



# SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

August 2015

## Doktar Orpheus Odonata's Dragonfly Odonopter Type One by Dave Edgerly

Steampunk has, as of late, become quite popular. I saw an article in the Tamiya Model Magazine a couple of years ago (January 2012) that showed a build of something called Hornethopter that grabbed my enthusiasm by the neck and shook me about.

I hunted for a dealer but found that the best place was directly from the manufacturer at [www.industriamechanika.com](http://www.industriamechanika.com), so off I went into the inter-web. Darn, the Hornethopter was out of production. There were many other fantastic items there however – Steampunk, Diesel, Space, Flying things and figures – but I wanted that Hornet!

My wife and son heard all about my disappointment – they sure enjoyed that. I went back to buying aircraft and armor and, of course, not building anything. Along comes Christmas 2013 and there is a box which obviously contained some sort of model.

[continued on page four]



**Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS/USA).**

**ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month.**

**Annual dues for full membership are \$25 / individual or \$30/family.**

**The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. It is intended for educational purposes only. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.**

### In This Issue

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Dragonfly Recon     | 1  |
| Peanut Brittle      | 3  |
| Fiddly Bits         | 3  |
| Web At Night:       | 7  |
| Rewind              |    |
| Nuevo Para Mí       | 8  |
| NATO Colors:        | 10 |
| A Review            |    |
| Not Again           | 12 |
| Its Not A Toy :     | 13 |
| A Review            |    |
| Base Or Not To Base | 14 |
| Old Rumors/         | 15 |
| New Kits 2G         |    |



***Peanut Brittle*****Randy Bumgardner**

Well, it's August already and it's hot. It's the perfect time to stay in the air-conditioned luxury of your modeling haven and build stuff. If your shop doesn't have air-conditioning, go to a friend's house and make a build day out of it.

Before I start rambling on this month, I want to give our editor, Sr. Ben Morton, a big congratulations for a job well done. The IPMS National Convention recently completed, and, when the dust settled at the awards ceremony, Ben (and indirectly, ASMS) won 2014 Newsletter of the Year! Under his purview, the newsletter has really entered a new phase. We have contributions from many of our members, members around the country, as well as international correspondents who all read the pulse (with a good dash of humor) of the modeling world. Great job, Ben!

We have recently held our 81st Annual ASMS "Beat the Heat and Buy a Model" Auction and Picnic hosted by Jack and Lisa Johnston at their lovely abode in Georgetown. It was a great time with a good turnout and lots of good food. Yours truly managed to retain auctioneership for the duration without the big hook yanking me off stage left and out the door. We managed to raise a goodly amount of money for the ASMS coffers. I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and having fun with us. And remember, "It is for the children."

Our show is coming up fast. October 10th seems to be just a heartbeat away. There are only two meetings left before the curtain raises on our festivities. I'll bring the volunteer sign-up sheets to the meeting, so start thinking about what you want to do to lend a hand. Any and all comers are welcome! Vendor tables are almost all sold out. I'm handling the final adjustments to the floor plan to clear up some issues we've had in the past. We are on track for another great show! One more thought before bidding you "Au revoir", the next Build 'n' Bull (TM) at King's Hobby Shop will be on September 19th and we will have another trophy building party. It's the last one prior to the show, so it's perfect timing. Save the date on your calendar and help us build our trophies.

Until next time, go build something!

Randy

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

The Capital Classic, ASMS's annual model contest, is October 10th. There are any number of staffing positions that need to be filled and *you* need to fill one. Or, if you're any good at multi-tasking, two or three. You know like set-up, registration, and judging. There are only two club meetings prior to the contest so sign-up early and get the positions you really want. Sign-up sheets will be available at the ASMS club meetings.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

You now have the opportunity to show your pride in ASMS. Ian Latham took our logo and freshened it up a bit and had some self-adhesive decals made. The round decals are \$1.00 each, come in two styles, and are available at the club meetings.



The original logo was done by Tom Eisenhour. Tom notes that "It might interest you to know that that design is 30 years old this month. I adapted the design from the now-defunct Austin Graphic Arts Society. Their design had a pencil instead of an X-acto knife but was otherwise the same, if I recall correctly "A good copy is better than a bad original."



Frank



I'm sure y'all guessed that it was something from Industria Mechanika. Yep, the Dragonfly. I'd never seen it before, but it captured my interest immediately. So, what does the kit look like? How does it assemble? Any pitfalls? Well, here goes.

It is molded in beautiful gray resin (odorless, by the way), and contains four large photo etch sheets, clear acetate for wings and windscreen and two beautiful crystal clear eyes. There is a figure (the pilot) that sets the scale at 1/35th.



The kit also contains a single sheet of instructions with one side devoted to a silhouette and the other to a blow up assembly drawing with some notes. The sheet is a pseudo parchment and is rolled tightly. This makes it imperative to either tape it down to your work surface or have someone stand in front of your work bench and hold it open for you, whichever is the easiest! I chose the tape method to promote domestic tranquility.

The first thing one will notice is the necessity of figuring out how to display this thing. It can't stand on its own six feet so some way of situating it into flying status is required. I thought it best to have it taking off from its base of operation. I drilled a hole in the back of the "motor" section and inserted a 1/16 inch steel rod bent at 90 degrees.

I then washed and dried all the resin, removed all pour plugs, smoothed these areas and separated the parts into their subassembly sections. All small photo etch parts were formed according to the drawings and glued into their



appropriate spots. At this point, the legs were assembled into the positions that I wanted for a Dragonfly just taking off. Again, CA glue did the trick. Five minute epoxy could also be used, if desired. Now, I had to decide on colors for a Steampunk Dragonfly controlled by a human sitting in its tail.

When I think of Steampunk, Victorian England or the Wild West come to mind. I went with the Brits this time because it wouldn't be armed, I decided on making it a recon beast.



To me, Steampunk says Iron, Steel and Brass (it might say something entirely different to someone else) so those are the colors I chose. I used Alclad exclusively over Tamiya gloss black lacquer. The motor section and legs got the Dark Iron treatment with brass bolt heads and rivets. The fuselage was also painted

Brass



PC10 is a Royal Flying Corps (RFC) color which is sort of brownish-green. The carapace or armor covering the front of

the motor was given a coat of dark red Tamiya acrylic. I selected Royal Naval Air Service decals left over from a Wing Nut Wings Sopwith Pup kit.

