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April 2018

ASMS

AUSTIN SCALE MODELERS SOCIETY



SPRUE EXAMINER



COLORS & MARKINGS OF

U.S. NAVY

Floyd reviews

F-14 TOMCATS

PART 2: PACIFIC COAST SQUADRONS

Tamiya's 1/20 Ferrari SF70H [Grand Prix Series]



Plus

- **Adios El Presidente**
- **The Cotton Report**
- **On The Table**
- **Old Rumors and New Kits**

Rick Cotton builds.....

U.S. NAVY ESCORT CARRIER USS GAMBIER BAY (CVE-73)



アメリカ海軍 護衛空母
CVE-73 ガンビアベイ 1:350 SCALE KIT
Z27 40027



Green Monkey
'Thumbs-Up'
sign of approval

News • Articles • Features • Opinions • Advice • Humbug



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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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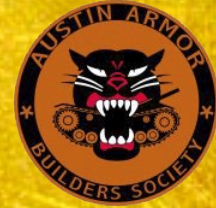
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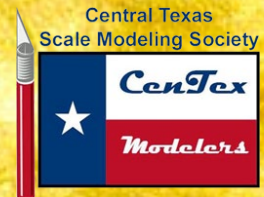
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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

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

*El Presidente*

NOTEPAD

By Randy Bumgardner

Well, April has arrived and with it comes my final column as El Presidente. I'm stepping down as President this month to focus on our upcoming move out west. It's a bittersweet moment as I've made great friends here in Central Texas over the years, and I'm excited to be closer to family — especially our latest grandchild who is due to arrive in September.

I've had the greatest pleasure serving ASMS as President for the last three and a half years, and as Show Coordinator before that. The members of ASMS are one of a kind, and I've learned a lot from each of you. I hope I've left a positive impression on the club and each of you can take something away. I've always tried to have fun, get more models finished (a dubious claim), and move the club in a good direction. The one thing I don't know if I can stress enough is the fun I've had with everyone here in the club.

However, y'all aren't getting rid of me that easily, though. I'll be retaining my membership and plan to visit everyone in the future — the show is coming up in October. Once my new digs are set up, I will try to post more to the ASMS Facebook page and submit some articles for the newsletter.

Replacing me at the helm is our illustrious Vice President, Aaron Smischney. I want everyone to give him the same support, guidance, and tough time you gave me. I would expect nothing less. (wink, wink, nudge, nudge)

As a reminder, May 5th is our annual BBQ/Auction. It will be here at Casa Downs-Bumgardner, starting at high noon and proceeding until we're done. Bring those kits, aftermarket bits, and other stuff others want. Please bring a side dish to pass, and we'll be having Rudy's BBQ per usual. We'll send out invitations and maps in the near future. It will be the last hurrah for me here in Texas. Remember, it's for the children.

Other than that, I don't have much this month. So, go build something!

Randy



Tamiya Ferrari SF70H 1/20 [Grand Prix Series]

By Ben Morton

From the Tamiya America website: The SF70H, the 63rd single-seater designed and built by Scuderia Ferrari, was born out of major regulation changes, with wider tires and cars, plus larger diffusers meaning that the cars have more aerodynamic down force and greater mechanical grip. Fittingly for the hybrid machine named to commemorate Scuderia Ferrari's 70 years of racing, the SF70H showcases the team's innovation throughout its design. A lengthened nose and arrow-shaped front wing are a consequence of the regulations, as are the fin on the engine cover and aero appendages ahead of the air intakes on the side pods.

Behind the driver the roll-hoop, which incorporates the engine air intake, was completely redesigned. Sebastian Vettel started 2017 in style with victories in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix and in Bahrain. He and Kimi Räikkönen also recorded 1-2 finishes in Monaco and Hungary. While ultimately pipped to the season's Championship titles, the SF70H was the focus of attention for millions of racing fans across the globe including Ferrari's loyal tifosi.



This is a 1/20th scale plastic model assembly kit. The overall dimensions of the completed model are 271mm(length) x 100mm(width). This model depicts the Ferrari SF70H as raced at the 2017 Australian Grand Prix, which was won in style by Sebastian Vettel.

Some of the features of this kit are:

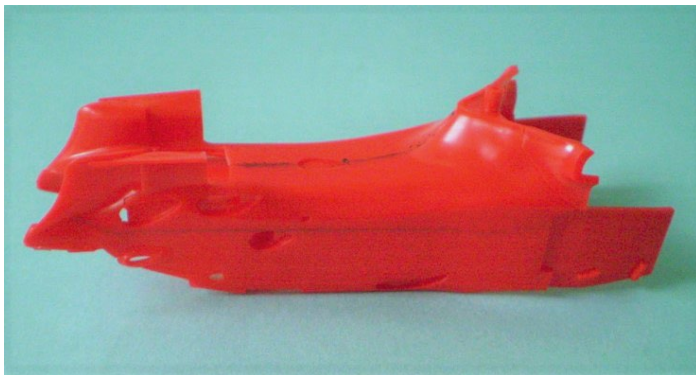
- Complex aerodynamics are accurately recreated in 1/20th scale
- Can be assembled as Vettel or Räikkönen car
- Separate wheel nut parts for a detailed finish
- Under tray/Under body is affixed to body using 5 screws (Screw driver included.)
- Side mirror surfaces are recreated using metal transfers
- Includes decals for car sponsors and markings
- Masking stickers are provided for use when painting the model

Some noteworthy items that Tamiya doesn't mention about this model are the 154 multi-colored (red, white, black) plastic parts, carbon fiber decals for the under tray/under body, and reverse water-slide markings/badges for the four rubber tires. I have had some issues with those tire markings before, so it



will be interesting to see whether or not I can make these work. The Tamiya Ferrari SF70H is an open wheel, competition automobile model and those tire badges/markings will be missed, if I muck it up. Stay tuned.

The thirty assembly steps are laid out in typical Tamiya fashion, which is to say, easy to comprehend and execute. Some of the painting suggestions called for during assembly need to be done at the time as access to certain areas will be limited once the model is completed. Do familiarize yourself with the assemble instructions so you don't forget to paint a particular part before assembly. You will rue the day if you don't.



As long as I am on the subject of painting, the real car has a three-tone paint scheme for the main body. The lower portion of the car is gloss black with the upper portion being gloss red. Some portions of the rear body and the front and rear wing are gloss white.

Tamiya provides some painting masks to aid in getting the scheme just right. It should be noted that the paint masks are not pre-cut. Stay calm. These masks are printed on what amounts to a large sheet of Tamiya masking tape. Just follow the printed outline and all will be right with the world. If you kept that French curve from your mechanical drawing class, now is the time to use it. One thing that is unusual and helpful is that all the appropriate body parts on this kit have a fine, raised cleat line modeled on them to help with getting the aforementioned masks in just the right place (see photo).



Assembly begins with the monocoque. [Technical note: monocoque is cool racing car talk for a vehicle structure that is part of the chassis and integrated with the body of the car.] The two sections of the forward monocoque get glued together and that gets attached to the upper body. All of this structure gets painted with the aid of those aforementioned paint masks. There are some areas not covered by the masks but your own ready supply of masking tape will solve that problem. All of this is nicely laid out in the instructions.

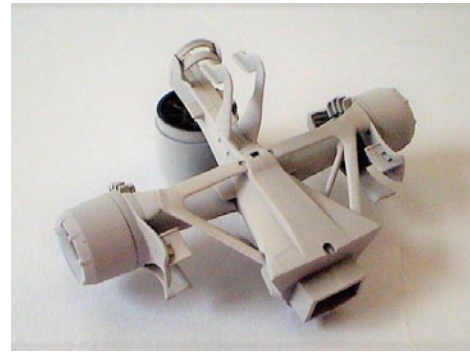
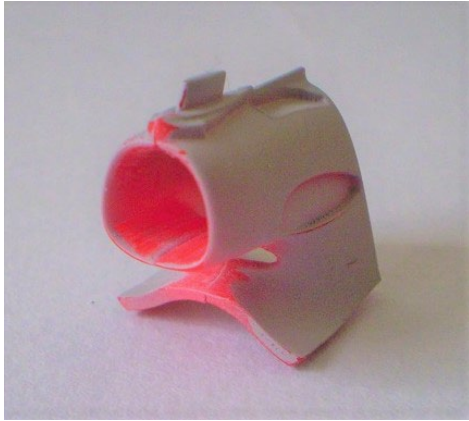
Tamiya has you build this Formula One car from the front to the rear of the monocoque/chassis. You add the side pods, air induction pod (air scoop), forward suspension (front arms) and brake drums (front uprights) to the chassis. The assembly instructions have you move on to the rear gear box which holds the rear suspension arms and uprights. From there the rear cowling pieces get assembled and painted, again with the help of some of those handy painting masks, and all of this gets assembled and attached, en masse, to the undertray.

The undertray can be thought of as a chassis. On Formula One cars the undertray provides the car with aerodynamic down force, which is to say that all the vanes, tunnels, and venturi on the undertray help hold the car to the road. There is an amazing amount of sciencey stuff involved with these cars. Even the skid plate on the bottom of the undertray gets into the act of creating down force. If you'd like a more through discussion, click the link to the formula 1 dictionary. Tamiya has faithfully reproduced the undertray on their 1/20th Ferrari SF70H.



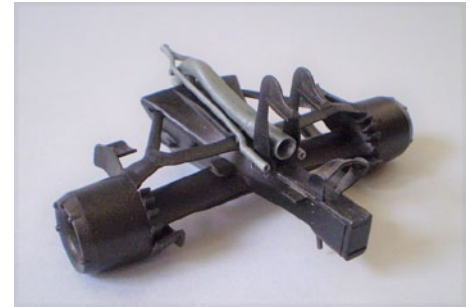
<http://www.formula1-dictionary.net/undertray.html>

The model may be built as either Sebastian Vettel or Kimi Räikkönen's car. Those differences are minor and confined to the driver cockpit, specifically the headrest, various airflow winglets, and the configuration of all the buttons on the steering wheel. A Formula One car has a slew of controls mounted on the steering wheel, everything from a drink button to adjusting the brakes. There is short YouTube video explaining the 27 different buttons, switches, and paddle shifters typically found on a Formula One steering wheel.



The side pod parts will need to be assembled, painted, and the carbon fiber decals applied before you add the final plastic bits to each pod. The intricate

side pods are made up of seven separate parts so this kit may not be a good choice for the novice builder. While some portions of the build may seem daunting, Tamiya has laid it all out nicely in the assembly instructions just pay attention, follow along, and all will be right with the build.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RUJgn4KT6Y>

Tamiya provides a detailed painting guide for the specific car (Vettel or Räikkönen) that you're modeling. They have also provided some decals,



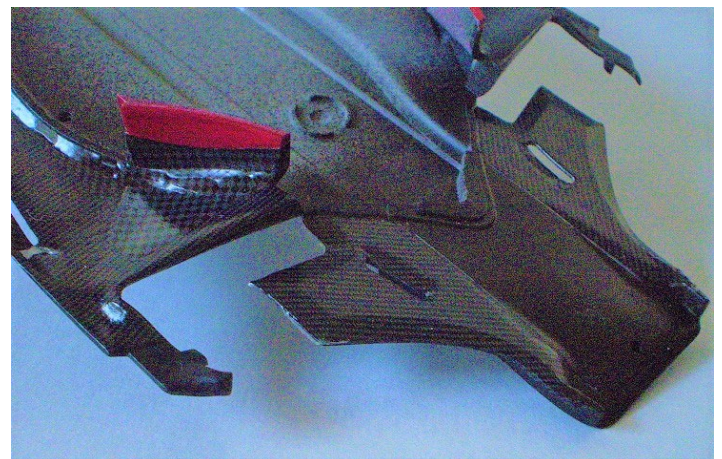
in lieu of painting the steering wheel. As you like.

