



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modeler's Society

October 2016

Sword's 1/72nd F9F-8T/TF-9J by Ron McCracken

Grumman's F9F-8T Cougar trainer was the result of a company-funded effort to provide a carrier-capable, two-seat trainer with similar weapons delivery capabilities to the single-seat Cougar fighters that were then in service with the U.S. Navy. Initially the Navy showed little interest, believing that the Lockheed T2V would serve the purpose. But eventually development problems with the T2V, along with its lack of weapons capability, convinced the Navy to order several hundred -8Ts. These aircraft were delivered between 1957 and 1960. In the great inter-service designation shuffle of 1962, these were re-designated TF-9J, and continued in service until 1974. Sword's release of a kit of this aircraft in 1/72nd scale fills a major void in the available kits of U.S. Navy jet trainers.

I make it a practice never to review a kit until I've built it, so as a buyer's guide, this review probably comes under the better-late-than-never category. To compensate, pay attention to the things I had to learn the hard way, and your build will go much easier than mine.

Typical of Sword offerings, the kit itself consists of two sprues of relatively soft bluish-grey styrene. One clear sprue contains the canopy parts, position lights, etc.. Sword also includes two resin ejection seats, for a total part count of 65.

[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.

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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

Lone Star Figure Show/ReaperCon 2016, Lewisville, Texas	10.20-23.16
https://reapercon.com/	
Calmex XXXI, Westlake, Louisiana	1.28.17
http://ipmsswamp.com/calmex.html	
ModelFiesta, San Antonio, Texas	2.18.17
http://alamosquadron.com/modelfiesta.html	
RiverCon VI, Bossier City, Louisiana	3.11.17
http://www.ipmsredrivermodelers.org/	

Local Club Meetings

Alamo Squadron, San Antonio, Texas	11.03.16
http://alamosquadron.com/meetings.html	
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas	11.02.16
http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	11.02.16
Centex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas	10.20.16
http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/	
Hill Country Outlaws, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	11.05.16
Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Austin, Texas	11.12.16
https://www.facebook.com/events/513518988858565/	

Other Events

Build N' Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas	11.19.16
AutumnCon 2017, Region 6 Regional Convention, Covington, La.	9.23.17

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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Abatement Director

Peanut Brittle

Randy Bumgardner

Hello ASMS members and other curious folk. We are in the midst of October. Fall is here, Halloween is just around the corner, and judging by the retail stores, Christmas is just around the corner. That also means our show season in Texas has drawn to a close capped off by a grand finale, the ASMS 2016 Capitol Classic. We had a fantastic show. Several vendors and contestants mentioned to me that the show was great and they had a wonderful time. It was well attended, the vendor tables sold out, we had lots of kids for the Make and Take, and everyone was having fun. That sounds like a success to me!

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone who helped make our show a success. We couldn't do this without the club members stepping up to help out by volunteering, donating kits, sponsoring trophy packages, or any of the other tasks necessary to get this thing off of the ground. Thanks go out to the vendors that attend year in and year out, having fun and, hopefully, making some money selling their wares. I heard that a few got bought out. I hope they got a fair price. I'd like to thank the 108 contestants who entered the 459 models. I believe the judges had their work cut out for them this year! I did take a spin around the contest rooms and was awed by the workmanship displayed on the tables. We'll go over more of the numbers at this month's meeting.

We'll also discuss the ASMS Holiday Party. I'll state the obvious about gift exchange kits ahead of time: a nice, complete, un-started model kit. If you wouldn't buy it in its current condition, don't bring it. Please take a couple of minutes and look it over and verify it's complete and un-started. I believe the location this year is the new home of Martha and Milton Bell in Buda. All of us in the northern regions have to take a drive this year.

I'm probably forgetting one or two things, and I'm sure everyone will remind me on Thursday. Don't forget to bring Show-n-tell models. We only have three more month's to go for Model of the Month before we select the Model of the Year in December. The White Elephant contest is swiftly approaching as well. If I recall correctly, which I seem not to, the White Elephant winner is also eligible for Model of the Year. I'm sure both the editor and secretary will correct me on this if I'm wrong.

Go build something and show us what you're up to!

Randy



Fiddly Bits

Frank Seibert

There is a program note worthy of your attention. We are scheduled to have a speaker at this month's ASMS meeting by a gentleman who served on a submarine during the height of the Cold War. The talk should be very interesting as some of what he'll have to say was previously classified.

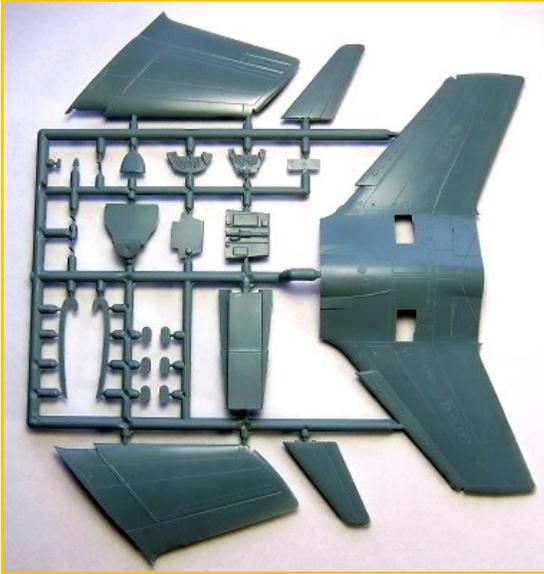
The Lone Star Military Miniatures folk will be holding their monthly confab at the Shady Hollow Community Center instead of the San Marcos Library. Check the tab on the Upcoming Events notice (page two) for directions and particulars.

The 2016 Capital Classic was Randy Bumgardner's last contest as show coordinator. Much thanks and appreciation to Randy for all his efforts in making this past contest a success. His departure leaves a void that needs to be filled. Which is to say that we need a new cat herder. In the not too distant past the duties of show coordinator were divided up amongst two or three individuals. One as a liaison with the vendors, another responsible for raffle stuff, and still another as overall chairperson. So, don't think that this is necessarily a one-person operation. And not to put too fine a point on it, according to our bylaws, the show coordinator position is an appointed one. Be careful about eye contact when the subject comes up at the meeting.

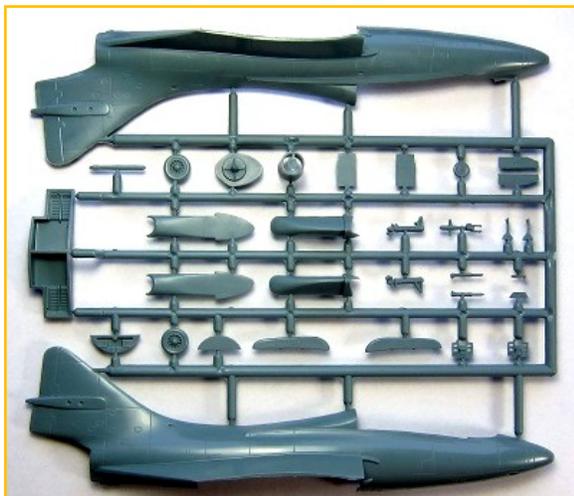
Frank



In most respects, the molding is clean but the six vent slots at the aft portion of the lower wing center section were heavily flashed-over in my kit and had to be re-opened using drills and a hobby knife.



You might also want to go to the effort of drilling out the numerous holes in the speed brakes (located on the underside of the fuselage just ahead of the wing-to-fuselage joint line). The kit provides a representation of these holes as shallow, circular indentations, but they are too shallow to be convincing. Should you end up needing to resort to putty and files to smooth out the wing joint, you'll lose much of this detail.



Fidelity to scale is very good, about one percent undersized. Specifically:

- Wingspan scales out to 34 ft. 2 in. (34 ft. 6 in. for the real thing).
- Length scales out to 43 ft. 8 in. (without refueling probe); (44 ft. 4.25 in. for the real thing.)

Surface detail consists of fine, recessed lines and the surface finish is well polished.

As is common with limited-run kits, there are no alignment pins to aid in construction. Mating surfaces, for example on the fuselage halves, will benefit from a light sanding to achieve a smooth, level mating surface.

This is easily done by taping a sheet of either 320 or 400 grit sandpaper to a flat, smooth surface, and then lightly rubbing the mating surface over the paper. Just be sure to press down evenly, and don't be too Aggressive. Otherwise you sand away too much material.

