



IPMS/Republic of Texas

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

August 2006

SPRUE EXAMINER



## Building a Bargain Eduard's 1/48 Yak-3

by  
Milton Bell, IPMS #16702

Eduard has re-released one of their earlier kits and slapped a price on it that I find hard to ignore. In fact, there are two versions of the little WWII Soviet fighter: one boxing shows a red-nosed Yak 3 but I chose the version flown by French volunteers in the Normandie-Nieman squadron.

### History

The Yak 3 was just one version of the first aircraft designed by Alexander Yakovlev. The final version, the Yak 9, soldiered on into the Korean War.

Since most of what we see of the model is the exterior (although we may spend hours on a barely visible cockpit) it may help to understand how the real aircraft was made. In the case of most of the Yaks, the fuselage was constructed of chrome steel tubes welded into the basic framework. From the engine compartment back to the cockpit, the framework was covered with sheet duraluminum. The sides and

bottom of the aft fuselage were covered with fabric while the top of the fuselage behind the cockpit was covered with plywood.

The wings had wooden spars and wooden ribs over which thin, 3 to 5mm, plywood was applied with glue and screws. The leading edge was reinforced with additional plywood so that it was approximately 8mm thick. Then the entire wing was covered with doped-on fabric and painted. Fuel tanks were fitted into spaces between the spars and this area was reinforced with duraluminum on the bottom of the wing. The kit shows this very well.

Likewise, the horizontal and vertical tail pieces were also skinned with plywood. All control surfaces were of aluminum frames and ribs covered with fabric.

Armament on the Yak 3 consisted of a single 20 or 23mm cannon firing through the propeller hub and two 12.7mm machine guns mounted in the upper cowling and firing through the propeller arc. The cannon was loaded via a cable and handle mounted under the instrument panel. This cocking mechanism is included in the kit.

The original Yak was designed in a matter of months at Stalin's "urging." The Yak 1 had a  
*(continued on page 4)*

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IPMS/El Paso, DesertCon, El Paso, TX	October 7, 2006
IPMS/FAC Museum Modelers, FAC Model Contest, Fort Worth, TX	October 14, 2006

**Editor's Notes...**

Due to the summer heat and most of our article contributors on their way to Kansas City for the Nationals, this month's Sprue Examiner is rather thin, only nine pages "thick". Hopefully we will resume our usual 12+ pages full of good stuff next month.

Well, I managed to matriculate from our Adult Modeling Class (see Milton's report on page 3), and boy did I learn a lot. Probably the hardest part of the course was convincing myself to sign up. I know many of us are either too proud or too embarrassed to take a beginner's class. The truth is I signed up not because I don't know the basics. I did because I want to learn Milton's way of building models, and I want to know his secrets to be a better modeler. By watching a master like Milton in action, I have already "nicked" a few of his tricks. To that end, it is well worth the time and effort I spent.

So I encourage every one of you to give this class a try. If nothing else, you get to spend six Sunday afternoons building models in good company. That's probably I dare say male bonding at its best. (But that doesn't mean ladies can't sign up.)

This month we have a double feature in our "Know Thy Fellow Member" column, and it's all about the Roadys. It is hard to speak of one without mentioning the other. So let's turn to page seven to find out the two KARs' modeling habits and see how they corrupt and turn each other into modeling "borg collective units".

Our meeting this month is on **Tuesday the 8th** at 7:00pm at the usual Yarborough Branch Library. The clinic topic is "**working with photo-etched parts**" by **David Edgerly**.

Eric

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is affiliated with the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) as the Republic of Texas Chapter. ASMS meets the second Tuesday of each month except December. Dues for full membership are \$20 yearly. Subscription to the newsletter *Sprue Examiner* is \$15 yearly.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. The Austin Scale Modelers Society does not endorse the contents of any article.

