



2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year
2009 IPMS Region VI Website of the Year



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Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

November 2009

SPRUE EXAMINER



How Ugly Is My *Sturmgeschütz IV*?

Model by Pat Rourke
Text by Eric Choy

Sturmgeschütz, commonly known as "StuG," started its life as an assault gun tank for the German Army in WWII. Building on top of obsolete Panzer III and Panzer IV chassis (hence the designation StuG III and StuG IV), the turretless superstructure was aimed to make manufacturing easier and cheaper to produce *en masse*. In the early part of the war, the StuG was primarily used for infantry support, but eventually it became jack of all trades for the *Wehrmacht*. With a lethal L/48 75mm cannon, it was a very effective tank destroyer, especially on the Eastern Front.

Pat Rourke's StuG IV is a white elephant gift he received at last year's AABS Christmas party. This old Revell/Italeri kit should be no stranger to any "mature" (40+ years old) armor builder:

we all had one in our collection at one point in time. Better rendition of the subject has been offered by both DML and Tamiya in the last twenty years. If it wasn't for the contest challenge, I doubt anyone will go through the trouble of building the old Italeri kit these days.

Construction

According to Pat, putting this StuG IV together was simple and pretty much by the number. Typical of kits made in the 1970s, the sponsons were not filled, so Pat cut out two styrene sheets and filled the voids. Periscopes were added as the kit did not provide any. He also took off the rear fenders to make the tank look shorter.

Pat ditched the kit's rubber band tracks and used a DML plastic track set he bought at a show for \$10. The gun barrel is a leftover item from a DML 75mm Pak40 kit he built from a while back. It has the late model muzzle break that Pat prefers.

Most StuG IV manufactured in 1943-44 had additional armor (*Schürzen* and concrete blocks)

(continued on page 4)

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Upcoming Events**Model Shows**

IPMS/SWAMP, CALMEX XXIV, Westlake, LA	Jan 30
IPMS/Alamo Squadron, Modelfiesta 29, Live Oak, TX	Feb 20
IPMS/MCMA, Showdown #20 2010, Irving, TX	Mar 13

Local Club Meetings

Lone Star Military Miniature Society, San Marcos Public Library	Nov 14
Central Texas Scale Modeling Society, Harker Heights Activities Center	Nov 19
Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin Public Library Yarborough Branch	Dec 2

**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 the following contact points for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:

SFC Fleming, Leighton O.
leighton.fleming@us.army.mil

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Michael DeWalt
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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. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Mike's Montage...

Man, what a day! The night before I left on a motorcycle trip to a small town just south of Monterey Mexico for a motorcycle rally, I discovered a water leak in my toy room. I made the repair, but what a mess. Luckily, nothing really was damaged.

The month of November has two important holidays: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Veterans Day is an American holiday honoring our military veterans. We have a few members in ASMS that are veterans, and I want to take the time to recognize their services to this country. We are all helping to keep the history and the memories of the military alive by building scale historical models and figures. For that I thank you all for your support also.

Thanksgiving is a day of giving thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general. With these economic times, we need to be thankful for what has been provided to us and also share with others during the Thanksgiving holiday.

I hope you all enjoy the holidays this month and be safe in doing so. 

Mike

2009-2010

Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

November	White Elephant Contest Presentation by Mike Kachoris
January	Presentation by Eric Choy
February	Presentation by Tim Robb

Eddie Rickenbacker Bust

by Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

Once upon a time I had this crazy idea of building a collection of biplanes flown by all the WWI aces. The project faded fairly fast, and I never did build any of the 1/48th kits I collected. Eventually all of them were auctioned off on eBay, but I kept the 1/12th resin bust of Eddie V. Rickenbacker from DML's Spad XIII kit as a souvenir. It was sculpted by master modeler Mike Good, and it captured the facial features of the real Eddie V nicely. When I started learning how to paint faces with Bob Bethea, I thought the bust would make a good practice piece.




I started by priming the figure with Tamiya Grey Primer, and I picked Humbrol Flesh as the base coat for the face. The eyes were painted with Reaper Master Series acrylic paints, and I used artist oils for the facial shadows and highlights. Following Bob's advice of using Rick Rutter's palette of flesh paint mixture, I worked slowly and blended a lot. Little by little, the face of Eddie V came alive.

