



Vol. 17, No. 2

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

February 2009

SPRUE EXAMINER



Tamiya 1/48th Focke-Wulf Fw.190F8/9 with Bomb Loading Set Kit # 61104, MSRP \$49.00

by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
IPMS #26266

The Focke-Wulf 190F series is not as well documented as the A series. The F-8/-9 was based on the A-8/-9 airframes, respectively, and was optimized for ground attack. The F-9 featured the BMW 801TS engine with a 14-blade cooling fan and large wooden paddle type propeller blades. Used until the climax of the war, it could carry a variety of armament, including twelve 80mm *Panzerblitz* ground attack rockets.

The Model

This latest offering from Tamiya gives the modeler more than the previous F-8 release. You get the typical perfectly formed light grey plastic styrene sprues. The parts feature recessed panel lines. A sprue of clear parts has two types of canopies included. Some poly caps are included to allow the prop to rotate. The decal sheet has markings for three aircraft, one F-9

and two F-8s. The instruction sheet is typical Tamiya and easy to understand.

In this release you get an additional sprue. This sprue, Sprue N, gives you the additional parts necessary to build the F-9, including the larger prop blades and 14 blade cooling fan. Also included on the sprue are two wheel chocks, two different style of bombs (AB250 and SC250), landing gear covers without the lower panel, an LWC500 bomb loading cart, and two figures to operate the cart. Another nice touch is the inclusion of a sheet with canopy masks. Strangely you have to cut them out, but they are at least included.

The Cockpit

Things start in the cockpit as usual. The only thing different here is that you have to remove the center panel and replace it with a longer armament panel. Everything else is quite nice. I painted the interior RLM66 with a wash of Lamp Black artist oils and dry brushed with RLM 02 and silver. Decals are provided for the seatbelts. I left them off until the final assembly.

The Fuselage

The fuselage fit perfectly. It is a Tamiya kit, after all. Did you expect anything different?

(continued on page 4)

ASMS is on the Internet

@

www.austinsms.org

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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

IPMS/Alamo Squadron, ModelFiesta XXVIII, Live Oak, TX	February 21
IPMS/MCMA, Showdown #19, Irving, TX	March 21
IPMS/Tulsa, Tulsa Modelers Forum Open Contest, Tulsa, OK	March 28
IPMS/Flying Tigers, Great South Tigerfest XVI, Kenner, LA	March 28
IPMS/Houston, Modelmania 2009, Stafford, TX	April 4

Local Events

Living History Program, National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum)
Fredericksburg, TX March 14-15



Support Our Troops!

In support of the initiative to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones in Iraq, IPMS/USA has elected to have **SFC Steven DeLong** as the point of contact for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please send it to:



Baghdad Hobby Club
c/o **SFC Steven DeLong**
HQ, MNC-I (FSC), 18th Airborne Corps
APO, AE 09342

SFC DeLong can also be reached via e-mail at: steven.delong@iraq.centcom.mil



ASMS Officers for 2009-10

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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. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Mike's Montage...

Here is the first installment of "Mike's Montage." I really wanted the title to be "A message from your prez, a non-modeling geek," but our editor said it was too long. However, the title does have some truth to it. So I'm going to make a pledge to the club to start building a model or painting a figure.

During the last meeting, a fellow member (Buddy Pearson) asked about a club directory, which got me thinking: I had one but had to find it. I knew where my copy was, and it was with all my printed ASMS newsletters. By the way, raise your hand if you have at least six years of printed newsletters (mine's raised). The point of this babble is that I noticed a small group of the membership was doing most of the writings all these years. I want to say thanks to all of them for taking the time to write the articles, reviews, and modeling news updates. This is not to say that they are the only ones responsible for the success of our newsletter. We need others to step up and to contribute as well. As the past presidents would exclaim "go build something," I want you to also write about it and share your experience with everyone in the newsletter.

See you at the meeting. 

