



# SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modeler's Society

December 2016

## Olive Drab Panther by Mike Gilsbach

Pat Rourke was a member of Austin Scale Modelers Society as well as Austin Armor Modelers Society and a fairly avid armor builder. He did some fine work, some of which can be seen in the ASMS photo gallery.

<http://www.austinsms.org/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=10>

Unfortunately, Pat passed away in March. At an ASMS meeting some months later, some of his unfinished kits were distributed among the group with the idea that we would build them and hold a contest in Pat's honor next Spring. Since I didn't have one in my collection, I grabbed a Tamiya Panther G kit in 1/35th scale that looked promising.

When I opened it up, I found I had more than I had bargained for. Pat had been in the process of converting the Panther into an "ersatz M-10." (more on that in a bit.) Along with the Tamiya kit, there was a metal gun barrel, a resin M-10 conversion kit from Czech Masters, single-link plastic tracks from Model Kasten, and a photoetch set from Eduard. The kit was about 75% built and mostly unpainted. The only major components left to complete were one side of the tracks and the resin M-10 fenders that replaced the much larger Panther armor skirts. There were a number of smaller construction details, but the big stuff was mostly done.

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



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**Phil Brandt (in memorium)**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Eric Choy</b>       | <b>Angela Forster</b> |
| <b>Jeff Forster</b>    | <b>Russ Holm</b>      |
| <b>Rick Willaman</b>   | <b>Jack Johnston</b>  |
| <b>Mike Krizan</b>     | <b>Mike Poole</b>     |
| <b>Aaron Smischney</b> |                       |
| <b>Rick Herrington</b> |                       |

## Upcoming Events

### IPMS/USA Region 6 Model Shows

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| Calmex XXXI, Westlake, Louisiana<br><a href="http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html">http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html</a>  | 1.28.17 |
| ModelFiesta, San Antonio , Texas<br><a href="http://alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta.html">http://alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta.html</a>                                  | 2.18.17 |
| RiverCon VI, Bossier City, Louisiana<br><a href="http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/">http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/</a>  | 3.11.17 |
| AutumnCon 2017, Region 6 Regional Convention, Covington , La.<br><a href="http://www.northshoremodelers.net/show.html">http://www.northshoremodelers.net/show.html</a> | 9.23.17 |

### Local Club Meetings

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas<br><a href="http://alamosquadron.com/meetings.html">http://alamosquadron.com/meetings.html</a>   | 1.05.17  |
| Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas<br><a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>   | 1.04.17  |
| Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas   | 1.05.17  |
| Centex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas<br><a href="http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/">http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/</a>  | 12.15.16 |
| Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas  | 1.14.17  |
| Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, San Marcos, Texas .<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/513518988858565/">https://www.facebook.com/events/513518988858565/</a> | 1.14.17  |

### Other Events

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Build N' Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas | 12.17.16 |
|---|----------|

### IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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

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

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery. Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

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

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

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**Chris Chany**, Rumpus and Hokum  
 Abatement Director and Lifestyle  
 Coordinator

## Peanut Brittle

**Randy Bungardner**

It's December! The end of the year has arrived and with it the Holiday Season. And, of course, the ASMS yearly awards: Model O' The Year, Most Prolific Modeler, and Member of the Year. The Model O' The Year is determined at our December meeting and the latter two announced in January. So finish up those yearly projects and bring them along to the meeting for all of us to enjoy. You can regale us with tales of building pleasure during Show-N-Tell.

Our annual White Elephant contest occurs in December. This award consists of models received at the previous year's ASMS Holiday Extravaganza (our new name for the festivities that occur each December) at the home of one lucky ASMS member. So, you have one year to build your model and bring them to the contest. This is also a quarterly contest, so there are prizes involved.

Sadly, this year we also lost two standout and stand-up modelers in the Central Texas modeling community. Pat Rourke and Rod Bell passed away in the course of the past year. They will both be missed. Not only for their contributions to our hobby but to us as friends. I wish them blue skies and fair winds.

In January, we are having our bi-annual elections. Start thinking about whether or not you want to run for office. The pay is great and we're thinking of giving everyone raises this year. I've been approached by a member who would like to be the Master of Ceremonies for the election event this time around. He didn't give any details, but assured me that fun would be had by one and all. Stay tuned for further details.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2016 ASMS Holiday Extravaganza at Milton and Martha Bell's home. The event was well attended and we all had a lot of fun. There was a large amount of very good food, including baked ham and roast turkey. There wasn't any gravy. That oversight will be rectified next year. If you left hungry, or not smiling, that's your own fault. Unfortunately, I didn't take any pictures of the festivities. I'm confident that there were others who took some photos and those images might appear in an upcoming newsletter.

That's all I have for this month. If I've left anything out, remind me at the meeting. Now, go build something and bring it to share.

Randy



## Fiddly Bits

**Frank Seibert**



While your 2017 ASMS club dues aren't exactly due, you can beat the rush and pay them now. Club dues are \$25.00/individual or \$30.00/family. If you pay by March 1, 2017, there is a five dollar discount per membership category. Save that money and pay your dues before this offer expires. You may do so at a club meeting or by remitting the appropriate amount to our finance minister, Eric Choy. The mailing address is: 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, TX 78729. **Don't send cash!**

Your dream job awaits. The rewarding and fulfilling position of newsletter editor is soon to be vacant. This is a golden opportunity for you to step-up and support ASMS. Learn some new skills and bask in the fame and glory that will be yours as editor of the Sprue Examiner. Free, (unpaid) training is available for the right candidate. No experience necessary. Apply now! Hey, if Ben can do it, you can too!



Whilst on this subject, Aaron Smischney is the winner of the 2016 newsletter contest. For his contributions to the newsletter, Aaron will have his 2017 ASMS club dues paid by the staff and management of the Sprue Examiner. Congratulations, A A Ron!

The theme for the upcoming 2017 Capital Classic Model Show and Contest has been selected. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. The theme for the 2017 Capital Classic is: **Old Dogs / New Tricks.**

Frank



On a curious side note, I found pictures in the ASMS gallery of the DML kit Pat had built previously of this subject in 2010.

<http://www.austinsms.org/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=10&page=7>

This was certainly an interesting subject and I looked forward to completing Pat's excellent work and adding this one to my shelf. Since I knew this was a "Battle of the Bulge" subject, it also seemed like a great opportunity to try out something I hadn't done before: modeling snow. But first, what the heck is an "ersatz M-10", Operation "Greif" and Panzer Brigade 150?



American M-10

This ersatz, or fake, "M-10" is one of ten Panther G's that were modified to look like American M-10 tank destroyers as part of Operation "Greif." To paraphrase Wikipedia: Operation Greif ("Griffin") was a special false flag operation commanded by Waffen-SS commando Otto Skorzeny during the Ardennes offensive in December 1944.

The operation was the brainchild of Adolf Hitler, and its purpose was to capture one or more of the bridges over the Meuse river before they could be destroyed. German soldiers, wearing captured British and US Army uniforms and using captured Allied vehicles, were to cause confusion in the rear of the Allied lines. A lack of vehicles, uniforms, and equipment limited the operation and it never achieved its original aim of securing the Meuse bridges.



German Panther

Skorzeny rounded up as many English speaking troops and American uniforms and equipment as he could to form "Panzer Brigade 150."

They had a decent amount of trucks and jeeps, but as one might imagine, intact American armor was a little harder to come by. They modified their own vehicles as best they could to look the part.



To make the Panthers look like M-10s, modifications were made to the front and rear of the vehicles to alter the overall profile, making the back appear longer and giving the impression of the bulging transmission cover in the front. The armored skirts were removed and replaced with fenders. Large sections of sheet metal were added to change the shape of the turret.