For the uniform and the cap, I chose Humbrol Khaki as the base color and accentuated with various shades of Khaki. I did not use acrylics simply because I was too lazy and cheap to go buy new paints. Besides, at the time I still had not mastered the art of blending with acrylics. So I went back to my comfort zone of using enamels.

Eddie V's medals were painted Reaper Walnut Brown and drybrushed with Vallejo Bronze. I can't remember which one of my Reaper Brown color that I used for the belt, but I do remember using Humbrol Flesh for highlighting the belt edges.

Once the painting was done, I glued the bust to a 1.5" x 1.25" artist panel. I then masked and sprayed the panel with Krylon texture paint to make it look like marble. After the paint dried, I dull-coated everything with Humbrol Flat Clear.

I like how the face of Eddie V turned out, but I can't say the same thing about his uniform. I still have much to learn about uniform painting. 

Eric

(How Ugly Is My StuG IV? continued)

and anti-magnetic coating (*Zimmerit*) installed. Pat used the brackets from an Eduard PE *Schürzen* set but scratchbuilt the struts and armor plates with sheet styrene. The concrete armors were made with A+B putty. For the *Zimmerit*, he mixed Squadron Green Putty with Testors liquid cement, spread it over the model with a brush, and made the pattern with a mini screwdriver.



None of the Italeri's pioneer tools were up to today's standard, so Pat replaced them with ones found in Tamiya's Panzer IV Equipment Set (35185). He had to relocate some of tools as the concrete armors were in the way. Most of the tool brackets were scratchbuilt, and a few came from an Aber PE set. The half wingnuts were taken from Bronco's wing nut set.

For the tow cable, Pat mated the ends of a braided soldering wire with Tamiya cable heads. Simple yet effective.



Painting

Pat wanted to depict his StuG IV hiding in an Italian plowed field ambushing passing Allied troops. He came up with his own ambush scheme of Field Green dots and Red Brown stripes over *Dunkelgelb*.

While this paint scheme might be effective at war, it sure violates one of the fashion commandments: never mix dots with



stripes! No wonder his daughter Melissa named this tank "Ugly!"


Pat base-coated the model with Tamiya Dark Yellow (XF60), except for the concrete blocks with Floquil Concrete color. He reasoned the panzer crew who installed the concrete armor in the field had no access to the factory *Dunkelgelb* paint. So it should not be the same color as the rest of the tank.

Once the base coat dried, he sprayed the dots and stripes and applied a wash to bring out the details. Pat chose not to apply any decal as many German tanks in Italy were devoid of markings because of heavy camouflage application.

After Pat dull-coated the entire model, he mixed acrylic paint, flat clear, and gator glue to attach all the final bits and pieces. "Ugly" was ready for the white elephant beauty contest.

Afterthoughts

Although Pat is happy how "Ugly" turned out (it won second in the contest), he confessed the plastic DML tracks were a pain to put together. If he had to do it all over and had the extra money, he would put a set of Fruil tracks on it.

I think Melissa and I would agree that "Ugly" should skip the teeth (tracks) upgrade and get a makeover instead! 

Eric





Cold War V-Bomber Flew at 2009 RIAT

During the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) at Fairford this year, the last airworthy Vulcan once again flew to the delight of thousands of spectators. As usual, ASMS member **Dennis Price** was there to snap these fantastic photos for us.

Built in 1960, XH558 served alongside Valiants and Victors that comprised the UK's V-bomber nuclear deterrent. Its massive airframe measures 97ft in length and 99ft in wingspan. The 42 ton (empty weight) subsonic bomber is manned by a five man crew, and it was capable of delivering one 400-kiloton nuclear bomb/missile or 21 1,000lb conventional bombs. The last and only combat action that XH558 took part in was the "Black Buck" bombing operations during the 1982 Falklands War. It flew 3,889 miles from Ascension Island in the middle of Atlantic to attack the airfield at Stanley on Falkland Island.