Mike

New ASMS 2009-10 Officers



President
Mike Kachoris



Vice-President
Rick Herrington



Treasurer:
Angela Forster



Secretary
Eric Choy



Next Meeting:
February 10th, 2009 7pm

at

Austin Terrazas Library

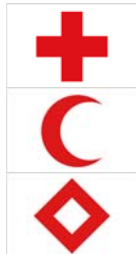
(See map on last page)

Program: **Model Lighting**
by: **Eric Choy**

Calling All Modelers... Red Cross Theme Contest

ASMS members are invited to participate in **Austin Armor Builders Society's** (AABS) annual **Red Cross Theme Contest** this year.


The contest rule is simple: bring any model of a vehicle, AFV, aircraft, helicopter, watercraft, or figure that renders humanitarian aid and carries the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) approved emblem* — **Red Cross, Red Crescent, or Red Crystal** — to the March meeting of AABS for consideration of the theme award. There is no restriction on scale, paint scheme or period, and you can enter as many models as you wish. As long as the Red Cross emblem is on the model, you are eligible to win. The usual contest rules (e.g. no pre-painted kit; no entry of other people's work) apply here.




Judging will be done by popular voting with AABS member **Worth Haggerton**, the sponsor/coordinator of this contest, as tiebreaker. The winner will receive a beautiful Texas-shaped plaque donated by **American Red Cross of Central Texas**.



The contest is on **March 4th, 2009 7pm** at the **Yarborough Branch Library** (2200 Hancock Drive, Austin, TX 78756), the old meeting venue where ASMS used to meet.

For more information, please contact AABS vice-president **Russ Holm** (512-388-9690). 



*Israel's older Magen David Adom symbol  is also eligible. Any insignia that resembles the Red Cross emblems (e.g. Swiss Air Force) is NOT eligible to win this award.

(Tamiya 1/48th Fw.190F8/9 continued)

The cockpit fits from underneath and guess what? Another perfect fit!

The Wings

You have to decide which armament that you want to add at this time and open the appropriate holes. I wanted to do the rockets as I didn't have a model with them. Just as good a reason as the next. The holes for the drop tank mount have to be opened. The upper wing outer bulges also need to be opened up to mount on the wings. Once that is done the wings fit, well you guessed it, perfectly. The insert panels did require just the slightest amount of sanding to allow them to fit flush.

Connecting the wings to the fuselage represented no problem. The fit was not perfect at the aft area under the fuselage. It was nothing dramatic. I just had to fill with super glue and rescribed the panel.

The horizontal stabilizers fit, oh heck, you know how they fit...



The Engine

The engine was painted flat black and drybrushed with silver. Can you see it? Me neither as it sits so far back. Anyhow, it fit on its block perfectly. Don't forget the exhausts on the side and the bottom of the wings. The engine cowling fits perfectly.

Truthfully, up to this point I had spent about three hours on the model, and I was ready for paint. This was truly amazing even for me.

Painting

After I washed the model with Dawn dish washing detergent, all the openings, such as the engine and cockpit, were masked off. The masks are a nice touch, but having to cut them out from the backing paper was annoying. I just made sure that my X-Acto blade was brand new, and I had no problem. I used a straight edge where they were called for and free handed the rest. Just take your time and cut on the line and . You'll be rewarded with some great masks.



Then I preshaded the model with RLM66. There are some questions on the color of the forward cowling. I opted for a yellow lower cowling and a lighter colored band around the cowling. I used Gunze RLM04 for the darker shade of yellow on the cowling and the rudder. After masking, Model Master Acrylic RLM04 lightened with flat white was added to the cowling.



For the camouflage, I started with Model Master Enamel RLM76. Then Gunze RLM75 was sprayed on the upper surfaces and in a mottle on the side of the fuselage. Finally, Gunze RLM82 Dark Green was freehanded to finish off the camouflage. After the initial colors were laid down, all the colors were lightened up with some white to add some depth to the finish and break up the monochromatic look.

I elected to paint my spiral on the spinner as opposed to using the decal. This is just the way I normally do it. The whole spinner was painted flat white first. Once it was dry, I cut out a circle for the front and then used cut Tamiya tape to establish the twist and painted the spinner flat black.

