



**SPRUE**



**EXAMINER**



Vol 22 No.1

40th Anniversary(1973-2013)

January 2014

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



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**U.S. Army Attack Aircraft/A-24 by Ron McCracken**

Although the US Army Air Corps had moved to high-performance twin-engine attack bombers by the late 1930's, the success of the Luftwaffe's Stuka dive bomber in 1939-40 renewed interest in the type, and a number of designs were procured, among them the Douglas SBD dive bomber.

The Army eventually procured three variants of the SBD. The SBD-3, -4, and -5, designating them A-24, A-24A, and A-24B, respectively.

Unlike all the other dive bomber types, e.g. the A-25, A-31, and A-35, the A-24 was actually sent into combat in limited numbers and with even more limited success.

52 A-24s were shipped to Australia, where the 91st and 8th Bombardment Squadrons sent them into combat. However, they were not successful, being found too slow, too vulnerable, and too short-ranged.

The A-24A variant, so far as I have been able to determine, all remained stateside for use in training and various auxiliary roles. The A-24B saw action with the 407th Bomb Group in Alaska and with the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in the Gilbert Islands.

The A-24 was remarkably less successful than its U.S. Navy twin, which leads us to the question, "Why?"

I suspect the cause was a difference in doctrine between the services. The Army expected attack bombers to operate without escort, relying on speed and maneuverability to avoid interception. The Navy considered dive bombers to be just that - bombers, needing adequate fighter escort to help them reach the target.

The A-24/SBD was quite a capable dive bomber, but as the Air Force learned, it was too slow and lightly armed to fight its own way in to the target, so in Air Force use it was a failure.

(continued on page four)



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Phil Brandt	Rick Willaman
(in memorium)	Jack Johnston
Eric Choy	Mike Kizin
Angie/Jeff	Mike Poole
Forster	Aaron
Russ Holm	Smischney

## 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	2.8.14
Austin Armor Builders Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	2.6.14
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	2.20.14
CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	1.16.14
<a href="http://www.centexmodelers.com">http://www.centexmodelers.com</a>	

### Other Events

Build 'N Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	1.18.14
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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**

I hope everyone had a joyous and festive holiday season. Now that a new year is here it's traditional to make resolutions to fix something in ourselves. I discussed my big modeling resolution back in the November issue of our newsletter. Most of us have way more models than we can build even if we live to 100 and I'm ok with that. What got me was seeing so many beautiful, rare, pristine kits listed in auctions by the survivors of the previous owner who saved it for a special day! I resolved to stop fantasy building my favorite kits and start reality building by sanding and gluing parts together.

In the spirit of my "get on with it" resolution I've begun one of my all-time favorite subjects. It's a white metal kit of the Ferrari 156 Sharknose which American driver Phil Hill one the World Championship with in 1961. I want everyone to keep me focused on this build so I have started a build thread on one of the car modeling websites. Anyone that's interested can follow and comment at this link: <http://www.automotiveforums.com/vbulletin/showthread.php?t=1119213>

It's still early in the thread so check back from time to time if interested and leave me a comment to help me stay true to my resolution this year. These threads often evolve into interesting discussions and I for one have learned a lot from them. If you're not the internet type there's also a really good chance this model will surface at a future ASMS meeting.

Speaking of meetings, traditionally ASMS has substituted our Christmas party for the business meeting in the month of December. However, for the last couple of years there has been a rising interest in meeting at the Old Quarry Library ostensibly for our annual White Elephant Contest. Not only was the 2013 December meeting fully attended but there was a real and bewildering interest in conducting a full business meeting to boot! Your president had no agenda (or gavel to make noise with for that matter) but managed to pull together a focus group discussion about new member recruiting, monthly presentations and the need to tighten our business discussion a bit. This was all good feedback and maybe could be the start of a new December tradition where we go over what worked, what didn't and what we wish to focus on in the coming year.

That sharknose isn't going to build itself so I'll close by reminding everyone to pick that favorite model from the stash and "get on with it".

Mike

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

Happy New Year ! Please note that the January meeting of ASMS will be on **Thursday, January 30th**. That's the last Thursday of the month. We revert back to the third Thursday for all subsequent 2014 meetings.

Elsewhere in the newsletter is a contest, submitted by Bill Delk. It's a cartoon without caption. Take a moment and send in your best idea for a caption. The winning entry will have their name enshrined. As for contests, the newsletter contest is back in full swing. This is the one where **YOU** send in articles, cartoons, ideas, complaints, reviews, etc. The one that submits the most stuff over the course of the year will have their club dues paid for by our august editor. Last years winner was Milton Bell. While Milton did submit the odd article his contributions over the course of the year were primarily photos. It's not that hard. Get to sending in that stuff c/o [benmorton@grandecom.net](mailto:benmorton@grandecom.net).

