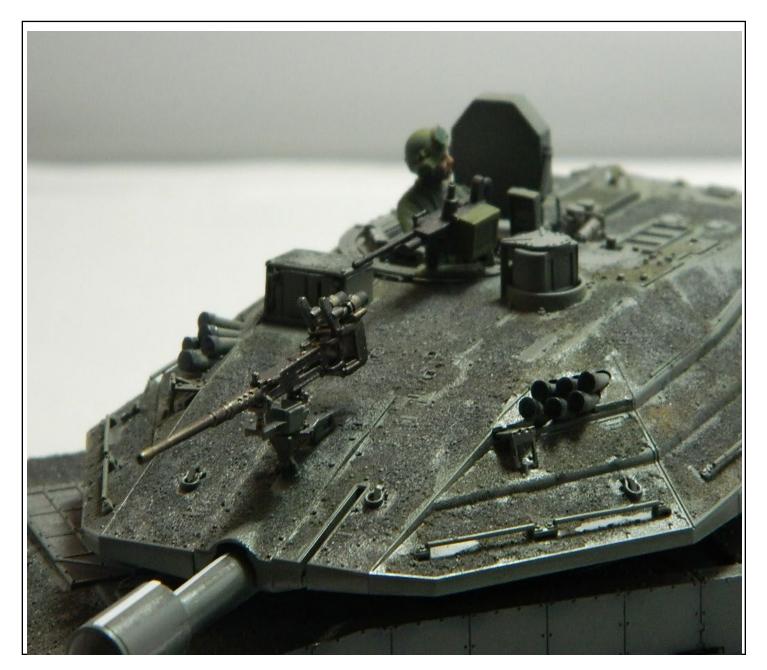
ASMS

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SPRUE EXAMINER



Scale Non-slip for armored vehicles by Rick Herrington

USAAF Attack Bombers: A-34 Bermuda by Ron McCracken



What's UP? Old Rumors & New Kits Tracked Topics

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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. Anual 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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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



Greetings Modelers,

We have cool fun events coming up in the next few weeks. A program on gunship aircraft is scheduled for this week's August meeting.

It's time for a timely reminder that our September meeting will include a themed quarterly contest with Lionheart Hobby gift cards and the theme is your "procrastinator challenge" build. So get that thing off of your shelf of doom and get to work.

Our September meeting will also feature a presentation from Dana Mathes on his judging reform and update initiative. And September also has the Ft. Worth Scale Modelers annual contest located in Arlington. We should all go, as many as possible. Let's work on our carpooling arrangements at our meeting break this week.

Go Build a Model!

Tim





HOUSE CLEANING



Third Thursday each month 6:30 pm - 8:45 pm at Mr. Tramp's Sports Pub 8565 Research Blvd Austin, TX 78758

No Reservations Neccessary!



Fort Worth Supercon
Saturday, September 14th, 2024
Bob Duncan Community Center
2800 S. Center St.
Vandergriff Park, Arlington
817-465-6661

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 ASMS, 1928 Dragonfly Loop, Bastrop, TX 78602.



Club Quarterly Contests

Open Theme

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

Gunship Aircraft.

Scale non-slip for armored vehicles by Rick Herrington

So you're building an M1 or a Merkava and you want to replicate the non-slip surface applied to the upper surfaces of the tank. I'm going to share with you my method of creating a non-slip surface.

I reviewed several methods on Youtube and indeed there are several different products and methods for producing non-slip surfaces,

I settled on a method using Loon Outdoors Hard Head Clear which is a clear tie flying cement that I picked up at Dick's and Chinchilla Dust bath by All Living Things which I purchased at Petsmart.



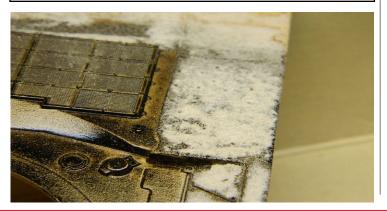
The Hard Head Clear is easy to work with, dries perfectly clear and has a brush applicator in the cap.