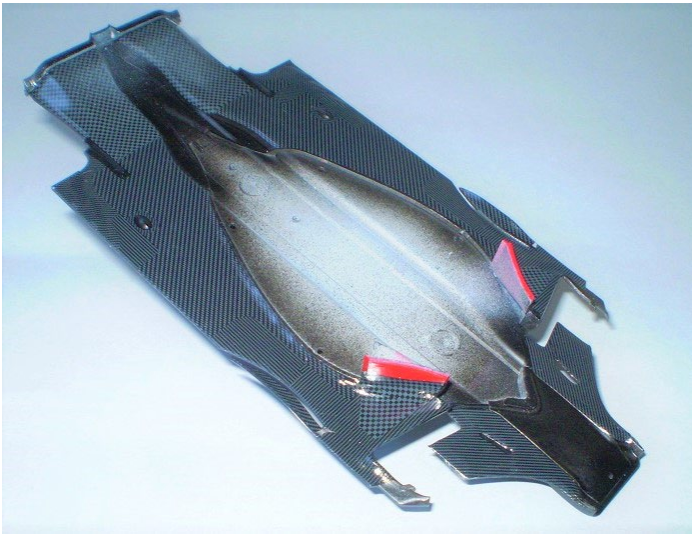
Tamiya also provides some nice decals representing the carbon fiber parts found on a typical Formula One car. Some

decals will need to be applied as you work through the assemble sequence. One notable assemble (step #7 & #8) involves the side pods for the car.



After finishing with the decaling and painting of the undertray, the entire upper portion of the car





gets attached with some screws. Tamiya even supplies the screw driver. You'll be glad they do, as the screws are itty bitty. Try not to lose them. The last couple of steps are all about the front and rear wings, attaching some more airflow conditioners, and adding the rubber tires.



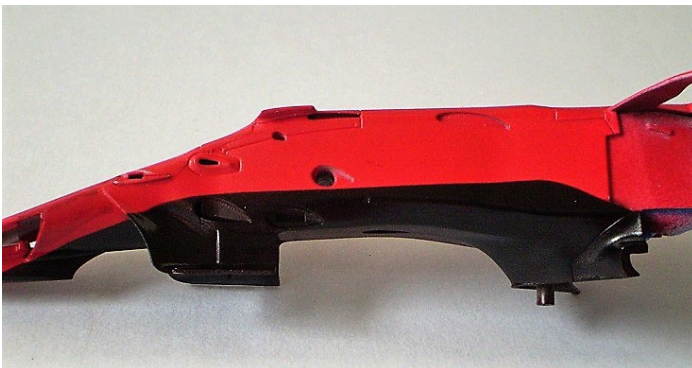
Tamiya has also engineered the parts in such a way that most, if not all, of the seams and ejector pin marks, are hidden or dealt with by placing another part directly over the offending area. One seam problem I did encounter was with the induction pod (engine air scoop). Like most intake trunks there is a seam running down the middle of the parts. A sanding stick and the gloss black interior solved the problem.



There isn't much else I can tell you about assembly. This being a Tamiya kit everything fits just like it's supposed to. I was impressed with the overall fit of the parts, some of the rear struts just click into depressions on the main body of the gearbox assembly (step # 14). All plastic models should be this nice.



While it's not a seam issue, per say, there are a number of ejector pin marks on the topside of the undertray (part D40/step #20) that must be

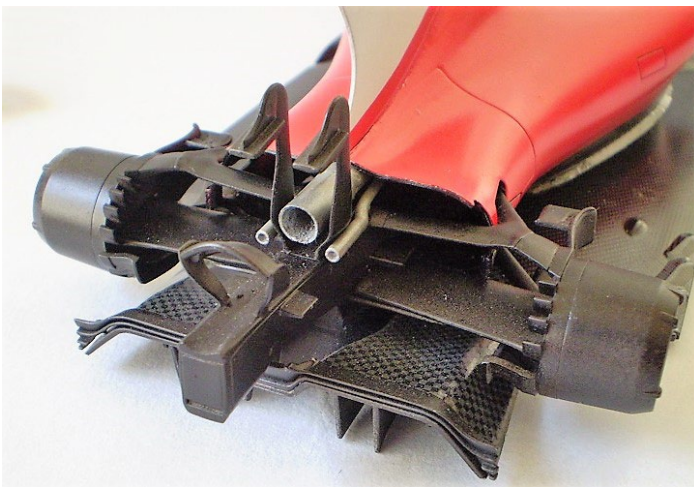




addressed. The marks are shallow and do go away with the whisk of a sanding stick. Just make sure you get them all. When the carbon fiber decals are applied any missed imperfections are going to be readily apparent. (You'll never guess how I know this.)

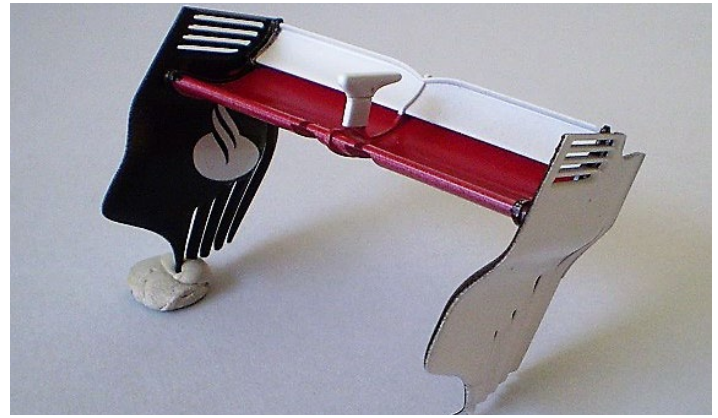


One of the final assembly steps has you placing a few telemetry antennas on the car along with the rear view mirrors. Tamiya provides some metallic stickers to represent the perspex used in race car mirrors. Perspex is a shatter resistant substitute for glass and the supplied stickers mimic this material beautifully.



All that is left to do is apply the decals for the particular car you're modeling. Don't panic...it only looks like a lot and they mostly go down "easy... like Sunday morning." (My apologies to The Commodores.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DSVMDmzCca>



I did have some issues (operator error)with the large Shell logos on the sides of the monocoque. The site for them involves lots of curves and proper placement is crucial to getting to lay down nicely. Be sure and consult your references.



The decals provided are for the Ferrari SF 70H's that entered the Australian Grand Prix in 2017. Once you get all the common markings on, the only markings that differentiates one car from the other are the entry number (# 5 or #7), the driver name plate, and a little fin flash on the air vane on top of the air induction pod.





The assembly instructions would have you completely assemble your Ferrari SF70H before applying the decals.

As one can see, I did have some issues (tire badges/logos are supposed to be on both sidewalls) with those pesky tire badges but managed to get some of them applied. Turns out there is a trick to it. If you already know how to do this, skip ahead.



Otherwise, step number one is to gloss coat the tire surface. Then cut out the decal as close as you can to the design. The decals are reverse printed. Remove the protective paper and place the backing paper circle in the desired position on the tire. Thoroughly wet the paper and wait for the decal to separate from the backing paper. Wet the paper again and wait some more. Carefully remove the backing paper. Viola! You now have cool looking tire badges on your ever so cool looking rubber tires.

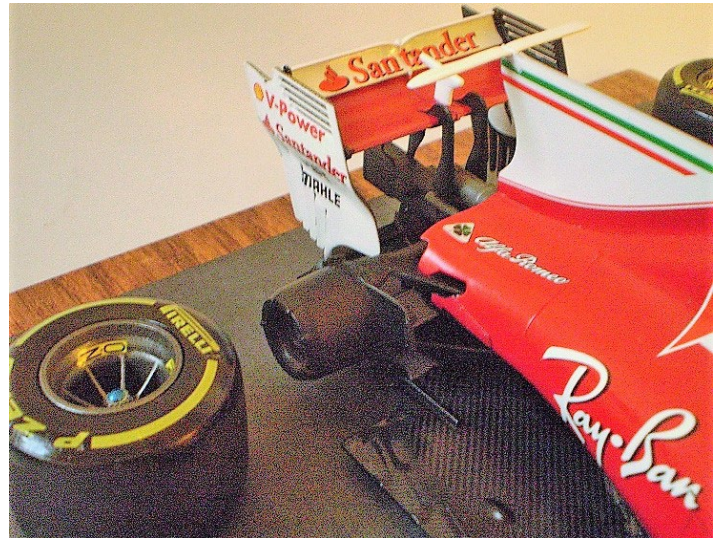


I choose a different route. I placed the decals to the front/rear wings and chassis separately before assembling the whole thing. A 'tip of the hat' to Tamiya, the decals have an added benefit of hiding the odd blemish here and there. Placing the tires on the chassis is the final step. [Note: The tires rotate, so you can push your model across the floor...if you want.]



If you haven't built many car models in your illustrious modeling career I must say that should you choose to add a Formula One car to your collection than this kit is for you. As you may already know, Tamiya has a well-deserved reputation for the fit and finish of their kits parts.





(A lot of the body parts are molded in red plastic and I found this tip most helpful.)



You may find that you spend more time painting individual parts than on assembly but that is a minor thing when you consider that Tamiya's 1/20th scale Ferrari SF 70H kit will make a stunning addition to your collection. About the only real fault I could find with this kit is the exclusion of a pair of RayBan sunglasses.

My thanks to Tamiya America and IPMS/USA for the review copy.

