



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

March 2016

Wisconsin National Guard Museum Volk CRTC, Camp Douglas, Wisconsin by G. R. Dennis Price

While driving from Greybull, Wyoming to Oshkosh, Wisconsin last summer, I took the time to stop along the way at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. Adjacent to the north side of Interstate 90 is the Wisconsin National Guard Museum.

Camp Douglas was founded in 1888 when the State Adjutant General purchased a site for a rifle range. The following year, in 1889, the State Legislature authorized the Governor to purchase a permanent campground and rifle range for the Wisconsin National Guard.

By 1903, the camp had expanded to over 800 acres. In 1926 the site was named Camp Williams after Lt. Col. Charles R. Williams, the Chief Quartermaster of the post from 1917 to his death in 1926. The first hard surface runway was started in 1935 and the airfield was complete with lights and support facilities during World War II.

[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



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Phil Brandt (in memorium)

Eric Choy Angela Forster
 Jeff Forster Russ Holm
 Rick Willaman Jack Johnston
 Mike Krizan Mike Poole

Aaron Smischney

Rick Herrington

Upcoming Events

IPMS/USA Region 6 Model Shows

Great South Tigerfest XXIII, Kenner, Louisiana	4.09.16
http://ipmsneworleans.wix.com/flyingtiger	
Tulsa Model Forum, Bixby, Oklahoma	4.09.16
http://tulsaipms.org/	
ModelMania 2016, Stafford, Texas	4.23.16
http://www.ipms-houston.org/?page_id=11	
ScaleFest 2016, Grapevine, Texas	6.04.16
http://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/sites/default/files/events/scalefest-2016/scalefest2016web.pdf	

Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	4.07.16
www.alamosquadron.com/meetings.htm	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	4.06.16
http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	4.07.16
CenTex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	3.17.16
http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	4.09.16
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, Texas	4.09.16

Other Events

Build-N-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	3.19.16
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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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

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

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

www.models4troops@gmail.com

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Peanut Brittle

Randy Bumgardner

With the month of March comes Springtime. No more time model building in the basement, shop, or wherever you choose to work at our hobby. Unless you build in the garage, then you probably welcome the warmer weather. Spring also means we get to travel forward in time an hour, we get to attend more model shows, and we have to spend more time on yard work. I say, forget the lawn and spend time on your models. Your neighbors may not appreciate it, but they only come out to complain anyway.



First off, I'd like to congratulate our Vice President, Aaron Smischney, for an awesome showing at ModelFiesta this year. Not only did Aaron take first place in his figure category with his bust, he was also awarded Best Figure and Best of Show! Holy Hardware, Batman! When you see Aaron, give him a well deserved congratulations.

Fellow ASMS alumni also took home some awards. Bob Bethea received first place and Best Diorama for his Civil War diorama, "Dinnertime 1863," and also took home a plethora of others. Mike Poole took first place with his Siemens-Schuckert D.III, Ben Morton took third place with a Boeing P-6E Hawk, and Ron McCracken also won second place with his RA-5C Vigilante. Mike and Ben also won special awards. Mike received the Tom Ward Award for Best WWI Aircraft, and Ben received the Bob Davies Award for Best Golden Age Aircraft. Congratulations to all of you! If I missed anyone, I apologize.



The first ASMS quarterly contest of 2016 will be held at our next meeting. It's an open theme, so bring whatever you fancy and compete for a coveted King's Gift Certificate. You can also compete for Model of the Month and the coveted pat on the back.

We will also be debuting our new door prizes this month. I would like to extend a hearty thank you! to all of the ASMS shoppers at ModelFiesta. All of you did a fantastic job picking out very nice models and some even donated a little extra to the cause. Thank you!

As is the usual case with the door prize drawing at our monthly meetings, each member in attendance receives a ticket for the drawing. Going forward, if a member also brings a completed model for show-n-tell they will receive an additional ticket for the drawing.

Our show is swiftly approaching (September 24) and I want to encourage every member to help make this another great show. This is the ASMS showcase and a chance for us to show what we can do. I've reassessed the trophy sponsorships and I'd like to see as many members as possible get their name on a package. The cost is \$25.00 for a first, second, and third category package. The 'Best of' awards will cost \$50.00, if you'd prefer to sponsor a larger trophy.

I hope to see everyone's smiling face at the meeting. I've got quite a bit of yard work waiting for me, and the neighbors *are* complaining.

Go build a model!

Randy



In 1947, the Department of Defense reorganized and formed the Wisconsin Army National Guard and Wisconsin Air National Guard. The Army National Guard moved to Fort McCoy and the Wisconsin Air National Guard began annual training at Camp Douglas.

In 1949, the 148th Fighter Interception Squadron (FIS) based at Duluth, Minnesota, began using Camp Williams for its training. In 1954, an air-to-ground gunnery range (Hardwood Range, managed by Camp Douglas) opened near Finley, Wisconsin.

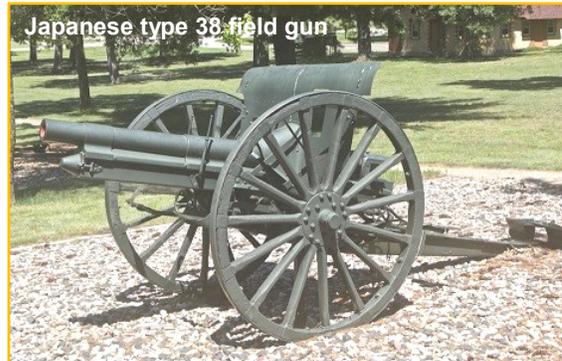
During the Korean War and during the 1950's, air units came from Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, New York, North and South Carolina, as well as Missouri to train on the range. In 1957, the camp was renamed Volk Field Air National Guard Base after Jerome A. Volk, the first Wisconsin Air National Guard pilot killed in combat in the Korean War.

