



# SPRUE



# EXAMINER



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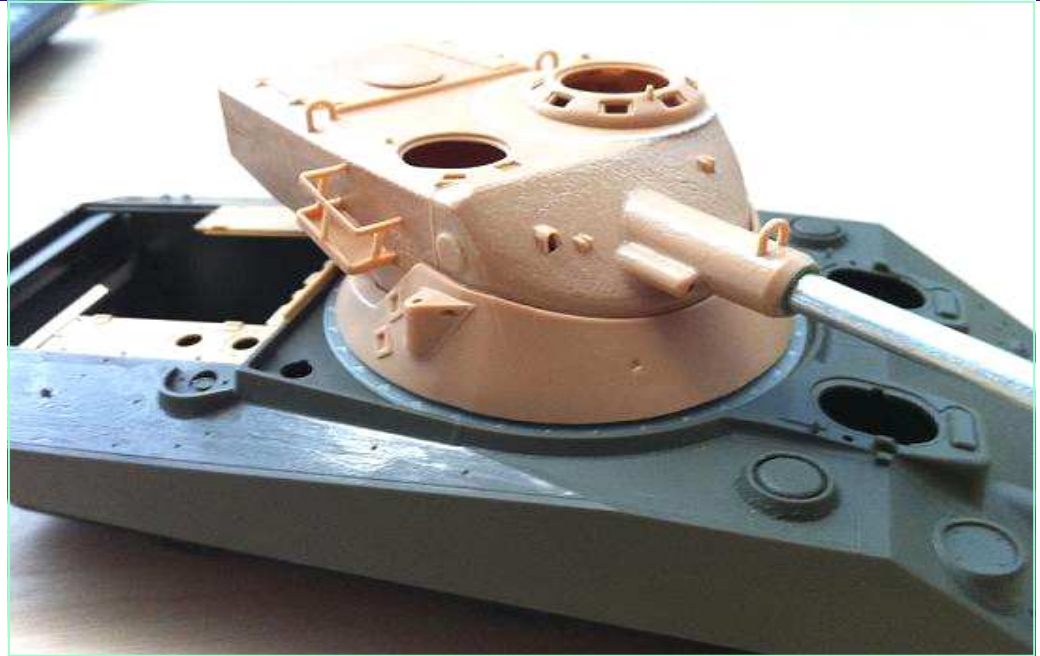
October 2012

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  
Region 6  
Chapter of the Year



### 3D Printing: A Glimpse Into The Future Of Modeling?

by Aaron Smischney

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The buzz and interest in 3D printing has been steadily growing over the last few years. Up until very recently the use of 3D printing for scale modelers was very limited, and even now its in its infancy but growing.

The first, and still most important issue is detail. As modelers we are used to very high fidelity in our kits and parts. All one has to do is pick up one of the new *Dragon 1/72* scale kits to see how finely detailed our kits have become. New advances in printing have brought us to what I believe is the start of a revolution in scale modeling.

Detail can now be rendered that was unheard of just a year ago, with the latest available technology able to render detail down to 0.1 mm. Get out your calipers and take a look at

0.1mm, that's small. Wall thickness (the thinness of a part) can be as low as 0.3mm, which is getting into thick photo etch territory.

The second biggest issue has been accessibility. The newest 3D printers can cost as much as a new truck or a small house out in the country. Not something you would expect to find in your average modelers tool chest. We are even beginning to see 3D printers that can be considered "affordable" to the home user at a price of around \$1,000.00 but the detail is not even close to what we would deem acceptable.

The internet has come to the rescue. Now there are services that allow you to send them 3D CAD models for printing. It reminds me of the early days of desktop publishing when you brought your documents to Kinko's to have them print your newsletters and bake sale announcements.

So how does 3D printing work? What does it mean to you and I as scale modelers?

(continued on page four)



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## Upcoming Events

### Model Shows

- ConAir 2012 Model Show/Contest, Kansas Aviation Museum, Wichita, Kansas 10.13.12  
[www.aircapitalipms.org](http://www.aircapitalipms.org)
- GatorComm 2012, Cajun Plastic Modelers, Lafayette, Louisiana 11. 3.12  
[www.kaliste@aol.com](mailto:www.kaliste@aol.com)
- Calmex XXVII/ IPMS Swamp, Westlake (Lake Charles), Louisiana 1.26.13  
[www.ipmsswamp.com](http://www.ipmsswamp.com)

### Local Club Meetings

- Centex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas 10.18.12  
[www.centexmodelers.com](http://www.centexmodelers.com)
- Austin Armor Modelers Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas 10.3.12  
[www.austinarmorbuilders.com](http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com)
- Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby, Austin, Texas 10.4.12

### Other Events

- Wings Over Houston Air Show, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas 10.27/28.12  
[www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)
- Fall Fly-In & Picnic, Old Kingsbury Aerodrome, Kingsbury, Texas 11.10.12  
[www.pioneerflightmuseum.org](http://www.pioneerflightmuseum.org)
- Veterans Day Event (display only) Bassett Place Mall, El Paso, Texas 11.11.12  
[www.ipmselpaso.us](http://www.ipmselpaso.us)

### 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](mailto:dmontgomery8327@sbcglobal.net)).

### ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2012

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**Milton Bell**, IPMS/USA Coordinator  
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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

**G**reetings Fellow Modelers.

Thank you very much, in advance, to all for working and to those attending the 2012 Austin Show.

