



# SPRUE



# EXAMINER



Vol 20 No. 7

July 2012

2011 IPMS/USA Website of  
the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter  
of the Year

2011 / 2009 IPMS/USA  
Region 6  
Webmaster of the Year

2010 / 2006 IPMS/USA  
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## Trumpeter's 1/350 German Zerstoror Z-25 1944 by Rick Herrington

limited endurance as well as poor magazine capacity.



*Zerstoror 1936* - Of the twenty six planned vessels in this class only six were laid down. Improved and enlarged versions of the 1934/1934A classes, these boats were a vast improvement over previous designs. What with improved engine reliability and structural integrity being improved, they were much better seagoing ships.

*Zerstoror 1936A "Narvik"* - Eight destroyers in this class were intended to carry the new 150mm guns in single mounts with a twin turret at the bow. The twin mountings were not ready in time and so singles were used at first. The twin mounts were later fitted to Z-23, Z-24, Z-29, and Z-25.

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At the beginning of World War II, the German Navy had twenty one destroyers (*Zerstoror*). The majority of these were built in the 1930's. Nineteen *Zerstorors* were brought into service during the war and most were captured by the opposing navies, including the Italian Navy after the Italian surrender in 1943.

German destroyer classes were generally known by the year of their design. Beginning with *Zerstoror 1934* this group consisted of four ships. Generally they were not very good vessels. Built rapidly, they were too wet in heavy seas which could make their forward guns unusable. With structural weaknesses and machinery problems this class also suffered from what can charitably be described as a disappointing new engine design.

*Zerstoror 1934A* - Twelve destroyers were laid down in 1935. Only slightly modified from the previous design, these boats suffered from

(continued on page four)



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## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

IPMS/USA National Convention, Lake Buena Vista, Florida	8.8/11.12
<a href="http://www.ipms2012.org">www.ipms2012.org</a>	
HAMS, Cypress Creek Community Center, Spring, Texas	8.18.12
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<a href="http://www.fortworthscalemodelers.org">www.fortworthscalemodelers.org</a>	
AutumnCon 2012 Regional Convention, Clarion Inn, Covington, LA.	9.15.12
<a href="http://www.northshoremodelers.com">www.northshoremodelers.com</a>	

### Local Club Meetings

CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	7.19.12
<a href="http://www.centextmodelers.com">www.centextmodelers.com</a>	
Austin Armor Modelers Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	8.1.12
<a href="http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com">www.austinarmorbuilders.com</a>	
Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas	8.2.12

### Other Events

Austin Scale Modelers Society BBQ/Auction, Weir, Texas	7.14.12
Wings Over Houston Air Show, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas	10.27/28.12

### IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter

Several IPMS members have since 2009 been managing the Warrior Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas. The center is located at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

Troops are sent to BAMC for treatment and rehabilitation, some staying for up to 12 months. BAMC and the Center for the Intrepid are known as being among the elite medical facilities in the world for treatment and injuries received in combat zone.

Through the generosity of hundreds of IPMS members, IPMS chapters, and modelers the Warriors stationed at BAMC have received models, tools, books, movies and other hobby related items through the IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter.

Donations can be sent to IPMS Wounded Warriors Chapter contact person, Dick Montgomery, (dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net).

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2012

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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. 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

July 2012

**G**o Build a Model! I nearly always end anything I write for Austin Scale Modeler's Society or IPMS with this encouragement. And I mean it. Building is the heart of the hobby. Some like to enjoy our hobby in other ways, like collecting or just viewing models at shows and that is OK. Most of us, however, are builders. So keep after it!

Thank you to Rick Herrington and Mike Gilsbach who have recently posted new model pics on our ASMS web site's gallery. I always enjoy seeing new posts there so let me expand "Go Build a Model" to "Go Build a Model and Send Pics to Mike for the Gallery".

Of course, bring your models (finished or not) to the meeting for all to see in person too. Keep building my friends.

Tim



## Page Three Girls + One

**T**his is not exactly your standard Page Three Girl fare but in lieu of the real thing I thought that this might suffice. It is women after all. Well, mostly. This figure vignette comes to us from *ICM Models*. From what I can gather it is a scene from the 1972 Soviet film *The Dawns Here Are Quiet*. The film was nominated for an Oscar in Best Foreign Language Film category.

The kit contains four complete figures, three Soviet Military Servicewomen and one Senior Sergeant in 1/35 scale. Included with the kit are a phonograph, samovar, table and bench and clothes line poles heavy with the ladies unmentionables. From the photos available the figures appear to be well done with plenty of "accessory" bits. Kit manufacturers don't seem to be produce that many releases with females. I guess *ICM Models* is trying to rectify that situation.

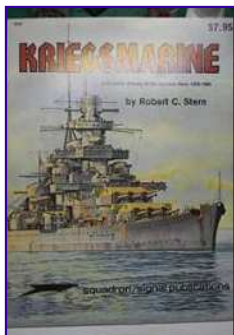


Anti-aircraft armament was also improved. Despite improvements this class of ships was also wet in heavy seas. This was somewhat offset by an enclosed forward turret but the rear open mounts were tiring for the crews to operate in anything approaching a rough sea. This class of ships was also the first to revert to the practice of naming ships by number instead of name.

