

2011 IPMS/USA Website of the Year

2010 IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Region 6 Website of the Year



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**Something a bit different:
A Box Diorama
“Somewhere Near Roswell,
New Mexico, 1947
By Bill Delk, IPMS 35227**

This is only my second time attempting to build a box diorama. If you were at our show, I'm sure you saw it. It was probably the only one there unless there is someone else out there that loves a challenge. It's a way to tell a small story or set a mood to a scene. It also gives you the chance to try a few new things, such as carpentry, scenery creation, electronics, and wiring. It is basically a box within a box fronted with a picture frame and a three dimensional picture.

The procedure used to be rather difficult and hazardous as you had to work with 120 volts, voltage step down transformers and incandescent bulbs. Now with the availability of Light Emitting Diodes (LED's) in virtually any color including ultra violet (black light) and various stages of brightness, the possibilities are endless. Most of the voltage used in projects can be nine volts and under. This build used an old cell phone charger that put out five volts. As long as you don't exceed the milliamp rating of the power supply by using

too many LED's everything should go together fairly easily. LED's draw on average about 30 milliamps each.

The model build was straightforward using the "Pegasus" "Alpha Centauri UFO Short Range Saucers" from Pegasus Hobbies. Colors are to your taste. The kit goes together with a minimum of difficulty.



I had purchased one kit myself that contained two ships and received another single ship at Wonderfest during a class I took there. The only modifications I made to the ships were the addition of four LED's to, two of the ships to give them some animation. All of my LED's were obtained from www.superbrightleds.com I used three Red, Green, Blue (RGB) color changing LED's in each

(Continued on page 4)

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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

ConAir 2011 Model Show & Contest , IPMS/Air Capital Modelers, Wichita, Kansas	October 15
Austin Armor Builders Society, Centex Regional 2011, Austin, Texas	October 22

Local Club Meetings

Centex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, TX	October 20
Austin Armor Modelers Society, Austin Public Library, Old Quarry Branch , Austin, Texas	November 9

Other Events

Wings Over Houston Airshow, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas	October 15-16
Pioneer Flight Museum, Fly-In & Picnic, Kingsbury, Texas	November 12
El Paso Veteran's Day Show & Display Event (display only), El Paso, Texas	November 13



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.

ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2011-12

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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,

Many thanks to all who participated in putting on the Austin Show this year. I'm sure we will have some lively discussion of the show at the meeting this week. We can all feel proud of this year's success as we start working toward making next year even better. Congratulations, especially to Eric. I'll see you all Thursday.

Bring a model and bring a friend!

**2011 IPMS/USA Election Results**

By Dick Montgomery

The results of the 2011 IPMS Election are now official. You can view a list of the newly elected officers and a list of the Write-In recipients at <http://www.ipmsusa.org/>. Once on the home page just click the link that says [Executive Board and Amendment Ballot Results – 2011](#).

The membership overwhelmingly approved of *Amendment 2011-01 (Ron Bell)* and the newly revised Constitution and Bylaws can be viewed at <http://ipmsusa.org/MemberServices/CBL.htm>. This amendment was very important and a big "thanks" goes out to all who voted on this issue.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers. A special note of appreciation goes to Jorge Mustafa, who was running for the office of Director of Local Chapters. Jorge stepped up and accepted the responsibility of running a public, friendly, and fair campaign. Jorge is currently the Regional Coordinator for Region 13 and that region remains in his very capable hands. The newly elected officers will assume their responsibilities on Nov 1st.

They are:

President: **Dick Christ**1st Vice President: **Steve Collins**2nd Vice President: **Mike Ronnau**Director of Local Chapters: **Larry Randel**Secretary: **Dick Montgomery**Historian/Publication Director: **Jim Pearsall****Quarterly Contest Schedule**by Ron McCracken,
Vice-President

Just a reminder our club's quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for the remainder of 2011.