Which leads us to club dues are due. ASMS club dues for 2014 are \$25.00 for an individual or \$30.00 for a family. If you pay before March 31 there is a five dollar discount on each membership level. Please remember to bring your dues money to a meeting. If you'd prefer to mail it in, the address for such is in care of Jeff Forster, 1503 Cherry Creek, Cedar Park, Texas 78613.

Frank



For the modeler it is relatively easy to achieve a decent A-24 in all the popular aircraft scales. Simply pick an available kit of the appropriate SBD variant and build it out of the box, with three exceptions: a larger pneumatic tailwheel, no tailhook, and the paint/markings scheme.

In 1/72, *Hasegawa* recently re-released its series of SBD kits in a "two-fer" package that will allow building of two aircraft. Happily, in addition to alternative parts for an SBD-3, 4, and 5, it includes one large tailwheel alternate part. So, look no further in this scale.

Your only problem is markings, as the kit contains no A-24 markings, and pickings for after-market A-24 decals in this scale are also scarce.

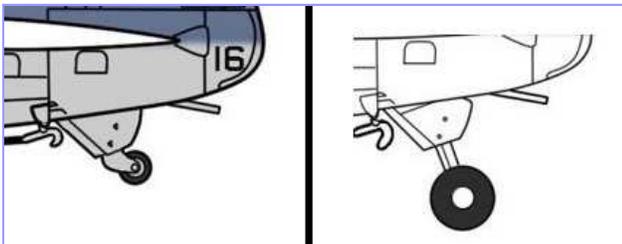
In 1/48th *Accurate Miniatures* has released an SBD-3, SBD-4 and SBD-5, and I recall seeing at least the SBD-5 issued with alternate decals for an A-24B. A number of other SBD kits have been issued in this scale over the years, but these are probably the best.

For the large scale fan, *Trumpeter* released a 1/32 SBD-5/A-24B Dauntless kit with decals for 2 SBD aircraft and an A-24B (s/n 42-54676).

Now let us discuss the visible differences between the three variants, since you may need to rely on photos to create your own color scheme and markings for your A-24.

First, all USAAF variants had the larger tailwheel used by land-based aircraft. They also did not have the tailhook installed. I mention this because I've found a number of published photos that mis-identify the A-24 as an SBD, and vice-versa.

Apparently Douglas used the same national markings dimensions and locations for both their Navy and Air Corps orders, simply substituting OD/neutral gray for the Navy Blue-gray/light gray. Consequently, it is easy to misidentify black-and-white photos, particularly for the A-24/SBD-3 as these didn't have AAF serial numbers on the fin. So, first look for no tailhook, then that big tailwheel.



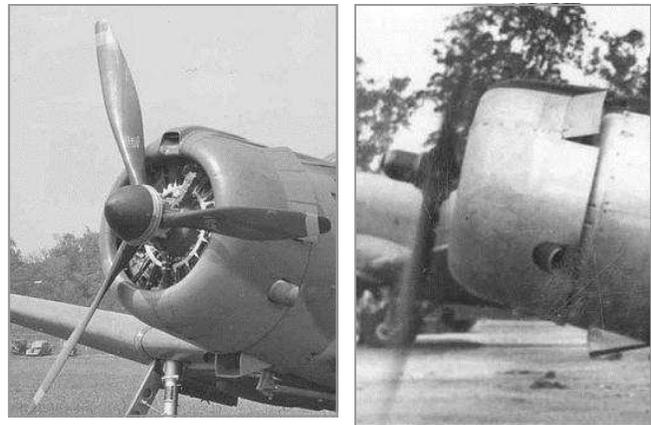
The illustration shows both tailwheel types, drawn to the same scale.

Two different engine cowlings were used on A-24s. The early cowling, used on the A-24 and A-24A, had a small roughly rectangular air scoop at the top center of the cowling front and three cowl flaps on each side of the upper cowling.

The A-24B cowling did not have the small air scoop at the top and the cowl flap changed to a simplified single-piece flap on each side of the upper cowling.

The propeller is another identification feature. The A-24 had a slightly pointed spinner covering the propeller hub, which is an early controllable pitch type with a flat nose and exposed circular counterweights.

I mention this because quite often the spinner was removed in service, in which case the prop hub is your best ID feature. If you see the spinner, or the early style prop hub, you've definitely got an A-24. The A-24A and B, on the other hand, had a Hamilton Standard hydromatic propeller with its distinctive large domed hub.



The photos show both the A-24 and A-24B cowling and prop configuration.