Today, the base is used as an Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center and has a single 9,000 foot long runway. However, there are no permanently based aircraft. On the other hand, the base does contain the Wisconsin National Guard Museum.

The museum consists of a single building, in the form of a dog-trot style house (the old headquarters?) with the central passage being enclosed and forming the visitor entrance. The two side rooms include displays relating to the history of the Army National Guard.

A line of Army National Guard helicopters and artillery pieces are outside to the northwest of the building.

These include a Bell UH-1H, Bell AH-1S, Japanese type 38 field gun, M-3 37mm anti-tank gun, M-4 Sherman tank, M-48 Patton tank, M-60A3 Patton tank, M-110A2 self-propelled howitzer, and an M-114A2 155mm howitzer.





M-48 Patton



M-60A3 Patton



M-110A2



M-114A2 155mm howitzer

There are also a number of aircraft on display. A North American P-51D, Republic F-84F, Boeing KC-97L, North American F-86H, North American F-100C, Convair F-102A, Convair TF-102A, Republic F-105B, McDonnell Douglas F-4C, Vought A-7D, McDonnell Douglas F-15B, and a Fairchild A-10A.

These aircraft are arranged around a very large grassy area (the former parade ground?) to the south of the building.

The museum is open Wednesday to Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. and on Sunday from 10:00 AM. to 2:00 PM. If you do not have a military identification card access is available after a valid driver's license check. If you are driving by, do stop in, it will be worth your time.



P-51D



F-84F



KC-97L



F-86H

The history of the base was found on various web pages under a search for "Volk Field". Two of those listings are:

<http://www.volkfield.ang.af.mil/history/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volk_Field_Air_National_Guard_Base



F-100C

The information on the outside exhibits comes from a very handy free booklet "Outdoor Exhibit Guide, Aircraft, Tanks, & Artillery" prepared by the Wisconsin National Guard Museum and available at the Museum.



F-102A



A-7D



TF-102A



F-15B



F-105B



A-10A



F-4C

Dennis

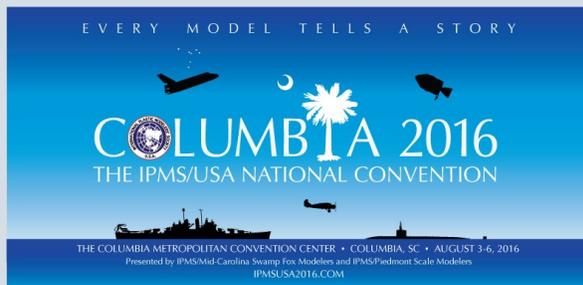


[All photos by G. R. Dennis Price. Dennis also maintains a Facebook page devoted to aviation Photography].

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

Columbia 2016 IPMS/USA National Convention

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/>

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



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

From The Bottom Of A Lake In Russia, To A Museum In California by Mike Lamm

In 2003, this Messerschmitt Bf 109 was raised from a lakebed in Russia more than 60 years after it ended up there following an emergency landing by its pilot, Wulf-Dietrich Widowitz.



The plane itself was built in 1939, and fought in the Battle of France, then later in the Battle of Britain before being transferred to the Eastern Front.

On April 4, 1942, Widowitz was part of a patrol of four Bf-109s when they were intercepted by a flight of Soviet lend-lease Hawker Hurricanes. Widowitz's plane took hits to the engine and wing, forcing a wheels-up emergency landing on a frozen Russian lakebed where the pilot was able to get out and escape moments before the ice broke and his plane sank to the bottom.

At the bottom of that lake is where it stayed for six decades before efforts were made to recover the plane. Amazingly, the icy waters kept the plane in fantastic condition. The damage done on that fateful date in 1942 was still preserved, as were some of the plane's original paint colors. The plane's damage included multiple bullet holes in the wings and the engine, including evidence of being hit by large caliber cannon fire on the right wing.

The horizontal stabilizers had bullet holes through them that came from the bottom indicating the plane had been hit with small arms fire from the ground. In spite of the combat damage and emergency landing, once the plane was recovered from the lake, the undercarriage was still able to take the aircraft's weight.



Some of the plane's original camouflage and insignia markings were still visible. This plane must have been destined for the African Campaign because under the layers of paint, there is a paint layer showing desert camouflage.

This aircraft now belongs to Texas' own Friedkin Family Warbirds, but is actually in Chino, California awaiting "future restoration" by the Planes of Fame Air Museum.

As for the pilot, after surviving the emergency landing on the Russian lake, Widowitz died just over a year later in a different crash landing. He ended the war with 36 victories.

Mike



[This is a link to a walkaround video of this aircraft.]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-VpSDxWTnI>

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

Many may recall the Mattel vac-u-form toy maker from the early 1960s. This was a much sought after item for scale modelers wanting to make their own aftermarket bits for their latest project. Some years later, Mattel introduced the Thingmaker. This toy utilized soft plastic to mold various critters and toys.



The Thingmaker has risen again, but this time as a "family-friendly, 21st century" 3D Printer. For \$299.00 you can have one too!

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/baig/2016/02/12/mattel-resurrects-thingmaker-3d-printer/80236104/>

Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky has an affinity for German aircraft from WWII. His models of an He219 and Me262 have astounded us all. So without being too surprised, he sent along a note about a group that is building replicas of an Me262 with updated electronics and reliable engines. I don't believe this group plans to build many aircraft, so if you want a flying, full-sized replica, get your order in soon!

<http://www.retrothing.com/2009/09/me-262-project.html>

Fred's Fun Facts: March 17th



In 1780, George Washington grants the Continental Army a holiday, in solidarity with the fight for Irish independence.

In 1947, the B-45 Tornado strategic bomber took it's first flight.

In 1958, the United States launches the Vanguard I satellite. It is also Saint Patrick's Day.