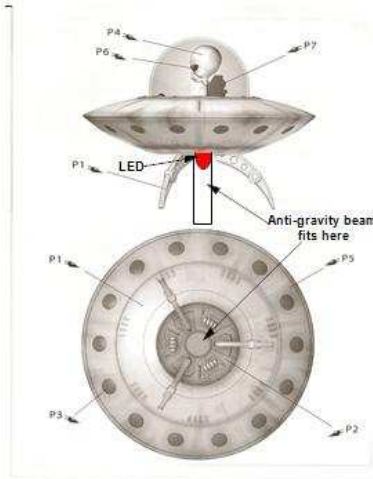
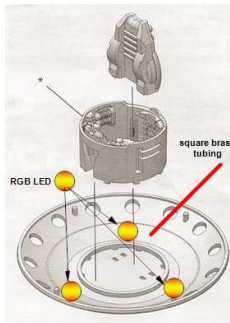
<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
December (Date T.B.A.)	White Elephant

Monthly Program Schedule

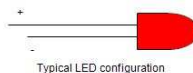
<i>Month</i>	<i>Who/Subject</i>
October	Jeff Forester History of the Nike Missile System
November	Bruce Burden T.B.A.
December	Holiday Party White Elephant Contest

(Continued from page 1)

saucer placed around the inside around the cockpit opening and tacked down with a clear silicon rubber sealer. The RGB LED's come in two configurations, slow blink and fast blink and work from 3 volts DC to about 6 volts. I drilled out a hole in the center of the bottom of each saucer and mounted a 4000 mcd (millicandle, a measure of brightness) high bright, white LED in the hole secured with five minute clear epoxy. When it was dry I painted over the flat portion of the LED to prevent any light from coming up into the cockpit. I had some round clear acrylic rod that I had purchased several years ago from a local plastics dealer that fit into the indentation on the bottom of the saucer. I drilled out the center portion of the rod to fit over the LED and after rough sanding the rod to make it semi-transparent, I epoxied it to the bottom of the saucer to simulate an "anti-gravity" beam.



Most LED's require the addition of a resistor on the positive side to prevent too much current from destroying the device. This resistor will be added later



during the wiring process. The positive lead of the LED is typically the longest lead. I had purchased some telescoping square brass tubing from the hobby shop and drilled and filed a hole in the rear of the saucer and epoxied this rod into the ship to run the wiring through and to enable me to mount the saucer later in the scene.

The RGB LED's are wired like this...

I drew up plans on a sheet of graph paper with five squares per inch for the box to figure out how big to make the box and to determine how much plywood I would need. Your box will be different and will be dependant on the size of the model, the scale of the scene, and the size of the picture frame you want to use for the front. Once I had the size down I drew the plans onto the dimensions of a half sheet of plywood, and had one of the staff at Lowes make the cuts for me as I don't have a table saw to do it myself.



I took the drawing with me so the person who used the saw could see what I needed. Once I had all the pieces, I assembled the outside box by gluing, drilling pilot holes and nailing it together.

Once it was dry I puttied, sanded and stained the box. Next I added a rear door with some hinges and a hasp to keep it closed. This will allow access later. Several small blocks of half inch by two inch wood were glued to the floor of the box for support and two more glued to the top and bottom of the box, flush with the front face to help with alignment of the frame later on. A small hole was drilled in the top and bottom block and a small nail was cut and glued into the hole, point out. These will match up with holes drilled into the frame to help with alignment when the frame is added. Most of the instructions for the building of the box are contained in a "Fine Scale Modeler" publication, now unfortunately out of print, called "The Art of The Diorama" by Ray Anderson. It is still available through internet sources and fairly reasonable in price.

Next came the interior framework for the scenery. I used a half inch thick piece of plywood for the bottom and some more for the sides and fixed it so it would fit within the outer box. I scrounged a piece of plastic packing foam from the trash and cut it with a saw so it tapered up from front to back about an inch. I covered it with some crushed newspaper and tape and proceeded to layer on a thin coat of "Amaco Sculptamold" and let it dry overnight I had to add several other layers on to obtain the feature I wanted, but the sculptamold blends into itself fairly seamlessly. After it dried, I used artists oils, burnt umber, burnt sienna, and black thinned with "Turpenoid" to make a thin wash and brushed this over the sculptamold to resemble earth tones. I went out in the yard and woods looking for suitable substitutes for anything looking like it might fit in with the scenery I was looking to recreate. I added this sparingly so as not to overwhelm the models. After finishing the plant life, I drilled several holes in the scenery and through the wood sides and epoxied the next larger size of brass tubing so I could slide the wiring and the tubing glued into the saucers to mount the models in a hovering configuration.