The engine intakes are nicely walled in, but they are each a two-piece unit. Pay careful attention to the illustration in the instructions to get the two parts properly aligned.

The tailpipe has a decent representation of the engine turbine face cast onto its locating bulkhead. However, test-fit this bulkhead carefully, as I found it to be just a smidgen too large to allow the fuselage halves to come together.

The cockpit consists of the usual "tub" comprising the floor, sidewalls, and instrument consoles, with separate aft bulkhead, center bulkhead, and instrument panel parts. The assembled cockpit fits into



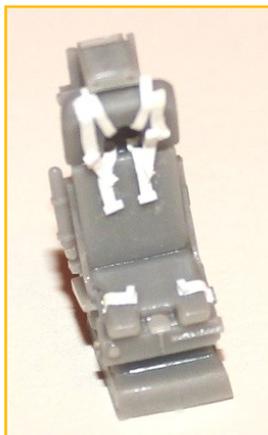
the fuselage without much fuss, and there are alignment ledges to help you get it properly placed. Sword has done a decent job of providing raised instrument detail, with not a scrap of photo-etch used.

There are some rather bad ejector pin marks on the floor and aft bulkhead. The ones on the floor are on the top of the ejection seat mounting bases, so they can be simply carved away without requiring any refinishing. The one on the aft bulkhead requires carving, filling, and sanding to achieve a flawless part.

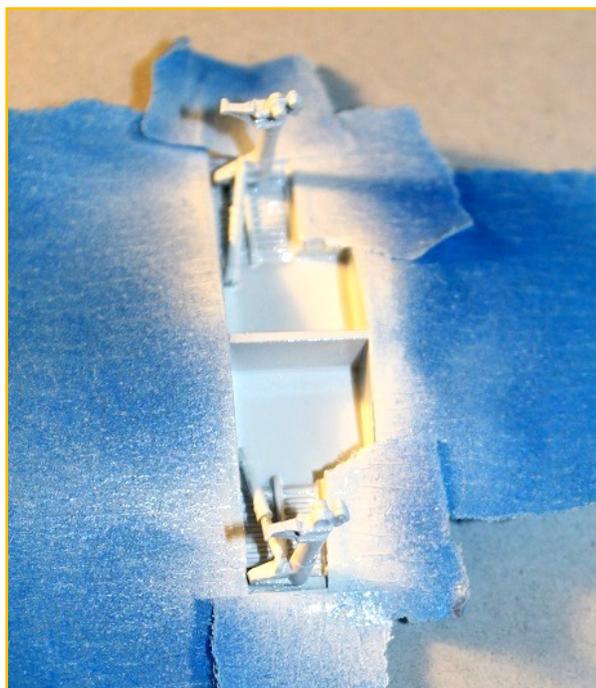
Really the only necessary additions to the cockpit are throttle and landing gear levers, which are all prominent in the real cockpit and not provided in the kit. Otherwise a decent job of painting and dry-brushing will yield a quite adequate cockpit.

One word about painting is needed. Based on the photos I've discovered, very early -8Ts had a cockpit that was pretty much black overall, with an interior green cockpit floor. Later in their career, this was changed to neutral gray floor and walls, with black instrument panels and consoles. The kit instructions call for the later scheme, which is consistent with the Martin-Baker ejection seats.

The seats provided are a good basis for the Martin-Baker Mk 5 used in late production F9F-8T's, but they disappoint in one regard: the utter lack of anything resembling the many straps and belts characteristic of these seats.



Possibly the original intention was to use add-on photo-etch belt for these details, but if so that intention was not fulfilled. So, you will have to add yourself using whatever medium you prefer.



There are a couple of deviations from the assembly sequence in the kit instructions that I'd recommend. The main landing gear well sides and roof are provided as a single part that cements to the lower wing half.

Since it fits quite well, it also provides a very rigid spar assembly stretching right across the wing center section, thus ensuring proper dihedral.

The main landing gear strut attachment is a weak point and I would recommend drilling through the roof of the wheel well part and the upper end of each strut and inserting a reinforcing wire pin (dressmaker's common pins are the perfect material).

There is a semi-circular recess in the gear attachment ledge at the outer ends of the wheel well part. Your pin should be centered in this semicircle. Do this work, then completely assemble the landing gear parts (minus the wheels), and paint the wheel well interior and gear struts before assembling the wheel well part onto the wing.

While assembly to the wing will require some extra manipulation to get the landing gear through the openings, it is far, far easier to assemble and paint the gear strut and actuator parts before they go into the wing.

The kit instructions indicate that the intake ducts should be assembled to the fuselage halves, the upper and lower wing parts assembled next, and finally the finished wing gets assembled to the fuselage.



Do that and you'll regret it, Here's why: I initially followed the kit instructions and cemented the finished intake ducts to the fuselage before attaching the completed wing. But when I attempted to install the fully assembled wing, it simply refused to be forced into place. By happy accident, my efforts to force the wing into place popped one of the intake ducts loose, and I noticed the wing was easier to fit into place. So, I broke the other intake duct loose on purpose, and the entire wing then slipped into position quite easily.

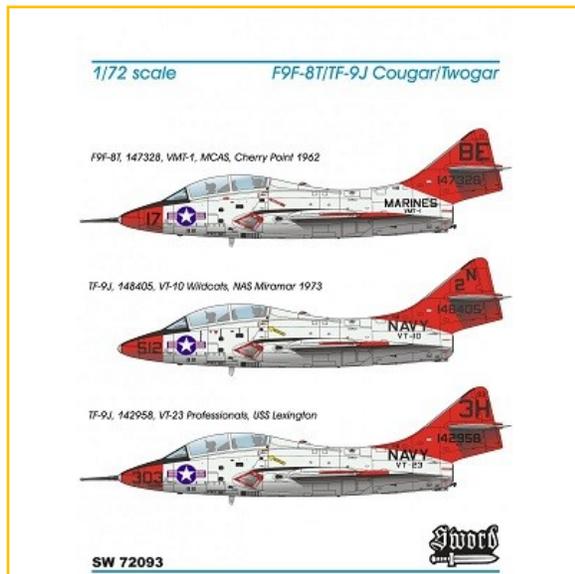
The kit provides some alignment tabs for the rather extensive wing-to-fuselage joints. These are furnished as separate, oval-shaped parts that the kit instructions call to be cemented in place in the fuselage. The wing is then assembled and attached to the fuselage.

If you follow that sequence, you will find (as I did) that the center set of tabs (the ones at the upper wing root) will actually prevent assembly and have to be removed. So, if you want to use those tabs, don't assemble the upper wing halves to the lower until after the lower wing is attached to the fuselage.

Finally, with the fully-assembled wing snugly in position on the fuselage, one discovers that the aft end of the intake ducts is too large to fit through the opening at the front.

Here is a recommended procedure to solve that issue: glue the alignment tabs in place and let the cement cure. Then fit the lower half of the wing into place, using cement for plastics and let that joint cure thoroughly. Once the cement has set, slip the intake ducts into place, resolving any interference issues you may encounter. Fit the upper wing halves into place and glue everything together.

This rather problematic wing-to-fuselage join is definitely the weak point of this kit. It does not fit well and you'll need putty and patience to get a decent finished product.



The decal sheet has markings for three different aircraft:

- F9F-8T of VMT-1, MCAS Cherry Point, 1962
- TF-9J of VT-10, NAS Miramar, 1973
- TF-9J of VT-23, USS Lexington, date not given.

The decals themselves are quite thin. The good news is that you probably won't need any decal setting solution. The bad news is that extreme care must be exercised in manipulating these decals into position on the model. They have a tendency to fold over onto themselves because they are so thin. I found the solution to be the use of copious amounts of water to float the decals into final position.

As a guide to painting and decal application, three color four-views are provided for each scheme. However, use with caution as the panel lines on the drawings do not match those on the aircraft in all respects, requiring you to "guestimate" where the color demarcation lines and decals go.



In summary, Sword has provided a good representation of an important aircraft in the "one true scale."

With a bit of effort, it builds up into a nicely detailed model. If you pay close attention to the hints in this review, I believe the amount of effort needed will be considerably less.