Given a quartering front view, the cowling and propeller hub alone will allow differentiation of all three variants, but from a side view the cowling air scoop is darn near impossible to see, and with the cowl flaps closed that difference is also hard to see, so you often have to consider other details.

Serial numbers are definitive, if visible, but they don't appear to have been painted onto most A-24s. The A-24A and A-24B usually had the serials on the fin, but not always.

The A-24 and A-24A had a telescopic gunsight protruding through the windscreen, while the A-24B had a more modern reflector sight behind the windscreen. This furnishes your final ID feature.

To summarize:

Large tailwheel and no arresting hook generally indicates the photo is some variant of the A-24, rather than an SBD.

An early prop hub, three cowl flaps per side, and telescopic gunsight identifies the A-24.

A late prop hub, three cowl flaps per side, and telescopic gunsight identifies the A-24A.

A late prop hub, one cowl flap per side, and reflector gunsight identifies the A-24B.

As for painting, all variants of the A-24 left the factory in AAF standard olive drab and neutral gray. Some A-24 and



A-24A aircraft also had the medium green blotches around the edges of the flying surfaces, but this seems to have been dropped altogether by the time the A-24B variant came off the production line.

The size and placement of the national insignia often (but not universally, it seems) followed the U.S. Navy standard being used at the time.

As a result, you see A-24's carrying six-position national insignia long after the AAF had gone to four-position insignia, and the insignia sizes followed Navy practice also (including the period when the Navy was using almost absurdly large wing insignia on its SBD's).

I suspect this was done to avoid having to stock multiple sizes of insignia decals at the factory, or perhaps because the order of AAF-spec insignia didn't come in on time, so Navy national insignia were substituted.

A-24B aircraft operating in the Aleutians used the mid-war national insignia with the red border. At some point, many A-24s had the camouflage stripped and they operated in a bare metal scheme, generally from about 1944 onward.

The photo show one variant of the A-24, and a model of it. Here's your test question, to see if you've been paying attention: Which variant of the A-24 is this?

Ron



*[Editor's Note: While Ron's question may seem rhetorical, send in your guess and qualify for the newsletter contest.]*

## Support Your Local Hobby Shop



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[www.hobbytown.com](http://www.hobbytown.com)

**Web At Night: Rewind**  
 compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne

This month's Web At Night contributions come to us from some of the regular newsletter contributors and, in one case, a club member.

Beginning with an idea that was floated by our erstwhile editor and a solicitation for articles and sundry, fellow club member, Jake McKee suggested his webpage as a possible source of material.

Lo and behold there are a multitude of things on his webpage to choose from. Of particular note for me is his build article on the Steyr 1500 radio car based on the *Tamiya* kit. His build incorporates a diverse mix of aftermarket adaptations to an existing kit and the 'problems' that sometimes arise when doing that kind of work.

<http://build.theworldwithme.com>

Golzar Shahrzād, whilst researching his monthly column on the stranger kits available in our hobby, came across something while checking the AFV Club website. At first blush, it appeared as if *AFV Club* might be selling a model kit of a paratrooper tactical mountain bike.

In Golzar's defense, *AFV Club* has been releasing some rather unusual, non-traditional kits of late. Truth be told, you can actually buy the real thing for a mere pittance... \$900.00. But the bike does fold up. Check out a promotional video via Montague, the manufacturer of the bike.

[http://videosearch.yahoo.com/search/video;\\_ylt=AOoG718sC](http://videosearch.yahoo.com/search/video;_ylt=AOoG718sC)

This next site came to me via a forwarded club newsletter in which the author was heralding the advantages of supporting your local hobby shop. A worthy endeavor.

That author noted that he often shops at what might be considered non-traditional stores i.e. art supply stores that stock *Derwent* pencils. He uses same for panel line highlighting. An untried technique until recently for this reporter but it is my 'new' favorite thing.

The Cumberland Pencil Company has been giving it a go since 1832 and it may be appropriate to allow them the benefit of the doubt when it comes to art pencils. Their product line, in this regard, is extensive.

An array of pencils with pastels, charcoals and water-soluble 'leads' seems to be a good fit for some of our modeling

needs (the aforementioned panel lines). I'm curious to explore the water-soluble sketching pencils as a means for weathering.