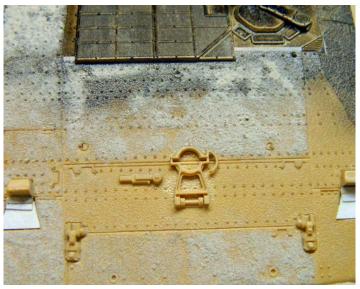
I prime my models with gloss black. In this case I decided to do the non-slip first and then prime the model.



I was working with Academy's LIC Merkava 4 in 1/35 scale. Fortunately the kit had molded in anti-slip patches I used as a guide to apply the material.



Determine which areas you want the non-slip to appear on and apply the clear cement. The next step is to dust with the dust bath. After a couple of minutes shake off the excess or brush off with a paint brush.



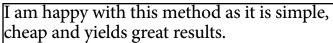
Let it dry for a couple of hours and you're ready for paint.

Here's a photo of my in progress Merkava after a coat of paint.









Try it for yourself!



I used Legend's kit for the turret basket, They also have an update kit that includes a resin barrel and machine guns, I didn't use the barrel or the machine guns as the kits were far better. I did use the ball and chain parts for the turret basket.

USAAF Attack Bombers: A-34 Bermuda by Ron McCracken



In the run-up to formal U.S. entry into World War II, a number of aircraft that the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) had no intention of buying for their own use were assigned USAAF type designations so they could be procured and then "loaned" to the British Commonwealth under the terms of a program commonly known as "Lend-Lease". Examples are the Lockheed A-28 and A-29, the Vultee A-31 and A-35, and the Brewster A-34, which is the topic of this article.

As events unfolded, small numbers of all these types ended up operating in U.S. markings and used for various auxiliary duties.

The A-34 was a de-navalized variant of the Brewster SB2A-2 Buccaneer scout bomber. Naval features such as folding wings, tailhooks, etc. were omitted. The British assigned it the Bermuda name, and quickly came to regret accepting it in the first place, as it was universally regarded as inferior to virtually every other scout/attack bomber type in existence. Added to that was the Brewster Company's chronic inability to meet delivery schedules. So, a fair number never got delivered overseas and were re-possessed by the USAAF (still in their British camouflage) for use as trainers, target tugs, etc. Since they were never assigned USAAF serial numbers, at least some had civil "N" numbers assigned. They were used until something broke, and then scrapped.

Should you have a liking for the unusual, one can literally build a USAAF A-34 out of the box in 1/72nd scale using the Special Hobby Bermuda Mk 1 kit. It even includes decals for one of the repossessed birds. Things are tougher for the 1/48th fan –a vacuum-formed kit by a company known as Vac Wings was produced, and an old Airfix kit, which remarks I've read indicate was no prize either. Neither remain in production.

The Special Hobby kit has very well detailed cockpits. They would probably have been painted in British interior green with black instrument panels. Other than the work of assembling a large number of tiny parts, the only problem I encountered was with the rear cockpit gun mount, which is just a bit too tall and interferes with installation of the rear canopy if not trimmed down.



The rear portion of the large greenhouse canopy presents a challenge. Brewster used a minimum number of aluminum frames in their canopies, and added strength to the thin plexiglass by bonding narrow strips of plexiglass to the inner surfaces of the panels. These appear as thin translucent bands, and they are not represented on the kit canopy. On the Bermuda, the four large side panels of the rear cockpit canopy each have two of these reinforcements. One simple way to add them is to use Scotch brand "Invisible tape". Apply a short piece to a hard surface, such as a small glass mirror. Then use a ruler and hobby knife to cut thin strips (about 1/64th inch or .5 mm wide) and apply them to the inside surface of the canopy, thus simulating the Brewster feature. Then mask and paint the aluminum canopy frames on the outside surface per normal practice.

I got a rear canopy part whose front end was too narrow for the rear cockpit opening. Whether this is a generic problem or just my bad luck, I couldn't say. I decided to fix this by cementing short bits of plastic strip to the sides of the canopy opening just behind the pilot's position to force the bottom of the canopy sides outward just enough to bring them flush with the fuselage sides. Unfortunately, I guess I test-fit this just once too often, because I ended up with a bunch of hair-line cracks in the clear part that refract light when viewed from some angles. Most of this became invisible once the canopy was painted, but if you need to use this fix, be careful not to flex the clear part too far or too often.

For some reason the machine gun blast tube openings atop the cowling are filled in on the kit, although the location is marked. I carved these open, as they were definitely open on the aircraft I intended to replicate.

