



SPRUE EXAMINER



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Rescue Hot Rod P-40

By Tim Robb, IPMS 34705

What do you do with an Otaki 1/48th P-40 when a newer more accurate kit is released? I had three or four of these old kits, and that was the question when the new Hasegawa kit was released. The Otaki kit suffers from a lack of detail by current standards and from inaccurate shape by any standard.

So what do you do with them? You could give them to neighborhood kids, and that would be a good choice. It is also still a good teaching tool for a scale model 101 class so I invited a few non modeler friends over for some modeling lessons and we started the P-40s. It is fine for introducing basic modeling techniques like putting parts together with liquid cement, seam filling, learning to use an airbrush, canopy masking, etc. And in the process we used up the P-40 kits I had no desire to build any longer as serious scale

models. Also in the process some of the class dropped out and I ended up with an orphan model lying around taking up space on my workbench. So I decided to finish it and paint it up in a wild scheme for fun. You could say it's a "rescue" model.

I work with some hot rod buffs, and their enthusiasm for muscle cars led me to choose the flame job scheme. After some further thought, I came up with "What if Ed 'Big Daddy' Roth were in charge of P-40 camo?"

When I was a kid building a Hawk P-47 razorback and wanted to spray paint it instead of brush paint it, the only green spray paint at my local T.G.&Y. store was Testors' metal Flake Green. I knew it wasn't O.D. and therefore was wrong, but I used it anyway. I have always remembered that metal Flake Green P-47 so I selected the metal Flake Green over the Silver Pearl "camo" scheme. To make it a hot rod, I added the flames on the engine cowling that is shaded from white to

(Continued on page 4)

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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

IPMS/El Paso, Annual Bassett Place Mall Display, El Paso, TX	August 14
IPMS/HAMS, Fifth Annual Model Car Show & Contest, Spring, TX	August 20
IPMS/Fort Worth, SuperCon 2011, Arlington, TX	September 10
IPMS/NSM, AutumnCon 2011, Hammond, LA	September 17
IPMS/ASMS, Austin Scale Model Show	September 24
IPMS/CASM, 11th Annual Sproo-Doo Model Show, Jacksonville, AR	October 1
IPMS/Air Capital Modelers, ConAir 2011, Wichita, KA	October 15
Austin Armor Builders Society, Centex Regional 2011, Austin, TX	October 22

Local Club Meetings

Lone Star Military Miniatures Society, Shady Hollow Community Center	August 13
Centex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, TX	August 18
Austin Armor Builders Society, APL Old Quarry Branch	September 7

Other Events

WWII Re-enactments, National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum), Fredericksburg, TX	September 3-4
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Support Our Troops!

The Iraq Model Network is an initiative for providing model kits, supplies, and reference materials to our service men and women serving in the combat zones of Iraq.

Any individual, chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please visit the IPMS/USA website (www.ipmsusa.org) and click on the Support The Troops page link.

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the second Thursday of each month except for December. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family). The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Message from the Prez...

**Tim Robb
President**

Greetings fellow modelers,

As this newsletter arrives, several of us will have just returned from Nationals. If this isn't you, let me encourage you to attend a national convention in the coming years. It's a great time. Everybody is in good spirits. There are lots of outstanding models to see. The vender room is awesome. There is a full two-day slate of seminars to choose from as well as local attractions.

In Austin, we have our own upcoming events to be excited about. The summer picnic will begin at noon on August 27 at the Johnston home outside of Georgetown.

Map and directions to follow, and our show is fast approaching on September 24 at the Norris Conference Center. Please plan on attending both events.

See you at the August meeting. Bring a model and a friend! 🐦



♥♥♥ Page Three Girl ♥♥♥



Photos do not do justice to Gilbert Moreno's amazing Female Fighter Anushka in 25mm (Reaper Miniatures). 🐦

Insert Ben's Speech Here...

As the sun sinks slowly in the West, we are once again remind of the tremendous job that Eric Choy has done for our club as the newsletter editor. My hope is to able to emulate that effort. Later in this newsletter Eric takes a few moments to reflect on the "top job" that was truly well-done. As I assume the duties of editor I trust that you will show me the same level of unconditional support that you bestowed upon Eric. Might I also add some unending patience would be welcomed, as well!