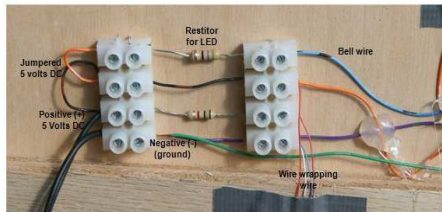


The wiring came next. I used wire wrapping wire to fit through the brass tubing as it was very thin. I got mine from Radio Shack. You might want to purchase a wire wrapping tool to get the insulation stripper that comes with it. I had some terminal strips with screw down attachment holes and ran the wiring to them instead of soldering them all together.

This makes it easier to make modifications or additions later on if necessary. You also need to test the connections as you go along to make sure everything works as you complete each step. I used a hot glue gun to mount the wires as I ran them to the terminal strips. I looked through my hoard of wall warts power supplies gleaned from various cell phone chargers and other things that used them and found one that provided five volts DC (direct current). This met my needs perfectly.

After determining which wire was the positive and negative side and attaching it to the terminal strips. I ran copper bell wire to another strip and jumpered the power to several spots to hook up the LED's

The RGB LED's needed five volts so they were directly wired. The high brightness and ultra-violet LED's required a resistor to protect them. There are several websites that provide a handy LED resistance calculator. You can obtain the parameters you need to input for the calculator from the LED spec sheets you can print out from the superbrightleds website. Once everything was wired up I plugged in the wall wart and made sure everything worked. Unfortunately the high bright LED's for the anti-gravity beams were too bright but a quick resistor change to larger value took care of the problem. I had added a crossbeam to my interior scenery box to provide some stiffness to the sides and to this I drilled two small holes and fitted an 18000 mcd high brightness White LED into the holes and soldered some bell wire to the leads, then ran the wires to a terminal strip and connected them to the strip with a suitable resistor on the positive side. This LED was to provide illumination to the backdrop of the diorama.



I had painted the aliens eyes and the saucer controls with glow in the dark paint and was going to light them up with the black light LED, but it was impossible to get a good angle to fluoresce the paint. I was able to get the standing alien's eyes to glow by placing the UV LED in the front of the scene and hot gluing it into place. This gave me a few seconds to orient the LED before the glue hardened. I hid the LED by gluing a rock over the top and ran the connecting wires up to the terminal strip and protected by another resistor. I plugged in the power and made sure all the LED's worked and then added the backdrop.

The backdrop is an image of mountains and a large rising moon I had found on the internet. I Googled images of "desert moon" and quite a few showed up. I found one I liked and downloaded the image. I had originally thought to backlight the image by using a large transparency, but after testing it turned out to be not as I had expected. I would have had to add a small fluorescent fixture in order for it to light up, but



there was not enough room in the case and would have probably been too bright. I wound up printing the picture on my color printer and mounting it with spray adhesive to a piece of foam core board. This was then trimmed to press fit into the case behind the scene. Turning the LED's back on I adjusted the LED to light up the backdrop.

Finishing off the box, I added the frame to which had been completed with a piece of glass and a matt called a reveal to restrict the viewing angle. The frame was attached with four magnetic cabinet door latches. I drilled a small hole in the side of the box, ran the power supply wires into the hole and connected the power to the terminal strip, making sure everything worked and that finished it off. As a small joke I had to add Alien technology that has turned up recently in the current market with a different but similar name. I called this communications device an 'i-com'. I added a few dots of glow in the dark paint to a scaled down picture of an i-phone that lit up with the black light.



Source of materials:

King's Hobby— kit, sculptamold, and model paints
 Hobby Lobby/Michaels— oil paints, turpenoid thinner,
 frame, glass and Matt, glow in the dark paint,
 Lowes— wood, nails, wood glue and hardware
www.superbrightleds.com— LED's
 Radio Shack— wire wrapping tool, bell wire, terminal strips,
www.led.linear1.org— LED resistor calculator

Bill

Car Show in San Marcos, Texas



Tim Robb and Mike Poole attended the 4th Annual Car Show in San Marcos on October 1st. The event was held at the Calvary Baptist Church in San Marcos. Tim noted that everything was free. Our intrepid representatives even dined on hot dogs for lunch. Tim also reports that a good time was had by all. Our club was invited back next year to provide a modeling experience for the real things and to hopefully garner some new members. Enjoy the photos. 🛩️

Ben





**Captured Eagles:
German WWII aircraft captured by the Allies**
By Floyd S. Werner, Jr.

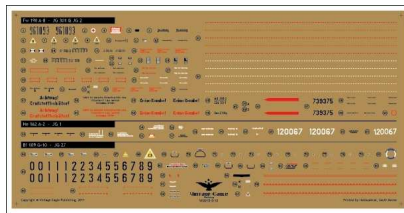
Released in conjunction with the book, "Captured Eagles: German WWII Aircraft Capture by the Allies" these decals cover four different aircraft. The decals are quite unique in offering both dry transfer and water slide decals.