The dive brakes are provided as separate parts should you wish to display them opened. However, the many holes are partly flashed-over and need to be fully opened using a drill. I opted to build my dive brakes closed, and found it took a bit of cut-n-fit to get them snugged down into their openings, with the trailing edge of the flaps/dive brakes even with the trailing edge of the rest of the wing.

The main landing gear doors are a bit thick, and lack interior structure detail. Each is cast as one part, which needs to be cut into four pieces if building the model with landing gear extended. I opted to make my own out of .010" thick sheet plastic, using the kit parts as templates for the outline, then adding structural ribs made of plastic strip to the interior. There are abundant photos of SB2As available on the web to guide you should you wish to do the same. The upper segment of the doors has a small teardrop-shaped fairing, so you might want to use that segment on any scratch-built doors you create.



Finally, there is a small antenna mast atop the vertical fin that is not included in the kit. I glued a short piece of 24 gauge wire into a hole I drilled in the top of the fin, and trimmed it to 1/8" exposed length.

Now let's move on to camouflage and markings. First, although this is an article on the USAAF A-34, should you choose to do a British Bermuda, the kit color profiles show no British national insignia on the underside of the wings. Best I can determine, this is accurate.

I found one color photo of a formation of British Bermudas, and it confirms that the camouflage was dark earth/dark green topsides, and sky type "S" undersides. The few photos of repossessed Bermudas in U.S. markings indicate they retained the same paint job. Photos also show that the color separations were very slightly soft-edged. So, I used a masking technique designed to create that effect. I enlarged the color profiles in the instructions to 1/72nd scale using a copier, then cut out masks following the camouflage pattern. These masks were then attached using poster putty "worms" to hold the mask about 1/16" above the surface. By spraying each color holding the airbrush at a consistent angle, I was left with a consistent soft-edged color separation and minimum overspray. The sequence was as follows:

After pre-shading panel lines, I painted the underside first. Then I masked the fuselage sides to cover the undersurface color, and applied an overall coat of dark earth to the topsides. I then masked the dark earth areas, and applied the dark green. Next came the high-visibility markings (see below for details), which were masked with ordinary masking tape after stripping off the paper/putty camouflage masks. Finally, I applied a clear gloss topcoat preparatory to decaling and applied the decals. Once the decals set I applied a pin wash of black artists water-color to the panel lines, wiped off any excess using a slightly damp paper towel, and finished up with a flat top coat to seal everything in place.

As for insignia, all seem to have retained the British-style three-color fin flash. The national insignia on the fuselage is sometimes replaced with U.S. star-in-circle, and sometimes both U.S. and British insignia appear, with the U.S. insignia to the rear of the British roundel. All the photos I've found show large U.S. wing insignia in four positions.

I was fortunate enough in my search for photos of A-34s in U.S. markings to find three different views of the same aircraft, with registration number NX-390B in small white letters on the rudder. These photos show the aircraft with high-visibility markings applied over the camouflaged wings. The purpose of these markings is unknown but the existence of so many published photos of the same bird suggest it was used for some sort of special test work. The markings consist of a wide stripe running from the wing tip to the wing root, on both the top and bottom of the wings. Unfortunately, all the photos are in black-and-white, so I'm having to guess at the colors. On the upper surface is a very light color, probably yellow, as it appears darker than the white of the national insignia. The tops of the ailerons are also painted in this color. On the bottom of the wings the stripe appears to be red. The edges of these stripes follow a pair of prominent, parallel panel lines, so they are easy to place.

For national insignia, I needed the late 1942 star-in-circle style, which can be had in various sizes from Squadron, part number SQD 72017.

In summary, for those who want something unusual in their collection without having to resort to kit-bashing or vac-forms, the Special Hobby kit of the Bermuda offers a highly-detailed model that can be re-marked as the rare USAAF A-34 and give you something to show that'll keep (nearly) everybody guessing!

Here's this month's featured products from Lion Heart.