Next up are the head and eyes. The head gets its paint and was glued to the carapace. The eyes are three pieces each – a photo etch compound eye base, a crystal clear half round acrylic ball, and a photo etch

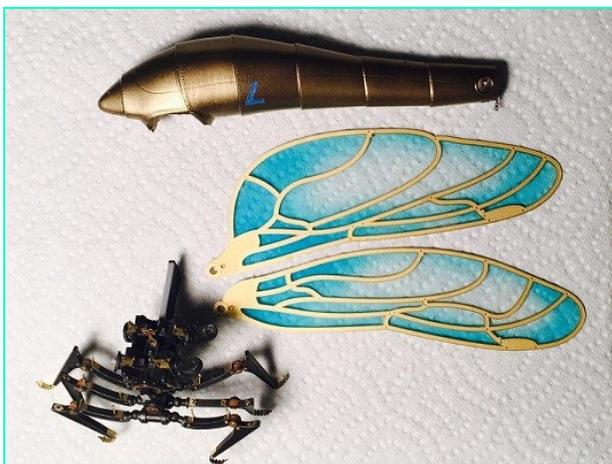
ring to secure the eyeball in place. I sprayed a heavy coat of Tamiya clear blue on each compound eye and immediately wiped it off leaving the blue only in the recesses. I then assembled, according to the drawing.

The wing parts were then prepared for assembly. Each of the four wings are constructed of two photo etch "frames" capturing a die cut clear acetate "membrane."



After the normal photo etch clean up, I scuffed up the mating surfaces. I used canopy fixing glue which dries clear and is a surprisingly strong bond for assembly.

Oh, yeah, I also misted Alclad transparent green/blue mixture onto what would be the underside of the acetate "membranes." Once the parts are lined up and glued, clamp the perimeter of the photo etch parts together and let sit for a couple of days.



While those parts were drying, I plumbed the motor/legs actuation system with the supplied wires. I then glued the head/carapace, motor and fuselage together.

Well, at this point there was nothing for it but to figure out the diorama base.



Rudy at King's Hobby Shop had brought a piece of driftwood from Hawaii for me to use in the scene, so it was the center piece of the base.

As dragonflies like to hang around water, I needed a shoreline scene.

I used some foam board to create the land portion, found some appropriate sized stones, sifted dirt to a fine degree (all from the garden) and purchased some dried grasses and lichen from a crafts store and began the layout.



I recalled that cattails grew along the streams and ponds where I grew up and thought that they'd work well for this diorama. After some rumination, I came up with a method to construct some reasonable facsimiles. I used the hard pointy swabs from Tamiya. I first cut them to appropriate lengths of my liking and then roughed the swab portion with an X-Acto blade. A suitable fuzziness was achieved. For the leaves, I took a sheet of 5 thousandths ply styrene and cut out appropriate shapes which were then glued to the shafts. After drying, they got some brown and green color applied.



The ground work was applied to the foam. Weeds, cattails, rocks, and the driftwood were then mounted and the water area was painted. I then wondered about how to make the water and what to do about a ground crew.

I tried a water effects system from a model railroad scenery company and thoroughly messed it up and had to subsequently remove it. Of course, that took up the painted areas! I repainted and then used a crystal clear polyester resin from a craft store that was easy to apply and looks good. Ahhhhh. Happy again.

I ordered the ground crew from Industria Mechanika because they were 1/35th and looked just perfect for the silly atmosphere that I was attempting to portray.



They reminded me of an old animated feature called "Wizards." They are multi-part resin characters with leather frocks, suitable detail, and assemble easily.



The Dragonfly was mounted and the ground crew settled in. Once I was satisfied with all of that, I mounted the wings. Something else was needed, Oh, yeah! The recon camera. I bent some brass rod into a "holster" and placed it on the starboard side for easy access to the shutter.

Well, that's about it. Fun, relatively easy to construct and certainly a break from building a model that the experts can nit pick. If you are comfortable using CA glues, go for it!

Oh yeah, I found that the Hornethopter is available again, so there is now one on the to do shelf.

Dave

[All photos courtesy of Dave Edgerly.]



### IPMS/USA News

To all IPMS/USA members, an important election for national officers is still on going. There are two candidates vying for president: Ron Bell and Bruce Drummond.

Their biographies and mission statements are included in the May + June issue of the IPMS/USA Journal along with your ballot. Be sure to read their respective narratives carefully and then vote for the candidate of your choice. You may also cast your ballot online.

**Voting deadline is August 31.**

To really keep abreast of events in your club, go to the news and events page on the IPMS/USA website and read the minutes from the executive board meetings.

<http://www.ipmsusa.org/whatsnew.shtml>

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

The IPMS/USA National 2015 convention is over and done with, except for the models. The IPMS/USA website has a complete photo gallery of all the models that were on display (over 2,700 entries from 800+ attendees), as well as a complete list of winners. The format is a little bit hard to follow but just bear with it and you can see who won what.

The 2016 IPMS/USA convention will be held in Columbia, South Carolina and the site for the 2017 convention is slated to be in Omaha, Nebraska.

<http://www.ipmsusa3.org/gallery/v/events/NATS2015/>

Mike Lamm sent in this next entry and I would advise having a cold drink and a sandwich in hand before you begin.



The more senior members will recall Movietone news. These newsreels were shown in movie theatres prior to the main feature and were one of the principle

methods for the mass distribution of information back in the day.

Produced by British Movietone and featuring the narration of Loi Thomas there are over 560 thousand of them. Remember to come up for air.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DijG692IQOY>

Avid readers of the Sprue Examiner will recall last month's feature article on Farnborough 2014. Dennis Price had some excellent aircraft photos as well as some insightful commentary. Something that Dennis mentioned was that commercial orders for passenger aircraft seem to be diminishing.

With that in mind, commercial manufacturers are branching out into privately owned aircraft, utilizing existing commercial designs. A case in point is this tricked-out Boeing 747 sent in by friend of the newsletter, Milton Bell. Pilot and crew not included.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/boeing-747-8-vip-private-jet-2015-3>

From the PBS Newshour comes the following: "To make the history of World War II more vivid and meaningful, teams of students and teachers are tracing the footsteps of those who served and died during the invasion of Normandy. Participants from the Albert H. Small Student & Teacher Institute spend months doing intensive research on a single "silent hero," before offering a personalized graveside eulogy in conjunction with the National History Day's Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom program.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/teachers-students-retrace-lives-died-normandy/>

It happened upon Box Art Den while searching for something else. Can you imagine?

Box Art Den contains loads of vintage model kit memorabilia for your viewing pleasure. Everything from vintage kits and box art to magazine articles, the Classic kits series originally published in Fine Scale Modeler plus Topps Gum collector cards. For the unaware, this was a series of bubble gum cards put out by Topps. They get extra points just for the name...Topps Gum!

<http://boxartden.com/>

Our pals at Lone Star Military Miniatures Society have a Facebook page. Lone Star Military Miniatures have monthly meetings that are held on the second Saturday of each month at the public library in San Marcos, Texas. With members from both the Austin and San Antonio areas, this centralized location makes perfect sense.



The group has classes on figure painting and techniques for both advanced as well as the more figure painting-challenged among us, myself included. Check the Facebook page for updates on meetings and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/LSMMSTX>

Jean-Michel



## Nuevo Para Mí by Cesar Herdez

I came across Tiger Models Limited ([www.tiger-model.com](http://www.tiger-model.com)) whilst surfing the new release section of a familiar online retailer situated in the mysterious orient.