The bombs were assembled and painted in different colors. The SC250 was painted RLM02, and the AB250 was painted Panzer Yellow. The AB250 did



not turn out as nice as I would like, but it is okay to use. It is engineered in four pieces instead of the standard two pieces.

Since I elected to use the *Panzerblitz* rockets, I painted the launcher per instruction with Semi-gloss Black. Lacking any references, I followed Tamiya's instructions and painted the rockets with Model Master Metalizer Dark Anodized Grey.

In my photo collection I only have two pictures of the aircraft I wanted to do: a F-9 Green "Tech Chevron" of the Technical Officer for II/SG1. I tried my best to match the camouflage pattern on the fuselage.

A coat of Alclad gloss was added with my GREX Genesis.XT airbrush. I love this airbrush, especially for this type of application.



Decals

Tamiya's decals looked really thick, so I opted to use the kit's stencils only. For the aircraft markings, I used an old Third Group decal sheet for the same aircraft. I used MicroSol to wet the surface and then Solvaset for the top of the decals. All the decals reacted well with these solvents. Don't forget there are some decals on the bombs as well.

A coat of Alclad Gloss and Dullcoat were added in preparation for weathering. In retrospect, the kit's decals laid down perfectly, and they did not prove to be thick at all. Looking at the finished model, I can't tell which decal is the kit's and which isn't.

Some Small Bits

The wheels fit really loose on the axle of the landing gear. The instructions have a template for mounting the wheels. I used some Tic-tac to align the strut and then five-minute epoxy to align the wheel. This ensured that the wheels were set at the proper angle. Adding the landing gear to let the model sit up on its wheels allowed weathering so much easier.

Weathering

I had already started weathering when I lightened the camouflage colors. I always start with a light wash of burnt umber artist oils for the panel lines. This sets the tone for the rest of the weathering.

For the silver chipping, I use silver pencils and the sponge technique with some Rub-n-Buff on the leading edges of the wings and areas where the crew would have walked. A very thinned mixture of Tamiya Red Brown and Flat Black was applied to the exhaust and gun residue. This allowed it to flow over the fuselage sides as per the reference photos.

Heavily thinned Tamiya Buff was also added to "dirty" up the upper surface and to simulate mud on the underside of the wing. I sprayed it from front to back on the wings and up and down on the fuselage.

Finally I added some Mig Pigments to the wheels, the landing gear struts, and the wing roots to simulate the mud and grime while operating from an unimproved strip. After I set the pigment up with Mig Thinner, I sealed up everything with a coat of Dullcoat. To get that grungy look of leaking oil on the

underside, I used Gunze Oil thinned on the lower cowling after the Dullcoat dried completely.

Final Assembly

I finished the fuselage with the installment of rockets, boarding step, and various antennas. With the canopy, head armor to the canopy, and an EZ Line antenna added, the model was finally ready.

Wheel Chocks

The first thing I elected to build was the wheel chocks. I could never figure out why no one had ever done them before. They are really easy and consist of two pieces each. Paint and done.

Bomb Cart

This is a unique addition to my collection as I have never done one before. The construction is pretty straightforward. I did have to sand where the arms met the wheels. This was not because they didn't fit. It was just to remove the seam. I also cut off the front wheel and added some wire to the assembly. I did this because I wanted to allow the wheel to be able to turn as I wanted.

The whole assembly was painted with JPS RAL colors, which are darker than normal Panzer Grey. I used Panzer Grey to add vertical water marks and applied War Pig black wash to the whole assembly. Then I drybrushed RLM02 on to bring out the details. I used the sponge technique mentioned earlier to add some silver chipping.

After dirtying up the wheels and other parts with some Mig Pigments, the bomb cart was done.

Figures

The figures represented no big problem. Each figure has a separate head and arms. The fit of these parts is perfect. Aligning the arms to match the bomb carts handles was probably the hardest part. As usual I used a very dark grey for the base color of the uniforms. Shadows and highlights were done with Lamp Black artist oils and a lighter dark grey. Flesh was painted normally. That was about it.