*Zerstorer 25* - This was the third of the type to be laid down. Attempting to improve on earlier designs the 1936A had five single mounts, two fore and three aft. To reduce weight and improve gun handling in heavy seas a forward twin turret was fitted in 1942. The 150mm (15cm) was one of the largest guns ever installed on a destroyer-sized vessel. These mounts had acceptable elevation but their actual use as anti-aircraft platforms was limited. As a surface mount they had excellent range and velocity but the two part (125lb) ammunition limited the rate of fire.

Z-25 was often tasked with escorting *Prinz Eugen*; from 1943 onward her operations were restricted to the Baltic Sea for bombardment and evacuation missions. Captured by the British in 1946, she was transferred to the French where she served as the *Hoche*. In 1956 she was "mothballed" and finally scrapped in 1961. There were additional ships in the "Z" series with designations going up to Z-45. These subsequent ships were basically 1936A class ships with added refinements: improved/modified armaments, upgraded propulsion, external fittings, etc.

If you're just starting out building ship kits, you may want to tackle a less complex model than *Trumpeter's* Z-25 depicted here. Any one of *Trumpeter's* 1/700 scale ships would be a great starting point. They are well engineered, fit well and do not require much filling or parts clean up. Built straight from the box they build into fine representations of the British, German, Japanese or American ships they depict. *Trumpeter's* 1/350 scale Z-25 is a model of the German *Narvik* class destroyer. The kit depicts the ship as she was configured late in World War II when allied air power was the main threat to German warships.

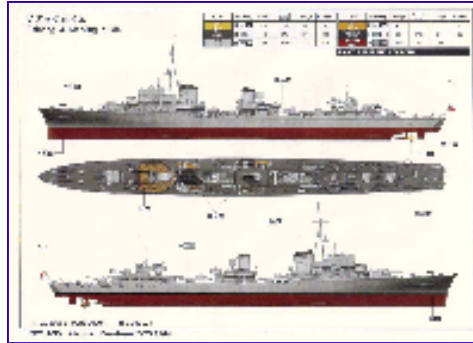


References are an essential part of any build. Part of my reference for the Z-25 was an excellent publication put out by *Squadron/Signal* in 1979 called



*Kriegsmarine* by Robert Stern. *AJ Press* puts out many fine ship books although the text is in Polish. Model Art, a Japanese publication puts out a good reference on German ships: *German Warships of World War II*. The "inter-web" is also an excellent source for researching the particular ship that you're building.

Kit supplied references can be a guide from which to build and paint. The illustration is the kit supplied color



view of the Z-25. Not all kits come with color illustrations of the model. Older kits tend to just give you the box top art and the instructions painting guide to work with.

Once you've researched your model or if you've skipped over this part and want to dive straight into your opened kit, it's time to gather the tools you'll need for the task at hand.

For the purposes of this article I won't belabor the point of having the proper tools for the job. Suffice it to say that a good hobby knife, clippers, tweezers, files, glues, and filler will all help in the process. I use *Tamiya* Gap Filler to fill small gaps that appear after you glue parts together. I also use *Gunze Sangyo* Mr. Surfacer 500 and 1000. The difference,



of course, is the thickness of the filler (The lower the number, the thicker the filler). I use Mr. Surfacer 1200 as a primer for my models. I thin it 50 to 75 percent with *Gunze Sanyo* thinner and apply it with my airbrush. An airbrush is not essential for great looking models. Wonderful finishes can be achieved with brushes but an airbrush can really assist in producing an authentic finish to your build.



Some kits are easy to build. Some are designed where you rarely need glance at the instructions as the kits are so well designed. The *Trumpeter* kit is not one of the latter. You need to pay careful attention to the instructions for the building process to go well.

Nevertheless, kit instructions are a vital part of any build. They can help or hinder you greatly. Review them before you start building to make yourself familiar with the way the construction sequence is laid out and how you should approach it. Familiarize yourself with where the parts are on the plastic trees.

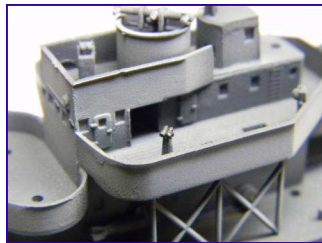
Depending on the part count in the kit you may be able to finish your kit quickly or in the case of the Z-25, spend a month building it, as I did.

I replaced the molded anchor chain with model railroad chain. It comes in different links per inch and can be used for 1/700 or 1/350 scale kits. The first step is to scrape off the molded chain and sand the deck until smooth. Cut the railroad chain to length and attach it to the model with super glue.



I paint my kits after assembly. Others choose to build sub-assemblies, paint them and then glue them together. I use a lot of weathering techniques on my models such as pre-shading. Painting the model in dark shades of gray or black and then misting the color coat on top gives the model the highlights and shadows that a monotone color scheme really needs.