This really is a new company opening in 2013 and located in a suburb of Hong Kong. Tiger Models' initial releases are "famous on shore weapon and accessory equipments."

These include an M1A2 SEP Tusk II in 1/72nd scale, and two French offerings: an AMX 10 RCR and a Panhard VBL. Both of these kits are in 1/35th scale. All three releases include a bonus kit of a "cute plane." More on that later.



Comprising 150 parts in a soft plastic, the M1A2 release also includes a small fret of photo etch for the turret

baskets and friend or foe panels as well as some clear plastic bits for the various vision blocks and ballistic glass common to the urbanized version of the M1.



For those that regularly build armor kits in this scale, the quality of the moldings is not on par with, say Dragon Models.

Tiger Models has adopted Tamiya's assembly instruction format. The assembly instructions do include Tamiya paint color references. If you are of the conspiratorial nature you might suspect that Tiger Models might be affiliated with Tamiya, but that's only if you're one of those people. However, in those people's defense, the parts are molded in light tan plastic,

reminiscent of that company. Or perhaps, it is simply that in the mysterious Orient no one really cares that much about intellectual property.



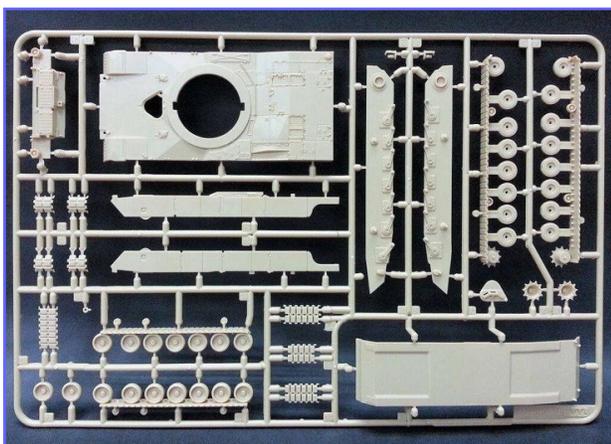
The quality of the moldings are more than sufficient for the discerning builder and are very much in line, quality-wise, with what you might expect to see with a Trumpeter 1/72nd scale armor kit.



The company is producing kits that are "simple in model assembly and exhibits the relevant details". Making them "convenient to establish a massive model military team." (Don't you just love mechanical language translations)? But you get the point. These kits have some simplified components that will aid in getting the model built in a relatively short time.

In the case of the M1A2 kit, which retails for \$16.99 USD, the "relevant details" amount to including the separate halves of the road wheels and corresponding track runs (upper and lower) as one piece. While a purist may balk at the very idea of not including all the separate bits that make up the running gear, the missing detail is going to be hidden behind sand skirts and reactive armor panels anyway. So, why bother?

The tracks are of the length and link type comprising four extra bits that mate up with the aforementioned upper and lower track runs. Being one that doesn't



really care for length and link tracks, for now, I'm liking this feature. The kit includes all the bits and extras that are associated with the SEP TUSK II upgrades for the M1A2: the commander and loader armored gun shields, the underbelly armor plate, the reactive armor panels as well as the distinctive antenna appropriate for this vehicle.

The one thing that I would fault Tiger Models for is the lack of any markings in my example. Aside from that one rather glaring omission this kit looks to build into a nice representation of the M1A2 SEP Tusk II. Tiger Models is slated to release some other kits based on the M1 chassis as well as 1/350th scale and 1/700th scale ship models. Additionally, Tiger models hopes to include 1/16th and 1/24th scale armor in the not too distant future. Kinda depends on whether or not you buy enough cute planes, I suppose.

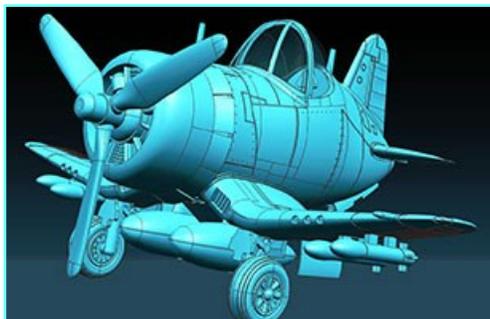
Now about that cute plane. Think egg plane but with a more caricaturist feel. These kits are included as a free bonus kit in all three releases and will either be a Bf109, Ki-28 or an F4U Corsair. Potluck, I'm afraid. I suspect that Tiger Models will market these kits separately but they are not available at the moment.



The cute plane Corsair comprises 41 separate parts molded in two colors: blue for the airframe and black for the engine, tires and prop. A two-part clear canopy is also included. The kit includes some bits for the cockpit that could be embellished if you so choose. Assemble looks to be pretty straightforward as this is a press and fit (snap-tite) kit.

A few other features are underbelly fuel tanks, wing mounted rockets and folding wings. This thing just gets cuter and cuter.

An option is the inclusion of either water slide decals or press-on stickers.



The kits are listed as 1/72nd scale but that just might be a stretch. Unless, of course, the 1/72nd scale pilots body-type is more akin to a marshmallow. But the inclusion of two types of markings for the cute plane series kinda begs the question: Where is just one set of markings for the M1A2 kit?

Cesar



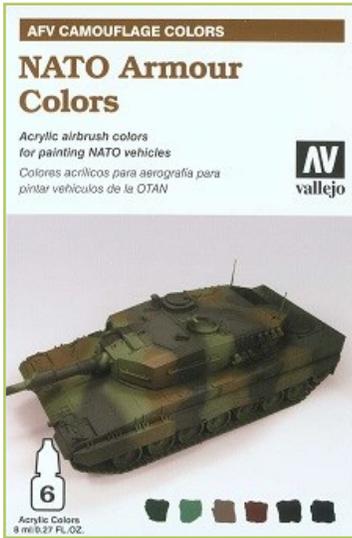
**WANTED!**

**Newsletter Articles  
Any Size, Shape or Subject**

Send all submissions to: [editor@austinsms.org](mailto:editor@austinsms.org)

## Vallejo NATO Armour Colors by Rick Herrington

There have been quite a few sets of dedicated paints designed for armour vehicles being re-released these days.



The purpose of the sets is to give you everything you need to paint a vehicle in a modulated manner.

What I mean by modulated is that the model will be painted with a base coat and then lightened where the sunlight would fade the color. This set is Vallejo's NATO Armour Colors. The colors are acrylic and flat. Clean up is with water.

The set consist of six colors.

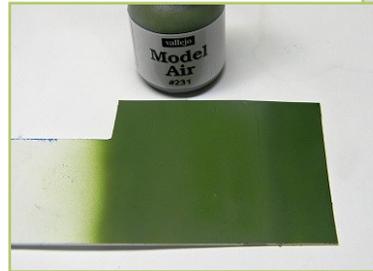
- #612 NATO Green - overall base color
- #231 NATO Green light - green highlight/panel fading color
- #249 NATO Brown - base brown camouflage color
- #040 Burnt Umber - highlight brown camouflage color
- #251 NATO Black - base black camouflage color.
- #054 Dark Grey Blue - highlight black camouflage color.