Before XH558's retirement in 1992, it was RAF's display aircraft. It was sold to a private company in 1993 and was kept in serviceable condition. The restoration project did not begin until 2006, and it cost over £2.5 million (\$41.4 million) of lottery fund, donations, and fundraising to make it fly again.

Due to engine life restriction and high fuel cost, the flight time for XH558 these days is limited to 50 hours per year. It currently relies solely on public funding for the cost of operating and maintaining the aircraft.

Editor





Plexiglas Display Case

by Milton Bell, IPMS #16702

(Editor: Here's a classic how-to from Milton on making a custom Plexiglas display case. It's fairly easy to build, and it will sure keep all those dust bunnies off your masterpieces.)

What do I need (besides a model to put into the case)?

You need a **PLAN**. And you need enough 1/8" Plexiglas for a top and four sides. It's embarrassing (and costly) to have the plexi cut and find that you mis-measured. Don't forget to deduct that 1/4" (twice 1/8") from the length of two of your opposite side pieces. And don't make the case too short for the model!

Where do I get Plexiglas?

There are several suppliers in the Austin area (e.g. **Austin Plastics & Supply, Regal Plastics, Interstate Plastics**). Check the Yellow Pages for the dealer nearest you. It's best to call first anyway to check on prices, etc.

Can't I cut the Plexiglas myself?

Yes, you can but you will need some extra tools and time. You can use a scribing tool or a special rotary saw blade to cut the pieces. You will then need to finish the edges with either a router or files.

What do I need to assemble the case?

I prefer Weld-On No.4, available at most plastic suppliers. Or just ask what the seller recommends. Then you will need a clean, level surface to work on and a few simple tools you probably have already. You will also need a triangle—or something with a right angle—that lets you align the pieces so the case will be square.



And you need something to apply the cement or solvent. A small paint brush works just fine or you can buy a special applicator from the dealer.

Any safety precautions I should be aware of?

The cement/solvent used to join the pieces is very volatile—it's hard to keep on the brush and it dries **FAST**—and it's not good for your health. Work in a ventilated area. The finished edges of the Plexiglas are sharp so be aware that cuts are possible.

When the case is finished, use a file to chamfer or bevel the edges to dull them. Pay attention to the sharp corners, too. If you accidentally spill a drop of solvent on the Plexiglas, **don't wipe it**. Let it evaporate, then go back and polish out the spot. The damage will be far less than wiping the softened plastic.

A Typical Plan For A Typical Plexiglas Display Case

Front and Back, 12" x 4"
(make 2)

Top of Case, 10" x 12"

End Pieces, 9-3/4" x 4"
(make 2)

(not to scale)

Material: 1/8" Plexiglas

Required: 1 Top Piece and 2 each Front/Back, and Ends

This case will work for most 1/48th single engine aircraft models of WWII era. For taller subjects, the 4" height may not be adequate but can easily be increased. For best results, the case should fit onto a 10"x12" base of 3/4" thick plywood or particle board with a 3/8"x1/8" rabbet. The effective height within the case is 3-5/8".

Milton

Austin Scale Model Show Highlights



Nice color on this Hawaii Kai hydroplane.



One of the 17 models entered by Richard Kern of the IPMS/Houston club: 1/72nd QT-33A.



Hawker Sea Fury in Dutch markings.



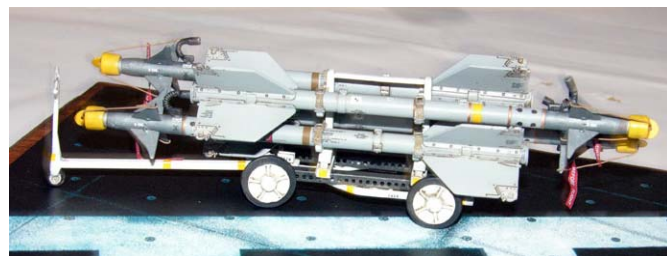
Another one of Richard Kern's entries: Hasegawa 1/72nd X-29A.



Trumpeter released their 1/32nd Swordfish Mk.I kit earlier this year, and someone has already wasted no time building one.