Ron

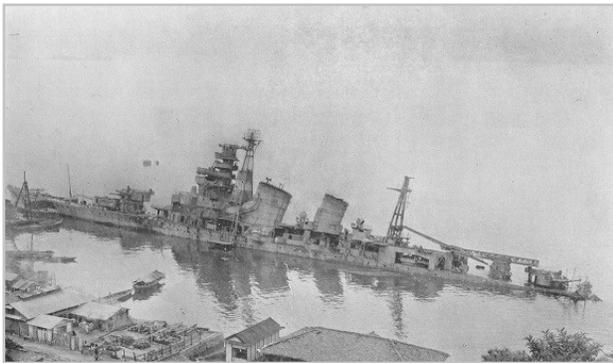


Ghosts by Rick Cotton

I was looking on YouTube for information on Japanese ships, a favorite pastime of mine, and one which I have happily spent many lunchtime hours at work doing. I will sit there, sandwich or burrito in hand, and happily Google or Bing to my heart's content for interesting or informative research materials.

Today, on YouTube, I came across a series of color films shot in Japanese harbors, immediately after the war. The films were shot by US Naval personnel, in color, on a brilliantly blue-sky day. The loveliness of the green hills and the blue water, however, is in deep contrast to the twisted, tangled, wrecked gray corpses of the last ships of the Imperial Japanese Navy that lay grounded in Sasebo and Kure harbors.

There they are, in full color. Battleship Ise. Aircraft carriers Amagi and Katsuragi. A wrecked light cruiser and destroyers, and other ships, all badly battered and twisted and burned. Ghosts. I am looking at the ghosts of a once-proud fleet. Shadows of what they once were, long before the holocaust that swept them to destruction. Mere shades of what once was, and is no more...and will never be again, except in scale models and photographs, and maybe a Hollywood CGI movie.



Once upon a time, these were not wrecks waiting for the scrapper's torch. They were living, moving things, alive with thousands of young sailors working, playing, eating, smoking, swimming, or reading. Before the war, these ships would "show the flag" in Asian ports of call, or anywhere the Imperial Naval Staff wanted to make an impression. Thousands of young men spent their youth aboard these vessels working and training.

Sadly, that training was put to use. The nation they served made the fatal blunder of awakening the sleeping giant, and we all know the rest. That giant fashioned a terrible weapon and exacted a vengeance that no one could have foreseen.

These ships, overworked, outnumbered, and out-gunned, survived for as long as they could against impossible odds until the blue waves of naval air caught up with them and iron destruction rained down in a monsoon of fire, death, and devastation.

And now...70 years later...here is the film. It is silent, and eerie, as the camera slides slowly past the hulks, deep in the waters of the harbor. Huge, silent guns, never to roar again. A carrier on her side, the hull marked by stains from the rising and falling of the tides.



Masts and cranes are sticking up out of the waters of the bay marking the graves of both dead ships and dead sailors. The camera goes aboard some of the ships. There is twisted steel, blasted into jagged, torn holes. The cypress decking is splintered. Flight deck elevators, forever frozen in a twisted angle can be seen halfway down to the hangar deck.

I ponder this as I watch the film, wondering what ship might be shown next. What legendary specter might make its last appearance before going to Bikini Atoll or the scrap yard? It is the end for all of these sad, doomed vessels.

Then, a man walks into frame. An older Japanese man walks in front of the camera, carrying what appears to be tools of some sort. He looks at the camera, and I can see his face clearly. There is subservience. After all, the "enemy" is filming him, and his nation has been crushed. That is clear on his face.

But then, there is something else...a slight bow, and a little half-smile.

In an instant that little smile says something loud and clear and in complete contrast to the wreckage that surrounds him and every other worker aboard these ships:

I have survived. I am alive, after all.

That man was probably about fifty or so when this footage was shot in 1945. He is long dead by now.

But I like to think he lived many years after the war. I like to think he helped rebuild his nation, that he raised a family, and had grandchildren. Maybe he told them about the time he stood on the wrecked deck of the Ise, and the Yankee cameraman filmed him. I can see the little children sitting there, listening to more of "Grandpa's stories" in rapt attention. I hope that all happened for him.

Not so for the ghost fleet on film.

They are long gone. A turret remains here, a gun there in a museum, but that is all, except for photographs, film, and models. Models.

That's where we come in. In a way, we help keep the ghosts alive, on a plane of existence that would not be there without us.



Tigers, Focke Wulf's, old race cars, whatever. So much of what we build remains only in memory, film, and models.

Build on. Keep the ghosts and their memory alive.

They all depend on us.

Rick



Modeling Tip #8342

When using ethyl cyanoacrylate glues (super glue) be sure to have some acetone (nail polish remover) handy...in case you should inadvertently glue your fingers together.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



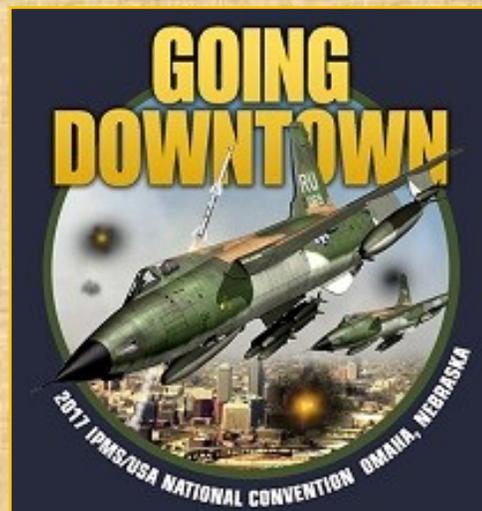
<http://www.kingshobbyshop.com/>



<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/>

American Armored Divisions of World War II

by Ted Andreas Jr.

For the scale modeler, research is often critical, especially when there is a desire to create a work that represents an actual historical event. The armor modeler planning to create a diorama or vignette to portray a 'slice of history', for example, will need to know what types of equipment were actually used, what units were involved, what markings were visible, and a myriad of other details.

One of my earliest vignettes showed an armored car crew en route to Bastogne as part of Patton's 3rd Army relief effort. By researching the topic, I believe the resulting work is a reasonably accurate, although small snapshot, of the march to break the German stranglehold on Bastogne.



Several years ago I did some research on American Armored Divisions of World War II and wrote a tribute to the men of those divisions. It was quite an enjoyable project and one that I am glad to have seen through to the end. The one disappointment was the fact that my efforts to record more stories of the common yet uncommon soldiers of those divisions were not successful.

Today we have very few World War II veterans left and that particular national treasure is being depleted daily. Nevertheless, in my opinion, one of the great stories of World War II is the entry of the United States into the war.

We were latecomers and not prepared to fight on any front. The process of mobilizing the nation to build the greatest army and navy the world had ever seen, and to manufacture not only the equipment needed to arm our forces but to also supply our allies with much of their material needs, is so incredible that words cannot effectively articulate what was accomplished.

The planning, training, and equipping of American armored divisions were a significant part of the overall war effort. The actual plan was bigger than the end result; however, the allies won the war before the additionally planned-for divisions were needed.

By the time the Germans surrendered in 1945, we had activated sixteen armored divisions. These divisions were 1st—14th, 16th, and 20th Armored Divisions. All of these divisions were in Europe. One, the 1st Armored Division was in Italy with the other fifteen in Northwest Europe. Most of our armor had advanced into Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia.



At this time it should be noted that although the United States Army and USMC used armor extensively in the various Pacific, and China/Burma theatres, these resources were smaller type units, such as the Independent Tank Battalions. Some armored units were organized on even smaller scale formations.

Our armored divisions were organized originally as "heavy" divisions, with two regiments of armor and one regiment of armored infantry. This arrangement made for an end strength organization of 14,000 soldiers per division.

The armored regiments allowed the division to field four battalions of medium tanks and two battalions of light tanks. By 1944, it was becoming almost impossible to maintain our armored divisions at such a level.

The United States Army kept two armored divisions at the original design. Those two divisions were the 2nd Armored Division and the 3rd Armored Divisions. The remaining fourteen divisions were converted into 'light' armored divisions.

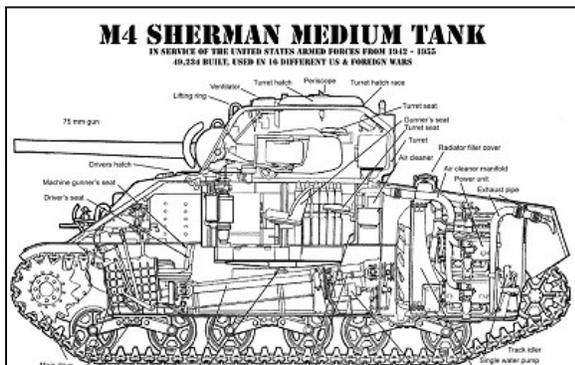


Please note that heavy and light designations here refer to the size of the division and has nothing to do with tank classifications. This reorganization brought the armor component down to three 'medium' tank battalions (in this case medium refers to the type of tank predominant within the organization).