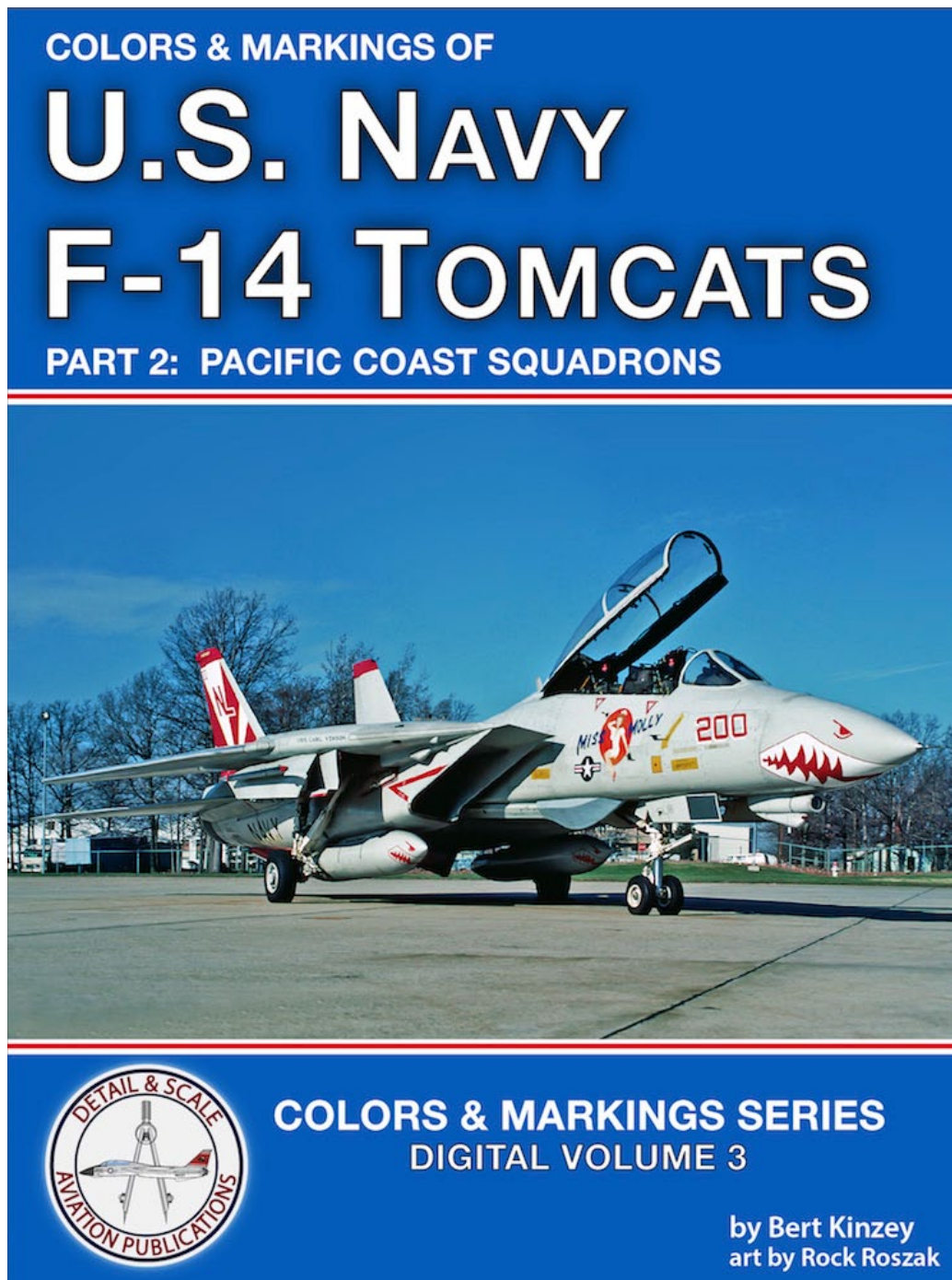
This kit is no exception. Couple that with ease of assemble and simple, concise instructions and you are in store for a satisfying build of this Ferrari SF70H. Tamiya even advises you to remove sprue attachment nibs throughout the assembly instructions for a more precise fit.

Ben



U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcats- Part 2: Pacific Coast Squadrons Digital book

by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.



The F-14 conjures up images of ‘Top Gun’ and ‘The Final Countdown’. The Tomcat has captured the imagination of modelers and civilians alike. Bigger, faster, and able to carry more ordnance than its replacement the F-18, the F-14 was retired

from service but still holds a place of honor. With the recent release of the Tamiya F-14 and the impending release of the AMK F-14D, there has been a resurgence for F-14 references.



This is a second third volume in the Detail & Scale Color & Markings Digital series, and is Part 2 to the Atlantic Coast F-14 book—"Colors & Markings of the F-102 Delta Dagger" falls in between the two. The first volume of the Color & Markings series covered the Atlantic Squadrons flying F-14s so now the picture is completed with this volume covering the Pacific Fleet, Reserve, training and evaluation squadrons. The digital books are in the same vain vein as the printed ones but are significantly more complete with more photos and cost less. There are over 700 photos on 450 pages in this digital book alone.

If you haven't used a digital book before they are quite unique. The benefits of the book are numerous. First off the book can be updated by the author at any time. Whenever you sign in the book will automatically update. There are two versions available, in iPad and Kindle format. They are have exactly the same content and operate the samesimilarly.

The chapter breakdown is Chapter 1 for Stencils and Standard markings. Chapter 2 is the meat and potatoes of the book and features the US Navy Pacific Fleet Squadrons. Chapter 3 is the Pacific Reserve Squadrons. Chapter 4 is the Adversary Tomcats. Chapter 5 is the Test & Evaluation F-14s, including NASA.

Besides always up to date with new information, the digital book has a bunch of benefits that you just can't do in printed format. The first is the ability to enlarge the photos by simply touching the photo. They enlarge to the size of the monitor. Then you can also enlarge that photo up to 200%, which is ideal for a modeler.

You can also jump right to a chapter or page simply by using the Table of Contents (TOC). The bottom of the TOC page also shows thumbnails so you can jump directly to a page.

Typical of Detail & Scale books there are numerous photos of every unit and the drawings by Rock RoczakRozak. The pictures are full color and vibrant. There are notable contributor's to this publication.

Each squadron's history is covered. In addition to the history, the evolution of the unit's camouflage and markings are next. Special emphasis is given to the CAG aircraft which are normally the more colorful ones.



Flight deck personnel load a JANTREN pod and JDAM precision guided munitions on an F-14D Tomcat assigned to VF-31 prior to a mission in support of Operation Inng Freedom. The action took place on February 15, 2003. At the time, the "Tomcatters" were part of Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN (CVW-14) aboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, CVN-72. (U. S. Navy)

A total of fifteen Tomcat squadrons served with the Pacific Fleet. This number includes the Pacific Fleet's Tomcat replacement squadron, VF-124. The other fourteen squadrons all made full deployments aboard aircraft carriers to help project the U. S. Navy's power around the globe. Of these, ten squadrons were assigned to the Pacific Fleet for the entire times they flew Tomcats, while four also served in the Atlantic Fleet for varying lengths of time while operational with the Tomcat. VF-11 and VF-31 would begin their service with the Tomcat in



Along with their sister squadron, the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, the "Tomcatters" of VF-31 were transferred from the Atlantic Fleet to the Pacific Fleet in 1992, at which time they upgraded to the F-14D. BuNo. 164600 was one of the Tomcats that served as the squadron's CAG aircraft during the time VF-31 was assigned to the Pacific Fleet. (Grove)

U. S. NAVY PACIFIC FLEET SQUADRONS

(Tap any unit logo to advance directly to that section)



The F-14A Tomcat assigned to the squadron commander of the "Lightning Checkmates" of VF-211 gets the signal to launch from USS JOHN C. STENIS, CVN-24, on April 12, 2002. VF-211 was part of Carrier Air Wing NINE, and was flying combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Note the mission markings pointed on the fuselage beneath the windscreen. (U. S. Navy)

This digital publication is the second part of Detail & Scale's extensive coverage of the colors and markings that were used on the U. S. Navy's F-14 Tomcats throughout their entire service life. **Colors & Markings of U. S. Navy F-14 Tomcats, Part 1, Atlantic Coast Squadrons**, covered the Tomcats that served with the Atlantic Fleet, the Atlantic Naval Reserve squadrons, and test and evaluation units on the Atlantic coast. Also included were the Tomcats used by Guemman for test purposes. A preliminary chapter in that book provided an in-depth look at the various official paint schemes used on Tomcats throughout their operational service.

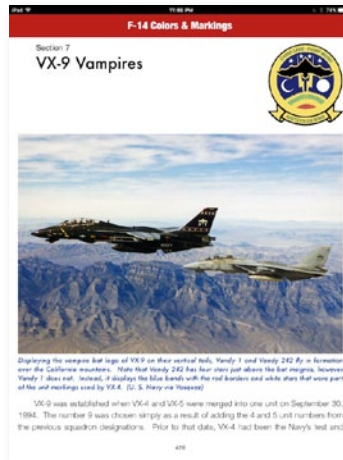
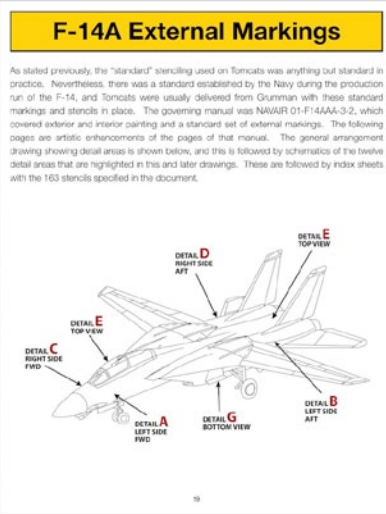
This Part 2 includes all of the squadrons that flew Tomcats with the Pacific Fleet and with the two Pacific Naval Reserve fighter squadrons. F-14s operated by the Navy's Fighter



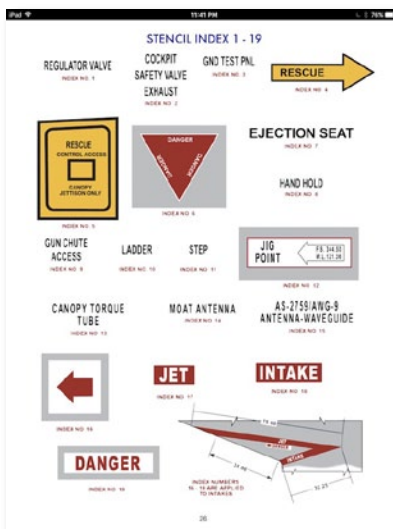
Let's see what is in the digital book. The first section is on Tomcat Stencils and Standard Markings. This follows the changed made in the stencils from one type of camouflage to the next. Any decal manufacturer could have a field day with this chapter alone. ALL the stencils that could

be applied to the F-14 are included with the proper font and colors.

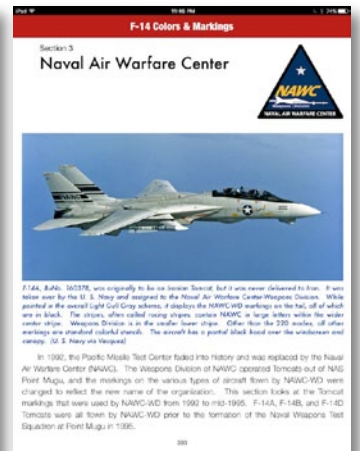
The next chapter starts the look at the actual 15 Pacific Fleet Squadrons. The history of the F-14 in each of the squadron timelines shows you who had the Tomcat from when to when. Each squadron is arranged chronologically in reference to the markings.



The evolution of the camouflage and markings throughout the life of the Tomcat is illustrated perfectly for each squadron. There were some interesting paint schemes in the Tomcat's history. Besides the Light Ghost Grey over White (boring) and grey schemes, there is a Ferris type scheme, then the temporary blotched grey camouflage, even a brown, tan, green and grey camouflage that I've never seen before. There are some interesting stories included in the captions and unit histories. One that stands out is 'Miss Molly' of VF-111.