Conclusion

The airplane fits really well with no issues anywhere, except maybe the landing gear. How can I fault a model that literally was ready for paint in three hours? When was the last time you heard of that? It literally took me longer to paint the model than to build it. The new parts are really nice, and it is great to have the option to build the two versions. The decals are very good. I should have used all of them.

The accessories are just as good as the airplane. I loved the simplicity of the wheel chocks. The bombs and rockets are really nice. The fit of the AB250 was the toughest part of the whole kit, and it wasn't bad at all. The bomb cart is simple yet effective. When added with the figures, you have a really nice little diorama.

I commend Tamiya for this easy to build and fun to display model. This kit is highly recommended. It was nice to exercise all the different modeling disciplines, aircraft, armor and figures. This is what modeling is supposed to be, fun. Remember?

Thanks to Tamiya USA for the review copy. You can obtain your copy from your local hobby shop or via the Internet. ✈️

Floyd



References

Walk Around 22: Focke-Wulf Fw.190A/F, Malcolm Laing and E. Brown Ryle, Squadron/Signal, 2000, ISBN 0-89747-414-7.

Aero Details 6: Focke-Wulf Fw.190A/F, Shigeru Nohara and Masatsugu Shiwaku, Dai Nippon Kaiga Co., 1993, ISBN 4-499-22603-1.

Focke Wulf Jagdflugzeug, Peter Rodeike, ISBN 3-923457-44-8.

Photo Hobby Manual #1501: Special Drawings Focke Wulf Fw.190 Part 1, Radek Vavrina, CMK, ISBN 9-788090 377844.

Did You Know?

The R4/M rocket (*Panzerblitz II*) was one of the most fearsome aerial weapon used by Nazi Germany during WW2. Despite smaller than most Allies' rockets, it travelled much faster, and it could knock down a heavy bomber in a single shot.

The U.S. Zuni rocket developed after the war was a direct descendant of the R4/M design. Normally fired from a pod holding multiple rockets, the unguided Zuni can carry various warheads for both offensive (air-to-air and air-to-ground) and defensive (countermeasure chaff) actions.

During the late 1960s, two separate incidents of accidental discharge and explosion of Mk.32 Zuni rockets were responsible for fires onboard of USS *Forrestal* and USS *Enterprise*. ✈️



PRESENTS

MODELFESTA 28

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF TEXAS

THEME:

"Oldie Moldies"

Any kit that was originally produced 25+ years ago, or has since been re-released without changes.

(See Rule #10 for more information)

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, Texas

Visit our website: <http://www.alamosquadron.com>

Check our website between now and the contest for latest information, updates and scheduled special events and demonstrations.

Lackland AFB Airshow

Nov 1-2, 2008

by G. R. Dennis Price

Lackland AFB and Randolph AFB hold an air show/open house on alternate years, and 2008 was the turn of Lackland. The two day affair enjoyed superb weather, though there were a few clouds on the Sunday when I attended. ✈️

Dennis



Fly-by of aircraft used by the 12th Flying Training Wing (FTW) based at Randolph AFB [all tail-coded RA]: T-6A of 559 FTS, T-38C of 435 FTRS [blue fin stripe], T-1A of 99 FTS, T-43A of 562 FTS. T-38C of 560 FTS [dark blue fin stripe], and T-6A of 559 FTS.



Nose art on T-43A, 1973-1153, of 562 FTS. Fin displays "562 FTS" rather than serial.



Fokker C-31A [85-1607], one of two operated by US Army Golden Knights parachute team.



USAF Heritage Flight consisting of P-40N [NL40PN, 44-7369 of the Cavanaugh Flight Museum], F-16CJ [SW, 93-0540 of 20 FW], F-15E [SJ, 89-00495 of 336 FS, 4FW], and F-22A [TY, 2002-4040, 43 FTS, 325 FW].



P-51C [NL487FS, 43-25147, W-HO] leads P-51D [NL7TF, 44-73856, B-5X]. Aircraft were present only on the Sunday performing in close formation.



F-22A, [TY, 2002-4040, 43 FTS, 325 FW].