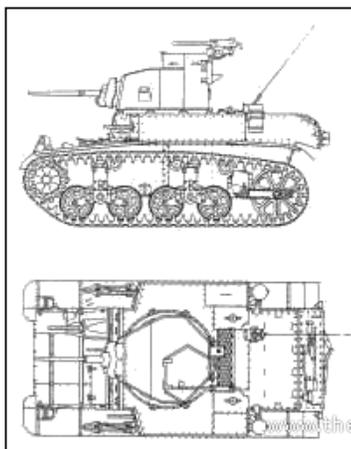
Along with reductions in support units within the armored divisions, the realignment meant our armored divisions now only required 10,000 men to be at full strength.

The reduction in armor strength was huge, but our light armored divisions were still fielding more tanks than German Panzer Divisions. After the Battle of the Bulge, the actual conditions in the German divisions (Panzer) had deteriorated so badly that in an open fight, the Germans could not go toe-to-toe with the Americans; a panzer division was no longer a match for either type of American armored division.

Furthermore, the reorganization of American armored divisions made slightly more infantry available as the US Army became increasingly better at combined arms tactics. This change was quite beneficial. Armored divisions now had three armored infantry battalions instead of one armored infantry regiment. It was also a more flexible command and control arrangement of infantry.

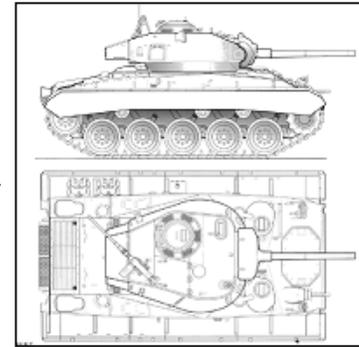


Of course when we are talking about American Armor in World War II, the Sherman tank was the iconic symbol and workhorse of most American armored units. Both light tank battalions and medium tank battalions had a mix of Stuart (later Chaffee) and Sherman tanks.



M5 Stuart

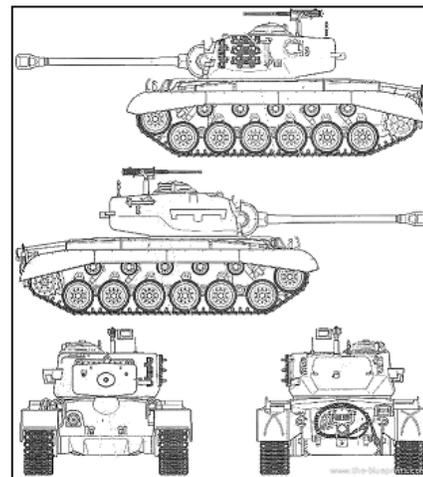
The Sherman was the predominant type in the medium tank battalions while the Stuart/Chaffee mix was greater in the other type.



M24 Chaffee

The M-26 Pershing tank was fielded late in World War II; it was our first 'heavy' tank used during the war.

This type of tank was integrated into existing formations and did not alter the organization of the American armored division/tank battalion significantly. However it did provide units in possession of these tanks with a powerful counter to remaining German Tiger and King Tiger tanks.



M26 Pershing

In conclusion, the American Armored Divisions played a key role in helping defeat Germany in WWII. These divisions were well equipped and well supplied. Early in the war and at several points during the war, they were roughly handled by a very proficient foe often armed with more powerful tanks.

Yet, in the end, our tankers prevailed. They made great use of the equipment available and eventually overran the western part of Germany while the Russians steamrolled German resistance in the East.



Ted

[Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Austin Armor Builders Society newsletter.]

North American P-51 Mustang, Part 3 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS # 26266

Lifelike Decals are arguably the most thoroughly researched decals available to modelers. They are not afraid to take on subjects that others have done and do it much better. Their instructions are a marvelous collection of references.

When there is an unknown aspect they are not afraid to let the modeler know that they don't know. Many times they will provide multiple options and let the modeler decide. Also if new information is obtained after the decals are released, Lifelike will release a correction decal. Do you know any other decal company that does that? Well, besides Werner's Wings.



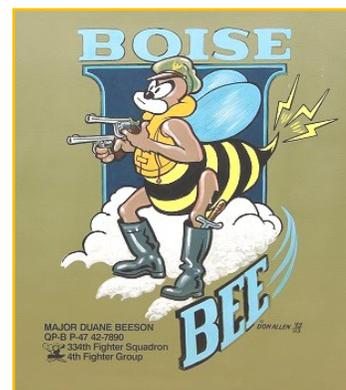
The latest decal sheet is designed for the Tamiya P-51s. Decals are provided for four aircraft with stencils for one aircraft. This release has instructions on two single sided 8.5"x11" and one half sheet. The instructions are printed in full color.

The decals are printed by Microscale and Cartograf. There are three separate sheets of decals. The first and largest sheet contains the primary individual aircraft decals and are printed by Cartograf. Even in 1/48th scale, you can read all of the stencils.

The second sheet has some realistic photo printing of the nose art and propeller stencils.

Microscale provides the Star and Bars, with one set having a silver sheen, which is very nicely done. The decals, regardless of manufacturer, are thin in register and opaque. They are printed by the two best decal manufacturers in the world and respond perfectly with setting solutions.

The first aircraft is a well known P-51B flown by Cpt. Duane Beeson, the "Boise Bee," of the 4th Fighter Group. Lifelike provides a perfect rendition of the Bee and explains how they arrived at it. I definitely need to do this aircraft. The Bee is picture perfect.



The second Mustang is a P-51K flown by George Bickell of the 354FG in May of 1945. The aircraft is a lesser known aircraft that Bickell flew until VE day. This aircraft was recently found in several photos and 8mm color film. This beautiful aircraft has neat nose art (Flagship Nancy Ann) and a shield on the tail. The spinner and nose have four bands.

Aircraft 3 is another P-51K, this one is flown by Cpt. Barney Fudge of the 74FS/23FG in China during July/Aug 1945. This aircraft is quite unique looking with an all black nose and a black 25 on the tail. The nose sports the Oklahoma Kid markings in white, which is highlighted on the black nose.

The final aircraft looks like a conglomeration of unit markings. This P-51D of the 3rd Scout Force was seen in England of 1945. The aircraft has green and yellow nose stripes and checkers. The tail has red and white checkers on the rudder with a red leading edge stripe on the tail. This aircraft has two sets of markings: one with kill flags on the canopy sill and the other with "Louise" and the pilots name on the sill.

If you are looking for some unique markings, this sheet certainly provides them. The markings for Boise Bee are the most accurate markings available for this historically significant aircraft. A good decal sheet should contain world class research, world class decals, and colorful subjects.

Highly recommended.

Floyd



North American P-51 Mustang, Part 4 by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS #26266

This sheet has been on my wish list for some time. Everyone needs a hero and for me, my hero is Cpt. Don Gentile. Heroes are often flawed. Gentile pranged his beautiful P-51B "Shangri-La" on his last flight while showing off for the press. Even so, the aircraft was beautifully weathered with its complete score card of thirty kills. (I've always wanted to build that P-51B.) After dodging the brass, he continued on to the States where he was issued a brand new P-51D-30-NA. This aircraft was used for a war bond tour. This is also flamboyant and beautifully marked.

Okay. Enough about Don Gentile. What else is on this sheet? Inside the zip-lock bag there are two single sided A4 instruction sheets in full color. Each aircraft is given some history and the background on how and why certain colors were used. This is one of the reasons I love Lifelike decals. They are not afraid to tell the modeler when they know something for sure or they have to speculate. They let the modeler know and then leave it up to the modeler. There is a small sheet that shows the position of the stencils.

The decals are a mix of Cartograf and Microscale so you know they are the best in the world. These two are the best decal printers in the world. The decals are thin, in register, and have good color saturation.



This set of decals is quite extensive. There are actually four sheets of decals included in this set. The first sheet is printed by Microscale and includes the main markings. The second sheet is a small sheet printed by Cartograf and includes all the Shangri-La markings and the Hamilton prop logos. The third sheet, printed by Microscale, contains markings for the star and bars and the white stripes. The fourth sheet is totally dedicated to the striped markings of Man o' War.