This makes it easier to find a particular era aircraft, for example Desert Storm. All the squadron badges are included in the beginning of the chapter. You can tap any unit patch and get taken directly to the applicable squadron.





The next chapter deals with the Reserve Units. And this is followed up by the Adversary and Test/Evaluation Units and finally NASA.

If you can't find a subject in this digital book then you won't build a Tomcat. There are some beautiful markings and paint schemes. Of course, the Adversary Tomcats from Top Gun are quite colorful, including an 'IRIAF' complete with Iranian insignia. Don't forget there are some colorful paint schemes on the NASA F-14s as well.

The benefits of the digital book is the huge amount of pictures that can be accessed and the ability to enlarge them. The normal parameters of page count and color photos don't apply to digital format. The amount of photos, details about the units and the paint schemes are in keeping with the great tradition of Detail & Scale publications. This volume, along with the first one, are essential reference material for the modeler and historian. If you love the F-14 Tomcat then you'll NEED to add this to your digital library.





- 04/25/2018 **ModelMania 2018**
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10505 Cash Rd, Stafford TX.
Show Theme - "Bent, Busted, Rusted or Wounded"
Any subject depicting, damaged, repair, or in need of repair as well as injured or wounded figures.
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Show Theme - "Between the Wars" [WWI 1919-1939 WWII]
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Council Road Baptist Church 7903 NW 30th Bethany Ok 73008
Show Themes - "The Phabulos 50's"; "The Great War"
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The inexpensive price will certainly be attractive to everyone. The ability to have the whole book on the work bench while working is an invaluable tool. I enjoyed the whole experience with the digital book. Another great reference book from Detail & Scale.

Highly recommended

Thanks to Detail & Scale's Rock Roczak Roszak for the review copy. You can download yours from iTunes. I use my iPad for reading these books and it works great. It is stored in the Cloud so I can also read it on iBooks on my phone while I'm out and about.

Manufacturer website: <http://www.detailandscale.com/index.html>

Floyd



CLUB QUARTERLY CONTESTS:

- June**
Procrastinator Contest (maybe July)
- September**
Bondo Contest
- December**
White Elephant Contest

Evidence of an obsessive Star Trek modeler:

HOMING BEACON HAS BEEN REPORTED TO OCCASIONALLY INTERFERE WITH LOCAL AIR TRAFFIC

CONTAIN BITS OF RADIUM FOR JUST THE RIGHT GLOW* (THOSE WITH HEART CONDITIONS ARE ADVISED TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE.)

MADE SPECIAL TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. TO ENSURE THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE MARKINGS (DISMAYED TO LEARN THE SHIP IS NO LONGER ON DISPLAY)

HANGAR DOORS OPEN TO REVEAL MINATURE RESIN CAST SHUTTLECRAFT (COST TO MANUFACTURE: \$1.95; AMOUNT PAID: \$450 + P & H)

REAL LASERS CANNIBALIZED FROM PARENTS NEW CD PLAYER (WON'T THEY BE PROUD!)

CONTAINS 430 LIVE COSTUMED ANTS TO SIMULATE ACTUAL CREW (EVER TRY TO FIND A TOUPEE FOR AN ANT?)

ACTUAL NASA SURPLUS

MADE FROM A KNICK-KNACK STOLEN FROM GENE RODDENBERRY'S HOME (CHARGES STILL PENDING)

TOTAL COST: \$648,250 IN MATERIALS, \$8,200 IN MEDICAL BILLS, \$5,000 IN FINES, 6 MONTHS PROBATION, AND A RESTRAINING ORDER FROM MATT JEFFIRES

PRIZES AWARDED: A \$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE AT THE LOCAL HOBBY SHOP AND A FREE PAINTBRUSH

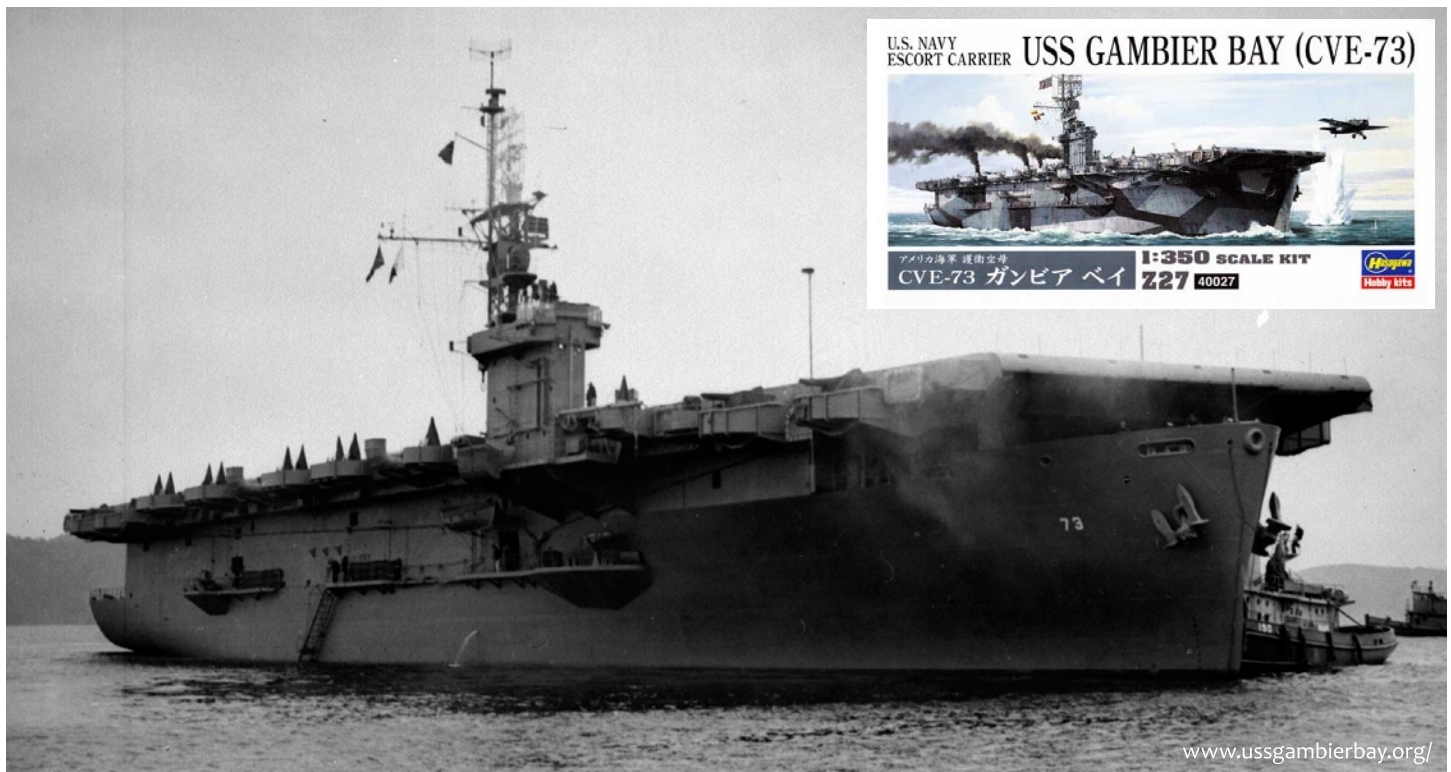
R.LITTLEPA65'96

It's the Weekend!

Put down that remote and build a model!

USS Gambier Bay; Hasegawa 1/350th scale kit

by Rick Cotton



Nobody in their right mind could ever mistake a World War 2 escort carrier, with all its ugly, clunky lines, for a fast fleet carrier of the Essex class. Nobody except maybe Japanese Admiral Takeo Kurita, who thought he had blundered into Bill Halsey's fast carriers (and their even faster Iowa-class battlewagons) off Samar in October of 1944, during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. In defense of Kurita, his battleships and cruisers were trying to fend off a furious, heroic, and suicidal attack by the greatly outmatched Taffy Three destroyers at the time, and he was quite unnerved. Kurita broke off the action eventually, thinking he had found Halsey, and that the latter's fast battleships were about to circle in behind him. Before he left however, he did succeed in sinking two destroyers, a destroyer escort, and the subject of this build, Casablanca-class escort carrier CVE-73 Gambier Bay.

The Casablanca-class escort carriers could never be considered beautiful, except by those who (A) served on one, or (B) are ship modeling nuts, and

will build nearly anything that floats. I happen to be a member of that ill-reputed second group, and when a modeling friend recently decided to sell his Hasegawa 1/350th scale Gambier Bay kit, well, say no more, I forked over the cash and beat it double time back to Cotton Industries shipyards with my prized "beauty".

The 1/350th kit comes in a box large enough to hold a much larger vessel, complete with a full-color poster of the box art (which my friend kept, as he is a Taffy Three and Leyte Gulf aficionado), and numerous sprues in Hasegawa's familiar gray plastic. Detail is excellent, the standard Hasegawa level we have come to expect in their series of ship models. Decals (extensive) and anchor chain (tiny and exquisite) are also provided, as well as Hasegawa's usual black and white historical booklet, featuring photos of the ship, including ones of her getting pounded by IJN heavy cruisers at Samar. The instructions are clear and well-drawn, although there was a single correction added on a separate slip of paper.



Fit of this kit overall is extremely good, and it's easy to build, but there is no waterline option given. A lovely evening session with a cutting wheel and a Dremel tool took care of that. You have not really lived until you have had hot globs of flying molten styrene burn off your arm hair. Wear that eye protection!



The hull halves were joined with some MEK and a bit of judicious taping. Zero problems here, a solid, sturdy fit with the athwart ships stiffeners installed. Fore and aft deck sections go in, and fit tightly. All of this was assembled with MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone), which runs right down the seams with capillary action, and welds the plastic together for good.

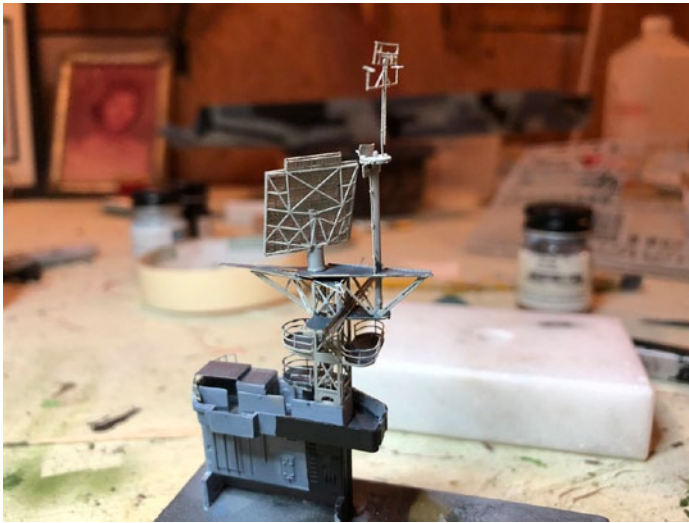
There is no hangar deck interior provided in the kit, so if you want one, you will have to do some scratchbuilding. There are numerous interior stiffeners in the kit (which will need to be trimmed if you go waterline), you'll have to do some quick engineering and judicious cutting, but that shouldn't be too terribly difficult for the average styrene surgeon. Building the lift mechanism for the elevators might be a bit involved, however. The elevators are molded as separate parts, so if you get the wild hair to scratch build, you will not have to cut them out of the deck.

