



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

April 2016

Valentines Day by Mike Lamm

This year, I found myself sitting at my work bench one Sunday morning, looking at a few of my works-in-progress, wondering which one I wanted to spend a few minutes fiddling with, before making some breakfast.

Suddenly, a thought occurred to me, it's Valentine's Day! What better way to spend Valentine's Day, than with the ones you love? So, I decided I was going to build a model*. My Valentine of choice would be Dragon's older boxing of the 1/72 MiG-15.

The kit looks simple enough, a couple sprues of grey styrene, one clear sprue, and a decal sheet with a host of options for 9 different planes. Unfortunately, the kit was picked up second, third, or maybe fourth-hand, and the decals are pretty yellowed and unusable. Oh well, I may have some spares available and I've never let accuracy get in the way before, so why start now?

[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.

www.austinsms.org



IPMS/USA 2014 Chapter Newsletter Of The Year

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Peanut Brittle

Randy Bumgardner

Hello everyone!

Welcome to April! Spring has sprung and the rain is heading our way in earnest. That means we get more time in the modeling shop to churn out those beauties – saving us from the dreaded specter of yard work. Our meeting this month is on Thursday, April 21st and I hope to see all of you there. Bring something to show, whether it's complete or in progress, and we'll have a good time as we always do.

It is with some sadness I have to report the passing of long-time ASMS member Pat Rourke. He passed away in his sleep last month. Pat wasn't afraid to tackle any kit, especially the lesser known subjects in the armor world. He also wasn't afraid to build other subject matter, including aircraft and automobiles.

He was always a fixture at our show, lending a hand, helping his ex-wife, Donna, with the concessions stand, and occasionally vending at the show. Pat's family will be hosting a memorial for him in May. Additional details will follow.

I wanted to remind everyone about the Procrastinators Contest. I hope all of the participants are making good progress on their projects, and having fun. I encourage everyone to bring them to the meeting on Thursday to show off how much fun they are having.



My project, the first F4H-1 prototype, is turning out to be a larger effort than anticipated. I am having to rework the resin conversion parts in addition to cutting up a perfectly good Tamiya kit. I'll bring it along to show everyone. Rest assure, there will be a complete build article when I'm done.

Recent events got me thinking about how members can contact each other. Whether it's in the event of an emergency or just for a social engagement. I propose we put together an email/phone contact list. The list is strictly voluntary. If you don't wish to participate, you don't have to participate. Only those that do will get a copy of the list. Of course, our esteemed editor will still have the master list and be capable of spamming everyone at will.

Finally, the Houston show, ModelMania 2016, is happening this next Saturday, April 23rd. The Houston club puts on a great show every year and this year looks to be on par with previous events. I've seen what the raffle table will hold and I'm seriously rethinking my plans to head up north.

I will be unable to attend this extravaganza as I will be somewhere on I-35 heading north towards Wisconsin. I encourage as many members as possible to go. Eric Choy will be assisting Donna, Pat's ex-wife, with a vendor's table selling Pat's collection of unbuilt kits. The proceeds will go to Pat's daughter Melissa and her college fund.

That's it for me for this month. Now, go build something!

Randy



Thinking this was one that could be finished in record time (small part count, simple decals, and a bare-metal finish), I decided to put that to the test.



The kit has a small part count, but that doesn't mean Dragon skipped out on the details. The cockpit, although miniscule, is pretty well appointed. The wheel wells provide some molded in details too. However, once sealed up, I'm not sure much will be visible other than the seat and that's pretty bare as far as details go. I took this picture to remember the view.



The kit goes together easily enough, with a decent fit, except for the nose cowling which is a little bigger than the actual fuselage. Still with the right amount of sanding, it all gets worked out without losing too much detail.

I'm pretty sure, between Milliput and fishing weights, I added more than enough to make sure it's not a tail-sitter. I just hope the front gear can take the weight.



Once it was sealed up, it was ready for a quick coat of primer. In this case, I used a Tamiya Gloss Black from a rattle can. A few areas needed to be addressed with some more light sanding, but nothing too terrible. After a coating of silver, I put the front gear to the test and it withstood the weight, and it's not a tail-sitter, so all is well in the world.



While the paint dried, I dug through my spare decals and found out I was sorely lacking in the Russian Cold War jet marking department. Being that I was under a self-imposed time limit to get it done as quickly as possible, I had to figure something out.

I tried the kit decals, but in addition to being yellowed, they practically dissolved when they touched water. So it was on to Plan B, the use of inaccurate decals. I had some red stars, and some proper Soviet numbering, but I'm not sure they ever appeared on MiG-15. However, like I said earlier, I'm not too much of a stickler for details.

So on they went. While the Microsol settled and dried, I took one last photo. And, there you have it! I

In less than 12 hours, my Valentine's Day project was complete.



Now go build a model, because Mother's Day is just around the corner!

Mike



*Disclaimer: I was only joking when I implied that I love model kits over other things, or people, such as my lovely wife, with whom I spent a nice Valentine's Day when I wasn't hunched over the model bench working on this kit.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com/>



<http://www.hillcountryhobby.com/index.html>



<http://www.hobbytown.com/>

ASMS Quarterly Contest Schedule



June 16



Procrastinator Contest

September 15



Bondo Special Contest

December 15



White Elephant Contest



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

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

For modelers of World War I era aircraft Wingnut Wings has to be considered one of the better kit manufacturers. Their kits are chock full of detail and are engineered to some pretty fine tolerances.

