



SPRUE EXAMINER®

Newsletter of The Austin Scale Modelers Society

April 2015
www.austlnsms.org

A Trip to Tamiya HQ by Eric Choy

Wednesday. Rainy (Tokyo), Sunny (Shizuoka City).

I woke up late in the morning. My feet still hurt after yesterday's hobby shop crawl all over Tokyo. I turned on the TV and was told an earthquake struck the northeast corner of Honshu overnight, not far from where the big one hit in 2011. Although, it was only a magnitude 4.5 quake, tsunami alerts were issued anyway all along the upper east coast. It is a common threat that the Japanese face on a daily basis. Two and a half months into 2015, there were already over 40 earthquakes recorded.

My destination today was Shizuoka. Mount Fuji may be the top tourist site in this scenic prefecture, but we modelers all know the capital Shizuoka City is the de facto capital of Japan's plastic model industry. The original "Big Four" that started here were Hasegawa (1941), Aoshima (1945), Tamiya (1946), and Fujimi (1949).

(continued on page four)



Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA).

ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author. It is intended for educational purposes only. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



In This Issue

<i>Take The Bullet Train</i>	1
<i>Randy's Ramblings</i>	3
<i>Fiddly Bits</i>	3
<i>Web At Night: Rewind</i>	7
<i>Make Your Own</i>	8
<i>Take A Seat: Kit Review</i>	9
<i>Temporary Course Change</i>	10
<i>In The Bag Box</i>	12
<i>Down Memory Lane</i>	13
<i>Serendipity</i>	15
<i>Know Thy Fellow Modeler</i>	16
<i>Not A Bad Landing</i>	17
<i>Things You May Not Know</i>	18
<i>Model Of The Month</i>	18
<i>Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G</i>	19

Visit us on the web:

www.austinsms.org

Our Sponsors:



Austin Armor Builders Society
www.austinarmorbuilders.com



www.kingshobbyshop.com



<http://www.williamsbrothersmodelproducts.com/planes.html>

Zoukei-Mura
 Super Wings Series

<http://www.zoukeimura.co.jp/en/>



<http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/>

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Phil Brandt
(in memorium) | Jack Johnston |
| | Mike Krizan |
| Eric Choy | Mike Poole |
| Angie Forster | Aaron Smischney |
| Jeff Forster | |
| Russ Holm | Rick Herrington |
| Rick Willaman | |

Upcoming Events

Model Shows

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ModelMania 2015, Stafford, Texas | 4.25.15 |
| http://www.ipms-houston.org/ | |
| Cajun Model Fest, Baton Rouge, Louisiana | 5.16.15 |
| http://www.brscscalemodelers.com/ | |
| ScaleFest, Region VI IPMS Convention, Grapevine, Texas | 5.30.15 |
| www.ipmsnct.net | |
| The Tulsa Show 2015, Tulsa, Oklahoma | 6.05/06.15 |
| http://www.hmsneo.org/ | |

Local Club Meetings

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Hill Country Outlaws Model Railroading, King's Hobby, Austin, TX | 5.09.15 |
| Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin, Texas | 5.06.15 |
| http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com | |
| Austin Model Cars, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas | 5.07.15 |
| Centex Scale Modelers, Killeen, Texas | 4.16.15 |
| http://www.centexscalemodelers.org/ | |
| Lone Star Figure Modelers, San Marcos Library, San Marcos, TX | 5.04.15 |

Other Events

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Build-N-Bull Day, King's Hobby Shop, Austin, Texas | 4.18.15 |
| Pioneer Flight Museum Fly-In, Kingsbury, Texas | 5.02.15 |
| pioneerflightmuseum.org/ | |

IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities.

The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country.

The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery and his email address is: www.models4troops@gmail.com

Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

ASMS Officers & Chairpersons

- Randy Bumgardner, President
president@austinsms.org
 Aaron Smischney, Vice-President
vicepresident@austinsms.org
 Eric Choy, Finance Minister
treasurer@austinsms.org
 Mike Lamm, Secretary
secretary@austinsms.org
 Ben Morton, Newsletter Editor
editor@austinsms.org
 Randy Bumgardner, Show Coordinator
showcoordinator@austinsms.org
 Mike 'Hollywood' Gilsbach, Webmaster
webmaster@austinsms.org
 Milton Bell, IPMS/USA Coordinator
chaptercontact@austinsms.org
 Tim Robb, Membership Coordinator
tim.rob主@mccoys.com

Randy's Ramblings**Randy Bungardner**

It's April and that means it's time for our first Quarterly Contest of the year! The theme is wide open, so bring everything you've finished and let's flood the category. Well, that was rather tongue-in-cheek but I couldn't resist. Still, bring in those finished models and let's have a great contest. Those finished models will also be eligible for the Model of the Month, the winner of which will be entered in the Model of the Year contest in December.

Remember to bring in your in-progress builds as well. I always find it fascinating and enjoyable to see what everyone else has on their bench. We've had some great builds and great stories these last few meetings.

I'd like to extend an extra,extra hearty "Thank You!" to Major General Wisian for his presentation last month. It was very interesting, informative, and, at times, humorous. He did an excellent job and could have gone on for much longer. Unfortunately, we had to cut it short due to time constraints. We will certainly be inviting him back to continue the presentation later this year.

It's almost time to make a model. Well, not make a model in the usual sense. We'll be field tripping to Williams Brothers Models on May 2nd. We'll be getting some hands on experience manufacturing a kit from start to finish. After we're finished, we'll be heading over to my house for BBQ. There will be a sign up sheet at our next meeting on the 16th. If you haven't already done so, get your name on that list.

Houston is hosting it's show on April 25th. ModelMania 2015 will occur at the Stafford Center, and the usual suspects will be in attendance. Let's have a good showing of ASMS members at the show. There is always a good turnout of models and vendors, so it's well worth the trip. Tom Moon has put out a request for judges – let's see if we can help him out.

That's all I've got for now, I hope to see everyone at the meeting. So, go build something!

Randy

***Fiddly Bits*****Frank Seibert**

Any of you who might have some photos of your completed models can upload those to the club's website. Just send your suitable for framing photos to Mike Gilsbach (webmaster@austinsms.org) and he'll do the rest. Be sure to include some information on the model: manufacturer, scale, etc. For those that might be unfamiliar or new, please check the club's website (austinsms.org) and start viewing the gallery.

ASMS has instituted a Modeler of the Year award for all active members. This annual award will be given to the club member that does the most to promote our club and the hobby. Regularly attending monthly meetings, entering model contests, doing presentations, *stuff for the newsletter*, etc. are all criteria for this soon to be coveted honor. The selection of the Modeler of the Year will be done by our executive board and all decisions are final. Unless they screw up royally, in which case, all bets are off.

It is past time to un-clutch some of that money you have and PAY YOUR DUES. ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual or \$30.00/family. You may bring those funds to a club meeting or remit same to our finance minister Eric Choy. His mailing address is: 13213 Moreno Drive, Austin, Texas 78729.

Frank



The number of companies grew over the years. Nowadays, Bandai, Platz, Asuka (formerly Tasca), Ebro, and Sweet all called Shizuoka City home in addition to the four mentioned, above.

As far as I know, Tamiya is the only plastic model company in town that has showrooms open to the public.

Shizuoka City can be reached by car/bus in 3.5 hours, but by the Shinkansen (bullet train), it takes less than 60 minutes. Needless to say, how can one say no to going 170 mph to cover the 103 miles journey? Riding inside a bullet train does not give you a good sense of how fast you are going. The only time that I felt its speed was when a Shinkansen Nozomi (express train) passed through Shizuoka Station after I disembarked.