Now, if that was it, you'd be happy. However, Lifelike is a step above every other decal manufacturer. There is a pre-printed template printed on a peel and stick label. This is for painting the fading of the yellow background for Shangri-La. Now, *that* is a professional product!



The decals provide marking options for five marking options. The first and second, maybe even third, aircraft is the infamous P-51B, Shangri-La, flown by Cpt. Dominic 'Don' Gentile of the 4th Fighter Group. This aircraft has three marking options. The first is the red spinner. Then the second has a white nose cone. The third option is the full score card of 30 kill markings.

The level of research on this aircraft is impressive. Lifelike picked up that the yellow background is not a circle and that the right side is rather flattened. You have the option of using the decal for the whole thing or spraying the yellow using the template provided. I might just try this although the paint will have to be thin.

The next aircraft is the P-51D that Gentile used on his war bond tour. This aircraft features checkers all the way around the nose, except for the anti-glare panel.

The broad kill scroll is unique and the Shangri-La is noticeably different from the original markings. There are no unit codes but the aircraft does have a red-white-red stripe on the rear fuselage and sports a red rudder. This aircraft has rocket launch rails under the wings as well as a Hamilton Standard prop.

This means that you will need the F-51D release from Tamiya as it is the only release with the rocket launch rails. For me, this has to be a holy grail of decals and will be one of my near future models.

Another 4th FG aircraft is the next aircraft, this one is the famous P-51D "Man O' War." This aircraft has a unique tiger-stripe paint scheme. Until now, this has been a pain to pull off but with these decals from Lifelike, it should be a breeze! The 18 kill markings around the canopy and the red surround on the squadron codes add a splash of color to the aircraft. Invasion stripes on fuselage belly add even more color.



The last aircraft is from the Pacific Theater of war. "Dirty Dick" is the mount of Colonel Dick Rowland of the 348th FG in early 1945. The aircraft has fuselage markings of his home state of Ohio on the left fuselage side. The other unique thing about this aircraft is the flat black anti-glare panel that extends to the rear of the aircraft.

To sum it up, this decals release has everything: a childhood hero, world class research, two of the world's best decal manufacturers, and paint masks. I can't think of anything else I would add, another great product from Lifelike.

Highly recommended.

Floyd



[Thanks to Lifelike Decals for the review copies. You can obtain your decals by contacting them directly at <http://lifelikedecals.sakura.ne.jp>. Check out their other decals while you're there. Please let them know you heard about it here.]



ASMS Quarterly Contest Schedule

December 15



White Elephant
Contest

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



<http://kingshobbyshop.com/>

Fred's Fun Facts: October 20

In 1803, the United States Senate ratified the Louisiana purchase.

General Douglas MacArthur returns to the Philippines in 1944, fulfilling his promise: I shall return!

October 20th is Vietnamese Women's Day. It was established to honor and support Vietnamese women. The United States recognizes International Women's Day (March 8) as does Vietnam but does not have a national women's day of it's own. Vietnam began this celebration in 1946!

The Libyan Prime Minister, Muammar Gaddafi, is killed on this day in 2011.

Model O' The Month by Roy Lothbrok

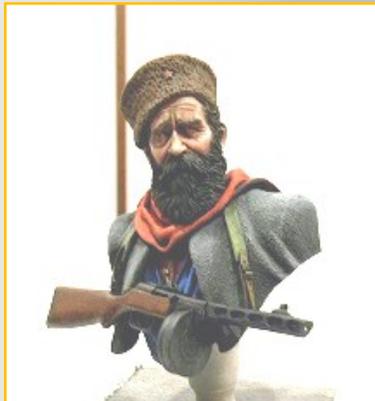
Another of Austin Scale Modelers Society quarterly model contests was held at the September meeting of ASMS. There is an informal contest for Model O' The Month at each meeting, but we do hold an official event each quarter with prize money and everything. Most of these quarterly contests are themed and this past get together was no different. The theme for the past quarterly contest was *The Bondo Special*. This is held each September to honor departed club member Phil 'Bondo' Brandt. Before his demise, Bondo stipulated that ASMS club members have first pick of his unbuilt model collection. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to choose models from his stash. There were several stipulations for accepting these models. The kits were not to be re-sold and those kits that were taken, had to be built. Thus was born *The Bondo Special*.

Those ASMS members that were not at the initial distribution party for Bondo's kits can still enter next years contest as there are a number of kits still available. Just be sure to have your desire to participate made known and you, too, could be the fortunate winner of *The Bondo Special* award. This quarterly contest not only affords the opportunity to take home some prize money (a gift certificate to King's Hobby Shop) but also have your name emblazoned upon a special commemorative plaque.

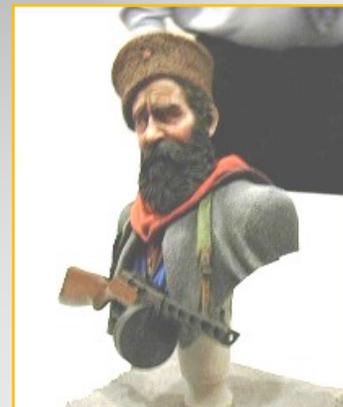
There are always a number of newly finished kits and works-in-progress at our meetings and those are presented here for your amusement and amazement.



Chuck "Obiwan" Konefsky showed off his completed Tamiya 1/32nd scale F-16. Chuck back-dated the kit to an F-16C Aggressor with wheel wells, engine nozzle, and stiffening plates from Aires and decorated the whole mess with Two Bob decals. Chuck noted that this turned out to be an expensive and difficult build.



Aaron Smischney continues to hone his figure-painting skills. This offering is a work-in-progress of a Young Miniatures Cossack in 1/10th scale.



Ian Candler hasn't given up on armor modeling completely showing us his work-in-progress 1/35th scale Easy Eight Sherman from Tamiya. The 1/35th scale Mk IV is also from Tamiya with a modified figure from Stalingrad Models with the addition of a Hornet head. The 54mm Tallman figure is Andrea Miniatures.

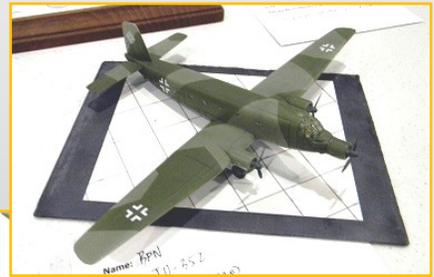


Rick Herrington must have every Stars Wars-themed figure kit produced by now. From his workmanship and the quality of the kits, is it any wonder? C-3PO is in 1/12th scale and from Bandai.

Ron McCracken entered *The Bondo Special* contest with this 1/72nd scale KC-135A from AMT/ERTL. Ron added seat belts to the cockpit and fashioned some engine intake ducts to avoid that see-through look on the engine nacelles. He won second place for his efforts.



Second Place



Third Place



Ben Morton brought in several recently completed models. The French Foreign Legion X-Wing is a Revel snap-kit with custom decals. The Gama Goat is the latest version of the 1/35th scale kit from Tamiya. The 1/144th scale Junkers 352 is an all resin model from AniGrand, and the M60 is a 1/87th scale Roco/ Minitank with Trident white metal armor and Hauler photo-etch tracks. The other kit is the Revel/Monogram History Maker kit of the Bomarc. This model was originally released in 1958 and managed to garner third place.