On the back of the box is a set of instructions on how to use the paints.

The example shown is a Leopard 2A4, but the set will work for M1's, Hummers, anything in NATO three-tone camouflage.

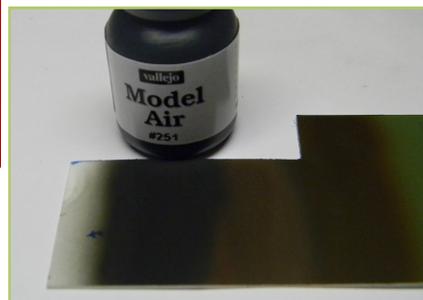
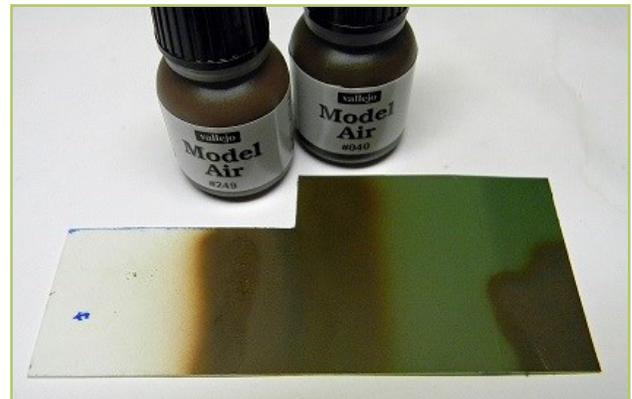


This is the overall base color #612 NATO Green.



This is the green highlight color #231.

These are the two brown camouflage colors. I used #040 as the base color and #249 as the highlight color. The box recommends the reverse order. Over to the right hand corner, I sprayed a patch of the browns over the greens.

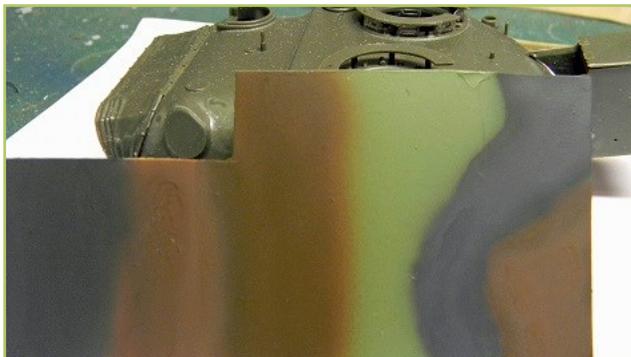


Base NATO black color #251.



Black highlight color #054 dark grey blue.

Here are the three colors together. For \$15.95, you get enough product to paint one, possibly two 1/35th scale models.



I recommend this set to you modelers that do modern armor. It's not messy. There are no fumes as with enamel or lacquer base paints, and clean-up is with water.

Rick



### IPMS/USA 2014 Achievement Awards

The IPMS/USA National Convention has concluded with some people taking home their trophies and loads of others, goodies from the vendors. What you may be unaware of is that IPMS/USA also acknowledges chapters and individuals with achievement awards. These special awards are in the area of Chapter, Webmaster, Regional Coordinator and Newsletter of the Year.

The Chapter of the Year honors went to the Albuquerque Scale Modeler's. Webmaster of the Year was won by Chris Bumgardner. The Regional Coordinator of the Year was awarded to Kelly Quirk from Region 5. Newsletter of the Year honors went to Ben Morton with Austin Scale Modeler's Society.



Congratulations, all!



### Monthly Program Schedule

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| August    | General Wisian<br>Texas Air<br>National Guard                       |
| September | Quarterly<br>Contest<br>[Bondo Special+<br>any subject/<br>any era] |
| October   | Rick Herrington   |
| November  | Bob<br>Bethea   |
| December  | White Elephant<br>Contest   |

If you are interested in giving a presentation at one of our monthly club meetings please contact Aaron Smischney.

[vicepresident@austinsms.org](mailto:vicepresident@austinsms.org)

**Note:** The September contest will feature a Bondo Special and an open segment. The Bondo Special is any kit received from the estate of Phil Brandt. The open category is any subject/any era.



A special thanks to King's Hobby Shop for their monetary support of our quarterly model contests

## The Overdone Subject by Rick Cotton

I was having a great deal of fun out in the shop the other day. That's not news, of course...working in the shop is nothing like working at the job.

But I was making good progress on a 1/32 Hasegawa KI-61 Tony, fitting and gluing, painting and sanding away to my heart's content, when I noticed a tiny note there in the instructions (yes, I DO read them) about a little gizmo on the bottom of the plane....apparently, if you are doing paint schemes 1 and 2 in the instructions, the gizmo goes on...if not, it doesn't.

So, I turn to the back of the sheet, and peruse the three schemes available in this release for the Kawasaki KI-61. And yes, of course, there it is: Major Teruhiko Kobayashi, 244th Sentai.

A lovely bird, to be sure. Natural metal with green camo splotches, a red tail, stripes, and the yellow ID bands on the front of the wing. Yes, you've seen it. A million times. Just about every time there is a KI-61 at a show, it's this one. Flashy? Yes. Interesting? Yes. A challenge to do? Yes. Overdone? YES!

There are some subjects that are, simply put, overdone, and need to be retired. We've ALREADY SEEN THEM. Kobayashi's Hien, George Preddy's P-51, Nowotny's 190's...all of them...Boyington or Kepford's Corsair. Sakai's Zero.

It isn't that they are not interesting. They are. It's just that we've seen them all a million times! Remember when the movie Titanic first came out, and everyone was talking about that "beautiful theme song?"

34,567 playings later (two weeks on the radio), people are putting Mafia contracts out on Celine Dion's life. They NEVER WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN!!! Strains of that song will cause my otherwise peaceful wife to beat the radio with a shoe.

OK, it isn't really that bad in the model world. If you want to do the same, well-known subjects that get issued over and over and over again by both model companies and the decal aftermarket people ad nauseum, well, go for it. Do another well-known P-51. Do another gray F-16. It's your world. Zzzzzzzzzzzzz.

My weird world is a little different. So am I, but that should be obvious to my readership. Now and then, I like to peruse the net for pictures of lesser-known subjects, and try to recreate them instead.

This can be a bit of a break from the creative cage of what's been issued by the decal makers, and can in fact, be a fun challenge to match a photo with what's available and what's in the decal spares box.



It might force you to expand your skills and actually paint some of the markings...whoa! It can also set up a diorama idea, as the photos invariably show the beast in its natural element, and if that element was the losing side, often the beast is in some state of disrepair and disassembly!

Ooo, guts! Plumbing! Engines falling off or hatches popped. Flat tires and gear askew! Bits and pieces strewn every which where! All it needs is a figure or two, and viola!