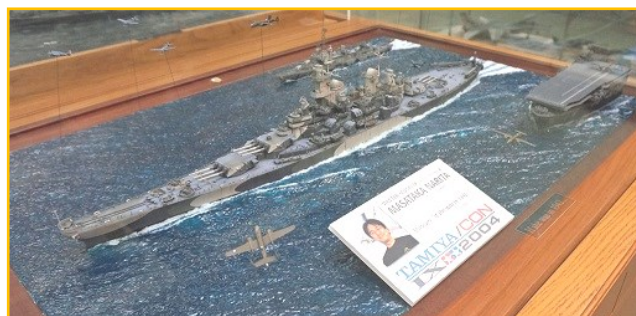


Standing on the platform, I heard rumbling from a distance, then zooooooom, a white shadow appeared for about five seconds, and then it was gone. Impressive!



I followed Tamiya's advice on its website and took a taxi there. The corporate office has two showrooms and a display area that are both open to the public every day. Two friendly receptionists handed me a map with ground rules explained in English: take as many photos (or videos) as you want but stay within the public area; dress properly and wear appropriate shoes (i.e., no sandals, flip-flops, or heels over 2"(!); no drinking, eating, smoking, and or talking on mobile devices; remain quiet as this is a business office not a place for relaxation [sic].

The first showroom contained most, if not all, of Tamiya's early products including the 1/800th battle ship Yamato and the Panther tank produced in the early 1960s. Along with them were masterpieces that won the Tamiya/Cons (1997-2006).



Tucked into one corner of the room was the trophy itself in dire need of cleaning and repair.





The second showroom included some current Tamiya products as well as a few abstract art objects.

The display area in the middle exhibited some actual vehicles that were used for research (e.g., M151 MUTT, 1974 Porsche 911, 1976 Tyrrell P34 F1 Six Wheeler, 1982 Lotus 91 Ford) or took part in F1 races that Tamiya sponsored (1992 Lotus S107 Ford).



In the middle of everything was a Kawaguchi plastic injection molding machine (similar to what Williams Brothers has) that cranked out kit samplers for visitors. I was told from time to time the staff changed out the mold to provide a variety of giveaways. Today, I got a samurai figure.



There was a small gift shop next to the display area.

The Tamiya brand biscuit and bread caught my eye. I thought it was a bit overboard to market your own food items until I realized they were Tamiya's fundraising effort for the 2011 Tsunami relief. Why not? I paid for one of each. You'll never know when you need emergency rations anyway!



An hour was all it took to look over what Tamiya has to offer for the general public. The company makes fun stuff for us to enjoy, but the business end of it is dead serious. Nowhere is this more evident than here at the corporate head office.

Feeling adventurous, I decided to take the bus back to the train station. Public buses in Japan operate very differently from elsewhere: you pay at the end of the ride, not before. How does the driver keep track of who pays what? I came to find out I was supposed to pick up a ticket as I entered the bus from the rear and matched the number on it to an electronic fare display at the front of the bus.

My fare was based on my destination and was updated on the display at each stop of the bus route.

To me, the whole process was confusing and awkward. But if it works for the Japanese, who am I to complain?

Near the train station was Shizuoka Hobby Square, a chamber-of-commerce style event center for the promotion of the plastic model industry. Masahiko Nakasone and I agreed to meet there so I could deliver his model he sent to Milton Bell for our contest last fall.

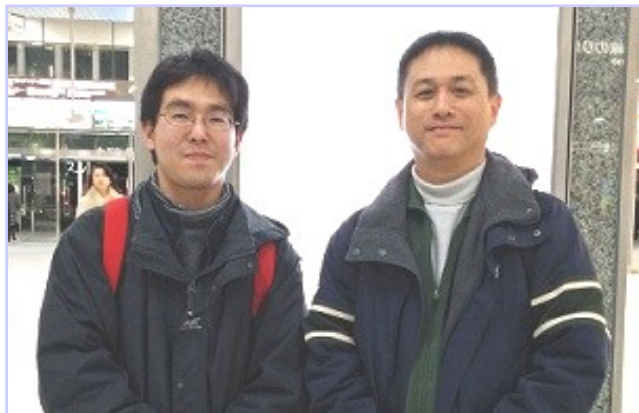
Since I arrived early, I spent some time wandering around trying to learn more about the history of the industry. Unfortunately everything was in Japanese. But I took pictures of them anyway hoping I would find some way to translate the text later.

At the exit of the Hobby Square was yet another hobby shop selling kits, paints, tools, and other unrelated model merchandise. By now, I was getting a bit tired of model shopping (never thought I would say that), but I went in anyway. I was tempted by a few novelty items, but Masahiko showed up just in time to save me from burning more holes in my wallet.

Masahiko recommended a restaurant near the station for an early dinner. We talked about the hobby industry, his time in Austin, my impression of Japan, and what we like to build. He might have forgotten some of his English skills, but it was a thousand times better than anyone else I encountered in Japan.

Against my objection, he paid for my meal and thanked me repeatedly for bringing his model back to him. After dinner Masahiko took me to a nearby bookstore for a quick browse of hobby and military books.

Before long it was farewell time. Then he remembered we needed evidence of us together, and we managed to find a young lady at the station to take a photo of us (Masahiko on the left and me on the right).



My Shinkansen train precisely on schedule (something the Japanese are very good at and proud of: keeping their public transportation running on time) and by 10PM, I was already back in my hotel room in Tokyo getting ready for bed.



The trip to Shizuoka City was not cheap. The round trip train ticket cost me over one hundred dollars.

I'm not sure I can recommend anyone going to Tamiya HQ just for the few things that I saw there.

Maybe it should be combined with other activities in the area (eg, a tour of Mount Fuji or the big Shizuoka Hobby Show in May) to make it more worthwhile.

Eric



Web At Night: Rewind **compiled by Jean-Michel D'Aubigne**

In last month's column I mentioned the company Metal Earth. This company manufactures small scale kits that are made from thin sheets of laser-cut steel. I also bemoaned the fact that although they do have some structures they didn't seem to have one of the Taj Mahal. Thanks to Mike Poole, I stand corrected.

<http://metalearthmodel.com/collections/architecture-buildings/products/fascinations-metal-earth-3d-iconx-laser-cut-model-taj-mahal>

At a recent gathering of fellow club members Bill Delk introduced us to a magnifying system to aid in your new modeling project. From Carson Company comes the Carson Magnifier Deluxe, a hands-free wearable magnifier with four separate lenses and detachable LED headlight.

Carson Company has been manufacturing magnifying glasses and optics for professional use and has branched out to the home market. This video is a short advertisement for their magnifier, but it does provide a nice overview of the product.

<http://www.opticsplanet.com/carson-magnivisor-deluxe-hands-free-magnifier.html>

This next morsel comes to us via Milton Bell. This is a short video taken from the perspective of some U.S. Navy pilots buzzing around in their F-18's. Some of the photography is just gorgeous.

Be sure and stick around for the complete video. When the clip ends the site will take you to a library of other United States military aircraft in action. Apropos is the one on the C-130 gunship.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/wfOD2y_AD_w

Unbeknownst to Bruce Burden, I purloined this next bit from him at a recent Build-N-Bull session at King's Hobby Shop. Bruce was regaling us with his experience of watching an Ultimate Restorations presentation on PBS. These people, oddly enough, restore things: fish cars, fire engines, etc. A recent

episode involved the restoration of a British Lysander. I was unable to find a link to the full episode but there is access to a short trailer for that specific episode from Ultimate Restorations website.

www.ultimaterestorations.com/the-lysander/

If it has been some time since you visited ASMS's Facebook page, or were simply unaware that ASMS even has a Facebook page, comes the following from Ray Katzman. This is a link to a WWII story involving a German U-Boat and the latest technology in body waste remediation. It comes to us via Military History On-Line.