Please bring your models and friends to our October meeting.

Go Build a Model !



Tim

## Fiddly Bits

### Help Wanted:

Dan Marshall of Land, Sea, Air and Space Displays is looking for modelers. This new company provides model displays to communicate with any viewer all that they need to appreciate about a given subject. One particular display compares and contrasts the development of passenger flight. Displaying a DC-3 on a grass field with a cutaway view of the interior with that of a Boeing 737 in it's natural habitat( paved runway, passenger terminal, baggage handlers, etc.) the viewer has the opportunity to not only see the progress of aircraft development but also the accoutrements often associated with each type.

Mr. Marshall will be bringing a completed display to our model contest October 6. He'll also be able to provide you with more information about his undertaking and your possible role in it. He is offering employment at \$16.00 an hour. He'll provide the kit, paints, and any additional goodies that may be necessary to the particular project. You may contact him at [marshalldan3@gmail](mailto:marshalldan3@gmail) or by phoning 281.859.1055 for, as they say, more information.

### Quarterly Contest Results:

Our quarterly contest was held at the September club meeting. There are reports that Angela Forster did indeed bring her Dragon to the Dragon Contest. She graciously declined to entry same in our modest endeavor.



Thus leaving the door open for Rick Herrington to cut a swathe through the competition with his entries. Rick placed first and second with his Dragon TA-152C and Flying Dragon, respectively. Third spot went to Eric Choy with his F-15. Congratulations to both Rick and Eric!

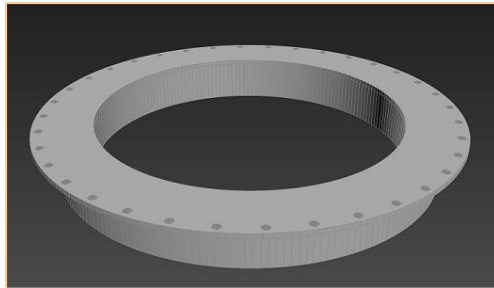


A special thanks to King's Hobby for providing the prizes for our contest. Their continuing support of our club is greatly appreciated.



Lets take a look at each stage of the process and what it means to us.

First step is producing the "master". This is the computer aided design file (CAD) that contains the information the printer uses to create the physical object. This is going to be the biggest barrier of entry to the average modeler. Using 3D CAD programs to model parts is a skill set that is not something that can be learned in a weekend. It is a skill set all its own.



I am lucky in that I have been using 3D packages since 1993 and use 3D software for my work. The software that I use is not

cheap, at about \$3500.00 a copy and no that's not a typo. BUT don't be discouraged! It has never been easier or CHEAPER to get into 3D work. How about Free? Blender is a free open source piece of software that has an extensive set of documentation and support forums. download it here: <http://www.blender.org/>

Once you create your part, you upload it to a service like *Shapeways*- <http://www.shapeways.com/>. Its important to read up on the design guides for the materials. The most important thing is to note the wall thickness limitations and don't forget to make sure the part is built with the correct units and scale.

I once tried to print a life size turret which would not have worked. I also accidentally uploaded a life size head that WOULD have been printable, but cost \$16,000.00 to print.

So you don't want to learn 3D? That's understandable. Does that mean that printing parts is not for you? NO! The rise of 3D printing services online has opened up print on demand services. This means that any modeler that creates a part in CAD for printing can offer it to the public to print as they see fit.

For example, I needed a steel folding chair for a project. I designed and printed the part up and now anyone can print their own chair if they want one. Before 3D printing the only way I would have been able to offer these chairs to the community would be to cast resin copies. But that's a huge investment in materials and tools making it unfeasible for me.

3D printing is also to print things that would be unable to be cast. Technical you would be able print an entire tank, tracks and all, as one part.

A web-site to look at is <http://www.click2detail.com/>. This is a 3D printing service that caters specifically to us. I have purchased some conversions and parts from them and have been very pleased. They do not offer an uploading service but they have said it is in the works.

Ok, so you have your 3D part designed, picked, uploaded, and want to get the real thing in your hand. Its as easy as pressing "buy" on the web-site. Your part will be printed "on demand" This means there is no "stock".

They don't have a bunch of copies of a part sitting on a shelf. They have vat of magic smashed fairy dust (or plastic, whatever is easier to get). The printers are similar to an inkjet. Imagine that your model is cut into small slices, the printer prints each slice one at a time, slowly building up the part.

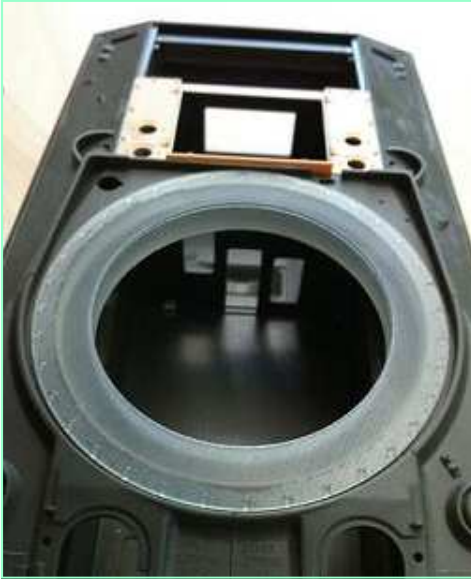
The latest technology uses UV cured plastics. This is a type of plastic that is soft until it is exposed to UV light, which hardens it. A very small nozzle attached to a robot arm is moved by computer loaded with the design and places a small drop of plastic and shoots it with light. It then moves to the next location. Depending on the part they may use a wax type substance to support the part as it is being printed.