[courtesy of Fred Horky]

For the true video gamers in the crowd or anyone familiar with *Fallout 4*, here's something just for you. Three Zero has a 1/6th scale 'action figure' of the T-45 Power Armor from that game. This is a highly detailed, posable figure for your collection.

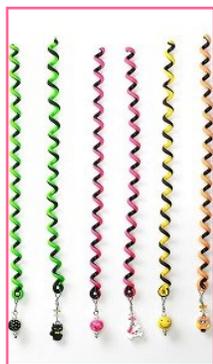
Get your true gamer geek on, send them about \$400.00, and the gift of a lifetime will be yours.



<http://kotaku.com/look-at-this-400-fallout-4-figure-1754849544>

This next item struck me as a bit odd, but you just never really know what those German's are thinking.

Revel/Germany has a line of models/toys that are marketed to the younger crowd. By younger, I mean ages five to nine. These kits are build and play kits (snap-tite) and as such are simple to build and somewhat sturdy. Revel hasn't forgotten that you may wish to look your best while building one of those kits. (And, we could probably all use a little prettyin' up.)



Revell/Germany is introducing *Twisteez*. These are "crazy hair spirals in various colors and styles with cool motif pendants." These hair spirals will give you the opportunity to let your freak flag fly while at the same time providing you an outlet for some creative hairstyling ideas. You may laugh, but anyone remember *Troll Dolls*, *Pet Rocks* or *Beanie Babies*?

<http://bizzimummy.com/2015/04/02/revell-my-arts-twisteez/>

Milton Bell forwarded a story that was sent to him by a friend and now I shall share it with you.

The story revolves around an U. S. Air Force tradition, begun during the Korean War, that involves placing a nickel on the grass or headstone of a fallen comrade as a way of paying one's respect.

<http://barnapkinairpower.com/2016/02/14/a-nickel-on-the-grass/>

As one might expect, there is a drinking song that goes along with this tradition and the version by Oscar Brand has been included. Lyrics *may not* be suitable for all persons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvpOj9GVRBI>

Jean-Michel



ASMS Quarterly Contest Schedule



March 17



Dealer's Choice
any subject/scale

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.

The Point Of Decision by Rick Cotton

Mike Stucker, car modeler extraordinaire and serious lead-footed horsepower junkie, said something that caused this writer's wheels to start turning: a bit about modeling versus assembling.

Model-building takes a while. We can, and do, over time, lose that initial enthusiasm for the project. I am struck by how many of my model-building friends and associates reach the "oh-foeey-on-it" stage in a build.

You know the moment I'm talking about – that Flabbenschlapper has been in production, on your desk, for the last six weeks, consuming all your precious time, supplies, and emotional energy.

It is a collection of major sub-assemblies. This wheel bay is crammed full of expensive resin. That radar set has \$75 worth of brass in it. That cockpit has accurate seat belts you ordered from Albania, and it took you two weeks of carving, sanding, and swearing to get them in. You have now logged enough time on this model to rehab both of Jadaveon Clowney's knees or Courtney Love's drug habit. In short, it's been there a while.

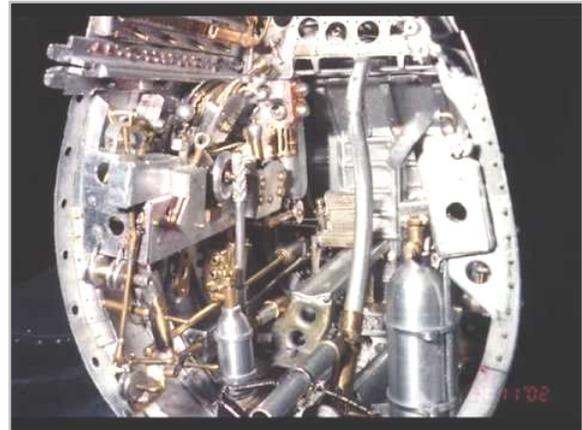


Then, one night, it just hits you between the eyes: The hell with it! Let's just stick it together and *finish it!*

You do, and it feels good...until you notice that half the stuff you crammed into that kit is not...well...not really visible. At all. Not even with the dental mirror and Death Ray.

It makes you think. Is it worth it? Is it really worth it to re-work the entire interior, fill it just chock full of the finest resin and brass bits and pieces, and spend months painting those bits and pieces, just to button

the whole thing up and make that work invisible? Really? *You* know it's in there, and that makes you sorta satisfied...you think. Good thing you took assembly photos...What? You forgot to? Oh, \$%#@^!



Nobody will ever see all that stuff. Should I just paint the inside interior green, and close it up, and just detail the outside with stuff everyone can see? With...I can't believe I'm actually proposing this...the kit parts?

Some would argue that this is just assembling, and not modeling. These die-hards would tell you that every single effort to replicate every nut and bolt part is the proper way to go. Why install an engine with ten parts, when 500 parts would look so much better? They would say that just building the kit, more or less the way it came out of the box is somehow a lesser endeavor, and to be looked down on and sneered at like a Canadian League football game.

Others argue that one should build the way they want, and that if one wants to concentrate their efforts on finishing what came in the box to a very high standard, then that is modeling at its purest form. They would argue that building and painting to a level where even a simple kit looks good, is far more difficult than it first appears. ANY model-building goofus can make a good model from a Tamiya kit – try it with a box-stock 30-year old Airfix kit! Good luck!

There are great benefits to both sides of the equation. Superdetail Geek gets his jollies out of watching people's jaws drop open at the show, while their Death Rays swirl around the 300-part scratchbuilt ashtray in the cockpit of his Flabbenschlapper.

Purist Guy can fill out the entire out-of-the-box category with lovely paint jobs without breaking a sweat, or resorting to working 24/7/52. He also has more money left to blow in the vendor room than

Superdetail Geek. He'll spend less, and walk out with more complete projects in his hands.