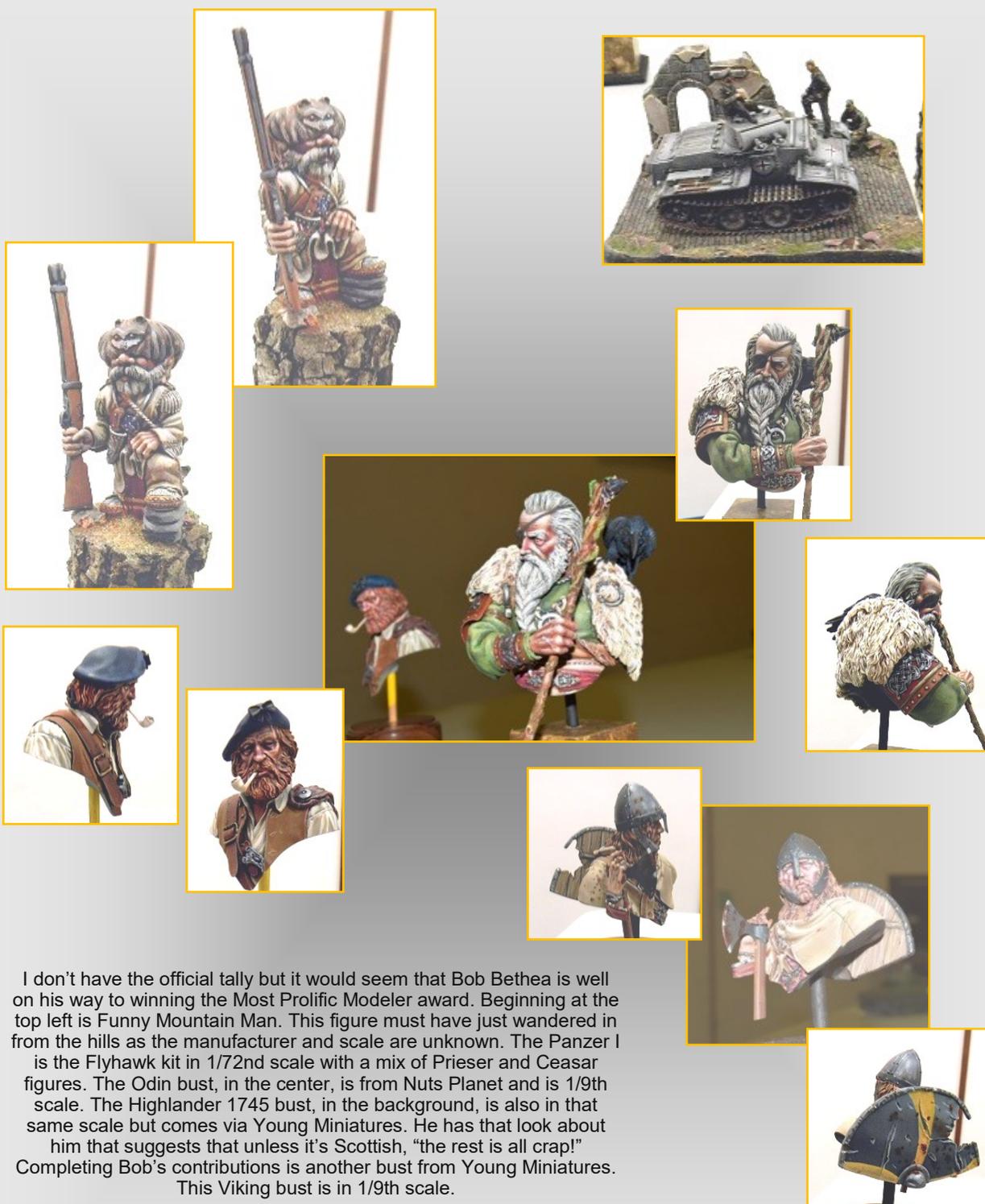


First Place



Ian (the good one) Latham entered this 1/48th scale Westland Wyvern. The Trumpeter kit was embellished with some Eduard photo-etch. The counter-rotating props are operable. This was thought, by some in attendance, to be an unfair advantage.

Ian won *The Bondo Special award* and **Model O' The Month!**



I don't have the official tally but it would seem that Bob Bethea is well on his way to winning the Most Prolific Modeler award. Beginning at the top left is Funny Mountain Man. This figure must have just wandered in from the hills as the manufacturer and scale are unknown. The Panzer I is the Flyhawk kit in 1/72nd scale with a mix of Prieser and Ceasar figures. The Odin bust, in the center, is from Nuts Planet and is 1/9th scale. The Highlander 1745 bust, in the background, is also in that same scale but comes via Young Miniatures. He has that look about him that suggests that unless it's Scottish, "the rest is all crap!" Completing Bob's contributions is another bust from Young Miniatures. This Viking bust is in 1/9th scale.

[Editor's Note: Thanks to Ian Latham and Milton Bell for the additional photography.]

Roy

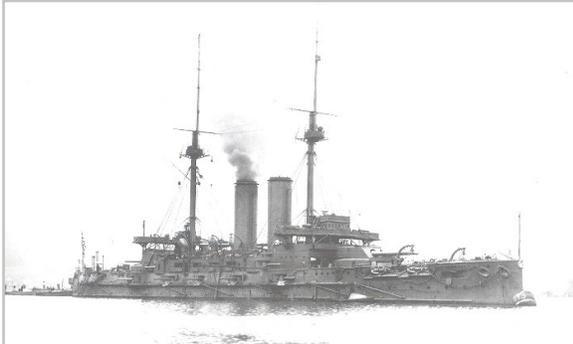


Old Rumors / New Kits 2G

Rick Herrington, Randy Bumgardner,
Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

Shipping News

All but two of the new releases are in 1/700th scale this month. Fortunately, no new 1/200th stuff. I guess the manufacturers are saving up the big stuff for Christmas.



Beginning with the more diminutive 1/700th scale, Hasegawa has a full hull special of the IJN Mikasa, a pre-dreadnought battleship. This continues a trend by manufacturers of re-releasing older kits with upgrade parts. Along with a full hull, this release includes metal guns and a photo-etch name plate. This is the Battle of Tsushima version in which the Japanese trounced the Russian's during the Sino-Japanese War of 1905.

Meng has two new ships coming soon. Actually, both of these kits have been released previously by other manufacturers. We'll have to wait to see whether these kits are going to be worth the \$44.95 they're asking for each of them. Keep a weather eye out for the USS Lexington CV-2 Aircraft Carrier and the HMS Rodney British Battleship.

Academy has an all new tooling of the USS Missouri BB-63. The kit is molded in multi colors and, according to Academy, you may assemble the kit without paint.



Aoshima expands their ever growing fleet with the HMS Illustrious Class Aircraft Carrier. I'm not sure if this is new or a re-release of their previous kit. Either way, it represents the WWII version of the Illustrious. Sold separately, Aoshima has a photo-etch companion kit for this release.

Aoshima is also contributing to the fleet with the IJN I-19 Submarine, the US Navy sub Balao-class and an IJN Torpedo Cruiser, the OI.



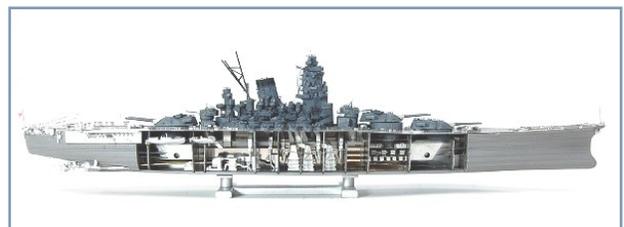
ICM is releasing the WWI German battleship Konig.

Fujimi has the IJN Kagero class destroyers Yukikaze and Isokaze as a twofer set. Share one with a friend.

Pit Road is supplying ship modelers with some more modern vessels: the USS George Washington CVN-73 (2008) and CVN-72 USS Abraham Lincoln. Both of these represent those nuclear-powered carriers.

Pit Road is also putting forth the USS Minneapolis (1942) CA-36 Light Cruiser and the Royal Navy battleship HMS Valiant (1939).

Last for the 1/700th scale entries is one from Model Factory Hiro. This is a new manufacturer to me and they are using some new technology on their kits. Model Factory Hiro is best known for highly detailed, all metal automotive kits. This release is the IJN Musashi (1944), the sister ship to the Yamato.



The bridge, funnel, aircraft and searchlights are all 3D-printed. The kit comes with metal barrels and photo etch, resin, and metal parts. The price is the kicker. Even though the Musashi is a big kit in 1/700th, \$399.95 is pretty expensive for a ship in that scale.



Aoshima has the DKM Graf Zeppelin coming soon. In 1/720th scale, this may be a re-boxing of the older Revel kit. The off scale indicates that it might be.

The sole 1/350th scale release this month is from Revel and is the DKM Battleship Bismarck Premium Edition. I wasn't able to find too many details on the release to be able to determine what makes this a premium edition, but it looks to include some photo-etch, self-adhesive wooden decks, metal gun barrels, and other bits. The price point is \$247.00 The regular Revel 1/350th scale Bismarck sold for right around \$89.00.

That's it for this month. Take a model from your stash and build it!

Rick



[Courtesy of Chuck 'Obiwan' Konefsky]

It Figures

Greetings! Welcome all that are interested in what is shaking in the world of tiny reproductions of people and things.