The instructions are some of the best I've ever seen. They are included in a 10 page full color instruction booklet printed on high quality paper. The four aircraft are shown on the first two pages. This is

followed by up to four pages of individual aircraft stencils and markings. Two pages explain the dry transfer and water slide decal procedures. The last two pages have the top and bottom views of the aircraft.

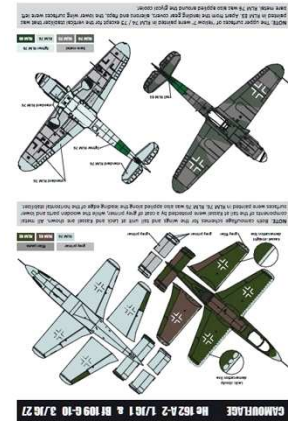
The decals themselves are unique with both a sheet of dry transfers and water slide decals being offered. The dry transfer decals are printed by Hobbydecal of South Korea. The dry transfer includes the stencils primarily as well as the aircraft serial numbers. They should prove easy enough to use. I especially liked the wing walk areas which are thin.



The water slide decals are printed by Cartograf. They are printed in register and with good color saturation. The Cartograf decals have individual aircraft markings and the German crosses. Swastikas are included where they are allowed.

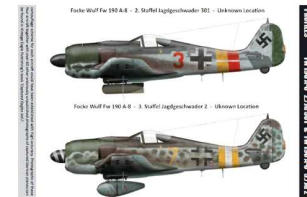
The first aircraft is a He-162A-2 from 1./JG1 "white 4". This is a typical He-162 with RLM 81 and 82 over RLM 76.

The next aircraft is a Bf-109G-10 from 3./JG27. This aircraft sports an upper surface camouflage of RLM 74/75 and 83 with a bare metal and two tones RLM 76 bottom. The aircraft has a green RVD band as well as a "Yellow 7" painted over a previously over painted number.



A Fw-190A-8 from 2./JG301 has a fairly standard paint scheme of RLM 74/75/76. The power egg and rudder are painted in RLM 83 which will add some flare to the paint scheme. The yellow and red RVD band on "Red 3" adds a flash of color.

The final aircraft is "Yellow 7" from 3./JG2. Being from JG2 the aircraft sports the yellow/white/yellow RVD band and mottling that is more of a spot type application. The aircraft is painted in RLM70/81/82 over a two tone RLM 76 and bare metal bottom. The airplane is carrying a bomb.



The decal set up of dry transfer and water slide decals is unique but it should provide a great looking model. You will have a hard time finding a better instruction booklet. The selection of aircraft will be of interest to most modelers. Overall this is a great first release from **Vintage Eagle**. When used in conjunction with the book these decals are a first class affair. Well done **Vintage Eagle**.

Thanks to **Vintage Eagle** for the review copy. You can obtain your copy by contacting them at www.vintageeagle.com. Let them know you heard it from me and from here.