<http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/u-1206-the-only-sub-to-be-sunk-by-a-dump-on-the-toilet.html>

During a short respite from compiling this column, I did a search of one of my favorite musical artists, Boz Scaggs. Some of you may be aware of this artist from his days with the Steve Miller Band or as a solo artist with hits such as *Lido Shuffle* or *Lowdown*.

When doing the search for Boz the second item in the queue was this video from DCNS. DCNS is a French Naval Defense company. They are working on the latest generation of conventional powered attack submarines for the French Navy. This promotional clip shows their design in action in various scenarios. In case you were wondering, DCNS is short for Direction des Constructions Navales Services.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqwkjOnJy78>

For Civil War buffs comes a collection of stereopticon photos that have been collected by Robin Stanford of Houston, Texas. She began collecting these images years ago and has recently sold them to the Library of Congress. The Library is in the process of digitizing the images and has about 77 done so far. This clip is from the Washington Post with some explanation and a link to those Civil War images, most of which were taken by Southern photographers.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-grandmothers-trove-of-civil-war-photos-goes-to-the-library-of-congress/2015/03/28/19e41776-d1a3-11e4-8fce-3941fc548f1c_story.html

Jean-Michel



Making Your Own Canopy Masks by Ron McCracken

One of the joys of aircraft model building is trying to paint the framing of canopies without getting paint on what is supposed to be clear. I've long used a technique involving ordinary white glue as a masking agent, with the cutting part done using the clear part as a guide.

However, this system is incompatible with pre-treating the canopy with Future/PFM (white glue sticks to PFM like, well, glue) and a number of very good modelers I've talked to don't feel they have a steady enough hand to cut masking right on the clear part.

So, here is a technique that does all the cutting away from the actual part, and that doesn't react adversely to a coat of PFM.

It has two limitations. First, it is not very good for large areas with a compound curve, e.g. a full "bubble" canopy. Second, it can only be used if the frames are sufficiently well-delineated on the canopy part.



These are the steps that are involved: Obtain some common, household aluminum foil. Cut a piece

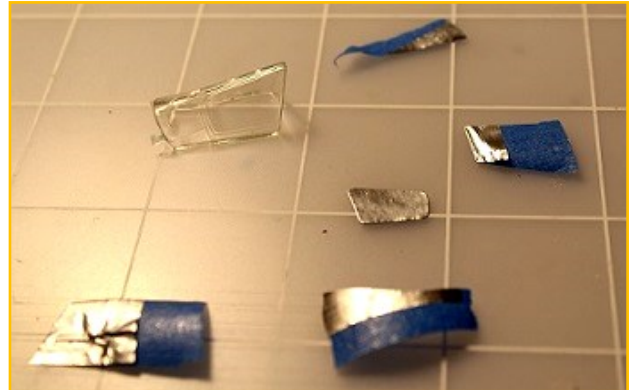
large enough to more than cover one of the canopy clear panels. Then, using a cotton swab, rub the foil down to a snug fit on the canopy. If you can see the panel lines outlining the clear panel, you are good to go.



With the foil still held in place on the canopy, take a

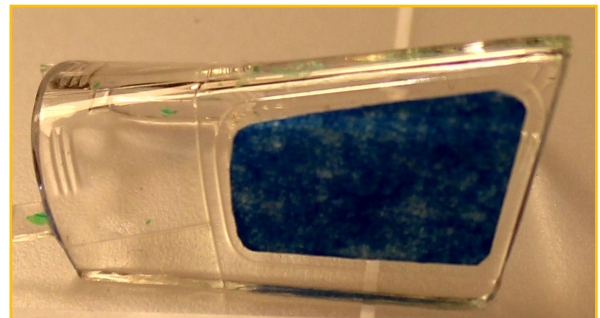
piece of masking tape larger than the clear panel and stick it snugly down on top of the foil. Now you can pull the tape and foil off the canopy as a unit.

Flip the tape over, foil side up, and using small scissors, cut away the excess tape and foil, following the panel lines in the foil.



Using the tip of a knife blade, peel up any convenient corner of the foil from the tape, until you have enough free to grip with tweezers, and finish pulling the foil away.

You should now have a piece of masking tape, the exact shape and size of your clear panel (at least, as exact as your ability with scissors) which you can stick onto the canopy.



When painting, (assuming the use of an airbrush) start with a coat of clear gloss (Future, AKA PFM) to prevent color coats from creeping under the masking, followed by a coat of the interior color, and finishing with the exterior color.

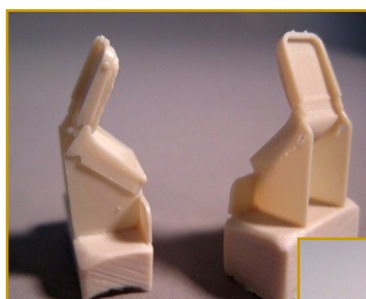
Ron



**Ultracast Messerschmitt 262 Seats
without harness
(for single or dual seat aircraft)
by Floyd S. Werner, Jr., IPMS No.: 26266**

The seats are pretty simplistic in the new Dragon Me-262B-1 but Ultracast can fix that. The new set from Ultracast is beautiful.

You get two seats molded perfectly in light caramel. The framing and the cushion detail is beautifully rendered. This allows you to add the seats with your preferred seat belts and shoulder harnesses.



The detail, especially in the cushion, is far superior to the kit offering.



Highly recommended.

You can obtain your copy by contacting them directly at www.ultracast.ca or through some hobby shops or online retailers. If you order directly from them there is a \$9.95CDN shipping worldwide.



Floyd



**IPMS/USA 2015
National Convention
July 22-25, 2015
Columbus, Ohio**

International Plastic Modelers Society

**2015 NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

JULY 22-25 COLUMBUS, OHIO

Hosted by IPMS Eddie Rickenbacker



The International Plastic Modeler's Society 2015 National Convention website is available to peruse.

There is a lot of information there and more will be added as the actual event approaches.

*International Plastic
Modelers Society*

**2015
NATIONAL
CONVENTION**



COLUMBUS, OHIO

More information about the National Convention may be obtained at:

ipmsusa2015.com

Temporary Course Change by Rick Cotton

OK, this is new for me: I'm building a 1/35th scale truck. I'm not a truck guy! I'm a ship and airplane guy! I don't build trucks!

This all started sometime back, when I made a mass purchase at a show in Baton Rouge. "Whaddya want for all of these?" The seller quotes a ridiculously low price, and I am the proud owner of a few interesting planes, one ship, and...a Tamiya GMC 2x6 truck, the ubiquitous "Deuce and a Half." At this point, it's an afterthought, the "player to be named later."

Some time passes and I make a half-hearted attempt at selling the truck, which no one bites on. I am actually Okay with that, as the truck might, just might, be useful in a diorama idea I have. I have lots of diorama ideas...I've just never really gone through with any of them, mainly because I can't do figures worth a flip. My figures always look like they should be wearing preppy clothes in a Macy's display window.

But there is something about trucks, the endless variety of types, uses and configurations...workshops and fuel trucks, radio command posts and ambulances, that appeals to me. One could build a huge collection of nothing but different types and nationalities of trucks, and never repeat themselves.