To give the impression of the M-10s open-topped turret, the commander's cupola was removed and replaced with a simple hatch and other protruding items were removed from the top of the turret. The vehicle was painted olive drab and given American markings.

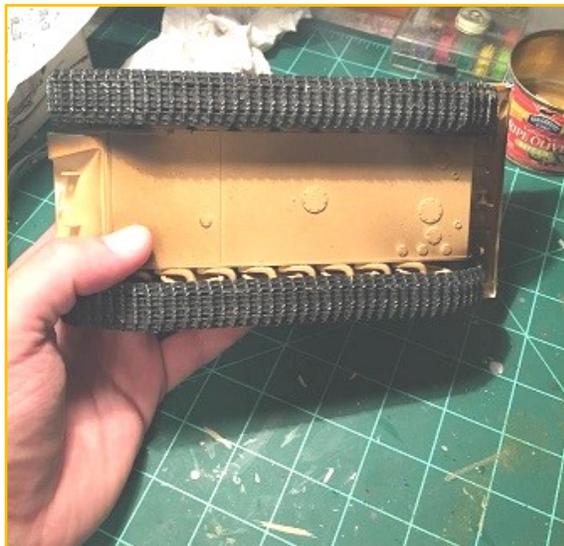
Overall, it wouldn't have fooled anyone for more than a few seconds. For starters, the wheels and suspension were obvious giveaways. But the hope was that the ruse would work just well enough for the vehicles to slip past enemy lines and create some chaos.

My first order of business was to complete the construction of the model and step one for that was to finish the tracks. Pat had done the left side, so I just had to do the right.

The Model Kasten tracks were really great to work with. Unlike the last set of these I did from Dragon, these were fairly clean, having no ejection pin marks to contend with, really just the sprue gates. They snapped together beautifully and almost stayed together on their own with no glue. Once they were all assembled, I coated them with Testor's liquid cement and wrapped them around the wheels. I used coins to hold them in the position. I wanted while the glue dried, using Pat's work and reference photos as a guide.

I painted the tracks flat black, then gave them a heavy wash of dark gray. I dusted them with some rust and dirt color pastels and finally dry brushed them with steel. I now had two matching sides.

The next step was to finish the resin fenders and other details on the engine deck. The fenders were five parts per side and were supposed to attach directly to the kit hull as well as join seamlessly with the resin rear end modification. They went on OK.



I had to do a bit of putty work on all the joints and seams, especially where they joined the resin part on the back.

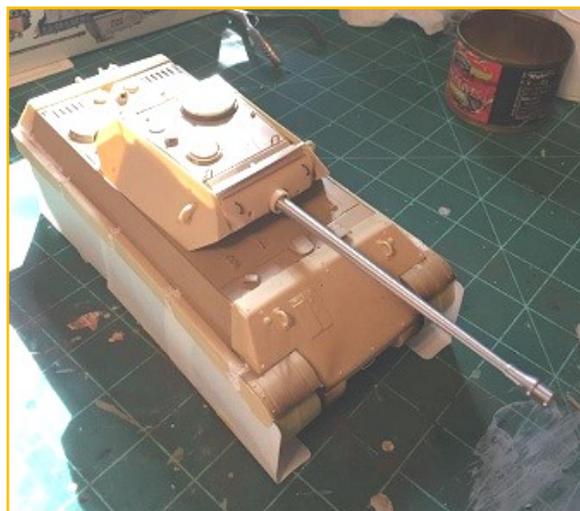


I added the photo-etch engine grills, some wire hand holds and a few other hull/deck details and was ready to finish the turret.

There wasn't a whole lot left to do for the turret, really. Just the commander's hatch (resin conversion parts), a few other resin details, and some support bars for the resin turret sides. Those I made from sheet styrene.

The model was now ready to paint. I planned to airbrush the whole thing olive drab. The wheels and tracks were already painted, so I masked them off with paper and tape. I slid the sections of paper under the inside of the resin fenders, bent them to wrap around the bottom of the tracks and then used tape to keep it all in place.

The whole vehicle got a coat of olive drab (Model Master acrylic). I followed this with a coat of Future and then applied the American marking decals that came with the conversion kit.



I applied an oil paint filter of raw umber and burnt sienna to break up the green and give it a streaked look. I then used pastels to burn the gun muzzle, grunge up the engine deck, rust up the exhausts and a few other wear and tear details.



After painting and adding the spare tracks, the vehicle itself was just about done. I gave it a coat of clear flat acrylic and turned my attention to the setting.



I decided that I wanted to place my fake M-10 in an Ardennes-like setting with snow and some trees. I found an old damaged award plaque to use for the base. I got some pine trees from a set by Bachmann. They are nice trees. They look pretty natural and are easy enough to work with.



I had one standing figure that came with the Panther kit and I decided to add a second from another Tamiya "German Tank Crew at Rest" kit. I figured it was fine to use the figures in German uniforms.



The Germans actually had some trouble getting enough usable American uniforms for the operation. Many of the German troops were reluctant to wear them anyway out of fear that they would be shot as spies if they were captured. A fear that turned out to be well-founded, for some of the Germans that were caught doing this operation were, in fact, executed.



The idea was to put the tank on a raised road bed with the trees along the side and the crewmen standing near it.

After protecting the edges of the plaque with painter's tape, I built the core of the road bed with layers of cardboard

wrapped in duct tape (to protect it from the wet Sculpt-a-mold I planned to layer over it). I hot glued the cardboard and the trees onto the base and leveled out some of the edges with modeling putty.



Next, I covered the whole base, including the road and the bases of the trees, with Sculpt-a-mold that I had colored with some MiG pigment powders.

This worked fine for the ground on either side of the road but the results for the actual roadbed were not what I really wanted.

It was too rough, for one thing, but it also dried too fast for me to get the tank treads settled into it. When I placed the tank on it, it looked like it was floating across the top of it, rather than sunk down into the surface like it should be because, you know, tanks are heavy.



I decided to add another layer to the road bed that I could work a little easier. For this step I used plasticine modeling clay. The neat part about this stuff is that you can mold it very easily and it never actually hardens.

So you literally have all the working time you want with it. I put a thin layer of that down on the road, pressed down the edges and pressed my tank into it to get the tread marks in the road behind the tank as well as to make the tank look more settled into the ground. I then airbrushed the whole thing with a coat of Tamiya Flat Earth.

The next step was to start adding vegetation, even though it would be largely covered by snow. I brushed the sides of the road with Scenic Cement and added a healthy amount of flock foliage from Woodland Scenics. Then I added some flock grass to the sides of the road and the center where tires and tracks would not have ripped it up so much.

The last step before the snowfall was to add a healthy amount of mud, muck, and ripped up vegetation to the tank treads. I did this with MiG pigments, Scenic Cement, and bits of the same vegetation I used on the base.

Now it was time to add our snow. I used packets of snow from Scene-A-Rama and some spray adhesive from the same company (basically, thinned scenic cement in a lightweight spray bottle.



I did the trees first, spraying them, sprinkling on the snow with a spoon, then re-applying it to add more snow and seal the stuff as best I could.



I did the same with the base one section at a time and then finally the tank itself, albeit a little more judiciously. Between the flock foliage/grass, the snow and the spray adhesive, my workbench was now a mess. This was not a tidy process by any means.



I used more MiG pigments to muddy up the tracks in the road churned up behind the tank.

When I removed the painter's tape, I found a few spots along the edge of the base that needed to be touched up with Flat Earth.