I did replace the kit aircraft with Trumpeter planes, which are both well-detailed, and easy to build. No SBD's needed here, these ships typically had Grumman F4F's (or later FM-2's) and TBM's. Nothing negative noted about the kit aircraft, which looked to be very good on the sprue, this is just a personal building preference. I've built a lot of 1/350th Trumpeter aircraft over the years, and I can go through them like Henry Ford cranking out Model T's. The kit includes decals for both Wildcats and Avengers.

The flight deck comes in two sections, split roughly amidships, at a seam that existed on the real deck. Careful sanding, joining and filling corrects the seam to scale appearance, and the deck is ready for paint. The gun deck and galleries assemble to the sides of the flight deck, and then the whole assemblage fits down tightly over the top of the hull's bulkheads. It's a tight fit, but it does fit with a bit of judicious wiggling. Barely any cement is needed.

The island structure is very small on this ship, and does not consist of a whole lot of parts – a simple, cubist type structure, it rests on a platform just below flight deck level, and protrudes up and slightly over the starboard edge of said deck. The bridge was detailed up with some photoetch which dresses it up nicely.

One trick I use for aircraft carrier models is to partially build the island, and attach it temporarily to a small block of wood. This allows me to easily rotate the piece and work on it from all angles. The vast majority of the tiny photoetch details are added, and painted before the island is carefully detached from the wood and added permanently to the ship.



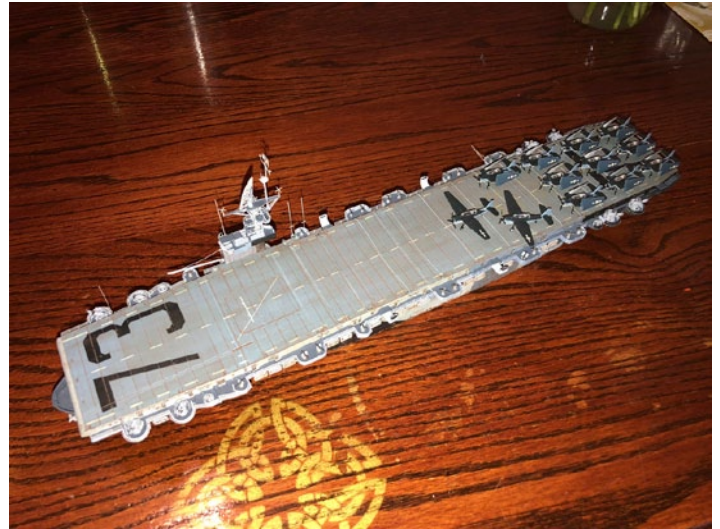
I used the dedicated Hasegawa photoetch Detail Up set with this kit – and there are a LOT of parts on this photoetch fret. Ship and aircraft parts of all types are included, including the complex and delicate antenna mast assembly on top of the ship's island. This assembly, while quite fiddly to build, fits very well, and if you are VERY careful, have a cold beer, and DO NOT HURRY, assembles quite well into an extremely convincing array of steel girders, radar screens, and antennae

The kit mast is solid plastic, this was an absolute have-to-have no-brainer replacement for me. The photoetch set also replaces the kit stairs, which vastly upgrades the overall detail level. There are also island parts available in the set for building carriers other than Gambier Bay.

There are detail parts all the way down to the arrestor wires, and arm rests on the 20mm single guns. Some parts are very TINY! If you are brave and steady-handed enough, or are in command of a squad of trained spiders, you can add those too. If you don't want to go quite that far, the 20mm gun shields are easy enough to add, and most of the parts are pretty easy to use. Hasegawa's brass is not overly thin or fragile, and is quite forgiving.

The one thing NOT included in the photoetch set was railings. These had to come from the spares box. Gambier Bay is not particularly hard to install railings on, as most of her platforms are relatively straight and simple. I attach railings, one short section at a time, with fast-setting cyanoacrylate

applied with a thin wire. Later, a good clear flat needs to be applied to cover all those shiny glue marks. Believe it or not, a thin, sludgy mix of white ("Elmer's") glue and water makes a darned good flat overcoat. I learned that little trick from my "treadhead" armor-building friends. Thanks, guys!



The deck markings are all decals, and must be laid down on a very glossy surface, and I would recommend a setting solution to settle them down between the deck planks. Plenty of Future (or whatever it's called today) under and over the decals settled them in nicely without silvering. Then came a couple of flat coats, and a sludge wash to "dirty up" the deck.

After installing the signal flags and national ensign with some very fine fly-fishing line and AutoCAD-produced flags, I placed the aircraft, one by one, cinching them down with tiny drops of white glue on all three wheels. Most of the aircraft were built with their wings in the folded position, with a couple extended for flight.

My thanks go out to a very good friend here that legendary good guy, philanthropist, and canine aficionado, Mike Price, who hooked me up with Northstar figures for the crew. IMHO (in my humble opinion), nobody touches Northstar for figure quality at this scale.

Whether you are looking for Russians, Germans, Yanks, or a Japanese marching band or Judo



tournament (I am not making that one up), they are, flat-out, the best 1/350 figures out there. Thank you, Mike. I owe you more than one.

The ship wears a complex 1944 dazzle pattern of three grays and a dull black, and the kit even gives you cut-out patterns to use in making your own masks. I primed the entire hull with a dark gray enamel, then shot the colors over it in acrylic. The lightest color was applied over the entire hull first, then masked, color by color, all the way until the dull black was applied. This is, no doubt, a very tedious portion of the build, and will take quite some time, but the reward of pulling it off is a very eye-catching scheme that will stand out on a contest table. "Gray ships? Ha! Boring! Look at that loud, gaudy escort carrier over there!"



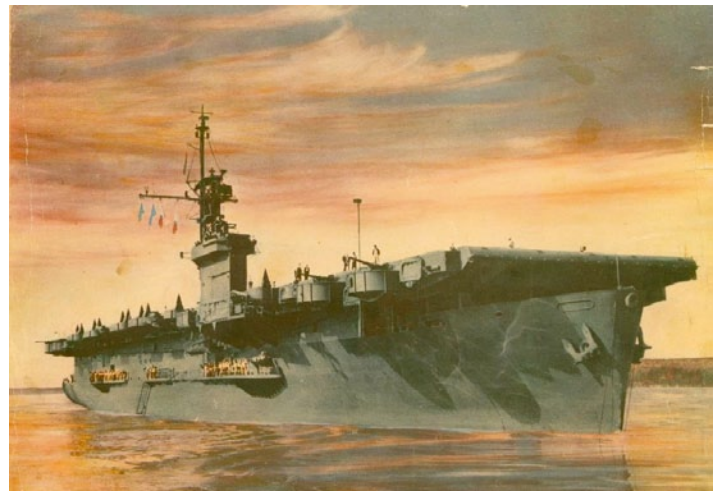
The ship was weathered and rusted with cheap craft paint and a 0000 brush, and a tempera paint sludge wash was applied and wiped off, instantly transferring the model from nice and shipshape-right-off-the-ways clean, to rusting, well-used and a little beat-up. Beautiful Who wants a clean warship?

There were two or three long evening sessions with a 0000 brush loaded with Haze Gray paint in one hand, and a high-powered flashlight in the other, picking out telltale tiny bits of shining unpainted brass....when you cannot find any more....you're done. And NOT before. If you don't find them, the judges will.

So into the bathtub caulk sea she goes, and TA-DAH! We are done! Gambier Bay sails the deep Pacific blue again, at least in miniature, a tiny reminder of, and tribute to Admiral Clifton "Ziggy" Sprague and the brave men of Taffy Three and their heroic sacrifice.



May they...and she...never be forgotten.



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

Rick





On The

TABLE

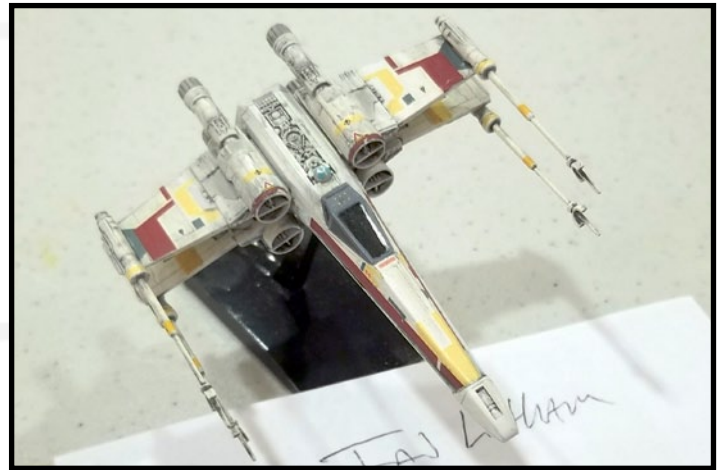
By **Flanged End Yoke**



We started off big this month with Bil Delk's Space 1999 Eagle in 1/48th scale. Bill also did a feature article on the build in the Sprue Examiner last month. Bill was voted best model for the month and won first place in the quarterly contest.



Keeping on a science fiction theme Ian Latham brought in a Bandai 1/144th scale X-wing from Star Wars.



Ziggy Bumgardner brought in two more Gundams, a RGZ-95 Rezel and a GM Command (colony type) both in 1/100th scale.



Ron McCracken brought in his completed Italeri 1/72nd C-27J. Ron painted the markings on the aircraft himself.





Ben Morton brought in an in progress Master-box figure in 1/24th sale. "Don't Even Think about..."



Bob King brought in two P-51's.



Ben also brought in a Revell 1/72nd M60A3.

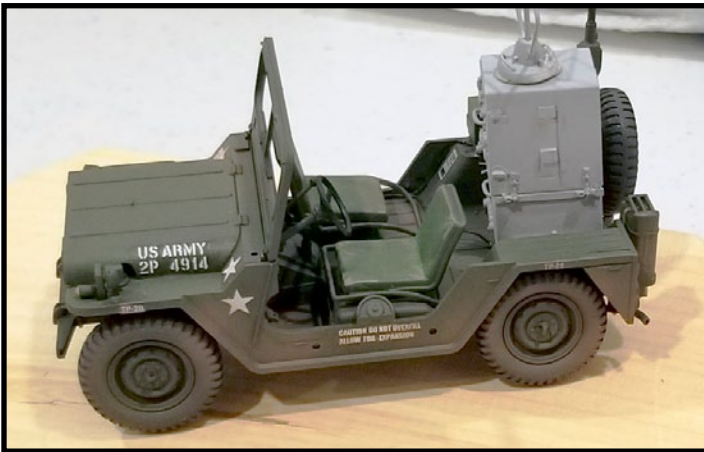


Rick Herrington brought in his Hobby Boss 1/48th scale Me-262B German night fighter. Rick won third place in the quarterly contest.