Medieval WMD

Zvezda 1/72nd Trebuchet

by

Russ Holm, IPMS #36619

The trebuchet was THE ancient heavy artillery, a medieval Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)! It could hurl boulders, large bags of stones, vessels of burning oil, decaying diseased animals, to name a few of the projectiles, to a considerable distance. This was a siege weapon as its size and weight did not lend it to tactical engagements.



Early trebuchets were fixed in place on the ground as in this model. Later ones were mounted on wheels that resulted in greater range when fired, as well as allowing for increased mobility.

This trebuchet model is by Zvezda. The kit is simple and easy to assemble. Some of the surfaces are without wood grains, so I added them by using the edge of a file to cut/scrape into the plastic.

I painted the plastic using a layered method. Starting with a coat of Model Master enamel Wood, I let it thoroughly dry before

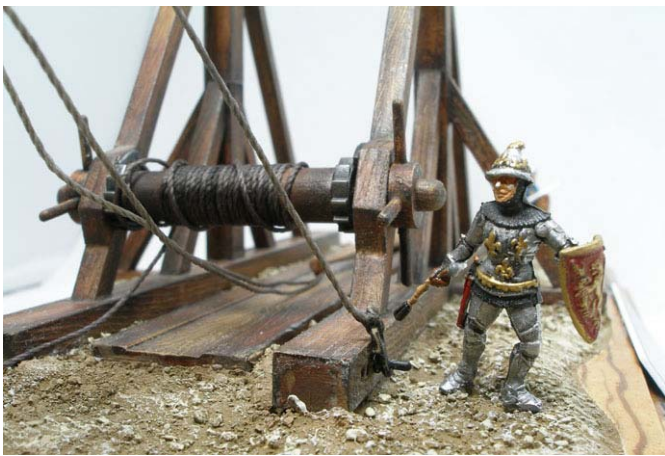


another coat of Wood followed by Model Master enamel Burnt Sienna applied in a manner that results in streaks. Then Model Master Enamel Burnt Umber was applied in the same fashion for more streaks. After letting it dry to the touch, I applied Black India Ink thinned with alcohol to the painted surface. Once the ink had visually dried, I dipped a Q-tip in alcohol and GENTLY rubbed off the excess. By doing so the ink flowed into the recessed grain, allowing the colors to blend and create highlights and shadows.

The metal parts were painted with Model Master Gun Metal, Flat Black and Gunze Mr. Metal Dark Iron.


The thread supplied is not adequate to do all the necessary rigging. It was discarded in favor of ship rigging thread that isn't fuzzy. It just looks better and more realistic.





I added a couple of 1/72nd scale figures from Emhar to give a sense of scale to the model... after all you'll hardly ever going to see one of these at your local airport or tank museum!

The model almost makes a base mandatory to be able to display or transport, unless you decide to make it mobile by adding the some wheels and supports.

So there you have it. It took me almost as long to write about it as to build it. 

Russ

**Sheperd Paine:
The Life and Work of a Master Modeler
and Military Historian
by Jim DeRogatis**

**Schiffer Publishing, Hardcover 272 pages
ISBN: 978-0-76432-929-6, MSRP \$79.95**

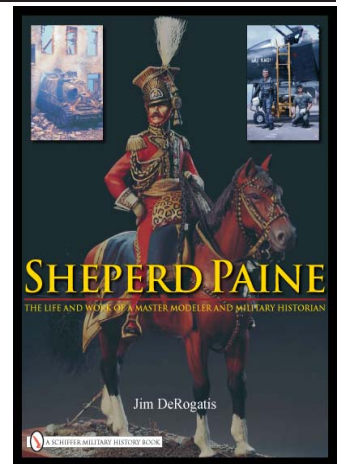
Reviewed by Chris Banyai-Riepl
Internet Modeler

There are a few iconic scale modelers out there, and Shep Paine would definitely fall into that category. His skills in building and finishing are extensive, and his long career as a modeler has resulted in a huge collection of impressive finished models and dioramas. Many will remember Shep Paine's work from his inserts in Monogram kits in the 1970s, and more than a few modelers found inspiration from those inserts to attempt dioramas themselves. For the most part, though, it would probably be safe to say that few modelers are aware of the complete breadth of Shep Paine's work. This large tome from Schiffer presents the broadest picture of the work of Shep Paine over the last several decades.