The tape also took a few chips out of the finish on the sides of the plaque. To fix this, I mixed up a dark red acrylic wash that I applied to the damaged areas, then coated all the sides with Future to give it back some shine.

The last detail were the two standing figures. Both figures assembled easily enough with the usual bit of putty work. I had not been happy with the last few figure faces I did, so I decided to try some different paints this time.



I started with three Vallejo colors: Base Skin Tone, Dark Flesh Tone and Sunny Flesh Tone. I started with the Base Tone, worked in some Dark Tone and finished up with a Red Brown wash. I did the highlights (eyes, hair, and some touch-ups with the Sunny Tone. and was pleased with the results.

I finished up the figures and ended up placing them in front of the tank as they would not fit well next to it as originally planned.



That about wrapped it up. This was a really fun project. I built a subject I had never thought of building and got to try a bunch of new techniques and materials in the process. I hope that Pat would have liked how it turned out.

Mike

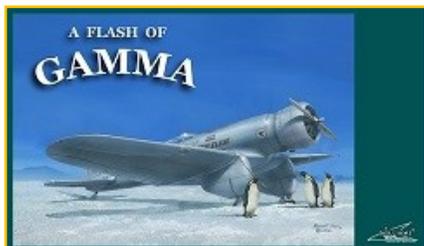


[Editors Note: There are more photos of Mike's Ersatz M-10 on the gallery page of our website. All photos courtesy of Mike Gilsbach]

<http://www.austinsms.org/coppermine/thumbnails.php?album=5&page=6>

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

Daniel Brett of Williams Brothers Model Products has sent in a note about the company's new web address and improved webpage. The older web address still works, but the new site works a whole lot better. Williams Brothers Model Products also added an on-line order feature for their products.



The new web address is:

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

On October 11, 2016, BMW introduced the Vision Next motorbike in Los Angeles. It is an electric motorbike with a self-balancing system. This was in conjunction with a series of Vision Next vehicles.

The motorcycle is a unique concept vehicle. Among other features, it incorporates a system for keeping the bike upright at all times. For anyone who has ever dumped a bike, you know how handy a feature like that can be.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8rV6s\\_irKE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8rV6s_irKE)

Tim Robb sent in another installment about the utility of wood. Last month he gave us the first all wooden super car. This month, we have a report about bio-fuels from wood pulp and other waste products.

Washington state-based Alaska Airlines recently made history flying the first commercial flight using the world's first renewable, alternative jet fuel made from

forest residuals. The limbs and branches that remain after the harvesting of managed forests are processed and used to fuel the jet.

The alternative jet fuel was produced through the efforts of the Washington State University-led Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA).

<https://newsroom.alaskaair.com/2016-11-14-Forest-powered-flight-heads-to-Washington-D-C>

Sunday Morning, the CBS Sunday morning news program, recently featured a report on "Doc." "Doc" is one of two flying B-29's, the restoration of which was highlighted by Milton Bell in a prior issue of the Sprue Examiner.

Lee Cowan shows us a B-29 bomber rescued from the boneyard, and the World War II veterans and volunteers who helped launch it back into the skies.



<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/restored-b-29-takes-to-the-air/>

Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky sent in this next item.

Luci Iaconi-Stewart's artistry has been showcased before, but this latest commission from Singapore Airlines for their ad campaign is equally fascinating.

It's titled "At Singapore Airlines, No Detail Is Too Small." Here's the video, in which paper plane model artist Luca Iaconi-Stewart creates the most impressive model airplane you'll ever see made from manila envelopes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wt99b5ccwqk>

Bon Noel!

Jean-Michel





### Bi-Monthly Model Contests

The last quarterly model contest for 2016 will be the White Elephant Contest and will be held at our December club meeting. Only finished models received at a gift exchange at an ASMS Christmas Party are eligible to enter.

Moving forward, ASMS will hold six bi-monthly contests in 2017. The new, improved contest schedule will begin in February 2017.

The schedule/themes for the 2017 bi-monthly contests are as follows:

- |                        |  |                          |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>February 15</b>     |  | Open Contest             |
| <b>April 20</b>        |  | Pat Rourke Contest       |
| <b>June 15 (maybe)</b> |  | Procrastinator's Contest |
| <b>August 16</b>       |  | Gundam/Macross Contest   |
| <b>October 19</b>      |  | Bondo Special            |
| <b>December 21</b>     |  | White Elephant           |

### Support Your Local Hobby Shop



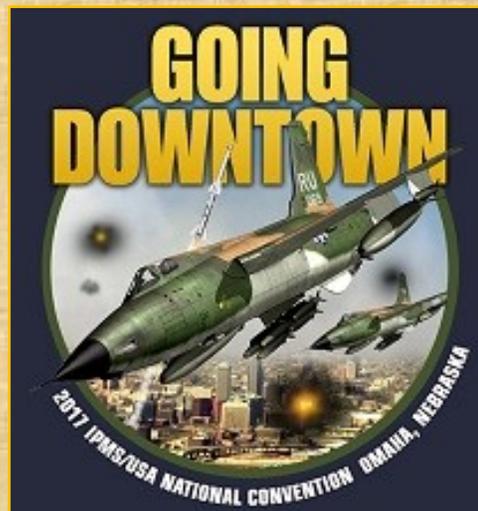
<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com/>



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



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



The convention website for the 2017 IPMS/USA National Convention is "on the air."

<http://www.ipmsusa2017.com/>

## A Modeler's Christmas by Rick Cotton

My wife and I are sitting on the couch, watching TV, when she turns to me and asks the question before I can ask her first.

"Sweetie, what do you want for Christmas this year?"

"I don't know," I say. "I'm still thinking about it."

Ok, *now* I'm thinking about it. I was thinking how stupid can these Amazing Race people be? Now, she has turned my mind off track, into thoughts of the approaching Holiday Season, which is now approaching at the speed of a 500-pounder dropped from an SBD.

What do I want? I have everything I could ever need, I think to myself. I have stacks and stacks of plastic, brass, and resin that will take me years to go through. I have a home and a workspace. I have a display space, yet to be filled. I don't need books, as there is the AI Gore Information Superhighway. I can always use more paint, but who wants to give or get paint for Christmas? Maybe the members of the Sherwin Williams family, I guess.

Maybe something unrelated to my hobby? Naw, stupid idea. My ex-wife used to do that.

There's the high-end, once-in-a-lifetime stuff, like a ride in a B-17, or a P-51. That can be had down in Galveston for a mere few hundred dollars. But I have already done barrel rolls over Galveston Bay in an AT-6, so that option isn't exactly new.

Maybe something sort of related to my hobby? Yeah, now we're talking! Maybe a cool flight jacket! Yeah, there will be at least three or four days in a Houston winter I could wear that thing without sweating like the fat boy I am. Or maybe a clock that looks like a flight instrument on the wall of my workshop? That way, I can look up and be shocked that it's three am, and I'm still trying to get the &^\*^%\$ photoetch finished. Then...it hits me...

I do love movies, especially old war movies. The clumsier, more blatantly propaganda-based wartime flag-waver, the better. Anything with John Wayne being die-you-no-good-rotten-fascists/Nazis/commies/Japs John Wayne.

Maybe I need some DVD's, such as: *Air Force*, one of the best ever. This story of a pre-war B-17 thrust into sudden Pacific combat has so many technical holes in it (like a gunner hand-holding a .50-cal. gun),

but it ends with at least thirty inaccurate model IJN ships being blasted out of the water. Now *that's* fun!



*Pursuit of the Graf Spee* - At least half the real Royal Navy stars in this one, including ships that actually fought the real Graf Spee! Woo Hoo!