I would venture to say that most of us fall somewhere between Superdetail Geek and Purist Guy. We start out that kit, intending to replicate every darned thing. We cut the entire model apart, bit by bit, until there is nothing larger than a scale nut and bolt left of the original parts. We then begin cutting and replacing, cutting and replacing. Oh, that landing gear looks great! Oh, how wonderfully it sits! Oh, crap! I have to do the other one!

Fast forward to six weeks later, we really don't care if we ever see a Flabbenschlapper again. That wheel is good enough. Glue it on. That becomes the desperate mantra...finish this \$%#@^&! It's *wearing* on me!!!

Voila! It has happened! We have now gone from Superdetail Geek to Purist Guy – in one easy model. Some would say, at this point, we have given up “modeling” for “assembling”.

No, not really. We have just reached the breaking point, where all models eventually go – the point of decision: finish it – glue and paint, and cram what's left in the box, in a Death Build session if necessary, and *finish the thing!* Back in the box. Back on the Shelf of Doom. Who knows when...or if...we will get back to it ? !

Take a break...do *no* model-building for a week. Arrange flowers, or sort your collection of vintage Indonesian postcards or Mamie Van Doren movie posters. Whatever. Just no gluing until your inner model monster forces you to. Then see number one above.



Where are you on the sliding scale of model-building madness? There really is no “right” way. Yes, there's a “wrong” way...giving up and not trying. Don't do that.

So go model something. Or, assemble it. Or, whatever works for you. It's all good.

Rick



Newsletter articles are like rolls of toilet paper...you can't have too many!



Looking for newsletter articles of any size, shape, or subject.

Please send all submissions to:
editor@austinsms.org

I went into a bookstore and asked the sales associate, “Where's the self-help section?”

They said that if they told me it would defeat the purpose.

[Courtesy of BlueJacket Shipcrafters, Inc.]

Airfix's 1/72 Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat by Mike Lamm

The Grumman F4F Wildcat was an American carrier-based fighter aircraft beginning service with both the United States Navy and the British Royal Navy (as the Martlet) in 1940.

The Wildcat/Martlet first saw combat with the British in Europe. However, in the Pacific, the Wildcat was the only effective fighter that the United States Navy and Marine Corps had in 1941 and 1942. It was used to replace the Brewster Buffalo. However, with a top speed of just over 318 mph, the Wildcat was still outperformed by its main competition, the faster, more maneuverable, and longer ranged Mitsubishi A6M Zero.

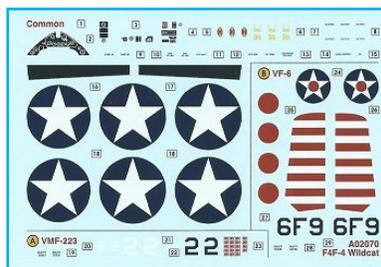
Where the Wildcat out-performed it's competition was in its ruggedness, which along with tactics such as the Thatch Weave, the Wildcat accumulated kill-to-loss ratio of almost 7 to 1 over the course of the war.



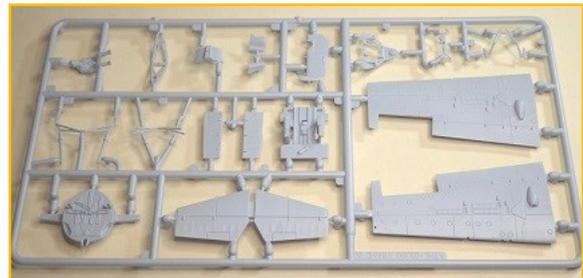
This kit is another in the long line of recent, nicely ("new") tooled 1/72 scale Airfix kits, which are proving to have a nice to superb fit and are moderately priced (the kit for this review was picked up at a LHS for less than \$10).

The kit contains roughly 60 parts on three sprues of the familiar light grey plastic, and one sprue of clear parts, with markings for two separate aircraft. One a plane from VF-6, based on the U.S.S. Enterprise (CV-6), and the other a plane flown by Capt. Marian E. Carl, VMF-223, Henderson Field, Guadalcanal in 1942.

As with most Wildcats, the markings are fairly basic, but they do include some maintenance stencils, wing walks, and appropriate National insignia.



As mentioned earlier, the sprues are molded in the typical Airfix soft, grey plastic. However, unlike some of their earlier "new tool" kits, these sprues appear to have better sprue gates which should make removing delicate pieces a little less worrisome. I still haven't found the aileron balance weights from the Airfix Bf-109 that disappeared somewhere into the nether as soon as I touched them with the sprue cutter.



Although there are about 60 pieces, you won't be using all of them. A nice feature of this kit is that it allows you the option of building the Wildcat with extended or folded wings.

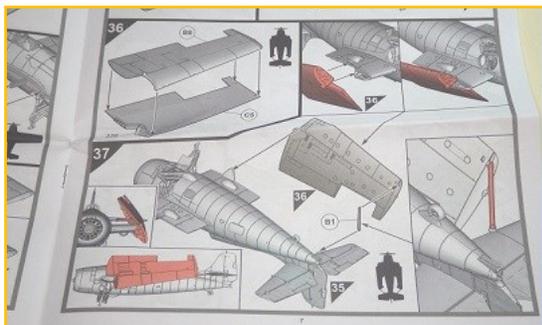
To ease this decision, Airfix provides two sets of wings, one for the extended version, and another for the folded position, with nicely detailed wing roots. No cutting required!



The landing gear looks to be the most complicated and detailed portion of this build consisting of nine finely detailed pieces.

The cockpit is a little sparse, with a detailed floor, basic seat, control stick, a pilot, and instrument panel details via decals. However, the cockpit opening is so tight, that at 1/72nd scale, there won't be too much to see anyway and what's provided should be more than adequate.