Bill Johnson's "GI Joe" scale (1/6th) .50cal machine gun.



Impressive 1/32nd USN AIM-9 Sidewinders by Ion Tesu.



The custom decal made this car model stand out from the rest.



Very nice weathering on this Tasca 1/35th Sherman III in British markings.



Seldom do we see WWI AFVs on the contest table. This beautiful Rolls-Royce armored car is Roden's latest 1/35th release.



Very nicely done 1/700th Victor III Class SSN.



Check out this beautifully painted Elf Archer.



"What are you looking at?" Tom Ferris' most excellent female warrior figure.



A nice makeover of the old Airfix 1/72nd Coastal Defense kit.



One of the many entries in the Triathlon category.



Kenny the lone trophy guardian?



The armor judges (left to right): Jorge Aduna, Lynn Julian, Bob Bethea, Russ Holm, and Tom Ferris.



Marc Hobbs manning the hugely successful make-and-take table.



Bondo Phil visiting with John Seaman and son.

Many thanks to Milton Bell and Bill Delk for taking all the contest photos for us.



Old Rumors & New Kits

Fall is in the air and before long many of our kitchens will be scenes of hurried preparation for a Thanksgiving Day dinner. I hope you and your family have a happy one.

Also, November marks the last month of the year for a regular business meeting. Our December meeting will be our annual dinner bash and our hosts this year will be Mike and Sally Kachoris. Many thanks to them for stepping in with the invitation.

I hope you are taking advantage of the weather to carry on with your model building. I'm trying to finish up a couple of projects; a B-25J and a navy version of Squadron's new Cessna Bobcat. I hope to have a review of the Cessna soon.

If you want to hear some rumors, go to one of the on-line model groups. A few days ago I saw a note about Polly Scale paints being discontinued. I didn't think much about it since there was no confirming or denying reply. But now, I'm afraid that the rumor is true. Rudy called the other day to say that the Polly Scale paints—in the green label—were indeed being discontinued. So, get 'em while you can.

Now, that hurts. Polly Scale paints were/are my favorites since they came premixed in most of the military colors I use. True, they could be a pain to airbrush, drying on the tip and being sensitive about how they were thinned but they dried quickly, dried hard, and looked great under a coat of Future. Perhaps they will expand the colors in their Model Master line to include some we are losing with Polly Scale.

There's a possibility that Airfix will announce some new products at the UK's Scale Model World at Telford. At the moment these are just rumors but who knows? First is a 1/72nd Vickers Valiant. Then there's something larger, a 1/24th BAE Hawk. Personally, I'd rather see one in 1/32nd but then it's a small airplane. You ship guys aren't left out. To fill out the rumor list there's a 1/350th *Dreadnought* and an *Ark Royal*, 1970's version.

So, what's in now? For starters, Revell-Monogram has reissued the venerable B-24D. This 1/48th scale kit has been around for a while. It's the only game in town and is a pretty good kit despite its raised details. It will cost you about \$30. Not bad.

Revell of Germany has a number of new kits. For aircraft modelers they have resurrected the old Matchbox 1/72nd kit of the PB4Y-2 Privateer. This kit actually can be built into a very convincing model. Revell of Germany has also released a 1/32nd glider kit of the Duo Discus which you can probably pair up with their earlier 1/32nd Super Cub. R of G has also released 1/144th Boeing 737-800.

R of G also has a new kit of a modern German tank destroyer. The Raketan *Jagdpanzer* Jaguar I is 1/72nd scale and judging from the art work, it looks good. Keeping with the smaller

theme, Italeri has a kit of the Autocannone 3RO, a WWII era Italian Lancia truck mounting an AA gun.

Italeri has also released a Spitfire Mk.IX that is also certainly a rebox of a previous kit. Haven't seen it so that's all I know.

Tamiya released a very nice looking Humvee last month, the latest in their 1/48th series. You've probably seen it. Just out is the pre-painted and finished M8 Light Armored Car. Not cheap but pretty.

Hobby Boss is releasing a 1/48th kit of the A-7B Corsair II. No idea of price but I bet it's more than my old reliable Hasegawa kit cost.