During my brief tenure as editor-in-training I have had occasion to witness the fire drill that can be the newsletter. Whilst I am not Chinese, I do speak a little Japanese.

If I can do it, so can you! 🐦

Ben

P.S. Your erstwhile editor is always on the lookout for the odd article or missive about modeling for inclusion in your newsletter. Go forth and write something.

Quarterly Contest Schedule by Ron McCracken, Vice-President

Just a reminder our club's quarterly contests will be held on the last months of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for the rest of 2011:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
September 8	non themenominational
December (Date TBA)	White Elephant



(Continued from page 1)



yellow to orange to deep red. Plus white wall tires, of course.

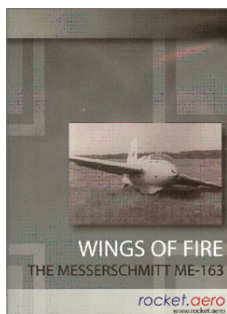
The colors on the model are all air brushed free hand with enamels. The metal Flake Green is Testors' little bottle. The Silver Pearl is silver mixed with a little white. The gold on the tail is also Testors' from the little bottle.

The flame decals are from a Revell 1949 Mercury kit. The gloss finish is about ten coats of Future that was allowed to dry and harden for a week and then polished out smooth. Then the decals were applied and covered with another five or six coats of Future. It was then



polished out again before applying one final coat of Future.

Go build a model! Invite friends to join you! Have fun!



rocket.aero

Wings of Fire

The Messerschmitt ME-163

USD \$19.95 + shipping

Available at www.rocket.aero

Reviewed by Roderick Bell

As the title suggests, the subject of this DVD video is the Messerschmitt Me.163 "Komet." It was not a traditional aircraft of its time as it was the first rocket powered fighter in the world. Its landing gear was jettisoned after takeoff, and the plane became a glider after the fuel was expended.

The DVD has the following four sections:

- Me.163 Overview
- Me.163 Development
- Early German Rocketry
- Bonus Features

Me.163 Overview

This section actually has two subsections: Overview and Modeler's Notes. The Overview subsection shows videos starting with early rocket engines that helped create the

"Komet." Then it goes into discussing the A version, which was an evaluation variant.

The B version of the Me.163 is the combat version of the rocket plane. The idea was to launch ahead of the incoming bombers and rapidly rise to the Allied aircraft altitude to make two attack passes against the bombers. German scientists determined each Me.163B had only eight minutes of combat time per flight. This limited the amount of combat time it can accumulate. Between eight and 16 Allied bombers were shot down by the "Komet;" not an impressive combat record. If the European war lasted six to twelve months longer, the Me.263 would have been operational with a rocket engine that would allow longer combat times as well as retractable landing gears.

The emphasis of the video is not on the contribution of the plane to the *Luftwaffe* but to military aviation after the war. The subsection contains a wealth of actual test flights and combat camera footage.

In the Modeler's Notes subsection it shows the exact same video in the overview subsection except for the voiceover discussion of modeling the Me.163A, Me.163B, and Me.263 in various scales by producer James Duffy. There

is a lot of good information on the different kits, and he lists the pros and cons of each one of them. My only disappointment with this section is that it would be nicer to see the images of the kits, box arts, completed models, etc than the same footage again.

Me.163 Development

This section of the DVD has four subsections: Me.163A Testing, Me.163B Testing, Engine Testing and Catapult Testing. In the Me.163A Testing subsection producer James Duffy narrates and shows a lot of the videos of the unpowered flight of the Me.163A. Me.110 was the normal tow plane during development. The "Komet" is a well-performed glider after its fuel had expended. Please note that Germany was the leader in non-powered flight (gliders) during the 1920's and 1930's.

Most of the Me.163A sported a yellow high gloss finish. Apparently the Germans thought this finish could enhance the performance of the aircraft.

Two major issues of the Me.163 were pointed out: the jettison of the landing gear (they had a tendency of bouncing back up from the ground hitting the plane and damaging it) and the rocket plume trail (the Me.163 was not a stealthy aircraft; you could see it coming from miles away, and it relied on its speed to overcome this concern). A lot of Me.163 take-off shots are included in this subsection.