1/48 Fairey Gannet AEW.3

1/24 Blade Runner Spinner

1/24 Time Machine from Back to the Future

1/144 Gundam HG RO3 Buster

Pokemon: Solgaleo (Snap)

5500 Jack C Hays Trail, Kyle, Texas 78640, (512) 504-3404 10:00 am – 06:00 pm











What's ZIP wid

ASMS/Bill Delk sponsors an on-line ZOOM meeting with whoever wants to join us to talk about models and life. It happens almost every Sunday at 4:00.

Contact Bill Delk to have him send you a link to be able to get into the meeting.

Everyone is welcome.

Bill Delk`s e-mail address Falconfyredeuce@gmail.com.



Last month I was not able to attend the monthly meeting as I had to attend a memorial in Baytown,

Tim was kind enough to take pictures of the models. The builds were due at July's meeting however there was only one that made it.

Ron McCracken's Spirit of Saint Louis took the Model of the Month.



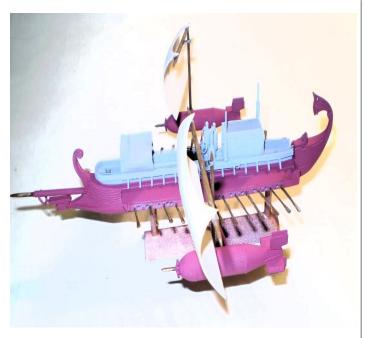
Ben Morton completed hi 1/35 Ontos DDD entry but wasn't able to attend the meeting.

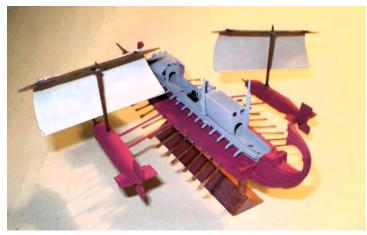






Ben also shared some photos of his Steam Punk Galleon Airship he's been working on.





Ben's Airship is a kit bash mixed with a lot of imagination.



Here are some pictures of Pete Dasso's ACA-5 DDD which he completed earlier.



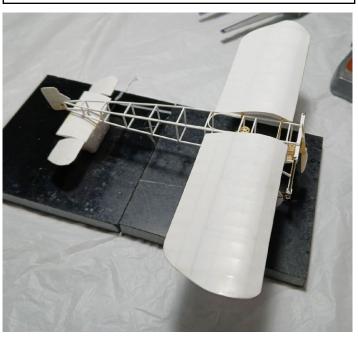


As Pete's was the only kit finished by the deadline he was awarded the travelling Double Dog Dare You award. His name will be engraved on the trophy as the first winner.

Tim Robb brought in a 1/48 Hellcat.



MIke Poole shared his in progress monoplane. All scratch built.



Matthew shared some sci-fi/Star Wars projects with us and a hand held drill that looks like it might double as a blaster.







Dave Edgerly has been working on a 1:1 scale Toyota which has been absorbing some of hi time. He's also completed a Meng BMWR1250 GS ADV.











Build and Bull North: Fun with a packed house by Rick Herrington



Last Saturday we had a banner turn out at Dragon's Lair for Build and Bull. It's always great to get together with a bunch of friends who share the same passion for plastic that you do.



Seth Souza is the anchor for this group.
Amost all the modelers were working on
Gundam kits which are a welcome change
from the military stuff.







Come out and join us. We're here every 4th Saturday at Dragon's Lair.

Old Rumors and New Kits

New and In View Aircraft by Ron McCracken

Offerings for August are a wide selection of re-pops in all the popular scales, some of which include new parts or new decals.

1/32nd Scale:

Eduard has re-issued their Bf 109E-4 in a Profipack Edition with five markings options.