Those of us who can never seem to get our landing gear on straight might just luck out here. Often, the 1/48th category can be split along lines such as "More Me 109s and everything else." Doing a 109? It had best be something that STANDS OUT. Something they haven't seen before.

And there is one more benefit from this approach. It also protects you from a nefarious personality who lurks in the shadows at the model show...a guy I have spoken of before...The Rivet Counter, or, as he was known on the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show, Mr. Know-It-All.

The Rivet Counter knows his subjects. He knows what each and every one should look like, in his judging opinion. He knows which aftermarket decal manufacturers got it right, and which ones screwed the pooch, so to speak, and royally blew it. (Scary thing is, he's often right). Rivet Counter knows everything there is to know about Preddy, Nowotny, Tuck, and Sakai, and everyone else's airplanes. That is...except for yours.

He'll scratch his head and never quite figure it out what to do with that KI-61. It isn't Kobayashi's. That P-47 will have him stumped...he's never seen it before. He will be forced to look at the photo you have so thoughtfully provided and placed next to the entry. Usually, it's a grainy black and white photo, so if he mentions colors, his fellow judges can smack him over the head with their

Death Rays.



He will then know he has been judging-neutered, so to speak. Judging becomes a little less dominated by Rivet Counter, and that's a good thing, Martha. The other guys may actually get a word in edgewise during the category placement discussion.

So, try it. Build Kobayashi's wing man, Lt....uh... something or other. Or Boyington's exec's airplane, or some interesting but slightly wrecked anonymous bird. How about a beat up, war-weary squadron hack? Let's see something different. You never know, it might be fun!



"and here LIVE to sing the theme from Titanic is Celine Dion! HEY! OFF THE STAGE, YOU! SECURITY! SECURITY!!!!"

Rick



## It's Not A Toy by Ron McCracken

I recently acquired a Micromark vacuum-forming machine to replace the cardboard box and vacuum cleaner tooling I'd been struggling with over the years. At \$150 this isn't cheap, but after using it I'm left wondering why I didn't buy it a long time ago.

With a base diameter of about 8 inches, and about a foot in height, it is a substantial piece of equipment that incorporates both the heating element and vacuum pump. It features mostly metal construction and looks like it could last for decades at the rate I need vacuum forming.



Two rocker switches control the heating element and the vacuum pump. The plastic sheet to be formed clamps into a square two-layer frame. Then you turn on the heating element. I found that .015 inch clear plastic took about a minute and a half to heat to forming temperature. Once heated, a large lever on the side of the machine lowers the frame and plastic over the pattern, at which point you turn on the vacuum.

And, a serious vacuum it is, drawing the heated plastic into every nook and cranny of the pattern. A word of advice – make sure your pattern is perfectly clean, even a spec of lint will leave an impression when using this machine. I found it to work equally well with both plug and cavity patterns.

The machine has a 5 x 5 " capacity, a bit large for canopy forming in 1/72 scale. But I quickly figured out how to use smaller pieces of plastic stock.

I cut a piece of thin card stock (model kit box, actually) to fit the clamping frame, cut a smaller hole in the center of the cardboard, then taped a piece of plastic stock over the hole. Then the cardboard is clamped in the frame, alignment checked, and the molding process

begun. It worked quite well.

Ron



## To Base, Or Not To Base... by Bob Bethea

When modelers finish one of their latest projects, they have the additional issue of how to display their handiwork.

Most enjoy the process of building, painting and weathering their airplane, tank or car to generate a "perfect" replica of the real thing. Then they set it on their shelf, or bring it to a contest and place it on the table for viewing and judging.

One problem is that without context, it can look like a well finished toy. It can also sustain damage from handling, transport, and by other modelers and judges. However, in my opinion, we can put the piece "in context" on a base and solve both problems.

By using a base, we can generate a "handle" by which folks can safely pick up your beauty and observe all of its painstaking details without damaging it.



Reproducing the natural environment from which the model was taken is an art unto itself. Think of it as completing the picture. This is the background in the portrait of your tank, plane or car. It can tell the story of where the item is from and why it is painted and weathered as it is. It sets the mood and tone for observing the model as a true representation of the real item. Thus depicting a true slice of history.



A nameplate can be attached to explain any anomalies and questions that the viewer may have about the subject. It won't take up

much more space than the model itself, and it is a lot more interesting for the casual and expert viewer.

Some guidelines to follow when creating a base are:

- Always secure the model to the base with pins and glue to avoid it coming off at inopportune times.
- Always use the smallest base possible, albeit not so small that the model hangs off it. It focuses the viewer on the model and keeps the groundwork as a supporting rather than major character.
- Always use groundwork typical of the where the original item would have been found, (ie; tarmac for a plane, desert for a tank, parking lot for a car).
- Always use the same weathering techniques and paints for the base as you used on the model, so they blend seamlessly and make the scene more realistic.
- Add small details of interest for the viewer to find (ie; a rusty oil drum in the desert for a tank, wheel chocks with ropes for the plane, or a tool box for a car).
- Build, paint and weather all accessories to the same standard as your model. It adds to the cohesion of the scene.
- Ground work should be in scale and typical of the environment in which your model is set.

Once you get good at painting figures, add a few to add life, tell a story and show scale. However, a poorly painted figure should be left at home as it can detract from a nicely painted model.



Always use a nicely finished base...wood or otherwise. It adds to the professionalism of your display.

Remember, you wouldn't staple your Rembrandt to your wall, would you?

Bob



## Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

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

### Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

In 1/700th scale from Tamiya comes a couple of re-releases: the IJN DD Hatsuyuki and the Royal Navy's BB Nelson.

Dragon is releasing the USS Lake Erie CG-70, a Guided Missile Destroyer.



Pit Road has three IJN ships available soon. They are the DD Shirayuki with new equipment/parts, Cruiser Kitakami (5 torpedo tube launchers), and DD Shimakaze (Final Version with photo etch).

Aoshima has the HMS Ark Royal carrier, 1939 version.

Fujimi is showing two ships, both of the IJN. The Heavy Cruiser Chokai DX and Destroyers Yukikaze/Hamakaze (two ships in kit).

For 1/350th scale fans several offerings will be available soon.

From Hasegawa is the IJN Mikasa (1905 Battle of Tsushima version). This was Admiral To-go's flagship.



Trumpeter's recently released USS Texas is now in at King's Hobby Shop. The kit looks to be pretty complete as it includes a sheet of photo etch with railings and everything. There aren't any metal barrels included with the kit but for those that want to upgrade, those barrels are available for purchase.

And now for a few different releases in 1/350th scale. Aoshima has the IJN I-401 Japanese attack submarine with super gravity gun. This kit is from the anime



feature *Arpeggio of Blue Steel-Ars Nova*. The kit comes with decals and a display stand.