Once the part is finished its packaged up and sent to you. when you get the part you can use it pretty much like you would use a resin part. It should be washed thoroughly to remove any support material that may be left over. Use super glue to affix the parts, Some parts may need a light sanding.

Since the part is printed in layers you may see a very slight "stair step" effect on very round parts. This was once a much bigger problem with earlier technology that had lower resolution (bigger "slices"). With the newer technology this issue has mostly gone away. I recommend spraying the parts with a sandable primer and giving it a once over to make sure its good to go.

Here is an example of a part that I have produced. This one is actually very simple and just about anyone could create this as a 3D model.





It is just a collection of simple shapes.

This is a turret ring adapter for attaching an AMX-13 turret to an M4A4 Sherman turret ring. I carefully measured the turret ring sizes and used the dimensions to design the part. After the part was designed it was just a

matter of exporting it and uploading it to *Shapeways*. Once the part was uploaded, I just added it to my "basket", paid, and 2 weeks later I had the part in my hands.

That's when I learned a good lesson. I am sure you have heard "measure twice cut once" well, the new saying will be "measure twice print once". I had accidentally used the "outer" instead of "inner" measurement on my caliper. A simple but somewhat expensive lesson. Once I had the finished part it fit perfectly, almost too perfectly. It was a good tight fit with no wiggle room at all.

So what's next? Everything. Its easy to see where this will eventually lead us as one only needs to look at the past history of desktop publishing. Eventually anyone will be able to afford a 3D printer that sits on their desktop. I imagine we will be able to purchase a "license" from *Tamiya* to print their latest and greatest model on our own desktop.

You may ask, why would anyone still be in our hobby? Well that's already been answered. I can purchase a pre-made model of a tank, airplane, or car *today* and sit it on my desk. There are many reasons we build models. I



don't believe that those reason will go away just because technology changes. I picture printing out the sub-components and having a kit ready to build at my leisure. Some modification and choices may even be possible, like what version Panzer 4 do you want? Just pick the sub-variant and voila, its in your hands.

Will this mean the end of companies like *Tamiya* and *Dragon*? No! It takes skill and talent to produce a 3D master. This is true now, and it will still be true tomorrow. Just because you download some software to your computer does not mean you can magically start producing models. Just like owning *Photoshop* doesn't make you an expert photo re-toucher.

Most models these days are designed in CAD anyway, so what will change is the delivery method. This may create some issues with piracy, but that is a topic beyond the scope of this article.

What this will allow for is more players at the table. Small time modelers will be able to produce models that may never see the light of day from larger producers.

The future looks bright fellow modelers. As they say... we live in interesting times.

*Aaron*



### Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Who/Subject
October	Ichabad Crane / "Phantoms"
November	Bobbie Wilson / ruined and wrecked

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

## Lifelike Decals 1/48 Albatros D.III/V Part 1

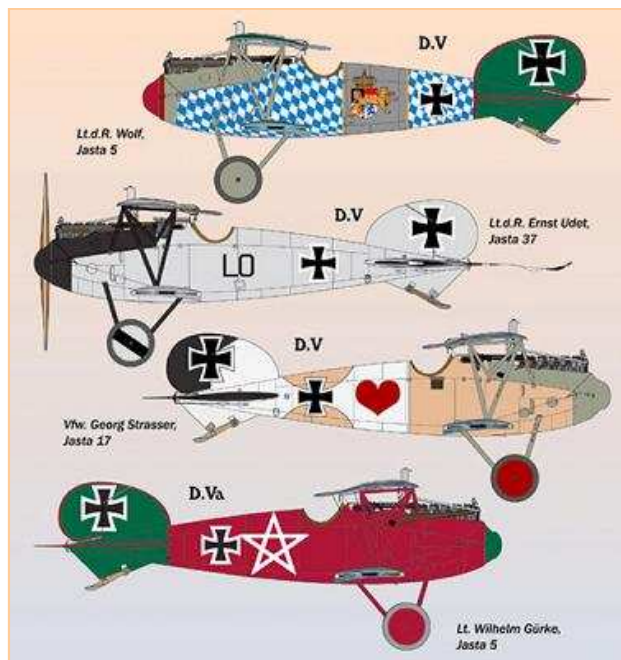
by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.  
IPMS # 26266

*Lifelike Decals* continues to produce some of the finest most colorful decals out there. In this release they have turned their attention to the *Eduard* Albatros. There are four colorful aircraft depicted.

There are two decal sheets with this release. The one decal sheet is printed by *Microscale* so if you use their decal products you should have no problem. All the decals are printed in register with good color opacity. The other slightly smaller sheet is printed in Japan and contains the gorgeous markings for the aircraft, such as the coat of arms.

The instructions are printed on two single sided A4 sheets in full color. The one thing I like is that *Lifelike* isn't afraid to offer an educated guess when some marking is in question. They let you know what is speculative and how they came to their conclusions. Very professional and non-pompous way to do business.

