondered the weak and weary."

No, wait! That's something else...

For myself, I tend to build stuff right out of the box. If I already have any after-market goody that seems appropriate, then in it goes. None of this trundling off to the local model emporium to break out some pesos for all that is available for a particular kit.

I shant bore you with the plethora of stuff that's out there. As I'm sure all are aware, the after-market community for our hobby is alive and doing very well.

Rick Herrington sent in the following as a case in point about the sheer amount of odds and ends you can get for a particular model kit. "You can make yourself go broke buying after-market stuff. The 1/200<sup>th</sup> Bismarck has over \$800.00 worth of after-market available for it."

Rick tends to build a lot more ship models than the rest of us and does add railings and photo-etch radar arrays as a matter of course. He also does the odd armor kit here and there and generally adds a metal barrel and "sometimes the tracks when they're really awful."

Some in our august group don't do OOB. Well, one anyway. Mike Poole "won't build anything straight out of the box." [Keep in mind that this is coming from the guy who sometimes makes his own metal/wood steering wheels for his car models. Note the 'Enrico Magnifico' article in the April 2012 issue of the Sprue Examiner.]

Mike looks for resin/photo-etch upgrades, better decals and when all else fails, scrounging parts from another kit to make a casting from which he can make a casting. He often scratch builds parts "to get the level of detail that I think the subject deserves." I think it best not to get him started on paint...

My fellow San Marcasian, Tim Robb, does use some after-market goodies. He has used but won't commit to using them in the future: wheels, canopies, exhaust pipes, props, ejection seats, seat belts and many, many decals. I'm not certain, but Tim's decals stash may be larger than his kit stash.

He does note that "I have never used all the after-market available for a specific kit and really can't see myself doing that. I do have a couple of resin wing fold sets on hand that I want to use though."

Tony Partlows builds OOB. As do many of us. He noted that on one occasion he had “gone wild”. He built a B-17G for a friend’s father, who was a ball-turret gunner during WWII assigned to the Bloody One Hundredth. That model now sits proudly in the father’s rumpus room (man cave).

Advanced Modeling Syndrome (AMS) has been with our community since the dawn of...well, for awhile now. Ron McCracken was ‘bitten’ around 1973. (From personal experience, I can attest to the fact that his ‘fever’ has not broken.)

Ron notes that “I have consistently added detailing to my models. However, to this day, I generally scratch-build my extra detail. I learned to build plastic models at a time when detailed cockpits and landing gear (wheel) wells were almost unheard of and there weren’t any after-market vendors. It was strictly a do-it-yourself proposition.”

With some chagrin, Ron offers the following: “...I view today’s super abundance of over-the-counter super detailing with regret. Time was if you saw an impressively detailed model at a show you knew the builder had done most if it from scratch. It marked the builder as an accomplished modeler. These days it is as likely as not that the only skill required of the modeler is a good hand with washes and dry brushing.”

Our illustrious VP does use the odd after-market item here and there. His rubric for doing so seems to “be the extent that the added detail can be seen on the finished model. Detailing an entire interior of a WWII bomber is generally a waste of effort as nothing is readily visible thorough those tiny cabin windows.” [Note: Ron tends to build in 1/72nd.] On the other hand, a gun turret interior is readily visible through it’s clear canopy and so it gets detailed.”

It would appear that most of us strive for a true out of the box experience when it comes to model building.

With the level of detail that some of the current crop of manufacturer’s are offering in their kits, often times the *need* for extra goodies is just not there.

Whom the model is for, whether or not the after-market goodie is already in ones possession, early onset or advanced modelers syndrome, etc. conspire to turn us away for what some consider the one true path and ‘force’ us toward the dark side that is ...**AFTERMARKET**.

Kind of depends!