Moebius has a new Seaview from the TV series *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. This is the four window Seaview that appeared in seasons two through four and is a mere 14 inches long. The kit comes with a

retro-styled base. There is a kit review on the IPMS/USA website.



In 1/200th scale we have two releases from Trumpeter: the Royal Navy BB HMS Rodney and the BB HMS Hood. Yes, finally a Hood in 1/200th scale! This will be a hot seller. I do hope they do a decent job on the kit.

KA Models has an update set for those with the USS Missouri kit. The set includes a wooden deck, pre-painted photo-etch, anchor chain and 31 resin parts for about \$242.00. If you can afford the kit, you can probably afford

to sink more cash into this upgrade kit.

That's it for this month. Grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Rick



## Automotive

**G**reetings, race fans and rolling iron aficionados! There are several new items and interesting re-pops I want to share this month so let's fire up the engine and find a gear!

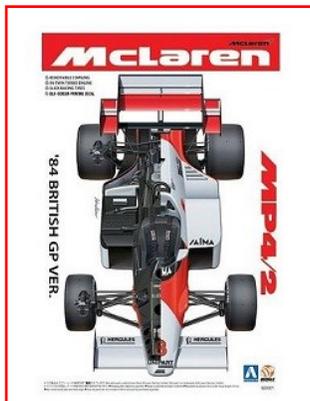
Aoshima has issued a new variant in their 1/24th Countach lineup. This time it's the fuel injected five liter four-valve (quattrovalvole)



that Chrysler developed during their ownership of the marque. We purists will always proclaim the original LP400 cars to be the prettiest, but this is undeniably the fastest, best performing version Lamborghini ever made. It even comes with a convenient carrying handle attached to the trunk lid.

The Aoshima Countach builds into a very nice model and while you may give up a few details, it's a much easier build than the Fujimi Enthusiast kit. Pick one up today for about \$30.

In 1984 the McLaren MP4/2, with it's reliable and fuel-efficient TAG/Porsche engine, dominated the F1 World Championship season. Alain Prost won seven Grand's Prix and Niki Lauda won five, making a total of twelve wins out of sixteen, amazingly using just three chassis.



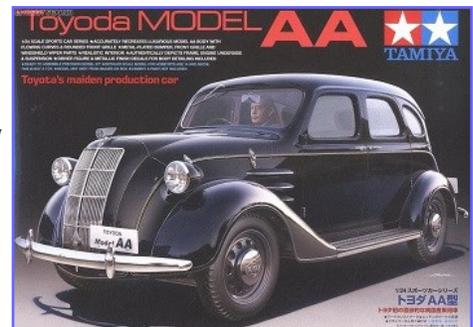
This new Aoshima 1/20th kit has the same detail you've come to expect from them for about \$35. They also offer a detail set with carbon decals, photo-etch and machined fittings for a

reasonable \$20.00, if you can find one. You'll have to source your own tobacco decals however as they are not included. Unfortunately, this car looks bare naked without them.

I often whine about plastic car kit manufacturers playing it safe by retooling/reissuing the same old subjects. Well, Tamiya picked something obscure this time around! I'd never heard of this car and had to look it up

on the internet. When Toyota was known as Toyoda in the '30s they bought a Chrysler Airflow and basically copied it to create the Model AA for their first production car. Apparently, Japanese buyers didn't like it any more than their American counterparts as only 1,500 had been built by 1943. Or, perhaps they were just distracted by other things back then.

In 1987, Toyota wanted to find one to restore for their 50th anniversary but came up short. Instead they made a single replica from drawings and that is the subject of this brand new release from Tamiya. It includes a complete interior and some chassis detail but no engine. A rather stiff looking Kiichiro Toyoda figure is also included. If you like cutting and hinging, the rear doors could open suicide style for a dramatic look. Own one today for around \$25.00.



If you guessed this next car is a Ferrari you'd be pretty close. Model Factory Hiro has reissued a limited run of their 1/20th scale 1951 World Championship winning Alfa Romeo 159 "Alfetta." This car dates back to the '30s when it was Enzo Ferrari's Alfa Romeo racing team that was outclassed and outspent by their German rivals and their truckloads of Nazi money.

The tale oft-told is that after the war when racing competition resumed, Alfa dragged their race cars out of their hiding place in the Turin sewers for an easy victory or two. But by the end of 1951 they knew the Aletta's compressor-aspirated straight eight was an evolutionary dead end, grabbed their F1 trophy and exited from racing for good.

The Alfa 159 represents the end of an era. Like most MFH issues, this kit is resin, white metal, photo-etch, and machined aluminum. If you want to own one act now because when they're gone, they're really gone this time.

At \$225, they aren't cheap but that's better than



the \$365 MSRP the first time around. Thank you Abenomics!

If you think owner/operators here in the US pimp their trucks this next model shows how Asian truckers do it. I'm told that over there the more outlandish a truck is, the better the service and the more prestigious it is to have one's freight hauled, or something like that.

Frankly, I think truckers just like shiny attention-getting bling around the world. Aoshima has just released this 1/32nd scale exact model of a real world Japanese dekotora

(decorated truck) that comes with all the decals and extra chrome parts to make this rolling symbol of conspicuous excess.



Own a cultural icon Donald Trump would be proud to drive for \$95.00.

Every person of a certain age remembers this car and it's twin brother, the Camaro Z-28. In 1979 I was a worldly 14 year old who thought this was surely the coolest car on the planet. It even came with a multicolored phoenix decal on the hood!



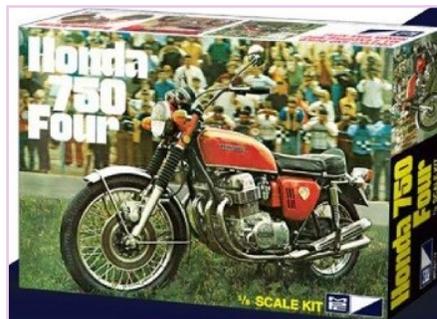
According to Round 2, this reissue features groovy '70s box art and Firebird (a.k.a. "flaming chicken") decals in red, black, and gold for more painting options than in past issues. It's out now for about \$20.00.

It's hard to overstate the significance the Honda CB750 had on the motorcycle world in 1968. At that time only the costliest, most exotic racing derived motorbikes like MV Agusta had four cylinders. Suddenly, the CB750 Four dropped from heaven in an affordable yet reliable package that outperformed anything on the road.

The MPC 1/8th scale kit is a bit of a classic itself drawing large sums on Ebay for complete, unbuilt examples. This issue which wisely retains the original box

art may just be the first reissue in 45 years! Though the tooling isn't as nice as the recently reissued 1/8th Heller version, the price is also less than half the other kit too.

Look for it soon at \$32.00 whenever fine vintage plastic is sold.



Well, that's all from automotive for now. I'll be back next month with some more surprises and reissued favorites to help you grow your stash of kits.