This model is base coated with two acrylic colors (*Tamiya* XF-50 Field Blue/ XF-17 Sea Blue). The weapons and mast were painted separately and added later.



The deck is XF-50 while the rest of the ship including the superstructure is painted XF-17.

To do the highlights I switched to enamel paint from *White Ensign Models*. *White*

*Ensign* makes a line of paints designed for ships. The color I used is Hellgrau 50 (light gray). I lightly sprayed over the dark base colors allowing the various shapes and edges to show through which creates the variation in the monotone color scheme. After masking the upper hull, I used *Xtracolor* enamel red to paint the lower hull. Kriegsmarine warships had a black stripe painted at the waterline of the

ship. The water around the ship in harbor was usually fouled with oil and stained the light gray finish.

The black stripe was painted to hide these stains. I used a *Sharpie* fine point pen to replicate the stripe, carefully drawing the line between the red hull and the gray upper hull. The torpedo tubes were painted with *Alclad* to break up the neutral gray and provide a little bit of visual interest. Painting them gray would be perfectly fine.



Almost all warships had some portion of the ship that was decked in wood. The purpose was to provide sure footing to the areas that the crew traveled. The Z-25 was no exception in that the bridge decking was teak. I masked off the surrounding

areas that I wished to remain gray and sprayed the remainder with *White Ensign Models* deck teak. After allowing the entire area to dry thoroughly I sprayed the area with *Tester's* acrylic flat.

After allowing the flat coat to dry the next step is to use a mixture of turpentine and black and raw sienna oil paints. This mixture is 95 parts turpentine and 5 parts oil paint. The liquid should take on a chocolate color. Apply this to the decking.

This allows for variation in the teak color as well as bringing out the details in the planking.

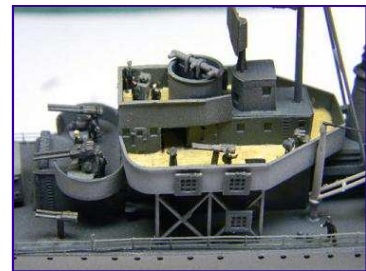
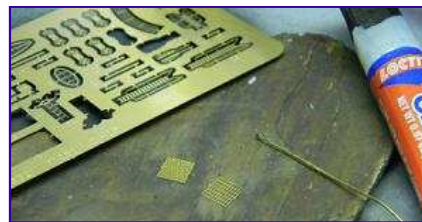


Photo-etch is usually a product you buy in addition to the model kit. It is not necessary to add photo-etch to your ship model but it does add certain realism to your kit than you



cannot obtain with regular plastic parts. The delicate nature of photo-etch is perfect for ship railings, radars, masts, ladders and miscellaneous parts onboard a ship.

Safety railings that run along edge of the deck and the superstructure are almost never provided with a model kit. When they are provided they are out of scale and poorly done. Installing photo etch railings on a ship model whether it be 1/700 or 1/350 can be challenging. Start by painting the railings the color of your ship. Measure the length of railing that you need. I find it is easier to work with shorter lengths of railing than longer ones. Try to find a breaking point along deck which is a logical place to end



your length of railing. The length of the railing I'm gluing on determines the glue that I use. For longer lengths I use *Gator glue* and superglue for the shorter runs. I apply a pool of glue onto an index card and dip the bottom of the stanchions into the glue and then attach them to the model. Depending on your previous experience this may take either one attempt or several attempts. Take your time and don't try to re-use a bent section of railing.

The mast on the Z-25 has a searchlight platform which has a rounded railing. I have tried a number of ways to do rounded railing cheaply including wrapping the railing around lengths of Evergreen styrene tube but finally ended



up buying the *Mission Models Multi Tool*. The tool makes it a great deal easier to do rounded shapes with photo-etch and with a lot less waste from bent and battered lengths of railing.

Stretched sprue is an easy and inexpensive way to replicate the rigging on a ship. If you're unfamiliar with the technique, stretched sprue is simply left over bits of the plastic parts tree that are held over a candle flame until softened, then you stretch it to the desired length and width. The variations are endless, from hair thin to big fat ones depending on your needs.



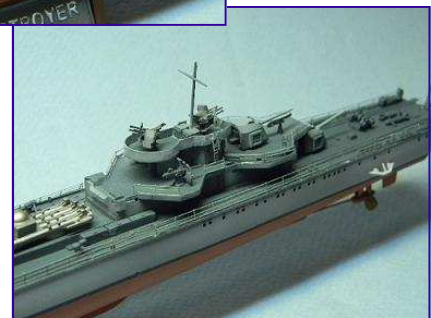
As it is plastic, I simply use regular liquid cement to attach the rigging to my model.

For added realism and to make things look right, I added some resin crewmen from *L'Arsenal*, a French company. There are 32 crewmen on the decks of my Z-25.

The last step on my model was adding a flag. This is a two-sided decal supplied with the kit.