The canopy can be modeled open or closed, as Airfix provides both options with the canopy. Also, like many Airfix kits, the instructions provide details for modeling the kit with the gear up or down, although a stand is sold separately.



The instructions are provided in an 11-page booklet, with detailed drawings and color coded installation guides for sub-assemblies. All in all, they look very clear and provide different angles for some of the more complicated assemblies.

At less than \$10.00 dollars, Airfix has provided a lot for your money, so make sure to add this one to your wish list, or any other stash increasing list you have out there. From the looks of it, you won't be disappointed.

Now go build a model!

Mike



Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

Before beginning with the models that were on display at last month's ASMS meeting, I want to advise everyone of a new procedure going into effect. The original idea is lost to the sands of time, but I suspect that this idea is from one of the other club newsletters or from a comment by Fred Horky or maybe it came to me in a dream. Either way, my apologies to the originating source.

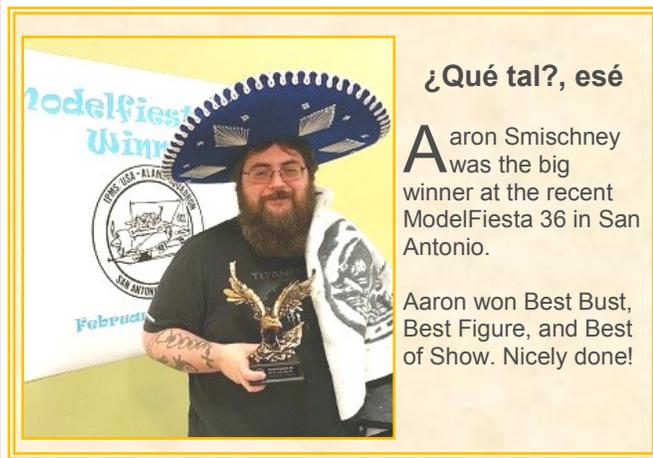
During the show-n-tell segment of our meetings, there is a flurry of activity as our club secretary, Mike Lamm, writes down all the models on display, the builder, and a few pertinent details for each entry. This has gotten out of hand and is becoming a hassle. So, going forward, we (and by that I mean *you*) will be doing things a bit differently.

A small card will be provided to you, basically an abbreviated entry form, for each model you choose to show at any particular meeting. Information included on this form is your name, model, manufacturer, scale, and any details about the kit or the building thereof that you wish to impart.

Whether or not this form gets filled out is immaterial to your eligibility to win Model O' The Month. It is material to whether or not a photograph of your model makes it into the newsletter. Pretty simple really. No entry card, no picture in the paper. Any concerns or questions should be directed to our Rumpus and Hokum Abatement Director, Chris Chany.

Now, on with the show!

Roy



¿Qué tal?, esé

Aaron Smischney was the big winner at the recent ModelFiesta 36 in San Antonio.

Aaron won Best Bust, Best Figure, and Best of Show. Nicely done!



Ian Latham brought in this Moebius kit of *The Robot*. The scale is a little deceptive, the finished kit is almost four inches tall. Ian added his own light kit.



Rick Herrington continues to utilize his new found free-time to good advantage with a Space Ship and a Sturmpanzer IV. The Atlantis kit is comprised of only five parts. Rick added zimmerit and scratch-built the side skirts for the 1/35th scale Dragon kit.



Walter Hanes showed off this Historix 1/30th scale 8 pounder.



Lots of figures this time. These are from Ben Morton. The two *Fallout 4* raiders are ready for any feral ghouls or Minutemen that show up. Both are reworked 1/35th scale Dragon figures.



Mike Lamm amazed us all with appropriate sound effects (engine noises) while describing this Matchbox 1/72nd scale Fw190. Don't act like *you* never do that.



Chad Crockett presented this 1/24th scale Revel-Monogram version of his real car, a 2005 Ford Mustang GT. Chad used original factory colors for the paint.





Ian Candler has oodles on display. Beginning with the 1/35th scale Meng Tortoise. The figure next to it is from Alpine. The 54mm Heroes and Villains Revolutionary War figure represents a member of the Hartley Additional Continental Regiment. Ian sculpted the cuif hairdo for the Psycho-Billy Babe and added a favorite bands logo (Frenzy) to the T-shirt.

Brian, whose last name is unpronounceable in English, was visiting and showed us why he is a figure painter extraordinaire. The 54mm Civil War figure is from Thunderbird Miniatures while the WWII figure hails from Alpine. It is 54mm, as well. The 1/35th scale Tamiya Jagdpanzer IV Lang rounded out Brian's presentation.





Bob Bethea showed up in force with a Viking figure that won Best of Show at a recent contest, a warrior on horseback, a Briton bearing a standard, and a Castle Miniatures Viking brandishing a flag. Wait! The other Viking is brandishing a sword and that one is *holding* a flag. And, just when you thought that Bob was all figure and no whimsy, Marvin the Martian made an appearance with his rover, cobbled together from Takom's 1/35th scale Skoda kit.



RA-5C



C-111



RB-34A

Ron McCracken continues adding to his 1/72nd scale armada with a Trumpeter RA-5C, an RB-34A, and a C-111. Ron notes that the Vigilante kit has a nice cockpit but you'll need to do something about the see-through nature of the engine intakes. Look for a build review of this kit next month.

The RB-34A started life as a Minicraft PV-1 and the C-111 began as an Italeri Hudson 415, but through the magic of scale modeling, morphed into the C-111 you see before you. This model won **Model O' The Month**. Congratulations, Ron!

[Photos courtesy of Ian Latham and Ben Morton]

Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

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

Shipping News

Here's the stuff.

Beginning and with those ships models in 1/700th scale, Aoshima is adding to your choices if your pleasure tends toward auxiliary ships. The Japanese fleet oiler Hayasui SD should be available soon.