The text is actually an interview between the author, Jim DeRogatis, and Shep Paine. As such, it reads quite a bit differently than a traditional book. However, it tends to capture how the hobby has changed over the decades, as well as


examine the growth of Shep Paine's work.

Rather than discuss the content of the text, I will just say that it is an interesting read, and there are plenty of very interesting nuggets to be found in there. In addition to the main text, there are side-bars for many other individuals that were influenced by Shep Paine. These offer yet another view on the fascinating career of the man.



This book is not all text, though, and no book about Shep Paine would be complete unless it contained photos of his work. This book does just that, and in fact I would be willing to guess that, without the photos, this book would only be a couple dozen pages long. Yes, there are that many photos, many of which are printed large, and nearly all of them are in color. These include dioramas, stand-alone figures, vignettes, and boxed dioramas. Each subject is worthy of close examination, and on the whole, every piece can provide inspiration for modelers branching out into these various genres.

This is a hard book to put down once you start, as there is just so much material presented. While detailed step-by-step techniques are not discussed, the basics are presented, both in the photos and in the text (the captions themselves are quite detailed and useful), and modelers can glean quite a bit of technical information for their own use.

I can recommend this book to any modeler who would like to learn new techniques and see just what can be done by a master modeler. My thanks to Schiffer for the review copy. 

Chris

Know Thy Fellow Member



Name

Ion C. Tesu. No nickname yet, but I'm open for suggestion.

Day job

IC Chip Designer.

I've been building models for...

Five years.

Primary modeling interest

1/32nd modern American jets. And IAR-80, of course.

Main reason why I build models

I just like it.

Other than building models, I enjoy...

My wife wants me to start on trains. I guess I don't have much choice.

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

My father. When I was a kid, he encouraged me to build airplane kits.

My favorite "master" modeler is

I am truly impressed with many club members' talent in bringing their plastic and resin model to life. Naming only one would not be fair, so "thank you" Bob King, Bondo, Greg, John Seaman, Milton, Russ, for inspiring me to aim high!

I consider myself...

A model builder.

The size of my unbuilt collection

Less than 15.

Best excuse for buying yet another model

I am still far away from matching my wife's shoes stash. So no excuse is needed, yet.

Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die

The plan is as follows: build them all and get first place at all contests with each and every one of them. Pretty modest, wouldn't you say? Actually, for me it's always a pleasure to work on a model at my own pace. I get more enjoyment building than getting placed in contests (although it's hard not to like it).

First model I completed

I think it was a 1/72nd MiG-21. Can't remember what year. It was a long time ago.

Time I took to finish a model

The norm is one model per year.

Best model I built so far

My 1/32nd A-10A.

Worst model I ever encountered

Well, that is a well kept secret!!!

Modeling project(s) I'm working on

F/A-18C, 1/32nd of course.

Dumbest things I ever did when building models

Here is a partial list:

1. Cut myself.
2. Glued my fingers (with CA, of course)
3. Sprayed paint on my glasses, T-shirt and window curtains, which did not go unnoticed by my wife. "What's with this red paint on my drapes?" "Honey, forget the drapes. Let's go shop for a new pair of shoes."
4. Spilled paint on the carpet.
5. Airbrushed in a closed room.
6. Applied superglue to everything!

Worst thing I did to my model to express my anger/frustration

I haven't done that yet! Maybe it's my medication that makes me less angry and my frustration less noticed. I'll let you guys know when to wear Kevlar vests to the meetings!

Modeling story I like to share with my peers...

Before I watched Floyd Werner's DVD, I spent a lot of time waiting for the Tamiya putty to dry, sanding it, watching it shrink, reapplying and so on forever. Now I use CA! What a difference Floyd's video made.



got dues?

ASMS needs your dues more than your body needs milk! Be sure to keep your membership status active so you won't miss any issue of this newsletter.