I hope that this gives you some ideas and perhaps the impetus to go build a ship model!

Rick



Editor's note: This article was adopted from Rick's how-to article on our website; [www.austinsms.org](http://www.austinsms.org). Check it out!

**Dragon's 1/144 SR-71A Blackbird**  
 by Ben Morton  
 MSRP \$28.99

I've been working on *Tester's* 1/48 SR-71 and have enjoyed all the frustrations with the less than stellar moldings, questionable fit and particularly the lack of detail in the cockpit area. I thought I'd solved some of that problem with a *True Details* resin cockpit set but that's proving to be a bear to get installed. But the kit is giant!

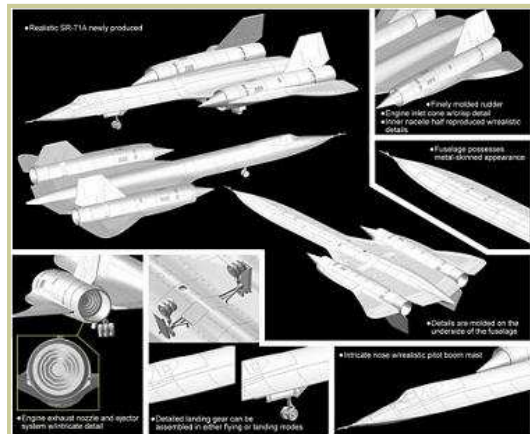


Enter *Dragon* with a new offering of the SR-71A in a slightly smaller size. The most surprising thing upon opening the box was the size. Even at this scale the model is huge. I have built several small scale planes but this thing is gargantuan compared to the single seat jobbies I usually do. Even the 1/144 scale *Minicraft* kit of the B-29 is somewhat dwarfed by this model.

With the kit you get 33 light gray plastic parts and a small clear sprue holding the pilot's and RSO canopy pieces. There is a small sheet of decals with some basic stenciling and the prominent wing walk stripping inherent to this aircraft. There are unit badges and serial numbers for four separate aircraft and plenty of markings options as long as you're into black.

*Dragon* has seemed to have perfected the art of small scale mold making as the texture and detail is excellent. The various panel lines, 'stitching' detail on the trailing edges and ribbing are all very nicely done. As is the pronounced step to the leading edge of the nose. Much better and with greater fidelity to detail than the *Tester's* kit. Granted that the *Tester's* kit was done more than a day or two ago but the *Dragon* kit kind of puts it to shame. The kit parts look to go together without that much trouble. There is a basic cockpit included with rudimentary seats and little other detail but if you close up the 'office' it is unlikely that you could see much detail even if you wanted to. At first blush it seems you might be able to display the canopies open and do a bit of detailing in the cockpit but I'll have to get back to you on that. You do have the option of extended or retracted landing gear. *Dragon* includes separate parts for both sets of landing

gear doors with some nice engraving of the cooling vents on the front gear doors. The extended main landing gear doors do have some rather clunky ribbing/reinforcement on them but a snip here and a bit of sanding there should eliminate that. There is nice detailing on the separate wheel wells, as well. (Alteration is our friend!) The exhaust nozzles exhibit keen engraving particularly the flame holders in the afterburner section.



This kit looks to be a fun and quick build depending on whether or not the detailing bug bites. Of course, *Dragon* is offering a ready-to-display model of the same aircraft. If you are in that big of a hurry!

Happy Trials and Happy Modeling!

Ben

## Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Who/Subject
July	Tim Robb / U.S. Army Balloon Service, WWI
August	Bill Delk / lighting models
September	TBA

If you have an interest in making a presentation at our club meetings please contact Ron McCracken at [rmccrack@austin.rr.com](mailto:rmccrack@austin.rr.com)



### Quarterly Contest Winners

The quarterly modeling contest of the Austin Scale Modelers Society was held at the June meeting. The contest theme was hypotheticals: spurious marking or what if's.

Bob Bethea came away the overall winner with his *Planet Models* 1/72 scale German Maus(mouse). Second runner-up was Rick Herrington with his *PM Models* 1/72 Horton Ho-229 and Tim Robb secured the third position with his 1/48 *Otaki* P-40 painted as if 'Big Daddy' Roth had a gotten a hold of it! Nice flames!



Congratulations to all and a special thanks to King's Hobby Shop for providing the awards.

Our next contest will be at the September meet-

ing on the 13th. The theme of that contest will be **Dragons:** either a *Dragon* manufactured kit of an honest to gosh dragon. Look out for Angie!

*Editor's note: a photo of Bob Bethea's Maus was unavailable at press time.*

### Quarterly Contest Schedule

by Ron McCracken  
Vice-President

Just a reminder, our clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for the remainder of 2012.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
<b>September</b>	<i>Dragons: Dragon kit or dragon model</i>
<b>December</b>	<i>White Elephant/Gift Exchange</i>

**Donnez á magasin  
de loisirs créatifs locale!**

### Austin Scale Modelers' Society announces Lending Library.

Jeff Forster announced at our June club meeting that we have an assortment of DVD's that should be of interest to us modeler's .