[www.pencils.co.uk](http://www.pencils.co.uk)

Jean-Michel



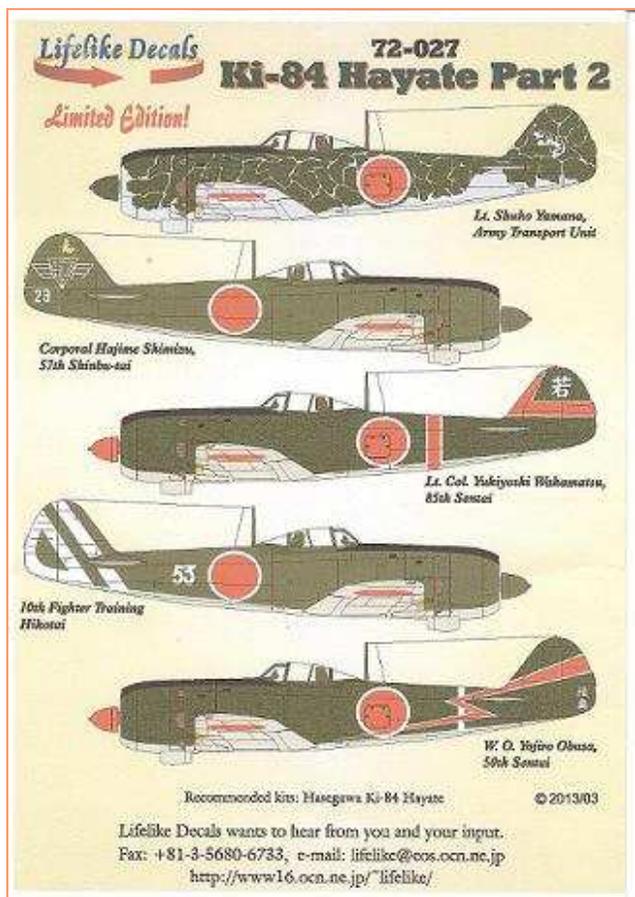
**Monthly Program Schedule**  
 by Ron McCracken, Vice-President

Month	Presenter/Subject
January	Ron McCracken/ Flying the BUFF
February	TBA
March	Quarterly Contest/Open
April	Mike Poole/ Gloss Finishes
May	TBA
June	Quarterly Contest/Open
July	Bob Bethea/ Figure Painting Essentials
August	TBA
September	Quarterly Contest/ Bondo Special
October	TBA
November	TBA
December	Quarterly Contest/ White Elephant

If you're interested in making a presentation at one of our club meetings contact Ron McCracken at: [ron\\_mccracken@att.net](mailto:ron_mccracken@att.net)

## 1/72 Kawasaki Ki-84 Hayate Part 2 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS # 26266

The Ki-84 Hayate was the premier Japanese fighter of the war. It also sported some really colorful markings that are a natural for an airplane modeler.



The instructions are printed on two single sided A4 sheets in full color. Five aircraft are included in the decals. The exterior sheet has the three view drawings and the references used to design the decals.

The decals themselves are printed by *Cartograf* and are very colorful. They are in perfect register and thin. In my opinion, *Cartograf* is the best decal producer in the world. I've used all kinds of setting solutions on them and they perform flawlessly. The decals not only include the aircraft markings but also some stencils are included.

The first Hayate has never before been seen in print, let alone as a decal. The aircraft has a unique 'spackled' look to it with a beautiful white tiger on the tail. This aircraft was

flown by Lt. Shuho Yamana of Army Transportation Unit, in the fall of 1944.

The second aircraft is from Corporal Shimizu in May 1945. This kamikaze aircraft pays honor to the pilot's family with a special marking on the vertical tail. Painted in the typical Yellow-Green #7 with some areas being repainted.

The third aircraft is from Lt. Col. Wakamatsu is based on the research of the aircraft of the unit and pilot. There are no known photos of this aircraft. This entire profile is based off of research. With that said the red and white markings make for a colorful aircraft.

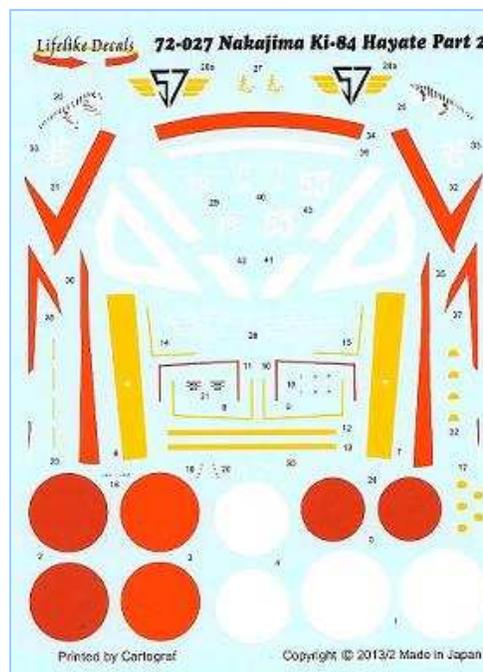
This training aircraft has a rather unique looking tail marking with diagonal lines and a white surround. The rest of the airframe is pretty standard.