Most of the testing of Me.163B, the combat version, were conducted in the middle of 1944. The climb rate of the aircraft was outstanding; it could go from ground level to 40,000 feet within 3.5 minutes! Once back on the ground, the issue was how to move the aircraft back to the hanger. The Germans devised an interim solution using airbags that inflate under the wings to lift up the aircraft so it could be hauled off the airfield by a towing vehicle. A ridged arms mechanism was intended to be put in service to replace the airbags. The propeller on the ME-163B generates electrical power from a generator to power instruments and radios.



The Engine Testing subsection shows that Hellmut Walter's hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) based engine research was done prior to the war, and during the war he even experimented with it as the power plant to a submarine! The V80 U-boat was successfully tested, but the fuel was too costly to produce and too dangerous to store aboard. T-Stuff, Z-Stuff, and C-Stuff were examples of the propellants used in Walter's Cold and Hot engines developed specifically for rocket engines.

The Catapult Testing subsection is about the concept of rocket powered rail-based launching system. A couple of cool crashes of balsa mockups are shown, even though the catapult turned out to be a viable solution. The project was eventually cancelled as building the infrastructure to launch the Me.163's proved too costly. The launch rails also make excellent targets for Allied Bombers and Fighters.

Early German Rocketry

The last section, Early German Rocketry, concentrates on Reinhold Tiling, Max Valier and Fritz von Opel. There is some neat footage of launches made by Reinhold Tiling and his rocket enthusiasts. They are very similar to contemporary hobby rocketry in present day. Tiling, his assistant, and his girlfriend appear in this footage. Sadly all three were killed in an accident while working on the rockets.

Cat lovers might want to skip the Max Valier and Fritz von Opel subsection. Frederick Sanders, a colleague of Valier and von Opel, decided to make his cat a passenger in his rocket rail car. As you might have guessed it exploded along with the cat's nine lives. Michael Vick has nothing on this guy!



Bonus Features

The Bonus Features section contains US Army Air Corps Me.163 briefing film, gun camera film #1 and #2, and more Me.163 still photographs. These are all worthy additions to this DVD.

Conclusion

This is an interesting video. If you enjoy WWII German aircraft, I would recommend it to you. Cat lovers might want to fast-forward over the part about Sanders' cat.

Many thanks to James Duffy at Rocket Aero for providing this video to the club. Please note that all images shown here are from the DVD and are used for review purpose only. ✈

Rod

Old Rumors & New Kits

Milton Bell
IPMS #16702

Greetings to all you crazy modelers! Another IPMS/USA National Convention is over. Well, actually not since I'm writing this BEFORE I leave for Omaha but by next meeting time it will all be history and I won't have time later. I'm sure I had a good time and had fun, ate too much, met a lot of new people, and probably spent too much money.

Next month, we'll have a wrap up of the Omaha Show and perhaps some word about new products and a first look at some of the test shots. To tell the truth, that's one of my favorite parts of these big shows. And there will be a lot of vendors who represent that part of the hobby referred to as "garage" companies. I expect to see some new resin parts and get a feel for new ideas.

For now, I must stick with what's actually available or will be soon. (Unless it's a nice rumor). That long expected 1/32nd P-51D is actually on the shelves now. I noticed that our favorite LHS had a special deal if you wanted to "pre-order." It was a good deal if that big scale Mustang is your latest must have project. I love the look of the kit in the box. The detail and design of the kit is stunning but it's just not my scale. I buy a few 1/32nd kits but have a lot of trouble finishing them. Someday, maybe.



Now that the new Mustang is out, Roy Suhterland's Baracuda Studios, one of the major resin detail producers' is making resin sidewall details, mixed media instrument panels and some very nice decals. In fact, he is to have all this available at Omaha. That decal sheet has markings for five very popular Mustangs.



A few months ago Roden released a very well received 1/48th Beechcraft UC-43 Staggerwing. Now they are releasing their second version, a GB-2 Staggerwing that comes with markings for several users. I'm sure it's just as good as the original and if you are a Staggerwing fan, you will have to check it out.

Dragon has a number of new armor kits in 1/72nd scale including a real rarity: an IJN amphibious tank. This kit

does not contain all the flotation devices but if you want to model one that was used on Saipan, you have it with Type 2 Ka-Mi tank. Dragon has a couple more subjects that I found interesting and are supposed to be new tools. There's the IJA 95 Ha-Go Light Tank which is an interesting little beast. Then for something a bit bigger, there's the SdKfz.181 Tiger I, early production version.