We've all heard of paper panzers...now Fujimi is releasing a paper battleship. The IJN Kii was a planned battle cruiser class (Super Yamato). The ship design was a step up from a heavy cruiser with the guns of a battleship.



In 1/350th scale, Dragon has several new releases: the USS Atlanta CL-51 WW2 light cruiser and the USS Gyatt DDG-1. The Gyatt was the world's first guided missile destroyer and was based on a Gearing class destroyer.

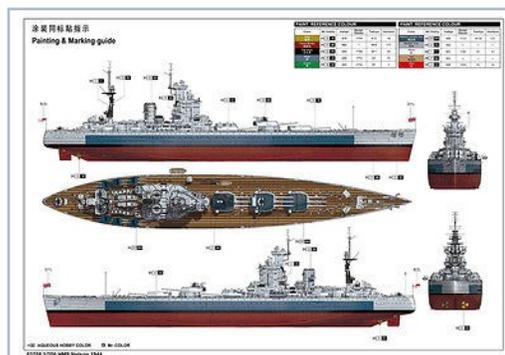


Dragon also has a new mold of the DKM Genisneau battleship that should be released soon.

Cyber Hobby is releasing a new USS Pennsylvania BB-38 (1944).

Fujimi is introducing the IJN Shimakaze destroyer. This version has parts molded in various colors. This may be part of Fujimi's Warship Next series with kits molded in color with ease of assembly (snap-tite) for the beginning modeler "who wants a bit of a challenge." Previous offerings, in this series, were in 1/700th scale.

If large British surface ships are your cup of tea than you're new friends at Trumpeter are offering the HMS Nelson (1944) and the HMS Rodney (1944) British battleships. Previously, kits of both of these ships, in this scale, were in resin and are a bit pricey.



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

Rick



Aircraft

It's here! Spring is in the air and so are my allergies. However, through the fog of decongestants and nasal sprays, I managed to find some stuff to talk about this month. So, we're burning daylight and Daylight Saving's Time is with us. We've lost an hour, let's get to it.

Eduard is set to re-release it's latest incarnation of the venerable Me 109G-6 in April. Originally released to less than stellar fanfare last year, Eduard vowed to return with a vengeance with a revamped, newly-new tooled, Messerschmitt masterpiece.

We'll see in April if it's just another April Fool's joke. I hope they don't plan on releasing this kit on April 1st. Oh, the horror.



Airfix has just released a new 1/48 Boulton-Paul Defiant to rave reviews. Lately, this company can do no wrong and their kits are backing up that perception.



The Defiant is no exception. Molded with nicely detailed parts, and superb fit, this is another in Airfix's line of Battle of Britain kits that are worthy of every modeler's shelf. It's a very cost effective kit as well.

Hasegawa is set to release their newly tooled 1/32 Zero next month, the A6M5c Model 52 Hei. I can't find much information on this kit around the Interwebs. However, based on previous releases in this series, it should contain well molded, detailed parts, and provide a good fit.

大戦時日本海軍の象徴ともいえる零戦。後期の主力艦上戦闘機である52型を最新の考えをもとに最新
の技術で完全リニューラル。1:32スケール大規模シリーズのスタンダードな仕様で、部品点数を削減して
組み立てやすく、精密感と存在感のあるキット内容です。

■エンジン・コクピット精密再現
■機体カラーリングは全機1色/部塗装済み
■機体は全機塗装済み/飛行状態の再現
■パイロット・コクピットは1/48スケールで再現(一部 穴)
■機体内部とエンジン・コクピットは1/48スケール
組み立てやすさと精度を両立

三菱 A6M5c 艦上戦闘機 52型丙

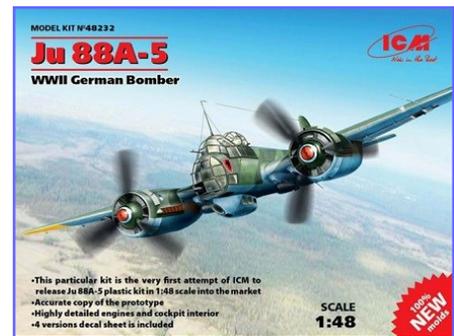
5134 1:32スケール 本体価格 ¥5,000(税別) 127頁 既製品

03084 9 国産品 2015年 12月 34mm 079976
1/32スケール 1/48スケール 1/72スケール

It will be a simplified alternative to the Tamiya Zero, albeit a different version. That can be a gift and a curse. The Tamiya Zero can be found at pretty reasonable prices and the imported prices for Hasegawa kits can get very expensive. However, if you don't like the complexities of the Tamiya kit, this could be the Zero for you. Will I get one? I'm not sure. It depends on how much of my allowance I can save.

ICM have just released a kit that has been neglected in plastic. The 1/48 Junkers Ju 88A-5 should be on shelves by now, and it looks to be a well detailed kit.

Anyone who would like to do a Battle of Britain Ju 88 now has a kit to build without converting any of the Dragon/Revell versions. Yes, Dragon, and later Revell, have forgotten this and the A-1 version of this iconic World War II bomber. No love for the Battle of Britain, until now.



If ICM plans to release an A-1 version, the trumpets will sound. I read that on the Internet, so it must be true.

Back to Airfix, they have some imminent releases on their schedule. These kits include the 1/48 Gloster Meteor F.8 which is due at the end of this month.

Airfix's Workbench blog indicated the decal options are finalized as is the box art. Both very important milestones in the development of a kit. Others may disagree.



Another Airfix release due for distribution (and it may already have been distributed), is the Dogfight Doubles: Fokker E.II and the Royal Aircraft Factory B.E.2c.

This 1/72 kit includes parts for both aircraft, cement, paint, and the brushes necessary to complete them. This isn't marketed as a "beginner's" kit, it just happens to have the supplies needed to build and finish the models. How very thoughtful of Airfix.

That concludes this month's version of affairs, at least the aircraft portion of it.