Ben and Randy brought in their completed Buddy Build of a Corsair. Ben did his as a Computer Assisted Drafting (CAD) version of the aircraft





Dave Edgerly brought in an in progress Vietnam Era Mutt with a scratch built Radio Direction Finding device on it.

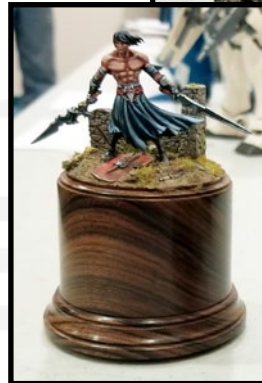
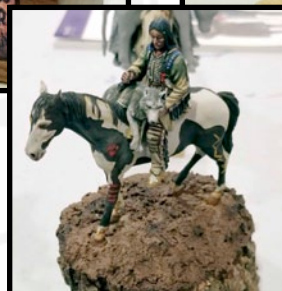


Derek Dickens, a new member brought in German sniper figure.

Eric Choy built up one of Meng's toon series, the M-4.



Bob Bethea brought in several completed figures and an in progress one. The Battle of Hastings vignette won second place in the quarterly contest.



Thanks to everyone that brought in a sample of their work and welcome new members!

Flanged





The Cotton Report

By Rick Cotton

*H*ave you ever experienced Modeling Withdrawal?

It's that situation where, for whatever reason, you have not been able to glue anything together for days. You have not sprayed any paint on anything in a month of Sundays. You have not sanded anything, and your sanding arm is getting soft. And it's getting to you, isn't it?

I'm going through just such a time right now. For those of you who do not know, I am about to be mortgaged up to my eyeballs, and will be moving in about 4 weeks – assuming everything goes ok with the home purchase. Said move will require packing – lots of it – and we are just now starting that.

For me, it's the model space that gets packed first, because, as you well know, you carefully pack what's important before you pack all that unimportant cr*p like pictures, and legal papers, your parents' marriage certificate and all that other stuff. My model space, although recently reorganized, is still packed with a lot of cr*p.

If I win and bring home a First or better trophy at a show, Sweetie's Rules require that award to go in the house on the Wall of Fame. She is not negotiable on this. Everything else, Second, Third, Honorable Mention, whatever, hangs on the walls of my shop. Sometimes, they get yanked down and recycled into a base, but that is fodder for another tome at another time. For now, they go into a box or two... there's a bunch of them... man, I've been doing this a while. Never thought I would ever go to so many shows over my modeling career.

The bits and pieces have to be boxed up, along with the tools, paint, brushes, pens, pencils, pastel chalk, etc. The smaller kit boxes go into larger cardboard boxes, get taped up to keep the critters out, and get marked "MODELS" in big, black, Marks-A-Lot letters for future reference. The big kits will just be securely taped shut, and moved en masse. I think about moving all the BUILT models in

the cases... and immediately break into a cold sweat at the thought.

So I am building basically nothing right now. I have enough eligible stuff to get me through the next few months' shows, so that isn't a problem.

But I am gluing together precisely zilch right now, and that IS a problem. I have to console myself with Hyperscale and Modeling Madness.com, and Steelnavy.com, and old copies of FSM and Scale Modeler that keep getting unearthed. I Google things like "1/35th Flak Truck" or "USS Massachusetts", and the like, and read the articles. I have been reading a couple of very good historical Navy books, courtesy of my good friend Paul Sacco. I have been corresponding with modeling friends all across the country. I have been watching my good friend Boyd Waechter's shiny new 1/32 Tamiya Corsair come together, courtesy of photos he sends me from time to time. It's lovely. The pictures, while highly envying-inducing, are greatly appreciated.

I feel like I am in a sort of modeling-free prison, doing short time, where I get to watch the guards glue stuff together, and they turn and leer and laugh at me. "Too bad! Ha HA! You don't get to glue anything!! Do your time!"

I spend "my time" right now "weeding out" the excess stuff as well. There is a whole lot of excess stuff, and I am finding more excess stuff every day. There is a huge pile of old Airfix magazines, which will appear on the back table at the next club meeting (April 10th) – please, help yourself, take ten or twelve. Take some for your friends and relatives. Drop a few on the table in the dentist's waiting area. Come back for more. There will be an old book or two – take them, please! Not sure what else will show up, so stay tuned at the next meeting to find out.

I go online, and download the entry forms for upcoming shows, and enjoy reading the rules and categories, and filling out all the forms beforehand. I highly recommend this, especially if your handwriting is as bad as mine. Lots of time taken to fill them out means better penmanship.



I check the route on Google Earth for good places to eat, and interesting things to see on those road trips. Yes, I read the reviews to narrow down the choices. I book my hotel way in advance, months ahead, so I can get a good rate, and not be too far from said good eating establishments. I measure the distance between home base and the show, and calculate the gas expenditures. I look through my photo collection of my shots from past shows, and relive the events. I probably have more accidental pictures of Richard Kern, Vince Barrale, and Tom Moon than their families do! Wait, that's a very scary thought... I look at the bank balance I have saved up for a down payment on the new house, and have to repeatedly tell myself that "no, you will not be peeling enough off of that for the new 1/350th scale USS Ranger. Just stop thinking about it!"

And, of course, I spend a lot of my time writing drivel like this article. I am SO GLAD that so many of you actually enjoy reading it. Think of me while you are sanding and painting tonight.

As good, and worthwhile, and important as these time-expending things may be, however... they do not replace the sheer joy of cutting and peeling back that plastic, taking a deep whiff of freshly-boxed Japanese air, and fondling, cutting, gluing and painting a model. Nothing else is as fun... well, I can think of one thing that's more fun... but as far as family-rated events go, nothing beats our hobby.

So the month rolls on and on. The time for closing on the new house and moving creeps ever so slowly nearer, like the office clock at 3:37pm on a Friday. Seems like it will never get there, doesn't it?

I miss my little plastic friends in the lovely picture-covered boxes. I will see them again, soon, I know...

But for now, I am going through Modeling Withdrawal.



Rick



ASMS MEETING

Third Thursday each month

7:00pm - 8:45pm

at the

Old Quarry Branch Library

7051 Village Center Dr.

Next meeting April 19th, 2018

No Reservations Necessary!

**RENEW
MEMBERSHIP**

If pressing the button above does not alleviate the symptoms then please follow the directions below until situation is resolved.

ASMS Club Dues Are Due!

Annual ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual or \$30.00/family.

You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same to Eric Choy, 13213 Marrero Drive, Austin, TX., 78729.



OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

Rick Herrington, Randy Bumgardner, Aaron Smischney, Golzar Shahrzad

Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

Slim pickens this month for new ship releases. Let's start off with 1/700th scale.

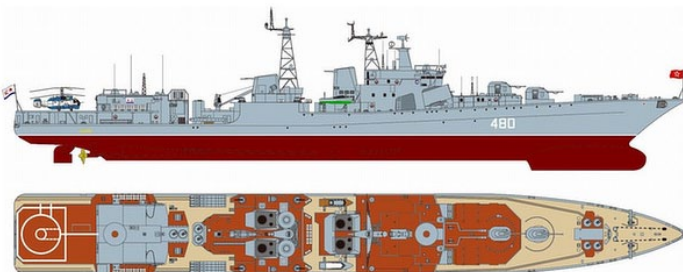
1/700

Aoshima is first up with a kit containing two ships. The HMS Exeter and the ship that sank her the IJN Inazuma. The kit depicts the WW2 Battle of the Java sea in which the Exeter was torpedoed by the Inazuma. It'll be nice to see the Exeter in 1/700 with new molding.

Pit Road is next up with two new modern releases the Soviet Missile Destroyer Udaloy and the JMSDF



(Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force) Destroyer DDH-142



Fujimi is releasing the IJN Light Cruiser Noshiro which comes with parts for a full hull model or waterline



SCALE 1/700
ShayWave 海上自衛隊護衛艦 DDH-142 ひえい
Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force DDH-142 "HIEI"

with a display base. They are also releasing a special edition of the IJN Battleship Kongo which comes with a wooden deck, metal barrels and photo etch.



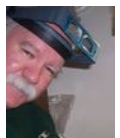
1/350

Finally in 1/350th scale Fujimi is releasing a JMSDF Hyuga class Helicopter Destroyer. The kit comes with pre-painted crew figures.



As I said, slim pickens this month. Grab a kit from your stash and build it!

Rick





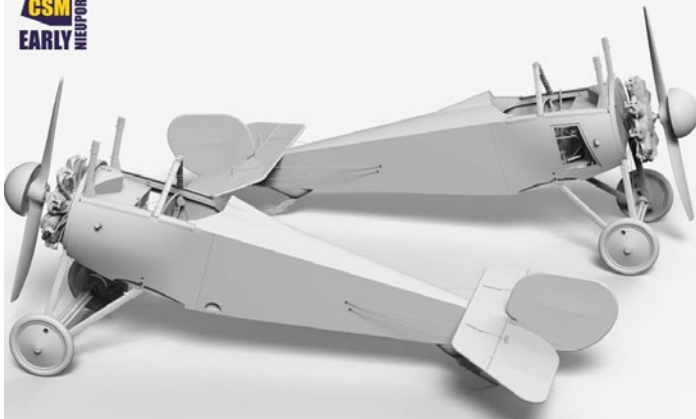
The Air Report

By Randy Baumgardner

Welcome to April! Except for all the snow certain parts of the country are seeing Spring is well underway!

That means contest season is well underway as well and, it also means our trek westward is drawing near. This will be my last aircraft column here until New Rumors and Old Kits, Ver. II. Never fear, we already have another correspondent on deck. Chuck "Obiwan" Konefsky will take up the mantle of responsibility next month, and I believe we may hear from him this month... Onward, to the new stuff!

Copper State Models, those WWI fanatics originally from Arizona and now in Poland, have posted some CAD images of their next release. It will be a Nieuport 17 in 1/32nd scale. I'm not sure when it will hit the market, or whether it will be plastic or resin. Your guess, or rumor, is as good as mine!

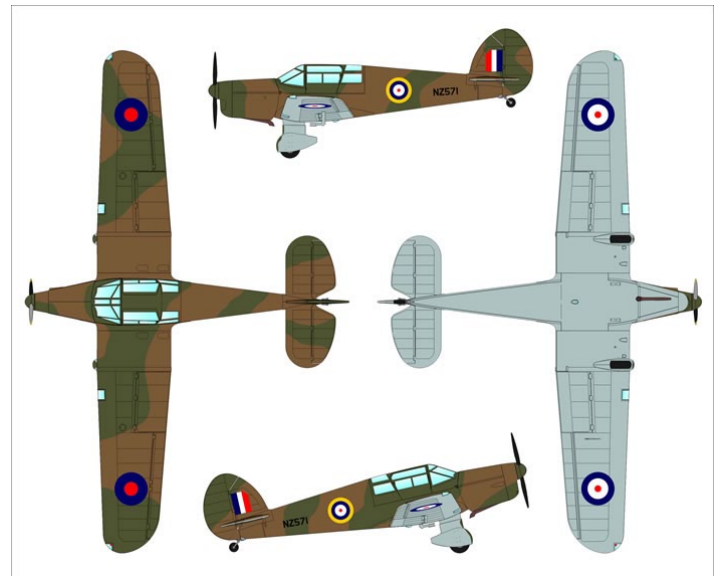


Next up we have Dora Wings, the subsidiary (or partnership, who knows?) of Arsenal Model Group, will be releasing a 1/72 Percival Vega Gull. For you lovers of esoteric British Aircraft, this should be exciting.