## Adult Model Building Class Ends



Our first "local" ASMS Adult Modeling Class has ended successfully. There weren't a lot of students, only two signed up for the course, but we gained a new member. All participants completed their models and appeared to enjoy the six sessions of the course.

The two participants were Eric Choy and Bill Gates. Eric decided to take the course as a "refresher", and Bill is getting back into the hobby after a long absence. Bill is the new member, and he currently working on a Tamiya "Rufe", the float-plane version of the Zero.

Thanks to Rudy Cline and the Sunday staff at King's Hobby Shop for providing an excellent space to work and conduct the class. And, since the class was in a shop, there was no excuse for not bringing the needed supplies!

The subject for the first class was the somewhat dated Tamiya A6M2 Type 21 Zero kit. The three finished models represent three different possible finishes for the model.



Three Zeros built by (top to bottom) Bill, Eric, Milton

Scheduling another adult modeling class may be a topic to discuss at the August meeting. There are several things to consider before a future class. For one, there probably needs to be more than one instructor for the class although in some cases only one may be present. We could probably benefit from a training session for the trainers so that we can be consistent in our instructions.

So far, the only clubs offering the Adult Modeling Course are in Ocala Florida, San Antonio, and Austin. The results and impressions of the participants will help shape the course that will be offered by IPMS/USA.

Milton



Akagi Aircraft Carrier Fighter Group, Hawaii, Dec 8 1941.



261st Air Group (Tiger Corps), Kagoshima Base, Feb 1944



Tainan Air Group, Denpasar Base, Bali Island, Feb 1942

*(Building A Bargain continued)*



control stick that required both hands to fly and fight the aircraft and ignored the need for throttle control. By the time the Yak 3 came out, the Russians had wised up and copied the Me 109's stick.

To prevent fuel tank explosions, cooled exhaust gasses were channeled to the fuel tanks as fuel was used, a unique solution to a consistent problem.

### Getting Ready

Now on to the kit. Some time ago, Aeromaster ceased production of its line of acrylic paints. I liked these paints. There were generally "lightened" for the scale effect and looked right to me. When they went on sale, I loaded up. Among them were two bottles of Russian AC gray, one light and one dark. So, when I saw the bargain priced Yak, I knew I was meant to build it!

Anyway, I had the paint, and I had some references. In case you want to do some Russian aircraft, I can recommend the books from AJ Press. They are printed in Polish and English and have excellent color profiles and many black and white photographs that you won't find anywhere else. The volume covering the Yak 1 and 3 is by Robert Bock and, it is number 13 in the series.

Remember, the wing is wood with fabric so no chipped aluminum. Same goes for the tail. Aluminum was used only on the fuselage front and the wing bottom covering the fuel tanks.



### The Kit

This is one of Eduard's earlier 1/48 kits, and the parts are a bit on the thick side. The engraving is heavier than I like, but the shapes are good, and the clear parts are "clear". The detail inside the fuselage sides is a bit shallow, so I added my own tubing from small diameter Evergreen rod. The few "box" details were also enhanced with sheet styrene. Construction called for assembling the fuselage and mounting it to the wing which contained the side consoles and cockpit floor, complete with stick and rudder pedals. I had to trim some of my added fuselage details back severely to clear the consoles, but this was an easy adjustment.

The wing halves fit well, but I had to do considerable thinning on the trailing edges. The completed wing and fuselage fit, and I used Mr. Surfacer to fill the small gap. A cotton ball soaked in Mr. Color Thinner made quick work of removing the excess filler. Thanks for the tip Floyd! The tail parts lined up well, and a small amount of Mr. Surfacer filled what gaps remained.



I decided to scratch build the mounting "bow" for the gun sight since the kit part was broken in the box. I used thin rod, but stretched sprue would have worked as well. The rest of the kit went together with no real problems. The wheel well detail is shallow, but you won't generally be looking there. The retracting gear looks a bit strange, but it all works. I had to pre-paint a lot of small parts for the model, but the fit was very good.