Floyd

2011 Austin Scale Model Show Report

By Eric Choy, Show Coordinator

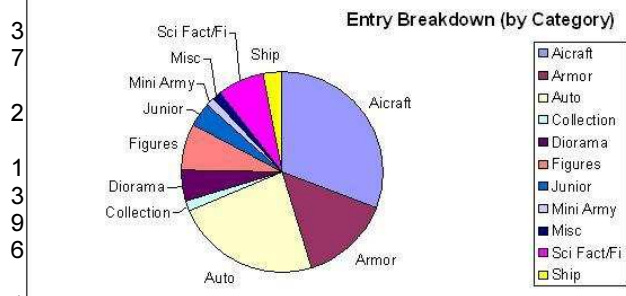
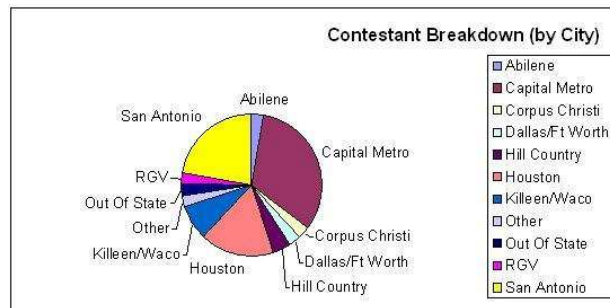
Ladies and Gentlemen, please form a circle and give each other a good pat on our back. We did a fantastic job hosting our annual show this year. The average number of contestants in the last four years was around 100. For this year we had 113 modelers coming from all parts of Texas and out-of-state (Oklahoma, Louisiana, and California!). Here's the geographical breakdown of the contestants:

Capital Metro (Travis, Williamson, Hays)	37
San Antonio Area	25
Houston Area	19
Dallas / Ft Worth Area	3
Killeen / Waco Area	9
Coastal Bend & RGV	6
Other parts of Texas	11
Out of State	3
Total:	113

Our strongest out-of-town supports was from San Antonio, Houston, and Killeen/Waco. The weakest being the folks from the D/FW area. Their appearances are unpredictable and fewer of them showed up this year. Surprisingly, we are hemorrhaging in our own metropolitan area at an alarming rate. Three years ago we had over fifty contestants from Travis, Williamson, and Hays counties. We might need to do a better job recruiting and advertising next year. Entry wise this is the best show in the last eight years.

Junior	17
Aircraft	136
Armor	63
Automotive	103
Watercraft	13
Science Fact / Fiction	33
Figures	33
Diorama	22
Collection	13
Miscellaneous	7
Total:	440


The surge in Aircraft and Automotive entries is the main reason why we have a record breaking year. Compared to 2010,



entries in aircraft rose from 106 to 136 and automotive from 19 (yes, nineteen!) to 103. Armor, on the other hand, is down from 78 to 63. Maybe the upcoming AABS show had something to do with holding the armor guys back?

About 274 people paid general admission to get in our show, which is about the norm. The door prize table made little less than last year. We spent more on the venue, less on trophies, but had more vendors and contest entries. Did we break even? Unfortunately, the answer is *no*, but once again we got close. Another couple hundred bucks was all we needed to put us in the black. I blame myself for finishing in red. I oversold vendor tables and incurred expenses to cover those extra tables that we didn't need. If I can only remember the law of diminishing returns... there is only so much you can do with our venue. Next year I'll definitely know when to say no to the vendors.

The placement and layout of the rooms were the best. I heard nothing but praise from everyone. With the door prize table and slot car guys drawing the crowd to the smaller room, I managed to please the vendors and avoid any door prize traffic jams. The only complaints that I heard were the volume of the PA system and the award room being too hot. I have talked to Norris people, and they promised to make arrangement to deal with those issues.

All in all, a jolly good time and record breaking show. Cheers to Melissa Rourke performing her community service hours with us, Donna Weinberger-Rourke providing refreshment so no one passed out from thirst and hunger, and my friends Jesse and Rosa coming from far corners of Texas to answer my cry for help. Above all, I offer my sincere thanks to every ASMS member who sacrificed his/her time to help out at the show. You are the real heroes of the 2011 Austin Scale Model Show. 

Eric

Old Rumors & New Kits

Milton Bell
IPMS #16702

Fall greetings to all you modeling geeks out there! We have had a pretty successful show and, as I write this, we have had some real rain here in central Texas.

I hope you were able to attend the show and entered a model or two and perhaps won. I missed last year's show but I understand we had a better turnout overall this year. I tried to photograph all the entries but simply ran out of time to get all the car entries recorded. Still, I have a lot of photos to hand over to our web-master so he can post them for all to see.

There are a lot of models to talk about this month. Or at least a lot of "plastic" to discuss. It seems that any new model brought out these days brings a barrage of criticisms. Not that they aren't always justified. It's just that some are pretty lame.

I haven't seen the new Revell 1/32 scale He 111P-1 but I did take the opportunity to look over the sample sprues at Omaha. It all looked good to me. Now I hear complaints that the forward section of the nose is "too bulbous." To



tell the truth, I couldn't tell that from looking at the parts but it seemed about right at the time. I suspect that if it is "too bulbous" some enterprising modeler will make a correction for it.