The last aircraft on the sheet is my favorite. It is a Ki-84 flown by WO Yojiro Obusa in China during 1945. The red and white lightning bolt from the tail to the Hinomaru complete with a white fuselage stripe makes for a quite striking aircraft. WO Obusa had 19 victories and one British Destroyer to his credit, which earned him a Buko-sho Medal in 1945.

Five colorful marking options printed by *Cartograf* along with excellent research and some educated speculation allows *Lifelike Decals* to offer a great deal of artwork for the modeler's money.

Highly recommended.

Thanks to *Lifelike Decals* for the review copy.



Floyd

<http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~lifelike/>



**T**he time is nigh for you to pay your yearly club dues. ASMS Club dues are \$25.00 for an individual or the entire family may join for \$30.00. Note that there is a five dollar discount on each category *if* you pay your dues prior to March 31, of this year.

Club dues may be brought to a club meeting or mailed directly to our treasurer.

Jeff Forster  
1503 Cherry Creek  
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Please submit your dues with all haste. You don't wanna miss out on a single exciting episode of what is Austin Scale Modeler's Society.

### Skills To Build

**Y**ou are cordially invited to the 50th anniversary IPMS/USA National Convention in Hampton, Virginia. This event takes place August 6-9, 2014.

The convention website is fully functional and may be reached via: <http://www.ipmsusa2014.com>

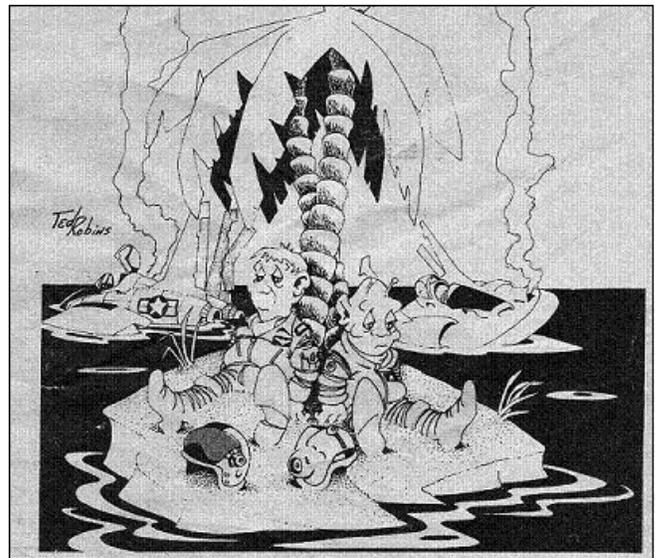
The host hotel is sold out but other accommodations are available. The underlying message is if you want to go, book a room now.

### Caption Contest

**I**n an on going effort to solicit *any* kind of contribution to the newsletter and with the admirable aid of fellow club member, Bill Delk we have a caption contest available.

It's pretty simple. Come up with some witty remarks to accompany the cartoon and send them to: [benmor-ton@grandecom.net](mailto:benmor-ton@grandecom.net).

The winner, chosen by committee, will be have their name enshrined in a shrine that is under development. Additionally, all entries will be eligible for the newsletter contest described elsewhere.



The cartoon is by Ted Robins. It depicts a crash site involving a forlorn US pilot and a sad sack alien now marooned on a desert island.



## Alliance Modelworks Scale Modeling Ruler Set by David Goudie, IPMS No. 6340

Here's a nifty little set of scales for the modeler.

As you can see from the photo the scales consist of a stainless steel photoetched fret (A) containing a square marked off in centimeters; a ruler marked off in 1/72, 1/48, 1/32 and 1/350 scales, and a ruler marked off in inches and centimeters.

There are also two long pointy things that measure whole diameters in inches and centimeters on this fret. Note that I have inserted a standard office paperclip into the photograph to give the reader an idea of the size of these little guys.

Fret (B) contains a micro-protractor and (2) micro-French curves. I have no idea how the French curves might find a use due to their miniscule size but they sure make for conversation pieces at a chapter meeting.

Perhaps someone has a use and the tiny hands to work with them.

The square, the scales ruler, the hole measuring scales and the protractor all have miniscule holes which are probably meant for something and the protractor has a scale on the straight side to measure from centers.

I suspect that if the holes have any use at all it is to use a tiny needle point to make the marks that a pencil or such would be impossible to do accurately.

The frets are very finely done and have a tacky clear plastic covering. This covering will hold each piece as it is detached from the main.

Of course, once you have removed the scales from the frets and then removed the film you are on your own with respect to the carpet monster.