I am so excited to report on some new figures for the airplane enthusiasts. Figures specifically for aircraft modelers tend to be a bit rarer than figures for armor builders. Armor people are also prone to putting figures next to their tanks and I would love to see the wings crowd join in!

So, in order to tempt you wing jockeys to come over to the dark side, here is a special edition of "It Figures" just for you.

There is a great figure producer out there called Wings Cockpit Figures. You will need to contact them through email or Facebook to order (talk about really needing a distributor). These figures are first rate and from some of the best sculptors around. Among those is Nino Pizzichemi, who sculpts the bulk of the figures for Tommy War. The figures are in 54mm (1/32nd scale) and cover WWI and WWII along with some nice looking pinups.

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

These are some of Wings-Cockpit Figure's latest releases: a superb pilot chilling out on his airplane. This 1/32nd scale figure is just screaming to be put on your Tamiya p-51 Mustang!



Also in 1/32nd scale, this set shows a bomber pilot and radio operator deciding what to order for dinner, or perhaps studying a map...either one! This grouping would look great next to an airplane, or as a stand alone vignette.



Be sure to check out the Facebook gallery for more figures and drop them a line to order!

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

Speaking of airplanes and figures, RP Models is coming out with a 1/9th scale figure of Douglas Bader in a Spitfire cockpit:



This is going to be a limited edition, so if you want one, keep an eye out!

<http://rpmodels.pt/shop/en/>

Still in the world of big figures related to wing things is a new bust from Young Miniatures of a B-17 bomber crew member. This is par for the course for Young Miniatures. It's a wonderfully sculpted bust. The back of the bomber jacket can be painted with any pinup/ logo you want (or none at all).



Or, if you wish, how about a WWI bust sculpted by Latorre from FeR Miniatures.

<http://ferminiatures.com/>



He sure looks happy. If you prefer, the bust comes with an option for a more serious "in flight" look.

Until next time!

Aaron



Aircraft

Hello, once again, model builders! It's October and Fall has arrived. It's finally starting to cool down which makes it very nice for heading into the shop. We've got some interesting and some unexpected kits in this month's round up, so let's get started!



First, we have Special Hobby. They are almost ready to release their 1/32nd Hawker Tempest Mk.II. This is the radial engine version with the closed-cowl Bristol Centaurus 18-cylinder engine.

I think this is the only injected molded kit of this version in this scale. Based on the Tempest Mk.V, released earlier this year, the Mk.II ships with a different front fuselage and different resin bits. In addition, Special Hobby are also planning on releasing a Typhoon, Sea Fury, and the Westland Whirlwind, all in 1/32nd scale.

It's that last one that piqued my attention. This is the first time this kit has been released as an injection molded model. Word has it that the Hi-Tech version of the Tempest Mk.V is sold out. So, get them while they last.



On to Eduard... continuing their Me 109 series, they have released an Me 109F-4 in 1/48th scale. From what I've seen, this will be a very nice kit, similar to their latest 'G' series Messerschmitts. The modeler gets to choose from six markings options. It's a Profi-Pack release, so photoetch and masks are also included.

Eduard also hosted E-Day 2016 and they had some tidbits for us. Listed as "Bunny Leaks," some of the highlights included a new tool 1/48th Hawker Tempest by the end of 2017, a new tool 1/48th P-51D to be released by the end of 2017, and a newly tooled 1/48th Focke Wulf Fw 190A to be released in 2017.

These kits are currently in design, so perhaps some CAD images will be forthcoming. The Hawkers are sure getting the Czech love. They also announced a MiG-21 and Fokker D.VII, both in 1/72nd scale, both in the design process. It's a very aggressive release schedule. Let's hope they do them all.

Who can forget Airfix? Two of their 2017 planned releases are announced and they look great. First up, is a new tool 1/72nd Messerschmitt Me 262A-1a Schwalbe. This kit is scheduled for release in early 2017. The Airfix design team is using the preserved Schwalbe at Hendon as the basis for the kit.



The second announcement is a newly tooled 1/48th Supermarine Walrus Mk.I due out in July of 2017. Not the sexiest of aircraft, especially next to its fighter sibling, the Spitfire, but it did have a long and outstanding service life. It is an interesting and historic aircraft to be sure.



Hasegawa will be releasing their new 1/72nd Kawanishi N8K2 Type 2 "Emily."

It's a really large flying boat. This kit is a newly tooled model, not to be confused with Hasegawa's older packaging of the Emily. It should be out in late December of this year.



Kitty Hawk is planning to release a 1/48th scale Sukhoi Su-34 Fullback. I couldn't find a release date but this is coming on the heels of the HobbyBoss kit. Let's hope Kitty Hawk take their time with this kit.

Following close behind Tamiya's F-14A kit release is Avantgarde Model Kits (AMK) with a 1/48th scale F-14D.



Get out those Fightertown Decals and all of that gray paint. This kit is set to release sometime before Christmas of this year. Let's see how it will stack up against the Tamiya kit. My money is on AMK. Check out their Facebook page for more details.

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

In addition, AMK is announcing three 1/48th versions of the MiG-25 for 2017. Wowzer! If the success of their MiG-31 is any indication, look out!

This last entry comes from the better late than never department. Sword announced the release of three versions of the Harrier in 1/72nd scale. The Harrier T.Mk.2/2A/4/4N, Harrier T.10/12, and TAV-8B Harrier II.

All were expected to launch at the end of September. Nothing has happened yet, so keep asking your local hobby shop, or stay tuned to the interwebs for the latest details.



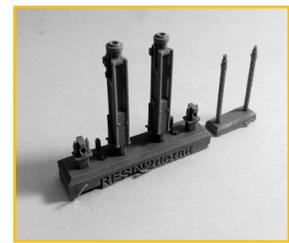
That's all I've got for this month. We'll see you next month and, in the meantime, go build something!

Randy



Miscellaneous

We have dueling aftermarket machine guns to start. Both Gas Patch (Greek) and Resin 2 (New Jersey) are offering Browning .50 caliber machine guns for your next project. The Gas Patch version represents a wing mounted, two-piece gun in either 1/48th or 1/32nd scale. The Resin 2 version is in four pieces and comes in 1/32nd scale. The Resin 2 is geared toward the HK Model B-17 kit.



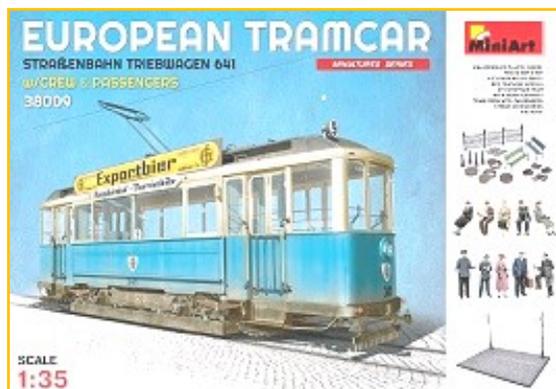
MiniWings has embarked on re-introducing themselves with a number of resin 1/144th scale aircraft models. You may recall these from bygone days when Revel was making injected molded versions of some of these same kits. Among the latest is an F-84G Thunderjet. The kit has 20 parts plus a clear resin canopy with masks. They also have an F-84F and a Meteor Mk.7/8 coming soon.

MiniArt has several releases of note, some of which are already available.

One is a collection of champagne, cognac, and liquor bottles with crates. These are molded in color and come with a decal sheet for the labels.



Another is a European Tram with accessories. They have marketed tram models before with separate kits for passengers, motormen, and accessories. This is the first time all that stuff is in the same box.



It has been mentioned elsewhere that Fall is here and what better time is there to harvest a few real leaves and then make some leaves with your very own Red Leaf Punch. From Green Stuff World comes a hole punch thingy for manufacturing your own scale leaves for that diorama or vignette you have on hold.



This month is pretty heavy on after-market stuff, so add these to the list. Because of our bright futures, Swash Designs has a photo-etch set of cool sunglasses.

Plus Models, from the Czech Republic, has some 1/35th scale trash. There are thirty-nine pieces of assorted trash with decals but, alas, no cash.



DefModel, out of Korea, has a 1/35th scale military equipment set to enhance that next project. The resin kit includes some decals for labeling, card stock ration

boxes, and photo-etch bits for handles on some of the items. They have also included a few Camelback re-hydration systems.



To placate the OCD in you, Karaya has some 3D tow cable ends in 1/35th scale.