It begins to...call to me. In the middle of the Saratoga's endless air group build, when I am cross-eyed from putting on teeny little numbers...the truck whispers to me....build me....Tamiya....easy fit....build me. Like a siren luring an amorous sailor to his watery doom, the darned truck begins to pull me in, with its sweet song of easy assembly and glorious dry brushed detail....build me...BUILD ME! That does it.

The teensy weensy planes go into a cup at the back of the bench. Out comes the Tamiya box, and here I am, knee-deep in olive-drab plastic. It fits, oh GAWD, it fits very well! It goes together easily, like it was actually designed to do. Five days later, I have a partly assembled chassis and drive train, cab and box bed, and I am happily spraying away with my new best friend, a single-action Paasche airbrush, which replaced the stupid double action thing that made my life a living hell! It's actually FUN to airbrush again!

I'm learning again, too! I have queried a good friend regarding this armor-building thing, and how to weather the stuff, and it is leading me into interesting things that I have never done.

Rust becomes an adventure in 3D, not just a tiny little collection of subtle dots on a large ship. Oil stains, dirt, and fuel leaks are all over the place. It's just lovely! Oil leaking out of a ship usually means a jagged torpedo hole, a steep list, and months of conversion work. Not here...here it's just another fun little detail! Even better, it has no ill fitting wings to align, nor does it have a tail to twist in the wrong direction. Many of the seams on the model are actually present on the actual vehicle! What a concept!

Later will come all those other little mysteries...rolled tarps and boxes of stuff, fuel barrels, and, in this case, spare aircraft parts stashed in the bed. For once, Trumpeter's tendency to put way too many parts in their airplane kits will come in handy. I'm going to roll the awning up at the sides and tie it off, as if the scale owners were trying to get some air into their workspace here on this dusty, hot Okinawa airstrip. Why not? Might even have a little tear in the canvas, just to make it interesting.

Yes, the plane parts are 1/32, and the truck isn't, but so what? I'm no good at being noble, but the problem of 3% scale difference doesn't really amount to a hill of beans in this crazy modeling world, Ilsa. Here's looking at you, Trumpeter.

Am I going full-tilt into armor? Absolutely not. But there is nothing wrong with changing course, tacking a bit to the East for a short time. When what you have been building begins to feel like an assembly line, and you have done it, and done it, and done it until it isn't a challenge any more...there is absolutely nothing wrong with stashing it all in the back for a while, and changing to a challenging new subject.

A word of caution: just *one* new subject. Don't over-populate your Shelf of Doom and never finish anything. As soon as the truck is done, Saratoga is back on the desk. I am already feeling a slight touch of desire to put her island together.

And that's *good*. *Desire* to build something is key, and it drives you to work better, and with more intensity, and less of the get-it-done-quick-so-I-can-go-on-to-something-else mentality. No short cuts! *Do it right!*

Are you six or eight months into a build, with no end in sight? Are you like Boyd Waechter, cross-eyed in the midst of 3,000 microscopic little decals on your fighter jet, with a bad case of I-hate-decaling-this-thing-itis? That feeling has another name....*stress*.

Take a break. Shove the masterpiece off to the side for just a bit. Take a deep breath and relax. Look at, fondle, and glue together something else for a change. Just for a little while. Something very different. Something with fewer parts, and excellent fit. Something that is a basic, *fun* build. It will rest your senses, calm your mind, and make you smile.

Eventually you will begin eyeing the masterpiece again and the desire to build it will re-grow until you are ready to re-start it. But not yet. Change that course. I would recommend a Tamiya truck. Works for me!



Rick

Quarterly Contest Schedule

ASMS holds four quarterly model contests throughout the year. There is prize money for first, second and third place at each contest. Prize money is provided by King's Hobby Shop and ASMS. Thanks and appreciation to King's for their continuing support of ASMS. The dates and themes for 2015 are:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Subject</u>
April 16	Open any subject/any era
June 18	Open any subject/any era
September 17	Bondo Special*/ Open
*This contest features any kit from the estate of Phil 'Bondo' Brandt or any subject/any era. The Bondo Special winner will receive a plaque whilst the open contest will feature first, second, and third prizes.	
December 17	White Elephant (Any model received at the annual ASMS Christmas gift exchange.)



Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Presenter/Subject
April	Quarterly Contest
May	Gen. Peter Bonanni Virginia Air National Guard
June	Quarterly Contest
July	Milton Bell/TBA
August	Rick Herrington/TBA
September	Quarterly Contest
October	Randy Bumgardner/TBA
November	Bob Bethea/TBA
December	Quarterly Contest

**If you are interested in giving a presentation at a future ASMS meeting, contact our Vice-President/Program coordinator
Aaron Smischney.**

vicepresident@austinsms.org

Most Prolific Modeler is in the bag...er box. by Mike Lamm

At one of our most recent club meetings, we voted to create a new award, the Most Prolific Modeler award.

The award will be presented to the modeler who brings the most models for show-n-tell during our monthly meetings. Since we decided that the models have to be completed the *same* year as when they are presented, that means I'll need to really crank up the production line! With that in mind, I figured I'd start with an easy model, the Pegasus Hobbies 1/48 FW-190.



The box art says it's a snap-together model. That's not a model. I tend to agree, and although the cover art depicts a plane flown by Joseph "Pips"

Priller, a pilot depicted famously in the movie *The Longest Day*, it looks pretty lame from the outside. Still, a model is a model, and each model completed is a model I can count towards the Most Prolific Modeler



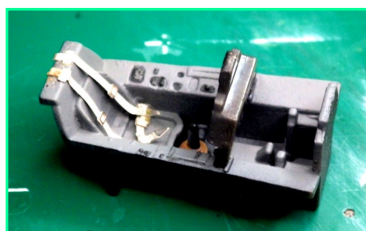
award, so here what's in the box.

Well, look at that. Un-painted sprues of plastic parts, maybe this

will count as a model kit after all. Now that the box is open it's time to get to work.



I started with the some primer and worked on the cockpit. There are actually some nice details to the kit. The cockpit and detailed wheel wells were a surprise. I added some Eduard seatbelts since the seat didn't have any belts at all.



I don't want Pips, or Hans, to fall out while in flight.

After a few hours of building, and although it is a "snap" kit, I still found that just about

every part had to be glued in order to get a proper fit. Also, there was still the need for filler in a few areas, so the more I worked with it, the more I felt this counted as a "kit".

However, with plenty of time left in the day, everything was ready for priming and paint. Priming was finished, and some RLM74 was sprayed just in time for bed.



After a good night's sleep, I woke up and put a little RLM76 in the necessary areas. I love the smell of Tamiya paint in the morning. Actually, I love that smell any time!



So after smelling some paint and thinner, I decided to settle into a lovely breakfast of bacon,

eggs, fruit, and juice. Then it was time for some more painting this time with some homemade RLM75 after I discovered the bottle I had had dried out. A mix of Tamiya XF54, XF51, and X2 turned out okay.

By noon, I was in the home stretch! Instead of sticking with the kit provided decals/ scheme of Pips' plane,



I decided to go with a scheme for a plane flown by Hauptmann Hans "Assi" Hahn. Luckily, I had a few decal choices to work with. By 3:30 in the afternoon, I was finished and ready for the next model in the stash!



At this rate, I should be able to finish about 25 to 30 models a month, and to paraphrase Chief Martin Brody in Jaws...We're going to need a bigger show-n-tell table. I'm also going to need a bigger car to bring them to the meeting.



Start to finish, this one model was completed in about 22 hours, minus time to sleep, eat, dinner, breakfast, lunch, hang out with the family, etc. So what's keeping me from doing this every time? Whether you take 22 hours, 22 days, or 22 months, go build a model!