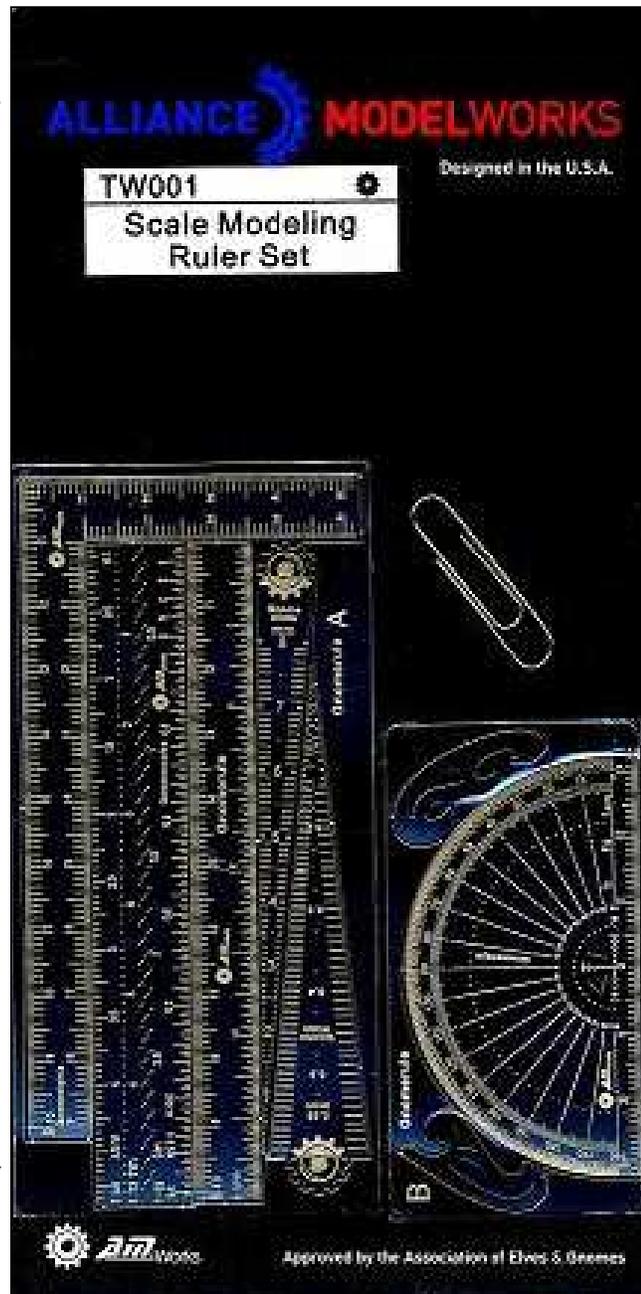
I can honestly say that I see uses for these scales on my bench and the price is not out of line in my opinion.

By scanning *Alliance Modelworks* you can find many photoetch products which are hard or impossible to find elsewhere, including screens of various mesh sizes.

Alliance Modelworks website also shows an interesting product which gives a nicely replicated turning propeller effect for diorama or stand mounted display aircraft.

Thank you for reading this review.

David



<http://www.alliance-modelworks.com>

## Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

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

## Automotive

**M**odel Factory Hiro is at it again. This time it's the machine that raced for McLaren in the 2008 F1 season and dramatically won the drivers' championship in the last round. The McLaren MP4-23 is coming in a 1/12 scale



model later this year as a proportion kit (no engine) and simplified assembly. But wait there's more.

The tough nut to crack on the 23 has always been the mirror-like silver paint used on the real car that season. *MFH* have cracked it apparently with a special paint formulation (sold separately of course). First a clear finish is applied to the primer-prepped surface. Next, the mirror silver is applied and that's it. No clear coat, no polishing. Just apply the decals and hope they conform because decal softener kills the paint. Also, everything but air apparently will kill this paint so I'm not sure how practical this finish is. The kit will set you back about \$400 US. Add \$50 more for special mirror paint.



Falling somewhere between a 200 mile per hour dream car and a ridiculously large mozzarella grater is the new 740 horsepower monster Lambo which debuted recently at the



Geneva Motor Show. Now it's available in a highly-detailed and much more affordable 1/24 scale

plastic version! Note that with only three actual cars being built, you've really got a much better chance of getting this kit even if you've got the bank account to cover the real one. Look for it next month in the \$40 range.

*Aoshima* continue to tease the auto modeling community with ever more tantalizing detail shots of their vaporware known as the McLaren F1 GTR Long Tail. Yes, you've heard me speak of this thing before.