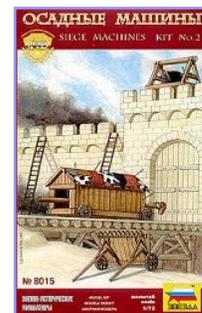
In the meantime, the ASMS Capitol Classic is only six weeks away (October 10). There's still time to pick your favorite kit from the ones you already have and start building.

Mike

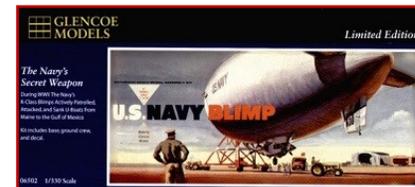


### Miscellaneous

Zvezda continues to add to their diverse line of products with a series of siege machine kits. In 1/72nd scale, set #2 includes a ramming machine, oil pot, and a barricade. Set #1 asks you to construct a catapult, some wheeled wooden shields, and a scorpion (bolt-shooting catapult).



The Glencoe molds were acquired some few days ago and select subjects are making



their way to a hobby shop shelf soon. Among them is the U.S. Navy Blimp with mooring system and the Albatros DIII.

AZ Models is releasing the de Havilland DH-82B float plane. This injected molded kit comes with markings for three versions.



For 1/72nd scale, resin aircraft fans is the Skarkit Bugatti 100P. The model contains a clear cast canopy.



You may be familiar with the US Navy's attempts in the 1950's to field a jet

powered flying boat with Martin's Seamaster. The Russian attempt at the same concept was the Beriev Be-10. This injected molded kit of the Mallow is in 1/144th scale and from A Model.



Rising Models has joined the ranks of kit manufacturers releasing combination kits. These are the ones that combine someone else's plastic parts, with new decals, photo etch, or resin bits into a single kit. (Think Eduard, Encore, or Scalemaster). This release is the Nakajima Ki-49 Oscar, early type. The kit parts are from Special Hobby with new decals, resin, and photo etch. They also have the final version of the Oscar with 20mm cannons. Both kits are in 1/72nd scale.



For those wishing for something a bit simpler comes First To Fight Models. These folks are from Poland and have a Vickers 6-ton Mk E with twin turrets. These are quick-build kits that come with a small

informational magazine.

If you wish to appease a motorcycle fan in your midst, why not get them the TIZ-AM 600 Soviet motorcycle kit from Am Fan Models. This is the Russian copy of the 1931 BSA Sloper 600. BSA later became Triumph Motorcycles. The 1/35th scale injected molded kit comes with a sidecar.



Kaizen Models from Hong Kong has entered the armor aftermarket crowd, this time with some T51 workable tracks for your latest Sherman tank project. These 1/35th scale replacement tracks come with injected molded links and brass rod for the track pins. The company also has track sets for German, Russian, and American WWII subjects.

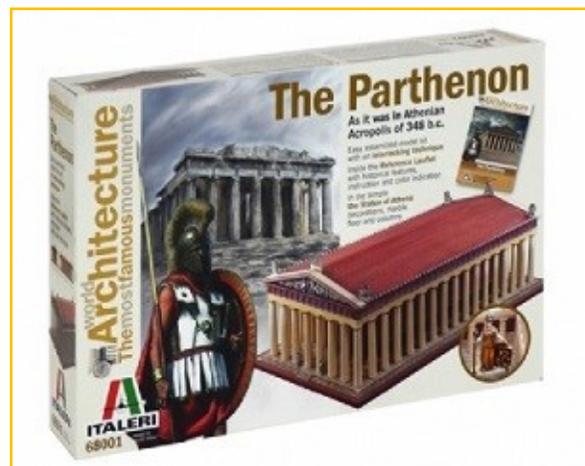
Here's something fun and also something I thought I'd never see: a 1/35th scale bomb crater. This 'kit' hails from Phoenix Models ([www.phoenix-models.com](http://www.phoenix-models.com)) which also has some modern diorama accessories in the form of T-walls and highway sections.

This next item threw me for a minute owing to its scale. In 1/56th scale, Italeri has an injected



molded M36/M10 tank destroyer. Turns out that 1/56th scale is the same as 28mm's and 28mm's is the 'official' scale for war gaming. Careful, these people may be taking over the world. Italeri also has a Tiger I, Stug III, Panzer III as well as a M8/M20.

For something complete different, World Architecture Models/Italeri has you covered. The Parthenon is an "easy assembly kit featuring an interlocking technique". The 15 x 29 cm kit comes with a statue of Athena, columns, and floor decorations for her temple. I could not find any information about a forthcoming kit for the Taj Mahal, however.



Bandai continues it's line of mobile fighting suits. This is the HG Graze 1/144th scale posable fighting suit used by the Gjallarhorn (bad guys) from the Gundam universe.



Circling back to Glencoe Models, we have another re-issue. This time the Thor ICBM kit. This all plastic 1/87th scale kit features a launch platform and new decals for both the U.S. and RAF.

Golzar



## Aircraft

So, August is here and there are only 130 days until Christmas. So, you'd better get your wish list together and let your friends and family know about it. Perhaps some of the things I list this month will make it on your list. Or, if you're like me, they will be in the stash before Santa even thinks about putting that red suit on. So, onwards!

First up is Airfix as they have some pretty nifty announcements for us this time. I want to start off with an announcement Airfix made just two days ago. In April of 2016, they will release a 1/48 Gloster Meteor F8.

This is the first jet to be released by them since their new-tool rebirth, and the first to get the LIDAR treatment. You can visit their workbench blog for all of the details: <http://www.airfix.com/uk-en/news/workbench/5641/> and for a neat run down of their design process.

Continuing their anniversary of the Battle of Britain, Airfix will be releasing a 1/48 Bolton-Paul Defiant Mk.I. This is a new-tool kit and is on the



calendar for February of 2016. I'm not sure of the included markings, but I bet there will be some BoB markings. (Wink, wink...)

Not to leave the smaller scale modelers out in the cold, Airfix is set to bring out a couple of Second World War favorites this year.

First, set to be released in September, is the 1/72 Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat which includes marking for Capt. Marion Carl of VMF-223.



According to Airfix, "the new model is due to appear in three different guises in the Airfix range – a medium starter set, complete with cement, paint and paint brushes; a 'Dogfight Double' set, complete with the newly tooled Nakajima B5N2 Kate in a classic Pacific air war duel; and finally as a stand-alone kit release."

After the release of the Wildcat, in December, the 1/72 Junkers Ju 87B-1 Sturzkampfflugzeug (or "You can call me 'Stuka' for short"—) will be released. This is also a new-tool kit and will include marking for two airframes. The first, keeping with the 75th anniversary of the BoB, is a Battle of Britain scheme, and the second is a set of markings from the Spanish Civil War.



Eduard has made a splash and set the great interweb abuzz. They have announced a line of new-tool 1/48 N.A. P-51

Mustangs. Many have come out of the woodwork with speculation on what variants will be included – I'd like to see all of the early stuff through the B/C models. Others have mentioned Eduard will be basically copying the Tamiya Mustangs. As Deion Sanders would say, "Come on, man..."