The most challenging part of the model was the three colored spinner. There were no decals for the colors and it was divided into three equal parts; red base, white middle, and blue tip. To begin, I painted the entire spinner with Tamiya white primer from the spray can. This is great stuff! It dries to a satin finish and covers with a light coat. Just to be sure, I gave it a second coat and let it dry overnight.

I tried masking, but the foil would not cut evenly even with my homemade surface gauge and No. 11 blade. So, I developed a pattern for the red base and cut it from red decal sheet. It went on with no problem, and the fit was perfect. But what to do

about the blue tip? No decal would work here, at least not of my making.



What I needed was a device that would slowly turn the spinner while I painted on the blue tip. My Dremel tool turns way too fast, and I could see a streak of blue paint across my face so that was out.

The slowest turning tool I had was my variable speed, quarter inch drill which does 0 to 1500 rpm pretty quickly if I really squeeze the trigger. A light touch barely turns the chuck.

I had to mount the spinner so that it did not wobble. So, I drilled a hold through the cannon barrel. Should be dead center, right? Then I drilled a hole the same diameter in a short piece of sprue, mounted a piece of brass rod—same diameter—in the hole and stuck it in the spinner from the inside. I mounted the spinner/rod combo in the drill's chuck as close as possible (see photos) so there would be no wobble. Then it was a simple matter to dip a small brush in the French Blue, lightly squeeze the trigger and apply the paint. In about 30 seconds I was done!

I figure the preparation for that 30 seconds took the better part of a morning, but "next time" it will go faster.



Final painting was with the aforementioned Aeromaster paints. I masked with Silly Putty, which is a great way to do camo schemes that have semi-soft edges. I try to keep the putty about 1/8 inch thick at the paint lines so I get a soft but definite demarcation.



As usual, I masked the canopy with Bare Metal Foil. Decals were from the kit and were thin and in good register. They responded well to Micro Sol but like a lot of decals from eastern Europe, they tend to stick prematurely. Just remember to use a lot of water to float the decal into position. You don't want them grabbing to a place they do not belong.

Eduard's little fighter looks like its big brother's photos, so I'm not going to measure to see if it's to scale. If it looks right, it is right. This was a fun model to build. And at just over \$10, it was relatively cheap fun.

*Milton*

### Got Tips?

Want to be famous on the Internet without having to pose nude? Try sharing that favorite modeling tip of yours with the others on our website! Email it to our webmaster, Mike Gilsbach ([mike@gilsbachdesigns.com](mailto:mike@gilsbachdesigns.com)), and he will post it to our latest tip section on our homepage. And be sure to visit the tip section regularly. You'll never know what neat trick you can pick up from your fellow members.

*Editor*

## Old Rumors & New Kits

The big news this week is the IPMS/USA Nationals that, as I write this, are about to begin in Kansas City, Missouri. A small contingent of ASMS modelers will make the trek, and I hope "Bondo" got his kitbashed B-57G finished in time to enter the competition. It was looking pretty good the last time I saw it, but there was still work to be done. We wish everyone going well, and perhaps they will have a good report on the goings-on for our August meeting.

There are some new kits in the shops this month, notably the Hasegawa P-400. This is the kit with a lot of questions. It's a new tool but some find it hard to believe that Hasegawa would release that particular kit since the Eduard kit is still available and is pretty darned good. Maybe next time we can see a side-by-side review of the two kits. The P-400 was the export version of the P-39 that we were selling the British. Most of the aircraft were pulled from the export line and sent to the South Pacific where they were desperately needed. A shark-mouthed aircraft from Henderson Field is the subject for the box art.

Hasegawa's recent release of an FW 190-A3 has been followed up with the release of an A4 version. This was no surprise since several parts for the later type were included in the A3 kit. Both kits are based on the old Trimaster/Shanghai Dragon kit but with some improvements.