Mike

Entex 1/12 BMW 3.5CSL by Mike Krizan

This kit is a trip down memory lane. The first time I had this kit was when I was stationed at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii while in the U.S. Marines.

In 1977, I think I paid about \$35.00 for the kit at a Honolulu hobby shop. The kit comes in a huge suitcase-sized box and I was living in a squad-bay type barracks where personal space was very limited. Everything I owned had to fit in a steel wall locker.



The box took up the entire top shelf. Using very few tools and a minimum of paint, my finished model came out okay. I managed to carry the finished model from Hawaii to Austin in my lap.

I gave it to my brother who was a big fan of BMWs and the model slowly returned to kit form.

When I started building models again, I wanted to get a hold of another kit. About six months ago I found one on eBay that was less than \$200.00, including shipping.

On to the Entex kit, which is a re-boxing of the Otaki kit. This kit is as detailed as the Tamiya 1/12 model kits of the same era. There is a minimum amount of flash and seams on the parts.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop



www.kingshobbyshop.com

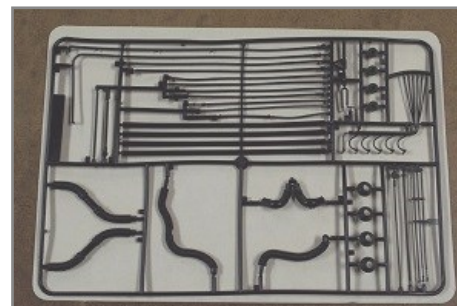
www.hillcountyhobby.com



www.hobbytown.com



One sprue consists of all the brakes, ducts, fuel lines, and hoses, molded in a flexible space-age rubber.



The plated parts are convincing. Other than some ejector pin marks, the kit is excellent.



The decals appear to have withstood the test of time.



Enjoy the pictures. Special thanks to Milton Bell for help with this article and photos.

Mike



Newsletter Contest In Full Swing

The Sprue Examiner editorial staff continues its sponsorship of The Sprue Examiner newsletter contest.

This year-long contest challenges all members of Austin Scale Modeler's Society to compete against each other. All members of ASMS are vying for the coveted prize of having their club dues paid for by the editorial staff for the upcoming year (2016).



Past recipients of this coveted award have included such luminaries as Milton Bell and Mike Lamm.

The contest rules are very simple and require minimal effort on the contestant's part. Simply stated: whomever sends in the largest number of items for publication in the newsletter during the course of 2015 wins.

Those items can include anything that the contestant deems to be of interest to the modeling public. These can range from websites, photographs, articles, essays, articles, cartoons, reports on new kits, articles, etc.

All items submitted to the newsletter editor qualify whether or not that item is published .

There is still plenty of time left in the calendar year for you to win this desirable prize.

Please send all submissions to : editor@austinsms.org

Serendipity by Aaron Smischney

I recently found myself on a business trip to Orlando, Florida. I took a look at the local IPMS/USA chapter and lo and behold they were having a meeting while I was in town!

I made my way to the meeting site and found them with no problem. After I introduced myself as an IPMS/USA member from Austin, a guy in the back piped up and asked me if I knew Bob Bethea!

It's a small world for sure (or Bob is just world famous or is it infamous?). The club was very welcoming and I felt right at home. It's always interesting to see how other clubs are run. After a general business and show report they went right to show-n-tell.

After show-n-tell, they had a club drawing. The way they do club drawings is a bit different than ours but interesting, nevertheless.

The club had a selection of high end kits: Meng Bradley with interior, Tamiya LFA car kit, some airplanes, Vallejo paint set, etc. Members and visitors donate five dollars for a chance to win. The winner has their pick of the available kits.

It's an interesting way to have a drawing/fund-raising event rolled into one. After the meeting, we broke for dinner.

I had a great time! If you find yourself in a new town for vacation or business, make sure to check to see if any modelers are gathering. It's a great way to meet new people!



[People bringing in their goodies to show off.]



An awesome model of Discovery One from the movie 2001. This was brought in by Tom Gardner, who regaled us with how difficult the resin kit was to build.



Very nicely done figure by Anthony Knific which won a silver medal at a recent Atlanta figure show.

Aaron



[Editor's Note: It should be noted that at the time of this meeting, the gentleman that wanted to know if Aaron was familiar with Bob Bethea was actually attending his first club meeting.]

Know Thy Fellow Member By Bruce Bitner

Your name (include modeling nicknames):
Bruce Bitner

Your birthday (year is optional): **June 12**

Your day job: **Engineer/Investor**

Years spent building models: **12 years**

Are you a "life-long" modeler - one who has been building models since childhood or certain age -or- "reborn" modeler - one who returns to this hobby after some years of hiatus. **I think of myself as a newborn modeler.**



Primary area of modeling interest (eg, airplane, armor, ship, figure, sci-fi, etc.): **Semi Trucks and Sports Cars. I have also built WWII tanks and planes in the past.**

Favorite era of your primary modeling interest (e.g. WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam). **For Armor, WWII, for cars and trucks, 1960's to present..**

The number one reason why you like to build models: **I like to recreate detailed scenes you can get lost in.**

What other hobbies do you have other than building models? **Driving a semi for a high school band, metal fabrication, running/bicycling, model railroading (currently not active)**

Who influenced or inspired you to build models? **My grandfather introduced me to model trains when I was young. Models offered much more detail than the die cast of the day.**

Who is your favorite "master" modeler? **I don't have one at this point.**

Do you consider yourself a **__x__ model builder**
__ model collector __ both

Size of your unbuilt model collection: **100 or less**

Does your family (especially your spouse) has any negative opinion on the size and/or storage of your model collection? **No**

Best and worst excuse you told your spouse (or mother) for buying yet another model kit. **An oldie but goodie, "It was on sale." The last one didn't turn out as well as I would have liked, so I need to build another.**

What is the plan for your unbuilt collection when you die or give up this hobby? **Haven't thought that far in the future.**

First model you ever completed (include year you completed it) **1977, Snap-Tite GMC Bison Truck**

The longest time it took to complete a model (include model name and make) **AMT 1/25 Peterbuilt Pace-maker, 1 month**

Best model you built so far. **1/25 Revell Motocraft Mustang GTO**

Worst model ever built/attempted to build. **AMT 1/25 Peterbuilt Pacemaker**

Modeling project(s) you are working on. **AMT/Ertl International Transtar 4300 Eagle**

Dumbest thing you ever did (to your model or yourself) while building a model. **Started a model on fire when trying to create a "flat tire."**

Worst thing you did to your model to express your anger and frustration. **BB gun target practice. I felt much better after the model was "put to rest."**

Bruce

The Fact That There's A Highway To Hell
And Only A Stairway To Heaven Says A
Lot About Anticipated Traffic Numbers.

Not The Worst Landing by Mike Lamm

Former test pilot, Chuck Yeager, once said, “if you can walk away from a landing, it’s a good landing. If you use the airplane the next day, it’s an outstanding landing.”

I wonder what he would call a landing that you couldn’t walk away from, where the plane would never be used again, but nobody died and the pilot did walk away and fly other aircraft after some time to heal? An OK landing?



George Aird, a test pilot with the De Havilland Aircraft Company, had just such an experience in September 1962, and amazingly, it was actually caught on camera.

On September 13, 1962, George Aird was flying an English Electric Lightning F1, specifically P1BXG332. He had been testing new air-to-air missile systems and was returning to his airfield in Hatfield, England. During the testing, he experienced a fire warning and had to cut the test flight short.