At the IPMS Nationals in Columbus this year, Zoukei-Mura brought along some special surprises for all to see. The most surprising was the 1/48 McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II. It will be interesting to see how the Z-M kit differs from the Hasegawa and recent Academy kits.

Both are decent kits with a couple of flaws here and there, but nothing for which I would kick them off my bench. Time will tell...

Zoukei-Mura also brought the 1/48 Horten Ho 229 to the show as well. If you didn't want the 1/32nd scale version, now you can get it's little brother. The kit displays the same detail and finesse as the larger version.

Kinetic has some sprue test shots on their Facebook page, and some updated box art, for their soon-to-be released

1/48 Sea Harrier FRS.1. They brought out the FA.2 last year to good reviews and I would expect this kit to do the same.



While scanning through their Facebook page, as I'm not a regular denizen of that universe, I also came across a post about their upcoming 2016 release of the F/A-18A Hornet in 1/48th scale. Perhaps they will do others in the Hornet/Super Hornet family?

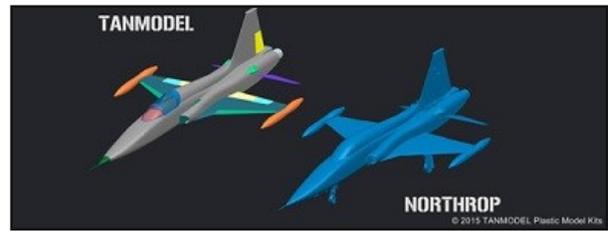
New kid on the block Freedom Model Kits has just released a 1/48 Northrop F-20A Tigershark. I had a chance to paw through the plastic recently at King's and the detail is nicely refined with recessed panel lines and decent detail in the cockpit and wheel wells. The kit provides two different noses and markings for the three prototypes. I don't know about the fit as I wasn't going to tear into the display kit at the Hobby Shop.



Last up in this month's kit roundup is TanModel's 1/48 Republic RF-84 Thunderflash. TanModel, out of Turkey, has quite a list of new projects listed on their website. The Thunderflash is scheduled to be released in

the Fall of this year, 2015.

What really caught my eye was their announcement that they have started 3D design work on a series of 1/32 Northrop F-5A, F-5B, and T-38 kits.



They are also in the design stage of a series of 1/32 R/F-4E kits as well. This is exciting stuff. I realize that design does not equal release, but I've always been a glass half-full kind of guy.

Well, that's it for this month. If I've missed announcing/discussing your favorite model, you can complain to our editor...

Until next month, go build a model!

Randy



### Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

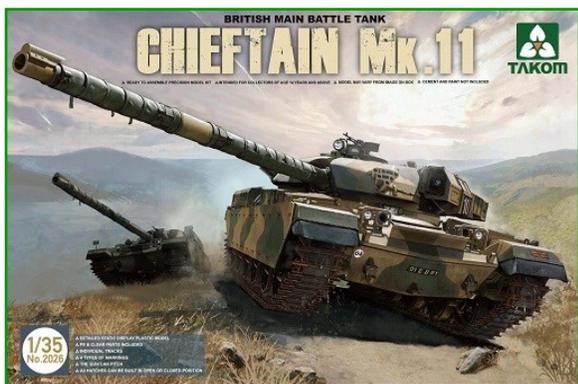
Things are really picking up! Just from checking in on future armor releases there's lots to go around.



Takom's new 1/35th scale Chieftains are getting closer to release. Takom has released the box art for each kit.



All look superb! Now you can build a Mk.5, Mk.10, or Mk.11.

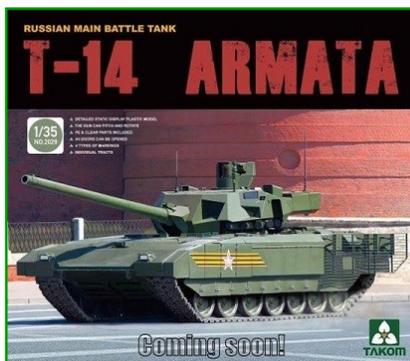


Takom also has a few new announcements, one of which is a variant of the 1/144th scale P1000 Rattle. This is a complete fabrication based on that earlier kit.

It is such a paper panzer that even the Germans didn't think of it. It looks neat and it comes with a flak Maus!



They have also decided to kit, in 1/35th scale, the brand new Russian T-14 Armata main battle tank.



Or, Project 148. This is as it was seen at a recent victory day parade in Russia.

The T-14 is the latest generation in Russian tank design and incorporates an unmanned turret.

Trumpeter and HobbyBoss have really been making some amazing choices for us armor folk.

Let's take a look at the latest from HobbyBoss, the French 4X4 Panhard VBL. Or, Véhicule Blindé Léger (light armored vehicle).



Or, what about a Russian artillery mover. Which looks suspiciously like a Brengun carrier.



And for something really different from Trumpeter is a Russian 1K17 Szhatie (U.S. code name: Stiletto) laser tank. It's real! The Russians developed two prototypes that used an intense laser beam to disable the optical-electronic equipment of enemy vehicles.



Those are the highlights, happy modeling!

Aaron



Support Your Local Hobby Shop



## ***Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA***

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

[http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms\\_application.pdf](http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms_application.pdf)

Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:

IPMS/USA  
Dept. H  
PO Box 2475  
N. Canton, OH 44720-0475

For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, M.J. Kinney, at [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org)

### ***In the latest Issue:***

#### ***IPMS/USA Journal May + June***



- IPMS Candidate Bios
- Quest Jet - Confirming the Buzz About Moebius' 1:288 Dragonfly, by Brad Hair
- Pasty Panzer - Adding Zimmerit to Tamiya's 1:48 Tiger I Late Production, by Mike Budzioka
- Pink Pony for a Granddaughter - Modeling a Carousel Horse from Moebius' Confederate Raider kit, by Paul Day
- Tiger Tamer - Getting Dragon's Sherman Vc Firefly in 1:35 Scale Ready to Land at Normandy, by Laramie Wright
- Divine Wind Warrior - Depicting a 14th-Century Samurai using Andrea's Bust Kit, by Chris Fontenot
- Relaxing Ray - Speeding Effortlessly Through Tamiya's 1:48 Scale F4D-1, by Bart Cusamano
- Nocturnal Knock-Out - Exploring the Details of Zoukei Mura's 1:32 He 219 - Part 1, by Doug Reed

**contact us**

**Austin Scale  
Modelers Society  
1228 W. San Antonio St.  
San Marcos, Texas  
78666**

**on the web**

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



**Next Meeting:  
August 20  
Austin Old Quarry Library  
7051 Village Center Drive  
Austin, Texas  
7PM to 8:45PM**



**Austin Scale Modeler's Society**  
presents



Saturday, October 10, 2015  
Austin, Texas  
Show Theme:

***FASTER THAN FAST!***

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