Squadron's Encore series of kits is showing a 1/32nd Fokker F.1 *Dreidecker* (Triplane) in the markings of Werner Voss. This has got to be a re-pop of the Roden kit. It's a pretty good deal for WWI modelers.

You probably have seen the new Trumpeter 1/48th F-100C. Sure is good to see a "Hun" in the "right" scale. The kit looks good in the box but future versions, if any, will probably require a new fuselage runner. Trumpeter has also released a 1/350th kit of the German Heavy Cruiser *Prinz Eugen*. Should be a nice kit but I've only seen the box art.

Eduard has "borrowed" some hardware from Airfix and released their version of the BAC Lightning Mk. 1A/Mk. 2. This is a limited release of a good kit made better with some Eduard PE and masks.


Williams Bros has a new boxing of their old but still good Douglas World Cruiser. This time you get all four aircraft and markings from *The World Flight of 1924*.

Speaking of oldies, Revell is bringing back the old 1/32nd Hurricane Mk. I. This early version of the Hurricane builds into a good looking model.

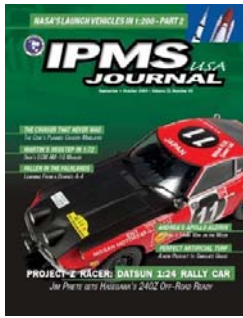
Four new books caught my attention this month. First are two books on Soviet air power by Yefim Gordon. *Soviet Air Power in WWII* covers all types of aircraft used by the Soviets. The other is *Soviet Strategic Aviation in the Cold War* and is very similar in layout to the volume on WWII.

The third book is from Classic Publications and is on the English Electric Lightning by Tim McClelland. Looks like a very handy reference work for RAF fans.

The last one is on the Heinkel He 162 and appears to be one of the most complete collection of reference material on the *Volksjager*. All four are hardcover.

That's about all I have for this month. Don't forget to bring something to the meeting Tuesday. See you then. 

MB



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal
 September/October 2009
 Volume 21, Issue 5

- **Grassroots Modeling** — One way to give your diorama perfect turf, by Mike Fleckenstein;
- **Martin's Mediocrity** — Crafting the ill-starred AM-1Q Mauler from Siga's 1/72nd kit, by David Geldmaoher;
- **One 54mm Step for Man...** — Building Buzz Aldrin from Andrea's Apollo astronaut figure, by Rick Jackson;
- **Z Force** — Making Hasegawa's 1/24th 240Z rally racer road ready, by Jim Priete;
- **Rockets to the Final Frontier, Part 2** — Mercury Redstone to the Shuttle: Six 1/200th US launch vehicles, by Mike J. Idacavage;
- **The Best Laid Plans** — Scratch-building a Russian cruiser-minelayer project in 1/700th, by Vladimir Yakubov;
- **Visiting a Fallen Falkland Skyhawk** — The short combat history and loss of A-4B C-215, by Adam Coleman;

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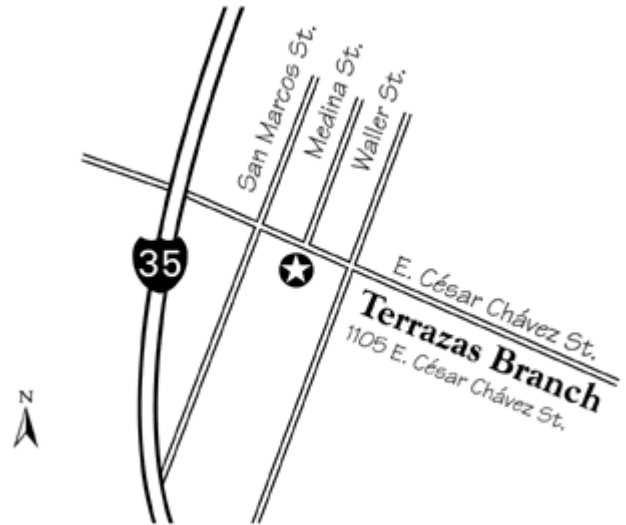
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Next Meeting:
November 10th, 2009
at
Austin Terrazas Library
(1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street)



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