*Wake Island* - William Bendix in this 1942 flag-waving melodrama, mowing down Japanese marines...all of whom look suspiciously Hispanic. Hmmm.

*Crash Dive* - Tyrone Power in Technicolor. He's nearly too pretty. Power looked good in either dark Navy blue, or Zorro black, a real chick magnet. He, like John Wayne, was no actor, he was a Movie Star.



*Destination Tokyo*- This Delmer Daves-directed classic is possibly one of the greatest submarine films ever...maybe *the* best. Cary Grant (another guy who was too pretty) saves the Pacific from the Japanese Navy, while the sub's Pharmacist Mate performs an emergency appendectomy on the bottom of Tokyo Bay. Those of you who loved Gilligan's Island will recognize Alan Hale Sr., because he was a dead ringer for Alan Hale Jr. (the Skipper)!

*The Naked and the Dead*– Worthwhile because you get to see Rat Pack member Joey Bishop punished for his bad acting by falling off a cliff and splattering on the rocks below in glorious Technicolor. He deserved it. Aldo Ray, as a sadistic sergeant, isn't much better, but nobody pushes him off a cliff.

*Dive Bomber* – An hour and a half of lame plot and Errol Flynn, but *oh! The technicolor footage* of 1940 pre-war Navy Airpower...glorious shots of Devastators, Vindicators, Yellow Perils, and F3F's. It's an airplane porno. There's even a little color footage of CV6 Enterprise!

And finally, *Task Force* – This epic of Naval Aviation, starring Gary Cooper (who's acting is more wooden than the deck of the old Langley), takes us from the stick-and-tissue biplane days all the way to 1946.



It's so long that the film changes from black-and-white to color at Midway! It even ends with Cooper (now an Admiral) being rowed away from a carrier as jets (and the rest of his acting career) go whizzing by. True, he did do *High Noon* later, but I challenge you to name anything else worthwhile. Still, a great flick, jam-packed with combat footage, as ship and plane modelers will attest.

So there we go. Movies. That's the answer!

This year, as you sit amongst torn wrapping paper, new socks, and kits of stuff you really don't want to build ("a Lindberg Human brain model...gee...uh....thanks, Honey"). I'll be thinking of you. I will be relaxing with a cold one in the left hand, a sandwich on the plate, and the DVD ready to go. John Wayne, Tyrone Power, and Cary Grant will be working at my house, doing their level best to entertain me, and save the world from the bad guys in the process.

Ho! Ho! Ho! That's the Christmas I am looking forward to! I hope yours (or Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, or Festivus) is just as good. May piles of non-Lindberg plastic fall upon you!

Merry Christmas!

Rick



## Looking For Newsletter Articles



**Any Size, Shape, or Subject  
Please send all submissions to:**

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

## Fred's Fun Facts

### December 15

The United States Bill of Rights becomes law when ratified by the Virginia General Assembly on this day in 1791.

In 1916, the French defeat the Germans in WWI at the Battle of Verdun.

The first flight of Lockheed-Martin's F-35 Lightning II took place in 2006.

This is also International Tea Day. Go pour yourself a cup of Oolong!

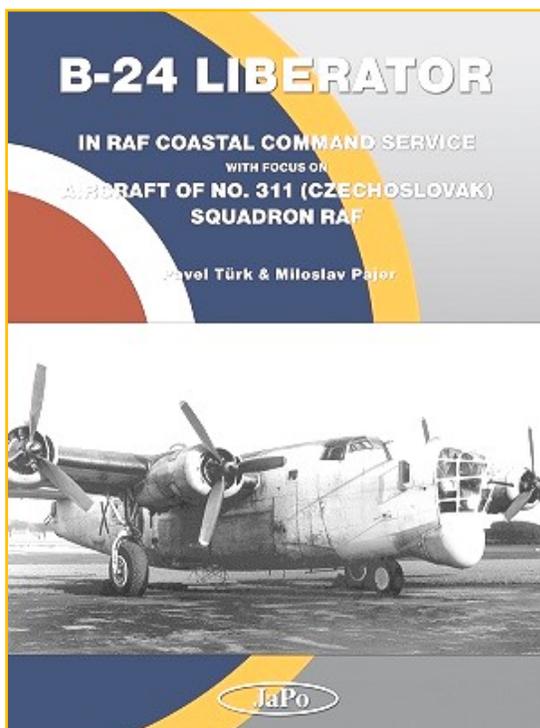
December 15 is also a day of celebrations. Among them are:

- National Wear Your Pearls Day. You know who you are, so wear them pearls.
- National Cupcake Day/ Lemon Cupcake Day. The country's future may very well depend on whether or not you eat a cupcake. Don't chance it.
- But my all-time favorite commemorative day might just be National Cat Herders Day. Anyone want to be club President?

**B-24 Liberator in RAF Coastal Command Service with Focus on Aircraft of No.311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron RAF**  
 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.  
 IPMS # 26266

This book arrived and I must say that I was impressed from the outset. The quality of the book and the material contained inside is typical JaPo. The title sounds like it is just about the Czechoslovak unit, No.311 Squadron, but this book is about a whole lot more than that.

The B-24 was the most produced American airplane in WWII. Its use by Coastal Command is better known in England but not so well known in the US. The use of the Liberator as a precision bomber in the US has overshadowed the vitally important mission of U-Boat patrol. This book fills that void.



JaPo is well known for packing their books with a plethora of information. This one is no different. There are 320 pages of text, photos, and color profiles. There are 550 photos, with a number of them in color. The 70 color profiles are really impressive and show the differences in turrets, radar, antennas and anti-shipping ordinance.

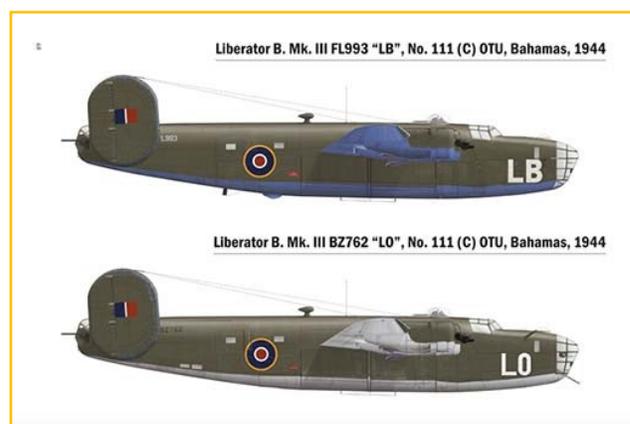
There is a breakdown by each squadron, with notes and highlights, including hand drawn mission notes from attacks against U-boats.

The unique markings and squadron codes are interesting. The quality of the photos is exceptional. I was quite impressed with the rocket attacks by Liberator BZ723 which sunk a U-boat with rockets and guns.

It is a perfect example of the level of detail used throughout the book. It has the profile, the drawings, the description, and the photos from an actual attack.

The return to Czechoslovakia is also showed. The B-24 in Czech markings is quite interesting with photos of the aircraft being handed over to the fledgling Czech Air Force.

There are some appendices in the back that cover the entire list of B-24s in the Czech Squadron. The appendix has an interesting chart that has the armament, radar, and codes for every aircraft where known. Quite interesting.



For the modeler, there is even a color plate that explains the camouflage schemes. This book completely covers all the B-24s used by Coastal Command. This clarifies the entire story that is often overlooked.

Covering the Atlantic Gap was essential to the success of the war and this book pays homage to those that covered it, especially the Czech crews. The authors are to be commended for gathering this information into one place.

Highly recommended.