I have no idea when the release will happen, or even what the box art will look like. I do know, however, the kit will come with military and civilian

marking options. For the military we have RAF, RNZAF, Belgium, and Argentina. For the civilian options, several notable airframes are included: (pinched from Hyperscale, thanks Brett!)

1. "The Messenger". Aircraft Beryl Markham, flight across the Atlantic.
2. "King Cup Winner 1936". The winners of the "Schlesinger Race", C W.A. Scott and Giles Guttre
3. 1950 Kings Cup air race, Joan, Lady Sherborne
4. February 1938, Nicosia, Cyprus, Alex Henshaw



Azur FFRORM has been busy as of late, with a couple of new additions to their lineup. Both are out now at purveyors of fine plastic. Both obviously fell through the cracks in previous columns. The first is a 1/72nd scale rendition of the Northrop Gamma 2E "Bomber in China". Quite topical, if you ask me... It's a great subject of an aircraft with an interesting history. The kit comes with markings for four airframes – all with a link to China (Two of them in actual Chinese markings).

The second kit to fall through the crack into the pit of despair (Dilly, Dilly) is a 1/32nd scale offering of the Romanian IAR-80A. The forerunner to the IAR-81C, this kit is based on their 'C' version with the fuselage and wings being replaced with parts appropriate for the IAR-80A. This kit is the full meal deal: injection molded parts, resin bits, and photoetch. Throw in



some nice decals and you got yourself a kit. It's a limited run kit, so take your time with it.



That's all I have for this month, it's short as I have packing to do. Perhaps I'll see you in a guest column or two, or perhaps Obiwan will chime in. Or, perhaps not.

Either way, go build something!

Randy



Monthly Meeting Presentations:

- April TBD
- May Randy Bumgardner
- June Jeff Forester
- July Bob Bethea
- August Dave Edgerly
- September Ian Candler
- October Milton Bell
- November Rick Herrington
- December Ian Latham

Ron McCracken gave an informative presentation on 'Rescribing Techniques' last month. I think it's fair to say we all left a little bit wiser.

Thanks Ron!



YOU CAN'T BUY
HAPPINESS
 BUT YOU CAN BUY
MODEL KITS
 AND THAT'S PRETTY CLOSE



It Figures

By Aaron Smischney

Welcome to It Figures!

Let's take a look at some exciting new releases in the world of figures.

Irbis Miniatures: <http://irbis-miniatures.com/>

Here are two exciting 75mm subjects from Irbis, first up a Japanese archer



I don't know how historically correct she is, but she must be in warm weather as she's wearing next to nothing. The anatomy is very nice though!



The next one is wearing a bit more and looks like a cyber-punk subject, she is called "Black Widow".

Chronos miniatures:

<http://chronos-miniatures.com/index.php?lang=en>





Here is a neat 54mm dwarf Steampunk Combat engineer from Chronos.



Dolman miniatures has a great 1/10th scale bust of John Belushi from the film 1941.



Fer Miniatures:

<http://ferminiatures.com/>

has some great Roman busts out. Tthree of them to be exact.



These are all in 1/12 so a very manageable size, they would make a great set.



Medieval Forge Miniatures:

<https://vk.com/medforge>

Here is a great looking 75mm Shaman.



This looks like a superb sculpt with tons of great textures to play with from leather to bone, and the old man musculature looks really good.



Sticking with 75mm Scale75 has a fantasy piece that looks nice, "Keera Blade of Justice".

<https://scale75usa.myshopify.com/>



That's certainly a big sword!

Finally from Young Miniatures we have a European Knight bust in 1/10th scale.



Those are my highlights, till next time!

Aaron



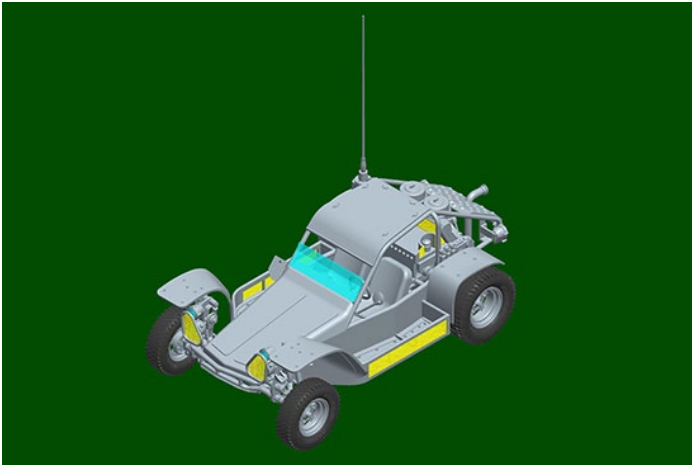


Tracked Topics

By Aaron Smischney

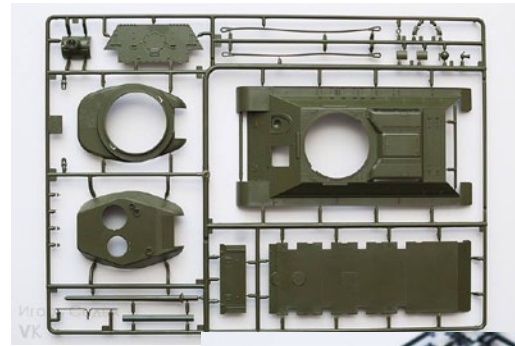
Greetings armor fans and hello armor curious!

Let's start out with a new one from Hobby Boss, some CAD images of their upcoming "Delta Force Fast Attack Vehicle"



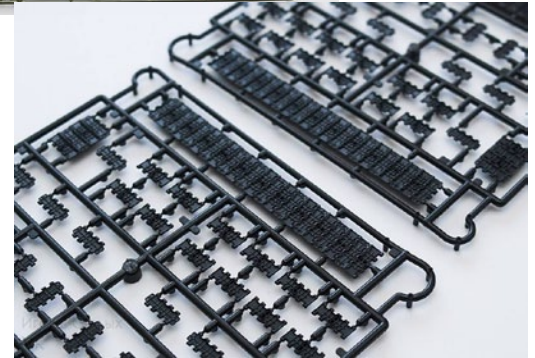
Looks like fun. Wish I had one to tool around the ranch in!

Some new info on the T-34 85 from Zvezda. This time we have plastic shots and box art.



I'm no expert but it looks good,

and has link and length tracks are a step up from rubber band tracks.



Next from Dragon is a few new IDF vehicles. They have announced a Magach 5 with ERA mine roller.



I know some of the experts have quibbles but I have built a Dragon Magach and it sure looked like one at the end. The mine roller looks super, if you're into mad-max tanks the IDF has some beauts.

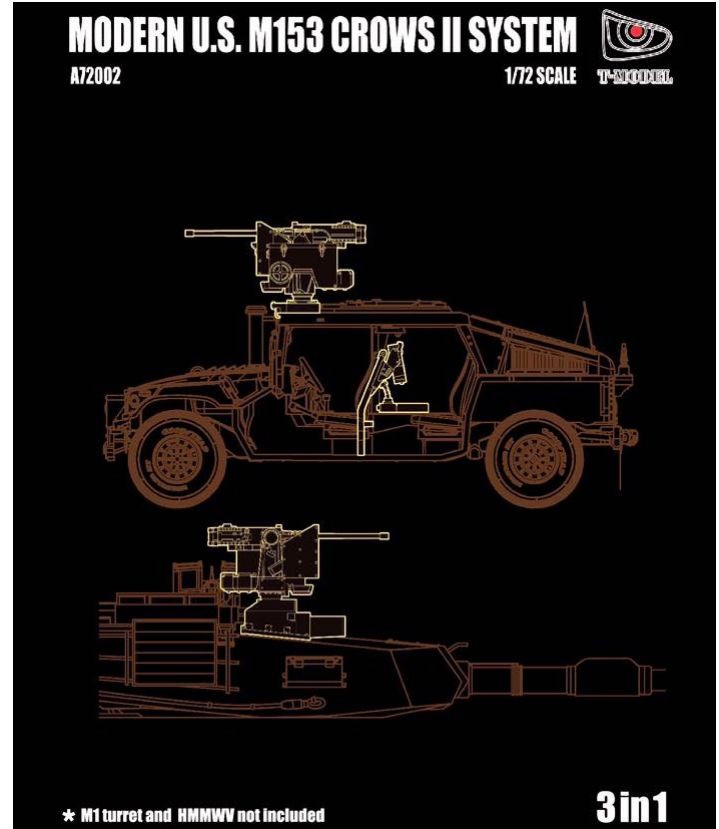


Keeping with Dragon and IDF, they have also announced an IDF Zelda which is the Israeli M113 variant.



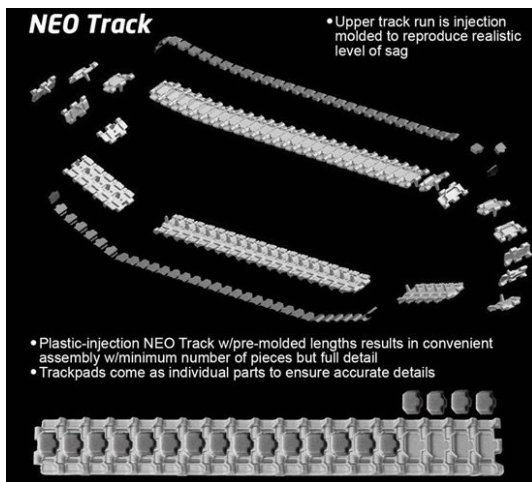
This is great for painting, You can assemble the link and length tracks and paint them metal, then paint the rubber blocks separately and then glue This will make for some crisp detail without needing to do tedious masking or hand painting.

If you notice this is #1 in the Yom Kippur war series, will we see a Dragon Merkava?



Editors note: Most of the M113's used by the IDF had extended range fuel tanks mounted on the rear of the vehicle. Dragon has not included these tanks.

They have included the IDF stowage racks added to the side of the vehicle and the extended exhaust hose.



I especially like the tracks!

Hey you! Yeah you! Are you making a modern American subject in 1/72? Do you need a CROWS 2 System (Crew Remote Operated Weapon System) for it? Well T-Model has a very nicely detailed one on the way for your Abrams and HMMWV models.





Looks great! Just like a 1/35 scale model just smaller!

This looks great and will really help modernize your modern armor. It appears you get three complete systems in the box.

Finally from Takom we have a 1/35th Swedish BV-206S articulated armored personnel carrier.

Also from T-models is a rather spiffy looking M-ATV in 1/72.



We just have the box-art for now but it certainly looks like a cozy way to trek across a frozen wasteland.

Those are my highlights, till next time!