This particular release has a sheet of the major propeller types used on German fighters in WWI. This is very valuable asset and shows the difference to the props and the manufacturers.



The first is one of the most beautiful looking Albatros I've ever seen. Flown by Lt. D.R. Wolf of Jasta 5 in 1917 this D.V has the white and light blue checkers of the Bavaria wrapped around the fuselage.

This aircraft has very speculative markings, but they are based on fact. There is a grey band just aft of the cockpit with Lions and a coat of arms on both sides. Very nice. The spinner is red with a little bit of forward cowling in the same color. The tail is a beautiful green with red outline. The upper wings have the purple and grey-green on them while the lower have light blue. The decals themselves will ONLY fit the *Eduard* kit. They are indexed especially for this kit.

The next aircraft is a personal favorite of mine. This is a D.V of Lt. Ernst Udet. When this aircraft was released with the *Wingnut Wings* kit I wanted one really bad, but in my scale of choice, 1/48<sup>th</sup>. Well, now thanks to *Lifelike* I have it. Painted in overall silver/grey this aircraft exhibits a square windshield with a cutout for a telescope along with a large U under the wings. It would have been nice to include the leader streamers but they are easy enough to make.

The next aircraft is a D.V flown by Vfw. Georg Strasser with Jasta 17. This aircraft has the plywood siding but a stylized white band behind the cockpit that reaches to the tail. The tail assembly itself is black. The red heart and wheels along with the lozenge upper and lower wings makes for a quite attractive aircraft.

The last aircraft on the sheet is an Albatros D.Va. flown by Lt. Wilhelm Gurke of Jasta 5. This one is nice with overall red fuselage and green tail with red outline. The upper and lower wings have lozenge markings and large "G"s on the both lower wings. The fuselage also features a white star outline.

*Lifelike* continues to provide some colorful markings that other manufacturers are afraid to touch. Printed on high quality decals, well researched and full color instructions, there isn't much more that you can add to a decal sheet. Great job, *Lifelike*.

Thanks to *Lifelike* for the review copy.

Floyd

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## Power To The Peepers!

by Mike Poole

As I teeter beyond my middle years I've accepted that there's at least one thing I can't outrun: reading glasses.

This is particularly hard for me because, being near-sighted all my life, I've until now enjoyed microscope-like vision at close distances. Now everything is blurry. Ironically, this also comes at a time in my hobby when interest is moving to smaller scales. Need more power, ugh!

I've tried holders with magnifying glasses like "helping hands", neon desk lamps with magnifying portals, even a remote camera with my pc monitor. All were disorienting or obstructing in some way.

I began looking into visor-style magnifiers recently and think I've found just the thing. It's called the *OptiVISOR* DA and it's been manufactured largely unchanged for about 50 years. It's also about as sexy as head gear for your kids braces but I build in obscurity, so no worries there.



There are more high-tech looking visors on the market but in reviews all had some knock or drawback: uncomfortable, too heavy, cheap optics. That last one about optics sold me.



The *OptiVISOR* DA is the only one that has ground glass lenses molded into a clear blue plastic frame that mounts to the hood of the visor. Everyone else has cheap molded plastic.

Beware, there is also now a cheap *OptiVISOR* with plastic lenses called "LX". Avoid that one and get the glass "DA" for less eye fatigue and durability reasons. (It's hard to discern from the packaging so look for the clear blue frames around the lenses.) I paid \$36.38 for the "DA-5" shipped to my door.

*OptiVISOR* is available in six different magnifications as shown in the chart. Make sure you get the right magnification for your needs because ordering additional lenses can get rather expensive at \$15 each.

OptiVISOR As seen by normal vision	OptiV Catalog No. DA-2 Magnifies 1 1/2 X at 20"	OptiV Catalog No. DA-3 Magnifies 1 1/2 X at 14"	Opti Catalog No. DA-4 Magnifies 2 X at 10"
Opt Catalog No. DA-5 Magnifies 2 1/2 X at 8"	Op Catalog No. DA-7 Magnifies 2 1/2 X at 6"	On Catalog No. DA-10 Magnifies 3 1/2 X at 4"	iMS Opti LOUPE™ Option Catalog No. LPT Monocular attachable lens, adds 2 1/2 X to all models

I initially thought to get the highest power but was reminded in reviews about the inverse relationship between magnification and focal length. The higher you magnify the closer you must get to the subject.

I chose DA-5 (2.5x, 8"FL) opting for a Goldilocks approach between power and focal length. It seems just right but I still might try the DA-7 (2.75x, 6"FL) or DA-10 (3.5x, 4"FL) lens eventually just to see if it's better.

Now I can build small with less eye strain and better quality thanks to my new nerdy head gadget.

Mike

"I know there's an article around here somewhere!"

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## What Are They Thinking?

by Ben Morton

Once again I had too much time on my hands and out went another of my probing, insightful inquiries about our hobby. This particular one was about some of the oddest, strangest or what were they thinking kits getting produced by the various manufacturers that you have run across. That inquiry stemmed from a new release I saw on the interweb about a 1/6 scale German bicycle from Dragon.

My first reaction was OK, but why? My second reaction was, well that's kind of neat but while I'll never purchase one, someone must. The manufacturers don't release stuff just for their health. Turns out that there is a rather large market for these releases. Maybe not in the good ole U.S.A. but most of these guys (kit manufacturers) are global. While it may be nice to think of ourselves as the center of the universe, we're not!