The collection contains most, if not all, of the Rocket Aero DVD's . These were generously donated to our club by Rocket Aero/ Space Monkey Models. [www.rocket.aero](http://www.rocket.aero). Thanks, again, to them for that generous gift. These DVD's contain a lot on information on their respective subject. Some of which is not available any other place. From the Bomarc to the F-107A there is some great history as well as lots of operational / in-action video. Great for gleaning that one little detail that others miss while your building a particular model.

Mr. Forester also reports that there are a number 'war' movies available. These can be good for helping you put your model in context with the appropriate surroundings. A complete list of all DVD's is forthcoming. That list will be publish here as well as on our website, [austinsms.org](http://austinsms.org), when it becomes available.

To reserve a particular DVD just contact Jeff at [jforster@gmail.com](mailto:jforster@gmail.com) and he'll bring the desired DVD to our next monthly meeting for your viewing enjoyment. Some of the selections are single copies and the only stipulation is is that you bring the DVD back to the next scheduled meeting.



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## Custom Decals: Tips on making your own by Ron McCracken

All of us, at one point or another, have wanted to build a model with markings that simply are not available for purchase. Once that point is reached, you have to roll your own.

Many years ago, when I first got serious about this hobby, that entailed either painting the markings on a bit of decal paper, or huge expense to have the decal printed by a professional printer. Now, with the availability of personal computers and relatively inexpensive color printers (inkjet and laserjet) things are much easier. This discussion will cover three areas; the tools needed, decal preparation, and handy hints.

The tools you will need to custom-print your own decals are a personal computer, a color printer, and a good image processing or drawing program. If you intend to use images from a book or other hard copy source, you'll also need a scanner with good resolution at least 600 DPI.

Happily, these days combination scanner/copier/printers are readily available for very reasonable prices. As for materials, you will need decal paper suitable for use with your printer. There are papers made for ink jet printers and for laser printers, so make sure you obtain the correct type. King's Hobby stocks both. You will also need an over coating solution to protect the printed image during the application process. *Microscale's* liquid decal film is perfect for the purpose.

The process of creating custom decals consists of creating the image and sizing it for the model; printing a "test shot" on plain paper; preparing the decal paper for use; printing the actual decal; and over coating the decal.

First, let's discuss image preparation, which is the difficult part of the process. If you are preparing a decal consisting of simple lettering, or geometric figures such as national insignia, the best approach is to use a computerized drafting program, such as Corel Draw or TurboCAD.

These programs produce vector graphics, which can be resized without loss of image resolution. Be sure the program you purchase supports use of background, or fill, colors. Generally speaking, these programs have a color palette, but if you really need "Gunship Gray" (FS-36118) they don't have it.

But most have the ability for you to create custom colors, where you supply the color information, usually in the form of Red-Green-Blue (RGB) values. That's another feature you need to insist on. Happily, one of the less expensive tools, TurboCAD, has these features. Check with *Frys*, or you can download TurboCAD off the web. If you need digital color samples of FS 595 colors, there is a Color Server on the web:

<http://www.colorsrvr.net/#search>

You place the FS 595 number in the search box, and up pops a display with that color. Unfortunately, this site does not provide the RGB values you will typically need to create custom colors in a graphics program. But, there is a solution. For a more diverse selection of colors see:

<http://www.alternatewars.com/BBOW/Colors/>

This site has WW II Luftwaffe, Japanese, and U.S. colors of various sorts, including ship and uniform colors. The Luftwaffe page provides the RGB values, most of the rest do not.

There is a solution to obtaining RGB values that anyone with a Windows operating system has free access to, and that is Microsoft's "Paint" program, which is found under Start->All Programs->Accessories. Find the color you want on one of the color servers. Take a screen shot of the color server page (PrtSc key on upper row of keys, right of center) and paste it into Paint. Then click the "eyedropper" (Pick Color) icon and click on the area of the screen where the desired color is displayed. This makes the color chosen the "active" color.

Now go to the Colors drop down menu at the top of the screen and pick "Edit Colors". This brings up the "Edit Colors" popup. Click on the "Define Custom Colors" button and another popup appears, with your desired color's vital statistics displayed on the lower right corner. The RGB values are plainly displayed, just jot them down and you can set up the same color (at least in theory) in any graphics program that allows custom colors. Incidentally, this technique allows you to capture any desired color from any image file, such as a photograph. There is a caveat, however.

Photo images don't usually capture a solid-color area in one color, so depending on where you pick from, you could get a color a shade darker or lighter than you want. But usually, it will be close.