I have several in my stash and have yet to screw up my courage to actually begin construction. If you find yourself in a similar state, perhaps this stop motion video, submitted by Mike Lamm, will encourage you to get to building one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRh3P-QOLT0>

This item has been mentioned in other spaces, but like all good things, it bears repeating. Submitted by Dan Hickox, it chronicles the collection of over 30,000 die cast/ scale model cars by Dennis Erickson. Mr. Erickson amassed the collection over his lifetime. The house of cars was discovered when he donated his home to his church.

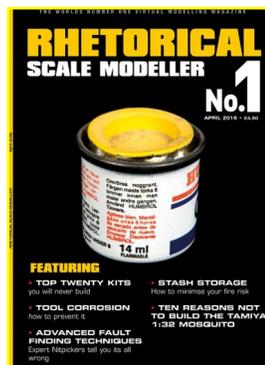
<http://www.wzzm13.com/mb/news/local/church-discovers-30000-cars-in-donated-house/93567073>

If you are among those that believe that you just can't have too many scale modeling magazines, you'll love this next item.

Submitted by friend of the newsletter, Chuck "Obiwan" Konefsky, this tidbit is meant to enlighten you about a new player in the world of scale modeling magazines.

Some of the articles in the April 1 issue of the new Rhetorical Scale Modeling are:

- Ten reasons not to build Tamiya's 1:32nd scale Mosquito
- Top twenty kits you'll never build
- Advanced fault finding techniques
- Tool Corrosion



The premier issue of Rhetorical Scale Modeler should be on the newsstands now. Provided, of course, you can actually find a newsstand.

www.rhetoricalscalemolder.org

Speaking of car collections, the Houston Museum of Fine Art has an exhibition that should please everyone. The exhibit, *Sculpted in Steel*, highlights fourteen Art Deco designed automobiles and motorcycles from 1929-1940 and runs through May 30th.



Not only will you get to see some amazing automotive art but your sweetie gets to go to a museum! For those that are unfamiliar with the terrain, Rice Village isn't that far away from the museum. Rice Village also has any number of dining options available and look honey...is that G&G Model Shop? What say we stop in? Do this outing right and you'll both win.

<http://www.mfah.org/exhibitions/sculpted-steel-art-deco-automobiles-and-motorcycle/>

Rick Herrington sent in this story about one man's obsession with our casual hobby. It highlights a 1/12th scale model of the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal. The working model is now on display in the alumni hall of the United States Naval Academy.

Road trip, anyone?

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a15698/perfect-replica-aircraft-supercarrier/>

Jean-Michel

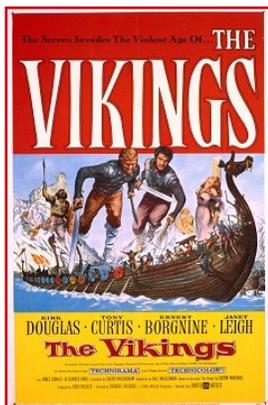


A Viking Tale by Rick Cotton

Because of a commission job, I am working on something I never thought I would ever build: a Revel Viking ship.

Not my area of knowledge, expertise, or even half-*ssed sort of read-through-a-book-about-them. Yes, I knew who the Vikings were a long time ago, through a combination of TV shows and a really bad Kirk Douglas movie. But they were never really the object of fascination with me that would lead me to want to construct a Viking long ship model.

I *do* know that they typically didn't carry the neat rows of colorful shields that are displayed up and down the sides of the vessel in the box art. That's ok, the customer likes them, so on they go.



I know they didn't have that huge, grimacing Viking painted on the sail. The customer even knew that. "That ain't right...let's not do that." But other than that, it looks sort of like the stuff I saw in the movie.



It is a nice change. Up until now, I have built so many Japanese ships that I find myself taking off my shoes before coming into the house, and then bowing formally to my wife. She is not impressed. She also hates the sushi I seem to crave now. Odd. But I digress.

This long ship scales out at about 70-80 feet long, but only a handful, less than ten feet, from top of railing to bottom of keel. That means this thing is basically an enormous canoe, but equipped with a deck and a sail, and that's about it. No creature comforts whatsoever.

Just how bad a bunch were these Scandinavian maniacs to sail this thing across the North Sea to raid England and France? How fearless did they have to really be? How bad were Norway and Sweden at the time to make them want to attempt such a crazy expedition?

How would *you* like to sail an oversized canoe across the Gulf of Mexico, under a relentless sun, exposed to rain, wind, and endless seagull poop, to disembark and raid, burn and pillage a retirement community or trailer park near St. Petersburg, Florida? Does that sound like fun to you?

I'm guessing Scandinavia wasn't too great a place to be in the Middle Ages for these guys to do what they did. Most of the Middle Ages were pretty lame everywhere, but it must have really stunk in Scandinavia.

Hmmm, the kit actually fits pretty well so far. The wood detail is not way overstated. The fake-looking vacuumform sail can be replaced by a nice paper-and-glue one that will look a lot more convincing. And all those cute little shields have colorful decals to go over them, so I do not have to paint them! Not bad!

But, what's missing? Something is definitely missing in this kit, and is greatly needed to bring the little beastie to life...*Ah! A crew!*

There are no Viking figures included in the kit. That's too bad. I can just see the little guys, all done up in their dirty tunics and pointy-headed helmets. Blonde beards and bulging muscles everywhere – these are Vikings, darn it, not accountants.

Eric the Red, Ulthar the Ferocious, Ragnarok the not-nearly-as-ferocious as Ulthar, and Dagmar the Really, Really Seasick. He'd be leaning over the rail "shouting for Ruth."

Eric would be waving his trusty battleax, and Ulthar would be swilling hooch and sharpening his broadsword on the quarterdeck. Now, that would be interesting!