Bf 109E-4

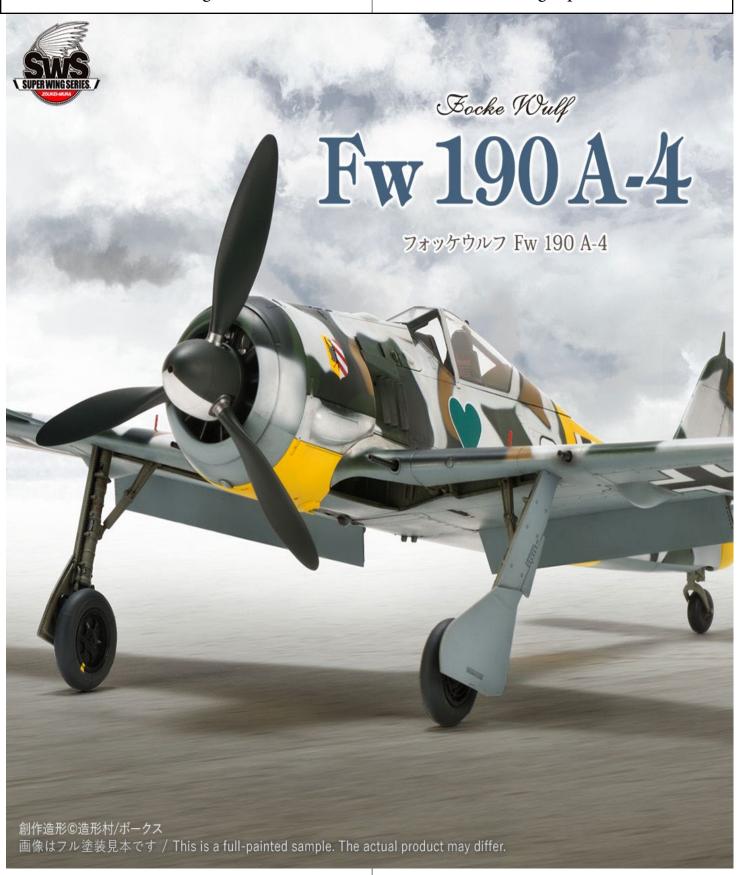
ProfiPACK







Zoukei-Mura is re-releasing their Fw 190A-4 kit with three new markings options.



1/35th Scale:

Trumpeter is re-releasing their AH-64A Apache in a Late configuration with some new parts.

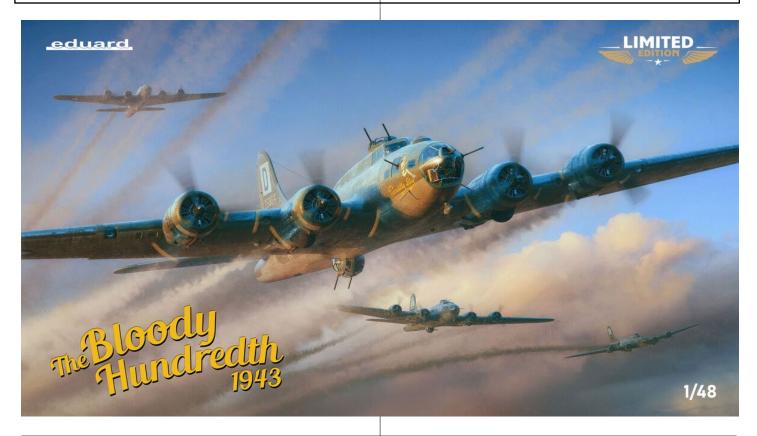


1/48th Scale:

Dora Wings is releasing a P-47C-2 Thunderbolt based on their recent P-47C with some new parts.



Eduard is releasing a B-17F Flying Fortress "Bloody Hundredth 1943" based on the HK Models kit.



Hasegawa is re-releasing its B6N2 Tenzan (Jill) Type 12 Attack Bomber in "Battle of Okinawa" markings.



HobbyBoss has released a B-24D Liberator based on their recent B-24J, with new parts.



Kinetic is re-releasing their F-16C Fighting Falcon in Viper Demo Team 2024 markings.



1/72nd Scale:

Amodel has re-released their EMB-110P Bandeirante as a limited edition (300 total) in Aerocaribbean markings.



Amodel has also re-released their P-63A King Cobra (originally issued under the "Toko" brand in 1997) with new decals.



Big Plane Kits is releasing a 737-700 in SAS markings, as a new-parts variant of their earlier 737 kits.



Clear Prop! Has released a new-tool DH.88 Comet.



Fine Molds has re-released their F-15 kit as an F-15C Baz of the Israeli Air Force, circa 1982.



Fine Molds has re-released their F-15 kit as an F-15J J-MSIP Eagle.



Fine Molds has re-released their F-4E as an F-4E Kurnass of the IDF.



Hasegawa has re-released their UH-60J in JMSDF Atsugi Rescue Squadron markings.



Hasegawa has re-released their V-22 Osprey in JGSDF 108 SQ markings, circa 2023.