Dragon is also showing a 1/400th C-5B Galaxy. Seems like an odd scale but considering the size of the real thing, it may be just right.



Airfix has their new 1/72nd Vickers Valiant on the shelves and it's a really nice looking kit. Their latest release is a Seafire F.XVII in 1/48th and the price is under \$30, no mean achievement in today's market. For those not familiar with the type, this is a late bubble top variant of the venerable Spitfire.

For Sci-Fi fans, especially if you are addicted to Battlestar Galactica, you might be interested in the Mobius 1/32nd kit of the Colonial Viper Mk VII.



In the event that you missed Revell's wonderful little PT-boat that I first saw when I was a kid, you have another chance. This time it's *not* the PT-109 but PT-176 in a new scheme. Not a bad kit for first time boat builders and a great starting point for serious modelers.



Revell has also released a 1/144th scale kit of the Tu-95 Bear. Not sure which version it is but if you want to build the big Tupolov, this is the best scale unless you have lots of room.



Revell also has a neat looking piece of 1/35th modern armor, the Wiesal 2 LeFlaSys AFF which is on the shelves now. No reports on it but the box art is pretty nice.

That's about all I have at the moment. Now that Tamiya has finally released what appears to be the "ultimate"

Mustang P-51D kit, the big question is what will they do next? Some want a good P-51B in 1/32nd. Others want Tamiya to scale up their fine Corsair kit. What would you like?

Since I don't usually "do" 1/32nd, I'd like to see some new 1/72nd kits such as the P-51B/C or A6M5 Zero.

Sorry it's short this month but time is running out. Ben Morton is doing the newsletter now, so don't forget to help him out with a modeling article or two.

August is our annual "Picnic and Auction" month. Be sure to mark you calendars for August 27th. See you Thursday and don't forget to bring something for the table. 🐦



Farewell For Now

by Eric Choy, Ex-Editor

Every chapter in a book has an ending. My chapter as the editor for this fine publication ends with last issue of the *Sprue Examiner*. Starting this month, fellow member **Ben Morton** will be taking over the top job as your editor-in-chief.

As you all are aware, I have already announced my intention to depart my editorship at the beginning of this year. I stayed on the job for the last seven months to ensure that a new editor could be found and that the transition would be as smooth as possible. I believe I have now achieved my goals. The club is very lucky to have Ben willing to take up where I left off. I'm confident that he can carry this newsletter to yet another new plateau for ASMS. Please give him the same unconditional support that you all have given me over the years.



There are so many people to whom I want to express my gratitude for helping me to do my job for the last five years. First and foremost are **Milton and Martha Bell**. Without their patience and guidance, I would never have been able to complete a sentence let alone achieve the impossible and brought IPMS/USA's top honor to ASMS. I shall forever be grateful to them for taking me under their wings and considering me as a friend.

I would also like to thank those individuals who regularly contributed their articles and photos to this newsletter, in particular "**Bondo**" **Phil Brandt**, **Tim Robb**, **Floyd Werner, Jr.**, and **Dennis Price**. They are the real heroes

of this newsletter. I deeply appreciate the trust they put in me even when they knew I had the tendency to butcher their articles and artwork. We are so fortunate that they let us share their work with everyone out there who reads our monthly rants.

And then there are my pardners in crime: **Rusty**, **Bobby**, **Paddy**, and **Roddy**. No last name is necessary, and no detail is needed. I luv you guys (erm... not that kind of love)!

If there is one thing that I have learned during my time as your editor, it is that we are all capable of writing something about this wonderful hobby of ours. I'm probably the worst modeler and writer amongst you all. Yet I have no shame in giving my two-cents' worth month after month. What's your excuse for not scribbling a page or two on the project you are working on or just finished? Just remember you can't possibly do any worse than Eric, and you'll find writing your article is much easier than you thought.

Now that I'm a "free" man, will that be the end of my association with this newsletter? Absolutely not. I shall continue my support of this fine publication as a regular contributor, and I intend to keep on moaning and groaning with my articles, reviews, and photos of everyone's masterpieces. You will see it's not that easy to get rid of me. I AM the Chinese in this monthly Chinese fire drill of ours!