I must say that when I spend over a \$100 for a model kit (and I never have!) it better be right to start with.

There is another controversy over the shape of the nose for the new Great Wall 1/48 P-61A Black Widow kit. I've not seen the kit at all but I hear there are two parts, one of which is to be used for the B model that's to be released in December. Some say the old Monogram part is more accurate and that neither of the kit parts is quite right. And you can't do the version that had the clear or translucent



nose. Again, for the amount of money they ask for the kit, you would think they could get it right.

I still have an old Monogram kit on the shelf and I'm thinking I might just take it down, do some rescribing, and maybe some "updating" with a bit of PE or resin and call it done. I still see the kits sold for under \$25 and that beats Great Wall's price by miles!

Revell-Monogram has reissued one of my favorites; the 1/48 OS2U Kingfisher and for the first time a decal set for an AC flying patrols out of Corpus Christi during WW2. This kit can be made into a very good replica and there have been some good resin detail sets produced for it in the past including a new main float. As you would expect for a model of this age, it has no engraved panel detail but it's a good subject to practice on. Nicest of all is you can buy the kit and have some change back from that \$20!

If you are one of those fans of new jet aircraft you might be interested in Academy's new 1/48 Su30MK. This



Russian fighter is very impressive and the kit is moderately priced.

For smaller scale friends, Revell of Germany has a 1/72 kit of the C-160 Transall Eloka/NG, a popular transport aircraft of French design. It too has a reasonable price.



Old dependable Airfix has another new kit. This time it's the Hawk 81-A-2/P-40B. Like many of its newer brothers, this is a nice looking little 1/72 kit but it continues to have rather heavy engraved detail. The kit looks good however and is probably on par with their Spitfire Mk 1. Once painted and decaled, heavy lines aren't that noticeable.



Tamiya has reissued their venerable M32 Lee U.S. Medium Tank and the British Army Grant tank as well as their 8-ton Half Track with Flak 37.



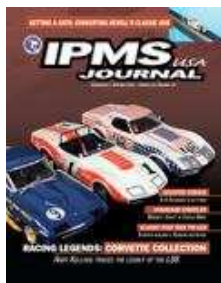
Since Ben has taken over the job of editor there seems to be a drop in reviews from the membership. The most important item that keeps the newsletter going is participation from the members. It's not hard to help and anyone can write out a few paragraphs that review a new product or just describe how you do some particular task. I've done a couple of articles on modeling tips and have many more that I can draw from.

If you want to review a new kit or book or decal sheet, just keep in mind what people want to know about the product. Just give a brief history of the subject, like when and where it was used, and then describe the kit. If you have built it, tell how well it went together and if there were alternate versions that could be built from the kit. Then give an honest appraisal of the kit and if there are problems with it, spell them out. If you have built the kit, how did you work around the problems or make corrections. No need to get too technical but make it an honest review. It will help other modelers who build the kit and will help Ben fill a few more pages.

That's all I have for this month. The meeting date really "snuck up on me" this time. Hope to see you and some new models at the meeting. In the meantime, go build something. ✈️

MB





In the latest issue of...

IPMS/USA Journal

November/December 2011

Volume 23, Issue 5

- **The Wrath of the K'Dath** - Scratch-building a Star Trek Klingon Destroyer, by **Dan Thompson**
- **Getting to a Gato** - Building the USS Grouper from Revell's classic Lionfish submarine, by **Rick Nelson**
- **Option L88** - Defying the AMA Racing Ban in 1:25 Scale, by **Andy Kellock**
- **Phantom of the Fortress** - Putting personal touches on Moebius Models' Ghost of Castle Mare, by **Brad Hair**
- **Skyhawks in Styrene** - An overview of Scooter kits, from A4D-1 to A-4KU, by **Joe Turpen**

and 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 in 1963, 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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Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

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,
list his/her name and member number _____ (name) _____ (IPMS#)

IPMS/USA

P.O. Box: 2475
North Canton, OH 44720-0475

Check out our web page: www.ipmsusa.org



Austin Scale Modelers Society
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin, TX 78729
www.austinsms.org



Next Meeting:

October 13th, 2011

at

Austin Old Quarry Library
(7051 Village Center Drive)

7PM to 8:45PM