Platz is re-releasing their F/A-18E Super Hornet in VFA-27 markings.



Trumpeter is re-releasing their A-6E kit as an A_T6E TRAM Intruder with new parts.



1/144th Scale:

Platz has released an EC-1 in JASDF EW training markings



1/200th Scale:

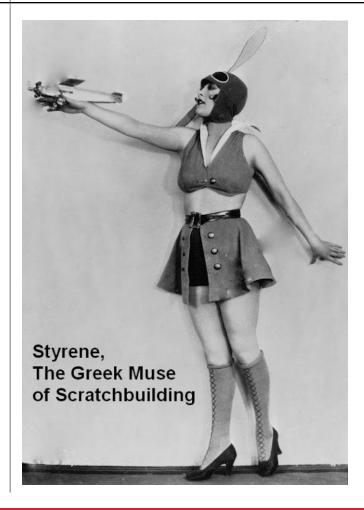
Hasegawa has re-released their KC-130H Hercules in JASDF 401 SQ markings.



※実際の製品パッケージとは一部異なる場合がございます。

And there you have it for August. Go build a model!





Shipping News by Rick Herrington

Ahoy mates! A good month for ship modelers. Let's start off with 1/144 scale. Revell is releasing a Tupe IX/40 U-190..



Moving on to 1-700 scale Aoshima has several new releases for us. The first i an IJN destroyer the Shiranui.



Next from Aoshima is a re-release of their DKM Tirpitz.



Aoshima is releasing a JMSDF ship, the Takanami



Last from Aoshima is the British cruiser HMS Norfolk.

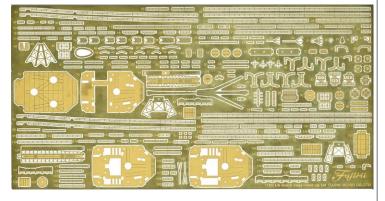


Fujimi has three releases for us this month. The first is the IJN carrier Amagi.



Second is the IJN light cruiser Yahagi as she looked in 1945. This kit is a full hull model and includes photo etch.





Next up from Fujimi is the IJN heavy cruiser Myoko.

Dragon's ship releases are few and far between, but they have three for us this month. The first is the Landing Transport Ship USS New York.

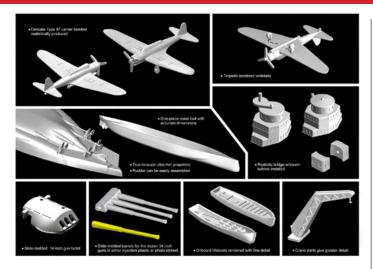


Next from Dragon is the USS Arizona as she appeared on December 7, 1941. The kit includes two Kate models.









Next from Dragon is the USS Pennsylvania BB-38 sd she looked in 1944

1:700 SCALE MODERN SEA POWER SERIES

BB-38 1944



Last in 1/700 is from Magic Factory, They are releasing the USN Gerald R Ford CVN-78. The kit is meant to be see-through ao the interior pars can be seen.

Moving on to 1/350 scale Takom has two new releases. The first is a Russian anti sabotage boat PR 23370.









Next from Takom is a cool release of two tugboat tupes, a 192 and a 192A.



Trumpeter is up next with two releases. The first is a French light cruiser the Georges Reygues.



Another French release from Trumpeter the helicopter carrier Joan of Arc..



In an off scale (1/450) Hasegawa is releasing the Yamato circa 1945.



Last in the column Takom continues their 1/35 ship armament series with two PLAN releases. The first is an HHQ-10 SAM,



Next from Takom is an H-PJ38 ship mounted 130mm gun.



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

Tracked Topics

By Panzer Lehr

Happy summer tread heads! It's a great time to be inside and working with plastic. A fair amount of releases to get to this month so let's get started with the braille scale stuff (1/72). First up is Ace with a Russian Tiger M.



Next is First to Fight, a company that specializes in early WW2 vehicles and tanks with a French Renault AMRSS recon tank.