Cheers, mates! 🐦

Eric


Tales From The Other Side

By Ben Morton, Editor

As the editor-in-training I've been added to an e-mail list that receives the newsletters of the other IPMS clubs around the country and in some cases the world — New Zealand to be exact.

It's fun and educational reading. The focus of the other IPMS chapters is, as you might imagine, as broad as the modeling community is wide. In an effort to be more

inclusive and to possibly broaden the scope of our little missive, I thought to occasionally share some of those ideas and articles.

This first article is from **Gamecocks Gazette**, the newsletter of **IPMS/Gamecocks** based out of Sumter-Shaw AFB in Sumter, South Carolina. This fine publication is the recipient of the 2010 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year Award. With the kind permission of their editor, Wes Macon, off we go! 

Ben

Toothpaste Paint Masking

For those who may not need to brush so much



Masking off splinter camouflage patterns is always tricky. Getting a hard demarcation between colors using tape is almost impossible with small parts in the way. Well here is a low cost way to reproduce a scheme that gives the look your after, without breaking any parts, and the added benefit of making your model smell and taste good too. (2 out of 3 dentist approved this method)

Start with your base coat, in this case I used the *Wehrmacht* desert yellow. Using a medium size brush apply a generous amount of toothpaste. (Any cheap brand will do.) If the toothpaste is runny due to excess water, use a Q-Tip to wipe it away, then spray your next color.



After the paint has dried, apply your next coat of toothpaste masking. Clean the edges with a Q-Tip if needed and spray the final color.



After it's dry place model under the tap and run warm water across the surface till all of the toothpaste has been flushed away.....hum minty fresh.

Now let dry and recheck for any residue. Continue to wash with warm water until clean.

The model of the 1/35 Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer consumed about a quarter of a tube of toothpaste. Purchased from a dollar store equates to .25 cents of masking used on the model. Happy savings....and a fresh smelling model too!

Editor note: For this example I used enamel paints, for anyone using acrylics try it on a test part, make sure it will not wash off with the rinsing before moving on.





In the latest issue of...

IPMS/USA Journal

May/June 2011
Volume 23, Issue 3

- **IPMS/USA 2011 Elections** - Candidate bios and CB&L Amendments
- **My Mates Will Sort It Out** - A Mk.IV Female take Center Stage in a WWI Vignette, by Mike Fleckenstein
- **Eyes of the Hunter** - Converting the Revell 1:72 Hunter F.6 to the FR.10, by David Geldmacher
- **The Halcyon Days of Modeling** - Part II, by Dick Enger
- **Fantastic Friedrich** - Finishing ICM's Bf.109F-4 as Gunther Lutzow's Fighter, by James Kell
- **The Haunted Tank** - Combining Moebius' Confederate Raider and Tamiya's M3, by Brad Hair
- **Nemo's Nautilus** - Scratchbuilding Disney's version of the Jules Verne Submarine, by Dan Thompson
- **Admiral Popov's Unique Namesake** - Building NNT's 1:700 Russian Round Ironclad, by Vladimir Yakubov
- **Cylon Silencer** - Moebius' new Battlestar gets a makeover as Atlantis, by Brad Hair

And much, much more!

By Modelers
— For Modelers®



Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas as a local chapter of IPMS/UK in 1964, there are now IPMS branches all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive **The IPMS Journal** six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer **discounts** to IPMS/USA members.

To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to www.ipmsusa.org and click **Join IPMS/USA!**

For any questions or problems regarding your membership application or renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney at manager@ipmsusa.org.

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Adult: \$25 Junior (17 years old or younger): \$12 DOB: _____
 Canada & Mexico: \$30 Other Foreign: \$32 Foreign Air Mail: \$55
 Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: __)
 If recommended by an IPMS member,
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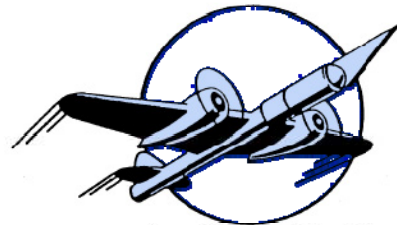
Next Meeting:

August 11th, 2011

at

Austin Old Quarry Library
(7051 Village Center Drive)

7PM to 8:45PM



ASMS

2011 Austin Scale Model Show

Saturday Sept. 24, 2011

Norris Conference Center

2525 West Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas

Show Theme:
Any subject that
existed in 1941!