Ben



## *The 50th Anniversary IPMS/ USA National Convention*

*August 6-9, 2014*

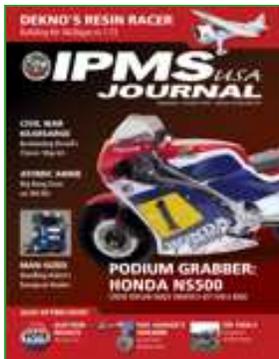
The website for the IPMS/USA National Convention is up and running and available for your entertainment and education. The folks in beautiful Tidewater, Virginia (Hampton Roads, to some) have lots of fun stuff planned.

They have a list of tours that are planned upon your arrival. ‘Seating’ on some, particularly the *National Museum of the Marine Corps* and the *US Army Transportation Museum*, may be limited. So, if you’d like to visit either of those...better get your reservation in soon.

The website has some convenient links to area lodging, other attractions in the area and just a bunch of stuff to help make you trip to the ‘east coast’ that more enjoyable.

Join the gang at the IPMS/USA 50th Anniversary National Convention.

<http://www.ipms2014.com>



In the latest issue of...

**IPMS/USA Journal**  
 September-October  
 Volume 25, Number 05

- **2013 Officer Election Results**
- **Four-barreled Butcher Bird** - Going great guns with Hasegawa's 1:48 Fw 190A-5/U-12, by **Floyd S. Werner, Jr.**
- **Making Mr. Mulligan** - Building Dekno's 1:72 Scale Resin Kit of Howards' Damn Good Airplane #6, by Wayne E. Moyer
- **She's a MAN, Baby!** - Navigating the Tricky Road to a European Big Rig, by Richard Marmo
- **Hasty Honda** - Negotiating the Curves of Tamiya's 1:12 1984 Honda NS500 Moto GP Motorcycle, by Steve Taylor
- **Atomic Annie** - The 1:32 M65 Atomic Cannon: A Build 50 Years in the Making, by Dennis "Doc" O'Connor
- **Funny-Pages Firearm** - Scratch-building Doc Savage's Superfirer Machine Pistol, by Dan Thompson
- **Raider Slayer** - Backdating the Revell 1:96 scale U.S.S. Kearsarge to its Civil War Configuration, By Gino Dykstra

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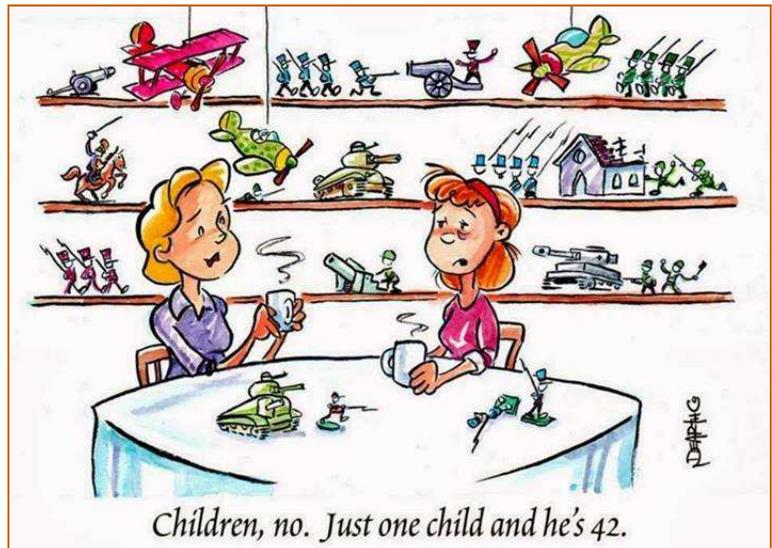
Check out our web page: [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)



Austin Scale Modelers Society  
c/o 1228 W. San Antonio Street  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

[www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org)

Next Meeting:  
**November 21, 2013**  
at  
**Austin Old Quarry Library**  
(7051 Village Center Drive)  
7PM to 8:45PM  
**Program: Ron's Awesome Building Techniques**



There's lots more fun and frivolity to be had on Austin Scale Modeler's Facebook page. Not to mention the odd rant...  
Log on and check it out.