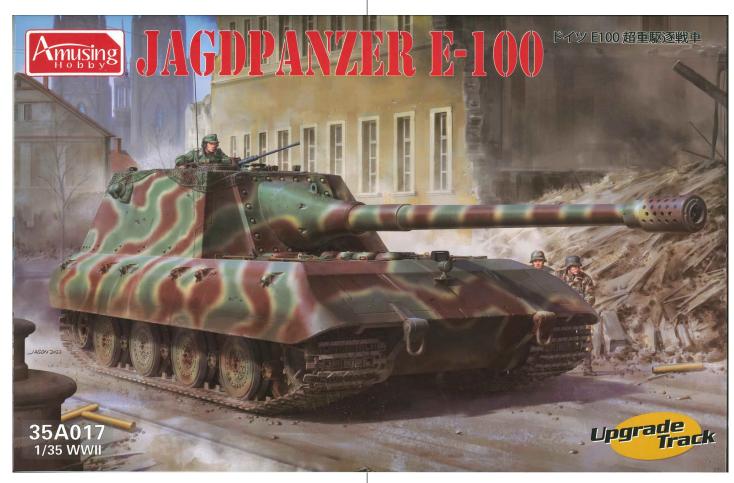
Finally in 1/72 we have a Leo 2A5 from ICM with add on armor.



Airfix is up next with a Cromwell Mk IV.



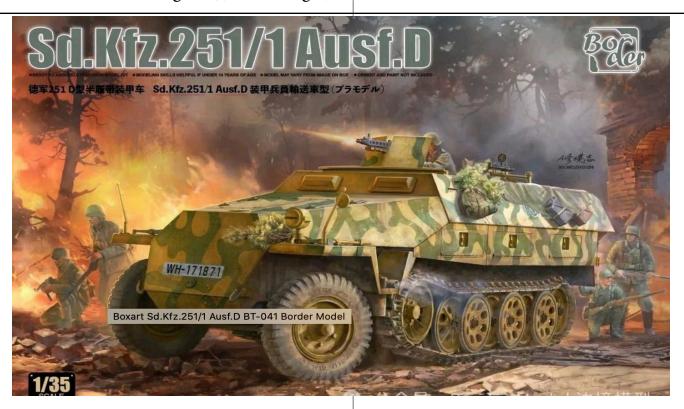
Next up is Amusing Hobby with two "What If" German tanks for us. Both are based on the E-100 chassis. The first is an E-100 Jagdpanzer.



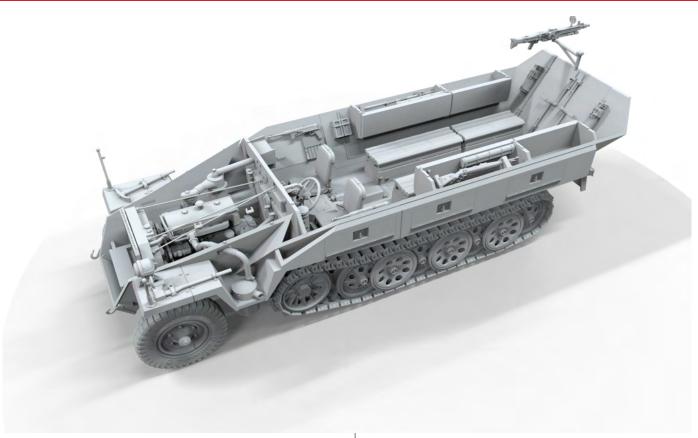
The other is an E-100 with a Krupp designed turret.



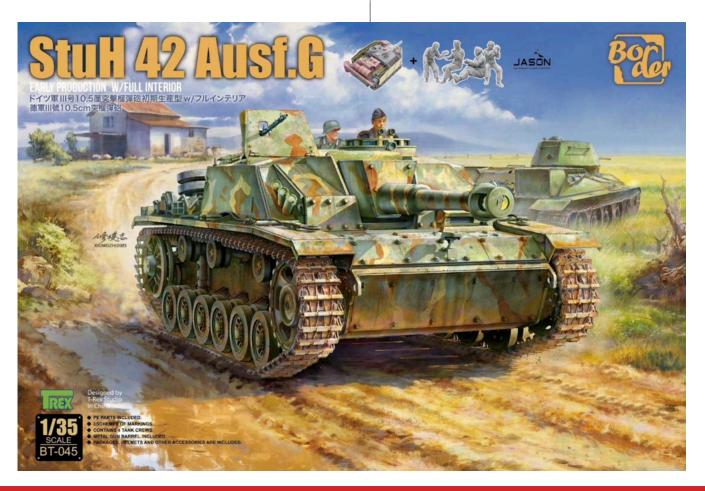
Border Models is releasing a 1/35 Hanomag 251-D.