Aaron





Sundries

By Golzar Shahrzad

If you've been casting around for something a bit different when it comes to showcasing your latest aircraft project Czech Master Kits (CMK) may have a solution. Instead of using a tow tractor or old jeep to tote things around, how about as Asian Elephant? Elephants were used thorough the China/Burma theater of operation during WWII to haul, drag, and otherwise reposition all manner of things. Might as well be your scale aircraft.



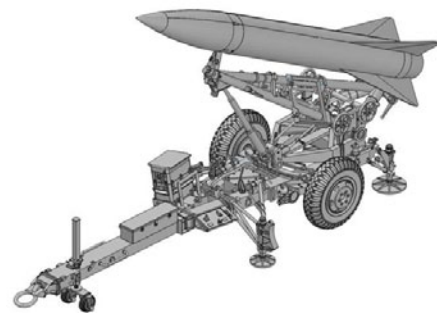
CMK has a one piece, 54mm, Asian Elephant in resin to spiff up your next diorama. CMK also issued their elephant in 1/72nd scale with some figures. This release is just the elephant. But this being CMK, one could expect to see some appropriate figures in the not too distant future. Stay tuned.



AZ Models has a newish North American B-25J to round out your collection of 1/72nd scale bombers. This injected kit is an ex-Italeri mold with some new markings. The one that caught my eye is the colorful 'Finito Benito'.



Some few months ago Dragon Model released an M752. This was the Lance Missile system mounted on a modified M113 chassis. While we wait for the companion (M667) to that tracked system, Dragon Models is releasing the MGM-52. This was the designation for the towed launcher for the Lance. This is the same sub-kit included with the M752 but Dragon has added the wheels/tires, stabilizers, and a few other bits. Now you can show off this lovely



kit all by itself. I assume that Dragon has included the death button (free standing launch controller) in this release as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLy2w4y2LFw>



POLIKARPOV I-153 GK

Super Altitude



Limited series

KIT CONTAIN

- ◆ Plastic parts
- ◆ P/Etched
- ◆ Film
- ◆ Decal

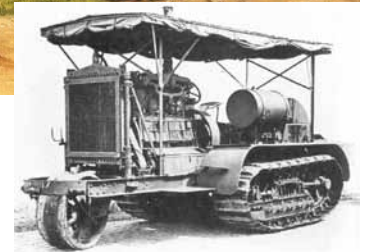
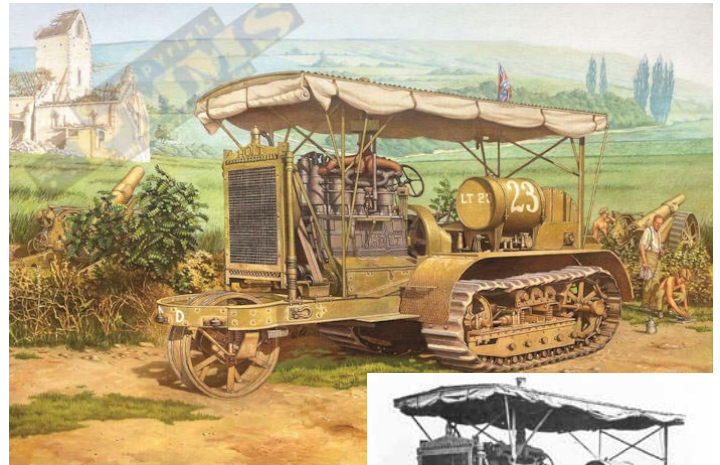
1:48



Decal

Arsenal Model Group (AMG) has a re-issue, of sorts. AMG has previously released a 1/48th scale kit of the Polikarpov I-153 GK. This time around they are offering the high altitude version with a pressurized cockpit. Included in this release are all the plastic bits you'll need as well as new decals, clear canopy, and detailed (English) instructions

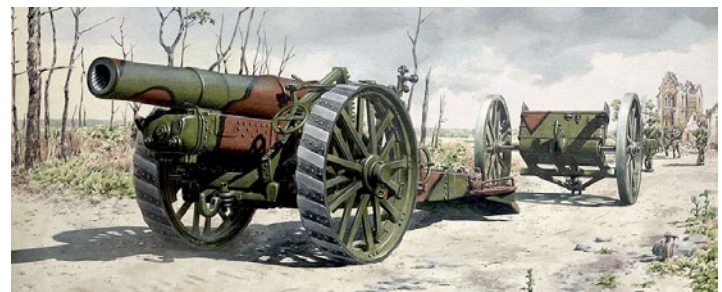
Roden continues making some lovely and unusual WWI themed kits. One of the new ones that will be available soon will be a 1/35th scale 1917 Holt 75



artillery tractor. The Holt 75 was a farm tractor that was pressed into service during the 'war to end all wars'. This release is just the prime mover. But as luck would have it, Roden is also releasing a 1/72nd scale BL 8-inch howitzer Mark VI with caisson to go along with the Holt.



ACE has two new offerings to tempt small scale armor fans away from some of their money. Both kits are injected molded and in 1/72nd scale. First is the FV-601 Saladin armored car, the other is the Italian B1 Centauro AFV. These nicely detailed kits also contain decals and rubber tires.



And if old farm tractors are your passion, Seed Hobby has our next item up for bid. New kid in town Seed Hobby has a 1/35th scale, all resin DFH-54DT. The '54' is a Chinese farm tractor that was utilized from the 1950's through the 1980's. This tractor was/is a fixture throughout rural China and could



Seed HOBBY 1/35 Resin Model Kit DFH-54 / DT-54 Tractor SH35-001
1/35 树脂模型套件 东方红-54 / 德特-54 型拖拉机

东方红-54履带式拖拉机从二十世纪五十年代到八十年代一直是中国人心目中国农业机械化的形象代表。东方红-54/75拖拉机不仅在中国农村农业作业中使用极为广泛，而且还在水利、交通、基础建设、军事等领域得到了广泛应用。八十年代以前，东方红系列的拖拉机完成了中国耕地70%以上的耕作，为中国人民解决吃饭问题做出了极其突出的贡献。

DFH-54 caterpillar tractor is the symbol of the agricultural mechanization in Chinese people's hearts from 1950s to 1980s. DFH-54/75 tractors had been not only variously used in farming work but also in water conservancy, transportation, foundation construction and military area.

Before the 1980s, DFH series tractors finished 70% farming work of the all Chinese farming land, they had made the most outstanding contribution in solving the food problem of the nation.

<http://www.seedhobby.com>





be used as a prime mover. With 240 resin parts the driver/operator cab, engine, and suspension are quite detailed. The kit also has some photo-etch and the tracks are individual links (non-working).

As long as the subject is creepy crawlers, ThunderModels has a new crawler to add to the growing collection of these types of kits. They have a 1/35th scale U.S. Crawler Sixty. This was a 60hp Caterpillar style tractor introduced by the C. L. Best Tractor Company in 1919. This is an injected molded kit with some photo-etch.



Model Collect has an intriguing item for your amusement. A 1/72nd scale Austrått Fort. Austrått Fort was a WWII German fortification in Norway that featured a re-purposed triple 28 cm (11 inch) naval gun turret from the German battleship Gneisenau. The coastal battery site is now a tourist attraction with a website and everything. Which might make for a fascinating diorama...

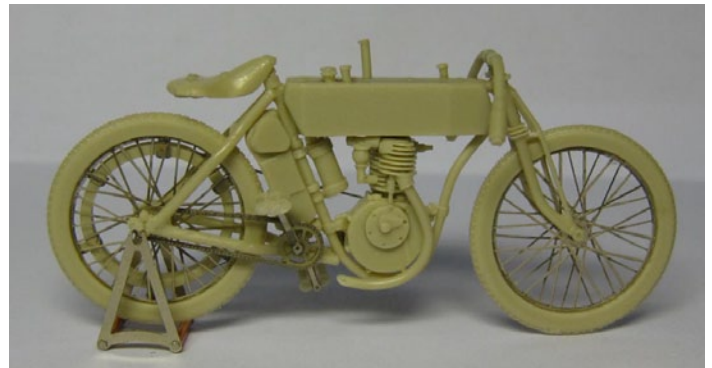


<https://www.forsvarsbygg.no/no/festningene/finndin-festning/austratt-fort/>

Avid readers of this column will recall mention last month of a couple of motorcycle kits by Model Factory Hiro. If those all-metal kits are a bit too rich



for your blood, CIX Models may have the answer. They have announced the release of two separate kits of the vintage Harley-Davidson Model 6 motorcycle (1909), a civilian and a broad track racer version. These 1/35th scale full kits are all resin with some photo-etch. CIX Models also has detail sets for each bike that are sold separately.



Our pals at Mach 2 are adding to their lift-off series with three new rocket ships: Vanguard, Jupiter, and Redstone. These are all injected molded kits in 1/48th scale. You may be familiar with these craft from their use in the United States space program. The Vanguard rocket was a sounding rocket used for upper atmosphere research. The Redstone and Jupiter began life as ballistic missiles. Those are the versions being offered by Mach 2.





Just in time for the 2018 Capitol Classic (see note) on October 6th is the P.1HH Hammerhead from A&A Models. This injected molded kit represents the UAV being developed by Piaggio Aerospace. This is basically an unmanned version of their P180 Avanti pusher turboprop. The 1/72nd scale concept aircraft kit should be available soon. As an aside, the one and only prototype crashed during flight testing in late March. [Note: There is a special award, sponsored by Eric Choy, at the Capitol Classic for unmanned aerial vehicles.]



If the Hammerhead doesn't appeal to you how about a Flag-bearer? Tan Model (our Turkish pals) have a new 1/24th scale injected-molded kit of the Bayraktar TB2. This is an unmanned aerial drone



developed for the Turkish Army. The kit has 74 parts, smart bombs, a display stand, and markings for the Turkish Army.

Go build the your model.

Golzar



Coming April 20th
Presentation on the Infamous
RED BARON



Brad Perry, in Conjunction with Andrea Miniatures, Will be Hosting a Presentation on the Red Baron, Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Death of Manfred von Richthofen.

The Presentation Will Take Place at King's Hobby on April 20th @ Approx. 6:00pm.

Topics Will be the History of Richthofen, Centering on His Final Days, a Group Discussion & Model/Figure Projects You Can Do.

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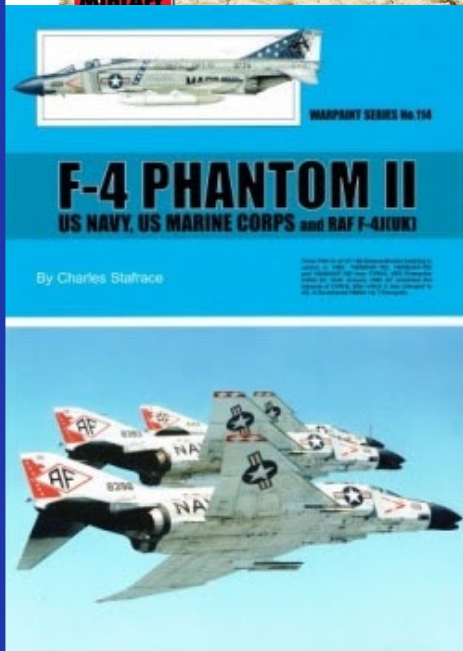


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