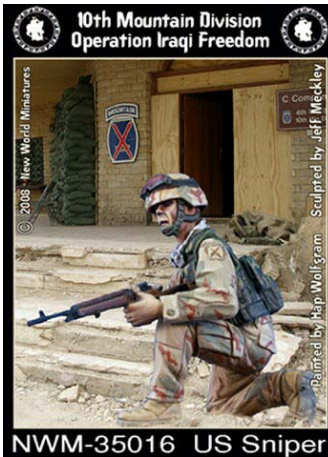
New World Miniatures Upcoming Releases

Barely six weeks into the new year, New World Miniatures (NWM) has already picked up speed on their releases. Of particular interest in their upcoming products is the 120mm Private Military Contractor/Devgru, S.F. team member. A similar figure in the same pose will also be available in 1/35th scale as PMC "Rambo" (see photo).

NWM figures are available locally at King's. You can also order via e-mail by contacting sales@newworldminiatures.com. The new and improved website will be up and running shortly.

Kudos to Bob Bethea and Chris Mrosko for sending us these pix.

Editor



ASMS is on the Internet

@

www.austinsms.org

Old Rumors & New Kits

It's Groundhog day, and I'm sure the little rodent saw his shadow he happened to be out in Central Texas. OK, So, maybe it was a ground squirrel or a prairie dog. I never put much stock in rodents predicting the seasons because in Central Texas, Spring almost always comes "early." And with better weather comes some better days to build models, especially if you are forced to paint in unheated garages.

There are some new models coming, some right around the corner. Some are late, considering what was originally promised. That big 1/32nd Ju-88 from Revell is a good example. It is still not widely stocked but some mail order dealers have it. Just be patient and it will be in the local hobby shops (LHS) before you save up the coin to buy one!

Not only is the Ju-88 coming but Revell's new C-17 in 1/144th scale is also on the way. In case you think 1/144th is too small a scale to work with, consider the space a C-17 would take if it was 1/72nd. Remember the old Monogram 1/72nd B-36? Believe me, 1/144th is the right scale!

Hasegawa's Pete, that agile little biplane for WWII should be out real soon. No idea on price but the pics from Hasegawa's page look like they have another winner. There's not much room for color choices; all I've seen were dark green above with light gray below. Still, it's a pretty looking model that's well detailed and has beaching gear included.

I've heard that Hasegawa will also release a two-place Zero "trainer." As far as I know, this will be the first state-of-the-art injected kit of this type. There have been several conversion sets but this should be a much better choice.

Hasegawa's other new kit is the modern day E-2C Hawkeye 2000, complete with big dish radome. This one's in 1/72nd scale and there is supposed to be excellent detail in the cockpit as well as the gear bays. Flaps can be installed up or down and there are markings for four aircraft with differences in antennae fit. This is the first new tool of the Hawkeye since the aging version from Fujimi.

The best rumor I've heard in months is the one that Hasegawa will release a TA-4J as part of their 1/48th series. For those not familiar with the type, the TA is a two seater and was used as an intermediate trainer for carrier pilots. The excuse for not making it part of the Scooter series was that the fuselage would have to be a special tool. Let's hope that they figured out how to do it and that we see a real TA-4 soon. While there is really nothing wrong with the Classic Airframes kit, this one should have broader appeal since it won't fall into the "limited run" category. In other words, it should be easier for more modelers to build and will likely involve the accessory makers. The CA kit comes with resin and PE parts. The Hasegawa kit will not have them so look to Eduard, Aires, etc. for detail parts.

If you are into really big scale kits, you probably want to check out the new 1/24th P-47D Bubble Top from Vintage Fighters. This massive kit shows some Tamiya heritage and some from Trumpeter. Needless to say, the kit has a lot of detail that will need some care since it's going to be VERY visible. If you've got the shelf space—for display, not storage!—this is probably the kit for you.

Eduard is keeping busy. Their newest kit that most aircraft modelers are salivating over has yet to be seen. It's their new 1/32nd Bf.109E-1 that is set for a Mid-February release. This is supposed to be a very accurate version of the Emil with plenty of detail. Other versions will follow; the E-4 in May and the E-3 in October. Markings for four aircraft are included.