But, alas, no fierce Nordic warriors are included. No figures of any kind. A pity. I could probably get some from somewhere, but that isn't in the cards. My customer has asked for the ship as it comes in the box, and that is what he will get, with the additional items of a better sail and a wooden base.

Paint, glue, paint, glue.

The hours pass pleasantly enough. And, I cannot help it but a song comes to mind. It is the Viking Birthday Song, popularized by members of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The SCA are the people who populate Renaissance Festivals with knights, ladies, court jesters, and the like. This song is sung, usually while drinking heavily, to a minor key, and punctuated by pounding the fist on the table between lines:

Happy Birthday! (Hrump!)
Happy Birthday! (Hrump!)
May the candles on your cake... burn like cities in your wake!
Happy Birthday! (Hrump!)

I'm *not* making that up! I have heard...and sung along with the SCA-types at many a birthday. They really do sing it, with many other verses as well. Some of those verses are way too graphic to be included here.

And this is running through my mind as I build.

Happy Birthday! (Hrump!)
Happy Birthday! (Hrump!)

If you'd like to sing along...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H8e-2TLgpA>

Like I said....it's a break from the usual stuff.

Rick



Fred's Fun Facts

On April 21, 753 BCE (before common era), Romulus founded Rome.

In 1836, Republic of Texas forces, under the command of Sam Houston, defeated troops loyal to Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. Happy San Jacinto Day!

[courtesy of Fred Horky and Wikipedia]



Newsletter Contest in Full Swing!

The ASMS Newsletter contest continues unabated. For the small cadre of folks that may be unaware of this contest, this is the one where you send stuff in for publication in our newsletter.

The individual that sends in the most stuff over the course of 2016 will have their 2017 ASMS club dues paid for by the newsletter staff

Stuff may include articles, websites, photos, odd but hilarious musings (Rick Cotton's essays), fun facts, etc.

Your submissions count whether published or not and you need not be present to win.

Please send all submissions to:
editor@austinsms.org

Trumpeter's RA-5C Vigilante by Ron McCracken

North American's A-5, or "Vigilante" was designed as a long range, supersonic nuclear strike aircraft, and was something of a technological marvel in its day. A large, twin-engine design, it featured a central weapons bay between the engines in the fuselage, and accommodations for a crew of two. Weapon deployment was originally to be accomplished by ejecting the weapon to the rear.



Eventually, a variant was developed for use as a photo reconnaissance platform, and that is the subject of the 1/72nd scale Trumpeter kit. It can be obtained for about \$20.00, if you watch for sales. And that is pretty reasonable, given the quality and sheer amount of plastic found in the box.

Two initial impressions occur upon opening the box. The first is man this is a big S.O.B.! The second is gee, look at all the rivets!

The kit has cleanly molded in light gray plastic, with fine recessed panel lines and rivet detail. However, there are mold lines in unexpected places, e.g., at the "corners" of the fuselage, that are very easy to overlook, so use care when doing the minimal amount of cleanup required. The wing assembly consists of port and starboard wings, with separate trailing edge flaps equipped to be assembled in the lowered position.

However, by cutting off the attachment tabs at the leading edge of each flap section, they may be assembled in the retracted position. This is fortunate because the leading edge flaps, which were mechanically interconnected with the trailing edge flaps on the aircraft (and as a result should also be lowered), are molded in the fully-retracted position.

The upper wing halves overlap the top of the fuselage, providing a secure mounting and ensuring proper alignment. I found I had to trim the aft edge just a bit to get them to fit tightly, but this was not an overly difficult matter to fix.

The vertical fin and stabilizers are another story, however. On the actual aircraft, these are "all-flying" units and the kit has single round pins on each unit while cement into holes in the fuselage. This allows easy attachment of these units in offset positions, but makes for a very weak joint.

Consequently, my recommendation is to paint and decal these parts before assembling them to the rest of the aircraft. Otherwise, you'll be re-attaching them at some point.

The cockpits are well detailed, with all instruments represented in high relief-hence easily dry-brushed in order to highlight the details. Each instrument panel has a backing piece, a photo film for instrument markings, and a clear plastic outer layer, perforated for each instrument. All the benefits of photo-etched panels, without the photo-etching.

The most extraordinary feature is the mounting provision for the cockpit assembly, which consists of tight-fitting slots into which substantial tabs are inserted. Similar slots and tabs are provided on each fuselage half, ensuring perfect alignment and guaranteeing that the cockpit assembly will not come adrift.



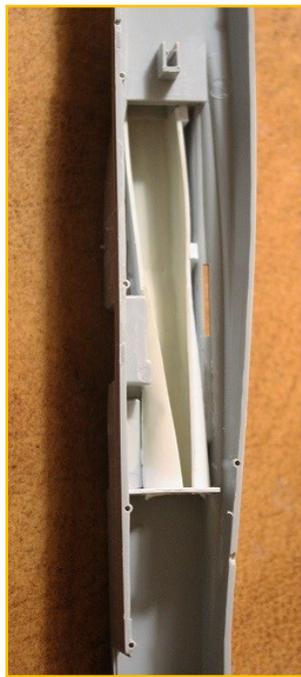
Compared to the rest of the cockpit, the ejection seats are disappointing, and could have included some representation of the seat belts and shoulder harness. *That* you will have to supply yourself.

The cockpit canopies come in three parts, a windshield, a pilot's canopy, and a weapons systems operator's canopy, making for easy display with the canopies either opened or closed.