For decals of more artistic subjects, such as aircraft nose art, unless you can find a true-shape image from a book or the Web, you'll have to create your own. All photographs

For decals of more artistic subjects, such as aircraft nose art, unless you can find a true-shape image from a book or the Web, you'll have to create your own. All photographs contain a certain amount of distortion, so you'll probably want to use something like Adobe Photoshop to clean up and prepare an image from a photograph. Of course, if you possess the artistic talent, you could also draw/paint a large image of what you want and scan it into an appropriate graphics program, where you can resize it to fit the model. The scanning software that comes with the inexpensive printer/scanner hardware generally scans into Microsoft's "Paint" program. The higher the resolution you choose, the bigger the resulting bitmap, so you'll have to resize it. I would not recommend using "Paint" to do the resizing. It is a bitmap editor, and while you can resize the image, you will lose a great deal of image resolution. "Paint" does allow you to save images in other formats, so leave it the original size, save it in a format compatible with your image processing software, and do the resizing there.

OK, so now you have your image. Your next step is to print a test shot on plain old white paper. Before you hit "Print", take a pencil and make a small mark on one corner of the top sheet of paper in your paper tray. That gives you a guide for putting the decal paper in the tray. This test shot serves a number of purposes. Aside from reminding you what side of the paper gets used, it gives you a check that the image actually is the right size, because you can cut out the paper copy, and position it on the model to make sure. Second, if you are going to need a white painted background, you now have a pattern to make the painting mask. Third, you now know exactly where on the paper the decal is going to be printed.

It's important because although one sheet of decal paper ought to serve you for a dozen or more models, I've found that once you cut a couple chunks out of the edges, the sheet won't feed properly. What I do is cut out a piece of decal paper a bit larger than the area I'm going to print, then scotch tape it over the test shot image. Using my pencil mark as a guide, I put the test shot, with the small piece of decal paper attached, back in the tray just like it was for the test shot, and reprint. Once the decal is printed and dry, apply a thin coat of sealer over it. Just a light coat, because a heavy application will make the ink run! Once that's dry, you are ready to apply the decal to your model.

There are a few hints you need to keep in mind. First, inexpensive printers, be they ink or laser, do not print the "color" white. They simply leave white areas blank. So, if you want decals with white areas, e.g. WW II aircraft tail numbers, you have to include the background paint color on the decal, and then paint a white background on the model over which the decal is placed. The photo illustrates a decal I produced of the Lockheed company logo, to go on a model of the C-69

Constellation prototype.

On the original aircraft, The logo was painted in white over the olive drab finish. I obtained an image of the logo on the internet, imported it into my image processing software, and colored the background olive drab. On the model I painted a white rectangle the same size as the decal. Then the decal was applied. As a final touch, I used a bit of OD paint and an airbrush to "blend" the decal into the background color.



For similar reasons, applying light colors, e.g. yellow or light gray, over a dark background results in some odd effects. I did a model of an F-4G in "Gunship" camouflage (two-tone gray). The national insignia on the original were stenciled on in the inverse color-light gray over dark, and the reverse. (when I started this project, I assumed Gunship national insignia decals would be easy to find - on the contrary, they are impossible to find, so it was do-it-yourself time!)

The dark gray decals worked just fine. But the light gray looked darker than the dark gray background upon application! I solved this by painting a light gray area the size and shape of the insignia, then produced a "negative image", with the light gray areas clear and the dark gray areas colored in. That solved the problem.

When making decals whose subjects are oddly-shaped, it is a good idea to make the decal large enough to cover the entire panel, and include the base color. The decal can then be applied over a white-painted background, and any difference between the background color of the decal and the surrounding paint can be attributed to repainting of the panel. If you darken the panel lines, that'll trick the eye into ignoring a slight difference in color, as well. Or, do as I did with the C-69 - use your airbrush to blend the decal into the surrounding paint.

So, to repeat the steps:

- 1) Obtain the computer tools and decal supplies.
- 2) Create your image.
- 3) Verify correct sizing using a test shot.
- 4) Print and overcoat the finished decal.

Happy Modeling!

Ron

## The New Release Project by Aaron Smischney, Mike Poole, Randy Bumgardner & Rick Herrington

During the June meeting Tim Robb came up to me and mentioned that he too would miss Milton Bell's *Old Rumors and New Kits* column in our newsletter. Randy Bumgardner was part of the discussion and allowed as that there might be a way to rotate a new release column among the interested members. Out of that discussion was born *The New Release Project*. (I know, we need a better name!)

The idea is that instead of a single correspondent covering anything and everything, an individual member would take one genre of our hobby and report on that. To that end Randy Bumgardner has agreed to keep track of aircraft releases. Aaron Smischney will do the same for all things armor. Mike Poole will be our motor-rama guy and Rick Herrington is going to keep a weather eye on the horizon for all things naval.

As *The Project* (that sounds better) gets underway I would like to thank, in advance, all the aforementioned correspondents for the time and energy doing something like this will entail. I'm just going to be putting it together, they're the ones doing all the work.

Hope you enjoy our little endeavor. While it may not be exactly like the Algonquin Round Table it should be fun. If you are interested in joining this august body of tireless individuals it would be cool to have someone on the lookout for figure new releases. Additionally, an interested party to peruse the heavens for all things science fiction/science fact would round out our dance card nicely. I wonder if Bill Delk is doing anything?