Floyd



[Thanks to JaPo for the review copy. You can obtain yours by contacting their distributors. In the US that is 4+ N.A at [x4plus@verizon.net](mailto:x4plus@verizon.net) or Roll Models at [www.rollmodels.com](http://www.rollmodels.com).]

## Don't Panic by Ben Morton

Most members of Austin Scale Modelers Society have heard that I intend to end my tenure as newsletter editor of the Sprue Examiner. I have decided to relinquish this appointed position with the April 2017 issue of the Sprue Examiner. This will give you plenty of time to get that article finished and become part of this award winning endeavor.

Which is not to say that whomever takes over won't produce an award winning newsletter as well. Just take a look at some, well most, of the earlier examples of the Sprue Examiner during my tenure and one could argue that somebody made a mistake giving me the job. To say that those early issues and even some of the later iterations needed some work would be an understatement. But as one of the peasants in *Monty Python's Holy Grail* said after having been turned into a newt, "I got better!"

I got better through the expert tutelage of Milton Bell and Eric Choy. I still remember Milton shaking his head as he critiqued my lack of skill as an editor. Between the gaps in layout, misspelled words, and getting to know the intricacies of this new fangled publishing Software, it was a bit of a challenge for all concerned. Both his and Eric's forbearance saved me from myself on more than one occasion. My thanks and gratitude to them both for showing me the ropes as I muddled through.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Bruce (Bruce Burden) and Tim Robb. Mr. Bruce may be unaware but he is the reason for some of the characters (correspondents) that populate the Sprue Examiner.

I had made a plea to the membership for material for the newsletter at one of the monthly club meetings. To no avail, I might add. As we were departing the meeting place, Mr. Bruce casually mentioned that I just might have to start making stuff up and publish it under different pseudonyms.

With the assistance of Tim Robb and armed with that idea, Frank Seibert, Golzar Shahrzād, Cesar Herdez, Roy Lothbrok, and Jean-Michel D'Aubigne were born. If you have any complaints about any of these characters please direct some of your ire toward Tim and Mr. Bruce. It's kinda their fault.

I would be thoughtless if I didn't thank Floyd Werner Jr., Rick Cotton, Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington, Aaron Smischney, Mike Poole, Ron McCracken, Mike Lamm, Tim Robb, Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky, and others for their continuing contributions to the Sprue Examiner. These correspondents (real people)

have aided immensely over my tenure and have been a tremendous source for material for this august publication. My thanks to you all. I trust that they will keep sending material for the next editor to use, as well.

A tip of the hat must also go to the multitude of other IPMS/USA club newsletter editor's. Their efforts (newsletters) have been forwarded to us by Fred Horky through the newsletter exchange program he directs. Fred's diplomatic critiques (sharper photos, acknowledging authorship, etc.) of the Sprue Examiner and other newsletters have not fallen on deaf ears. I have tried to incorporate most, if not all, of his suggestions into the Sprue Examiner. Unbeknownst to the other newsletter editors out there, I've been stealing ideas from your newsletters for years! Sorry, and thanks!

It would border on the reprehensible of me not to also mention all those that have sent in articles, provided photos, contributed websites, written articles, provided pithy remarks, sent in ideas, etc., for publication in the Sprue Examiner. I feel that the inclusion of your diverse voices in the Sprue Examiner is the real reason for our award winning publication.

I'll leave you with this. At the very first meeting I attended of the Austin Scale Modelers Society, there was a discussion going on about some bit of club business. (I forget what exactly). That discussion evolved into a somewhat unrelated subject that evolved still further into another even more unrelated subject (something that rarely happens now) which finally begged the question "What is the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe, and everything?"

I thought to myself at the time that if this group of modelers can start one place and eventually wind up referencing *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* in the span of about five minutes, then this is just my kinda model club. I'm glad I came.

"So long and thanks for the fish."

Ben



[Editor's Note: A big smooch on the lips to my long-suffering assistant editor, Bonnie Chilton. (It is best to have a close, working relationship with your colleagues). She has been tirelessly proof-reading this newsletter for what must seem like eons. She has made innumerable suggestions for improving and refining our newsletter.  
I can't thank her enough.]

## Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

As another year comes to a close we are getting closer to awarding Model O' The Year honors to some lucky so and so. But, like they say on a particular cooking show, to get to that award, you gotta go through the monthly selection process first. For the uninitiated, Model O' The Month winners are selected from the various finished models presented at the monthly club meeting during the show-n-tell segment of each meeting. The winner of that in-house contest returns with their model in December and from that lot, the Model O' The Year is selected. Model O' The Year honors gain you more than just bragging rights. You are also entitled to a superb trophy, the unbridled admiration of your fellow club members, and a small stipend (gift certificate) to a local hobby emporium.

You might be justified in thinking that it is too late to compete in this affair. You'd be wrong. There will be one last monthly selection process at the December ASMS club meeting. The winner of that monthly contest will be automatically entered into the Model O' The Year competition. The real beauty of this final Model O' The Month contest for 2016 is that you need not return with your winning entry. You and your model will already be there.

Roy



Lots of WIP models at the November show-n-tell. This 1/35th scale HobbyBoss kit of a Leopard II was brought in by Alex Gashev.



When Mike Lamm is not reviewing things for the IPMS/USA Reviewer Corps, he is building models. This go round, we have a T-34/76 in German service. Mike notes that the 1/35th scale Academy kit goes together easily and quickly although it can only be modeled as a captured vehicle. This model does put Mike well on his way toward winning the theme award (Old Dogs/New Tricks) at the 2017 ASMS Capital Classic.



I think it may be time to get Bob Bethea a calendar. He brought in his White Elephant entry a month early. Nevertheless, the Condo Legion Me109B still shines. The 1/48th scale Academy kit pairs well with the Tamiya truck and ICM figures. Bob also showed off a 1/48th scale Revell kit of the Lippisch P.13a. The pilot figure was borrowed from a Tamiya kit. Anyone up for lawn darts?



Ben Morton brought in this 1/144th scale Platz kit of the venerable P-47D. The kit was built OOB and goes together without a lot of muss or fuss. Ben noted that this model was his first use of Alclad II paints.

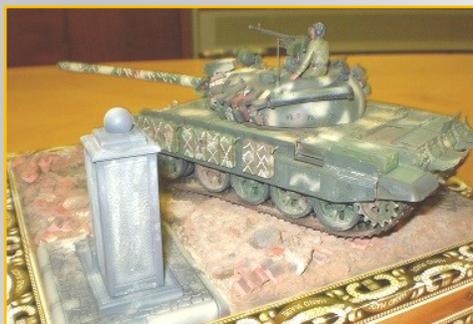
Do not forget to use a respirator when working with lacquer based paints.





Operating under the theory that you can't have too many projects going at once, Aaron Smischney showed up with several WIP.

Starting off with dueling 1/72nd scale Merkava's, Aaron noted that the new HobbyBoss kit outshines the older Ecsi one. The resin ball armor on the turret bustle is from his spares box. Who has that kinda stuff in their spares box? The ModelCollect T-72 kit is also a winner with some great detail and ease of assembly. The 1/35th scale JS-2 is from Trumpeter. The Soul Hunter is a 75mm offering from the aptly named manufacturer, Terrible Kids Stuff.



## Model O' The Month

Rick Herrington smoked the competition winning **Model O' The Month** with this 1/35th scale Takom kit of the T-55 AMV. The tank commander is from Tamiya and the fountain is from an Italerii accessories kit. Rick noted there are some assembly issues to deal with but it would seem that he managed to overcome them just fine.