Underwing stores include photo-flash pods, and two flavors of "special weapon," a.k.a. "nukes," for a total of six units. This is accurate as the RA-5C retained the full attack capability of the earlier variants (although to my knowledge it was never used in that role).

In order to mount the underwing stores, you must remember to open the holes in the underside of the wing prior to assembling the wing. Since nearly all photos I could find of this aircraft were in clean configuration, that's how I elected to build the kit.

Sometimes I wonder if manufacturers of jet aircraft model kits understand that at the rear of jet engine intake ducts you will find the front frame of a jet engine. Trumpeter joins the list of manufacturers who do not seem to know this, as they provided neither a representation of the full intake duct and engine, or a duct plug to hide the omission.



As kitted, the only thing preventing a "see-through" model is the enclosed exhaust nozzles. I chose to remedy this omission, which is where most of my assembly effort for this kit was invested.

The good news is that I now have a very nice silicone mold should I need J79 front frames for future projects.



The only serious difficulty in assembly is caused by another slight flaw in the kit's engineering. In several places, where butt joints should result in perfectly flush adjoining surfaces, there is nearly always a difference in level after assembly which must be reduced by file and sandpaper.

Aside from the intake ducting, this is the cause of most of the assembly effort required for this kit.

Decals are provided for two aircraft: an RA-5C of RVAH-3, and an RA-5C of RVAH-9. The painting guide provided in the kit instructions is a bit vague on some details, so I will mention that the entire vertical fin is painted white.



In summary, Trumpeter has released a state-of-the-art kit of an important subject. It builds up into a very nice model without extraordinary effort (unless you choose to do something serious about those jet intakes).

I would recommend it to anyone interested in U.S. Navy aircraft of the period.

Ron



**Columbia 2016
IPMS/USA National Convention**

EVERY MODEL TELLS A STORY

COLUMBIA 2016
THE IPMS/USA NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER • COLUMBIA, SC • AUGUST 3-6, 2016
Presented by IPMS/USA Carolina Seaplane Modelers and IPMS/Piedmont Scale Modelers
IPMSUSA2016.COM

The 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention will be held in Columbia, South Carolina August 3-6, 2016.

More information is available at:
<http://www.ipmsusa2016.com/>

Registration is now open.

Pat Rourke: A Brother Of The Bond

Several weeks ago we all received the news that Pat Rourke had passed away in his sleep. To say that this was a shock is an understatement. Pat was a relatively young man.



[Pat's Facebook photo]

Rick Herrington remembers "Pat was a great, great modeler. He had an eye for detail and construction that couldn't be beat. He was friendly and smiled a great deal. He loved his daughter. He will be missed."

Milton Bell commented that he "can't remember exactly when I first met Pat Rourke. I have some old records of ASMS membership that show he was a member in 1998 but I'm



sure it goes further back than that. I remember that (at that time) he worked for a company delivering gas cylinders. Moving these around all day meant that you were in good physical condition. Pat was, as my grandfather would say, a 'stout young man.'

Bell added "some years ago, ASMS had a display case which we moved around town where we could display models and let folks know about the club. Pat was usually on hand to help move the heavy case."



One spot we had to display was in the Capitol Building and I think the display theme had to do with the Texas Navy. Pat was involved in that.

Pat was essentially a builder of armor subjects or just about anything in 1/35 scale. He was diversified however, and built some prize-winning 1/48 aircraft models.

Bell reminisced about "a Christmas Party at my house way back when Melissa was a baby, and he brought her to the party in a stroller.



He was a devoted father and was very proud of his daughter. Heaven help the man who might mistreat Melissa!"

In the past several years Pat had been unable to attend our monthly meetings and "I saw Pat less and less. When we met, he always had something to say about how well Melissa was doing. Like most of his modeling friends, I was totally shocked to hear of his passing. The hobby has lost a good example and we have lost a good friend and club member."

Bob King had "known Pat for many years." He added that "in many ways, he was a special person to visit with about modeling. He was always open to new ideas. He developed many techniques for modeling armor and aircraft, and he was able to share his ideas in a very affable and modest manner. As many of us know, he was an excellent modeler. I very much enjoyed his success at modelling events. He was a fine fellow, and I will miss him. Alice and I also knew his wife and daughter since they visited King's Hobby with Pat. Their loss is heartfelt as well."



Adieu, mon frère.

[Examples of Pat's modeling building prowess is available at: <http://www.austinsms.org/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=10>]

Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

The first of four quarterly model contests was the focus of the ASMS monthly meeting in March. Not only was the coveted Model O' The Month honor up for grabs but, owing to it also coinciding with our quarterly contest, there was some money on the table. It has been our wont to award cash prizes during our quarterly contest for first second and third. This money is in the form of a gift certificate to King's Hobby Shop. It should be noted and acknowledged that King's Hobby Shop matches the funds provided by ASMS toward these prizes. Much thanks and appreciation to them for their continuing support of our club. Now, on with the show.



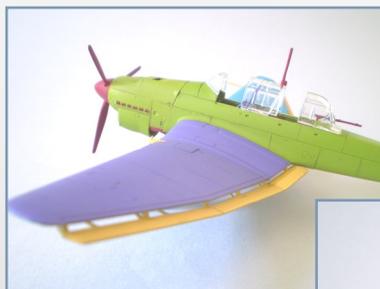
Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner continues populating his universe, and ours, with Gundam figures. This time it's a RX78-02 Prototype. Ziggy informed us that the production model comes with a bigger gun.



Not to be outdone by some Gundams, Bob Bethea is on a quest to repopulate the known universe with Viking figures. (Does anyone else hear that song)? Bob sculpted the hair and mustache on this 75mm Castle Miniature.