This is the rumor part of the column. According to discussion on a Japanese website the engineers are unhappy with the level of detail in the engine area and have decided to redesign it. If this project ever gets to production it's going to be spectacular. Some say it marks a new strategy for *Aoshima* altogether. That is to bring fewer, more highly detailed kits to the market for advanced modelers. Take that *Fujimi*!



They say Red Bull gives you wings and this subject certainly fits that description. There are wings everywhere on this bovine beast of a car that sent Sebastien Vettel to a World Driving Championship in 2012. He almost won the title right here in Austin at the inaugural Circuit of the America's race!



I've heard really nice things about this kit from *Revell Germany* and now it's available through *Revell-Monogram* for about \$40. The only knock I have is that it's in 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale and F1 is traditionally done in 1/20<sup>th</sup>.

That's it for auto this month. Stay out of the marbles!

Mike

**Shipping News**

In 1/350th scale from *Trumpeter* comes the USS Indianapolis CA-35 Heavy Cruiser (1944), The HMS Roberts, British Monitor, and the HMCS Huron G24 Tribal Class destroyer.



For those that prefer their ship models more Phoenix like, Blue Ridge has the USS Growler SSG-577. This is a Grayback Class submarine with missiles.



Those needing some additional details for their HMS Belfast kit, fear not. *White Ensign Models* has a photo etch set and coming

soon a set of replacement funnels and a compass platform set.

It would appear as if the funnels in the *Trumpeter* kit are not the right shape. The *White Ensign* kit will remedy that. The photo etch set is probably an up-scaling of the 1/600th scale set they put out for the *Airfix* model kit.

In the 1/700th scale category there are a couple of items from *Blue Ridge*. The USS Ward Wickes Class destroyer and the USS Tennessee BB-43 (1943) battleship.



Fortunately, no news on the 1/200th scale front. That's it for this month. Go out and build a model.

Rick

**Miscellaneous**

For fans of anime/science fiction but mostly anime, *Kotobukiya* has a figure for you. It's a Scope Dog Turbo Custom (D-Style). Who knew that there are 'block' numbers for anime fighting suits.



From the department of how can a manufacturer get some more mileage out of an older kit, *Italeri* has answered the call. With not one but two 'gun trucks'. Both kits are based on earlier releases from *Italeri* and feature some new bits( armament and add-on

armor) for their M977 HEMTT and the M923 A1 'Bigfoot'. Both are in 1/35th scale. Good hunting!



Just to keep you guessing, *AFV Club* has a kit available of EMD Naval Mines. I just thought they looked really cool. And probably a simple build.



This next item is for all who really *do* crave something that requires minimal tools, easy assemble, and no painting. In 1/32nd scale, *Imtch* has a desk-top model of the Messerschmitt BF109F.



This is to augment their previously released Zero and Mustang. The kit is a detailed structural model made from wood, white metal, photo etch, clear parts, rubber tires and "possible some other materials".

Go build the your model.

Golzar

**Armor**

**G**reetings all you armor fans, and hello armor curious. Let's take a look at what the new year is bringing us.

First up from newcomer *Takom* is A Leopard C2 Mexas. This is an awesome looking tank that Canadian forces used in Afghanistan. It comes with a local fighter taking a picture.

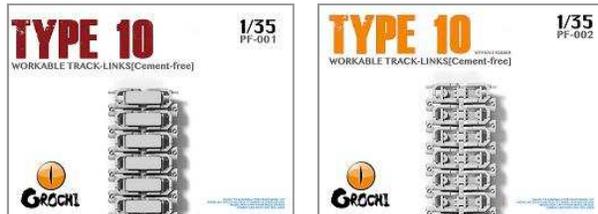


Kinda wish it had a Canadian tanker but what are ya gonna do?

Glad I didn't buy the resin conversion to

make this thing. :) It was supposed to come out in January, but some eagle eyed experts noticed that the track was not accurate. To *Takom's* credit they have halted the kit and are fixing the tracks. Its good when they listen, right?

Directly related to the Mexas (and its tracks) is a new company that is actually a subsidiary of *Takom*, *Orichi*.



*Orichi* are making tracks that are very detailed, workable, and require no glue! Lots of modern tanks use what is called "double pin tracks" and that looks like what they are specializing in.

Besides the Leopard 1 tracks they are making for the Mexas (that will be available separately), they are also making tracks for Japan's latest main battle tank, the Type 10.

The Type 10 can use two different type tracks, a rubber blocked one to not tear up roads and an all metal pad-less one. They have also announced tracks for the M3A3 Bradley.

Next up is *AFV Club*. First up is AEC Matador Early Type. This is related to their excellent Dorchester model.

Test build-up shots are already on the web, so expect its release soon!