**Congratulations, Rick!**



## Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Randy Bumgardner,  
Rick Herrington, Golzar Shahrzad

### Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

In 1/350th scale we have the following new (re-releases) items from Fujimi. The IJN Battleship Kongo (premium edition) and the IJN Carrier/Battleship ISE. This is also a premium release. What that means is that you get extra goodies (photo-etch, decals, etc.) not included in the original kit.



Click on the link for additional photos and sprue shots of the ISE kit.

<http://www.1999.co.jp/eng/image/10077528/10/0>

Fujimi also is showing several new IJN ships. The IJN Aircraft Carrier Kaga, the IJN Aircraft Carrier Shokaku and the IJN Destroyer Shimakaze.

Hobby Boss seems to have been brushing up on their French. They have the French Battleship Dunkerque and the French Pre-Dreadnought Battleship Voltaire sailing forth soon.

Pit Road is updating their selections with a JMSDF Modern Destroyer Akizuki DD-161.

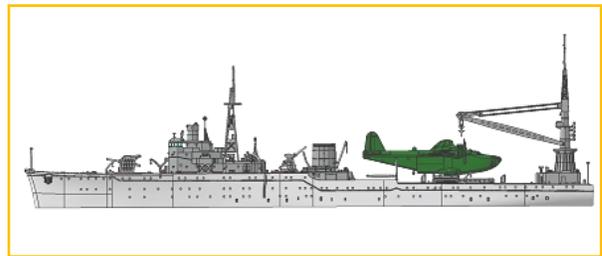


And lastly, in 1/350th scale and from Mikr Mir is the Soviet Pravda Class Submarine (mid-1930's). This kit has some photo-etch and comes with English instructions.

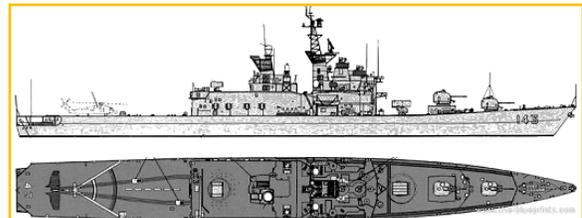
The following items are all in 1/700th scale. First is Fujimi with two WWII era IJN Kagero class destroyers: the Yukikaze and Isokaze.

Fujimi is also releasing the IJN Battleship Kongo (1941) DX. DX stands for deluxe edition.

Aoshima is adding to its Kantai Fleet Collection with the Kanmusu No 33 Japanese Seaplane Carrier. This is a limited edition kit and comes with two seaplanes (a Mavis and an Emily) and a patrol/support vessel. It's best to think of the Kantai Fleet Collection as a naval version of *Gurls und Panzers*.



Pit Road is showing the Royal Navy Battleship Valiant (1939). They also have the JMSDF DDH-143 Shirane (Destroyer/Helicopter carrier) and JMSDF DDH-183 Izumo (Destroyer/Helicopter carrier). The Shirane (first in class) was the follow on to the Haruna-class destroyer/helicopter carrier. Pit Road is usually marketed in the United States under the Trumpeter brand.



Flyhawk Models has the HMS Campbellton coming pretty soon. These are excellent kits and include photo-etch, decals, rigging accessories, and white metal bits.



The Campbellton was an ex-US 4 stacker destroyer (originally a Town-class destroyer) loaned to the British during the Lead-Lease program.



For you ship enthusiasts that need something to fill up a great deal of space in your hobby area, Trumpeter has provided us with a 1/48th scale U-boat Type VIIC U-552. This one will set you back a little over \$500.00, depending on where you buy it. If you're interested, King's has one in stock.

That's it for this month.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Rick



### Miscellaneous

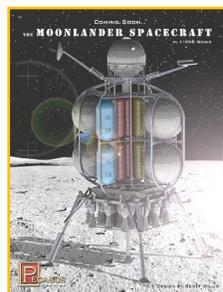
I'll begin with a flashback to my misspent youth. It was a cold winter evening when a girl that I had a crush on showed up with a brand new Opel GT. Now you too can recall those fun filled, carefree days with a more petite version of "one rad roadster." Revell has a 1/32th scale injected molded kit of the Opel GT. The kit includes rotating tires, a single piece body, and decals for numerous countries.



Matuo Kasten is a maker of exceptional, small scale aircraft models with the occasional armor vehicle thrown in for good measure.



Their latest offering is a JGSDF Type 74 tank with mine roller. These are resin cast models. Did I mention that it is 1/144th scale?



Pegasus has a 1/350th scale kit of Werner von Braun's 1952 proposal for a Moon Lander. The model sits ten inches high and represents the cargo/passenger version. The company is also offering a *War of the Worlds* mini-diorama. The kit has two Martian war machines, damaged buildings, and base. This kit is also in 1/350th scale.

Other fun and unusual stuff is a 1/150th scale (N scale) from Fujimi: the Tokyo Monorail Type 1000. The kit is a four car train on an elevated track stand. Additional cars and track sets are available.



Mach 2 has a series of 1/72nd scale Avro York's to grace your work bench. There are four different liveries available: RAF, Air London, Skyways of London airlines, and Berlin Airlift. These are Mach 2 kits, so remember...short run kits with some minor build issues.

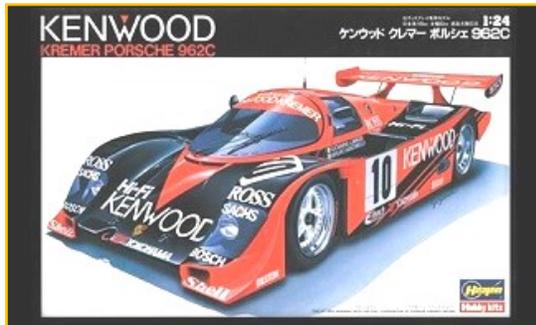


Should Mach 2 kits not present enough of a challenge, try your hand at an AZ Models kit. One of their newest is a 1/72nd scale, injected molded kit of the Me 109 G-0. This is the V-tail prototype.

You get markings for one aircraft.



Hasegawa is re-issuing their Porsche 962C model in 1/24th scale . This time, it's the Kenwood Kremer Porsche.



Staying with the re-issue theme, Glencoe Models is re-introducing their Retriever Rocket in 1/72nd (?) scale. This is still an injected molded kit.

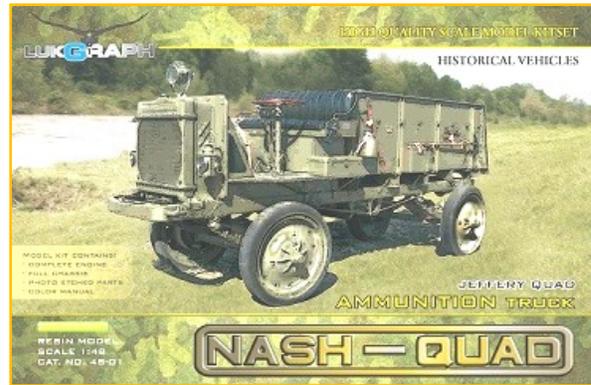


Top Notch, a maker of aircraft paint masks, has a plethora of new ones to ease some of your model painting concerns. These self-adhesive masks range from 1/24th to 1/72nd scale. Some of the new offerings include the Curtiss P-40B, Spitfire, FW190, Bf-109, and de Havilland's Mosquito.

Max Factor has a 1/72nd scale Eastland WE211 Maverick tactical transport helo coming soon. This helicopter is from the anime series, "Fang of the Sun Dougram."



This is a snap kit. It can be shown in-flight or with landing gear extended and comes with pilot and co-pilot figures.