Aaron Smischney (otherwise known as A A Ron) brought along his award winning Warlord of Decay bust from Scale 75. This is the same figure that won Best Bust, Best Figure and Best of Show at Model Fiesta in San Antonio.



Subscribing to the theory that more is better, Ben Morton had three entries: an old Monogram 1:72nd scale Hawk P6-E with photoetch rigging from EZ Rigging, a new 1:72nd scale Stuka from Airfix (that paint scheme represents a CAD drawing), and an even older kit than the Hawk, a Revel History Makers Bomarc with launcher. Scale is unknown, but it did win **third** place!



Ron McCracken showed two entries. One, the Trumpeter 1:72nd RA-5C Vigilante. (You can read more about this model just by turning back a few pages in this newsletter). The other is a Lockheed C-111. This model won **second** place in our quarterly contest!





Tim Robb built another Monogram kit (of course). This time the 1:48 scale SNJ-3. Tim scratch-built the football antenna and added tape landing light covers. This is the first kit Tim has finished since the unpleasantness of having his home being flooded on Memorial Day of last year.

It probably should be noted that Tim won Model O' The Month and thus, **first** place at our quarterly contest!

Roy



Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

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

Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

For you HMS Hood fans, Trumpeter is about to satisfy your longing. The kit should be out within the next couple of months. Plan ahead and have some room ready as it is in 1:200th scale.

Trumpeter will be releasing the HMS Zulu British WW2 Tribal Class destroyer and the USS Wasp LHD-1. Both of these kits are in 1:350th scale.

Also in this scale, Merit has the HMS Ark Royal British aircraft carrier (1939). This kit is already available at King's Hobby Shop.

Avis/Mikr Mir has three submarine kits for you undersea fans. The submarine Project 1710 Makerel (Beluga Class Soviet submarine), the Soviet submarine Project 673, and a British M-Class submarine. Prepare to dive!



Revell will also be competing for your modeling dollars with a Soviet Typhoon Class submarine. This one is in 1:400th scale.

In 1:450th scale, Glencoe is re-issuing the SS France Oceanliner.



Five Star Models is a newcomer to the 1:700th scale ship market. Five Star, like Flyhawk, started producing upgrade kits for existing 1:700th scale kits.

These upgrade kits are mixed media with resin, brass, metal barrels, railings, and an almost completely new super structures. The first releases are focusing on Japanese and US subjects. The update kits vary from around \$50 for a destroyer to over a \$120 for an IJN cruiser.



The update kit for the Fujimi IJN kit of the Yukikaze has five sheets of photo etch included in the kit. These releases are definitely for the experienced modeler and those who love to bend brass. The results of using one of these kits looks awesome!

That's it for this month. Grab a kit out of that stash and build it!

Rick



Automotive

Welcome, race fans.

This month's starting grid is a bit lighter than normal but includes some interesting contenders for your hard-earned greenbacks. I'll start with the busiest car model company in the world.

In a departure from their usual '70s F1 fare, this month MFH are releasing a racer from the 1930's known as the Alfa 158 Alfetta. This one goes way back to the days when Enzo Ferrari was an employee at Scuderia Alfa Corsa and the government-sponsored German teams were cleaning up. Enzo and his engineers needed something special and this car delivered.



Too bad war broke out before the team had a chance to develop it's true potential.

This big 1/12th scale kit features a highly detailed straight 8 with dual stage super-charger and all the fuel tanks needed to quench it's notorious thirst.

MFH has offered

the later 159 post-war version in smaller scales but this is a first for the early car. The beautiful machine-turned wheels feature 320 parts just in spokes and tensioners alone. It's out this month but they won't last long.

I mentioned the hot new Tamiya 1/24th Ferrari FXX K back in February when it was announced at the Nuremburg Show. We now know that distributors will be receiving the first kits in June so get your preorder in if you want to be in on the first batch.



There will also be a photo-etch set and a carbon fiber decal sheet sold separately for the detail junkies, so you might as well get those too! This is one of the most anticipated new model car kits of the year and there will surely be a slew of aftermarket accessories for it as well.

Heller's 1/24th Bentley Blower is back! Airfix did a huge 1/12th version of the 4.5 litre supercharged Bentley back in the '70s that's still fairly common.

But I didn't realize until recently that Heller has a 1/24th version with a nicely detailed engine and interior as well. Now the smaller kit is back in production in both Heller and Revell of Germany boxings. If you like this iconic English road monster but don't have room for the large model, check out the Heller.



The Revell 1/25th 1983 Hurst Oldsmobile Cutlass is back in production. The last generation of Hurst dress-up options was offered in 1983 and 1984. It was built on the rear-wheel drive G-Body of the Cutlass.

The model features a detailed 307 c.i. V-8 engine, front and rear spoilers, pre-painted red-line wheels, and pinstripe decals to recreate the rare Hurst Special.



When there aren't many model kits to talk about in a given month, I like to turn to detailing accessories. This month I was really impressed with the Hobby Design Detail Set (HD02-0291) for the already excellent 1/12th Tamiya Ducati 1199 Panigale motorcycle kit. If you're thinking about building the latest 'Duc' take a look at this great offering. It features resin, photo-etch, stampings, machined parts, rivets, and other doodads to elevate your build to a whole new level.



Another interesting detail accessory that caught my eye this month is an adhesive backed metal foil from MFH that simulates the machine-turned detailing found on aluminum sheet metal in many pre-war vehicles like Bugatti's and Cord 812's.