They are offering four different cable ends (Centurion, US light tanks, Churchill, and modern US tanks) and each comes with a length of 0.5mm cable.

AMT is spewing forth with more re-issues, among them the 1955 Chevy Nomad wagon. This injected molded kit is in BIG 1/16th scale.



Doyusha is offering a 1/72nd scale USN F-4J Phantom II. The markings are from the 96th Fighter Sqn. in Vietnam and represents "Showtime 100."

This *terrible* kit is a snap- kit with 122 parts and should "fully satisfy even the people of orthodox modeler." By way of explanation, the Japanese word for terrible doesn't actually mean terrible, it is closer to excellent or admirable.



ICM has another version of their excellent Model-T kit . With the addition of some new parts, we now have a 1/24th scale 1914 Model-T firetruck.

If you have one of the recent Mirror Models or MiniArt bulldozer kits, LZ Models has come to your rescue. They are offering a Le Torneau CarryAll LS scrapper in 1/35th scale. These resin kits, all in 1/35th scale, also include a single or double Sheepfoot roller and a compaction roller. Let the construction projects begin!



Hasegawa has a 1/24th scale injected molded kit of the Honda N 360. This car was developed in the late 1960's and was powered by a two-cylinder, air-cooled engine. The kit has 144 parts with decals for two vehicles.



Aoshima is adding to their line of Dekotota (decoration) trucks with a 1/32nd scale Mikan Mitsugoro. This is number forty-three in the series, so there must be an entire fleet of these art trucks out there.



Valom is offering two new injected molded kits. One is a 1/144th scale combo kit with an RAF SE 5A and Albatros D V. The other is a 1/72nd scale Heinkel 119A.



For something a bit different, Brengun has an injected molded, 1/48th scale model of the OKB Chelomey Soviet Priboy missile.



ACE is bringing out a Centurion Mk. 3/5 LR kit. This 1/72nd scale Centurion model adds some bits to make any one of several long range Centurions. You have your choice of either external fuel tanks, the 200 gallon, or the 100 gallon mono-wheeled fuel trailer used on these tanks.



Go build that model!

Golzar



Armor

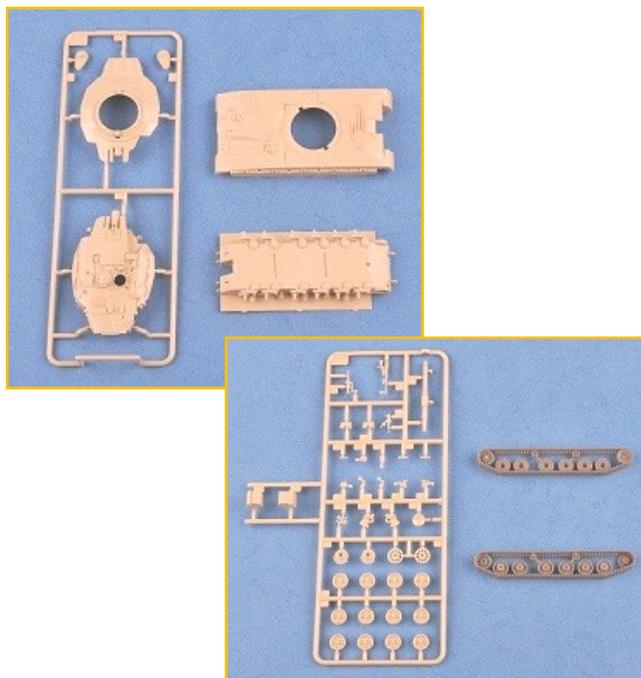
Greetings armor fans and hello to all y'all armor curious!

Let's start of with some braille scale news hot off the presses. HobbyBoss is coming out with two new kits that I think are the bee's knees.

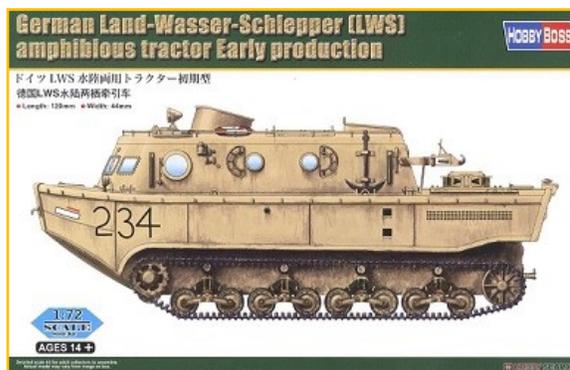


First is an IDF Merkava IIID. This is one of Israel's most well-known tanks. What is super cool about this release is the one piece running gear/tracks.

This looks like a super-detailed model but *not* a million pieces. With only two sprues of parts, it looks as if it could be assembled in an afternoon!



HobbyBoss's other kit is an interesting subject, a German Land-Wasser-Schlepper (LWS) amphibious tractor.



Is it a tank or a boat? This is the perfect scale for some neat diorama options. Once again this one has simplified construction, with just three sprues! How could you *not* want to build one of these?

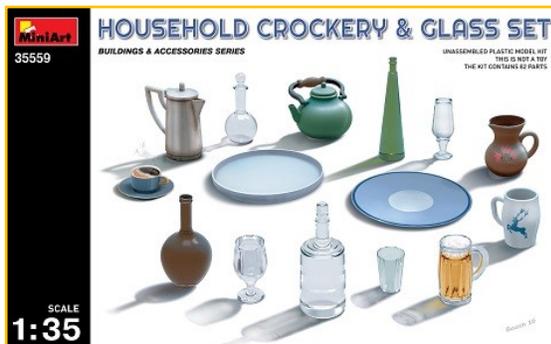


Amusing Hobby is continuing the paper panzer rollouts with a new 1/35th scale "Jagdpanther 2." To be perfectly honest, this isn't even really a paper panzer. I think the manufacturers are just making things up out of whole cloth at this point. It still looks like an interesting kit for some fantasy battles.

Dragon is next with a new Japanese tank, the Ke-Nu. Dragon always seems to put their A-team on the Japanese releases, so I am sure this will be a gem!



What a crock...for your diorama! Or is it crockery? Some great new pieces from MiniArt to spruce up your doll house or as spoils of war strapped to a tank.



The 1/35th scale kit even come with some decals for the stein and crockery. Very nice!

These are the highlights. Until next time!

Aaron



Shipping News, Part Deux

Trumpeter has released a 1/48th scale Type VIIC U-Boot. The kit has over 1100 parts and comes with a transparent side to show off a full interior. The model comes on 25 sprues that includes 48 separate fixed-pose figures to populate the boat.



The finished model is 1398.3mm long. For the metric challenged, that's 55 plus inches which is over four feet. Make way and make some room!

Rick





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.

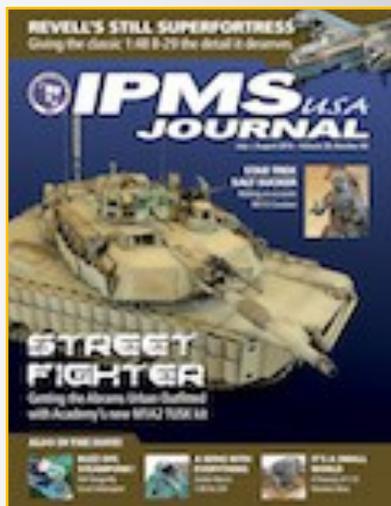
http://www.ipmsusa3.org/uploads/ipms_application_form_2016.pdf

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

In the latest Issue:

IPMS/USA Journal July + August 2016



- Steampunk Spy Plane - Industria Mechanika's Dragonfly Odonopter Type One, by Dave Edgerly
- Wonder Weapon Wing - Piecing Together Zoukei-Mura's 1:48 Horton Ho 229, by Doug Reed
- Salty Shape-Shifter - Adding Character to Star Trek's First Monster, the Salt Creature of Planet M113, by Mark McGovern
- The Latest Abrams on the Throne - Working Through Academy's New M1A2 Abrams TUSK II, by Eric Christianson
- Sleek, Silver and Still Super - Putting the polish on the classic Monogram B-29 Superfortress, by Rod Lees
- The World's Getting Smaller Every Day - A Visual Guide to Creating 1:72 Dioramas and Vignette, by Mike Fleckenstein

contact us

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

on the web

www.austinsms.org



<https://reapercon.com/>

Next Meeting:

October 20

**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>