Go build an airplane!

Randy



Automotive

Welcome, race fans!

Even after the hoard of new product I reported last month from the Nuremberg Show, there's more *new* stuff out and some interesting re-pops to talk about, too.

Fujimi is following close on the heels of their James Bond submarine car with a 1976 street version of the 1/24th Lotus Esprit. Until now, the only kit for those needing their Giugiaro fix was a toy-like motorized version that's as rare as chicken lips.



I've seen the sprues of this new kit and it's just a curbside, but the body is accurate and that quip about beggars and choosers comes to mind. It's out now but don't put it off if you want one. Fujimi has been doing these niche cars for a while now and they never seem to make enough of them to slake demand.

You may recall armor specialist Meng broke into the automotive model market with their amazing 1/24th Ford Super Duty amid rave reviews. Now they're introducing a 1/35th scale version of the same subject.

This is for all you armor builders that would like to try a shiny paint scheme but like to have everything in the display cabinet the same scale.

Expect top quality details, tons of parts, and very reasonable priced.



Revell is introducing a new 1/25th '67 Camaro RS/SS with a 427 big block this month. I'm not sure if the kit of this classic muscle car is a re-pop with new custom parts or an entirely new tool.

Verbiage on the Revell website indicates the kit includes several "optional" exterior parts from NicKey Chevrolet. They are a local Chicago dealer that has a reputation for customizing classics. If you don't like the odd Corvette stinger hood mashup, there are likely standard parts to build it as Motor City intended.



The AMT folks, are reissuing their 1932 Ford Victoria "Lil' Vicky" 3 in 1 kit in 1/25th scale. They have been refurbishing their old tools the last few years and some of these kits are quite popular. I don't believe there are any changes other than new box art and decals for this one.

These older 3 in 1 kits can be built showroom stock, street rod, or in straight-line dragster, as shown. Hence, three kits in one with oodles of leftovers for the spares box.



The nice folks at Heller have conspired to separate us from more of our money this month with the reissue of yet another of their excellent motorcycle kits. This time it's the 1/8th scale Norton 750 Commando.

These kits feature cooling fins that are individually molded, all the cables and fittings like the original, spokes that are very close to scale, and other nice features. (Actual Norton motorcycle not included).



For you Francophiles, the Heller folks are also reissuing their Delahaye 135 in 1/24th this month. It's a nice kit with a complete engine and interior but will need some TLC to bring it up to modern standards.



It also comes with six little tubs of goopy paint to brighten up your local landfill. Still, how many manufacturers are popping out pre-war European custom classics in 1/24th scale these days?

Well, that's all for now race fans. Build something and bring it for us to marvel at!

Mike



Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

Let's take a look at what Dragon is cooking up for us. They just recently announced a set of five "exotic beasts" from Germany. These are all brand new in plastic and look neat.

Here are the five tanks that they have announced:

- Jagdpanzer 38 mit 2cm FlaK 38
- 15cm s.IG.33/2 (Sf) auf Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer
- 5cm PaK38 L/60 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpffw.II (Sf)
- Vollkettenaufklärer 38 w/7.5cm Kanone 51 L/24
- 10.5cm StuH.42 Ausf.F



There are two new kits of the Luchs coming out soon. This light scout tank was the only Panzer II design with overlapped wheels and sagged treads. Tasca/Asuka came out with a superb 1/35th scale kit and now it looks like we are getting some more to consider!



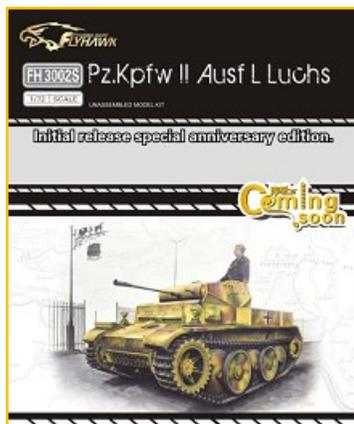
First up is Classy Hobby, a new kit manufacturer. They are coming out with one in 1/16th scale. This is a big scale, but

it's a small tank, so it should be manageable for your bench.

Also from Classy Hobby is a set of German tankers in 1/16th scale that will fit the new Luchs. These figures can also be adapted to other 1/16th scale tanks.



From one end of the scale spectrum to the other is a new announcement from Fly Hawk, the Luchs in the diminutive 1/72nd scale. The initial release includes a bonus 1/72nd scale figure.



Another member of ASMS has built all of the Fly Hawk 1/72nd scale kits and raves about them. I can attest that they sure do look good when finished. They may be 1/72nd scale but are full of details. This one is coming in April.

New from Takom is some really cool armor that should be out very soon. First, the Iraqi Type 69-II. Previously, this variant was only buildable with big, aftermarket sets, so this is, indeed, a welcome addition in plastic. Great subject matter for setting a tank in the Iran/Iraq war, or you could try your hand at a burning hulk from Operation Desert Shield.



Also from Takom is a T-54 B. We have waited for Tamiya to capitalize on it's superb T-55 kit to no avail. It looks like Takom decided to not leave us hanging. Oh well! These kits look great and I am sure they will make a lot of modern armor fans very happy.

Finishing with a look at what the fine folks at Meng are cooking up is a figure set for their excellent FT-7 kit.



This 1/35th scale figure set includes a crew of two, as well as an orderly/dispatch rider delivering a message on a nifty Triumph or Terrot motorcycle.

Following that is a new Leopard 2 A7 that will include movable suspension, workable tracks, and adhesive foil for the rear view mirrors.



Those are the highlights. Until next time!