Let's check in with *Hobby Boss*. These are images from their latest catalog that is just now being printed. Some super exciting stuff in here!



I reported on this earlier but now we finally have a shot of it, the French R35 Light Infantry tank!

I am super excited for this little guy as it served in many army's, including in the Syrian army against the new state of Israel in 1948.

The Israelis captured several of them and they are visible in the IDF tank museum today.



Also coming out are some cool little Russian tanks from the early war. These were only available in iffy Eastern block model kits, so I am excited to see modern versions of them.

Lets finish off with something super cool, also from *Hobby Boss*.



These little dune buggy's are special made for Delta and SEAL teams...so awesome!

Even though these are all just images, *Hobby Boss* doesn't

usually pull a 'dragon' and never release their models. So, I would expect all of these this year.

Till next time!

Aaron

### White Elephants on parade by Ben Morton

ASMS held the final quarterly model contest of 2013 at the December club meeting. This quarterly contest is our yearly White Elephant contest. Wherein those participating display their completed and not so completed kits that they garnered at our annual Christmas party/gift exchange.

For the uninitiated, ASMS holds four member- only model contests each year. As the name implies these are held once a quarter at our club meetings.

Of the four contests being held in 2014 only two have a specific theme, this being one. The other quarterly contest that has a theme is the one held in September and features a kit that members received from the estate of Phil 'Bondo' Brandt. The other two contests (March and June) are open to any and all model kits.

The White Elephant contest turned out to be a spirited affair with a number of entries. Alas, only the top three contenders go home happy and with a bit of coin in their pockets. "Coin in their pockets" you ask...? King's Hobby

Shop/Austin graciously supplies the 'prize money' for our contests and much thanks and appreciation to them for continuing to support our club and the hobby.

Among the contest winners this past December were Tim Robb with a Louisiana National Guard F-4. I think it was one of 4 F-4 *Revell* kits Tim has been working on. How some ever, it was good for third place.



Randy Bumgardner came in a close second with a *Tamiya* Zero kit that has been lingering on the modeling bench for a while. (I think 'lingering' can be measured in years.)

And, our first place winner at this past contest was Russ Holm with a Humber. Taking a "garagy kit" and turning it into a contest winner has gotten to be Russ's stock and trade. While he's not on the range, that is.

His 'Monty' Humber was beautifully displayed, as well. No doubt, turning an old shooting trophy into a display base helped curry favor with the judges.

Congratulations to all!

Ben

### Quarterly Contest Schedule

Our clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each quarter. Here are the dates and themes for 2014.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>
March 20	Open
June 19	Open
September 18	'Bondo' Special
December 18	White Elephant



In the latest issue of...

**IPMS/USA Journal**  
November-December  
Volume 25, Number 06

- **The Nationals** - An Organizer's View, by Mark Persichetti
- **Rocky Mountain High** - Thin Air Nationals, by Dick Engar and Bill Engar
- **Juniors** - Category 00
- **Aircraft** - Category 01
- **Military** - Category 02
- **Figures** - Category 03
- **Ships** - Category 04
- **Automotive** - Category 05
- **Space and Sci-Fi** - Category 06
- **Dioramas** - Category 07
- **Miscellaneous** - Category 08
- **Special Awards** - Category 09

**Join IPMS/USA!**

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas 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](http://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 [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org).

**IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**

IPMS No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(leave blank) FIRST M. LAST

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MasterCard Account # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: \$25       Junior (17 years old or younger): \$12 DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Canada & Mexico: \$30     Other Foreign: \$32     Foreign Air Mail: \$55

Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: \_\_\_\_\_)

If recommended by an IPMS member, list his/her name and member number \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (IPMS#)

**IPMS/USA**

**P.O. Box: 2475  
North Canton, OH 44720-0475**

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



Austin Scale Modelers Society  
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San Marcos, Texas 78666

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

Next Meeting:  
**January 30, 2014**  
at  
**Austin Old Quarry Library**  
(7051 Village Center Drive)  
**7PM to 8:45PM**  
**Program: Flying (in) the 'BUFF'**



## **Attention! Attention! Attention!**

One -Time Special Event coming to ASMS in  
January.

That's right! This one-time only, special event is coming your way . Be sure and mark your calendars and reschedule (reprogram) your life to coincide with this event.

The January meeting of ASMS will be held on  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th** at **7PM** at the  
Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library,

You may be asking yourself...Just what's so special about that? Glad you asked. Due to a scheduling conflict our January meeting will be on **Thursday, January 30th**.

This is a **ONE-TIME** happening and we will revert back to our normal day (third Thursday, each month) for the February meeting and all subsequent meetings for 2014.

[P.S. Please read it, again.]