Ben

In no particular order...

### Automotive

Fujimi has recently reissued the Porsche 911 Carrera RS3.0. It's part of their now legendary Enthusiast Series. Though the tooling is now 20 years old because of accurate detail and sheer part count (200+) it's still considered the best. The *Fuchs* wheels are beautiful. At \$35 it's also a bargain!



Ebbro's third injection molded kit is a Lotus 72! Ebbro released the 72C earlier and got some good reviews for their first effort. This release of the 1973 Lotus Type 72E



Formula 1 race car is in the JPS livery I recall building as a kid. Ebbro has indicated that they are planning a series of classic F1 cars, and here's the proof. Great news for F1 modelers! Look for it in late June/early July at \$70.

For those with an itch for "big scale" Tamiya recently released this 1/12th monster as an assemble-it-yourself kit. It features many cast metal parts, a fret of photo etch, fabric seatbelts, a part count north of 300, and opening everything. For about \$300 you can have one too!



Mike

### Armor

Hobby Boss has come out with some really interesting stuff this month, stuff you would never expect to see in plastic!

First up is the German Sd.Kfz. 254 Tracked Armored Car. This little guy is a weird design with both wheels and tracks but it's not a half track! It can drop its wheels down for high speed road driving or pull them up to use the tracks when it needs off-road capabilities.

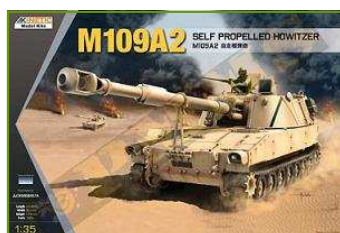
Originally developed in Austria by Saurer as an artillery tractor, it was repurposed as a scout/radio vehicle by the Wehrmacht. It saw service in Russia and in the deserts of North Africa. Looks like the kit is pretty full featured and includes individual track links. The wheels are rubber though but I'm sure we will see some resin replacements soon.



Next up is the Hungarian Light Tank 38M Toldi I(A20). This is another obscure subject previously available only in resin. This is a light tank used by the Hungarians for reconnaissance. The kit looks pretty nice with individual track links and a slide molded turret. An interesting modern subject is the 8-wheeled Panhard EBR-10 with wacky French oscillating turret. This thing is really strange looking with 4 rubber tires and 4 metal tractor-like tires in

the middle that could drop down for traction and crossing trenches. The turret is really the exciting part as it was used in several other French tanks as well as on converted Egyptian Sherman's. The one strange thing about this kit is that *Hobby Boss* has molded all the tires in rubber, even the metal tractor-like tires. No worries though *Blast Models*, a French company, has a set of resin replacements for about \$25.

Modern armor fans should be on the lookout from *Kinetic Models* M109A2 self-propelled howitzer. This looks like a great kit with link and length tracks and "simplified assembly". (They have attempted to keep the parts count low.) I don't understand the push for such complex models. Sometimes you just want to *finish* a kit, right?



To complement the new superb Chaffee kits from *Bronco*, *Lion Roar* has released a rather extensive photo-etch set for this late war tank. For you super detailers this is a must have! If you have something against *Lion Roar*, *Voyager* is also releasing several sets for the Chaffee, one for the fenders and one for the rest.

Aaron

## Ships

What's new in ships kits. I know, I know; you're thinking I don't build ships. If you knew what's new in the world of ship kits you might. Most of these kits should be available for purchase by the end of July.

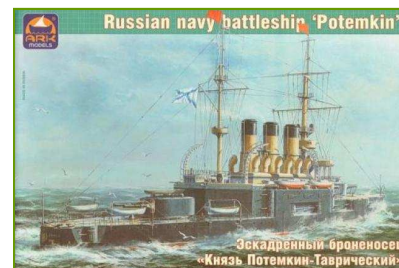
Let's start with 1/700 scale. *Academy* is releasing their RMS TITANIC, build your own commemorative Titanic. *Tamiya* has the CV5 Yorktown. What can I say? It's *Tamiya*. *Hobby Boss* is displaying



the USS Keasage, a Wasp -Class amphibious assault ship. From *Trumpeter* comes an interesting subject, Peoples Liberation Army (Navy?) Aircraft Carrier. This is the one the Chinese bought from the Russians. The Chinese said it

was going to be a floating casino. They refurbished it and modernized it. *Trumpeter's* kits are also marketed as *Pit Road* kits. Should be a good one. Another *Trumpeter* kit available soon is the German Zerstoror Z-38 1943. A nice one pantographed down from their 1/350 kit. Rounding out this scale is an Imperial Chinese Chen Yuen (1894) from *S-Model*.

1/600 scale *Airfix* presents Prinz Eugen. I'm not sure if this is a new mold or one from 1974. In 1/400 scale comes *Ark-Models* Russian Battleship Potemkin. If you have an extra \$27.00 dying to be spent, it's definitely an interesting subject. This is the battleship that led the Russian revolution.