I believe the swirl pattern is called Damascening after the city that popularized the technique on fancy swords

and daggers. It's currently available in sizes for 1/12th and 1/24th scale. If you've ever tried to do this detail by hand, you know how convenient this new product is.

Well, that's about all that's fit to print in automotive modelling product news this month. While you're waiting for that latest object of your obsession to release, why not pull something out of that growing pile and start a new build?



Mike

Armor

Greetings, armor fans and, hello armor curious!

Let's take a look at what is shaking in the world of scale armor modeling.

Dragon is coming out with an interesting beast, the SU -76i. This was a captured German panzer overhauled to be big and ugly, just exactly how the Russians liked them. This looks to be a neat option for the Russian fans out there. It's good to see Dragon coming out with something a bit different.



Up next is the eagerly anticipated "starship" from AFV club.

Given how well received their M60's have been I am sure this will be the one to have if you want to build one of these interesting rocket tanks. Remember when the Tamiya one was impossible to find and cost an arm and a leg? Now we have three options!



Takom is releasing the ZSU-57-2, a soviet-era self propelled anti-aircraft gun. This was a forerunner to the more well-known Shilka.



I'll leave you with something that I, personally, have been patiently waiting for awhile. The interesting Rosemak from IBG models.

This is the Polish equivalent of our Striker or Bradley and has served in Afghanistan. It looks to be a very interesting kit and has what appears to be a fully, detailed interior compartment. It's supposed to hit the shelves this May.

That's all for this month. Happy modeling!



Aaron

Figures

Welcome to the first installment of a new section on figure news! I will be focusing on new releases that match up with aircraft and armor models. This should help give you some options for "humanizing" your models and with a few stand-alone pieces, just for fun. I know a lot of modelers are scared of figures but you shouldn't be. All it takes is some practice and a good tutor, and we have some of the best, willing tutors right here in Austin!

Let's start off with some interesting figures in 1:35th scale.

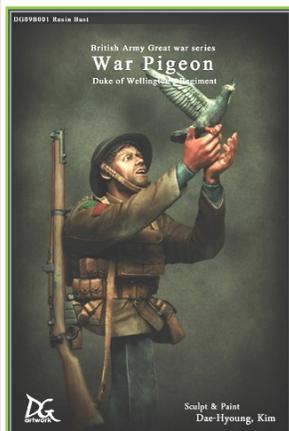
Here is a new release from Black Army Models: <http://www.blackarmymodels.com/> .

A businessman or just a regular guy talking on a cell phone, or is he an undercover agent? This is most welcome for anyone doing a modern scene who needs a civilian. Good civilian figures are very hard to come by so this is most welcome. Word on the street is that this is the first in a series of modern civilians from Black Army.



This figure could be posed next to one of the cool tanks on display at Camp Mabry. He could be calling his buddy to tell them about how awesome our local museum is. Maybe pose him next to a one of the WWII GI re-enactors and title the vignette, "Muster Day."

Make sure to check out the other offerings at Black Army as they have everything from Syrian soldiers to Hungarian panzer crews.



Now, for something a bit different that captured my eye: a bust of World War I soldier releasing a messenger pigeon.

The figure is from a company called DG Artwork: <http://www.artworkdg.com/> .

I admit to being a sucker for WWI and this hits all the right notes for me. The detail and equipment all look outstanding.

Bravo 6 has some of the best sculpts in the business, and they pulled out all the stops for their latest releases. First, is a Nam-era photographer. This guy could easily be tweaked to be in any modern-era diorama.



One figure is firing his CAR-15 while the other is hunched down carrying a LAW and his M-16.

Staying with the Vietnam theme are two dynamic figures entitled "Get on Line".



For you aeroplane modelers comes a Russian pilot from WWII. This guy would look great next to a plane or even as a stand alone figure. This is based on Soviet fighter ace Lieutenant-Colonel Boris F. Safonov who was twice awarded the "Hero of the Soviet Union," as well as, the British Distinguished Flying Cross.



This guy comes to us from a relatively new company called NeuCraft and is sculpted by Qing-Yi. <http://neucraftmodels.com/> . They seem to mostly work in war gaming scales but have recently branched out into larger scales for all us "fine scale" modelers.

Also from Neucraft is a nice modern-era Russian tanker. I wish them all the best with their new endeavors. I just might pick-up that Russian ace for myself!



Let me close off this inaugural column with a piece near and dear to my heart, a cosmonaut bust by 2Dreamers: <http://www.2dreamers.cz/en/space-adventurer-3.php>.

This bust is of the first man to do a space walk, Alexey Leonov. I purchased their bust of Yuri A. Gagarin and it was a spectacular sculpt with tons of great extras. This one looks to be just as good.

They have said they are focusing on Russian cosmonauts but may do Americans in the future. I hope they do. If they put out a Neil Armstrong with as much attention to detail as their cosmonauts, it will be a must-have. Based on how excellent their Gagarin is this bust of Leonov is at the top of my want list.



Let me know if you are interested in certain scales or subject matter for future figure columns. I will do my best to hunt out something to fit your needs!

That's all for this month.

Aaron



Miscellaneous

AFC Club has their own 1:35th scale version of the Patriot Missile System coming soon. Unlike Trumpeter, this one has both the M983 tractor and M901 launching station in the same box. That box contains some photo etch, resin, wiring parts (air/brake lines), and markings for two vehicles.



Mikr Mir is introducing the Tupolev TB-1 in 1:72nd scale. First flown in 1925, this new tool injected



molded kit has some photo etch and markings for only one aircraft. Glue and paint are not included.

Sharkit has a model of the French concept aircraft: the Dassault Aviation ACT 92. This resin kit is in 1:72nd scale.