Eduard has released a new version of the Fokker Eindecker in 1/48th, and it looks very nice in the box. I'll probably have to try one later when I have the time and space. Their new F6F-5 Hellcat may be in your LHS by the time you read this. Markings for four of the more popular aircraft are included. Expect the same quality and price as the Hellcat released last year.

Following the success of the 1/48th Me.110 C/D, Eduard is releasing a G version complete with radar array. Look for the G-2 in July and the G-4 in September. Eduard's series of Fw.190s was a real success and they hope to continue with an Fw.190D. Don't look for it anytime soon but you can start a savings account now! The first version should be ready in November. And yes, they are doing a D-11/13. But that's next year.


Armor modelers, look for the Zvesda 1/35th 4.5ton Mercedes 4500S Truck. This will be an important addition for German WWII Armor modelers since it was a mainstay of the Panzer divisions. It's available now. Academy's M-551 Sheridan from the Gulf War is available.

Revell AG's new 1/35th Kanonenjagdpanzer KaJaPa should be here soon. No data on this one; the name is impressive at least!

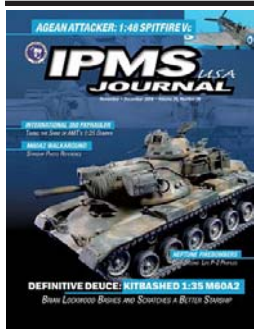
Just took a look at a photo of Trumpeter's new Pz.Sfl.IVa 10.5cm Dicker Max. This was a big SPG! They should be available soon. Be on the lookout for Trumpy's Australian Army ASLAV-25 Armored Vehicle as well as their US M198 155mm Field Howitzer also due later this month.

Dragon has some 1/72nd armor that may be of interest. Their Sturmtiger with Zimmerit and the SU-85 Tank Destroyer are due this month.

There are some good reference materials on the shelves as well. Check out the +4 books especially the one on the Focke-Wulf Ta.152 and the Daco books. All are great for photos.

That's about it for February. See you at the meeting Tuesday. Be sure to bring a model to show. Don't forget the San Antonio show. Attend even if you don't enter. It's always fun. 

MB



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal

Nov/Dec 2008
Volume 20, Issue 6

- **Hard Working Heavy Hauler** — Taking the showroom shine off AMT/ERTL's Payhauler, by Tom Walker;
- **Deadalean Dogfighter** — Kitbashing a Hellenic Spitfire Vc with the Tamiya and ICM kits, by John Korellis;
- **M60A2** — A Futuristic failure, by Chris Bucholtz;
- **MERDC Camouflage** — The four-color pattern-scheme for the M60A2;
- **Startling Starship** — Kitbashing and scratchbuilding your way to an accurate M60A2, by Brian Lockwood;
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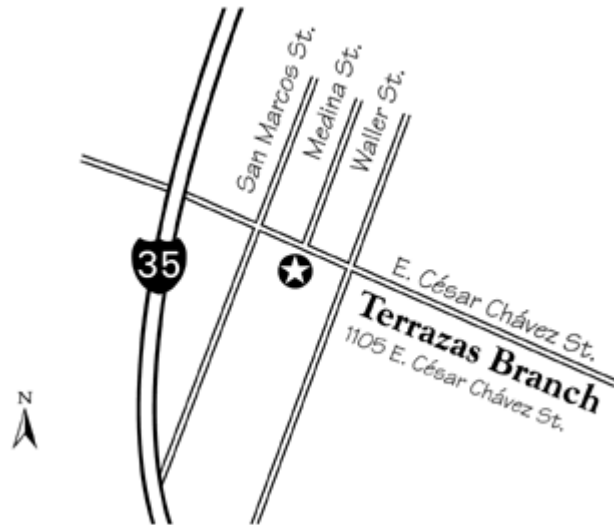
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Next Meeting:
February 10th, 2009
at
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Austin Scale Modelers Society
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