Lukgraph makes some nicely detailed resin kits. The latest is a Nash Quad ammo truck. This truck was developed in 1913 and was one of the most successful vehicles of WWI. The 1/48th scale kit has a complete engine and chassis. A must for any WWI diorama.

From the realm of I thought I would never need one, is a 1/35th scale German special trailer. The Sd Ah. 206 is a resin kit from Custom Scale. Now you have no excuse for not hauling around that Flak gun or other light equipment.

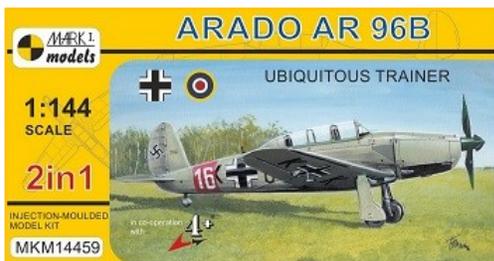


Zebrano has a newly-tooled, 1/72nd scale Russian ZIS-5V truck. This injected molded kit also comes in either an ambulance or half-track versions.

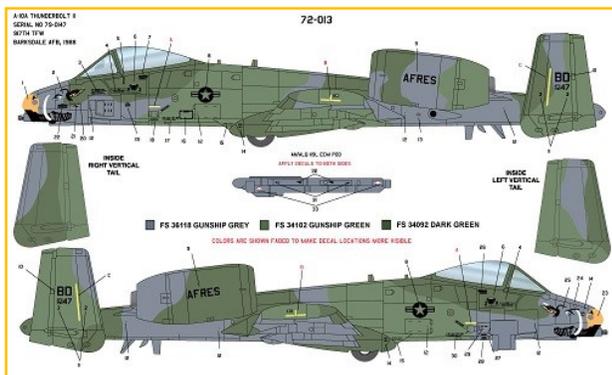
Multiple versions are also available for a 1/144th kit of the Mil Mi-10. This Russian transport helo can be had either in a military or commercial version.



Mark One Models has a new offering for you small scale folk. This time out it's the Arado 96B. This injected molded, 1/144th scale kit comes with two complete models in the box.



For A-10 Warthog fans, Milspec has a series (1/32, 1/48, 1/72) of decals to enhance that latest project. These decals represent the Warthog when assigned to the 917th TFW based at Barksdale AFB in 1988.



ACE Models has a 1/72nd scale Mercedes 770K Grosser Tourenwagen coming pretty quick. There are markings included for vehicles used by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Arthur Seyss-Inguants, and King Haakon of Norway. Arthur was the Reichskommissar of the Netherlands. As you might have guessed, this Mercedes was *the* car for the well-to-do and well-placed potentate. The kit also comes with some photo-etch.



Mutlu Noeller!

Golzar



### Dateline: November 17, 2016.

The Austin Scale Modelers Society has chosen a theme for their upcoming 2017 Capital Classic model show and contest.

This much anticipated event will be the culmination of decades of effort by, well, just way too many people to list here. Space simply will not allow for someone to drone on and on and on about all those individuals that have and will make innumerable contributions to the success of the forthcoming 2017 Capital Classic Model Show and Contest sponsored by members and devotees of Austin Scale Modelers Society in Austin Texas.

After some hard fought, acrimonious discussion and several heated exchanges, some of which almost came to blows, the contest theme for the Capital Classic 2017 Model Show and Contest will be...

### Old Dogs / New Tricks.

By way of explanation, Old Dogs / New Tricks will encompass any model in any scale that imagines that model re-purposed from its original intent.

Freshly minted show coordinator, Ian Latham, noted that an example "might be a captured Russian T-34 now in German service. An American M4 Sherman re-manufactured by the Israelis into the M50/M51."

Latham suggested that "model entries that could receive consideration for this theme award could be hot rods, rat rods, a modified battleship into an aircraft carrier, or any re-purposed or captured aircraft, vehicle, or ship." (civilian or military) He went on to state that "now more than ever those who had thought that they didn't have the opportunity of winning the theme award at an area model contest, this is your chance with this broad and inclusive theme."

A specially designed and meticulously crafted trophy will be presented to one fortunate winner at the 2017 ASMS Capital Classic.

Detailed information for this highly anticipated event will soon be available via the 2017 Capital Classic show flyer and on our website.

<http://austinsms.org/contest.php>

## It Figures

Greetings! Welcome to the round up of lilliputian people!

Let's start off with a bunch of new releases from Tank figures. Tank makes some outstanding figures, especially Russian subjects. There is something especially said about their faces. They look decidedly ethnic Russian.

Sometimes their box art can be a bit off-putting, but don't let that fool you. These are some of the highest quality sculptures around. They also make an assortment of interesting accessories (weapons and stowage.)

<http://www.tank-model.ru/>

First up are some figures from two of the world's current hotspots: Ukraine and Syria.



Modern Officer of the Russian Special Forces (Syria)

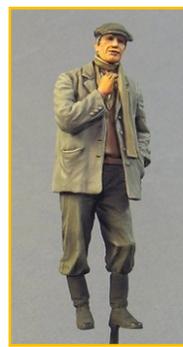


Commander of Volunteer Division Novorossiia, I. Strelkov.

Next are some Russian civilians for your diorama work. I think these could easily be converted to be mid-Twentieth century civilians from just about anywhere.



Moscow janitor, circa 1940-1950.



Russian Civilians (1940-1950). These figures appear to come with several head options.

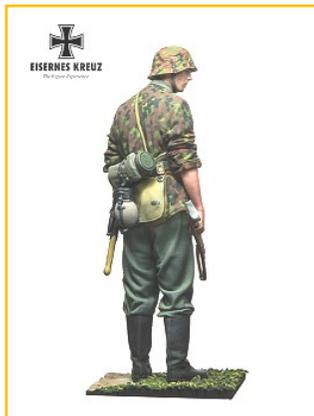
And for something different from Tank, a pair of French crewman from WWI One of them is designed to be emerging from an FT17.





The other figure will look good standing next to any tank that you wish.

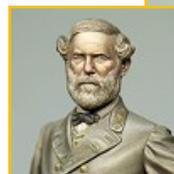
Our new neighbors in Austin, Andrea Miniatures, are following up their excellent Fallschirmjager with an equally stunning SS Sturmman. This figure will be available in both 1/16th and 1/35th scale.



For those of you that have not seen it, this is their Fallschirmjager. It slipped through my roundup last month.



Finishing up with something new and completely different for Andrea Miniatures is a 1/16th scale General Robert E. Lee.



This sculpture a dead-on of the General and will be a best seller for sure. The figure also comes with two head options (with or without hat).

Until next time, those are the highlights.

God Jul!

Aaron



### Tanks A Lot

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

Jumping right in, there are two new announcements from AFV Club.

One is the a combat engineering vehicle based on the Patton chassis.



AFV CLUB  
1/35 SCALE  
AF35254

The other is the M113A1 ACAV. This was announced earlier this year but we now have some sprue shots and CAD renderings. Hopefully it is getting close to being released. The kit appears as if it will include some crew weapons that look mighty fine!



Moving on to the small scale stuff (1/72nd), ModelCollect appears to be moving away from modern Russian tanks and toward WWII.

Two exciting announcements are an early Tiger I and a Panzer IV.



This is exciting because their kits are as detailed as 1/35th scale ones. They also include goodies like metal barrels and photo-etch. The prices are not extreme either, usually falling in the twenty-five dollar range.

This is sure to give Dragon some much needed competition. In my opinion, Dragon has been phoning it in, of late. ModelCollect have not forgotten modern fans either as they have released test shots for an upcoming MAZ 7911 Heavy Truck, This is a typically Russian-looking brute.