Also from Hasegawa are two still-new subjects that are available in new markings. First is the P-40E in a Pacific Aces series box in "Stardust" markings. Then there is a re-boxed mid-wing Shiden Kai "George" with new markings. Both are excellent kits.

And just as I'm putting the finishing touches on my Hasegawa P-40N, I find that Eduard has issued a new Zoom Detail set for the kit. These Zoom PE detail sets are very nice and feature colored seat belts, instrument panels and general cockpit details. I've used them for 1/48 and 1/72 aircraft and personally think they are the best-priced detail sets that really dress up a cockpit. Also included in the most recent release are sets for the Me 109E-4/7, P-47D, as well as seat belts for WWII aircraft.

That Eduard I-16 Type 10 finally made it to the stores, and I can say that it's a very nice little kit. It comes with some valuable PE in the form of a colored instrument panel, colored seat belts, and some nice "fiddly-bits" also with color to dress up the cockpit. There are several pieces in the kit that aren't needed for the Type 10, so you know some other types are on the way. Another neat feature is individual exhaust pipes and a PE baffle for the engine. Markings for four aircraft are included, but I'm certain that other markings are being made ready.

Eduard is also re-releasing some of its better kits in the form of a "weekend edition". The only difference between these latest reissues is the limited markings and absence of resin and PE.

For example their Albatros D. III has markings for Jasta 5, ca. 1917. Best of all the prices are way down. This little 1/48 Albatros sells for just under \$10, a bargain any day. Look for future releases in the series that will be just as good a bargain although prices vary from kit to kit.

I saw a post on Hyperscale that Heller had filed for bankruptcy, or what passes for bankruptcy in France. Whether or not it's for reorganization or signals the end of the company is not known at this time. What is curious is that there were comments regarding its effect on Airfix (Heller producing Airfix kits) however Airfix has seen the benefits of using production sites in China. At this point I'll have to say this is rumor but it seems to have some truth to it. I'll be sad to see Heller go, if they do.

Mike Belcher, the Canadian resin producer who owns Belcher Bits, has a new line called Battalion Bits. As you might guess these are detail parts and conversion parts for armor. His first product is a conversion set for the Tamiya 1/48 Pz. Kpfw. IV Ausf J, which will backdate the model to a Aust D. The resin set consists of several replacement pieces that seem to correct most of the problems you might encounter. You get a new upper hull and early turret with the early cast cupola, correct drive sprocket and correct idlers. And there are more parts as well. It really looks good and the conversion is extensive. You can check it all out at <http://www.belcherbits.com/index.html>.

Tamiya's latest 1/48 armor contribution is the Sherman Firefly which should build up into a very nice model.

Just as the 1/48 scale armor kits are growing in popularity, the smaller 1/72 armor kits are growing in detail and quality. For example Dragon's new M4A1 Sherman Normandy is the mid-production version, and it has the cast hull. This little kit has two sets of tracks; the common T48 "chevron" rubber track and the less common T49 three bar cleat track. Your choice. From what I hear the detail is very good, and the price is under \$15.

To go with the little Sherman, Dragon has released their new mid-production Tiger 1. For the larger scale fans they have a new tool Marder II. AFV Club has released a limited edition Sdkfz. 25 Ausf. C-3 also in 1/35.

There are some great books just out from Osprey. Ever see a bad one from that publisher? First off, and too late for the model building class, is *Modeling the A6M Zero*, followed by *Modeling the Me 109/B/C/D/E* and *B-2A Spirit Units in Combat*. I intend to add the Zero book to my library!

And I don't want to neglect the car modelers. Revell has a very nice kit of the 2006 Corvette C6R, the competition version of this popular sports car. Also check out the AMT/ERTL 2 'n 1 kits of the '67 Mustang and the '70 Monte Carlo. Both kits are available now.

That's all for August. Keep on Building!

Milton

## Know Thy Fellow Members

*Name*

Kenny Atoshi Roady  
(K.A.R.)



*Day job*

IC Layout Tech/Designer

*I'm a...*

"Reborn" modeler. My time in the Navy distracted me from building for a while.