*Dragon* has a complete line of 1/6 scale figures (apx. 470+) that are sought after by all kinds of folks. While there are collectors and hobbyists for these releases in this country, the larger market appears to be in Japan and China. *Dragon's* line of "action figures" includes everything from Sun Yat-Sen to a Mongol warrior to a JGSDF infantryman with shovel on a disaster relief operation. Probably won't see an action figure of Mao anytime soon but one can hope.

As Rod Bell mentioned in his response to my inquiry, "With more discretionary income being pumped into (the economy by) the Chinese worker, you'll see more and more targeted items for the market showing up."

*Dragon* also, as do others, manufacture 1/6 scale vehicles. The aforementioned bicycle as well as a Panzer II, an



Aerosan and coming soon a SAS 4X4 Jeep, I mean truck. Photos of the 4X4 truck look pretty cool with plenty of detail. What

with my aging eyesight this larger scale might just be perfect. Either that or buy the greater magnification lens for my *Optivisor*. (See related article elsewhere in this newsletter).

[See how all this ties together into a harmonious whole. And you just thought...here he goes again on some unrelated tangent!]

Milton Bell wrote that the most unusual he'd heard of but not actually "seen" except in photos were models of sushi.

While at first blush this kind of model would seem odd there really is quite the practical need for something like this. Albeit more for commercial reasons than as "serious" modeling subjects, I suppose.



Most eateries in Japan have store front displays of their menu. The plastic sushi solves that thorny issue of having to replace the "dishes" ever so often. I would think that the real thing would tend to get a little gamey after a day or two in the hot, hot sun. Possibly a different take on societal needs for information about "what's for dinner?"

Europeans do something on the same order but less overtly. Cafes and bistros in Europe tend to display their menu's outside so that patrons can read what's available. It really is a lot of fun dining out in Europe as you get to window shop menus. But a quarterly model contest featuring plastic sushi might prove to be rather interesting. California rolls for everyone!

Another contributor, Aaron Smischney, was perplexed that a manufacturer, in this case *Hasagawa*, had put out a kit of a school desks and chairs. I believe that its in 1/12th scale. I got to poking around on the interweb again and stumbled across this sub-culture of collectors that collect, you got it, miniature furniture.



I get collecting stamps and coins and buttons (maybe not that much), but miniature furniture? After some more goofing around in the ether, I came across a listing of six or seven major manufactures of doll or miniature furniture. Some of these companies are honest to goodness architectural firms.



They design buildings and the furniture that goes in them. Much like what Frank Lloyd Wright and others were doing in the early to mid 1900's.

There is one company, *Roomboxes, Etc.*, that does shadow box things of art deco style rooms in some detail. A couple of architectural firms that specialize in home decor not only do life size furniture but it appears that they make miniatures of the same thing as an adjunct to their core business. These miniatures come in cool presentation boxes suitable for immediate display. I'm just guessing but that's probably pretty close to how the press release reads.

Another company, *Vitro Designs* does miniatures of really



famous furniture pieces the originals of which are in museums and stuff. You can purchase a miniature of a Gerrit Rietveld chair for something like \$29.95 or buy the original for somewhere between \$4500.00 and \$6000.00. The miniature it is! Gerrit Rietveld was a Dutch design artist that began the Dutch Artistic Movement back in the day.

There is a Japanese company mentioned in Milton's reply, *REAC Japan*. They do nothing but collectable miniature furniture. These particular collectors have gotten so out of hand, I mean established, that they feel that the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts (NAME) should include their passion as a separate category apart from model railroading, radio control, and plastic and die cast modeling.

Who knew! I'm not even going to go into the doll house people. That just gets to be crazy with all the after market do-dads that are available in that hobby.



Tim Robb offered that the oddest kit he's run across is a 4:1 scale Stag Beetle from our French pals, *Heller*. You may recall an article in the newsletter (February 2012) about the golfing Stag Beetle presented by one of Tim's colleagues at McCoy's. Tim allowed that his friend built the model, took it to Hobby Lobby's Stag Beetle outfitting section and got it some golf clubs.

I've been to Hobby Lobby lots but I never knew that their inventory was that diverse. I've got to look around some

more next time I'm in one!



There are some other insect model kits out there. I want to say that Heller did do a series on insects as well as the Insect Science kit put out by *Renwall* years ago. That kit included a cut away model of a grasshopper and some solid models of other insects. *Renwall* also did cutaway models of the human ear, nose and human body, both male and female and a dog. Somebody did an eyeball but I forget who.

Mike Poole wrote in with a missive about the lack of imagination on the part of some manufacturers. Maybe the kit manufactures are playing it safe issuing another Bf109 instead of some of the more "obscure" subjects. One perplexing situation Mike notes is the tendency, of late, for competing manufacturers to issue the same kit on almost the same day. Case in point is both *Tamiya* and *Hasagawa* releasing a new 1/20th Lotus 79.

Mike counters that with the following for your consideration as the queerest injected molded kit know to man. Either that *Bandai* has the greatest sense of humor of any of them (manufacturers). "An injection molded injection molding machine." Let me say that again. A plastic model of a machine for manufacturing plastic models. Talk about your FULL circle.