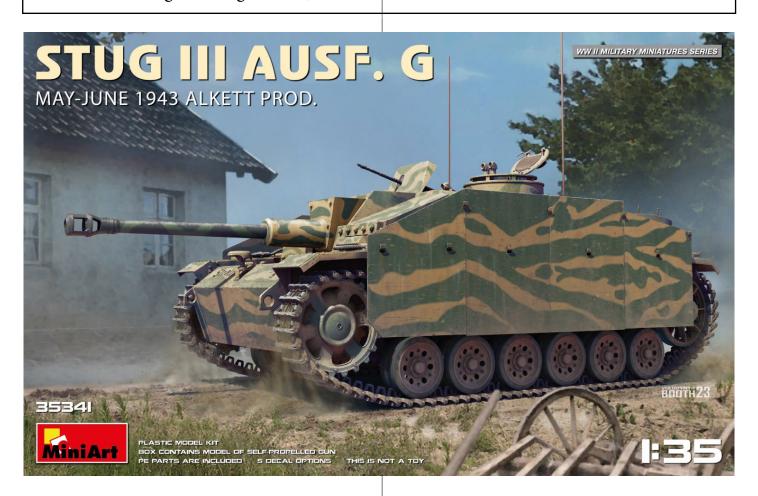
Border is also releasing a Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf G



Gecko models is releasing a Korean War vintage Land Rover.



MiniArt is releasing a Sturmgeschutz 3G



Takom is releasing another World of Tanks imaginary heavy German tank the VK 100.01.





RFM has two releases this month. The first is a Ukranian Leopard 2A6 with added slat armor.



The kit also offers an alternate version of a captured one on display in Moscow with T-80 road wheels.

Next from RFM is a Russian T-8oUK.



Moving on to shelf buster scale (1/16) first up is Das Werk with a Hanomag 251/22 Pakwagen.



Gecko Models is up next with its release of a British Universal Carrier



Last in 1/16th scale is from Trumpeter. They are releasing a King Tiger with a Porsche turret.



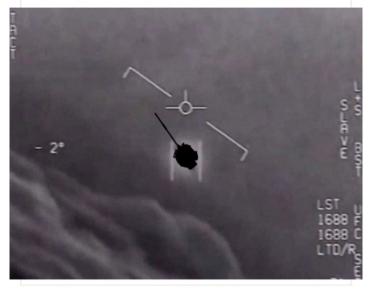
That's all the armor news that fits. Until next month grab a kit from your stash and build it!

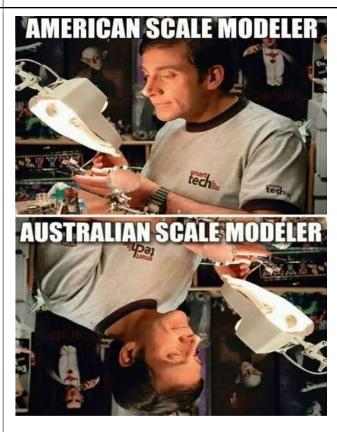


World Military Photos. • Follow

5h · 🚱

T-72 turrets causing an increase in UFO sightings over Ukraine.





IPMS USA is soliciting articles. We've got some great modeller's in this area and you can help the mother organization to flourish by submitting an article to the Journal.



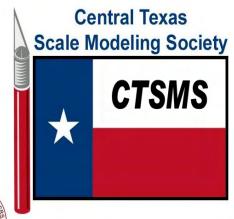
Maybe you build cars.
Or jets. Or figures. Or tanks.
Maybe you slap em' together.
Maybe you count every rivet.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUILDING

How did you built it?
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Any IPMS USA member can submit an article on any modeling related topic to the IPMS USA Journal
The standard word count is 3000 and it should be well documented with high resolution photos
Send inquires to: ipms-q@ipmsusa.org







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Join International Plastic Modeler's Society / USA

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews.

Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our

World-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts to IPMS/USA Members.

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