*Primary modeling interest*

Naval aviation, aircraft that carries a "big gun", and anything my dad and I saw in the Navy.

*Favorite era and subject of my primary modeling interest*

No preference.

*Main reason why I build models*

Since I can't fly or own a real aircraft, building an exact miniature replica is the next best thing.

*Other than building models, I like...*

Watch a lot of TV and play simulation games.

*I was influenced/inspired to build models by...*

My friend's older brother when I was younger. The 1/700 waterline ship he built was so cool I was hooked ever since.

*My favorite "master" modelers are*

Russ Holm, Milton Bell, "Bondo" Phil Brandt and Tim Keily.

*I consider myself...*

a collector and anything that I build is purely by mistake and motivated by a massive guilt trip.

*The size of my unbuilt collection*

600, plus or minus a few. I lost count long time ago.

*My spouse's opinion on my hobby...*

Ah, the joy of corrupting your spouse to be a modeler! At first I had her help me looking for bargains at shows. Then I got her interested in building. Now her collection is taking up as much space as mine!

Well, at least we know where to find each other in our spare time.

*Best excuses I used for buying yet another model kit*

"If you let me buy one, I'll buy you one". It works all the time.

*Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die/give up this hobby*

Kathy will bring my collection to the club so everyone can pick

(continued on page 8)



*Name*

Kathy Ann Roady  
(K.A.R., too)

*Day job*

Tech Writer for IBM

*I'm a...*

Innocent bystander sucked into the dark side of the hobby by my devious husband unit.

*Primary modeling interest*

Biplanes, floatplanes, figures, dinosaurs, and anything but jets.

*Favorite era and subject of my primary modeling interest*

Jurassic. Sometimes WWII.

*Main reason why I build models*

It started out as a sharing thing, and then I found out it is kind of fun.

*Other than building models, I like...*

Star Trek fan fiction, CSI and NCIS.

*I was influenced/inspired to build models by...*

My husband unit.

*My favorite "master" modelers are*

Russ Holm, Bob Bethea and Karl Leidy.

*I consider myself...*

A builder, and an eBay seller when I found out how crappy some of my models are.

*The size of my unbuilt collection*

200, plus or minus a few.

*My spouse's opinion on my hobby...*

Ah, the horror of being corrupted by your spouse! Whenever I see anything on eBay, he always gets the first dibs.

Well, at least I get to set his monthly allowance on how much he can spend on buying models.

*Best excuses I used for buying yet another model kit*

"If I let you get that, what are you going to get me?". It works all the time too.

*Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die/give up this hobby*

eBay them all.

(continued on page 8)

**(Know Thy Fellow Member - Kenny Roady continued)**

one kit, provided he/she will build it. The rest will probably go on eBay.

*First model I completed*

Revell 1/32 UH-1D in 1974. I had glue all over the clear parts. I tried to wash it off with water, not realizing it had melted the plastic.

*Longest time I took to finish a model*

Tamiya 1/12 Honda VF750F motorcycle I am building for my friend. It's been five years, and I'm still working on it.

*Best model I built so far*

Accurate Miniatures 1/48 TBF 3. Easy built, good details, and best of all, single color.

*Worst model I ever encountered*

Revell 1/72 Star Fury from Babylon 5, AMT/Ertl STNG Enterprise-D, and DS9 Defiant.

*I'm currently working on...*

Tamiya 1/48 Corsair and Bandai 1/72 Cosmos Zero.

*Dumbest thing I ever did when building a model*

I spilled half of a bottle of paint on the carpet. When I told Kathy about it, she laughed and said "ha, I'm glad you did it before I did it".

*Worst thing I ever did to express my anger or frustration while building*

I turned them into paint mule, although a few were lucky enough to take part in my "ordnance practice".

**(Know Thy Fellow Member - Kathy Roady continued)***First model I completed*

HobbyCraft 1/48 P-26 in 1998.