Just goes to show you that kit manufactures, though often doing the safe release and paying the bills, will put out just about anything that they believe they can sell. From miniature furniture to bugs to German bicycles the list would seem to be endless. But as Tim Robb mentioned in his reply with all that is out there, "how come we still don't have a good 1/48th scale kit of Grumman's F9F-8 Cougar?"

Ben

P.S. My thanks to all who sent in their thoughts.

## Tales From The Other Side

An occasional article from another IPMS/USA chapter's newsletter. The following comes to us from Bits & Pieces, the newsletter of the Georgia Mountain Modeler's, [www.mountainmodelers.org](http://www.mountainmodelers.org), with the kind permission of its author, Perry Downen.

Mr. Downen writes of his first trip to a National Convention. After I read this I thought that I has attended, as well. As he mentioned to me as I was seeking his permission to reprint this article, "a little cross pollination is good!"

Hope you enjoy and start making plans to attend the 2013 Nationals in Loveland, Colorado.

### Perry Downen's "Down in the Trenches" Report 2012 IPMS National Convention



This was my first IPMS National Convention and well worth the trip. I left Cumming Tuesday morning not knowing what to expect. I had four models to enter and six to go on the IPMS reviewers' display table. My trusty traveling buddy

(who does not model but is slowly learning a little bit more about it) and I arrived at Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort late Tuesday afternoon. What a mad house Disney World is! Who would have thought a cartoon about a mouse would have given birth to such a money-making empire.

After a good night's rest and a little sight seeing we headed over to the Convention Center at Disney's Contemporary Resort. Arriving about 1:30 (registration started at 2:00) did not help with beating the line. There were plenty of other early birds. The host club, Pelikan Model Club of Clearwater, FL, had done an excellent job preparing for this event and registration turned out to be a snap. Being pre-registered and having all the paperwork completed didn't hurt either.

The IPMS reviewers' table was immediately inside the showroom door. I set my display models out first. All the judging tables were set up, labeled and ready for the models. There were so many different categories. It took several minutes of searching the huge hall to locate the tables for my models. While wondering around the room I bumped into a familiar face, Bill Ficke.

Tuesday was early in the overall convention schedule – just a few models scattered here and there and not much to see. So,

I headed over to the adjacent hall where the vendors were located. WOW! It was open and going full blast. I was like a blind dog in a meat house there for a few minutes. Huge selections of models, decal, after-market parts, etc. were everywhere. If you couldn't find what you wanted, then it's not made.



Over the four days I was there I probably spent a couple of hours looking at "stuff" in the two vendor rooms. There were a number of vendors I visited and spent time discussing our hobby. Philip Hui was there selling his X-Acto knife handles. Yes, I bought one made of olive wood. Kenny Loup from Sulfur, LA ("Gator" to those of you who visit the League of Extraordinary Modelers forum) was there selling his wares. I bought some of his Gator Glue and an applicator. His wife, Renee, and son, Ian, were there helping.

Free Time Hobbies from Blue Ridge, GA had a large booth with lots of "stuff." One of their crew tried really hard to sell me something, but to no avail. One of my favorite vendors was right in the middle of it all. Jane's Tools where their display reads, "Buy 3 for \$10." I couldn't pass it up; there are three new sets of tweezers on my bench now.

Squadron had a large booth AND a large marketing program that involved a free T-shirt and raffle tickets. I was not a raffle winner at Squadron, but Bill Ficke was. I think he has a horseshoe somewhere.

I stopped by Model Rectifier Corp, (Platz Model, Academy, MiniArt), etc. and was given a decal sheet of national insignia markings of various sizes from 7-8 countries...good stop!

The most interesting visit was with the team leader from Zoukei-Mura's Super Wing Series booth. They make a limited number of incredibly detailed 1/32 kits: P-51D, A-1H, Ta152 and the Shinden to name a few.

Through an interrupter he asked me to write on a small white board that appeared from no-

where what I'd like for them to produce next. I wrote, Lockheed's P-38. A big grin appeared on his face. For some strange reason he took a picture of Marilyn and me.



I attended a couple of seminars during the convention. The first was Airbrush 101 presented by Tom Grossman from Iwata. I hoped of picking up some pointers that would help eliminate painting my cars more than once during a build. It was a well-conducted class with a lot of hands-on activity. Tom was very knowledgeable and entertaining. I enjoyed his presentation. However, I did not come away with anything new except an appreciation of my airbrush.

The second seminar I attended was "What the Judges Look For" presented by Aris Pappas. Among other things he was a long time IPMS head judge. He put on a great PowerPoint presentation filled with many humorous stories related to judging. He gave us lots of dos and don'ts that most good modelers already know, but fail to execute. Things such as: poor seam and joint lines, misalignment of parts (in all three axis), poor decal work, glue marks, and poor model building consistency.

He said the more you add on to a model, the more chances you've given yourself for something to be wrong. The most important thing he said, and he said it several times throughout his presentation, "If you are in modeling to win trophies or medals, then you need to get yourself a hobby."

He said to have fun and enjoy this hobby. I mentioned earlier that, among other things Mr. Pappas, was a head judge. I looked him up on the Internet and was really surprised by this gentleman's real career.