Now to the wallet breakers. In 1/350 scale a larger and more detailed version of RMS Titanic is coming your way from *Minicraft*. Looks to be a scaled up version of their previously available 1/700<sup>th</sup> kit. *Dragon Models* is showing the USS Frank Knox DD742 Gearing Class Destroyer. For those who can't get enough things Russian comes *Zvesda's* Russian Battleship 1914-1915 Baltic Fleet. The first Russian dreadnought. *Academy* is releasing HMS Warspite "1942" Premium Edition.



She served in both WW I and WW II, earning the most battle honors ever awarded to an individual ship in the Royal Navy, including the most awarded for actions in the

Second World War. This one includes photo-etch, metal gun barrels and a wooden deck. Most of these items are usually aftermarket buys. This one gives you the whole package in single box.

Rick

## Aircraft

So, some sad news this month as *WingXL* exists no more. These were the guys who did the original concept of the 1/32 B-25J. Originally named *WingScale*, they had a falling out with the Hong Kong company that was producing the kit. The result is the *HK Models* 1/32 B-25J "Glassnose", with a B-25J "Strafer" and a B-25H on the

way both in 1/32 scale. The word is that they also have a 1/32 B-17G under development as well. Holy Moly! Get building those additions to the house, it's going to be a big one.

The new kid on the block, *Kittyhawk Models* from Hong Kong, made a splash with their premier release, the 1/48 F-94C Starfire. It's a good looking kit, and is the first available in injection form. *Kittyhawk* has certainly set the bar very high with their freshman release. Their next release is going to be the F-35B. At least we'll see some kind of a production version of this aircraft.



*Trumpeter's* latest release in 1/32 scale, and a pretty well received release from them, is the Junkers Ju 87B-2 Stuka. It's out in hobby shops now, and looks to be a fairly good representation of the Stuka. Since the only injected competition is the old *Revell* Ju 87B and the *21st Century Models* Ju 87B, this kit is certainly a step up. (*Hasegawa* doesn't count as they produced the later model Ju 87D and Ju 87G)

Speaking of *Hasegawa*, they have a few new releases of late. A few are re-releases with new decals. A trend started by *Hasegawa* and one at which they excel. Their sole new tool release this month will get the airliner crowd smiling.



It's the 1/200 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner resplendent in ANA livery. It's a sharp looking kit. I may even get one, although I haven't built an airliner since the 3rd grade.

*Revell of Germany* has released images of a build-up of its forthcoming 1/32 Heinkel He 219A-7, due out this fall. It's looking very nice, and will be a great addition to any 1/32 lineup. *Zoukei-Mura* is also developing their He 219A-0, scheduled for later this year or early next year. It will be interesting to see how these two compare and how well they each do in the sales department. Each company has their

own marketing strategy and their own customer base. Still, I wonder if *Z-M* just had another bout of bad timing, just like with their P-51D.

Speaking of which, the first orders of the 1/32 P-51D are just hitting the shores, so to speak. Coming soon after *Tamiya* released their Mustang Masterpiece, this kit is molded in the distinctive *Zoukei-Mura* style with all of the (somewhat fictional) structure and internals. From what I've heard the outline of the kit is pretty well done. A good compliment given the subject matter and previous efforts by other kit makers.

While we have *Tamiya* in mind their new 1/48 Ilyushin Il-2M3 Sturmovik is hitting the store shelves right now. It looks to be a very nice kit with the usual *Tamiya* fit and engineering. I've heard conflicting reports on the value of keeping the old (but still good) *Accurate Miniatures* kit in the stash.



The really big news (in my best Ed Sullivan voice) is the new tool 1/48 F-4B Phantom II in VF-111 "Sundowners" markings from *Academy*. Well, it's a really big rumor, just like the *Trumpeter* 1/32 A-6. It was listed in *Academy's* 2011 product catalog, and has recently seen a bit of a revival on various forums as of late. A new tool early 1/48 F-4B is a big deal to Phantom Phans everywhere.



Test shots haven't been revealed nor has the release date. I hope *Academy* holds up their end of the bargain and produces a nicely accurate kit. Well, there is always the old *Hasegawa* kit in the stash.

If I missed anything, or incorrectly stated something, drop me a line: [randy.bumgardner@gmail.com](mailto:randy.bumgardner@gmail.com)

Randy



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- **Hooking a Trojan** - Converting the Heller T-28 Fennec to a U.S. Navy T-28C, by Jerry Wells
- **Hero of the Port Arthur Siege** - Building the armored cruiser Bayan in 1:700 resin in her battle colors, by Vladimir Yakubov
- **Wrong-Way Wingman** - Adding Accuracy to Hasegawa's 1:72 SBD-3, by Chris Bucholtz
- **Modeled Martian** - Pegasus' 1:8 Alien from the Steven Spielberg War of the Worlds Remake, by Brad Hair
- Three Elder Veterans, by Walt Fink Reuniting a B-17 with a veteran
- **Flying off the Silver Screen** - Using kits of real planes to model "reel" planes, by Terry Moore
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