Another resin kit, but in 1:35th scale, is the Focke-Wulf Fw 56 Stösser. This advance trainer is from Lukgraph (Polish) and comes with ten paint schemes.



Caesar Miniatures has a series of 1:72nd scale figures to populate your next armor model.

These fixed-pose, injected molded sets are made from "medium consistency plastic" and contain thirty figures to the box.



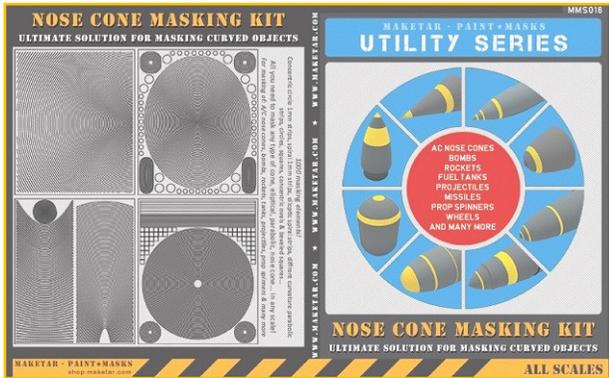
For French naval fans and from Freedom Models is the 1:700th scale Aquitaine D650, multi-purpose frigate. This kit can be built as either a

full kit or waterline model. They are including a stand and some brass parts.

Freedom Models has already released their 1:48th scale X-47. If that's too big for you, how about a 1:72nd scale version? The Platz injected-molded version comes with a display stand.



If you are still having trouble painting those pesky concentric circles on nose cones and such, MakeTar masking kit may be just the answer. These masking kits vary in size from 1:200th to 1:24th scale. The 1mm strips will allow you to paint concentric circles, spirals, elliptical and parabolic shapes. No more goofy looking dumb bombs.



Ding Hao is bringing out a 1:35th scale T77, multiple-gun motor carriage. Their kits are injected molded, have some resin bits, and look suspiciously like re-booted AFV Club kits.

New to me is Metallic Details. This Czech Republic company has some nice looking accessories for your next project.



Manufactured from resin and brass the newest one is a box of Russian grenades. The sets come in either 1:35th or 1:48th scale.



For soft skin fans, Roden is issuing a 1:72nd scale M37 US 3/4t 4X4 cargo truck.



Roden has been doing some over-looked vehicles but some assemble, is required, as is a lot of patience.

Copper State Models has a new item for WWI fans, the Sopwith 5F 1 Dolpin. This is a multi media (resin, PE, decals, and drawings) kit in 1:48th scale.



Go build the your model!

Golzar



Aircraft

Spring has arrived! That is, unless you, live in the Northeast, where modelers seem to be receiving six additional weeks of modeling time (winter). We've got a lot of kits to cover this month. So, let's dive right in.

Just like rabbits, we have more and more of those large scale kits heading our way. Some say it's the Golden Age for large scale modelers. I say it's a good time for modeling, no matter what the scale.

With a plethora of companies, new and established, bringing newer and lesser known subjects to market, the modeler has many choices at their fingertips.

I want to start with a Turkish model manufacturer, Tan Model. They are bringing out some stuff this year that caught me by surprise. Their production list has some very interesting items.

The biggest surprise, and I use that phrase literally as well as figuratively, is their announcement of a 1:32nd scale F-111A/E. This is due by the end of this year.

What? Yes! An F-111 in 1/32nd scale. Shut the front door. This model will be really yuuuuuge – and it will take someone with big hands to hold it. Call your contractor and get estimates for an addition to your home. You'll probably need a bigger Christmas tree to put it under as well.

Tan Model also has plans to release a 1:32nd scale F-4E. Obviously in Turkish markings, but also available in US and Japanese markings. The initial release will contain parts for the F-4E/EJ/ and RF-4E airframes.



From a post on the interwebs: "Versions that are determined to be included in the box content of our F-4E Project #3304: F-4E Early & Late, F-4EJ, F-4E 2000 Kurnass, F-4E 2020 Terminator, F-4F, RF-4E, RF-4E TM, RF-4EJ (all with instrument panels, seats, antennas, etc.)." How cool, not to mention ambitious, is that? Very. I'm sure the details are subject to change, but, if it comes to fruition, this will be a killer model kit.

Tan Model also has other interesting kits on their to-do list. A 1:48th scale SR-71A, and a T-38A/F-5 family of kits in 1:32nd scale. They like to do big things in Turkey and I'm all for that.

I didn't see release dates for the F-4E or the T-38/F-5 series on their website, but the site did mention that the design work is well underway.

HK Models from Hong Kong will be releasing some interesting kits. For you Mustang-aholics, they plan on producing a 1:32nd scale P-51B/C.



Word is that the designer working on the HKM Spey Phantoms will also be working on the P-51B when his initial research/design work is finished. So, perhaps all of these wonderful new kits, both Phantoms (FG.1 and FGR.2) and the P-51B/C will emerge by the end of the year.

HK also posted the new box art for their upcoming 1:32nd scale B-17F "Memphis Belle" on Facebook. So if you want a stablemate for that 1:32nd B-17G, this is your kit. More likely, if you want to keep that unbuilt 1:32nd scale B-17G in your stash company, this kit is for you.

HpH, those wizards of modern resin model-making, have announced their intentions to produce a 1:32nd scale Curtis SB2C-4 Helldiver.

If their previous kits are any indication, this one will be the cream of the crop and the price will reflect it. It will



have excellent detail and look gorgeous when finished.

Early indications are that it will cost upwards of \$200 to procure this kit, which isn't bad

considering it's a resin kit – a large resin kit. The SB2C wasn't a small aircraft.