[Editor's Note: There is bio of Mr. Pappas at [www.insaonline.org/assets/files/Aris%20And%20Pappas\(1\).pdf](http://www.insaonline.org/assets/files/Aris%20And%20Pappas(1).pdf)]

On Thursday evening the IPMS reviewer corps met for a little social hour. Many of the reviewers whose names I often see on the IPMS review pages were there. Several of the people from the IPMS "head shed" were there also. I really enjoyed my visit with Dave Morrissette, Dick Montgomery and the others.

During the time I was at the convention I got to visit with other modelers I've seen here and there. Folks like James Corley and some of the people who work at AAA. Paul Crowley could be seen everywhere looking and shopping. Mike Moore from Chattanooga and some others from that club were there. I told them we were pulling for them to be selected for the 2014 convention. (They didn't get the bid.)

The judging began at 6:00PM Friday night. From the quality I saw in those models I would not want to make the decisions the judges had to make. Not much else was

happening Friday. Therefore, my wife and I took the opportunity to visit her brother in Tampa Friday and spent the night with him. Saturday morning we left Tampa to go back to the Convention and pick up my models.

I had not planned to stay for the banquet and awards ceremony on Saturday night. There was a fat chance of me winning anything. Just before we left for home the raffle shootout was scheduled so we hung around for that. There

was still a lot of good "stuff" on the raffle table – as well as some just so-so "stuff". I was lucky enough to win one item, but unlucky in that it was a 1/48 Tamiya J2M3

Raiden. I missed the last kit raffled, a beautiful H-K Models 1/32 B-25, by one number. A miss is still a miss.

Needless to say, this was a very enjoyable trip. I was immersed in the sights and sounds of modeling and surrounded by modeling people for four days. The numbers I heard Saturday afternoon were something like 453 entrants with 2,711 models. The meals at Disney World restaurants were super. My traveling buddy was a trooper looking at models, helping me shop and watching the raffle tickets. But, best of all, she now has a little better understanding of what this is all about.

*Perry*



## Quarterly Contest Schedule

by Ron McCracken  
Vice-President

**O**ur clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here is the date and theme for the final contest of 2012.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
<b>December</b>	<i>White Elephant/Gift Exchange</i>

## Old Rumors/New Kits 2G

Aaron Smischney, Jeff Forster, Mike Poole,  
Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington

*Automotive*

**T**amiya has announced a 1/20 Red Bull RB6. The 2010 Champion Red Bull RB6 will be officially available for purchase in November. According to *Tamiya* the standard kit will come with photo-etch tire stencils, *Cartograph* decals and adhesive fabric seatbelts, among other things.



Expect a street price skyward of \$60.00.

Mike

*Aircraft*

Happy Halloween everyone! This month we'll be seeing some very nice treats from our favorite model makers.

Starting us off in 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale, *Meng Models* - those guys that make all the esoteric armor stuff - have gone off their own beaten path. They have announced a 1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale Convair F-102A

with the Case X wing. Pretty cool stuff from the images of the built models that are floating around the World Wide Inter-

Web, and on their website. Look for it to be hitting the shelves a little later this year. I think the only other offering in this scale is the Hasegawa kit. Given Meng's attention to detail and nice molded details, this kit should be a very nice addition to anyone's workbench. Perhaps even mine. I'd better break out the *OptiVISOR*.

Next up, *Special Hobby* announced a 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale Heinkel He 115. I'm not sure about the exact release date - I can't



find one. The September MPM/SH new release newsletter stated next month, which would put the release sometime in October.

In 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale, this twin engine float plane is going to be a sizeable model on the shelf. I believe a 1:1 scale artifact was just pulled out of a fjord in Norway. That would make the perfect, and timely, diorama.

[Editor's Note: There is youtube video of this aircraft at: [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=PqucJPcIIf#at=24](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=PqucJPcIIf#at=24)]

*Trumpeter* has just released another kit in its 1/32<sup>nd</sup> scale lineup of Me 109's. This kit is the Me 109G-2, and is supposed to be the best of the bunch. To be sure, it has the anemic rudder of its predecessors, including the overstated fabric detail on that rudder. However, the rest of the kit is nicely done without the dimpled divot look of some other *Trumpeter* kits. Perhaps the Mad Riveter is enjoying his new assignment over at *Hobby Boss*.



Last up for this month is *Great Wall Hobby*. They have to date given us a very nice TBD Devastator, a P-61A, and an improved P-61A, showing us that they do listen.

So, who asked them to do a jet? Well, that doesn't matter, because they just announced a late type MiG-29 (9-12) "Fulcrum-A" in 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale. That's pretty cool if you ask me. Say goodbye to the almost, fairly, kind of, sometimes accurate *Academy* kit that will wrestle you to the floor of your shop before you put it on the 'Shelf of Doom'



while you hit the weight room, building up the strength and intestinal fortitude to challenge it in the future.

Given *GWH*'s previous releases, this one should be a nice kit that fits nicely and has good detail. I have no idea on the release date. It's listed as "2012", so we have three months to figure it out.

The big news for the big scale is a new *Wingnut Wings* release. A 1/32nd scale combo kit featuring the Fokker E.III and the DH.2, named "The Duelists". Holy Canole! Two full kits sold as one, for a modest increase in price and free shipping. If you haven't seen a *WnW* kit yet, find someone who has one and peek into that box. They are exquisite kits, right down to the full color instruction booklets and included reference material. I hear that the individual kits will be sold separately later this year. But, I'd get the combo package as it's cheaper to buy in bulk.