*Longest time I took to finish a model*

Dynasty 1/9 Uncle Sam bust. Five years and counting.

*Best model I built so far*

AMT/Ertl Ferengi Marauder bust.

*Worst model I ever encountered*

1/400 Russian Submarine set. A "white elephant" gift I received in ASMS Christmas party.

*I'm currently working on...*

Uncle Sam bust and Revell 1/25 Velociraptor.

*Worst thing I ever did to express my anger or frustration while building*

I don't recall doing anything bad. I just stopped and walked away.

**Region 6 Update**

by John Vanek, RC6

Greetings, Region Six! I am sending this out from the hotel lobby at the KC Nats. Looks like this year is coming together nicely. For those who are in KC, I hope to run across you at some point. For those who aren't able to make it, I'll try to post some pics on the R6 site while I'm here. I'm looking forward to having a good time while I'm here and maybe even picking up some models or something. (GASP!)

Things have been real quiet for the last couple of months, but there are still just a couple of things that I need to make sure to get to you. First, I would like to encourage everyone to vote on the amendments that are on the IPMS/USA site. The last I heard, they were way short of the numbers of votes necessary for it to be a valid election. You can find a mail-in ballot in the last issue of the Journal. Or if you prefer (and I do) you can cast your vote on-line at the IPMS/USA site. The direct link for the page is <http://ipmsusa.org/Election2006/Amendments2006.htm>. Either way let your voice be heard! Get out the vote!

Second item, I got an email from IPMS/Houston with their planned date for 2007. I will be updating the site this evening with the information. If your chapter is planning on hosting an event next year please get with me regarding the date(s) as soon as possible. This way we can better avoid having conflicts between events. Just a review of my rule of thumb, dates are first come first serve on the long range calendar. The sooner you get your event on the calendar the better. My goal is to avoid having two events within 300 miles in the same two week window. This helps everyone by not making modelers and vendors have to choose between one event or another. So please get me the dates that are being considered and make sure to check on the R6 site to see if they are already spoken for.

As I have already warned you about, the big push for charter renewal will be starting up next month. All chapter contacts please review that your information is correct on the IPMS/USA site as well as the R6 site. Also, I need to get a reply back from each chapter contact to make sure that we have valid email and snail mail information. Even if everything is correct on both sites please send me a reply to let me know that. I'd hate to have to start sending out the goon squad already.

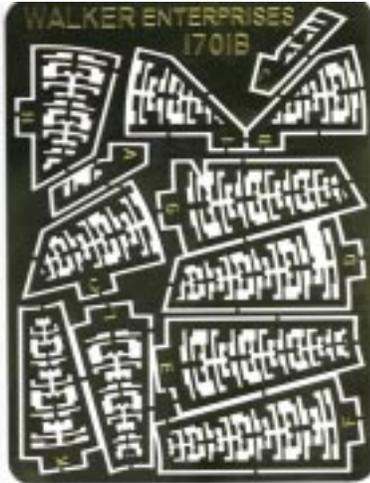
Last item, we have three (count 'em, THREE) events coming up: IPMS/Ft. Worth's SuperCon on Sept 9th, IPMS/Emerald City's OzCon on Sept 16th, and IPMS/CASM's Central Arkansas Scale Modelers 2006 Fall Contest & Show (Phew!) on Sept 29 & 30th. So there are still quite a few opportunities to get out and enjoy some really fun events. But wait, there is still one more after that: IPMS/El Paso's Desert Con on Oct 7th. So while '06 may be on the down slide, it ain't over yet.

Check the site for pics from KC. That's all folks!

John Vanek

**Walker Enterprises  
Movie Starship "Aztec Pattern"  
Photo-etched Painting Templates**

Preview by  
Kenny A. Roady



I remember my reaction when I first saw the painting instructions for AMT/Ertl's U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701D from Star Trek: The Next Generation (STNG). I was overwhelmed with the prospect of painting the ship.