On final approach for an emergency landing and just seconds before touchdown, at an elevation of about 100 feet, he lost all control of the plane and was about to crash. Suddenly, the aircraft pitched nose-up, giving him just enough time to eject before the aircraft

crashed on the airfield, broke up, and caught fire.

The wreckage of the Lightning can be seen just short of runway 06. George, and his seat, landed in also visible as the big hole of the second greenhouse as in the photograph pictured below. The damage at the other end of the greenhouse is where the Lightning’s canopy landed.



George landed in a row of greenhouse tomatoes sustaining several fractures; including breaking both legs, and was knocked unconscious from the impact. He was awoken by the greenhouse sprinklers that kicked on after he crashed through the roof.

The man who took the amazing picture, Jim Meads, was actually a professional photographer who lived near the airfield and was friendly with one of the test pilots working there.

Jim’s friend had told him they would be flying Lightnings that day, so he took his kids for a walk and brought his camera hoping to get a shot of his children with the planes in flight behind them.

At the time of the photo, the man driving the tractor was telling Mr. Mead that he shouldn’t have been there.

Mr. Mead said that the plane’s direction of approach and the nose suddenly pitching up had given him just enough time to line up the once-in-a-lifetime shot as the pilot ejected.

The Daily Mirror paid £1,000 (almost \$30,000 by today’s standard) for the photograph. However, it was such a once-in-a-lifetime shot, that other newspaper companies thought the picture was a fake.

Verifying the authenticity of the photograph was aided by the actions of the U.K. Ministry of Defense toward banning publication of the photo. Helping to confirm that the photo was indeed real.

As for George, he was back flying again six months later, and piloting Lightnings a year after the accident.



[English Electric Lightning F1, P1BXG332, photographed in better days in 1960.]

Mike

Things You May Not Know

Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts.

However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills. He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.

They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "Truck."

Model of the Month

Each month a completed model is selected from the monthly show-n-tell segment during the club's meetings. At the end of the year, all the monthly winners will reunite in December in order for the model of the year to be chosen by the assembled multitude from the past months winners.



Rick Herrington's 1/35 Academy M1A1 Abrams was chosen as model of the month at our March meeting.

Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G

Randy Bumgardner, Rick Herrington, Mike Poole,
Golzar Shahrzad, Aaron Smischney

Automotive

I mentioned this first item back in February when Tamiya suddenly dropped a new kit out of the sky at Nuremberg. It's the brand new tool of the iconic Mercedes 300SL in 1/24th scale and I finally have my mitts on one. It's so good, it has restored my faith in the modern plastic car kit.

The part count is just right and all the important delicate details are expertly scaled and just beautiful. There is a complete space frame built up from individual pieces and a gorgeous interior with opening gullwing doors. There are decals for tiny under hood labels and even metal appliques for the trunk and side scripts.



As the photo proves (and yes, it's the kit), this thing can build into a stunning model and it's a great value at less

than \$30! Fingers crossed it sells well, prompting more new tools of these iconic classics.

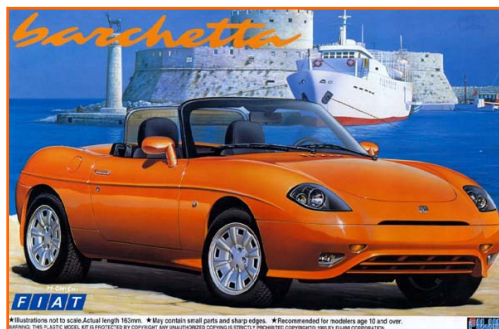
Aoshima has issued another livery variant in their McLaren F1 series. This time it's the Gulf Racing sky blue and burnt orange colors mixed with a bit of black and crimson for a '90s twist on the old theme.

It failed to place very high at Le Mans but it's still my favorite color scheme out of all the teams that raced the F1. Everyone agrees the Aoshima kit is much nicer and more accurate than the Fujimi version that released at the same time last year. It's out now for around \$40. I got mine!



Now, on to some repops.... While it never made it to American shores, the Fiat Barchetta (barque-ett-ah, meaning "little boat" in Italian) made a temporary splash across the sun-drenched shores of Southern Europe. I recall this fun little car was billed as the European Miata. I always found that funny because the Miata was often billed as the Japanese Lotus Elan!

Fujimi has recently reissued their interpretation in 1/24th scale and while it's only a curbside (no engine) you can still build it and take a cruise down the St. Tropez beaches in your mind for about \$12. No sunscreen required.



Perhaps Gullwing Mercedes and Barchettas aren't your cup of Joe? Nothing says performance like a Pacer. I feel my adrenal glands pumping just thinking of those horses under the hood, both of them!

Ok, I threw this one in just so I could poke fun at it. I recall the '70s CB radio slang for this travesty of a car was "pregnant roller skate". Even Frenchmen would duck their heads in this thing. It makes me want to build it just so I can paint flames on the hood.

The model is actually pretty decent. There's full engine detail but you'll need a magnifying glass to see it. I'll stop now. It's 1/25th scale and in stores now for about \$20.



Wow, I could 'a had a V8! Ford's flathead V8 always had the power advantage in the '30s but I've always liked the aero styling of the Chevrolets from the period despite their anemic straight 6 power.

As part of the Retro Deluxe series, AMT has reissued their 3 in 1 kit featuring the original '60s era box art and some freshened details. Back in the day, the term "3 in 1" meant you could build the model in 1 of 3 different configurations with a lot of extra parts left over.



In this case the kit can be built as stock, custom, or drag gasser spec. I've looked at the

sprue shots and believe you really can build a factory stock Business Coupe. The '37 Chevy is available now for about \$30.

The pickin's are a bit thin this month from Revell, Moebius, and Polar Lights so I guess I'll hand it over to the next crew member.

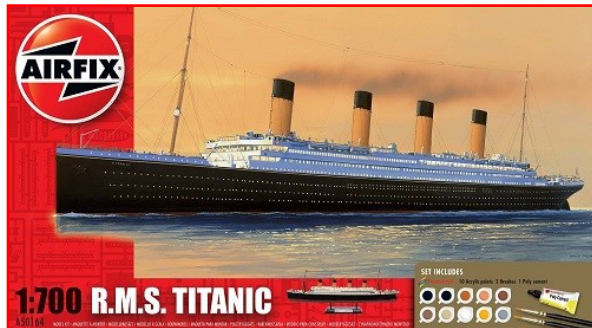
Take a walk on the shiny side. Build a car model!

Mike



Shipping News

Beginning with the diminutive 1/700th scale comes the RMS Titanic from Airfix. This kits comes with paint, brushes and poly cement.



Fujimi continues their IJN Second Carrier Division with the Hiryu and the Soryu, Japanese aircraft carriers.

Niko Models has produced a water line resin model of the USS Boise CL-47 (July 1942) US Cruiser.



Tamiya has the IJN DD Hatsuyuki Japanese destroyer and the Royal Navy Battleship HMS Nelson. Not to be left out, Trumpeter is offering the HMS Dreadnought battleship (1915).

And now going from small to the larger 1/200th scale comes a couple of accessory sets for some previous releases. Both of these sets are from HobbyDecal/

Pontos and are designed for the Trumpeter kits.



The first is an update set for the Bismarck.

The set contains 5 sheets of photo-etch parts, 5 brass screws and five resin pieces for a mere \$150.00.

The other update set is for the BB-61 Iowa. This set includes a stained blue wooden deck, 303 pieces of scribed brass, 18 sheets of photo-etch, 29 resin parts, 16 life rafts and 1 set of dry transfers.