I'm not sure what "very soon" indicates and aside from the chatter on the web, I can't find anything official from HpH about this kit except a single sign/poster at a trade show.

Let's move to something slightly smaller. Revell has just released a 1/72 Vought F4U-4 Corsair. The kit represents an F4U-4B from the Naval Air Reserve at NAS Jacksonville. The kit only contains the one marking option.

Reviews from online are mixed. It certainly scores higher than the Italeri kit, but misses the boat on a few shapes. You be the judge.



Fine Molds, known for their nicely detailed kits of Japanese subjects, are bringing out a pair of Claudes this July. They plan on releasing two 1:48th scale IJN Mitsubishi Type 96 Carrier-based Fighters, one a Model II (A5M2b) and the other a Model IV (A5M4).

The Model 24 is the closed cockpit version of the Claude with provisions for an external drop tank. Images exist of Model 22s with an external drop tank, as well. Either way, if history repeats itself, Fine Molds will have produced another pair of fine models.



Last, but certainly not least, Avantgarde Model Kits, AMK, will be bringing out a sibling to their lovely MiG-31B/BSM kit. The MiG-31B/BS is due to be released in early May.



Obviously containing many of the same parts, this kit should be just as nice and detailed as it's predecessor. Look for it on a hobby shop shelf near you.

That's it for this month. Go build something!

Randy



IPMS/USA
News

Congratulations(!?) are in order... IPMS/USA has announced that Mike Oberholtzer has accepted the position of Treasurer. He has been an IPMS/USA member since the late 1980's, served as treasurer for the IPMS Chicago Sprue Stretchers for more than 15 years, and is a senior national judge. Mike has worked in all areas of banking from the teller line to Information Technology and at banks both small and gigantic. He is currently a Senior Vice President and Senior Director of the Project Management Office at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, uses accounting software daily and is very comfortable working with auditing and accounting firms large and small. Mike is a good addition to the IPMS/USA organization and all look forward to working with him.

In related news, IPMS/USA has a new mailing address. The new IPMS/USA mailing address is:

IPMS/USA
P.O. Box 56023
Saint Petersburg, Florida
33732-6023.

Mail sent to the North Canton, Ohio address will be forwarded to the new address but not for long.

To avoid any unnecessary delays in replies or processing of membership forms use the new address. So, pay attention and stop sending stuff to the old address.

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



Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

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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

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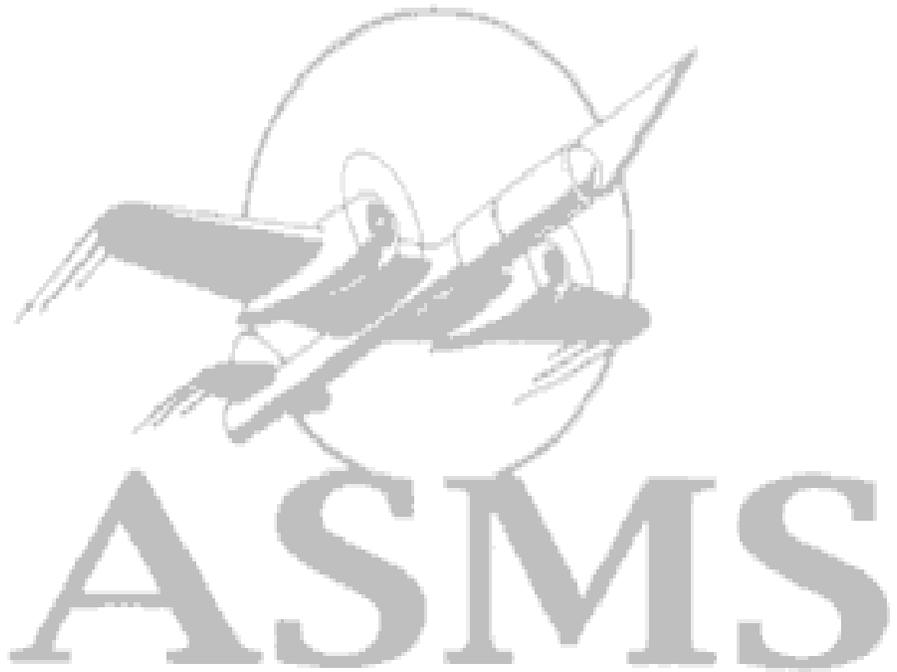
- Dam Brudders - Carpetbaggers? Not Us!, by Bill and Richard Engar
- From Flushdecker to Fruit Freighter - Scratch-building a destroyer-turned-banana carrier in 1:700 scale, by Vladimir Yakubov
- Layers of Armor - A quick way to achieve depth in your figure's armor, by Gino Dykstra
- Just Drop It! - Taming Pegasus' kit of the F9C-2 Sparrowhawk to build the world's only dirigible fighter, by Chris Bucholtz
- A Darker Ride for the Dark Knight - Scratch-building a Subdued 1970s era Batmobile, by Dan Thompson
- You Dirty Rat - er, Hunchback! - Converting Lon Chaney into James Cagney, by Mark McGovern
- Spitfire? It might be an MJ-100! - Creating a Replica of a Replica, by Jordan Ross
- Dream Team - Creating a Tribute to the Colorado ANG's Display Team in 1:72, by Paul Kinney

contact us

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

on the web

www.austinsms.org



**Next Meeting:
April 21**

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



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ModelMania2016
Houston's Largest
Finescale Model Show

April 23,2016
Stafford, Texas

Show theme: VINTAGE KITS

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video are available at:

http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11