Aaron



Miscellaneous

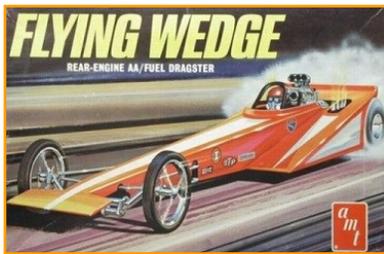
As long as Aaron is on the subject of new Meng Models releases, I'll just keep going. Meng has a 1/35th scale set of modern Russian Light AA guns. There are four complete kits on three different carriages in the box. Protect your aerodrome with these ZPU's.



Tamiya has already released this next 1/35th scale kit. The M107 is the 1988 Italeri kit with updated accessories, decals, instruction manual, and the addition of some figures.



AMT is in the process of re-issuing their own kits (Original Art Series) with original box art. This time, the 1/25th scale Flying Wedge dragster.



For fans of Anime or Steampunk comes Tatiana's Vanship and Fam's Vespa from the film *Last Exile*. Vanships, for those that may not know, are retro-futuristic sky

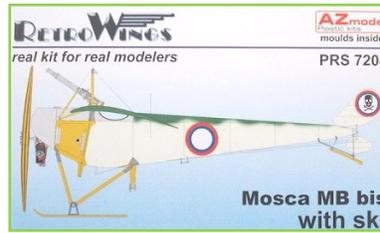
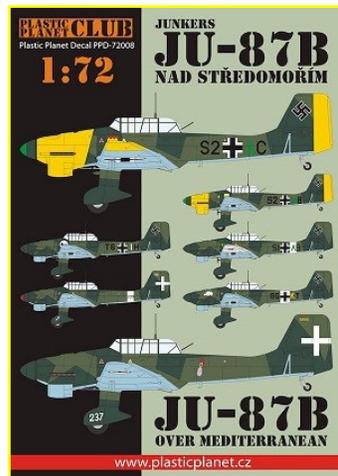
vehicles. There is a review of this Hasegawa, 1/72nd scale, injected molded kit at:

<http://web.ipmsusa3.org/content/last-exile-fam-silver-wing-tatianas-vanship-and-fam-s-vespa>



You may have noticed in these pages and elsewhere, that a lot of modelers love the newer Airfix kits. One small glitch with their products is the lack of additional markings.

Fear no more, Stuka fans. Plastic Planet Club has a set of 1/72nd scale decals (Stuka Ju-87B over the Mediterranean) for that Stuka that is languishing on the stash pile.



AZ Model/ Retro Wings has a complete kit of the Mosca MB with skies. This was a 1916 Russian design. The 1/72nd scale kit is injected

molded with some resin bits. Remember, this is a "real kit for real modelers."

RS models has something a bit out of the ordinary. The Henschel 132C with He S 011 engine. This was the design/prototype study that had the pilot in a prone position to reduce g-forces. The injected molded, 1/72nd scale kit includes markings for five aircraft.



ICM is adding to it's line of kits with a 1/48th scale, injected molded Polikarpov I-153. This is the winter version of the Soviet biplane.

For rolling stock aficionados, First to Fight models has a 1/72nd scale, injected molded kit of the Praga RV truck. The included markings are for a truck in Polish service.



Armory has announced a 1/72nd scale, injected molded T-18. This was the Soviet's first light tank and comes with photo etch. It is also a limited release.



Great Wall Hobby/Lion Roar has a couple of 1/35th scale, injected molded kits for you. The 150mm, model 41 and the 210mm, model 42 German Rocket launchers. Set either of these model kits next to Takom's Big Bertha and you can bombard anyone.



Replikant Technologies has been producing 3D-printed after-market HUMVEE wheels. I don't know if they borrowed the name for the company from the Jean-Claude Van Damme film, *Replikant*, from 2001, but you can ask.



They are now offering some diorama accessories in the form of 1/35th scale, 3D printed chairs. These sets come in packets of two and include rustic chairs, those ubiquitous plastic chairs (either fresh from the factory or broken) and some crates.

Golzar



IPMS/USA News

There are some new developments that should be of interest to all IPMS/USA members.

After careful review, a long running program is coming to a close, the Make-N-Take program. Owing to a lack of interest from kit manufacturers and costs, IPMS/USA will no longer be supporting this program.

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

That is not to say that local clubs need to follow their lead. If your club has a successful (even moderately so) make-n-take program, keep at it.

Another item of interest is that IPMS/USA is floating the idea for a new contest category. This new category will be taken under advisement (beta tested) for the next several years.

In the Ships category, there will be an out-of-the-box division, very much like that which already exists for aircraft and armor. This will be any ship model built with the parts provided by the manufacturer.

Now, you might be concerned that some manufacturers are including lots of extra goodies in the box and as such may put those that don't mind out-of-scale ship railings and such at a disadvantage. And, you might be right. But that's what beta testing is for.

<http://forum.ipmsusa3.org/index.php?/topic/15970-new-ship-out-of-the-box-rules-and-categories-for-2016/?hl=%2Bship+%2Brule>

It is safe to assume that someone will have a reasoned, well thought out argument for why this is the dumbest thing they have ever heard of.

Either way, don't forget the instructions.



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.

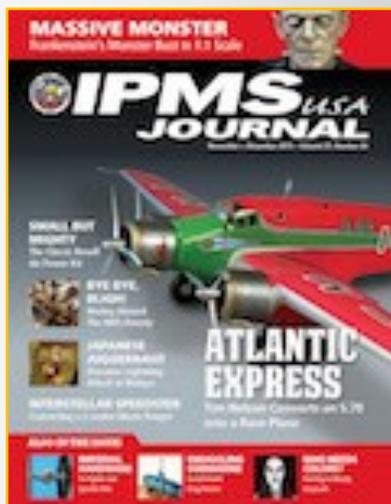
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**Next Meeting:
March 17
Austin Old Quarry Library
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Austin, Texas
7PM to 8:45PM**



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April 23,2016
Stafford, Texas

Show theme: VINTAGE KITS

Contest details, entry forms, and a short
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