This update set will run you about \$279.00.

In 1/35th scale and from Merit International is the HMS X-Craft Submarine. These are the submarines that attacked the German battleship Tirpitz. Even at 1/35th this still a small model so it shouldn't be a space hog like those 1/72nd scale Revell U-boats.



That's it. Take a kit from your stash and build it!

Rick



Aircraft

April has arrived and so have the spring showers – unless you're in the Northeast, where it's probably still snowing. We've got some interesting new kits coming out as well as some that have already been released. Let's start with what's already heading to your local hobby shop.

Special Hobby has just released a couple of kits that haven't seen the light of day recently. They released a 1/48 Grumman AF-2 Guardian in two configurations.

The first is the AF-2W Guardian "Hunter" and the second, if you haven't already guessed, is the AF-2S Guardian "Killer". Both kits share many of the same parts, with the obvious differences.

These are the typical mixed media kits from Special Hobby – resin engines and detail bits, photoetch details, and injected plastic major parts. The details look very nice, and crisper than previous SH releases.

Special Hobby has also released a 1/48 North American F-86K Sabre Dog. The F-86K, the export version of the F-86D interceptor, without the E-4 fire control radar, is issued in two boxings.



We have one labeled "Dutch, Italian, & Norwegian" and the other "Armée de l'Air & Bundesluftwaffe." Both contain the same kit with different decals. Just as I described above, it's a mixed media kit containing injection molded plastic, resin and photoetch details, and Cartograph decals.

R.V. Aircraft is releasing something special for the small scale modelers that like jets in May. A 1/72 Mirage III C/J is on the horizon from them. Previous releases from these guys have been very well done, and have spanned a variety of subjects. However, many of their kits are hard to find and are often sold out. They produce limited run injection molded kits that are very well detailed.



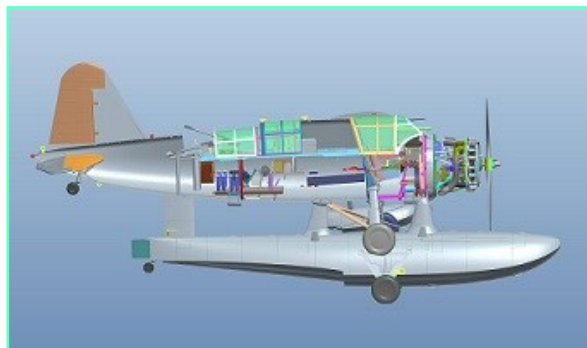
Also appearing on the shelves in May is the 1/32 De Havilland Mosquito Mk.IV. H.K. Models, famous for producing very large kits, is bringing this one to market.

I'm sure that comparisons will be made to the Airfix kit, though that kit is 1/24th scale. So, if you thought the Airfix kit was too large, you may be relieved to know this one is slightly smaller.



Kitty Hawk is known for bringing out kits that no one is willing to, or no one wants, to bring to market. This time they have announced a brand new Vought OS2U-1 Kingfisher.

And here's the big surprise... it's in 1/32nd scale! Holy Floatplanes, Batman! That's gonna be a big King-fisher. I wonder if a flood of Monogram kits will hit eBay. I realize that kit is in 1/48th scale, but some might just find the space for this one.



I saved the "oddest" for last, Some will say "best" for last. Rumor has it that Prop & Jet Models will be producing a 1/72 Chance Vought XF6U-1 Pirate prototype. This is the aircraft prototype that competed with the FH Phantom and the F2H Banshee.

Unless somebody was pulling my leg on that Russian model forum (I don't read Russian very well), this will be a limited edition resin kit, and they suggest that "experienced" modelers have a crack at it.



Prop & Jet have typically brought out little known Soviet prototype limited run kits.

From what I can find, this is their first foray into an aircraft from another country. We'll see what happens...

That's it for this month... fini!



Randy

Miscellaneous

I thought to begin with some items that are available at either an online retailer or your friendly neighborhood hobby shop.

I would encourage everyone to support your local hobby shop, *first*. By the time you order the sale priced item online, pay the shipping costs, and wait, your local hobby shop will have the same item at nearly the same price. Maybe not as soon, but is your model stash really so low that you must have another kit right this instant? Patience is a virtue.

Revell is digging into their vault to bring you a 1/25th scale Surf ite with a Big Daddy Roth pre-painted figure. The kit also comes with a Tiki-Hut. Surf's up, dude!



Mark I Models has a 1/144th scale kit, actually two complete models in the box, of the Focke-Wulf Ta-152H-O. These kits are generally very nice. The only complaint that I have heard about these kits is that the injected molded plastic is a bit on the soft side. Just exercise some caution while building.

Takom has a of 1/35th scale thingy for you. Another heavy siege howitzer for WWI fans, the Škoda 42cm M.1917.

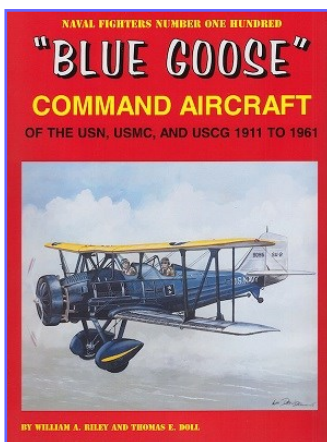


Speaking of things giant, if you have that giant model of the 1/32nd scale Horten Ho229 and are searching for a unique way to finish it, Uschi van der Rosten has come to your aid.

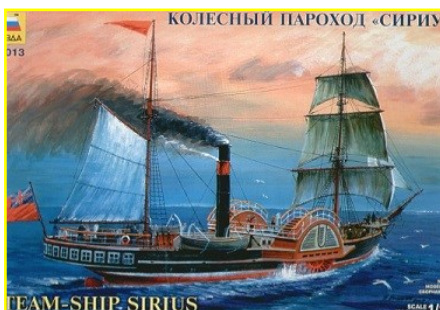


They are releasing a wood grain decal set for that kit. There are six sheets of decals with eight different textures.

Naval Fighters Press has a new book release to add to that library. Blue Goose appears to be a comprehensive history of U.S. Naval aircraft from 1911 through 1961. The 8.5 x 11 inch softcover book is 128 pages with 15 color illustrations, 13 color photos and 435 black and white photographs. The title comes from the color scheme developed for these aircraft in the 1930's.



Zvezda has a 1/100th scale injected molded kit of the 1893 British Paddle Steamer *Sirius*. This is the first steam-powered vessel to cross the Atlantic.

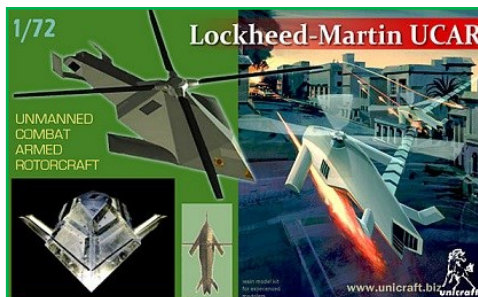


Flying Leather-necks has some decal sets that may interest you quarter scale (1/48) aircraft modelers. One set covers the stencils on modern USMC/USN

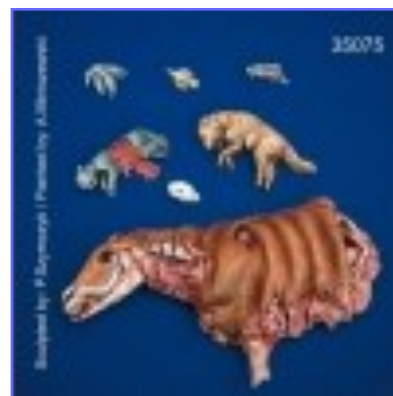
Naval ordinance. The other covers all the stencils found on the LAV-7 missile launcher. Don't forget your magnifier!