What, you may ask, was the problem?

Well, that was the first time I been aware of the infamous "Aztec pattern" on both the primary and secondary hulls. That funky pattern that belongs more in a cartoon (think The Emperor's New Groove) than on a Starfleet "wessel" had me convinced the space invaders had landed. ARRRRG! I hate masking! From then on, every Starfleet ship that I examined had the dreaded pattern on it (the lone exception was the original series TOS Enterprise). What is a dedicated Trekker to do?

The wonderful people at Walker Enterprises in Corpus Christi, TX came to the rescue with their "Aztec pattern" templates to ease the fear, alleviate the dread and give the Trek nut a peaceful easy feeling. The photo-etched templates are made from 0.008" Spring Brass, so they are flexible enough and yet durable. So far, four sets have been released for movie version starships: Enterprise A, Enterprise B, Excelsior and Reliant. Each set is designed for a specific AMT/Ertl kit, and it contains a fret of templates, instructions and painting suggestions.

Since I am a collector, and anything that I build is purely by mistake and motivated by a massive guilt trip, I have not yet used any of these templates. But, anything that keeps me from having to cut tape gets my vote.

Interested in getting some of these templates too? Gotta, gotta, gimme, gimme...I know that feeling oh so well. Federation Models (<http://www.federationmodels.com>) carries them on their website as well as a few other online shops. Be warned: these templates aren't cheap. Each set costs about \$35!

If you get one, use it and show us your model, and you shall receive the accolades that you will have richly deserved. Peace and Long Life.

*Kenny*

**ACE Models  
War Trophies in Red Army  
1/72 Decal Set (D72002) Cost: \$7.00**

Preview by  
Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

It is a well known fact that many captured Axis AFVs were used by the Red Army during WWII against the invading Germans. Photos and references of these turncoat panzers, however, are far and few between. So I was excited to learn that Ace Models from Ukraine has released a decal sheet on the subject of these cross-dressed panzers under new management. Well, remember the old saying "if it's too good to be true, it probably is"? This is exactly what I found from this decal sheet.



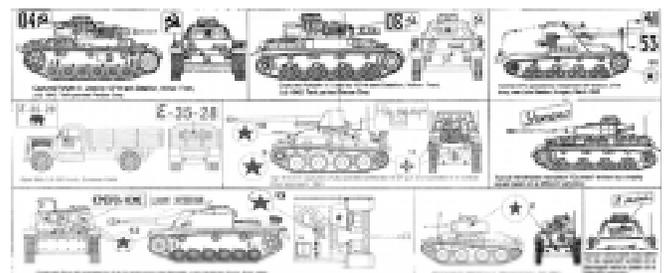
Let's start with the good news: this 3"x4" decal sheet is packed with no fewer than 20 different types of captured German AFVs, from Volkswagen, Opel Blitz, Panzer III, Hummel, StuG IV, 38t, Panther, Ferdinand, to Tiger I, all in Red Army markings. The instruction sheet is written in good English with fair B&W illustrations showing where each decal should go. Some interesting background info are included on where and who operated these machines in what time period of the war.

Now the bad news: no color information is provided. Worst still, it doesn't even show the exact variant/mark for any of the panzer listed. Is the StuG IV operated by the 5th Guards Armored Brigade a Ausf F or G? What about the Panther equipped tank company under Lt. Sotnikov. Were they As or Gs? Am I suppose to figure that out from the skimpy illustrations?

The sole reference listed is a Russian publication I failed to locate on the Internet. It appears someone at Ace had just pulled out a book, identified the profiles of the German tanks, and went straight to the decal machine to print the red and white stars!

Looking at this decal sheet, I have more questions than answers. For such a wonderful subject, Ace Models had done a terrible job on the research. Very disappointing.

*Eric*



**Next Meeting  
August 8, 2006**

*Austin Scale Modelers Society  
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13213 Marero Drive  
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