To round things up, Academy is releasing an updated M4A3. While this is not as state-of-the-art as Tascakits, they are not bad. Academy kits offer a simpler build with a lower price tag.



Until next time.

Veselé Vánoce!

Aaron

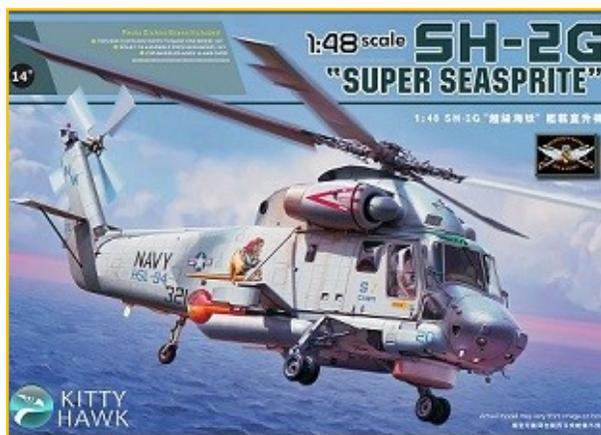


## Aircraft

Here it is, December. The end of 2016.

We've got a few new things this month, although it does seem a bit lighter this time around. Let's get started.

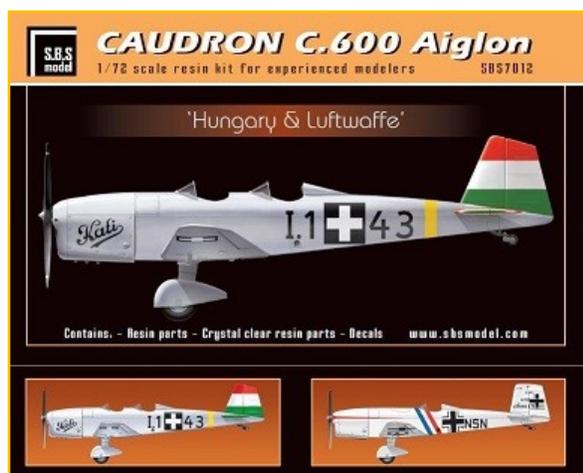
First is Kitty Hawk. They've announced their brand new 1/48th scale SH-2G Super Seasprite. It is shipping soon and should be on the shelves of a fine plastic retailer near you, or near your computer.



There are quite an array of markings in the box: USN, Polish, Egyptian, and New Zealand. It contains a fully detailed interior and is a nice kit.

Next on our docket is S.B.S. Model. They have just released two boxings of the Caudron C.600 Aiglon.

These 1/72nd scale kits contain resin parts with photo-etch and clear resin wind screens. The boxings differ in the markings contained within, either Spanish Civil War or Hungary & Luftwaffe.



Moving along, Brengun have released a very esoteric Russian pulse jet that was developed toward the end of the Great Patriotic War.

Looking like a V-1 with twin pulse jets, the OKB Chelomey 16Kha "Priboy" was developed in the final months of 1944.



This is Brengun's first release of a 1/48th scale jet. The kit is pretty simple with only 48 parts. There really aren't that many ways to the parts breakdown for this type of aircraft.

One last thing for this year. Airfix, on a hot run of new kits and announcements, has just released a new 1/72nd scale Handley Page Victor B.2. This model is on it's way to hobby shops around the globe.



It's a big kit and packed with detail. Airfix is really hitting it out the park these days.

I warned everyone that it's a light list this month. I've got to get back to decorating the homestead for the holidays.

Go forth, celebrate and build a model.

Fröhliche Weihnachten!

Randy



## Flambé by Bon V. Vânt

At the Vânt household during the holidays, no meal would be complete without flambé-ing the dessert.

The two family favorites are Cherries Jubilee and Plum Pudding with Hard Sauce.



**Cherries Jubilee** requires the follow:

- one can pitted cherries
- three lemon slices
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ tablespoon cinnamon. (combine the sugar and cinnamon)
- 1/3 cup brandy

Heat cherries and lemon to just below boiling.

Remove from heat and place in heat-proof bowl. A fancy bowl is favored as this is all about the effect.

Sprinkle the sugar and cinnamon mixture over the top.

Carefully add warm brandy on top of the cherries and lemon mixture.

Set afire.

Spoon over vanilla ice cream.

For **Plum Pudding with Hard Sauce** you'll need these items:

- Your favorite plum pudding. (The Vânts like Crosse and Blackwell).
- one cup Confectioners' sugar
- Two to five tablespoons of butter
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- one teaspoon vanilla
- one teaspoon of rum, whisky, or brandy
- one egg or ¼ C cream



To make the hard sauce beat the butter until soft. Add the sugar, gradually. Combine these ingredients until well blended and fluffy. Add 1/8 teaspoon salt, one teaspoon vanilla, and beat in the egg. When the sauce is smooth, chill thoroughly.

Warm the plum pudding according to package instructions. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with ¼ cup sugar. Pour 1/3 cup warm brandy over the top and set afire. Serve the hard sauce on the side.

Warning: The alcohol *does* burn off when you flambé. You may *not* want to set either dish afire to increase the alcohol content of each.

From the Vânt household to yours, we wish you all peace in your hearts and a smile on your face.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bon





## 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.

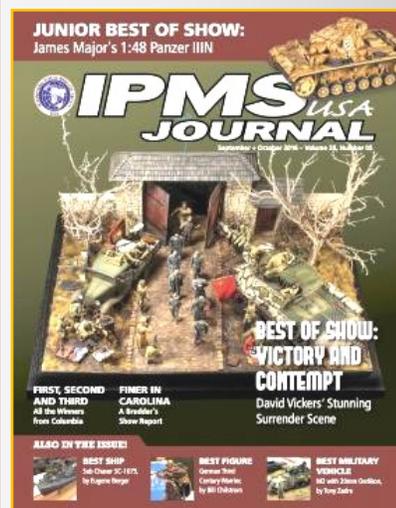
[http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms\\_application\\_form\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2016.pdf)

Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:  
IPMS/USA  
PO Box 56023  
St. Petersburg, FL 33732-6023

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

### *In the latest Issue:*

#### ***IPMS/USA Journal September + October 2016***



- Every Convention Tells a Story - A Report from the 2016 IPMS Nationals, by Dick Engar (with Bill Engar)
- Juniors - Category 00
- Tom Kolk Best Junior Model - Category 00
- Aircraft - Category 01
- Military - Category 02
- Figures - Category 03
- Ships - Category 04
- Automotive - Category 05
- Real Space and Sci-Fi - Category 06
- Diorama - Category 07
- Miscellaneous - Category 08
- Special Awards - Categories 09 and 10
- George Lee Judges' Grand Award - Category 10

**contact us**

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**on the web**

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



[Photo courtesy of Mike Burns/CenTex Modelers]

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

**Next Meeting:**

**December 15**

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



**SOUTH WEST AREA  
MODELERS OF PLASTIC**



presents

**Calmex XXXI**

**Saturday, January 28, 2017  
Westlake, Louisiana**

Contest Theme - "Hookers In Action"

You've all heard of a tail hook, grappling hook, fishing hook, etc. This year we want everyone to get their minds out of the gutter and build a model that depicts action involving something readily identified with a hook.

Examples include an aircraft in the act of landing on an aircraft carrier, a figure fishing or trying to snag a gator as well as a crane hoisting an object. Remember, your entry must show action, so let's see those dioramas and vignettes. Additionally, we will also consider figures of characters names "Hooker" as well as models bearing "Hooker" sponsor graphics. The requirement of action is waived for these entries.

<http://www.ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html>