Airfix has announced a new tooled JU-87B Stuka in 1/72nd scale. If the quality is anything like their current small scale releases, it should be a most welcome addition.

Unicraft has a 1/72nd scale Lockheed-Martin UCAR in your future. This resin kit is one of the latest generation of unmanned stealthy combat helicopters.



Mantis Miniatures has something to go along with all those WWI tank and artillery kits coming out. In 1/35th scale is a collection of maimed and desiccated animals for your next diorama. Cool!



IBG Models has a Chevrolet light re-con truck, the C15TA. This injected molded kit is in 1/35th scale.

Aeroplast has a collection of four kits centered around their forthcoming 1/72nd scale injected molded kit of the Antonov 28 aircraft.

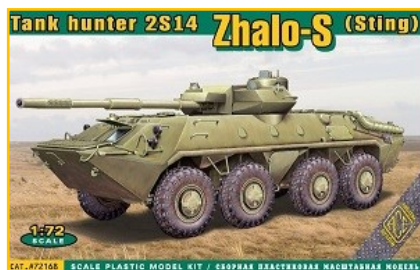
The four different releases cover the An 28 (military transport), the M 28 (sensor suite version) and the C 145.

Flyhawks Models has a resin and photo etch kit in 1/700th scale of U-99. There are two complete kits in the box.



It appears as if Flyhawks Models had originally plan to release this kit in 2012. It is just now making it's way to a hobby shop near you. Better late than never.

ACE has a 1/72nd scale injected molded kit of the 2S14 Zhalo-S (Sting). This tank hunter is based on the Russian BTR-70 armed with a 85mm gun. Good hunting!



Golzar



Armor

Greetings armor fans and hello to all you armor curious! Let's get started with some new 1/35th scale releases.

If you want to model the mighty Panzerhaubitze as an Afghan war vet, you are in luck! Meng has announced a new version of their self-propelled gun beast.

The kit comes with the distinctive "needle" add-on armor (probably a form of spaced armor) and new decals.



My second favorite kit manufacturer as of late is Takom. They have a couple of neat

new models, one of which is, very surprisingly, a forklift! This one is marked as a "4 in 1" giving you several options for how you want it set up.

It looks pretty nifty and I hope to see one on the show floor this fall.

Maybe it will be mine?



Who doesn't like big and ugly? Here is some big ugly for you, a Ukrainian Kraz truck!



This one comes with a ton of decal options as it is in use all over the world.

Next up is Hobby Boss, with a welcome late Schneider release. It's a good thing I purchased a resin conversion of this recently. (GRRR!) This is close to the version fielded in the Spanish Civil War, so maybe we will see another release of it.



From the images it looks like they have added the armored fuel tanks to the rear.

I just recently found one of these in the stash I had started, a T-37 amphibious tank. I'd shelved mine as it was a bad kit.



Maybe I'll toss it and pick up this new one from Hobby Boss?

That's it for the highlights. 'Til next time!

Aaron





Join International Plastic Modeler's Society/USA

IPMS/USA is dedicated to the hobby (and fun) of Scale Modeling. It was started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1964. There are now branches of IPMS all over the world. Our Local Regions and Chapters sponsor Model shows and contests every year, but you needn't be a member to visit the shows or attend the club meetings!

With IPMS/USA Membership, you will receive the outstanding IPMS/USA Journal six times a year - it includes features on all modeling subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, figures - you name it! You will also find listings of IPMS contests, swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned contests, and particularly in our World-famous National Convention, held each summer.

As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Discussion Board, where a wide variety of modeling topics are discussed, and enjoy interaction with other serious modelers for help with questions about modeling techniques or the Society in general. Many Hobby Shops and Model Vendors around the USA offer discounts for members.

http://ipmsusa2.org/forms/ipms_application.pdf

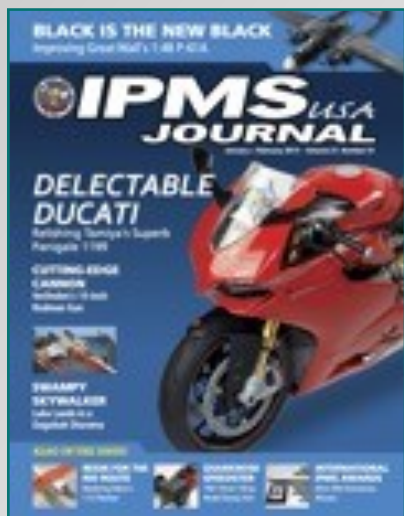
Applications using payment via Check or Money Order should be printed and mailed to:

**IPMS/USA
Dept. H
PO Box 2475
North Canton, Ohio 44720-0475**

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

In the latest issue of:

IPMS/USA Journal January + February



- Float Feeder - Building Dekno's Consolidated Fleetster, by Wayne E. Moyer
- Night Hunting Widow - Building Great Wall Hobby's P-61A Glass Nose, by Andy Renshaw
- Ducati Dominance - Performance Personified by Tamiya's 1:12 1199 Panigale S, by Steve Taylor
- From Cutting-Edge Casting a Cannon Comes - Scoring a Hit with Verlinden's 15-inch Rodman Civil War Gun, by J.R. Dietrich
- The Shark's Tale - Taking the Model Factory Hiro Multimedia Ferrari 156 for a Spin, by Mike Poole
- Ditched on Dagobah - Building a Diorama Placing Luke Skywalker's X-Wing in Murky Water, by Dan Thompson

Contact Us

**Austin Scale
Modelers Society**
c/o 1228 W. San
Antonio Street
San Marcos, Texas
78666

Visit us on the web
at
www.austinsms.org



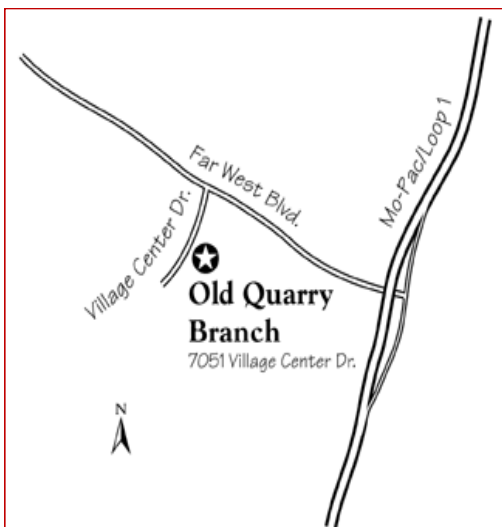
Next Meeting:
April 16, 2015
Austin Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas
7 PM to 8:45 PM

**IPMS- Houston
Proudly Presents**

Modelmania 2015

April 25
Stafford Centre
Saturday
9AM to 5PM

www.ipms-houston.org



IPMS/North Central Texas
Home of ScaleFest

Saturday - May 30, 2015 !!!

Be there this year and enjoy the best of
North Texas ...

Open Contest to all modelers!

Vendors!

Make-N-Take for the kids!

All Under One Room !

Special Theme:

ScaleFest 2015



Region VI

IPMS Convention

Saturday, May 30, 2015

9 am - 5 pm

Grapevine Convention Center

1209 South Main St

Grapevine, TX 76051

For more information or to
download a flyer, contest rules,
entry forms, and vendor information,
please visit us on the web at:
www.scalefest.net
Facebook: Scale Fest
Email: scalefest@ipms.com