Randy

**Armor**

Greetings armor fans and welcome to the armor curious. The big (and I do mean BIG) news this month is the shocking surprise release from *Dragon*. They are making the T-28 Super Heavy Tank. This was right out of the blue and a welcome announcement!



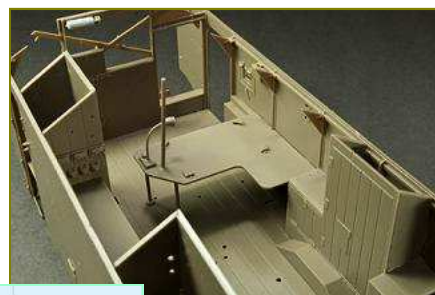
For those that think that this is another one of *Dragon*'s "vapor" announcements that will never actually see release...you can pre-order it right now with an announced ship date in November. Just in time for Christmas.

From *Bronco*, we have some more info on their soon to be arriving JEEP kit. First off, this kit will be about \$40.00. Seems steep until you look at all the goodies that *Bronco* will be providing. We will get a full engine and hood with hinge detail, a posable windscreen (you can swing the glass up just like the real thing!) or an option for a covered windshield.

Not only that but this is a *Ford* jeep with the *Ford* logo stamped in it. (I wonder if they paid a licensing fee?) Also included is a trailer and CREW! Yes, you actually get the "Duke" to sit in the front seat! I, for one, can't wait for this one.



*AFV Club* have released images of their upcoming Dorchester armoured command car. This one is great news for both allied and axis fans. It can be painted up as Rommels "mamut" captured command vehicle. This has a full interior and should be lot of fun!



*Dragon* has also announced a new figure set of Rommel, so the two should go together nicely.

For the modern armor fan *Panda Hobby* has released images of a built up "Tunguska". A Russian anti-aircraft tank that looks they part. This release is imminent, so watch for it!



That's the cream of the crop for this month.

Aaron

*Any problem caused by a tank can be solved by a tank.*

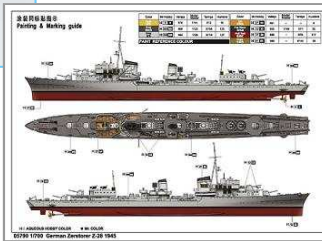
### Shipping News

Here's the latest, from the smallest to the largest.

In 1/700th scale from *Trumpeter* is the Z-21, circa 1940. The Z-21 was also known as the Wilhelm Heidkamp. This release includes the five 5" turrets as main armament.



For those wishing a bit less firepower, *Trumpeter* is issuing the Z-28, circa 1945.



This ship has four 5" turrets as its main armament.



Last in this scale is *Trumpeter's* USS Alabama BB-60 U.S. WWII battleship.



*Tamiya* will be releasing the BB-63 USS Missouri. This kit is slated for a December release.

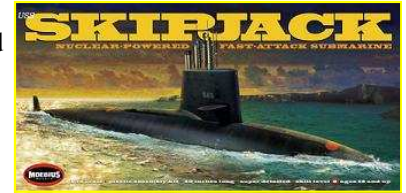
*Hobby Boss* is slated to release two soviet submarines. A Russian Alfa Class sub (The Hunt for Red October) as well as a Victor III class sub.



*Aoshima* has a IJN Isuzu anti-aircraft cruiser.

*Trumpeter* has an update set in 1/200<sup>th</sup> scale their Bismarck. The kit includes brass barrels, props and anchors for \$30.00. Not a bad price considering what you get.

1/72<sup>nd</sup> scale and continuing the trend toward bigger, *Moebius* (the movie monster/car/sci-fi guys) have the USS Skipjack nuclear attack submarine. At the time of its introduction the USS Skipjack was "the world's fastest submarine".



That's it for this month. Happy modeling!

Rick

### Sundries

The first time I saw this I thought it was pretty cool. Particularly if your doing a modern armor diorama. Or just want to show some "bros" sitting around re-hydrating themselves with a few liters of their favorite soft drink.



From *DEF Models* comes a 22- piece resin kit of Modern Portable Coolers with dented empty bottles. Include in the kit are labeling

decals. This the same manufacture that does replacement wheel sets for soft-skinned vehicles and updates sets for various armor releases.



Ben



See you at the contest!



In the latest issue of...  
**IPMS/USA Journal**

- **Fighter from the Funny Pages** - Creating the Blackhawks' Lockheed-inspired jet in 1:72 scale, by Dan Thompson.
- **The Last Jagdpanzer** - Building Germany's last tank destroyer using the Revell Germany kit, by David Bridges.
- **Lauda's Loser** - Building Tameo's BT 48 as the ill-starred 1979 ground-effects pioneer, by Wolfgang Meindl.
- **A Hero's Steed** - Building a childhood idol's P-51B Mustang, by T. Garth Connelly.
- **Loading up for the Landings** - The logistics of a sprawling 1:72 D-Day minus three diorama, by Mike McFadden.

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IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas 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](http://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 [manager@ipmsusa.org](mailto:manager@ipmsusa.org).

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If recommended by an IPMS member, list his/her name and member number \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ (IPMS#)

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Next Meeting:  
**October 11, 2012**  
at  
**Austin Old Quarry Library**  
(7051 Village Center Drive)  
**7PM to 8:45PM**

